

RECONNECTING WITH AN AMAZING SPACE

I recently helped my parents sort through old papers in my boyhood New Jersey home, where they still live. Among the documents were photos of my brother and me from infancy through high school. A common feature struck me: many were taken outdoors! Although only 30 miles from New York City, our home had a lake out front and woods behind. From early childhood until college, I was either on or in the lake or in the woods, encouraged by Mom and Dad. Youthful rambling created a passion that eventually led to a career. I've since learned that most adults who love outdoor activities bonded with nature as children.

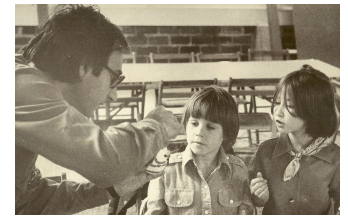


Henry and Claire Patterson welcome new son, Rich

Not all kids are as fortunate as I was. Few have a lake and woods nearby, but Cedar Rapids has the Indian Creek Nature Center. According to the mission statement, your Nature Center promotes a sustainable future by *nurturing individuals through environmental education*. Sometimes it's a formal process, like curriculum-based school programs, but often it's as informal as a child enjoying a woodsy stroll with a parent or grandparent. Nature bonding and enjoyment requires an interesting, safe place - the reason for the second point of the mission statement: *providing leadership in land protection and restoration*.

As I write this, the 140th newsletter of my 35-year career,

the board is selecting my successor. I'm not retiring but I'll be less visible as I spend the next year focusing on locating new headquarters building and significantly expanding endowed assets. The new person will be the third director. I followed Curt Abdouch, who served from late 1973 until early 1978 and began the tradition of service to people and the environment.



Curt Abdouch leads an early program at the Nature Center

I leave the Nature Center in the wonderful hands of Jan, Jean, Jenny, Nancy, Dana, Susan, Suzanne, and David. They will continue involving people in the outdoors and caring for this **amazing space**. I'm confident the board will hire a new director passionate to extend the mission to ever more people and inspire children to enjoy and protect our natural heritage. I'm honored that four of our trustees have agreed to be campaign coordinators to help locate funding for the new building and endowment. Three of them, Jim Seifert, Charlie Rohde, and Dick Garberson, developed a lifelong love of nature as children playing in Indian Creek. The fourth, Jim Tinker, spent pleasant boyhood years rambling in the Michigan outdoors. They are helping to pass a passion for nature on to today's children and those yet unborn.

~ Rich Patterson, Director

Contact or visit us:

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 AM-4 PM; Saturday, 11 AM-4 PM.
 Phone: (319) 362-0664; Fax: (319) 362-2876
 E-mail: NatureCenter@indiancreeknaturecenter.org
 Web Site: www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org
 Trails are open daylight hours every day.



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Indian Creek Nature Center's purpose is to promote a sustainable future by

-  nurturing individuals through environmental education;
-  providing leadership in land protection and restoration; and,
-  encouraging responsible interaction with nature.

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Gilda Boyer	Dee Ann McIntyre
Paul Brundell	Mark Ogden
Dick Garberson	Charlie Rohde
Marc Gullickson	Jim Tinker

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 Jean Wiedenheft, Land & Facility Steward
 Dana Wood, Office Manager

Indian Creek Currents is the quarterly newsletter of the Indian Creek Nature Center. Please forward comments regarding the content of this publication to Susan Gordon, editor, sgordon@indiancreeknaturecenter.org.

WISH LIST ITEMS

(bold = new this issue)

The Nature Center staff appreciates all donations of needed items, but asks for your help in keeping us neat and organized. Please call (362-0664) before dropping anything off. THANK YOU!

Programming: tall Pringles potato chip cans · Garmin eTrex GPS receivers · trekking poles · rechargeable batteries: nickel-metal hydride, AA and AAA · volunteers!!

Other: small lightweight row boat · downtown office space for one year · sponsorship of a child for summer camp (\$35-\$140) · solar-powered calculators · birdseed (for bird blind) · wireless mice (for computers)



WELCOME JOHN MYERS

The Nature Center welcomes John Myers as our new executive director of operations. A resident of Marion, Myers was previously senior district executive for the Hawkeye Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, and was co-founder and director of operations for Independent Child Advocate Services.

Myers begins his new role on May 28, succeeding Rich Patterson, who led the Nature Center for the last 35 years. Patterson transitions into the role of executive director of development, with responsibility for capital fundraising, endowment generation and support.

“The Indian Creek Nature Center is an exceptional gem in the Creative Corridor community. I was fortunate to have completed my Eagle Scout Project at the Nature Center 18 years ago. Together with a strong board, great staff, and community support, I look forward to taking the Nature Center into the future, due largely in part to the strong foundation Rich Patterson created.”

John will introduce himself more completely in the Fall issue of *Currents*.

MOM...I'm BORED!

Three little words you WON'T hear if you make the Creekside Shop your first “school's out” stop! We have lots of ideas to keep kids outdoors having fun (and maybe even learning a thing or two). Pick up



nature journals for kids, critter nets, science projects, bird and bug books, nature art, recycling crafts, puppets, books, games, puzzles and more! New items come in all the time, so come by often! You never know WHO you might meet “in our bushes”!





SUMMER 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Indian Creek Nature Center · 6665 Otis Rd SE · Cedar Rapids, IA · 52403

Registration/information: 319-362-0664 or register online at www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org. Please register for all programs.

Cancellations may occur if registration numbers are low.

M = Nature Center member. NM = Nonmember of ICNC.



Visit the Nature Center's auditorium to see "A Special Place for Wildlife, Plants and People—Forty Years at the Nature Center" on display from June through August

Frog Walk

Friday, May 31, 7:30 PM



Wear your boots to explore the wet edges of our ponds looking for spring peepers, chorus frogs and their larger amphibian kin. Learn to recognize different frog songs. Great family fun! *Meet at the Barn.* Cost: M: \$3; NM: \$5; Child: \$1

Honeybee Queen Rearing Class

Saturday, June 1 & Sunday, June 2, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM

This two day, hands-on class, tailored after the Larry Connor queen rearing method, provides experienced beekeepers a way to rear their own queens. Each class member should receive one or two queen grafts to take home. *See our website for additional details.* Bring a lunch.

Registration required; limited to 10 participants.

Cost: M: \$65; NM: \$75

Backyard Chicken Basics

Thursday, June 6, 7:00 PM

Learn the basics required to safely and successfully raise hens in urban and suburban areas. Participants will receive a certificate of completion that enables them to get a permit to legally keep chickens in Cedar Rapids. **Registration required by 4 PM Wednesday, June 5.** Cost: M: \$7; NM: \$10

40 Miles Honoring 40 Years

Join us for a series of two-mile walks to interesting sites on Indian Creek Nature Center's land and surrounding landscapes. Walks will be held on alternating Tuesday and Thursday evenings and each will have a different theme or goal. Walkers who complete 40 miles with our staff will earn a 40th anniversary "Meet Me in the Bushes" t-shirt! Discover the Nature Center and add these walks to your fitness program! Call the Nature Center for trail conditions. Unless otherwise noted, all walks begin at the barn. For adults. Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3

40th Anniversary Hike: Bena Brook Valley

Thursday, June 6, 6:30 PM

An off-trail experience in a unique valley filled with surprises. Be prepared for wet feet! Two miles. **For adults.** *Meet at the Lynch Wetland.* Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3

Dragonflies, Snails & Life with Scales

Friday, June 7, 7:00 PM

Learn about pond life and discover the unique adaptations wetland creatures possess that allow them to survive and thrive in their watery world. **Register**



by 4 PM on Thursday, June 6. Meet at Lynch Wetland

Cost: (Family) M: \$10; NM: \$15; (Individuals) M: \$4; NM: \$5

Bringing Nature Home: Vegetable Gardens for Kids Saturday, June 8, 10:00 AM



Learn about seeds, plants and easy vegetables for families to grow and enjoy together. Each child will leave with seeds for a simple 4'x4' healthy veggie garden of green beans, lettuce, tomatoes and summer squash! **Register by 4 PM on Thursday, June 7.** Cost: M family: \$10; NM family: \$15

