



# Bur Oak Tribune



August 2009

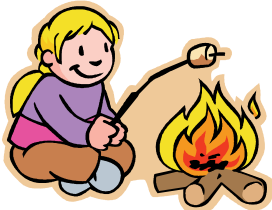
## General Information

Visitors are welcome Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00am-6:00pm and Saturday from 10:00am-4:00pm.

During your visit you'll find an **Animal Exhibit Room** with a turtle pond, snapping turtles, snakes, prairie dogs, and much, much more. Wildwood also offers an activity room called the **Nature Nook** complete with books, puzzles, puppets, games, and activities. The Wildwood Nature Center is located at the east end of Maine Park, adjacent to the Maine Park Leisure Center.

**Admission to Wildwood is FREE.**

## Upcoming Events



**August 21, 7:00pm-9:00pm:** *Family Campfire* ~ The entire family will enjoy the peaceful night air while sitting around a warm fire listening to stories, singing songs, going for a night hike, and making everyone's favorite - S'mores! Flashlights are not needed but feel free to bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

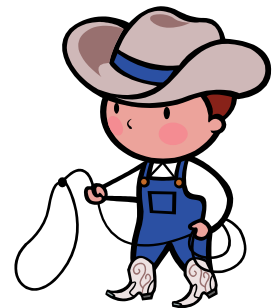
**Fee:** \$15 resident/nonresident families

**Sept 14, 4:00pm-5:30pm:** *Grandparent's Day (Grandparents and Children)* ~ Spend the afternoon with your grandparent exploring the world of animals at the Wildwood Nature Center. Activities include a snack, a craft, and grandparents will get a chance to tell stories from their youth. We will supply the snacks and an afternoon of fun memories.

**Fee:** \$9 resident child, \$17 nonresident child

**Sep 17, 6:00pm- 7:30pm:** *Western Round-Up (Ages 3-6 with Adult)* ~ Howdy, Pardner! Grab your cowboy hat for a knee-slappin' good time! Cowpokes will enjoy an authentic cowboy cook-out - hot dogs, beans, campfire songs, games, and more!

**Fee:** \$23 resident/nonresident child



For more information call 847-692-3570 or check out the Park District website at [www.prparks.org](http://www.prparks.org)

# Wildwood News Bulletins

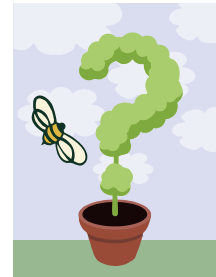
- This school year Wildwood will again be offering the Nature's Cool After School program on Wednesdays starting August 26th. Check out the Fall Brochure on page 60 for more details or visit [www.prpark.org](http://www.prpark.org).
- The animal feeding days have changed. You can now enjoy watching a Wildwood animal feast every Wednesday at 10:30am and 3:30pm and every Saturday at 10:30am (right after the Saturday morning Critter Connection at 10:15am).
- Volunteers are needed for the Environmental Impact Task Force, you can make a difference! If you would like to be a candidate please contact Maryanne Lucarz at 847-692-3482 or by email: [mlucarz@prparks.org](mailto:mlucarz@prparks.org).
- Stop by and visit Swaney the Snapping Turtles and Donna and Lulu the Prairie Dogs in their new exhibits. Thank you for all that donated to the Save Our Swaney Fundraiser, and keep an eye out for your invitations to Swaney's House Warming Party!

## Ask the Naturalist

Wildwood is a great place to find answers about the natural world.

**Q:** How long do ball pythons live?

**A:** They have been know to live up to 50 years in captivity but 20-30 years is more common. Stop by Wildwood to visit our ball pythons, Monte and Medusa. Monte was born in 1981 making him 28 years olds. Medusa was born in 1992, so she is 17 years old.



You can submit your questions anonymously or with your first name to Wildwood's mailing address (2701 Sibley) or email them to: [jclauson@prparks.org](mailto:jclauson@prparks.org).

## Wildwood Pet Connection



- ~ **Needs a home:** Three 6-month-old kittens and one-year-old cats. One-year-olds have been fixed.
- ~ **Needs a home:** 29 gallon fish tank with filter and accessories.
- ~ **Needs a home:** 5 year old, 7 ft long, very docile albino Burmese Python. Comes with heat rock, heat lamp and water dish.
- ~ **Needs a home:** Medium sized brown bunny. Come with cage and accessories.

