



# Naturalist Notes

Fall/Winter 2022



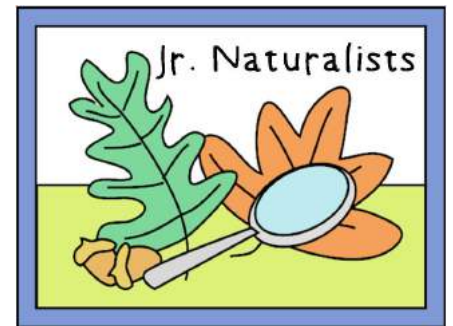
## Hunter Safety



I was thinking about all of the programming I've done through the years and one of the most unique programs I've done in school was hunter safety. I know, it sounds weird, but I visited a high school classroom several times in a month time span and had almost 80 students take part in the class. I've also done this program after school for middle school students. Hunter safety is so much more than just information about hunting. Students learn about ethics, planning ahead, survival situations, conservation, how to dress for the outdoors, how to handle a firearm safely (in class we use dummy guns that cannot actually fire), etc. If you work with 5th grade or up, this is definitely something we could offer in school or after school.

## Monthly Program Series: Jr. Naturalists

It's back again! This program series is geared towards 2-5 yr olds and includes a story, craft, and/or other hands-on nature-themed activities. You don't have to commit to monthly programming, you can choose certain months. If you have an older grade, I can typically adapt a topic you may like for your age group. My list of topics starts in September, but if you want to start the series in October to see how school goes, we can do that too! **Topics are listed on page 3 for this year.** I have a topic rotation, so if early learners saw me the year before, topics will NOT be the same.



### Office Information

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www.cherokeecountyparks.com  
Sign-up for *Smoke Signals*, our quarterly electronic newsletter!



### Cherokee County Conservation Board programs are:

- Hands-on and engaging
- Available year-round, indoors or outdoors, and at multiple locations
- For all ages
- Adaptable to your needs and curriculum
- FREE!



Laura Jones  
Director/Naturalist



### Program Highlight: Goldenrod Galls

Occasionally, I like to highlight a newer program and this time I thought I'd look at galls. What's a gall? A gall is an abnormal growth on a plant stem, leaf, flower, root, etc. caused by a feeding insect or an insect egg. In the case of goldenrod galls, an insect lays an egg in the stem of the plant, which the plant then forms what looks like a ball around the egg. The larva hatches and overwinters there, going through metamorphosis in late spring. In our gall program, we talk about native plants, review/learn the lifecycle of an insect, then break open a gall to try and identify which of the three insect larvae we're looking at using hand held magnifiers. Just an example of another program that includes STEM activities.



### September Specific Programming : Monarch Tagging

Monarch tagging takes place only in September as monarchs are migrating in large groups to their wintering grounds in



Mexico. Tagging monarchs can help us discover more information about them. When a tagged monarch is recovered and reported, we will know the monarch's original location. Knowing where it's going and where it's from can give us a migration timeline and path! I can bring the monarchs to you or we can meet in a natural area and catch them.

**MONARCHS IN THE NEWS:** The monarch has been red listed! This means that "the monarch becomes a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and its status will be reviewed each year until it is no longer a candidate."

### How to Schedule a Program

Contact me with a topic that you have in mind, your grade level, number of students, and a date. I can always stop by if you have a big event in mind or need to collaborate with other teachers. [Visit our website for program ideas.](#) Don't see a program that fits you? No problem! I can custom make one for you. There's no way I can list every potential program topic when it comes to nature! **My contact information: 712-225-6709 or ccclaura@gmail.com**

### Upcoming CCCB Events

**October 8: Halloween Hike at Silver Sioux** Trick-or-treat, decorate a pumpkin, play Halloween-themed games, and more.

*Program dates, locations, and content are subject to change. Check the CCCB website ([www.cherokeecountyparks.com](http://www.cherokeecountyparks.com)) and Facebook page for up-to-date information.*

# Jr. Naturalists

A once a month hands-on program for pre kindergarten to kindergarten aged students. Each month's program will be on a different topic and may include activities such as stories, crafts, games, and more.

