www.sierraclub.org/kentucky
Volume 60, Issue 11 & 12 Nov/Dec 2026

The Cumberland

SIERRA CLUB • KENTUCKY

Chapter Director Sarah Reeves

A Familiar Face in a New Chapter Role!

After nine years as Kentucky Chapter staff, I am deeply honored and humbled to step into the role of Chapter Director. As I begin, I'd like to reintroduce myself and share why I believe so strongly in this work, and in all of you.

My Sierra Club story started before I was even born, when my father joined the Club during the Kentucky Chapter's very first campaign: the fight to save the Red River Gorge. The Gorge and the Club's mission became etched on his heart, and years later I was tagging along on outings. Over time, his journey became my own. Watching his love for this place grow into a lifelong commitment taught me that people will fiercely protect what they love. That truth is at the heart of our mission: to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet. It's why I knew I had to apply nine years ago, and why I've built my career here ever since.

Now I'm raising my own children here, which makes this work deeply personal. As a single mom, I know the barriers between a family and a day outside: time, cost, transportation, and feeling welcome and safe once you get there. Helping more Kentuckians get past those barriers and onto the trail is some of the most important work we can do. Research shows that the awe we feel in nature heals, significantly reducing stress and even

(continued on page 6)



Passing the Torch! Our new Chapter Director Sarah Reeves (left) and our retiring Director Julia Finch (right).

The Kentucky Climate Choir

by Rosie Moosnick

"I breathe for the trees, and they breathe for me …
You and me, and the trees, living in Reciprocity
Rooted for the moment and reaching for each other
Rooted in the moment and reaching for the dream
Breathe in, breathe out …"
"Reciprocity" by Pam Blevins Hinkle

The KY Climate Choir uses community singing as a tool for climate justice awareness and community resilience. Through participatory singing events, it contributes to climate resistance and creates spiritually powerful spaces for collaboration. Singers and non-singers alike are welcome to join the group: unlike "formal" choirs, previous singing experience is not required. The focus is on building democratic responses through the power of song.

The Climate Choir Movement is a global movement, largely centered in the UK, that brings attention to environmental chal-

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Chapter Annual Gathering Nov. 13-15, 2026
Kenlake State Resort Park in Hardin, KY

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Group News

GEO HEALTH & WINTER PARTY

Welcome to the Bluegrass Group News. We hope you will find an interest in one or more of the activities listed below. Please check the Bluegrass Group website for the latest information and updates, www.sierraclub.org/kentucky/bluegrass. You may also contact Joey Shadowen at jshad65@gmail.com or 859-492-6373 with any questions.



Bluegrass General Meeting

Third Monday, November 16, 7:00 PM at Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden in Lexington

Our November speaker will be Dr. Rachel Washburn, a biomedical geoscientist at the Kentucky Geological Survey, University of Kentucky, and a member of the Geohealth Team. Her topic - Health on the Rocks: Geohealth in KentuckyGeohealth - examines how geological, chemical, and biological processes interact to influence human health and biomedicine.

Bluegrass Winter Party (in place of our December General Meeting)

Saturday Dec 12th at 6:00 pm at the home of Frankie Geralds. The address is 2173 Palomar Trace Drive Lexington, KY.An evening of socializing and celebrating another year of Sierra activities. Bring a snack or appetizer to share, plus a beverage of choice. This event is informal and laid back. More details will be available online at the Bluegrass Group Page https://www.sierraclub.org/kentucky/bluegrass - so check there starting in late November. Or, for more information you may contact Joey Shadowen at jshad65@gmail.com or 859-492-6373.

Executive Committee Meetings on Zoom

First Monday, November 2 and December 7, 7:00 PM

Everyone is welcome to join in to learn more about our group projects and to become involved in our ongoing activities. For more information and meeting locations you may contact Joey Shadowen at jshad65@gmail.com or 859-492-6373.

Bluegrass Book Group

Third Thursday, November 19 and December 17, 7:00 PM. The books for November and December have not yet been determined. The December meeting will be our annual bring a snack meeting. The meetings will be hybrid, both Zoom and in-person. Contact Ray Barry for book information, the Zoom link, or for directions 859-223-0180.

Dinner Out With Sierrans Group

No November or December Meeting due to the holidays. Please join us in January.

Are you looking for an opportunity to dine out at a local Lexington restaurant and socialize with fellow Sierrans? Dinner Out with Sierrans (DOWS) might be for you! A monthly email is sent with location and details. If interested in being added to (or removed from) the DOWS mailing list please contact Mary Barry, 859-223-0180 or marywbarry@yahoo.com.

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Second Monday, November 9 and December 14, 7:00 PM. The ICO program works with several community organizations to get kids outdoors and connected with nature. There are fun outings scheduled year-round and volunteers to attend trips with the kids are always needed. Contact Joey Shadowen at jshad65@gmail.com or 859-492-6373 for more information and meeting location.

Team Meetings in November-December

- Zero Waste Team: Thursday, Nov. 19, 5:30 - 7:00PM by Zoom
- Bluegrass Climate Action Team: Saturday, Nov. 21, 10:00 - 11:00AM by Zoom
- December: Zero Waste Team and Bluegrass Climate Action Team do not meet in December.

For additional information, please contact: Judith Humble, Chair (judith.humble@yahoo.com)

WILDLIFE PAINTER

November Program: The Greater Louisville Sierra Club was the primary funding organization for the recently completed bird blind mural at Louisville Nature Center. Please join us on Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m., at United Crescent Hill Ministries building, 150 State St., Louisville 40206, for a presentation from Sabra Crockett, the artist for this beautiful mural. Sabra will discuss the process and evolution of the mural and why she chose which birds to represent.



Sabra Crockett is an unconventional wildlife painter that focuses on our relationship to the natural world and the value we place upon it. An accomplished scenic artist, decorative artist, and muralist inform her use of realism and her luxurious use of pattern, texture, and light. Her work can be seen on public and private walls, in boutique hotels, hospitals, and in nationally award-winning restaurants and bars, both nationally and internationally.

Register here to attend: https://tinyurl.com/SabcNaAL

Note: This will be a hybrid meeting, that is, both in-person and virtual. Once you hit the RSVP button, two things will happen:

(1) You'll be taken to a Zoom meeting registration page. We hope you'll attend in person, but if you want the option of attending virtually, then please complete the Zoom registration form (this secondary registration enhances security).

(2) You'll receive a confirmation email that will also contain the Zoom registration link.

We hope you'll join us for this informative presentation. Our meetings are always free and open to the public.

