



Ahhhh, the golden rule...



Do unto others as you would have them do unto you including but not limited to: four hours of heavy equipment use, three loads of gravel, 16 man hours of labor, the knowledge, skills, and abilities to bring it all together. The good folks at HPW Contracting donated all the supplies, materials, and manpower to make the trail from the parking area to the pond road-worthy for farm traffic again. In life, but especially in the forest, I have found this ethic of reciprocity to be most useful. Please support the folks that support us here at the EEC. Please contact HPW Contracting for all your general contracting needs.



Please note that visitors now have new state EEC signs on U.S. Highway 421 North. The Department of Transportation was nice enough to place signs facing each direction of the highway entrance letting visitors know when to turn.

News from the EEC PACT Program

The Pathways and Access to Careers in Technology (PACT) came to the EEC to learn about GPS and digital photography. The students' work can be found by following the link below:

<http://www.ksuenvironmental.org/pact/fifth/fifthshow/algaebysydneytia.html> . The slide show lasts about three minutes and contains some stunning images; all photographs were taken by the PACT students. Mr. Ken Bates, ARC-GIS state specialist, put on the program at the EEC.



Animal Tracks

On April 21 we had our animal-tracks class with an even bigger turnout this season than in previous seasons. Two back-to-back sessions were held to accommodate the large turnout. Students made plaster moulds of different animal tracks of their choosing.



While the students were waiting for their moulds to dry, they went on an educational adventure through the EEC. The raccoon track in this picture was found during our adventure; the scouts searched for more animal signs and tracks, and also investigated different habitats.

Camping with the Boy Scouts

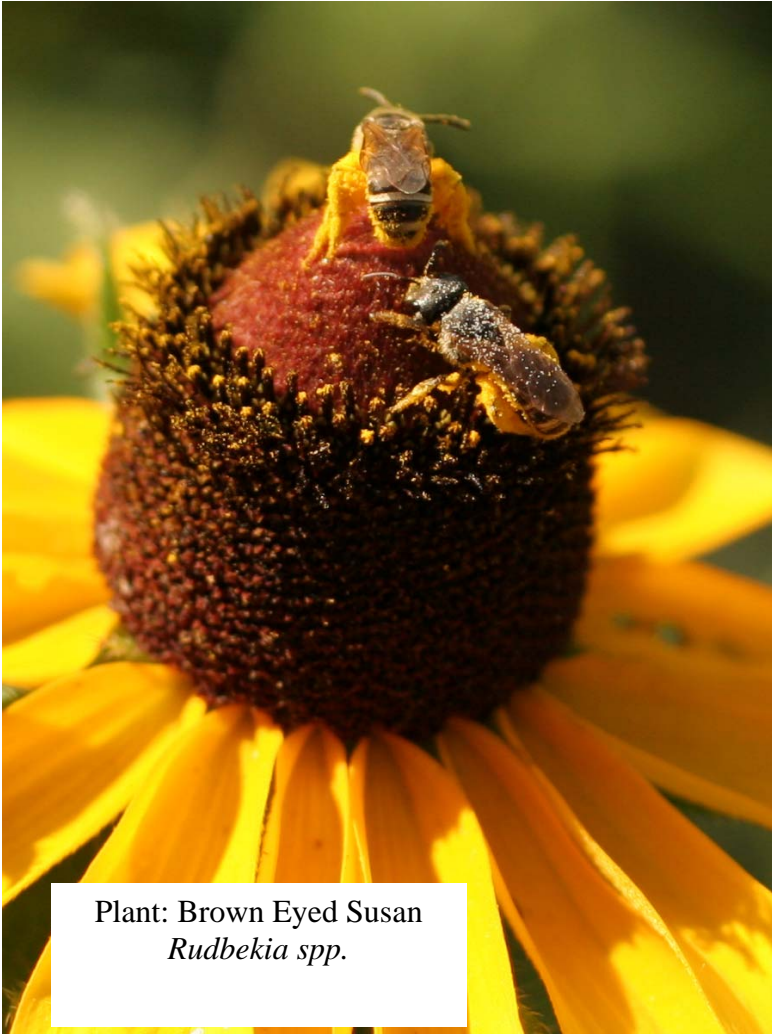
On June 8- 9 a local group of Boy Scouts braved the woods overnight to earn their "Naturalist" and part of their "Forester" badges. Eight different activities were completed to earn the "Naturalist" badge. The kids enjoyed an evening by the campfire and plenty of sugar.



