**BROWN FAMILY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**
at Kenyon College

**APRIL - JUNE 2018**
VOL. 22 / NO. 2

# FIELD NOTES

**Photo: Skunk Cabbage**
*Symplocarpus foetidus*

## OHIO'S DEADLIEST SPECIES

by Sarah Dendy '19
**BFEC Student Manager**

### INSIDE:



Why do some plants have medicinal properties? Why would a plant produce a painkiller, or a hallucination, or even an unusual flavor? All of these plant abilities exist for the same reason: wild plants don't want to be eaten. By affecting the body of a potential herbivore — or, as the plant would view them, a predator — flora diminish the possibility that they'll be snacked on in the future.

Central Ohio has some great examples of aggressively anti-herbivore plants. For instance, Jimsonweed (*Datura stramonium*) is a wild-growing relative of tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes — and a relative of the widely-feared deadly nightshade. Jimsonweed is a potent hallucinogen, particularly its seeds, and people who ingest it usually require hospitalization until their symptoms subside. Other noxious locals from this family include Carolina Horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense*), whose berries produce abdominal cramps, vomiting and drowsiness, or even death, if large quantities are consumed. Jimsonweed flowers from July to October, and Carolina Horsenettle's blooms and berries can be viewed beginning in May. Both take root in empty spaces with poorer-quality soil, like vacant lots and abandoned fields. Several deadly plants are so beautiful that they are globally popular as ornamental plants. You may encounter deadly tropical Dieffenbachia (Dumb Cane) in planters of shopping malls. Ohio has its own relative of these poisons: Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), a handsome low-growing plant with teardrop-shaped leaves. If eaten, Skunk Cabbage will irritate the mouth, swell the ton gue and throat, and sometimes lead to nausea, shock, irregular heartbeat, coma or death. Skunk cabbage blooms from February until April in wet woodland habitats. You might still be able to see some blooming along the section of BFEC's Bishop's Backbone trail that parallels Wolf Run.

Edible vegetables like celery and carrots share the family Apiaceae with several of Ohio's

deadliest greens. Members of this family produce handsome spreads of flowers, often lacy and white, and many of them are easily confused with one another. White Snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*) and Water Hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*) are both examples; each has toxic roots, which can be deadly if consumed. White Snakeroot also kills by proxy when it enters the milk of livestock. Female cows and goats that have eaten this plant produce toxic milk which induces vomiting, trembles and delirium in the person (or animal) who drinks the mile. Both of these plants bloom from July to September, but their roots are deadly year-round. White Snakeroot grows in shade and woods, and is commonly seen at the BFEC along the Kokosing Gap Trail. Water Hemlock is usually found in marshes, ditches or any low wet spot.

Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) is a champion among Ohio plants for toxicity. It causes fast death through respiratory failure and renal suppression. Reports of hemlock poisoning claim that victims remain calm and clear-headed until the moment of death, though they lose feeling in extremities and may stumble, stagger or lie down. No antidote exists for ingesting hemlock, so treatment for it is largely symptomatic. Because it affects the respiratory system, people who consume it often must be placed under mechanical ventilation support. Poison Hemlock grows in mixed habitats, including woods, meadows, roadsides and trails; it emerges in June until August, simultaneous with several far less dangerous look-a-likes, like Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) or Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*).

What is the best lesson to take from Ohio's deadliest species? Never eat a wild plant! Even if you think you recognize your forage, many edibles have toxic doppelgangers. Some plant species--carrots, tomatoes, parsley, peppers--have been domesticated to produce delicious flavors and nutrient-rich edible structures. These are the opposite of wild plants — they are plants that want to be eaten. With them around, why risk a wild relative, which may just as soon be the last vegetable you ever sample?

**Photo: Water Hemlock**
*Cicuta maculata*

**Photo: Jimsonweed**
*Datura stramonium*

**Photo: Poison Hemlock**
*Conium maculatum*

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*The Animals Return:*

# EARTH DAY AT THE BFEC

by Noelle Jordan

Our wild Earth Day event returns to the BFEC this year on April 21, noon to 4 p.m. This free event is open to the public.

