



winter 2005



StreamLine

A Bluegrass PRIDE Publication

BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT PROGRAM

Habitat loss is the single most serious problem facing Kentucky wildlife today. Natural lands and farms are being converted into suburban developments at an ever-increasing rate.

Maybe you already feed wild birds, put up nest boxes, or plant flowers for butterflies. If so, your actions have benefited wildlife. Now you can do even more to help wildlife by participating in Backyard Wildlife, a habitat improvement program designed to encourage and recognize the efforts of suburban homeowners and schools who create habitat for wildlife in backyards and on school grounds. Participation in the program provides many benefits.

- Creating habitat needed by a diversity of wildlife
- Attracting more wildlife for observation, enjoyment, and education
- Increased property values
- Reduced landscape maintenance
- Water conservation
- Minimized use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides

How can you participate? It's easy! Everything you need to get started has been assembled for you in one easy-to-use reference: the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Kit provided by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. In the kit you will find fact sheets on:

- Developing a landscape plan for wildlife
- Native Kentucky food and shelter plants for butterflies, hummingbirds, songbirds, and other wild species
- How to establish wildflowers from seed
- Sample landscape and garden plans
- Wildlife checklists
- A resource inventory form
- Nest box plans
- Water sources for wildlife
- Sources of wildlife plants and materials
- Suggested references
- An application to certify your backyard or schoolyard

To help you create your own habitat garden or outdoor classroom, the Salato Wildlife Education Center in Frankfort offers a variety of scheduled workshops and seminars. Examples include Butterfly Gardening, Gardening for Birds, Native Plant Seminar, Landscaping for Wildlife, and more!

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HELP KEEP PRIDE IN THE BLUEGRASS



Every New Year brings with it a new set of challenges. Most of these challenges are not usually known on January 1st, but this year PRIDE's primary challenge has been set forth from the beginning. Despite the efforts of Congressman Chandler, Bluegrass PRIDE did not receive funding during the federal appropriation process for the 2005 fiscal year. This is a major setback since over 97% of the program's funding is federal.

In just three years, PRIDE has awarded over \$535,000 for community environmental projects and over \$147,000 for environmental education programs in Central Kentucky. Additionally, PRIDE has spent in excess of \$200,000 to directly support outreach campaigns that address local environmental issues such as non-point source pollution, household hazardous waste and litter. Though the 2005 Community Grants will be the last grants awarded by the organization until further federal money is secured, PRIDE will continue to develop and implement community and school programs.

We have not given up on federal funds. Congressman Chandler has pledged to request money on our behalf for FY 2006. However, to keep the doors open until that money, if secured, could be accessed, and for the long term health of the program, it is necessary that PRIDE transition from being a federally supported organization to one supported by donations, foundations and grants. Those of us who are fortunate enough to work at PRIDE feel strongly that the organization is worthy of such support. We hope that many of you whom we have served over the past three years also feel strongly about PRIDE. The future of the organization is in your hands.

Therefore, a Keep PRIDE in the Bluegrass Committee and a Keep PRIDE in the Bluegrass Fund have been established. Those interested in serving on the committee, which will be asked to write letters, editorials and assist with fundraising, may email me at Angela@kentuckypride.com. Those interested in contributing to the Keep PRIDE in the Bluegrass Fund, can send a check to PO Box 910384, Lexington, KY 40591. Bluegrass PRIDE is a 501(C)3 organization, so donations are tax deductible. As always, we are happy to address questions or concerns. Just give us a call toll free at 866.222.1648.

We look forward to working with you in making Central Kentucky a safer, cleaner, healthier place. I thank you in advance for your support.

APRIL IS WEATHER MATTERS MONTH!

Bluegrass PRIDE would like to celebrate Weather Matters Month by encouraging you to think about storm water in your backyard. Rain and melting snow that flows off streets, rooftops, lawns, and driveways is called storm water runoff. As the storm water runs over the ground and impervious surfaces, it picks up pollutants such as automotive fluids, lawn and garden chemicals, pet waste, and trash and takes them directly to nearby waterways.

You can help prevent storm water pollution from contaminating local creeks by carrying out the following in your backyard.

- Pick up your pet waste.
- Install a rain barrel.
- Plant a rain garden.
- Maintain your car to prevent leaks.
- Dispose of trash properly- *NEVER* dump anything down a storm drain.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals in accordance with the labels.
- Stencil storm drains in your neighborhood.

To find out more information about how you can celebrate Weather Matters Month, visit our website and click on Storm Water Awareness.



BIRD FEEDING IN YOUR BACKYARD

Before spring has sprung, natural food sources for birds start to diminish. This is the most important time to start feeding our feathered friends. But what should you feed the neighborhood birds? Below is a list of the different seeds available and which birds they will attract.

Black Oil Sunflower: This is the most common seed found in backyards across the country, and it will attract the widest array of seed eating birds. These sunflower seeds can be used in a hanging feeder, a platform feeder or just thrown on the ground.

Millet: These small round seeds make up the main part of the diet for ground feeding birds. Mourning doves and Juncos will love to eat this seed whether it is on a ground feeder or just sprinkled around your backyard.

Niger (Thistle): This very small black seed is irresistible to finches. Niger seed is commonly called thistle but does not come from the invasive Thistle plant. Niger is fed in a tube feeder with very small holes. For a little bird feeding excitement, some feeders will allow Goldfinches to feed upside down.

Safflower: If you are tired of having all of your seed eaten by squirrels, Safflower is a good alternative to Black Oil Sunflower seed because squirrels do not like it. Most birds will eat this small white seed, but it may take a bit of getting use to. Start by mixing a small amount of Safflower with your regular seed, slowly increasing the amount until it is all Safflower. Once the birds get use to it they will never know the difference.

Suet: The above will attract seed eating birds, but what about woodpeckers and nuthatches? Hang a suet cake in a cage or bag on a tree or fence to attract these insect eating birds. Suet is made of rendered fat and can also contain seeds or nuts. This will provide protein for your backyard birds all winter long.

Another important food source for birds in the winter is native plants. See the article on page 8 to find out about books to help you plan your backyard wildlife habitat using native plants.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



One of our goals at PRIDE this year is to make better use of our volunteers. Please visit our website, www.KentuckyPRIDE.com, and check out the new volunteer form. Sign up to:

- **Get Your Hands Dirty** planting trees, picking up trash or stenciling storm drains
- Have some **Good Clean Fun** distributing signs, brochures, posters and other outreach materials for PRIDE's campaigns

OR

- Join us for an exciting day of **Office Work!** We always need some extra hands to copy, sort, stuff, fax or mail

BLUEGRASS PRIDE AWARDS OVER \$169,000 IN GRANTS

On January 10th the fourth round of Bluegrass PRIDE Community Grants and the second round of Educator Workshop Grants were announced at McConnell Springs. Fourteen recipients were awarded Community Grants totaling \$161,009, and four Educator Workshop Grant recipients received a total of \$7,746.20.

The Community Grant recipients include:

- Midway Renaissance, Inc. in Woodford County to continue their creek restoration and environmental education project in Midway.
- EKV Center for Appalachian Studies to plant a riparian buffer along Silver Creek using community volunteers and local students.
- Friends of the Parks in Fayette County, Inc. to create a multi-use trail through Dogwood Park as part of the South Elkhorn Greenway, and to install a biofiltration basin to protect a natural spring.
- City of Nicholasville to begin a recycling and litter abatement campaign with trash bins on downtown streets and signs in fast food restaurants.
- Powell County Fiscal Court to conduct roadside cleanups three times a year using community organizations. Road signs that discourage littering will be placed on the roads cleaned.
- City of Stanford to conduct their semi-annual free large item disposal.
- Friends of McConnell Springs to continue removal of invasive plants and to restore another area of McConnell Springs. A brochure about understory habitats will be developed to teach visitors about the work at McConnell Springs.
- Garrard County Solid Waste to conduct a free, large item disposal event.
- Estill County Fiscal Court to conduct a roadside cleanup program. Community organizations will be involved in three road pickups per year.
- Herrington Lake Conservation League to remove a sunken houseboat from Herrington Lake and to create a brochure about dock maintenance.

- City of Cynthiana to plant a stream buffer, and build a nature trail along Flat Run Creek.
- City of Cynthiana to assist in the cleanup of an illegal dump on Hwy. 1284.
- Lincoln County Fiscal Court to clean up two illegal dumps at South Fork Lake and South Fishing Creek.

Bluegrass PRIDE has also contracted with the Kentucky and Licking River Watershed Watches, for a total of \$25,000, to conduct volunteer water sampling activities in the Bluegrass PRIDE region.