40th Anniversary Hike: To the High Point and Back Tuesday, June 11, 6:30 PM

This evening's outing is filled with ups and downs as we hike some hills and enjoy a great view of the Nature Center. Two miles. **For adults.** Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3

Campfire Stories

Friday, June 14, 7:00 PM

Join storyteller Darrin Crow around the campfire for an evening of Native American and other stories. Learn why Opossum's tail is bare and Owl has large eyes! Enjoy yummy campfire treats and make a game

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to take home. (If it rains, we'll meet inside for activities). Cost: (Adult): M: \$4; NM: \$5; (Child age 5 & older): M: \$2; NM: \$3

Polliwog Preschool: ABCs of Summer

**Monday, June 17 or Tuesday,
June 18, 9:30 AM**



Summer has just begun. What shall we do for fun? We'll introduce you to the wonders of nature

through exciting alphabet activities. Let's see how many letters we can find around our bunny. We'll also go on a hike to explore the ABCs of the great outdoors. Age 5 & under accompanied by an adult.

Preregistration and payment required no later than 3:00 PM the day prior to the program!

Cost: M Child: \$6;

NM Child: \$8; Adults: free

40th Anniversary Hike: Landscape History Walk

Thursday, June 20, 6:30 PM

Explore a bit of geologic history as you hike flat and hilly terrain. 2 miles. **For adults.** Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3

Summer Solstice Celebration Friday, June 21, 7:00-9:00 PM

For centuries, humankind has celebrated the sun's journey on the longest day of the year. Join the Nature Center and



Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center as we share traditional solstice celebrations from various world cultures. Discover unique "suncatcher" plants that grow along our prairie labyrinth and create a suncatcher of your own. Enjoy music and participate in a salute to the

setting sun from our prairie. Program will be held indoors if there is rain. **Registration is required.** Free will offering.

Welcome to Circle Conversations

Monday, June 24, 7:00 PM

Join us as we discuss transforming Indian Creek Nature Center into an amazing space. Conversations will focus on the proposed new building and site and how people interact with nature through the center. Insights from these discussions will be used to guide the design process. Each conversation will last approximately 90 minutes.

Free Conversations continue monthly through September

40th Anniversary Hike: Amazing Tree Walk

Tuesday, June 25, 6:30 PM

The Nature Center is home to many amazing trees. We'll hike and learn their stories. 2 miles. **For adults.** Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3

Polliwog Preschool: Going Buggy

Wednesday, June 26 or

Thursday, June 27, 9:30 AM

Bugs are neat; bugs are cool!

Learn all about insects and their life cycles. Visit the prairie on a bug-seeking adventure. Make your own bug catcher to use throughout the summer. Age 5 & under accompanied by an adult.



Preregistration and payment required no later than 3:00 PM the day prior to the program!

Cost: M Child: \$6;

NM Child: \$8; Adults: free

Firefly Walk

Friday, June 28, 8:00-9:30 PM

There are many species of fireflies in Iowa, each with its

own unique flash color and habitat preference.

Join us for an evening of fun in the prairie and woodland to find them. Play a firefly flashlight game! **Register by 4:00 PM Thursday, June 27.** Cost: (Family) M: \$10; NM: \$15; (Individuals) M: \$4; NM: \$5



40th Anniversary Hike: Visit the Ancient Bog and Ice Age Remnants

Tuesday, July 2, 6:30 PM

There are many reminders of times past along the Nature Center's trails. 2 miles. **For adults.** Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3



Thursday July 4 the Nature

Center's buildings will be closed in honor of Independence Day.

Trails are open sunrise to 10:00 PM

40th Anniversary Hike: Downstream Along the Red Cedar River

Thursday, July 11, 6:30 PM

Enjoy river views, birdsong and wildlife while hiking a little-used trail along the Cedar. 2 miles. **For adults.** Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3

Bringing Nature Home: Garden Stepping Stones

Friday, July 12, 7:00 PM

Parents and young children create unique garden stepping stones, one for home and one to add to our Sense of Wonder Outdoor Classroom. We'll use items from



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nature and endless creativity!

