

Title of Session: Nuts About Nature: (Why?) Beware the Ides of March!

Moderator: Bill Hilton Jr.

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Room: Tree House Conference Room

BillHi: The Treehouse appears to be filled with Houstonians.

BJB2: if you are new to Tapped In, a reminder to click on the ACTIONS menu in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH

NatalieCH: I am from Houston

BJB2: we usually start all the discussions in Tapped In with brief introductions

BJB2: . o O (even if you've already introduced yourself to Bill)

BillHi: They have not. I was peeking at profiles.

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a NAN groupie

NatalieCH: I am a preservice teacher, studying at the University of Houston

CandiceP: I'm a preservice teacher at U of H

KaseyM: I'm from Houston as well and I'm a preservice science teacher at the University of Houston

MistyT: I am also a pre-service teacher studying at the University of Houston

BJB2: . o O (it will help Bill if you also state what you would like to teach when you graduate)

TeneikaP: I too am a preservice teacher at U of H. I am interested in teaching Kindergarten.

MistyT: Second grade, December 2005

CandiceP: I would like to teacher K thru 2nd

NatalieCH: hopefully kindergarten, December 2005

KaseyM: Science 4-8 grade

BillHi: Good . . .

BillHi: I'm Bill Hilton Jr., executive director of Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History in York, South Carolina.

BillHi: I taught high school and college biology for about 20 years and also travel the country giving talks about natural history topics and doing inservice and preservice teacher training.

BillHi: I'm interested in all grade levels.

BillHi: If I had it to do over, I think I'd get certified in K-2.

BillHi: "Nuts About Nature" is a discussion aimed at helping teachers (and future teachers) use the out-of-doors--either for real or virtually--to excite students about learning science and other disciplines.

BillHi: Each month I select a topic for discussion that is intended to make you think and, in the end, to give you some ideas for implementing activities with your current (or future) students.

BJB2 . o O (Bill also has a group room in Tapped In for Environmental Ed)

NatalieCH: Good, I need some science ideas for my unit

MistyT: me too

BillHi: Try to stay on-topic during the discussion so we can get to a meaningful end-point during our hour together.

BillHi: Tonight's topic: "(Why?) Beware the Ides of March."

BJB2 wonders

BillHi: First off, I need someone (besides BJ) to tell me what the Ides of March is.

TeneikaP: SEASONS!

NatalieCH: Usually spring plants, butterflies

BJB2 . o O (Bill never lets me play)

JasonDe joined the room.

NatalieCH: maybe even insects

BJB2: Hi, Jason. We're just starting. Bill has asked everyone what the Ides of March is

NatalieCH: life cycles

TeneikaP: weather

BillHi: Hmmmm. Methinks you all need to think about your literature and European history courses.

TeneikaP: I thought you were talking about as it relates to science.... love?

BJB2: The soothsayer's warning to Julius Caesar, "Beware the Ides of March," has forever imbued that date with a sense of foreboding.

TeneikaP: oh

BillHi: BJ, you were supposed to be quiet.

BJB2 sits on her hands

BillHi: You NEVER learn

BJB2 . o O (I didn't give the answer!)

BillHi: Yes, you did.

BillHi: I'm going to pout now

BJB2 hangs her head in shame

NatalieCH: I thought they were in relation to science, I was just listing things I have seen in schools

BJB2 goes and sits in the corner

NatalieCH: She did not give me the answer

BillHi: I asked for a definition for the Ides of March. (-:

KaseyM: The day that Julius Caesar died

BillHi: That's getting ahead of the definition.

KaseyM: Oops..sorry

BillHi: The Ides of March is the middle day of the month.

BillHi: Actually, all months have an Ides.

BillHi: The word "Ides" means to divide, and the Ides splits the month in half.

BillHi: There's no particular reason why one should beware any Ides--including the one in March.

BillHi: Except that, as BJ says, the soothsayer warned Julius Caesar to "Beware the Ides of March."

BillHi: Caesar didn't beware, of course, and as a couple of you noted, Brutus "et-tued" him.

BJB2 chuckles from her corner seat

BillHi: Now actually, from a nature perspective, there IS a good reason to beware the Ides of March.

BillHi: What might that be?

DavidWe joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to David

JasonDe: looking to Spring?

BillHi: Does "looking to" mean "beware?"

