

# Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center

## July Newsletter

Spring is over and Summer's come. The days are gettin' long.

We didn't waste any time getting started with this month's activities. The regional public meeting to discuss waterfowl regulations was held here on June 2. For those unfamiliar with this process, these meetings are set up so that the public can voice their opinions about hunting in



Arkansas to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The meetings are conducted by regional supervisors, who then submit the public's comments to the program coordinator for each species. We will host another public meeting to discuss turkey regulations on August 25. We welcome all of those who want their voices to be heard.

June provided lots of opportunities for educators as well. We had three educator training workshops, starting with Schoolyard Habitat/Outdoor Classroom on June 3. Local educators came out to learn about how to build an outdoor classroom at their schools, how to get funding for the project, and then how to use make use of it with their students once it is built. We had a very special 2-day Advanced Project WET/WILD/PLT workshop on June 9 and 10. State coordinators for these internationally recognized environmental education programs teamed up with local experts to explore all that makes Crowley's Ridge such a unique place. Educators learned about everything from the history of ancient cultures in this area and commonly seen trees, birds, insects, and butterflies to the effects erosion has had on the landscape. We wrapped up the educator trainings with our Arkansas Has It All workshop (pictured at right) which brings awareness to educators about all of the programs and opportunities the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Education and Outreach Division has to offer them. All together, we reached over 60 educators this month with our training workshops.



Saturday, June 6 had all the makings for a wonderful Father's Day. Literally! The nature center's meeting room was transformed into a veritable Father's Day card making factory. Using the virtually unlimited supplies of cardstock, stickers, stamps, stencils, paints, crayons, ribbon, fancy-lined scissors, and other creative materials, 63 kids were able to make truly unique cards for their outdoorsy dads, and in plenty of time for the big day.



We are happy to announce that we graduated another 21 people through the Arkansas Boater Education program on June 13. Boater Education is required for everyone born after 1986 to legally operate a motorized watercraft in the state. Our final Boater Education class of the summer will be offered on July 25. Hurry and register! It is free and will help to keep you and your family safe on the water, whether you are there for recreational boating, fishing, or hunting.



# Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center

## July Newsletter

Eighteen people came out to the nature center for the Spinners program on June 20 to learn how to make a classic in-line spinner bait. After learning how to tie a skirt onto the hook, they were well on their way to having completed fishing lures. When everyone was finished, they went outside to see first-hand how to put the lures to work. How many of us can claim that we actually hand-made anything in our tackle boxes? If you are one who has yet to do so, keep watching for the next two parts of this three part series, and you too will be able to add some personalized tackle to your tackle box.



Ms. Karen, from the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library, made it out that same week for her monthly Tales and Trails program. The topic for discussion that day was "Fantastic Fathers", focusing on species in the natural world that have good fathers. The kids all made a picture frame out of sticks and in the center was a rubbing of one of those species and its tracks. Ms. Karen's programs are a favorite of nature center visitors, so look for her on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month.

Finally, to finish out the month's exciting activities was a Mammal Tracks program on June 27. There were 47 participants, ages 5 and up who learned lots of tips on how to identify which tracks are left by which animals. How many toes does the animal have? Does the track have claw marks? After talking about all the ins and outs of mammal track identification, they all went outside to create a mammal track cast of their own to take home with them. Fun was had by all and everyone who came went away knowing something they hadn't known when they arrived.



### COMING UP!

Here is a little preview of what we have in store for July!

- July 18, 11a.m.....Kids Program and Craft, T.B.A.
- July 18, 2p.m.....Tales and Trails
- July 25, 9a.m.—4p.m.....Boater Education
- Daily, 3:30p.m.....Feeding Frenzy
- Tuesdays, 8:30a.m.....Hike for Health
- Wednesdays, 1p.m.—3p.m.....Fishing Simulator
- Thursdays, 8:30a.m.....Bird Hike
- Fridays, 1p.m.....Movie and Popcorn
- Saturdays, 10a.m.....Creature Feature

A \* beside a program name indicates that pre-registration is required. Visit our website at [www.crowleysridge.org](http://www.crowleysridge.org) or call us at 870-933-6787 for more info!



*There is no fee for any of these programs thanks to your support of the 1/8th cent Conservation Sales Tax*