Just like last year, the highlight of the event will be live animals. The Ohio Bird Sanctuary and the Columbus Zoo will each present live animal shows at specific times during the event. The Ohio Wildlife Center, the Midwest Biodiversity Institute and the St. Francis Center for Wildlife – new this year – will each have a variety of animals on display throughout the entire event.

After meeting all of the animals, guests will have the opportunity to build a bluebird box, a bat house or a home for solitary bees. Parents will need to help the little ones, but we will supply all materials, tools and instructions for building these critter shelters and for proper installation at your home.

This event would not be a true festival without the participation of our community partners. The following organizations will be here with lots of hands-on activities: Knox County Parks, ODNR, the Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County, Head Start, Knox County Recycling and Litter Prevention, Ariel Foundation Park and SPI. There will also be a few high-quality vendors selling locally grown, organic veggies, herbs, honey and a fine selection of native plants for your garden.

Truckin' Delicious food truck will be on-site all afternoon for tasty treats, and you'll be able to tap your toes to the tunes of a variety of student bands.

Please support our sponsors for this event: Keim Lumber, WMVO, United Way and First Knox National Bank.

For more information, call 740-427-5052.

# WHAT IS YOUR WHY

by Dave Heithaus

In my experience, conversations about campus sustainability often steer in a direction that could generally be described as tactical. We want to reduce our carbon footprint so let's discuss renewable energy, building efficiency and offsets. We want people to become engaged so, how about a program, event or campaign? These are optimistic conversations that a friend would call "how conversations." With bottomless confidence and the puckish smile of a creative engineer, there was never a question of, "Can we?" For him it was always, "By what mechanism?" As he put it, it's all in the "how."

It's an inspiring attitude and one I try to channel whenever possible. All the same, it does tend to lead conversations in a particular direction and has the potential to overshadow something that bears remembering from time to time: the "why."

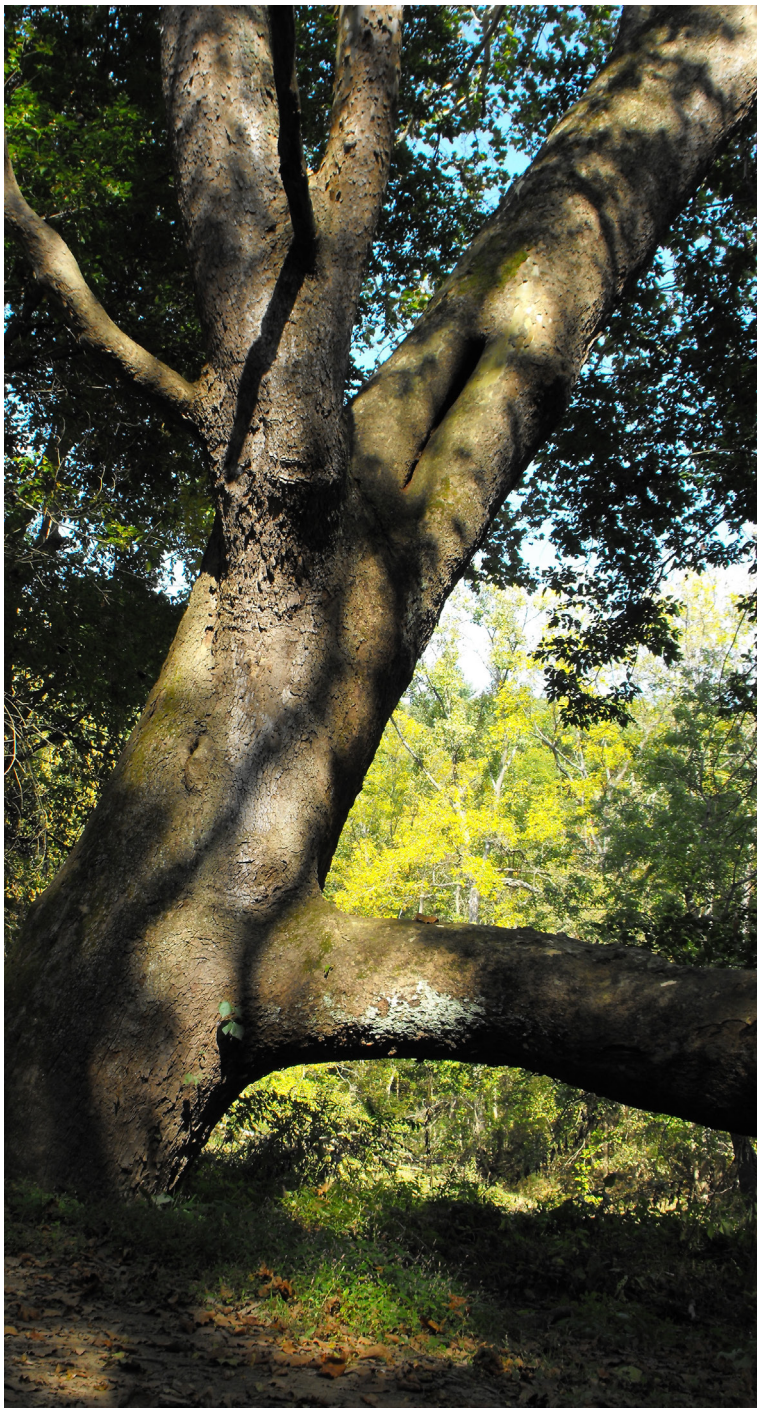
Why do we encourage our community to adopt small inconveniences? Why do we ask our institution to spend a little more here or a little less there? Why do we preserve farmland, plant trees and take every opportunity to instill in our students the sense and value of this place?

