



November 2016 Newsletter



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit [www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com)

For more information

### FOX (Families Outside exploring)

Sat., November 5  
9:00 am - 11:30 am  
at the Forest

### Outdoor Skills - Orienteering I

Sat., November 12  
9:00 am - noon  
at the Forest

### Free Guided Hike - in Honor of Veteran's Day

Sat., November 12  
9:00 am  
at the Forest

### Free Guided Hike Coral Ridge/Yost Ridge

Sat., November 19  
9:00 am  
at the Forest

### Children and Nature Summit

Tue., November 15  
1:00 pm - 4 pm  
Shawnee Golf Course Clubhouse  
Details at [www.wildernesslouisville.org](http://www.wildernesslouisville.org)

Wilderness Louisville, Inc., is the non-profit working to connect all Louisville residents to nature by supporting your community forest, the 6,600 acre Jefferson Memorial Forest, and other Louisville natural areas.

### Lend YOUR voice to the local effort to connect children to nature.

In July, Wilderness Louisville, Inc. joined others such as the YMCA, Bernheim Forest, Compassionate Louisville, Cultivating Connections and Choose Well Communities to bring Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods and Vitamin N, to Louisville. Sessions at Bernheim and Iroquois Park focused on convening community members to discuss how Louisville can become a truly nature-rich city that connects more of our citizens to nature.

You can contribute to this discussion by signing up to attend a free summit on **November 15th** at the Shawnee Golf Course Clubhouse from **1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**. You can join a facilitated discussion focused on identifying steps to diversify access to nature; build relationships between nature-serving organizations, community leaders and advocates; and generate pledges to continue involvement in a nature network.

Space is limited so sign up now! Details at [www.wildernesslouisville.org](http://www.wildernesslouisville.org)

### Wilderness Louisville Forest Adventure 2016 - So many new faces!!

Please join us in thanking Quest Outdoors for supporting the 2nd annual Wilderness Louisville Forest Adventure. Sunny fall weather brought out a beautiful cross section of our community to enjoy fall color and outdoor activities. Continued on next page...



## Board of Directors

Theresa Zawacki, Chair

Lynn Rippy, Vice Chair

Dan Caudill, Treasurer

Linda Witt, Secretary

Alicia Ariatti

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Tom Armstrong

StVon Edwards

Joanna Erny

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Seve Ghose, Ex-officio

Bennett Knox, Exec. Dir.



Forest Adventure Continued...

Relic was on hand to entertain the crowd; children had their choice between decorating a pumpkin or making a mud pie; and more than one person made it to the top of the Alpine Tower! Be sure to mark your calendar for next year: always the **3rd Saturday in October**.

## **Board Member Spotlight—Linda Witt**

Nature plays a very important role in Linda Witt's life and this is why she is excited about being a part of Wilderness Louisville. Outside of serving on the board, Linda is the Coordinator of the Louisville Education and Employment Partnership (LEEP), a collaborative effort between JCPS and other partners providing assistance to nearly a thousand students per year to ensure they remain in school, graduate and successfully transition from high school to postsecondary education, employment or military service. Linda brings a wealth of outdoor-related experiences to Wilderness Louisville, many of which involve sharing the importance of youth being engaged in outdoor settings. She has led students on rafting and canoeing trips in North and Missouri and she has been a director of resident camps for inner city youth involved in leadership programs.

As LEEP Coordinator, Linda has launched an outdoor education program that demonstrates the value of Jefferson Memorial Forest. As part of the program, high school students participate in teambuilding exercises at the Forest and led by JMF staff. The objective is use of active outdoor education to enhance teambuilding and nature experiences. JMF-led teambuilding activities provide challenging experiences and enhance cooperation, creative problem solving, appreciation of diversity, and leadership skills.

Linda believes "By having students participate in teambuilding activities and challenges, it provides, not just an opportunity for students to be engaged, but for staff to understand and appreciate the different strengths of their students in a cooperative leadership environment. Students come together and learn about each other and their teachers in a fun way. Hearing students laughing and having fun in the woods, makes my heart happy."

Linda lives in Georgetown, Indiana on 11 wooded acres, with a creek out her back door where she can drop her canoe in and paddle around the bend to catch the sunsets.



## **Our Mission:**

To strengthen natural areas including Jefferson Memorial Forest by creating, restoring and stewarding these assets to promote economic development, educate and unite a diverse community of families, volunteers and advocates, and provide equitable opportunities for all citizens and visitors to experience nature.

Incorporated in 2013, Wilderness Louisville, Inc. is one the non-profits that raise funds in support of improvements to the wonderfully varied system of public parks and open space managed by Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation.