



# Brown Family Environmental Center at Kenyon College

## Newsletter



Volume 10 / No. 2 APRIL - JUNE

P.O. Box 508 Gambier, Ohio 43022

### Kokosing State Scenic River Day

Please join the BFEC, Kenyon College, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, as we invite everyone to attend the Third Annual Kokosing State Scenic River Day. The purpose of this event is to highlight the diverse natural history associated with the Kokosing River and educate the public about the prehistoric, cultural, recreational, and environmental aspects of this incredible natural resource.

Dedicated as a state scenic river in 1997, the Kokosing River is well known for its aquatic diversity. The fish community is exceptional and represents one of the most diverse and healthy communities in Ohio. The river and its associated watershed are home to more than 70

species of fish, including the state endangered spotted darter and mountain brook lamprey. Additionally, the river is home to Ohio's largest salamander, the endangered hellbender, and recent evidence indicates the presence of at least three state-listed freshwater mussel species, including the sharp-ridged pocketbook, kidney-shell, and wavy-rayed lampmussel.

The day will feature canoe floats, interpretive hikes, live animal displays, fish identification exhibitions, and stream quality monitoring demonstrations. In addition, various organizations will have booths to highlight their activities within Knox County and the Kokosing River watershed. Participants include the ODNR Division of Natural Areas

and Preserves, the BFEC, the Knox County Farm Bureau, the Owl Creek Conservancy, the Knox County Park District, the Knox Soil and Water Conservation District, Knox County Citizens for Smart Growth, the Ohio Smallmouth Alliance, and the Kokosing Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Ohio, among others.

Interactive natural history displays will feature live animals native to the Kokosing River riparian corridor. Special displays will highlight the fantastic diversity of mollusks and fish found in the Kokosing, including the state-listed species discovered within the confines of the BFEC property.

The event will be held rain or shine on Saturday, June 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00

p.m., on the BFEC property. Activities will take place at the Laymon Road canoe access, the BFEC Education/Visitor Center, and along the river corridor itself. A detailed itinerary can be found in this issue of the BFEC newsletter. Call the BFEC at 740-427-5050 for additional information. This event is free and open to the public.



Jason Larson

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Saturday, April 8, May 6, May 20,  
and May 27, 8:00 a.m.

## Birds & Breakfast Spring Migration Bird Hikes

Join the BFEC staff, Kenyon faculty, and student managers as we explore the BFEC property and Kokosing Gap Trail in pursuit of resident and migrating bird species. Over the course of the next few months, we will have the possibility and pleasure of seeing more than 100 neotropical migrant species as they pass

through our area of the state. Many wood warbler species like Cape May, blackburnian, and mourning are simply passing by as they travel to their breeding grounds in Canada, while others like orchard oriole, rose-breasted grosbeak, and scarlet tanager will stay here in Ohio for the entire nesting season. Following our morning hike, participants may choose to join us for a delicious breakfast at a local restaurant. We will take time to talk about the sightings of the

morning, upcoming trips, and BFEC programs, while we replace all of the calories that we burned during our morning jaunt. Bird lists will be provided, and a limited number of binoculars will be available for use on a first-come, first-served basis. No registration necessary. Participants will meet at the Education/Visitor Center at the Brown Family Environmental Center on Laymon Road. For questions or details concerning this event, please call the BFEC.

Friday, April 21, 8:30 - 10:00 p.m.  
Friday, May 26, 9:00 - 10:30 p.m.

## BFEC Spring Sky Astronomy

Join Professor of Humane Studies Timothy Shutt and BFEC Program Director Jason Larson on a series of nocturnal tours around the Milky Way Galaxy. Come and admire the season's constellations as you listen to mythological stories about the stars. Participants

will use star charts to navigate the evening sky, looking for the planets Jupiter and Saturn, constellations such as Leo, Orion, Taurus, Gemini, Auriga, Boötes, Virgo, Draco, and Hercules, and stars with names like Sirius, Capella, Rigel, Betelgeuse, Regulus, Arcturus, Spica, and Aldebaran. Come try out our six-inch telescope, which should give us some amazing looks at Saturn, as well as some great galaxies and

star clusters. If the weather is cloudy, the event will have to be rescheduled. Sky charts, binoculars, and flashlights will be provided. Dress warmly, as we will be outside for long periods of time! Participants will meet at the BFEC Education/Visitor's Center, at the Brown Family Environmental Center, on Laymon Road. For questions concerning this event, please call the BFEC office at 740-427-5050.

