

WE'RE GOING ELECTRONIC. DO WE
HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?



NATURE NOTEBOOK

Fall 2011

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If You Find an Injured Animal

If you find a baby bird, return it to the nest! Contrary to popular belief, a mother bird doesn't mind the human scent on her baby. If you can't find the nest, place the baby in a cardboard box with a bottle filled with hot water to keep it warm. The parent will usually come to retrieve it or feed it. If a bird's nest has fallen, put it back up in the tree or a nearby tree or bush. A small box or plastic food container can serve as a replacement nest if necessary.

A fully-feathered baby bird might simply be learning to fly. Place the baby in a nearby tree or bush. The parents will generally feed them until they successfully launch.

Should I rescue a wild animal? Wild animals may leave their babies alone for hours at a time. If you are unsure, place two strings across the nest. If the strings are undisturbed after 2-3 hours for birds or 4-6 hours for mammals, this indicates the parent hasn't returned to the nest.

If rescue is necessary, call a professional at one of the numbers listed below. Do not endanger your health or that of others. Besides being painful and dangerous, the protocol for any wild animal that bites a human is euthanasia and tests for rabies and other dangerous diseases.

Remember to use extreme caution with wild animals. Handle the animal as little as possible. If you need to provide a temporary shelter for the animal prior to a professional rescuer's arrival, keep clear of their sharp teeth, beaks and claws. Cover the animal completely with a towel, or blanket prior to gently scooping them into a box or animal carrier. Avoid picking them up.

Place the animal in a container with dry bedding, such as paper towels, newspaper, or towels with no loose threads that may entangle feet or toes. Fresh grass or other moist bedding can chill the animal.

Keep the animal warm, but not hot. A bottle filled with hot water and wrapped in a towel will keep infants warm. Do not feed the animal. An improper diet or feeding a dehydrated animal can kill it. Place the animal in a dark, quiet environment until professional transport is available. For more information contact:

Raptor Rehabilitation of KY (for birds of prey): Eileen Wicker 502-491-1939
Mary Jo Schneider (songbirds): 502-266-5476
Animal Services: 502-363-6609
KY Fish & Wildlife Hotline: 1-800-25ALERT (252-5378)

Our mission at LNC is to provide nature education and encourage stewardship in an urban forest.

Featured Volunteers



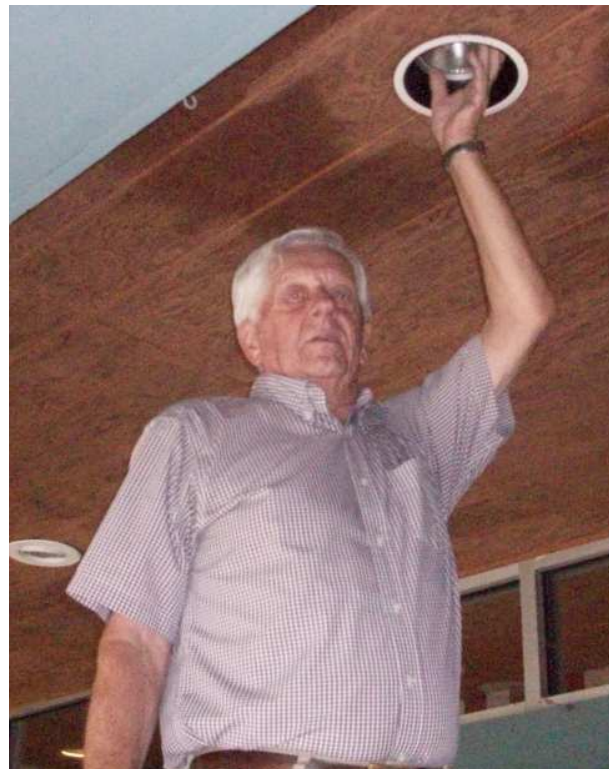
Pictured Left to Right: Alexis and Emma Rubin

Emma and Alexis Rubin have been a welcome sight at the Nature Center this summer. From answering the phones to mulching the trails, these two sisters have been willing to take on any and all projects we offer them. Emma enjoys the connection to nature and likes being helpful. Alexis likes that the trails are convenient, but appreciates the escape from civilization they offer. Both girls helped prepare for summer camps, removed invasive plants, worked in the sensory garden and so much more! Some of their favorite experiences this summer have been spotting box turtles and deer on the trails. Thank you Alexis and Emma! You are always welcome at LNC.

Kenny Machtolff has been volunteering at the Louisville Nature Center since 1977. He helped plant some of the trees in the first year and now they are the big ones you see when you arrive! Kenny likes what the Nature Center does for kids and he enjoys meeting so many different people who visit. He is instrumental in making certain our facility is a safe and fun place to visit. If you hear hammering, sawing, drilling, or the rattle of a ladder, follow the sound and that's usually where you'll find him.

