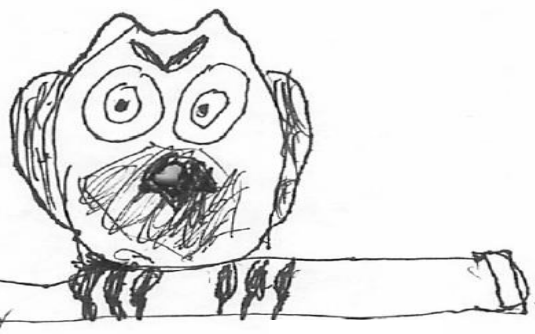


NEWS FROM SINGING CREEK

RAPPAHANNOCK NATURE CAMP 2015



by Swiss

ELEMENT POEMS

by Camilla Galeotti and Roxie Beebe-Center



EARTH

Mother Earth is all around,
She's in the air,
She's in the ground,
She lies at the water's edge
To see the stars soar overhead

WATER

Slippery fish slide through the water.
Ripples cover all around.
The murky water makes it look as if a mysterious fog
has surrounded it.
Rocks and sand make the ground rough.
All is quiet except the running water.

A rock skips and glides,
Then into the water it does sink,
lurking in the darkness,
never to be seen again.



AIR

Wind from all 4 corners of the Earth
Join together
To cross paths again
And wind their way around the Earth.

FIRE

I love the way your flames mesmerize me.
Your heat warms me on a cold day.
The oaky wood that you burn has a sweet scent.
Until finally you are turned into ashes.

Smoke towers above,
A stack of ideas and thoughts,
Released from underfoot.





by Mezgeb Babcock

HOW TO IDENTIFY POISON IVY

by Parker Jones

Do you know how to tell if a plant is Poison Ivy? If not, this article will tell you how. Look at the compound leaf. If it has 3 leaflets with spikey things it is Poison Ivy. If it doesn't have both of these things, it is not Poison Ivy.

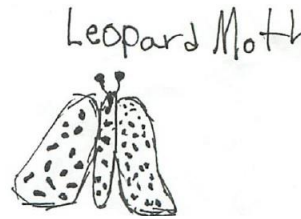


by Mezgeb

AZALEA ROCKS

by Noah Nichols

Azalea Rocks is a really peaceful place to stay if you're stressed out 'cause you can hear all the birds around you, and it's just so nice. Azalea Rocks is also where we go camping and put our Quiet Spots. Here is a picture of Azalea Rocks!



by Anna Alldredge



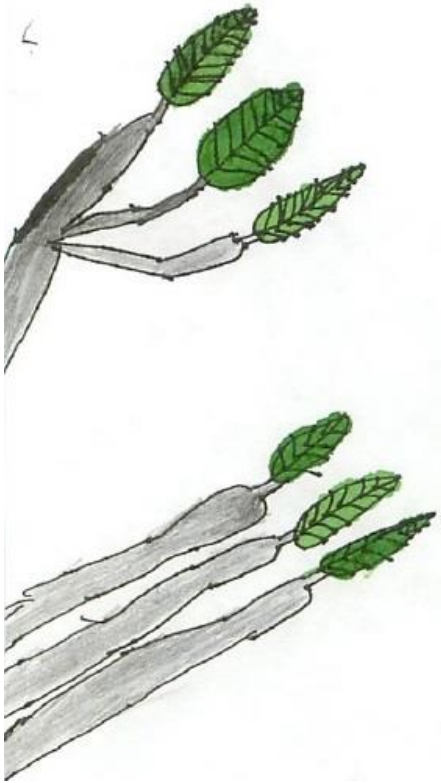
by Roxie Beebe-Center



VIRGINIA CREEPER

by Lauren Timothy

Virginia Creeper leaves have 5 leaflets.
The leaflets have teeth on the edges.
The leaves are colorful and very pretty
in the fall. Virginia Creeper is a vine.
It grows very high on trees.
This is a Virginia Creeper leaf.



