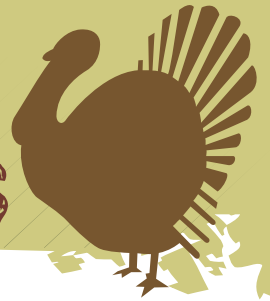


# Turtle Tracks & Turkey Tails



A Newsletter for Junior Rangers and their Families Fall 2011



While every day is "special" in a North Carolina State Park, fall is the time of year that most parks have special events and festivals. After the busy summer season, people come out to the parks to experience changing leaves, migrating birds and cooler nights.



Many rangers help with the North Carolina Big Sweep. At Big Sweep, volunteers clean up trash from our rivers, creeks and lakes. Community festivals and fairs are great places to

meet the park rangers. We set up educational booths to answer questions about wildlife and what it takes to become a park ranger. Come out to a park festival and learn about the many activities at state parks and what you can do at home to help our environment.

## ***For fall fun on your own, try this!***

Go out after dark with a flashlight and hold it beside your head or on the tip of your nose. Out in the distance, in the grass or leaf litter, you should see what looks like sparkling diamonds reflecting back at you.

Look closely at the end of the

light beam and you'll find that these cool reflections are actually spider eyes. What an exciting and fun way to kick off the fall season with friends and family.



# THE NATURE WALL

Photos, artwork, poems and stories  
from Park Rangers and Junior Rangers



Great Horned Owl – Ranger Sandra



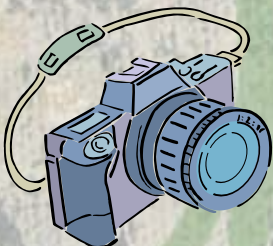
Marbled Orbweaver- Ranger Kevin



Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat – Ranger Chris

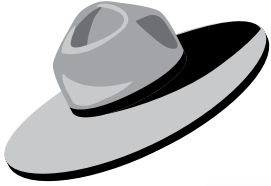


Spined Micrathena



Send in your photos at [denr.dpr.education@ncmail.net](mailto:denr.dpr.education@ncmail.net) or mail them in to Education, 1615 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699. Be sure to include your name and address. Every junior ranger who sends in a photo, poem or artwork will receive a special prize in the mail!

# Upcoming Events



## October 1st

### Jordan Lake Heritage Day

Come out to our fall festival and enjoy games, live entertainment and demonstrations. Learn about agricultural, wildlife and American Indian history. Come to the White Oak Recreation Area (off of Hwy 64) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## October 2nd

### Monarch Tagging at Falls Lake State Recreation Area

Visit several areas around Falls Lake catching Monarch butterflies. Each monarch will be tagged with a small sticker as part of the Monarch Watch science program. Wear sturdy footwear, bring bug spray and drinking water and bring an extra butterfly net if you have one. An adult must accompany junior rangers. Meets at 1 p.m. To sign up and for directions, email [Brian.Bockhahn@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Brian.Bockhahn@ncdenr.gov) or call (919) 841-4060.

## October 8th

### Hanging Rock Celebrates 75 Years

Celebrate the 75th birthday of Hanging Rock State Park. All are invited to attend festivities throughout the day at the lake bathhouse. Bluegrass music and dancing in the afternoon.

## October 10th

### Big Sweep at Lake Waccamaw State Park

Meet at the park's visitor center at 9 a.m. to help clean up around Lake Waccamaw. Dress safely for the conditions by wearing closed-toed shoes long pants and a hat. After the cleanup, volunteers can join us for lunch and door prizes at the picnic area. Call the park office for more information at (910) 646-4748.

## October 28th

### Ghosts of the Carolinas: Trunk-or-Treat and Hayride

Come to Cliffs of the Neuse State Park for a trunk-or-treat in the lake parking lot and a hayride through the park. The event will start at 7 pm. Trunk-or-treat is free to children under six. Hayride is \$1 per person. Food donations will be accepted for a soup kitchen. If you would like to pass out candy at the trunk-or-treat please call the park office to register and for details, (919) 778-6234.

# The Laughing Gull



What has eight legs and is hairy.  
An octopus wearing a wig.

What's a sea turtle's favorite sandwich?  
Peanut butter and jellyfish.

Send your funny and corny jokes to the laughing gull at [denr.dpr.education@ncmail.net](mailto:denr.dpr.education@ncmail.net)



FROM:  
North Carolina State Parks  
1615 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1615

# Nature Notes ..... from the Trail

Amazing Fall Spiders! There are hundreds of different types of spiders in North Carolina! Some are brown and hairy, some colorful and shiny, some are almost too small to see! Most of our spiders are harmless, but it's best to enjoy them without touching. Did you know...

- The spiders we see spinning giant webs are almost always female spiders! The girl spiders do all of the work. The boy spiders are usually smaller and hang out along the edge of the web. They sneak in to steal food from the web, but sometimes get eaten by the lady spiders!
- Some wolf spiders lay up to 250 eggs. The baby spiderlings ride on their momma's back after hatching.
- Spider silk is five times stronger than steel!

