



Trunks and Twigs

A quarterly newsletter for Nature Lovers big and small.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2011-2012

IN THE NEWS:

- No Wee Naturalists in January
- Change over in the Baker Exhibit Center
- Books and Boots Event
- TNCA Youth Ed. Coordinator receives state award
- EcoLab Animal Sponsorships
- Discovery Day Camp registration opens Jan. 15!

CAN YOU FIND AUDUBON?



Audubon is hidden in the newsletter. The first five families to find him will receive an Arboretum t-shirt!



ECOLAB
THE NC ARBORETUM
100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way
Asheville, NC 28806

Jonathan Marchal Awarded by NC Science Teachers Association

By Allison Dyer Inman, Edited by Michelle Pearce
Jonathan Marchal, Youth Education Coordinator for The North Carolina Arboretum, is the 2011 recipient of the North Carolina Science Teachers Association (NCSTA) Distinguished Service in Science Education Award. Marchal is being recognized for his contribution to science education in North Carolina in a non-school setting. Nominees for Distinguished Service awards are judged on criteria including leadership, contributions to improvements in science education, length of service, and excellence in field.

Marchal's love for the outdoors was instilled at an early age during family trips to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He nurtured his interest through scouting, earning the rank of Eagle Scout, and later spending summers working at Boy Scout camps.



Jonathan teaching summer campers about a Dusky Salamander.

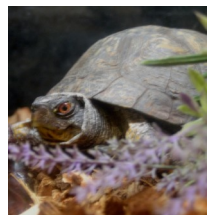
Marchal received a bachelor's degree in ecology from Brevard College, and spent time working for Trout Unlimited, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Gorges State Park prior to the Arboretum.

Marchal has worked in youth education for The North Carolina Arboretum for more than five years. Among his accomplishments to date, Marchal has developed all curriculum used in Arboretum field trips and outreach, planned the

format of the organization's Wee Naturalist program for toddlers, and designed the Arboretum's youth education classroom, EcoLab. Marchal is responsible for growing school programs from 2,000 to 12,000 attendees annually, and for overseeing the Arboretum's summer camp program from its inception seven years ago to its most recent enrollment of more than 400 campers.

When asked his philosophy on the importance of environmental education for children, Marchal's passion shines. "I believe it is essential for all children to have access to safe, natural places on a regular basis. The physical, emotional, and developmental benefits of outdoor exploration and play engage all senses of the child, and challenge their motor and critical thinking skills in an environment where creativity is their greatest asset."

The Critter Corner



This edition's "Feature Creature" of the Critter Corner is Shelly, the EcoLab's Eastern Box Turtle.

Favorite Hang-out: In the wild, Shelly's relatives can be found in fields and forests throughout North Carolina. Here at EcoLab, Shelly lives in a large enclosure in the Nature Discovery Room.

Favorite Foods: Apples, worms
Hobbies: Going on Outreach Field Trips, people-watching, and hiding under the plants in her home.

Fun Fact: Shelly is about 35 years old! You can find out how old an Eastern Box Turtle is by looking at the part of their shell that we would call their back, the **carapace**. On the carapace there is a pattern made up of sections called **scutes**. Just like with a tree, you can count the rings in a single scute to find out the age of the turtle.



Winter Happenings...

Wee Naturalists

Can you believe winter is almost here already?! We have had so much fun this fall learning about how and why animals migrate, what it means to be a mammal, and how we can tell the difference between all those trees out there. The time has just flown by!

This winter, we will have a few Wee Naturalists programs in December. The dates are available on our registration website.

During the month of January, we will take a break in order to stay out of the bitterly cold weather.

Then, to help us with our “cabin fever”, we will jump in headfirst in February to start our unit on REPTILES! Dates will be posted in January.

www.ncarboretumregistration.org

Family Events

As many of you know, the Arboretum is celebrating its

25th year! As a part of the celebration, there have been events scheduled throughout the year. Coming up in February, there will be an exciting family event called Books and Boots. The Arboretum will be featuring authors and their books on gardening and hiking, and there will even be some children’s authors! There will also be pet hikes and family hikes and activities.

