

Urban Populations Outreach Project Now in Three Cities

MPA's innovative and highly successful Urban Populations Outreach Project (UPOP) is now operating in three cities—Kansas City, St. Louis, and Joplin. The

brainchild of MPA director and former president Mary Abbott, UPOP began in Kansas City in summer 2000 as an effort to offer disadvantaged inner city children

opportunities to experience the natural and cultural resources of state parks and historic sites. For most it is their first exposure to the wonders of our state parks, and for some it may well be a life-altering experience.



MPA's UPOP program continues to grow in popularity and scope allowing inner city kids to discover Missouri's state parks and historic sites.

In Kansas City this summer, UPOP operated for its fifth season and its third year in a row under the able leadership of Shalonn Curls. More than 300 youngsters from a variety of inner city programs visited Watkins Mill, the Bruce Watkins Center and State Museum, the Katy Trail, and other parks, including one lucky group that experienced an overnight at Camp Bob White at Knob Noster State Park. About 60 kids enjoyed the campout during which they swam, played basketball, roasted marshmallows at the bonfire and gazed at a sky sprinkled with stars -- a treat they rarely see at night in the inner city.

Snakes, Barges, and a Dead Fish or Two Make for a Day to Remember

by Shelley Welsch
The Green Center

"It feels like corn on the cob!"

So said a 10 year-old girl who had the chance to touch a snake while visiting the interpretive center at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, as part of the Urban Populations Outreach Project (UPOP) of the Missouri Parks Association and the Green Center.

This young girl was one of almost 30 children who visited Columbia Bottom as part of the UPOP Summer Experience, a program designed to let children from highly-urban communities experience nature up-close-

The Kansas City program was supported by MPA members and friends, including a \$2500 gift from the law firm of Shook, Hardy and Bacon.

In St. Louis, UPOP expanded to a four-day experience (see "Snakes, Barges, and a Dead Fish or Two," at left) for each of six groups of youngsters from Castlepoint Family Support Center, the downtown YMCA, Wesley House, Walbridge Elementary School, Dignity House and Pagedale Family Support Center. Each group went to

(See "Snakes" on Page 8)

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MPA President's Message

Building Public Support For Our State Parks*by Ron Coleman*

On September 6 I had the honor as president of the Missouri Parks Association to welcome state park directors and members of their staffs from across America to Missouri for the annual National Association of State Parks Directors Conference held in St. Louis September 6th through the

10th. Prior to my greeting and welcome I had the opportunity to visit with a number of these dynamic leaders charged with the stewardship of millions of acres of our public lands and so many of our country's precious historical and natural resources.

Many of our conversations revolved around such topics as funding and public support for state parks. I was somewhat surprised to find that many of the states represented at the conference did not have a citizen support organization like our own Missouri Parks Association (MPA) or a foundation such as our relatively new Missouri State Parks Foundation to aid them in building public awareness and improving funding for the capital needs of their respective state park systems.

Park Briefs

Bob Meinen will take over as director of Idaho State Parks September 7 after serving Missouri State Parks for five years as deputy director. He assumed major supervisory duties at a time when Division Director Doug Eiken and other key staff were deeply involved in leading the Missouri Lewis and Clark commemoration. He also coordinated the development of a centralized campground reservation system, advocated improved pay for key facility heads, negotiated the first union agreement, and in all his efforts, according to Eiken, "was a consummate team player." MPA applauds his service and wishes him well in his new assignment.

Gap survey. There is still time to offer your thoughts on new parks and historic sites or standards for inclusion of new units in the state park system. The park division has been following a 1992 expansion plan that identified gaps in the system and seeks now to update the plan with public input. To fill out a survey form on-line go to www.mostatoparks.com/survey.

Harry S Truman State Park suffered extensive damage from a devastating wind storm in July that forced the temporary closing of campgrounds, beaches, trails and other facilities, many of which have since been reopened.

It made me proud as president of your organization to appear before such an elite audience and realize that we are definitely making a difference here in Missouri through our involvement in the Missouri Parks Association, an organization conceived over twenty years ago in 1982. Each state park director at the conference received a copy of the proceedings of the First Missouri Conference on State Parks, organized by MPA and held in St. Charles, Missouri, June 15-17, 1984—MPA's first major effort to raise public awareness about the needs of our Missouri state parks.

