

Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center

August Newsletter

Throughout the months of July and August, we've had lots of special weekday programs to keep kids and their families busy during their summer break! Each Tuesday, we've had a "Hike for Health" to encourage healthy habits. Wednesdays, our fishing simulator has been giving kids a great time and nearly yanking them from the "fishing chair" as they work hard to reel in a big one! The Thursday bird hikes have been fairly fruitful, with about 40 species seen so far. And by far our most popular weekday programs were the Friday afternoon movie and popcorn days, each week showing a different film focusing on nature.



On the weekend of the 11th, we revisited the Sticks-n-Strings program. 35 kids came out this time to try their hand at shooting our kid-sized bows. For most of these kids, it was their first time to shoot a bow and arrow, and they had a blast! One parent came back the next day with his child and said that all his son talked about the rest of the weekend was shooting that bow and arrow; the child could not even be persuaded to play his Playstation after coming to this workshop!

The 18th was extra busy, with two programs for kids! About 45 came to the Bugs, Bugs, Bugs program to learn all about insects, insect anatomy, and how they differ from arachnids. Each child also got to make their own unique bug jar to take home with them so that they'll be all set to go out and capture, study, and discover more about bugs on their own, which is often the very best way for kids to learn new things. Ms. Karen from the Public Library also came out for her regular and always fun Tales and Trails program.



We had 17 local educators at our Project WET/WILD/PLT workshop on the 22nd; our last educator training workshop of the summer. Participating educators were here all day doing activities like Migration Headache, How Many Bears Can Live in the Forest, and Poet-Tree. By the end of the workshop, they were certified in all three of these nationally recognized environmental education programs, so that they can now implement them in their own classrooms. These programs are a great way for educators to creatively cover required state frameworks, and also to engage their students in new and exciting ways to pique their interests in the environment.



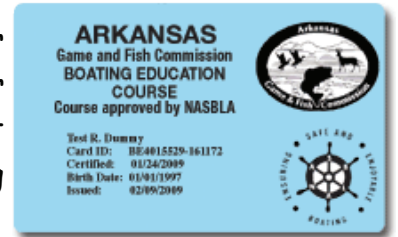
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In keeping with the insect theme that is so typical of summer in eastern Arkansas, we had a program called Arkansas' Dragons and Damsels, on the 25th. After talking about the differences between dragonflies and damselflies, and learning about the life cycle and habits of dragonflies, all 23 of us went out onto the nature center's grounds armed with binoculars and insect nets to see what we could find. We saw tons of dragonflies that day, and were able to capture and view up-close several species, including widow skimmer, eastern pondhawk, blue dasher, and spotwing glider, among others. The kids had a great time dragonfly watching, and several of them said how excited they were to see what they could catch in their own backyards at home!

And on that same weekend, we had about 15 people complete our final Boater Education class of the summer. We'll have our next Boater Education class in September and another in October. And now that hunting season is upon us, we'll be having a Hunter Education class during one weekend of every month through most of the fall and winter.



COMING UP!

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

- August 8, 2p.m.....Wacky Tracks
- August 8, 9a.m.—5p.m. AND August 9, 1—4p.m.....Hunter Education
- August 15, 2p.m.....Arkansas' Butterflies
- August 22, 2p.m.....Tales and Trails
- August 23, 2p.m.....Spinnerbaits
- August 25, 6p.m.....Public Meeting—Turkey Regulations
- August 27, 6:30p.m.....Deer Hunting in Arkansas Seminar
- 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 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.