**To respond to these ads or to post an ad, please contact Wildwood at 847-692-3570 or [jclauson@prparks.org](mailto:jclauson@prparks.org).**

## Volunteer News

Happy Birthday to animal care volunteer Matt!  
Welcome to our new animal volunteers Jacob (Saturdays) and Tim (Tuesdays). Thank you to volunteers Vivian, Matt, Tim, Jacob, and Brighten for helping at our Country Farm Fair.



## Nature Feature

Each month the Bur Oak Tribune features a special plant or animal found in or around the Wildwood Nature Center. This month it is the Aphid. These pear-shaped insects come in a variety of colors, the most common being green, yellow, red, and black. Because of their tendency to infest plants they are also known as “plant lice”. Their ability to infest a plant comes from their unusual reproduction methods. In the Spring, female nymphs hatch from eggs and then are able to give live birth to more female aphids without the help of a male, (the nymphs are genetically identical to their mother, clones). Mating is not necessary to keep the population going. Another unusual ability aphids have is developing wings. If there are too many aphids on one plant the females give birth to winged aphids so they can fly to a new plant. Aphids are disliked by gardeners and farmers because of their diet. They suck the sap out of plants, which if there are enough aphids, can kill the plant. Their feces are also a problem causing something called “sooty mold which will grow on plants interfering with photosynthesis.



## Earth Stewards

This month we encourage you to be good earth stewards by properly disposing of hazardous household waste.

### **What is hazardous household waste?**

- Lead acid batteries
- Unused/expired medications
- Paint/paint thinner
- Drain cleaners/cleaning products
- Pool chemicals
- Light bulbs
- Old or broken Cell phones
- Old or broken computers
- Used ink cartridges



### **How can you properly dispose of hazardous household waste?**

- ~ Bring it to the city of Chicago's Goose Island Recycling Center: 1150 N. North Branch.
- ~ Ink cartridges and cell phones can be mailed in to be recycled using free postage-paid pouches obtainable at your local Petsmart store..
- ~ CFL light bulbs, latex paint, batteries and cell phones can be turned in to the Park Ridge Ace Hardware for recycling.
- ~ Batteries (AA, AAA, D, C) can be dropped off at Walgreens to be recycled.

# Junior Naturalist Pages

## Wild Wonders

Well hello everyone! LeeAnn Ladybug here to report on the local wildlife happenings around the Wildwood Nature Center. We had a new visitor to the pond a week ago. I will give you a hint he eats fish and has greenish feathers. That is right it was Geoffrey Green Heron! He was walking along the water's edge looking for tasty minnows to snatch up with his spear-like beak. Geoffrey was not the only bird I ran into looking for food, Gladys Goldfinch was out looking for food for her four little hatchlings. Goldfinches eat seeds so they have their babies later in the summer when there are lots of seeds around. My food supply is doing well too, if you look on some of the goldenrod plants you will see tons of red aphids, they are also easier for me to hunt than their camouflaged green cousins. The milkweed is in bloom so I have been seeing Mary Monarch fluttering around the prairie. Did you know Monarchs are poisonous to other animals if they eat them? That is because the milkweed sap is poisonous. Also, because she is poisonous Mary flies slow and in a straight line because she does not have to worry about getting eaten.



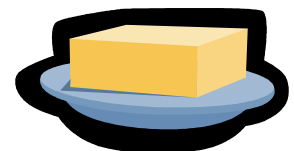
A few days ago I saw Beatrice Bumble Bee, she is always good for giving me the buzz on what is in bloom. She told me the Joe Pye Weed is now topped with a crown of pink flowers. There are some in the rain garden, in the woodland, and some by the parking lot. That is all for now boys and girls, see you in September!

**LeeAnn's riddle:** Why did the boy throw the butter out of the window? To find out cross out the letters below that are in the word pig.