Cost: M Family: \$10;

NM Family: \$15

Polliwogs & Parents:

Soil Search

Monday, July 15 or Tuesday, July 16, 9:30 AM

Time to investigate the earth! Interview worms, snails and other creatures that live

“down under.” Come



on a log-rolling

adventure as we discover what makes these creepy crawlies so special.

Age 5 & under

accompanied by an adult.

Preregistration and payment required no later than 3:00 PM the day prior to the program!

Cost: M Child: \$6;

NM Child: \$8; Adults: free

40th Anniversary Hike: Founders’ Trail Walk

Tuesday, July 16, 6:30 PM

Experience the Nature Center’s oldest and most frequently enjoyed trail. 2 miles. **For adults.** Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3

Campfire Stories

Friday July 19, 7:00 PM



Storyteller Darrin

Crow brings Iowa’s past alive with stories from our Midwest history. Bring your

own story to share. Enjoy toasted

treats and old time games and

toys. Cost: Child (age 5 & up):

M: \$2; NM:\$3; Adult: M: \$4;

NM: \$5

Greet the Sun

Labyrinth Walk

Saturday, July 20, 7:00 AM

Start your day walking the Nature Center’s prairie labyrinth with leader Marion Patterson. Enjoy the sounds, views and scents of a

summer prairie as you walk.

Enjoy coffee, tea and bagels

afterwards. **Register by 4 PM**

Thursday, July 18. Cost: M: \$5;

NM: \$7

Outdoor Survival Skills

Saturday, July 20,

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Join Phil White to learn and

practice basic survival skills in the woods.

Discover which plants to avoid and which are edible or useful.

Find directions without a compass and how to make your way across a wild landscape.

Create a basic shelter, learn how to find drinking water and review

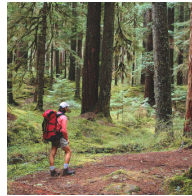
basic outdoor first aid. Practice fire building skills. Each

participant will create his/her own small survival kit for future

outings. *Appropriate for youth (4th grade & older) and adults.*

Registration required by Monday, July 15. Cost: M: \$8;

NM: \$10



Join ICNC staff for a Circle Conversation

Monday, July 22, 7:00 PM

(See June 24 for details)

Polliwog Preschool:

Super Scales

Wednesday, July 24 or

Thursday, July 25, 9:30 AM

Crawl like a turtle

and slither like a

snake while you

learn about the

wonderful world of reptiles! Find

out how beneficial snakes are in

the wild. Make a scaly creature

craft and touch a real turtle. Age

5 & under accompanied by an

adult. **Preregistration and**

payment required no later than 3:00 PM the day prior to the



program! Cost: M Child: \$6;

NM Child: \$8; Adults: free

40th Anniversary Hike:

Jubilant July Prairie Walk

Thursday, July 25, 6:30 PM

The prairie is bursting with life and color in July! Enjoy it with us. 2 miles. **For adults.**

Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3

Family Fun Friday:

Bat Watch

Friday, July 26, 8:30-9:30 PM

Each evening,

thousands of insects

become food for

hungry Little Brown

Bat colonies at the

Nature Center. Join us to learn

about these amazing nighttime

hunters and watch them emerge

to begin their night of foraging.

Cost: Child (age 5 & older):

M: \$2; NM: \$3; Adult: M: \$4;

NM: \$5



40th Anniversary Hike: Dragonfly Patrol Walk

Thursday, Aug 1, 6:30 PM

Early evening skies belong to one of nature’s ancient insects, the dragonfly. 2 miles. **For adults.**

Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3

Creek Stomping

Friday, Aug 2, 7:00 PM

Exploring Indian

Creek from the

inside out is cool

in many ways!

