

ABOUT OUR INSTRUCTORS

Mimi Morrison – Founder, Touch the Earth Adventures

A lifelong outdoorswoman, Mimi Morrison built her business on the belief that connecting individuals with the power and magic of our living planet leads to well-being. Touch the Earth offers hiking, kayaking and other outdoor adventure experiences in southeast Ohio and beyond.

Amy Brown – Beginning and Intermediate Backpacking

Amy Brown is a hiking enthusiast and gear guru who has learned exactly what to bring (and what to leave behind) through more than a decade of trial and error on the trail. Currently, Brown is planning her through hike of the Appalachian Trail.

Phil Cantino – Tree Identification Hike

Phil Cantino is a professor and former chair of the Ohio University Department of Environmental and Plant Biology, where he teaches courses on botany and plant taxonomy.

Heather Cantino – Protecting Ohio's Forests

Heather Cantino is an environmental activist and board chair of the Buckeye Forest Council, Ohio's only statewide organization whose mission is to protect public forests.

Ann Cramer – Ohio's Underground Railroad

Ann Cramer is an archeologist for the Wayne National Forest.

Julie Davis – Birding Basics

Julie Davis is an accomplished birder and the past president of Columbus Audubon.

Paul and Cathy Knoop – Natural Treasures of Burr Oak

Celebrated nature educators Paul and Cathy Knoop have touched the lives of countless children and adults by encouraging them to look under leaves, logs and rocks to discover nature's treasures. For 35 years Paul worked as a naturalist, education coordinator and eventually director of the Aullwood Audubon Center in Dayton, Ohio, while Cathy implemented award-winning programs as an elementary science teacher in Miami, Pickaway and Hocking counties. Together they have traveled the globe teaching, leading tours and helping others explore the wonders of the woods.

Dr. Dale Minor - Self Defense with a Hiking Stick

For more than 30 years, Dr. Minor has trained professionals from SWAT teams and special-forces units to national and international kickboxing and free fighting champions (he retired undefeated in Kickboxing and Freestyle competitions in

1988). He is also an assistant professor, specializing in counseling, at Ohio University.

Joel Morris – Intermediate Kayaking and Kayak Rescue

Joel Morris has been paddling for as long as he can remember – everywhere from the mangroves of Puerto Rico to the white water of West Virginia and Pennsylvania. He holds a degree in eco-tourism and adventure travel from Hocking College in Nelsonville, and works as the Outdoor Education Program Coordinator at Camp Joy in Clarksville, Ohio.

Renee Ripple – Beginning Yoga

Renee Ripple has been teaching yoga for more than ten years. She focuses on hatha yoga, with an emphasis on pranayama. She also teaches kid's yoga and Middle School Humanities.