



Bur Oak Tribune



Wildwood Nature Center

Park Ridge Park District

November 2011

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General Information

During your visit to Wildwood Nature Center you will find an **Animal Exhibit Room** with a turtle pond, snakes, prairie dog, snapping turtles, and more.

Wildwood also offers an activity room called the **Nature Nook** complete with books, puzzles, puppets, and activities. Visit the Nook this month to learn about turkeys!

Wildwood Nature Center is located at:
529 Forestview Ave.
Park Ridge, IL 60068

Contact Info:
847-692-3570
jclauson@prparks.org

Website: www.prparks.org

Visiting Hours:
Tuesday -Thursday 10:00am-6:00pm
Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm

Admission : FREE

Wildwood Nature Center Bur Oak
Editor: Hillary Wells-Pranga

Nature Feature

This month's feature is the slug. Slugs are basically shell-less snails, and because they lack a shell they do not need lots of calcium to grow a shell and can live in a wide range of places.



oregonstate.edu

Among the slug's other relatives are clams, squid, and octopus. All of the animals including the slug belong to the larger group of animals called

invertebrates, animals that

lack an internal skeleton. A slug's anatomy mostly consists of a large foot on which it glides, a stomach, and a head. On top of the slug's head are four stalk-like protrusions. Two of these are eye stalks and the other two are part of the slug's senses. All of these stalks can be pulled into the body when the slug is threatened. Slugs and all their close relatives have a specialized mouthpart called a radula (Latin for scraper) which resembles the belt upon which a bulldozer



webpages.charter.net

moves. The radula has thousands of teeth which point backwards helping scrap food into the slug's mouth. The radula is also used for fighting other slugs. Slugs start their lives as tiny eggs which hatch in a few weeks. Slugs are hermaphroditic and they lay a lot of eggs per year, some species as many as 500. To find each other, slugs follow slime trails other slugs have left. The slime helps them move, keeps them from drying out and aids in reproduction.

News Bulletins



- Wildwood will be open Saturday, November 26 from 10am-4pm.
- We will be CLOSED on Saturday, December 24 and Saturday, December 31.

➤ The Park Ridge Park District winter brochure will be arriving in the mail during the week of Thanksgiving. Registration for winter programs start December 5th for Park Ridge residents and December 10th for nonresidents. All of the Nature Center's upcoming winter programming will be listed in the brochure and on the website at www.prparks.org.

Upcoming Events & Classes



themagiconions.blogspot.com

Nature Ornaments* (Families):

Dec 1, 6:30pm—7:30pm ~ Deck your tree with some treasures that nature has gifted. Make cute and fun creations out of seeds, pine cones, and other natural supplies. Also during this crafty class create some edible ornaments to hang in your backyard for nature to enjoy.

Fee: \$12/\$16 resident families/
nonresident families, Class# 21272

***Registration is required for all classes, for more information call 847-692-3570 or Discover the Fun on the Park District website at www.prparks.org**



Volunteer News

Happy Birthday to Tuesday Animal Volunteer Tim !!

Family Fun Corner

Bird Binoculars

Fall means birds are migrating, so its fun to look for birds you do not usually see other times of the year. Hear is a fun and simple craft to get your children excited about going on a bird walk.

Materials: two toilet paper tubes (per child), tape, markers or crayons, stickers (optional), hole punch, string/yarn

1. Put the toilet paper tubes next to each other (parallel) and put two rings of tape around them to hold them together. You could also glue the two together and use rubber bands.
2. Punch a hole on one side of one end of each tube (so the holes are symmetrical).
3. Cut a piece of string long enough so that the binoculars can fit over the child's head.
4. Tie one end of each string on one of the holes you punched.
5. Decorate the binoculars the way you want with crayons markers and/or stickers.
6. Go outside and look for birds!



Earth Stewards

You can be an earth steward by taking the One Bag Challenge!

What is the One Bag Challenge?

The goal of the challenge is for parents to educate their family about reducing, reusing, and recycling, and work together with their family to get down to only one bag of garbage per week.

What can you do to participate in the One Bag Challenge?



- Make sure you have an up-to-date list of what your city recycles and go over it with your family members.
- Encourage your family to utilize used materials (also called repurposed) to make crafts, school projects, etc.
- Brainstorm with your family on things you normally throw out that you could reuse in other ways.
- “Know before you throw” - can this item be recycled, donated, reused, etc.
- Look into composting at home.
- Take your own Tupperware to restaurants for leftovers.

