



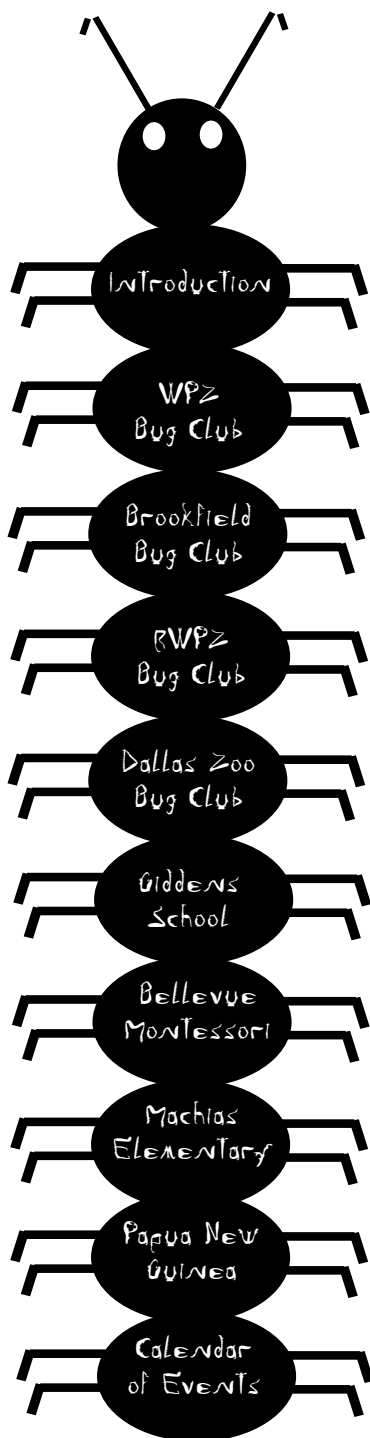
The Worldly Antenna of International Bug Club



Issue 2

March 2006

Number 2



Bug Club Network!

As you will see in this issue of *The Worldly Antenna*, the Bug Club network continues to grow! Welcome to Machias Elementary Bug Club of Snohomish, Bellevue Montessori Bug Club and Dallas Zoo Bug Club!

- Caroline Pew, Katie Remine and Erin Sullivan
Woodland Park Zoo Bug Club

Special visit at Woodland Park Zoo!

Woodland Park Zoo's Bug Club and members of other Bug Clubs in the region had a special visit from National Geographic photographer/writer and bug enthusiast, Mark Moffett. Mark shared with us captivating stories of his bug adventures around the world.



Mark Moffett joins Bug Club kids at the antenna-making station

Bug Club kids draw their favorite bugs on a thank you note to Mark Moffett.



Photos by Ryan Hawk, WPZ

Woodland Park Zoo Bug Club



Page 2

Food Web Scavenger Hunt in Bug World

At February's Bug Club, we searched for predators/prey, pollinators, decomposers and herbivores (plant-eaters) as we were learning about bug roles in ecosystems. Here's what we found:

DECOMPOSERS

Cockroaches
Termites
Pillbugs

PREDATORS

Goliath bird eater tarantula
Black widow
Scorpion
Assassin bug (we saw them eating crickets!)
Orbweaver
Mantid
Giant water bug
Green lynx spider

HERBIVORES

Jungle nymph
Walkingstick

POLLINATORS

Honeybees
Flower beetles



Ecosystem Story

After we went to Bug World, we made up an ecosystem story, involving important parts of ecosystems, including water, soil, plants and animals, and how they interact. Here's our story:

One day there was a waterbug in a river. Then the waterbug went into the dirt. The mammal crawled over him. Then the waterbug went back into the river to cool off. Then a crow flew over the waterbug. The eagle and robin went down to the grass to eat some worms. Then the waterbug went out of the water to get into the dirt to make a path for the other waterbugs. Then a dragonfly came by and started making trouble. Then more dragonflies came to help him make trouble. Then all the waterbugs came out of the river. Then the birds started circling around them to eat them. Then the eagle came down and snatched one of the dragonflies out of the air. All the dragonflies got superpowers and flew away and the eagles and crows were mad. The end.



Photos by Katie Remine, WPZ

Brookfield Zoo Bug Club

Page 3

Hello Fellow Bug Clubbers-

Brookfield Zoo is so excited to be a part of International Bug Club. This January was the two year anniversary of our Bug Club here in Brookfield, Illinois- We think a Bug Club Celebration is in order!

Our fall session of Bug Club began on September 21st and we spent as much time outside as much as possible for bug explorations and activities before the winter cold set in. We had some special guests at our October 5th meeting; a pair of Lubber grasshoppers and Hissing Cockroaches came to help us learn about insect defenses. In the winter, we decorated our very own Bug Club Holiday Tree here at Brookfield Zoo. It is always fun to make and hang bug inspired ornaments on our tree to celebrate the holiday season.

