



WE ARE WAITING...



for visitors of all ages.

Kentucky State University is continuing to cut a new path of excellence. The Environmental Education Center (EEC) in Henry County is beginning to take shape. The Center will become a leader in environmental education for Kentucky residents as well as national and international visitors. The developing dream of the EEC is shared with a growing number of faculty, staff, and students of Kentucky State University.

The University understands what an immense responsibility it is to preserve and enhance this natural area. The unique historic features will be incorporated with the educational component of the Center. Kentucky State University understands the complexity of this endeavor. Dr. Harold Benson, Director of Land Grant Programs, and Michele Brown-Rall, Associate Vice President of Facilities Management will serve as co-chairs of the EEC Steering Committee. The following individuals will serve as members of this internal steering committee:

Dr. James Tidwell
Dr. Kazi Javed
Dr. Louise Chawla
Dr. Chuck Bennett

Mrs. Gae Broadwater
Mr. Marvin Mills
Mr. Hinfried McDuffie

The role of the steering committee is to aid in setting long-term goals and objectives for the Center, overseeing activities and progress toward those goals, ensuring Center personnel receive the needed assistance resources, and working to identify and address relevant funding opportunities. The mission of the EEC is to create an outdoor classroom that can benefit all school children of the Commonwealth.



Fritz Vorisek, a KSU graduate student working with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Andy Mowrey, a Fish and Wildlife Technician volunteered to assess the mussel population in Six Mile Creek. They found two species; fat mucket (*Lampsilis siliquoidea*), and giant floater (*Pyganodon grandis*).

The hard work and artistic ability of Dr. Benson and Wyvette Williams paid off with the stunning wrap of the EEC mobile classroom. The trailer will be available to visit K-12 schools this coming fall. The trailer will highlight many of the learning opportunities available at the Center.



The staff of the Environmental Education Center was enhanced by students on break during the summer months. Will, "Interim Assistant Manager of Facilities Management," worked diligently on trails. Patrick, "Interim Supervisor assisted with trails and lumber acquisition". Brooke, "Interim Head Naturalist in Charge of Collections" was tenacious in her quest for samples of wildlife to be used for future classes. The salaries of these individuals were paid for in full by the "daddies Foundation". The work accomplished by these individuals was substantial and appreciated by everyone involved with the Center.



Army Sergeant and University of Kentucky Forestry Graduate, Luke Saunier, took some time off from armed duty service and donated several weekends and evenings to design and construct several habitat enclosures to bolster wood duck and screech owl populations at the center.

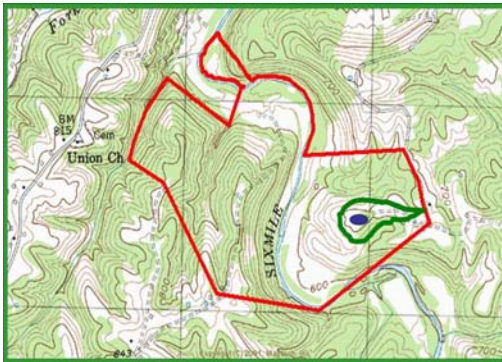
Several rough learning stations are currently under construction. These outdoor classrooms will eventually accommodate all students including those with disabilities. The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board allocates state funds to preserve this and many other unique areas for future generations of the Commonwealth to enjoy. With continued support from the generous board, additional improvements can continue to be made.



New trails are continuously being developed and will soon be transformed into mini adventures accessible to all students of the Commonwealth. Mr. Melvin Nicholson displayed the appropriate work ethic for the R.E.A.P. students to succeed. The students removed brush from a historic site and future learning station.



Shawn Coyle and several graduate students from the Aquaculture Research Center seined the pond and discussed the pond ecosystems. William Bean then discussed potential job opportunities in various environmental fields.



Creating a Learning Center that follows the guidelines set forth by the National Forest Service on accessibility will be costly. Construction is planned to develop a special paved trail to accommodate students with disabilities. The anticipated cost of this 0.77 mile trail is \$32,000.

Volunteers and visitors are always welcome. To schedule an appointment please contact Wes at (502) 597-8106, or William.stilwell@kysu.edu.

This land was purchased by the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board.

Additional support has been requested from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board. Please support this organization by purchasing Kentucky Nature License Plates. A portion of the proceeds is used to support this project and many other conservation efforts throughout the state.

