

## NEWS FROM SINGING CREEK

### RAPPAHANNOCK NATURE CAMP 2016



#### THE PAWPAW TREE

*by Mimi Walker*

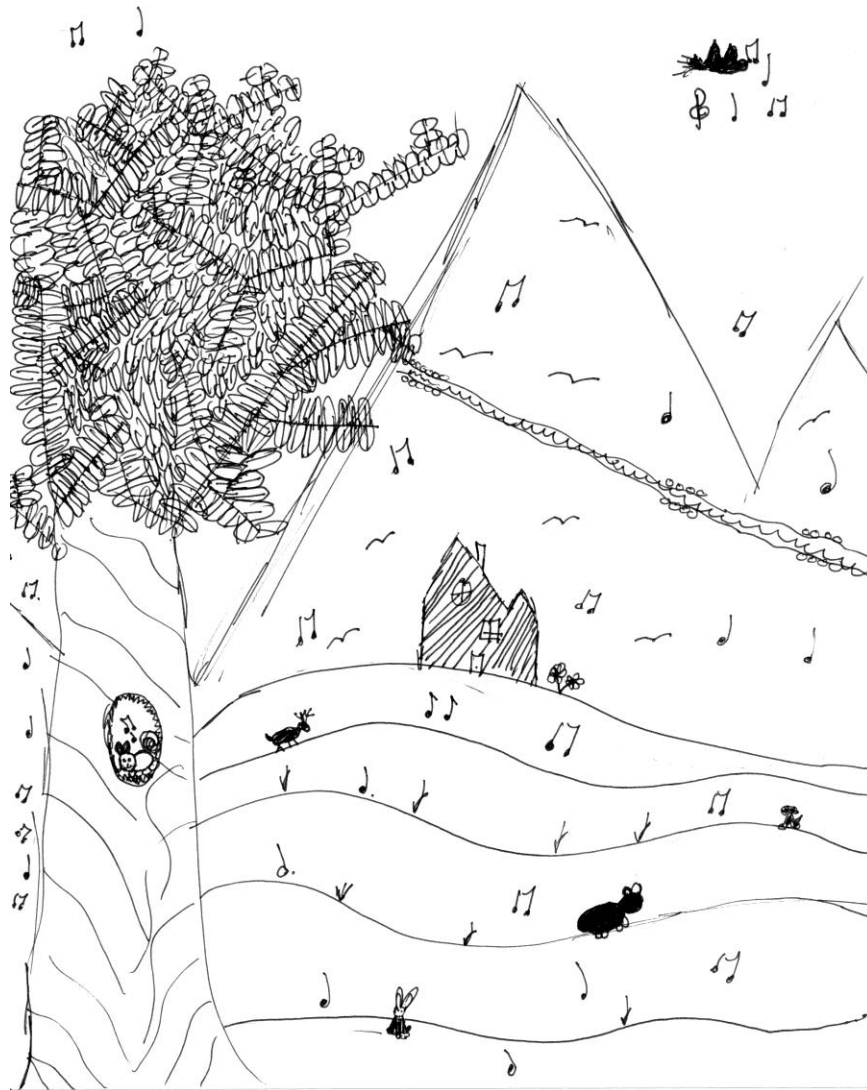


The pawpaw tree gives you lots of shade when you sit on the big rock by the side of the Frog Pond. It has its own pretty leaves.

## THE CAMP AT SINGING CREEK

*by Liza Dareing*

Rapp Nature Camp is at a place called Singing Creek. We do many fun things at this camp. I have been going to this camp for four years and I love it. Many of the things are very fun and we also learn so much every day. We go down to the river and cool off. But my favorite thing we do in the river is going on the River Hike. Quiet Time is another favorite of mine. We each pick out our own spot and have a time where we observe nature. Every day we learn about new things and do fun activities with the things we learn. Singing Creek is a beautiful place that is surrounded by magical nature. This is my last year as a camper and I will miss it dearly.



