



Landscapes

Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties Conservation Districts

January - February 2008

VOL. XXIII, NO. 1

Local options for protecting farmland

The Boone, Campbell and Kenton County Conservation Districts will be hosting a series of meetings in April on farmland protection through Kentucky's Agricultural District Law. The meetings will feature information on the Kentucky Agricultural District Program and farmland protection efforts and issues. The meeting in Kenton County will also include a presentation about county agricultural issues, led by Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service Agent Dan Allen.

Tues., April 1, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Boone County Public Library, Walton Branch
21 South Main Street, Walton

Thurs., April 10, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Kenton County Cooperative Extension Center
10990 Marshall Road, Covington

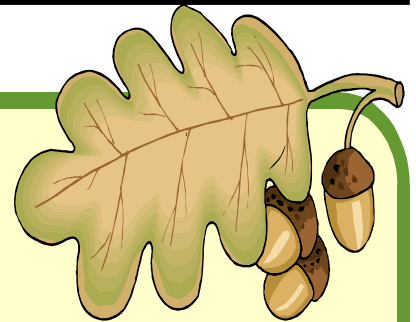
Tues., April 29, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Southern Campbell Fire Dept.
Hwy. 27 and Race Track Road

For information, contact Mary Kathryn Dickerson at 859-586-7903 or 859-635-9587, or e-mail: mary.dickerson@ky.nacdnet.net.

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Help restore Boone County Forests



Join the Boone Conservancy and the Boone County Conservation District to help bring new life to the old sand and gravel mine near Belleview. We need volunteers, ages 13 and up, to help plant over 3,000 trees. Please register with us so we will know that you will be helping. We'll start the day, Sat., March 15, by planting trees from 10 a.m. until noon. Volunteers will receive two free trees to take home. Lunch will be served at noon, followed by a brief program. Guided tours of the site will be offered from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Join us for any or all of the day.

**Where: Boone Conservancy Mine Reclamation Project Site
KY. 18 & 20 in Belleview, Ky.**

When: Sat., March 15, 2008

10:00 a.m.	Tree Planting
Noon	Lunch and program
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Guided tours

Your volunteer service will help us meet our obligation to match grant funds for this project. Tree species that will be planted include: Eastern Red Cedar; Eastern Dogwood, Silky Dogwood, Persimmon, Wild Plum, Sycamore, Yellow Poplar, Black Locust, Black Walnut, Northern Red Oak, Shumard Oak, Bur Oak, Black Oak, and Pin Oak.

The Boone County Conservation District is assisting with the reclamation work through a grant from the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program. This project is part of a larger effort to conserve the quality of the Middle Creek watershed.

To volunteer for tree planting, contact the Boone County Conservation District by e-mail: mark.jacobs@ky.nacdnet.net or phone 859-586-7903; or for more information, contact the Conservation District or the Boone Conservancy at 859-689-0834 or e-mail: tbconserv@fuse.net

Landscapes

Landscapes is a publication of the Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties Conservation Districts, Kentucky - members of the National Association of Conservation Districts and the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts.

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Mark Jacobs, Conservation Technician
Kristin Scott, Agriculture Conservation Technician

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With Assistance From:

United States Department of Agriculture,
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Ed L. Thompson Jr., District Conservationist

Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection
Cabinet, Division of Conservation
Linda Hunter, Area Field Representative

All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation Districts are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.



Home Front

News from your Conservation District Office

Landscapes – Please contact our office if you have a change of address, or if you would like to be added to or removed from the mailing list, e-mail: mary.dickerson@ky.nacdnet.net, or call our offices. *Landscapes* is also available in color on our web sites.

Conservation District Board meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held at the conservation district offices and follow this schedule unless otherwise announced:

Boone County – the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. When a federal holiday falls on the third Monday of the month, the meeting is generally moved to the fourth Monday.

