



Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Youth Education Report 2007-2008

Hybrids, solar power, organic produce, sustainability! The "green wave" is rolling across the nation at an impressive speed. The momentum is encouraging humans of all ages to evaluate our connection to the earth. The Youth Education Department at Corkscrew Sanctuary adds its voice to the "green wave" by addressing issues at a local level with area children. It is our pleasure to share with you the success of our programs.

Through a web of community support, we introduce students to nature. We share with them the joy of sitting under a big tree; watching an endangered wood stork 'dance' to catch fish in a small lake crowded with turtles and otters; the surprise of seeing a hawk swoop down to grab a crayfish and alight on a branch to eat it; the simple pleasure of listening to a woodpecker as it drums against an ancient cypress tree.

The journey begins slowly. To a student just off the school bus for a field trip, the trail looks long, scary and totally unfamiliar. After a walk through the woods with experienced guides and teachers, the same child feels inspired, intrigued and open to the promise of discovery. We observe dramatic changes in their perspective within a two hour field trip. They see the swamp as a home for wondrous animals and an opportunity for adventure.

What does it take to make the jump from timid student to swamp enthusiast? Through the Curriculum Programs, Insect Adventure and Wild Florida Adventure, we present the basics of scientific method to 1500 second and fifth graders from area schools annually. Then we let the enchantment of the swamp itself bring them to realize their place in the natural world.

Field adventures are often life altering experiences that stimulate students' inherent curiosity of the world around them. It is the premise of Interpretive Science that personal connection with nature leads people to think differently and consequently to act differently. The goal to change behavior has formed the vision of our youth education department. Elementary students are observing the world in new ways that enable them to understand our vital connection to the natural world. As future stewards of conservation their voices are added to the "green wave".

Our programs also provide opportunities for community members to add their voices. Through School Sponsorships, one person can change perspectives of a classroom of students. We are grateful to our current sponsors. With their support we raised \$50,000 to cover the costs of the 2007-08 programs. We must meet the same financial goal for 2008-2009. We encourage all those who want to add their voice to join us.

Now is the time for each of us to determine what we can do to make positive changes to sustain natural resources. Corkscrew and Audubon provide the means to make those changes.

Read on. Join us. Be a local voice in the global "green wave".

Rebecca Beck
Director of Education

Candace Forsyth
Donor Relations



Field Studies at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary provide students with the opportunity to observe the world through a variety of perspectives – with unaided eyes, binoculars, microscopes, magnifying glasses and the elementary school favorite – “Bug Goggles”. They experience the swamp in weeks of heavy rain and months of drought, full of migratory birds and crawling with resident alligators, raccoons and bugs. With leadership from staff, teachers, volunteer guides, interns, parents and chaperones, students change the way they look at nature and also they way they perceive its value and its impact on their lives and futures.



Safe and Sound
 Waking up in the morning breeze
 Howling at the sun
 Know that today I will be
 Living Safe and Sound
5th Grade Students, Sabal Palm



“The thing I loved best was when we were sitting along on the boardwalk. That was peaceful to listen to the birds and look out and watch everything fly and swim.”
5th Grade Student, Estates Elementary



“It was wonderful going to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. It’s amazing seeing all these animals free. The animals are in their own habitats, find their own food and make their own shelter. It is important not to interfere with their habitats.”
5th Grade Student, Corkscrew Elementary

“For students who hardly ever get to go special places or leave their homes in East Naples, our trip to the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary was a long, exciting journey. Our students had the opportunity to see a beautiful place that they normally would not have the resources to visit.”
Lely 2nd Grade Teaching Team



“Have you ever been to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary? Well if you haven’t, you should go because it’s a stupendous, terrific and exciting place to go. We saw amazing animals, it was marvelous. It’s a place like no other!”
5th Grade Student, Estates Elementary

“I saw so many things there. I was afraid I’d forget them! I hope I never do because that was the best day of my life! Since my dad chaperoned, it only made it better. That was the day I’d remember for all of my life!”
5th Grade Student, Corkscrew Elementary



Delivery of Audubon's environmental message to a wide range of students is the focus of the Education Department.