## 2022-2023 Calendar & Topics

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

September \_\_\_ Moths

October \_\_\_ Spiders

November \_\_\_ Turkey Talk

December \_\_\_ Reindeer

Boot Camp

January \_\_\_ Tricky Tracks

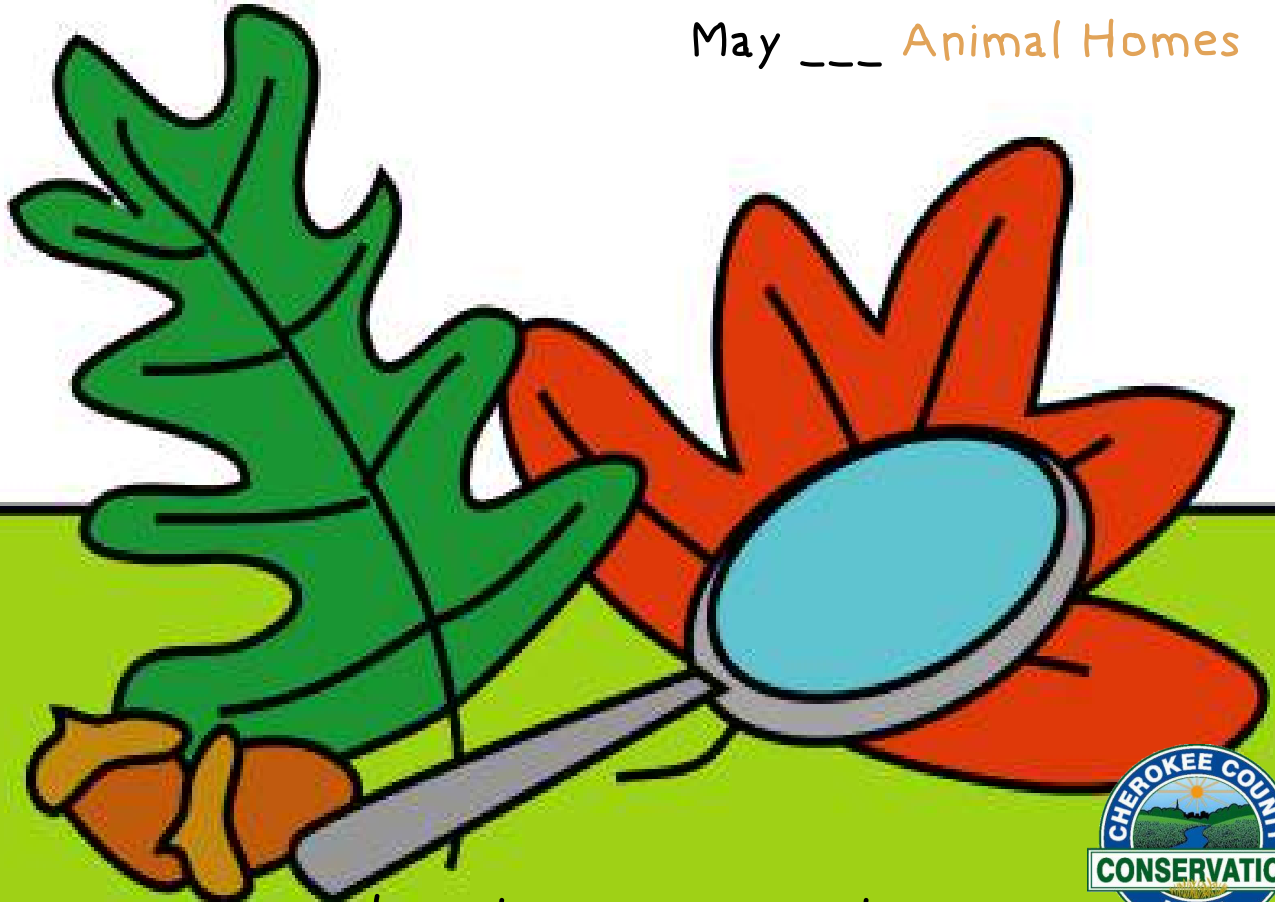
February \_\_\_ Tail Tales

March \_\_\_ Tooth Sleuth

April \_\_\_ Wet n' Wild

Water

May \_\_\_ Animal Homes



[www.cherokeecountyparks.com](http://www.cherokeecountyparks.com)

