

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEWSLETTER

*A PERIODICAL E-NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDIES STUDENTS AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY*



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

As everyone gears up for spring break, remember to stay safe and find plenty of time to decompress before finals.



Included in the forth edition you will find an earth month calendar, a letter from Dr. Kaplan regarding changes to the ENVS major, a pathway article about environmental legal careers, a historical article about the Cuyahoga Valley National park, an intern spotlight, and a feature about a brand new and about the Fair Trade Committee that will be forming in the fall on Kent Campus.

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Take a look at upcoming events!

APRIL IS EARTH MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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3	Earth Month Book Club Drawdown Event 7:00PM online Office of Sustainability	5	Lecture by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz 7:00PM online Kent State University School of Biological Sciences	7	8	Clothing Swap 12-3 pm Rockwell Atrium Ohio Ocean Foundation and Modista Fashion Group
10	11	12	Erin Brockovich 7:30PM Kent State Stark Conference Center Kent State University at Stark	14	15	16

Take a look at upcoming events!

APRIL IS EARTH MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17	18	19 Earth Fest 11am-2pm Risman Plaza KSU Student Research Poster Session 11am-1pm Garden Room	20	21 Guided Woodland Hike 12pm-1pm Kent State Geauga Campus	22 Climate Grove Clean Up and Tree Planting Earth Day River Clean Up KSU EV Education Who's Your Mama Film Fest	23 Walk for Water 10 am Risman Plaza KSUEL 2022 8:30am-12pm Remote and East Liverpool
24	25 Herrick Conservatory Plant Sale 10am-4pm Herrick Conservatory	26 Kent State Farmers Market 4-7pm Design and Innovation Hub	27	28	29	30 Invasive Knotweed Pull Along the Cuyahoga River 11am-3pm Kent



APRIL EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

<https://www.kent.edu/sustainability/earth-month>

VIRTUAL Earth Month Book Club "Drawdown" Event

April 4th and April 18th at 7:00 pm - Hosted by the Office of Sustainability and Earth Month Planning Committee

- Drawdown edited by Paul Hawken will be discussed
 - Register online at:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScILBUY_lpAxqJiBWHtQTqTVT7Hk0dTcTExHGOBVcNPZBqdqQ/viewform

VIRTUAL Lecture by Author and Historian Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

April 6th from 7:00-8:00 pm - Hosted by Kent State University School of Biological Sciences

Clothing Swap with Ohio Ocean Foundation

April 9th from 12:00-3:00 pm at the Rockwell Atrium - Hosted by Ohio Ocean Foundation and Modista Fashion Group

- Bring gently used clothing and trade them for something else!

Kent State University at Stark Featured Speaker Series: Erin Brockovich

April 13th at 7:30 pm at Kent State Stark Conference Center - Doors open at 6:45 pm - Hosted by Kent State University at Stark

- Tickets available Monday, March 28th, 2022

Kent State University Earth Fest

April 19th from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at Kent State University Risman Plaza (or in the event of inclement weather Student Center 2nd Floor) - Hosted by The Office of Sustainability and The Earth Month Planning Committee

- Join 50+ organizations (on and off campus) for a fun-filled Earth day! There will be music, student activities, information, giveaways , and prize drawings!

APRIL EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

<https://www.kent.edu/sustainability/earth-month>

Kent State University Student Research Poster Session

April 19th from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Library 1st Floor Garden Room

Hosted by The Environmental Science and Design Research Institute

- Student Research Poster Session for undergraduate and graduate students conducting environmental research

Guided Woodland Hike at Kent State University Geauga

April 21st from 12:00-1:00 pm at Kent State Geauga Campus in Burton - Hosted by Kent State Geauga

- In celebration of Earth Day, meet and learn from Joel Firem, a local Forestry Consultant, as he leads a walk through Kent State Geauga's woodland. Local plants, wildlife, and habitat
- April 22nd from 10:00 am-2:00pm at Kent State University Climate Grove - Hosted by The Herrick Conservatory
- The Herrick Conservatory is paterning with Buildings and Grounds to clean up the climate grove over by the frisbee gold area and plan to plant a few new trees
 - Contact Melissa Davis: mdavis7@kent.edu