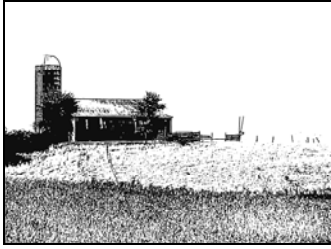
Campbell County – first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m., April - Oct and 6:30 p.m., Nov. - March.

Kenton County – first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Conservation Planning – These cold winter days are a perfect time to develop or update your Agriculture Water Quality Plan! If you own 10 or more acres of land in agriculture or forestry production, you are required to have a plan to protect water resources from pollution. Individual agriculture water quality plans are based on Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are identified in the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Authority Plan. These BMPs can help reduce the amount of pollutants that reach our water resources. A typical landowner already applies many of these practices on their farm, and an agriculture water quality plan will identify the current BMPs and help you decide if you need additional practices. Landowners who have a conservation plan, compliance plan or a forest stewardship plan may need to update and expand that plan to be sure that it includes protection of water resources. Call your county conservation district office now to schedule an appointment!

Dead Farm Animal Removal Assistance Program - Boone, Campbell, and Kenton County farmers are eligible to receive up to 75% reimbursement of the costs of dead farm animal removal from the farm, through grants from the Ky. Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share program. The program is limited to private landowners. To participate, producers must call a licensed hauler within 24 hours of the animal death. Two in our area are: Griffin Industries, 859- 472-7361 (local call); and Shipley & Sons, 513-734-1818 (local call), or any Kentucky licensed hauler. Pay the hauler and turn in your receipt to your county conservation district. Current removal fees start at \$60 for a cow or a hog, \$85 for a horse. Sheep and goat removal prices vary. Reimbursement rates are: cows and hogs, \$ 45.00; horses, sheep and goats, \$ 63.75; or up to 75% of the total haul bill if several carcasses are removed in one haul. Contact your county conservation district, listed on this page, for more information or to submit a receipt for reimbursement.

Correction: Please note that an article in the November-December 2007 issue of our newsletter mistakenly reported that the Boone and Kenton County Conservation Districts observed their 55th anniversaries in 2007. It was actually their 65th anniversaries, both districts having been formed in 1942.



Kentucky's Agricultural District Law

The Kentucky Agricultural District Law, enacted in 1982, allows farmers to form special areas where commercial agriculture is encouraged and protected. Instead of controlling land use through regulation, agricultural district laws offer farmers benefits for keeping their land in agriculture. Since a landowner can withdraw at any time, the program does not help ensure a future base of land available for food and fiber production. The Kentucky Agricultural District Program is administered locally by county conservation districts.

This voluntary program gives farmers some protection for their agricultural land. Program participants are ensured that their land will be taxed as farmland and that it cannot be annexed by a city without the landowner's permission. Agricultural District Program participants are given higher priority when applying for assistance through the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program.

The program requires, in most cases, that 250 contiguous acres of land be enrolled in a district. The district may include multiple landowners and cross streams and roads. Each landowner within the proposed district must have at least 10 acres without a homestead or 11 acres with a homestead; or 5 acres without a homestead if it is horticultural land. The land must be agricultural land as defined in KRS 132.010 (9), "used for the production of livestock, livestock products, poultry, poultry products and/or the growing of tobacco and/or other crops including timber, or where devoted to and meeting the requirements and qualifications for payments pursuant to agriculture programs under an agreement with the state or federal government."

To establish an Agricultural District, landowners obtain a petition from the local Conservation District. Landowners cannot be included in an Agricultural District without their permission. The petition is submitted to the county Conservation District, which notifies the Fiscal Court, county Planning and Zoning agency, and any nearby cities or towns for a 30-day comment period. The Conservation District reviews the petition and agency comments and forwards these to the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission for action. Once established, Agricultural Districts are reviewed every five years to make sure that the land contained in the district still meets the agricultural land use requirements.

For more information, contact your county conservation district, or attend one of the meetings listed on page one of this newsletter. Information about the program can also be found on the Kentucky Division of Conservation web site at <http://www.conservation.ky.gov/programs/>



Stewardship
Week

April 27 - May 4

We encourage you to think about your personal responsibility to be a good steward of the natural resources, including water, during our Stewardship Week celebration. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has proclaimed April 27 to May 4, 2008 as Stewardship Week with the theme *Water is Life*.

