

S U M M E R / F A L L 2 0 1 7

The Wild Times



Cathy Schieffelin, Founder
Wild Times Education Programs
"Bringing the Wild to You!"



Did you know?

In Kenya there are different species of zebras. The two most common are the Burchells' Zebra which has wider stripes and the rarer Grevvy's zebra, which has much narrower stripes. They don't just look different – they behave and live differently. Grevvy's are solitary animals and don't travel in herds. Stallions establish a territory and live solitarily until a mare comes into the area to breed and raise young. Burchell's aka Common Zebra live in family groups led by a stallion with several mares and offspring.

Zebras are closely related to horses and donkeys

Grevvy's or Burchell's Zebra?



Update on Wild Times Education Programs

Summer 2017 has been a busy time for Wild Times Education Programs. We just returned from an amazing month in Kenya where we got to experience an African Safari. We visited Samburu National Reserve and Buffalo Springs in Central Kenya as well as the Masai Mara. We also went up to see some of the famous soda lakes - Lake Bogoria and Lake Baringo where we saw flocks of lesser and greater flamingos, among many other bird species. In fact during our time in Kenya, we saw over 170 species of birds. Kenya has some of the greatest diversity of birds in the world. Finally we ended our month long sojourn on the Kenyan coast in the beautiful town of Watamu. Wild Times would like to thank our cousin Mary Binks who organized our travels and kept us well fed! Thank you also to Alan and Tony Binks – safari guides extraordinaire who showed us so many wonderful things!! We will never forget the time we spent with you!



Native Louisiana Travels

These are suggestions of my favorite places to visit in Louisiana when you need a “nature fix”.

These parks are within an hour of NOLA.

Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge

This beautiful refuge was formed in 1994 and consists of 18,000 acres of pine flatwoods, oak rides and coastal marsh lands, located near Lacombe, LA. Big Branch sits on the shores of Lake Ponchartrain and is home to the rare red cockaded woodpecker. Bald eagles and brown pelicans can be found here too.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 14, 2017 – National Wildlife Refuge Week

Join the community celebration during Big Branch’s 20th Annual Wild Things Event – which will include a Wild Things Youth Art Contest. Event is from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at SELA Refuge Headquarters in Lacombe.

Jean Lafitte National Preserve

Jean Lafitte Barataria is a 23,000 acre preserve near Marrero, LA on the westbank. It consists of bayous, swamps, marshes and forests – accessed via a boardwalk. The visitor center is open Wednesdays – Sundays from 9:30-4:30 p.m. and is free to the public.

Upcoming Events:

Weekly Wetlands Walk – every Wednesday – Sunday starting at 10 a.m. from the Visitor’s Center. A ranger will lead a guided tour through different areas of the preserve.

Explore and Restore – (Sat. Aug. 19th, Sat. Sept. 16th, Sat. Oct. 14th and Sat. Nov. 18th) Go on a ranger led “inspiration” walk and then create a craft from recycled materials. Free to the public, but reservations are required. Call 504-689-3690 Ext. 10 to sign up.





About Town with Wild Times

Wild Times Education Programs has continued to bring exciting and interactive programs to schools around the New Orleans area. We've participated in SPARK programs at St. George's Episcopal School where we studied the thermal properties of fat to learn how polar bears stay warm in an inhospitable environment. During another SPARK presentation we learned about the world of canids and the importance of wolves as apex predators in maintaining balance in the Yellowstone ecosystem. Wild Times visited the Louise S. McGehee School where we learned about sea turtles and their incredible migrations. We also introduced the PK students to the Wonders of Honeybees by spending time in a butterfly garden and learning how to "waggle" dance. We tasted different honeys and learned about bee navigation.

Last summer Wild Times spent a couple of days at the Uptown JCC. Summer campers got to experience an African Safari in the classroom. Campers examined a variety of skulls, touched a wildebeest hide and felt the weight of a large elephant tusk. Younger participants re-enacted a wildebeest migration – to better understand the tools prey animals use to get away from predators.



