

Trout



Talk

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

**The 2024 trout season
officially opens**

Page 2

**Veterans Fishing Day is
April 20 at Bennett Spring**

Page 8

April 2024

The 2024 trout season officially opens

LCR STAFF

Temperatures in the 30s failed to deter fishermen from showing up for the opening day of Trout season March 1 at Bennett Spring State Park.

The Missouri Department of Conservation reported that 2,034 tags were sold on opening day. This includes 1,870 adult tags and 164 child tags. Last year, the park reported total tag sales of 1,662 on opening day.

In addition to the cold, anglers also had to deal with the current construction at the park, which caused a portion of the fishing area to be closed to fishing and public access for the foreseeable future.

MDC staff emphasizes the area closed to fishing in Bennett's Zone 1 and 2 represents a small fraction of the approximately 1.5 miles of stream

frontage within the park that is open to fishing. MDC staff say they understand the connections some anglers have with specific spots that are currently closed.

"One thing that makes Missouri's March 1 trout opener special is tradition. Some people have fished at the same spot for generations," MDC Infrastructure Management Branch Chief Jacob Careaga is quoted as saying in a Department of Conservation press release. "We know that and we appreciate everyone's patience with this construction project. The work currently underway will result in a state-of-the-art fish production facility that will be able to better serve the needs of everyone who loves catching trout at Bennett Spring."

This closed area stretches from the hatchery intake on the west bank downstream to the Highway 64A stone bridge. As a result, there will be no access to the top of the dam.



LCR Photo/Steve Smith

Anglers enjoy fishing on the first day of trout season at Bennett Spring State Park.

The book cover features a photograph of a fisherman in a river. The title "FISHING THE MISSOURI TROUT PARKS" is prominently displayed in a yellow box. Below the title, it lists the locations: "Bennett Spring State Park, Maramec Spring Park, Montauk State Park, and Roaring River State Park". The author's name, "Jim Washabaugh", is at the bottom.

Fishing the Missouri Trout Parks,
written by Jim Washabaugh, covers fishing the parks with all types of baits, lures, and flies, with both spinning and fly fishing tackle.

Get your copy today!

Available at several Bennett Spring locations. See missouritrou.com for more information.

Anglers can still access the bottom of the dam from the east bank, but will not be allowed to fish from the west bank, below the hatchery office. At present, it is unclear when this area will reopen to fishing. This closed area is part of the \$40 million hatchery renovation project

at Bennett Spring being done by Cahills Construction of Rolla. This project includes the installation of a new intake structure, reconstruction of the raceways, water quality improvements, and other upgrades and refurbishments that will improve fish production capability

See 'OPENING DAY'/page 3

OPENING DAY

from page 2

and site resiliency.

Fish availability will not be affected by the construction.

Approximately 6,500 trout were stocked on opening day to accommodate the nearly 2,000 anglers expected. Because of the disruption the construction has caused to fish production at Bennett Spring hatchery, trout from other MDC hatcheries are being transported to Bennett to support stocking activities on opening day and throughout the year.

“Trout production in MDC’s cold-water hatchery system is a unified effort,” said MDC Hatchery Systems Manager, Clint Hale. “Fish, eggs, and fingerlings are routinely transferred between hatcheries to meet fish production and stocking needs. When there’s a shortage somewhere, one or more of the hatcheries always step up to fill in the gaps. Because we have dedicated staff, our hatchery system has worked well, even when there has

been incredible adversity, and it will continue to do so.”

In addition to providing recreational activity, trout produced by MDC for fishing at Bennett Spring State Park also provide economic benefits. Each year, 140,000 people fish at Bennett Spring. These anglers 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 & 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.



LCR Photo/Steve Smith

Renovation work underway at Bennett Spring State Park will make some areas off-limits to angler.



LCR Photos

Anglers enjoy the opening day of trout season March 1 at Bennett Spring.



