



Bur Oak Tribune



Wildwood Nature Center

Park Ridge Park District

August/September 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 much, much more.

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

Wildwood Nature Center is located at:

529 Forestview Ave.
Park Ridge, IL 60068

Contact Info:

847-692-3570
jclauson@prparks.org

Web: www.prparks.org

Visiting Hours:

Tuesday -Thursday 10am-6pm
Saturday 10am-4pm

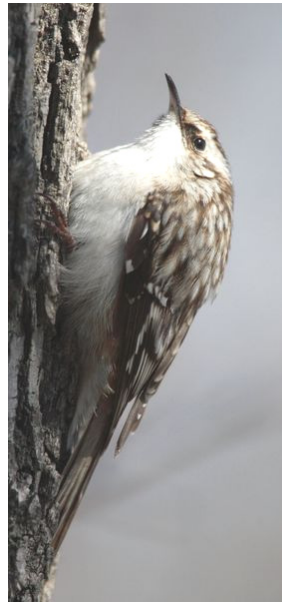
Admission : FREE

Wildwood Nature Center Bur Oak

Editor: Hillary Wells-Pranga

Nature Feature

This month's feature is the brown creeper. The brown creeper is a small songbird with a brown mottled back which gives it great camouflage against tree trunks, and a white belly. This creeper is named for its color and the way it



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moves up the tree. Brown creepers are often seen spiraling up the trunk, looking for insects, spiders, spider eggs and pupae to pick out of the bark with its long sharp beak. When it runs out of tree trunk it will fly to the bottom of the next tree and start all over again. Brown creepers will also feed on suet at your feeder or peanut butter mixtures. The male brown creeper when courting will sometimes perform a fast

twirling flight and once he finds a mate, gathers materials for the nest. The male also defends the nest area he picks by singing.

The female brown creeper builds the cup shaped nest in the crevice of a tree, sometimes she will even build the nest under loose slabs of bark. The female will lay around six eggs and sit on them for up to 17 days. The hatchlings are then fed by



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both parents. Brown creepers can be found in woodlands, groves and when migrating in any habitat with a few big shade trees. They prefer older mature forest for breeding but are not picky when it comes to the kind of forest; either coniferous or deciduous will do from the mountains to the lowland swamps.

Upcoming Events & Classes



Halloween Hoopla* (Families): Oct 6, 6:30pm-8:30pm ~ Join us for a fun-filled family event that includes pumpkin carving, a hayride, scarecrow building and s'mores around the campfire. Please bring your own scarecrow clothes.

Fee: \$31 resident families/\$50 nonresident families, Class #21274
Additional pumpkin \$12, Class #21671

Brownie Try-It Day* (Ages 6-8): Oct 10, Noon-3:00pm ~ Come to the Park District to complete three Try-Its: Sounds of Music, Creative Compassing and Science Wonders. Each child participating must

register.

Fee: \$25 per child, Class #21838

Campfire Cooking* (Families): Oct 12, 6:00pm-7:30pm ~ Families will enjoy a great time around the campfire cooking up an entire meal. Find out how to cook in a variety of ways over a campfire from foil packs to jar. Have some delicious fun.

Fee: \$31 residents/\$35 nonresidents, Class # 21275



Nature Friends* (Ages 3-4 without adult): Enjoy learning about nature and animals through fun games, crafts and activities. Nature friends is all about hands-on learning and ventures outside on nice days.

Squirrels: Oct 11, 10am-11am, Class #21636, or 1pm-2pm, Class #21637

Animal Action: Oct 18, 10am-11am Class #21663 or 1pm-2p, Class #21664

Using Your Senses: Oct 24, 10am-11am, Class #21665

Raccoons: Oct 31, 1pm-2pm, Class #21666

Fee: \$9 residents/\$14 nonresidents



Pumpkin Smash and Bash* (Ages 2 and Up):

Nov 5, 12:30pm-1:30pm ~ Roll your pumpkin down the Centennial sled hill in a fun competition to kick off the event, then smash them into bits and pieces. Go green by helping to clean up the newly smashed pumpkins and learn about composting.

Fee: FREE, Class #: 21271

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

Volunteer News

Happy Birthday from Wildwood to Animal volunteers Claire and Alex G!



Family Fun Corner

Nature Mobile

Fall is a great time to go on nature hikes to collect treasures, whether its along the beach or through the forest or prairie. Just make sure you do not pick anything in a preserve! Here is a fun thing you can make for your room out of your treasures you collected.



nwf.org

Materials: two large sticks, yarn or string, nature objects

1. Go on a hike an collect some nature treasures such as feathers, pinecones, rocks, acorns, seeds, leaves, etc.
2. Also collect two large sticks that are at least 1ft long.
3. Tie the two large sticks together so they form an X. This is the base for you mobile.
4. Tie a piece of string to the middle of the X to hang the mobile by.
5. Tie pieces of string around the objects you collected and tie the other end of the strings to one of the sticks in the X. You may need to experiment with placement so that it is balanced!

Earth Stewards

You can be an earth steward by disposing of pharmaceuticals in a safe way.

What Should I Not Do with My Pharmaceuticals?

~ Flush them down the toilet.
~ *Why:* Most water treatment plants are not designed to filter out the chemicals found in pharmaceuticals. Water tested in multiple states showed traces of painkillers, estrogen, antidepressants, and blood-pressure medicines. This can cause deformities in fish and the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.



What Can I Do with My Pharmaceuticals?

~ Check the label, some will give you instructions on how to properly dispose of them.
~ Bring them to the Health Department on the 1st Thursday of any month.
~ Remove the pills from the bottle, put them in a plastic bag with either coffee grounds or cat litter (so they are not easily seen) and throw them in your trash.
~ Take them to The Morton Grove Civic Center, and drop them off anytime Monday to Friday from 9am-4pm.

For more info: www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou

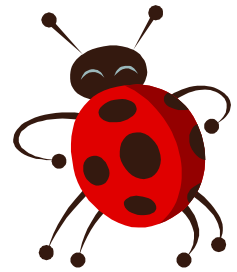


Junior Naturalist Pages

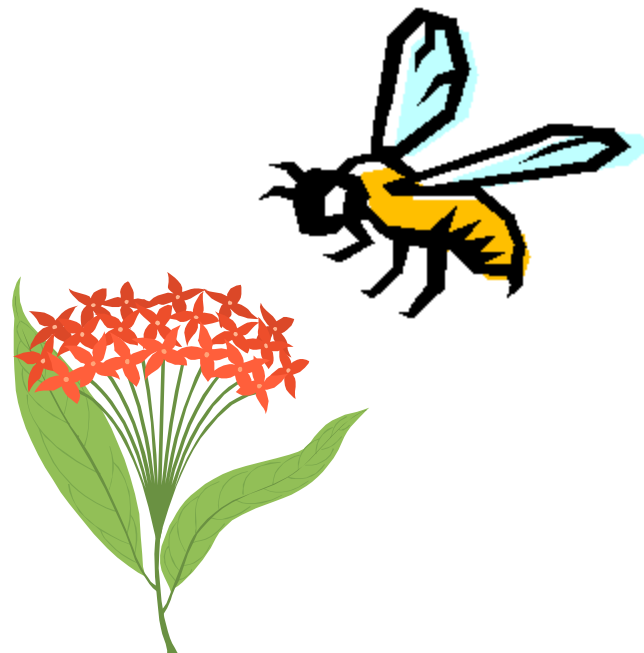


Wild Wonders

Hey everybody, thanks for joining me, LeeAnn Ladybug for another edition of the wildlife news at Wildwood. It is the last days of summer so everyone is very busy getting ready for fall. Holly Honey Bee has been very busy taking advantage of late blooming summer flowers such as showy goldenrod with its pretty yellow blooms. I stopped to chat with Holly a week ago and she told me that bees suck nectar into special stomachs and collect pollen. The nectar and pollen get mixed together at the hive to feed the colony and some nectar gets made into honey by worker bees. Bees have a special tongue called a proboscis that works like a straw to suck out the nectar. Sounds like lots of work! Not only are bees hard at work making use of the last days of summer but so are the mammals. I ran into Chula Chipmunk a few days ago, and she told me she has five little mouths to feed now. Did you know a baby chipmunk is called a pup? Wow, all those animals are really busy, and do you know what, so are the plants! As I was flying over the prairie the other day I noticed the Canadian rye and Indian grass, which are common prairie grasses, are starting to make seeds. Those seeds will drop to the ground in the fall and grow into new grasses in the spring. I also enjoyed seeing the lovely late summer bloomers in the prairie; boneset, which have white clusters of flowers, and new england aster with their violet daisy-like flowers. While I was admiring the flowers I spotted Roger the Red Admiral butterfly gliding from flower to flower sticking his proboscis in to drink the sweet nectar. All this talk of flowers reminds me, I need to find some aphids to eat. I need to eat as much as I can because soon I will have to find a place to hibernate for the winter. Merry Mouse will be taking over my duties for the winter, delivering the news. See you in the spring!



LeeAnn's Challenge: Draw a proboscis going from the bee's mouth to the flower.



Junior Naturalist Pages



This month is great time to go bug hunting!
Unscramble the letters to find the names of
some common bugs!

1. GPORSASPERH _____

2. DAICCA _____

3. DALYBGU _____

4. PSWA _____

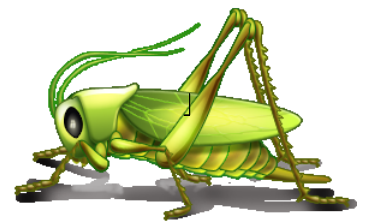
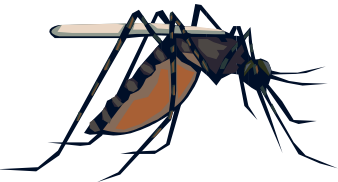
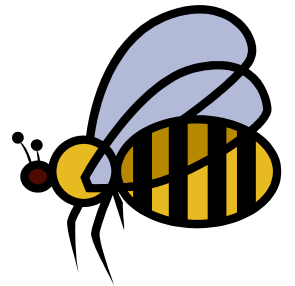
5. TEBURFTYL _____

6. RGOAFNLYD _____

7. OSQOTUMI _____

8. REFILYF _____

9. KTECRIC _____



Ask the Naturalist

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

Q: Why are the hissing cockroaches hiding?

A: Cockroaches are nocturnal, they are active at night. They are also sensitive to sound; so they may hide if there is too much noise.

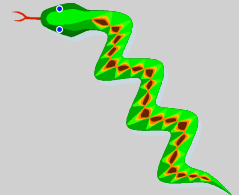


Submit your questions to Wildwood's mailing address (2701 W. Sibley) or email them to: jclauson@prparks.org. We encourage people of all ages to write in with their questions!

Pet Connection

Needs a home:

- ~ Nine inch female red-eared slider (water turtle). Comes with 50 gallon tank.
- ~ Male short-hair guinea pig. Comes with cage and supplies.
- ~ Two female short-hair guinea pigs. Come with cage and supplies.
- ~ Male, short-hair guinea pig (not neutered). Comes with cage, food and accessories.
- ~ Male 5 year old, brown rabbit. Comes with cage and supplies.
- ~ Male, 6 month dwarf rabbit (not neutered).
- ~ 2 year old red-tailed boa. Comes with cage and heat lamp.



To respond to these ads or to post an ad, please contact Wildwood at