



T **out** *Talk*

Bennett Spring staff

present updates

Page 2

**Logan Miller operates a
Laclede County tradition,
Larry's Cedar Resort**

Page 8

August 2024

Bennett Spring staff present updates

Splash pad planned for spring 2025, other projects set

JACK SILBERBERG
REPORTER@LACLEDERECORD.COM

Bennett Spring State Park staff presented project updates, stewardship efforts at a public townhall June 28.

Park manager Gabe DuMond spoke about park projects that have been completed since the last public meeting, which included cabin repairs and the connection of the park to the county water supply. The wells which previously supplied the park have been phased out and will be decommissioned.

"We're still working through a few of the details with the system, but we're using it and we're getting a bunch of work out of it," DuMond said on the drinking water system. "It's a fairly involved process."

DuMond then presented the park's upcoming projects. These ranged from the park's upcoming splash pad construction, which will replace the park's pool, which was demolished in 2023, to hazard tree mitigation, cabin upkeep, a vehicular bridge replacement, and a new shop building to replace the one that burned in 2018.

"The park is getting some of the TLC that it needs right now," DuMond said. He noted that the splash pad construction will include new bathrooms and a playground for the

area. The splash pad is scheduled for completion in March to April 2025.

Stewardship efforts have involved invasive species removal and prescribe burns. DuMond noted much of that effort has come from volunteers, such as AmeriCorps, as well as park staff.

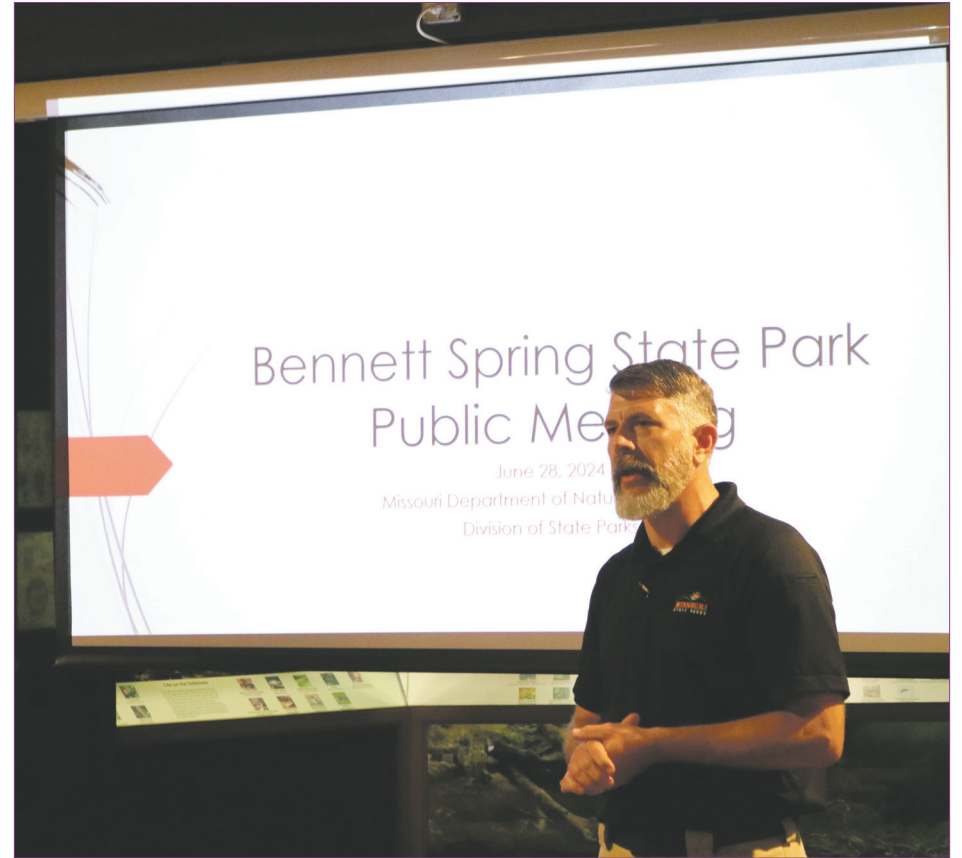
"The main way we do invasive control is by manual pulling," DuMond said. Other methods include brush hogging and herbicide.

Lastly, DuMond introduced the park's representative ranger, Jason Walker. Bennett Spring does not currently have its own ranger, but Walker currently serves the park in addition to Lake of the Ozarks and Ha Ha Tonka. Walker gave a brief warning about car break-ins.