December Program- Annual Winter Solstice Celebration

The Louisville Sierra Group has a long standing tradition of hosting a Winter Solstice Celebration each December. We will continue that tradition this year! We will meet at historic Locust Grove, 561 Blankenbaker Lane, December 15, beginning at 6:00 p.m.This is a potluck event but we

The Cumberland

A monthly publication of the Kentucky Chapter of the Sierra Club

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Change of Address
Send old and new addresses with mailing label (or member number) to: Sierra Club Member Care, 415-977-5653, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pacific

Deadlines
The deadline for all materials is the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline date for submission of articles to the January 2027 issue of The Cumberland is December 3, 2026

Contributors' Guidelines
Please submit articles typed (without excessive formatting) and e-mailed to address above, according to the following:
1. Double-spaced, not to exceed 700 words (3 double-spaced pages.)
2. Author's first and last names, day and evening phone numbers at the top.
3. E-mailed articles and photos should be sent as individual attachments. Mailed articles should be provided as a double-spaced hard copy.

The editor reserves the right to trim or revise for reasons of clarity, space or libel.
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For advertising info contact:

Lane Boldman c/o
The Cumberland, 2173 Palomar Trace Drive, Lexington, KY. 40503.
859-552-1173

provide drinks and a main dish.

We hope you'll join us for a relaxing program where we'll share and reflect on this year's successes as well as our challenges. We'll recognize the contributions of our volunteers and we'll also hear from special guests, including local elected representatives.

Please join us as we end the year with friends, renewing our commitment to "explore, enjoy, and protect the planet."

Register here to attend: https://tinyurl.com/EciTsL

This is an in-person event only.

Louisville Group November Social Dinner

When: November 27, 6:00 p.m.

Where: Clay Oven, 12567 Shelbyville Rd., 40223

Authentic, elegant Indian food. Located in Middletown, easy parking. RSVP to Barbara at 502-777-7645 by the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 27.

Annual SOS Drive

This holiday season, the Greater Louisville Sierra Club is partnering with SOS International in a service project to help others in need and reduce landfill waste. SOS, a global health nonprofit based in Louisville, collects surplus medical supplies and equipment which are processed and redeployed to increase access to medical care locally and around the world. Throughout its history, SOS has helped divert 5 million pounds of medical equipment from landfills.

SOS can accept all medical supplies that have not been used and lightly used medical equipment that may be in storage at your home. Medical equipment examples include canes, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, and nebulizers. They also accept personal hygiene products that are not opened.

GLSC will accept donations at our monthly programs at UCHM and at the 2026 Annual Gathering at Kenlake State Park. Please email Chad Buck (chadmbuck@gmail.com) if you plan to bring a donation to the GLSC monthly program or the Annual Gathering. You may also make donations directly to SOS at Monday-Friday 8 AM-4PM at 1500 Arlington Avenue, 40206. Thank you for your support.

Vote for Louisville Sierra Club at Momma's Mustard, Pickles & BBQ

PLEASE vote daily for Louisville Sierra Club on Momma's BBQ website. Momma's Mustard, Pickles & BBQ donates 2% of its sales to six charitable local organizations. One of these organizations is Greater Louisville Sierra Club. The more votes we get, the greater the proportion of this 2% we get!

How have we invested "Momma's" money?

*We are supporting Change Today, Change Tomorrow and their healthy local food offerings at their West End Farmers Market.

*We continue to fund Bernheim Forest's innovative educational program, "Restoring Nature's Classroom".

*We continue to support the Louisville Nature Center's Summer Camp program by providing scholarships for those who would not be able to attend otherwise.

*In partnership with TreesLouisville, we are improving the urban tree canopy on the campus of McFerrin Preparatory Academy.

Momma's BBQ has two locations: 102 Bauer Ave. and 119 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy.Please support these restaurants and thank the staff for selecting GLSC as one of the recipients of Momma's generosity. The owner is Chad Cooley.

Help us support healthy, sustainable environmental and conservation efforts in the Greater Louisville area. Please go to https://mommasbbq.com/2-for-louisville/ and vote for Louisville Sierra Club. Thank you!

HOLIDAYS ARE HERE!

The Northern Kentucky Group welcomes you to join us for any and all of our inclusive social outings, monthly General Meetings, or online via Facebook, Meetup, and Instagram! Find the details below for our upcoming events and how to connect with us.

No General Meeting in November—Happy Thanksgiving!

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the NKY Group will not be holding a November General Meeting. Please keep an eye out on our social media pages, or sign up on our webpage to receive our emails, for upcoming information about our December holiday party!



If you have a question or need further information, please reach out to us via e-mail, listed below. We look forward to seeing you!

Interested in Joining our Leadership Team?

Current open positions on our team include:

- Secretary for the Executive Committee (ExCom)
- Program Chair

If interested in one of these positions, we want to hear from you! Please reach out to us via email as listed below.

Keep in Touch with the NKY Sierra Club

- Facebook - NKY Sierra Club - https://www.facebook.com/groups/NKYSierraClub/
- Meetup - Northern Kentucky Sierra Club - https://www.meetup.com/northern-kentucky-sierra-club/
- Instagram - Northern Kentucky Sierra Club (@nkysierraclub) - https://www.instagram.com/nkysierraclub/

On the Web - https://www.sierraclub.org/kentucky/northern-kentucky-group

•E-mail - northern.ky.sierra.club@gmail.com

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Pennyrile Group members have been busy with a variety of issues and activities in the past few weeks, including -

(continued on page 5)

Correction: We misspelled the name of Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz in a story about Wendell Berry in the October issue. It was an editor's error.

Kentucky Chapter: Who to Call

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Kentucky Chapter Chair
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chair@kentucky.sierraclub.org or

Sarah Reeves, Chapter Grassroots Program Coordinator,
sarah.reeves@kentucky.sierraclub.org

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conservation@kentucky.sierraclub.org

Climate Action:
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raybarry925@gmail.com

Fracking/Pipelines:
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jomar9983@windstream.net

Water: Hank Graddy: 859-879-0200
hank.graddy@gmail.com

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Alice Howell, 859-420-8092,
Lane Boldman, 859-552-1173
mtr@kentucky.sierraclub.org

Wildlands/Wilderness:
Vacant. Send inquiries to
chair@kentucky.sierraclub.org

National and State Forests:
Lane Boldman, 859-552-1173
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Tom Morris, 270-438-0054
political@kentucky.sierraclub.org

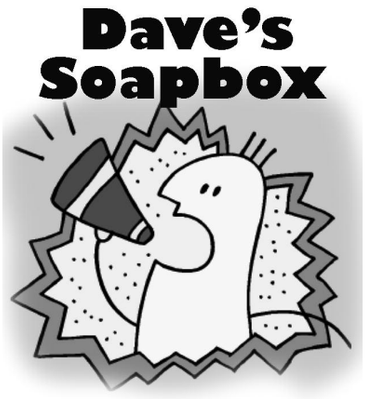
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pr@kentucky.sierraclub.org

For more informaton on committees, issues, and leaders, visit our website at www.sierraclub.org/kentucky

Soapbox: Skunked!

by Dave Cooper



My two dogs – Jeffrey and Rocky – are rescue pits and they don't always get along well with other dogs. Rocky is a real ornery dog, he's obstinate, fearful and aggressive. He has killed some big fat groundhogs, but he is terrified of ordinary objects like shopping bags blowing in the wind and small children. Also the ceiling fan in our living room.

