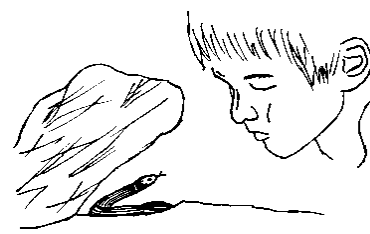




Rock Eagle 4-H Center
Environmental Education Program



Under The Rock

From Donna's Desk

Happy Fall Season!

Hope your school year is going well. This season we are attempting two "Under The Rock" newsletters. The aim of this edition is to share activities that enhance a Rock Eagle field study. As instructors, we see an appreciable difference in students that have studied vocabulary words or basic concepts before they arrive at Rock Eagle. These kids are more excited and on task than students that have no pre-trip instruction. If your school year does not include Rock Eagle these activities are still a great way to spice up your lesson plans. Better yet, call and come join us this year!

This season's staff is great. We have a nice mix of returning folks and new staff with fresh ideas to share. Matt Hammons, our ropes coordinator, has moved on to pursue an advanced degree and we miss his sense of humor and dedication. On a positive note, Ben Salser joined us as the new ropes coordinator. Ben comes in with lots of experience and some great new plans for the program.

Please give us a call at (706) 484-2862 or 2834 if we can help you plan your program. We look forward to working with you and your students.

Some new things await you this year. The Woodruff Aquatic Building is on-line with some great aquariums to view. Our Wildlife building looks terrific, with new murals and animal enclosures being completed at this time. Orienteering has some new activities and we are working on a watershed class that will be active and hands-on.

Donna Stewart
Program Coordinator
Rock Eagle



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Meet Our Staff

Donna Stewart, Environmental Education
Coordinator

*M.Ed. Adult Education, University of Georgia
Eatonton, Georgia*

Kelly Jo Scott, Environmental Education
Assistant Coordinator

*B.S. Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho
Green Bay, Wisconsin*

Becky Collins, Discovery Coordinator

*B.S. Wildlife Ecology and Conservation,
University of Florida
Winter Springs, Florida*

Grant Crumbaugh, Project Coordinator

*Associate Degree Outdoor Recreation and
Leisure, Vincennes University
Templeton, Indiana*

Ben Salser, Ropes Coordinator

*B.S. Education, University of Memphis
Nashville, Tennessee*

Tamara Arrington, Instructor

*B.S. Tourism & Commercial Recreation, Georgia
Southern University
Richmond Hill, Georgia*

Tara Beardsley, Instructor

*B.A. Environmental Science, Queens College
New Hyde Park, New York*

Christophe Colebrook, Instructor

*B.S. Environmental Education, SUNY Cortland
Syracuse, New York*

Lizzie Cox, Instructor

*B.A. English, University of Wales, Aberystwyth
Bath, United Kingdom*

Andrea Davidson, Instructor

*B.S. Outdoor Recreation, Georgia Southern
University
Athens, Georgia*

Christopher Edmonds, Instructor

*Associate of Science, Portland Community
College
Forest Grove, Oregon*

Rick Espelage, Instructor

*B.A. Visual Arts, Mt. St. Joseph College
Eatonton, Georgia*

Lisa Flournoy, Instructor

*B. S. Biology, Piedmont College
Tifton, Georgia*

Helene Gould, Instructor

*B.A. Geology, Queens College
New York City, New York*

Lester Hatfield, Instructor

*B.S. Hotel and Restaurant Management,
Georgia Southern University
Warner Robins, Georgia*

Jennifer Helms, Instructor

*B.A. Biology, Indiana University
Indianapolis, Indiana*

Ginny Lipscomb, Instructor

*B.S. Wildlife, University of Georgia
Cumming, Georgia*

Geoffrey McCann, Instructor

*B. S. Biology & Psychology, University of
Georgia
Marietta, Georgia*

Chad Strum, Instructor

*A.A. of Environmental Sciences, Indiana
University
Indianapolis, Indiana*

Maggie VanCantfort, Instructor

*B.S. Psychology, University of Georgia
Demorest, Georgia*



Gettin' Ready for Snakes and Birds!

By Becky Collins

Gearing up to come to Rock Eagle 4-H Center for your fall or spring field study? Here are a few great ideas you can do with your students to get them prepared for the learning experiences that await them here in our outdoor learning center.

