

## Campbell County Environmental Education Center Newsletter

Spring 2025

**Periodical cicadas emerge across Kentucky this spring: How to protect your trees and shrubs** Source: Jonathan Larson, entomology extension associate

Kentucky will be the epicenter for the emergence of Brood XIV of 17-year periodical cicadas this spring. Periodical cicadas have appeared in Western Kentucky counties over the past few years, but the largest emergence area for 2025 will occur across most of Central and Eastern Kentucky.

While these time-keeping, red-eyed insects are not harmful to humans or pets, their egg-laying habits could damage the branches of young trees and shrubs. Tree netting is the most effective, non-invasive way to protect your landscaping and fruit trees.

The 17-year periodical cicadas are expected to emerge from the soil to molt into their flying, adult form in late April to early May, when the soil warms to the mid-60s. Periodical cicadas emerge much earlier than annual cicadas and in greater numbers.

Cicadas do not bite or sting, and the feeding habits of the adults do not damage plants. Some may find the abundance of molted shells and loud, near deafening singing a nuisance, while others will enjoy this pageantry of nature. The periodical cicadas' choral song, however, is a cue to protect landscaping and orchards.

Female cicadas will lay their eggs into the new, lower branches of several species after mating: apple, arborvitae, ash, beech, berry and grape vines, crab apple, cherry, dogwood, hickory, holly, maple, lilacs, magnolia, oak, peach, pear, rose bushes, spirea and willows are the most likely targets. The cicada's ovipositor is long and sharp, and they will inject 200 to 600 eggs into the stem tissue. This "flagging" may cause the tender branches to snap. The fallen branch makes for a much shorter journey for the hatching nymphs from egg to soil but is not beneficial for the growing tree. Once the eggs hatch, the nymphs will feed on root sap, and a heavy population of nymphs in the soil may also impact the tree's root system.

While using insecticides may be less costly, the safest and most effective way to prevent tree and shrub damage is by using cicada netting, which prevents females from laying their eggs. Netting is suggested for use on new and smaller trees and should be installed when the cicadas begin to sing, about mid-May for most of the area. Trees that are established in the landscape-too tall to net for most people- will grow throughout the egg-laying period.

More information can be found at the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment publication here: https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef446.

You can also contact your local Campbell County Extension office for more information on protecting trees and shrubs from cicadas.



## What's Up Next?

April 1st - 10:00am Nature Hike **April 3rd -** 2:00pm Nature Hike April 10th - 10:00am Nature Hike April 15th - 2:00pm Nature Hike April 16th - 5:30pm 4-H Nature Club May 1st - 2:30pm Wildflower Hike May 6th - 10:30am Wildflower Hike May 6th - 5:00pm 4-H Oil Pastels May 8th - 2:00pm Sensing Nature Hike May 14th - 10:00am Sensing Nature Hike May 20th - 5:00pm 4-H Wire Sculpture May 21st - 10:00am Wildflower Hike May 29th - 2:30pm Sensing Nature Hike June 2nd-6th - 9:00am 4-H Nature Camp June 10th - 2:30pm Aquatic Ecology June 12th - 10:30am Aquatic Ecology June 12th - 5:30pm 4-H Forestry June 25th - 2:30pm Aquatic Ecology June 27th - 10:30am Aquatic Ecology June 30th - 2:30pm Aquatic Ecology



## DJ Scully

## **Donald J. Scully**

djscully@uky.edu Campbell County **Extension Agent** Natural Resources and Environmental Education, Agriculture and Natural Resources

## Aubree Dawson

aubree.dawson@uky.edu **Campbell County Extension Assistant** Natural Resources and **Environmental Education** 

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@ Campbell County Environmental **Education Center** 





@ campbellcountyeec



at the Campbell County Environmental Education Center 1261 Race Track Road | Alexandria, KY 41001

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Curious about what those trees are along the trail? See animal tracks and wonder what made them? Join Aubree Dawson for an interpretive hike of the trail to find out more about the plants and wildlife in this area!

April 1st- 10:00am April 3rd- 2:00pm April 10th-10:00am April 15th- 2:00pm



To register, call 859-572-2600 / 859-694-1666 or visit https://campbell.ca.uky.edu/

#### Cooperative **Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Youth Development Community and Economic Development

#### MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE. FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

## **K** Cooperative Extension Service

## SENSING NATURE

May 8, 2:00Pm May 14, 10:00Am May 29, 2:30Pm Join us at the Campbell County Environmental Education Center to experience the sights, sounds, and textures of nature!

1261 RACE TRACK ROAD ALEXANDRIA, KY 41001

To register, call 859-572-2600 / 859-694-1666 or

visit campbell.ca.uky.edu

## Cooperative Extension Service

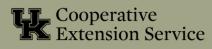
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Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service · (859) 694-1666



Wildflower Hike

@ the Campbell County Environmental Education Center

MAY 1, 2:30PM MAY 6, 10:30AM MAY 21, 10:00AM

Come walk the trails and identify the various local wildflowers of Campbell County!





1261 RACE TRACK ROAD ALEXANDRIA, KY 41001

## Registration required. Call 859-572-2600 / 859-694-1666 or visit campbell.ca.uky.edu to register

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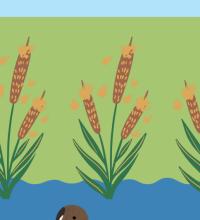


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Always wondered about what's living in that lake? Come find out as we conduct some water testing and search for aquatic life!

Campbell County Environmental Education Center 1261 Race Track Road Alexandria, KY 41001

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June 10th, 2:30pm June 12th, 10:30am June 25th, 2:30pm June 27th, 10:30am June 30th, 2:30pm

## Registration is required. Please call 859-572-2600 / 859-694-1666 or visit campbell.ca.uky.edu to register

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## May 20

5:00pm-7:00pm

Environmental Education Center

(near AJ Jolly Park)

Register online at campbell.ca.uky.edu

or by phone: (859) 572-2600.

Program open to Campbell County youth ages 9-18.

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Environmental Education Center · www.campbell.ca.uky.edu



Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

# OIL PASTELS MAY 6

# 5:00pm-6:00pm

## environmental education center (near aj jolly)

Register online: https://campbell.ca.uky.edu/ or by phone: (859) 572-2600

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## **T**Cooperative Extension Service



## Highland Heights\*— Tuesdays

Senior Citizens Activity Center 3504 Alexandria Pike May 13 thru October 28 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

## Fort Thomas\*\*— Wednesdays

Mess Hall in Tower Park 801 Cochran Avenue April 9 thru December 17 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Hours extend to 7:00 p.m. June-September (Senior shopping begins at 2:45 p.m.)

## Alexandria\*— Fridays

Southern Lanes Sports Center 7634 Alexandria Pike May 16 thru October 24 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

## Newport\*— Saturdays

Next to Pepper Pod Restaurant

709 Monmouth Street May 18 thru October 26 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon Kentucky Proud

- \* Accepts WIC, SNAP and Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program
- \*\* Accepts WIC, SNAP, Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program and Kentucky Double Dollars

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