

Volunteer Workshops -- Fall 2011—



Sept 12 -- Nature Mentoring and the Future of CNC's School Program

Join us for the first Volunteer Educator Workshop of the new school year!

Education Director Connie O'Connor will introduce the new School Program Manager and share the goals, outcomes and potential strategies recommended by the Education Committee for our school program. She will field questions on the school program report (which will be emailed to each of you prior to this workshop); provide a preface for how the nature mentoring techniques presented in today's workshop can be incorporated into any lesson plan; and solicit ideas from the audience for other teacher training topics and school program strategies for the future. Then Bill Creasey and Bob Staggenborg will present great ways for adults to guide children in outdoor experiences. They will draw upon your own experiences and share tips and techniques that require nothing more than enthusiasm and encouragement to guide people of all ages down the path to greater outdoor awareness. You may want to bring something to sit on because part of the experience will be a solo-sit outdoors (called "Sit-Spot" in *Coyote Mentoring*). Bill and Bob have been presenting Nature Mentoring classes together for the past year, and look forward to sharing a day of hands-on outdoor activities with you! 10 AM – 2 PM

Sept 19 -- Outdoor Examples: What's for Lunch and Ohio Plants and Animals Lesson Plans

Hone your knowledge for leading school groups and scout groups. Join Bill Creasey and Jason Neumann as they take you on a two-hour hike to see real-life examples of plants, animals, and concepts within these two popular school lesson plans. 10 AM – Noon

Sept 26 -- Gold Dusters: Native Bees

There are 4000 known species of bees native to the United States. Some of their common names include plasterer, leafcutter, mason, carder, digger and carpenter. Others earned their names by lapping up perspiration or humming loudly as they fly. Come prepared to explore bee diversity as we role play, tinker with our solitary and social tendencies, review basic entomology and head to the field to catch, chill and identify bees. We'll search for cuckoo bees, the cowbirds of the bee world, and spend time with some social parasites (doesn't that sound like fun?). What's more, we'll explore flower constancy, constipated babies, what's not a bee and what bees really want from flowers. Come prepared to have a great experience with these misunderstood but non-aggressive creatures that provide a service on which we are wholly dependent. Jason Neumann 10 AM – 2 PM

Oct 3 -- Kinship with Animals

Explore the world of animals with Ann Southcombe, who devoted 36 years working with a wide range of animals at zoos, universities, wildlife rehabilitation centers, rescue ranches and the jungles of South Africa. In 1970 Ann was the second woman to be hired by the Cincinnati Zoo as a zookeeper. In 1978 she began working with the now-famous gorillas, Koko and Michael, in a language studies program at Stanford University. With a multi-media slideshow and discussion about a variety of animals she has personally known, Ann hopes that sharing her touching and sometimes humorous experiences will inspire each viewer to have a greater understanding and compassion for all earth's creatures. 10 AM – Noon



Oct 10 -- Invertebrate Biodiversity: The Little Things That Run the World

Every day and night, tiny invertebrates make life possible for everyone on our planet. We depend on them even though we may not know they exist. Join us on an intellectual voyage to discover the various ecological functions and ecosystem services provided by beneficial insects, soil arthropods, aquatic zooplankton, and more. Thomas Crist is a Terrestrial Ecologist and Professor at Miami University's Department of Zoology, with interests in landscape ecology, biodiversity, and conservation biology. The scope of his field studies ranges from old fields and small woodlots to larger parks and preserves. His research incorporates a wide variety of insect groups including ants, beetles, butterflies, and moths. 10 AM – 2 PM

Oct 17 -- Outdoor Examples: Aquatic Safari

Hone your knowledge for leading school groups and scout groups. Join Bill Creasey and Jason Neumann as they take you on a two-hour hike to see real-life examples of organisms that live in our ponds and streams. Knowledge of these habitats is essential to lead several of our most popular lesson plans, including Aquatic Safari, What's For Lunch, and Ohio Plants and Animals. 10 AM – Noon



Oct 24 -- What do you do when a kid finds a...?

