



Smithsonian Environmental
Research Center

SERC SUN

The Smithsonian
In Your Own Back Yard!
647 Contees Wharf Road
Edgewater, MD 21037

Public Programs: Spring 2012

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is open to the public
Monday-Saturday from 9:00 am-4:30 pm.

Public programs are designed for individuals and families. Additional programs are available for schools and organized groups. Check our website at www.serc.si.edu for a list of age-appropriate environmental education programs, information about trails, and upcoming events. Call (443) 482.2388 for inquiries about programs for organized groups and (443) 482.2216 for inquiries about school programs.

All programs meet at the Reed Education Center. Directions to SERC can be found online at www.serc.si.edu.

Registration is online only at www.serc.si.edu. Click on the public calendar. There you will see the specific link to register for your class or for multiple classes. Simply cut and paste the link into a separate window and follow the registration prompts.

Programs at a Glance

February

Saturday 25th- Citizen Science: Native Bee Workshop & Building Bee Houses (10 am- Noon)

March

Wednesday 7th- Puddle Stompers (Mom n' Me): Mammals (10-11 am, 1:30-2:30 pm)

Wednesday 21st- Puddle Stompers (Mom n' Me): Box Turtle Buddies (10-11 am, 1:30-2:30 pm)

Saturday 24th- Citizen Science: An Introduction to Insects, "Under the Microscope" (10 -11:30 am)

Saturday 31st- Canoe Excursion (9-11:30 am)

Citizen Science: Beginning Reptile and Amphibian Identification Class (1-2 pm)

Citizen Science: Reptile and Amphibian Field Surveying/Hunting for Everyone (2-4 pm)

April

Wednesday 4th- Puddle Stompers (Mom n' Me): Nests and Eggs (10-11 am, 1:30-2:30 pm)

Saturday 14th- Canoe Excursion (9 am-11:30 am)

Wednesday 18th- Puddle Stompers (Mom n' Me): Seining (10-11 am, 1:30-2:30 pm)

Saturday 21st- Canoe Excursion (9-11:30 am)

Citizen Science: Beginning Reptile and Amphibian Identification Class (1-2 pm)

Citizen Science: Reptile and Amphibian Field Surveying/Hunting for Everyone (2-4 pm)

Saturday 28th- Citizen Science: Beginning Butterfly Identification (10-11 am)

Citizen Science: Butterfly Surveys for Everyone (11 am-1:30 pm)

May

Wednesday 2nd- Puddle Stompers (Mom n' Me): Metamorphosis (10-11 am, 1:30-2:30 pm)

Saturday 5th- Canoe Excursion (9-11:30 am)

Saturday 12th- Citizen Science: Beginning Butterfly Identification (10-11 am)

Citizen Science: Butterfly Surveys for Everyone (11 am-1:30 pm)

Wednesday 23rd- Puddle Stompers (Mom n' Me): Music in Nature (10-11 am, 1:30-2:30 pm)

Saturday 26th- Canoe Excursion (9-11:30 am)



Puddle Stompers (Mom n' Me): Parent-Child Pre-K Classes

These programs are for children ages 3-5 yrs. All classes are \$7 a student and siblings are \$3 a student (sibling ages 1-2 yrs. or 6+ yrs.). Registration is on line only at www.serc.si.edu. Click on the public calendar there you will see the specific link to register for your class or for multiple classes. Simply cut and paste the link into a separate window and follow the registration prompts.

March 7th- Mammals: Come learn about what makes a mammal a mammal in this fun hands-on program.

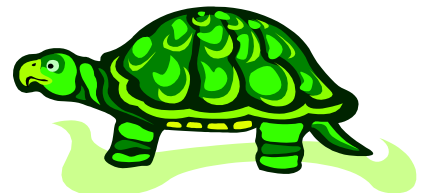
March 21st- Box Turtle Buddies: Meet the newest member of our family, Rooster the rescued Box Turtle, and learn all about these native turtles.

April 4th- Nests and Eggs: It's Spring and time to think about our returning bird friends as they make nests and lay eggs.

April 18th- Seining: Parents will don waders and go into the water for some near-shore net sampling of fish, crabs, and shrimp so that children can handle them and sort them into groups by swimmers, hoppers, and crawlers.

May 2nd- Metamorphosis: We'll explore the concept of metamorphosis by looking at the life cycles of butterflies, dragonflies, and frogs.