MY BEAUTIFUL TREE

by Lilly Smith

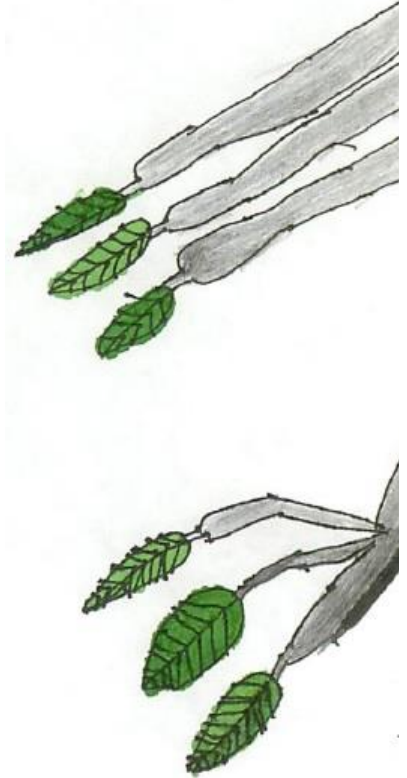
O tree
My beautiful tree
My beautiful tree
Come down to me

Why do you stay up
Up in the sky
In the sky so long?

I think O tree
you should come down
Come down to the ground

Because you are so very old
Because your bark is so golden green
Because your leaves are so beautiful
So beautiful to me
Can't you see?

O tree
My beautiful tree
So high in the sky
For all to see



DECIDUOUS TREES

by Parker Jones

Deciduous trees shed their leaves in the fall. Here are some facts about some of the deciduous trees at camp.

Flowering Dogwood

20 - 30 feet tall
Grows in well-drained soil
One of 15 species of dogwood

Sugar Maple

60 - 80 feet tall
Moist, rich soil in valleys and uplands
Their seeds twirl in the wind and are
sometimes called helicopters

White Oak

80 - 100 feet tall
Moist valleys, river banks, sandy plains and dry hillsides
The acorn cups are very shallow

Sassafras

30 - 40 feet tall
Hedgerows and old fields
The roots and wood smell good

Willow Oak

80 - 100 feet tall
Moist uplands and poorly drained flats
Also called Peach Oak

Dobson FLY



DOBSONFLY FACTS

by Evelyn Babcock

Here are some facts about Dobsonflies.

The Dobsonfly is a flying insect but it lives most of its life in the water. Eggs are laid near a stream and when they hatch, the baby Dobsonflies fall into the water. The baby Dobsonfly is called a Hellgrammite. They can pinch but they are not venomous.

THE OWL'S NECK

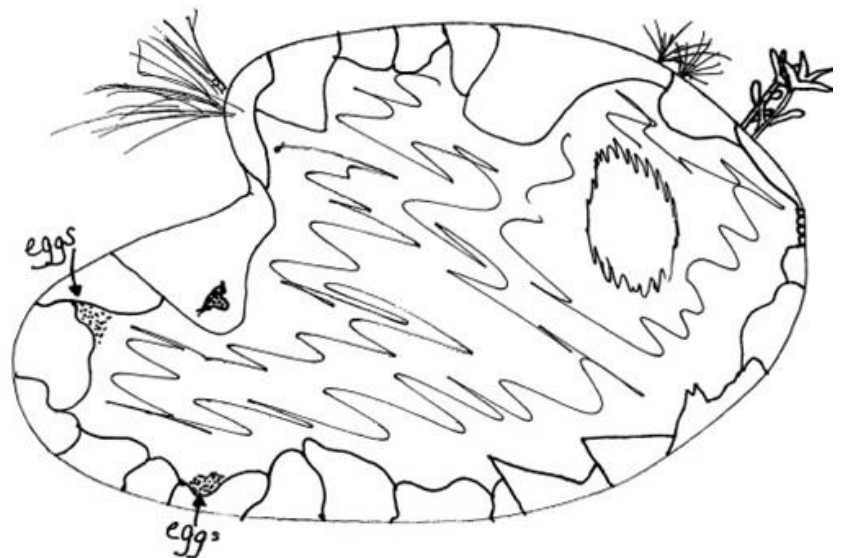
by Swiss

The barred owl's neck has rotateable bones, so they can turn their heads around from front to back. It's COOL, trust me.