## RIVER CRITTERS

*by Webb Furbush*

*By Liza*

My favorite part of camp was the River Hike. It was amazing. But what I like most is what is *in* the river. We have an activity called “Aquarium” where we gather little creatures from the Hazel River and make a habitat for them. In our aquarium we have fish, tadpoles, insect larvae and crawfish. That is what I like most about camp.

## LUNA MOTHS

by Webb Furbush

Have you ever seen a Luna Moth? Luna Moths are beautiful creatures. I know because one day when I was checking out the Moth Light I found...

... wait for it...

... A LUNA MOTH!!

And I actually got to hold it. It had green wings, white fur, pink legs and golden antennas.

## DOBSONFLIES

by Swiss Switzer

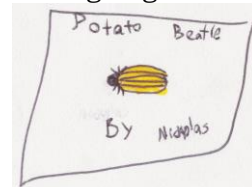
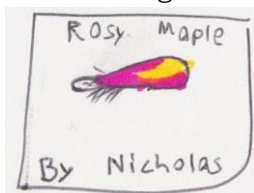
Dobsonflies spend most of their lives in water as "Hellgrammites." During that period they are predators and can grow really long. They have pinchers to catch prey. Then they come out of the water and become "Dobsonflies." They don't live very long afterward. They come out to mate and now, their pinchers are completely useless. However, the males use them for ONE thing and that is to hold the female so she can't get away while they are mating. The male's body becomes shriveled up but the female's stays big and she lays eggs. I hope you liked learning about Dobsonflies.



## OJOS DE DIOS

by Nicholas Plaksin

Last year at camp, Susan, a.k.a. "The Wool Lady," came to camp and showed us how to make "God's Eyes." We all made small God's Eyes and worked together to make one big one. We hung them up in trees and now, a year later, they are starting to go back to nature.



## **NEWTON**

*by Ri Talley-Waggener and Logan Leighman*

Newton is a friendly newt. He is a Red-spotted Newt. He eats worms and does not like turtles or other newt-eating predators. There are 18 species of newts. The Red-spotted Newt is the smallest of these but still very fast. We found Newton on the Puckwudgie Trail on Tuesday of the first week. At first we named him Little Joey but we named him Newton when we found out he was a newt. We made a medium-sized habitat for him. It has a small house and a small plant. We think Newton is the best! He is awesome and he has a lot of energy to walk.



## **BOX TURTLES**

*by Nicolas Jones*

One day on the way home from camp I found a Box Turtle. I could tell it was a male because its eyes were red and he has a concave plastron. After I discovered my turtle was a male I named him Bob. Bob is 16 years old. To find out how old a turtle is, you count the lines on one of its scales. Every year at camp we have a Turtle Race. I think Bob might win because we had a practice race and Bob won!

## **HAPPY**

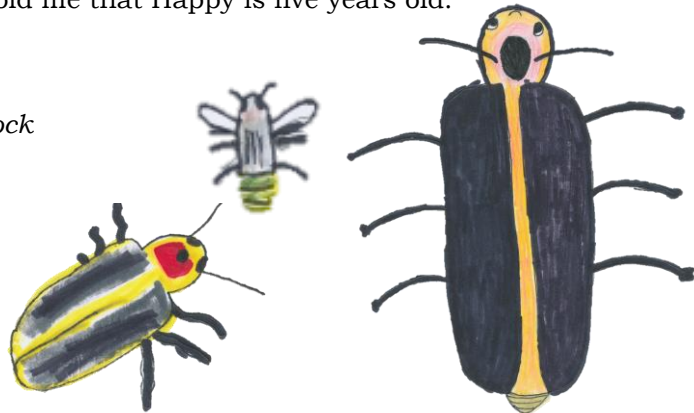
*by Lynne Blank*

My turtle's name is Happy. I found him on the way to Rapp Nature Camp. Happy is a male Box Turtle. The way to tell a male from a female Box Turtle is to look at the stomach shell. If it is concave, it is a boy. If it is not concave, it is a girl. Box Turtles eat berries. A camper told me that Happy is five years old.