The Fall 2004 Educator Workshop Grants recipients included:

- Floracliff Nature Sanctuary in Fayette County to continue a workshop using local resources to inform educators about the ecological, cultural and historical resources of the Bluegrass Region.
- KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to conduct a Flying WILD workshop geared toward middle school teachers and non-formal educators.
- Waco Elementary School in Madison County to conduct a workshop for Waco teachers, which will concentrate on the incorporation of existing environmental education curricula into existing educational objectives.
- Woodford County Conservation District to conduct a Project Food, Land and People workshop that will be incorporated into the Woodford County Farm Tour.

Due to PRIDE's loss of funding for the fiscal year 2005, this is the last round of grants that will be awarded until further funding is secured. In the meantime, PRIDE has lots of free resources available for Central Kentucky communities, organizations and educators, and PRIDE will continue to conduct its outreach programs in the Bluegrass Region. To find out how to help Keep PRIDE in the Bluegrass, call 866.222.1648.



Grant Recipients

BUTTS ARE TRASH, TOO!

Next time you take a drive anywhere – the grocery store, school, work, the airport – take a moment to look out of your car window. The shoulders and grass strips along roadways are usually plastered with a layer of discarded butts. March is a time for spring-cleaning, inside and out, with the Bluegrass PRIDE Spring Cleanup and Commonwealth Cleanup taking place at the end of the month. But this is something to remember all year long: cigarette butts are trash, too!



When cigarette butts are casually tossed out a car window or thrown on the ground in front of a building, they DO NOT biodegrade. In fact, cigarette butts are made of a type of acetate that never fully breaks down. Sure, a single cigarette butt may seem small and harmless, but there's trouble in numbers. An estimated 4.5 *trillion* cigarette butts are littered in the US each year!

Cigarette butts discarded in parking lots, along sidewalks and in street gutters inevitably make their way through storm drains, creeks and rivers to the waterways that supply our drinking water and serve

as wildlife habitat. The filters within the butt are DESIGNED to catch toxic chemicals, to keep them from going into the smoker's lungs. When the filter gets wet, those toxins leech out of the cigarette butt and into the water supply.

Littering any type of trash, cigarette butts included, can result in fines of up to \$500. Surely, for \$500 it's worth making the effort to dispose of your cigarette butts properly, especially since it is so easy. There are usually ashtrays located outside every building, and the majority of cars still come with ashtrays. If you can't find an ashtray, you can still throw your cigarette butt away. Just be sure you've put it out completely and toss it into a trashcan. A good method for drivers is to empty your vehicle's ashtray each time you stop to fill up, as trashcans are usually provided at gas stations.

Don't be a trashy butt! Dispose of your cigarette butts properly and do your part in keeping harmful toxins out of our waterways!

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Bluegrass PRIDE would like to congratulate the winners of our first annual resolution drawing. In keeping with the holiday tradition, Bluegrass PRIDE asked you to join us in making New Year's Resolutions. The resolutions were to help us work toward a healthier Central Kentucky environment in 2005 by resolving to improve backyard habitats and outdoor classrooms and to minimize the environmental impact of lawn care choices. Many of you responded by mailing back these cards and becoming eligible for prizes. The following is a list of the winners.

Kirk Catinna	Yellow Throated Sparrow photograph signed by Tom Barnes
Amanda Abnee	Hummingbird feeder
Stephanie Jolly	Hanging birdbath and Goldfinch feeder
Jeanine Scott	Ivy meadow bird feeder
Fred Goins	<i>Gardening for the Birds</i> by Tom Barnes
Jennifer Billings	Plastic rain barrel
Susan Cohn	Birdhouse
Betty Hollingsworth	Wooden rain barrel
Annie Brady	Native plants
Paul Vincelli	Bird ID book and Backyard Habitat Kit

PRIDE PEOPLE

PRIDE would like to welcome two new members to our Executive Committee! **Donna Fechter** is the Solid Waste Coordinator from Boyle County and has been very involved with Bluegrass PRIDE since the beginning. Donna currently serves as the Treasurer of the Solid Waste Coordinators of Kentucky (SWaCK), is a member of the Bluegrass ADD Natural Resources and Environmental Advisory Committee, serves as the Boyle County Emergency Management Public Information Officer, is a member of the Boyle County Human Rights Commission, in addition to serving as the Boyle County Bluegrass PRIDE Coordinator. Donna lives in Danville with her Black Lab, Majic, and plays on her twenty-five acre farm, Titled Acres. You can contact Donna through her e-mail address at donnafechter@hotmail.com.

