

Title of Session: Nuts About Nature - Mayflowers and Pilgrims
Moderator: Bill Hilton Jr.
Title of File: 20030513nan
Date: May 13, 2003

Tappedin transcript 2003.05.13 19:06:13
Room: ASO

BillHi: As always, tonight's discussion focuses on using nature to excite kids--and adults--about learning.

BillHi: The published title is "If April showers bring may flowers, what do May flowers bring . . . other than Pilgrims."

DaveS: Um... other flowers?

BillHi: In the long run, yes.

BillHi: Dave, tell me about yourself.

DaveS: Yay! I'm smart.

BillHi: That's a start. :-)

DaveS: Um, I'm in New Jersey and I'm a 7th grade student.

BillHi: Great, I know you ARE looking forward to metamorphosis. :-)

DaveS: Um... yeah, what you said."

HeatheGuest3 joined the room.

BillHi: I am executive director for Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History in York SC, not far from Charlotte NC.

BJ: Hi, Heather. Welcome

HeatheGuest3: hi

BillHi: Hello, Heather. You have an appropriate name for tonight's discussion.

HeatheGuest3: Dave, my name is a flower

DaveS: It is?

DaveS: Cool!

HeatheGuest3: yes grows on the sides of hills in Scotland

BillHi: So, heather, do you teach?

HeatheGuest3: I'm learning to become a teacher - I'm currently a grad student at the University of Akron

BillHi: Great, Dave is from NJ; I'm in SC. He's a 7th grade student, I taught HS biology for many years.

HeatheGuest3: cool - I'll be teaching art when I get into it

BillHi: Anyway, Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History in York SC is a small education, research, and conservation organization. Anyone ever heard of it?

BJ raises her hand enthusiastically

HeatheGuest3: no actually I hadn't

DaveS: Yes.

BillHi: Thank you, BJ. Let me lead you all to my Web site.

BillHi: <<http://www.hiltonpond.org>>

BJ: to open a new window, click on the hyperlink

BillHi: Everybody click on that hyperlink!

BillHi: Okay. that's the main page, so you can see there are lots of subcategories. Scroll down to "This week at Hilton Pond"

DaveS: Cool hummingbird.

BillHi: Thanks.

BillHi: Everybody see that little Black Duck in the pond?

HeatheGuest3: I do

BillHi: Dave?

BJ nods

DaveS: Yes

BillHi: Okay, click on the Black Duck.

BillHi: Then click on "Date index 2003"

BillHi: Then scroll down and click on the week of May 1-7.

DaveS . o O (this is like the first time I'm following instructions.)

BillHi: Thank you, Dave.

HeatheGuest3: get used to it Dave you do it your whole life :-)

BillHi: Okay, everybody should be at the installment of "This week at Hilton Pond" for the week of 1-7 May. Are you both there?

HeatheGuest3: yes

DaveS: yes

BillHi: As you might guess, I post one of these photo essays every week about some aspect of nature. This week it's about Jack-in-the-Pulpit," one of those May flowers that April showers bring.

DaveS: Cool. Very intriguing(spelling?)

HeatheGuest3: they have them here too

HeatheGuest3: my dad used to show them to me on nature hikes as a kid

BillHi: Yep, Heather, I try to write about organisms and phenomena that occur most places around the U.S. so that folks can relate to them as you just did. ;-)

HeatheGuest3: cool

DaveS: Very interesting, seriously.

BillHi: Lots of teachers around the U.S. are using these weekly postings to enrich classroom teaching.

BillHi: If you scroll down the page, Dave, you'll see the answer to the question posed in tonight's topic: "What do May flowers bring...besides Pilgrims?" Can you find it?

DaveS: I can't find it.

BillHi: Go to the paragraph that sas "Jacks are pollinated by . . ."

DaveS: okay.

BillHi: Now do you know the answer?

BillHi: Well, in the case of Jack-in-the-Pulpit, they bring Fungus Flies!

DaveS: Tiny fungus flies?

DaveS: Yeah!

BillHi: Yes. Tiny Fungus Flies.

DaveS: What do tiny fungus flies bring?

HeatheGuest3: pollination?

BillHi: So what would May flowers such as daisies bring?

BillHi: Or red May flowers such as Columbines bring?

BillHi: Heather's already got it.

