



Kentucky Naturalist News

Official Newsletter of the Kentucky Society of Natural History

Website: <http://www.ksnh.org>

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Affiliated Chapters

Arches of the Cumberland Chapter (Slade) meets informally, call President Dell Sasser for details, 606-666-7521 x73559, or (606) 233-8938. or via email (dell.sasser@ktcs.edu)

Falls of the Ohio Chapter (Louisville), 9109 Hawthorne Drive, Louisville, KY 40272, meets every third Thursday of each month except Jan, Jul, Aug, & Dec at the Louisville Nature Center, 3745 Illinois Ave, Louisville, 40213. Call President Chris Bidwell at (502) 458-1328 or via email (rmach5049@gmail.com).

A Word from the Editor:

Dear Fellow KSNH Members,

This summer has been a busy one for me and for my husband Jamie. Our first major change since the weather began to warm was the purchase of our first home at the end of May. We moved all of our earthly belongings into a lovely two bedroom home located just behind the Louisville Zoo. As the summer rose to a slow simmer, we acquired two lovely Brahma Hens, and they provided us with endless entertainment and a bounty of delicious eggs. Unfortunately as the summer skipped boil and proceeded directly to deep-fry, we lost both Mina and Lucy to the 107 degree heat. We mourned their loss, and celebrated their lives with a delicious omelet made with the last of their eggs. After the tragic loss of our chickens, the summer became one extremely hot blur. Were it not for our intrepid little Beagle mix, I don't think that I would have ever willingly opened the door. Beans ensured that we made it out into the steaming urban jungle at least once a day. In fact, he taught me several valuable lessons this summer. Firstly, he taught me that despite the weather, it is always worth it to take a short walk for the sake of your sanity. Our walks calmed and centered me during a busy summer of several job changes, stressful hail-related home insurance issues, and constant movement from mornings slinging coffee to evenings booking beds at the hospital, to Friendship, Ohio, to Asheville, North Carolina and back home again. Secondly, Beans taught me the art of taking a summer stroll. I wanted to get it over with as soon as it had begun. Beans, however, knew that the secret to walking through a solid wall of heat is to pull over into the shade as often as possible and lay in the cool grass. Initially I found this habit of constantly stopping to drool in the grass rather annoying. However, as the summer went on, I began to notice all of the things I would have missed had I continued to race through our neighborhood with my mind solely focused on the sweet relief of air conditioning. In my shaded pauses I heard the excited squeals of the neighborhood children as they ran through lukewarm sprinklers. I heard the muffled roars of the animatronic dinosaurs on exhibit at the zoo this summer, I heard the monkeys chatter a warning of each impending storm, and I watched as enormous birds of prey circled the Louisville Nature center. Thirdly, and most importantly, Beans has taught me by example that life is just plain better when you wake up each day genuinely excited to be alive. The sting of sweat dripping into your eyes is quickly forgotten when you begin exploring your neighborhood rather than plowing through it in a daze. It still can, and should, be exciting to smell freshly cut grass even though it makes you sneeze, to discover tiny wildflowers peeping out of the brambles of Joe Creason Park, and to catch one's foot on a particularly well-camouflaged storm drain only to discover that 5 tiny ducklings are huddled together at the bottom patiently awaiting the return of their mother with their lunch. And finally, life is always better when you squeeze a walk into each afternoon. Thank you Beans for reminding me that the beauty and complexity of the natural world is one of the most powerful tonics for the soul. We must not ignore this glorious gift we have been given, no matter how busy our lives become.



“Triumph”

A truly lovely summer-time picture taken by the editor’s Sister-in-Law, Alycia Tooill, on our family vacation to Red River Gorge.

A Few Words From the President

By: Jeff Foster

I hope all of you are enjoying the summer season. The amazing palette of spring wildflowers has been slowly replaced by the wildflowers of summer. Even though summer’s wildflowers are as not as abundant as spring’s, there are still many amazing specimens to find. The bright orange of butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) has been catching my eye along the roadways. Here in Adams County, Ohio, the heat-loving prairie plants are beginning to steal the show. Multiple species of Blazing Star (*Liatrus sp.*), Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), and Bluehearts (*Buchnera americana*) are all in full bloom.

