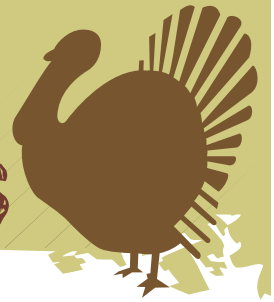
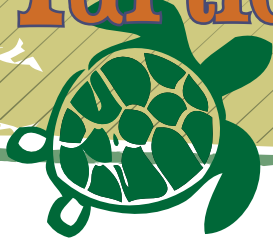


Turtle Tracks & Turkey Tails



A Newsletter for Junior Rangers and their Families Fall 2010

Did you know that if you live in North Carolina, you own the state parks? It's true. You may not be able to write your name on them or decorate them. But the state parks are owned by the citizens of our state for us all to enjoy. Since you own the state parks, it also means you have the responsibility to help take care of them. By being a junior ranger, we know you are already taking good care of your 39 state parks! This is the first newsletter for junior rangers and we plan to send out four newsletters each year. We want you to be our reporters, so let us know if you see something interesting on your hikes. We have some cool prizes for junior rangers who share pictures, stories and wildlife sightings.

So keep exploring!



Nature Notes from the Trail

We've had another great summer for nesting sea turtles in North Carolina. Some turtle nests will hatch as late as October. They usually hatch late at night, so you have to be really lucky to see them. Fort Fisher, Hammocks Beach and Fort Macon are great parks to learn about this amazing animal.

The middle of September through the middle of October is the best time to see migrating monarch butterflies. Monarchs from as far away as Canada can be seen migrating through North Carolina on their way to Mexico!

There were five nesting pairs of bald eagles along Jordan Lake this spring! Jordan Lake, Falls Lake and Goose Creek are three great parks to visit if you want to see our national symbol!

Tell us about your unique wildlife sighting!

Write denr.dpr.education@ncmail.net or sean.higgins@ncdenr.gov. Or mail your message to Junior Rangers, 1615 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699.



THE NATURE WALL

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



Preying mantis photo by Park Ranger Kevin Bischof at Goose Creek State Park



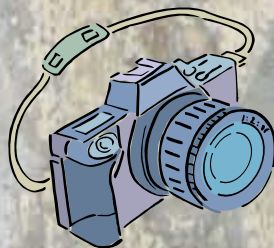
Green frog photo by Park Ranger Jane Wyche at Merchants Millpond State Park



Purple passionflower photo by Sean at Medoc Mountain State Park

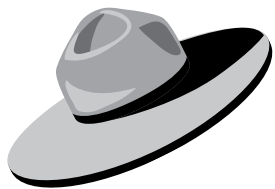


A wild turkey takes a dust bath along the side of the road. Photo by Park Ranger Carla Edwards at Carolina Beach State Park.



Send in your photos at 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

September 11th

BugFest at the Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh.

There are lots of cool and creepy things to see and do at this world famous festival. Come eat cricket cookies and see the man with a beard of bees.

September 12th through 30th

Hawk Migration at Pilot Mountain State Park

Thousands of hawks fly by Pilot Mountain during their fall migration. Come see for yourself. Volunteers at the park will help show you what to look for.

September 24th – 30th

Take A Child Outside Week

Go outside and explore. Parks will be offering special programs. Go to the Web site www.takeachildoutside.org and share your adventures.

October 2nd

Jordan Lake Heritage Day

Come spend a fun day outside with crafts, music, games and barbeque. The event is held at the White Oak Recreation Area of Jordan Lake.

Late September/Early October

Wow, Look at Jupiter!

This is one of the best times to see Jupiter in 2010. Look east at the "brightest star" in the sky between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m.

October 14th – 24th

North Carolina State Fair, Raleigh

If your coming to the North Carolina State Fair, stop by and see our park rangers near the Green NC tent.

October 30th

Halloween Events

Some parks are offering enchanted hikes, hayrides, and even ghost tours. Check out our calendar of events on the education section of our Web site, www.ncparks.gov

The Laughing Gull



Why do sea gulls fly over the sea?

Because if they flew over the bay, they'd be called bagels.

Why do hummingbirds hum?

Because they don't know the words!

Send your funny and corny jokes to the laughing gull at denr.dpr.education@ncmail.net