

Kids Korner

Reptile Week Comes To Nixon Park

YORK (York Co.) — Reptiles—slithering snakes, lazy lizards, gallopin' gators, terrestrial turtles—and their kin will be the focus of a week-long special effort at nature education at Nixon County Park in June.

From June 20 through June 27, the Nixon Park Nature Center will focus on herpetology, the study of reptiles and their importance in the natural world.

All aspects of the nature Center are included in this celebration of herps. Visitors can look at live specimens, including the Nature Center's own snakes; a female black snake named Racer, a copperhead, and a milk snake. Even the gift shop will get in on the celebration, with special herp-related items.

Two special youth programs will focus on herpetology during the week:

- On June 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Nature Center will celebrate Kids and Reptiles Day. During this special children's program, kids ages 8 to 14 will be introduced to live specimens of various reptiles, get a chance to go on a reptile "search", and learn more about the natural history of reptiles. Pre-registration is required, and there is a

cost of \$10 per child.

- Snakes are the special focus of a two-session Fox Story Time on June 24. During this presentation, children ages 4 to 7 and their parents can listen to a story and share a craft session while receiving a "hands-on" introduction to a very friendly corn snake. Two sessions are planned, one from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., another from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Pre-registration is also required for this event and there is a \$5 fee.

In addition to the special programs, Reptile Week will feature many other activities, including live specimens of various reptiles. The Nature Center staff will also be available to answer "herp"-related questions and give hands-on demonstrations.

The object is to share with visitors a gentle, informative introduction to these special animals.

Please note that no park visitors are not permitted to bring their pets—including reptiles—to the park.

For more information on the special activities during Reptile Week, or to pre-register, call the Nature Center, at (717) 428-1961.

Get Wet! Aquatics At Nixon Park

YORK (York Co.) — Exploring a creek on a hot summer day is something only kid can do, right?

Not if you happen to be at Nixon County Park Nature Center's aquatic life workshop on Sunday, June 14. Getting wet and having fun whether it's in the creek or vicariously from the banks is encouraged at this event focused on discovering aquatic life.

Aquatic life is the plants, animals, insects and other organisms that live in watery environments, creatures like mayflies, stoneflies and caddis flies; crayfish; water striders; tadpoles; fish; even muskrats and mink.

Taking a closer look at these forms of life is what the workshop is all about.

"Pretty neat", is how naturalist Jocelyn Ellis describes the activities the public can enjoy at the workshop.

Ellis said those participating in the workshop will have an opportunity to wade through the

stream that flows through Nixon County Park (a tributary of the South Branch of Codorus Creek) turn over rocks, and use a dip net to collect aquatic life just like being a kid and exploring again. Hip boots or old shoes no bare feet are the attire of the day.

One of the more unusual things about the workshop is the opportunity to see the steam from a different perspective, Ellis said. She said you can sense the forces of nature at work walking down the stream bed in ways you wouldn't see from along the trail. For example, you can feel the power of the creek flowing over rocks and creating ripples, witness the power of water eroding the stream's banks.

The workshop is not appropriate for children under age five. All other children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information on the workshop contact Nixon County Park at (717) 428-1961.

Understanding The Story In Dirt

YORK (York Co.) — All things leave a trail behind them as they move through the world.

For example, rushing to go to work in the morning, you might leave behind an empty cereal bowl in the kitchen sink, water droplets on the shower rug, dirty clothing in the hamper and footprints across the freshly-swept carpet in the living room.

A robin walking across a dew-laden early-morning lawn or a deer moving through a forest leaves behind similar marks of its passage, tracks, often called "sign".

Learning how to find and then understand sign is what tracking is all about. And that's

what local naturalist Greg Stough will share with people on June 28, from 2:30 to 4:40 p.m. at a seminar on tracking at Nixon County Park's Nature Center.

Stough, a student of master tracker Tom Brown, will walk students through a hands-on indoor and outdoor presentation of tracking basics; recognizing local animal tracks, all-season tracks, understanding compressions (indistinct tracts), interpreting strides.

"People who are interested in learning more information about what they are seeing outdoors are usually the people who come to my classes," Stough

said. "Most are into doing outdoor things."

The tracking seminar is a great opportunity for outdoor people, hikers, hunters and nature enthusiasts who want to get more from the adventures afield, Stough said.

The seminar will include hands-on experiences, following tracks off the trails. Those interested in attending should dress accordingly, be prepared to go through the woods, streams, anywhere the trail goes.

Pre-registration is required for this special event. For more information call the Nixon County Park Nature Center at (717) 428-1961.



American Girls Fashion Show models, from left, Carl Beth Shappell as Addy, Jakaisha Mercado as Josefina, Meghan Gibson as Kirsten and Jennifer Lelby as Molly.

American Girl Fashion Show

ANNVILLE (Lebanon Co.) — A little history, a little fashion, and a lot of fun! The Junior Woman's Club of Lebanon will host The American Girls Fashion Show and Tea on Friday, June 19 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 20 at 10:00 am, 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at Lebanon Valley College, Annville. The event will feature historically inspired clothes from the six characters in The American Girls Collection. Proceeds from the show will benefit the Lebanon YMCA Child Care Programs.

The American Girls Fashion Show gives young girls and their mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and friends an entertaining and educational look at how American fashion just like American girlhood has changed over the past 225 years. A special feature is the introduction of clothing from the newest American girl — Josefina Montoya, a nine year old Hispanic girl growing up in northern New Mexico in 1824. Participants will see firsthand the rich traditions and colorful flavor woven into the clothing worn by Josefina and inspired by Spanish and Mexican influences in the early 1800's.

The feature fashions are based on outfits worn by the popular characters from The American Girls Collection; Felicity Merriman, colonial American; Josefina Montoya, 19th century New Mexico, Kristen Larson, pioneer American; Addy Walker, the Civil War; Samantha Parkington, turn-of-the-century American; and Molly McIntire, the American home front during World War II. The American girls Collection is a line of books, dolls, and related accessories designed to bring American history alive for girls seven and up.

In addition, AG Gear, Pleasant Company's versatile, contemporary clothing that expresses today's American girls individuality will also be modeled.

Eighteen models from the Lebanon area as well as Hershey and Harrisburg will present the assorted fashions while local TV personalities, Debra Pinkerton, Tanya Alan, and Alicia Richards, WHTM-TV 27 and Cara Giambrone, WLYH-TV 15 and 21, provide lively narration of the clothing and customs of each historical period.

Guests are encouraged to bring their favorite doll to tea.

Raffle tickets are being sold to win dolls from The American Girls Collection, including the newest doll, Josefina, or a doll from Pleasant Company's new American Girl of Today Collection. Raffle tickets are also being sold to win a beautiful commissioned Pennsylvania Dutch, quilted folded diamond pattern wall hanging with the American Girls Logo. Guests will also be eligible to win a doll from The American Girls Collection as well as other door prizes at each show.

In March 1997, the Junior Woman's Club of Lebanon hosted its second American Girls Fashion Show which benefited the Lebanon County Children and Youth Agency. A total of 1,300 parents, grandparents and friends enjoyed the show and raised \$15,800 to refurbish the Kids Center for Lebanon County Children and Youth.

The cost per person is \$22, which includes the fashion show, punch and cookies, and party favors. To order tickets call (717) 228-3410 or send check to AGFS/Junior Woman's Club of Lebanon, P.O. Box 144, Quentin, PA 17083 with your choice of date and time.

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