



Brown Family Environmental Center at Kenyon College

Newsletter



Volume 10 / No. 3 JULY - SEPTEMBER

P.O. Box 508, Gambier, Ohio 43022

On your agenda:

Join the BFEC

Now is the time to become a new BFEC member or to renew your membership.

Your membership enables the center to:

- Purchase materials for nature programs.
- Provide field-trip experiences for more than a thousand area school children each year.
- Offer a summer day camp
- BFEC newsletter
- BFEC Open House

Your support creates valuable opportunities for the community to enjoy, appreciate, and learn about the natural area of the Kokosing River Valley. Use the enclosed form to join the BFEC and enclose a membership contribution.

For more information, call 740-427-5050.

BFEC Fall Open House

On October 21, 2006 the BFEC would like to welcome Kenyon College and its surrounding communities to our 9th annual fall open house. This year we will be offering many different activities that will entertain both children and adults. This is an all day event that will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the morning and will conclude at 4:00 p.m. in the evening.

At 8:00 a.m., there will be a morning bird walk around the BFEC property. At 10:00 a.m., the BFEC staff and student managers will have walking tours around the BFEC, which will include the aviary, farmhouse, and education/visitors center.

At 12:30 p.m., please join Program

Manager, Heidi May for the BFEC Ohio Reptile Program. Visitors will enjoy learning about snake species such as the black rat snake, milk snake, garter Snake, and the midland brown snake. The visitors will also get a chance to learn about many other reptiles, including the snapping turtle, midland painted turtle, and the eastern box turtle.

From 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., an open house reception will take place at the visitors center. Refreshments will be provided. Activities during this time will include pumpkin painting for kids, cider pressing, and horse-drawn hay rides.

The BFEC will also be having a community photography contest titled "Water In Na-

ture." All qualified photos that are delivered to the BFEC before Monday, October 16 will be displayed at the BFEC education/visitors center. All winning photos will be announced during the reception.

If you have any questions or concerns about this open house, please contact the BFEC at 740-427-5050.

Heidi L. May



Inside this issue:

Birds & Breakfast	2
Migration Hikes	
Adventures on the Bluebird Trail	2
BFEC Wednesday Morning Bird Walks	2
Membership Form	3
Registration Form	4
Calendar of Events	5
Thank You!	5

Saturday, July 7, & August 26, 8:00 a.m.

Birds & Breakfast Migration Bird Hikes

Join the BFEC staff, Kenyon faculty, and student managers as we explore the BFEC property and the 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 at 740-427-5050.

Sunday, July 7, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Adventures on the BFEC Bluebird Trail

Please join BFEC Program Assistant Heidi May to learn all about the Eastern Bluebird and how to maintain a bluebird trail. You will learn about the different types of birds that

use the bluebird boxes, discover how to attract bluebirds to your backyard, and assist with an actual monitoring session on the BFEC bluebird trail. You'll go home with lots of great information relating to bluebirds and how to maintain a trail on your own property. In addition, bluebird books,

field guides, and complete bluebird housing systems will be available for purchase. Adults and children of all ages are welcome to attend this event. For questions or comments concerning this event please call the BFEC office at 740-427-5050. Pre-registration is required.

Wednesday Morning Migration Bird Walks

What's that? You can't attend our weekend walks? No problem! Join BFEC Executive Director Ray Heithaus, 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, June 21 through September 6, during Kenyon's summer 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.

Reminder to Participants

All children and adult programs will begin at the Education / Visitor Center at the BFEC on Laymon Road. For registration, questions, or details concerning these events, please call the BFEC office at 740-427-5050. To register by mail, please complete and return the form on page four.



Spring & Summer Nature Series



BFEC Wednesday Morning Bird Walks.
8:00 - 9:00 a.m., June 21 -
September 6.

Saturday, July 8, 8:00 a.m. BFEC Birds
& Breakfast Migration Bird Walk.

Saturday, July 8, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Adventures on the Bluebird Trail.

Sunday, July 9, 2:00 p.m. Toad Hill Or-
ganic Farm. Location: 16261 Sapps Run
Road (off Danville -Amity Road, CR 14).

Sunday, July 30, 2:00 p.m. Prairie
Wildflowers. Location: 6021 Mount
Gilead Road (State Route 95 in
Morrow County).



Sunday, August 13, 7:00 p.m. Owl
Prowl. Location: BFEC Education /
Visitor Center.

Saturday, August 26, 8:00 a.m. BFEC
Birds & Breakfast Bird Walk.

Sunday, August 27, 2:00 p.m. Butter-
flies. Location: BFEC Education /
Visitor Center.

Thursday - Saturday, August 3 - 5,
Nature's Keepers Summer Camp!

Saturday, September 16, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
BFEC Ohio Wildlife Festival

Sunday, September 17, 2:00 p.m. Monitoring
Institute. Location: BFEC Education / Visitor
Center.

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, 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/

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.

Co - Director

Raymond Heithaus,
dan Professor of Environmental and Biology

Co - Director

Siobhan Fennessy
associate Professor of Biology

Facility Manager

David Heithaus

Program Manager

Heidi L. May

Volunteer Coordinator

Jill Kerkhoff

E.

*Jor-
Studies*

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.

DATE MAILED: OCTOBER 2006
CONTAINS DATED MATERIAL

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

