

Brown Family  
Environmental Center  
*at Kenyon College*

# **Field Trip Schedule**

## **Spring 2017**



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*The photograph on the front cover was taken by  
Paden Spencer, a student in Knox County.  
Thank you, Paden, for permission to use  
this beautiful photograph!*



# Brown Family Environmental Center

*at Kenyon College*

## Our Mission:

The Brown Family Environmental Center exists to engage Central Ohioans of all ages with nature, and to support the goals of Kenyon College by conserving the natural diversity of the Kokosing River valley and providing opportunities for education and research.



# Statement of Education Goals and Philosophy

The Brown Family Environmental Center offers a safe environment where students can connect with and develop a relationship with nature.

Whether we are teaching school children, families, or adults, we aim to incorporate the following pedagogical principles into our programs:

- ◆ Hands-on
- ◆ Experiential
- ◆ Total immersion
- ◆ Small group experiences
- ◆ Our instructors are facilitators, not lecturers
- ◆ Structured and safe environment to explore the outdoors
- ◆ Encourage students to think for themselves



We try to do what classroom teachers cannot easily do... take students into the prairie, forest, river, or wetlands; and provide hands-on activities or kinesthetic games.

In an effort to create a well-rounded program, we use a three-tiered approach when we design our lessons. In each lesson, we aspire to integrate the following concepts:



- ◆ Natural History: name the local flora and fauna, and provide “fun facts” for each
- ◆ Ecology: show relationships between flora and fauna, between abiotic and biotic factors, and how humans fit in
- ◆ Sustainability: consider changes that we can make in our behavior so that our actions have a positive impact on ecosystems instead of a negative impact



# Before you register for BFEC Field Trips....

- ◆ A **fee of \$2.00** per student, up to a maximum of \$40 per class, is payable by cash or check at the time of your visit. You may also request an invoice. There is no fee for Head Start students.
- ◆ Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon and Knox County, we have a limited number of Field Trip Scholarship Grants available to fund transportation costs for schools facing financial hardship. **See page 5** for more information. You can download the application at [bfec.kenyon.edu](http://bfec.kenyon.edu) (see community outreach). The application deadline for the spring season is March 20.
- ◆ If you would like to **review a lesson plan** in order to plan pre and post-trip classroom activities, please contact Noelle Jordan at [jordan2@kenyon.edu](mailto:jordan2@kenyon.edu).

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*Thanks to the support of The Community Foundation,  
field trip scholarships are available.*

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## Guidelines for Field Trip Registration

- ◆ **We will begin accepting reservations for field trips on February 20.** Our calendar fills up quickly; we encourage teachers to contact us on or soon after this date.
- ◆ Please send an email to Jill Kerkhoff at [kerkhoffj@kenyon.edu](mailto:kerkhoffj@kenyon.edu) indicating which program and which dates you prefer (see pages 6-10 for more details on programs/dates).
- ◆ After receiving your request, we will send a confirmation email with the date and time of your scheduled field trip.

### March 27 through May 5

- \* we can take 2 classes (up to 48 students) at one time
- \* times available are 9:00 - 11:00am & 12:00pm - 2:00pm

### May 8 through May 26

- \* we can take only 1 class (up to 24 students) at one time
- \* times available are 12:00pm - 2:00pm

## Bus Arrangements



- ◆ Teachers must make all bus arrangements.
- ◆ Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon and Knox County, we have a limited number of Field Trip Scholarship Grants available to fund transportation costs for schools facing financial hardship. **See page 5** for the application, which is also available at [bfec.kenyon.edu](http://bfec.kenyon.edu) (see community outreach). The application deadline for the spring season is March 20.
- ◆ Please have the bus drop you off at the BFEC at the scheduled start time for the program.
- ◆ Buses can park in the BFEC parking lot during the program.

# While you're at the BFEC....



- ◆ Students with bee allergies must carry their epi-pen with them at all times. Stinging insects (including bees, wasps, hornets, and ants) are everywhere at the BFEC.
- ◆ Students, teachers, and parent chaperones must wear closed-toed shoes and shoes with a closed heel (no sandals, flip flops, etc.).
- ◆ Most of our programs have a rainy-day/indoor alternate lesson plan; therefore, most programs will be conducted, rain or shine. The indoor version requires students to walk to & from the Resource Building and the picnic pavilion. Please make sure students dress appropriately.
- ◆ Please provide name tags for your students.
- ◆ You may stay after or arrive early to enjoy a sack lunch in our picnic pavilion. If you choose to do this, make sure your students bring a sack lunch. Please let us know in advance so we can reserve the picnic pavilion for you.