We go to the dog park in the pre-dawn hours, where they can run around without Rocky getting into trouble with other dogs. It's quiet and peaceful and dark.

There is another guy with 4 dogs who usually goes to the Coldstream dog park in north Lexington around 5 am, and recently Rocky grabbed ahold of one of his dogs ears while the poor thing – a big, submissive black lab – sat down and cried. I grabbed Rocky's harness – he jumps and dances around - and pinned him to the ground and apologized profusely to the owner. Afterwards we got to talking and he explained that he started going to Coldstream because his dogs have been repeatedly skunked at Masterson Station dog park. We worked out a plan where our dogs would not be in the same dog park together on the same days, and this plan was going well, until we went to Jacobson dog park.

Skunks are crepuscular: they are most active during the twilight hours of dawn and dusk. Rabbits, deer and owls are also crepuscular, and it sure is a fancy word. Sounds like they have some kind of weird disease.

Rocky, Jeffrey and I did two laps around the park and then went over to the other side, where both dogs ran immediately to the fence and started sniffing aggressively. I walked over to see what they were sniffing and shouted "No! No! No!", which of course quickly escalated the situation. Rocky got a full blast but Jeffrey apparently missed the worst of it. Rocky hastily retreated and began rubbing his face into the grass, digging and pawing at his eyes. I don't know what happened to the skunk, but I don't think they killed it.

Well the smell is certainly nauseating. I could taste it in my mouth. My dogsitter, Dani, said she threw up when she got skunked. It's a brutal, metallic odor.

I finally corralled my two stinky dogs into the van, and of course Rocky started rubbing his snout all over the carpeting and the sleeping bag which I have for camping trips. Well, this is going to be a long day, I thought to myself.

The internet says that the folk remedy of bathing animals in tomato juice does not really work, it just masks the smell. One lady told me she had used spaghetti sauce! That sounds messy.

Apparently the best way to remove skunk odor is a mixture of hydrogen peroxide, baking soda and dish soap. So at 6 am I went to Walmart to get these things, and I hate going to these overly-gigantic stores trying to find a couple little things. A bleary-eyed overnight stocker pointed me in the right direction to find hydrogen peroxide, and I asked him: "Hey, do I smell like a skunk?" He gave me a strange look.

I rinsed Rocky's eyes out with saline solution and he seemed to appreciate that. Apparently skunk spray can cause temporary blindness. Next, Rocky and Jeffry got a good chemical bath in the backyard, then I rinsed them and toweled them off before turning them loose. My sleeping bag went to the laundromat and I ripped out the carpeting in the back of the van. Rubber gloves, towels, collars and dog harnesses all went in the trash. I got one of those smelly Christmas tree things and hung it from my van's rear view mirror, and used a baking soda mix on all of the plastic surfaces in the van.

After working most of the morning, I felt like I was making some progress – but the trouble is that, after a while, you get used to the smell and you can't tell if you still stink. But other people can. Patty says my van still smells – almost a week later.

I asked friends for their skunk stories, and Hannah Helm told about a skunk that walked in an open door and crawled under the bed! Jason said that in the old Kentucky pot-growing days, the growers would pick up dead skunks off the road and put them by their pot patches, to help hide the smell of their crop. Ted said his Zonker dog still smelled of skunk for a year. And Timm says they raid his wife's beehives for the grubs.

A skunk once wandered into Oscar Gerald's tent while he was inside, and Oscar didn't quite know what to do: panicking but still trying to remain outwardly calm, while still alerting the other tent campers of his predicament he said "Skunk! Skunk!" – how do you shoo a skunk out of your tent without getting sprayed?

One has to admire the skunk's self-defense system. It is both effective and totally non-violent. Weasels, honey badgers, wolverines, opossums use foul-smelling musky fluids from their anal glands to drive away predators. Also stink bugs.

Skunks have powerful front claws for digging, they shelter in burrows and have an excellent sense of smell and hearing, but poor vision. They live on average about 6 years in the wild. They are omnivores that eat bugs, fruits, nuts and eggs. They can spray their sulfur compound as far as 10 feet – powerful enough to deter big predators, even bears. The Great Horned Owl is the skunks' only regular predator. (Owls have a very weak or non-existent sense of smell).

So my dogs are confined to the back yard for the next two to three weeks. They seem to understand.

I talked to Rocky and said, "Well, did you learn your lesson?" He looked me square in the eye and simply said "No."

Dave Cooper, a longtime SC volunteer activist, lives in Lexington and is a member of the Bluegrass Group.



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Group News (cont. from pg. 3)

- Three local candidates for Owensboro City Commission were assisted in receiving Sierra Club endorsement for the November election. They were Bob Glenn, Pam Smith-Wright and Sharon NeSmith.
- Pennyrile Group Chair Donnie Mayton assisted Kentucky Resources Council (KRC) Executive Director Ashley Wilmes, and Sierra Club Senior Energy Organizer, Elisa Owen, in setting up a local forum on Data Centers. KRC attorney, Byron Gary, also participated in the excellent program that was very well received by attendees.
- Support of Kentucky Watershed Watch is one of our main goals and we were pleased to sponsor another training class for water testers.
- Board member Eric Houtchen has been instrumental in the progress toward creation of a tree board in Owensboro.

Our speaker for the October 15th meeting was Sister Michele Morek. Dr. Morek taught biology and environmental science at Brescia University for 33 years and served in leadership roles at the United Nations in New York City as well as in her religious community. In her presentation, she addressed several critical issues and actions that should be taken. Prior to the meeting, members joined Dr. Morek for dinner with the speaker at the local restaurant, Famous Bistro.



John Harrelson, owner of Burleys farm market in Owensboro, will speak at 7 pm, Thursday November 19 at the Owensboro Museum of Science and History (OMSH), 122 E 2nd St., Owensboro. John will focus on the environmental, economic, and health benefits of locally grown food. Dinner with the speaker will be at 5 pm at a local restaurant.

Our final meeting of the year, Thursday December 17, will host local Pennyrile Group member, Dr. Ed Cupp, retired Professor of Medical Entomology. Ed's talk "Defeating River Blindness: How Big Pharma and The Scientific Community Succeeded and Saved The Environment" will center on work he was involved in during his long career in addressing blood-feeding insects and world health. Members can join the speaker for dinner at a local restaurant prior to the meeting at the OMSH, 122 E 2nd St in Owensboro at 7 pm.