The Earth's water is in constant motion in the process known as the hydrologic (water) cycle. There is no beginning or end to the hydrologic cycle. Water available to users can change due to the cycles of weather and changes in water quality. Throughout time, the same water has been transferred into the Earth's atmosphere and dropped on land again where it follows the water cycle through plants, soil, water bodies, animals and clouds. That means the water we use today is the same water that was here when dinosaurs roamed the land.

What can we do? Become aware of water quality and quantity in your community. Understand how watersheds work. We all live in a watershed. Watersheds are the places we call home, where we work and where we play. Everyone relies on water and other natural resources to exist. What you and others do on the land impacts the quality and quantity of water and our other natural resources. Managing the water and other natural resources is an effective and efficient way to sustain the local economy and environmental health.

For information about Stewardship Week and conservation, contact your county conservation district, or visit www.nacdnet.org.

Thank you!

In an effort to reach more people with conservation information, *Landscapes* is also available at several locations around the counties. A big thank you to the following for

helping us distribute our newsletters:

- Amy's Korner Market, Piner*
- Bi-County Co-op, Florence*
- Billie's Country Kitchen, Sun Valley*
- Boone County Library, Walton Branch*
- Bowen Farm Supply, Florence*
- California Marketplace, Flagg Spring*
- Campbell County Library, Cold Spring Branch*
- Campbell County Clerk's office*
- Grant's Lick Market, Grant's Lick*
- Independence Lumber, Independence*
- Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service*
- Kenton County Farm Bureau, Nicholson*
- Kenton County Library, Nicholson*
- Parkside Carryout, Sun Valley*
- Petersburg Pantry*
- Southern States, Campbell County*
- The Store, Belleview*
- Visalia Market, Visalia*

Ky. Forestry staff ready to help local landowners

Based in Frankfort, Kentucky, in the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, the Kentucky Division of Forestry provides many services for landowners throughout Kentucky. Established in 1912, the Division's initial work centered on the control of wildfires, and has expanded to the protection and enhancement of Kentucky's forest resources. The Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDOF) operates nine district offices across the state.

Our area is served by the Bluegrass District Regional office, headed by Ron Meyer, District Forester. Ron, a native of Campbell County, served as our local forester until July 2003 when he accepted the District Forester position overseeing the 23 counties in the Bluegrass District.



Ron Meyer, Bluegrass District Forester

District staff serving our area also includes Forest Ranger Technicians and a county Forester. Our area is served by Luke Saunier, Chris Scott, and Ariel Sewell. Forest Ranger Technicians work in the areas of fire control; disease and insect control, and timber harvesting compliance (Kentucky Forest Conservation Act), which includes inspecting logging jobs. They also provide local fire departments with wildland fire training and assist communities with educational programs on a variety of forestry topics.

County Foresters provide professional oversight and expertise to landowners through the Forest Stewardship Program. The program is designed to help landowners develop, protect, and manage their forestland for multiple uses, as well as providing technical advice on reforestation and maintaining lands.

Luke Saunier is a Forest Ranger Technician, covering Campbell, Scott, Bourbon, Bracken, Pendleton, and Harrison counties. Luke is a 2001 graduate of the University of Kentucky School of Forestry. Before finishing school and joining the Kentucky Division of Forestry, Luke spent five years on active duty with the United States Army. Luke is a native of Stamping Ground, Kentucky. He and his wife Jennifer have two children and make their



Luke Saunier, Forest Ranger Technician

home in Scott County. Luke described his job as being "where the rubber meets the road for environmental enforcement" concerning forestry issues.

Chris Scott is a Forest Ranger Technician covering Boone, Kenton, Grant, Owen, Carroll and Gallatin counties. Chris has been with the Kentucky Division of Forestry since February 2001. He is a graduate of Indiana University, where he received a degree in Biology. His special interests are in fire suppression and helping communities with the Fire Wise Program. Chris noted that forest fires aren't only a concern in rural areas. "There are fire-related problems in developing areas, too, such as making areas accessible to fire trucks."



