



Natural Area News

A publication of the Ivy Creek Foundation
Volume 15, No. 1

Summer Newsletter 2009

A Spring of Tracking at Ivy Creek

This spring local tracking expert Hub Knott gave three public programs at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. Thinking about animal tracks while walking the trails offers another level of experience and exploration. On a walk at Ivy Creek you might see any number of wonderful plants, birds, a deer or other animal. Considering tracks allows you to appreciate the animals you don't see but that you think are there. It is a wonderful way to inspire the imagination. Hub also ran a tracking training for our volunteer guides so they too can explore tracks on a school tour next time the occasion arises.

At a tracking program, you will notice Hub spends much of the time squatting, on all fours, or even closer to the ground. His knowledge can be quite overwhelming at first, but the way he shares it compels the novice to try to interpret what they see. Get close to the tracks. Find as many from the same animal as you can. Try to figure out what animal made the tracks, what it was doing and why there. Was it running or walking? Hunting? The space between the tracks can help you figure out the size of



the animal. After one of his programs, you might find yourself looking down an awful lot. You will certainly want to learn more.

Hub and his wife Kate offer nature summer camps and nature programs for youth and adults at their Living Earth School. See their website for more information and background - www.livingearthva.com. You can see from their website how busy Kate and Hub will be with camps this summer, so we are very lucky Hub has made the time to do two summer programs with us – July 5th and August 15th. Hope to see you there!

Director's Note

It has been a busy, fun spring at Ivy Creek. The weather has presented some challenges. Bruce has been regularly rescheduling school tours and I have been on the phone constantly with our Burn Manager discussing wind direction and weather predictions. While most school tours took place eventually, the burn did not happen. We may consider burning the South Field in the fall, or burning both fields next spring. We are actively looking for people to join us in the discussion, so please be in touch if you think burn scheduling and monitoring plant and animal use of the warm season grass fields would be interesting!

This summer is shaping up to be just as busy. We will have one or two interns from the Community Attention Summer Program, a summer day camp in partnership with 4-H, some great programs including a new drawing class, the popular snake program with Cole Peale and more tracking.

Please come to our summer potluck on July 25th if you can and tell us how you think we're doing! We are looking for members interested in working with us a wide range of Board committees, so if you, or someone you know, might enjoy working with us please give us a call - (434) 973-7772 or email icf@ivycreekfoundation.org.

All the best for summer,

Karen

Battling Invasive Plants with Community Partners

The encroachment of invasive plant species at Ivy Creek Natural Area is a subject of regular discussion and there have been a number of projects where supporters have taken on invasive removal in specific areas. The Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards (CATS) undertook an especially ambitious project in the Quiet Area last fall, and the new plants they put in are getting well established this spring.

Last fall three groups of Walker students came out to ICNA with Teens GIVE to clear Oriental Bittersweet from the Blue Trail. This was a manageable project. The bittersweet on the portion of the trail we worked on was at a level that we could make quite a lot of progress in a short amount of time. With some areas, where the invasive growth is not too extensive, this kind of occasional attention can make a real impact. Other areas require something more!



Inspired by the work of CATS, this spring we have been working with after school Teens GIVE groups in the area at the edge of the Quiet Area to the left of the entrance to the Red Trail (pictured above). This area is very overgrown with Oriental Bittersweet, so much so that once it is removed, there is little left. Deciding what to do next in this area will be our priority this summer. Many thanks to Misty Graves and all her hard workers!

We will have one or two interns coming to us through the Community Attention Summer Program, as well as lots of groups of volunteers helping out this summer. We have established a small committee of members committed to putting all this labor to good use and developing a comprehensive plan on invasives management. Please consider joining our committee if this sounds like a project that you would enjoy!

New Signs at Ivy Creek and Ragged Mountain Natural Areas!

Hopefully you have seen our new signs. We have appreciated all the positive feedback. Many thanks to the City of Charlottesville for getting these signs made and erected. Pictured below is Chris Gensic, Trails Planner for Charlottesville Parks, placing the rule sign for Ivy Creek. Chris is also working with us and Albemarle County staff to GPS all our trails at both natural areas. We will soon be able to start working on new trail maps for the public. If you are interested in helping design the new trail map, be in touch!