I am currently in the process of putting together the agenda for our Fall Conference in the Morehead region. I consider Morehead to be my second home, and I am really looking forward to having all of you explore the rich natural heritage of the area. When you are surrounded by the Cumberland



Ranger District of the Daniel Boone National Forest you don't have to travel very far out of town to be in the heart of the forest. Originally established as the Cumberland National Forest in 1937, the 708,000 acre forest was renamed to honor Kentucky's pioneer hero in 1966. *Features of the National Forest in the Morehead area include: Amberg and Lockegee Rocks, Clear Creek Iron Furnace, and Cave Run Lake.*

Cave Run Lake was constructed on the Licking River in 1969. The 8,270 acre lake is almost entirely within the boundaries of the Daniel Boone National Forest. During graduate school, I had the privilege of working as an Interpretive Specialist for the US Forest Service at Twin Knobs Campground on the Rowan County side of the lake. The area around the lake has become a prime wildlife viewing area especially for bird life. I saw my first adult bald eagle at Cave Run. *Cave Run is also an angler's paradise, and has become known as the Muskie fishing capital of the south.*

Below the dam of the lake is the Minor Clark State Fish Hatchery. It is a prime area for bird watching. As a student at Morehead State University, I assisted Fred Busroe in the early days of his research on the Birds of Minor Clark. What a thrill it was to get to spend numerous hours with one of the best birders in the state of Kentucky. Minor Clark attracts a wide variety of shore birds and waterfowl. It is where I saw my first osprey make a dive for a fish; what a wonderful surprise it was to see it go completely under and then literally fly right up out of the water with a fish in its talons. Near the Ox Bow Lake at the back of the hatchery, Fred and I walked out of a wooded area into an old corn field and were surrounded by 16 great blue herons that took to flight.

Of course you can't talk about the features of the Morehead area without mentioning the university. MSU has always had a strong natural sciences program, and it has trained many of the naturalists that are now members of KSNH. *For the geology fans of the society, make sure to check out the Stigmarian Root System fossil that is on display in front of Lappin Hall. This amazing fossil was found in Laurel County by MSU professors Allen Lake (long time friend and past president of KSNH) and James Chaplain.*

One of the newest additions to the campus of Morehead State is the Space Science Center. This facility includes a Space Mission Operations Center, an Electromagnetic Anechoic Chamber, and facilities for spacecraft development which includes a NanoSatellite Fabrication and Assembly. The showpiece of the facility is the Digital Star Theater, a multipurpose 110 seat digital theater that functions as a classroom and planetarium. The Star Theater projects full 180° x 360° real-time blended video and graphics on a 40' dome screen. We are hoping to have one of our evening meetings in the Star Theater along with a planetarium show. I hope many of you will consider attending the Fall Conference in Morehead, October 19-21st. We should have a full agenda of field trips and programs available by the end of the summer. If any of you are familiar with the natural history of the Morehead area, I would love to hear from you on suggested field trips. I would also love to have several of you step up and offer to lead trips. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions or suggestions. I look forward to seeing all of you in October!! Have a great summer!!

Falls of the Ohio Chapter News:

By Chris Bidwell

I want to thank all who made it to the Spring Conference. Everyone I talked to thoroughly enjoyed the talks, walks, socialization and camaraderie. I know most members had been to the areas we visited, but I can say that no matter how many times I've been to a natural setting, I learn something new each time. It's not just the learning, it's being out enjoying nature and the friendship of others who also love nature. Every time I went on, or led, an expedition I found that what I enjoyed most of all was the socialization and the sharing of our experiences and knowledge.