Chris Scott, Forest Ranger Technician

Ariel Sewell is a Forester with the Kentucky Division of Forestry. Ariel worked as a Forester for the Southeast District in Pineville before moving to the Bluegrass District in June 2007. Prior to joining the Kentucky Division of Forestry in January 2005, he worked for the U. S. Forest Service in Louisiana on insect research, working mainly on the Southern Pine Bark Beetle. He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky School of Forestry. Ariel covers Boone, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, and Kenton counties. His main interest is in forest management and planning. Ariel noted that the main need for our area is "working on the improvement of the quality of our forests." He added that many of the woodlots he visits here have been cut too frequently, and many are facing issues with invasive species.



Ariel Sewell Forester

If you would like to learn more about your forest or want help planning a timber harvest, tree planting project, or any forest related activity, contact the Kentucky Division of Forestry, Bluegrass District Office, at 502-573-1085 or 502-573-1086. Visit their web site at: <http://www.forestry.ky.gov/>

Laws of the Land

News about legislation and programs that may affect you.

Changes proposed to Kentucky Agriculture District Law

Kentucky House Bill 292, which was passed by the House on Jan. 28, was sent to the Senate and on to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee for consideration. The bill would amend KRS 262.850 to define "Agricultural land," "Agriculture," "Horticulture," "Aquaculture," "Livestock," and "Poultry"; include local Comprehensive Plans and 401 Facilities Plans when considering the formation of an agricultural district; require agricultural land to be used for agriculture for at least one year before being eligible to be in an agricultural district; require agricultural districts of less than 10 acres to have annual reviews and to comply with any necessary conservation plans; require the board to inform all members of agricultural districts that they must comply with KRS Chapter 132 in order to get an agricultural assessment on their property; and make technical corrections.

Source: Kentucky Legislative Research Commission (To track Kentucky legislation, visit <http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/home.htm>)

Kentucky Adopts Food Sampling Rules for Farmer's Markets

New state guidelines that took effect January 1, established by the Kentucky Department for Public Health, will allow vendors at Kentucky farmers' markets and Kentucky Farm Bureau roadside markets to offer free food samples without having to get a food service permit. The guidelines require vendors who offer samples to go through a Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) training course, and those who offer samples of raw fruits and vegetables will need to complete the Good Agricultural Practices education course available through your local Cooperative Extension Service office. Questions about the policy should be directed to the Kentucky Food Safety Branch at 502-564-7181. Questions about the training should be directed to Janet Eaton, KDA farmers' market coordinator, at 502-564-4983.

Source: Kentucky Agricultural News, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, January 2008

Farm Bill still being debated

The 2007 Farm Bill continues to be debated with a final vote expected in late February. While much of the debate on the farm bill centers on crop subsidy reform, we hear less about other programs of the farm bill. In the 2002-2007 Farm Bill, 41% of the money was allocated to food stamps and nutrition programs. Thirty-five percent went to agriculture support programs, including subsidies and direct payments, 17% was allotted to rural development, research education marketing, regulation and administration, and 7% went to natural resources and conservation programs. Programs included in the farm bill affect everyone. For more information on the 2007 Farm Bill, visit www.usda.gov.

EPA and Corps issue definition of "Waters of the United States"

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have issued joint guidance for their field offices to ensure America's wetlands and other water bodies are protected under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The guidance clarifies those circumstances where a person may need to obtain a CWA Section 404 permit before conducting activities in wetlands, tributaries, and other waters. Specifically, this guidance discusses the agencies' protection of three classes of waters through the following actions: (1) Continuing to regulate "traditionally navigable waters," including all rivers and other waters that are large enough to be used by boats that transport commerce and any wetlands adjacent to such waters; (2) Continuing to regulate "non-navigable tributaries that are relatively permanent and wetlands that are physically connected to these tributaries"; and (3) Continuing to regulate based on case-by-case determinations for other tributaries and adjacent wetlands that have certain characteristics that significantly affect traditionally navigable waters. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/guidance/CWAwaters.html

Kenton County Forage Improvement Program

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board has approved funds in support of the Forage Improvement program in Kenton County. The Kenton County Conservation District will administer this program. This cost-share program will help cattle producers increase farm income through improved forage quality, quantity and efficient use.