Books and Boots

February 18 and 19, 2012



Wee Naturalist Noah Senzon showing off his antlers.

“Perhaps I am a bear, or some hibernating animal underneath, for the instinct to be half asleep all winter is so strong in me.”

-Anne Morrow Lindbergh

EcoLab Animal Sponsorships

The animals of the EcoLab are without a doubt the stars of the show around here. Whether you are only here in the summer for a session of camp, or if you come every week for Wee Naturalists, there is a favorite animal that you want to see each time you visit.

With the holiday season upon us, the EcoLab would like to

offer a special gift option that would last the whole year through. You or your family can now sponsor your favorite animal! Here’s the information:

Cost: \$50 per animal

Duration: One calendar year

Benefits: Your donation will help to buy food, bedding, and other needed items for the animal during the year.

All of the sponsors will be listed on the bulletin board in The Nature Discovery Room next to a picture of their animal.

If you would like to sponsor an animal in the EcoLab, please contact Jonathan Marchal at jmarchal@ncarboretum.org.

Last Chance to See “Sustainable Shelters”

Exhibit patron exploring the termite mound in the Sustainable Shelters exhibit.



If you haven’t had a chance to tour our Sustainable Shelters exhibit yet, get here soon before it’s gone! Sustainable Shelters is on loan to the Arboretum from The Bell Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis,

Minnesota, where it was created. From here, it will move on to another establishment on its tour.

This exhibition introduces visitors to the functions of shelters and how animals and humans have adapted to differing environments through an amazing diversity of

structures.

Starting in February, portions of the Arboretum’s very own Wicked Plants exhibit will be on display during the set-up process.

The Wicked Plants exhibit will officially open on March 15.

Let's get ready for Summer!



Discovery Day Camp registration opens by January 15!

If you're on our email list, we'll send you a sneak peak of calendar dates and camp themes. Contact Jonathan Marchal for more information.

jmarchal@ncarboretum.org

Eco-Adventure Birthdays!

EcoLab @ The North Carolina Arboretum

Youth Education Department
Jonathan Marchal, Prog. Coordinator
Lauren Pyle, Asst. Prog. Coordinator
Michelle Pearce, EC Specialist
Phone: 828-665-2492
www.ncarboretum.org
www.ncarboretumregistration.org

Adventure - Exploration - Awareness



Did you know that you can have your party with a guided program in the EcoLab? All programs are led by an enthusiastic environmental educator and take place in our interactive children's classroom as well as outside along the trails, creeks, pond, gardens and woodlands of our 434-acre campus.

Check out our Eco-Adventure Birthdays at:

www.ncarboretum.org/education/youth-education-programs/eco-adventure-birthdays/

Do It Together! Winter Habitat Helpers

Winter is an interesting time of year in nature. Many animals have spent the fall season looking for food and fattening up so they can hibernate through the coming months. Others have taken flight and headed for warmer, sunny climates until spring time.

But there are still others who remain active during the winter. Most often during these months we see birds, squirrels, and deer digging through the snow and scavenging for the buried leftover nuts and seeds of fall.

In the winter, there are many species of birds that will come together in communal flocks to help each other look for food.

Next time you look at your feeders, you might see Northern Cardinals, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, and our very own winter migratory bird, the Dark-eyed Juncos all living

together and looking for food.



Homemade pine cone bird feeder.

You can help these birds, and the other active animals in your habitat by providing a tasty treat that they will all enjoy!

Pine Cone Suet Feeder

3-4 medium to large pine cones
2 cups of vegetable shortening
1 cup of peanut butter
Gallon size plastic bags
A variety of bird seeds
Yarn to hang the pine cones

Melt the vegetable shortening and the peanut butter together over low heat in a saucepan or a crockpot. Tie a piece of yarn, about 12 inches, in a loop around the top of the pine cone. If the pan or crockpot is deep enough you can dip the pine cone, or just use a butter knife to spread the suet mixture. Put 1-2 cups of bird seed in a plastic bag and put the smothered pine cone inside the bag, using the loop of yarn to secure the opening of the bag.

Now, SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE the bag so the seeds stick to the pine cone. Decorate a tree in your yard with the tasty treats and watch the animals flock to them!