

E&C News

Campbell County Cooperative Extension • Environmental Education Center
1261 Race Track Road • Alexandria, KY 41001 • (859) 694-1666

Campbell County Environmental Education Center Newsletter

Winter 2024

Get More Animals to Call Your Woodland Home

Christopher Reeves, Forestry

Woodlands may already be home to birds, bats, snakes, salamanders, turkeys, white-tailed deer, and many other types of wildlife. But how can woodlands be improved to make them more attractive to wildlife? Like most things in life, a plan is paramount. Do woodland owners want to attract more game species such as deer and turkey or more songbirds for bird watching? Narrowing down objectives can help determine the management activities that need to be implemented to meet goals.

In general, all wildlife need three basic things: food, cover, and water. It's just that each species needs different types of food, cover, and water. That's where contacting a natural resources professional such as a Private Lands Biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources or a Service Forester with the Kentucky Division of Forestry can help. These individuals can provide guidance on how to attract the kinds of wildlife desired in a woodland.

Food

Woodlands provide various types of food for animals. Berries and fruits (referred to as 'soft' mast) and nuts and acorns ('hard' mast) are produced by numerous shrub and tree species. Thus, having a wide variety of these food producing plants in the canopy and understory of woodlands can attract a wide range of wildlife. Proper timber management and wildlife management usually go hand in hand. Consider thinning young stands with an emphasis on enhancing the dominance of a variety of mast-producing species in the main canopy. Thinning also opens the canopy allowing light to reach the forest floor. This light will allow for the development of more abundant cover and food in the understory.

Although larger trees typically produce more mast than smaller ones, size alone is not a good indicator of acorn or nut production. Individual trees success at producing large mast crops for several years is the best indicator of future success. Reduce competition around the crowns of these high mast-producing trees to ensure their survival and enhance their mast-production capabilities.

Cover

'Cover' refers to any type of habitat that an animal considers their temporary or permanent home. Salamanders need streams, golden-winged warblers need open shrubby areas, cerulean warblers need older forests, frogs need ponds, and white-tailed deer



Copperheads eat a wide variety of animals including mice, birds, small reptiles and amphibians.

can thrive in varying types of habitats. To attract a wide variety of animals to a woodlands, a wide variety of cover is required. If a specific animal is desired, increase that species' specific habitat.



Certain animals will prefer pine stands (R) over hardwood stands (L) and vice versa.

Wildlife's specific habitat needs may depend on the age of the woodlands. Young woodlands are covered in thousands of tree seedlings, bushes, and vines. As woodlands age they provide different types of habitat structures that are desirable for wildlife. Golden-winged warblers nest and lay eggs in densely packed young stands of tree seedlings and brush. After the young can fly, they move to mature forests. Disturbances can change the age or successional stage of the woodlands. Natural disturbances such as ice storms, fires, major wind events, or tornadoes may reset the age of the woodlands and attract wildlife that was not present before. Timber harvests and thinnings may be implemented to artificially create disturbance to attract a woodland owner's desirable species.



Golden-winged warblers need shrubby thickets for breeding but mature forests to raise their young.

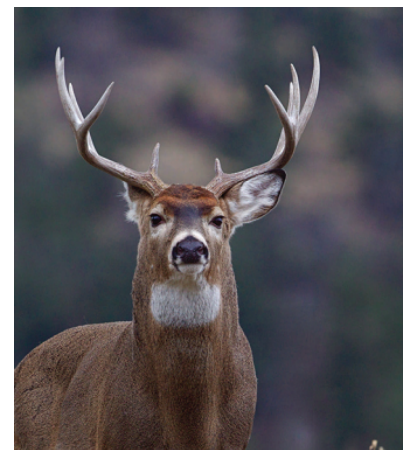
Dead trees (snags) serve as significant sources of cover and food for wildlife. Woodpeckers and bats use cavities and bark or dead trees to shelter themselves and their young.

Dead trees attract large amounts of insects, feeding on the decaying wood, which attracts birds and other animals to feed on the insects. If nature is not creating enough snags, consider creating some through girdling or herbicide application. But follow proper safety protocols (using chemicals or chainsaws), and don't create a hazard tree that could harm life or property.

