

NEWS FROM SINGING CREEK

Rappahannock Nature Camp 2022



-Rowan



Eusebe

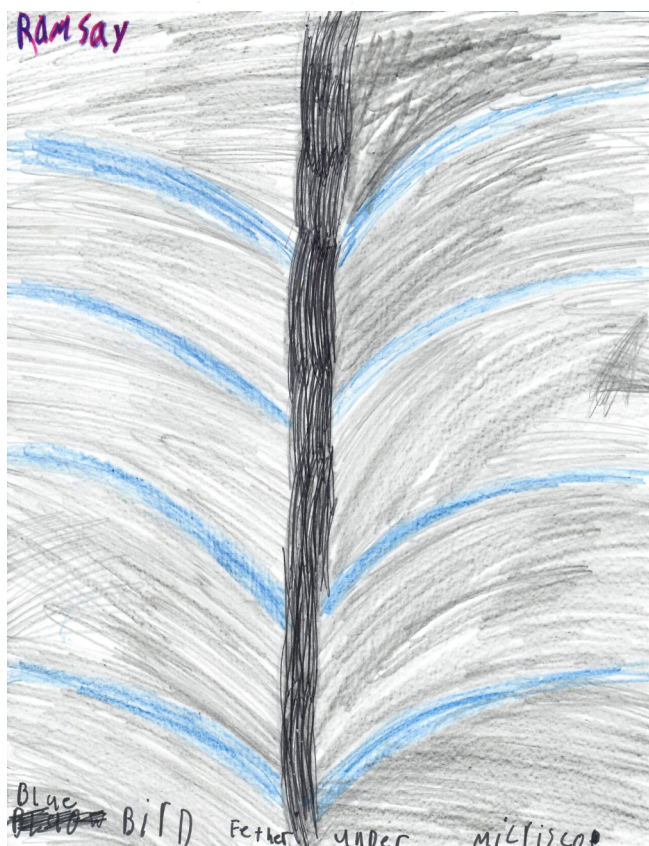
outside
of face
made with
grass

Made With Dirt
Forest
face



Anna

Inside
made with
dirt



Ramsay

Blue Bird Feather under microscope

Dear Campers,

We are well into the Fall season! There is a mysterious, pleasant, musky scent in the woods. Migrating thrushes are feasting on scarlet dogwood berries; their calls sound exactly like water dripping into a puddle. The gum trees below the garden are shining red. Leaves on the giant tulip trees at the Lagoon are turning yellow. Even the pine trees are green and yellow and brown—their two-year-old needles are falling to the ground, to be replaced next year with new foliage.

Many of our campers attended our Fall Gathering at Azalea Rocks, and had a chance to meet some other friends of our camp. We shared stories, songs, quiet time, campfire smoke, good food and good music.

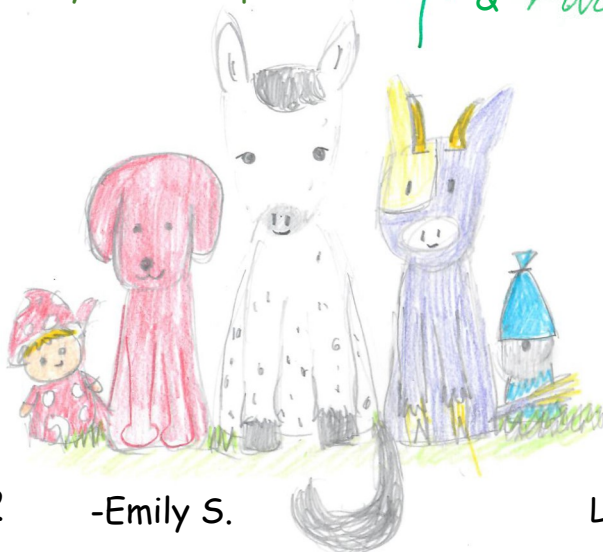
Our campers also experienced something that they may not have anticipated: Rapp Nature Camp seems like a very different place among all the sights and sounds and scents of autumn. Every season is different, and every day is different too.

That is one of the things that is intriguing about our summertime camp: Every week's session is different, and every day has its own story. And it is you, dear campers, who make it so. You will notice many changes next year at camp, as Rachel is now Camp Director and Lyt is taking on the new role of Artistic Director. We'll have new (and familiar) songs to sing, new (and well-worn) trails to explore, new projects to share, and surprises every day.

But rest assured, noisy amphibians will be in the Frog Pond, frisky butterflies will be flying around looking for nectar, and high in the sky and far underground, the unseen Singing Creek will still be flowing. And surely the wild White Horse will be watching us from the trees. As always, there will be natural treasures all around, just waiting to be discovered.

See you at camp!

Lyt & Rachel

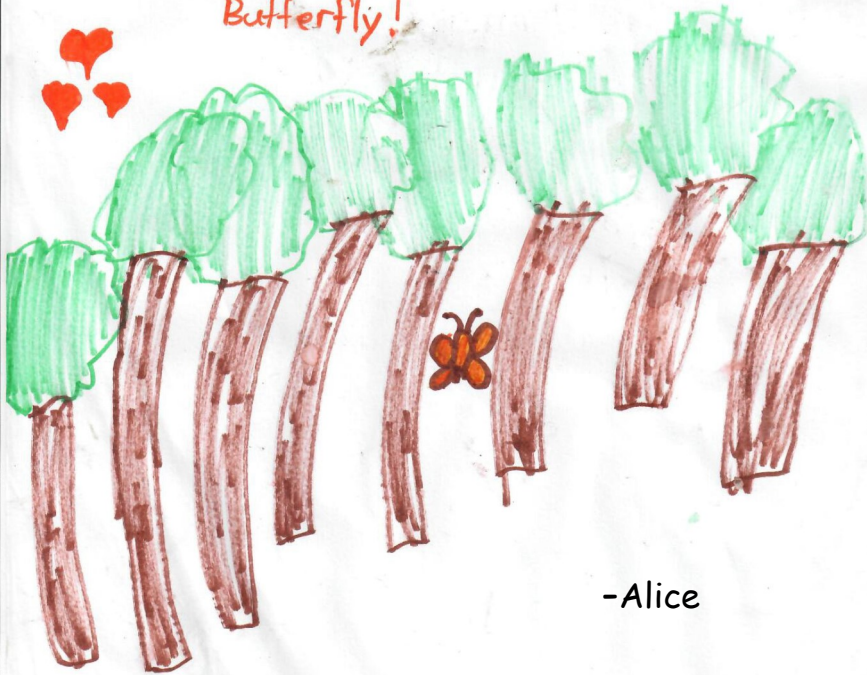


2 -Emily S.