Earth Day River Clean Up

April 22nd from 12:00pm-5:00pm at the Cuyahoga River (meet at the Student Recreation and Wellness Center) - Hosted by the Department of Recreational Services

- Register at the link below! 16 spots available
<https://www.recservices.kent.edu/Program/GetProgramDetails?courseId=529b4b6e-0b97-41fb-a97a-0d39601f6624&semesterId=19390134-c519-43ea-9aba-a8ae3333c6c1>

APRIL EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

<https://www.kent.edu/sustainability/earth-month>

KSU Earth Month Electric Vehicle Education Event

Friday, April 22 from 5:00–7:00 pm at KSU Student Center Visitor's Parking Lot at 1075 Risman Drive – Hosted by the Office of Sustainability and the Earth Month Planning Committee

- Learn about electric vehicle awareness, education, and use at this Kent State University Earth Month event! Drivers from Clean Fuels Ohio in NE Ohio and Kent will share information about their Electric Vehicles (EVs).
- Have an EV and want to get involved? Contact **Joe Ortiz** jortiz@kent.edu and **Melanie Knowles** mknowle1@kent.edu

Who's Your Mama Environmental Film Festival

Friday, April 22nd from 7:00–9:00 pm at KSU KIVA – Hosted by Standing Rock Cultural Arts Center

AMLCI Materials Day Research Presentations and Poster Session

April 22nd at 5:45 pm and April 23rd from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Cohosted by Advance Materials and Liquid Crustal Institute and Brain Health Research Institute

- Materials Day is an annual symposium put on by the AMLCI. Each year the symposium has a new theme to be explored by invited speakers

KSUEL 2022 Earth Day Environmental Justice Hybrid Conference Fashion and Apparel: Multifaceted Connection with Sustainability and Waste

April 23rd from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm – Hosted by Kent State University East Liverpool

- This confrence is held via zoom and the East Liverpool campus
- Register: <https://tinyurl.com/KSUEL-2022-EarthDay>

APRIL EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

<https://www.kent.edu/sustainability/earth-month>

Walk for Water

April 23rd at 10:00 am at KSU Risman Plaza 'K' - Hosted by Student Organization Thirst Club Project

Kent State Stark Earth Day Celebration

April 24th from 1:00-4:00 pm at Campus Center and Pond & Wetlands Area - Hosted by Kent State University at Stark

- Enjoy a free, family-friendly afternoon filled with environmental educational activities, nature walks, scavenger hunts, games, crafts, mock fossil digs, entertainment, giveaways, and more!

Herrick Conservatory Plant Sale

April 25th through April 29th from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at Herrick Conservatory - Hosted by the Herrick Conservatory and Sustainability Club

- The Herrick Conservatory will be selling a variety of plants, including succulents, vegetables, herbs, flowers, and tree seedlings
 - Contact Melissa Davis at mdavis7@kent.edu and M Onion at monion@kent.edu

Kent State Farmers' Market

April 26th from 4:00-7:00 pm at the Design and Innovation Hub = Hosted by Kent State of Wellbeing

Invasive Knotweed Pull Along the Cuyahoga River

April 30th from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Kent - Hosted by the Herrick Conservatory and the Department of Biological Sciences

CHANGES WITHIN THE ENVS MAJOR

by: Dr. David Kaplan

.....Mainly for the better, but beginning Fall 2022, the Environmental Studies curriculum will be revised slightly.

Since the program began in Fall 2017, more students have registered as majors and more departments have offered courses that fit into the major. Many of these courses could be taken for credit; I just had to substitute them in. With the new curriculum, that will no longer be necessary as these courses will be part of the standard ENVS curriculum. Of course, there may be other substitutable courses offered on a case-by-case basis.

Beyond this, we have two more substantive changes. First, Physical Geography and Conservation of Natural Resources can no longer be taken under the "Geography" elective. As a lower division course, Physical Geography is being dropped completely (though it still is a big part of the Kent Core) Conservation of Natural Resources has been moved to fit within the "Social Science" cluster where it more rightfully belongs. It will still count for the ENVS major but just in a different way.

