



Welcome to the wonderful, wild, winter



wonderland in the woods!

The External Advisory Committee met in the fall to discuss the Strategic Plan for the Environmental Education Center (EEC). The Strategic Plan articulates the various goals and objectives the EEC will achieve over the next five years. The EEC functions are divided into five basic areas: serving K-12 and KSU students, addressing individuals with disabilities, supporting environmental research, promoting professional development for teachers, and developing facilities at the EEC. The External Advisory Committee was charged with submitting any comments or suggestions for the final edit of the Strategic Plan.

Finally, there was enough snow on the ground to take some interesting pictures. Graduate students from the Aquaculture program enjoyed a day of hiking in the snow to obtain photos that will be interchangeable with various pictures on the website. The EEC staff would like to display a seasonal collection of images on the website.

News from the Mobile EEC

Environmental Essay Contest



The Environmental Education Essay contest involved over 900 students from 36 classes on five different grade levels. The Mobile EEC presented information on plants, animals, adaptations, and ecosystems and the students wrote their essays based on their learning experiences. All essays were examined by three judges from the Aquaculture Research Center and the winners were given a prize package including: KSU hats, kids meal and five dollar gift certificates from Fazoli's. The winning students' essays were returned in a decorative wooden frame.



In March, Kentucky State University served as the showcase institution at the Second Annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities Showcase. The University managed 12 booths highlighting various opportunities, including the Mobile EEC.

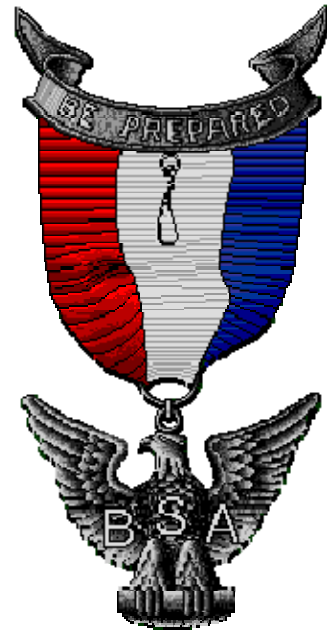
News from the EEC

Professor Sluss' ecology class (BIO 316) traveled to the center to collect goldenrod galls. These flowers are the site of complex predator and parasitic interactions. Gall flies lay eggs in the goldenrod stems creating galls. The immature gall flies may be a source of food for two types of parasitic wasps, a stem-boring beetle, and even birds. We took the galls back to the lab and determined the fate of the gall flies and thus the interactions that were waged in the galls.



A local Boy Scout troop hiked throughout the EEC on December 31. One learns that it is important to check the weather forecast before hiking in December. Roughly one mile from shelter it began to rain, more like a spring shower coming down in sheets. Laughter was heard throughout the woods during the long hike back to the cars.

After much consideration and repeated trips to the EEC, the Boy Scouts have decided to make the trail to the teaching platform their eagle projects. As many as three Scouts will take on various parts of the trail construction process to earn their Eagle Scout Badges. Funding for this project will be in part supported by Home Depot, and soil stabilizers will be provided as part of the National Trail Surface Study. Additional sources of funding continue to be a challenge for the Scouts and staff from the EEC. The trail will be constructed in strict compliance with the United States Access Boards Final Report on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas.



Who takes part in the Eagle Scout Program?

A young man like Devin!

Devin Hayes was born at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base on April 30, 1992. His family moved to Kentucky when he was five years old. He joined Cub Scout Pack 446 in the first grade. Devin and his



parents, Rick and Kendra Hayes, have been active in Scouts for eight years. Devin is currently a Life Scout and the Senior Patrol Leader at Troop 644. He is a freshman at Shelby County High School where he is a member of the ROTC. In his spare time, he runs track and plays baseball with Shelby County parks and recreation. Devin and his family attend the Graefenburg Christian Church (GCC) where he is and active member of the GCC youth group. Devin has a brother Nathan who is 11 and a sister Taylor who is nine. They are both actively involved in scouting. Devin has picked the handicapped accessible trail because he suffers from a reading disability and knows how difficult it is to live with a disability. It is his hope this trail will offer people with disabilities a chance to enjoy Kentucky's wild lands.

Caution



Caution

Research at the EEC

Beetle Research

Dr. Robert Barney, as Associate Research Director at Kentucky State University and member of the EEC Internal Steering Committee, has initiated several research projects at the EEC.

Dr. Barney was fortunate to receive support for a co-investigator of plant biodiversity position which will enable his research to look at interactions between plants and beetles at the EEC as well as other sites. The position should be filled in May.

National Trails Surface Study

The trail Devin will complete for his Eagle Project also will take part in the National Trails Surface Study. Five hundred feet of this trail is set aside for research. The National

Center on Accessibility will evaluate three different soil stabilizers at the EEC. The staff at the EEC is honored to take part in finding better ways to accommodate individuals with disabilities.