## **BIG DIPPER FIREFLY**

*by Reagan Scoville and Evelyn Babcock*

The Big Dipper Firefly is also called Common Eastern Firefly. Male Big Dipper Fireflies have brown or black elytra and yellowish sides.







## THE FOUR ELEMENTS

by Parker Jones,  
Nicholas Plaksin  
and Swiss Switzer

Anything that is solid is Earth. Our bodies are made of Earth and Water. Earth Spirits are called Gnomes. Gnomes bring life to our planet. They are active where Water and Earth meet.

Water Spirits are called Undines. They are active where Water and Air come together and in the moving sap inside plant stems. Undines dream with us.

The third element is Air. Air spirits are called Sylphs. Sylphs bring color to flowers. They fly with birds and lead them on their long migrations in spring and fall.

The Spirits of Fire are called Salamanders. Fire is used to make heat and it can create rebirth. Fire is good.



## DEAD STUFF

by Parker Jones

This year we learned about dead stuff. Lyt brought in lots of dead things to show us. He showed us two little birds, a Black Vulture, a Screech Owl, a huge dragonfly, and the skin of a Copperhead. We learned some things about what these animals do when they are alive. For example, Screech Owls do not screech.



## AWESOME CAMP

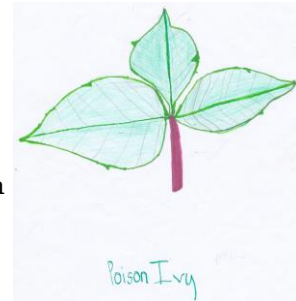
by Riley Waggener-Talley

My favorite part of camp is the campout and my favorite part of the campout is the cookout. We get to spend the night in the woods and eat good food like hamburgers.

### POISON IVY

by Lilly Smith

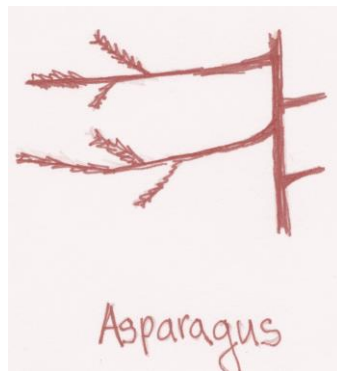
Poison Ivy has hairy roots. It can be a bush, or it can wrap around a tree and climb it. Poison Ivy flowers grow in small branching clusters in the axils. The fruit grows where the flowers were and tends to be grayish or whitish. Most people are allergic to Poison Ivy. If you have an allergic reaction, you usually have a very itchy rash. The leaves have three leaflets and some points on the edges. The stem is reddish brown. Is it native? Yes -- which makes sense, because it grows all over the place.



### GARDEN PLANTS

by Logan Leighman

1. Catnip
2. Fig
3. Dragons Tongue
4. Blueberry
5. Asparagus
6. Dill
7. Squash
8. Cabbage
9. Zucchini
10. Cherry
11. Kale
12. Cilantro
13. Sunflower
14. Blackberry
15. Perilla
16. Apple
17. Peach

