



109 Rosemont Garden
Lexington, KY 40503
likenknowledge.org

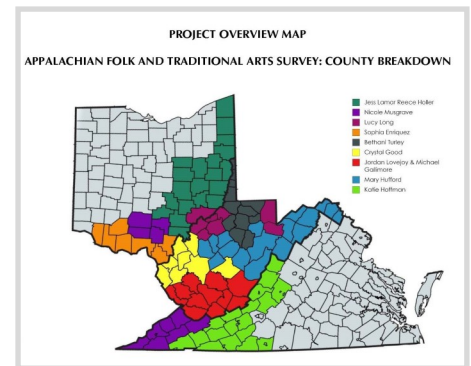


Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network 2019 Newsletter

LiKEN is a link-tank for communities – to build capacity to grow good livelihoods based on local assets, to monitor community health and wealth to avoid boom and bust, and to take evidence-based action for future well-being based on deep understanding of the past.

Central Appalachian Folk and Traditional Arts

Fieldwork for our Central Appalachian Folk and Traditional Arts project, undertaken in cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, wraps up this month. Since May, under LiKENer Mary Hufford's leadership, our field team of folklorists, artists, and oral historians has criss-crossed 112 Appalachian counties in OH, WV, VA to document diverse kinds of art genres and programs. Our team listened to the needs and dreams of communities, artists, and staff--with particular concern for outreach to marginalized communities. Our server now brims with interviews, recordings, photographs and ethnographic notes. This month, LiKEN distills findings into a draft report. In early 2020, we will discuss our findings and develop program recommendations with diverse stakeholders. In April we submit to MAAF a Comprehensive Plan for a new program to promote understanding, recognition, and practice of the diverse folk and traditional art practices in central Appalachia. We welcome continuing input via our online data collection form and look forward to staying tuned and in touch with all stakeholders.



Safe and Affordable Drinking Water

With the support of new LiKENer Ricki Draper, LiKEN is joining a multi-pronged campaign to improve access to clean and affordable drinking water in Eastern Kentucky. Combining citizen-science, industry watch-dogging, and community organizing, a diverse group of stakeholders are working together to increase public participation in water governance and improve access to clean drinking water. This past year, community leaders in Martin County and the University of Kentucky conducted household tap water testing in the county. In the new year, Martin County Concerned Citizens, with the support of LiKEN staff, will hold community meetings to discuss the results from the study and imagine individual and collective action to improve drinking water quality and access in the region.



Ricki Draper
Community
Engagement
Coordinator

Mother Forest

Because of its unique topography and biodiversity, the ancient forest of Central Appalachia provided crucial refugia during past climate shifts, leading some ecologists to call it the 'mother forest' because it was the cradle from which continental forests repopulated. In our current climate crisis, this forest system can again play a crucial role. LiKEN has collaborated with University of Kentucky Appalachian Studies to develop a rich array of sessions on the Appalachian Mother Forest at the 2020 Appalachian Studies Association annual meeting, to be held March 12-15, in Lexington KY. Please join us!



Lichen: a living web of mutual support.
Photo by
Rachel Eppley

Rising Voices: Climate Resilience through Indigenous and Earth Sciences

The 7th annual Rising Voices workshop was held at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, CO, on May 13-15. It was organized in partnership between NCAR, LiKEN, Haskell Indian Nations University, the Indigenous Peoples Climate Change Working Group, and the Indigenous Phenology Network, and supported by the NOAA Office for Coastal Management, the National Science Foundation, and the North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center. The workshop brought together 225 people across Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural backgrounds, scientific disciplinary, research and practitioner boundaries, ages, geographies, genders, languages, and knowledge systems around the theme of "Converging Voices: Building Relationships and Practices for Intercultural Science". This year's opening ceremony was led by Kalani Souza (Olohana Foundation) and Ava Hamilton (Arapaho) to offer tribute and gratitude to long-time Rising Voices ceremonial leader Jerry Fills Pipe, and to the ancestors, which now includes Rising Voices cofounder Bob Gough. For more information and to read the full workshop report: <https://risingvoices.ucar.edu/annual-workshops>. LiKENer Julie Maldonado and NCAR's Heather Lazrus co-direct this project.



Rising Voices participants come together from across cultures, generations, regions, and ways of knowing.