NatalieCH: Beware of the over focus of the topic of spring

BillHi: Not sure what that means. (-:

KaseyM: Perhaps beware of the new things coming around (bugs, flowers)

DavidWe . o O (warmer weather?)

BillHi: Kasey, you mean biting and stinging insects?

MistyT: Maybe it means not to have all of you focus on the topic of spring?

TeneikaP: from the perspective of a teacher, it a good time to break out the really interesting lessons as students tend to get antsy toward the end of the year.

BillHi: Nope, Misty, I think you're going down the wrong avenue.

KaseyM: Yes, there will be more bees (that sort) around

JasonDe: beware poses the problem here

BillHi: Teneika, why aren't ALL the lessons really interesting?

TeneikaP: they are

BillHi: That's better. (-:

BillHi: Okay, some of you are putting a HUMAN perspective on why to Beware the Ides of March.

BillHi: That's pretty egocentric. (-:

DavidWe wonders

TeneikaP: <~~~~tend to do that at times

NatalieCH: Now I am confused

DavidWe: I've been confused since I arrived

BillHi: Why should NATURE beware the Ides of March. (David and BJ hold tight for a minute.)

MistyT: I'm also confused

TeneikaP: big animals wake from hibernation?

BillHi: That's what you get for coming late.

BillHi: Okay, Teneika, but why are bears a "beware" situation?

TeneikaP: they are HUNGRY!

KaseyM: There will soon be more rain, heat, winds. Nature will need to be more protective from predators and herbivores

JasonDe: need a drum roll.....

DavidWe drums badly

BillHi: Other thoughts?

KaseyM: Fresh outdoors= More active humans

TeneikaP: the suspense is killing me

BJB2 looks at the stars from the corner window

BillHi: One of the problems here is that Houstonians have a different perspective on Spring and March that most of the rest of the country.

BillHi: For a moment, imagine that you are in Vermont.

MistyT: Well Houston does not have the right seasons

NatalieCH: I can't, do not know what Vermont is like

BillHi: Okay, imagine you're in South Carolina.

DavidWe has been to Vermont, even northern Vermont

DavidWe: I walked across the border to Canada

BillHi: Stay on task, David.

TeneikaP: is it still cold there?

DavidWe walks back

BillHi: Houston is almost a one-season city.

DavidWe . o O (well, yes, in winter)

TeneikaP: (gotta love it)

BillHi: South Carolina is more like a three-season state.

BillHi: Vermont is definitely a four-season state.

DavidWe likes 4 seasons

BillHi: David!

JasonDe: Oh Canada'

NatalieCH: What is the topic?, If you do not mind me asking

BillHi: BJ?

BJB2 thinks about the star closest to the earth

BillHi: No, I meant a response to Natalie.

BJB2: Natalie, we're trying to find out why we should beware the ides of March

BillHi: Okay.

BillHi: Actually, we're trying to determine why NATURE should beware the Ides of March.

NatalieCH: I got that, but people were talking about Canada, and I thought we were pretending to be in Vermont

BillHi: That's because some people don't cooperate.

DavidWe smiles

JasonDe grins

BillHi: I'm really NOT in the mood

BillHi: We're halfway through the hour. Shall we get productive now?

DavidWe listens attentively

TeneikaP: indeed

CandiceP: yes!

BillHi: Thank you.

MistyT: YES!

JasonDe: yes

NatalieCH: please do

BillHi: Let's go back to Teneika's example of "beware the bear."

SusanR listens attentively

TeneikaP: (score)

BillHi: Obviously, bears don't hibernate in Houston.

NatalieCH: lol

BillHi: But they do hibernate in South Carolina and Vermont (and Canada).

BillHi: hibernate.

SusanR nods

BillHi: So Teneika says prey need to "beware the bear" because it comes out hungry.

BillHi: And the prey might get eaten. Right, Teneika?

TeneikaP: indeed

BillHi: Okay, but I contend that the BEAR needs to beware the Ideas of March, too.

BillHi: Any thoughts?

MistyT: no sorry

KaseyM: Heat

KaseyM: Longer days

BJB2: protecting cubs?

BillHi: Heat in VT & SC?

BillHi: Why beware longer days?

TeneikaP: hungry hunters?

KaseyM: The sun is in different position area, more direct

BillHi: leave humans out of the picture for now.

NatalieCH: I was thinking that, but I read once that hunters don't hunt bears until the end of summer and fall

BillHi: Bears have fur. They don't need to worry about UV light, and they thermoregulate and can get by just fine in heat.