We are returning to historic St. Charles October 23-24 for our annual MPA members' meeting and conference (see registration information on the inside back page) to discuss how together we can continue to be a national leader in building support for our Missouri state park system. I hope that you will plan to join us for the meeting.

A new **St. Louis Area Office** has been opened at Scott Joplin State Historic Site to coordinate services and activities at six park units in the metropolitan area with the goal of promoting the use of state parks and historic sites by urban residents. The new effort will be discussed at MPA's annual meeting in St. Charles on Saturday, October 23.

Ann Sligar, historic site administrator at Watkins Mill from 1979 until her retirement in 2001, has coauthored a history of the site with UMKC history professor Louis Potts. *The Factory on the Farm* may be purchased at Watkins Mill or through Truman State University Press.

Efforts to complete **Katy Trail State Park** will be aided by a bill passed by the Missouri General

Assembly that will encourage the development of walking and bicycling trails by protecting landowners whose property adjoins state-designated, county or municipal trails from civil liability.

Kathy Borgman, for twenty years executive director of the Friends of Arrow Rock, is this year's winner of the prestigious Elizabeth and George Rozier Award of the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation. Borgman oversaw the restoration and management of ten additional historic structures in Arrow Rock, including several related to the town's Black heritage. She oversaw increases in Friends' membership from 200 to 700 and in its annual budget from \$5,000 to \$100,000, and led the development of an endowment fund of more than \$400,000—an unparalleled record among state park friends groups.

MPA Provides Input to Wild Areas Planning For Roaring River Hills and Mudlick Mountain

by Dave Bedan

In 2002 the Missouri Parks Association and others raised concerns about the management of the Wild Areas in Missouri State Parks. Park managers were faced with numerous problems that have been growing since 1978 when the Wild Areas System was established. The system was modeled on the National Wilderness System and consists of eleven designated wild areas on 23,000 acres, or about 15 percent of the state park system. Some wild areas are suffering from overuse and erosion of trails while others have encroachments of exotic species or a loss of biodiversity due to years of fire suppression.

The park managers also felt that they were facing conflicting mandates and a lack of detailed guidance on managing wild areas. As is the case for most public lands, the Missouri State Park System is managed for multiple uses and to protect multiple resources. The managers of state parks must value and protect all of these resources:

1. Resources for Recreational, Educational and Tourism Opportunities
2. Cultural Resources
3. Wilderness Resources
4. Biological Diversity and Integrity Resources

The challenge is how to maintain a balance when management conflicts arise. Wild area management presents special challenges because wild area management policy prohibits intrusive human activities in these areas, especially the use of motorized vehicles or equipment.

In response to the renewed public interest in wild areas the

Missouri Department of Natural Resources convened meetings in 2002 of individuals and groups with an interest in wild area management. These meetings led to the adoption of a clearer statement of policy and better guidelines for solving resource management problems in state park wild areas. Most importantly, wildness itself was recognized as a resource, one that should receive priority attention in designated wild areas. This was followed by the establishment of a Wild Area Planning Team composed of representatives from the interested conservation and user groups including MPA. This team has now traveled to two parks and spent two days in each park hiking in the wild areas, discussing the issues and suggesting solutions. The park division staff then develops a detailed management plan for the park.

In 2003 the team visited Roaring River Hills Wild Area in Roaring River State Park. Here the major issue was the conflict between managing the area for wildness versus managing it for optimum biological diversity. Decades of fire suppression had allowed eastern red cedars to encroach on the glade openings in the park. While wilderness area management prohibits the use of motorized vehicles and tools, the use of motorized equipment such as chain saws would facilitate the removal of the cedars. After much discussion the planning team and park division staff crafted a compromise whereby chain saws will be used to re-establish the highest quality glades but this use will be limited in regard to the number of acres treated, times of the year, and total number of years. No motorized vehicles will be used in the process. After this

process is completed, only fire management will be used to maintain the glades.

In 2004 the planning team visited the Mudlick Mountain Wild Area in Sam A. Baker State Park. The size and wild character of this premier area present special opportunities for high quality wild area management. Mudlick Mountain certainly has fewer pressing problems than Roaring River Hills but the team did note some management issues.

