



August 2018
Written by M. Cavenaile

TEACH TABLET

August has a bit of a reputation, and not a very good one. It's known as the **dog days** of summer. The unbearable heat and humidity accompanied by the droning sound of children's boredom. I wondered how August earned that name, so I did a quick search. Sirius, the Dog Star, rises before dawn. The Dog Star is a part of the Canis Major Constellation also called the Greater Dog. The ancient Romans thought it radiated extra heat toward Earth, since it rises and sets with the sun, causing hotter summer temperatures. We know that isn't the case. It's just hot because it's summertime in the Midwest!

Heat and humidity mixed with the droning sound of cicadas can make someone start wishing for autumn to come around. I encourage you not to give in! There is much summer left to enjoy and exciting things to be on the watch for.

Keep an eye out for butterfly eggs and caterpillars on host plants. Your garden and local forest preserves are loaded with creatures in all lifecycle stages. On the hotter days, make a trip to the library and look at books about caterpillars, butterflies and moths. Learn some of the vocabulary and then on a cooler day, go find a meadow and try to find caterpillars and butterflies. See how many different species you can find? If you see some butterflies land on flowers you can play a fun game of resting, drinking or laying. Make a prediction about what you think the butterfly will do when it gets to the next flower. Will it take a rest and pump its wings, use its proboscis to drink nectar or use its special butterfly glue to lay eggs onto host plants? Like Rock, Paper, Scissors, but with a twist.

Today, while hiking, we saw seven different butterflies: Silver-spotted skipper, Pipevine Swallowtail, Cabbage White, Cloudless Sulfur, Monarch, and Giant Swallowtail. Tons of flowers are in bloom and the birdwatching is still fantastic. I hope you find a way to enjoy the dog days of summer. If in doubt, supplement nature with ice cream or sorbet.

WATERWAYS...A NEW & COOL POINT OF VIEW

At TEACH Outdoors, we want to get kids into nature. Some kids love fishing, some love bugs, and others just require more *adventure*. I have to say that kayaking and canoeing was a part of my childhood, but always at a camp. We canoed and paddle boated in a lake with life jackets and life guards on duty nearby. The truth is we could have stood up in the lake and walked to shore. At a different camp, I took kayak trips on the Wisconsin River and enjoyed the sandy and shallow bottom that offered reassurance to a novice. See, I grew up near the Kankakee River and my mom talked about it like people died there regularly. While there were accidents at the dam in Wilmington, other fatalities happened occasionally after heavy rains.

Continued on page 2.



Do you know your butterflies?



Answers on the back page. No peeking!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

July Events recap.....	2
Pretty Pollinators.....	2
Water Sports cont'd.....	3
"Teachable Moments".....	4
Calendar of Events.....	5
TEACH Snapshots.....	6

THIS EDITION IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE WILL COUNTY FARM BUREAU

We thank the Will County Farm Bureau for their continued support of TEACH Outdoors. Come out and say "thank you" at the Will County Fair August 22-26th. See the new TEACH Outdoors trailer featuring the Will County Farm Bureau's logo.

To learn more about how farming is a part of your daily life, visit them at
100 Manhattan Road
Joliet, IL 60433
(815) 727-4811

Or on the web at www.willcfb.com

JULY'S HIGHLIGHTS: LEARNING TO HUNT YOUR INTENDED SPECIES & FISHING DERBY



WHAT STEPS TO TAKE IF YOU WANT TO START HUNTING:

If you don't already have it, you will need to **complete your Hunters Safety Certification**. This is a two day class that is taught by instructors certified through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Proof of this class is required to purchase hunting licenses. Jim Smith and Bob Wilkins are certified instructors and TEACH Outdoors offers Hunters Safety courses throughout the year. The classes are FREE but fill up fast. Secondly, you need to **engage in target practice**. If you are new to shooting, you can set up a practice time with Bob or Smitty, usually after the second day of class. It's helpful to apply your knowledge while it's still fresh. Next, you need to **learn to hunt your intended species**. You will need to become a student of nature and learn where to find your target and what its habits are to be able to bag it and tag it. Lastly, it's helpful to **have a guide** for your first hunt. Smitty has taken kids out for their first waterfowl hunts, sharing his time tested secrets for success.

On Sunday, July 22nd at Aurora Sportsman Club in Waterman, IL, TEACH Outdoors hosted a **Learn to Hunt Your Intended Species** seminar. The purpose of this class is to take someone who had completed their Hunters Safety requirement to the next step in preparing to hunt upland game, waterfowl, and large game. Bob Wilkins worked with Nancy Donaldson, the liaison from Aurora Sportsman Club, to form this seminar to educate new and future hunters. Bob began with scat, tracks and other species identification help. The kids were able to walk through the meadows and try to find evidence.

