

# Woods & Waters News

Butterflies | LTA Accreditation | Pest Plant Removal

Spicebush Swallowtail

## Land Extravaganza September 12

Join us on Saturday, September 12 for Extravaganza 2015! This year we will be at the beautiful farm of Don Stosberg and Ida Palmer-Ball. The festivities will begin at 5pm with an optional hike or creek exploration program followed by dinner, a live auction, and dancing.

## Wine Tasting Aug. 19

Capital Cellars Wine and Spirits Cafe Market will host a wine tasting to benefit the Land Trust on Wednesday, August 19 from 5pm to 7pm.

Please stop by and sample woods and waters themed wines chosen by proprietor Rachael Peake. Advance tickets for Extravaganza will be available at the event.

## Butterflies

Butterflies are in the news. The decline of the Monarch butterfly has helped focus attention on the effect of habitat loss on these threatened butterflies as well as other native butterflies. And what a story! Monarchs fly from as far as middle Canada to a small area in southern Mexico over several generations in a single year. In response to the decline of this species, over 240 small gardens of Monarch-preferred plants or waystations, have been established in Kentucky alone.

The role of butterflies and moths in pollination and their connections to their natural habitat was the focus of Ellis Lauder milk's presentation for the natural history series hosted by WWLT and Paul Sawyer Public Library this spring. There are 150 species of butterflies in Kentucky and a staggering 2,350 species of moths! Butterflies use plants as both food source (mostly nectar) and for laying eggs, so the lives of native plants and butterflies are intertwined.

Many of us remember when there were more fields of milkweeds, ironweed and native sunflowers that signaled the end of summer. Not only are there fewer open fields but, as Ellis noted, with new pesticides, fewer native plants grow among and around the edges of agricultural fields, particularly in the Midwest, so there is less food support for butterflies.



Eastern Tailed Blue

## Red Fox

Who does not appreciate the beauty of red foxes with their distinctive red coats, black legs and bushy red tails tipped with white? They are relatively common, though not often seen since they are primarily nocturnal and prefer to hunt at night. If you are lucky you may see them gliding across the road in the early morning or evenings. They feed primarily on mice and voles. As omnivores they will also eat what's readily available, including insects, frogs and berries. You can play a vital role for our land trust by donating between \$250 and \$500 and becoming a member of our Red Fox Society.

## Thank You!

Thank you Josephine Sculpture Park and Completely Kentucky for loaning us a tent and tables for our display at this year's River Blast in Frankfort.

Thank you to all who have given so generously in our recent fundraising campaign. We raised over \$2,500! Thank you!

## Butterflies, cont.

More information on butterfly conservation is at The Xeres Society, [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org). And to find out about waystations check out Kentucky chapters of Wild Ones and Garden Clubs of America.

## LTA Accreditation

WWLT is preparing its application for accreditation by the national Land Trust Alliance (LTA).

As part of the assessment process, we recently completed a financial review from an independent CPA. This review was funded as part of a \$7,500 accreditation preparation grant from LTA. This fall, we will conduct a strategic planning process with the help of a \$2,500 donation from one of our members.

We are currently working on standards which cover easement drafting, record keeping, and legal review; tax code and appraisal issues; and monitoring and funding for land stewardship. We are registered for the next available accreditation round. Our application will be submitted in the spring of 2016; if successful, we will receive accreditation in 2017.

Monarch



## Spring Pest Plant Removal A Success!

WWLT's inaugural season of pest plant removal work treated approximately 200 acres in Franklin, Henry, and Shelby counties. The land trust employed a small team of people including residents of the men and women's shelters to pull garlic mustard and other invasive plants under the direction of supervisor John Rodgers. We look forward to providing a fall treatment service focused on autumn olive. If you are interested in the program please contact us!

*Landowners Jane Bogardus and Karen Carey on the restoration service:*

Having the crew of 5 people come pull garlic mustard was an immense help to us and a great improvement to the land! First of all, we now know much better where the garlic mustard is clustered and will be able to go back to those areas again next spring. Having a crew of workers made the task of eradicating garlic mustard seem possible, whereas before it had seemed insurmountable. I was able to work along side the crew and learned from John about some plants that are growing on our property that I did not know before. I enjoyed so much being at eye level with the many tiny spring flowers, like wood sorrel, spring beauties, toothwort, etc. Thanks again to the Woods and Waters Land Trust for this valuable service.

Eastern Comma



## Ongoing Projects

Conservation Easements require a lot of careful planning and consideration. WWLT is currently working with landowners on the following sites:

### Franklin County

*70 acres of forest along Benson Creek.* This beautiful tract includes stream frontage on Benson Creek, a tributary of the Kentucky River.

*Approx. 55 acres of field and forest in the northern part of Franklin County.* This tract is adjacent to a KDFWR Wildlife Management Area and will add to a large block of protected land.

*Approx. 100 acres of mature forest.* This tract includes some of the oldest forest in the area with towering trees and a diverse understory.

*44 acres of forest within Frankfort city limits.* This forested ravine is home to Braun's rockcress, a federally listed plant. 85% of the world's population of this rare plant is in Franklin County.

### Shelby County

*40 acres of field and forest near the Franklin/Shelby county line.* Mink Run flows through this tract of diverse habitats.

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## Kroger Community Rewards Program

Woods and Waters Land Trust has earned a whopping \$500 over the past year in community donations from the Kroger Rewards program!! Thanks to all of you who have participated. To continue your support through this program, you will need to renew your organization preference in the Community Rewards Program at [kroger.com](http://kroger.com) (this is also where you can sign up if you are new to the program). Kroger will donate funds to WWLT for every purchase you make with your Kroger card. This doesn't affect your use of points or other card benefits.

That's it - you have supported land conservation in your community. Thank you!

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**Join WWLT**, a non-profit organization protecting the forested lands and riparian areas in the lower Kentucky River watershed and promoting sustainable land use in the region for the benefit of present and future generations. To join, complete and mail this form, along with your check to the above address.

\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$250

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