



December 2016 Newsletter



### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

For more information

#### Free Guided Hike Hiker's Choice!

Sat., December 17

9:00 am

Meet at the Welcome Center

#### Holiday Open House

Thu., December 22

Welcome Center

1-4 pm

#### Free Guided Hike - New Years Day!

Sat., January 1

9:00 am

JMF - Horine Reservation

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.



#### Wilderness Louisville, Inc. - Giving Nature an Assist!

Did you know? Through its park adoption agreement with Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation, Wilderness Louisville, Inc. supports stewardship of natural assets, not just at Jefferson Memorial Forest, but also other natural areas such as Caperton Swamp along River Road. One way is through participation in the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This program funds conservation practices such as invasive plant removal, tree planting, meadow restoration, and creation of ephemeral ponds, among others.

With Wilderness Louisville, Inc. support, Jefferson Memorial Forest staff, volunteers, and yes, local school children, participate in restoration of natural spaces. This past

## Board of Directors

Theresa Zawacki, Chair

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November, students from Coleridge-Taylor Elementary (pictured right) who participate in the Louisville is Engaging Children Outdoors (ECHO) program planted trees at Caperton Swamp as part of their annual service learning project. Over the last year, EQIP funding has supported planting of 600 trees, a prescribed burn of a meadow within the Forest's Scott's Gap section, and invasive plant removal within a recently-purchased parcel that is the planned future location of expanded environmental education facilities at the Forest.



FYI, this program and others are open to landowners who meet certain requirements. Contact the Louisville NRCS Service Center at 499-1900 to find out more.

### **Honoring a long-time Forest volunteer**

On November 18, the Louisville/Jefferson County Environmental Trust and Forest staff honored one of the most valued and respected volunteers ever associated with Jefferson Memorial Forest, Dudley Saunders. Dudley recently stepped down from his position with the Environmental Trust, a quasi-governmental entity that preserves



land by holding conservation easements in the area. While serving on the board he spent many days with other volunteers and Forest staff monitoring properties to ensure protection of conservation values. Wilderness Louisville, Inc. is grateful to Mr. Saunders as he was a founding member of the board, a sort of bookend to his earlier involvement with a group called Wilderness Jefferson County, that worked in the 1970s and 80s to protect land in Jefferson County.



Dudley, (pictured above) with shovel in hand, has been a champion for Jefferson Memorial Forest for many years, joining the volunteer "Trail Rangers" very shortly after the formation of the group. In this capacity he has logged many hours on trail patrol and maintenance work which has helped to elevate JMF as the premier trail destination in this region. Dudley has been a major advocate for the protection and enhancement of Jefferson Memorial Forest and he was instrumental in Louisville Metro receiving a large donation to help secure a key parcel that connected the Tom Wallace, Horine and Paul Yost Forest sections via a trail (affectionately known as "Dudley's Trail"!).

In his honor, an American beech tree has been prominently placed at the entrance to the Horine Conference Center, a living reminder of what one passionate individual can do when working with like-minded friends and colleagues.

### **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.