Our 2012 Fall Conference in the Morehead area is being planned now. The dates for this trip are Oct 19, 20, 21. Please make an effort to attend, and enjoy, nature and the fellowship of other nature lovers. A lot of time and hard work goes into these conferences. If you have suggestions or comments, please let me or Jeff Foster know. Thanks for being part of such a great KSNH famil





Notes from the Nature Nut

By: W.H. (Wally) Roberts

“The Exotic Emerald Ash Borer”

The most recent exotic pest, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), has shown up in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as well as close to home in Valley Station, Kentucky. *Although the beetle was discovered in 2002 in the northern United States, evidence suggests that the infestation had been present for about five years prior to its discovery and probably arrived in this country in solid wood packing material.* Human movement of infested nursery stock and firewood allowed it to spread at a rapid rate.

Adult EAB are ½ inch long, elongate, and bright metallic green. After mating, female beetles lay their eggs in bark crevices. Eggs hatch and the small larvae immediately burrow into the bark, feeding on cambial tissue, and later sapwood, as they develop. Larvae over-winter within the sapwood, protected from temperature extremes. They are cream-colored and mature to a length of 1 ½ inch.

Because they feed beneath the bark, larvae are rarely seen. *Larval tunneling beneath the bark destroys the plant vascular system, effectively girdling the stem or branch.* Pupation occurs in the outer sapwood, and adult beetles emerge through exit holes in the trunk and branches. Adults are excellent fliers and are visible on warm, sunny days. Adult beetles live two to three weeks and are present in late May through early July. One generation is produced each year.

Yellowed, thinning foliage, branch dieback, thinning crowns, and excessive suckering are all signs of an EAB infestation. Unusual woodpecker activity is another sign of borers, as the birds readily feed on larvae developing beneath the bark. When one looks closely at the bark, D-shaped emergence holes about 1/8 inch in diameter will be visible where newly developed adults emerged from their pupal chambers. Meandering S-shaped galleries are visible beneath the bark of infested trees; the bark will have to be peeled back to see this sign.

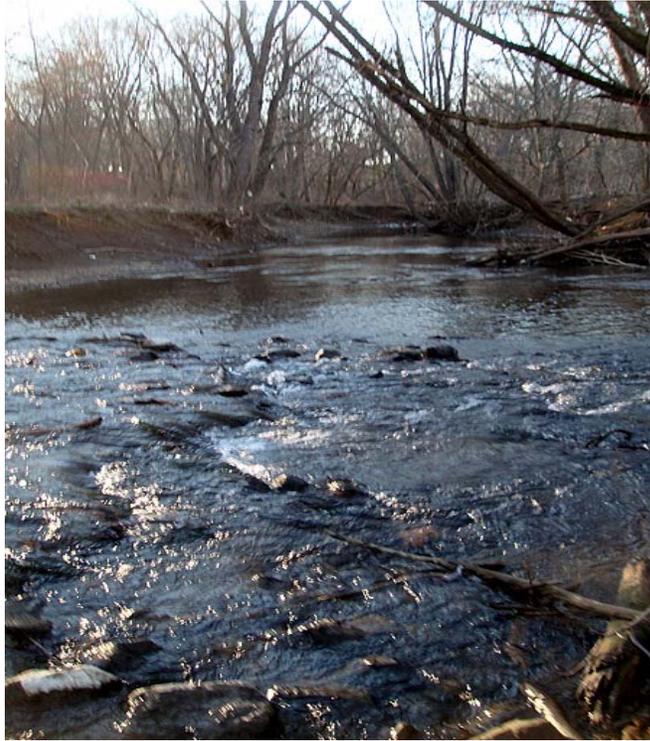
State and federal quarantines are currently in place to prevent movement of this pest. These quarantines restrict the movement of ash trees, branches, logs, and firewood out of infested areas, and also require removal of ash trees within a half-mile radius of an infested tree. The EAB and the federal quarantines designed to prevent its spread undoubtedly pose a threat to the ash species in our forests and have the potential to devastate our urban landscapes.

Treatments for EAB are expensive, and products currently available must be applied every year. In addition, *no products are 100% effective*, and trees in poor health are not likely to benefit from treatment. Treatment usually consists of soil injections from near the tree base to the drip line. Treatments may still be worthwhile to protect very valuable trees or to keep individual trees alive until non-susceptible replacement trees are large enough to provide satisfactory shade. If many nearby trees become heavily infested, control probably will be much less effective.

(Information Obtained From: UK Cooperative Extension Service: Lee Townsend, Extension Entomologist, Lynne Rieske-Kinney, Professor, Forest Entomologist; and Jesse Clark, Merit Insecticide Provider)

A Note from Susan Wilson Regarding Photographs

I want to thank everyone who sent me pictures from the previous conferences and meetings over the past several years. The presentation I showed seemed to be well-received by the members who attended the Spring Conference. The plan is to do the same for the Fall Conference. I want to encourage everyone to send me pictures to share with the Fall Conference group or photos members out in the state would like to include in the presentation. Remember, *there is no longer a contest*, just an opportunity for all to share something or someone out in nature. Man-made objects are no longer excluded. I will accept them up until October 14th, 2012. Photographs that are emailed present best email size (approximately 800 x 600) in JPEG format. If anyone wants to include real photos I have a scanner I can use to convert to digital images and I can return them after scanning. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next conference and hope to be able to include lots of photos for the presentation.



“Nathan’s Little Waterfall”

Photo by Susan Wilson’s grandson Nathan taken at the KSNH fall tree identification hike in Cherokee Park

Big Bluestem Grass – *Andropogon gerardii* (Vitman)

By: Chris Bidwell

Big Bluestem Grass is a tall, warm-season, perennial, native prairie grass in the *Andropogon* (broom-sedge) genus of the Poaceae (grass) plant family. It is a “bunch” – tussock grass meaning that it grows from clumps rather than mats or sod. Big Bluestem is often found growing with other native prairie grasses such as: Little Bluestem (*Schizachtrium scoparium*), Broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*), and Eastern Gamma grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*). Big Bluestem is a very adaptable grass which does best in well-drained, moist soil in full sun. It is not tolerant of extremely wet areas, deep sands, heavy clays, high salinity, or high lime soils. It is the tallest native grass of the tall grass prairies and it can be found in open woods, meadows, prairies, along riverbanks, and pond sides. It is common throughout Kentucky and hardy in zones 4 – 9.

Big Bluestem can reach up to 10 feet in height. The lower stem has a purplish-bluish color and alternate leaves ½ inch wide and up to 20 inches long. *The flowers, which form in three elongated clusters near the top of the grass, give Big Bluestem one of its common names – turkey foot.* It blooms from June through September. The main roots extend down to 10 feet and short rhizomes are present 1-2 inches beneath the soil surface. Growing in dense clumps, Big Bluestem keeps most other grasses/plants from getting any sun and developing. Established meadows may be entirely covered by this grass alone. *The bunch type growth pattern and Big Bluestem’s deep roots keep the prairie winds from blowing the fertile topsoil away. When settlers began plowing up the Big Bluestem and other prairie grasses there was nothing left to protect the*



topsoil. The 1930's saw a great dust disaster due to such farming practices. Pollination of Big Bluestem is by wind and flying insects. It is an easy grass to get established; however, due to its large size it can become aggressive. It re-sprouts readily following fire from rhizomal growth and deep tap roots. Big Bluestem is good forage for horses and cattle as it has a good protein content of up to 18% and therefore it is often cultivated for pasture grass and hay. It tolerates substantial grazing. However, if it is continually grazed closer than 8 inches, it can be eliminated by other flora. *Big Bluestem is used for pasture/meadow restoration, highway re-vegetation, mine reclamation, logging road restoration, erosion control, and it is used as an ornamental grass to form a border or accent in native plant gardens.*