Jane Wilson Eller will contribute her experience and knowledge of Environmental Education to our Executive Committee. She is currently Executive Director of the Kentucky Environmental Education Council, a state agency whose mission is to improve, increase and coordinate environmental education in the Commonwealth. She has held this position since 1995. Prior to 1995, she served as director of a child abuse prevention program and before that as associate director of a research center at the University of Kentucky. Jane holds a bachelor's degree and two master degrees from the University of Kentucky.

Jane is currently serving her second term as a member of the National Environmental Education Advisory Council, a federal commission that advises the EPA and Congress on issues related to environmental education. She is also a member of the State Education and Environment Roundtable, a consortium of 16 states that conducts research on the most effective strategies for teaching about the environment. She was recently appointed to the Certification Advisory Committee of the North American Association for Environmental Education.

Jane is married to Dr. Ronald Eller, a Professor of History at the University of Kentucky. They have three children and two grandchildren and live in Jessamine County. Jane can be reached by e-mail at jane.eller@ky.gov

THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER... TIPS FOR "GREEN" LAWN CARE

Here are a few tips to having an environmentally friendly lawn that will make your neighbors "green" with envy.

1. Soil testing– can be done any time during the growing season.

The best way to have a healthy lawn is to find out what shape your soil is in to begin with. Your local Cooperative Extension office will examine a soil sample for a small fee and let you know what your soil needs. The extension offices test for pH and nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium).

If your test results indicate that you are deficient in one or more nutrients, you may want to apply fertilizer. The report will outline the type and the correct amount of fertilizer to use so you don't waste money, and so the excess fertilizer does not wash into nearby waterways!

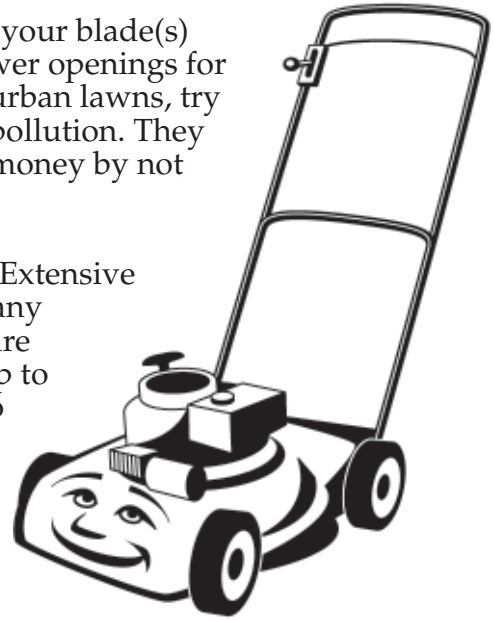
2. Cleanup and Soil Aeration – should be done in early spring, before the growing season gets underway.

Aeration helps to alleviate the compaction caused by winter snows, footpaths and gravity. The soil gets an injection of oxygen, which promotes activity in soil organisms and helps subsequent fertilizations penetrate deeper to root systems.

After the ground has thawed and dried out, rake winter debris off the lawn and add to your compost pile. To aerate your lawn, walk over the grass while wearing spiked clogs.



3. Organic Herbicide – apply as soon as you see the first signs of spring.
Corn gluten meal is the only proven organic pre-emergent herbicide. Organic lawn care products made with corn gluten meal can be found fairly easily at home and garden centers or online.
4. Tune Up your Lawn Care Equipment - Keep your blade(s) sharp. Sharp blades mean clean cuts and fewer openings for disease and insect infestations. For smaller urban lawns, try using a reel mower to reduce air and noise pollution. They require less maintenance and you can save money by not using gas!
5. Mow at a cutting height of at least 3 inches - Extensive research has shown that cutting high has many benefits for the organic lawn. Many weeds are simply choked out and root systems develop to provide drought-resistance and hardiness to keep insect and disease problems at a minimum.
6. Mulch-cut and leave clippings on lawn - Grass clippings are a great source of nitrogen and, contrary to rumors, do not contribute to thatch in an organic lawn.