For more info: www.planetpals.com/onebagchallenge.html

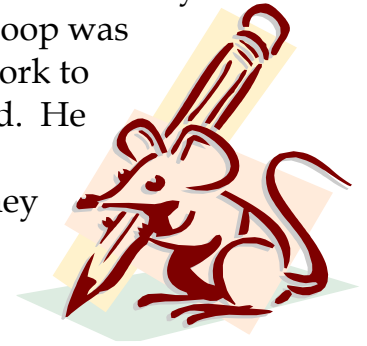


Junior Naturalist Pages



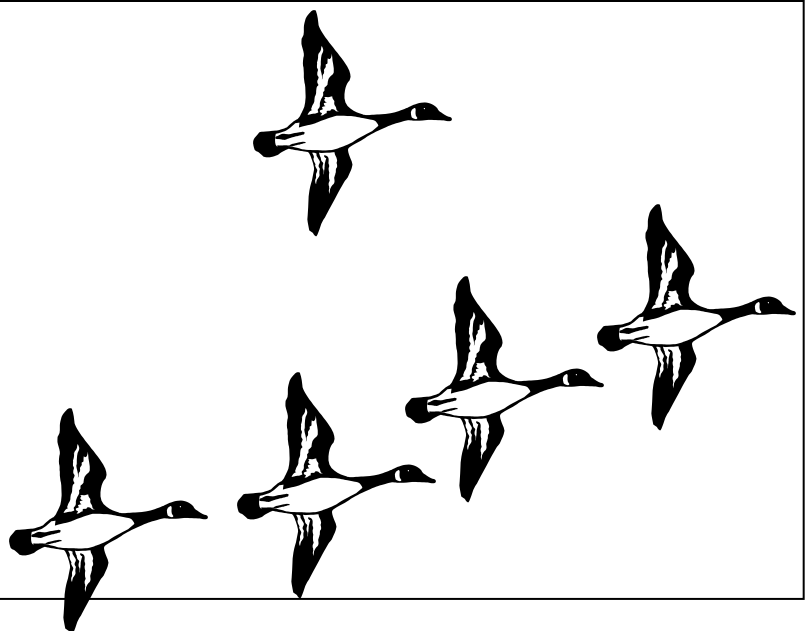
Wild Wonders

Hey folks, this is Merry Mouse, your friendly animal news reporter. Things may seem quiet around here during these crisp fall days but there is really a lot going on. A couple weeks ago I was out gathering food when I heard a tiny voice call out to me, it was Albert Ant. I asked him what the scoop was in the world of tiny ants, he told me they were all using teamwork to get the colony ready for winter. "How do you do that?" I asked. He said they seal up the entrance to the colony (the ant hill) with a mixture of soil, straw, dead leaves and twigs. I asked him if they cannot get out, what do they eat. He told me they live off of food they have stored up over the summer. Well, Albert Ant is not the only one getting busy underground, I saw Earnest Earthworm a few days ago and he was telling me he has to burrow below the frost mark, far enough down into the dirt where the frozen temperatures cannot reach 3-4 ft! Here he curls up in some protective slime...yuck! Whatever helps you stay warm I guess! Other animals head underground this time of year too like skunks and woodchucks. Some animals are moving down but not underground. They are moving down south and passing through our neighborhood. The other day I heard a song I had not hear in awhile, it was Danielle Dark-eyed Junco (that is a kind of bird!). She had stopped in the prairie to eat some seeds. Keep an eye out for Ally American Tree Sparrow, and I am going to watch out for Richie Rough Legged Hawk to arrive (he might try to make a meal out of me)! I will also be watching the sky for flocks going overhead. Do you know what bird flocks are passing through? Lots of Canada Geese and also Sandhill Cranes! Well, I had better get busy myself and collect some more food for the winter! See you in December!



Merry's Challenge:

Canada Geese
fly in a V shape
can you fill in
with the missing
birds to make a V?





Junior Naturalist Pages



In honor of America Recycles Day, here is a quiz for you! Can you guess how long these things will be in the landfill if we do not recycle them? Draw a line from the object to the time it takes to decompose.

1. Apple

2. Paper

3. Tin

4. Aluminum

5. Styrofoam

6. Rubber

7. Wood

8. Glass

9. Cotton

10. Plastic



A. 3-4 Weeks

B. 1 Month

C. 5 Months

D. 13 Years

E. 50-80 Years

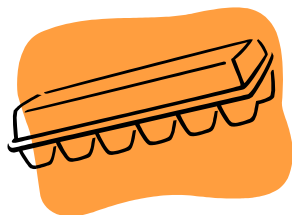
F. 80-100 Years

G. 200-500 Years

H. 1 Million Yrs

I. Never

J. Never



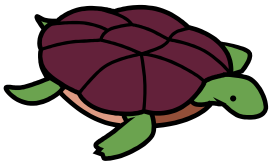


Ask the Naturalist

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

Q: Why do water turtles cross the road?

A: Female water turtles come up onto the land to find a place to dig a nest and may be attracted to the heat coming from the road on a warm spring day. Water turtles may also leave their habitat and cross the road trying to find a new place to live if their habitat is disturbed.



Submit your questions to Wildwood's mailing address (2701 W. Sibley) or email them to: jclauson@prparks.org. We encourage people of all ages to write in with their questions!

Pet Connection

Needs a home:

- ~ Two female 1.5-2 year old, short-hair guinea pigs, Piggers and Teddy. Come with cage and supplies.
- ~ Female 3 1/2 year old, short-hair guinea pig. Comes with indoor and outdoor cages and supplies.
- ~ Female 2 year old, short-hair guinea pig named Lucy. Comes with cage and accessories.
- ~ Male, short-hair guinea pig. (not neutered). Comes with cage, food and accessories.
- ~ Cumberland slider turtle (semi-aquatic), 2 1/2 years old.

To respond to these ads or to post an ad, please contact Wildwood at 847-692-3570.