May 23rd- Music in Nature: Nature has a wide variety of sounds from the croaking of frogs to the chirping of crickets. We'll explore these sounds and make our own with found





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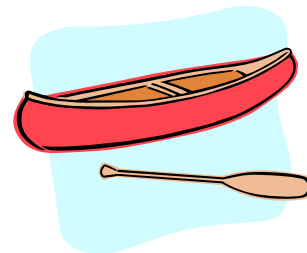
Public Programs: Spring 2012

Canoe Trips

Canoe Excursions

Saturdays, March 31st, April 14th, April 21st, May 5th & 26th (9-11:30 am)

Paddle along the shores of Muddy Creek and the Rhode River to learn about one of the many tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. We'll look for wildlife, eagles, shorebirds, reptiles, and more. This trip is designed for beginning and intermediate paddlers. Basic instruction will be given at the start of the program. Cost is \$14 per adult and \$7 for children 6-12 years old; limited to 16 participants. Preregistration is required. Go to www.serc.si.edu and click on the public calendar. There you will see the specific link to register for your class. Simply cut and paste this link into a separate window and follow the registration prompts.



Citizen Science

Citizen science programs are designed for all levels of interest, from beginner to expert. We will teach you techniques for understanding and exploring nature from field sampling to data collection and species ID. For ages 10-Adult. Once you are trained in our course you may also apply to be a volunteer citizen scientist for SERC but it's not required.

Citizen Science: Native Bee Workshop & Building Bee Houses

Saturday, February 25th (10 am-Noon)

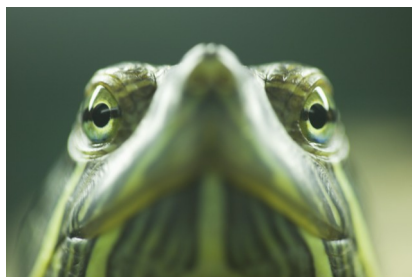
There are many more bees in our gardens than just the European honey bee that we all think of. There are a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and colors. Educators from the Smithsonian Natural History Museum Insect Zoo will come to SERC to help us distinguish the different species, set up bee collection transects, and demonstrate how to make native bee houses that you can build easily at home to encourage local pollinators. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child (for ages 10+); limited to 15 participants. For an optional charge of \$30 we will provide you with 20 mason bee cocoons to start your native bee colony this Spring! Preregistration is required. Go to www.serc.si.edu and click on the public calendar. There you will see the specific link to register for your class. Simply cut and paste this link into a separate window and follow the registration prompts.



An Introduction to Insects, "Under the Microscope"

Saturday, March 24th (10-11:30 am)

Discover the microscopic world of insects, their key characteristics, and adaptations in this hands-on program. We'll use pre-collected specimens for basic identification of traits and if there is time we'll show you how to collect insects in the field. Cost is \$5 per person (for ages 10+), limited to 15 participants. Preregistration is required go to www.serc.si.edu and click on the public calendar. There you will see the specific link to register for your class. Simply cut and paste this link into a separate window and follow the registration prompts.



Beginning Reptile and Amphibian Identification Class (1-2 pm)

Reptile and Amphibian Field Surveying and Hunts for Everyone (2-4 pm)

Saturdays, March 31st & April 21st

Reptiles and amphibians are good indicators of the health of our ecosystems. You have three options in this Citizen Science series. You can come to the early Identification Class to learn the basics of how to identify the different reptiles and amphibians of Maryland, you can come to the field collection and survey on the SERC property, or come for both. Long pants and hiking boots suggested. Cost for the class is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child (for ages 10+). The surveying is free; both are limited to 15 participants. Preregistration is required. Go to www.serc.si.edu and click on the public calendar. There you will see the specific link to register for your class. Simply cut and paste this link into a separate window and follow the registration prompts.

Beginning Butterfly Identification Class (10-11 am)

Butterfly Surveys/Collection for Everyone (11 am-1:30 pm)

Saturdays, April 28th & May 12th

Come learn the basics, grouping and identification of butterflies in our identification class. You can stay for the collection in the field or simply come for one or the other. We'll teach you how to group butterflies, narrow down identification, and how to use field guides. Staff from the Smithsonian Natural History Museum will join us for the field surveys as experts and to assist. Cost for the class is \$8 per adult and \$4 per child (for ages 10+), the surveying is free; both are limited to 15 participants. Preregistration is required go to www.serc.si.edu and click on the public calendar. There you will see the specific link to register for your class. Simply cut and paste this link into a separate window and follow the registration prompts.