Bennett-Spring.com

Food Fun Fishing Floating Lodging Shopping Events Maps

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

NOW SERVING
SOFT SERVE
ICE CREAM!
• Chocolate • Vanilla • Twist

DISCOUNT & SURPLUS FOODS
PLAD PANTRY LLC

Meat • Cheese • Yogurt • Snacks
Affordable by the cart full

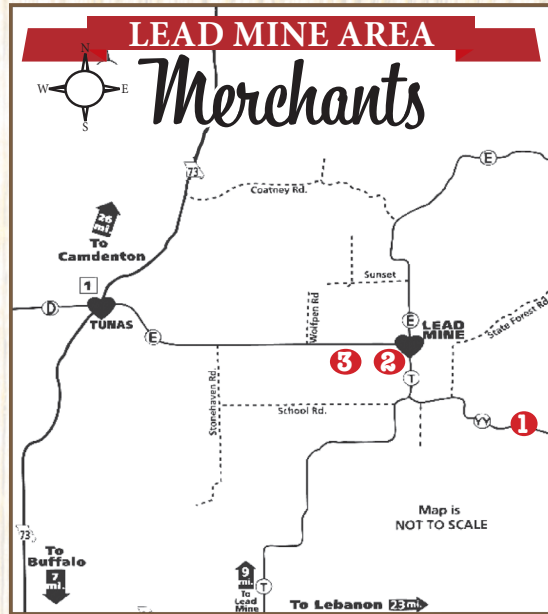
417-532-4700 • 1571 State Hwy 64 • Tunas, MO
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. • Closed Wed. & Sun.

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 with a German twist

• 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

Lunkers Tackle and Cabin Rental offers supplies for campers

LAURA L. VALENTI

Located between the two Bennett Spring State Park entrances on Highway 64, Lunkers Tackle and Cabin Rental is embarking on its third year in business. Tony Constanza is the owner and Dolly Mauzey is the store manager.

"I grew up in Urbana and am a Buffalo High School graduate," Dolly shared with a smile at her post behind the store's cash register and check out. "We sell beer and fishing tackle, which learning about trout fishing tackle was something new for me. I've learned a lot. I grew up fishing for bass and crappie," she said. "In addition to the beer and tackle, we have a full line of supplies for campers including basic groceries and of course, party buckets."

She continued. "Without a doubt, our biggest seller is beer. We also have four cabins for rent, just behind our store. Our first cabin sleeps nine to twelve people. We also have one that

holds six to eight and two that sleep four to five. We are in the process of renovating the campground that is also behind us, down the hill so that we can accommodate campers in the near future."

Dolly has two sons and a daughter, two of whom are grown. "My son who is 13 loves the arcade games here, of course. I still live in Urbana but two of our employees, Wayne and Kathy live just across the way so they are available for late-arriving cabin rentals. We have a real convenient, comfortable place here. I have always done cashiering in the past. This is my first time being a manager but it is a friendly atmosphere and I just love this place!"

This spring Lunkers is open on weekends, Fridays 1-9 pm, Saturdays 8 am-9 pm, and Sundays 9 am - 6 pm. Plans include being open more hours during Spring Break and to also be open on weekdays after Memorial Day.



Dolly Mauzey, the store manager at Lunkers Tackle and Cabin Rental greets customers at the store's check out.

LCR Photo/Laura Valenti

Meadowview Dutch Market

Bulk & Surplus Groceries

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

CUSTOM HANDMADE SANDWICHES

SANDWICH TRAYS, VEGGI TRAYS, FRUIT TRAYS, MEAT & CHEESE TRAY | 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



Smokin' Delicious

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

Mel's
in Madison

201 W. Commercial, Lebanon
(417) 532-0120
Tue.-Th. 11am-8pm • Fri.-Sat. 11am-9pm

Join us April 13th for a Spring Boutique Crawl with 11 amazing local boutiques!



Where comfy & comfort collide

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

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

 Crazy Daisy Boutique

CATCH A DEAL WITH US!



- Vintage
- Secondhand
- Fishing Accessories
- Antiques • Home Decor
- Spring Planting Accessories

RUSTY ROOSTER MARKET PLACE



208 W Commercial, Lebanon • 417-718-9136
Monday-Saturday 9-5  @TheRustyRoosterMarketPlace

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

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

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.



UPCOMING DOWNTOWN EVENTS



FIRST Friday

April 5th • 4PM - 8PM

Downtown Lebanon is excited to bring you First Friday!
Join us for a night on the town.

Our shops will have extended hours, deals, activities, artists, artisans, and more. Come enjoy our cozy restaurants, grab a drink or two, and soak up the vibrant atmosphere.