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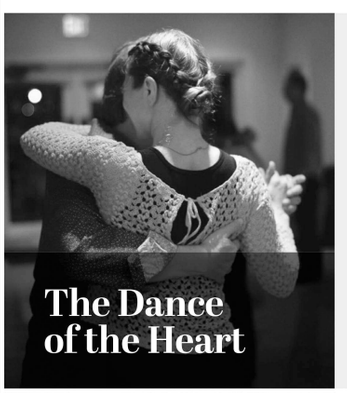


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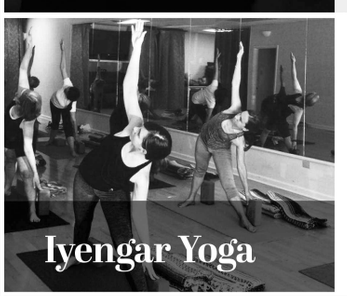
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- Every Friday night practice 8:00 - 10:00 with a lesson at 9:00.
- Monthly 1st Saturday party (milonga) 8:00 - 11:00.

Singles and beginners welcome. No partner or experience required.



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- Monday 6-7:15 – Beginner
- Tuesday 5:30-6:45 – Level 1
- Thursday 9:30-10:45 – Gentle
- Saturday 9-10:15 – Beginner
- Sunday 9-10:15 – Restorative

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...Choir

(from page 1)

lenges through song and flash mob singing as a form of peaceful but noticeable environmental action (https://climatechoirmovement.org/).

First in the U.S.

The newly formed central KY branch is the first in the United States and North America more broadly.

Its establishment came through serendipity. In fall 2023, Rosie Moosnick was sitting in a coffee shop in Bristol, England with a dear friend from KY. They started talking with the people at the next table. Rosie was in England because her husband, Ted Schatzki, was a visiting scholar at the university there. It turned out that one of the people at the next table was Kim Price, the head administrator of the Climate Choir Movement, which originated in Bristol in 2022. Ted and Rosie came to know Jo Flannigan, the astute founder of the Climate Choir Movement, who from its origins has grown the Movement to now include 20 branches, including ones in Kenya and Zimbabwe. At both Kim and Jo's urging, Rosie and Ted began to attend the Bristol group's monthly rehearsals in 2025 and felt the power of song—even though neither of them was even remotely singers. Another KY guest, Tori Cruz-Falk, joined Ted and Rosie at a rehearsal and reinforced the belief that there needed to be a KY branch. All of them left Bristol that spring determined to bring the Climate Choir Movement to Kentucky, an idea the Bristol folks eagerly encouraged and supported.

In February 2026, the KY Climate Choir had its first rehearsal. Talented musicians and organizers have made this happen including Ben Griffith, Tori Cruz-Falk, and Lauren Kallmeyer.

Luck has smiled on the group from the people involved to the organizations that have believed and supported it. Not long after its establishment, the group received a grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women to focus on forest and water actions.



Rosie Moosnick photo

Choir participants in the Redbird District, bearing witness to a logging project.

Our First Event

The Choir's first event was singing and participating in the Interdependence Parade in Berea on July 5th. It was a joyous day with large puppets and theatrics.

Our latest action was more somber. As guests of Kentucky Heartwood, we travelled to the Redbird District of the Daniel Boone National Forest in Clay County to bear witness to the logging that since June has been decimating old growth forest on public lands. Some Kentucky Sierra Club members participated in this event.

We gathered near the state record Red Hickory tree that Kentucky Heartwood's Forest Ecologist Jim Scheff and Tina Johnson identified several years ago. Kentucky Heartwood has been fighting the logging project through organizing and in the courts, but the logging of the forest has proceeded.

Standing near the magnificent old growth Red Hickory tree, which has been protected with a buffer, we gazed sadly on the bulldozed, muddy logging road and the piles of unused, unwanted wood that was dumped along the roadside. We observed with alarm the invasive species: Paulownia ("princess tree") and Tree of Heaven which were growing and thriving in the newly-logged sites, along with Japanese stiltgrass along the roadsides.

We mourned the destruction, singing, among other songs, a Hebridean Mourning Song and "Now is the Cool of the Day," by Kentucky's famous folksinger Jean Ritchie of Knott County.

It was a powerful and emotional experience.

New Members Welcome

New members are welcome to join the Climate Choir. You don't have to be an expert or even a very good singer (but it helps if you can read music). This is a cheerful and fun group and we would love to have more Sierra Club members join us!

For more information, contact kentucky@climatechoirmovement.org, https://climatechoirmovement.org/kentucky-climate-choir/

Rehearsals are the second Tuesday of the month @ 6:30pm at the Quaker Meeting House in Lexington (649 Price Avenue).

...Director

(from page 1)

PTSD symptoms for veterans, young people from underserved communities, and so many more. People who are healed and empowered become fierce advocates for the people and places they love.

A trail is also common ground. At an overlook, nobody asks whether you're red or blue, rural or urban. Standing there in awe, you share a love for this beautiful state. That same love is uniting Kentuckians right now against massive data center projects. In these fights, the old divides fall away, leaving only Kentuckians standing up for our home against those who see our Commonwealth as wealth to extract. From that shared love, we can build real power: on the trail, in our communities, and at the Capitol.

Frederick Douglass said the power of reformers is that "they see what ought to be by the reflection of what is, and endeavor to remove the contradiction." That's what our members, supporters, and volunteer leaders do every day.

Will you join our work to remove the many contradictions between what is and what ought to be? The most powerful way is to become a monthly donor. Those who see Kentucky as something to extract from never take a season off, and neither can we. Monthly gifts help us train volunteer leaders, get new people outside, and keep Kentuckians' voices strong at the Capitol all year. Just $10 or $25 a month adds up to real people power. If you'd rather give once, every dollar stays at work right here in Kentucky.

Become a monthly donor or make a one-time gift today at sierraclub.org/kentucky.

I can't wait to see you on the trail, in the halls of the Capitol, or at a community meeting.

