

PRESORTED STANDARD  
POSTAGE & FEE PAID  
LEBANON PUBLISHING  
PERMIT NO. 1087

# Trout

# Talk

**From Eggs to  
Lunkers Page 3**

**by Chris Roden**

**OCTOBER 2022**

# The Outdoors is Calling...

Bennett Spring State Park is located in the heart of the Ozarks where a large natural spring feeds sparkling water to thousands of rainbow trout.

Float down the Niangua River and discover

Blue Herons, River Otter and more!



## Explore

the Ozarks first hand. Hike along miles of cleared trails and escape the everyday.

## Enjoy

a warm campfire while sleeping among the great Ozark Mountains. We have primitive campsites to full RV hook-ups.



**VOTED**  
LACLEDE COUNTY'S  
*Best*

- FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT • ATTRACTION
- PLACE TO TAKE OUT OF TOWN GUESTS
- SCENIC SPOT • STAYCATION LOCATION

## Experience

# Bennett Spring State Park

26248 Hwy 64A • Lebanon, MO 65536

For Information or Reservations: 417-532-4307

[www.BennettSpringStatePark.com](http://www.BennettSpringStatePark.com)

Bennett Spring State Park  
**RESTAURANT**

Open Daily at 7am

• BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

Breakfast Buffet Saturday & Sunday 7am

Friday Night Buffet 5pm

26248 Hwy 64 A • Lebanon, MO • 417-532-4547

# From Eggs to Lunkers

Bennett Spring Hatchery raises about 350,000 trout every year

**CHRIS RODEN • FOR TROUT TALK**

**I**n the wild, only one percent of trout eggs survive long enough to grow into trout.

At the Bennett Spring State Park Hatchery, the percentage is much higher but still not 100 percent.

Hatchery Manager Ben Havens said he and Assistant Manager Mike Perry and their crew would be ecstatic if 40 percent of the eggs successfully made it out the door to the raceways.

It is a cycle that begins each fall when spawning happens in the hatchery.

Havens said he keeps a couple thousand brood stock on hand, a mix of three-year-old females weighing in at three to five pounds and two-year-old males at a pound and a half.

The females produce an astonishing number of eggs, one thousand for each pound of body weight.

"A three pound female can give us 3,000 eggs," Havens said.

Consequently, a season's egg harvest is impressive.

"We look to take somewhere between one million and a million and half eggs during a production season," Havens said.

That helps him meet his commitment of 350,000 12 and a half inch fish for stocking the park, the Niangua and some urban areas.

See 'HATCHERY' / page A4



**Clayton O'Quinn helps** Hatchery Manager Ben Havens load trout to be released in Bennett Spring and the Niangua River. Trout Talk file photo

# Hatchery harvests more than a million eggs each year

Of the 350,000 fish he must produce, 315,000 go to the Park, 30,000 goes to Kansas City for urban fishing and about 10,000 into the Niangua.

Spawning begins in September and runs through December. In January through April, he receives spring spawn eggs from other partner hatcheries.

Thanks to the spawns and existing fish, Havens said the park could have somewhere around 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 fish of different sizes from an inch to stocker size at any given time.

Havens said from March 1 to October 1, the stream is stocked in some fashion on a daily basis.

How many trout are stocked in the stream is determined by a simple formula.

The anticipated number of anglers times 2.25 pounds of fish determines how many stocker fish of a certain weight are needed.

The anticipated angler total is figured by looking at the average number of anglers in years past.

Weather and area events may make hitting the correct number of fish difficult.



Ben Havens checks on the occupants of a Heath tray. The eggs are treated with a fungicide to keep them healthy.

Trout Talk photo/Chris Roden

However, shortfalls are corrected the next day while anglers get to enjoy any overstocking.

After the March 1 opening, Havens and his crew prepare for the year's three big fishing events: Veterans' Fishing Day in April, Kids' Day on the first Saturday in May and Ladies' Fishing Day on the last Saturday of September.

When Havens began at Bennett, only Kids' Day was observed. He implemented the other two signature events.

"For Veterans' Day we had over 300 veterans this year. For Ladies' Day last year, we had over 600 ladies. I expect it to be much, much bigger this fall," Havens said.

Havens said participation for Kids' Day is unpredictable because of weather and competing weekend activities.

"Most of the season is pretty laid back. We're just in kind of a groove. We stock every night for the next day, we move fish, we clean fish, we take of the fish growing in the building until they're about four inches and are ready to come outside," Havens said.



