



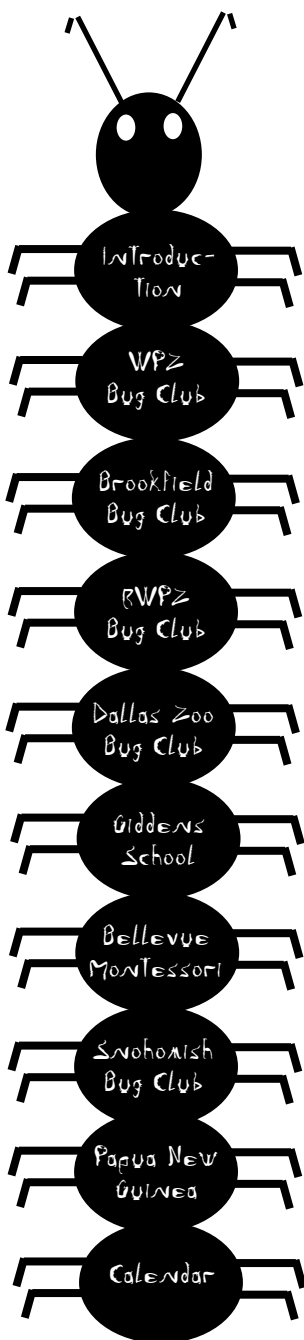
The Worldly Antenna of International Bug Club



Issue 3

December 2007

Number 4



International Bug Club updates!

Hello Bug Club members and families!

We are excited to share with you this issue of The Worldly Antenna. We've compiled some Bug Club news as well as ideas for arthropod explorations for families to try together at home, at the park or out in the wilderness!

Our bug theme for 2008 at Woodland Park Zoo is "Caring About Bugs" -- every Bug Club topic focuses on some aspect of people who care for bugs, how bugs care for one another (some bug parents provide extensive care for their babies!) and how we can help to conserve bug species and their habitats. You can see our list of topics at www.zoo.org/educate/bugclub.html.

We welcome other Bug Clubs to join us in this 2008 theme so that we can all learn and share about caring for bugs!

Sincerely,

Erin and Katie

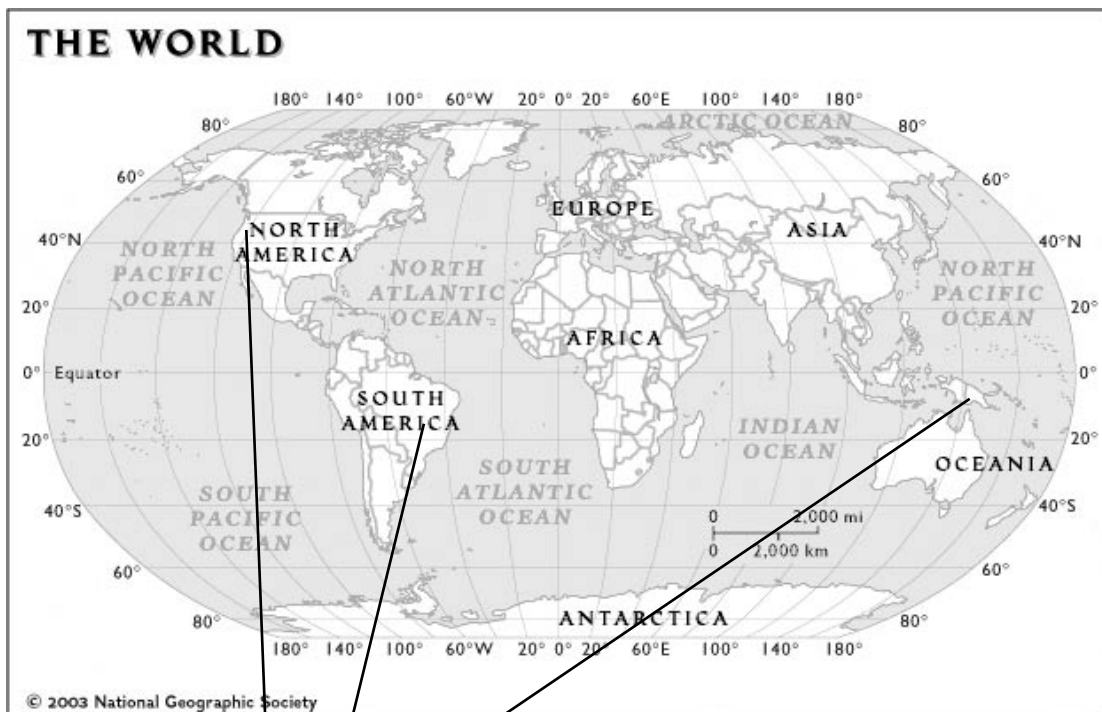
International Bug Club Coordinators

Woodland Park Zoo Bug Club



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At Woodland Park Zoo Bug Club, we're wrapping up our year of celebrating pollinators by studying pollinators from different parts of the world. See if you can add to this list of important pollinators in locations around the globe!