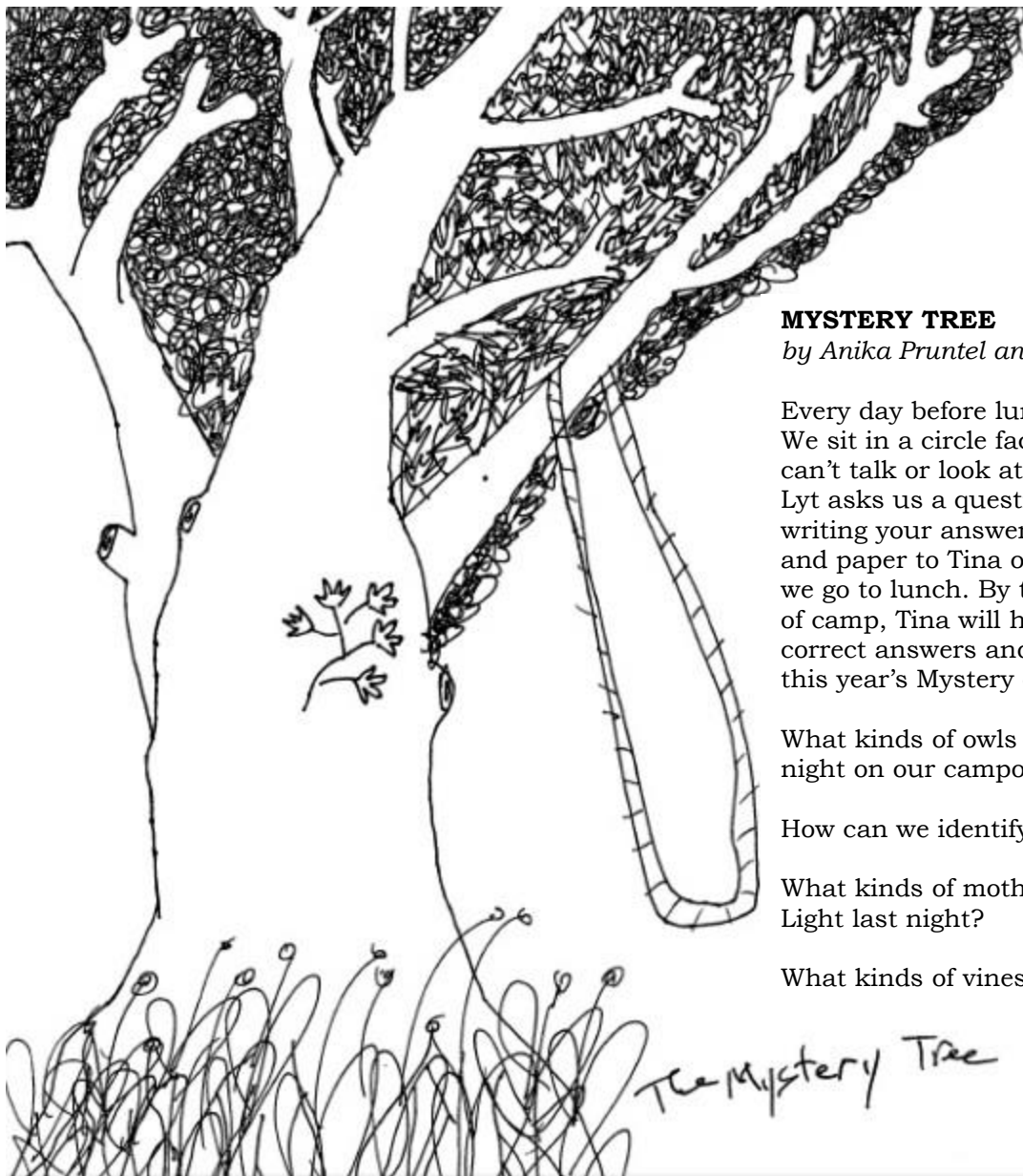
FROG EGGS

by Nicholas Plaksin

One day when Lyt woke up he saw something new in the pond. There were gray tree frog eggs! A tree frog layed them overnight. Lyt showed them to us this morning. The mystery question was even about them.



by Ian Cordero



MYSTERY TREE

by Anika Prunzel and Liza Dareing

Every day before lunch we have Mystery. We sit in a circle facing in or out so that we can't talk or look at other people's answer. Lyt asks us a question. When you are done writing your answer, you give your pencil and paper to Tina our girls counselor. Then we go to lunch. By the end of the two weeks of camp, Tina will have to count up all the correct answers and award prizes. Some of this year's Mystery questions are:

What kinds of owls might be calling at night on our campout?

How can we identify Poison Ivy?

What kinds of moths came to our Moth Light last night?

What kinds of vines grow at Singing Creek?

The Mystery Tree

QUIET TIME

by Anna Alldredge and Mia Speed

Everyone had their own Quiet Spots in the woods and next to the Hazel River. We interviewed some of the campers and counselors about Quiet Time. We worked together to write about some of their experiences and observations.

A swallowtail butterfly landed on Camilla. And she saw a salamander on a rock.

Melissa noticed that while her eyes were closed, she could tell which way the water was flowing, just by listening!

Liza saw a big orange, white, pinkish rock in the water. It is called Rose Quartz.

Anika saw an orange rock that reminded her of a Fanta.

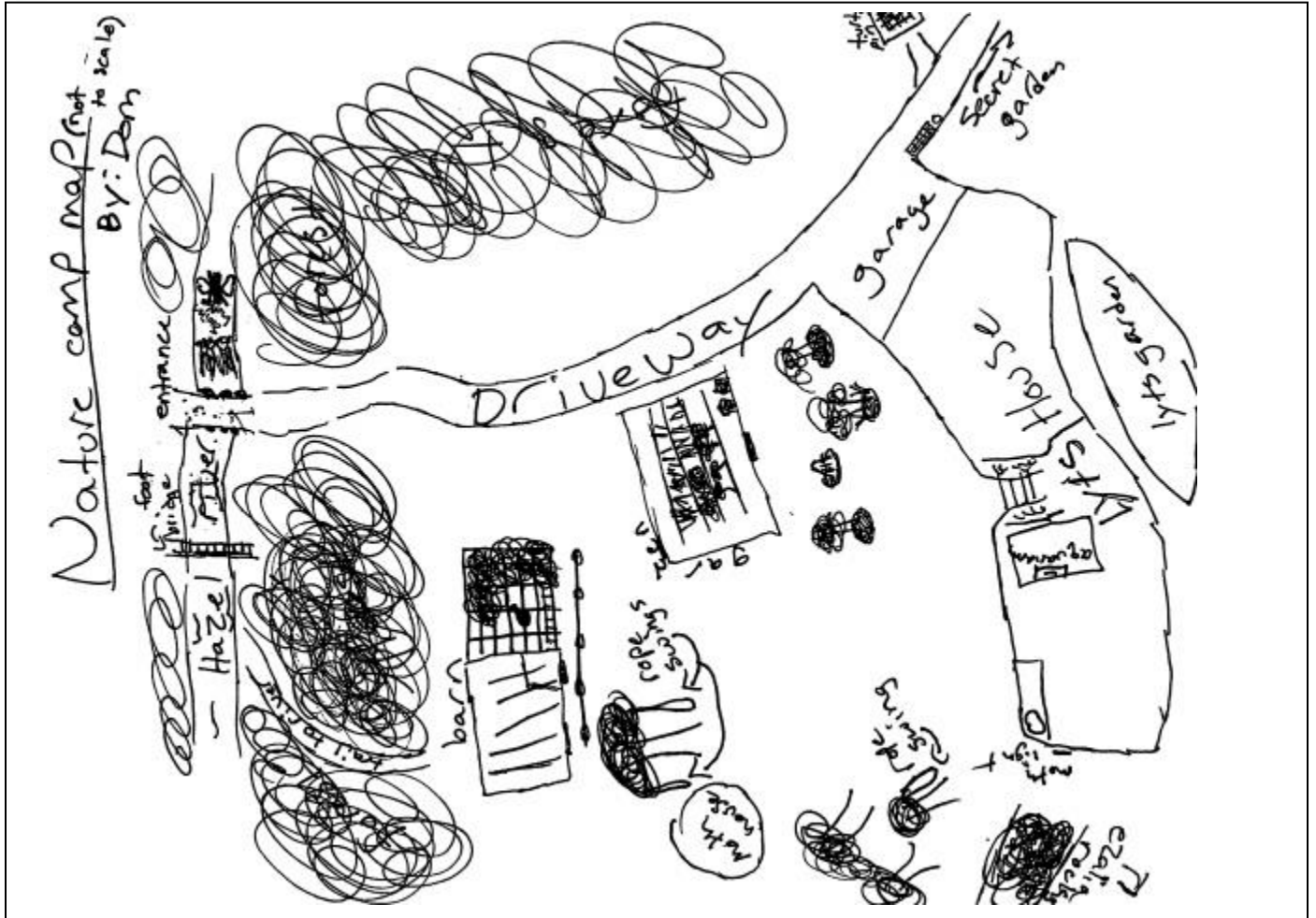
Dylan noticed that a small plant's roots grew straight down, and the roots of grasses were linked and looked like a carpet.



