

Kentucky Ornithological Society



Spring 2026 Meeting

[Berea Forestry Outreach Center](#)

April 24-26, 2026

Registration: \$10.00 (\$3.00 for students)

All times are Eastern Daylight Time

Friday, April 24

- 1:00 p.m.** **Field Trips** departing from front of Berea Forestry Outreach Center
- David Bailey - Owsley Fork Reservoir
- 3:00 p.m.** **Field Trips** departing from front of Berea Forestry Outreach Center
- Rebecca Bates & Rob Foster - Berea College Forest
- 6:00 p.m.** **Meeting Registration and Silent Auction at Berea Forestry Outreach Center**
- 7:00 p.m.** **Evening Meeting**
- Libby Megna - Welcome & Introductions
 - Steve Kistler - Bird Quiz
 - Speaker: Pam Spaulding, "Chickens, Grouse, and Cranes...Oh My!"
 - Silent Auction will remain open for 15 minutes after the meeting's conclusion

Saturday, April 25

- 7:45 a.m.** **Field Trips** departing from front of Berea Forestry Outreach Center
- Kyle Bixler - Lily Mountain Preserve
- 8:00 a.m.** **Field Trips** departing from front of Berea Forestry Outreach Center
- Rebecca Bates & Rob Foster - Owsley Fork
 - Ronan O'Carra - Berea College Forest
 - Michael Patton - Brushy Fork Trail
- 1:00 p.m.** **Field Trips** departing from front of Berea Forestry Outreach Center
- Rebecca Bates & Rob Foster - Anglin Falls, **registration and carpooling necessary**, see trip description for details
 - Joyce Bender, David Bailey, Ronan O'Carra - iNaturalist hike, Burn Loop Trail
- 6:30 p.m.** **Meeting Registration and Silent Auction at Berea Forestry Outreach Center**
- 7:00 p.m.** **Evening Meeting**
- David Bailey – Welcome, Field Trip Bird Tally, and Meeting Business
 - **Keynote Speaker:** Greg Abernathy - Executive Director of Kentucky Natural Lands Trust, "Wildlands of Central Appalachia"
 - Silent Auction will conclude 10 minutes after the conclusion of the meeting

Sunday, April 26

- 8:00 a.m.** **Field Trips** departure location announced at the end of Saturday's meeting.
- Rebecca Bates & Rob Foster - Big Sit & photography session, Boxend (131 Lorraine Court, Berea)
 - Brad Everhart - Lake Linville

Friday Speaker: Pam Spaulding

Join Pam Spaulding on a photographic journey into the heart of spring, where prairie-chickens and grouse perform their ancient dances upon the leks. As winter loosens its grip, thousands of migrating Sandhill Cranes gather along the timeless flow of Nebraska's Platte River. Witness the rituals of these four wild species--and if you haven't seen them in person, you'll want to next year.

Keynote (Saturday) Speaker: Greg Abernathy



Short Bio:

Greg is the Executive Director of Kentucky Natural Lands Trust, a conservation nonprofit working to safeguard biodiversity, stabilize the climate and support communities, with a primary focus in Central Appalachia. He has more than 25 years of experience as a conservation practitioner having helped protect tens of thousands of acres of wildlands. Greg has extensive knowledge of large landscape conservation including land acquisition, partnership collaboration, fundraising, planning, spatial data analysis/modeling and outreach/communications. He has worked for private, government and nonprofit organizations throughout the Appalachian region. Greg's background is in forest ecology, geographic information systems (GIS) and design. He holds a B.S. in Natural Resources Conservation and an M.S. in Forestry from the University of Kentucky. Greg is the lead editor, co-author, cartographer and illustrator of Kentucky's Natural Heritage: An Illustrated Guide to Biodiversity. Compiled by the Kentucky Natural Heritage Program, the book is an essential reference to the nature of the commonwealth and presents a persuasive case for biodiversity conservation.

Talk Overview:

Wildlands of Central Appalachia

Greg will talk about the extraordinary biodiversity of Kentucky with a focus on Central Appalachia and the efforts underway to safeguard this region.

Detailed descriptions of trips

Friday, April 24, 1:00 pm

David Bailey - [Owsley Fork Reservoir](#) - We will bird by walking along roads and around boat ramps, potentially driving briefly from one side of the reservoir to the other to bird both sides by foot. We'll keep an eye out for lingering waterfowl but will spend most of the time focusing on warblers, vireos, and other passerines in the trees around the lake.

Friday, April 24, 3:00 pm

Rebecca Bates & Rob Foster - [Berea College Forest](#) - Meet at the Outreach Center doors. Depending on weather and participants' desire we will either do a short loop of about half a mile over mostly level terrain, or a slightly more strenuous loop, that requires an initial uphill climb then downhill and leveling out on the Learn & Burn Trail, about 1.25 miles. We will target migrating songbirds and possibly raptors. Restrooms and water fountain available at the Outreach Center.