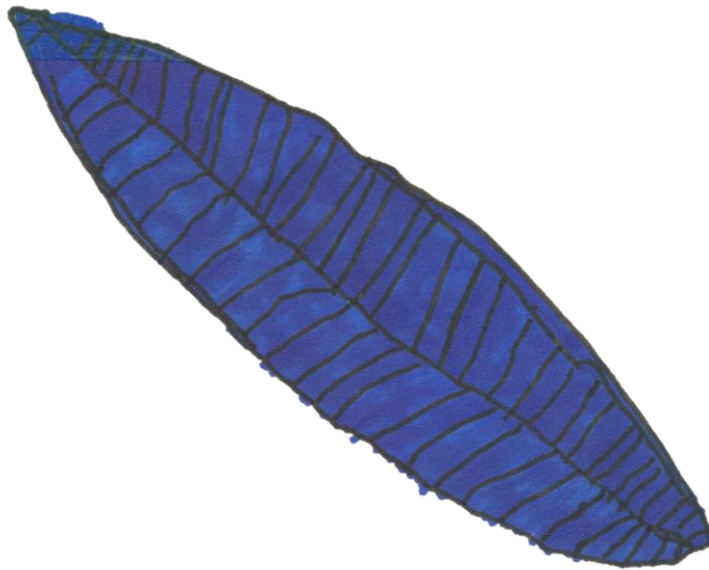


by Scott

## QUEEKY

*by Savannah, Mariel and Reagan Scoville*

We have a pet Blue Jay.  
His name is Queeky and he  
fell out of a nest. My mom  
caught it and we took it in  
and we found worms for it.  
He likes to eat bird seed  
and watermelon and  
banana and peanut butter.  
When we call out his name  
he churps. He is a  
teenager. We don't know if  
he is a boy or a girl but we  
just call it a boy. He is very  
blue and he likes to hop  
around on the trees. He  
wasn't able to fly but now  
he can! He doesn't know  
how to fly up yet. He only  
knows how to fly down.  
And he is free! But he  
always comes back to eat.







### THE PURPLE COW

by Swiss Switzer and Parker Jones

The Purple Cow, like the White Horse, is a magical animal. He is small. He is purple and yellow. Coyotes love to hunt him. The Purple Cow sits in trees a lot. Reilly found the Purple Cow during the Coyote Walk. The Purple Cow is amazing!

### INSECTS THAT CAME TO THE MOTH LIGHT

by Declan Perrot, Ian Kilpatrick

We are doing a report on moths and other insects that came to the light at night. Moths are attracted to ultraviolet light. We don't know why.

We found a Walnut Sphinx on the sheet at the Moth Light. This moth is mostly brown but has some orange spots.

We also found an Io Moth. The male has feathery antennae and leopard spots on yellow wings. The wings have clear tips and eye-like designs on the underwings. The female Io Moth has yellow spots on red wings. A Dobsonfly also came to the Moth Light. We named it Joe.

Kingdom	Animalia
Phylum	Arthropoda
subphylum	Crustacea
class	Malacostraca
order	Decapoda
suborder	Pleocyemata
infraorder	Astacidea
superfamily	Astacoidea, Latreille, Huxley, and Parastacoidea

crayfish

Nicolas Jones

crayfish are fresh water crustaceans that resemble small lobsters. they are found in streams marshes and ponds they eat worms, algae, lettuce, and a lot more. some species of crayfish are considered invasive like the rusty crayfish. rusty crayfish are native to Ohio but has spread to over 20 states in the U.S. Crayfish have many names some of the most common are crayfish, crawdads, freshwater lobsters, and mudbugs.



## PUCKWUDGIE GARDEN

by Lilly Smith

The Puckwudgie Garden is an arranged place that is used to attract gnomes. It is in the woods because gnomes live there.

To make a garden for the gnomes, the first thing you do is walk in the woods playing instruments and singing "The Earth, The Water, The Air, The Fire, Return, Return, Return." Then you light a candle in a dish and put leaves and water in the dish.

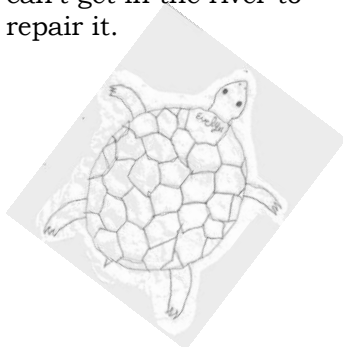
Then you decorate the garden and surround it with nature. You invite the gnomes and make a home for them. The gnomes will play tricks on you. That is because they are always awake and they wonder why we sleep all the time. They want to wake us up!

