

Red River Gorge

Volume 4, Issue 2 – May, June, July 2012

Upcoming Events

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf/>



Saturday, May 12

Herpetology Olympics*

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Gladie Center



**Campground Programs
Memorial Day to Labor Day**

Koomer Ridge (Red River Gorge)

Free for all campers and visitors

Twin Knobs and Zilpo (Cave Run Lake)

Free for campers, day use fee for visitors

Check with the Gladie Center for schedules



Saturday, June 2

Kids' Fishing Derby

8 a.m. to noon

Indian Creek

*Free event at Gladie complements Herpetology Weekend at Natural Bridge State Park: 606-663-2214

News

Meet the NVUM Crew

While visiting the Daniel Boone National Forest this year, you may encounter some Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns with clipboards in hand. These SCA interns are conducting National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) surveys.

Every 5 years, the Forest Service polls the public with a variety of questions. Visitors may be asked where they are from, how they spend time in the National Forest, and how they have enjoyed their visit. These surveys, according to Pam Williams, an SCA intern, are to “gauge how people are recreating in the National Forest.” The U.S. Forest Service depends on the input of visitors to become informed on what needs improvement.



Pam and Greg conducting a NVUM survey

In order to be unbiased, NVUM surveys must collect a variety of demographic and visitor use information. Therefore, surveys have been developed for overnight, day, and wilderness use. “The surveys usually take about ten to fifteen minutes,” says Williams. If you happen to come across these SCA interns, please take some time and share your National Forest experience. Your input could be what makes the difference for future visitors.

Meet the Forest Service

New Gladie Director

In late May, the Daniel Boone National Forest will welcome Mark Engler, the new Director of the Gladie Learning Center.

Mark has been living in Norway writing resource management plans as a resource advisor. His past work experience includes time as a recreation manager on the Wind River Ranger District of the Shoshone NF in Wyoming. He also worked there as a GIS coordinator. Other past employment includes working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Rhode Island as well as serving in various seasonal positions with the Forest Service around the country.



Mark will be joined by his wife and two daughters when they arrive from Norway at the end of June.

Join Our Team

Volunteer in one of the most scenic areas of Kentucky – the Daniel Boone National Forest! Join the team as a volunteer at the USDA Forest Service’s Gladie Learning Center or Morehead Visitors Center.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Help staff the visitor center.
- Conduct educational programs.
- Work outdoors on trails.

Contact Eric Dodd for more information:
edodd@fs.fed.us or (606) 663-8100 x101

From Our Backcountry Ranger

Summer Blooms

Two of the most popular “wildflowers” in the Red River Gorge are actually flowering shrubs, mountain laurel and rhododendron.

Normally, mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) blooms in the hills of eastern Kentucky between late May and early June. However, this year they have begun to show life in late April.

Mountain laurel flowers are shaped like dainty pink and white petticoats, that dance in rounded clusters at the tips of the branches. Its evergreen leaves are smaller and thinner than rhododendron leaves.



The large rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) blooms in late June, but much like other flora, it will most likely bloom three weeks early this year.

Its big, showy flower clusters are made up of open, funnel-shaped flowers with 5 white or pinkish petals, and a bold splash of green with yellow spots on the upper petal.



Contact Us

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southern Region