This year we have two Senior Bug Club members. One has been with Brookfield Zoo's Bug Club since it started back in January 2003 and the other has been with us almost as long. Kate and Stephen are going to be raising mealworms this fall and sharing their findings with the other younger members. They are also going to be helping us Bug Club instructors with activities and crafts.

From all of us here at Brookfield Zoo's Bug Club have a great season of Bug Club!

~ Brookfield Zoo's Bug Club

Brookfield Zoo's Bug Club is a fun, education-based club for children in grades 1 through 3. The club runs through the fall, winter and spring, with changing themes each season. The club meets every other Wednesday from 4-5:30. During club meetings we learn about a variety of insects, arthropods, and invertebrates through active investigations using games, dramatic play, live insects as well as through craft or other creative activities.

To find out more about Brookfield Zoo's Bug Club email us at: amdonofr@brookfieldzoo.org



Photos by Amy Donofrio

Roger Williams Park Zoo Bug Club

Page 4

Roger Williams Park Zoo Arts and Crafts Idea

Materials: Paper plate, markers, crayons or colored pencils, magnets, plastic wrap, construction paper, craft stick or tongue depressor, tape, pictures of "bug" habitats

Directions:

- 🐞 Ask the Bug Club Members to think of their favorite bug habitat.
- 🐞 Have the kids draw the bug habitat on a paper plate using markers, crayons or colored paper. Make sure they include all the necessities of a habitat (food, water, shelter). The kids can use the pictures of the bug habitats for inspiration.
- 🐞 Next, have the kids make a bug that would live in that habitat out of construction paper.
- 🐞 Attach a magnet to the back of the bug and place it on the paper plate
- 🐞 Cover the decorated portion of the paper plate with plastic wrap (make sure the bug is inside). Securely tape the plastic wrap to the back edge of the paper plate, leaving the middle portion of the back of the paper plate free of plastic.
- 🐞 Put another small magnet on the craft stick.
- 🐞 Put the craft stick, with the magnet against the paper plate, behind the bug and watch how it magically moves.

When we made this craft, most of the bugs the kids made were bigger than the habitats, so of course we have to scale them back a bit. It was really cute to watch them show off their creations to their parents.

- Tara Padula

Dallas Zoo Bug Club

Page 5

Season One at the Dallas Zoo Bug Club ended on a high note. The theme was Edible Bugs and a few of the kids wondered why we would eat bugs. So we talked about how people from around the world eat them. Some of the things we discovered are that people may not have anything else to eat, its part of their culture and its fun. While creating their menu for the day as well as an insect cookbook the kids couldn't wait to dive into the pre-made chocolate insect molds.



The mealworms and crickets were another story, but by snack time they were willing to give insects a try. It was fun watching every boy and girl hold a mealworm up for a photo before popping it into their mouth. For some that tried either cheddar, BBQ or Mexican Spice covered mealworm they found out how good insects really are. Kenneth McCalpin started the club by stating he just wanted the chocolate candy and nothing else. Kenneth quickly changed his mind after trying a mealworm and thought Mexican Spice was "yummy." At the end of the meeting he was asking where he could buy some. Another clubber Grayson Walls had the best quote of the day after trying his first mealworm "It made my breathe smell good." When their parents arrived every kid eagerly shared their experience with them. Most of the parents were very surprised to hear their child tried an Edible Bug and liked it. Overall these kids walked away with a better appreciation for the insect world and for people who have insect on their menu.

The Edible Bugs Menu included: chocolate covered crickets, "Larvettes" mealworms in either cheddar, BBQ or Mexican Spice, Crispy Critter treats (rice crispy treats with crickets), banana chips with honey (insect by-product) and for the non-insect eater chocolate insect molds. On another note we are looking to be pen pals with another Bug Club group. If you are interested please email me at amysackszoo@yahoo.com thank you.

- Amy Sackett
Assistant Education Coordinator and
Bug Club Leader



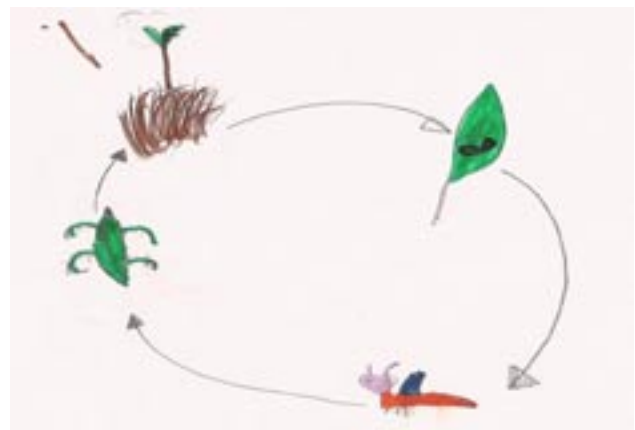
Photos by Amy Sackett, Dallas Zoo

Giddens School Bug Club

Page 6

The first and second grade students at Giddens School have been participating in Bug Club during weekly science time. In order to reinforce learning about traits of an insect and complete/incomplete metamorphosis, the children invented their own insects. In addition to drawing their insect (with correct anatomic features!) the students were asked to decide if the insect's life cycle displayed incomplete or complete metamorphosis. They named their invented insects as well as deciding habitat and food sources. We then shared them among the group. The students were so enthusiastic about this activity, next we may try creating them in a 3-D form. Keep on bugging!