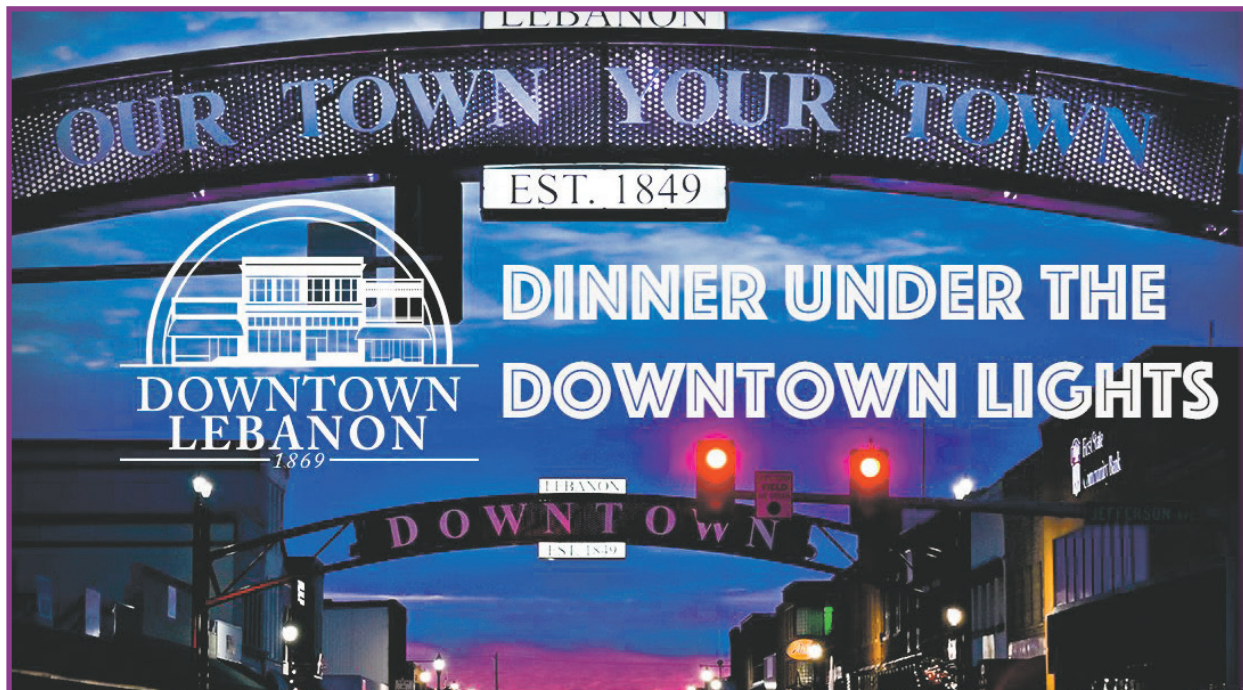
Visit <https://www.downtownlebanonmo.com/first-friday/> to see all participating businesses.

Downtown businesses, artists, and artisans interested in participating can email director@downtownlebanonmo.com for more info.



LEBANON FARMERS MARKET

Open Wednesdays 11 am to 3 pm | Open Saturdays 8 am to 1 pm



DINNER UNDER THE DOWNTOWN LIGHTS

EST. 1849

DOWNTOWN LEBANON 1869

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024 STARTING AT 6:30PM DOWNTOWN LEBANON

Dinner will be served at a family style table down the middle of Commercial Street.

A four-course dinner provided by local restaurants, live music, cash bar, and much more!

Cash bar serving wine and beer by Boat Town Brewing.

Early Bird tickets are \$75 (+ \$3 convenience fee per person when purchased online). Tickets can be purchased with cash or check at Perennial Trends located at 113 W Commercial St in Downtown Lebanon.

Starting April 1, tickets will be regular priced and \$100 each (+ \$4 convenience fee per person when purchased online).

Tickets are limited so get yours while they last!

Veterans Fishing Day is April 20 at Bennett Spring

BENNETT SPRING STATE PARK

Veterans are invited to fish for free April 20 at Bennett Spring State Park's Veterans Fishing Day event.

This special day is a chance for any veteran to get out and fish. Missouri offers tremendous trout park fishing opportunities and Bennett Spring proudly sponsors this event.

At Veterans Fishing Day, fishing is free for all veterans. There is no license or daily tag fee. All veterans can pick up free trout tags at the park store on the Friday evening before or anytime on Saturday during the event. Fishing hours for the event will be 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

During the event a part of the park's Zone 2 fishing area will be specially stocked and reserved for anglers who are veterans. Adjacent to the fishing area, volunteers will be hosting a hospitality tent featuring fly tying demos, lessons, casting instruction, and the latest adaptive fishing equipment.



LCR File Photo

Jimmie Jones, an Air Force veteran from Oklahoma displays his catch at the 2021 Veterans Fishing Day.

If you are interested in trout fishing, come out and fish with one of our heroes on the water – many volunteers will be on hand to show you the ropes! Not quite sure? Practice with some of the casting games on the lawn or tie up a fly.

For more information, contact Ben Havens at Ben.Havens@mdc.mo.gov or call the hatchery at 417-532-4418.



LCR File Photo

Veterans enjoy the Veterans Fishing Day at Bennett Spring in 2021. The event will be held April 20 this year.