How To Make:



MASON JAR LUMINARY BUG REPELLENT CANDLE

- 2 8oz Mason jars;
- 1 16oz Mason jar;
- 40 drops of rosemary essential oil;
- 15 drops of citronella essential oil (optional);
- 1 lemon;
- 2 key limes (or 1 lime);
- 8 fresh rosemary sprigs;
- 3 tea light candles;
- 32oz of water.

With these gathered, you'll first want to start by slicing the lemon and lime(s), and placing 3-4 slices of both in each Mason jar. Next in goes 4 rosemary sprigs for the large jar and 2 for each small jar – set those aside. Fill a measuring cup with your water and essential oils, and stir them well to combine, emptying the contents equally into each Mason jar afterwards. Your tea lights are next, and all you have to do is take them out of their containers, sit them on top of the water, light, and enjoy!

Get Outside!

Bike Ride the Tammany Trace

The Tammany Trace is a lovely (former railroad) hiking, biking and equestrian trail that connects Covington to Slidell for 31 miles. There are lots of shady spots to stop for a picnic or take a respite at the Abita Brew Pub in Abita Springs. Other highlights are the weekly farmer's market and a stop for a Sno-ball.



Hit the Trails

Going out for a hike, whether it be a 14 miler or a 2 miler is great for the body and soul. Be observant as you hike – looking for birds and insects along the way. Can you hear a hawk call or the chirp of a cicada? Notice the holes in the trees made by industrious woodpeckers. Breathe deep and just put one foot in front of the other!



Create a Pollinator Garden

1. Choose plants that flower at different times of the year to attract a variety of pollinators
2. Plant in clumps
3. Put in different colored and shaped plants – will attract greater diversity of pollinators
4. Choose native plants to better attract native pollinators



Have a Bush Picnic

There's nothing more fun than eating outside. Grab a blanket and some of your favorite picnic snacks and find a cool spot to enjoy your bush picnic. Easy foods to bring are: hard boiled eggs, sausages, nuts, berries, and trail mix. Don't forget to bring lots of water or something to keep you hydrated. Buen Provecho!

Wild Times Education Programs:

The following is a list of current Wild Times Education Presentations. Please note that some topics are more suited to older audiences, however I do try to have activities for younger audiences, if I have a mixed age group.

1. **Polar Bears and the Arctic**
2. **Animal Diversity of the Rainforest**
3. **Amazing Elephants**
4. **Great Migrations: Sea Turtles**
5. **Native Louisiana**
6. **Scats and Tracks**
7. **Animal Parenting**
8. **Wonder of Honeybees and other Pollinators**
9. **Wolves and other Canids**
10. **Birds of Prey**
11. **African Animals: Predator vs. Prey**
12. **Mammals vs. Reptiles (Live Animal program)**
13. **Tooth Lab: A Study of Omnivores, Herbivores, Carnivores and Insectivores**
14. **The Tlingit and the Sioux – Native Americans and their Relationship with the Natural World**
15. **Wild vs. Domestic Animals: Needs and Care of Different Animals**



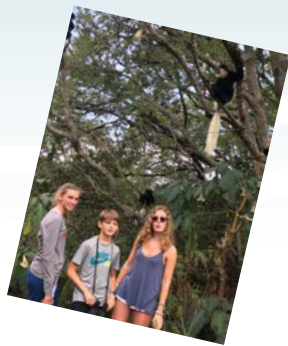
Topics Coming Soon!

1. **Aquatic Predators**
2. **Animals of Antarctica**
3. **Amazing World of Insects**
4. **Natural Wonders of Yellowstone National Park**
5. **Equines - Wild and Domestic**
6. **Backyard Birds (Southeastern)**
7. **Guide to Becoming a Naturalist**
8. **Planting Natives for Pollinators**
9. **Composting – The Joys of Recycling your Food Trash**
10. **Native Indians of Louisiana: Culture, Food, Music and Nature**

Contact WTEP

If you'd like to have Wild Times come to your school or facility, please contact me. I am willing to work in any venue and with children and adults of all ages. My fees are nominal (\$50 per 30 minute sessions) but will waive them if cost is prohibitive. My goal is to reach as many people as possible to encourage the love and protection of our natural environment.

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