



Lamoille County Conservation District

Conserving Our Natural Resources Since 1945

2023-2024 Junior Naturalist Series

September: Seeds on the Move: Just as parents are sending their kids off to school in September, plants are sending their seeds out into the world to begin their own adventure. We will explore the ingenious ways that plants disperse their seeds and perform tests on a variety of seeds to figure out how they leave home without legs!

October: Eeek! Predator Plants!: Plants are usually the ones getting eaten but did you know that we have three types of meat-eating plants in Vermont? Fascinating and a little freaky, these plants trap and eat animals for their dinner! We'll find out who they are, how they do it, where to find them and whether we're in danger of becoming a snack!

November: Let's Talk Turkeys: Wild turkeys are year-round residents of Vermont's fields and forests. But did you know that wild turkeys were once extinct in New England? As Turkey Day approaches we'll talk about a day in the life of your average wild turkey.

December: Mice Moving In: As the weather gets colder we sometimes end up with mice as uninvited houseguests. Why exactly do the mice want to move in with us? In this lesson we will learn about the many adaptations of the common mouse that enable it to live and prosper almost anywhere. Then see if you can *smell* danger the way a mouse does.

January: Back Off! Animal Defenses: Animals have all sorts of interesting ways to keep predators at bay. From prickles to playing dead, stingers to slime, we will learn about different animal defense strategies, play some "defensive" charades and end with a creature craft.

February: Subnivean Soiree: How warm is a blanket of snow? In this lesson we will learn all about the insulating power of snow and the community of Vermont animals that spend the winter under the snow in the subnivean zone. Then test your knowledge with the subnivean matching game.

March: Howl of the Coyote: Have you heard coyotes howling, barking and yipping on a cold winter night? Ever wonder what they were saying? Learn to speak coyote and find out more about these important predators also known as "song dogs."

April: Migration Vacation: Explore the world of critters who take a vacation from the cold Vermont winter. We'll talk about the remarkable journeys of fair-weather birds, monarchs, dragonflies and other travelers who left our hills last fall and are now preparing to return. We'll also take an imaginary journey and follow some of these animals to their warm vacation spots!

May: Nocturnal Happenings: As the weather warms, the night comes alive with all sorts of critters. Who prefers moonlight to sunlight? How do they find their way? What do they like to eat and how do they find it in the dark? Come find out as we explore the world of nocturnal creatures!

June: Summer Adaptations: We'll take a look at some of the changes Vermont animals make to their bodies or their behavior in response to the warm weather. Why does the male goldfinch want to stand out this month while the hares are hoping to become invisible? Come be part of our bird chorus and see how long you survive in a game of Frozen Critters.

Activities can include inside and outside investigations, stories, games, and crafts. Programs are one hour for 4 year olds and up, 30 min sessions available for younger audiences. The program fee is \$105 + mileage (\$72 for 30 min sessions). For more information or to schedule a program contact Emily Porter-Goff at 888-9218 ext. 117 or emilylccdedu@gmail.com

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