Thanks to our Volunteers for Sharing Some Thoughts on Working with Ivy Creek

JoAnn Mazzetta: "The sense of sharing a nature experience with a group of children, of watching their eyes brighten when they see something as simple as a centipede on their path, or feel the differences in the bark of trees or watch the insects and fungi as they recycle the fallen giants, or listen to the birds as they flock to the feeder; all these things bring you a joy that is hard to express. This sense of sharing is the reason I like being a docent or guide. It takes training to become familiar with

the habitats of Ivy Creek, just as it did when I was a docent at a tropical butterfly garden in NC and with the salt marsh when I was a docent in Virginia Beach. Each is so different, but, in the eyes of children, all are the same. You're working in a place of discovery- whether in a tropical garden, a coastal plain or at Ivy Creek."

Christine Clock: "Hiking and just simply enjoying the outdoors have always been some of my true pleasures in life. So discovering that I was now living five minutes from Ivy Creek Natural Area, after recently relocating from New York, was great news. In our first months here, my husband, Larry, and I enjoyed many of the trails. Hiking in winter (no snow!) was a novelty for us. We also enjoyed the early morning bird walk offered the first Saturday of each month where we actually saw 24 different kinds of birds. We decided that we wanted to give back a little to this lovely area so we volunteered to become trail monitors and 'adopted' the green trail which we groom as needed. We look forward to continued visits to Ivy Creek and seeing its splendor in each season."

Katen Reynolds: "I became a guide because I wanted to share my love of the outdoors with children. As a new guide I never felt pressured to know everything, (although I did learn a lot during training), but was encouraged to use my enthusiasm to help kids get excited about nature. It's so satisfying to see a cluster of children all huddled around a plant, bug, or just a hole in the ground saying "whoa!" or "wow!" even if we have no idea what we're looking at. Leading the students on these mini adventures has been just plain fun; each one is different and we never know what we might find. It has been a great experience so far and I am looking forward to much more!"

Working on the Trails at Ragged Mountain

On March 20th a small group tackled the worst of the bridges at Ragged Mountain Natural Area. At 10am, our group of seven got into Dan Bieker's four wheel drive and drove into the natural area as close as we could get to the worst bridge – on the far side of the land bridge. Natural area rules of course do not allow such cross country adventuring, but it was an exciting way to start the day – and essential given the distance and the weight of the tools. Those of us in the back of the truck



took turns calling out “branch!” One of us failed to duck for the first one.

Instead, we rerouted the trail to a place where the water to be crossed was quite minimal. The stairs were made of large stones we scavenged from close by. We even gave hikers some hand rails!

Pictured left is the bridge that needed removing. We considered putting in stairs in the same place, but the stream there was quite a lot to get across. We learned just how deep the water was when one of Dan's chainsaws fell in there for a few



seconds! Instead, we rerouted the trail to a place where the water to be crossed was quite minimal. The stairs were made of large stones we scavenged from close by. We even gave hikers some hand rails!

This really was a great work day. Thanks so much to our leader Dan, and Board Member Linda Goodling and her husband, Rick, long time Ivy Creek member, volunteer guide and trail monitor, Ted Peters, Ivy Creek member and trail monitor, Frank Wilczek and Karen Joyner and her son, James Peacock. Work well done!!

Coordinator's Corner

If you were fortunate enough to attend an Ivy Creek program this spring, you heard one of our volunteer experts teach about birds, butterflies, amphibians, animal tracks, bees or native plants. The younger set enjoyed programs just for them, while many school groups came out for tours led by our volunteer guides.

Because the Ivy Creek Foundation preserves and manages the Natural Areas for community education and appreciation we are always looking for ways to serve our community better. This season, in addition to butterfly, bird, wildflower, and dragonfly walks we offer programs on nature drawing, animal tracking, and even a summer camp. These programs are all offered by volunteers.

Without our volunteers, Ivy Creek would not exist. The trails would not be maintained. There would be no programs or school tours. We would like to expand our Toddler Time and school tour programs, but more volunteers are needed in both guiding and administrative roles. If you would like to join us, please contact me at programs@ivycreekfoundation.org or (434) 973-7772.

I invite all of you to enjoy the special quality of outdoors this summer at the Ivy Creek and Ragged Mountain Natural Areas. Every day is different. Please come. You are welcome.

Bruce

Ivy Creek Summer Potluck July 25th, 12:00 Noon

Please join us for our summer potluck on July 25th at noon. This spring we decided to start having quarterly potlucks for members and volunteers as a way of sharing some unstructured time together. We had the first of these potlucks in May, and it provided a great opportunity to share education programming ideas and just to enjoy the Natural Area together before a public program.