Bring your old

shoes for

wading, clothes

that can get wet

and enthusiasm for an evening of

learning about who and what

visits and lives in and along

Indian Creek. *Appropriate for*

families but children should be



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age 5 & older. Cost: Child:
M: \$2; MN: \$3; Adult: M: \$4;
NM: \$5

**Polliwog Preschool:
Nocturnal Neighbors**
Monday, Aug 5 or

Tuesday, Aug 6, 9:30 AM



Put on your pajamas and join us for a fun “after dark” adventure! Find out which creatures are active

during the night and what helps them survive while we are asleep. Listen to a story and become part of a nighttime chorus. Age 5 & under accompanied by an adult.

Preregistration and payment required no later than 3:00 PM the day prior to the program!

Cost: M Child: \$6;

NM Child: \$8; Adults: free

**40th Anniversary Hike:
Woodland Trails Walk**

Tuesday, Aug 6, 6:30 PM

Oh, those wooded hills. Up and down through the oaks and pines we go. 2 miles. **For adults.** Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3

Nothing:

Nighttime Big Game Hunt
Friday, Aug 9, 8:00-9:30 PM

Hot, muggy August nights are perfect for placing our secret moth bait formula on trees in the woods and searching for Catocala or Underwing moths to appear. Learn how to attract these colorful moths and bring your flashlight to spot them at our bait sights. Cost: Child (age 5 & older): M: \$2; NM: \$3;



Adults: M: \$4; NM: \$5

**Polliwog Preschool:
Water Wonders**

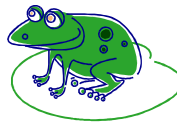
Wednesday, Aug 14 or

Thursday, Aug 15, 9:30 AM

Finish off the summer series with a wild and wet adventure exploring the Lynch Wetland. Learn about water plants and animals. Come prepared to get wet (and a little muddy) as we use nets to find out who makes this habitat their home. Age 5 & under. **Preregistration and payment required by 3:00 PM the day prior to the program.**

Cost: M Child: \$6;

NM Child: \$8; Adults: free



40th Anniversary Hike:

Sac & Fox Trail to Rosedale

Thursday, Aug 15, 6:30 PM

Explore Iowa’s first National Recreational Trail along Indian Creek. **For adults.** Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3

**Summer Skies and
Celestial Showers**

Friday, Aug 16, 9:00 PM



Join Nature Center staff to watch the Perseid Meteor Shower, weather permitting. This shower produces

up to 60 meteors an hour at its peak (earlier in the week), but by Friday, there will still be a show! We’ll also look at summer constellations and talk about legends. Clear skies will allow us to search for hidden gems above! Binoculars and several telescopes will be available, but feel free to bring your own, along with a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. If it’s cloudy, we’ll go on a night hike. Cost: M Adult: \$5; NM Adult: \$6; Child: \$2



**Saturday, Aug 17
is National**

Honeybee Day!

Honey Fest is Sunday, Sept 15

**40th Anniversary Hike:
Evening of the
Full Moon Walk**

Tuesday, Aug 20, 6:30 PM

Enjoy a walk on grassy trails watching for the August full moon rise. **For adults.**

Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3

**Join ICNC staff for a Circle
Conversation**

Monday, Aug 26, 7:00 PM

(see June 24 for details)

40th Anniversary Hike:

**Upstream along the
Red Cedar River**

Thursday, Aug 29, 6:30 PM

Enjoy a walk filled with river views, birdsong and wildlife.

For adults. Cost: M: \$2; NM: \$3

**The Nature Center’s buildings
will be closed**

**Saturday, Aug 31
through Monday,**

Sept 2 in honor of

**Labor Day. Trails open
from sunrise until 10:00 PM.**



The Indian Creek Nature Center is grateful for financial support from the Program Grant Fund and the GP Fund for the Environment of The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. Recent grants from these two funds enable ICNC to offer its new “Bringing Nature Home” workshop series for young children and their families. These monthly programs are designed to motivate and teach parents how to engage their entire family, especially preschool children, in nature activities at ICNC and in their own yards and neighborhoods. Details for summer workshops are in the preceding pages.

