



PAGE 2:
MEET THE AFTER-
SCHOOL PROGRAM
STAFF

SUMMER | 2013



PAGE 3:
PARK VOLUNTEERS



PAGES 4-7:
NATURE PROGRAMS



PAGE 8:
NATURE CHALLENGE
FOR CHILDREN

Nature News



THE JEROME "BUDDIE" FORD NATURE CENTER'S
SEASONAL NEWSLETTER



Poison Ivy

Many visitors to eastern forests have received the characteristic itchy rash associated with the poison ivy plant (*Toxicodendron radicans*). While the plant can be a nuisance, poison ivy is native to Virginia and provides important benefits to wildlife. With a little practice, learning to identify and avoid poison ivy will help you enjoy your time outdoors, itch free.

The rash caused by poison ivy is caused by an oil in the plant's sap called urushiol. When urushiol comes in contact with an individual's skin, they often have an allergic reaction. While some are immune to poison ivy, most individuals who come in contact with the plant will be affected by the oil.

If you have a reaction to poison ivy, wash the area immediately with cold water and soap to prevent the oil from spreading to different parts of your body. Despite its nasty reputation, poison ivy is an important plant to the wildlife of Virginia. The leaves provide an excellent food source for deer, and the white berries found on the vine are often consumed by song birds.

Poison ivy can be found growing on trees as shrubs, or even creeping along the ground, but it is not hard to identify. Many of us have heard the rhyme, "leaves of three, let it be." This refers to poison ivy's



The harmless Virginia creeper vine (left) which has five leaflets is often mistaken for poison ivy (right) which has three.

three leaflets. "Longer middle stem; stay away from them." Typically the middle leaflet will most likely be a little longer than the others. In colder months, the poison ivy vine will lose its leaves and a dark brown vine will remain. "Hairy vine, no friend of mine." Winter vines often appear to be hairy, so watch out! Even in winter, poison ivy can still give you an itchy rash.

MEET THE AFTERSCHOOL "BUDDIES" STAFF

The Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center offers a fun-filled and educational afterschool program called Afterschool "Buddies." This year, the program was run by three educators; Desiree Del Valle (left), Majd Jarrar (center), and Bria O'Brien (right), who work hard to provide a fulfilling experience for students.



NEW ARRIVALS

Jane Yeingst



Jane Yeingst

Bria O'Brien



John Burke

As Summer begins at Dora Kelley Nature Park, numerous young animals begin emerging. Painted turtle hatchlings begin wandering through marshes, fledgling woodpeckers make their first flight, young raccoons emerge from the nest, and corn snakes lay their eggs.



JOIN OUR SUMMER CLEANUPS!

For more information about park cleanups or other volunteer opportunities, contact:

John Burke

Volunteer Coordinator

John.burke@alexandriava.gov

703.746.5559

Thank You Park Volunteers!

The Staff of the Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center would like to thank the amazing spring season volunteers. In addition to receiving animal care assistance from local high school students, we had 7 amazing park cleanups!

Dc Metro Church, The Red Cross, AmeriCorps, The

Friends of Dora Kelley, and The Northern Virginia Conservation trust all pitched in to remove invasive plants, mulch trails, and dispose of litter.

If you are interested in joining one of our invasive cleanups or want to learn more about invasive plants in the area, stop by an upcoming event:

- **Invasive Plant Training Session:**
Thursday, August 1st,
7 pm - 8:30 pm
- **Invasive Plant Removals:**
Saturdays, July 6th, August 3rd, September 7th
10 am - 12 pm



Nature Programs

Insects

Ages 6-12. Join volunteer Naturalist and local insect enthusiast Peter Edelman on a hike through Dora Kelley Nature Park to get “up close and personal” with local insect specimens. Catch and release session featured (nets and equipment provided). In lieu of a program fee, participants may make a donation to the Ford Nature Center via “The Living Landscape Fund”. Call the Naturalist staff at 703-746-5525 for more information.

Activity #: 141226-01

Sat. June 22, 10-11:30am

Feeding Time at the Nature Center

Ages 4-8. Meet the animals that live in the nature center. Then, help the Naturalist staff care for and feed the snakes, toads, lizards and other creatures. Animal craft to follow feeding session.

Activity #: 141227-01

Sat. July 7, 2-3:30pm \$4

Summer Tree ID and Plant Hike

Ages 13-Adult . Learn to identify trees and summer plants in our native woodlands and discover their unique roles in nature. This event will be held at Dangerfield Park in Alexandria.

Activity #: 141228-01

Sat. July 20, 10:30-12:30pm \$4

Slither, Hop, and Crawl

Ages 4-8. Discover the amazing lives of Virginia’s reptiles and amphibians. From the smallest tadpole to the biggest snake, these creatures all play an important role in the world around them. Children will search for amphibians and reptiles outdoors and make an animal craft. Activity #:141229-01

Sat. August 3, 10-11:30am \$4

Stories in Nature: Deserts

Ages 3-7. As Summer heats up, we will learn about the animals that survive in the worlds hottest and coldest locations. We’ll read a book about deserts and make a craft to bring home!

Activity #:141230-01

Sat. August 17, 10-11:30am \$4

Hawks and Owls

Family. Learn about the important work of the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia from raptor expert Kent Knowles. Live hawk and owl presentation featured. Registration fee required for each child, and all children must be accompanied by at least one adult.

Activity #:141231-01

Sat. August 24, 10:00am-11:30am \$4

Please note that there are three ways to register for a nature program:

- **Online** www.alexandriava.gov/recreation
- **Mail-in** completed registration form to the Lee Center at 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.
- **Drop-off** completed registration form at the Nature Center with a check (cash not accepted).