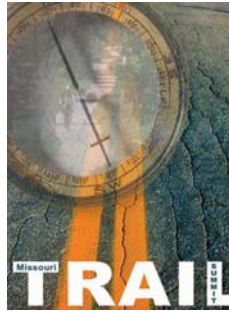
Much of the trail system follows old roads that were poorly designed and constructed and the trails are likely to be increasingly subject to erosion by equestrian use, which is becoming more popular. While equestrian use is appropriate in some wild areas, this use requires special care in the routing, design, construction and maintenance of trails. Another issue discussed was the appropriate management of three historic Appalachian-style trail shelters originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The possibility of eliminating some adjacent power lines was also discussed. Park division staff are currently working on a draft plan for Mudlick Mountain.

MPA played a key role in surfacing the issues and stimulating the development of this planning process. I believe that all participants would agree that, although it has been labor-intensive for everyone involved, this process has brought diverse interests together in a constructive and thoughtful manner to discuss wild area management issues. Hopefully this cooperative spirit can be maintained as the team tackles the more difficult issues in some of the designated wild areas in other Missouri state parks.

Many Trails to Guide You Through Missouri State Parks

by Terry Whaley

This October 7-9 trail interests from around Missouri will hold the first statewide Trail Summit in Columbia. It is hoped to collect trail advocates, users, organizations and agencies from across the state in one location for the first time in our trail history to discuss, to learn and to work toward overall improvement of our state's trail resources.



Missouri has a rich connection with trails of the past. We have parts of the Lewis & Clark Trail, the Santa Fe Trail, the Trail of Tears, the Mormon Trail, the Oregon and California trails, and the Pony Express Trail. More recently we find our state at the center of the Trans America Trail, a cross-country bike route, and Historic Route 66, of auto fame; we are key to the Ozark Trail and we represent some 400 miles of the Mississippi River Trail. The flagship of this fleet is of course the present-day KATY Trail. Virtually all are connected in some way to the state park system.

Discussion about the Trail Summit at a recent MPA board meeting got us to thinking...*how many miles of trails are there in our state park system?*

Well, the fine staff in Jefferson City was all over this question. If you were to think about exploring all the trails in our state park system you would need a good pair of hiking boots, a trail bike, a horse, an ATV and, for the extended treks, a backpack. The length of your state park trails is approaching 1,000 miles. The official figure is 984 miles with all types of trails combined. On a good day you could get lost and hit that 1,000-mile mark if you tried! As a comparison we have only 260 miles of roads in our parks.

The breakdown of trails looks something like this:

Hiking - 199.88
 Hiking, Backpacking - 108.5
 Hiking, Biking (both on and off-road) - 286.4 (most of this is the Katy Trail)
 Hiking, Biking, Equestrian - 85.8 (the section of the Katy Trail open to horses is included here)
 Hiking, Equestrian, Backpacking - 47.8
 Hiking, Equestrian, Biking, Backpacking - 15 (this is Lake Wappapello State Park exclusively)
 ATV, Biking (off-road only) - 70 (Finger Lakes State Park exclusively)
 ATV - 125 (St. Joe State Park exclusively)

Regardless of your choice of travel mode you have many opportunities to take to the trail and explore your state park system. However, don't overlook trail opportunities of Missouri on lands managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the National Park Service, the Forest Service, or your local park system. When you consider the current trail inventory and future potential based on user demand, it is not too early for a Missouri Trail Summit to focus on this fantastic resource.

The summit will take place October 7-9 at the ARC (Activity and Recreation Center) in Columbia. An agenda and registration information are available at the Missouri Park and Recreation Association Web site at www.mopark.org or by calling (573) 636-3828. MPA will be a co-sponsor of this event.



Bonfires, roasting marshmallows and wildlife watching were among the many activities experienced for the first time by inner city kids during MPA's 2004 summer UPOP outings.