BillHi: Many May flowers bring pollinators such as bees (to daisies).
HeatheGuest3: seed disseminators
BillHi: Well, it's still a little early in the season.
HeatheGuest3: I think especially here
BillHi: Maybe we should say that May pollinators bring September seed disseminators.
;-)
HeatheGuest3: the weather can't make up its mind to be summer or early spring
HeatheGuest3: cool
BillHi: That's global warming for you.
BillHi: So Heather, what do you hope to teach?
HeatheGuest3: that's freezing one day and shorts weather the next - lol
HeatheGuest3: art
HeatheGuest3: I graduated last may in Graphic Design
BillHi: Hey, BJ, or moderator, is an art teacher!
DaveS: It's 58 here. so warm.
BJ is an art teacher :-)
HeatheGuest3: with a minor in computer imaging
HeatheGuest3: cool BJ
BillHi: Excellent.
HeatheGuest3: I love art
HeatheGuest3: yeah going back for my masters and teaching certificate
BillHi: You can have your kids do drawings--and computer images--and digital photos--
of all sorts of nature stuff.
LouiseF joined the room.
HeatheGuest3: yes it makes for great reference
BJ waves hi to Louise. Welcome to the discussion.
LouiseF: Is this where Nuts about Nature is?
HeatheGuest3: yes welcome
LouiseF: Hi
DaveS: Yes.
BillHi: One of the great things about drawing and photographing is that it forces the artist
to look carefully at his/her subject.
LouiseF: I'm trying to teach science to kindergarteners. Need some suggestions on where
to look for ideas
HeatheGuest3: yes it does and makes you think a lot about composition
BillHi: And when kids look closely at natural history subjects, they get a much better
understanding of the interconnectedness of nature.
HeatheGuest3: see that's what I love about art - it's actually connected to everything in
life
BillHi: As Louise knows, little kids are all born naturalists, but they get turned off to
nature by teachers who call natural things "yucky" or "ugly."
BillHi: And, Louise, to get caught up to where we are in the discussion, go to
<<http://www.hiltonpond.org/ThisWeek030501.html>>.
LouiseF: Got the site bookmarked. Thank you.
HeatheGuest3: true you need to present a positive atmosphere to learning
BJ: Louise, the Hilton Pond newsletter is great.

HeatheGuest3: how long have you been teaching Louise?
BillHi: So whatcha think, folks, would most people who think about wildflowers say that our Jack-in-the-Pulpit is a beautiful flower?
HeatheGuest3: I feel that it is
KarenL joined the room.
HeatheGuest3: hi karen
LouiseF: I've been teaching for just 3 years.
BillHi: Yes, but I asked "most folks."
BJ: hi, Karen!
KarenL: Hi BJ!
KarenL: I can't believe I'm actually here.
HeatheGuest3: I don't know if many would notice it normally unless it was pointed out to them
BJ: Bill, 'most folks' probably wouldn't think of the jack in the pulpit as a flower let alone a beautiful flower
BillHi: You're right, which is another role of the art teacher and/or naturalist. :-)
BillHi: My comments applies to both Heather & BJ. :-)
HeatheGuest3: ty
BJ: Karen, we're discussing this weeks issue of the Hilton Pond newsletter.
BillHi: As a scientists, Heather, I like to tell students that beauty lies in function, not appearance, and that Jack-in-the-Pulpit functions beautifully in the natural world.
BillHi: So let's scroll on down the page to the picture of the yellow bird (Kentucky Warbler).
HeatheGuest3: ok did
BillHi: Now most people probably would use those HVJ terms to say this bird is "beautiful."
DaveS: I really gotta get to bed. I'm so tired.
BillHi: HVJ stands for "Human Value Judgments."
BJ waves goodnight to Dave
BillHi: Night, Dave. Sweet dreams.
HeatheGuest3: yes
HeatheGuest3: night Dave nice meeting you
DaveS: Goodnight. Thanks for letting me join the discussion Bill.
DaveS left the room (signed off).
BillHi: One thing you'll note from this section of "This Week at Hilton Pond" is that we do bird banding at the facility, so the hard-core birdwatchers who claim they don't care about Jack-in-the-Pulpit still have something to look at. :-)
HeatheGuest3: good idea
BillHi: Heather, if you want to get a weekly reminder when I post the latest installment of "This Week," just send me an e-mail at <info@hiltonpond.org>.
HeatheGuest3: ok thank you
BillHi: If you scroll to the bottom of the page you'll see there's an on-line search engine for the site. See it?
HeatheGuest3: yes
BillHi: The site is huge with lots of resources for teachers and others. Type in some word and see what pops up. Tell me what the word is, though. :-)

HeatheGuest3: bulbs

BillHi: Aha! One reference.

BillHi: Click on it.

HeatheGuest3: ok did

HeatheGuest3: aww he's cute

BillHi: Gotcha! There's that Human Value Judgment!

HeatheGuest3: well I didn't see the pic of up his nose - lol

BillHi: Anyway, Pine Voles sometimes eat garden bulbs, so here's another instance of everything being connected to everything else.

HeatheGuest3: but he was cute munching on the piece of food :-)

HeatheGuest3: yes :-)

BillHi: Well, Heather, I hope you have a great life in the classroom when you get all certified, and I hope you'll remember the Hilton Pond Web site AND my other one for "Operation RubyThroat: The

Hummingbird Project" at <<http://www.rubythroat.org>>

BillHi: Any closing comments or questions?

BJ thinks we'll be seeing more of Heather, Bill :-)

HeatheGuest3: I will thank you - I hope you realize I was trying to joke

BillHi: Hope so. :-)

BJ: Thanks for leading the discussion, Bill. Grand as always!

HeatheGuest3: I'd like to participate more

BillHi: Yes, I understood. :-)

BillHi: Thank you, BJ, and thanks for moderating.

HeatheGuest3: ty It was very nice meeting you Bill

BJ waves goodnight.

BJ: Bill, see you next month.

BillHi: To continue the theme, how about "June Bugs Is Bustin' Out All Over"? [Ed.

Note: The next Nuts About Nature discussion will be on June 10.]