"Part of a successful hunt means seeing whatever species you are trying to hunt and having the skill to make the shot when the opportunity arises," said Bob Wilkins. The seminar participants were introduced to calling (talking to the turkey, duck, geese, deer, and so on) to get them to come closer, using layout patterns and choosing hunting blind locations that invite your intended target to come within range. Bob taught archery, Nancy taught turkey hunting, Brian Malone, Bob and Smitty taught hunting waterfowl from the field, beginning with ground blind shooting safety and practicing with live rounds. This was the first event of this kind hosted by TEACH Outdoors, but it will not be the last. These classes will be offered as a follow up to Hunters Safety classes throughout 2019, with the cooperation of local sportsman clubs and generous donations to keep our events accessible to as many participants as possible.

"Haley North came out and shot a shotgun for the first time. She is wanting to hunt upland game for the first time and is now on her way to being able to do that," said Bob. That

was the goal of this seminar. Look for more seminars in this series including Waterfowl Hunting from Water in 2019.

On Saturday, July 28th, 2018 T.E.A.C.H. Outdoors hosted its second **Fishing Derby** at Woodsmoke Ranch in Seneca, IL. With 30 participants ranging in age from 2 to 16, it was a busy morning around the pond. A total of 52 fish were caught and released. The biggest fish was caught by Cooper Morerod, age 6. He caught an 11.5 inch bullhead. Most fish caught went to Jacob Lanagan, age 10. He caught 10 fish, all bluegill and his biggest fish was just a quarter inch shy of the biggest fish caught.

The Sportsmanship Award went to Jonah Pierce, age 7, who helped his brother Jax reel in his fish and land his catch. We also had a special birthday boy, Carson Balluzzi, choose to spend his morning fishing with TEACH Outdoors. He caught his first fish and we presented him with a fishing pole and tackle box after we sang "Happy Birthday" to him. He turned 2 years old and was our youngest participant of the day.

It was a beautiful day for fishing. After our hamburger lunch and awards ceremony, families were welcome to continue fishing. We thank the families who spent their Saturday morning with us and our volunteers for helping TEACH Outdoors create fun outdoor memories.



HAPPY 101ST ANNIVERSARY WILL COUNTY FARM BUREAU!

If you don't yet know your local farm bureau, then you should! Will County Farm Bureau is a membership organization for farmers and non-farmers alike. Their main goal is to improve the natural environment and productivity of the farmers' land and to educate the non-farming community on the benefits of modern agriculture. Like TEACH Outdoors, the WCFB believes education is key to helping people understand their connection to nature. If you eat food, wear clothes or use fuel, then you should thank a farmer. Check out their calendar or events and when you see them, be sure to thank them for sponsoring TEACH Outdoors.

WATER...A COOL NEW VIEW CONTINUED

I finally decided that we needed a change of scenery while camping in Door County, Wisconsin. That's right. The county named by the French, "The Door of Death." It was on these waters that I decided my children were ready for a kayaking adventure! I'm kidding. The channel that earned that name by consuming ships and entombing them is further to the north. We were going to be in the safer waters of Green Bay, and close to shore. While that helped me feel better about where we would be kayaking, I still wasn't sure I was thinking clearly. When I saw the schedule from the White Cedar Nature Center included a naturalist guided kayak tour (intended for families with children), I knew this was the opportunity I had been hoping for! With other novice families, we departed the shores of Peninsula State Park's swimming beach, Nicolet Bay. With Mr. Andrew as our leader and his tri-athlete friend as a tail, I knew we would be safe and stay together as a group.

We learned about the rocky substrate that makes the fishing so fantastic, including all the geographical features of the ancient sea that makes the Niagara Escarpments the backbone of the Door Peninsula (that also reaches all the way to Niagara Falls in Canada).

We were rewarded with views that we had never been able to appreciate before. We also learned about invasive species causing problems for Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes. But most impressive was the overall view of the bluff that we normally take in from the two mile narrow trail that descends and ascends Eagle Bluff. The eagles showed up on cue. We had a great time. My husband paddled with the 2 girls and I paddled with our middle school son.

If you have been hesitant to take the plunge into kayaking, there are some easy ways to get your feet wet before investing money in equipment. First, there are local and guided kayak events intended to introduce beginners to kayaking and canoeing. "Kayak Kollege" is available through the Forest Preserve District of Will County. They have beginner and intermediate levels. They also offer naturalist guided kayaking for bird watching at various times throughout the year. Visit www.reconnectwithnature.org to register and learn more.

Retailers like LL Bean and REI offer kayak classes also. LL Bean has many date options for the classes they offer in Elk Grove Village. Kankakee State Park and Starved Rock State Park have local companies that handle rentals. I encourage you to give paddling a try. It's another way to partake in the natural beauty around us.

Fun facts of first time kayaking: 1. Your butt will get wet, so dress for it. 2. Your feet will get wet, so wear water shoes or be prepared to leave your shoes on shore. 3. Bring water. You are doing a paddling workout. 4. Bring a floatie for your phone. Even if it's in a bag or waterproof case, it will sink to the bottom if you drop it. It's worth having a camera along! 5. Sunscreen up! Even on a cloudy day, the sun is reflecting off the water. Prominent hair parts will burn.