RED EFT

Savannah Scoville

Red Efts are baby newts. They crawl around in the woods. When they crawl they move their right and left foot, then they repeat that again. They curl their tails around twigs and sometimes our fingers. They need to stay damp. They live part of their lives in water and part of their lives on land. They eat bugs and worms.



FROGS AND TOADS

by Mezgeb Babcock

All frogs and toads are amphibians. That means they go on land and in the water. But tadpoles (baby frogs) do not go on land. They stay in the water until they grow up to be frogs or toads and then they can go on land. Frogs and toads have long tongues that are sticky to catch flies for their meal.



by Isaac



by Webb Furbush

TINA'S COUNSELOR FEATURE

by Anika Pruntel

Our counselor Tina did her Counselor Feature on the power of the brain. She knew a lot about her subject and I learned many things I didn't know about the brain. She taught us about neurons and about bears and other animals that are among the smartest of all. She told us how much the brain weighs and how it is supported by fluids. It was very interesting and educational.

Dissecting

Owl Pellets!



(on June 18th)

Today, we were doing multiple activities. One of them was dissecting owl pellets! They are chunks of fur and bone that the owl can't digest, so the owl regurgitates it. It's slimy and smelly at first, but after it dries it has a "beautiful" smell. Nicholas Plaksh brought them in because a Barn Owl was roosting in his barn last winter. I thought it was SO cool! Anna found blood in one of the skulls. I'm dissecting some owl pellets after I write this article!

Jaw

Skull

Ribs

Marrow

long bone/thigh

THE DAM

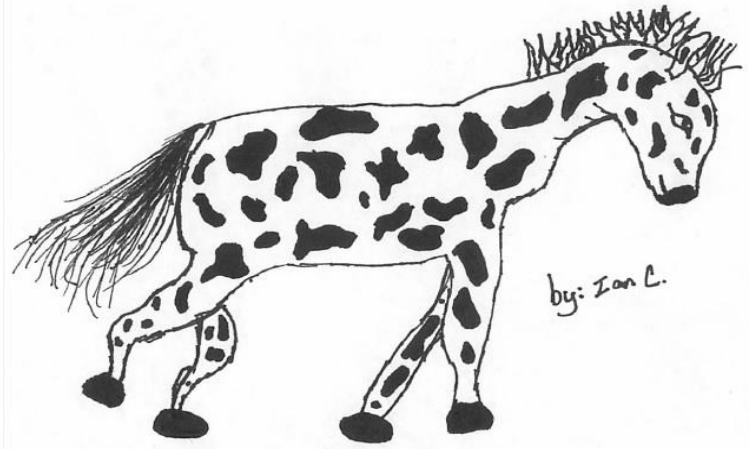
by Anthony Ganz and Dom DelGrosso

Down in the Hazel River, there is a dam the campers build up every year. Sometimes, part of the dam is still there from the previous year, so we add onto it again. We put it at the edge of the swimming hole upstream of the entrance to the Rapp Nature Camp. We place the rocks where the water flows out of the swimming hole. The dam slows down the flow of the water and makes the swimming hole deeper. Where people are working on the dam is the "no splash zone." The dam is a yearly project that all the campers enjoy doing during River Time. The dam is about two feet high and really helps. The water has gotten about two and a half feet deep because of the dam.

