



Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
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Dear Friend of Corkscrew,

The 2005-06 Youth Education Activities at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary have exceeded our expectations! We have continued to successfully develop and deliver invaluable environmental field programs for over **3800 students** in grades kindergarten through college.

Students from local elementary, secondary and high schools, Florida Gulf Coast and Ave Maria Universities, Edison Community College and a variety of traveling groups from around the country came to Corkscrew for Boardwalk Adventures. Teachers, Professors, Naturalist Volunteers and Interns gathered for trainings to prepare themselves to accurately present all material. In addition, with the launching of the School Sponsor Program we were able to connect the Sanctuary's resources, our supporters and the student population.

Of the thousands of students who came, over **1,250 neighboring elementary school "junior naturalists and entomologists" arrived at Corkscrew for the curriculum programs**. Although the Boardwalk Adventures are a life enhancing experience for all who come here, the curriculum programs are where the resources of the Youth Education Department make a difference in a young person's environmental experience. Collaboration between participating teachers and Corkscrew staff resulted in revised training manuals, improved classroom projects and a four week course of study rather than just a one day field trip. This partnership led to enhanced experiences for students, teachers, and Corkscrew staff and volunteers. Through the benefits of partnership everyone involved reported a more effective learning experience.

The following year end summary features excerpts from the 2nd grade "Insect Adventure" and the 5th Grade "Wild Florida Adventure"; input from Seasonal Education Interns and acknowledgment of participants in the School Sponsorship Program.

It takes a team of dedicated people to produce a successful educational experience. In addition to the full time Education Staff, the Corkscrew Team includes willing teachers, enthusiastic volunteers, generous sponsors and the Friends of Corkscrew. It has been a great year for Youth Education. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Beck
Youth Education Coordinator

Candace Forsyth
Friends of Corkscrew

2nd GRADE INSECT ADVENTURE

SABAL PALM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISITS CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY

During the month of February, the second grade students from Sabal Palm Elementary School visited Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. The visit was a culminating activity from their studies about insects. Our Junior Entomologists were excited to learn about what an insect is and how they differ from spiders. Our studies included the structure and function of insects, insect habitats, adaptations, and interdependence. They even taught their teachers about the difference between a but and an insect!

SAY AHH!

What type of mouth do insects have? It depends on what they eat. Our students experimented with various tools to determine what an insect ate and what type of mouth they needed to eat certain foods.

A GIANT INSECT!

Upon our arrival, we were met by our wonderful leaders who guided us in creating the biggest insect that we had ever seen. The students used their bodies to create six legs, a head, thorax, abdomen, and antennae.

BEATING AROUND THE BUSH

After making a prediction of what we would find in a bush, we put our theory to test as we explored using the scientific method.

SCAVENGER HUNT!

We learned many interesting facts about the different insects. Using our reading skills, we were able to solve clues and unlock the mystery behind many of the insects.

BUG EYED!

We adjusted our eyes so that we could see like a bug. We learned that it is not that easy to find something.

POND LIFE

Do insects live in the water? We learned that they do. We also discovered other critters and used our resources to identify them.

5th GRADE WILD FLORIDA ADVENTURE



“This cross curricular unit integrated the study of writing, reading and science. The unit on Florida’s Habitats was very successful because the students were engaged on many different levels. Through the many mediums of instruction: video, guest speakers, literature, individual research and the field trip, all students became invested in the acquisition of knowledge and therefore in the project itself”. *Hallie Godshall, teacher*

“Students chose, in a lottery fashion, a mammal, bird, reptile, and plant to study. Research took three weeks and was conducted during reading rotations and science class. Students presented their reports to the class and turned them in for a grade. Bulletin boards were constructed with students deciding on flora and fauna placement overseen by a group of “student scientists” chosen by their teacher.” *Gayle Nance, Teacher*



