

Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center April Newsletter

We're kicking off Spring with a bang! and March was a busy month!

We started it out with a Digital Nature Photography Educator Workshop on March 6. Eric Maynard, Facility Director of the Governor Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center in Pine Bluff came to share his photography expertise with 19 local educators who hope to put their new knowledge and skills on the subject to good use in their classrooms.



That Saturday, on March 7, several kids came out to learn all about one of Arkansas' greatest attractions: ducks. Not only did they find out about basic duck biology, but they also got to hear all about duck banding here and throughout the country. The kids were also able to test out their own duck banding skills on dried duck legs, and everyone took a duck band home with them!

Gourd Painting was the name of the game the following Saturday, March 14. About 65 people, young and old, came to show their creative side by painting their own unique design on a Gourd Bird House, and unique they were! Grandmas, Grandpas, Moms, Dad, Aunts, Uncles, and all the young'ns got down-n-dirty with this hands-on activity!

We pulled triple duty on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd! Four of our staff members joined the rest of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Education Division staff in Hot Springs for the 1st ever National Archery in the Schools Program State Tournament in Arkansas. Over 900 students from around the state entered the tournament, and both team and individual awards were given for 1st through 5th place in Elementary, Middle School and High School Divisions. Winning teams were awarded a school trophy and banner, as well as an individual trophy and Special Edition chrome Matthews bow for each team member!

During all of this excitement, back home our last Hunter Education class of the season started bright and early Saturday morning and lasted all day. On Sunday, they picked up right back where they left off, and ended the weekend with about 25 proud Hunter Education graduates. Hunter Education classes at the nature center will start back up again in August, and we'll be having Boater Education classes here each month during the summer.





Because this weekend was also the 3rd Saturday of the month, Ms. Karen of the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library came for her Tales and Trails program. The topic this month was "Spring Blooms" and more than 30 kids came to listen to her story, then planted some seeds of their own to take home and watch them grow!

And finally, we ended the month with "Sticks-n-Strings". Nearly 40 kids came to do some target shooting with our kid-sized bows and arrows! Kids of all levels of experience were there, and whether they were regular bow hunters or first-time shooters, everyone had a blast!



COMING UP!

We hope you can come out to some of our April events, too! Here is a little preview of what we have in store!

- April 4, 9a.m. - 4p.m..... Boater Education*
- April 11, 2p.m. - 3p.m.....Herps! and Toad Abodes
- April 18, 1p.m.....Let's Talk Turkey!*
- April 18, 2p.m.....Tales and Trails - Skunk Tales
- April 25, 2p.m.....Tree ID with Tom Lindsey*
- Daily, 3:30p.m.....Feeding Frenzy
- Saturdays, 10a.m.....Creature Feature

A * beside a program name indicates that pre-registration is required.

Visit our website at www.crowleysridge.org or call us at 870-933-6787 for more info!

