

PRESORTED STANDARD  
POSTAGE & FEE PAID  
LEBANON PUBLISHING  
PERMIT NO. 1087



# Trout Talk

**Riverfront  
Campground a true  
family business  
Page 2**

**by Laura L. Valenti**

**August 2023**

# Riverfront Campground a true family business

LAURA L. VALENTI

To call Riverfront Campground, located just west of Bennett Spring State Park on Highway 64, a family business is surely an understatement in every way. It began in 1994, when Jack and Jane Glendenning and their sons, Jack and his wife, Vickie, and Jason and Amanda Coffman, soon to become Amanda Glendenning, purchased a farm, owned by Joe and Linda Graven, the owners of the nearby Sand Spring Motel.

"It was just a farm with no improvements at that time. When we began, we had our office in a pickup truck," Jason Glendenning laughed at the memory. "Then we had our first real office, a log cabin built from logs my dad cut on his own property. We were pretty proud of that. Today, we have a modern 3,000 square foot office and convenience store, but it's good to remember how it all started."

For 26 years, Jason served as a trooper with the Missouri Highway Patrol as well as working weekends at the campground. His wife, Amanda, who has a master's degree in physical therapy, worked for many years as a therapist for Mercy, serving in a community-oriented occupation in addition to helping to run the family operation. Both now work full-time at the campground as does their daughter Quincey. Their daughter Jenna serves part-time at the campground



Aerial photo of Riverfront Campground.

while also working as a personal trainer. Both of their sons, Ty, 23, and Jax, 17, also work at the family business. And eight year old, Dee helps out wherever she can.



Son, Jax and daughter, Dee at the river

secluded campground they call Sweetwater that includes nine RV sites and a cabin and has its own private boat launch area. In addition to camping and cabins, Riverfront also rents canoes, kayaks and rafts. They have 130 kayaks, 140 canoes, and over 160 rafts available.

In 2003, the Glendenning family also purchased the Sand Spring Motel from Terry and Nancy Graven, Joe's son and continued to run both the motel and the campground. In 2007, Jack and Jane decided they were ready to take a less active role in the whole operation.

As they stepped back, the two brothers, Jack and Jason, decided to split the motel operation from the campground. Today, Jack and Vickie operate

Today, Riverfront boasts 70 electrical and water sites as well as 15 cabins that can hold from two to 20 persons. They also offer a private

## BEST BREAKFAST AROUND!



**CAFE OPEN  
FRIDAY-SUNDAY  
7AM - NOON**

**The WILD OAKS**  
Campground & Roadside Cafe  
417-588-1631  
www.wildoakscampground.com  
1818 State Hwy 64, Lebanon



**Don't forget our  
hand-dipped 12  
Flavors of Blue  
Bell Ice Cream!**

**BOOK YOUR 2023 CAMPSITE NOW!**

# RIVERFRONT

from page 2

Sand Spring Motel and adjacent restaurant, the Gravel Bar and Jason and Amanda run Riverfront Campground with the help of the third generation of Glendennings.

"We had a fireworks celebration on July 1st, for our 30th anniversary along with two bands who played that night. We are actually celebrating our 30th year all season long, with specials of all kinds on the canoes."

He continued. "The truth is our family has been really blessed in all of this. We have a lot of great employees, some of whom have been with us for 28 years. They include many local high school kids who come looking for a summer job and then come back for all the years they are in school. We couldn't do this without them. And in the same way, we've got a lot of great returning



customers each year.

"Our whole family works here but we've got employees who have become like family over the years as well. I've been retired for three years now from the Highway Patrol and I was afraid at first that I would miss it but this has been great--to work with family in something we all enjoy, sharing the Ozarks with those who come to visit, camp and enjoy the river in a place that's safe for the whole family. I'm looking forward to the next 30 years!"



**Left to right:** Jax Glendenning, Taylor Nail, Dee, Quincey, Amanda, Ty, and Jenna Glendenning, Tanner Roy, and Jason Glendenning. Taylor works the front desk and Tanner has worked for Riverfront for five years now, both are employees who have become close family friends.