The list of activities above is only a brief example of the many activities that took place this spring. This summer will prove to be the busiest to date at the EEC. The EEC is making great progress and educating many students of all abilities from across the Commonwealth!

Flowers! Flowers! Flowers!

With spring comes many different varieties of beautiful flowers. The flowers made excellent additions to the Environmental Education Center and attracted many different species of insects.



Photos by:
Charles Weibel



Summer internship at the EEC

We have some new help starting this spring and throughout the summer. Her name is Natasha Vanderpool. She is an undergraduate student at Midway College expecting to graduate in May 2008, and will



be getting two degrees, one in Environmental Science and the other in Biology, with a minor in Chemistry. Natasha lives in Frankfort, is married, and has a son who will be turning six in August.

Natasha has done some pretty interesting things including: drill sergeant in the Army, has traveled the world--- jumping out of helicopters, and fighting in the war in Iraq.

Natasha will be helping us with the removal of exotic plant species, a biological inventory, and general routine maintenance of the E.E.C. She will also be assisting in the educational programming with various groups that come out to visit.



Caution



Caution

Featured research at the EEC

-Plant Community Investigation at the EEC-

Annalisa Abell, a high school intern with the REAP (Research and Extension Apprenticeship Program) Program, joined newly hired researcher Sarah Hall to collect preliminary data on different plant communities at the EEC. Annalisa and Sarah used squares made of PVC pipe (1x1m) to assess plant species richness and diversity in four different areas (a rock bar in the creek, the bottom, mesic forest, and the pond edge). In addition, they collected and analyzed soil samples for moisture, and a number of minerals important for plants. This research was part of the Biodiversity Project, whose principal investigator, Dr. Robert Barney, uses leaf beetles as an indicator of overall biodiversity in different areas around the state. Dr. Barney has collected beetles at the EEC, and will continue to do so as different management practices, especially prescribed burning, are used at the EEC to restore and enhance native plant communities. There are at least 1,300 known leaf beetle species in North America and Canada, with many still undiscovered. Leaf beetles rely on plants for food and shelter, and many have only one species of *host plant*, without which they cannot occur. "Just as leaf beetles rely on plants, plants rely on soil. So understanding differences in soil properties and plants in different areas of the EEC, as well as knowing which leaf beetles occur in those areas, can provide important baseline data for future research," said Sarah Hall, co-investigator on the Biodiversity Project. Annalisa, a high school junior from Louisville, spent six weeks with Dr. Barney and Ms. Hall as a REAP intern and will present their findings during the program's final presentations given on July 28.



Dr. Robert Barney helped Annalisa place beetles they collected in vials to take to the lab and identify.

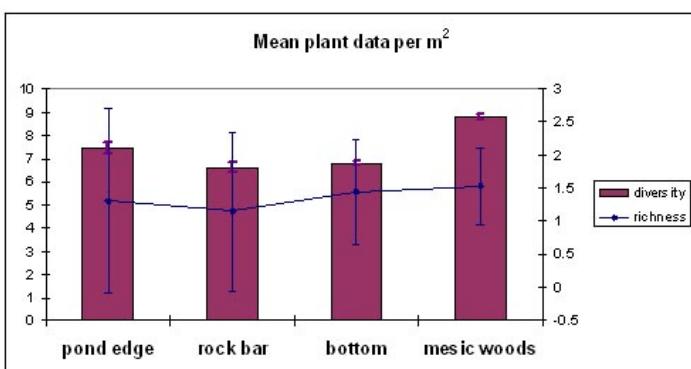


Figure 1. Ground layer plant survey information for four areas at the EEC. Bars represent standard error of the mean. Diversity reported is the Shannon-Weiner index of diversity, which takes into account not only the number of species found (richness), but their abundance as well.

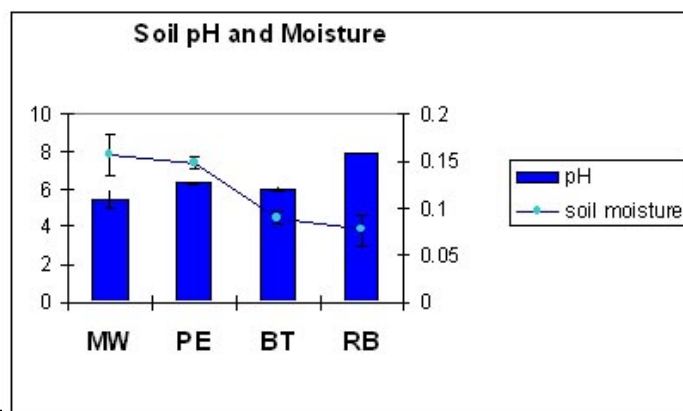


Figure 2. Soil moisture (%) and pH for four areas at the EEC, for samples taken in July 10-11, 2007. Bars represent standard error of the mean.