The second change is the introduction of a new, required one-credit course called Career Pathways in Environmental Studies (ENVS 30105). This will be offered once a year, beginning next spring semester.

CHANGES WITHIN THE ENVS MAJOR CONT....

This course is intended to provide Environmental Studies Students with a range of ideas and options towards possible career choices. It will lean heavily on inviting guests who are currently employed in one of the fields covered by Environmental Studies. Students will attend one hour a week and there will be a few, small assignments.

Current students in the Environmental Studies program do not need to do anything. The major requirements will remain the same as when they declared. However, if you want to major under these new requirements, all you need to do is change your catalog year to 2022-23. All new students in environmental studies will automatically be registered for the revised program. Even if you don't register for the revised major, you are still welcome to take Career Pathways when it is offered.

I am happy to answer any questions about the new revisions. In the meantime, good luck with Fall Registration. You can contact: dkaplan@kent.edu



LEGAL CAREERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES STUDENTS

by: Dr. David Kaplan and Alyssa Lortie

On Friday, March 18th 2022, the Environmental Studies program had the pleasure of hosting an event titled “Legal Careers for Environmental Studies Students”. The event began with guest speakers Dr. Elaine Hsiao (Peace and Conflict Studies) and Amanda Paar-Conroy, Esq. (Paralegal Studies) giving a brief overview of their legal backgrounds after which they then opened the floor to questions.

- **What would be the best sort of courses to take for students interested in a legal career?**

Both Dr. Hsiao and Paar-Conroy, Esq. instructed students that they could major in a wide variety of possibilities, but policy courses are especially useful. The Washington Program which is run through the Department of Political Science could also be a good opportunity for students to look into.

- **How do you know whether you have the necessary skills to work in an area of law?**

Panelists discussed how many skills can be picked up over time, but both emphasized the value of critical thinking and writing skills. Both these skills can be developed through many courses offered by the environmental program.

- **How is law school different from a regular Master’s program, and how should you prepare for law school admission?**

Law school was described as being far more scripted and much more applied, especially in the first year, than a typical Master’s program. Most people typically think of law school as being a full-time commitment, however, it is possible to go to law school part-time, which may benefit some people who already have a job they are dedicated to. To prepare for law school, the panelists discussed the significance of grades as well as the LSAT, which is important to for as much as possible.



LEGAL CAREERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES STUDENTS

So, how do you go about getting into an environmental law career? Some law firms may have internship programs, especially in environmental law so it is beneficial to do some research for these opportunities. Paralegal training is also extremely valuable to an environmental law career. In fact, Kent State offers a paralegal minor which can be taken in conjunction with the Environmental Studies Major. Amanda Paar-Conroy is the program coordinator for this minor. For more information about legal careers in the environment feel free to reach out to Dr. Elaine Hsiao at ehsiao1@kent.edu and Amanda Paar-Conroy, Esq. at apaar@kent.edu.

Legal Careers for Environmental Studies Students

With
Dr. Elaine Hsiao (Peace and Conflict Studies) and
Amanda Paar-Conroy, Esq. (Paralegal Studies)

Please join them for this helpful information session for those Environmental Studies students thinking of pursuing a legal career, either as a paralegal, in law school, or in some other legal endeavors.



