

Money from the new license will be placed into an account to be used only for the purchase and release of live pheasants on state-owned public lands with suitable pheasant habitat. Releases will be conducted during the regular pheasant season, which runs from mid-October through mid-November.

Pheasants are expected to be released at the following state game areas in 2021:

- * Cornish (Cass County)
- * Crow Island (Bay and Saginaw counties)
- * Erie (Monroe County)
- * Lapeer (Lapeer County)
- * Leidy Lake (St. Joseph County)
- * Pinconning Township (Bay County)
- * Pointe Mouillee (Monroe and Wayne counties)
- * Rose Lake (Clinton and Shiawassee counties)
- * St Johns Marsh (St. Clair County)

Two hunting recruitment events also will take place at the Rose Lake State Game Area in December. When available, event dates and registration details will be posted at Michigan.gov/SmallGame.

The free pheasant endorsement required in 2019 and 2020 has been discontinued and is no longer required for hunters pursuing pheasants.

Information about pheasant hunting regulations and season dates will be in the 2021 Hunting Digest, which will be available around July 1 at license agents and online at Michigan.gov/DNRDigests.

Visit Michigan.gov/SmallGame for more small game hunting information and to subscribe to small game hunting updates.

Questions about pheasant and small game hunting can be directed to the DNR Wildlife Division at 517-284-9453 or DNR-Wildlife@Michigan.gov.

MISSOURI

MDC TO HOST WOMEN'S-ONLY, BEGINNER FIREARMS CLASSES DURING ONE-DAY CLINIC JUNE 19

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will offer four separate classes during a one-day clinic highlighting the fundamentals of shotgun and handgun shooting. Courses are set for June 19, from 9 – 11 a.m., from noon – 1:30 p.m., from 2 - 3:30 p.m., and from 4 - 5:30 p.m. at Rolla Shooting Club in Rolla.

“Handgun shooting is one of, if not, the fastest growing shooting sports,” said MDC Conservation Educator and class instructor Dwight Warnke. “These classes will be a fun, safe and low-pressure instruction of learning and shooting shotguns and handguns.”

* Beginner Shotgun Shooting | June 19, from 9 - 11 a.m.

* Women's Only Beginner Handgun Class | June 19, from noon – 1:30 a.m.

* Women's Only Beginner Handgun Class | June 19, from 2 - 3:30 p.m.

* Beginner Handgun Class | June 19, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Beginner Handgun Class is designed for participants age 16 and older; those age 16 to 17 may participate with a parent or guardian who is



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Credit MDC News from the region Ozark By Josh Hartwig

also registered for the workshop. Girls age 16 to 17 may attend the women's-only classes with a parent or guardian who is also registered for the workshop. Minimum age to participate in Beginner Shotgun Shooting is 12; participants age 12 to 17 years must be accompanied by a parent or guardian that is also registered for the class.

Warnke will cover topics including handgun safety, operation, shooting fundamentals of semi-auto and revolver handguns, and safe storage. Participants may bring their own personal handgun if they provide the ammunition (and if different caliber than .22 long rifle). The gun also must be unloaded and in a case. All equipment will be furnished (guns, ammo, targets, eye, and ear protection).

Participants will practice shooting at paper targets following a lecture session. Spots are limited for all classes; registration is required by June 18. A waiting list will be made available for courses that are full.

Wear clothing appropriate for being on an active shooting range; no open-toed shoes. Social distancing will be required, and face masks are strongly recommended. Participants are reminded to follow other current health recommendations which include:

- * Stay home if you're sick.
- * Wash hands with soap and water

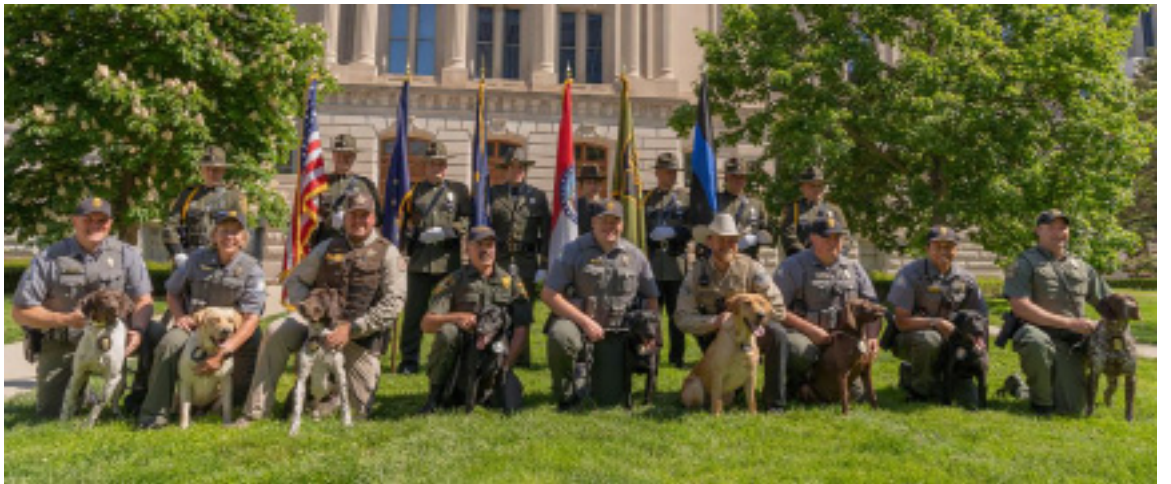
and/or use hand sanitizer.

* Be considerate of others.

Participants will be contacted by email prior to the event. More information about this event can be obtained by emailing Dwight Warnke at Dwight.Warnke@mdc.mo.gov.

Rolla Shooting Club is located at 13950 County Road 3240 in Rolla.

MDC PROTECTION BRANCH TO LAUNCH NEW CANINE UNIT THIS SUMMER



MDC's Protection Branch will launch a new canine unit this summer. Five retriever-style dog breeds will be stationed throughout the state and assist their conservation agent-handlers in evidence recovery and wildlife trafficking cases. Credit: Missouri Department of Conservation photo

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is set to launch a new canine unit through its Protection Branch this summer. The new unit, consisting of five dogs and their conservation agent-handlers, will be stationed around the state and used as necessary to work throughout Missouri.

According to MDC, the capabilities of canines are extensive in conservation-related work, but common uses include tracking, evidence recovery,

search and rescue, wildlife detection, and public outreach programs. Another rapidly growing use of canines is in the field of endangered and invasive species. There are currently 36 other states using dogs in their conservation efforts.

“Canine programs have been successfully used by conservation agencies since the late 1970s,” said MDC Protection Deputy Chief Dean Harre. “The implementation of this canine program will help continue MDC’s mission of protecting Missouri’s fish, forest, and wildlife resources.”

Retriever-style dog breeds were specifically purchased for the MDC program, which consists of three Labrador Retrievers and two German Shorthaired Pointers. The dogs will be used for a variety of enforcement investigations, such as evidence recovery and wildlife trafficking. They will also be used in public outreach programs at fairs and schools.

The approved conservation agent-handlers and canines are:

- * Cpl. Susan Swem and Lab, Astro, stationed in the southwest region;
- * Cpl. Justin Pyburn and Lab, Korra, stationed in the Kansas City region;
- * Cpl. Agent Caleb Pryor and Pointer, Zara, stationed in the northwest region;
- * Cpl. Don Clever and Lab, Penny, stationed in the northeast region; and

* Cpl. Alan Lamb and Pointer, Tex, stationed in the southeast region.

MDC has partnered with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, which has its own canine training program, to provide certified canine training services. The canine handlers and their partners initiated a rigorous nine-week training program with Indiana DNR in February and graduated from the program May 14.

The launch of the MDC canine unit is supported through a partnership with both Diamond Pet Foods and Purina, which sponsored the canine team and is providing dog food.

Pictured left to right: Cpl. Alan Lamb and Tex (MDC), Cpl. Susan Swem/Astro (MDC), Conservation Officer Justin Brimhall/Cooper (Utah Division of Wildlife Resources), Master Officer Jeffrey Milner/Coda (Indiana Department of Natural Resources), Cpl. Don Clever/Penny (MDC), Game Warden Sean Coleman/