## Parent Chaperones

- ◆ For safety reasons, the BFEC asks you to bring **1 adult for every 10 students, plus one** extra. For example, if you have 20 students in your class, you should bring 3 adults, including teachers and parents. The exceptions to this include one-on-one aides and Head Start programs. In these situations, we know that you will bring additional adults.
- ◆ Please make sure parent chaperones do **not** bring younger siblings/children.
- ◆ Ensure parent chaperones arrive with the students.
- ◆ Parent chaperones must stay with the class at all times.
- ◆ Please leave your cell phones in your pocket (unless you're taking pictures). We want parent chaperones to be actively engaged as role models for our field trips.

## Cancellation Policy

- ◆ Because most programs have rainy-day/indoor versions, the BFEC generally will not cancel programs due to weather.
- ◆ We strongly discourage teachers from cancelling their program. When teachers cancel at the last minute, we cannot fill the slot.
- ◆ We understand that unexpected situations arise. If you need to cancel, please let us know as soon as possible.

# Field Trip Scholarship Grants

Through the generous support of the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon and Knox County, we are able to offer several scholarships each semester for the reimbursement of transportation costs.

## Rules & Eligibility

Eligible schools must:

- be a private or public school in Knox County.
- have sustained significant or complete funding cuts for field trip fees in the last three years,  
OR
- have 50% or greater eligibility among enrolled elementary students for free or reduced lunch.

Schools that do not meet the above eligibility standards but can demonstrate extreme circumstances or need may also apply and should provide those details in their applications.

Grants will be awarded on a first-received, first-funded basis until all funds have been awarded.

Depending on demand, the BFEC may limit awards to one grade level per school building.

The BFEC may only partially fund requests.

Schools that receive this scholarship will be reimbursed for transportation costs.

## When to Apply & Schedule Your Field Trip

**For spring 2017 field trips, teachers are encouraged to submit applications as early as possible**, but not later than March 20. The BFEC can not guarantee availability for groups applying after March 20.

## Award Notification

Applicants will be notified of their award status by email within two weeks of receipt of the application.

If an award is made, staff will contact the grantee to schedule the field trip.

## Grant Payment

Transportation costs: payment will be made directly to the school or the transportation company providing busing. **Payment will be issued after a field trip evaluation form AND receipt or invoice** for transportation have been submitted. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit this paperwork in a timely manner. An evaluation sheet will be provided during the field trip.

Field trip fees: BFEC field trip fees will be waived for schools that are awarded a grant.

## For Questions or to Request / Submit Applications

Please direct all questions and requests for applications to Jill Kerkhoff at the email below. Applications may be downloaded and completed electronically or printed and completed by hand. Applications may be submitted via email, fax, or hard mail, and should be sent to:

Jill Kerkhoff

P.O.Box 508

Gambier, OH 43022

Phone: 740-427-5053

Fax: 740-427-5054

Email: [kerkhoffj@kenyon.edu](mailto:kerkhoffj@kenyon.edu)

# Field Trip Descriptions

(Refer to the calendars on pg 11—19 for exact dates and times of each lesson.)

## Mini Mysteries

**Grade Levels: Pre-K**

During this **1½ hour** adventure, students will explore the life cycle and food webs of ladybugs, bees, and a variety of little critters in our compost bins. Students will be active and get their hands dirty!



## Soil: Get the Scoop

**Grade Levels: 3, 4, 5**

This fast-paced, **2 hour lesson** includes hands-on examinations of soil color, soil texture, and permeability. We'll make soil ribbons and rainbows, test different soils for permeability, and then we'll attempt to make soil by weathering some rocks and adding all the other necessary ingredients.



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*"Thank you for such a wonderful field trip to the Brown Family Environmental Center. It was the perfect day to spend outside. The students had a great time and learned a lot."*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher  
Danville Elementary  
October 19, 2016*

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## Habitat Hop

**Grade Levels: K, 1, 2**

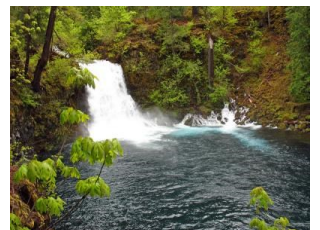
During this **2-hour lesson**, students will explore three components of a habitat: food, water, and shelter. As we venture from prairie, to forest, to our ponds, and our garden, students will meet some plants and discover some animals in these different habitats.