This summer we will have the potluck after the wildflower walk at 9am and before Farm and Barn History Day (starting at 2pm). Bring a dish to share and meet in the Education Center. Let us know if you are planning ahead to come and we can coordinate dishes!

All programs are free of charge and open to the public unless otherwise indicated.

June 2009

- 4 Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting**
Thursday, June 4, 7:00 pm
Beginners welcome. Meet in the Education Center.
- 5 Mentoring for Nature Connection**
Friday, June 5, 7:00 pm
Listen to Evan Mcgown on The Art of Mentoring for Nature Connection. Meet in the Education Center.
- 6 First Saturday Bird Walk**
Saturday, June 6, 7:30 am
Walk with Jenny Gaden of the Monticello Bird Club at the peak of spring warbler migration. Beginners are always welcome. Meet in the parking lot.
- 6 National Trails Day**
Saturday, June 6, 8:30 am
Learn how to work on trails and work on the Rivanna Trails Foundation project. Meet at Charlottesville Catholic School on Rio Road.
- 7 Virginia Native Plant Society Picnic**
Sunday, June 7
Picnic and walk at Humpback Rocks. Meet there at 12:30 pm or carpool from Barracks Rd. Shopping Center in front of Ben and Jerry's at 11:15 am. Humpback Rocks Picnic ground located 8.4 mi. south of Rockfish Gap on Blue Ridge Pkwy. (between milepost 8 & 9). Use tables on outer loop far in the back near trails. Drinks & dessert provided for the Jefferson Chapter.
- 13 StreamWatch Training**
Saturday, June 13, 10:00 am
Study the StreamWatch introductory training and learn the fundamentals of benthic invertebrate sampling to gauge water quality and stream health. Class size is limited, and a reservation is required. Contact Rose Brown at 962-3527 or rose@streamwatch.org. Meet in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area off of Earlysville Road.
- 25 Ivy Creek Toddler Time**
Thursday, June 25, 10:00 am
Enjoy a read-aloud and trail walk for three to five year old toddlers at Ivy Creek. Volunteer guide Rachel Bush will host, starting in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area.
- 27 Drawing from Nature**
Saturday, June 27, 10:00 am
Artist Adam Peacock will take nature lovers out for a walk with paper, pencil and drawing board in hand to draw. This new offering is free to the public but space is limited. Please register by emailing icf@ivycreekfoundation.org. Meet in the Education Center.
- 27 Farm and Barn History Day**
Saturday, June 27, 2:00 pm
Come enjoy the barn at Ivy Creek Natural Area. This was formerly the showpiece of the working farm known as River View Farm. This is a rare afternoon with the barn open to the public.
- 28 Butterflies of Ivy Creek**
Sunday, June 28, 1:00 pm
Join Mike Scott for a butterfly walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area. Start by meeting in the Education Center for an introduction to identification skills and to see Mike's impressive display of butterflies. We'll continue on the trails with Mike. Fun for the whole family.
- 30 Bees, Wasps, and Hornets, oh, my!**
Tuesday, June 30, 7:00 pm
Join Peter Warren for a talk on bees, wasps and hornets and their importance to the local environment. Find out how to avoid stings and what to do if you get stung. Meet in the Education Center.

July 2009

Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting

No meeting this month.

Monticello Bird Club Meeting

No meeting this month

Virginia Native Plants Society Meeting

No meeting this month

4 First Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, July 4, 7:30 am

Walk with Peter Brask of the Monticello Bird Club in the cool of the morning for a midsummer bird walk. Beginners are always welcome. Meet in the parking lot.

5 Tracking and the Earth

Sunday, July 5, 9:00 am

Join Hub Knott outdoors to search for signs of wildlife activity. Learn how to read the stories of animal life in the landscape of Ivy Creek. Meet at the barn. Co-sponsored with the Living Earth School.

5 Snakes of Ivy Creek

Sunday, July 5, 2:00 pm

Meet with amateur herpetologist Cole Peale-Grody for a brief talk and to see some of the wild snakes of Albemarle County that he has gathered for the event. Cole's goal is to help people learn about snakes so they won't be so frightened of the woods.

For updates and additional events check out ivycreekfoundation.org/education/calendar.html

Snakes will be caged and not available for handling. Meet in the Education Center.

