



Roots & Shoots Insider

March 2007

Volume I Issue 2



Join Us For

Wonderful Wednesdays

At Bethel UMC

4:30–6:00pm

4th Grade and Up

For more information, contact

Nan McCarry

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- Green Church Initiative
- Amphibian Monitoring
- Monarch Migration Tracking
- “Simple Living” Activities
- Environmental Education
- Stumptown Adopt-a-Road
- Humanitarian Missions
- Heifer Project
- Walking For Water

Presidents’ Day with the Fish, Frogs & Turtles at the Baltimore Aquarium

Story: Caroline McCarry

Roots & Shoots spent President’s Day, at the Baltimore Aquarium. Of great interest was the Frog Exhibit. there was an African Bullfrog the size of a dinner plate! There were frogs of all shapes, sizes, and colors. Most of us suspected they were plastic until they moved because they looked so odd.

We also got to see the sea turtle that lives at the aquarium. I was really excited because I love sea turtles and had never gotten to see one up close before. As we watched the turtle glide through the water, we noticed his flipper was missing. We then read

a sign that told us that the turtle’s flipper had been frozen and that it then became infected while it was in the wild. Luckily, the aquarium saved the turtle, but he lost his flipper. Since he lost his flipper, he would not safely be able to be returned to the wild so he is allowed to stay in the aquarium even though he is an endangered species.

After seeing the turtle, we headed to the Amazon exhibit. There were more turtles of different species, and fish that were about two feet long! A lot of the fish looked like aliens or something in lots of different colors, shapes, and sizes.

A big thank you goes to Nan McCarry and Crystal Bills for their leadership!



Spotlight on Local Animals: The Spring Peeper

Story: Corey Dudek

The Spring Peeper is the amphibian of the month. Its sound is a loud series of high-pitched peep-peep-peeps which give this frog it’s name.

It is a small frog with light to tan skin. There is a distinct “X” on its back.

This frog arrives in early spring. You might even see them

in February! Listening to amphibians is a part of the Loudoun Amphibian Monitoring Program and also helps us with our Phenology Checklist.



United Methodist Social Principles on the Environment

All creation is the Lord's and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect.

Economic, political, social, and technological developments have increased our human numbers, and lengthened and enriched our lives. However, these developments have led to regional defoliation, dramatic extinction of species, massive human suffering, overpopulation, and misuse and over-consumption of natural and non-renewable resources, particularly by industrialized societies.

This continued course of action jeopardizes the natural heritage that God has entrusted to all generations. Therefore, let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social, and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God's creation.

Book of Discipline 2004

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters."

Psalm 24:1-2

Phenology: What is it? Why do we participate?

Source: <http://www.sws-wis.com/lifecycles/>

Phenology, in its simplest terms, is the study of cyclic events of nature—usually the life cycles of plants and animals—in response to seasonal

and climatic changes to the environment.

Phenologists record and compare the dates of various natural events. Bethel's Roots & Shoots Club monitors monarch butterfly migration, amphibians,

and other natural cycles.

Global warming and other phenomena effect plant and animal life. Our observations are an important part of data collected and studied locally and nationally.

Visit the Rust Library Display Case Roots & Shoots Spotlights Climate Change

Story: Eslynn Dudek

Nikki Jones, Caroline McCarry, Lauren Herbine and I put together the display case just inside the entrance to Library.

The display case illustrates climate changing and how we can help to make a difference.

There are myths about climate change and then the facts. The display shows how we can help change the world just by cutting back on the usage of cars and fossil fuels, and making other minor changes in our daily lives.

Just remember:

Together, we CAN make a difference!



See more pictures of us at:

<http://community.webshots.com/user/CopperRidgeFarm>

Click on "Roots & Shoots"