

# Wake County JMG - 4H Summer Newsletter



We've all been waiting for summer - school being out for many, swimming, vacations, and don't forget to stay in touch with some JMG activities. At this time we only have two events going on - plant ID study and the youth garden contest. Please check our web address [http://www.wakejmg.org/contact\\_us.htm](http://www.wakejmg.org/contact_us.htm) regularly to see if there are new postings for possible items of interest.

We've only had a few families to sign up for plant ID, and the weather was a problem causing us to cancel the first session. We did get in a walk last Wednesday and three families participated. We plan to do several walks at the JC Raulston Arboretum in the upcoming weeks so please e-mail [cnorden@bellsouth.net](mailto:cnorden@bellsouth.net) if you wish to participate. The state contest will be held on Monday, July 19, at NCSU. Even if we're unable to put together a team for competition, this is a wonderful opportunity for students to go and take the test for practice to get a feel for where they need to concentrate next year.

Our other event is the annual Wake County Youth Garden Contest. This event is for youth interested in growing a personal garden – either flowers or vegetables. If you are gardening and forgot to turn in your registration form, please do so promptly! Gardens are typically judged sometime during the first two weeks in July. You will be notified when the date has been set. The judges will collect your record book when they judge for county competition. If you have any questions about keeping your record book, please go to [http://www.njha.org/pdfs/youngam\\_gardening.pdf](http://www.njha.org/pdfs/youngam_gardening.pdf) to review the Young America project rules. Gardeners continuing their garden project until early September will be able to submit their record books for national competition.

Summer is also a great time to work on one or more 4-H projects of your choice. Curriculum projects on many subjects are available through the 4-H program.

Martha Smith, the Wake Co. 4-H Secretary has the curriculum in her office. You may either go there to see the curriculum or you may call her at (919) 250-1092. We encourage our students to complete project record books and participate in as many other 4-H opportunities throughout their 4-H years, as these activities are great learning activities and help to enlarge your 4-H portfolio if you plan to compete for 4-H scholarships as you exit high school.

Have a great summer!

Carol Norden

## Sunflower Club News (Ages 6-8)



After examining the compost that the Sunflowers made as part of the homework for May, we read a book about Moonflowers. What interesting night-blooming plants they are! Hopefully, Sunflowers and their families are actually observing for themselves the Moonflowers growing from seed that the children took home.

We spent the majority of our time in the Red Wolf Garden, planting some plants that will do well without much care over the summer. After digging holes to plant Gaillardia, Black and Blue Salvia, Monarda, and Sedum, we watered and then mulched over our portion of the garden.

We celebrated the end of our year by juicing roots and fruits (carrots and apples) for a healthy snack. We are looking forward to seeing you next year if you are a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, and hope to say “hi” to all of you that will be moving up to the next class. Please bring in any photos you might have of your Moonflowers!

Have a fun summer!  
Mrs. Z, Jan, and April



## **Dandelion Paws News (Ages 3-5)**



Last month the Dandelion Paws made seed tapes! We planted all sorts of pumpkin seeds, some squash, sunflower, melon, and much more.

We used paper towels torn into strips and glued seeds onto tapes at the intervals the package says they should be apart. They put the tapes into an envelope to take home.

When ready to plant at home use the written instructions about making a shallow trench. Plant seeds about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep (parents-you may need to do some research as each seed's planting depth is different) and lay them end-to-end in trench and cover with soil. Pat the soil down gently and water the row lightly. When you start to harvest, take every other plant to make room for the others to grow bigger.

We also passed out certificates and had some apples for snack.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Mimrah Hossain, Judi Harper, Peter Zierz, Leaders



## Wildlife Club News (Ages 8-11)

### May Meeting Recap:

The Wildlife Group was very active in May. We visited our section of the JMG garden, removing poison ivy, vetch and other weeds. The garden will need some maintenance to keep the stone path clear. After admiring our work, we returned inside to experience life from the viewpoint of an insect. Perhaps we should say "smellpoint" because we played the Secret Smells Game to demonstrate how insects use pheromones to communicate. Finally, we reviewed our horticultural knowledge by playing Garden Bingo. We hope that you have planted the impatiens, marigolds and other types of annuals that were distributed as bingo prizes.

### Summer Homework:

For our wildlife group, we have a summer challenge. We'd like you to find your best animal track and bring a picture or casting back in September.

Once you find a track you'll need to include the following:

1. A picture or casting of the track (if taking a picture, lay a coin by the track for reference)
2. The date and location you found the track
3. The name of the animal that made the track
4. Five facts about that animal

We'll have prize for the best track report and biggest track.

We'd love for you to bring a casting of the track. Plaster of Paris is available at many craft and DIY stores. Or you can use one of the following recipes to make your own.

### Plaster of Paris from glue:

Use 2 parts glue to 1 part warm water.

Place the glue in a plastic container and slowly add the warm water while stirring.

Stir until you have a soupy mixture.

### Plaster of Paris from flour:

2-3 cups of white flour

1-2 cups of warm water

Stir in the warm water until all lumps have been removed.

You should have a smooth paste that's easy to stir.

This site offers great tips on how to make a track casting:

<http://www.bear-tracker.com/plastertracks.html>



Let this photo of Henry, the nutria, remind you of the good times we shared in JMG this year.

Until we meet again, have a great summer!

Bianca Howard, Jason Botts and Priscilla Haddad, leaders

## **Wildflowers/Weedbusters Club News (Ages 12 & up)**

Liz and baby Cora joined us for the start of our final meeting – Carol was in heaven as she paraded Cora around the classrooms. The balance of our time was spent working in the Red Wolf garden. New plantings included a lovely blue catmint, a perennial lantana and a Carolina jasmine as well as begonias and impatiens. Fresh mulch topped it all. We had just enough time left over to enjoy brownies, chips, salsa and juice.

Have a wonderful summer! See you all in September!

Cheryl Koch, Leader

## **Upcoming Event**

### **Plant Identification Interest**

Several responded with interest in participating in plant identification classes mentioned in last month's newsletter. The plan is to schedule an initial walk through the JC Raulston Arboretum sometime in early May. To fit most schedules it will be on a weekend TBA. In the meantime we would like for you to visit the NJHA web site [www.njha.org/](http://www.njha.org/), look at the horticulture contest, and peruse the four specimen lists. Older students are encouraged to look at and even read some of the chapters in the manual. If you have specimens of plants in your yard that are on the contest, you are encouraged to (with permission) begin to press some specimens for later study. Telephone books are great flower presses so in case you have an old one or if we get 2010 editions save the old for your own flower press.

If we have some 'eager beavers' really eager to get started before we have our Arboretum walk, e-mail Carol Norden <[cnorden@bellsouth.net](mailto:cnorden@bellsouth.net)> and she'll be happy to correspond with some activities to give you a head start on Plant ID.

**Have a Great Summer!!!**