One of the most popular classes at Rock Eagle is our Herpetology class. During this class students will get an up close look at the native reptiles and amphibians of Georgia. American alligators, common snapping turtles, Tiger salamanders and snakes are some of the interesting animals your class will have the opportunity to learn about. The snakes are definitely a favorite in this class from our small western hognose (Susie) with a turned up snout, to our largest Gray ratsnake (Ellie) who is 6 ½ feet long.

Snakes are amazing creatures and have many adaptations for survival. Many people are interested in the way snakes move since they have no legs. Humans have 32 vertebrae in our back and neck. These vertebrae (our backbone) help hold us up straight, but at the same time are flexible and allow us to move from side to side and front to back. Allow a minute for your students to experiment with the way their backbone moves. Snakes also have a backbone, but if you were able to look inside, their vertebrae are much smaller and more plentiful than what a human has. Depending on the species, snakes can have up to 500 vertebrae making up their backbone. The smaller vertebrae allow snakes to be extremely flexible in their movements. Here is a quick activity that you can do with your students to get them ready to learn about snakes.

Provide students with a random assortment of different sized beads. Also provide string or rope that the beads can be strung upon. Group students together and have one student string the large beads onto the string to make a bead chain. Have the other student string the small beads on the string to

make a bead chain. Have the students experiment with the different bead chains to see which one is more flexible. Discuss what they find. Does this explain why a snake's backbone is more flexible than humans?

Ornithology is another great class that allows students to see birds in a natural setting. Our newly constructed bird blind allows the children to sit and watch under cover as birds come feed at our multiple bird feeding stations. To get your students familiar with common backyard birds, create a bird haven right outside your classroom. You don't have to spend lots of money on fancy feeders to do this. Many different types of feeders can be made with recycled products you have around your house. One of my favorite designs is one where you take an orange juice container cut feeding holes in opposite sides then add a dowel or stick for a perch. You can also use non-toxic paint or crayons to decorate it. Another easy feeder is smearing a pinecone with peanut butter and then rolling it in birdseed. Both feeders can be hung at various locations around your schoolyard and you will be surprised what feathered friends will visit. For more information about easy bird feeder designs check out www.familyfun.com. Have your student's imaginations run wild and with a little creativity the possibilities are endless.

After you hang your creations you can have your students check the feeders for activity. Have them keep a log of the birds they see visiting the feeders and help them learn to identify them by looking at coloration, beak shape and behavior.

If you want more activities to do with your students look to our Teacher's Guide (pg 45). For each class we have created a vocabulary list and great activities that you can do with your students before (or after) coming to Rock Eagle. Hope to see you soon!

*The snake bead vertebrae activity was taken from the Native Seasons Curriculum from the Georgia Conservancy. For more information about the Native Seasons curriculum, contact Karen Garland from the state office of the Georgia Conservancy at (404) 876-2900.



Canoe Word Scramble

By Ben Salser

Test your knowledge about the canoe and its parts! Answers on page 6.

1. The broad flat part of the paddle is called the D L A B E.
2. The main frame or body of the boat is called the L U L H.
3. The round bar of the paddle, which supports the blade, allowing for power and proper rotation is called the F A H S T.
4. A jacket worn to keep a person afloat in the water is called a D P F.
5. The structure supporting bars between the gunwales is called the T W R H A T.
6. The left-hand side of the boat is referred to as the T P O R side.
7. The right-hand side of the boat is referred to as the B R S T O R A A D side.
8. The rear part of the boat is called the N S E R T.
9. The forward part of the boat is called the O B W.
10. The upper edge of a canoe's side is called the L W E N A G U.

Ways to Use Your Noodle!

By Ben Salser

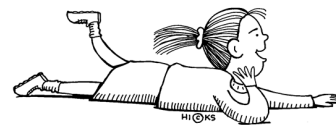
Begin building cooperation in your classroom by implementing some of these quick and easy initiatives. Either of these activities could be done in pairs or as a whole class.

Chain of Trust: Here is a one-on-one contest that's highly cooperative. You can't get it alone, but you can get it together. Stand facing your partner at arms' length. Now feel the energy you are creating together. Keeping your eyes closed, drop your hands and both turn around in place three times. Without opening your eyes, try to relocate your partner by touching palms again. This game can be done with two people or any number, forming a circle.

