



Lake View's Nature News

Newsletter of the Lake View Nature Center

Fall
2003

Nature Center renovation January–March 2004

Hibernation:

The Lake View Nature Center will be closed from January 1 to March 31 as we rearrange our internal space.

Renovation:

This renovation will allow us to better utilize the existing space within the building. As the Nature Center has grown over the years, it has become apparent that a separate classroom is needed. Families visiting the Nature Center often found the space largely filled by a class or group. This construction will convert the back half of the existing kitchen and utility room into a classroom space that will be isolated from the museum space.

During the renovation, regularly scheduled classes (Animal Adventures, Safari Club, etc), will be held at the Heritage Center on Ardmore Ave. We will move our exhibits and materials to the temporary space so that we can continue to provide quality programming during this transition period.

Other programming, such as Scout groups, school groups, and birthday parties, will be on hiatus through the construction.

Celebration:

Nature Center staff will also be using the down time to update our programs, exhibits, and website, and to develop new exhibits so that we can reopen in April even better than before. A special grand re-opening party will be a part of the annual Spring Celebration on May 8th.

Look inside for...

Featured animal — Sand wasps

Fall family project

Special pull-out section for kids:
games, crafts, and activities.

Fall classes and programs

LVNC Notes...

The Nature Center will be closed:

September 1
September 5 (at 2:00 pm)
November 27-28
December 24-25
December 31
January 1

If you are planning on stopping in at the Nature Center Fall Open House on November 22, don't forget that the 2nd annual Holiday Craft Show will take place the same day. The Craft Show will be at the Fitness Center (just across the lake from the Nature Center) and runs from 9 am to 3 pm.

Hibernation • Renovation • Celebration



Exploring for sea shells in the sand table are (L to R): Emmett and John McEnroe, Claudia Zerdin, Carleigh Vandenbrook, and Julia Zerdin.

“Music on the Lake” Series

Professor John and his 9-piece band will bring some New Orleans-flavored Rock & Roll into Terrace View Park on September 5th at 8 pm.

The concert will be held on the floating stage across the lake from the Nature Center. After the music, stick around for a spectacular fireworks show.

Fall family activity: Leaf investigation

Fall is a great time to study leaves—they’re all around us on the ground.

Collect a variety of interesting leaves from your yard or on a family hike.

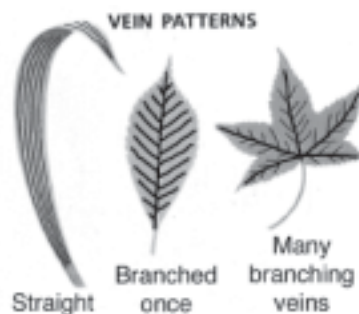
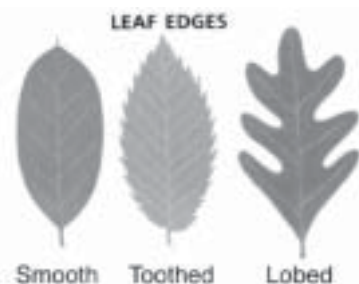
- What color are your leaves? Dark green? Light green? Yellow? Red? Are they the same on both sides?
- What do the leaves feel like? Are they smooth? Bumpy? Hairy?
- Look at the shape of each of your leaves. Would you describe them as long and narrow? Round? Wide? Shaped like Uncle Bill? Use your imagination!
- Look at the edge of your leaves. Would you say the edge is smooth? Toothed? Lobed?
- Leaves have different patterns of veins (raised tunnels that move food and water through the leaf).

Now that you know how to describe your leaves—try this challenging test:

Put all the leaves in a pile, making sure that no leaves are completely hidden. Choose one of the leaves using only your eyes (without picking it up or letting anyone else know which one it is).

Using the words you learned earlier, see if you can describe your leaf well enough for everyone else to figure out which one it is. No fair pointing or giving other hints—only use words!

When someone figures out the correct leaf from your description, it’s their turn to give it a try.



Remember that in many parks and preserves it’s against the rules to take anything away, including fallen leaves.

Creature feature

Sand wasps

Bembix americana

If you have visited the playground near the Nature Center lately, you have probably noticed a fair number of wasps busily flying about over the sand. Although they resemble the dreaded yellowjacket, these wasps are actually solitary hunters known as sand wasps.

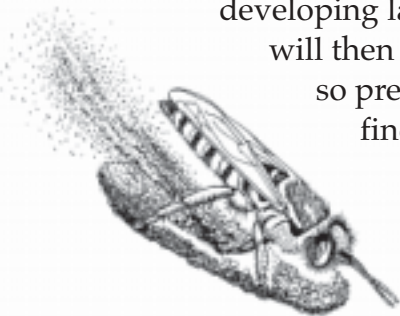
Although their presence can be a bit intimidating, sand wasps are not as aggressive as yellowjackets and rarely sting people. Male sand wasps are territorial and may flit around your face as you enter his territory, but like all bees and wasps, the males cannot sting.

Both male and female sand wasps may be seen digging burrows in the sand. The males dig shallow burrows for protection from the mid-day sun; females dig deeper ones (6-8 inches) that are used to raise their young.

After a female finishes a burrow, she will catch a fly, paralyze it with a sting, and place it in the burrow for the developing larva to eat. She will then close the burrow so predators cannot find it. However, she memorizes the location so she can return each day with more food.

Each burrow may contain 5-6 larvae, and each larva may consume up to 24 flies before emerging as an adult making this a beneficial species to have around.

Illustration from: Archbold Biological Station, Florida;
<http://www.archbold-station.org/>



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Wild Wednesdays

Wednesdays were wild this summer at LVNC as visitors joined us for a day of fun activities that included story time, hands-on animal introduction, paddleboat rentals, and self-guided hikes.

Wild Wednesdays are finished for this season, but be sure to join us next year during June, July, and August..



LVNC instructor Karen Ritter read stories each week.



Visitors learned about a different animal each week. Here, Emily Alves and Zhdanka Nykiel examine earthworms.



Lake View Nature Center
17 W 063 Hodges Road
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #350
Villa Park, IL

Hours

Lake View Nature Center
Monday to Friday – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday – Noon to 4:00 pm

Terrace View Park
Open sunrise to sunset.

For more information

Lake View Nature Center (630) 941-8747
Heritage Center (630) 627-6100
Fitness Center (630) 574-0420

www.obtpd.org

Staff

Becky Lambert	Director
John Stoddard	Naturalist
Liane Knight	Program Coordinator
Karen Ritter	Environmental Educator
Deanna DeChristopher	Environmental Educator
Leslie Patsavas	Nature Center Assistant

Fees

The Nature Center is free to the general public.

School and Community Groups

The Lake View Nature Center is an excellent place to explore the natural sciences. We offer programs for all ages and grade levels. We can customize programs to reflect seasons, special interests, Scout requirements or Illinois State Learning Standards.

Fees for these programs are as follows:

- \$2.00 per participant
- \$20.00 minimum group charge

Call the Nature Center at (630) 941-8747 for more information or to schedule a program.

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, please call us at (630) 941-8747.