Nikane's Ozark Adventure

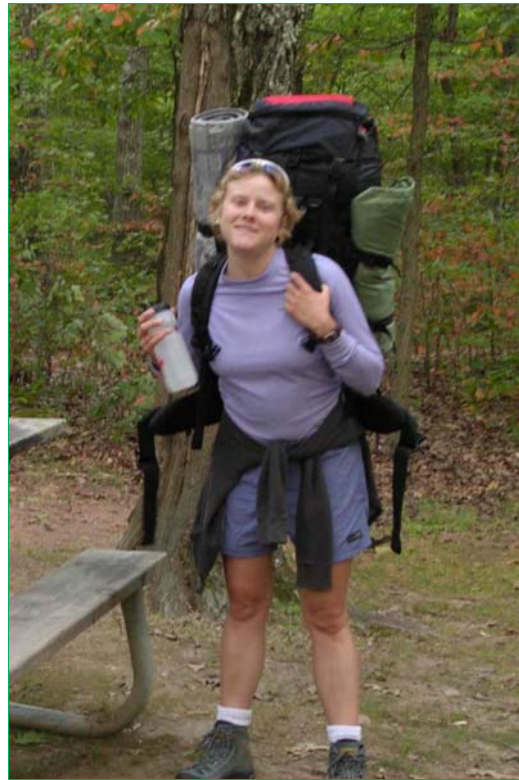
by Nikane Mallea

I wanted to spend a few days backpacking while vacationing in Missouri, and the Ozark Trail seemed to be exactly what I was looking for. My plan was to hike the Taum Sauk and Trace Creek trails covering just over 60 miles in the five days that I had. The Taum Sauk Trail goes up over the highest point in Missouri before making its way down to Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park and then up again to Goggins Mountain. I had spoken with several people who had hiked parts of the Ozark Trail, but not the sections that I would be doing.

After visiting Elephant Rocks State Park, I was dropped off at Taum Sauk State Park. My sister would meet me Friday afternoon at the end of the Trace Creek Trail.

I had been checking the weather forecast the last week since I had heard that this was not a typical Missouri summer. The forecast was for the mid-80's with a slight chance of showers. Although I had packed rain gear, my fingers were crossed—I thrive in dry and hot conditions.

I spent the first night at the Taum Sauk campground waking up early Monday morning to the sound of a distant roar. Was that thunder? I had been on the trail for no more than two minutes when the heavy rain hit. The rain continued to fall steadily for the first couple hours, making the rocky and already rugged trail even more treacherous. Luckily, the Ozark Trail signage was very good. The trail traverses mountaintop glades and bare rock mountainsides where the path's direction is indiscernible. Unlike many of the trails that I have hiked in Washington's Olympic Rain



Nikane Mallea, who lives in the Basque region of Spain, at Taum Sauk State Park.

Forest or Glacier National Park, the Ozark Trail shows few signs of human impact—something quite uncommon.

A few hours into my hike the rain had finally faded to a mist, but the air was hot and thick and the roll of thunder was a reminder of what could be. The fog had cleared enough at one point that I could see the odd, out-of-place mountain in the distance—which I assumed must be the Proffit Mountain reservoir. Six miles from Johnson's Shut-Ins, I lost my footing on the rocky path and I went down hard, cutting my chin on a sharp rock. It was bleeding heartily and I figured that the sooner I got to Johnson's Shut-Ins the better. I had not seen another backpacker all day, and the large spider webs covering the trail were a clue that it might have been a while since someone else had passed before me. I knew

that I would need to hike out, so with a large dishcloth pressed against my chin to slow the bleeding, I continued along the trail. Johnson's Shut-Ins 5 miles, Johnson's Shut-Ins 4 miles, Johnson Shut-Ins 3 miles...the mileage markers were a comforting sight. I was very weak by the time I reached the swollen Black Creek, which made fording it a bit difficult. By the third and last time I crossed, I had given up rock hopping and simply just walked through.

The staff at Johnson's Shut-Ins could not have been better; they went out of their way to make sure I had everything I needed. Within 5 minutes of my arrival I was being driven to the nearest hospital in Ellington by Dana, one of the park's staff. She stayed with me while I was being stitched up by the emergency room staff and drove me to the pharmacy for my prescription before driving me back to the park. It was raining heavily again—it was going to be a wet week.

I had planned to keep hiking—weather permitting. Even though I was resigned to soft food and liquids, my feet were fine and the mountains called. Weather did not permit however. It was dry the next morning but the forecast was not good. I decided to hang tight for the day and take advantage of the park's services. I hiked the Johnson's Shut-Ins Trail that morning taking photos of the Shut-Ins, colorful lichen and small waterfalls that I came across along the path. By mid-afternoon the heavy showers had returned and my hopes to continue faded.

There are still miles of beautiful trail along the Ozark Trail that I hope to hike, but I think I might wait for a dry year.