Sierra Club Annual Gathering Schedule

SIERRA CLUB
KENTUCKY CHAPTER

OUR LAND, OUR ENERGY FUTURE, OUR RESPONSIBILITY:
STANDING UP FOR A SUSTAINABLE KENTUCKY

KENLAKE STATE RESORT PARK | NOVEMBER 13-15, 2026

FRIDAY	5:00 PM	REGISTRATION TABLE OPEN (ALSO, SIGN UP FOR OUTINGS)	
	7:00 – 10:00 PM	SOCIAL TIME: CASH BAR + HORS D'OEUVRES – GARDEN ROOM	
	8:00 – 9:00 PM	SALON: MEANINGFUL CIRCLE – SEMINAR ROOM	MARK RITTER
SATURDAY	7:15–8:00 AM	BIRD-WATCHING OUTING	HAPPY CHAMBERS
	7:30 –9:30 AM	REGISTRATION TABLE OPEN (ALSO, SIGN UP FOR OUTINGS)	
	8:45 – 9:00 AM	WELCOME!	BARBARA HEDSPETH (MC), JOEY SHADOWN (CHAIR)
	9:00 – 9:45 AM	SESSION 1: WELCOME TO KENLAKE AND THE LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES	DAVID NICKELL
	9:45 – 10:30 AM	SESSION 2: EASTERN BISON	TED BELUE, THE LONG HUNT: DEATH OF THE BUFFALO EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI
	10:30 – 10:40 AM	BREAK	
	10:40 – 11:30 AM	SESSION 3: NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN KY, SMALL MODULAR REACTORS AND ECONOMICS	SARAH LYNN CUNNINGHAM, LCAN
	11:30 – 1:00 PM	LUNCH	
	1:00 – 1:50 PM	SESSION 4: SAVING LAND, WATER, WILDLIFE – JOHN MUIR AND TODAY	SCOTT SHUPE, ROAD SCHOLAR GUIDE
	1:50 – 2:00 PM	BREAK	
	2:00 – 2:50 PM	SESSION 5: GROWING RESILIENCE: HOW SMALL FARMS AND GARDENS HEAL LAND, CLIMATE, AND COMMUNITY	ANGELA MAGNEY, OAK MEMBER, LEGACY ORGANIC FARMS
	2:50 – 3:00 PM	BREAK	
	3:00 – 5:00 PM	SESSION 6: OUTINGS (CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE)	*SEE THE DESCRIPTIONS ON THE BACK OF THIS AGENDA.*
	5:00 – 7:00 PM	HAPPY HOUR (CASH BAR) KY PROUD BUFFET DINNER AWARDS PRSENTATION	
	7:00 – 8:00 PM	SESSION 7: KEYNOTE ADDRESS	
	8:00 – 10:00 PM	SOCIALIZING, MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT, CASH BAR	
	8:30 PM	SILENT AUCTION BIDDING ENDS	

SUNDAY	9:00 – 10:30 AM	SESSION 8: DATA CENTERS: WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST, WHAT WE'RE LEARNING, AND HOW WE'RE COMING TOGETHER	
	10:30 – 10:40 AM	BREAK	
	10:40 – 11:50 AM	SESSION 9: FROM THE FOREST FLOOR TO THE CAPITOL FLOOR	MARK RITTER, JOHN HETZEL, HANK GRADDY
	11:50 – 12:00 PM	CLOSING WORDS, SURVEYS AND THANK-YOU'S! DRIVE SAFELY!	

CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE

Saturday Afternoon Outings (3:00–5:00 p.m.)

1. Walk or Drive to Historic Cherokee State Park

Walk the two-mile trail (or drive) to Cherokee State Park, which opened in 1951 as one of only a handful of segregated state parks in the South. For decades it was the only place in Kentucky where Black families could vacation freely—a complicated legacy that raises questions about who gets access to the outdoors, and how we build a more equitable future. Today the restored Richard H. Lewis Lodge stands as a reminder of how far we've come, and how much work remains to ensure the outdoors belong to everyone.

2. Invasive Species Walk & Discussion with Dr. Andrea Darracq (Murray State Associate Professor of Wildlife Biology)

Join Dr. Andrea Darracq, Associate Professor of Wildlife and Conservation Biology, Certified Wildlife Biologist, and Riverlands Alliance Coordinator, for a hands-on forest outing to help protect Kentucky's native ecosystems. We'll spend the first 30 minutes learning to identify and manage common non-native plants, with a focus on woody invasives that threaten local wildlife and plant communities. Then we will roll up our sleeves for 1.5 hours of invasive plant removal. No experience necessary, just a willingness to get a little dirty for a good cause. Please wear long sleeves, long pants, and closed-toe shoes.

3. Self-Guided Driving Tours

Pick up a brochure at the registration table and explore at your own pace. Options include the 1850s farm, the bison driving loop, the Woodlands Nature Center, or Destination Calloway's recommendations for things to see and do across the region.

Sign up at the registration table for the Cherokee State Park walk or the invasive species discussion —and pick up brochures there if you prefer a self-guided driving tour.

SIERRA CLUB
KENTUCKY CHAPTER

See you at the Kentucky Chapter Annual Gathering!
Support the Chapter by Bringing items to our Silent Auction!

by John Griffin

Our Annual Gathering at beautiful Kenlake State Park, Nov. 13-15 is almost upon us, which means it is high time I once again make my pitch for auction items. Yep, time for all of us to divest, cast off, lighten our load of that great number of things we can afford to live without.

For the auction, all manner of stuff can go on offer: camping gear, books, art works, crafted items, clothes, kitchen/food-prep items, toys, games. Please be certain that all parts are on hand, that the item is in working order, and is not in need of repair or a cleaning.

The Group bringing in the highest total will win a handsome prize. Last year we brought in over $1,700. Let's top that amount this year. So, to be clear, once our Annual Gathering's silent auction is underway, the famous Thoreau quote "Simplify, simplify, simplify" no longer applies, because you should bid like crazy to replenish your supply of stuff.

—John Griffin, Great Rivers Group

A new ATV factory in Owsley County is great. ATV damage to nature is not

Kentucky must start to grapple with tensions between ecotourism and off-road recreation

by Mark Reese, Kentucky Lantern



Mike Wilkinson/The Nature Conservancy photo

A man exploes the Rockcastle River in Eastern Kentucky

It's amazing how quickly we forget. In the not-too-distant past local residents and environmentalists were concerned about the damage done to local streams and rivers from strip mine run-off. While much of this danger has abated as strip mines closed and sites were rehabilitated, it seems as if a new danger lurks, one that many seem to be embracing. This is the damage being done to local country roads, trails, and ultimately creeks and rivers in Eastern Kentucky and all across the country by large off-road all-terrain vehicles.

It was good to see the recent economic development for Owsley County with plans for a plant to finish assembly for these types of vehicles. Economic development is surely needed in our region. But there is a disturbing underbelly to this issue. Down the backroads to a largely remote area, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has constructed a bridge over Sturgeon Creek where Little Sturgeon provides a confluence. Across the creek sits a parcel of land owned by the Owsley Fiscal Court that is being developed as an Appalachian Overland Triangle, called the beginning of an off-road paradise. What was once a pristine Appalachian farm with horses, cattle, and tobacco is now being turned into an area for roaring machines.

The county road that parallels Sturgeon Creek is a part of the DBBB Byway, a set of trails along country roads for off road vehicles. Designated for legal, road-worthy vehicles this byway stretches for miles, often through the Daniel Boone National Forest. Many, many sections have become so rough that even though I drive a four-wheel drive truck, it is impassable for me. In places along the trail and in Hollerwood and other areas, creeks are being impacted. Even small creeks provide run-off into larger bodies of water. And some of these monster machines think it is great fun to drive right up the middle of larger creeks and rivers. With tires six feet tall on some machines, this is entirely possible. It makes me sad to think of the future damage that will occur along Sturgeon Creek.

