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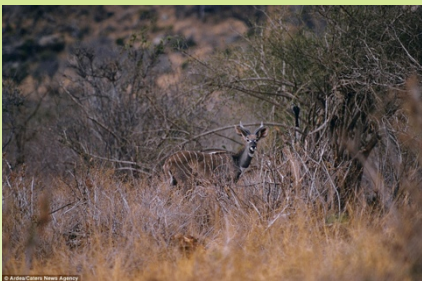
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# Wild Times

By Cathy Schieffelin, Founder  
Wild Times Education Programs

## Did you know?

Many animals have special traits that allows them to survive in their particular habitat. Some animals have scales for protection or tough skin or are huge in size. Some animals have tremendous speed and sharp claws; others have unique camouflage that allows them to hide in plain sight.



This is an example of a greater kudu hiding in plain sight.



## Update on Wild Times Education Program

Summer is a quieter time for many people. At Wild Times we tend to have lulls and then days of great activity. June is the month for road trips – up to North Carolina to take my kids to camp. July will be my “Wild Time”. I am looking forward to conducting a “Wild Times” program at the Uptown JCC on July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. I will be doing an African Animals and their Adaptations for Survival presentation. We will be looking at predator and prey relationships. I will also be doing a program at the Jefferson Parish SPCA talking about Domestic vs. Wild Animals and the special needs of these different animals.

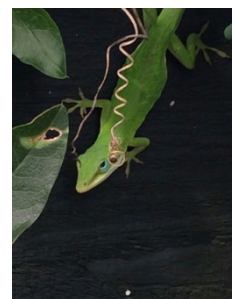
### UPCOMING EVENTS

July 26, 2016

**East Bank  
Jefferson SPCA**  
Domestic vs Wild  
Animals

July 27-28, 2016

**Uptown JCC**  
African Animals:  
Adaptations for  
Survival



## Summer Travels

Summer is a great time to explore nearby parks and recreational areas. Here are some of my favorite places in Louisiana!



### Avery Island

This stunning area is home to a huge array of birds – snowy egrets, great blue herons, roseate spoonbills, and so much more. Enjoy lunch at the Jefferson Café and stroll through the exotic Jungle Gardens. Tour the famous McIlhenny Tabasco Plant!

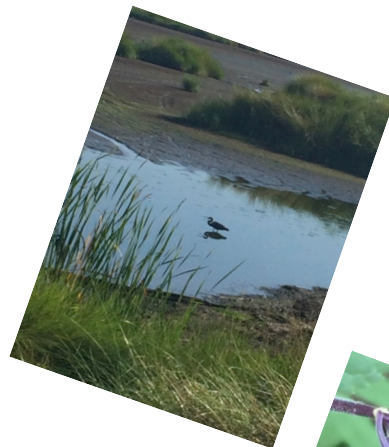


### Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge

Tensas is a little known piece of heaven located between Vicksburg, MS and Monroe, LA. This is where I found my first Louisiana black bear. This is also the last known location of the elusive Ivory Billed Woodpecker! A lovely place to wander.

### Bayou Sauvage NWR

This is one of my all time favorite spots to go birding. The refuge is a 23,000-acre region of fresh and brackish marshes located within the city of New Orleans. It is the largest urban wildlife refuge in the US. The endangered brown pelican nest here year round.



### City Park's Couterie Forest

Couterie Forest is another urban escape within New Orleans. Combined with Scout Island, the 60-acre area is a nature lover's dream come true. The Forest is made up of eight different eco-systems and includes New Orleans' highest point of elevation, Laborde Mountain – an impressive 43 ft. about sea level! Nosebleeds are common, so come prepared!





Prehensile Toes  
Primate Talk



Polar Bear Pelt – check  
out those claws!



Exploring  
honeybees



Tooth Lab:  
Zebra Skull

## Wild Times Education Programs - 5 Years Old!

**Wild Times Education Programs** started its 5<sup>th</sup> year in 2016. Six years ago my mother-in-law took me on a trip to Manitoba, Canada to see polar bears in the wild. I never realized how much this trip would change my life. **Wild Times** is a result of that trip. Over the past five years, I've presented to children all over the New Orleans area, in a variety of learning settings. I now have a large variety of presentations including *Polar Bears*, *Primates*, *The Rainforest*, *Animal Parenting*, *Sea Turtles*, *Elephants*, *Scats and Tracks*, *The Wonder of Honeybees*,

*Native Louisiana*, *Birds of Prey*, *Wolves and Other Canids*, etc. This work has been such a privilege. I am eternally grateful to the **Audubon Zoo** for allowing me to borrow the many incredible bio facts I bring to schools (polar bear pelt, lion skull, sea turtle shell, etc.) as well as for their wonderful education staff who assist me in the development of these talks. I am also grateful to the many students from preschoolers to the lovely older folks at Lambeth House who have questioned and challenged me on the topics I bring them. You make this work worthwhile and so much fun! Thank you!



## Pinecone Bird Feeders

**Making a pinecone birdfeeder is a fun way to get kids out in the backyard**

### Items Needed:

**Pinecones**  
**Peanut butter (or Crisco if allergies)**  
**Bag of wild birdseed**  
**String to tie to tree**

*Take your pinecones and roll them in the peanut butter or Crisco. Get as much peanut butter or Crisco into the pinecone as possible. Roll the sticky pinecone in a flat pan of the birdseed. Attach with a string and hang in your backyard tree. Enjoy!*

## Ways to Get Your Kids Outside!

### Plant a Garden

You don't need to have acres of land to plant a lovely garden. It can be a container garden, if there isn't any available land. Start off with herbs or pretty flowers. But try to plant native species that will attract native critters (butterflies and bees) – which help our environment!



### Go Bird watching

There are so many wonderful spots in New Orleans to watch birds. You may be up at the "Fly" at a soccer game. Walk along the river and see if you can find an Eastern phoebe or anhinga. Bring binoculars and a good birding guide. I love Sibley's Guide to Eastern Birds!

### Plan a Scavenger Hunt

You can do this in your backyard or at Audubon Park. Make a list of things for the kids to find such as pine cones, acorns, cicada molts, pine needles, twigs, round rocks, etc. Teaching children to look around and observe their surroundings is incredibly valuable – and fun!



### Alfresco Art Class

Bring paints or crayons (whatever you want) and set up a spot to draw or paint a tree or a pretty view. Set up a blanket or even a small easel. Bring a picnic and make an afternoon of it. Even for those who have trouble drawing, abstracts can be fun and freeing! Read SARK!

# Wild Times Education Programs Presentations

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. **Animals 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 Honey Bees**
9. **Wolves and other Canids**
10. **Birds of Prey**
11. **African Animals and the Adaptations for Survival**
12. **Mammals vs. Reptiles (Live Animal presentation)**
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. **The 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 Butterflies and Bees**
9. **Composting – The Glory of Recycling your Food Trash**
10. **Native Indians of Louisiana: Culture, Food, Music and Nature**

# Contact Wild Times Programs

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 min. session) 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.



*"Bringing the Wild To You!"*



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