Upper Cumberland Watershed

The exceptionally biodiverse Upper Cumberland watershed stretches across 20 counties in KY and 26 counties in TN. Impacted by coal mining, it is one of North America's most damaged watersheds. October 10-11, LiKEN, Kentucky Conservation Committee, and others, co-sponsored a conference on biodiversity and climate resilience in this remarkable watershed. Eighty-five agency officials, non-profit leaders, concerned residents, citizen naturalists, and scholars participated. Recognizing the crucial contribution that Appalachian waters, forests, and refugia can make to climate remediation, we committed to long-term collaboration. For details, <http://kyconservation.org/upper-cumberland-watershed-climate-conference/>.



Craig Williams
inspects a weapons
disposal facility.

Kentucky Environmental Foundation

An effort that began nearly 35 years ago has finally come to fruition as the destruction of the last stockpile of chemical weapons in the United States began earlier this year. Craig Williams, Project Director of Kentucky Environmental Foundation (KEF), along with many others, fought to make sure this process was safe for the community around them. We are proud to see the results of so much hard work, but the work doesn't end here. The facility brought an estimated 1700 skilled workers to Madison county. We are now looking to 2023 when the project is complete. It is crucial that we address the question of what will happen to the facility, and its employees once the work is complete. As the Project Director at KEF, Craig Williams has been instrumental in forming a collaborative effort between industry, government, and the community to plan for the economic future of Madison and surrounding counties. There are more collaborators on this project than we have space to list.

For more information go to kyenvironmentalfoundation.org

Appalachian Land Study

LiKEN folks participated in a regional knowledge-exchange forum for the Appalachian Land Study on Oct. 26 at the Benham Schoolhouse Inn in Harlan County, KY. This collaborative is updating the groundbreaking 1979 study, Who Owns Appalachia? which documented steep inequality in land ownership in Central Appalachia. The mission of the current study is to provide accurate data about land and mineral ownership and public revenues to communities, scholars, local governments, and other stakeholders. In the Benham meeting, Lindsay Shade (Community and Leadership Development Dept, UnivKY) shared a new knowledge exchange platform for community researchers to do data entry about land records. We also shared experiences in Land Study work at the local level.

Stories of Place

Partnerships in Martin County are continuing the 2018-2019 Stories of Place project into the classroom at Martin County High School, co-coordinated by Karen Rignall (UnivKY) and LiKENer Mary Hufford. Eleventh grade English students are experimenting with critical participatory action research techniques and digital mapping to ask their own questions and tell their own stories of life in Martin County. This place-based narrative work complements ongoing Stories of Place fieldwork to elevate the knowledges and voices of Martin County residents. By bringing in elders and experts—the kind who know how to find ginseng in the woods—to share with the students, we aim to support a civic infrastructure built on Martin Countians' deep connection to home.

- We welcomed excellent new LiKENers in 2019:

Ricki Draper - Community Engagement Coordinator, works primarily on drinking water issues;

Aaron Guest - continues as LiKEN Research Director from his new post as Assistant Professor, Center for Innovation in Healthy & Resilient Aging, Arizona State Univ;

Megan White - provides GIS and data management support for LiKEN's projects.

- LiKEN is proud to be serving as fiscal sponsor for two groups doing very important work:

Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition www.ksecoalition.org

Lexington Community Markets www.facebook.com/LexingtonCommunityMarkets

- On May 1, 2019 LiKEN's Executive Director, Betsy Taylor was invited to speak at the National Academy of Sciences to explore the ["Effects of Energy Transition on Opportunities in Rural America"](https://www.eia.gov/energy_transition_opportunities_in_rural_america/)



A seasonal round, showing the continuing role of Central Appalachia's diverse forest system in community life on Coal River, in Raleigh County, WV.

Always in Season

Aerial photo by Lyntha Scott Eiler; graphic based on field sketches and interviews by Mary Hufford. Adapted from *Tending the Commons: Folklife and Landscape in Southern West Virginia*.
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/folklife-and-landscape-in-southern-west-virginia/about-this-collection/>

A word from Betsy

We chose our acronym to invoke "lichen." Lichen grows in its marvelous variety of forms because it is a 3-way synergism of creative interaction between three types of organisms. Similarly, in LiKEN's work, we find the health and creativity of our projects comes from 3-way synergism of communities, experts, and government.

We envision a world of resilient communities able to create, sustain, and regenerate local livelihoods and community wellbeing.

Please help sustain our work with a donation today!

Donate online at www.LiKENKnowledge.org/donate

Or, mail a check to: LiKEN 109 Rosemont Garden, Lexington, KY 40503