The damage is evident. Over the years of wading and fishing these waters across southeastern Kentucky, it is apparent that washed sediment is causing them to become wider, shallower, and filled with silt. Much of this is caused by ATV damage. Silting affects fish spawn and suspended sediment can even harm the gill structures of fish.

The South Fork of Station Camp Creek which lies on Highway 89 between Irvine and McKee used to be a pristine wilderness with limited access. Now it is a highway of ATV trails that crisscross the creek and mostly leave it in a constant state of turbidity.

Farms in Kentucky are required to have a water quality plan filed with the Natural Resource and Conservation Service to protect streams and bodies of water that flow through. Why should this not be required for all streams that off-road vehicles cross? The Forest Service used to have concrete pylons on crossings and this should at least be a requirement for all off-road approved trails. In many ways this destruction is the same as what was experienced by strip mines. Outrage over this practice was tremendous and in many ways another exploitation of the land.

Much more needs to be done to promote the beauty of Eastern Kentucky, and we are seeing this in the explosions of hikers, campers, sightseers, kayakers, and other outdoor enthusiasts in the Red River

(continued on page 10)

Spotted Skunks

by Dan Dourson

The Eastern spotted skunk (Spilogale putorius) is one of Kentucky's rarest mammals and is found primarily in eastern Kentucky, particularly the Cumberland Mountains, Cumberland Plateau, Plateau Escarpment and Knobs regions. It favors rocky, brushy habitats with cliffs, rock shelters, rock piles, downed logs and dense cover, and may also occur around farms and woodlots.

Once considerably more common, spotted skunks appear to have declined substantially, probably because of a combination of habitat loss, changes in farming practices and pesticide use. Kentucky Fish & Wildlife lists the species as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and state tracking gives it an S2–S3 rank, indicating that it is rare to vulnerable within Kentucky. It is protected year-round and may not be hunted, trapped, taken or possessed. KDFWR is currently using trail cameras and public reports to better determine its present distribution and population status.



Unlike the much more common striped skunk, the spotted skunk is only about squirrel-sized and is an excellent climber. When threatened, it is famous for standing on its front feet in a \dramatic "handstand" warning posture before spraying. A video of a spotted skunk I baited in with sardines on my property in Powell County at the base of a sandstone cliffline is posted on my facebook page. .

Editor's note: The Kentucky Legislature recently named the Eastern Spotted Skunk as the official state non-game mammal.

Dan Dourson is a retired US Forest Service employee who lives in Powell County. He has written a number of books on the plants and animals of the Red River Gorge. His most recent book, "Keeping it Wild," is focused on practical, affordable ways to protect wildlife, restore habitats, improve forests and help native plants flourish in the Red River Gorge. It is available on Amazon.

Kentucky Chapter Annual Gathering
Nov. 13-15, 2026
Kenlake State Resort Park in Hardin, KY

VOTE:
BALLOT for Kentucky Chapter and Group Elections

Ballots must be postmarked by November 30, 2026. Mail ballots to: PO Box 1368, Lexington, KY40588

Kentucky Chapter Statewide Elections
(All Members Can Vote on these Candidates)

How to Vote:
- Vote for Kentucky Chapter Elections
- Vote for your Local Group Elections, (One group, if applicable)
- Fill in your membership number. You can find your member number on the front of any edition of *The Cumberland*. Your ballot can not be counted without verifying membership.

WRITE MEMBER NUMBER HERE:

_____

Kentucky Chapter ExCom: Vote for up to 4 candidates-All members can vote

Voter 1	Voter 2	
_____	_____	Crystal Fox
_____	_____	Brittiney Griffin
_____	_____	John W. Heltzel
_____	_____	Rachel Leake
_____	_____	Joey Shadowen
_____	_____	Judy Tipton
_____	_____	(Write-in)_____
_____	_____	(Write-in)_____

Clip/Copy your completed ballot **MAIL TO: PO Box 1368, Lexington, KY 40588 postmarked by November 30, 2026. Or vote online at www.kentucky.sierraclub.org/kentucky/scky-elections**

Local Group Elections: Please vote ONLY for the Group in the county where you reside. (Note: not all counties in KY are represented by Groups)

Bluegrass Group: Vote for up to 4 candidates-Bluegrass Region

(Comprised of members in: Anderson, Bath, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Jackson, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Menifee, Mercer, Montgomery, Nicholas,Owen, Powell, Rockcastle, Scott, Woodford Counties)

Voter 1	Voter 2	
_____	_____	Graham Priest
_____	_____	Colleen Kaelin
_____	_____	Nancy Crewe
_____	_____	Mary Miller
_____	_____	(Write-in)
_____	_____	(Write-in)

Northern Kentucky Group: Vote for up to 2 candidates-NKY Region

(Comprised of members in: Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Fleming, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Mason, Pendleton, Robertson counties)

Voter 1	Voter 2	
_____	_____	Andrea Ankrum
_____	_____	John Robbins
_____	_____	(Write-in) _____
_____	_____	(Write-in) _____

Greater Lousiville Group: Vote for up to 4 candidates, Greater Louisville Region

(Comprised of members in: Breckenridge, Bullitt, Grayson, Hardin, Henry, Jefferson, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, and Washington Counties)

Voter 1	Voter 2	
_____	_____	Ralph Grove
_____	_____	Chad Buck
_____	_____	Wallace McMullen
_____	_____	Drew Foley
_____	_____	(Write-in) _____
_____	_____	(Write-in) _____

Pennyrile Group: Vote for up to 3 candidates-Pennyrile Region Only

(Comprised of members in: Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, Hopkins, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Union, Webster counties)

Voter 1	Voter 2	
_____	_____	Mary Cupp
_____	_____	(Write-in)_____
_____	_____	(Write-in)_____

Great Rivers Group: Vote for up to 2 candidates, Western KY Region

(Comprised of members in: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken and Trigg Counties

Voter 1	Voter 2	
_____	_____	Ray Smith
_____	_____	John Griffin
_____	_____	(Write-in) _____
_____	_____	(Write-in) _____



Online Voting: www.sierraclub.org/kentucky/scky-elections

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create an Environmental Legacy.



Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For confidential assistance, contact:
Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
2101 Webster Street, Ste # 1300
Oakland, CA 94612
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

...ATV Factory

(from page 8)

Gorge. Abandoned railways could be used by hikers and bikers similar to what was done on the Miami River in Ohio.

I am a fisherman wading the streams and enjoying the quiet solitude of the waters. Sam Cook wrote a book, which I possess, called "Quiet Magic." That is exactly what the waters of Eastern Kentucky provide. Everyone is not a fisherman, but the sanctity of our small creeks, streams, and rivers needs to be preserved.

