



Lake View's Nature News

Newsletter of the Lake View Nature Center **Summer 2006**

Spring Celebration Saturday, May 13



Come celebrate spring at the Lake View Nature Center. Fun activities for the whole family.



See the program insert for more information on scheduled activities and events.



**Noon to 4:00 pm
Rain or shine**



(Will be held indoors in inclement weather)

Look inside for...

Featured animal:
Jumping spiders

Special pull-out section for kids

Summer classes and programs

LVNC Notes...

Passport to Adventure booklets should be available at LVNC beginning in late May. Call for more information.

We have sand toys, binoculars, bug boxes, magnifying lenses, and field guides available to be checked out for use in exploring the park.

Fishing equipment is available to be checked out at no charge for use in our lake. We usually have bait available but you're welcome to bring your own.

The Nature Center will be closed:

- May 29
- July 4
- September 4

We are also closed the first Monday of each month.

The Three Bears

Feb. 20–Mar. 5, 2006



The Three Bears visited Lake View Nature Center for a few weeks this past winter as part of our latest temporary winter exhibit.

School groups and visitors learned about the three bear species that live in the U.S. as part of this hands-on experience.

Look for another exciting temporary exhibit next winter.



Voting ended on April 1st and the male box turtle at LVNC has a new name: "Crush."

It seems to fit his outgoing personality. At dinner time he dives right in and "crushes" his food with all his might.

Staff changes

LVNC has welcomed some new staff members recently.

Melissa Alderson is the new Nature Center Supervisor. Melissa's background includes a Nursing degree and a Biology degree from Northern Illinois University in animal behavior and ecology. She comes to us from the DuPage County Forest Preserve District, where she worked first on the staff at Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn and then as a Naturalist at Fullersburg Woods in Oakbrook.

Becky Lambert, who served as Supervisor for the past four years, can be reached at Peck Farm Park in Geneva.

James Gerace also came on board as a Program Assistant. James is a student at York Community High School.

Going on vacation?

LVNC is developing a new exhibit and we need your help! If you will be traveling to any exotic (or not) destinations this summer, think about bringing back some sand for our sand exhibit. We hope to showcase different kinds of sand from around the U.S. and around the world.

Please keep local regulations in mind. Do not collect sand from protected areas or private property unless you have permission.

Ziplock bags work well for transport. If possible, try to get at least one cup of sand. That way we will have some extra in case of spillage. And don't forget to include a note with your name and the place the sand was collected.

Spider illustrations at right from: The Common Spiders of the United States, Emerton, James H. (jumping and web spider heads); How to Know the Spiders, Kaston, B.J. (wolf spider head); The Audubon Field Guide to North American Insects and Spiders, Milne, Lorus and Margery (daring jumping spider); www.bugpeople.org (zebra jumping spider).

Creature Feature: Jumping spiders

Jumping spiders are easily distinguished from other types of spiders by their body shape, the arrangement of their eyes, and their active, daytime lifestyle. Unlike many spiders, jumping spiders are diurnal (active during the day). In fact, they often disappear into their retreats in cloudy or rainy weather. The jumping spiders make up the largest family of spiders with 4–5,000 species world-wide and over 300 in the U.S.

The family name comes from their spectacular leaping ability. They can jump as much as 40 times their body length. Before jumping, they attach a silk dragline or anchor to the ground. This acts like a “bungee cord” to catch them if they happen to miss their target.

Jumping spiders do not build webs to catch their prey; they are active hunters. When



*Probably the most common jumping spider in our area, the zebra spider (*Salticus scenicus*) is often overlooked due to its size, less than 1/4” long. It is often seen scampering across sidewalks or up brick walls in pursuit of small insects.*



*The daring jumping spider (*Phidippus audax*) is the largest jumping spider found in northern Illinois. Males can be up to half an inch in length and females are slightly larger.*

This species is common in our area, often living around our

houses and gardens. They can be seen hunting on plants, fences, windowsills, etc. but will usually dart back into a safe retreat if danger approaches.

The spot on the abdomen is often orange or red, leading some people to mistake them for black widow spiders. However, their body shape, hairy appearance, and active daytime habits easily distinguish the two species.

The chelicerae (mouthparts and fangs; see the diagrams at right) are bright, metallic green when seen in bright light.

an insect ventures too close, the spider turns towards its prey, carefully stalks it, and then pounces ferociously, often from several inches away. They have even been known to launch themselves into midair to catch a flying meal.

The large pair of eyes on the front of their “face” gives jumping spiders excellent binocular vision, important for hunting. Their vision is believed to be the best of all the spiders, and possibly all other invertebrates. This becomes evident if you stop to study one—it will turn to face you as you approach and even follow your finger as you move it back and forth.

Most spiders have eight eyes but they are arranged differently in different kinds of spiders.



