

Ron Boyer and Liz McDowell, DNR nature tourism partners

Elk Ridge NatureWorks, LLC

"Sharing unique nature experiences in every season"

With 50 years of experience in education and the environment, Ron and Liz will guide your exploration of the biological riches of the Allegheny Plateau. They will custom design an ecotour, outdoor class, or nature program to meet the needs and objectives of your family, group or organization.

Ecotours

Hiking / Biking / Mountain Biking / Cross-country skiing / Snowshoeing

Natural history and local lore is the emphasis during each activity, which last approximately 2 hours. Activities can be extended to a half or full day. Groups are limited to 6 participants so that you can move softly through forest and stream. This increases the likelihood of seeing and hearing more wildlife, and minimizes any negative impacts to the environment.

Outdoor Classes

Stream Critter Search / Disappearing Act / Flowers, Feathers, Scales and Tails / Wetlands are Wild

Focused on field identification skills, aquatic life and other nature subjects, classes last approximately 1-1/2 hours and are limited to small groups (10 participants or less). The instruction is personalized and hands-on. The classes are designed with families in mind but can be tailored for specific age groups.

Reservations are required for all activities

Photography by Lance C. Bell



Above and below: Ron and Liz examine a small male Wood Frog. The frog's mating period is once a year and for a very brief period. The females lay the eggs in masses in wet areas, and then hop off into the woods to dwell until next year.



Nature Programs

Bats, Bugs and Boxes / The Alien Invasion / Native Flowers, Naturally / The Night Shift

For larger groups or organizations, slide presentations on nature topics ranging from amphibians to zebra mussels are available. They can be tailored for families or specific age groups.

Native Plants & Nature Products

Create wildlife habitat in your own backyard with Liz and Ron's help. They grow native plants from local seed and construct nursery boxes for various species. Their demonstration nursery is open by appointment only. Please call ahead to arrange a visit.

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A typical bat house.

Left: On a night walk, Liz demonstrates an electronic device called a "Bat Detector." Bats emit a high frequency sound we cannot hear. The detector picks up their sound and translates it to an audible pitch we can hear, thus helping to locate and observe bats.