Lyt hands Rachel a handmade flute at our Fall Gathering.

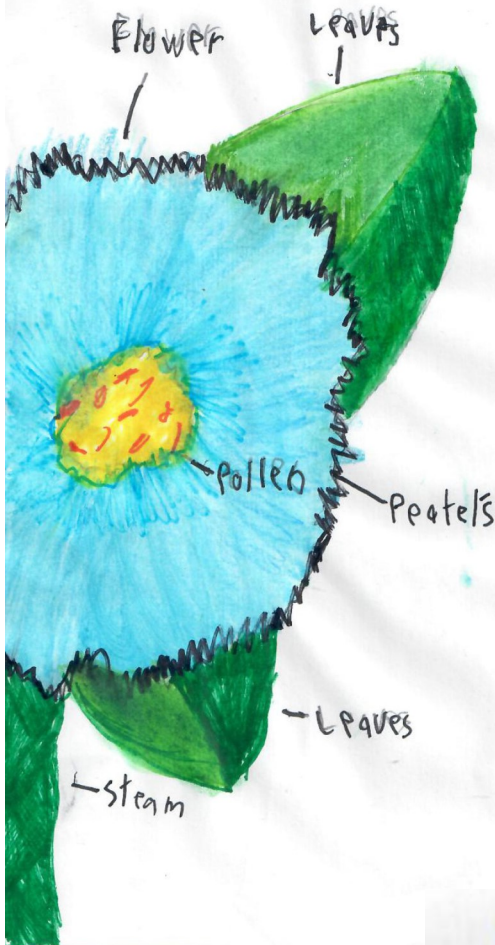
I saw a butiful manach
Butterfly!



-Alice

Bee's and Flower's

If you wonder how flower's
grow, not only do they
need sunlight, air, and
water but they
also need pollen to help
them spread their seeds,
this is were bees come in.
the bee's drink a ~~special~~
~~special~~ spicir kind of
nectar from the flower
and in ~~keating~~ return
the bees have pollen attached
to a special part of there
body and as the bee
finds more flower's it
spreads around more pollen
thus helping the flower
reproduce.



Virginia Hill

DRAGONHUNTER by Penelope Thomas

I, the Dragonhunter.
I creep upon you
the wind beneath my wings.
I feed on moths,
I feed on flies,
the ones more vulnerable
than I.
I carry my title like a crown.

I, the Dragonhunter.
Large and beautiful,
my sea blue color
bounces off the sunlight.

I, the Dragonhunter.
I fight through the night,
honing my title.
Rivals come, rivals go;
I beat them down.
King of the woods
I am now.

I, the Dragonhunter.

John Williams The Scarab Beetle



Enlarged to show detail
-Eliza

HAIKU

by Eliza Cobb and Ellie Gillick

Here, a bamboo stick
Is a plant and a marker
For your Quiet Spot

The sounds of water
Make me calm and relaxed
Mini waterfalls

All covered in moss
Green plants growing out of it
A very old rock

The big and small rocks
Are all put together to
Make a cold river

Water pushing through the cracks
Rushing to be first
To reach the last stopping point

A part of shipwreck
All covered in rust and dirt
How did it get here



-Isaac

QUIET TIME by Alice Hunt

I hear the breeze and the wind and the cars
driving. I am thinking of the letter R and I'm
very very far from home. I hear the creek's
water flowing across the rocks.

Quiet Time - Eliza Cobb



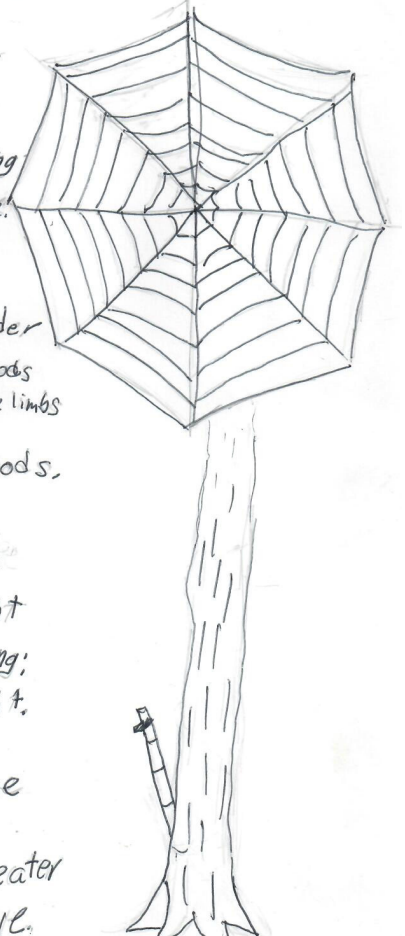
Mac Our Mother; Nature

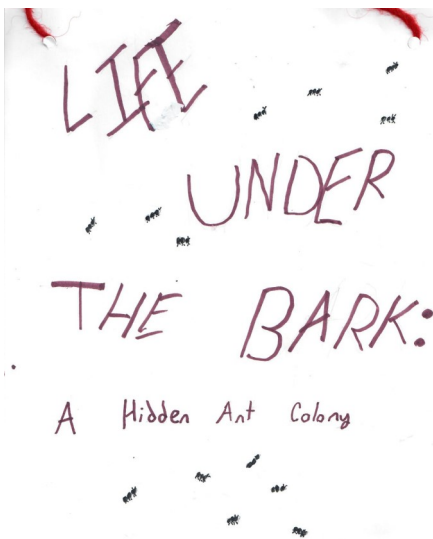
the rushing of the river
the stillness in the air
the threaten of rain calling
all creatures here beware.

the spinning of the spider
the rustling of the woods
the creaking of the tree limbs
here, all of nature's goods.