He and his wife, Tilly, collect and restore antique clocks. Kenny is also a member of the Louisville Historic League, and in keeping with his love of fixing things, has restored and drives a 1952 MG TD.

A couple of his memorable events at the Nature Center were working with the GE volunteers in building the bird blind and painting the lobby. He is always glad to lend a hand and you'll know he's around by the smiles on our faces. Thank you Kenny!



Kenny Machtolff

Beneficial Insects

Beneficial insects prey on garden pests at some stage of their life. Before you squish, consider the next generation of beneficial insects that you may be eliminating from your garden. We delight over butterflies but likely kill many while in the caterpillar stage; we love lady beetles but the nymph stage looks a little scary; and we swat and spray every fly, wasp and bee in ear-shot. Larva, nymphs and adults do different things to subsist and may look dramatically different from the insect we associate with them.

With names like assassin bug, spined soldier bug, minute pirate bug and big-eyed bug, it is not surprising that these beneficials have a reputation in the bug world as being predatory. Lady beetles, ground beetles, damsel bugs, lacewings, flower flies (hover flies) and the mighty bumblebee are also helpers. Assassin bugs come in various colors including red and black, green and brown. Their bodies are flat, thin and angular and they prove to be voracious eaters of both the adult and larval stage of aphids, beetles, caterpillars, flies and leafhoppers. The scarab-like ground beetle appears black and slightly iridescent and prefers to lunch on cutworms, fly eggs, maggots, slugs, snails and other soil-dwelling pests like cabbage root maggots and Colorado potato beetle larvae. Lacewings and lady beetles love aphids, thrips mites and scales, among other soft-bodied pests. And the insidious flower bug, also known as the minute pirate bug uses its long snout to snag the nymphs of leafhoppers, mites and other small insects.

Reduce the use of pesticides and you increase the population of beneficials. Attract beneficials by planting certain herbs, flowers and vegetables. Plants that produce generous amounts of nectar and pollen typically attract the good guys. Cilantro, dill, and fennel pull in a great many beneficials. So do borage, lavender, beebalm, Queen Ann's lace, amaranth, yarrow and many others.

Thank you to Jeneen Wiche for this guest column.

Fungus Among Us

How do you feel about wild mushrooms? Reactions seem to run the gamut from fear and loathing to salivation and obsession. But mushrooms (which don't have chlorophyll) need not be feared or viewed with any more or less caution than any green plant. No mushroom is poisonous to the touch, unlike poison ivy. There are certainly many poisonous and some deadly green plants. Many people are indifferent toward mushrooms. A little study or perhaps a visit to the Louisville Nature Center after a fall rain, may bring you closer to the point of fungal tolerance, if not admiration and respect. We do not promote eating wild mushrooms, but we do promote learning about them.

Almost every plant that you would see on a walk through the Louisville Nature Center preserve would have a helpful fungal counterpart assisting it. The mushroom's root-like fibers hook up underground to the tree's roots. They help a tree, for example, by channeling water and providing nitrogen and phosphorus. Mushrooms, in turn, gets sugars from the photosynthesizing tree. Each acre of land has around 2,500 pounds of underground fungal fibers, making mushrooms some of the largest organisms on earth. The lichens that you may notice on trees are also fungi living in association with algae or bacteria.

Mushrooms are food for rodents, snails and slugs, insects and arthropods like pill bugs. But did you know that there are carnivorous mushrooms? They eat insects, other mushrooms, roundworms, amoebas, rotifers, copepods and bacteria. They employ a microscopic arsenal to lure, lasso, trap, glue, paralyze, colonize and dissolve their tiny victims in a scene as creepy as any horror or science fiction movie could offer.

Mushrooms are esteemed by mystics and maggots, shamans and chefs. On your next walk through the woods take notice of the smaller inhabitants like the mushrooms, and remember how important they are in the health of the forest. Look for upcoming announcements about the mushroom walk and program that the Louisville Nature Center will be hosting this Fall.

Thank you to Kerry Jones, Staff Naturalist, for this guest column

Featured Intern

Brad Feger is our Biology Intern. He is an undergraduate at the University of Louisville studying Ecology, specifically bird behavior and populations. His early experiences in Audubon Park while growing up helped convince him to turn an early hobby into a field of study. He has observed a Bard Owl and many Red Shouldered Hawks, in addition to lots of Box Turtles, many deer and one buck. One of his favorite experiences was working with the summer camps. “Kids have a good play ethic,” he observed. “I had a lot of fun.”