## GOOD TIMES

ALWAYS ON TAP

THERE WILL BE PINTS

& Food by  
Hot Mess  
Express

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR OUR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS!

**OPEN ON SUNDAYS!**

18146 CAMPGROUND RD  
PHILLIPSBURG, MO

BOAT TOWN BREWING CHECK US OUT AT [BOATTOWNBREWING.COM](http://BOATTOWNBREWING.COM)

## Bait, Tackle & Beyond

All your  
TACKLE NEEDS

- Glow Balls & Jigs 79¢
- Minnows & Worms
- Rooster Tails \$3.69

- GROCERIES • FOUNTAIN DRINKS
- TOBACCO • CONVENIENCE STORE
- FRESH MEAT • WALK-IN BEER COOLER
- LIQUOR • HOT BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

**OUR BAR & GRILL COMING SOON!!!**

10292 MO-64, LEBANON, MO | (816) 309-8609

They are placed in the raceways where they have ample space, feed and water. As they grow and crowd the raceways, the park crew moves them to other raceways for more space.

How much feed the fish receive is based on their weight.

"If they're not growing enough, we feed them more. If they're getting too fat, we might cut them back and put them on a little bit of a diet. It just depends on what's going on," Havens said.

Havens said he and Perry have the job of overseeing the crew in the day-to-day operations. Perry more often manages the crew while Havens juggles the paperwork, orders supplies and handles PR for the hatchery.

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, Havens has hatchery tours on the first and third Saturdays of the month for individuals and groups.

Havens said he and his crew get in a groove and get surprised by how quickly the big events arrive.

The heaviest stocking months are in the summer when from June until August the crew stock from 45,000 to 60,000 trout.

Once the fishing season ends on October 31, the "trout harvest" begins with urban area stocking.

Warm water hatcheries bring in stocking trucks and the park uses its own stocking truck for the harvest.

"Over the course of a day and half, we'll bring the trucks in, we'll load them up with stocker size trout and they'll disperse those fish in the mid-Missouri and Kansas City areas of the state," Havens said.



Trout Talk photo/Chris Roden

**Greg Lambeth holds** the basket that Clayton O'Quinn will fill with foot-long trout. Lambeth emptied each basket load into another basket on the lower side of the bridge. From it, the trout are quickly pumped through a pipe to lower section where they will soon enter the fishing stream.

# Cabins, Camping, Floating *& Much More!*

- 45 YEARS OF SERVICE!
- OVER 60 ACRES OF CAMPGROUNDS ON THE NIANGUA RIVER

NOW SERVING  
*Ice Cream*  
**FACTORY**



**Canoe Rental & Campground**



417-532-6333 • 417-588-3797 • [WWW.NROCANOE.COM](http://WWW.NROCANOE.COM) • OFFICE HOURS 7AM-9PM

**REALTY EXECUTIVES**  
 of Lebanon  
 205 E. Commercial St.,  
 Lebanon, MO • 417-588-7000  
 www.LebanonRealtyX.com

**Mister Eclectic**  
 Antiques & Collectibles  
 • Wrought Iron  
 • Jewelry  
 • Furniture  
 • Home Decor  
 • And More!  
 417-755-3183 • 304 W. 2nd St.  
 Downtown Lebanon

You think it...  
 we ink it!  
 FREE CONSULTATION  
**REBEL INK**  
 104 B E COMMERCIAL ST,  
 LEBANON • (417) 532-4799  
 @417REBELINK

**GONE SHOPPIN**  
 • ANTIQUES • SECONDHAND  
 • VINTAGE • HOME DECOR & MORE!  
**RUSTY ROOSTER MARKET PLACE**  
 208 W Commercial • Lebanon • 417-718-9136  
 Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9:00am-5:00pm  
 #SHOPDOWNTOWNLEBANON

**LAYERED with flavor**  
 • Drinks • Soups  
 • Salads • Steaks  
 • Seafood • BBQ  
 • Burgers • Sandwiches  
**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.



**Where the locals meet to eat**  
**The Lunch Box Cafe**  
 Mon.Wed. & Sat. 6am-2pm • Thu. & Fri. 6pm-7pm  
 417-532-2044 • 106. E. Commercial, Lebanon  
**FOOD FOR EVERY TASTE!**

# UPCOMING DOWNTOWN EVENTS



## LEBANON FARMERS MARKET

Downtown Lebanon  
Open Wednesdays 11 am to 3 pm  
Open Saturdays 8 am to 1 pm  
April thru October.