## RIVER TIME AND RIVER HIKE

by David Looch, Jeremiah Phillips, Mimi Walker, Isaac Plaksin and Declan

[EDITOR'S NOTE: This article combines several accounts of some of our activities in and along the Hazel River.]

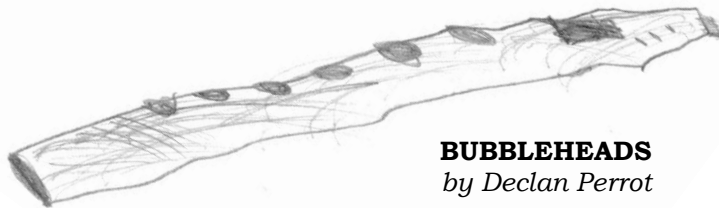
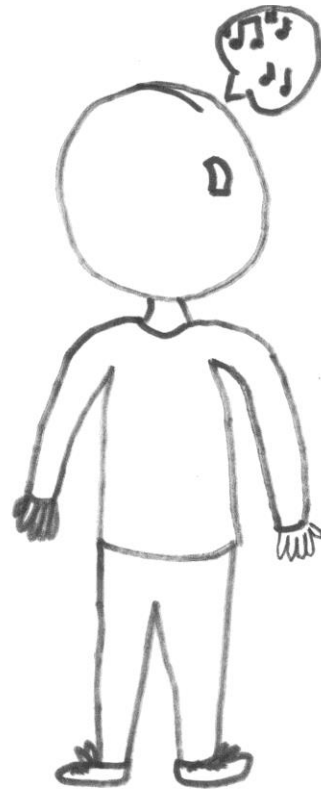
One day we did a River Hike -- hiking in the river! We found a really cool swimming hole and saw a lot of wild life. We all got wet that day and then had a bonfire. Then we did River Time again. The next day, some of us came back down to draw pictures of the river. Today the river is really high because of thunderstorms. Our dam got flooded but the water is too deep and fast so we can't get in the river to repair it.



## Bubble heads

✓ By Nicholas Plaksin

Over the years, Lyt has written many songs about nature. He started a singing group called the Bubbleheads last year. The Bubbleheads sing some of Lyt's songs. We rehearse at activity time at camp. This year we are singing 'Traveller' and 'Tick'. The Bubbleheads is one of my favorite parts of camp, and that is saying something!



### BUBBLEHEADS

by Declan Perrot

I am in the Bubbleheads and I play the flute. The other people who are in Bubbleheads are Lyt, Swiss, Parker, Scott, Nicholas, Mariel, Savannah and Lilly. Nicholas plays the guitar, Scott plays the violin, Parker plays the hand drum and Lyt plays the banjo.

## Our Weather Station

by Scott

We did lots of fun things this year at Nature Camp. One of them was putting up a weather station, and making a chart about each day's weather conditions. The things we measure are: temperature, air pressure, wind direction and speed, rain, humidity, sky, and clouds. It has been very fun for me to be a meteorologist and studying weather. We use a thermometer, a barometer, an anemometer (actually, a lot of them), a wind sock, a rain gage, and the Field Guide to Weather. I can't wait to learn more!

**TICK** by Lyt Wood

1. Through a  
*Cm* Forest of grass I  
*Cm* Crawled all around a-  
*F* Round and around all  
*F* On the ground I  
*Cm* Crawled all around un-  
*Cm* Til I found the  
*F* Tallest stalk on the  
*F* Highest mound the  
*Bb* Tallest stalk I  
*F* Found -- for

2. *Cm* I'm just a little old  
*Cm* Tick you see and the  
*F* Grass to me is a  
*F* Forest of trees on the  
*Cm* Tallest stalk I'll  
*Cm* Perch for thee I'll  
*F* Sit and I'll cling and I'll  
*F* Wait for thee I'll  
*Bb* Perch and I'll wait for  
*F* Thee -- for  
*F* I'm just a tick you  
*F* See ---  
*F* Waiting for thee  
*Gm* Waiting for thee  
*F* Waiting for thee  
*Fm* Waiting for thee...  
— 4 —

**CHORUS** (*faster*)

*F* I'm just a little old  
*Gm* 8-legged skinny old  
*F* Round old brown old  
*Gm* Not too pretty old  
*F* Patient old thirsty old  
*Gm* Little itty bitty old  
*F* TICK -- and  
*F* All I ask is  
*F* One little drop of  
*F/Gm/F* Thee -- just a  
*F* Little old drop of  
*F/C7* Thee ---  
*F* .....