I won't presume to give you my answers other than to say that they are dynamic and many. Each of us has answers to why. Some of us may ask the question without finding a ready answer. But regardless of whether you want to talk tactics or dispute their necessity at all, go for a walk, sit under a tree, look at a loved one. We all have something we want to make last and to leave whole for the next set of feet that will stand along the Kokosing. First find your why. Then do with it what you will.

# CONTEMPLATIONS ON TREES, CHANGE AND GROWTH

by Cooper Lippert '18, BFEC Student Manager

**The Sycamore along the River Trail, next to the Kokosing River.**
The lateral branch that we think was used by Native Americans as a trail marker is no longer there.



In looking back and ruminating on my past four years at Kenyon, I found––tucked away in an old leather-bound notebook from my freshman year––this observation about trees:

"What has happened here? The trees littering the floor. Nettles like dried blood. Great dead trunks barely standing. The forest has been at war for far longer than we have. How foolish we are to think of ourselves as special! There is nothing great in the grand scheme! There is no meaning in the eddies of the oceans of Time. Nothing to find in our spot in the Universe. No, the beautiful is in the small. In friends on lawns. A memory of grass caressing your leg. Dragonflies on the wind. The pulse of the heat. The red blood cell. The molecule dividing, splitting, becoming."

And then, a page later:

"It was that unique time of Summer when the nettles fall like dewdrops."

Now I see that I took myself rather seriously. Time has tempered that. Time at the BFEC has changed my perspective of the forest, too. Wandering out to the Observatory and farther onto the Bishop's Backbone, taking the steep ascent up to the Pine Grove, or even ambling alongside the Kokosing gave me the opportunity to see the forest as something more than just a struggle. The interlocked canopy of branches high above are not the competitive stiff arms I once imagined. Rather, this interwoven lattice helps the forest as a whole to withstand high winds and hostile weather. Where the lone tree might be buffeted and blown away by rough weather, the forest stands together in solidarity. This is not to say that competition does not exist in the forest; those same branches are forever engaged in a race to the top, edging out their neighbors for the most sunlight. But this competition coexists alongside cohabitation. Think friendly rivals versus an every-tree-for-itself mentality. Examples abound everywhere. One simply has to look…