Water

Whether it is vital for survival (fish) or necessary for drinking (deer), water is an important factor when attracting wildlife. Constructing a large pond or lake could attract a huge amount of wildlife if water sources are not common in the area. But significant water features are expensive to construct and may fall under government regulations particularly where wetlands are concerned. However, constructing a small, shallow pond, one that only holds water in spring, can be valuable breeding habitat for numerous amphibians. Such ephemeral pools can be constructed with small equipment of even by hand. Shallow water impoundments can also be constructed and can provide valuable habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, and furbearers.

Woodland owners should be concerned about the protection of water resources during forest management activities. Leaving strips of undisturbed woodlands next to streams and lakes is advised to prevent



White-tail deer and all wildlife species need access to water.

sediment from reaching water bodies and potentially harming aquatic wildlife. Road and trail construction, ATV and horseback riding, and any chemical applications should take place a safe distance away from water.

Woodlands are already a great place for wildlife to live. Small woodland owners should review what habitats are present in their woodlands and compare them to their neighbors.

By focusing on improving access to food, cover, or water, landowner's can attract even more of their favorite birds, frogs, bats, deer, or any other animals.



Frogs and other amphibians will be attracted to woodland waterbodies.

For More Information

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife:
fw.ky.gov

Kentucky Division of Forestry: forestry.ky.gov

References

Improving Woodland Wildlife Habitat: Kentucky Woodlands Magazine 2(3):6-9

Attract Wildlife: Backyard Woods 6:1-4



Produced in partnership
with the Kentucky
Division of Forestry.

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What's Up Next?

January 17th - 5:30pm *4-H Nature Club*

January 26th - 6:00pm *Night Hike*

February 1st - 5:30pm *4-H Winter Watercolor*

February 2nd - 10:00am *Nesting Wreath*

February 8th - 2:00pm *Animal Adaptations*

February 13th - 2:00pm *Nesting Wreath*

February 16th - 9:30am *Animal Adaptations*

February 21st - 5:30pm *4-H Nature Club*

February 22nd - 3:00pm *Animal Adaptations*

February 27th - 10:00am *Animal Adaptations*

March 1st - 2:00pm *Sensing Nature*

March 5th - 9:00am *Birding Walk*

March 6th - 1:30pm *Sensing Nature*

March 9th - 10:00am *Shiitake Mushroom Production*

March 13th - 10:00am *Sensing Nature*

March 14th - 2:00pm *Birding Walk*

March 19th - 1:30pm *Sensing Nature*

March 20th - 5:30pm *4-H Nature Club*

March 21st - 10:00am *Birding Walk*



DJ Scully

Donald J. Scully

djscully@uky.edu

Campbell County

Extension Agent

Natural Resources and
Environmental Education,

Agriculture and Natural

Resources

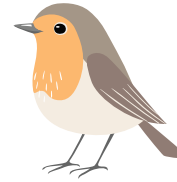
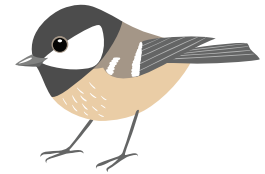
Aubree Dawson

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Campbell County

Extension Assistant

Natural Resources and
Environmental Education



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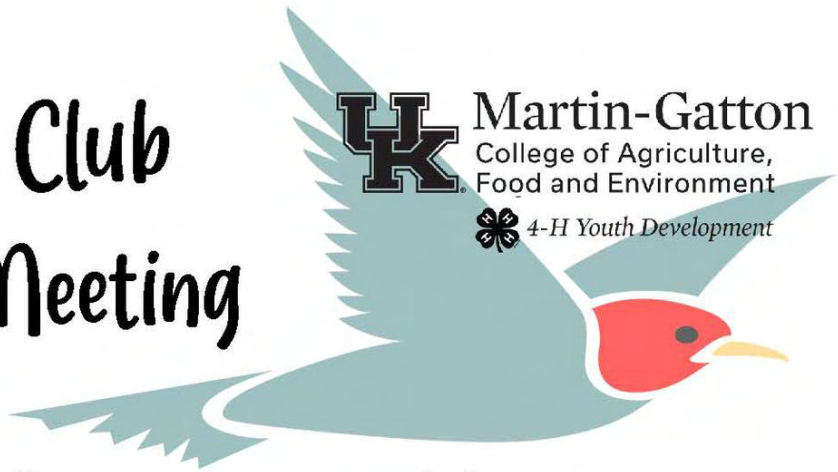
Nature Club