The caterpillars of several butterfly species, especially skippers, feed on Big Bluestem foliage. Many other insects including grasshoppers, thrips, billbugs, and leafhoppers also utilize Big Bluestem as their main food source. Its seeds are eaten sparingly by several granivorous birds, such as prairie chickens, quail, field sparrows, tree sparrows, and chipping sparrows. Hoofed mammals such as deer, elk, cattle, bison, and other livestock readily eat Big Bluestem foliage. Rodents such as meadow voles and prairie voles as well as several species of shrew and mice also partake of the foliage and seeds. Meadows of Big Bluestem provide a habitat complete with shelter, food, nesting material, and places to hide from predators for many mammals, birds, insects, and snakes. The root of Big Bluestem was used as a diuretic and as a means of easing stomach pains by the Chippewa Indians. Extracts from the leaves were used as a wash for fevers and as an analgesic. Dried Big Bluestem stems were, and can still be, used as support poles for temporary shelters and dwellings. Moistened Big Bluestem was laid on hot stones to prevent heat and steam loss while cooking. *Due to its high biomass, it is currently being considered as a potent food stock for ethanol production.* Your automobile may be Big Bluestem-fueled in the future. It is the state grass of Illinois and Missouri and the official prairie grass of Manitoba. There are no serious diseases in this tall grass native.

Big Bluestem has several common names and many technical binomial names. The common/regional names often cited are turkey foot, turkey claw, blue joint, beard grass, poptillo gigante, Indian warrior, king of the prairie, monarch of the prairie, tall grass, prairie tall grass, and tall bluestem. Other older binomial references to and synonyms for Big Bluestem include *Andropogon furcatus*, *Andropogon tennesseensis*, many *Andropogon* variants/subvariants and sorghum provincial. In Kentucky several other *Andropogon* species are also found: *A. ternaries* (split beard), infrequent; and 2 varieties of *A. virginicus* (broomsedge), frequent. Little Bluestem (96), aka "False Bluestem" or beard grass (also a prairie grass), may be found in with Big Bluestem. *Little Bluestem's name is misleading; it is in a totally different genus, it has a totally different flowering structure, and it only reaches a height of up to 3 feet.* Big Bluestem is in the Poaceae (formerly graminaceae) family of plants. Poa (grass) is derived from the Greek for grass. Many Latin derivations of "poa" can be found in botanical literature. The genus name, *Andropogon*, is derived from Greek, "andro" (meaning "man") and from "pogo" (meaning "beard"), referring to the white-gray awns. Thus *Andropogon* literally is "man with a beard". The species name of Big Bluestem, *gerardii*, is from the name of French biologist John Gerard, aka John Gerarde (1545-1611). *John Gerard in 1597 published a large and heavily illustrated botanical work entitled "Herball, or Generall Historie of Plantes" which was one of the most widely circulated nature books of the late 16th through the 17th centuries. Evidence exists that his botany book was still in use as late as the 19th century.* Linnaeus honored Gerard by naming the genus *Gerardia* in the *Acanthus* family in his name. The *Gerardia* once was used as a generic name for the now genus *Agalinis* (Raf) (false foxgloves). *Agalinis* spp. In the *scrophulariaceae* (figwort) family has recently been moved to the *orobanchaceae* (broomrape) family as *Agalinis* spp. Plants are hemiparasitic. Taxonomy – you gotta love it!

Big Bluestem is a beautiful, graceful grass to observe year-round. In areas where it is dominant, the fields take on a glorious brown hue in fall and winter. Many birds can be seen landing on the stems and pecking at the nutritious seeds. The summit atop Iroquois Park in Louisville (one of the flagship Olmsted Parks) has a huge meadow of Big Bluestem, Indian grass, switch grass, and broomsedge. All of these native tall grasses are blended together to give a spectacular display year-round. *Don't just dismiss these tall beauties as "just another grass". Take the time to really examine not just Big Bluestem but all these native grasses for their inherent beauty. Examine Big Bluestem's tiny beautiful flowers and other intricate structures. Learn to fully appreciate the ecological role that Big Bluestem and all our native tall grasses contribute to the natural world.*