**Sycamore Trees and their Place in Riparian Forests**

Riparian forests clutter alongside the river's edge. Tree trunks and limbs arch over the water where the sunlight is ample, vying with each other for the most room. This, in turn, creates shade for the aquatic ecosystem. A striking example of these waterside dwellers is the sycamore which is so distinctive for its stark white canopies. In winter, one can trace the run of a river by following the bone-white crowns of the sycamores. On closer inspection, they can be distinguished for their scaly grey bark, which gives way higher up to the distinctive inner white bark that draws the eye.

Sycamores are well adapted to the water's edge. Their seeds can be soaked in water for up to 32 days without negatively impacting their ability to germinate. Sycamores also distribute their seeds after spring floods, which often places their seeds on muddy flats allowing for even surer germination. Their seedlings can survive flooding and other disasters by resprouting from the roots. As a member of a larger community, their seeds provide some sustenance for birds, while larger trees may support nesting birds and often have cavities for owls, squirrels, raccoons, and other wildlife.

**Planting Trees and Forests at the BFEC**

Throughout its short 22 year history, the BFEC has planted thousands of trees. One noticeable example is the Pine Grove, planted in 1995, as a science experiment to see how pines would grow given different spacing options. The BFEC has also planted many oak saplings on an uphill slope of its oldest prairie unit. Most recently, hundreds of native oaks were planted in concentric rings creating the framework for BFEC's labyrinth.

Oaks are native to Ohio and can be found in a wide variety of species throughout the state. Preferring clay or sandy soils, oaks depend on well-drained slopes for their habitat. Oaks are beloved food sources for animals of all ilk, as they produce massive crops of acorns every 2 to 4 years once they reach maturity. Oaks can also quickly regenerate from fire, making them stout bulwarks for prairie borderlands where they can grow back quicker than other tree species.

**Change and Growth**

The two oldest trees on BFEC property are an oak and a Sycamore. Given's Grove, on the north parcel of BFEC, is home to a massive oak specimen. The Director of Green Initiatives, David Heithaus, believes this tree dates back to the Civil War era. David estimates that the giant Sycamore along the River Trail is even older, and was most likely used as a marker tree by Native Americans who once traversed the area around the Kokosing River.

The landscape that the Native Americans once explored is gone, the arrival of the 19th century overseeing the almost complete clear cutting of Ohio's forests down to a mere ten percent of what they once were, as European settlers tried to support themselves with agriculture. The 20th century saw the return of Ohio's native forests with aggressive reforestation plans put in place by the state government. Today, more and more of Ohio's natural areas are being reclaimed and returned to the forested landscape it once was.

When I arrived at Kenyon, I came to know the oak in Given's Grove as the Mother Tree, a favorite resting place to circle back around when exploring the north areas of the BFEC. As for the Sycamore, the massive lateral branch (the same branch that David Heithaus believes was used to mark a Native American trail) was a favorite climbing spot when I would wander off the Kokosing Gap Trail. But I have learned from my time wandering the green corridors of the woods that to truly love a place, you must grow to appreciate the change that time brings. The great sideways branch of the Sycamore is gone now. People know the Mother Tree by other names

I smiled, reading what my freshman self had observed and admired: the immediacy and urgency of life, the moment when the nettles break free to join the cluttered forest floor. I am grateful that I no longer hurry forward. Trees remind me to pause, to trace the path of the trunk, the twisted branch. There is meaning in that twisted branch. That twisted branch tells a story a hundred years old, maybe older still. You will only ever hear it if you take the time to watch it grow.

**Photo: The large oak in Given's Grove**

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

by Noelle Jordan

Last fall, **Ben Nutter**, a first-year Kenyon student, volunteered 25 hours at the BFEC – the most hours volunteered by a Kenyon student last fall. His enthusiasm, passion and exuberance were contagious. Whether he was leading elementary field trips or managing invasive species, Ben's time and expertise were invaluable.