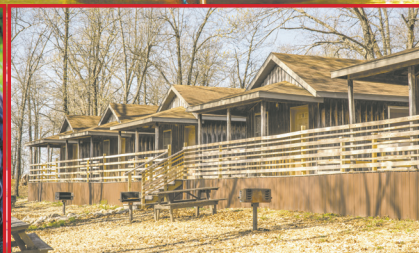
# Cabins, Camping, Floating & Much More!

- 46 YEARS OF SERVICE!
- OVER 60 ACRES OF CAMPGROUNDS ON THE NIANGUA RIVER

NOW SERVING  
*Ice Cream*  
**FACTORY**



**Canoe Rental & Campground**



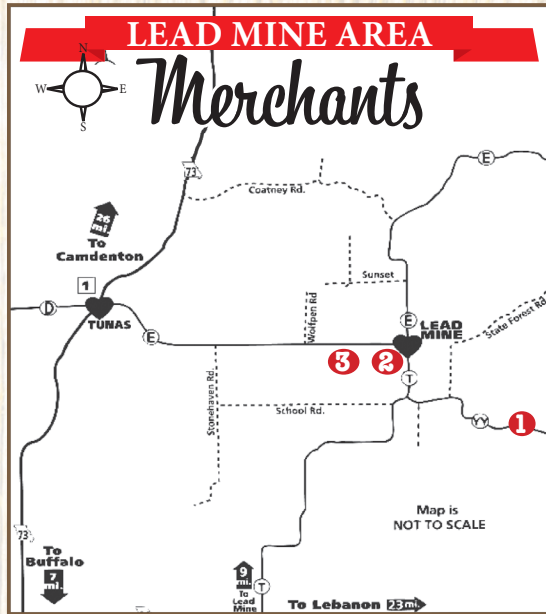
417-532-6333 • 417-588-3797 • [WWW.NROCANOE.COM](http://WWW.NROCANOE.COM) • OFFICE HOURS 7AM-9PM

# Take A Step Back in Time

You'll feel like you've taken a step back in time when you take a short drive to visit the Leadmine area Merchants.

You'll enjoy tasty homemade foods, browse handmade furniture, outdoor goods and stock up on bulk groceries and fresh produce.

It's a great way to spend any weekday or Saturday afternoon.



# Quality Built Built To Last



Bedroom Suites | Dining Sets | Lawn Furniture



# Ozarks Country Furniture

885 State Rd. T • Tunas, MO 65764  
Tues.-Fri. 8-5 • Sat. 8-12 • Closed Sundays

2

# Experience Life In The "Past" Lane!



- Good Old Fashioned Home Cooking
- Homemade Bread, Buns & Pies

- Dry Goods • Gifts • Housewares
- Kitchenwares • Handmade Soaps



**Café Edelweiss**  
Located in The Lead Mine Country Store  
11-2:30 Daily • Closed Sundays  
176 State Rd. YY • Tunas



**The Leadmine  
Country Store**  
10am-5pm Daily • Closed Sundays  
176 State Rd. YY • Tunas

1

# Here's what's happening at Bennett Spring

Bennett Spring State Park is offering a variety of events to entertain and educate visitors this summer.

Here are a few of the activities scheduled in August, according to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

## Fly tying demonstration

Join volunteers Danny Goldsmith and Donald Ohler at 9 a.m. Aug. 2, 9, 16 and 30 at the Bennett Spring Church of God annex building for a community fly tying demonstration. This event will provide instruction on tying a basic fishing fly and will give participants an opportunity to visit, share stories and see the art of fly tying with experienced Bennett Spring anglers.

New to fly tying? No problem. Danny and Donald will be available to help out and will provide all items needed, although you are welcome to bring your own.

This demonstration is presented by the Friends of Bennett Spring State Park and is open to all ages. The church annex building is located directly across from the

park office, behind the park restaurant.

## All about Fish

August is National Fishing Month. Each Friday of the month, visitors will get to enjoy fish-related crafts and other activities at the nature center. Programs are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 3, 11, 18 and 25.