Applications will be accepted until Wed. April 30, 2008.

For information, contact the Kenton County Conservation District,
6028 Camp Ernst Road, Burlington, KY 41005
Phone 859-586-7903 Mon.- Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



THE WORLD AROUND US

By: Mark Jacobs, Conservation Technician

Another occasion on a hot day this past summer my cousin called me and informed me his daughter had found some shrimp in Laughery Creek in Indiana off of the Ohio River. Curiosity got the best of me so I asked him to bring some down if he found any more. A couple of days

It is amazing to me the diversity of life that lives all around us, sometimes strange and other worldly creatures most of us rarely encounter. What is even more amazing to me is that we know next to nothing about most of these creatures. As youngsters we are exposed to images of and information about plants and animals from Africa, Asia or some other exotic location but we are rarely taught or exposed to the incredible array of native plants and animals that live among us. With a little exploration and research in local fields, ponds and forests, limitless information about our local natural world awaits us.

For example, last winter I was exploring, as I often do, and walking on the ice in a shallow wetland. It was cold and little snow covered the clear, smooth ice beneath my feet. The ice was like a magnifying glass and you could see a foot or two into the water. As I walked along I noticed some movement under the ice. I knelt down to observe closer and could clearly see a small shrimp-like creature about 1/2" to 3/4" hovering just below the ice. I have to say I was quite surprised. I explore around quite a bit and have never seen anything like this. The creature resembled those "sea monkeys" my daughter received as a gift and sat in the window in a small plastic aquarium, but I have never seen them in our local area.

later he showed up with, sure enough, shrimp. These were different from the fairy shrimp. They looked exactly like the shrimp we eat except they were about an inch long. With further investigation, they turned out to be glass shrimp (*Palaemonetes kadiakensis*). This shrimp ranges from northeastern Mexico, north to the Great Lakes and east to Florida. In large rivers this shrimp is found in slow moving side channel areas or wetland ponds. This would explain why they were in Laughery Creek, which is back-water habitat created by the damming of the Ohio River. This species is



Glass shrimp
(*Palaemonetes kadiakensis*)
Photo by Mark Jacobs

supposedly common in the central and southeastern United States but has not been well studied. Little interest is paid to this species due to the lack of a commercial market and indications are that their populations may have been greatly affected by drastic changes in riverine habitat caused by channeling or damming the Ohio River.



Fairy Shrimp
(*Eubranchipus vernalis*)
Photo by Mark Jacobs

Later in the spring when the ice returned to water I decided to investigate further. My daughter and I, equipped with net and jar, headed for the wetland. We crept along the muddy edge and in just a few short minutes we spotted the object of our interest. We were lucky enough to collect three or four of the creatures for closer examination. It turned out they are a small native crustacean called a fairy shrimp. I am not sure of

the genus and species but an early record of some found in Covington, Kentucky, by a fellow named Chambers in 1874 suggests they may be *Eubranchipus vernalis*. Apparently this creature's habitat is vernal pools, temporary pools that fill up during the wet season and may dry up completely during the summer. They lay eggs in the pool that can remain viable for years even if the pool dries up, which allows them to persist in such an unpredictable environment. Tadpoles, frogs, salamanders, aquatic insects and birds are major predators of the fairy shrimp. I would assume they are rarely found because of the drastic decline in the wetland or vernal pool habitat in which they reside.

Although these small animals may seem insignificant and beg the questions that I hear quite often "What good are they?" or "What purpose do they serve?" My response to such questions is as follows: The ecological niche they occupy and their role in that niche may be far more important than we are capable of comprehending. The plant materials they consume or the countless animals that they, in turn, provide food for, helps maintain a precarious balance in a vast and complicated system. This natural system, often ignored, considered an inconvenience to development, or completely overlooked, is the foundation for our quality of life and our ability to live and prosper.

