A Natural Fit: Environmental Programs at the Library
YSS Spring Conference, Friday, April 13, 2018

Sample program ideas:
- Crafts with natural materials (pinecone buddies, leaf creatures, pet rocks)
- Painting/photography workshops, leading to exhibitions
- Nature costume making/costume fashion show/costume dance party
- Tiny field trip—collect, show/tell and identify using field guides
- Featured favorite items from patrons’ collections; “visiting exhibit of the week”
- Snow creature construction (with food coloring and loose parts for accessories)
- Library yard habitat creation/observations (birdfeeders, toad abode)
- Library garden, in yard or in containers
- Nature backpack check-out or use on library grounds (seek donations and/or patrons build their own in a workshop)

Selected resources:

Nature-Deficit Disorder:
- Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, by Richard Louv

Book club possibilities:
- Seedfolks, by Paul Fleischman
- Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen
- The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate, by Jacqueline Kelly

Arts and crafts: Green, by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Collecting: Cabinet of Curiosities, by Gordon Grice

Play: Bringing the Outside In, by Mary McKenna Siddals/Illustrated by Patrice Barton

Observation and identification:
- Pocket Naturalist Guides published by Waterford Press
- Sibley Backyard Birding Flashcards, by David Sibley
- Merlin Bird ID app, by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- My Spring Robin, by Annie Rockwell/Illustrated by Harlow Rockwell and Lizzy Rockwell

Gardening and habitats: The Backyard Homestead, edited by Carleen Madigan

Sample contents for nature backpack:
- Binoculars
- Blindfolds (sensory activities)
- Bug boxes or containers to look at specimens
- Clipboard
- Crayons and pencils
- Field guides/cards (birds, insects, trees, tracks)
- Flashlight
- Journal
- Magnifying glass
- Nature activity card pack
- Paper for writing or drawing
- Storybooks
- Thermometer
- Toys

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Follow this QR code to the Nature Booklist!

Slide deck available here!
A-B-C Natural Connections
for Nature-Based Library Programming

A

Literary Title: ____________________________

B

Nature Concept

C

Stripling's Inquiry Model

Connect

Reflect

Wonder

Investigate

Construct

Express

Engage Active Learning

MAKING MEANING

Unit Texts

Connect to Science Standards

Courtesy of Arnone, Stripling and Keefe (2017, work in progress)