

# Magnificent MISSOURI



**A**lthough the St. Louis Rams became the Los Angeles Rams years ago and the Kansas City Chiefs recently decided to move to Kansas, we can assure you that Missouri's Katy Trail isn't going anywhere! Every year, hundreds of thousands of visitors come to enjoy its 237 scenic miles.

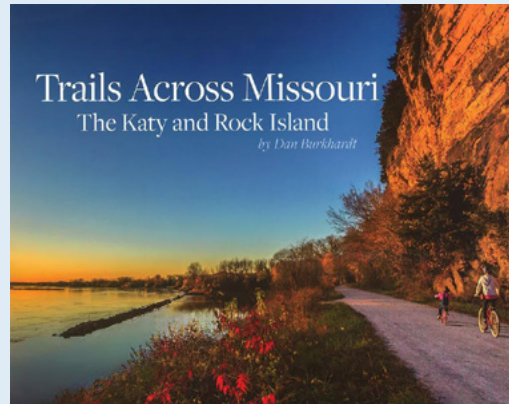
Winter is the off-season for most of what Magnificent Missouri does—the time of year when we think about what we want to be doing when the redbuds bloom. To help us plan, we've prepared this look back at 2025 and wanted to share it with you.

Springtime will be here soon—and so will Magnificent Missouri—along the Katy Trail!

# 20 HIGHLIGHTS 25

## MARCH

*We hosted the year's first "Trails Across Missouri" book presentation at the Warrenton Scenic Regional Library.*



This remarkable cover shot is by the book's primary photographer Dennis Coello. Dennis, an avid cyclist, has traveled the world capturing iconic scenes during his 50-year career.

## APRIL

*At the annual Katy Trail Founder's Day celebration in Treloar, a ribbon-cutting was held to officially open the Ted and Pat Jones Welcome Center—now a part of Missouri State Parks—in front of a crowd of 125 people.*

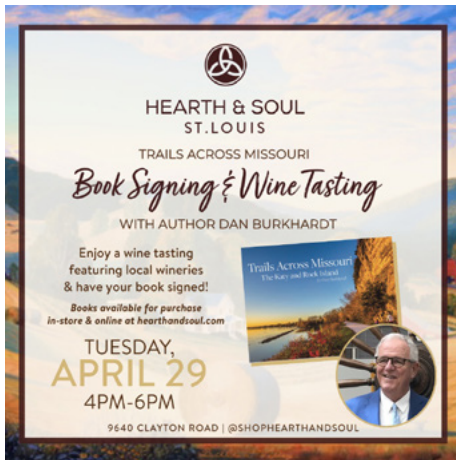


From left: Laura Hendrickson, Missouri State Parks; Laura Ellenhorn, Tina Hrevus and Ken Cella of Edward Jones; Dan and Connie Burkhardt; Penny Pennington, Edward Jones; Anthony Orazio, Missouri State Parks

In celebration of Ted and Pat Jones’s 100th birthdays, we awarded the first-ever “Pillar of the Katy Trail Awards” to 15 hard-working and innovative businesses and individuals.



The three Collins sisters from Tebbetts received a Pillar Award for Happy Trails Katy-Ring. When the BigBAM ride passes through their small town twice a year, they greet riders with fresh-baked goods and big smiles! They also provide regular food deliveries to Turner Katy Trail Shelter hostel.



A Trails Across Missouri book presentation at the Washington Library and a book signing/wine tasting at Hearth & Soul.

This event featured a wine tasting by Noboleis Vineyards makers of Magnificent Missouri wine. Noboleis donates a portion of the sales price to Magnificent Missouri.

MAY

The Peers Store opened for its 10th season to greet visitors from around the world with live music on weekends, an assortment of gifts and snacks, and the friendliest welcome on the Trail! The store opened in 1896 for the arrival of the KATY Railroad and continues to offer a shady porch for visitors.

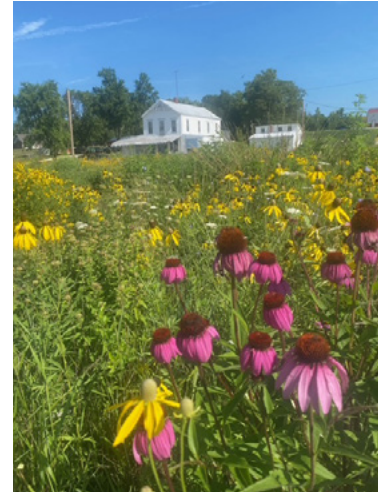


JUNE

*The Missouri Prairie Foundation and DJM Ecological hosted prairie walks in the Peers Prairie adjoining the Katy Trail.*



Dan Burkhardt with Carol Davit and Bill Ruppert of the Missouri Prairie Foundation



Clumps of monarda and black-eyed Susans in full bloom

JULY



*David Kelly, Former Director of Missouri State Parks, joined the Magnificent Missouri Board of Directors. David was at the opening of the Katy Trail in 1990 in Rocheport and attended the opening of every subsequent segment of the Trail for the next 35 years.*

AUGUST

*Magnificent Missouri published our 6th book, "The Katy Trail's Country Store Corridor," and gave a copy to all attendees at Sweet Corn Sunday on August 10. The book chronicles the history of the KATY Railroad, the Peers Store and the Treloar Mercantile.*





We created a six-minute video at Sweet Corn Sunday to illustrate the value that trails bring to the communities they pass, including Dutzow, Marthasville, Peers and Treloar. You can view it by searching for "Sweet Corn Sunday, Magnificent Missouri" on YouTube.

SEPTEMBER

More than 140 people attended the "Trails Across Missouri" presentation at the Missouri State History Museum in Columbia.



Artists Kim Alsop, Ben Boyher, Michael Bauermeister, Harry Weber, Brian Watson, Bryan Haynes, Sherri Jaudes, Billyo O'Donnell attended a Magnificent Missouri presentation highlighting their work along the Katy Trail at historic Liberty Hall in Washington.



Three pawpaw trees planted in 2020 in Burkhardt Grove at Treloar bore their first fruit, followed soon after by a huge crop from our two persimmon trees.



*“The Country Store Corridor” mural by artist Ray Harvey was unveiled at our 15th annual Treloar Elevator Party.*



*Two bee hives arrived in Peers to take advantage of our native prairie next season. They were generously and expertly provided by Amanda Hutchings of Harold’s Famous Bee Company.*

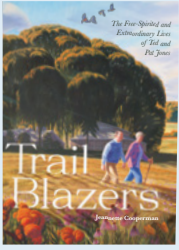


Jeff Panchot (Magnificent Missouri board member) attended Ste. Genevieve’s Honey Festival..

*140 retired Edward Jones partners visited the Ted and Pat Jones Welcome Center on a perfect fall day for bike rides and sharing memories.*



Behind the sign and in front of the tent is a clone of the McBaine bur oak, Missouri’s largest tree. The McBaine bur oak is estimated to be 350+ years old.



*Edward Jones created an audio version of Magnificent Missouri's book, "Trail Blazers".*

*Here, John Beuerlein, retired Jones partner, reads a section of Trail Blazers. John had the idea to create the book in 2020—to date, more than 20,000 copies have been printed.*



Dan Burkhardt with Sara Hauk, Erin Lanham and author Jeannette Cooperman at recording session of *Trail Blazers*.



*We and many other Missouri conservation organizations will be working hard in 2026 on the renewal of Missouri's Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax. This image was created by Bryan Haynes to publicize the project—a joint effort spearheaded by the Conservation Federation of Missouri and the Missouri Farm Bureau.*

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***Looking forward to more adventures along our trails in 2026!***

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