- Lyn Dillman



Bellevue Montessori Bug Club

Page 7

The Bellevue Montessori Pine Ranch Bug Club began its first year by meeting Monday Feb. 6, 2006. The format of our club is to meet for an hour to an hour and a half each week for 4 weeks, allowing one day for each topic in Module 1 this year. We hope to continue next year with additional Modules added. The school is located in Issaquah, WA with school Director Jeannine Hanson. Sue Andersen is Bug Club Instructor for this class. This kindergarten and first grade Bug Club of 21 members studied the different groups of arthropods, saw live examples of millipedes, arachnids, and insects.



Bug Clubbers assembled their “field notebooks” which they decorated with drawings and insect stickers. Their next class centered around the wonder of metamorphosis- acting out the life cycle of the endangered Oregon Silverspot butterfly, examining real sheds of insects and arachnids, and drawing pictures of complete or incomplete metamorphosis. The Bug Clubbers also created their own Karner blue butterfly Lifecycle on dowels- it was a very busy and exciting day!! We will continue our Bug Club studies with the Senses and Insect Ecosystems studies, and we will pick our mascot and schedule a Bug Club Field Trip to study arthropods in the school’s native habitat garden when the WA state weather is more hospitable to our arthropod seeking adventures!

- Sue Andersen

Photos by Sue Andersen

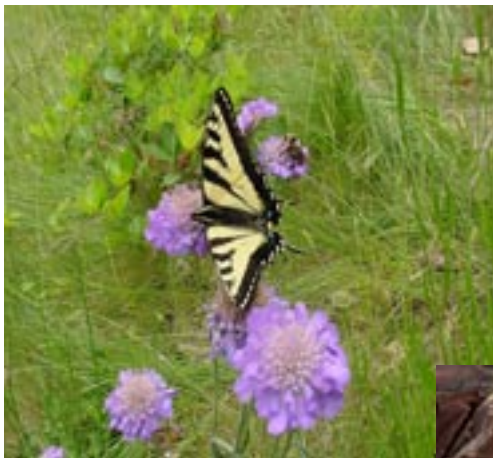
Machias Elementary Bug Club

Page 8

Judy Dahlberg has started a Bug Club at her daughter's school, **Machias Elementary in Snohomish.**

There are 29 kids in the Bug Club, ranging from first to fifth grade. Judy is giving her Bug Club more of a science focus. At the first session, she introduced the idea of vertebrates vs, invertebrates. The kids observed five different invertebrate species (snails, redworms, hissing cockroaches, Australian stick bugs and pill bugs). In the second session, the kids started formu-

lating testable questions and setting up simple experiments and in the next session, they will set up worm mazes.



Papua New Guinea Bug Club

Page 9

Bug Club students in Teptep village in Papua New Guinea took it upon themselves to beautify their village with bug-related signs. The signs mark major pathways in the village and include "Caterpillar Street" and "Spider Street" among others.



Papua New Guinea Bug Club Coordinator, Danny Samandingke,
with bug sign in Teptep village



Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program Director,
Lisa Dabek, with bug sign in Teptep village

Photos courtesy Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program

Calendar of Events

Page 10

2006 INVERTEBRATES IN CAPTIVITY CONFERENCE

July 26-30, 2006 Rio Rico, Arizona

Hosted and organized annually by Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute

*We encourage Bug Club leaders, members and their families
to attend this family-friendly conference with us!*

The 2006 Invertebrates in Captivity Conference brings together zoo, aquarium, museum, exhibit design, and education professionals, as well as the interested general public. The Conference has grown from 70 to 180 participants over the past fourteen years. The Conference will be held at the Esplendor Resort (formerly Rio Rico Resort), just one hour south of Tucson, Arizona. The mesquite grassland around the Resort and the riparian areas just a few miles away are fascinating invertebrate habitats and offer additional learning opportunities for participants.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

INVERTEBRATES IN CAPTIVITY CONFERENCE

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<http://www.sasionline.org/conferenceinfo.htm>

Submission and Publication Dates for 2006

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

Submission

May 21

Aug. 27

Nov. 19

Publication

June 21

Sept. 20

Dec. 13