

LaRUE COUNTY BACKYARD **BioBLITZ** APRIL 17-19, 2026

LaRue County Hosts First “BioBlitz”

Free community event to document biodiversity of LaRue County, Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY, April 7, 2026] — Community volunteers and local organizations are hosting a BioBlitz from Friday, April 17 through Sunday, April 19, 2026 in LaRue County, Kentucky.

A BioBlitz is a free community science event where people work together to document as many species as possible in a specific location during a defined period of time. Anyone interested in the natural world, from beginners to experts, is welcome to participate.

Using iNaturalist, a free app available for iPhone and Android platforms, participants can photograph plants, animals, and fungi, then upload their observations to a global database. Participants can also use a traditional camera and upload their findings to the [inaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org) website free of charge.

EXPLORING LARUE COUNTY

Guided experiences will be available at sites throughout the area including Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, Pearman Forest at the LaRue County Environmental Education & Research Center, Hodgenville Elementary School Nature Trail, McDougal Lake, and CreekFront Park.

Volunteer guides will be on-site at specific times to assist with data collection and are comprised of current and retired teachers from LaRue County Public Schools, the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves, volunteers from Knob Creek Conservancy, Knob Creek Naturalist, LaRue County 4-H, City of Hodgenville Tourism Commission and the Hodgenville Trail Town Committee.

Participants can also document their observations independently throughout LaRue County, but are reminded to respect private property, follow local regulations, and avoid trespassing.

A PASSION FOR NATURE

The inaugural BioBlitz is dedicated to the memory of LaRue County native Rosemary Meredith, a devoted birdwatcher and nature enthusiast.

Birding is a passion for Barbara Woerner, a retired pharmacist from Louisville. Woerner has found “LaRue County very welcoming” throughout her 20+ year history documenting birds in the area. Woerner is “passionate about helping people of all ages and abilities to learn about nature.” Woerner will provide hands-on training during the Friday, April 17 CreekFront Park kickoff event at 6:30 P.M., as well as leading guided experiences on Saturday and Sunday.

Participants can also learn from experts in conservation, including Greg Janos, a biologist and program coordinator of the Heritage Land Conservation Fund and Wild River programs for the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves. Janos has experience conducting a wide variety of wildlife surveys including bats, fish, freshwater mussels, and birds. Janos will guide a wetland exploration at Hodgenville Elementary School’s Wetland Trail on Saturday, April 18 at 3 p.m.

Expertise is not a requirement for the free event and people of all ages are encouraged to participate. Volunteer guide Cara Howell hopes that children will join her and fellow teacher Ashley Clifford at Lincoln’s Birthplace for a short hike around the park’s picnic area on Saturday, April 18 at 1:30 P.M.

“It’s important for kids to experience the outdoors and explore the world firsthand,” Howell said with Clifford noting that she hopes to share her love of nature “with kids of all ages.”

KICKOFF EVENT

The BioBlitz kickoff event, featuring training and informational resources, will be held at CreekFront Park at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 17 at 6 P.M., facilitated by Damon Barnes, D.J. and Gary Canter, and Barbara Woerner. (Rain location: Lincoln Museum Community Room, downtown Hodgenville).

LIST OF GUIDED BIOBLITZ EVENTS

Over the weekend of April 17-19, 2026, free guided experiences will be hosted throughout the community:

Saturday, April 18, 2026 • 9 A.M.

Birds & Salamanders

Pearman Forest Trailhead

635 Leafdale Rd. • Hodgenville, KY

Spot common bird species and join a guided search for salamanders and other amphibians during a one mile stroll through an old-growth forest.

Guided by Damon Barnes, D.J. and Gary Canter, and Barbara Woerner

Saturday, April 18, 2026 • 1:30 P.M.

Birthplace Nature Hike

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Picnic Area
2995 Lincoln Farm Rd. • Hodgenville, KY

A short 0.4-mile hike from the picnic area. Designed for primary-age children, but open to everyone. Look for plants, birds, and mammals, followed by craft activity.

Guided by Cara Howell and Ashley Clifford

Saturday, April 18, 2026 • 3 P.M.

Wander the Wetland Trail

Hodgenville Elementary School Nature Trail
33 Eagle Lane • Hodgenville, KY

Practice identifying common plants and trees along the brief 0.4-mile hike along the wetland trail.

Guided by Greg Janos and Jim B. Phelps

Sunday, April 19, 2026 • 2:30 P.M.

Birds & Turtles

McDougal Lake Trailhead
Highway 916 • Stiles Ford Road • Hodgenville, KY

*Observe and identify birds that live around or visit McDougal Lake. Binoculars recommended.
BONUS: Participate in a guided short walk to the lake's edge to check out any live turtle action.*

Guided by Damon Barnes and Barbara Woerner

LEARN MORE

Information about each activity, as well as an introductory video is available at
visithodgenville.com/bioblitz

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CONTACT -- FOR MEDIA USE ONLY:

Rob Thurman, Hodgenville Trail Town Committee
c/o The Lincoln Museum • (270) 358-3163

visithodgenville@gmail.com