"Last case I worked here, the guy left his window cracked, five minutes, walked out. The guy came in, popped it, took his wallet," Walker said. "It was literally thirty minutes."

Park staff took questions after the presentation, with the most involved discussion surrounding Holland Dam and just how close fishers could get to the dam. Hatchery Manager Ben Havens spoke on the decision to the remove the sign prohibiting fishing in the immediate area in front of citing the lack of rules on the matter.

"What is 'immediately'? It's a gray, gray area," Havens said. "From an enforcement standpoint, since there



LCR Photo/Jack Silberberg

Bennett Spring Park Manager Gabe DuMond hosts the park's public meeting. DuMond gave updates on the various projects the park has completing and is undertaking.

isn't anything to enforce, we really can't have a sign there that says, 'Hey, you can't be in this area.'"

While Havens noted that there is a

sign prohibiting fishing on a nearby bank, policing at the Holland Dam is a social regulation.

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

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.

Trout fishing continues despite construction at Bennett Spring hatchery

FRANCIS SKALICKY
MO. DEPT. OF CONSERVATION

Construction and fishing have proven to be compatible this summer at Bennett Spring State Park.

The construction-related signs and the sounds of heavy machinery at Bennett Spring are definite indicators that the multi-year renovation of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) fish hatchery at this popular state park are underway. However, there are also signs that trout fishing – one of the park’s most popular pastimes – also is going strong. Through the end of June, more than 60,000 trout tags have been issued to anglers to fish for the more than 120,000 trout that have been stocked at the park thus far this year.

“This year, the fishing at Bennett

Spring has been great,” said Ben Havens, the manager at MDC’s Bennett Spring Hatchery. “The weather and water conditions have been very favorable for fishing and many anglers have had great success during their visit to the park.”

The construction underway that park visitors have undoubtedly noticed is a \$40 million renovation of the MDC hatchery at Bennett. This project includes a new intake structure, reconstruction of the raceways, a new office, water quality improvements, and other upgrades and refurbishments that will improve fish production capability and site resiliency. Cahills Construction of Rolla is the contractor for this project.

A big reason fishing and construction have been co-existing at Bennett

See ‘CONSTRUCTION’/page 4



MDC photo

Construction signs and fish hatchery signs (both pictured above) can be seen at MDC’s Bennett Spring Fish Hatchery this summer. A hatchery renovation project is underway at Bennett Spring, but trout fishing at the park has continued throughout the project.

Fishing the Missouri Trout Parks
written by Jim Washabaugh

Bennett Spring State Park, Maramec Spring Park, Montauk State Park, and Roaring River State Park

Get your copy today!

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

BOAT TOWN BREWING

CRAFT BEER & PIZZA
FAMILY ATMOSPHERE

[417] 532-2772

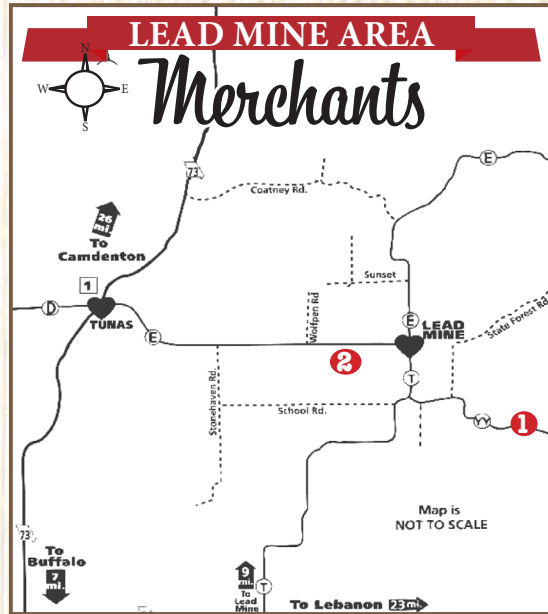
214 W COMMERCIAL
DOWNTOWN LEBANON
BOATTOWNBREWING.COM

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.



CONSTRUCTION

from page 3

Spring this summer is because of the connectivity of MDC's cold-water hatchery system. Bennett Spring Hatchery normally produces up to 450,000 trout annually from egg to fingerling size and stocks 325,000 in the park's waters each year. The reason there are still trout to catch at Bennett Spring – despite the reduction in fish production at the hatchery – is that MDC's other cold-water hatcheries in the state have picked up the slack. The bulk of the trout for this summer's fishing has come from MDC's Montauk Hatchery (Dent County), from MDC's Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery (Taney County), and from privately owned hatcheries.

Stocking of the stream within park boundaries does not occur each evening (which was the stocking schedule before construction started), but MDC staff still stocks the stream several times each week. Though the frequency of stockings at Bennett has changed, the total number of trout stocked at the park each week has not changed. Numbers of fish stocked are posted in the Bennett Spring Park Store.

"To the best of our ability, we're trying to maintain a regular stocking schedule and provide all the other angler



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

CONSTRUCTION _____ from page 4

amenities that make Bennett such a special fishing destination for thousands of people each year," said MDC Hatchery Systems Manager Clint Hale. "Most importantly, we appreciate the public's patience with this project. We know the park they're seeing this summer is different than the one that trout



Archived Photo

anglers have enjoyed for generations. However, this renovation project will help MDC provide Bennett anglers with a quality fishing experience for many years to come."

The significant economic impact that trout fishing has on Missouri is exemplified at Bennett Spring. Approximately 450,000 fish are produced at the park each year. This stocking activity creates fishing activity, which has a large economic ripple effect in the form of money that gets spent in the area on meals, lodging, gas, etc.

However, Bennett Spring is more than just a fishing location. Many families also enjoy walking along the raceways viewing the trout being raised to stocking size. Havens will also be glad when the fish-viewing aspect of Bennett Spring returns.

"Bennett Spring offers many people a wonderful opportunity to fish and enjoy the outdoors," he said. "The investment in improving the hatchery today will allow us to continue to provide great opportunities for years to come."

Black vulture, spider events set this month at Bennett Spring



LCR STAFF

Bennett Spring State Park will feature Vulture Kettle Talk from 2 until 2:30 p.m. Aug. 3 at the nature center.

Visitors will learn about Bennett Spring's black vulture population, which consists of more than 200 birds. A park naturalist will present a slideshow with information about these birds and how anglers and other visitors can better coexist with them.

A spider sniff is planned from 8

until 9 p.m. Aug. 9 in the nature center. The program begins with a video about spiders. This will be followed by a night hike on Oak-Hickory Trail, where we will put our spider sniffing skills to the test. The hike will conclude back at the nature center for a special ceremony and the presentation of spider sniff cards.

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

The event is free and open to the public. There is no need to register. For more information, call the nature center at 417-532-4338.



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





Where comfy & comfort collide

Small - 3x Women's Clothing
Jewelry • Purses

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

Crazy Daisy Boutique

**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

*Bargains in
Blooms!*



* Vintage * Lawn Furniture
* Home Decor * Antiques * Local Artisan Goods

**RUSTY ROOSTER
MARKET PLACE**

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



Smokin' Delicious

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

Mel's
on Madison

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

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 EVENTS



FIRST Friday

August 2nd • 5PM - 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.

WE'RE NOW ACCEPTING LISTINGS

Place your Yard Sale Ad **EARLY** in the **LC RECORD**

August 2nd & 3rd YARD SALES	PRICES:
	1" - \$10
	2" - \$15
Deadline: 11AM on Tuesday, July 30th	
3" - \$20	



ROUTE 66 CENTRAL MISSOURI - 100 mile - **Yard Sale**
Pulaski • Laclede • Webster
100 miles of treasures on The Mother Road

We will place your Yard Sale on the Route 66 Yard Sale Facebook and the Record's Facebook. Yard Sales will also appear in the Record's Classified Section on July 31st.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK@ROUTE66YARDSALE FOR MORE DETAILS



Farmer's Market

LEBANON FARMERS MARKET
Open Wednesdays 11 am to 3 pm | Open Saturdays 8 am to 1 pm

SHOW ME 66 RALLY
August 9th - August 11th, 2024
Lebanon Fairgrounds

For the 2024 Laclede County Fair Schedule, visit www.visitlebanonmo.org/events/



Logan Miller operates a Laclede County tradition, Larry's Cedar Resort

LAURA L. VALENTI

Growing up on the family farm at Long Lane, Bennett Spring was always an important part of Logan Miller's youth and now, an even more significant part of his life as one of the new owners and the on-site manager of Larry's Cedar Resort and the accompanying store. Long a part of Bennett since the founding of the business in 1966 by the late Larry Peace and his wife, Kay, their sons, Mike and Kelly, Logan said that when he and his partners, Isaac Stewart and Chip McGeehan, also lifelong southwest Missouri residents, found out Larry's was for sale, they made a plan to become its new owners.