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either Meramec or Cuivre River State Park. The program was coordinated by Dianne Benjamin, Kathy Bayless and Michael Nelson of the Green Center in cooperation with MPA President Ron Coleman and Carlotta Lewis of the DNR Park Division. It was funded by a wide array of partners: MEMCO Barge Line supported the entire Mississippi River day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with an additional cash match from Union Avenue Christian Church funded the environmental stewardship activities, and EarthLinks, a program funded by the St. Louis Trio Foundation, partnered on an art project in which each child participated.

And UPOP was introduced for the first time in southwest Missouri, where 54 youngsters from Joplin, Carthage, and Webb City in the Head Start/Early Head Start program had a chance to interact with nature at Prairie State Park. The pilot program, funded by a grant from the McCorkle Foundation through the good offices of former MPA director Jim Goodknight, was coordinated by Tony Robyn, executive director of the Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center under development by Audubon Missouri in Joplin, with the personal involvement of Cyndi Evans and the staff at Prairie State Park. The children saw live elk and young calves, they heard a butterfly-dressed character speak about the life cycle of butterflies and they participated in artwork and games, all associated with butterflies.

More than 100 MPA members contributed more than \$6,000 this summer in support of the multi-city UPOP. There is still time to make an additional tax-deductible contribution. Just make your check payable to Missouri Parks Association (UPOP) and mail to Missouri Parks Association, c/o The Callaway Bank, P.O. Box 10, Fulton, MO 65251.

Missouri Hosts National Association Of State Park Directors Conference

Representatives from 47 state park systems across the nation participated in the National Association of State Park Directors Conference Sept. 6-10 in St. Louis. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri State Parks Foundation sponsored this year's conference, which is held annually to discuss current state park trends and issues.

"A Journey of Discovery" was the theme for the conference, which coincided with this year's Lewis and Clark Expedition bicentennial commemoration. At the beginning of the conference, participants were given the option of doing a bicycle ride on Katy Trail State Park, which contains the longest non-motorized segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Participants also had the opportunity to visit the Missouri History Museum to see the Lewis and Clark National Bicentennial Exhibition, which brought together hundreds of priceless artifacts and documents associated with the expedition.

During the conference, state park directors and staff discussed contemporary issues and solutions to perplexing problems facing most state park systems. Topics included recreation trends in state parks since September 11, 2001; updates on state park research; successful strategies that led to dedicated funding programs; natural and cultural resource management; and developing successful state park foundations.

On-site institute programs were held at First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site, Katy Trail State Park, Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park, Lewis and Clark and Cahokia Mounds state historic sites in Illinois, and the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. Other places visited included Scott Joplin House State Historic Site and the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.

Following the regular conference, post-conference field trips were available to Mastodon and Missouri Mines state historic sites and St. Joe, Route 66, Meramec and Onondaga Cave state parks. The Missouri Parks Association was among the conference sponsors and MPA director John Karel was a featured speaker.



The feel of possum fur and the sighting of birds not found on city streets were first time experiences for kids participating in UPOP this summer.



MPA ANNUAL MEETING IN HISTORIC ST. CHARLES OCTOBER 22-24

MPA'S 23rd annual meeting will headquarter at the St. Charles Travelodge, 2781 I-70 South Service Rd., Exit 228 (Veteran's Memorial Parkway). Please phone 1-636-949-8700 for reservations before September 20.

Friday, October 22

3:00 pm MPA president Ron Coleman will lead a bike ride on the Katy Trail from St. Charles to Creve Coeur Park across the new Missouri River Bridge from 3-5 pm. Bring your own bike or rent from Touring Cyclist, 104 South Main St. (\$12.50 for 2 hours; call 636-949-9630 to reserve a bike). Meet at the trailhead across the tracks from the Trailhead Brewing Company, 921 S. Riverside Dr. We will return to Trailhead Brewing Co. for dinner at 6 pm. Those not interested in biking can shop or visit the new Lewis & Clark Boat House and Nature Center or the Foundry Fine Arts Center in Old Town, St. Charles.

6:00 pm Dinner on your own (suggestions: Grappa Grill, 1644 Country Club Plaza Dr., 636-940-5400; St. Charles Vintage House, 1219 S. Main, 636-946-7155; Trailhead Brewing Co., 636-946-2739.