15 Nature Deficit Disorder

Wednesday, July 15, 7:00 pm

Hear LoriAnne Barnett give a talk about the effects on our children of reduced time spent with nature. Meet in the Education Center.

18 Freshwater Mussels

Saturday, July 18, 9:00 am

Come learn about freshwater mussels at Ivy Creek Natural Area. We'll start with an information session in the Education Center followed by a field trip. Brian Watson of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will lead.

18 Dragonfly Walk at Ivy Creek

Saturday, July 18, 11:00 am

Jim Childress will lead a walk to see dragonflies and damselflies of Ivy Creek. We will view them with binoculars and catch a few to look at them in hand. Come and learn to identify some of the midsummer species and their habitats. Meet outside the Education Center.

19 Butterflies of Ivy Creek

Sunday, July 19, 1:00 pm

Join Mike Scott for a butterfly walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area. Start by meeting in the Education Center for an introduction to identification skills and to see Mike's impressive display of butterflies. We'll continue on the trails with Mike. Fun for the whole family.

20 Summer Day Camp

Weeklong, July 20th-24th, 9:00 am to noon

Join the Ivy Creek Foundation and Albemarle/Charlottesville 4-H Program for our first ever day camp! We will do a series of art-inspired-by-nature and Jr. Naturalist workshops for kids ages 9-13 during the week of July 20th – July 24th from 9:00 am until noon in the Education Center. Pre-registration is required. To register, email LoriAnne Barnett at barnettl@vt.edu or phone at 434-872-4580.

25 Summer Wildflower Walk

Saturday, July 25, 9:00 am

Walk with botanist Tim Williams to see the spectacular late blooming wildflowers of summer. Cardinal flower, boneset, and jewelweed are among the flowers that bloom in July at Ivy Creek. Co-sponsored with the Virginia Native Plant Society.

25 Ivy Creek Summer Potluck
Saturday, July 25th, 12:00 noon
Please join us for our summer potluck on July 25th at noon. This spring we decided to start having quarterly potlucks for members and volunteers as a way of sharing some unstructured time together. We had the first of these potlucks in May, and it provided a great opportunity to share ideas and to enjoy the natural area together. Bring a dish to share and meet in the Education Center. Let us know by email at icf@ivycreekfoundation.org or 973-7772 if you are planning to come and we can coordinate dishes!

25 Farm and Barn History Day
Saturday, July 25, 2:00 pm
Come enjoy the barn at Ivy Creek Natural Area. This was formerly the showpiece of the working farm known as River View Farm. This is a rare afternoon with the barn open to the public.

30 Ivy Creek Toddler Time
Thursday, July 30, 10:00 am
Enjoy a read-aloud and trail walk for three to five year old toddlers at Ivy Creek. Volunteer guide Rachel Bush will host, starting in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area.

August 2009

Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting

No meeting this month.

Monticello Bird Club Meeting

No meeting this month

Virginia Native Plants Society Meeting

No meeting this month

1 First Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, August 1, 7:30 am

Come join Ron Kingston for an early morning bird walk to see our summer residents. Cosponsored by the *Monticello Bird Club*. Beginners always welcome.

9 Butterflies of Ivy Creek
Sunday, August 9, 1:00 pm
Join Mike Scott for a butterfly walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area. Start by meeting in the Education Center for an introduction to identification skills and to see Mike's impressive display of butterflies. We'll continue on the trails with Mike. Fun for the whole family.

15 Tracking and the Earth
Saturday, August 15, 9:00 am
Join Hub Knott outdoors to search for signs of wildlife activity. Learn how to read the stories of animal life in the landscape of Ivy Creek. Meet at the barn. Co-sponsored with the Living Earth School.

22 Exploring Summer
Saturday, August 22, 9:00 am
Naturalist Mary Jane Epps, will lead an exploratory walk at Ivy Creek to see the wonders of a summer morning in nature. Wildflowers, ferns, mushrooms and the amazing variety of insects are a few of the topics Mary Jane may cover. Meet at the Education Center.

25 Nighthawk Migration: Circus in the Sky
Tuesday, August 25, 6:30 pm
Join members of the Monticello Bird Club to watch the first of two nights of nighthawk's acrobatics as observed in aerial feeding on hunting circuits from the reservoir to native grass field.