### Q: WHAT DO YOU DO AS A VOLUNTEER AT THE BFEC?

I've worked with Land Lords to help pull out and uproot invasive species and led various field trips for elementary school students.

### Q: HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN VOLUNTEERING FOR THE BFEC?

Since t he beginning of the school year. I knew I wanted to be involved with the BFEC when I first came to campus, so I kept a lookout for emails and made working there a top priority.

### Q: WHY DO YOU VOLUNTEER AT THE BFEC?

There are three main reasons that made me want to volunteer for the BFEC: (1) o I can engage with the community through a medium that I'm especially passionate about,; (2) or my own notions of self-care; and (3) o educate myself about the life around me. I also see the BFEC as a wonderful opportunity to get a sense on a small scale what it means to care for an environment one lives in but still make it accessible to people who don't want an intense outdoor experience.

### Q: HAVE YOU LEARNED ANY NEW SKILLS VOLUNTEERING AT THE BFEC?

Definitely! Working with kids has taught me to be a bit more direct with how I lead, as I tend to be a bit passive and free-flowing. Doing much of the work, whether it be prepping for a lesson for students or just pulling out weeds, is an education in itself as one learns the small details and potential pitfalls of such activities.

### Q: DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BFEC STORY?

At the beginning of a school field trip, when the first graders were dividing into small groups, a group of boys wanted to be paired with me. As we made our way to our first activity, I felt like I had become the newest member of their boys' group. They held my hands all the way there! I felt like Jesus being flagged by his followers one in each hand. I've never really spent all that much time with kids, so being able to do so just brings a smile to my face. It's a particular joy to be seen as a role model to the youngins' and to be able to facilitate their experience with the environment.

### Q: WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT AT THE BFEC?

I work for the Collegiate as a photographer, I'm currently rehearsing for a play, "Proof," coming out in April, and I've been canvassing for the Ken Harbaugh campaign since fall. I enjoy working at the farm, and when school is out I most enjoy going on backpacking trips.

### Q: TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND.

I'm from Los Angeles, California, and went to a high school that had a great outdoors program and got into camping and backpacking through that. I did a gap year in southern Chile with an outdoors educational company called NOLS, and since then have been planning my own trips. The rest of my life seems less organized, as I'm very unsure of what I'll major in, but I'll probably end up somewhere in the social sciences.

### Q: ARE YOU READING ANYTHING FOR FUN RIGHT NOW? IF SO, WHAT?

I just got a book on Joshua Tree in the mail and can't wait to read it. It gives information on the wildlife, history and geography of Joshua Tree as I plan on doing a trip there over spring break.

### Q: WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE?

I've found that working and getting to know the community around me has been immensely helpful in getting comfortable with Kenyon life and that such activities provide a great perspective on where I am. There are beautiful trails around the school. I don't always have time to take advantage of them, but they are part of what I enjoy most about Kenyon.

*The Buck Stops Here:*

# WHY DEER LOSE THEIR ANTLERS

by Shane McGuire, BFEC Land Manager and Naturalist

As you walk the trails this spring to enjoy the warmth and sunshine, you might come across a deer antler that was shed by a male deer, or a buck. Or maybe you will see a buck with only half of his rack. Bucks shed their antlers every year. Why? And why in the spring and not any other time of the year? In order for you to have a better understanding of this process, let's go through it step-by-step.

Antler growth happens quickly. Antlers are one of the fastest growing tissues on any mammal, growing up to a quarter of an inch per day. Typically within four months, antlers are full size.

In late spring and early summer, antlers — which are made of bone — begin to grow. Antler growth depends primarily on the amount of daylight (also called the photoperiod) and the amount of testosterone in the deer's system. A deer's brain has a clock-like measurer that can track the amount of light during the day and the amount of darkness at night. Once the brain figures out that there is more daylight than darkness, it triggers increased levels of testosterone causing the antlers to grow.

