

*Nature
Ops
News*

June 2004

A Monthly Publication of
Nature Operations Division,
Recreation and Parks Department,
City of Gainesville

Florida Stinging Nettle, *Chidoscolus stimulosus*
Photo by Gary Paul, Program Coordinator



Get Involved in Your Nature Parks!

Barnyard Buddies- FREE

Join us every Wednesday afternoon from 3-4pm to meet and greet our farm animals. After the animal introductions help with afternoon feeding. Toddlers and preschoolers will love learning about our Living History Farm Barnyard Buddies.

Living History Days- Closed For Summer

By the Light of the Moon- FREE

By the light of the silvery moon with the owls and frogs we'll croon... and we hope you'll join us. Each Saturday nearest the full moon at 7pm come with family and friends for a lively variety of talks, songs, hikes, fires, and fun! We'll be "Going Batty" in June with furry flying friends.

Discussion Group- FREE

Join us at Loblolly Environmental Facility the second Sunday of the month from 2-3pm for a reading and discussion group. We will post readings to the webpage at www.natureoperations.org and gather once a month to discuss our topic.

Discover and Do- Materials fee always under \$5

Hey Kids! Bring your favorite adult out to Morningside Nature Center for a fun activity and make a useful craft to take home! Get outside on a Sunday afternoon instead of watching TV. June's theme will be "Sounds of Nature", you can find out who is making all that noise outdoors and make an instrument of your own. Please RSVP to 334-3327.

Nature Walk and Talk- FREE

Explore a new theme each month at our end-of-the-month Nature Walk and Talk. We will meet at the Morningside Education office at 9am on the last Saturday of every month. Wear comfortable shoes and bring binoculars or guides you wish to use. In June we will visit our arachnid neighbors in "Along Came a Spider".

For more information, call us at 334-2170 or visit www.natureoperations.org






Campers learned about reptiles like this baby Alligator in the Critter Inquiry Spring Break Camp.

Discover the nature in your backyard this summer with Earth Academy Summer Day Camps! First and Last 2 weeks of summer break:
June 7th-11th: "The Secret Life of Dirt"
June 14th-18th: "Junior Birders"
For more information or to register, visit www.natureoperations.org



Burn Boss Don Musen describes fire effects in Sandhill to Earth Academy campers.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">June 2004</h1>  						
<p>“We need a new environmental consciousness on a global basis. To do this, we need to educate people.” - Mikhail Gorbachev</p>		1	2 Barnyard Buddies 3-4pm MNC Farm	3	4	5 By the Light of the Moon! 7-9pm “Going Batty!” MNC Office- Paha
6	7	8	9 Barnyard Buddies 3-4pm MNC Farm	10	11	12
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Earth Academy Summer Day Camp “The Secret Life of Dirt” 8:30am-4:30pm </div>						
13 Discussion Group Loblolly Env. Fac. 2pm	14	15	16 Barnyard Buddies 3-4pm MNC Farm	17	18	19
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Earth Academy Summer Day Camp “Junior Birders” 8:30am-4:30pm </div>						
20 Discover and Do MNC Office “Sounds of Nature” 2-4pm	21	22	23 Barnyard Buddies 3-4pm MNC Farm	24	25	26 Nature Walk and Talk “Along Came a Spider” MNC Office 9am
27	28	29	30 Barnyard Buddies 3-4pm MNC Farm	<p>“The sun, with all those planets revolving around it and dependent on it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the universe to do.” - Galileo</p>		



STAR Award winners from left: Cathy Reno, John Barbour, Susan Keller, Cara Gwalthney, Claudia Larson, Robby Rucker
Not Pictured: Kathryn Rosemeier, Penny Wilson Weber

2004 Nature Centers Commission STAR Volunteer Awards

Every year since 2000 the Nature Centers Commission has presented its STAR volunteer awards to individuals in our community who have made an impact in our Nature Parks. The awards are crystal plaques with an engraving of the award conferred. It is a small but public token of the immense appreciation held for these individuals who give of their time and talents by Nature Centers Commission, Nature Operations Staff, and everyone who enjoy our nature parks.

This Year's STAR Award Winners:

JOHN BARBOUR – GOOD NEIGHBOR

John Barbour is a neighbor to the City's Clear Lake property. He takes it upon himself to maintain the park's trails and to inform staff of out of the ordinary circumstances but also Clear Lake's daily activities. On top of this he allows the public to use his driveway as parking and access to the park. John is definitely a Good Neighbor to Gainesville's parks.

CARA GWALTHNEY - STAR

Cara served with NOD staff during the Boulware Springs Sand hill Restoration Project. During this time Cara collected wildflower and native grass seeds from Morningside, hand planted longleaf pines and wiregrass plugs and scattered seeds collected at the beginning of the

project. Cara would take the bus to and from the restoration site and worked on the coldest workday (27 °F) without complaint.

SUSAN KELLER - STAR

Susan has been an ad hoc volunteer for over 5 years, assisting with the farm animal care, fiber arts, training for staff and special events.

CLAUDIA LARSEN - STAR

Claudia Larsen is the president of Florida Native Plant Society and a major contributor to our bi-annual native plant sales (spring and fall). She has been a longtime friend of Nature Operations.

CATHY RENO - STAR

Cathy has cleaned out and monitored bluebird boxes at Morningside for more than 10 years. She makes recommendations to staff that improve the likelihood that the bluebirds will use the nest boxes and also successfully raise young in them. She also submits detailed reports each year.

KATHRYN ROSEMEIER – STAR

Kathryn's efforts with our native plant sales have resulted in increased sales, which go back to Nature Operations for programming. She is the treasurer of the Friends of Morningside (FOM) and assists us in accounting and record keeping which allows us to apply for a wide variety of grants.

ROBBIE RUCKER - STAR

Robbie Rucker has made it his personal mission to clean trash from the City conservation area known as the Flatwoods. Frequently Robbie walks the property and removes trash from the uplands and from Little Hatchet Creek. He has fabricated a tool, which he uses to remove Styrofoam & other floating trash from the creek, and hauls larger objects by hand. He also communicates with staff on security and resource issues.

PENNY WEBER – STAR

For the past several years Penny has served as the president of FOM. Her energy, skills and professionalism as a leader has enabled not just Morningside but all Nature Operations parks and properties to benefit. She also serves as a crucial link between FOM and NCC.