



Brown Family
Environmental Center
at Kenyon College

Fall 2020

**Resources for
Classroom Teachers**

The Brown Family Environmental Center is happy to offer the following opportunities to support our local students this fall.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Noelle Jordan at jordan2@kenyon.edu, or at 740-427-5052.

You teach your class outside at the BFEC.

Instead of teaching your students inside in your classroom, teach your students outside at the BFEC. Our picnic pavilion (with a whiteboard) will be available, as well as our 9-mile trail system. We have installed a handicapped accessible portable toilet behind our Resource Center for your convenience.

Students and teachers will be expected to practice social distancing (sit/stand at least 6' apart) and wear masks if you must approach someone.

BFEC will reimburse the teacher for transportation expenses to/from the BFEC.

Time: You decide how much time to spend here.

Fee: Free

To schedule: email Jill Kerkhoff at kerkhoffj@kenyon.edu

Chat with a naturalist.

Your students will have live virtual access to a naturalist for 45-60 minutes to discuss a natural history, ecology, or sustainability topic. Students should be prepared with questions, and our naturalist will present information and answer as many questions as possible during the allotted time. Some of these topics correlate to resource videos on the BFEC YouTube channel (check page 3 of this document).

Time: 45-60 minutes

Fee: Free

To schedule: email Noelle Jordan at jordan2@kenyon.edu

Topics include:

- Ohio Wildlife – a general discussion about the variety of wildlife in Ohio
- Ohio Ecosystems – a general discussions of the different ecosystems found in Ohio and the ecosystems at the BFEC.
- Changing Landscapes: History of Land Use in Ohio
- Solar panels: How they work and why they are beneficial
- Renewable Energy – an overview of the different types of renewable energy
- Climate Change: What is it and should we care?
- Ohio Insects – an overview of the major groups of insects found in Ohio, including morphology and basic habitat information
- Invasive Plants: What they are and why they are bad
- Snakes! – an overview of these misunderstood critters with highlights of Rosie, the BFEC snake
- Turtles! – a general discussion of turtles with a focus on the turtles at the BFEC
- Rivers and streams – general information about our local watershed with a focus on the critters found in our local Kokosing River
- Soil – a discussion of the basic soil types, color, texture, permeability, and more
- Other topics as requested

Art & Nature Virtual Instruction

Your students will receive live virtual instruction from BFEC's Intern, Luke Hester. Luke graduated from Kenyon College in May 2020, with a double major in Studio Art and Art History. All supplies and materials will be distributed to the classroom teacher prior to the scheduled instruction time. Supplies and materials will be organized in student sets (24 of them) for easy distribution to students/parents. Some projects may require more than one session. See details below.

Time: 45-60 minutes

Fee: We are happy to offer these programs FREE of charge.

To schedule: We need a 3 week lead time for scheduling so we can procure supplies. Email Noelle Jordan at jordan2@kenyon.edu

- **Wildlife Water Color** – Students will learn the basic techniques for using watercolors, including essential terms (pigment, washes, etc.), brush maintenance, and the process of applying wet media to specific watercolor paper. The instructor will provide step by step instructions through the process of creating a watercolor painting of an Ohio bird.
 - 2 sessions (45-60 minutes each) will be required to complete this project.
- **Biological Illustration** - Students will use their “right” brain to make detailed pencil drawings of biological still life objects (skull, feather, animal fur, etc.) The instructor will teach a variety of techniques for using pencil, including essential terms (graphite, hatching, crosshatching etc.), and the major elements of design which include line, shape, value, texture, space. He will provide step by step instructions through the process of creating a biological illustration. You can provide input as we select the object to be used.
 - 2 sessions (45-60 minutes each) will be required to complete this project.
- **Landscape Painting** – Students will use tempura paints (washable) to create a landscape painting. The instructor will teach introductory landscape painting techniques, including essential terms (shades, hues, etc.), brush maintenance, mixing colors, basic atmospheric perspective, fore-/middle-/back-grounds, and focal points. He will then provide step by step instructions through the process of creating a landscape painting, including horizon line, perspective, etc.
 - 2 sessions (45-60 minutes each) will be required to complete this project.

Resource videos available on the BFEC YouTube channel:

The following pre-recorded videos are available on the BFEC YouTube channel. Many of these can be used in conjunction with “Chat with a Naturalist.” Video length varies; check each video.

We will continue to add to these resources this year, so keep checking the BFEC YouTube channel!

- Turtles of the BFEC
- Snacks with Snakes

Reserve an Activity Kit

The following kits are available for your classroom use for 2 weeks. The kit will be delivered by BFEC personnel to the school office and at the end of the 2 weeks, we will return to pick it up.

We will continue to add more Activity Kits, so call or email to see if we have additional kits available.

Time: 2 weeks

Fee: We are happy to provide these resources FREE of charge.

To schedule: email Noelle Jordan at jordan2@kenyon.edu

Kit topics:

- Owl Pellets – These items will become property of the classroom upon delivery. None of these items will need to be returned to the BFEC.
 - Owl pellets and bone charts (1 per student)
 - Owl Field Guides from ODNR, quantity 5
 - CD of Owl Calls from ODNR, quantity 1

For Teachers: Teacher Workshop at your school

BFEC personnel will come to your school and help teachers identify different ways that your schoolyard can be used to teach science. The workshop will include several science lessons specific to your schoolyard or nearby outdoor area, and pointers for keeping students safe and comfortable outside.

Time: 3 hours

Fee: Free

To schedule: email Noelle Jordan at jordan2@kenyon.edu