

Developing Expanded Information on a Local Environmental Resource



Introduction

The Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge is a 500-acre preserve in the knob land area bordering a stretch of the North Rolling Fork River near Danville, Kentucky. It includes five main trails (one over a knob), a bluebird trail with a dozen bluebird boxes, four ponds, a bird blind, an education center/pavilion, and an observation gazebo. The Refuge, which celebrated its fortieth anniversary in 2005, was developed as a non-profit organization and is open to all as a protected area for the enjoyment and study of nature. It is a valuable resource for Boyle and surrounding counties and for Centre College students, serving as an outdoor lab for classes in biology and ecology. Although always available to the public, the Refuge could be more frequently and effectively used if study materials, species information, and archival materials were developed, organized, and/or made more accessible to teachers, students at all levels, and the general public. This proposal sets out a way to achieve these goals with a group of four summer interns from Centre College.

Project Description

We propose to engage four interns for eight weeks (June 5- July 28, 2006) to complete the following tasks:

- Develop educational resources related to the core content in Kentucky schools (mandated by the Kentucky Education Reform Act) for teachers to use in preparing for and making visits to the Refuge. These “activity boxes” and links to relevant websites will provide a ready-made lesson plan and supporting materials and will help encourage teachers to take advantage of the Refuge as a teaching and learning resource. We propose two interns for this task: one to develop elementary school resources and one to develop middle and secondary school resources.
- Gather and catalog the archives of the Refuge in order to provide the materials for a complete history of its development and the people who have supported it over the years. This could include oral history segments from people who were involved with the opening of the Refuge in 1965. This intern can also help the president of the Refuge update the mailing list of members.
- Adapt and add to the species lists of flora and fauna that can be found at the Refuge. Some lists are already made, but need to be transferred to electronic media; e.g., posted on the Refuge’s website. Other lists may be incomplete and in need of expansion. This intern, who should be interested in taxonomy, can also develop seasonal templates for the Refuge newsletter and website; i.e., what flora and fauna to look for when you visit the Refuge in the winter, spring, summer, and fall.

Evaluation and Dissemination

The expectations for each intern are listed below. Evaluations will be based on the amount and quality of the results produced.

- Developing educational resources – For each intern, create about 15 “activity boxes” with at least one example in each of the following areas: birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, mammals, water quality, air quality, trees, wildflowers, grasses.
- Archives – Locate, identify, and catalog all Refuge materials currently housed at the Centre College Library, at the Education Center of the Refuge, and elsewhere. Provide technical support for oral history segments, if they can be developed. The goal is not for the intern to write a history of the Refuge but to gather the materials to facilitate the writing of that history and, perhaps, develop an outline and/or timeline of the Refuge’s development.
- Species lists – Locate species lists already developed and adapt for electronic media. Develop new species lists as needed. Develop seasonal templates for at least the following types of wildlife: birds, reptiles and amphibians, mammals, trees, and wildflowers.

All of the materials produced will be available or referred to on the Refuge website and/or in the Centre College Library. We expect that some of the activities could result in professional presentations for the student interns; e.g., Kentucky Academy of Science, Kentucky Science Teacher Association, etc.

Personal Statement

Rose-Marie Roessler will supervise all four interns, perhaps with help from the co-Education Directors and/or volunteers from the Refuge Board of Directors. Ms. Roessler is Visiting Instructor of Biology and Biology Laboratory Coordinator at Centre College. She has a B.S. in biology and a M.S. in aquatic biology from the University of Kentucky. She has been involved in the Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge since 1983, including sixteen years living at the Refuge as caretaker, twelve years on the Board of Directors, and as past Vice-President. She is also Vice President of CREEC (Clark’s Run Environmental and Educational Corporation), thereby involving Centre College students in water quality research on Clark’s Run in Danville. In addition, she is a member of the steering committee of Kentucky River Watershed Watch.

Budget

The salary cost for four interns at \$1,500 each will be \$6,000. The Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge has tentatively agreed to pay dorm room costs (approximately \$100 per month, up to \$800) for any interns whose home is too far away to commute.

Submitted by
Rose-Marie Roessler
Centre College
roessler@centre.edu
859-238-5311