Lace up your hiking boots because we're headed out the door for a team-based, lesson-applied natural science challenge. Learn from your peers and stretch your naturalist skills as we get our hands dirty in each of the four habitats: construct a food chain based on what you find in the pond; deduce the life cycle of that insect (and the flower it was on) in the field; relate fossils to modern animals down in the stream; and log roll your way into understanding in the forest. KKKrrrrrchhh...the radio crackles letting us know it's time for a "Make It Relate" practicum. You'll have so much fun you won't want to come in off the trail. Jason Neumann. 10 AM – 2 PM

October 31 -- CNC's Algae Wheel

Join CNC's Land Management Specialist Jason BrownKnight for an explanation and exploration of the algae wheel which processes CNC's wastewater. This efficient system is the first of its kind in Ohio. Jason will discuss the importance of protecting water resources at CNC and the negative impact outdated or dysfunctional systems can have on ecosystems. He will explain how this system uses nature's own cycles to treat water. 10 AM - Noon

Nov 7 -- Igneous is Bliss: Under Our Feet Lesson Certification

This is an easy way to learn everything you need to know to teach Under Our Feet. We'll begin with background material to build your confidence about soils, land formations, and fossils, then practice using the activities related to the lesson, all while developing our teaching techniques and questioning skills. An indoor/outdoor (dress for outside!) format will be used, and you'll receive useful take-home tips. At the end of the day, you may take your certification quiz (open book) before you leave, or take it home with you to return later. Experienced volunteers and newbies alike will benefit from this workshop! (Jason Neumann and the fabulous education interns) 10 AM – 2 PM

Nov 21 -- The Seasonal Naturalist

As fall comes to a close and winter approaches, the seasonal naturalist is aware of many changes taking place. Join us for a review of the dormant winter trees, shrubs, and vines as well as the nuts, fruits, and seed pods they produced. But not all goes dormant as we check on local evergreens, and more specifically the conifers and their cones. Without the distraction of leaves we'll also look for fall galls and blisters. Migration is almost finished so we'll review our winter visitors from the north as well as what feeds and feeders attract them to our yards. And finally, the first snow will soon be flying so tracking mammals through the snow becomes a fun activity to learn who has been leaving footprints and scat along the trails. Indoor review is followed by afternoon outdoors – dress appropriately. Bill Creasey 10 AM – 2 PM

Nov 28 -- Mammals of Southwest Ohio

Review basic classification of animals and then learn the specifics of mammals you may find in this area of the state. Can you name three local rodents? What is the difference between a vole and a mole? What mustelids have been sighted at Rowe Woods? Join CNC's Education Director Connie O'Connor for a whirlwind tour of the cute and fuzzies! 10 AM – 2 PM

Dec 5 -- A Naturalist Afield

Join photographer Steve Maslowski as he shares his memories of growing up with his father, Karl Maslowski. Karl, one of the founders of CNC, turned a strong love of the outdoors into a career of writing and photography. For more than three decades he produced outdoor documentaries for a variety of clients ranging from state conservation agencies to the National Wildlife Federation. He also lectured with personally narrated wildlife films for the National Audubon Society, the National Geographic Society and others to a collective audience of nearly a million people. And for 50 years Karl wrote a nature column for the Sunday Cincinnati Enquirer. Son Steve Maslowski worked with his father for many years, and has continued the tradition of wildlife photography. He recently produced over 40 natural science videos distributed widely in classrooms around the nation by Discovery Education. Learn about the delights and challenges of wildlife videography from this first-hand account with Steve. After lunch, Steve will join us outdoors and describe what he looks for when seeking natural history footage. 10 AM – 2 PM

A Naturalist Afield Reflections on Cincinnati Nature, 1937-1984

By Karl H. Maslowski