A bird calls of a fire
a squirrel chitters in fright
'tis mother nature saying;
shall you survive the night.

as the raindrops hit me
and as I sit; observe
for none command me greater
than mother nature's nerve.





ANT STORY by Eliza Cobb

By late morning, a small worker ant had collected enough scraps of food to bring back to her new colony. Gripping bits of food between their arms, a group of workers headed back to the pile of mud and bark that the small worker's colony called home. The structure was quite clever actually; it had taken weeks to plan and build. The ants had found a pile of bark and built mud walls between each layer so they would have room to walk around. There were two floors. The upper one was where everything happened, and the lower one acted as a bunker to hide in during an emergency, like if a bird or large bug found the nest.

The ants arrived at their home shortly and dropped their food on the ground. Fellow worker ants noticed and carried the scraps away without a word. Suddenly, everything felt brighter and they looked up and saw a hole in the bark. The hole quickly became bigger until the roof became a HUGE face staring down at them.

The colony went crazy! They grabbed eggs and raced to the lower floor. The small worker ant grabbed an egg and ran, then suddenly stopped to make sure that the egg was safe and that the baby larva inside was alive. All the ants scurried down the steps and threw them in the room meant for this exact purpose.

But the face was still there, and the second layer of bark was thrown off! Now everyone was horrified and scared. They each grabbed an egg and ran away from the home that had taken so long to make. They ran and ran and ran. Thankfully, the destroyer seemed done, but they weren't sure, so they didn't come back.

WILD

E DIBLES

-Maddie

Wilbur the Turtle
Forages During The Night.



Hold and Didi

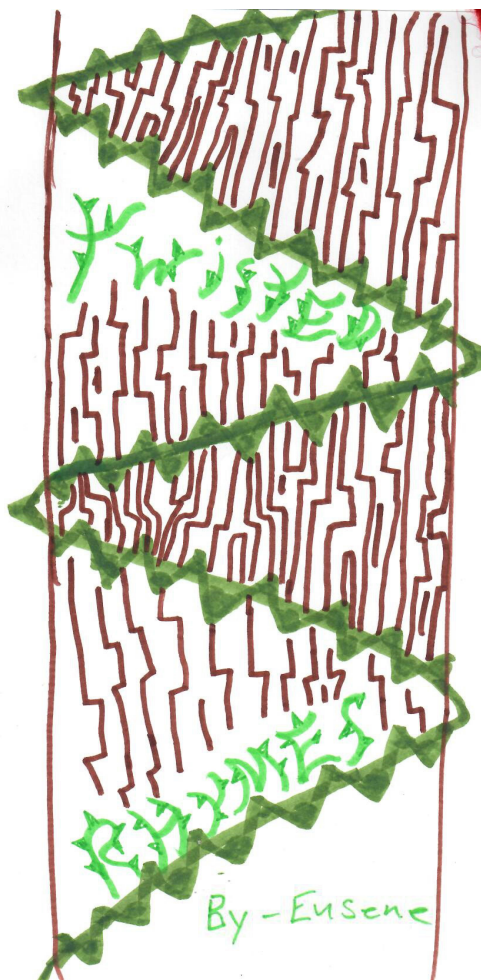
Tricky
from

Treats

Trees



-Maddie



"You'll need to eradicate before you suffocate."

Bittersweet is from Japan and is a very invasive plant. I measured its growth during 3 days of camp. When growing in sunlight, it grew up to 5 cm. In dim light it grew 2 - 3 cm, and in dark light, up to 1 cm.

"Thorny spine, your skin will whine." Smilax has extremely sharp thorns. This vine has cut me with its very sharp spines.

"Leaves of five, you'll stay alive." Virginia Creeper has leaves with five leaflets and a red center. This vine is highly fond of clinging to trees and climbing up them. It eventually takes over the whole forest.

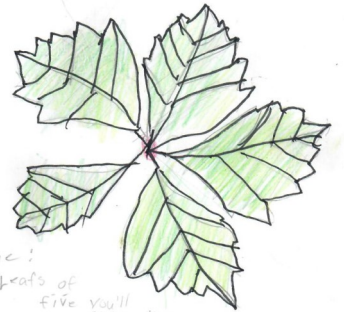
Japanese Honey Suckle



Smilax



Virginia Creeper



Butterfacts

- Butterflies feed from the mud to get minerals

- Some plants that butterflies like are Milkweed and monarda's

- Butterflies are attracted to the colors red, orange, yellow, pink and purple.



Spicebush Swallowtail

-Emily B, Addie, Josie



Story of the Day: Session 1

Day 1: Our paths converged at camp today! Many creatures came before: River tracks showed stories. Feathers and songs told us more. Lost and found treasures along the Singing Creek

Day 2: Tiny tracks preserved; A crayfish captured and observed; Walking blind with trusted guides; And special quiet spots.

Day 3: Breezy Quiet Time drawing started a busy day together. Feathers were found, songs were sung, and a River Hike cooled us.

A skink popped up in the middle of a project. Will there be minnows tomorrow?



Day 4: Quiet time brought us a beautiful fawn on the run! Busy with projects, rapt in the process. Happy and comfortable with friends at camp.

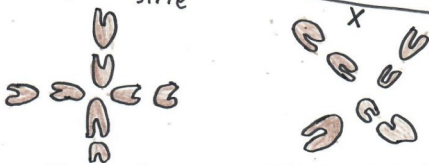


Day 5: Quiet Time brought creatures near. Raven found us, and we found Red Dog. Minnows and Earth Star. So many Treasures to share!

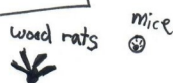


The Deer prints have really good prints it looks like the Deer prints are going in a plus sine because some Deer prints are going up and some Deer prints are going down and some are going to one side

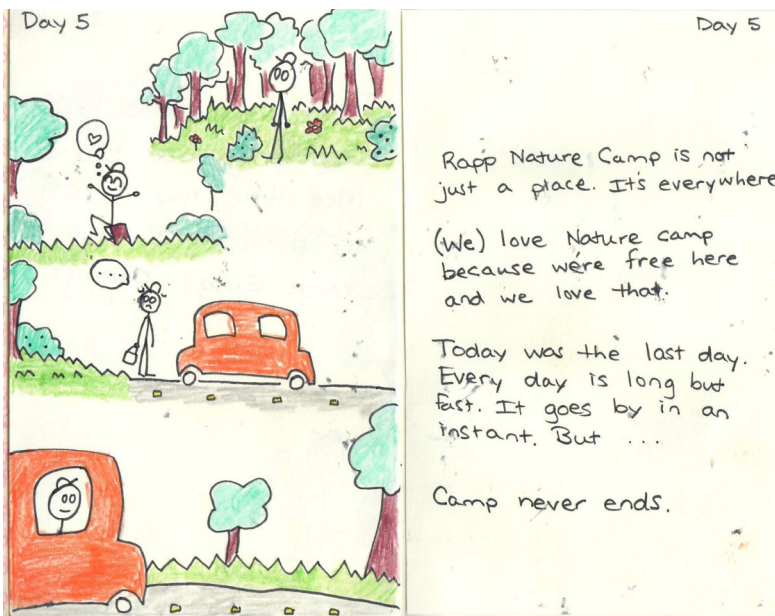
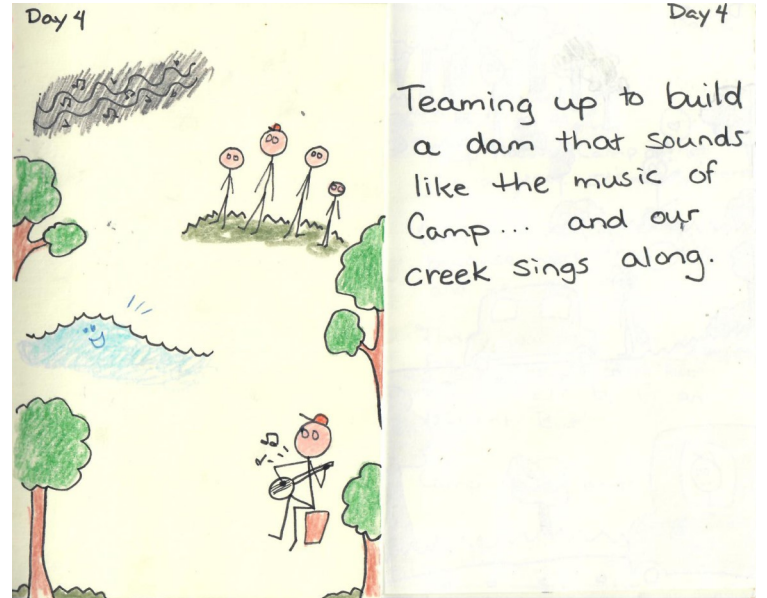
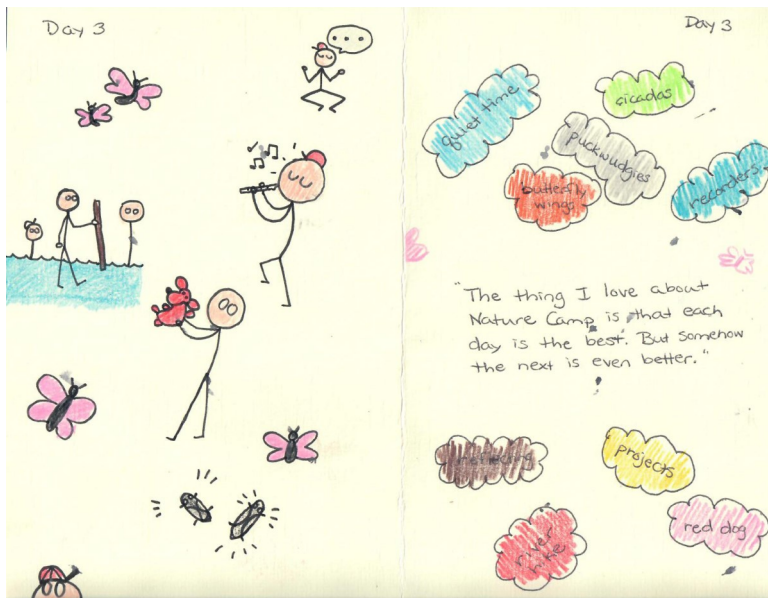
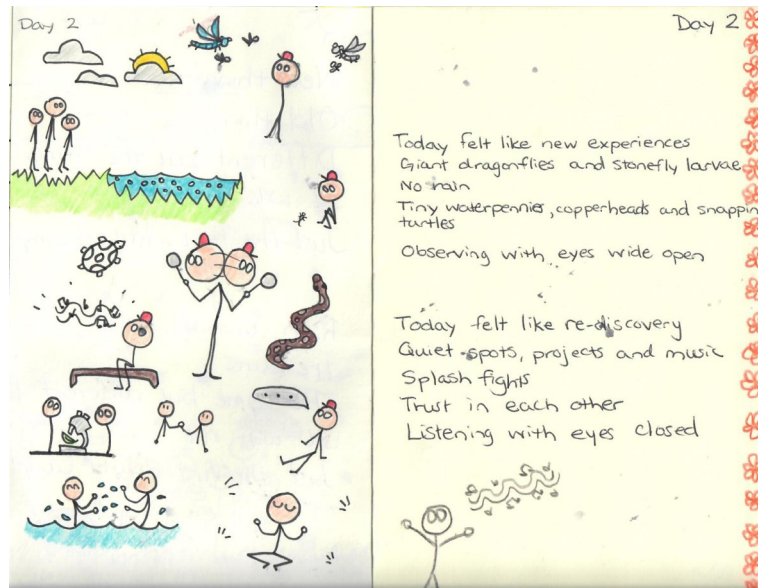
and more are going the other side and if you turn it side ways it could look like a x