WINTER READING FOR SPRING PLANTING

Here are some books to get you on your way to a backyard full of local wildlife

Backyard Wildlife Habitat Kit — Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

This locally produced how-to guide will walk you through creating a wildlife sanctuary in your backyard with everything from a list of native plants and what they will attract to instructions on building your own birdhouse. This kit is available from KDFWR by calling 800-858-1549.

Gardening for the Birds — Tom Barnes

Tom Barnes, a local author, photographer and extension wildlife specialist explains how to create a wildlife-friendly environment in an urban setting. The book includes information not only on attracting birds, but also on creating an ecosystem suitable for butterflies, wildlife, and even the homeowner.

Kids' Easy-to-Create Wildlife Habitats: For Small Spaces in City-Suburbs-Countryside (Quick Starts for Kids!) — Emily Stetson and J. Susan Cole Stone

This book encourages children to become a “Super Sleuth” by finding out what kind of animals are in their backyard. They learn how to observe and support wildlife around their homes, schools, and communities. Packed with useful information, the book introduces common animals, their habitats, and the foods that attract them. It even includes suggested activities and projects such as preparing a feast for butterflies, exploring a rotting log, and making a compost pile. It is recommended for kids in grades 2-5.

If you would like more information about transforming your backyard into a wildlife habitat, call PRIDE toll free at 866/222-1648.

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In recognition of your efforts on behalf of wildlife, you can apply to have your backyard or outdoor classroom certified as an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat Site. A committee of experts in wildlife, landscaping, and agriculture reviews each application for Standard, Silver, or Gold certification. Certified habitat sites receive:

- An attractive Backyard Wildlife Certificate, suitable for framing
- A “Going Wild in my Back Yard” sign to proudly display
- **Plus!** The Outstanding Residential Habitat and Outdoor Classroom of the year will receive special recognition at the annual awards ceremony!

For more information on the Backyard Wildlife Program, contact Mary Carol Cooper at 800-858-1549.

PRIDE SPRING CLEANUP

March 20 — April 2 is this year’s PRIDE Spring Cleanup. We have partnered with Commonwealth Cleanup week to combine our efforts to help make Central Kentucky litter free! As always, PRIDE will give free trash bags and latex gloves to anyone who wants to conduct their own neighborhood cleanup. Last year over 5,000 PRIDE volunteers helped pick up over 22,000 bags of trash and cleanup almost 15,000 miles of roadways and stream banks!

So, you want to get involved with PRIDE’s Spring Cleanup, but would like to stay away from heavy lifting and getting dirty? We are also looking for help with our litter abatement outreach campaign. PRIDE would like to have every fast food restaurant in Central Kentucky display our slogan... Before you Litter, Reconsider and have every gas pump encourage patrons to Pull Up, Fill Up and Cleanup! If you would like to help us distribute these signs call us toll free at 866-222-1648 or visit our website at www.kentuckypride.com and click on “volunteer connection”.





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BLUEGRASS PRIDE COORDINATORS

In order to successfully carry out the PRIDE initiative, each county has a PRIDE Coordinator. PRIDE Coordinators serve as liaisons between the local community and the Bluegrass PRIDE office. Coordinators are responsible for coordinating local cleanups, organizing volunteers, making PRIDE aware of local needs and issues, and working with local media. If you have questions regarding PRIDE events in your area or if you would like to get involved, please feel free to contact your PRIDE coordinator.

Anderson	Chip Chambers, County Road Supervisor	acrd@kentuckyquest.net	502/839-7979
Bourbon	Toni Wells, Volunteer	Marytoniwells@aol.com	859/707-7541
Boyle	Donna Fechter, SWC	bcsw@bellsouth.net	859/238-1116
Clark	Gary Epperson, SWC	gepperson@juno.com	859/737-0303
Estill	Teresa Sparks, Community Development Director	tsparks@irvineonline.net	606/723-7524
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Harrison	Tom Leith	lickingrivervalleyrcd@yahoo.com	859/234-3352
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Mercer	Norman Jennings, SWC		859/734-4754
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Nicholas	Judge Larry Tincher, County Judge Executive		859/289-3725
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Scott	J.R. Williamson, SWC	JR@ScottKY.com	502/867-3705
Woodford	Wade Johnson, SWC	wjohnson@woodfordcountyky.org	859/873-0878

*** SWC = Solid Waste Coordinator