Nature Challenge

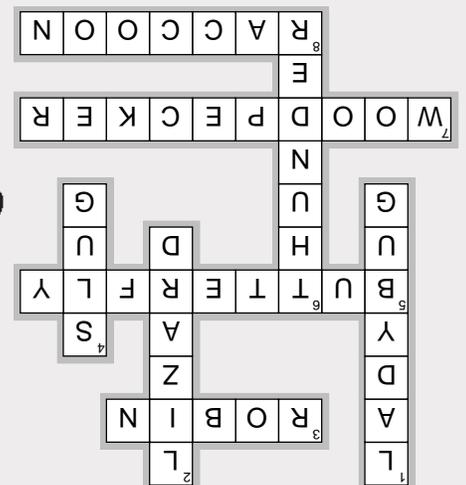
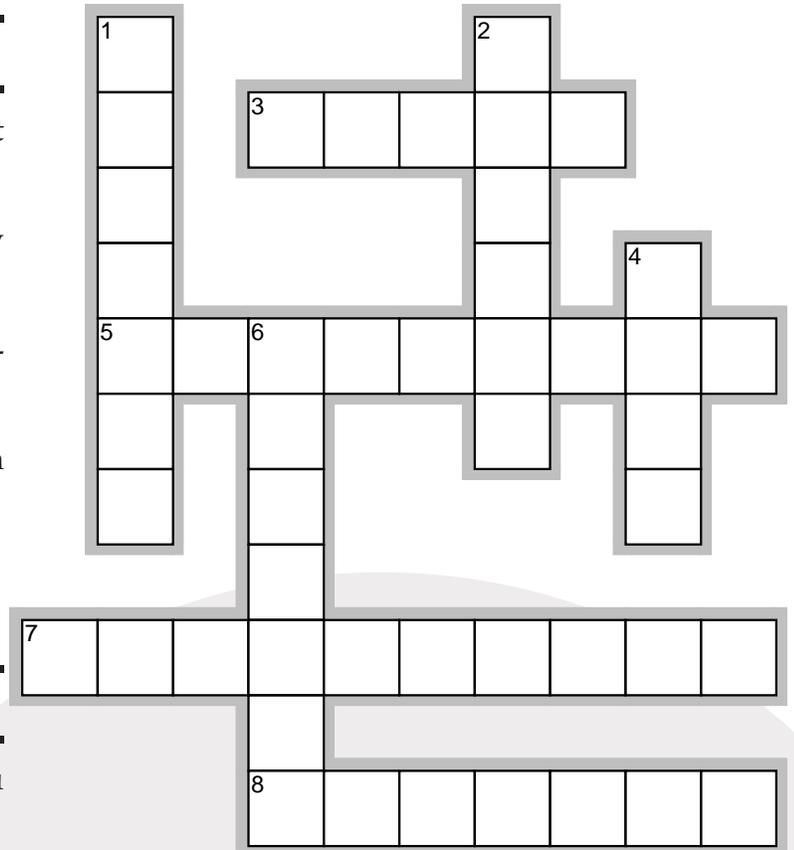
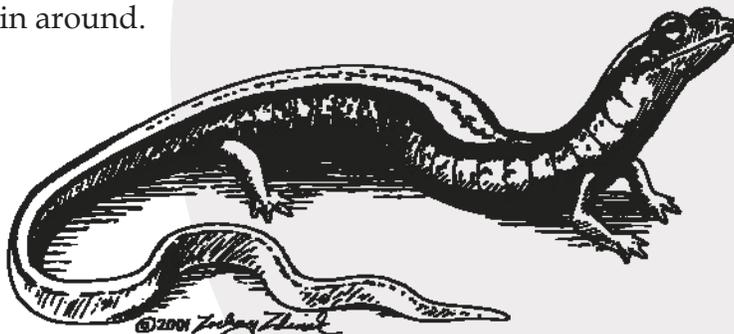
Crossword Puzzle

Across

3. I have a red belly, and my eggs are bright blue.
5. I fly through the air without a sound. My wings are large and colorful.
7. TAP! TAP! TAP! I fly among the trees looking for delicious insects beneath the bark.
8. I explore the woods at night, and have a black mask across my eyes.

Down

1. I am a beetle with little black spots. You might find me in a garden.
2. Like snakes and turtles, I am a reptile!
4. I am small and slimy. You may find me under a log or even find my slime trail in your garden
6. Lightning strikes before I sound, especially when there's rain around.



Nature Center Services

Nature Outreach Programs

Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center offers outreach classes for schools, clubs, community groups, and other organizations. We offer natural and cultural history programs featuring exhibits and animals from the Nature Center.

Scout Programs

Bring your troop to earn a badge! The fee is \$30 per program for up to 15 children (\$2 for each additional child).

Field Trips

Ask us about our SOL programs for field trips.

Birthday Parties

The Nature Center offers birthday parties for children ages 3 to 12 featuring outdoor hikes, live animals, crafts, and a private room. Fee is \$165 for parties of up to 12 children. Registration required.

Facility Rentals

The Nature Center has rooms available to rent for meetings. Call 703.746.5525 for more information.

Community Service Events

Have your class, group, or club volunteer to help protect Dora Kelley Nature Park.



Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center

5750 Sanger Ave

Alexandria, VA 22311

Phone : 703.746.5525

Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 1pm-5pm (April 1-Nov 30)

Center Director: Mark S. Kelly

Naturalist: Jane Yeingst

Volunteer Coordinator/Naturalist: John Burke

Custodian: Juan Aguilar

The City of Alexandria complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

To request reasonable accommodation, or an alternative format, please call:

703.746.5525

or email

mark.kelly@alexandriava.gov