Indoor activities will include a beginner fishing game for children pre-K to second grade that allows participants to learn the enjoyment of fishing while earning prizes. Outside the nature center, visitors will have the opportunity to explore a fish identification maze.

All activities are free and open to the public.

For more information, call the nature center at 417-532-3925.

## Expressive art

Join staff at the nature center to express your love of nature and life through art. All materials will be provided for this free program. This event is open to all ages. Program time is 10 a.m. to noon on Aug. 10.

Ecotherapy stroll on Whistle Trail



Join Bennett Spring State Park team members on the third Friday of each month to honor our connection with the natural world by participating in green therapy. Researchers recommend spending five hours a month in nature to relax and reduce stress. Forest thera-

py, ecotherapy, forest bathing, grounding and "Earthing" are other names used for this experience.

During each program, participants will hike about two miles on Whistle

See 'ACTIVITIES'/page 8



## Meadowview Dutch Market

### Bulk & Surplus Groceries

- Bulk Spices • Deli Meat & Cheeses
- Discount Groceries • Bulk Candy
- Seasonal Fresh Produce & Flowers

**ATTENTION FIRST TIME CUSTOMERS ONLY**  
10% OFF PURCHASE • SHOW AD AT REGISTER

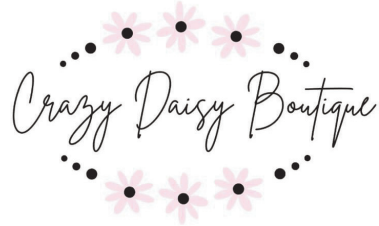
COME VISIT OR CALL TO ORDER CUSTOM DELI TRAYS

**417-993-3017**

Only 15 Miles from Bennett Spring State Park • 324 State Rd E. Tunas  
• 5.7 Miles West on Hwy 64 • Right on T Hwy • 9 miles • Left on E Hwy 1 mile on Left  
Hours: Mon-Thurs 8-5pm • Fri 8-6pm • Sat 8-5pm • Cash, Credit, Debit, EBT



3



Where comfy & comfort collide

Small - 3x Women's Clothing  
Decor • Jewelry • Purses

112 W. Commercial St. • (417) 322-5295

 Crazy Daisy Boutique



Many men go fishing  
all of their lives  
without knowing  
that it is not fish  
they are after -  
Henry David Thoreau

*Rusty Rooster*

*Marketplace*  
208 W. Commercial St.  
Downtown Lebanon, Mo.

417-718-9136

*Antiques*

*Secondhand*

*Vintage*

*Home decor*

# Take the short 11 mile drive to food, fun, fashion and more!

We want to thank you for visiting our beautiful Bennett Spring State Park. While you are in the Bennett Spring area, we invite you to visit Historic Downtown Lebanon. Take the short, scenic 11-mile drive into the city of Lebanon. Stay straight on Jefferson until you reach Commercial. Whether you decide to turn right or left on Commercial Street, you will find lots of interesting things to do like visiting Downtown businesses or attending one of our many events.

You will find boutiques, restaurants, ice cream shops, smoothie stores, antique stores, gift shops, salons, jewelry stores, music stores, an art gallery and much more Downtown.

We hope you will make plans to visit Downtown soon or perhaps return to our area to enjoy one of our upcoming events.





**OPEN FOR BRUNCH ON SATURDAYS 11-2  
BOTTOMLESS MIMOSAS**

123 W Commercial St, Lebanon, MO 65536  
(417) 991-2080  @therail1868

Tue-Sat: 11AM-2PM, 4PM-9PM

**It's a  
Big Deal!**

**Great Stuff, Greater Prices**

110 W. Commercial  
Lebanon, MO 65536

Bedding, Camping  
Supplies, Cookware,  
Toys, & More!