2023-2024 Meeting



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

4-H Youth Development



● Sept. 20

● Dec. 20

● Mar. 20

● Oct. 18

● Jan. 17

● Apr. 17

● Nov. 15

● Feb. 21

5:30pm-6:30pm

Ages 5-15, come learn about nature and explore the outdoors with 4-H at the **Campbell County Environmental Center:**
1261 Race Track Road
Alexandria, KY 41001

Each participant must register each month.

Register online at campbell.ca.uky.edu

or by phone: (859) 572-2600.

Contact Ginny Butsch with any questions:

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

NIGHT HIKE

JAN. 26TH, 6:00PM



**CAMPBELL COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CENTER**

**1261 RACE TRACK RD.
ALEXANDRIA, KY
41001**

**Registration is required. Please call (859) 694-1666 / (859) 572-2600
or visit <http://campbell.ca.uky.edu/> to register**

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UK Martin-Gatton
 College of Agriculture,
 Food and Environment
 4-H Youth Development

WINTER WATERCOLOR

JOIN US AT THE **EEC** FOR A STEP-BY-STEP
 WATERCOLOR PAINTING LESSON!

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
 1261 RACE TRACK ROAD
 ALEXANDRIA, KY 41001

FEBRUARY 1
5:30PM-6:30PM

Register online at campbell.ca.uky.edu (each child will need their own account)
 or by phone: (859) 572-2600.

Registration Deadline is **January 26.**

Contact Ginny Butsch with any questions: ginny.butsch@uky.edu

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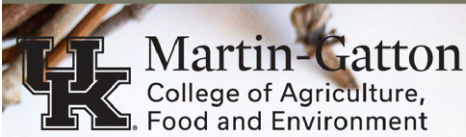
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make a nesting wreath

@ THE CAMPBELL COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

FEBRUARY 2nd @ 10:00am
FEBRUARY 13th @ 2:00pm

Registration is required. Please call (859) 694-1666 / (859) 572-2600
or register online at <http://campbell.ca.uky.edu/>

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ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

Campbell County Environmental Education Center

Come enjoy an indoor program on the animals of Campbell County and the unique traits that help them survive in the wilderness!

FEBRUARY 8th, 2:00pm
FEBRUARY 16th, 9:30am
FEBRUARY 22nd, 3:00pm
FEBRUARY 27th, 10:00am



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Please call (859) 694-1666 / (859) 572-2600 or register online at <https://campbell.ca.uky.edu/>

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SENSING NATURE

Join us at the
CAMPBELL COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
to experience the sounds, sights,
and textures of nature!

3/1, 2:00pm ~ 3/6, 1:30pm ~ 3/13, 10:00am ~ 3/19, 1:30pm



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College of Agriculture,
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Shiitake Mushroom Production



 **Martin-Gatton**
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

Saturday, March 9, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Shiitake mushrooms, native to eastern Asia, can be grown locally for their gourmet and medicinal value. Participants will learn how to select trees to utilize for shiitake mushroom production, how to grow them, and about their nutritional value. Households will take home a log capable of producing shiitakes.

Campbell County
Environmental Education Center

1261 Race Track Road (Rt. 824)
1 mile east of US 27
Alexandria, KY 41001

The instructor has been recognized with a national environmental education award for the program developed to turn small trees into revenue producers while upgrading the quality of forests and educating producers in the value, both nutritionally and financially, of shiitake mushroom production.

DJ. Scully

Instructor:

DJ. Scully, Campbell County Extension Agent for Natural Resources and Environmental Management

Call by Thursday, March 7 to sign up for this workshop. Registration is limited.

Please wear old clothes; bring a drill and bits; and a hammer if possible.

To register call 859-572-2600

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Birding Walk

3/5 ~ 9:00AM

3/14 ~ 2:00PM

3/21 ~ 10:00AM

CAMPBELL COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
1261 RACE TRACK ROAD
ALEXANDRIA, KY 41001

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