



# Naturalist Notes

Fall/Winter 2023



## Photo & Field Trip Shout Out!

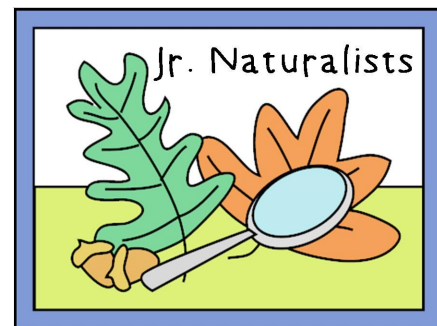
The cover photo for this newsletter is of the 3rd grade from MMC-RU and their field trip to Silver Sioux Recreation Area. I want to highlight this field trip because it's more than just a hike on the trails to the observation deck. During the school year we talked about bats, then came out to the park where we looked at studies done by ISU and the IDNR, used scientific reasoning to talk about what their study results tell us about the bat population in the area, then take a hike to look further observe the habitat around us where the study was actually conducted. Connecting conversations from the classroom to the outdoors really helps to create understanding and a sense of place.



Playing Bat & Moth

## Monthly Program Series: Jr. Naturalists

It's back again! This program series is geared towards 3-5 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

Cherokee Co. Conservation Board  
629 River Rd  
Cherokee, IA 51012  
(712)225-6709  
cccblaura@gmail.com  
www.cherokee-countyparks.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: Water Cycle

During last year's Jr. Naturalist programming, I learned that one of our monthly topics, the water cycle, fits science standards for Kindergarten! We act out the water cycle, travel as a water molecules through it's various forms, and end the activity with water cycle in a bag that can be taken home or left in the classroom window so the students can make observations.

**K-PS3-1.** Make observations to determine the effect of sunlight on Earth's surface

**K-LS1-1.** Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.

**K-ESS2-1.** Use and share observations of local weather conditions to describe patterns over time.



### September Specific Programming : Monarch Tagging & Beekeeping

**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.



**BEEKEEPING** programs or pollinator programs with live bees in a viewing box are best in September, early October, or May (during the school year). Programs without live bees can be done year-round.



### 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 cccblaura@gmail.com**

### Upcoming CCCB Events

**October 14: Halloween Hike at Silver Sioux** Trick-or-treat, decorate a pumpkin, play Halloween-themed games, and more. New this year will be atlatl throwing at pumpkins with the Sanford Museum!



*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.

## 2023-2024 Calendar & Topics

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

September \_\_\_ Butterflies

October \_\_\_ Backbones

November \_\_\_ Owls

December \_\_\_ Winter  
Animals

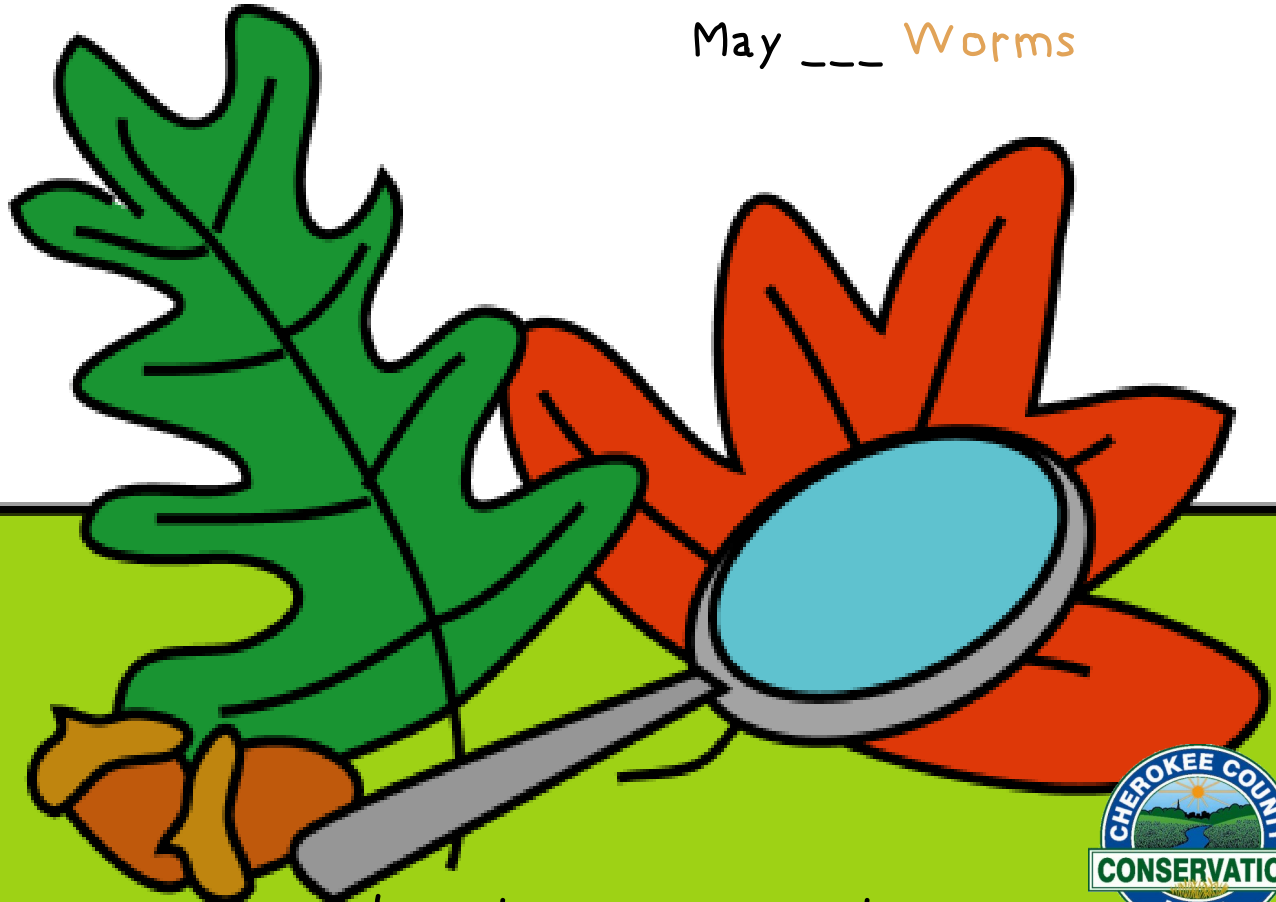
January \_\_\_ Snow

February \_\_\_ Underground  
Animals

March \_\_\_ Unhuggables

April \_\_\_ Stars

May \_\_\_ Worms



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