

## Linking the Campus and Community through 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 and species information were developed, organized, and made more accessible to teachers, students at all levels, and the general public. This proposal requests \$700 for materials and equipment to support the achievement of these goals. It fits within two of the Campus-Community Partnership Grants priorities: 1) development of community partnerships with nonprofits representing underprivileged neighborhood organizations (public schools) and 2) creation of off-campus service learning opportunities with community partners (the Central Kentucky Wildlife and Refuge).

### Project Description

With the help of an ACS Student Development and Engagement Grant, we have engaged two interns (Centre College students) 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. The interns will be asked to develop resources for elementary, middle, and secondary school teachers and students.
- 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. One of the goals is to develop seasonal templates for the Refuge newsletter and website; i.e., what flora and fauna to look for when visiting the Refuge in winter, spring, summer, and fall.

We are requesting a grant of \$700, to be used as follows:

- \$300 for materials for up to 30 activity boxes
- \$400 for the purchase of a 5mp digital camera with a zoom lens to be used in developing the activity boxes and in documenting species for the species lists

Matching institutional/community resources include

- stipends for the interns (\$1,500 each), provided by an ACS Student Development and Engagement Grant to Centre College
- a dollar-for-dollar match of the money for activity box materials by the Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge
- lodging costs for one of the interns in a Centre College dormitory, paid for by the Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge (\$200)
- Laboratory space and the use of computers for the interns by Centre College

### **Evaluation and Dissemination**

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

- Developing educational resources – For each intern, create up to 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.
- Species lists – Locate species lists previously 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 at the Refuge and available or referred to on the Refuge website. 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. Links to the Refuge website, which will include information about the project’s results, could easily be made available to all ACS member schools.

### **Disclosure Statement**

Rose-Marie Roessler, Visiting Instructor of Biology and Biology Laboratory Coordinator at Centre College, will supervise the interns, with help from individuals connected with the Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge: J. P. and Jane Brantley, co-Education Directors, and Bettie Poland, President (she is also staff at Centre College). Ms. Roessler is also the Principal Investigator for two additional 2005-06 grants from the Associated Colleges of the South Environmental Initiative, both in Student Development and Engagement:

- Clark’s Run Watershed Research and Community Outreach
- Developing Expanded Information on a Local Environmental Resource

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