## SUMMER FOOD AND SHOPPING IS IN DOWNTOWN LEBANON!

Check out some of the great dining options in downtown, from the best burgers to the best coffee we will have your taste buds buzzing!

Don't forget to check out what great sales all of the downtown shops have going to get your summer hot in the latest and greatest fashions!

**FALCON**  
FLOOR COVERING

- HARDWOOD • CARPET • VINYL • TILE
- LAMINATE • REMNANTS • COUNTERTOPS

**417-532-3118**  
www.falconfloorcovering.com  
falconfloorcovering1972@gmail.com

Right in the Heart of Downtown next to the Post Office  
109 E. Commercial St. • Lebanon MO, 65536

**AXE THROWING**

**AXE ATTACK**  
SQUATCH WHERE YOU THROW

**WWW.AXEATTACKMO.COM**

**HOOKED**  
on a good time!

**Shades of Gray Boutique** 20% OFF FRIDAY & SATURDAY

TOYS • LINGERIE • GIFTS & SO MUCH MORE!

110 E. COMMERCIAL ST., LEBANON • (417) 718-0175  
TUES.-SAT. 12:00PM-8:00PM

squirrels in your feeder?

Purina Premium Wildlife Blocks help provide complete nutrition than whole grains and a high-quality food source.

**Hudson Feed & Grain**  
417-532-3921  
316 W. Commercial St., Lebanon  
www.hudsonfeedandgrain.com

**Lebanon PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

205 E. Commercial Lebanon  
**417-588-7006**  
www.LebanonMoRentals.com

Bennett-Spring.com

Fun Fishing Floating Lodging Shopping Events Maps

Opening Day

**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

**VALENTINES**  
Mercantile

Fresh Amish baked goods and jams

- Discount grocery • Bulk spices and dry goods • Home goods • Pet supplies
- Fresh seasonal produce and plants

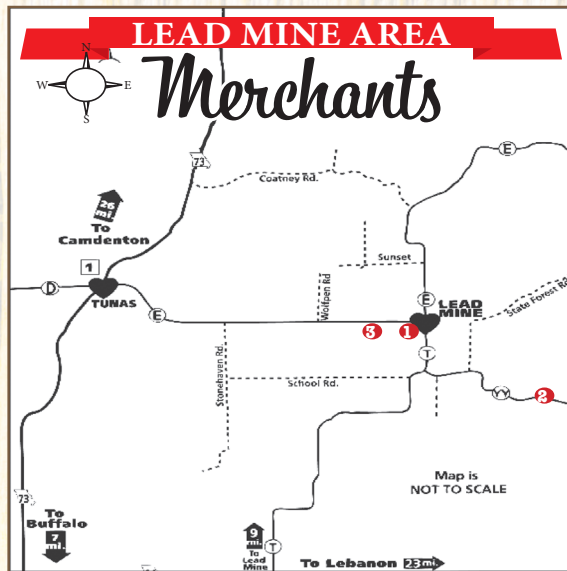
So much more!

214 W Commercial Street, Lebanon  
417-509-9953 • MON.-SAT. 8AM-5PM

# 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.



## Quality Built Built To Last



Bedroom Suites | Dining Sets | Lawn Furniture



## Ozarks Country Furniture

885 State Rd. T • Tunas, MO 65764  
Tues.-Fri. 8-5 • Sat. 8-12 • Closed Sundays

1

# Experience Life In The "Past" Lane!



- Good Old Fashioned Home Cooking
- Homemade Bread, Buns & Pies

- 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

2



3

# Meadowview Dutch Market



- Seasonal Fresh Produce
- Discounted Groceries

- Deli Meat & Cheese
- Homemade Sandwiches

- Bulk Spices
- Bulk Candy

Discount & Surplus Groceries  
Prices Subject to Stock on Hand  
**417-993-3017**

**23 Miles West on Hwy 64**  
**Right on T Hwy 9 miles**  
**Left on E Hwy 1 mile on Left**

**Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8-5 pm**  
**Fri. 8-6 pm • Sat. 8-5 pm**  
Now Accepting Credit, Debit Cards & EBT

# Heartland

IN THE HEART BEAT OF THE SHOW ME STATE!

FROM GLASSWARE TO COLLECTIBLES...AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN!