IF WE DON'T TELL THE STORY

Who Will?

**Award-winning journalism
you can't find anywhere else.**

Awarded First Place General Excellence by the
Missouri Press Association 4 years running.



LC RECORD

417-532-9131 • 100 E. Commercial, Lebanon • www.laclederecord.com

Bennett Spring exhibit to showcase agriculture in April

MDC

Bennett Spring State Park's history is deeply rooted in agriculture. To celebrate the joys and heartbreak of Missouri's agricultural heritage, the park has set aside the month of April to focus on this history.

The traveling exhibit "Deeply Rooted: Stories of Missouri Farming," produced by the Missouri State Museum, will be available for viewing at the Bennett Spring nature center Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in April. This traveling exhibit covers a wide range of topics from prehistoric agriculture to modern gardens.

According to Missouri Grown USA, Missouri's top crop production today is soybean and corn, which contributes \$88 billion to the state economy. However, the main agricultural use at Bennett Spring State Park during the past century has been the raising of trout. The Bennett Spring Fish Hatchery was



MDC Photo

The Bennett Spring State Park Hatchery is currently undergoing renovation as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. In April, an exhibit at the park will focus on Missouri's agricultural heritage.

once privately owned; around 1900, the Neosho National Fish Hatchery stocked 40,000 trout into the spring. Today, the hatchery is operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation and is under renovation.

Prior to Missouri purchasing the land, the area that currently comprises the park was known as the town of

Brice. Farmers living in the area would have grain processed at the town's mill and often enjoyed outdoor activities like fishing while waiting for services to be rendered. To learn more about the rich history of both Bennett Spring State Park and Missouri, come see this traveling exhibit.

Bennett Spring State Park will have

its 100th anniversary celebration on Oct. 5, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. More information about both the celebration and the April event can be obtained by calling the park's nature center at 417-532-3925. Both events are free and open to the public and do not require registration.

WELCOME BACK ANGLERS

ALL YOUR TACKLE NEEDS

- Glow Balls & Jigs
- Minnows & Worms
- Rooster Tails

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

**Cabin rentals \$69.99 per night.
Monthly/Yearly RV Sites Available.**

10292 MO-64, LEBANON, MO | (417) 664-3047 | LUNKERTACKLERESORT.COM

BOAT TOWN BREWING

**CRAFT BEER | PIZZA
FAMILY ATMOSPHERE**

(417) 532-2772

**214 W COMMERCIAL
DOWNTOWN LEBANON
BOATTOWNBREWING.COM**



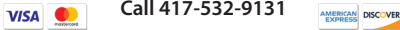
Catch

Every issue of Trout Talk
for 2024 in your mailbox
for only \$25

Published monthly March-October

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Mail a \$25⁰⁰ 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
www.bennett-spring.com

Trout Talk

BENNETT SPRING STATE PARK AND SURROUNDING AREA



LUNKER CATCHES



Joseph Jolly from Tulsa, Okla. with a 5 lbs. 2 oz. catch from Zone 1 using a Marabou.



Brett Horton with a 6 lbs. catch from Zone 2 using a fur bug



Ken Horton from Park Hills, first lunker turned in on March 1 from Zone 2, 4 lbs.



Chance Campbell from Pleasant Hill, with a 3 1/4 lbs. catch from Zone 2.



Carl Davis from Nevada, with a 3 lbs. 2 oz. catch using a green rooter tail.



Tam Adler from Arnold, with a 4 1/2 lbs. catch from Zone 2.

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
Exit 127 Off I-44



Missouri Cheese Outlet & More
417-991-2233



TAP THAT
Mini golf with a fun twist great for the whole family!

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/tapthatmini

2500 Evergreen Pkwy
Lebanon, MO 64506
417-991-3353

Wednesday & Thursday 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

FILL UP FOR YOUR TRIP TO BENNETT SPRING STATE PARK

LOWEST PRICES AROUND!

FILL UP YOUR COOLER!



FILL UP YOUR CUP!



**FILL UP WITH CREATIVE SHIRTS!
ALL 25% OFF**



FILL UP YOUR KRATOM & CBD!

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



ONLY \$2.25 + TAX



FILL UP YOUR BBQ!



FILL UP YOUR BELLY!

VALLEY VIEW RV

417-664-8162 | 12972 Hwy 64, Lebanon



BENNETT SPRING PROPANE

THE LOWEST PRICES AROUND!

417-588-8858



THE **LOWEST** PRICED REFILLS IN THE AREA

Valley View RV • 12972 Hwy 64, Lebanon