Allison Smith, who was also a summer intern at the Louisville Nature Center, taught one of his lab classes at U of L. “This is how I learned about the intern opportunity,” Brad remarked. He has worked on the Sensory Garden, constructed rain barrels, and helped repair the pond. One of Brad’s biggest accomplishments was clearing the trails. Thank you, Brad!

Rain Gardens

Margaret Shea with Drop Seed Nursery will be here for our Fall Plant Sale. She can help you get started on a rain garden of your own. Mark your calendars and plan to attend on Saturday, September 10th from 9a to 3p.

Rain gardens are functional and beautiful. Consider using native plants in your garden, since they attract an entire network of creatures that support our local biodiversity. Native plants have deep roots, and once they are established, require little maintenance, making them an ideal choice for our unique eco-region. Native plants have the ability to withstand extremes in weather and drought conditions, and native, beneficial insects depend on them to survive. Consider adding a rain barrel to your garden for maximum enjoyment.

Our rain barrels come with a brass fitting that will attach to a garden hose, an overflow pipe, and a downspout adapter. These barrels will fit in the back seat of a 4-door car, hatchback, or station wagon. They hold 55 gallons of free water that is naturally soft, free of minerals, chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals. Lower your water bill and help ease the burden on the metropolitan area drainage system. Rain barrels are \$74.00 each, or \$69.00 each if you buy two or more. A light 5 to 10 minute rain is enough to fill one or two barrels. Visit the Nature Center to see a rain barrel system that supports a native wildflower garden.



Brad Feger shown with LNC Rain Barrels



Pictured above: Sensory Garden Pond

Pictured below: The Sensory Garden takes shape!



Upcoming Events

Native Plant Sale: Saturday, September 10th, from 9a to 3p. Margaret Shea native plant expert with Dropseed Nursery will be on site. Come learn about the advantages of using environmentally-friendly native plants in your landscape. All proceeds go toward helping LNC continue its mission.

Cave Hill Bird Walk: Saturday, September 24th, 9a to 11a. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Pre-registration is required. Meet at the entrance to Cave Hill Cemetery.

Wild Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk: Join Kevin Duffy on Saturday, September 17th, 9a to 11am and learn to identify local species that can be incorporated into your diet and herbal pharmacopeia. Cost is \$10.00 for LNC members, \$15.00 for non-members. Pre-registration is required.

Louisville Nature Center Night at the Village Anchor Restaurant: Monday, October 3rd, from 5p to 10p, at 11507 Park Road, Anchorage, KY 40223, 502-708-1850. The Louisville Nature Center will receive a portion of the dinner proceeds for everyone who dines in, or purchases a carry out meal. The only requirement is that you mention the Nature Center when making reservations or placing your order. Come join us for a night of fun and delicious food. <http://www.villageanchor.com/>

Visit our website at www.louisvillenaturecenter.org or call 458-1328 between 9am - 4pm Monday - Saturday for additional information.



Daniel Prater and Maizey the corn snake (L to R)

Featured Club

Daniel Prater is a member of the Kentucky Herpetological Society that meets at the Louisville Nature Center at 6pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Daniel has been volunteering at the Nature Center on Thursdays this summer. He has enjoyed meeting the people and likes being able to help out with some of the chores so staff members have more time to spend with visitors and summer camp students. We appreciate Daniel's willingness to help and have enjoyed having him here. He returns to school next week at Ballard High School. Daniel has three pet snakes at home. "Slick," is a Black Mexican King Snake, "Bandit," is a Gray Banded King Snake, and "Paris" is a Ball Python.

Are you taking advantage of the low rate we offer members to use the Nature Center facilities? We have plenty of room and a kitchen, although catering is available for a nominal fee. The facility can accommodate up to 100 people and offers both indoor and outdoor seating. Give us a call to arrange a unique setting for your next birthday party, reunion, meeting, or seminar.



The LNC needs a Vacuum Cleaner, Cash Register, Paper Shredder, High Capacity Printer, Digital Camera, a lap-top computer, backpacks, garden tools, gloves ... and more. Please call if you have any of these tax-deductible items or would like to donate office and kitchen supplies. We can provide a receipt and put them to use. Thanks!



L to R: Travis Frakes, Doris Dunn, Don Linton, Kerry Jones, Alice Wallingford, Drew Holaday, Ann Rosa, Cathy Neely, Rodger Ohlman, Matthew Boyer, and Debbie Utz

Volunteers attended a training session on how to use a stream table to demonstrate erosion and soil properties. This is an exciting time for the education program at the Nature Center, so join us at the next training session. We need your help.

