



**JUNIOR
BOARD
ANNUAL
REPORT**



Table of Contents

- 02 Meet the Junior Board
- 04 List of Meetings
- 04 Junior Board Events and Photo Gallery
- 09 Our "Big Project"

Meet the Junior Board!

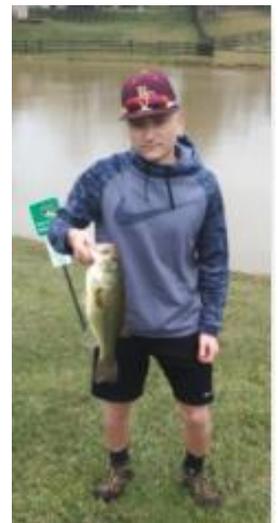


Kim Furlong, Secretary/Treasurer

Kim is a junior at Boone County High School. Aside from being involved with band, piano, and the swim team, she is passionate about environmental science! She discovered her interest by being a counselor for BCCD's Conservation Kids Camp for several years, as well as taking environmental science classes through Thomas More University. She hopes to attend the University of Kentucky for environmental engineering and piano performance after she graduates. She is so excited to be a part of the Junior Board this year!

Cameron Kuehn, Chair

I am 17 and a senior at Cooper High School. After graduation, I will be attending EKU, majoring in Conservation Management, with a minor in law enforcement. I'm an avid angler that is committed to catch and release practices. I am also committed to keeping water- ways clean and wildlife protected. In my spare time, I like to kayak, hike, fish, and take in the beauty of nature everything it has to offer.

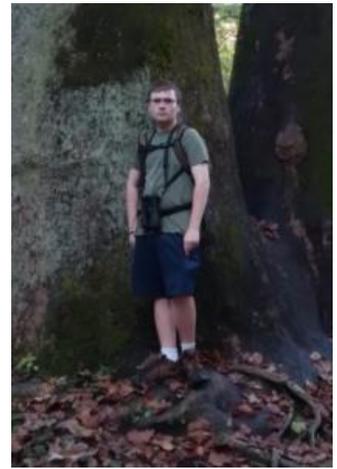


Emma Linkugel

I am a junior at Saint Henry High School, where I participate in many activities like NHS, Latin club, and art club. Along with making art, my favorite hobby is spending time outdoors. I love visiting the creek behind my house and I am enjoying my work with Boone County Parks.

Andrew Worrall, Vice Chair

My name is Andrew Worrall and I am a 15 year old nature enthusiast, herper, and fisherman in Kentucky. I am currently a sophomore at Covington catholic high school.



Connor Gumm

Connor is 16 and he is a sophomore at Villa Madonna Academy. He enjoys hiking around creeks and finding animals. Connor runs track and cross country for Villa in the spring and fall.

Ava Reed

My name is Ava Reed. I'm a sophomore at Cooper High School this year. Biology and conservation fascinate me and I love to learn anything I can about the topics. In my free time I often go down to the creek to look for all sorts of animals. I can't wait to see what awesome experiences the Junior Board will bring!



Kate McBride

Hi, my name is Kate McBride. I am a senior at Notre Dame Academy. I am interested in marine science and environmental science.

List of Junior Board Meetings

- Wednesday, Oct 18 2021, 6-8 pm, Boone Woods
- Wednesday, Nov 10 2021, 6-8 pm, BCCDKY Office
- Wednesday, Dec 8 2021, 6-8 pm, BCCDKY Office
- Wednesday, Jan 12 2022, 6-8 pm, BCCDKY Office
- Wednesday, Feb 9 2022, 6-8 pm, BCCDKY Office
- Wednesday, Mar 9 2022, 6-8 pm, BCCDKY Office
- Wednesday, Apr 13 2022, 6-8 pm, BCCDKY Office
- Friday, May 3 2022, 9-afternoon, Camp Ernst Lake

Junior Board Events

We've had so many great service and volunteer opportunities through the Junior Board. Here's some events we were able to get involved in!

Reforest NKY Tree Planting at Sergeant Park (Oct 24, 2021)

We got to spend a beautiful morning at Sargent Park planting tree saplings. The Junior Board worked along with NKU interns to learn the proper ways to plant and stake trees.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event (Nov 6, 2021)

The Junior Board helped with directing traffic and disposing of dangerous household items such as aerosol, batteries, light bulbs, and paint.



Night Hike at Middle Creek Park (Nov 12, 2021)

The Junior Board and some young wildlife enthusiasts headed into the woods at Middle Creek to search under logs for bugs, practice owl calls, and watch for bats.

Boone Conservancy Fall Celebration Dinner (Nov 13, 2021)

The Junior board members served food to guests at a fundraiser dinner for the Boone Conservancy.

Owl Prowl (Jan 28, 2022)

The Junior Board participated in a program from Raptor Inc, including several species of live owls and educational demonstrations from owl experts.

Salamander Search at Middle Creek (Mar 19, 2022)

The Junior Board helped kids and their families to look for salamanders at Middle Creek Park. The search was very successful: we found all the species we could've expected. The highlight of the day was the incredible find of a Northern Slimy Salamander!