## Watershed Basics

**Grade Levels: 6, 7, 8**

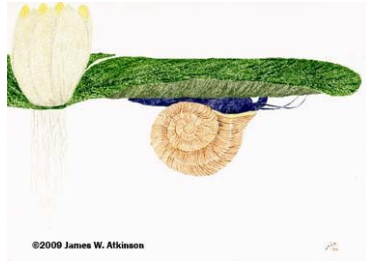
In this **2 hour lesson**, we will explore and use hands-on experiments to teach students about our local watershed. Students will use simple tests to determine the water quality of the Kokosing River. We will use simple chemical tests to examine temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and more. We will also identify macroinvertebrates to verify water quality.





**Aesthetic Zoology:  
Finding Beauty in  
Aquatic  
Invertebrates**

**Grade Levels:  
High School**



©2009 James W. Atkinson

Snail on a Lily Pad

During this **2-hour field trip**, students will explore the world of aquatic invertebrates through art and hands-on studies. Students will view an art exhibit at the BFEC, collect organisms from our ponds and a nearby stream, and use microscopes to view what they catch.

**SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY**  
to meet the artist!  
April 3 - 7 only

## Explorer Tours (Self-Guided Tours)



Explorer Tours offer great flexibility for local teachers. You, the classroom teacher, will lead your students on an excursion through our Wildlife Garden, prairie, forest, wetland, or riparian areas. You can teach your students about science, art, history, and more!

We can accommodate up to 50 students for Explorer Tours, and we ask for a 10:1 ratio of students to adults.

**We strongly recommend that all teachers attend one of our free teacher workshops before you bring students (see dates below).**

Cost for these field trips is \$20 per class. To register, contact Jill Kerkhoff at 740-427-5053, or send an email to [kerkhoffj@kenyon.edu](mailto:kerkhoffj@kenyon.edu).

We may have lunch facilities available for your group. If interested, ask about it when you register.

The BFEC offers teacher workshops to provide an orientation to our facilities and all available outdoor areas so you will be comfortable leading your own tour. Learn to identify a few plants, discover fun facts about them, and learn tips to keep students engaged and safe while outside.

### Teacher Workshop Dates and Times

March 25, 2017	9:00am — 12:00pm
May 6, 2017	9:00am — 12:00pm

## Free Workshop!

To register for a free workshop, call Noelle Jordan at 740-427-5052, or send an email to [jordan2@kenyon.edu](mailto:jordan2@kenyon.edu).