Educators from Smyrna Elementary attended a Professional Development program at the Nature Center focusing on Herb Gardening Basics. Director of Education, Judy Gardner designed and presented the educational seminar. Our own Master Gardener Kathy Morris offered an introductory seminar on the benefits of these easy to grow herbs: Basil, Chives, Mint, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage and Thyme.

This was one of 4 professional development seminars offered this summer. Building on a summer of successful summer camps, the education program is reaching out to schools, businesses, and organizations. The Nature Center can host retreats, meetings, camps and team building events for a very reasonable cost. Educators can tailor available programs to meet any need.

A self-guided pack program for families is being developed. Each pack contains an education program specially tailored so visitors and families can independently explore the Nature Center. A pre-school program is also under development.

Girl Scout Troop 677 recently completed a Silver Award Project at LNC. The girls canvassed the trails, determined where markers were needed, then made and installed over 15 signs along the Red Maple and White Oak trails. They also placed a weatherproof plastic box to hold trail maps at the head of the trail behind the Nature Center. Thank you!

- 2011/2012
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FRIENDS OF THE FOREST — 2011-2012

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO CARE AS MUCH ABOUT LNC AS YOU DO!

Limbwalker Tree Service, Inc.
901 Dumesnil St
Louisville KY 40203

Sandy's Pet Shop
1421 Hess Ln
Louisville KY 40217

St Francis High School
233 West Broadway
Louisville, KY 40202

The Louisville Zoo
1100 Trevilian Way
Louisville, KY 40213

Wild Bird Center of Louisville
Shelbyville Road Plaza #220
Louisville, KY 40207

ID&A
1700 S. Fifth Street
Louisville, KY 40208

Lowe's Home Centers, Inc.
501 S Hurstbourne Pkwy
Louisville KY 40222

Bob Ray Company, Inc.
723 Lyndon Lane
Louisville KY 40222

Chatham Facial Plastic Surgery
4001 Kresge Way, Ste. 310
Louisville, KY 40207

Councilman Jim King
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601 West Jefferson Street

Metropolitan Sewer District
700 West Liberty
Louisville, KY 40203

Stock Yards Bank & Trust
4016 Poplar Level Road
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4330 Crittenden Drive
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C. E. and S. Foundation

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Louisville, KY 40206
502-584-0158

IN JOY SOLARIA
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(502) 222-1967

GE Commercial & Industrial
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Kroger
4009 Poplar Level Road
Louisville, KY

Jefferson Co. Extension
Master Gardeners
569-2344

Louisville Audubon Society
3745 Illinois Ave
Louisville, KY 40213

Metro Parks
1297 Trevilian Way
Louisville, KY

Beckham Bird Club
PO Box 5301
Louisville, Kentucky 40255
beckhambirdclub@gmail.com

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Charles P. Marsh
Partner

T: 502/451-1122
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C: 502/551-0880
cmarsh@scgault.com
www.scgault.com

Gardiner Point Office Building
4011 Gardiner Point Drive/Suite 200
Louisville, KY 40213-1988

MONTHLY MEETINGS AT LNC

Ky Herpetological Society	http://www.kyherpsoc.org	6 pm 2nd Thur
KYANA Geological Society	http://www.kyanager.org	7pm 3rd Tues
Derby City Fly Fishers Mtng	http://www.derbycityflyfishers.com	7pm 3rd Wed
Derby City Fly Tying	http://www.derbycityflyfishers.com	7pm 4th Wed
KY Society of Natural History	http://www.ksnh.org	7pm 3rd Thur (NOT July, Aug, or Dec)
Louisville Rose Society	http://www.louisvillerosesociety.org/	7pm 4th Thur

OTHER NATURE LINKS:

Louisville Audubon Society <http://www.audubon.org/states/ky>
Wild Ones <http://www.for-wild.org/chapters/louisville/>



Louisville Nature Center

& Beargrass Creek State Nature Preserve

3745 Illinois Avenue · Louisville, KY 40213
 www.louisvillenaturecenter.org

Phone: (502) 458-1328
 LNC@bellsouth.net

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Louisville Nature Center Membership Form

With your LNC membership, you'll receive our quarterly newsletter in your mailbox and discounts on family nature programs, adult workshops, birthday parties, and nature camps in the spring and summer. Many of our education programs and guided hikes are offered free to members. In addition to wonderful membership privileges, you'll get satisfaction from making a positive contribution toward effective nature education in our community. What are you waiting for – become a member today! If you are already an LNC member, please show your support at renewal time.

Mail to: 3745 Illinois Ave Louisville KY 40213

Business \$500 Business \$250 Steward \$100 Family \$45

Individual \$30 Senior \$25 Teacher / Student \$20

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

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