Pawpaw Research

Dr. Kirk Pomper is studying the development of new organic insecticides for fruit and vegetable production and why its important to small, limited resource farmers to protect crop value and the environment. The proposal objectives are to: 1) determine if pawpaw fruit acetogenin level varies with ripening stage, storage, or heat treatment, 2) assess acetogenin concentration of pawpaw fruit in genotypes in the KSU repository, and for fruit collected from the wild by growers and students in West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio, and 3) assess biological activity of pawpaw fruit extracts as feeding deterrents against several insect pests that are common problems for organic producers. High acetogenin fruit concentration genotypes identified would serve as a new large source of biomass allowing the cost effective development of a new organic insecticide. Promising genotypes will be incorporated into the repository collection and distributed to the public. Minority high school, undergraduate, and graduate student researchers will be mentored, hopefully developing an interest in pursuing professions in USDA.



Kentucky State University

Summer Environmental Science Workshop for Middle & High School Teachers

Focus on Stream Ecology

This U.S. Department of Agriculture funded workshop is designed to provide training to teachers to incorporate environmental topics/issues in their school curriculum.

Workshop topics will include:

- Discuss aquatic ecosystems and water chemistry
- Collect, identify, and count macroinvertebrates (insects, snails, etc.) and determine stream pollution index and calculate diversity indices
- Sample water quality data at two different sites (rural and urban site)
- Perform habitat assessment of streams
- Take photographs of streams with a digital camera
- Discuss human impacts on streams such as land use change, erosion, eutrophication, dam building
- Calculate descriptive statistics (mean, median, standard error) with Microsoft Excel
- Create bar charts of data with Microsoft Excel
- Group presentation of stream data using Power Point
- Please note that some field work required as part of this workshop

July 9, 2007 - July 13, 2007

The Benefits:

Stipend \$750 (\$150/Day including travel)

Plus a complete equipment/materials kit.

Follow up one day workshop in the Fall (\$175) and
Opportunity to present at the Kentucky Academy of Science
(KAS) Annual Meeting (registration & travel paid)

Application Criteria:

Full time middle or high school science teacher
Completed application and
one recommendation letter from school administrator
Application deadline is May 30, 2007.

Interested in the Summer Teacher Workshop at KSU? Contact:

Dr. Kazi Javed
130 Carver Hall
Kentucky State University
400 East Main Street
Frankfort KY, 40601

kazi.javed@kysu.edu
Phone: 502-597-6722
(We can accommodate
persons with disabilities)

Project WILD / Project WILD Aquatic Workshops

Contact: venita.bright@ky.gov

Location: Salato Wildlife Education Center, Frankfort, KY

Date: June 26 – 27, 2007

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 each workshop. Lunch is on your own.

Participants: Teachers; parents who home school; scouting, youth, and other group leaders

Limit: 30

Registration Deadline: June 1, 2007

These highly acclaimed, award-winning curricula teaches students *how* to think, not *what* to think. Project WILD and Project WILD Aquatic offer KERA-compatible, interdisciplinary, hands-on activities emphasizing wildlife and the environment. Participants receive a curriculum guide during each workshop and other valuable resources and reference materials.

There will be both indoor and outdoor activities, so be sure to dress for the weather. Project WILD Aquatic involves wading a stream and participants need to bring water-ready shoes and clothing.

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 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.

Phone (502) 564-7863 to register. Register for each workshop **separately**. Registering for one does *not* automatically enroll you in the other. For more information, contact venita.bright@ky.gov.

Interested in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology?
**Kentucky State University LSAMP
Program**

The National Science Foundation's **Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation** (LSAMP) is a comprehensive, undergraduate program designed to increase substantially the quantity and quality of students, especially African American, Hispanic, and Native American students, pursuing degrees and careers in science, mathematics, engineering and technology.

Summer 2007 Bridge Program for

Rising Juniors & Seniors
June 10, 2007 - June 29, 2007

The Benefits:

Stipend \$750 (\$250/week)
Free Room & Board
Inquiry-based science workshops
Enhance college skills

Application Criteria:

Rising HS Juniors and Seniors
Overall HS GPA of 3.0 or better
Math/Science GPA of 3.0 or better
ACT Score (if taken) of 20 or better
Completed application, HS transcripts,
and two recommendation letters.

**See your school counselor for an application. Application deadline is
April 30, 2007.**

Interested in the LSAMP Summer Program at KSU? See your counselor or contact:

Dr. Kazi Javed
130 Carver Hall
Kentucky State University
400 East Main St.
Frankfort, KY 40601

kazi.javed@kysu.edu
Phone: 502-597-6722

Animal Tracks Class April 21, 2007

Because of the turnout last season, we will again offer our animal tracks class. Children of all ages are invited to the EEC Saturday afternoon, April 21, 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.



Coming soon to a forest near you...



Photos by Charles Weibel

Spring!