**\$5<sup>00</sup> off your  
in-store purchase**



# UPCOMING DOWNTOWN EVENTS



## LEBANON FARMERS MARKET

Downtown Lebanon - April thru October.  
Open Wednesdays 11 am to 3 pm • Open Saturdays 8 am to 1 pm

## Fall Open Houses September 7th-9th

*Enjoy  
Shopping in*

# DOWNTOWN LEBANON

*Great Selection!  
Great Choices!  
Great Stores!*

### *Smokin' Delicious*

- Drinks • Soups • Salads • Steaks • Seafood
- BBQ • Burgers • Sandwiches • Full Bar

**Me's** on Johnson 201 W. Commercial, Lebanon  
(417) 532-0120  
Tue.-Th. 11am-8pm • Fri.-Sat. 11am-9pm

TEAM

# A&H

LEBANON, MO

**kw** GREATER SPRINGFIELD  
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY

108 W. Commercial St., Lebanon MO  
**C:417-664-1113**  
**O:417-883-4900**  
1619 E. Independence St.,  
Springfield, MO

# ACTIVITIES

from page 5

Trail, traveling along the spring to the access point. A portion of the trail traverses bluff tops and some climbing will be necessary. Participants are encouraged to wear closed-toe shoes, use insect repellent and bring water and snacks. Each program begins at 11 a.m. at the nature center.

Program topics and date for Aug. 18 is Observation: Observe and meditate while watching visitors fish during National Fishing Month.

On Sept. 15, the topic is Gratitude/ Nature Journaling: Celebrate Archaeology Month by viewing rocks and minerals in the nature center before heading outside. On the trail, take notes of things to be thankful for. Park staff on the third Friday of the month honor our connection with the natural world by participating in green therapy.

During each program, we will hike about two miles on Whistle Trail, traveling along the spring, to the Niangua River, and back to the trail access

point. A portion of the trail traverses bluff tops, and some climbing will be necessary.

Participants are encouraged to wear closed-toe shoes, use insect repellent and bring water and a snack. Each program will begin at the nature center.

### Leave no trace: A littered landscape

Join park staff at the nature center to learn how long litter can last and how it affects the environment. This event is from 2:15 until 2:45 p.m. Aug. 19.

### Night Flight

Aug. 26 is International Bat Night. Join park staff to learn about the largest and smallest bats in the world. A focus of this program will be on how bats have played a major role in farming throughout Missouri history.

The event will begin at 9 p.m. with a presentation in the nature center; this will be followed by a hike outdoors to the spring. Bats can often be seen in this area, drawn by insects living in and near the spring.



Participants must bring a flashlight and wear closed-toe shoes.

### Vulture Kettle

Come out to the nature center at 2 p.m. Aug. 26 to learn about Bennett Spring's black vulture population, which consists of more than 200 individuals. The park naturalist will present a slideshow featuring information about these birds and how anglers and other visitors can better coexist with them.

### 'History of Bennett' Video

Bennett Spring and its valley have attracted visitors throughout time. In 1924, the state purchased the spring and part of the surrounding area to create one of the first state parks. The following decade, the Civilian Conservation Corps contributed much of the modern-day character of the park

by building many structures still used by visitors today, including cabins, a shelter house, roads, trails, the arched bridge across the spring branch and the rustic dining lodge.

The public is invited to go on a historical walk through time by viewing a video about the history of the area that is now Bennett Spring State Park. Through historical photographs, the video will discuss topics such as traditional Indigenous uses of the area, modern recreational activities at the park, the addition of trout to the spring-fed stream and the history and preservation of the park's CCC structures.

The video will be shown in the nature center every hour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 27.

**WELCOME BACK ANGLERS**

**ALL YOUR TACKLE NEEDS**

- Glow Balls & Jigs 79¢
- Minnows & Worms
- Rooster Tails \$3.69

- GROCERIES • FOUNTAIN DRINKS
- TOBACCO • CONVENIENCE STORE • FRESH MEAT
- WALK-IN BEER COOLER • LIQUOR • WARM FOOD

**CABIN RENTALS AND CAMPING COMING SOON**  
10292 MO-64, LEBANON, MO | (816) 309-8609

**It's OK to Peek!**

Bennett Spring "Country's" ONLY website featuring the area's best fishing, floating, food, insightful articles, and Trout Talk!

**www.bennett-spring.com**

LC RECORD 417-532-9131 • 100 E. Commercial  
www.laclederecord.com



# Bid accepted for multi-year renovation of Bennett Spring Hatchery

## MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

The Missouri Conservation Commission showed its commitment to the future of trout fishing in the Show-Me State.