In 2007-08 we reached three education goals simultaneously and each contributed to the success of the other.

- ◆ In partnership with Florida Gulf Coast University's Environmental Colloquium Course we piloted a model program to have faculty, with the assistance of student naturalists, lead boardwalk trips. To achieve this, a collaboration was formed between Corkscrew staff, FGCU staff member Laurie Coventry, Campus Naturalist Sarah Davis and participating Colloquium professors. 'Colloquium' is designed to instill environmental ethics by addressing issues of sustainability, community and global concepts.
- ◆ We initiated the FGCU Student Naturalist Program, a direct outcome of the Colloquium collaboration. Audubon recognizes the tremendous mutual benefit of mentoring. Through the intern program at Corkscrew, and now with student guides from FGCU, we continue to improve the skills of young professionals with opportunities to gain confidence and develop personal vision and understanding of the shared mission of Audubon.

"The Student Naturalist Program at Florida Gulf Coast University is one of the most innovative programs at FGCU for the development of ecological perspective and community awareness and involvement. The program enhances student learning and involves students actively in the process of helping others do the same.

The Student Naturalist Program is a win-win. Student Naturalists develop valuable leadership skills, students benefit by having their field experience tailored to the curriculum, faculty benefit by having assistance, and Corkscrew Sanctuary benefits by having trained student naturalists free up valuable volunteer hours for service elsewhere." Laurie Coventry-Payne, FGCU

"The Student Naturalist Program has been an amazing opportunity for me to learn about Southwest Florida. As a native of New Jersey, I was very unfamiliar with vegetation and wildlife of my new home. Now that I have learned about plants and animals and the reasons they have adapted the way they have, I have an appreciation for SWFL that I otherwise would not have. I greatly enjoy sharing my new found love of the environment of SWFL with others through the Student Naturalist Program." Jess, FGCU Student Naturalist



- ◆ We expanded the Teacher Specialist Program, which is the basis for the Curriculum Programs. This was designed by Collier Environmental Education Consortium (CEEC) to provide outdoor learning opportunities for area students and encourage continuing education of Educators through workshops, collaboration and evaluation. The ultimate goal is to have teachers certified to lead student field study groups. Based on the positive experience with the FGCU model we will pilot "teacher led" 5th Grade field trips in fall 2008. Teachers who are 3-5 year program veterans expressed their willingness to lead groups. Corkscrew staff is confident of their ability to deliver field activities.

"It is exciting to help students become familiar with the plants and animals that can be found in their own back yards. They enjoy learning about the natural environment they see every day and how humans can play a part in protecting it. As teachers we like teaching outside the classroom too!"

Lidia Camp, Melissa Rodrigue, Sarah Woofler, Sabal Palm Elementary School

Currently, growth is measured by how many children our staff and Volunteer Guides take around the Sanctuary trails. In the near future growth will be measured by how many students, teachers and citizens become advocates who teach others about conservation and the protection of our natural resources.

It's a clear example of how change and progress are made possible by each partner in our Web of Life Long Learning!

People want to do what's right for children. With that in mind, the Children & Nature Network has compiled an impressive set of research studies on what's best for their healthy development. One major conclusion was no surprise to us: Nature is good for kids.

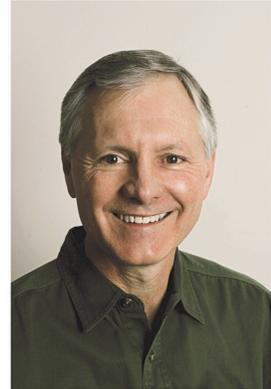
Why has something that seems so obvious become a big deal? When I was growing up in rural Minnesota, kids like me ruled the woods, fields, and streams. We hunted for birds, frogs, and fish. We built forts and tree houses. We connected to nature and, in turn, learned to care about the environment. For most people of my generation, caring about the environment became a lifelong avocation. For me, it also became a career.

The world has changed since then. Children of the digital age have become increasingly disconnected from direct experiences in nature, for many reasons. There's the seductive pull of computers, TVs, and iPods. Overworked parents have less time for children's outings, and parents fear for their kids' safety if they go wandering around alone. Schools, churches, and after-school programs increasingly emphasize indoor activities. When I was growing up, roaming around outdoors was fun and encouraged. Now nature is often perceived as a dangerous place.