TEACH + U = :D

At every event, we need volunteers to help to help with:

- Set up
- Registration
- Photography
- Serving lunch
- Activities—all kinds!
- Clean up/Pack up

If you are able to help a little or a lot, we'd love to hear from you. Reach us by e-mail, message, text, Facebook or smoke signals and let us know!



TEACHABLE MOMENTS: FLUTTER BY BUTTERFLY!

HOST PLANT VS ATTRACTING PLANTS

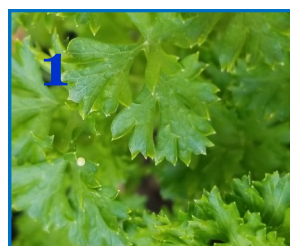
If you want to attract butterflies and hummingbird to your yard, then you need to include flowers or shrubs that have the butterfly and/or hummingbird symbol on the tag. Examples of some successful **butterfly magnets** are:

- Butterfly bush
- Penstemon
- Weigela
- Monarda
- Coreopsis
- Fox glove

If you want butterflies to come to your yard and lay eggs, then you need to have **host plants** in your yard. A host plant is the plant that butterflies lay their eggs on. The host plant will vary by butterfly. For example, the host plant of the Monarch is milkweed and Black Swallowtail is the parsnip family.

It all started because I wanted to cook with fresh herbs and turned into an obsession. We came home from vacation to find large caterpillars on the curly parsley I had potted in late May. My son was full of questions. I remember putting a bottle cap with water in it into the bug box because I had no idea if caterpillars drank water or not. I had to use the Internet to identify them. It was a 3 year old's dream come true: fat caterpillars that ate & pooped, a lot. We watched carefully, pretty much taking the bug habitat with us about our day. We watched a caterpillar form its chrysalis right before our eyes. Over the course of June and July, we watched carefully as the lifecycle played out again and again. I took detailed notes and marked the calendar so that I would be able to know the signs and the timing of the upcoming stage. We invited friends over on hatch day to help us release butterflies because we could tell the signs indicating a butterfly was about to emerge. Our best tool was observation driven by natural curiosity. Every child should witness this and it's pretty rewarding for adults too.

If you want to watch the process up close, you'll have to visit a Nature Center or know where to look in a sunny meadow. Since fall is approaching, your best bet may be with ornamental cabbage. Cabbage whites are the most common butterfly and often the last to disappear in fall. Keep looking for those tiny eggs and little holes in leaves. For help or questions, join our TEACH Outdoors Facebook page. I'd love to see your caterpillar & butterfly photos. Check out the TEACH Calendar on our website for Butterfly Workshops in 2019.



Lifecycle of a Butterfly

1. Egg
2. Caterpillar
3. Chrysalis
4. Butterfly

Moth lifecycle is similar except we call stages 3 and 4 cocoon & moth.

UPCOMING EVENTS—SUMMER 2018

August 4th 11 am—4 pm— First Baptist Church of Morris Neighborhood Fest. Free Community Event. TONS of activities, food & fun. Bat box building and archery from TEACH Outdoors.

August 11-12th 8 am—3 pm- IDNR Hunters Safety Class at The Center in Custer Park, IL. Free. Registration required.

August 19th X-Line Shotgun Club in Kankakee, IL TEACH Outdoors Youth Team Shooting Competition. Spectators welcome. Competition begins at noon. Cheer on Orange Crush!

August 22nd-26th Will County Fair in Peotone, IL. Visit our tent to purchase raffle tickets a whole house generator by Generac, a Henry Long gun and a cool 6-shooter. Visit our website for details and for info on purchasing tickets now!

September 9th-TEACH Outdoors Youth Shooting Sports Basic Archery Class at Woodsmoke Ranch, Seneca, 10 am—2 pm Register by 9/1 with AmandaRingness@TEACHOutdoors.org

September 29th— Crackerbox car Derby at Grundy County Corn Festival 7:30 am—noon.

September 30th— Grundy County Corn Festival Parade. Downtown Morris. Noon—4 pm. If you or your child would like to be a part of the TEACH Outdoors float, contact us!

For the most up to date event list, visit us online! If you were interested in an event, but were unable to attend, we'd like to know. It will help us plan next year's activities & calendar.



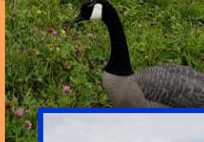
There are many ways to contact us. We are online at www.TEACHOutdoors.org, Facebook, Instagram, or you could email us at MelissaCavenaile@TEACHOutdoors.org.



August 22-26, 2018



T.E.A.C.H. SNAPSHOTS...more pictures online at www.TeachOutdoors.org, Facebook page & Instagram.



Woodsmoke Fishing Derby & Learn to Hunt Your Intended Target memories.

Thanks to all our volunteers!

Giant swallowtail butterfly, cloudless sulphur, pipevine swallowtail