References:

- 1) Jones, Ron L. Plant Life of Kentucky: An Illustrated Guide to Vascular Flora. 2005. University Press of Kentucky. Lexington, KY. 834 pp.
- 2) Ladd, Doug. Tall Grass Prairie Wildflowers: A Field Guide. 1995. Globe Pequot Press. Guilford, CT. 199 pp.
- 3) Lamb, Susan. 100 Common Wildflowers of the Tall Grass Prairie. 2007. Western National Parks Association. Tucson, AZ. 99 pp.
- 4) Philips, Wayne H. Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. 2003. Mountain Press Publishing Company. Missoula, MT. 277 pp.
- 5) Wharton, Mary E. and Barbour, Roger W. Trees and Shrubs of Kentucky. 1973. University Press of Kentucky. Lexington, KY. 582 pp.
- 6) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agalinis>
- 7) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerardia>
- 8) <http://www.myetymology.com/latin/Poa.html>
- 9) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schizachyrium_scoparium

- 10) http://www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed_id/anovi.htm
- 11) <http://www.easywildflowers.com/quality/and.gerar.htm>
- 12) <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/plant-finder/plant...>
- 13) <http://www.statessymbolsusa.org/site-map-04.html>
- 14) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Kentucky_state_symbols
- 15) http://www.statessymbolsusa.org/Illinois/grass_bigbluestem.html
- 16) http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.countrysideinfo.co.uk/grass_id/spike6.j...
- 17) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Gerard
- 18) <http://www.bluestem.ca/andropogon-gerardii.htm>
- 19) http://alabamaplants.com/Grasses/Andropogon_glomeratus_page.html
- 20) http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/Ornamental-GrassesSedgesRushes/2167_Andropogon...
- 21) <http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/bigblue.htm>
- 22) http://www.blueplanetbiomese.org/big_bluestem_grass.htm
- 23) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andropogon_gerardii

In Other News:

KSNH member Pat Berla has allowed me to print one of her beautiful Haikus. I found this one perfect for our transition from summer into Fall. Thank you, Pat, for your lovely words.

Crows can, jays scream.

Mother Earth waits patiently

for her blanket of leaves.

Congratulations to Joyce Bender! She is our 2011 Naturalist of the Year!

JOYCE BENDER
Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission
Chosen as Kentucky's 2011 Naturalist of the Year
Presented by the Kentucky Society of Natural History

Each year, beginning in 1974, the Kentucky Society of Natural History has presented its Kentucky Naturalist of the Year Award to an individual who has made great contributions toward helping the citizens of Kentucky become more aware and appreciative of our State's natural history and biodiversity.

Joyce Bender, our 2011 recipient, has been with the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission since 1986 and specializes in land stewardship. Previously, she worked for the Nature Conservancy in Minnesota and Ohio and the DNR in Ohio.

A native Ohioan, Joyce graduated with a BS from Youngstown State University and a MS from the University of Akron. She is past president of the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council, an organization she helped start in 2000 and led until this year. She is the current president of the Kentucky Prescribed Fire Council. In addition, Joyce has made many appearances on KET's "Kentucky Life" and has written numerous articles for "Naturally Kentucky".

Joyce credits her older brother for helping her develop a love of nature when she was young. Botany and birding are her main interests, but geology caught her attention in the fourth grade and held on.

Congratulations to Joyce Bender, Kentucky's 2011 Naturalist of the Year, a much deserving recipient.