## Wednesday Morning Migration Bird Walks

What's that? You can't attend our weekend walks? No problem! Join BFEC Program Director Jason Larson, BFEC Assistant Program Director Heidi May, and local birding enthusiasts for a morning walk

around the BFEC property. This series of morning bird excursions will take place every Wednesday of each month, April 5th through June 14th, during Kenyon's spring semester and beyond. Bird lists will be provided and a limited number of binoculars will be available for use on a first-

come, first-served basis. No registration necessary. Participants will meet at the BFEC Education / Visitor's center parking lot, on Laymon Road. For questions or details concerning these events, please call the BFEC office at 740-427-5050.



## Spring & Summer Nature Series



BFEC Wednesday Morning  
Bird Walks. 8:00 - 9:30  
a.m., April 5 - June 14

Saturday, April 8, 8:00  
a.m. BFEC Birds & Break-  
fast Spring Migration  
Bird Walk

Saturday, April 15, 8:00 -  
11:00 a.m. BFEC Beginning  
Bird Watching Course

Friday, April 21, 8:30 -  
10:00 p.m. BFEC Spring  
Sky Astronomy



Saturday, April 22, 10:00  
a.m. - 4:00 p.m. BFEC  
Earth Day Celebration!

Saturday, May 6, 8:00  
a.m. BFEC Birds & Break-  
fast Spring Migration  
Bird Walk

Saturday, May 6, 1:30 -  
3:30 p.m. Nature Hike:  
Spring Wildflowers

Saturday, May 20, 8:00  
a.m. BFEC Birds & Break-  
fast Spring Migration  
Bird Walk

Friday, May 26, 9:00 -

10:30 p.m. BFEC Spring  
Sky Astronomy

Saturday, May 27, 8:00  
a.m. BFEC Birds & Break-  
fast Spring Migration  
Bird Walk

Saturday, May 27, 1:30 -  
3:30 p.m. Nature Hike:  
Amphibians & Reptiles

Saturday, June 17, 9:00  
a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Kokosing  
State Scenic River Day!

Friday, June 23 & Satur-  
day, June 24, Nature's  
Keepers Summer Camp!

### Thank You !

While Kenyon College has supported the BFEC since the center's inception and will continue to do so, it is largely through the generous work of others—students, community members, visitors, and benevolent sponsors—that the BFEC has been able to grow. These individuals help the center through financial donations, volunteer contributions of time and energy, and gifts that make someone's job at the BFEC easier. The resources they provide are critical to our growth. We are indebted to all individuals, groups, and businesses that donated time, materials, and funding over the past several months. If you would like to contribute a gift or volunteer to help with a project, please call the BFEC at 740-427-5050.



### Volunteer at the BFEC

Are you looking for an opportunity to get outdoors this spring and summer? Do you enjoy working with children and the public? Would you like to make a difference in your community? If so, then become a volunteer at the BFEC! The BFEC is currently growing and expanding in many different areas, and we are actively seeking volunteers from Kenyon, Mount Vernon, and the greater Knox county community. As we continue to expand our gardens, trail network, school programs and public lectures, walks and workshops, we must begin to enlist the assistance of individuals from the surrounding area. If you would like to work in our gardens, maintain hiking trails, assist with biotic inventories, lead a public walk, remove invasive plants, teach a group of school kids about nature, help with a newsletter mailing, or even fill a bird feeder or two, then stop by or give us a call at 740-427-5050. Thanks!



**THE BROWN FAMILY  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
CENTER AT KENYON  
COLLEGE**

9781 Laymon Road  
Gambier, Ohio 43022  
(740) 427-5050

**WE ARE ON THE WEB**

[www2.kenyon.edu/BFEC/](http://www2.kenyon.edu/BFEC/)

The Brown Family Environmental Center at Kenyon College (BFEC) exists to create opportunities for individuals and collaborative study of organisms and habitats of central Ohio...and to benefit the general public of Knox County through environmental education and recreation consistent with its educational goals.

**Executive Director**

E. Raymond Heithaus,  
*Jordan Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology*

**Program Director**

Jason S. Larson

**Assistant Program Director**

Heidi L. May

**Newsletter Staff**

Editors: Jason S. Larson, Heidi L. May

**Advisory Board**

Ruth Bemis, Meryl Brott, Frances and Miles Christian, Guy Denny, Anne Downey, Charles and Linda Findlay, Pat and Ray Heithaus, Ann Laudeman, Barbara Lipscomb, John Oliver, Denise and Mark Ramser, Susan Ramser, Rebecca Reibold, Anne and Jefferson Robinson, Florence Short, William Stroud, Joan and David Trautman, Harlow Walker, Oscar H. Will III, Henry Woolsey.

Emeritus members: Shelia and Phillip Jordan.

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**The Brown Family  
Environmental Center**  
at Kenyon College  
P.O. Box 508  
Gambier, Ohio 43022