"We were actually in a duck blind near Clinton, hunting when the subject

came up. We were so excited about it, we actually left hunting camp early the next day to come home and find out more. I've always admired the premiere location here right outside the park. I've raised cows with my dad outside Long Lane where we have around 600 Red Angus momma-calf pairs and I have 16 rental houses in Buffalo and Lebanon. It's fair to say that Isaac and I were definitely looking for something new and different.

"This has been my first retail experience," he admitted, "and it's been quite a learning curve. Still, it's pretty much what I expected."

Logan grew up hunting, fishing, especially fly fishing at Bennett and just embracing life in the outdoors in general. He stated that he is at the store

See 'LARRY'S'/page 9



LCR Photo/Laura Valenti

Logan Miller is the owner and operator of Larry's Cedar Resort at Bennett Spring. The resort has been in business since 1966.

**CHECK OUT OUR
DELICIOUS SMOKED BBQ. NOW OPEN!**

**BRISKET
RIBS
PULLED PORK
SLICED PORK
CHICKEN
HAM**

DONT FORGET THE SIDES!

**BBQ OPEN
THURS 11-7 • FRI & SAT 11-9 • SUN 11-3**

**CALL AHEAD AND PUT YOUR ORDERS
IN AT 417-664-3047**

**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



LARRY'S

from page 8

almost every day for at least a part of each day. He and his wife, Amber built their home on a part of the family farm, land that has been in Logan's family for six or seven generations, including part of the land that was signed over shortly after the US Civil War. They have two young sons, Case age six and three year old, Cole both of whom thoroughly love life on the farm as well as going fishing with their dad.

Larry's, as most people, both visitors and locals, know it, offers 19 cabin units to its guests as well as a store full of flies and fly-tying materials. "There are also murals everywhere," Logan laughed. "Kay loves the murals as you can tell. She has helped so much by keeping an eye on me from across the street with much welcome advice.

"We offer fly fishing inventory by Orvis and Simms and we've added new materials to become the premier fly fishing location in the area. Tanner Forester, a local fly-tying man is also

busy, tying flies right here at a table in our store. He can literally tie anything," Logan added. "We also contribute to the Mayfly Project, a local effort that offers fly-tying experiences to young fly tying fishermen. Ben Havens, the Bennett Spring Trout Hatchery manager is a volunteer with the project and his wife, Sarah is the lead mentor of same."

Without a doubt, Logan stated that one of the best parts of taking over a business like this one with a long history is meeting the people who have come here for many years, literally in some cases, for a couple of generations.

"We are a family tradition for some who came to stay here with their family as a kid and are now bringing their grandkids here. We don't take those traditions lightly.

"This is certainly a lot more hands on than raising cows or keeping rental houses but I'm really enjoying it." And busy as his new work keeps him,

Logan concluded that he still manages to slip down to the stream to do a little fly fishing himself as often as he can.

"Just to keep my finger on the pulse of things, so to speak," he smiled.



LCR Photo/Laura Valenti

Tanner Forester ties flies at Larry's store on a regular basis.

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



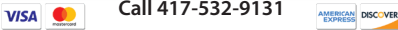
Catch

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



Cliff Hill of Jefferson City, MO
Shad Rap
3.5lbs



Roger Dubbert
Rainbow Trout
Approx. 4lb



Judy Mitchell,
Zone 1 Marabou,
3 lbs



Mike of Overland Park, KS
Zone 1 White Marabou
3 3/8 lbs.



Scott Sapp,
Zone 1 Trout,
4 1/4 lbs



Daryl Weismeyer
Zone 3 Fireballs,
7 lbs. 2 oz.

Can art, Brice, Mo. history are topics for upcoming Nature Center programs

LCR STAFF

Aluminum can art will be the topic of a program set for 11 a.m. Aug. 16 in the Nature Center. A staff member will guide participants in cutting aluminum cans to make flowers.

"It is an easy and fun craft, allowing you to put your creative spin on the basic pattern. Crafters will have the

option to paint their flower creations. It's a fun way to turn something someone has discarded into something of value," according to an announcement from park staff.

All materials will be provided. Due to the sharp edges of aluminum, this program is recommended for ages 10 and up.

The Nature Center will also host a History of Brice, Mo. slideshow from 2

until 2:30 p.m. on Aug. 10 and Aug. 24. The presentation will include photos and information about the Town of Brice and the influential people who lived there. There is no need to register for this event.

Both of these events are free and open to the public. For more information, call the nature center at 417-532-3925.

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**



ANTIQUES



SHABBY CHIC



PRIMITIVES



COLLECTIBLES

**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

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
417-991-3383

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 BELLY!



ONLY \$2.25 + TAX



FILL UP YOUR BBQ!

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