

FOR 315 FIELD TRIPS and OPPORTUNITIES SP 2010

These opportunities are for you to *experience* biodiversity in its many forms, and those who study and work with it and for its conservation.

You must attend one of these field trips/opportunities (or other approved opp.) during the course of the semester or will lose 10 points off your final grade. I encourage you to attend all these you want, but you can only receive extra credit for 2 additional trips beyond the required first one (10 pts. each, max = 20 pts.). That means to get 20 extra points in the class you would have to participate in any 3 of these.

Saturday Feb 20: Field Trip to Cumberland/Kingdom Come State Park, KY

- Walk-in on black bear den w/ Dr. Cox and grad students, may visit raven project, may search for salamanders
- Be prepared for a 1-2 hr hike one-way to bear den across steep, slippery mountain slopes with uneven footing
- Departure at **6AM** return late (6-10pm). Meet behind Forestry (Cooper) building
- Van transportation provided
- Those w/ motion sickness may want to take meds
- We will not stop for breakfast, but will for at least 1 bathroom break on way down
- We will eat lunch in Cumberland or other place in southeast KY.
- Wear hiking boots or comfortable hiking shoes, preferably waterproof.
- Wool socks are better than cotton for staying dry and not rubbing
- Warm clothing including jacket and layered undergarments.
- **Please** don't wear perfumes or colognes since you'll be near bear dens
- Bring bottle of water, maybe small snacks.
- Bring camera if you like.
- Due to IACUC regulations, students cannot "handle" animals unless an emergency occurs.
- Contact me asap (this week!) if you are volunteering as a driver.

Saturday Feb 27: Field Trip to UK Arboretum on Alumni Drive,

- Discuss remnant central Kentucky woodlands, biodiversity, and invasive species
- Arrive at 10AM. Probably finished by 1PM. Meet at Arboretum parking lot at visitor's center
- No transportation provided, you must drive or walk
- Bring notebook for notes

Saturday April 17: UK Griffith Woods/KY River Palisades

- Go birding with Dr. Cox, fellow students, and visiting advanced ornithology students from Pennsylvania during the spring neotropical bird migration; visit the largest savanna-woodland remnant in Central KY, and/or the KY River Palisades, a geological very old river with unique habitats and cliffs. We will be joined by another wildlife scientist and possibly a paleo-ecologist.
- Arrival time and place TBD
- Wear hiking boots or comfortable hiking shoes, preferably waterproof.
- Bring binoculars if you have them, and bird field guide
- A camera might come in handy

Saturday April 23: Wildflower Weekend at Natural Bridge State Park, Slade, KY

- Go on several possible tours of Natural Bridge State Park with many of the state's leading botanists to learn about wildflower biodiversity within the Red River Gorge region. Usually there are evening presentations by scientists about wildflowers and botanical diversity from KY or more exotic realms.
- No official transportation provided, but if enough interest, Dr. Cox and others can carpool down at 7:45 AM Saturday morning. Field trips start at 9AM and usually at 1PM.
- Note that some presentations may occur on Friday April 22 around 6pm.
- Wear hiking boots or comfortable hiking shoes, preferably waterproof.
- Bring camera, and wildflower field guide
- Binoculars might come in handy for birds.

Saturday May 7: Herpetology Weekend at Natural Bridge State Park, Slade, KY

- Go on several possible tours of Natural Bridge State Park with many of the state's leading herpetologists to learn about herpetofauna biodiversity within the Red River Gorge region. See and handle local herps out in natural areas, including possibly venomous snakes. Usually there are evening presentations by scientists about herps from KY or more exotic realms.
- No official transportation provided, but Dr. Cox will be going down, and others can carpool down at 7:45 AM Saturday morning if there is interest. Field trips start at 9AM and usually at 1PM.
- Free pass to KY Reptile Zoo and see demo of venom extraction
- Note that some presentations will occur on Friday May 6 around 6pm.
- This opportunity occurs after the final exam *but before final grades are due*, thus it would count towards your grade
- Wear hiking boots or comfortable hiking shoes, preferably waterproof.
- Bring camera, and wildflower field guide
- Binoculars might come in handy for birds

Other TBD Opportunities

- **March** - Bobcat and gray fox ecology projects at UK Robinson Forest, southeast KY
- These projects are just getting underway, thus I don't have dates yet
- No official transportation provided, but Dr. Cox will be going down some days to assist graduate students with capture and radio-collaring of gray fox and/or bobcats.
- You could make a day trip or possibly stay a night at Robinson Forest with permission from forest supervisor. See me for details.
- May get to see reintroduced elk along the way
- **Mid-late April** – Birding at the Lexington Cemetery on Main Street, very near Rupp Arena
- No official transportation provided, but Dr. Cox will be there at around 8-8:30AM.
- Bring binoculars if you have them, and bird field guide

A Professional Note: Many of us love to “walk in the woods”, “be outdoors”, and “work with plants and animals”...an important reason why many of us are in the profession. However, to be professionally competitive and effectively champion our values one needs more than these desires shared by millions of others. That means book learnin' in its many forms, and often sitting behind desks for countless hours sharpening your skill set, and in service to others manifested in many ways. The hard work will pay off.