MEMBER MOMENTS

With gratitude we welcome *Arlene Burns, Don & Mary Lou Gallagher, and Lester Sendeki* as our newest lifetime members! Among the many ways Arlene supports ICNC, she is a steadfast volunteer who specializes in maple syruping and bee programs. Don and Mary Lou are longtime member-donors who appreciate the Nature Center and its mission. Lester and his wife Ruth continue their engagement and support from their retirement home in Colorado. Both Sendekis have served as volunteers here. Lifetime membership “investments” from these four friends go into the ICNC Charitable Trust Endowment Fund, managed by The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. Earned interest supports ICNC activities.

~Development Assistant Nancy Lackner

Welcome to these new ICNC members, who joined February-April 2013. We're glad to have you on our team!

Barry and Cheryl Adams · Dan Adams and Bev Grindeman-Adams · Dawn Adney · Patty Andrews · Betty Axline · Robert and Jane Beck · Robert and Regine Beer · Michael Berriochoa · Dennis and Colleen Charkowski · Julie Cholet · Nicole and Matt Claypool · Lori Collingwood and Family · Robin and Stephen Corwin · Frederic Daviere · Brad Doyle · Mason, Ann and Aaron Eckley · Eric Engelmann · Brooke Fitzgerald · Pamela Fitzgerald · Amanda, Eric and Evan Freese · Chris and Kelly Frey · Ed and Jean Fry · Sharon Gillespie · Daniel and Melissa Glasser · David Gosch · Rich Gray · Nathan & Wendy Greene · Michelle and John Hackbarth · Pamela Hackbarth · Tom Haugse · Brad & Kay Hess · Becky & Ron Hicok · Justin and Kim Higginbotham · Mike and Jenny Houlihan · Aline Houssin · Stacie Johnson · Carole Kern · Dick Kriz · Gary and Linda Lindsay · Cameron Macaw · Dixie Mackie · Susan Heckmann · Helga Mayhew · Julie McMahan · Jason McVay · Diane Melsha · Jamie and Kyle Morrissey · Andrew and Marcy Oberbreckling · Mary Oberreuter and Mike Mastain · Asa Pelzel · Kris and Emily Perreault · Morris Pounds · John and Karen Roltgen · Lynn Ruck · Marijana Sapina-Kerkhove · Zach and Molly Schuett · Peter and Ida Martin Sorensen · Kelly and Rom Souza · Gary and Judy Stevens · Jodie and Mike Theobald · Jerry Truemper · Joy Twentyman and Ayden Crock · James and Melody Wartian · Ingrid Wensel

ARE YOUR KIDS COMING TO CAMP?



ON THE TRAILS



Chris Emery

I recently had the opportunity to join a group of preschoolers on a field trip to learn about bugs. Naturalist Jenny Rupp asked us where bugs live. We said in the ground, in water, and in flowers. We walked over to a big log to see where termites live. They make a lot of dust!

Jenny took us to the side of the barn to see box elder bugs. We got to pick them up and they tickled us. Then we heard a sound by the pond...it was frogs. We walked over to the little dock and looked to see if we could find them. We didn't see any big frogs, but we did see their little eggs. They were slimy! We crossed a “crazy bridge” that bobbed and jiggled as we walked over it. On the other side, we saw pretty spring flowers. We rolled over little logs to see who was living there and found roly-poly pill bugs, ants, and worms. We walked through the willow hideout and climbed the stump steps. We got close to the bee hives and saw honeybees. We learned they have six legs, like to live together, and even though they can sting us, they probably won't if we leave them alone. As we made our way back to the barn, we heard more frogs singing loudly at the pond. It's fun to learn at the Nature Center!



Everyone gets tickled by box elder bugs!

~ Chris Emery, Intern

**40 Miles To Honor
40 Years**
See Calendar for Details



BEE here for



HONEY FEST!

Sunday, Sept 15 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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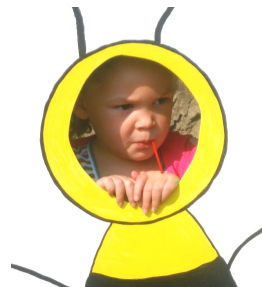
Would YOU be
brave enough?



**Learn about bees
and pollinators**



**Fun Family
Activities**



**Tasty
Treats,
too!**