Saturday, April 25, 7:45 am

Kyle Bixler - [Lily Mountain Preserve](#) - We will meet at the outreach center at 7:45 (earlier than the other groups) and caravan to the Lily Mountain Preserve. The preserve is about 25-30 minutes drive from the outreach center. We will be hiking a side loop (1-1.5 miles) and other lower trails through diverse habitats (Hardwood, scrub, prairie). We should encounter quite a diversity of species of warblers, vireos and other passerines here. The trails we will be hiking are easy to moderate with some hills on parts of the trails. The preserve has parking and a port-a-potty at the trail entrance.

Saturday, April 25, 8:00 am

Rebecca Bates & Rob Foster - [Owsley Fork Reservoir](#). Meet at the Outreach Center. Once at the reservoir's boat ramp, try to park at the top of the lot, so anglers have space to launch their boats. We will walk Radford Hollow Road (paved and level) and maybe a fairly level logging road at the end of Radford Hollow, totaling about 1.25 to 1.5 miles. After looking for waterfowl from the ramp, we will look for migrating songbirds and waders from the road. There is also a parking area on the other side of the reservoir in Jackson County. One can park there and walk the one-lane dirt road (Owsley Fork Road) for some good views of the water. Be aware that the area at the end of that road is sometimes used as an informal shooting range. No restrooms are available at Owsley.

Saturday, April 25, 8:00 am

Michael Patton - [Brushy Fork Trail](#) - Meet at the Outreach Center and caravan to the [trail parking lot](#). We will be walking the easy trail loop which will be about 1.5 miles on mostly level ground. We will be focused on migrating songbirds in the forest, but there is some early successional habitat and a bit of grasslands to bird as well.

Saturday, April 25, 8:00 am

Ronan O'Carra - [Berea College Forest](#) - Meet at the Outreach Center. We will be birding the lower reaches of Berea College Forest on forest trails that are uneven but not steep. We will do multiple loops out and back from the Outreach center allowing for varied length of distance and time. We will also include a road walk up to the local reservoir across the road from the parking

lot which should include some more open habitat birds. Restrooms and water fountain available at the Outreach Center.

Saturday, April 25, 1:00 pm

Rebecca Bates & Rob Foster - Anglin Falls, **registration and carpooling necessary. UPDATE: this trip is currently full.** Anglin Falls preserve is a closed area that Berea College is restoring. Because of limited access, participants are asked to sign up beforehand and plan on carpooling from the Forestry Outreach Center. The site includes an uneven dirt (sometimes mud) 1.6 mile trail (there-and-back total) that gains about 250 feet to its terminus at a 75-foot waterfall. In some years the area has spectacular spring wildflowers (trillium, trout lilies, occasionally lady's slipper). It is also a good place for migrating songbirds. No restrooms are available at Anglin Falls.

Saturday, April 25, 1:00 pm

Joyce Bender, David Bailey, Ronan O'Carra - iNaturalist hike at "Burn Loop" Trail. We will introduce participants to the iNaturalist app that will help in identifying plants, insects and fungi. We will hike the Burn Loop of Berea College Forest and use the app to identify spring flowers and any other wildlife we come across. The Burn Loop is an uneven trail with small inclines but we will be going at a slow pace. Please download the app to your phone and sign up for an account prior to the outing. We will meet at the Forest Outreach Center and walk a bike trail to the burn unit for an easier route. Restrooms and water fountain available at the Outreach Center.

Sunday, April 26, 8:00 am

Rebecca Bates & Rob Foster - Big Sit & photography session, Boxend (131 Lorraine Court, Berea). Our back porch is well positioned for morning photography of birds foraging in our yard and visiting our water feature. The yard backs up on the Berea Cemetery with some of the oldest oaks in town. So, at this time of year we usually have a good mix of resident and migrating birds, often including Cape May Warblers in our spruce trees. Feel free to drop by anytime, park in our driveway or on the street. Then climb the steps at the top of the driveway to our porch. (Rebecca's cell number: 859-200-9391)

Sunday, April 26, 8:00 am

Brad Everhart - [Lake Linville](#) - Easy walking, no hills, approximately 1.5 -2 miles total. Depending on possible recent rains, some initial parts along the shoreline may be slightly muddy, so appropriate footwear recommended. We will be starting off at the Marina viewing any lingering waterfowl such as Canada Geese, Teal, and Wood Ducks, along with Heron and Wilson's Snipe, possible shorebirds such as Killdeer, Sandpipers, and Yellowlegs, We'll walk North up along the creek to Mt Zion Church Road and then swing south along Barnett Rd. Possible birds include Osprey, Bald Eagles, Vireos, Warblers, Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Kingbirds, Orioles, Swallows and Kingfishers. Depending on time, on the way back up Barnett Rd we may walk a bit north through Lake Linville Park along the treeline and Renfro Creek.

Eating In Berea

Fast Food Restaurants are available off of I-75 at both exit 76 and 77.

Local Restaurants

On the College Square - Papaleno's (College Pizza Joint), Dona Maria's Tamales (Authentic Mexican), Burt's Speakcheesey (Expensive Grilled Cheese), Boone Tavern "Crafted" (Upscale)

Around Town – Honeysuckle and Bourbon (Upscale, located at the former Churchill Weaver's), Rio Grande (Tex-Mex), Native Bagel and Nightjar (the only restaurant in town named for a bird!), Apollo Pizza (located in Old Town)