By unanimous vote in May, the Commission approved Cahills Construction Inc. of Rolla to be the contractor for a multi-year renovation of the Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) Bennett Spring Hatchery. The hatchery supplies the trout for one of the state's highly popular fishing destinations – trout fishing at Bennett Spring State Park.

"Outdoor recreation has a huge economic impact for the state of Missouri, and Bennett Spring Hatchery has played a critical role in raising fish for anglers for more than 100 years," said MDC Director Sara Parker Pauley. "This investment by our Conservation Commissioners to renovate these aging buildings and equipment shows their commitment to connecting people of all ages to nature for years to come."

Hatchery improvements that are part of this \$40 million renovation project include a new intake structure, reconstruction of some raceways, piping improvements and other upgrades that will allow the hatchery to better maintain operations during flooding events and will improve fish production capability. Improvements will also be made to the MDC hatchery office, the shop and feed storage facilities.

During this multi-year project, fish production at the Bennett Spring Hatchery will be disrupted and visitors will notice some of the raceways empty and dry while construction activities are taking place. However, fishing will continue at the park with minimal disruption as trout from MDC's other hatcheries will be transported to Bennett to support stocking activities throughout the year.

A facility the size of Bennett Spring Hatchery, which produces approximately 350,000 trout per year, cannot be taken out of production without impacting the trout inventory numbers in MDC's cold-water hatchery system. Hatchery staff across the state will be working to manage inventory levels and provide anglers with the best possible angling experience this year and throughout the renovation of Bennett Spring Hatchery.

In addition to providing recreational activity, the trout produced at the Bennett Spring Hatchery also provide economic benefits. Consider the 140,000 people who fish at Bennett Spring each year, which are part of the more than two million visitors the park gets annually, and the economic ripple effect all this activity generates in terms of money spent on meals, lodging, gas, etc. Data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicates that money spent on trout fishing in Missouri generates more than \$187 million in economic impact each year.

Trout fishing at Bennett Spring has a history dating back to the early 1900s. Currently, MDC manages the hatchery and trout fishing at Bennett Spring State Park. The state park facilities are managed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.



**DISCOUNT & SURPLUS FOODS**  
Meat • Cheese • Yogurt • Snacks  
Affordable by the cart full

**OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND**

**PLAD PANTRY LLC**

417-532-4700 • 1571 State Hwy 64 • Tunas, MO  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. • Closed Wed. & Sun.

**GOOD TIMES ALWAYS ON TAP**

THERE WILL BE **PINTS**

**VOTED #1 IN 2023 FOR:**

- BEER SELECTION
- LIVE MUSIC VENUE
- BAR

**OUR NEW LOCATION**  
214 W. COMMERCIAL  
DOWNTOWN, LEBANON

**BOAT TOWN BREWING**

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR OUR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS!



# Catch

Every issue of Trout Talk  
for 2023 in your mailbox  
for only \$25

Published monthly March-November

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail a \$25<sup>00</sup> check to: Trout Talk c/o  
Lebanon Publishing Company  
P.O. Box 192 • Lebanon, MO 65536 or  
Call 417-532-9131



# Trout Talk

A special publication of  
**LC RECORD**

417-532-9131 • Lebanon, MO  
[www.laclederecord.com](http://www.laclederecord.com)  
[www.bennett-spring.com](http://www.bennett-spring.com)