7:30pm Reception at the Travelodge, Haller's Suite

Saturday, October 23

8:00 am Registration: Travelodge, Lewis and Clark Room

9:00 am Welcome to St. Charles: Lewis and Clark Room
State of the Parks Address, Doug Eiken, Director of State Parks

10:00 am State Parks: The Urban Dimension (a panel discussion featuring representatives from St. Louis area parks and historic sites, DNR St. Louis office, MPA's Urban Populations Outreach Project, and Kansas City area parks)

12:00 pm Box lunch and field trip: First State Capital, St. Charles Frontier Park, Katy Trail, Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones Confluence Point State Park, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center (Hartford, IL)

6:00 pm Reception: Travelodge, Lewis and Clark Room

7:00 pm Annual Dinner: Travelodge, Lewis and Clark Room (illustrated talk by DSP Historian Jim Denny on "Running the Lower Missouri River Gauntlet: The First Trial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition")

Sunday, October 24

8:30 am Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Directors: Travelodge, St. Charles Room

9:30 am Meeting of the MPA Board of Directors (members welcome to attend)

12:00 n Adjourn (post-meeting activities on your own: Lewis and Clark Boat House, St. Charles Main Street, Bass Pro Shop, Ameristar Casino, Wineries, etc.)

Accommodations: make your own reservation before Sept. 20 at Travelodge (see above; ask for rooms being held for MPA); other motels nearby: Embassy Suites, 1051 Veterans Memorial Pkwy, phone 636-946-7776 or 1-800-366-2427; Fairfield Inn, 801 Fairlane Rd., St. Charles, MO 63303, phone 636-946-1900.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Registration Fee	___ persons	@ \$20	\$ _____
Box Lunch (Sat.)	___ persons	@ \$ 9	\$ _____
Dinner (Sat.)	___ persons	@ \$21	\$ _____
	Total Enclosed	_____	\$ _____

Make check payable to **Missouri Parks Association** and mail with form by September 30 to Eleanor Hoefle, MPA Assist. Treasurer, 1234 Hoyt Dr., St. Louis, MO 63137. **Please register in advance.** For questions or late registration call Eleanor Hoefle, 314-869-6534.

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and-personal at the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, at state parks, at the Green Center in University City, and in their own neighborhoods.

UPOP began in St. Louis three years ago as a 1-1/2 day experience for youth and has now grown into a four-day camp, made possible by a collaboration between MPA, the Green Center, and other partners, including the Open Space Council, MEMCO Barge Line, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Union Avenue Christian Church, and EarthLinks, a program funded by St. Louis Trio Foundation.

About 200 urban youth from St. Louis had the chance to take part in the UPOP experience this summer. They got to observe barges sliding through Melvin Price Locks and Dam near Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, see pelicans eating lunch, set up an environmental stewardship project in their own neighborhoods, and maybe even overcome a fear of snakes.

"Children might live within a few blocks of the Mississippi

River but be afraid to walk along its banks," says Dr. Dianne Benjamin, Program Director at the Green Center. "UPOP field experiences help overcome what we call 'ecophobia', the fear of the natural environment that surrounds us all and its ecological problems. It's a big step for children who used to cringe at the mention of the word 'snake' to become excited about touching one, and even more excited when they watch a snake slither behind some rocks. It's awesome to witness children take their concern about trash in the rivers and turn it into a litter cleanup project in their own neighborhood."

The UPOP program is unique in the bi-state region because of the breadth of experiences offered to participating youth. They visit the Green Center for an orientation to the outdoors on Day One of the four-day camp, taking the opportunity to explore an urban prairie, wetland, 26-acre woods, and gardens.

On Day Two it's off to see the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and, if they are lucky, see a barge go through a

lock and dam - a favorite of almost all the participants. On Day Three it's investigating wet habitats by wading in a creek or walking through a cave in a Missouri state park. And on Day Four it's back to their neighborhoods to develop and implement their own environmental stewardship project, including a public art display for MetroLink cars and buses.

"If a child leaves our program a little more accepting of the bees in the backyard, or a little more conscious of the trash in their neighborhood and the need to pick it up, then we think we've made an impact," says Dr. Benjamin.

"Heck, we're thrilled when a child stops to study a dead fish along the river bank, instead of making a gagging sound; it's a sign that they are connecting with the natural world where they live, and that is what we are all about."



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*UPOP Now In Three Missouri Cities
MPA Annual Meeting In Historic St. Charles*

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