WITH NEARLY 350 BOOTH SPACES TO ENJOY



## HEARTLAND ANTIQUE MALL

Open 8AM-8PM, 7 Days • (417) 532-9350  
2500 Evergreen Pkwy, Lebanon  
Just off the I-44 exit!



## Missouri Cheese Outlet & More

417-991-2233



Specialty Cheeses, Amish Goods, Snack Meats & All Kinds Of Jerky.

WITH MORE NEW SURPRISES TO COME.

## DIDN'T CATCH ANYTHING? COME TRY OUR WILD ALASKAN FISH SANDWICH!



Grill & Chill



780 S Jefferson Ave., Lebanon  
(417) 588-3972 • 10 AM - 10 PM

STARTING MAY 6

Cafe Breakfast  
Friday - Sunday 7am - Noon

Saturday Night 6pm-10pm

Dinner & Live Music

First Band of the Season  
Memorial Day Weekend!

Everyone is Welcome!



The WILD OAKS

Campground & Roadside Cafe

417-588-1631

www.wildoakscampground.com

Open to the Public



## All Kinds of Pet Supplies

- Cats • Birds • Fish • Reptiles
- Small Pets Nutrition • Habitats
- Toys & Treats • Health

Nature's Best

555 E. Elm • Chalet Village  
417-588-3678

Pet Shop & Grooming M-F 9:30-5:00 • Sat 9:30-4:00

## Where Memorable Family Vacations Begin

- REMODELED BATHROOMS!
- PLAYGROUND • POOL • GAME ROOM
- TENT SITES • DELUXE CABINS
- RV SITES FULL HOOKUP - 50/30 AMP
- MINING GEM STATION • FREE WIFI!
- BASKETBALL/TETHERBALL/BIKE TRACK
- 75FT. LONG GLIDER

LEBANON / BENNETT SPRING

13654 Hwy 64 • Lebanon • 417-322-6907 f LebanonKOA



## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Havens said the trucks have oxygen and aerators to distribute the oxygen throughout the tank.



Trout Talk photos/Chris Roden

**Greg Lambeth empties** a basket of trout into a huge basket that feeds a pump-powered trout pipeline. It runs to a section much closer to the fishing stream for weekend stocking.

"We can haul about 2,500 big stocker size rainbow trout on that truck. I'm sure it's a wild experience for them," Havens said.

Havens said because the fish are in complete darkness, they are not agitated by passing cars and trees and lights that a windowed truck would allow.

"There's things we can do to calm them down. You can put a little salt in the water at a certain percentage. It's kind of like an aspirin. It calms the nerves a little bit," Havens said.

Havens said the trout are transported once or twice a month November through March for the urban winter fishing season.

Friday through Monday beginning the second weekend in November to the second weekend in February, the winter fishing season happens in the park.

In those cooler months, catch and release fishing with a fly rod is allowed from 8 a.m. through 4 p.m. in any zone in the park.



"There are some anglers that that's they only time the come to Bennett because they don't want to hassle with the crowds of people that they perceive we have," Havens said.

However, even in the park's peak fishing season in the summer, crowds can be avoided.

"There's been a few mornings that I've walked over to come to work this week and there's been no one fishing at all," Havens said.

The Niangua River continues to be stocked twice a month the whole year round with 500-900 fish per month. The trout that avoid park anglers' lures join them.

Havens said he trades fish with other cold water hatcheries as needed because of flooding and such.

"We work together and try to help each other out as best we can," Havens said.

Havens lives in the park and shares on-call duties with Perry. They respond to requests by the crew in the park.