# March 2017

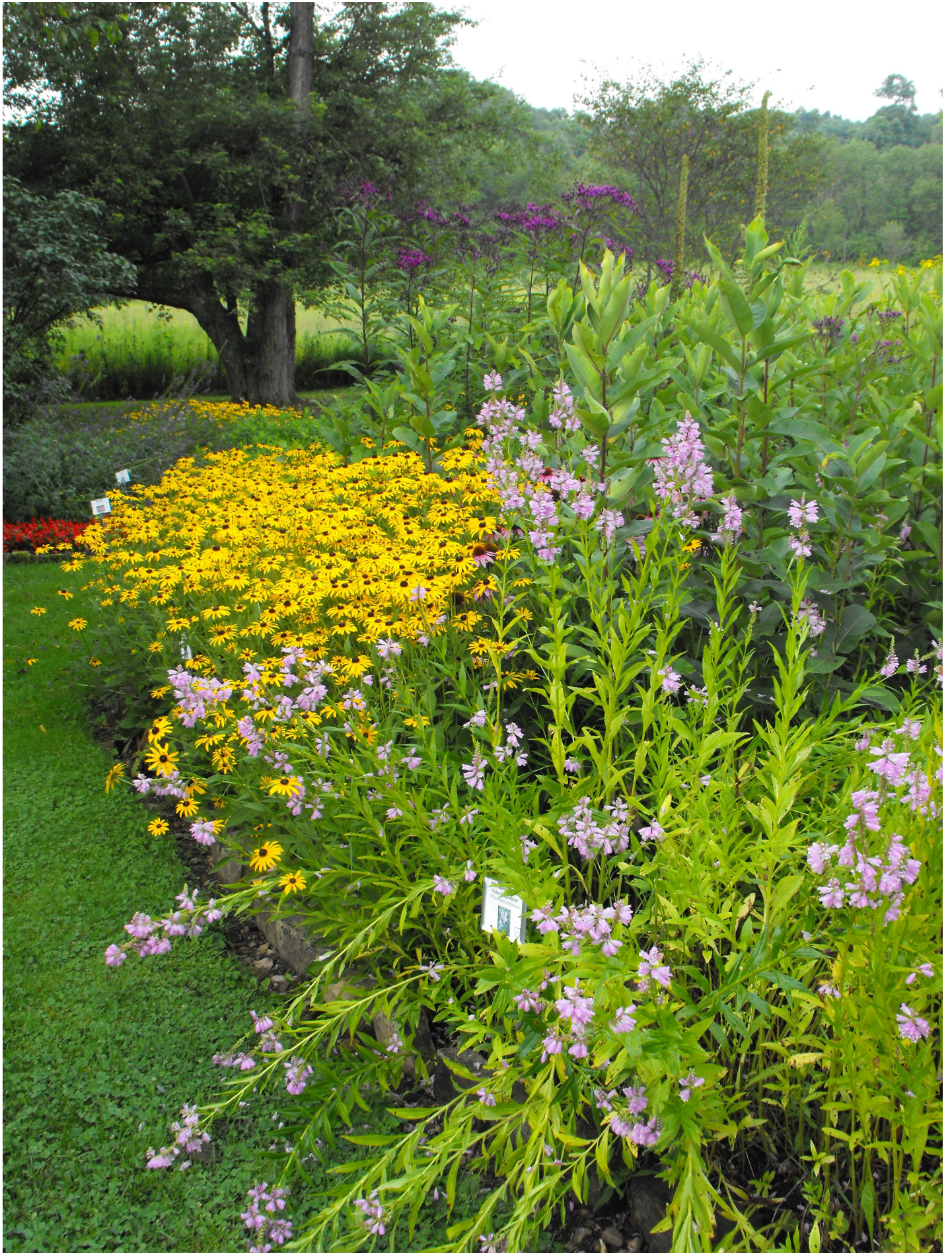
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	<p><b><u>Please note:</u></b></p> <p><u>March 27 through May 5</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>we can take 2 classes (up to 48 students) at one time</li> <li>times available are 9:00 - 11:00am &amp; 12:00 - 2:00pm</li> </ul>				18
19	20	21					25
26	27	28	29	30	31		
	Field Trips available: Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Watershed Basics, gr 6-8	Field Trips available: Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Watershed Basics, gr 6-8	Field Trips available: Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Watershed Basics, gr 6-8	Field Trips available: Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Watershed Basics, gr 6-8	Field Trips available: Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Watershed Basics, gr 6-8	Field Trips available: Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Watershed Basics, gr 6-8	

# April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Field Trips available: Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Watershed Basics, gr 6-8 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Watershed Basics, gr 6-8 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Watershed Basics, gr 6-8 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Watershed Basics, gr 6-8 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Watershed Basics, gr 6-8 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Watershed Basics, gr 6-8 Aesthetic Zoology, HS
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Field Trips available: Habitat Hop, gr K-2 Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	No Field Trips Today	Field Trips available: Habitat Hop, gr K-2 Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Habitat Hop, gr K-2 Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Habitat Hop, gr K-2 Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Habitat Hop, gr K-2 Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Aesthetic Zoology, HS
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>Easter</b>	Field Trips available: Habitat Hop, gr K-2 Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Habitat Hop, gr K-2 Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Habitat Hop, gr K-2 Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Habitat Hop, gr K-2 Soil Get the Scoop, gr 3-5 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	No Field Trips Today	<b>Keep It Wild: Earth Day at the BFEC</b>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Field Trips available: Mimi Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr K-2 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Mimi Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr K-2 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Mimi Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr K-2 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	Field Trips available: Mimi Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr K-2 Aesthetic Zoology, HS	No Field Trips Today	No Field Trips Today
	30					

# May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Teacher Workshop: Explorer Tours</b>
	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr K-2	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr K-2	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr K-2	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr K-2	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr K-2	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr 3-5 Watershed, gr 6-8	No Field Trips Today	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr 3-5 Watershed, gr 6-8	No Field Trips Today	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr 3-5 Watershed, gr 6-8	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr 3-5 Watershed, gr 6-8	No Field Trips Today	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr 3-5 Watershed, gr 6-8	No Field Trips Today	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr 3-5 Watershed, gr 6-8	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr 3-5 Watershed, gr 6-8	No Field Trips Today	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr 3-5 Watershed, gr 6-8	No Field Trips Today	Field Trips available: Mini Mysteries, Pre-K Habitat Hop, gr 3-5 Watershed, gr 6-8	
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# Keep It Wild: Earth Day at the BFEC

April 22, 2017

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Come “meet” many live animals, build bluebird boxes, and more!



## Ohio Wildlife Center