KSNH Naturalist of the Year Recipients:

1974 Mary Wharton	1987 Richard Cassell	2000 Carl Cook
1975 Roger Barbour	1988 Marc Evans	2001 John Thieret
1976 Arland Hotchkiss	1989 Wilson Francis	2002 Waldon Roberts
1977 Elwood (Bud) Carr	1990 Julian Campbell	2003 Ron Jones
1978 Margaret Heaslip	1991 Scott Shupe	2004 Guenter Schuster
1979 Harriet Korfhage	1992 Ben Begley	2005 James Kiser
1980 Dallas Wade	1993 Wayne Davis	2006 James & Barbara Conkin
1981 Bruce Poundstone	1994 Brainard Palmer-Ball	2007 Thomas Barnes
1982 Mary Rogers	1995 Pat Harrigan	2008 Dan Dourson
1983 John Tierney	1996 Willem Meijer	2009 Ellis Lauder milk
1984 Charlie Covell	1997 Jeff Hohman	2010 Wren Smith
1985 John MacGregor	1998 Mark Gumbert	2011 Joyce Bender
1986 Hugh Archer	1999 Jery & Carol Baskin	

**KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY (KSNH)
2012 NATURAL HISTORY/BIODIVERSITY GRANT RECIPIENTS**

The KSNH Grant Committee is proud to announce the following grant recipients for 2012:

KSNH RESEARCH GRANTS

Nicholas Revetta

Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University

“Quantifying Benthic Macroinvertebrate Communities and Habitat in a Recently Restored Stream in Eastern Kentucky”

John Yeiser

Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University

“Distribution and Habitat Association of Two Stream Salamanders

(AMBYSTOMA BARBOURI AND EURYCEA CIRRIGERA) Across Multiple Spatial Scales”

ALLEN LAKE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Kelly Leona Modaff

Department of Biological Sciences, Morehead State University

“Complete Floristic Inventory for the Glimcher Wetland, MSU Bottomland Swamp Forest Located near Farmers, Kentucky”

Special Request from Wally Roberts, KSNH Grant Committee Coordinator

We were pleased again to be able to give the previously mentioned grants for 2012. Funding often prevents us from fully granting requested research amounts. We thank you for your previous generosity and ask you to consider remembering KSNH in the future. KSNH is a fully non-profit 501-C3 corporation and all donations to the scholarship/grant fund are fully tax deductible under law. Please consider KSNH when planning your memorial and gift giving strategies in the future.

Welcome new KSNH members:

Amy Braccia, Teddie Phillipson and Family

Laura Darnell and Family

Allen Risk

Thank you all for continuing the growth of our society! I welcome any and all of your suggestions for the quarterly newsletter.

The 2012 KSNH Fall Conference:

Chapter president Jeff Foster has received a contract from the Hampton Inn in Morehead for our Fall Conference. The dates are **October 19 – 21, 2012.** The rate they quoted is \$94+tax/night. We have a block of 28 rooms that divide up in the following way.

6 Queen/Queen, non-smoking
18 Kings, non-smoking
1 King, smoking
2 Handicap access Queen/Queen
1 Handicap access King

As it stands now, it is set for individual members to book their own rooms, but they are open to the Society booking as a group also. They have shortened the cut off time for reservation to one week, so members would have till Oct. 12th to make reservations, after that date rooms will be released to other patrons.

**KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY
ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE**

Morehead, Kentucky

October 19 – 21, 2012

- **All times are Eastern Standard Time**
- **All drive times are estimated and for one way, starting from Morehead Hampton Inn.**

Field Trip Ratings:

- Easy: Hiking short distances usually on trails or roads with little slope.
Moderate: Generally easy with a comfortable pace. Participants must be able to negotiate occasional steep slope or rough trail.
Strenuous: More endurance required to negotiate longer stretches of steep slopes and rough trail.

