

The relatively warm and wet environment of the Jellico Mountains in Kentucky welcomes a rich diversity of fauna and flora. The area is blessed with a spectacular natural beauty that we should preserve for future generations of people and wildlife to enjoy.

Birds



Barred Owl



Blue Heron



American Coots resting for a day on their annual migration south

Amphibians



Red Eft



American Bullfrog, which is Kentucky's largest frog, growing to 8 inches long

Reptiles



Box Turtle



Black Racer



Venomous Timber Rattlesnake

Insects



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail



Feather-Legged Fly



Praying Mantis



Surprisingly docile Southern Unstriped Scorpion



Honey Bee covered in pollen

Mammals



Coyote



Lots of new fawns every spring



Beaver



No shortage of deer here



Black Bear!



Buck laying low as hunting season begins

Wildflowers



Annual bloom of Tickseed Sunflowers



Cardinal Flower



Maypop, aka Purple Passion Flower

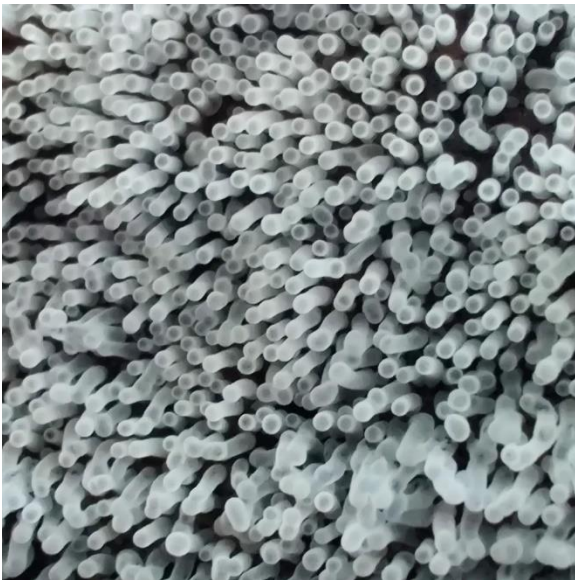
Fungi



Mushroom cluster



Home of Keebler elves



White fungi



Delicious Lion's Mane (never eat wild mushrooms unless you know what you're doing!)

Lichens



Giant patch of lichen on a rock



Medicinal Usnea appears almost alien

Moss



Moss is seemingly everywhere on everything



This moss-covered boulder sits near a prescribed clearcut tract. How will it fare in the logging?

Water



Waterfalls appear after a rain



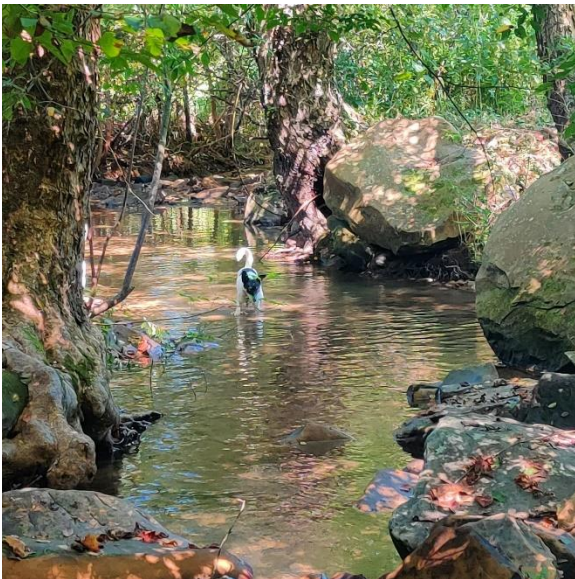
Jackson Creek during the July 2022 mega flood



Pyramid Falls



Little Wolf Creek Road washed out in the July 2022 mega flood. Photo by Sue Moses, used with permission.



Normally placid Jackson Creek



Ponds full of Bluegill and Smallmouth Bass

Ridgetops



Ridgetops lined with cliffs



Giant alcoves

Weather



Rainbows in spring



Sunny, warm days and spectacular colors in autumn



Thunderstorms and intense green in summer



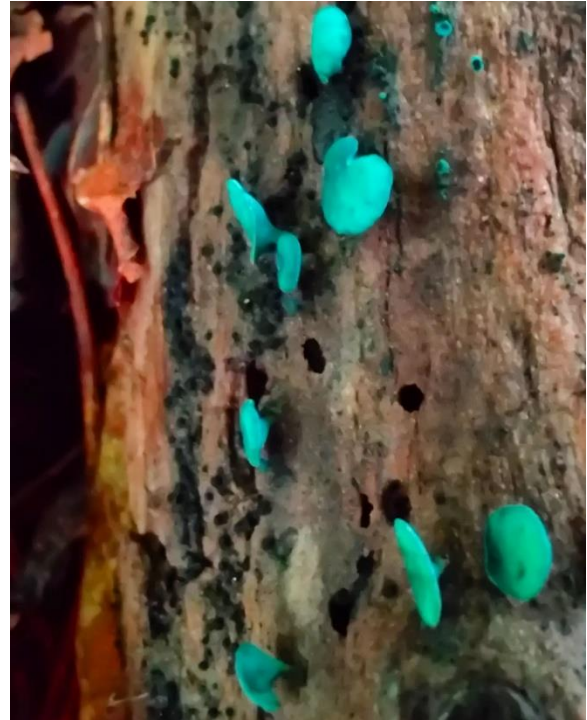
Occasional heavy snow in winter

Uncommon Species

We haven't personally discovered any threatened or endangered species in the Jellico Mountains, but we've spotted a few uncommon species.



American Climbing Fern, which became the first protected plant species in the United States in 1869



Blue fungi, which rarely emerges as mushrooms like these



Asiatic Dayflower, which lasts for one day only

Jellico Mountains



There used to be an historic fire tower atop Wolf Knob Mountain.



This photo of Wolf Knob Mountain in autumn shows the scars of two-aged shelterwood treatments by the USFS in 1990.



Our spectacular sunset photos will soon include tracts of commercial thinning and two-aged shelterwood.

All photos (except as noted) by Timm Martin, ©2013-2022, in the Jellico Mountains, Whitley County, Kentucky, USA.