Papua New Guinea: fig wasps (pollinate fig trees)

South America: euglossine bees (pollinate orchids)

United States: longhorn beetles in the Cerambycidae family (pollinate a broad range of flowering plants)

Roger Williams Park Zoo

Bug Club

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Cricket Hunt

Materials

- A bunch of crickets (make sure you know how many you have)
- Empty glass tank or plastic bin
- Miscellaneous craft materials (paper tubes, egg cartons, light-colored paper, dark-colored paper, etc.)
- 20 plastic bugs
- A room with a lot of cricket hiding places

Procedure

- 1) Place the craft materials into the glass tank to provide a variety of potential hiding places for crickets. Ask the students to predict where they think crickets will choose to hide in the tank. Release the crickets into the tank and give the crickets a few moments to find their hiding spots. Then Bug Club Members can search for the crickets, gently collect them and put them back into their original container.
- 2) Using plastic bugs, Bug Club members can take turns hiding the insects around the classroom for other Bug Club members to find, based on their observations of the types of hiding places the crickets chose.

This was a great activity for our Insect Senses lesson. The kids pretended they were predators and had to try to find the crickets in their hiding places. We showed them how to gently pick the crickets up and put them in the container. Once they found the crickets, they could hold them for a few minutes. They could also look at them with magnifying lenses and try to find their ears.



An Italian cricket!

Dallas Zoo Bug Club

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Another season of the Dallas Zoo Bug Club is coming to an end. We will finish strong with Insect Senses in December and Meet the Beetles in February. It has been a wonderful time getting to know the kids and their insect interests. We look forward to seeing each other again for Season 4.



Once the weather warms up try your hand at this Pollinator Activity....
Here are some *hints* to help you become a great Pollinator Detective:

Generally, hummingbirds are attracted to long, tubular, red or yellow flowers; beetles and flies are attracted to flowers that grow close to the ground and smell bad (to humans); bees prefer flowers that are big, yellow and sweet-smelling; butterflies are attracted to all sorts of flowers, but often visit flowers that are small and clustered together; flowers that are white and open at night most often attract nocturnal pollinators like moths and bats.

If you can see pollen blowing from flowers and the flowers are held up high in the air, the flowers are most likely wind-pollinated.

Note: *remember, these are only generalizations and there are exceptions to every rule.*

See page 5 for a Pollinator Detectives observation sheet to take outdoors!

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Name _____

other animals

6. Sketch a picture of the plant and flower:

Bug Games!

Cockroach Maze

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To play this cockroach maze game, you will need a paper plate and two small magnets. First cut out the cockroach and glue one of the magnets to the bottom of it, then cut out the whole maze and paste it onto the top of a paper plate. Put the cockroach on the plate on the "home under the sink" in the center. Then use the second magnet on the underside of the paper plate to move the cockroach around the maze to scavenge all of the different foods, returning home under the sink after finding each type of food.

Opportunities: Photo Contests!

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Show off your great bug photos!

Try one of these activities to see and share bug photos:

1. Hold a bug photo contest with your friends or at school. Print and post your photos and then choose the top three photos to win 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.
2. Enter your bug photos into a wildlife photo contest -- try one of these or search online for new ones:

National Wildlife Federation

<http://www.nwf.org/kids/kzPage.cfm?siteId=3&departmentId=80&articleId=956>

Australian Museum

http://amonline.net.au/up_close/competition.htm

3. Send your photos (US and Canada only) into an online bug guide -- you can get help identifying your bug and add your photo to the online guide!

BugGuide

www.BugGuide.net

4. Send a photo to The Worldy Antenna at bug.club@zoo.org and we'll put it in a future newsletter!



Katydid in Papua New Guinea

Calendar

"Hey Little Ant" Essay Challenge

Authors, Phillip and Hannah Hoose in conjunction with Curious City (a children's book advocacy organization) are launching "What Do You Think That Kid Should Do?: The 'Hey, Little Ant' Essay Challenge."

Children in grades K-3 are invited to answer in less than 200 words the final question in the book *Hey, Little Ant* -- the questions asks, "What Do You Think That Kid Should Do?" The most thoughtful answer will be awarded with signed copies of the book, CD and other delicious environmental merchandise for the child, his/her teacher and librarian. Great responses will be shared through the year on the website and we hope to publish a book of responses in the future.

More info here: http://www.heylittleant.com/essay_info.html

Submission and Publication Dates for 2008

Bug Club Leaders, please compile submissions for The Worldly Antenna from your Bug Club and have them in by the "Submission" date below. You can send stories, photos (high resolution), drawings (scanned), ideas for bug club activities, or bug explorations for Bug Club families to try together at home. Send your submissions to **bug.club@zoo.org**. We look forward to your contributions!

Submission

March 10

June 9

September 15

December 1

Publication

March 30

June 22

September 28

December 14