News from the Mobile EEC



Families Summit

On March 31 the mobile classroom visited the Fayette County Extension for the First Annual Families Summit. This event was geared toward strategies to successfully parent children. There were different activities to include all aspects of parent-child interaction. During the activities, children made moulds of animal tracks, and went on a short hike around the center where they learned about different species of plants and animals, and identified different habitats.

Frankfort Climate Action Festival

On April 14, at Saint Clair Mall in downtown Frankfort, the mobile EEC was proud to take part in a nation-wide event asking to, "Step it up, Congress! Cut carbon 80% by 2050." Music was provided on the old capitol lawn while workshops about local foods (KSU), solar energy and bio fuels were presented. Children's activities were provided by the EEC and other groups.





**K-Grade 8 workshop
Saturday September 8th 2007**

Salato Wildlife Education Center, Frankfort KY

Cost: \$20.00

What you need to bring:

Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes- we will be going outside. A bag lunch

Workshop limit: 20 people

Who should attend:

Educators, teachers, parents who home school, scout leaders or anybody interested in teaching young students about our natural world and its relevance to them.

Project Learning Tree's mission is to use the forest as a "window to the world" to increase students' understanding of our complex environment. You will learn how to stimulate critical and creative thinking in your students. Provide awareness, appreciation, understanding, skills and commitment to address environmental issues and cultivate a sense of appreciation and tolerance to diverse viewpoints.

The workshop will offer various hands on activities that correlate to Kentucky State Education Standards. Participants will leave with a complete book of cross-curriculum lesson plans and the experience to start using them.

To register, call the Salato Wildlife Education Center at 502-564-7863 Tuesday-Friday 8am-5pm, Saturday 9am-5pm. **Registration deadline is September 5th**. For more information contact Alisa Veverka at alisa.veverka@ky.gov or at the above phone number. The Salato Wildlife Education Center is located on the grounds of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Headquarters. From I-64 at Frankfort, take exit 53B to US 127 north and travel 1.5 miles to US 60. Turn left and drive 1.7 miles west on US 60 to the entrance of KDFWR which is on the right. Turn right into the complex and proceed ahead about 0.5 miles to the Education Center on the left. Please drive carefully.



Don't Miss It!

Leopold Education Project Workshop

July 25, 2007
9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Kentucky State University
Environmental Education Center
1371 Little Dixie Road
Pleasureville, Kentucky 40057

Cost: \$35

What is the Leopold Education Project (LEP)?

The LEP curriculum, *Lessons in a Land Ethic*, is an innovative, interdisciplinary conservation ethics curriculum targeted for grades 6-12. The LEP increases student's awareness of the land and informs them of how to make responsible choices for our planet, while simultaneously teaching important social, collaborative and critical thinking skills. The LEP is unique in that it uses a classic environmental literary work, Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* to reach students with a conservation ethics message that strives to instill an appreciation for the land community.

Objectives of the Workshop:

- To expand experience levels of "reading the landscape."
- To increase general teaching skills involved in outdoor education.
- To learn how to advance critical and creative thinking skills in students with exciting hands-on/minds-on activities.
- To assist in exposing students to environmental literature and related activities.
- To review and utilize the project materials.

Participants will Receive:

- *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold (Used as Student Text)
- *Lessons in a Land Ethic: Teacher's Guide and Student Activities for Indoor and Outdoor Use*
- LEP Task Cards, developed by Cliff Knapp and based on essays found in the *Almanac*; they provide students with an additional medium for experiencing learning in the out-of-doors classroom.
- Blue Ribbon Quotes: 14 laminated posters of quotes by Aldo Leopold.

To Register:

- E-mail Jennifer Turner at jenniferl.turner@ky.gov or call her at (502) 564-4496/800-866-0555.

Animal Tracks Class August 11, 2007

Because of the immense turnout last season, we will again offer our animal tracks class. Children of all ages are invited to the EEC Saturday afternoon, August 11, 2007, from 2:00 to 5:00. All who attend will have an adventure of mythic proportions! Students will make plaster moulds of an animal track of their choosing. While the moulds are drying, students will go on an educational adventure through the EEC, investigating different habitats and searching for animal signs and tracks.

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

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board purchased land for the EEC and continues to support it. Please assist 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.



Kentucky
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