I'll close with some powerful words from Norman Maclean, who wrote "A River Runs Through It."

"Then in the Artic-half light of the canyon all existence fades to a being of my soul and memories and the sounds of the Big Blackfoot River and a four-count rhythm and the hope that a fish will arise.

"Eventually all things merge into one and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of these rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are words, and some of the words are theirs.

"I am haunted by waters."

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Watch for your Year End Appeal

It's that time of year again! As we reflect on our accomplishments in 2025 and prepare for the challenges and opportunities in the year ahead, we want you to know that we can't do it without your support! Be on the lookout for a letter from us, your Sierra Club Kentucky Chapter staff and volunteer leadership. We depend on your gifts to execute Sierra Club's essential mission in Kentucky:

• To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth;

• To practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources;

• To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Every dollar you donate to the Kentucky Chapter stays here in the commonwealth, and keeps us fighting the good fight.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Legislative Program Adaptations for 2027

We Must Evolve

by Mark Ritter

Charles Darwin, author of On the Origin of Species said, "Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge." Darwin's work wasn't accepted by the institutions of his time. His situation with the status quo during his era is what environmental advocates must overcome today.

How do we counter the power of those blissfully ignorant or just obstinate? This problem is not lost on the Kentucky Chapter's Legislative Committee. As Darwin explained in his theory of evolution, we must evolve to thrive in a difficult environment. So, allow me to explain how you - as a county Ambassador for the Kentucky Chapter - can effectively advocate in the upcoming legislative sessions.

First a bit of background. The Legislative Committee of the Kentucky Chapter of the Sierra Club introduced the In-district program in 2025 to prepare for the Kentucky Legislative Session. The goal of the In-district program is to recruit a member in every legislative district across the state to serve as a Sierra Club liaison to their legislator(s). As a result, we had a record-breaking turnout of members participating at Lobby Day in 2025. Members felt the gratification that comes with effective involvement in our democracy. We also enjoyed getting to know volunteers from across the state. Legislators noticed our presence in the Capitol Annex, and felt the wave of public pressure when our team and allied organizations made a gallant effort against Senate Bill 89. Sadly, SB 89, passed and weakened protections for waterways in Kentucky. Bad, very bad.

We had two lobby days during the 2026 Session. Our In-district program included sophisticated communication technology and was exciting and effective. We were the tip of the spear and were able to get two bad bills amended: one that would have limited public participation at the Public Service Commission and another that would have exempted the Energy Planning Inventory Commission (EPIC) from open records requests. Unfortunately, at the end of the 2026 Session the bad bills far exceeded the few good bills that became laws. None of the proposed legislation to regulate data centers passed out of committee. We also lost our fight for a bill intended to protect utility rate payers. In the final analysis, our In-district program was a success and Sierra Club Kentucky's team was a force to be reckoned with.

After the 2026 legislative session we wanted our In-district program to evolve. We realized that our work would be enhanced by having a go-to Sierra Club "Ambassador" in every county. Those who serve in local government as mayors, county judges, commissioners, and magistrates have established lines of communication with state representatives and state senators. If a local Ambassador is plugged into their local government by attending meetings and getting to know local leaders, our relationships with legislators in Frankfort will be much more successful. Camaraderie is an influence multiplier. And the Kentucky Chapter has a member(s) in all 120 counties. Bingo!

The term "Ambassador" was coined by John Heltzel who serves on our Kentucky Chapter Executive Committee. John is a retired Brigadier General who served as the Director of Kentucky Emergency Management, and Deputy Commander of the Kentucky National Guard. We are truly grateful for his leadership and experience.

Looking back, the in-district program didn't create the needed connections. "All politics is local" as said by Tip O'Neill, former federal Democratic Speaker of the House. So, we need to empower ourselves locally. This became evident to me on October 1, 2026 while attending the Legislative Listening Session on data centers organized by District 45 Representative Adam Moore (D). Representative Moore wrote, "Today, Room 171 at the Capitol Annex was filled with close to 100 Kentuckians, with nearly 30 citizens from 18 different counties taking turns speaking at the microphone. They shared their unique experiences, questions, comments, and deep concerns regarding the rapid development of hyperscale data centers in our state. From utility bills and water usage to land preservation and local control, their voices set the agenda."

Several speakers at the listening session mentioned the passage of HB 775 An Act Relating to Fiscal Matters that became law on March 27, 2025, without the Governor's signature. This law provided tax cuts for multiple industries and altered the formula for triggering cuts to the state income tax. Jason Bailey of The Kentucky Center for Economic Policy stated, "These tax cuts go overwhelmingly to the wealthiest residents of the state, and no proponent of continuing to cut the individual income tax has identified how the enormous lost revenue from a major state revenue source will be replaced."

The Kentucky Conservation Committee stated in their summary of the bill applicable to incentives for data center projects, "The Kentucky General Assembly's new definition of "qualified data center project" expands the sales and use tax exemption for data center projects based on the population of the Kentucky county where the project is located." The speakers who mentioned this bill and other fiscal perks for data centers prompted many in the audience to start snapping their fingers, protesting how these incentives could cut funding for social services like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP. The bottom line is, the framework for HB 775 started at the local level where local politicians were bound by nondisclosure agreements. As a wise person once said, "follow the money" if you can.

We can encourage our political leaders to do better. The Ambassador campaign is a structured, non-partisan, action-oriented effort to build a 120-county grassroots network capable of achieving the following two goals:

(1) The Kentucky Sierra Club works to build an effective legislative program by strengthening advocacy, supporting responsible policy development, engaging members across the Commonwealth, and collaborating with partners and legislators to advance environmental priorities.

(2) The Kentucky Sierra Club strengthens Communications and Advocacy by improving how we inform, engage, and collaborate with our members, communities, elected leaders, and partner organizations through clear, accessible messaging, coordinated outreach, and forward-looking communication tools that support environmental priorities across the Commonwealth.

Achieving these two Darwinian goals will defeat ignorance and obstinance. Evolution is good. If you want to become an Ambassador, contact us through our website.

Happy Holidays. See you at the Capitol during the 2027 Legislative Session!

Mark Ritter is a lifetime member of the Sierra Club. He serves the Kentucky Chapter as Vice Chair, Legislative Chair, and the Bluegrass Group as Political Chair. He is retired from a career with the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection and a concurrent career with the United States Army Reserve.

Upcoming Activities

Note to Outings Leaders: Please notify outings@kentucky.sierraclub.org and cumberland-news@kentucky.sierraclub.org as soon as possible if there are changes that need to be made to your outing.

OUTINGS NOTES: More information and detailed descriptions can be found on the chapter website: https://www.sierraclub.org/kentucky and scroll down to the events calendar at the bottom of the page. (Hint: in addition to the list that is displayed, you can also choose a calendar or map view to help find events of interest to you.) This site will also include new outings as they are added, so check regularly.