The great American biologist, researcher, theorist and naturalist, Edward O. Wilson helps put these questions in perspective. Wilson said "each species is a masterpiece, a creation assembled with extreme care and genius". "We should preserve every scrap of biodiversity as priceless while we learn to use it and come to understand what it means to humanity."

The opportunity to learn about our local natural world is all around us. We just need to take the time to look. The lessons that can be learned and our ability to understand life and preserve it are infinite; many of the answers are just beneath our feet. We are never too old or young to learn.

Conservation Calendar

(Continued from back page.)

Mon., March 17, Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute Annual Symposium, Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa, Lexington, KY. Annual symposium encourages information transfer for water-related work. For information, visit www.uky.edu/WaterResources/events or call 859-257-1832.

Fri. & Sat., March 21 & 22, Hunter Education Course. Fri., 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Boone County Public Administration Building, 3000 Conrad Lane, Burlington. Sat., 8:00 a.m. - completion. Moonlite Hunting and Fishing Club, 3655 Possum Path, Burlington. Pre-registration required. Phone 859-334-2117 to register or for information.

Fri., March 28, Camp Webb Scholarship Application Deadline. Students in grades 4 - 6, not more than 13 years old, are invited to apply for a \$175 scholarship to attend the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) week-long Camp Webb. Application is an essay 250 words or less describing why Kentucky is a great place to live. Mail your essay by Fri., March 28 to Gary Turney, 8142 Heatherwood Dr., Florence, KY 41042 or Ron Browning, 1541 Loop Rd., Falmouth, KY 41040. Winners will be notified by April 11, after which camp applications must be completed and the remaining camp fee of \$40 paid. Sponsored by the Fifth District Federation League of Kentucky Sportsmen. Visit the KDFWR website at www.fw.ky.gov for more details on the Conservation Camps or call Ron Browning at 859-654-8320 with any questions.

Tues., April 1, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Farmland Protection Through Kentucky's Agricultural District Law. Boone County Public Library, Walton. Meeting will feature information on the Kentucky Agricultural District Program. For information, contact Mary Kathryn Dickerson at 859-586-7903 or 859-635-9587, or e-mail: mary.dickerson@ky.nacdnet.net.

Tues., April 1, Kentucky Women in Agriculture Scholarship application deadline. Applicants must be a female with residence in Kentucky, entering their junior year through graduate school in a Kentucky school with a GPA of 2.5 or above. In addition to application form, applicants must submit an essay 500 words or less describing their interest in agriculture, why they are seeking the scholarship and why the degree sought will benefit the agricultural industry. Visit www.kywomeninag.com or call 1-877-266-8823.

Sat., April 5, Connecting Kids with Nature: Creating an outdoor classroom, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Salato Wildlife Education Center, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort. Join Mary Carol Cooper and Kristy Stroud for advice on site selection, funding sources and what to include in your outdoor classroom. Registration \$20. To register, call 502-564-7863.

Sat. April 5, Reforest Northern Kentucky, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., AJ Jolly Park, Campbell County. Sponsored by the No. Ky. Urban and Community Forestry Council and No. Ky. University. Bring your family, friends and shovels and help reforest No. Ky. For information, contact Jessica Metzger at 859-572-7587 or metzgerj2@nku.edu.

Thurs., April 10, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Farmland Protection Through Kentucky's Agricultural District Law. Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service, 10990 Marshall Road, Covington. Meeting will feature information on the Kentucky Agricultural District Program and presentation on local agricultural issues. For information, contact Mary Kathryn Dickerson at 859-586-7903 or 859-635-9587, or e-mail: mary.dickerson@ky.nacdnet.net.

Fri., April 11, Horse Shoeing Clinic, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m., Kenton County Fairgrounds. Taught by Mitch Taylor, Ky. Ferrier School. For information, contact the Kenton County Cooperative Extension Center at 859-356-3155.