Stand-up: Start by sitting on the ground with your back to your partner and your knees bent. Link your elbows together and simply stand up! With a bit of cooperation and a little practice, this shouldn't be too hard. A gracefully

executed mass stand up (an number greater than five) is like a blossoming flower, but a more rare event!

These activities were adapted from The New Games Book edited by Andrew Fluegelman from pages 37 and 65.



New T-Shirt Design at Rock Eagle!

We are excited to announce a new t-shirt design for Rock Eagle. Get your t-shirt orders in early to make sure we have enough for your students! T-shirt order forms can be found on page 23 in last year's purple trip planner or on page 25 in this year's blue trip planner. Don't forget to fax us the form!

The Importance of Effigies

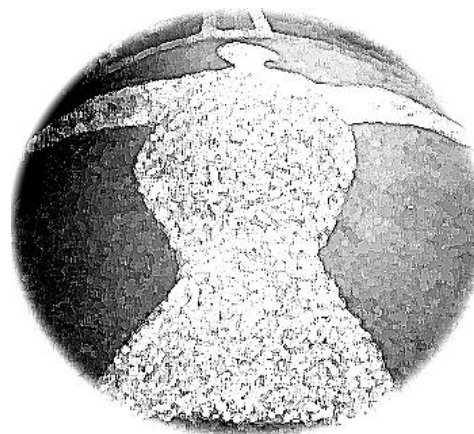
By Kelly Jo Scott

Why did Native Americans build effigies? Are all effigies large like the Rock Eagle? Do all effigies have to represent an animal? Are all effigies made by Native Americans? Are there any effigies from today?

Explore these questions and more by studying effigies with your students before visiting the Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Use the following activities to prepare your students for their trip to "the Eagle." Your students will understand what an effigy is and discover the many possible reasons for building effigies.

Before the activities, discuss how effigies are considered symbolic, possibly representing a person, a god, or a thing. Have your students research where other effigies are located in the United States or even in the world. As the students research, they may realize not much solid information may be available as to why the effigies were built. When archaeologists discover effigies, they have to use clues, such as the geologic location, the effigy's physical size, the position it was found, and artifacts found near the site, to understand the effigy. Unless there is a written account from the original builders explaining its purpose, no one truly knows the initial the reasons why effigies were built. For more information on our namesake, the Rock Eagle effigy, check out our website at www.rockeagle4h.org.

Once the students research other effigies, it is time for them to think long and hard for construction of their own personal effigy. The effigy could represent someone or something that is important to them. Any kind of material could be used for this project. This activity could also be implemented after your trip to 'the Eagle' where students can incorporate their experiences at the 4-H Center. If your entire school is coming, have each class construct their own monument representing their time at Rock Eagle. The effigy, along with a written explanation of the monument, can be displayed at your school.



Rock Eagle's namesake: the Rock Eagle is thought to be over 2000 years old built by the Woodland Native Americans!

Through these activities, your students will be able to understand the importance of effigies to the specific culture which built them. Don't forget to take other living history classes (i.e. Historic Archaeology, Native American Studies, or Pioneer Tools) to complement your study of history. Your students will dive into the wonderful mysteries of our local history by visiting the Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

Let Rock Eagle come to you this winter!

Outreach Programs

are available!

Turtles, alligators, snakes, and even live raptors can visit your school from November through January.



If you are 75 miles away, just call 706/484-2868 to book!

Visit a 4-H Center Near You!

Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island

For reservations and programming contact:
Angela Bliss at 912/786-5531 or
acbliss@uga.edu.

Jekyll Island 4-H Center

For reservations and programming contact:
Melanie Biersmith at 912/635-4117 or
melmel@uga.edu.

Wahsega 4-H Center

For reservations and programming contact:
Cathy Bodinof at 706/864-2050 or
wahsega@uga.edu.

and coming soon...

Forston 4-H Center

Our new 4-H center in Hampton (near the Atlanta Race Track). Keep your ears and eyes open for more information!

Happy 50th Rock Eagle!



Answers to Canoe Word Scramble:

1. blade
2. hull
3. shaft
4. PFD
5. thwart
6. port
7. starboard
8. stern
9. bow
10. gunwale

Rock Eagle 4-H Center

The University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension Service
350 Rock Eagle Road
Eatonton, GA 31024
Phone: 706/484-2834
Fax: 706/484-2888
email: kellyj@uga.edu



Visit us on the Web!

www.rockeagle4h.org



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The University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating.
The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.
An equal opportunity / affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.