Jumping spiders have two large eyes on the front of their heads that give them excellent binocular vision for catching prey.



Spiders that make webs to capture prey rather than chasing after them tend to have less specialized eyes.



Wolf spiders are also active hunters and have two large eyes facing forwards. They differ from jumping spiders in having a two pairs of eyes below the main eyes.



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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
VILLA PARK, IL
PERMIT NO. 350

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

Hours

Lake View Nature Center

Monday to Friday – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
(Closed the first Monday of each month)
Saturday and Sunday – Noon to 4:00 pm

Terrace View Park

Open sunrise to 10 pm

For more information

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

www.obtpd.org

Staff

Melissa Alderson Supervisor
John Stoddard Naturalist
Liane Knight Program Coordinator
Karen Ritter Environmental Educator
Deanna DeChristopher Environmental Educator
James Gerace Program Assistant

Fees

The Nature Center is free to the general public.

Donations are appreciated

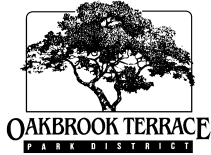
School and Community Groups

The Lake View Nature Center is an excellent place to explore the natural sciences. We offer programs for all ages and grade levels. Check our web site at www.obtpd.org for more details.

Fees for these in-house programs are as follows:
\$4.50 per participant
\$45.00 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.



Lake View Nature Center

Summer 2006

George's Gossip

Luna!

Look up in the sky. What do you see? If it's daytime you might see the sun, but if it is night, you might see the moon (the brightest visible object in the sky at night). Another name for the moon is Luna. Scientists who study planets, stars (like the sun and moon), and galaxies are called astronomers.

When you are outside at night look up at the moon. What do you notice? Do some areas of the moon look darker than others? What shape is the moon? Is the shape of the moon the same tonight as it was a few nights ago?

Is the moon made of cheese?

No. The moon is not made of cheese, but it sure looks like it! The moon is not a source of light, it has no light of its own. We can only see the moon because it reflects light from the sun. The moon looks like cheese, but you are really seeing the moon's craters and other features (like mountains and sunken plains) of its surface. Some people say they can see shapes in the moon like a bunny or a lady's face. What do you see?

Why does the moon keep changing its shape?

The moon appears to change shape, but what we are actually seeing is the moon lit up by the light from the sun in different ways on different days. The bright part of the moon is the part that the sun is shining on. This is like daytime on Earth. The dark part is in shadow, like night on earth. As the moon moves around in its orbit, the sun shines on different parts of the moon, causing the moon to look different.

We always see the same side of the moon. The moon always keeps the same side pointing towards us so we can never see the 'back' of the moon from the Earth. It takes the moon about 27 days to orbit the Earth. The different shapes of the moon we see are called phases.

Phases of the Moon

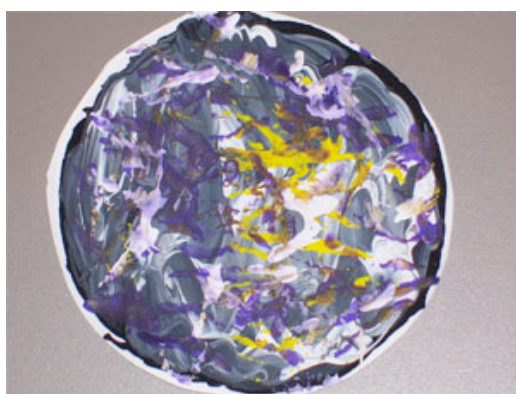


Phases of the Moon Craft

Choose your favorite phase of the moon to decorate OR make all of them to hang on the fridge as they occur.

Materials:

- 2 large paper plates (one for the moon and one for paints)
- Scissors
- Tempra of poster paint (black, white, and a few different colors)
- 1 foot-long piece of string or yarn (thicker is better)



Directions:

1. Cut out the phase of the moon (your choice) from a paper plate. Use the front side of the page as a reference.
2. Using your fingers, dip them in the black paint and the white paint. Using small circles, swirl the black and white paints onto your phase of the moon. Swirling the paint with your fingers gives the moon texture. This is your base coat.
3. Let your moon dry completely.
4. Put each color of paint onto one paper plate. 2-3 inch circles of each color works best.
5. Dip your pre-cut piece (1 foot long) of string or yarn into one color of paint (keep the ends dry so you can hold them).
6. Pull the string or yarn tight or let it crumple as you place it on your moon.
7. Repeat with a different color of paint, making several string/yarn lines and squiggles going all different directions.

For variations on the craft visit – <http://dltk-teach.com/rhymes/moon/mphases.htm>

For more kid-friendly information about the moon visit – <http://www.brainpop.com>
and follow the science links to moon OR visit
http://www.spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/phonedrmarc/2004_march.shtml.