March 18, 12-1 pm
In McGilvrey Hall 417

Refreshments and food will be provided



THE HISTORY OF THE CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

by: Alyssa Lortie

The Environmental Studies program recently hosted Jennie Vasarhelyi of the National Parks Service where she gave a talk about the history of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, a park that is right in our backyard for our use and enjoyment! The Cuyahoga Valley National Park, subsequently noted as CVNP, encompasses 33,000 acres of land spanning from Cleveland and Akron along the Cuyahoga River. On December 27th, 1974 it was established by Congress as Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area and later renamed Cuyahoga Valley National Park in 2000. The purpose of Cuyahoga Valley National Park is "to preserve and protect for public use and enjoyment the historic, scenic, natural, and recreational values of the Cuyahoga River and its valley; to maintain the necessary recreational open space in connection with the urban environment; and to provide for the recreational and educational needs of the visiting public." Prior to its designation as a National Recreation Area, the Cuyahoga Valley had experienced several ecological abuses, most popularly was the fires on the Cuyahoga River. The establishment of the park was a community-driven response to fix these abuses as well as the damages of urban sprawl. Today, the park continues to restore degraded landscapes, and promote the ethics of environmental awareness, stewardship and sustainability. Clearly the efforts are working, as the CVNP contains some of the largest remaining forest tracts in Northeast Ohio, and boasts gorgeous exposed rock ledges and waterfalls. Not only that, but the forest provides a habitat for various plants and wildlife including rare, threatened and endangered species.

THE HISTORY OF THE CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK CONTINUED...

What is the best way to get involved without hurting the natural environment you may ask? Well, park staff work around the clock to ensure a fun experience for all, while safeguarding the natural beauty of the park itself. The park offers many educational and cultural programs, arts and crafts projects and other special events. CVNP also offers guided programs, or you are welcome to explore on your own. Acceptable activities include hiking, excursion rail tours, fishing, running bicycling, horseback riding, golfing, skiing, sightseeing and picnicking, bird watching and a simple nature study. While plenty of activities are offered, it is important to remember to take care of our natural environment and do the best that we can to leave no trace.

Most information was provided courtesy of Jennie Vasarhelyi and the NPS. Feel free to contact Jenny with questions related to how to get involved at National Parks. She can be reached at **Jennie_Vasarhelyi@nps.gov**.



INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

by: Wilder Hritz

For my internship with the Portage County Park District, I worked with the stewardship crew. The stewardship department is responsible for taking care of the land. During my contract period, I placed tree tubes on planted trees for a tree-planting project. I sprayed invasive plants and learned to identify all types of invasive species. I conducted stream quality analyses for possible future Portage Park District land and walked some of the parks looking for areas that were in need of attention. This internship was very rewarding, I gained a lot of on-the-job skills, and was always engaged in new projects.



FAIR TRADE COMMITTEE COMING FALL 2022

by: Kathryn Burns



The Fair-Trade Campaign aims to make universities, schools, towns, and congregations accountable and promote them for their use of fair-trade products. The Fair-Trade products must be embedded into **policy** and as well as the **social** and **intellectual foundations** of their communities. The center focus of the Fair-Trade Campaigns is to **advocate** and **educate** people on what these practices look like.

In order to be recognized as a Fair Trade university we must:

Build Your Team

This is the current project that the team is working on. The goal is to reach at least five members with at least one non-student member. The team is also looking for someone to fill the **Vice President** and **Communications** officer positions of the club!

Reach Out to Campus Outlets

To be considered as a Fair-Trade university, there must be a minimum of two Fair Trade products available in all campus-owned venues.

FAIR TRADE COMMITTEE COMING FALL 2022 CONTINUED...

by: Kathryn Burns

Enroll Offices and Catering

The goal is to provide at least **three** examples of campus offices and departments and/or campus-run meetings and events using Fair Trade products.

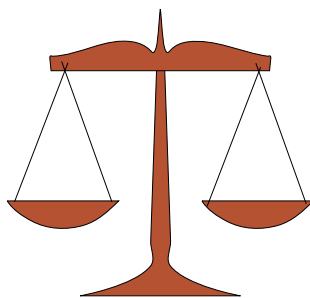
Commit to Fair Trade Education and Events

For Kent State to be certified as fair trade there must be **four** activities required per year

Pass a Fair Trade Resolution

Create a Fair Trade Resolution that includes the mandatory regulations from the institution to continue delivering on the goals of the Fair Trade designation

For more information on the Fair Trade Committee please email: Claire Ebersole ceberso3@kent.edu



For more information, please contact:



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**You may also visit the official program
website for additional information:**

<https://www.kent.edu/geography/environmental-studies>