-Alice



Story of the Day: Session 2 Drawings by Mary



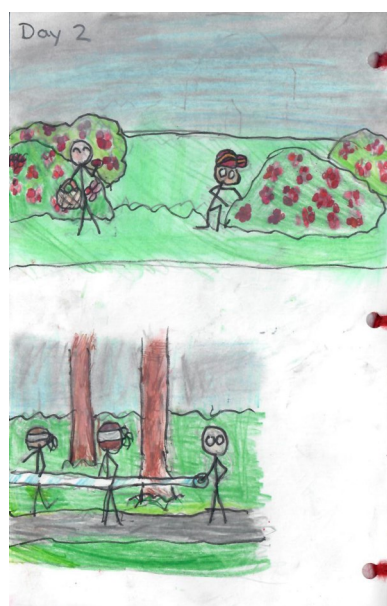
Session 2: June 27-July 1

Story of the Day: Session 3 Drawings by Virginia



Day 1

From our Quiet Spot
Thrones we ponder the
focus of Camp. Using
our mind's camera to
create mental photographs,
our pictures will stay
with us a long time.



Day 2

The decision was unanimous
to walk, blind leading blind
to Wineberry City. It was
as if we were flung into
Wineberry Heaven where
we discovered some campers
will do anything for a
wineberry.



Day 3

A delightful River
Hike ended a BIG
day at camp.
Projects are progressing
and yield fun discoveries
Saxophone music ended
a quiet time.
Big Beetle returned,
and Ants disappeared.



Day 4

Clouds in the sky did
not cloud our happy
day. It was a day
filled with favorites and
our story of the day
continues.



Day 5

Wisdom is left to the hand
of the observer at Camp.
Our ears hear Quiet Time
and woodland pied pipers.
Our mouths taste tart
wineberries and cool mountain
water.
Our noses catch the scent of
wild flowers and friends.
Our eyes glimpse treasures
and jugglers.
And we feel sad about the
last day of camp, but we
never say goodbye. It will
always be in our hearts.



Session 3: July 4-8

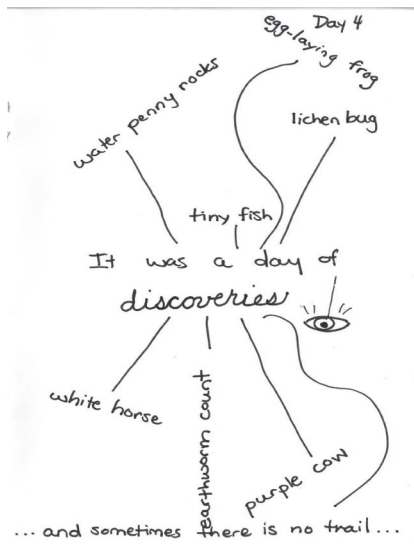
Story of the Day: Session 4

Day 1: On this day of firsts, old friends met up and new ones jumped right in. We "read" the stories told by tracks and we are ready for camp.

Day 2: The river at camp calls us to explore its banks, its creatures, and sounds. The dam we've built has harnessed a space for us to net and swim with its critters. Quiet time along its banks gives us refuge to enjoy its joyful music along the Singing Creek.

Day 3: On River Hike Day things took shape as we worked on projects and did our usual things a bit differently.

Day 4:



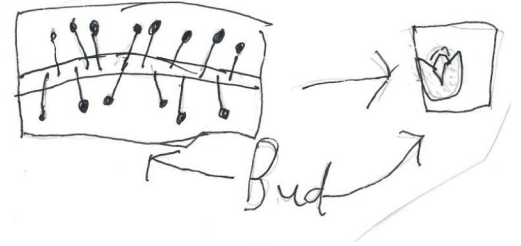
Day 5: A lot of things are learned at Camp, but not just physical. Also Magical. And on the last day we find the opportunities to look back and to look forward.



POEMS BY GUS by Gus Garcia

Session 1

River rocks.
Crawdads,
Smooth glass.



Session 2

Sweet thistle and bitter gnats
Gentle weather and
Story time chats



Berry
segment
-Anna

Session 3

I want to go slow
As low as roots.
To feel as real
As the water that fills my boots.

Session 4

The forest never asks a thing from me
Yet, I'm always wanting more to see.
What I'm seeking, I do not know
But I've never felt more true than I do now.
So that oughta be enough for me.



-Ellie

Different:

- Some have different stalk colors
- The scents are

different depending on the types

Same:

- They all have opposite leaves
- They all will grow bigger when cut above a node
- They all are very fragrant
- All flowers are in a spire
- All are great for bees

Fun Fact:

The first basil came from southern Europe

FUN GUYS

TALK
ABOUT



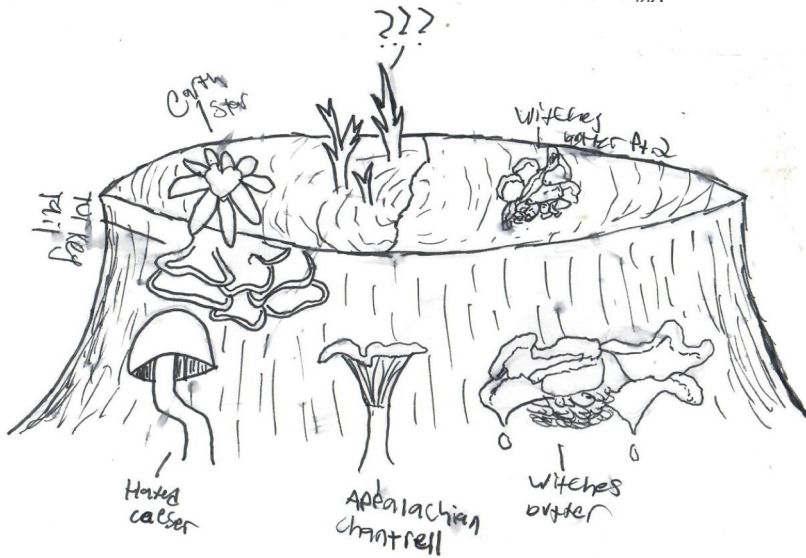
FUNGIS

By: Declan for P. 21.1

THAT ROCKS

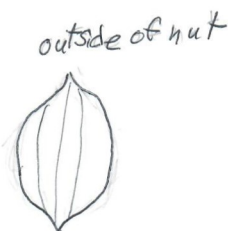
Life on a single booter

-Isaac



Hickory nut

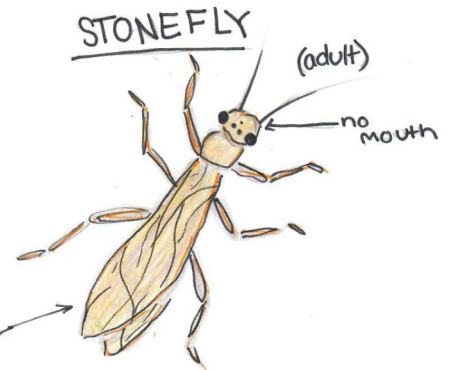
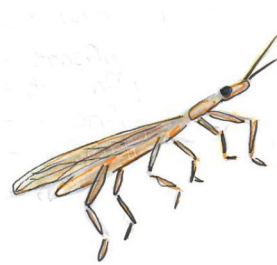
The hickory nut provides a hard outershell to protect the meat.



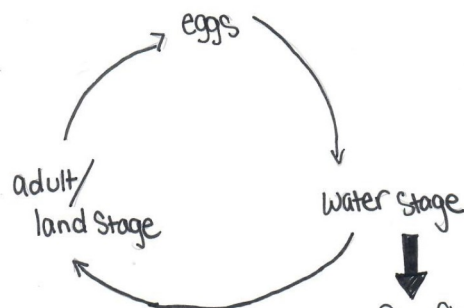
-Mac

WATER TO LAND

critters

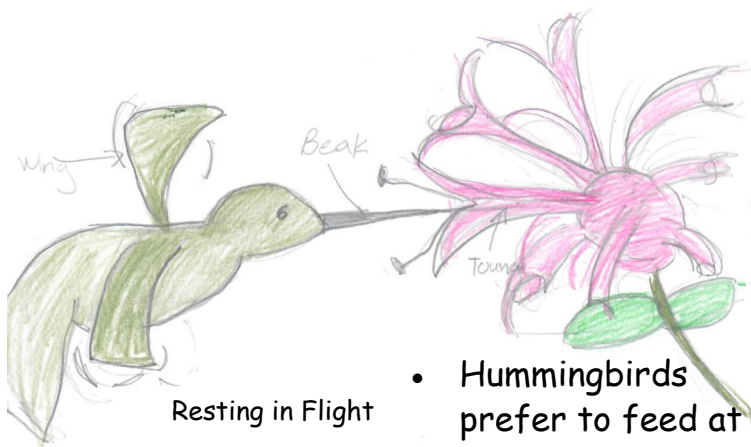


Life cycle

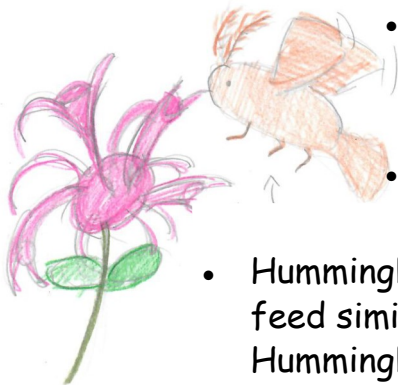


Marcel and Savannah

Stoneflies spend most of their life under water.



- Hummingbirds prefer to feed at red Monarda
- Hummingbirds pollinate the flower
- Each tube is its own flower



- Hummingbird Moths feed similarly to Hummingbirds

-Emily S.



Humming Birds love these flowers



(With reference from Stokes Beginner's Guide to Birds Eastern Region), Caka Stokes Field Guide to Birds Eastern Region.)

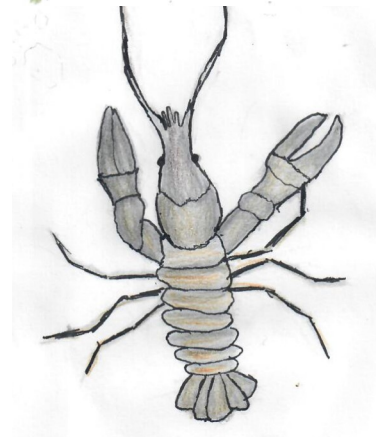


Humming Bird Moth

SNAKE by Eliza Cobb

Every footstep only makes me more aware of my pending mortality. A stupid fear, yes, but like a nagging alarm, I can't seem to find the button to send it away. As leaves crackle under my feet, I hear the noise, and automatically my head turns, searching for the cause. Alas, having sunken so deep in my fear, I have forgotten to enjoy what is around me.

Let there be snakes, for then I shall just enjoy their beauty too.



-Isaac P.