At first, the antlers are full of nerves and blood vessels and covered by many soft hairs called velvet. By early- to mid-August, the deer's antlers are fully formed. At this point, testosterone levels continue to increase, slowing down the blood flow to the antlers. For the next three to four weeks, the antlers will harden. The hardening occurs as the blood vessels are slowly filled with minerals, primarily calcium and phosphorus. Once the antlers are hardened, bucks will rub their antlers on trees or shrubs to remove the velvet. This usually happens in late August to early September.

Hardened antlers will remain on the deer during the breeding season, which is usually late October through November. Deer use their antlers to rub bark off small trees to mark their territory and to warn other bucks to stay away. They also use their antlers to fight aggressive bucks that try to breed doe in their area.

In late January, once the breeding season is over and winter arrives, daylight hours are greatly diminished, triggering reduced testosterone levels. These lower testosterone levels cause the base of the antlers to form an abscission, and eventually the buck sheds his antlers. Antlers are shed any time from January through April. The overall health of the buck determines exactly when this will occur. If a deer is hurt or has had a stressful season, the antlers usually shed early. However, if a deer is in good health, the antlers may be shed as late as March or April. After the antlers have been shed, a scab will form over the area, and the process will start all over again.

Antlers will grow larger each year until the buck reaches his prime age which is usually 4 ½ to 5 ½ years old. Deer older than 5 ½ years may still grow large antlers, but there is definitely a decrease when deer are past their prime.

# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF OHIO'S SCENIC RIVERS

by Heather Doherty, ODNR Central Regional Scenic River Manager, and Noelle Jordan

**Photo: Salamander found by the Kokosing River.**

Where can you find clean flowing waters that are inhabited by rare aquatic species and numerous game fish? Look no further than Ohio's state wild, scenic and recreational rivers.

Ohio pioneered the river conservation movement when it passed the nation's first Scenic River Act in February 1968. The National Scenic River Act followed in October of the same year. Fifty years later, 14 of Ohio's rivers have been officially designated as state wild, scenic and recreational rivers, including parts of our very own Kokosing River.

Forty-one miles of the Kokosing River are designated state scenic, from the Morrow County line east through Knox County and portions of Coshocton County to the river's confluence with the Mohican State Scenic River. ell known for its exceptional aquatic diversity, the Kokosing Scenic River is home to the Ohio state-endangered Spotted Darter (fish) as well as the Ohio state-endangered Eastern Hellbender (salamander). The Kokosing is one of the healthiest streams in Ohio

"Water is an elemental need and something that people have been long drawn to," said Ray Heithaus, professor emeritus of biology at Kenyon and a lead organizer of the Kokosing State Scenic River designation in 1997. "Not only do these high-quality streams harbor healthy habitats, but they are also inviting to both the outdoor recreational enthusiast and casual visitor."

Join the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Knox County Parks, and the BFEC in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Ohio's State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Program. Check out our programs section for some special programming that will happen on the Kokosing River this summer.

# **BFEC MEMBERS** December and January

**BENEFACTOR**
Eben Crawford
David M. Marietta and Margo de Camp
Doug Givens
Buffy and Bob Hallinan
David and Kim Newell
Gregory Scharon
Jay Sears

**PATRON**
Gene Bailey
Geoffrey and Lori Brown
Rene Romano and Sean Decatur
Peter Flaherty
Betsey Heer
Pat and Ray Heithaus
Phil and Sheila Jordan
Kimberlee and Joe Klesner
George and Diane Kopscick
Joe Lipscomb
Jennifer McMahon
Beverly Morse and Brian Miller
Tim Newcomb
Evelyn Newell
Jim Niederman
Mark and Denise Ramser
Cliff Slayman
Charles and Martha Verdery