Researchers are reporting a growing body of evidence correlating this decrease in outdoor activity with increases in attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, depression, obesity, and diabetes in children. In addition to these health consequences, I worry about where our next generation of conservation leaders will come from. If children grow up fearing nature, will they ever care enough to protect it?

Best-selling author Richard Louv coined the phrase nature-deficit disorder in his book *Last Child in the Woods*. He has since co-founded the Children & Nature Network to help address the issue by linking concerned educators, researchers, and others to the "latest research and practical advice about children's health and well-being."

Audubon recognized this trend more than a decade ago. In response we launched a major initiative to establish a national network of community-based Audubon Centers, where children and families can have safe and easy access to outdoor activities in nature close to home. These Centers now serve more than a million visitors annually. Much more is needed to address nature-deficit disorder, but it's a start. —John Flicker, President National Audubon Society



The mission of the National Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Sponsored Student Programs



Grade 2

INSECT ADVENTURE

Capitalizing on children's inherent curiosity about insects and other residents of the micro-world, the Insect Adventure is designed to teach about insects while enabling students to look at their environment with a holistic view. Important concepts such as habitat, interdependence and adaptation are reinforced throughout the program, and students have the opportunity to employ several steps in the scientific method as they become junior entomologists.



Grade 5

WILD FLORIDA ADVENTURE

There is no better place to study about watershed, fire, native habitats, integrated ecosystems and animal adaptation than Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. As junior naturalists, students engage in scientific scavenger hunts, species classification and nature journaling. Students conduct detailed research projects on local birds, plants, reptiles, mammals and insects. Participants are introduced to Corkscrew's innovative natural wastewater treatment facility, the Living Machine.



Discovery Stations

DISCOVERY STATIONS: Programs include field and classroom activities that allow students to explore scientific concepts through fun experimentation. Traveling libraries prepare students for their environmental adventure through reading and research. **Second Grade** trail stations focus on insect anatomy, habitats, behavior and senses through the use of the scientific method. **Fifth Grade** students experiment while engaging in guided activities. Field stations include observation of skulls, skins, scat, tracks and a live gator from our swamp aquarium. Student Field journals thread classroom lessons, boardwalk experience, discovery stations and personal reflection.

2007-2008 SPONSORS

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Mrs. Katie Walker



In Memory of:
Charles Groet
William Marks
Juanita Powers

Special Thanks To:
Big Cypress Basin
Collier County School District

2008-2009 Student Sponsorship Opportunities

TUITION: Support students for their entire curriculum program. Sponsors underwrite teacher training and year long support, students' four week intensive course of study, field trip admission, coordination of programs, and training for Corkscrew staff, volunteers and interns who present the field trip activities.

2 nd Grade Program	Students	Tuition Fee	My Sponsorship
Insect Adventure	50 students 2 classes	\$1500	\$
Insect Adventure	150 students Entire school	\$5000	\$

5 th Grade Program	Students	Tuition Fee	My Sponsorship
Wild Florida Adventure	50 students 2 classes	\$1500	\$
Wild Florida Adventure	150 students Entire school	\$5000	\$

Discovery Stations	Description	Fee	My Sponsorship
Traveling Literature Components	Age appropriate fact and fiction titles, field guides and research materials.	\$250	\$
Insect Adventure 2nd Grade	Field station supplies and teacher resource manuals	\$500	\$
Wild Florida 5th Grade	Field station supplies, Student field journal, teacher resource manuals	\$1000	\$

How to Become a Sponsor



1. **CHOOSE** a Sponsorship Level.
2. Enclose **CHECK** or **VISA/MASTERCARD** information for the sponsorship amount.

My **CHECK** is enclosed.

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: **National Audubon Society.**

Please use my **CREDIT CARD**. (Information can also be accepted by telephone.)

Amount \$ _____

Card# _____

Expiration _____ 3 digit security code _____ found on back of card

3. Tear off this page and **MAIL** it with payment to:



CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY

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