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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER SUPPORT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FT. LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 13-018

February 28, 2013

Stone Mill Spring Trout fishing begins March 1

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. - March 1st marks the beginning of the regular trout season at Stone Mill Spring Recreation Area. Anglers liking the taste of a freshly caught trout will once again be able to take home a few fish from the clear cold waters of Stone Mill Spring Branch.

The summertime “put-and-take” trout fishing season at this stream has been a favorite of anglers for more than 45 years. This small, but popular, fishing hole is located on the Mark Twain National Forest adjacent to Fort Leonard Wood, and can be reached by traveling to the end of a gravel road off Fort Leonard Wood’s Route 26.

All anglers between the ages of 16 and 64 must have a valid Missouri fishing permit to fish in Stone Mill Spring Branch. Anglers 15 years of age or younger, or 65 years of age or older are not required to have a Missouri fishing permit to fish in Stone Mill Spring Branch or anywhere else in Missouri. However, all anglers, no matter what age, are required to have a valid Missouri trout permit when fishing at Stone Mill Spring Branch during the put-and take season.

All state permits can be obtained from the Outdoor Adventure Center, Bldg. 2282, on FLW K Road off First Street or other vendors off post.

As in years past, trout anglers will be allowed to use natural and prepared baits, in addition to artificial lures and flies after March 1 and will be allowed to harvest four trout per day of any size.

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The first stocking of the regular season will be on March 8. As in past seasons, anglers will only be allowed to fish between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m. on the day of a stocking. On all other days, fishing is allowed in the spring branch between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Five hundred, foot-long rainbow trout will be stocked by the Missouri Department of Conservation every third week, for a total of 11 stockings. The final stocking of the regular season will be on Oct. 4. Anglers are cautioned that inclement weather, stream conditions, or hatchery problems can cause the stocking schedule and/or number of trout stocked to be altered with relatively short or no notice. It does not happen often, but it does occur occasionally.

In addition to the printed schedule, the stocking schedule and trout fishing regulations are posted on information signboards located at the parking lot trailhead and near the spring. This information can also be obtained at the Outdoor Adventure Center or can be found on the Fort Leonard Wood's Environmental Division website at www.wood.army.mil/newweb/garrison/fishing.html.

Angler surveys at the spring branch over the past seven years have shown that between 40 and 60 percent of the trout stocked on a Friday are harvested that day. Even with this initial decrease in the number of trout in the spring branch, anglers tend to experience good catch rates through the rest of the weekend and into the first weekdays after a stocking. We have found that about 80 percent of all trout fishing occurs during the first nine days after a stocking. In order to alleviate the effects of the high catch rates and harvest during that period, we will stock additional trout between each regular stocking date during the season.

We will not announce the date or number of fish stocked prior to the stocking, nor will we confirm that these stockings have taken place after the fish have been stocked. Anglers that choose to fish at Stone Mill on weekdays between regular stockings could reap the benefits of one of these surprise "first-come-first-serve" supplemental stockings.

For further information on trout fishing at Stone Mill Spring Branch, anglers may contact the Natural Resources Office at 596.7604.

Story by Daphne Kampinga a fisheries biologist with the Natural Resources Branch and a contributor to the GUIDON

2013 Stone Mill Spring

Stocking Schedule

March 8

March 29

April 19

May 10

May 31

June 21

July 12

August 2

August 23

September 13

October 4

500 trout to be stocked each time

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Reporters interested in attending the event should contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573.563.4145.

About Fort Leonard Wood

Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains 80-90,000 military and civilians each year.

Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only five reception stations in the Army, and the Army's largest Non Commissioned Officers Academy.

Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.