27 Ivy Creek Toddler Time
Thursday, August 27, 10:00 am
Enjoy a read-aloud and trail walk for three to five year old toddlers at Ivy Creek. Volunteer guide Rachel Bush will host, starting in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area.

27 Nighthawk Migration: Circus in the Sky
Thursday, August 27, 6:30 pm
Join members of the Monticello Bird Club to watch a second night of nighthawk's acrobatics as observed in aerial feeding on hunting circuits from the reservoir to native grass field.

29 Summer Wildflower Walk
Saturday, August 29, 9:00 am
 Walk with botanist Tim Williams to see the spectacular late blooming wildflowers of summer. Cardinal flower, boneset, and jewelweed are among the flowers that bloom in August at Ivy Creek. Co-sponsored with the Virginia Native Plant Society.

29 Farm and Barn History Day
Saturday, August 29, 2:00 pm
 Come enjoy the barn at Ivy Creek Natural Area. This was formerly the showpiece of the working farm known as River View Farm. This is a rare afternoon with the barn open to the public.

September 2009

5 First Saturday Bird Walk
Saturday, September 5, 7:30 am
 Come join John Zimmerman for an early morning bird walk. Cosponsored by the Monticello Bird Club. Beginners always welcome.

13 Ivy Creek Foundation Annual Meeting
Sunday, September 13, 2:00 pm
 Come meet the staff and board of Ivy Creek Foundation. Hear about upcoming events and plans. Meet in the Education Center.

Other Summer Programs

Events listed below do not have a date at publication time. We'll be listing them on our website, at the kiosk at Ivy Creek and in the newspaper. Also remember to check the website and telephone message for any last minute changes.

* **Bats at Ivy Creek**
At dusk
 Learn from a bat expert about bats local to our Ivy Creek area. Come outside to observe the bats that live in the south field at Ivy Creek Natural Area.

* **Mushrooms, Toadstools, and Fungi**
Morning walk
 Join us for a walk and talk on the mushrooms of Ivy Creek. Learn some of the basics about mushrooms. This will only be an introduction. We will not be harvesting any fungi. Start out by the Education Center.

* **Guide Walks**
Once a month, in the mornings
 Join Ivy Creek nature guides for a one to two hour walk on the trails of Ivy Creek. We'll share the latest nature has to offer that day. The trail will be determined by the guide and the group. Meet in the parking lot.

ICF Membership

The Ivy Creek Foundation is a volunteer-based non-profit organization that depends on community donations to maintain the natural areas for your enjoyment and to provide free educational programming. This year we are developing a series of environmental education units, several of which we have described in past newsletters. We are also working with local teachers, school administrators and other community partners to develop education programs related to the rich family history of Ivy Creek.

We can not do any of this without the support of our membership! This year we have launched our first concerted membership drive, and we need your help! Please become a member if you are not already, or pass this form on to a friend who enjoys the natural areas but is not yet a member. To join, please send your tax-deductible contribution to: Ivy Creek Foundation, P.O. Box 956, Charlottesville, VA 22902

Name(s) _____ Email _____

Address _____

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|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor |
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Membership Drive: As part of our Annual Fund Drive, we are working hard to expand our membership. If you know someone who enjoys our natural areas, or does not know about these wonderful community assets yet, please share this newsletter with them and encourage them to become a member!

Ivy Creek Foundation

Our Mission: To preserve and manage the Ivy Creek and Ragged Mountain Natural Areas for community education and appreciation.

The Ivy Creek Foundation is a volunteer-based, non-profit organization created in 1979 that works to manage, improve, and preserve the ecosystems of the Ivy Creek and Ragged Mountain Natural Areas for the purposes of environmental education, land conservation, and the appreciation of Virginia's natural heritage.

Ivy Creek Foundation Board of Directors 2008-2009

President: Peter Clark	LoriAnne Barnett	Linda Goodling	Terry Nauss
Vice President: Victoria Dye	Meghan Cloud	Jim Hutcherson	Liz Palmer
Secretary: Ruth Douglas	Brad Conner	Samuel Lindblom	Susan Pleiss
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For membership information, write to P.O.Box 956, Charlottesville, VA 22902, call (434) 973-7772
email: icf@ivycreekfoundation.org or visit our website at <http://ivycreekfoundation.org>



*Check the website for additional programming
and other possible changes to the schedule.*

Hope to see you at our summer potluck –

July 25th, 12:00 noon!