All must sign that they have read and agree to Sierra Club's liability waiver and acknowledgement of self-risk – please read in advance:

https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/bluegrass-group/Waiver%20JAN%202020.pdf

A parent or legal guardian must accompany and sign a waiver for minors 12 or under. Parent or guardian must sign a waiver for unaccompanied minors at least 13.

November 2026

November 21 (Saturday) Hike at Jefferson Memorial Forest, Louisville, KY.

We will start at the JMF Visitor Center and walk part of the Siltstone Trail to reach the Purple Heart Trail, near Tom Wallace Lake. We'll then walk the Purple Heart Trail, which is a loop, and then return to the Visitor Center. The total hiking distance is just over 4 miles. The trail is moderately difficult, with some hills and rocky trail sections to traverse, though much of the trail follows ridge tops. Leashed pets are allowed on this hike. Any rain cancels.

Rating: Moderate

Leader: Ralph Grove, rfgrove@icloud.com, 540-478-3677.

December 2026

December 12 (Saturday) Early Winter Nature Hike at Big Bone Lick, Boone County KY.

We'll hike the unpaved hilly trails first, around 2 miles mostly thru woods, including 2 trails blazed many years ago by Northern KY Sierra Club. There's a wood bridge over an intermittent stream and a section of trail along fenced pastures where a bison herd can usually be seen. After a restroom break at the museum, some can depart if they wish, and those remaining can hike Big Bone Creek Trail, another 1/2 to 1 mostly flat mile. Children are welcome but a parent or legal guardian must accompany and sign a waiver for minors. RSVP by phone, email or Northern Kentucky Sierra Club's MeetUp: https://www.meetup.com/northern-kentucky-sierra-club/events/315991733/ by 5pm, Fri. Dec. 11.

Rating: Moderate

Leader: John Robbins, john@johnfrobbins.com, 859-363-0376.

January 2027

January 9, 2027 (Saturday) Nature Walk at the Earl & Hazel Jones Ctr for Conservation, Burlington KY.

We'll hike all the nature trails in the new Earl and Hazel Jones Center for Conservation. This 92-acre property located along a 1-mile stretch of Gunpowder Creek is owned by the Boone County Conservation District (BCCD) and is home to a beautiful forest, wetlands, pollinator fields, riparian habitat, and many species of native plants and wildlife. Our host and guide will be Susan Brown, BCCD's Conservation Education Specialist. Children are welcome but a parent or legal guardian must accompany and sign a waiver for minors. RSVP by phone, email or Northern Kentucky Sierra Club's MeetUp: https://www.meetup.com/northern-kentucky-sierra-club/events/315991733/ by 5pm, Fri. Jan. 8.

Rating: Easy

Leader: John Robbins, john@johnfrobbins.com, 859-363-0376

January 16 (Saturday) Icicle Hike at Big Rock, Cherokee Park, Louisville, KY.

This will be our 8th Annual Icicle Hike! Come with us for a winter walk at Big Rock in Cherokee Park. The entire walk is only about a mile so we'll have lots of time to relax and enjoy the setting and enjoy a peaceful, quiet winter walk. The creek should be flowing and if the temperature is right, we'll have amazing ice formations along the cliffs. This is a great opportunity to get outdoors to "chill" with friends, look for wildlife, listen to flowing water, and hopefully see lots of icicles, too! Bring your camera! Activity is held rain or shine, but may be altered due to inclement weather.

Rating: Easy (extra caution for ice)

Leader: Terrell Holder, thholder@bellsouth.net, 502-649-0139

January 30 (Saturday) Winter Nature Walk Along The Licking South Fork, Falmouth KY.

This nature trail began in 1992 when Sierra Club member Barth Johnson blazed a riverside path in Falmouth to give local teachers an outdoor education opportunity. This is an easy nature walk along the river, crossing several feeder streams and staying mostly in the shade of trees. Expect to walk the trail both ways, over 2.5 miles. As we walk, Barth will pause often to tell us about the 1997 flood, the trail's future and the natural features we pass on our hike. Children are welcome but a parent or legal guardian must accompany and sign the waiver for minors. Dogs are allowed on-leash only.

RSVP by phone, email or Northern Kentucky Sierra Club's MeetUp: https://www.meetup.com/northern-kentucky-sierra-club/events/315991733/ by 5pm, Fri. Jan. 29.

Rating: Easy

Leader: John Robbins, john@johnfrobbins.com, 859-363-0376.

TO ATTEND AN OUTING: Please contact the outing leader. They will provide you with any additional or updated information on time/location/cancellations, etc. Outing Leader contact information is included in the listing.

Also check with your local Group's Chair and Outing Chair for activities and outings being planned in your area. They may also be listed online, or published in local newsletters and announced at meetings. Check us out — we'd love to get to know you.

Outings Help Wanted

Outing Leaders

We are always looking for Outing Leaders within the Cumberland Chapter to "explore, enjoy and (ultimately) protect the wild and natural areas" of Kentucky. Where would these places be? Wherever you find solace, beauty and inspiration. Your passion for a 'natural' Kentucky will become the seed that others will see and want to take part in.

The requirements are few: Be a Sierra Member over 18 yrs. old; be certified in Basic First Aid; and learn how to lead an outing safely. The Kentucky Chapter can help guide you in meeting these requirements, especially in planning and leading outings.

Outing Editor for *The Cumberland*

I am looking for someone who may be willing to check the online outing posts and compile them for our editorial Committee to place in the newsletter mailed to members and made available to the general public.

The task can be accomplished at home, on your own computer and submitted via email by the posted deadline for publication (generally this is the first week of each month). A willingness to check online and edit the postings for print is all that is needed. This might also be a good task for a couple who could share or alternate the duty.

Who to Contact

If you have an interest, or information, on either of these needs please contact me by email at outings@kentucky.sierraclub.org and we can establish a dialogue either through email or phone.

The Kentucky Chapter's Outings Program exists primarily to make participants aware of the natural areas and resources the Sierra Club works so hard to preserve. Outings provide a valuable source of fun and relaxation. The Kentucky Chapter's Outings Program is managed by the chapter. Any donations to support this program are appreciated but not required. Each leader serves in a volunteer capacity. Each participant must get permission from the trip leader to attend the trip. Outings will take place regardless of weather unless otherwise specified. If you are unable to attend an outing which you have signed up for, please have the courtesy to inform the outings leader as soon as possible. Pets, smoking, radios and guns are not allowed on trips. Guests and children are always welcome. If you have any questions about our outings program, or publicizing any outings, please contact the Kentucky Chapter Outings Chair Dave Stawicki at 859-293-0712 or davestawicki@gmail.com. Happy Trails!!!