THE WHITE HORSE

by Isaac Scheulin

I found the White Horse hiding behind a big rock. I had to go through the woods and looked away for a second. When I looked back it had moved on top of a rock. It looked at me, and then I picked it up and took it back to camp



THE 4-LEGGED WHITE STALKER

by Swiss

The White Horse is a stalker! It had been watching Lyt from way up in a tree the whole time we were at Azalea Rocks. Finally the White Horse came down off the tree and went somewhere else. We've captured the White Horse and are keeping it at the barn so it won't disappear again.



RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

by Webb Furbush

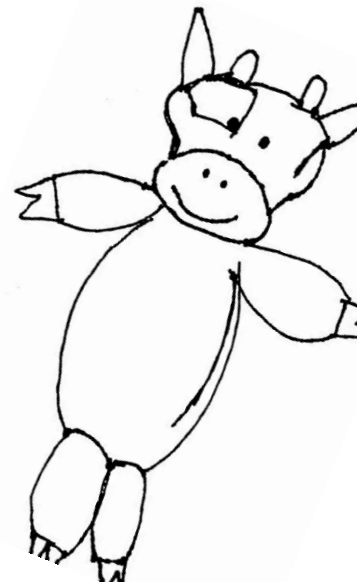
Red-shouldered hawks are medium-sized, with broad, rounded wings and medium-length tails. In flight, they often glide or soar with their wingtips pushed slightly forward. They soar over forests or perch on tree branches. Its rising KEE-RAH is a common sound in the forest. They hunt small mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Adults are colorful hawks with checkered wings. The tail is black with narrow white bands. The wings have narrow pale crescents near the tips. Look for red-shouldered hawks in deciduous woodlands and swampy areas. They often move high along ridges during migration. They build stick nests high in a large tree. We found one in a big poplar tree at camp.

by Roxie

THE PURPLE COW

by Nicholas Plaksin

There is a mysterious animal at nature camp called the purple cow. We use it at the coyote walk. The coyote walk is where we learn to walk like coyotes. We step with the side of our feet first, then we roll our feet down. The purple cow is mostly purple, but it is part yellow.



QUIET SPOTS

by Anika Pruntel and Liza Dareing

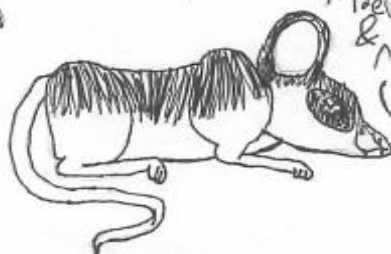


by Camilla

During the first week of camp, campers pick their own Quiet Spot. All the Quiet Spots need to be approved by Lyt or a counselor. Then we can decorate it and make it our own special place. We can use bamboo and other things to beautify our Quiet Spots. During Quiet time, we can write and draw, or just observe Nature. This is a good way to connect with Nature and gives us a chance to think. Sometimes we see critters like snakes, crayfish, butterflies or dragonflies. When Quiet Time is over, Lyt plays music and we follow him through the woods to Azalea Rocks.

Peanut Fluffers!

Peanut Fluffers is a mouse with big, black eyes that we caught on the second day of camp. He is light brown with a white belly and skinny tail. His eyes are big and black, and very sparkly which makes him adorable! We miss him a lot, and hope he never got eaten!



-Maeve
& Mia
(M&M)



THE RIVER HIKE

by Anthony Ganz

The River Hike is something we do at camp every year. We start by walking down on land to the Puckwudgie Tree. Then we hike IN the river up to the bridge near the entrance to camp. Some campers, like myself, like to stay behind and enjoy the hike more. We sometimes see water snakes and other critters in the river. Sometimes we have to stabilize ourselves and hang onto people in the water. They fall down and get wet, but laugh too. River Hikes are super awesome.



Reilly Waggener-Talley

THE MOTH LIGHT

by Anika Pruntel

Every morning my friend Anna and I go to the Moth Light. The Moth Light attracts many different types of moths and some Dobsonflies. Later in the day, my friend Liza also checks the Moth Light. We keep them for a while in the Butterfly House. My favorite type of moth is the Leopard Moth. The Leopard Moth is white with black spots on its wings. Its body is orange, cobalt blue and has dark blue antennae. The Moth Light helps you study and learn about the moths.



EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL

by Darcy Cluff

Color: yellow, black, blue

Habitat: gardens and meadows

Larva food: Black Cherry and Tuliptree

At camp we do a lot of things. One of them is: catching butterflies! After we catch them, we put them in a screen tent called the Butterfly House. One time we caught an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail.

SPICEBUSH SWALLOWTAIL

by Lauren Timothy

The Spicebush Swallowtail lives in open woods or habitat edges. The adult butterflies visit flowers and drink nectar. When they are larvae they eat spicebush and sassafras leaves.

PIPEVINE SWALLOWTAIL

by Darcy Cluff

Color: black and shining blue, small white dots

Larva food: Pipevine (Dutchmans Pipe)

This year we found a Pipevine Swallowtail chrysalis under the first bench in the barn. We didn't think it would hatch before the end of camp but it did! So we let it fly away to get nectar.



BUTTERFLY WINGS

by Mezgeb Babcock

Butterflies have very delicate wings. If you touch their wings lightly, then you will have a print of scales on your finger. Scales are these colorful dots that combine to make beautiful colors on a butterfly's wing.

TRAVELLER

by Lyt Wood

1.
Long long ago, a
traveller was travelling
that's pretty much what
travellers do, his

birthday was the
day she was born and she
looks like me and looks ex-
actly like you

The
traveller travelled where he
wanted to go where he
wanted to be, she
did not know

lookin for treasure, a
shining jewel or a
silver lining or a
Golden Rule

CHORUS:

--Yay ho
--Yay ho
Yay ho foodle oodle
Inkle toe tay loopy
Koey wye wolly
Zoey lye lolly lolly
Ming mang tingle pingle
Jingle ho yay

2. I'm
travellin' high through the
clouds I'll soar I'll
paddle on the sea I'll
shuffle on the shore I'll

swim with the tide I'll
slither and I'll slide and I'll
hop and I'll trot and I'll
gallop and I'll glide

I'll
count all the stars, the
leaves on a tree, the
snowflakes fallin', the
waves on the sea, all the

little puckwudgies and
fairies I see
Maybe they'll have a
story for me

CHORUS:

--Yay ho
--Yay ho
Yay ho foodle oodle
Inkle toe tay loopy
Koey wye wolly
Zoey lye lolly lolly
Ming mang tingle pingle
Jingle ho yay

3. Oh
Yes says the star to the
traveller travellin'
yes says the wave and the
snowflake too I'll

tell you my story, I'm
wild and I'm free and I
know you'll have a
story for me

Oh
yes says the swan, the
butterfly flyin', the
mole in the ground, the
seal in the sea, we

all have a story we'll
sing for you --
--- now
sing for us
Your story too

CHORUS:

--Yay ho
--Yay ho
Yay ho foodle oodle
Inkle toe tay loopy
Koey wye wolly
Zoey lye lolly lolly
Ming mang tingle pingle
Jingle ho yay

Ming mang tingle pingle
Jingle ho YAY!





Reilly Waggener-Talley, Roxie Beebe-Center, Anika Pruntel, director Lyt Wood, assistant director Kat Habib, Camilla Galeotti, Sophie Speed, Mezgeb Babcock, counselor Julian Cordero, Ellie Speed, Savannah Scoville, Mia Speed, Evelyn Babcock, Parker Jones, Swiss J Switzer, Darcy Cluff, Isaac Scheulin, Dom DelGrosso, Lauren Timothy, Reagan Scoville, Ian Cordero, Maeve Ciuba, Anthony Ganz, Counselor Dylan Dwyer, Liza Dareing, Nicholas Plaksin, Anna Alldredge, Lilly Smith, Webb Furbush. (Photo by Melissa Lamb)



OUR COUNSELORS: Tina Yirgu, Julian Cordero, Dylan Dwyer, Kat Habib, Lyt Wood

RAPPAHANNOCK NATURE CAMP 2016:
June 13-24, 2016 APPLY NOW! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!