Earth Day Stream Clean up (Apr 23, 2022)

The Junior Board helped pick up and bag creek trash at Sperti Park. We also found lots of toads and other wildlife!

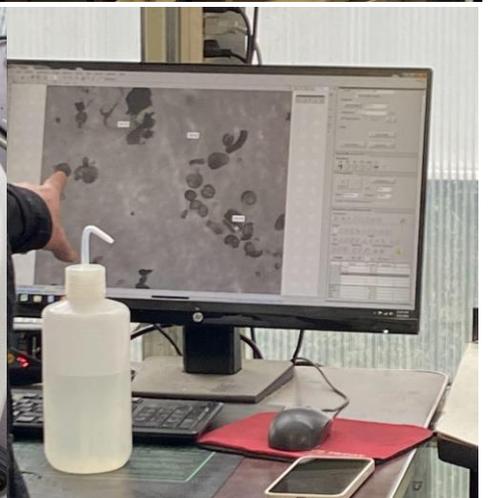
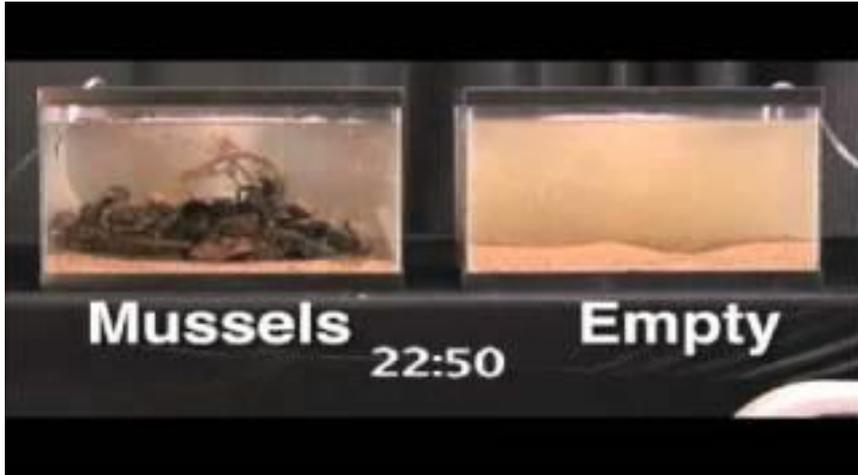
Christmas Tree Fish Habitat Project (Mar 22, 2022)

The Junior Board recycled Christmas trees (the supply of used trees was plentiful!) by tying them with twine to concrete weights and dropping them into Camp Ernst Lake. Once the trees are at the bottom of the lake, the branches serve as fish habitat for laying eggs and hiding from predators.



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Mollusk Conservation Center (Apr 21, 2022)

The Junior Board took a fun field trip to Frankfort to learn about freshwater mussels, or mollusks. The tour staff showed us their experiments on how efficiently mussels can filter water (see picture below!) We also learned how adult mussels use colorful, moving baits to attract fish, because mussel larvae need to attach to a fish's gills to grow. We got to see tanks of bright green algae, many different types of mussel host fish, collections of mussel shells, a room full of biology lab equipment, and a hellbender!



The Junior Board “Big Project”

As the first ever Boone County Conservation Junior Board, we wanted to accomplish one big project to show the public what we do, and to make a noticeable difference in our county. To brainstorm project ideas that would accomplish these goals, each Junior Board member did research and presented a project proposal to their peers. From there, we voted on our favorites and had an educated, in-depth discussion on which idea we wanted to follow through with. We considered factors such as volunteers needed, timeline, relevance to conservation, community impact, and cost.

After much debate, we decided to take on the steep, eroded banks at Camp Ernst Lake by installing coir logs as bank stabilizers. The coir logs are made of woven coconut fibers surrounded by netting. Their physical presence between the soil edge and the water stops soil from washing into the water during big rains and floods. The coir logs can even be seeded: even after they decompose in about 5 years, they will leave behind native plants to hold down the soil. We will also be planting saplings in especially steep bank areas, so that their roots will help keep soil in place.

The most significant appeal of the coir log project was the real community impact. Northern Kentucky has a large population of fishermen, and Camp Ernst Lake has always been a popular fishing spot. But over time, the banks became very eroded because of boats’ wakes, excessive run-off and flooding, and the absence of tree roots around the lake. In many spots, there are 4-5 foot drops from the grass down to the water. Not only are these conditions dangerous for park visitors who like to walk along or sit on the bank, the tall dirt walls also drop pieces of soil into the lake and pollute the water quality. The Junior Board members were concerned about these problems, and we chose the coir logs because they were the most helpful solution.

As the junior board is wrapping up for the year, we are in the final stages of executing our coir log installation and tree planting at Camp Ernst. We are excited to see it through, and we’ve learned so many real-world logistic, leadership, and planning skills throughout the whole process. We would like to give a big thank you to Boone County Parks for funding our project, and to the BCCDKY staff for helping and encouraging us through the whole process. It’s been a great year!