Leopard Moth



-Jay and Royce



The

A Project By Penelope Thomas

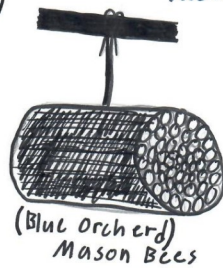
Bee Family Tree



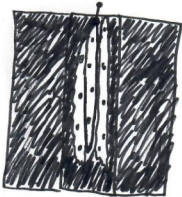
Bee Homes

Human-Made

Penelope Thomas

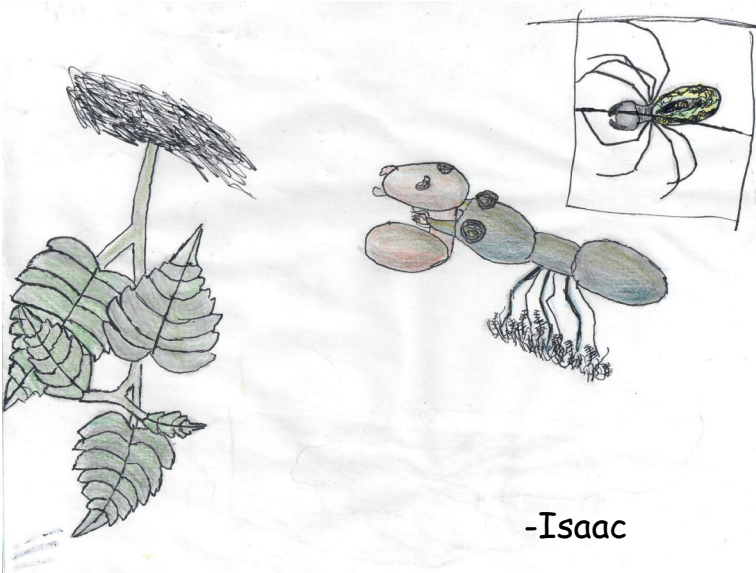


Bee-Made



Mud Dobber

Wasp



-Isaac

MASON BEE PREDATORS

Two insects that could be predators of the Blue Orchard Mason Bees are Steel-blue Cricket Hunter and Blue Mud Dauber. They are both aggressive and they prey on creatures that are smaller than themselves. We saw something flying around our bee hotel that was chasing the Mason Bees that live there. This predator may have been one of these insects.

Penelope Thomas

Mason Bees:
Active during Summer

Honey bees:

Social insects

Yellow Bumble bee:

Forage in open habitats

Mason

Flowers:
Bumble bees like the milkweed in the garden and Honey bees seem to like bright, colorful flowers

Bees are not social

But Honey bees and Yellow Bumble bees are.

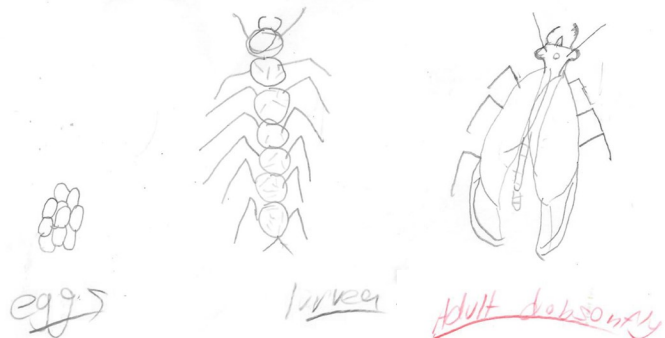
Mason Bees like to stuff mud into their (nests)



-Jake



-Liam and Harley



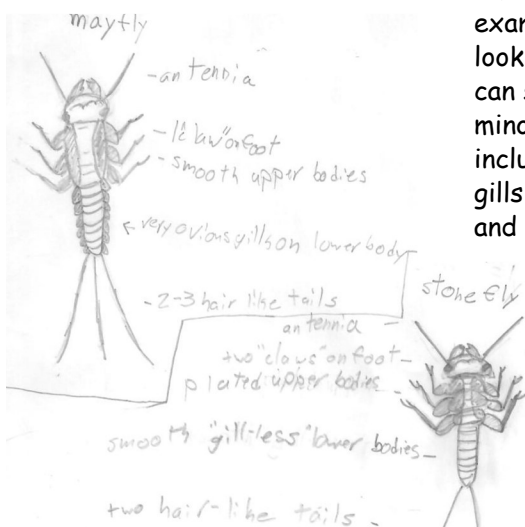
Mayfly larvae vs. Stonefly larvae

Introduction

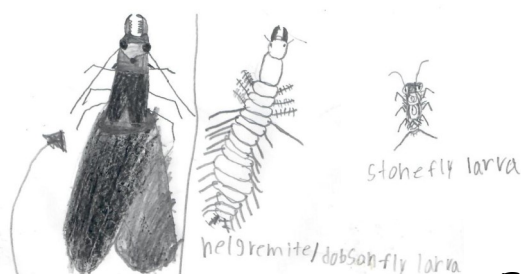
Mayfly and stonefly larvae are two of the most easily confused macroinvertebrates. However there are some minor differences.

Analysis

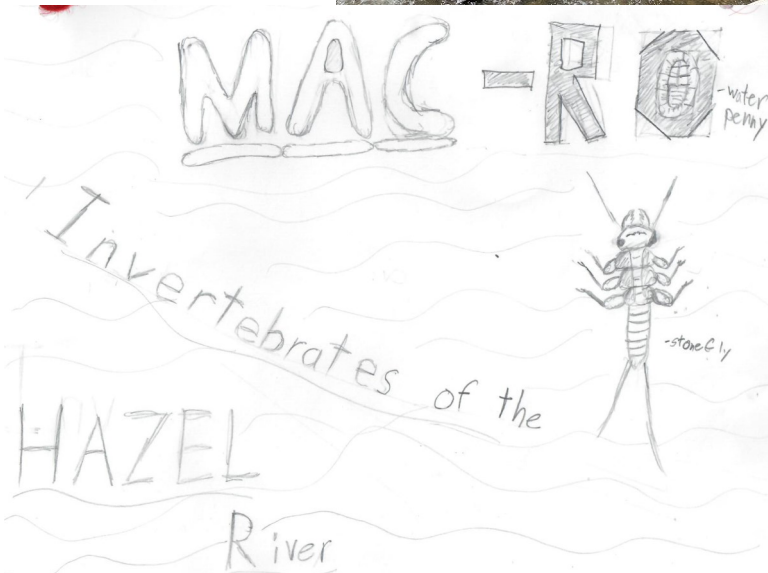
Although I was unable to identify the species of these macroinvertebrates, I found multiple examples of the same looking type. As you can see, there are minor differences including visibility of gills, number of tails, and upper bodies.



