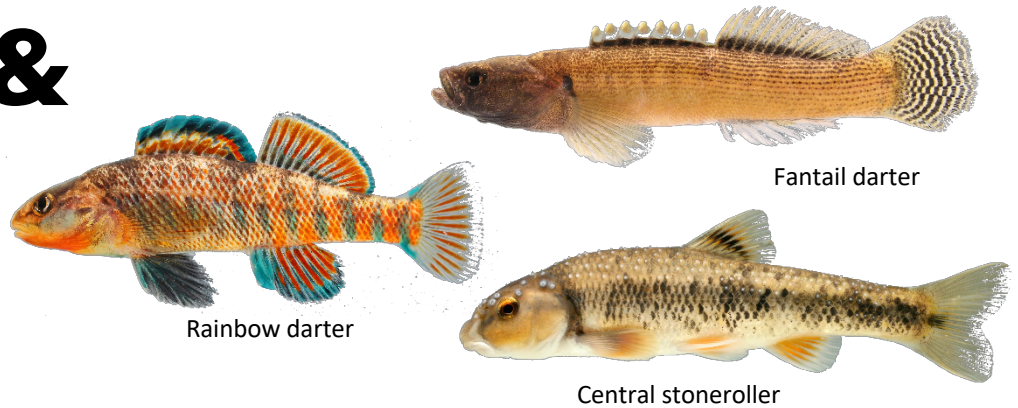


Woods & Waters News



Fall 2018

Grant Focuses on Forest—Water Quality Connection

Thanks to a grant from Kentucky River Authority, we have a sign at the nature preserve! The funding also enabled us to reach out to the surrounding neighborhoods and businesses about the importance of the forest in protecting water quality. We also have a fall crew working on pest plant removal, particularly bush honeysuckle along the upper slopes and winter creeper along the stream. And we are completing a short trail to one of the HUGE sycamores. Come out and see it!

Fish and the Kentucky River

Kentucky has more fish species than any other state except for Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia! The diversity of the state's landscape and history of watershed change, including the lack of glaciers in recent periods, led to this exceptional richness in fish. In 2014 there were 126 fish species in the Kentucky River system, one of the highest in the state. But it's not shocking considering the river starts in the mountains and travels across several different regions on its way to the Ohio River – the more varied the habitat the more fish species.

The lower Kentucky River, the largest part of this system, supports large fish like paddlefish that are up to 5 feet long and 150 pounds with a long paddle shaped snout. The river supports the blackstripe minnow as well, a little fish that lives among the plants at river's edge and in wetlands.

Conservation of freshwater habitat is important to this exceptional diversity. Each fish fills a niche - gar that keep small fish populations in check; shad graze on plankton; and drum keep crustacean and other invertebrates in balance.

Aquatic biologist Ronald Cicerello found six species of fish this year in Vaughn Branch, the stream that flows through our nature preserve. The presence of rainbow darter indicates that, while there has been disturbance to this stream, it remains pretty healthy. There's not much sediment in the water and there are plants and natural rock layers - good fish habitat. Rainbow darters prefer shallow riffles, like those found in Vaughn Branch. Blacknose dace and fantail darter, central stoneroller and creek chub were also found in the stream.

WWLT manages the forest of the preserve, ensuring that Vaughn Branch continues to support fish and a diversity of other aquatic life for many years to come.

Fish images thanks to Matthew Thomas

Can U Haiku Contest

Nature inspires art. WWLT works to conserve the gorgeous natural areas in our landscape. We believe that observing and writing about nature increases our appreciation of the natural world. So, join us and help others see your vision of natural beauty!

WWLT is sponsoring a Haiku contest for adults and Franklin County school children. In the spirit of the original Haiku and the mission of the land trust, the Haiku should focus on nature and follow the traditional format of 5-7-5 syllables. For each age group, first place will receive \$50, second place \$20, and third place \$10. Adults submit directly to us from the WWLT web site (up to 2 submissions) and school aged children will submit through their schools (check our web site for details).

Winners will be announced in early January. The first-place winner in each age group will have the opportunity to read the winning poem at the February WWLT poetry reading event. Take a walk and see what inspires you!



*Thanks to the Fall crew for removing pest plants—rain (snow) or shine! Thanks to **Earth Tools** for sponsoring this important work!*

Ben Rasp (taking the photo), Genna Petry, Chris Lynch, Nathan Smith and Quentin Bishop.



Bat Update!

Bats emit sonic “noises” and the patterns of these sounds are unique for each species. Bat noises were recorded at our nature preserve by Shelby Fulton, biologist at Office of Nature Preserves, over the course of a weekend. Four different bats are using this habitat— Big Brown, Eastern Red, Evening, and Hoary bats!

The *Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund* provided funding to establish the nature preserve. To learn more about IBCF and the work that they fund throughout the state, visit knlt.org/ibcf.

Eastern red bat image by Price Sewell.

Get Creative with Giving!

Designate WWLT on your Kroger card or on Amazon Smile and these companies donate to us based on your purchases--at no additional cost to you. It's easy!

Join WWLT in protecting forests and streams in the lower Kentucky River watershed by making a tax-deductible donation.

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2018 HIGHLIGHTS

500 CONSERVED
ACRES
MONITORED



884 VOLUNTEER
HOURS
WORKED



5.5 RIVER
MILES
PROTECTED