Sat., April 12, Licking River Watershed Watch Volunteer Sampling Training, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Boone County Cooperative Extension Service Building, Rouse Room, Burlington. Training for new volunteers and current volunteers who need to update their training (recommended every two years). Contact Tim Guilfoile, 859-331-0565 or tim.guilfoile@sierraclub.org.

Tues., April 29, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Farmland Protection Through Kentucky's Agricultural District Law. Southern Campbell Fire Dept., Hwy. 27 and Race Track Road. Meeting will feature information on the Kentucky Agricultural District Program. For information, contact Mary Kathryn Dickerson at 859-586-7903 or 859-635-9587, or e-mail: mary.dickerson@ky.nacdnet.net.

Friday, May 16, Deadline for applications. Kentucky Forest Leadership Program, June 2-6, 2008, Jabez, Ky. Open to high school students entering their junior or senior year who have a "C" or higher grade average and have not previously attended the program. Week-long course explores forestry and natural resource management, while developing leadership skills. Activities include forest measurements; entomology; fire management; identification of plants; surveying; soil science; wildlife habitat assessment; water quality evaluation; and wood products. Fee is \$225, which covers lodging and meals. Visit <http://www.ca.uky.edu/forestryextension/KentuckyForestLP.php> or contact Douglas McLaren, Extension Forester, phone: 859-257-2703 or e-mail: dmclaren@uky.edu. For information about scholarships, contact Mark Davis, Ky. Division of Conservation at 502-573-3080.

**Boone, Campbell & Kenton Counties
Conservation Districts
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Burlington, KY 41005**

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Conservation Calendar

Wed. & Thurs., Mar. 5 & 6, 6:30 - 10:00 p.m. and Sat., March 8, 8:00 a.m. to completion, Hunter Education Course. Bob White Club 10446 S Licking Pike, Alexandria. Phone 859-635-5256 for information.

Sat., March 8, Bluegrass Beekeeping School, Kentucky State University, Frankfort. Presentations on production, business issues, value-added beeswax products and beginner's track of classes. Vendor trade show. Pre-registration, \$20; at-the-door, \$25. Registration includes lunch. Visit www.kyagr.com and click on Beekeeping or contact state apiarist Phil Craft at 502-564-3956 or phil.craft@ky.gov.

Sat., March 8, Trees Pay Us Back - The Economic and Other Benefits of Trees: A seminar for tree boards, city councils and related agencies, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Fayette County Cooperative Extension Service Building, 1140 Red Mile Place, Lexington, Ky. Friday evening reception at the University of Kentucky Arboretum. Featured speaker, Dr. Kathy Wolf, University of Washington. Visit <http://www.lfucg.com/streets/forestry.asp> or call Tim Queary at 859-983-7480.

Sat., March 15, 7:30 a.m. - completion. Hunter Education Course. Pendleton County Sportsman's Club, Lock Road, Butler. Pre-registration required. Phone 859-525-0471 to register or for information.

Sat., March 15, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Ohio River Valley Woodlands and Wildlife Workshop. Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service office, 3500 Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights, Ky. Forestry and wildlife topics presented by staff from the Ohio State University Extension School of Environmental & Natural Resources, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, Dept. of Forestry & Natural Resources, and University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service Dept. of Forestry. Registration by March 1, \$20; \$25 after that. Includes lunch. To register, visit www.ukforestry.org (click on New Information); or call 859-257-7597.

Sat., March 15, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Boone Conservancy Mine Reclamation Site Tree Planting. KY. 18 & 20 in Belleview, Ky. Volunteers will plant trees in the morning, followed by lunch and a brief program. Guided tours of the site will be conducted from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Contact the Boone County Conservation District by e-mail: mark.jacobs@ky.nacdn.net or phone 859-586-7903 ; or for more information, contact the Conservation District or the Boone Conservancy at 859-689-0834 or e-mail: tbconserv@fuse.net. (See the article on page one of this newsletter for more information about this event.)

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