# Trout Talk

## BENNETT SPRING STATE PARK AND SURROUNDING AREA



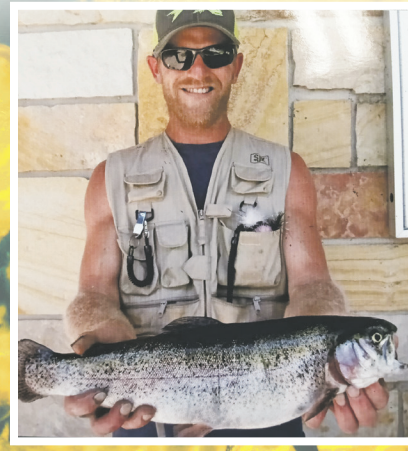
# LUNKER CATCHES



**Andrew Price, Excelsior Springs, 3.2 pounds, Zone 1, caught using a Golden Olive wooly as bait.**



**Bill Ryan, Moscow Mills, 3 1/2 pounds, Zone 2, caught using a Crackleback as bait.**



**Kelly Kaiser, Camdenton, 3 1/8 pounds, Zone 1, caught using a white marabou as bait.**

## “She broke my heart”

*Reader shares some Bennett Spring fishing experiences*

### TERRY COLE

I've been fishing at Bennett Spring for over 40 years and finally had the chance to catch a big one. However, I did not get to land her.

My son and I were fishing in Zone 2 back in May, and I was fishing a white mop fly. Josh likes to fish an orange fur ball.

So we were having a good day catching fish until I get another take. When my bobber went under and I set the hook on my sage fly rod, this fish jumped completely out of the water, and when she came back down, it sounded like someone dropped a bowling ball in the water.

She was a beautiful behemoth rainbow trout that I have never seen in this stream. We guessed her at about eight pounds.

So, she takes off downstream and just kept going. At my age, with disabilities, I could not chase her down like I used to in my younger age. LOL.

The good part about this story is she is still there, I think, unless she has been caught by another angler.

A couple of years ago, Josh and I got



Missouri Department of Conservation

in on the action of big rainbows that were in the stream from the flood of rain that washed the fish out of the hatchery. That was in the winter during catch-and-release. The big ones were hitting wooly buggers and the juicy white pink and egg shell worms.

The water was up with a lot of current, which I prefer. It's like fishing the box canyon of the Henry's Fork in Idaho we fished a few years ago. Some anglers don't like high water, but the fish fight so much harder, and they "bite" too.

Josh and I have had several opportunities on opening day, March 1, to fish high waters and they always release big ones from the hatchery to bring your chance up for a lunker! In the summer, we change up tactics, and with the water really low, we switch the top water and site fishing with small jigs. Josh

and I have named our secret little spots. There is one called the hump, and, of course, there is the gauntlet or the chute.

You know, some people don't understand why we go fishing on opening day with the crowd, but I have figured out that around 10 a.m., half the anglers have gone back to the camp because they have been out in the water since 4 a.m. LOL

A few years ago, my good friend Joseph Bennett and I were in the store on opening day and twin sisters from Minnesota sang us a beautiful song. Opening day was on a Sunday, and we had church services at Bennett Spring to jump start the rest of the day.

Bennett Spring has always been my go-to for relaxation, to slow my life down and talk to God. He always wants to hear from you, and I will keep coming for that big one that got away.

Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

"And God said, Let the waters team with fish."

**Heartland**  
IN THE HEART BEAT OF  
THE SHOW ME STATE!

**A CHARMING MIX OF  
OLD & NEW AT PRICES THAT  
WILL APPEAL TO YOU**



**WITH NEARLY 350 BOOTH  
SPACES TO ENJOY**



**♥HEARTLAND  
ANTIQUE MALL**

Open 8AM-8PM, 7 Days • (417) 532-9350  
2500 Evergreen Pkwy, Lebanon  
Just off the I-44 exit!



**Missouri Cheese Outlet & More**  
417-991-2233



**Big Putts**  
HOME OF THE WORLD'S LONGEST MINI GOLF HOLE!  
Thursday 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday 12 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Sunday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

# YOUR LAST STOP BEFORE BENNETT SPRING STATE PARK

LOWEST PRICES AROUND!

FILL UP YOUR  
COOLER!



FILL UP WITH  
CREATIVE  
SHIRTS!



FILL UP YOUR  
KRATOM & CBD!



FILL UP YOUR  
TANK!



FILL UP YOUR  
CUP!



ONLY  
\$2.25  
+ TAX



FILL UP YOUR  
BELLY!



FILL UP YOUR  
FIRE PIT!  
ONLY \$5.00 PER  
BUNDLE



FILL UP YOUR  
BBQ!



## VALLEY VIEW RV

417-664-8162  
12972 Hwy 64, Lebanon