**FRIEND**
After Kenyon Society
Bill Barney
Joe and Lauren Creamer
Caroline and Stanley Detmer
Matthew Sullivan and Heather Doherty
Julia Ellingwood
Frederic and Elizabeth Eustis
Kathy and Chris Gillen
David Greer
Hollie Hecht
Edward Heimerdinger
Noelle Jordan
Paul and Karen King
Jane Cowles and Dan Laskin
Jane and Perry Lentz
Mark and Pamela Leonard
Bill Lipscomb
Michael and Monique Lisak
Dianne and Douglas Mack
Lynne Mecum
Dick Mulligan
Richard and Susan Murray
Martha Newell
Charles and Miriam Dean Otting
Sarah Goslee Reed
Gordon Reingold
Jo and Chuck Rice
Bruce and Lisa Rickard
Cory Claffey-Koller and Maggie Somple
Greg and Susan Spaid
Audrey Spearman
Karel Starek
Samuel Watters

# **BFEC MEMBERS** continued

Ted and Karen Wolf
Barbara Wood

**FAMILY**
Nancy and Spence Badet
Chris Bickford and Karen Bagne
Jay and Meredith Harper Bonham
Michael Hufnagel and Julie Brodie
Guy Denny
Jay and Beth Dorsey
Gloria Edwards
Judith Fisher
James Garman
Barry and Brenda George
Darren Harris
Terri and Jim Heironimus
Bill and Joan Heiser
Brendan Hurst
Nancy Ingling
Sherry and David Kapes
Bruce and Deborah Kinzer
Bill and Joyce Klein
Charles and Betty Matson
Carolyn Metcalf
Carson and Barbara Miller
Dumont Jones and Joan Muellerleile
Joe and Sally Nelson
Dave and Marci Pressler
Sally Rogan
Leeand Lisa Schott
Dean Sheldon Jr.
Linda and Peter Smith
William and& Janice Smith
Nora and John Smyth
Geoff and Marilyn Stokes
Cinda and Dan Stutzman
David Wiesenberg
Joseph Adler and Ruth Woehr
In Honor of Beverly Morse
*Given by the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon*

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Lisa Dilts
Karen Gruner
Valerie Schillaci
Gerald & Mary Scott
Jana Stewart
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Jennifer Seely
Sarah Spiegler
Rick and Margie Strader
Jenny Sutcliffe

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## CONTRAST AND RELIEF: TWO PERSPECTIVES ON EXPRESSION THROUGH WOOD

On display Mar. 31-June 7

Visit the Resource Center during regular hours to enjoy this exhibit by local artists Todd Celmar and Virginia Birchfield.

## HABITAT AT HOME: HUMANE BACKYARD

Apr. 2, *6-7:30 p.m.*

In this presentation and garden stroll, explore what it means to create a humane backyard oasis for birds, insects and other wildlife using native plants, careful soil treatments, natural fertilizers and creative use of space. **Meet at the Resource Center**.

## NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY: UNDERSTANDING YOUR CAMERA

Apr.7, *8 a.m.-Noon*

In this first of three programs on nature photography, review the basic functions of your camera and then take a field trip to practice using these settings for landscape photography. Register by March 30. For information on fees and registration, call 740-427-5052.

## KEEP IT WILD: EARTH DAY AT THE BFEC

Apr. 21, *Noon -4 p.m.*

Celebrate Earth Day with this free event featuring live raptors, mammals, reptiles and insects for you to meet up-close. Make and take bluebird and bat boxes, and enjoy live music and a food truck.

## OAKS AND ACORNS

Thursdays, Apr. 26-May 31, *10-11:30 a.m.*

This program, designed for caregivers with children ages 2-5, features guided nature play, outdoor investigations, and hands-on discoveries. Spend time outside while encouraging creativity and curiosity and gently pushing the envelope on risky play. For information on fees and registration, call 740-427-5052.

## WILD EDIBLES

Apr. 28, *1 p.m.*

Join Shawn Dailey to find and sample edible plants. A wild-foods tasting will follow a 2.5-mile hike. No registration required. **Meet at the Miller Observatory parking lot**.

## NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY: ADVANCED CAMERA SETTINGS, COMPOSITION AND LIGHTING

May 5, *8 a.m.-Noon*

In the second of three programs on nature photography, review composition, lighting, and advanced camera settings. A field trip to practice skills follows. Register by April 30. For information on fees and registration, call 740-427-5052.

## HOW TO RECYCLE PROPERLY IN KNOX COUNTY

May 15, *6 p.m.*

Randy Canterbury from Knox County Recycling and Litter Prevention will answer recycling questions: What items are acceptable at drop-off centers? Where are these drop off centers are located? And why we can't recycle everything? **Meet in the BFEC Resource Center**.

## BIRD AND WILDFLOWER WALK

May 19, *8-11 a.m.*

Join Lori Totman, Knox County parks director, to search for birds and wildflowers at Honey Run highlands and waterfall. **Meet at the park's parking lot at 10816 Millersburg Rd. (US 62)**.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## PLEIN AIR PAINTING AT THE BFEC

Tuesday evenings beginning May 22, *6-8 p.m.*
Paint, draw or sketch outside. Bring your own supplies and spend the evening hours creating art in a peaceful setting. Wendy Fetters, a local artist, will provide a brief introduction on May 22.
**Meet at the picnic pavilion**.

## SPI SUMMER CAMPS

June and July
SPI, in conjunction with the BFEC, offers week-long summer camps for children, kindergarten through fifth grade. For more information, visit spi-mountvernon.org.

## SOLSTICE LABYRINTH STROLL

June 21, *7:30 p.m.*
Celebrate the longest day of the year with an evening stroll into the BFEC labyrinth.
**Meet at the Kokosing Gap Trail parking lot on Laymon Road**.

## TUBING THE KOKOSING

June 30, *9:30 a.m.-Noon*
Relax with a 1.6-mile float down the Kokosing River. Tubes and life jackets are provided,and a shuttle will take participants to the put-in location. To register, email jordan2@kenyon.edu.
**Meet at the canoe access parking lot, 10115 Laymon Road**.

## NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY: FOCUS ON WILDFLOWERS

July 21, *8 a.m.-Noon*
The last of three programs on nature photography covers the challenges and rewards of macro photography and looking for the small details in nature. Register by July 16. For information on fees and registration, call 740-427-5052.

# CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT

TO MAKE A GIFT, PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW, DETACH THE SHEET AND SEE MAILING INSTRUCTIONS.

There are many reasons to give, including the satisfaction of knowing you're a part of critical environmental education and conservation programs. Receive preferred access to workshops, a hard copy of our newsletters, and a discount on bird seed. ***Use the form below to send your contribution today.***

NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP/POSTAL CODE COUNTRY

(_____) _____
MOBILE PHONE EMAIL ADDRESS

Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. The Brown Family Environmental Center at Kenyon College is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization.

**Membership level:**

☐ Student $20 ☐ Individual $35 ☐ Family $50
☐ Friend $100 ☐ Patron $250 ☐ Benefactor $1000+

**Amount enclosed:** _____

☐ My check, payable to Kenyon College, is enclosed

☐ Please bill my ___ Visa or ___ Mastercard
Card number _____ Exp. date _____

**Mail to:** BFEC, P.O. Box 508, Gambier, Ohio 43022

Brown Family
Environmental Center
*at Kenyon College*
bfec.kenyon.edu | 740-427-5050

## OUR MISSION

The Brown Family Environmental Center exists to support the academic goals of Kenyon College, to provide opportunities for education and research, to engage Central Ohioans of all ages with nature, and to conserve the natural diversity of the Kokosing River valley.

## OUR STAFF

**Jill Kerkhoff**, *Facilities Coordinator and Office Administrator*
**Shane McGuire**, *Land Manager Naturalist*
**Noelle Jordan**, *Manager*

BROWN FAMILY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER | 9781 LAYMON ROAD | GAMBIER, OH 43022-9623

# CONTEMPATIONS ON TREES, CHANGE AND GROWTH.

See pages four and five inside to read this article.