“Most students and teachers describe the CSS trip as the best field trip they have ever taken. The diversity of flora and fauna, combined with the knowledge of our guides and our preparations for the trip, contributed to an awesome day of learning and discovery that can only occur in the field. Trips like this help launch students into a lifelong love of nature and a deep understanding of ecosystems and the environment. Numerous groups observed the living food chain in action as they watched Water Moccasins stalk and catch mosquito fish; Herons, egrets, and anhinga caught and swallowed fish and washed them down with water!” *Gayle Nance, Teacher*



“I learned a lot I didn’t know about alligators. I learned that alligators can only eat the amount of food that their stomach can digest by their body temperature heat. Their teeth are alternating so they can really get a grip on their prey, even though they can’t chew. As a baby they have stripes.” *5th grade student*

“I learned that the wading birds do have beautiful feathers. Wood storks also have very narrow sharp beaks. Then I learned that owl pellets sometimes have bones of the animal they ate. I learned that black racers are not venomous. I found out that bobcats are carnivores.” *5th grade student*



When I’m Alone in Nature by Ms. Craig’s Class

Alone in nature a bird call, a splash in the water.
I get a happy and free feeling that makes me feel good inside and love life.
I smell the air and feel the wind.
When the wind the blows I feel like I’m dreaming.
I think about the sweet smell of natural air.
I hear little droplets that sound like rain falling in a soft way.

I think about the beautiful animals
and how hard it is for them to survive.
I imagine myself as an animal just living out its day.
The swamp is peaceful and soothing and the sounds of
all the birds make it the best ever.

It is all so very beautiful - the swamp with the chirping birds.
Songs of birds big and small waft through the air.
Little fish jumping, birds calling, and loud crickets, “I love it all”.



SEASONAL EDUCATION INTERNS



“I came to Corkscrew believing that education was the most important tool that could be utilized in the field of conservation, and because of this, I hoped to develop myself as an educator. After a few weeks of learning about the amazing ecosystem that I would be working and living in for the next 6 months, I began my journey as an educator. At first I was nervous and did not know what to expect from the kids. I had the chance to work with different aged school groups. With great programs in place and admirable volunteers and staff members to learn from, I soon became comfortable with all the groups I came into contact with and was able to develop my own teaching style.” *Julia Feliz, Fall 2005*

Before coming to Corkscrew, I made a list of birds and animals I desperately wanted to see. I ended up finding even the most elusive ones on my list. What I discovered, however, was that the moments I could not have anticipated meant the most.

A barred owl taking flight from a nearby branch, breaking the air with its eerie silence. A limpkin call that pierces the quiet peace of the afternoon heat with an unworldly scream. An alligator (one of the last live reminders of the dinosaur’s mighty dominion) ripping and tearing the limbs from a raccoon’s drowned body. A pair of pileated woodpeckers working endlessly for close to a month to transform the hard wood of a live cypress tree into a 3 ft deep cavity. A bobcat standing silently 15 ft from the boardwalk, a paw raised in mid-step, before turning with a swish of the tail and disappearing just as silently behind a palm frond. Otters caught tumbling down the boardwalk, biting and barking and snuffling in their romp. I didn’t go seeking these moments. They came from around a turn of the boardwalk; a turn that seemed empty the next day, yet pregnant with possibility. *Leah Finity, Spring 2006*



SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



The School Sponsorship Program was launched in July 2005 and has been received with great enthusiasm. School Sponsors chose financial levels to support the curriculum studies. Funding provided tuition for schools that otherwise would not be able to afford it. Our donors are a varied group: Collier County Audubon Society is a long time sponsor who continued to provide financial support ; Individual donors participated because they were interested in children and conservation issues; one member created an education endowment; former teachers and professional biologists wanted to ignite a spark for science in the younger students. Collier County District Science Department provides the transportation to the Sanctuary.

Through School Sponsorships we are inspiring the next generation to pursue science and increase their understanding of our native habitats. Many thanks to School Sponsors for their insight and support.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Corkscrew Elementary

Estates Elementary

Lely Elementary

Poinciana Elementary

Sabal Palm

Village Oaks