Hiep gwiapngtpegd tio sgepe  
tihge



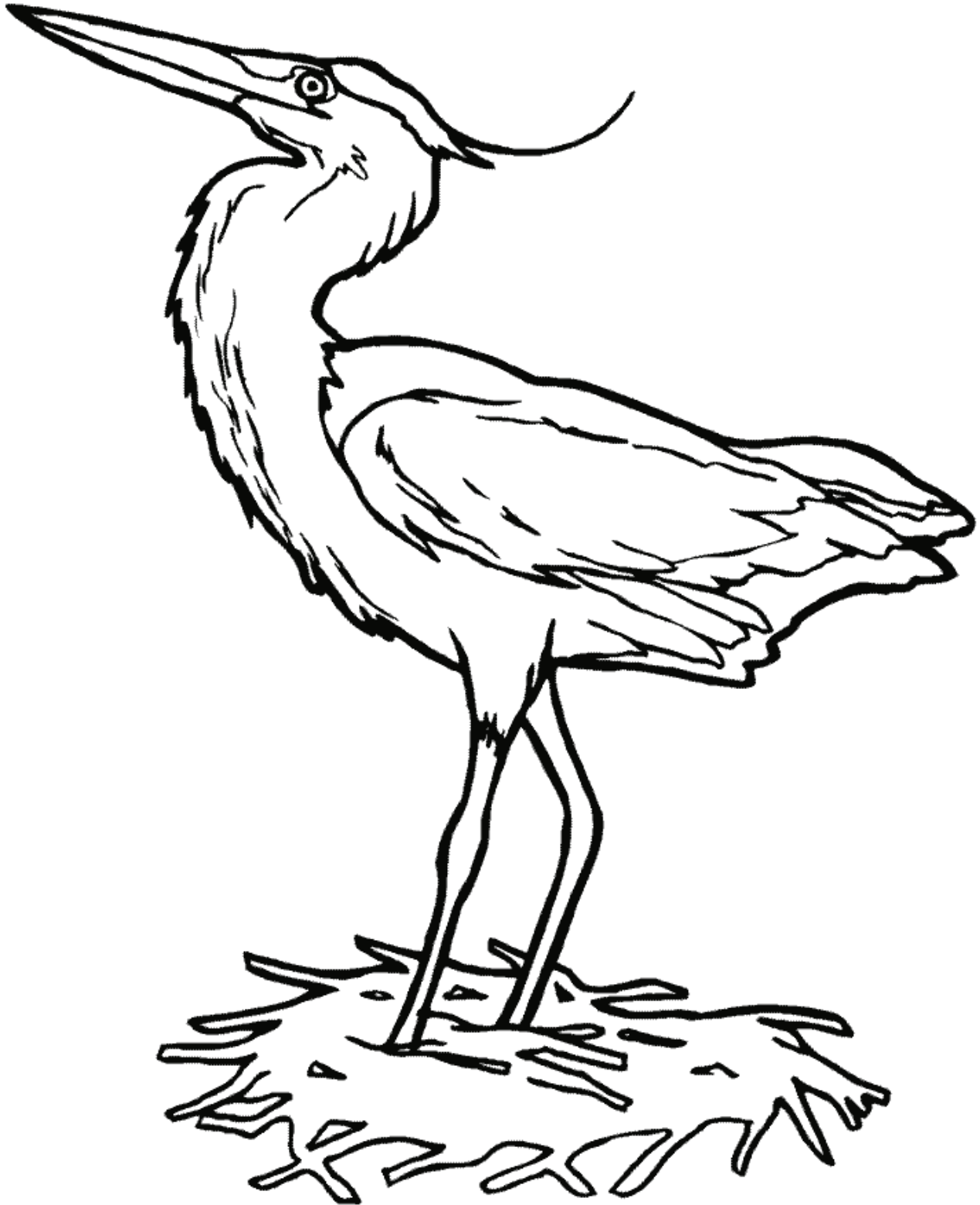
bpuitgtiegprfgliy!



# Junior Naturalist Pages



**Color the heron:**



## Critter Connection

Get up close to a Wildwood animal during a short, family friendly presentation. Learn about the featured animal, what makes him special, what he eats, and more. Make sure to pet him before he heads back to the animal room. Visit different animals each month.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Every Saturday	10:15am-10:30am	Nature Nook, Wildwood Nature Center

## Animal Feeding Times

Watch the Wildwood staff feed some of your favorite animals!  
Call Wildwood for more information at 847-692-3570.

Saturdays at 10:30am  
Wednesdays at 10:30am and 3:30pm

## Family Fun Corner

### Garden Bookmark

Here is a crafty way to make the last of summer's beautiful flowers last.  
You can make one for yourself and they make nice gifts.

**Materials:** clear contact paper, yarn, hole punch, big book, paper towels

1. Go out to your garden and collect a few small flowers you like.
2. If the flowers are not very flat put them between two sheets of paper towels and place them inside the back cover of a big book.
3. Cut two bookmark-size pieces of contact paper. Peel off the paper on one and place it sticky side up on the table.
4. Arrange the flowers the way you like on the sticky side.
5. Peel the paper off the other piece of contact paper and center it sticky side-down on top of the piece with the flowers.
6. Punch a hole through the top and tie yarn through the hole.

\*\*\*\*Please do not pick flowers from the Wildwood Prairie - as we like to say:  
Take only memories, leave only footprints!\*\*\*\*