-Mac

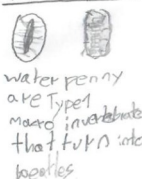


-Ethan

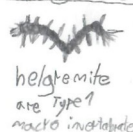


Identify different Macro Invertebrates

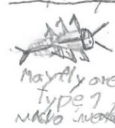
water penny



hellgramite



Mayfly



Stonefly



Type 1

Totally
nontolerant
to pollution

Type 2

tolerant to
small amounts
of pollution

Type 3

Tolerant to
any amount
of pollution

-Leo

TALES OF THE HAZEL RIVER

by Illy Shapiro

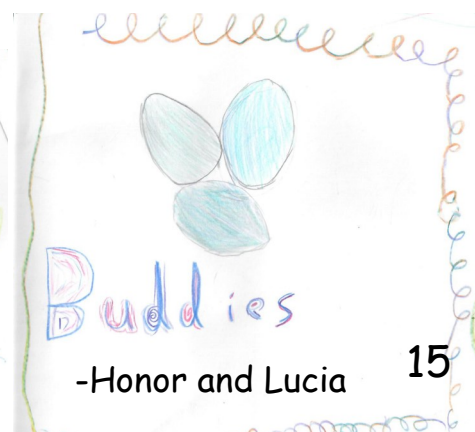
1. A MUSICAL CALL

In the great forests around Hazel River, many sounds can be heard. The chirping of birds, the rustling of leaves, and the river itself. But the most beautiful of all is said to be the musical call of an ancient wood spirit. His name is Lyt. He flutters through the forest, playing his recorder, and summons the creatures of the forest to him. It is said that he uses his music not only for this, but to bring young wood spirits to his home in the ancient forest, to educate them in the ways of their kind, and how they must always care for the forest and its creatures. If you are quiet enough, and listen closely, you can hear his music from the other side of the forest. His music can be heard every day of the year, and is said to silence all human sounds from the forest when it plays. Lyt will continue to play for many more years, until he takes his place as a tree, with his fellow wood spirits surrounding him even in his final form. For the wood spirits of the Hazel River forests do not die. When they grow old, their spirits go to rest as trees for many years. When Lyt is treed, the recorder will be passed on so that another may rise to take his place.



2. THE FOREST'S FLORA

In ancient times, when the forests around Hazel River were just beginning, there lived a girl named Rachel. Rachel was a kind, odd girl. She was the daughter of a human and a tree. She ran through her forest with the deer and other wildlife. She had the ability to make things grow fast—she could use photosynthesis. As a child, she wandered in the land that would one day be the forests around Hazel River, growing trees from seed in a few minutes, and adding beautiful flowers everywhere. When she grew tired, she would stop and rest, eat some sunlight, and then continue to work. Even now, though she has grown old, Rachel still helps the forest, and uses her ability in another way as well—she works as a gardener. Rachel will continue to use her abilities in any way she can to help, for as long as she can.



RAPPAHANNOCK NATURE CAMP 2023 at Singing Creek

Our 2023 theme for study: **"WONDER"**

SUMMER DAY CAMPS: For Campers ages 8-16. Campers may sign up for any or all sessions. Session 4 will include an evening camp experience, TBD. Recent campers will receive enrollment information early in 2023. Information will also be updated on our website, rappnaturecamp.org, by email, rappnaturecamp@gmail.com, or call Rachel at 540-252-6308 with questions. Some full and partial scholarships are available. **Recommend us to a friend!**

Session 1: June 12-16
Session 2: June 19-23
Session 3: June 26-30
Session 4: July 3-7

PERENNIAL CAMPERS: Rapp Nature Camp is glad once again to announce a series of nature education outings for adults—our "Perennial Campers!" Our first event will be at Singing Creek in early March, to be followed by other springtime excursions to interesting habitats in Rappahannock and surrounding counties. Stay tuned for our schedule of events, to be announced in the local news and at rappnaturecamp.org.

OUR MISSION: "To allow individuals, especially children, to discover for themselves the wonder and beauty of the natural world, and to understand what it means to be a part of a community of living things."



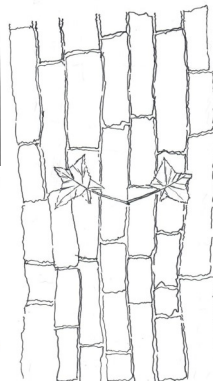
Rappahannock Nature Camp Fall Gathering! October 10 2022 Thank you PATH Foundation!

Our first ever Fall Gathering a great success! What a happy time it was, enjoying nature and food on a beautiful Fall day with so many of our campers and their families, our neighbors, and Friends of Rapp Nature Camp!

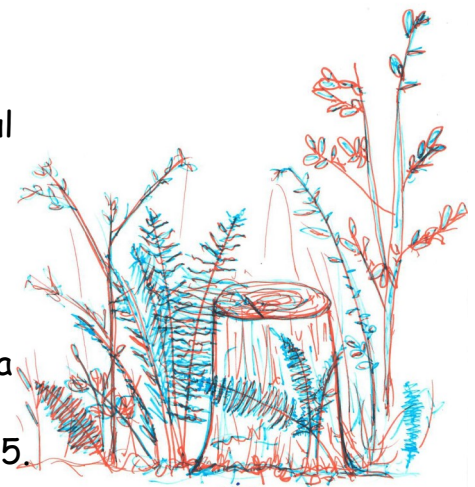
We would like to have another Camp Community Gathering for Springtime, a potluck this time, tentatively planned for the afternoon of Saturday, April 15.



Rachel



-Nina



NICK PLAKSIN