3. And  
*Cm* Now I climb up the  
*Cm* Tallest stalk I  
*F* Will not sing and I  
*F* Will not talk I  
*Cm* Will not talk and I  
*Cm* Will not sing on the  
*F* Tallest stalk it's  
*F* There I'll cling it's  
*Bb* Way up there I'll  
*F* Cling -- and the

4. *Cm* Tallest stalk at  
*Cm* Last I did find and  
*F* Up I did walk and  
*F* Up I did climb and  
*Cm* Up up up and  
*Eb* Higher and higher and  
*F* Higher and higher and  
*G* Higher and up and  
*Bb* Higher and higher to the  
*F* Very top  
.....

**CHORUS** (*faster*)

*F* I'm just a little old  
*Gm* 8-legged skinny old  
*F* Round old brown old  
*Gm* Not too pretty old  
*F* Patient old thirsty old  
*Gm* Little itty bitty old  
*F* TICK -- and  
*F* All I ask is  
*F* One little drop of  
*F/Gm/F* Thee -- just a  
*F* Little old drop of  
*F/C7* Thee --  
*F* .....  
HELLO WHAT'S THIS -- just a  
*F* Little old tick I  
*F* See ---  
*F* Waiting for me  
*Gm* Waiting for me  
*F* Waiting for me  
*Fm* Waiting for me...  
— 4 —

**CHORUS** (*faster*)

*F* You're just a little old  
*Gm* 8-legged skinny old  
*F* Round old brown old  
*Gm* Not too pretty old  
*F* Patient old thirsty old  
*Gm* Little itty bitty old  
*F* TICK -- And  
*F* All you want is  
*F* One little drop of  
*F/Gm/F* Me -- just a  
*F* Little old drop of  
*F/C7* Me --  
*F* .....

5. And  
*Cm* You're just a little old  
*Cm* Tick I see and you  
*F* Perch and you wave  
your little  
*F* Arms for me and you  
*Cm* Sit and you cling and  
you  
*Cm* Wait for me how  
*F* Glad I am that

*F* I saw thee now  
*Bb* You will come with  
*F* Me -- and

6. *Cm* So little tick I'll  
*Cm* Carry thee to the  
*F* Very top of the  
*F* TALLEST TREE and  
*Cm* Up up up and  
*Eb* Higher and higher and  
*F* Higher and higher and  
*G* Higher and up and  
*Bb* Higher and higher and  
*C* Higher and up and  
*Eb* Higher and higher to  
the  
*F* Very top  
.....

**CHORUS** (*faster*)

*F* You're just a little old  
*Gm* 8-legged skinny old  
*F* Round old brown old  
*Gm* Not too pretty old  
*F* Patient old thirsty old  
*Gm* Little itty bitty old  
*F* TICK ---

7. *F* I'll take thee to the  
*Gm* Top of the tree where  
*F* You may perch and  
*Gm* You may see all the  
*F* Clouds and stars  
and

*Gm* Land and sea and  
*F* You'll be wild and  
*F/Gm/F* Free -- and  
you'll  
*F* Not have a drop of  
*F/C7* Me -- not  
*F* One little drop of  
*F/Gm/F* Me ---  
*F* .....







## RAPPAHANNOCK NATURE CAMP 2016



## RAPPAHANNOCK NATURE CAMP 2017

June 5 - 16, 2017

APPLY NOW! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!