Friday, October 19, 2012

5:30 Registration (lobby of the Hampton)

6:30 Evening Program (Hampton Inn)

Welcome and Introductions – Jeff Foster

Children’s Program Topics – Daniel Foster

Research Grant Presentation – “Forest Dynamics of Two Multi-Aged Hemlock Mixed-Mesophytic Forests”
– A study of the pre Hemlock Woolly Adelgid conditions of two forests in Eastern Kentucky - **Kacie Tackett**

Preview of Saturday’s Field Trips – Various leaders

8:45 Walking Tour of the MSU Space Science Center – MSU’s Space Science Center is a \$16 million, 45,000sq.ft. building with state of the art laboratories that include an electromagnetic anechoic chamber, a space systems development lab, a class 10,000/1,000 clean room for spacecraft assembly and integration, a spacecraft verification lab, an astrophysics lab, and a 21-meter space tracking antennae. Partnered with numerous other universities and agencies the center is emerging as an important center for research in nanosatellite technologies.

9:40 – 10:30 Planetarium Show in the Star Theater

Saturday, October 20, 2012 (there may be additional field trip options)

Full Day Trip

9:00 – 5:00 Geology of Carter Caves State Resort Park – This trip can be a full day, a morning trip, or an afternoon trip. The morning will feature a hike on the Three Bridges Trail (0.5 mile) and will pass over Smokey Bridge, Raven Bridge, and Fern Bridge. Those wishing to continue their day at Carter Caves can eat at the lodge and then head out on either the Natural Bridge Trail (0.5 mile) or the Box Canyon Trail.

Drive Time – 35 minutes Rating – easy

Trip Leader – Berl Meyer

Morning Field Trips

9:00 – 12:00 Birding Trip to Minor Clark Fish Hatchery – The Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery near Cave Run Lake is operated by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. This state fish hatchery is one of the largest warm-water fish

Welcome and Review of Field Trips – Jeff Foster

Children’s Program Awards – Daniel Foster

General Business Meeting – Jeff Foster

Featured Presentation – “Natural History, Conservation, Protection, and Enhancement of the Most Endangered Group of Animals in North America: The Facinating Freshwater Mussel in its Old Kentucky Riverine Home” – **Monte A. McGregor, PhD. Aquatic Scientist / Malacologist, Center for Mollusk Conservation, Ky. Fish & Wildlife Resources**

Presentation of KSNH Naturalist of the Year Award

Photography Presentation – Susan Wilson

General Topics – Open to All

Door Prizes

Sunday, April 21, 2012

7:00AM **Board Meeting at Hampton Inn – All board members are encouraged to attend.**

9:00 – 12:00 **Field Trip:** *I do not have a set destination at this time. I am checking out at least three different sites. Possibilities are Lockege Rock, Twin Knobs overlook, or Clear Creek Iron Furnace. I want to hike the areas prior to the conference and then decide which one to visit.*
Leader: Jeff Foster

The Kentucky Society of Natural History would like to thank the following field trip leaders/speakers and their respective employers.

Monte McGregor	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Berl Meyer	Kentucky Society of Natural History
Wally Roberts	Kentucky Society of Natural History
April Haight	Morehead State University
Dr. Brian Reeder	Morehead State University
Kacie Tackett	Eastern Kentucky University

Thanks for attending Kentucky Society of Natural History’s Fall Conference and mark your calendars for the **Spring Conference at Pine Mountain State Resort Park on April 26 – 28th, 2013!!**

Membership Renewal:

It is, once again, the time of year to get caught up with membership dues for the Kentucky Society of Natural History. Please keep in mind that a portion of these dues is used to fund scholarships for students in our universities. Your membership is critical in preserving our mission. We value your past support and hope that you will renew. We understand that these hard times have made it more difficult for you to decide where to spend your hard-earned dollars.

We have been able to keep our dues low because of our e-newsletter. Your email is important to us in order to keep you current on important information regarding the Society. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by email at treasurer@ksnh.org or by phone (502) 368-4378.

Dues are as follows:

Family	\$25	Individual	\$15
Full-Time Student	\$7.50	Life	\$300

You may visit our website (<http://www.ksnh.org/>) and pay dues using PayPal on your own credit card. You may also send a check to KY Society of Natural History, P.O. Box 883, Fairdale, KY 40118. Please make your check payable to KSNH. Payment by April 1, 2012 would be greatly appreciated.