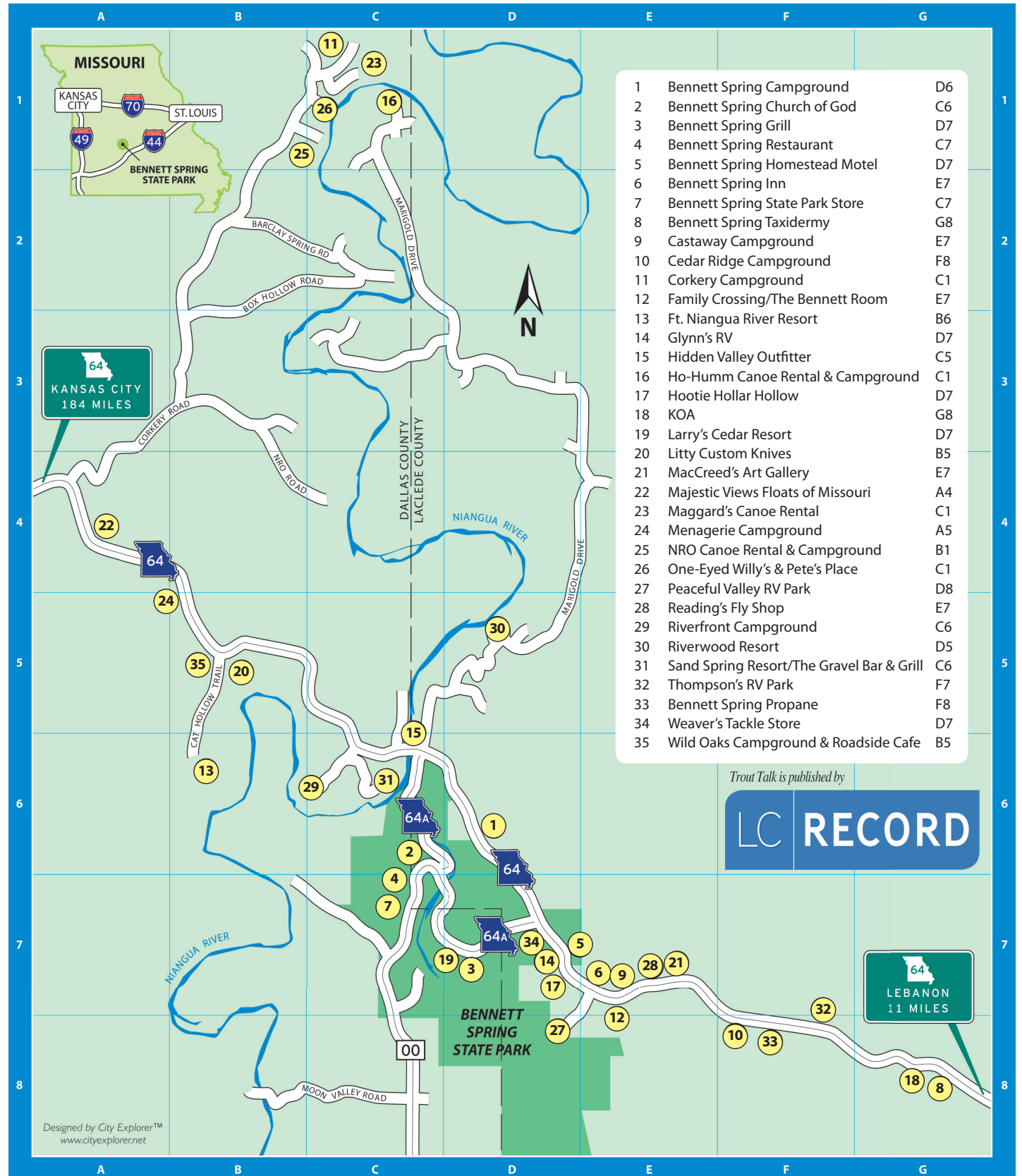
Havens said some of his nine-man crew is the park 24/7 throughout the year to see to the trout, including holidays.

Anglers reap the benefits of Havens and his crew's work ethic.

While the percentage of trout eggs that survive in the wild is just one percent, the percentage of anglers who come to Bennett Spring State Park and enjoy themselves runs high.

# TroutTalk

## BENNETT SPRING STATE PARK AND SURROUNDING AREA



**DISCOUNT & SURPLUS FOODS**  
Meat • Cheese • Yogurt • Snacks  
Affordable by the cart full

**FALL MUMS HAVE ARRIVED!**

**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.

**If we don't tell the story...who will?**

Weekend  
Weekend  
Weekend

**LC RECORD** SUBSCRIBE TODAY!  
417-532-9131 • 100 E. Commercial, Lebanon  
www.laclederecord.com

# RV Spots with Year-Round Water, Sewer & Propane Delivery.



- **Yard Maintenance**
- **Trash Pick-Up**
- **30&50 AMP Spots Available**

**Book your spot today!**

**417-588-8858**

**CEDAR RIDGE CAMPGROUND • 12972 HWY 32, LEBANON**

## READY FOR WINTER?



## BENNETT SPRING PROPANE

**THE LOWEST PRICES AROUND!**

**417-588-8858**



THE **LOWEST** PRICED  
REFILLS IN THE AREA

**ICE • LIQUOR • BEER**  
VALLEY VIEW RV • 12972 HWY 64, LEBANON