TeneikaP: umm if all the animals are hungry... maybe... they have to worry about running out of food?

BillHi: Another score for Ms. Punch.

TeneikaP: (yes sir)

BJB2 cheers for Teneika

BillHi: What do Black Bears eat?

NatalieCH: berries

NatalieCH: fish

BillHi: Yes. What else.

MistyT: fish

CandiceP: fruits, berries

BillHi: Not much fish.

DavidWe . o O (garbage?)

NatalieCH: grass

CandiceP: aren't mainly veggie eaters

BillHi: Black bears are mostly herbivores, but will eat a little meat now and then.

SusanR: roots and leaves

CandiceP: need some protein, I guess

BillHi: Not leaves, roots yes.

BillHi: Protein can come from plants, too.

BillHi: Okay, let's think again about being somewhere else than in Houston.

TeneikaP: nuts!

BillHi: Yes.

SusanR: nuts??

BillHi: Yes. yes.

BillHi: If we're NOT in Houston but in SC, for example, what is March like?

KaseyM: Cool

NatalieCH: green

KaseyM: somewhat wet

BillHi: Two out of three ain't bad.

BillHi: It's not quite yet green in SC.

BillHi: So why should a bear beware the ideas of March here in SC?

TeneikaP: not enough food

TeneikaP: not many live plants

NatalieCH: the water,

BillHi: March is a really iffy month in many states.

NatalieCH: ice melting

BillHi: Some years it's warm and a little green, some years there might be a blizzard.

KaseyM: Their internal system is not fully awoken because of the cool, damp weather

KaseyM: They are sluggish

BillHi: Maybe.

BillHi: I repeat, some years it's warm and a little green, some years there might be a blizzard.

JasonDe: March - In like a lion out like a lamb

BillHi: Sometimes. (-:

BillHi: So March is an UNPREDICTABLE month.

TeneikaP: got ya

BillHi: If the bear comes out too early, what happens.

NatalieCH: might be too cold, no vegetation

BillHi: Yes.

MistyT: it can't find food

BillHi: Yes.

JasonDe: may or may not find food

SusanR: a challenge finding food

BillHi: Yes again.

BillHi: And again.

NatalieCH: there would be a competition for food, survival of the fittest

BillHi: So what if the bear comes out too LATE?

MistyT: The food might be harder to find

NatalieCH: It is still a challenge finding food,

BillHi: Nope.

BillHi: the food is more plentiful.

MistyT: ok

NatalieCH: more animals to have to look out for

BillHi: Which "more animals"?

KaseyM: Deer

NatalieCH: like predators, have to make sure that he will not be eaten or its cubs

BillHi: Bears have to look out for deer?

NatalieCH: lions, tigers,

BillHi: Booo.

DavidWe smiles

KaseyM: o-my

DavidWe grins

BJB2: competition for the food supply also increases

BillHi: The only thing a bear has to look out for is other bears.

BillHi: Like many animals, bears are territorial.

BillHi: If a bear comes out of hibernation too early in March, it starves.

TeneikaP: if it come out late.. no turf

SusanR: so timing is crucial

BillHi: If it comes out too late, it may find that some big ol' bear has already staked out the best territory.

BillHi: And the best territory probably has the best food.

BillHi: And marginal territories may have inferior food.

BillHi: And inferior food and inferior territories do nothing to attract the attention of a female bear when mating time comes.

TeneikaP: k

MistyT: What does this deal with from an educational point of view?

NatalieCH: I guess timing is everything when planning instruction

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: I like that one, Natalie

NatalieCH: thanks

BJB2 wonders if anyone else wants to answer Misty's question?

NatalieCH: Is the discussion over

BillHi left the room (signed off).

BJB2: not quite, Natalie.

DavidWe: I think Bill just had a technical problem

BJB2 . o O (Bill was having some connection problems earlier)

DavidWe . o O (The bear ate his Internet access)

TeneikaP: ok

TeneikaP: lol

DavidWe smiles

NatalieCH: lol

JasonDe: LOL

DavidWe: Couldn't resist. PLEASE don't tell on me

DavidWe grins

NatalieCH: LOL..I won't

DavidWe: Thanks

JasonDe: David, you were in trouble already once tonight

DavidWe: Yeah, it's the name

DavidWe smiles

MistyT: does anyone know what he was trying to get across?

NatalieCH: I have no idea

BJB2: so, who has an answer to Misty's question?

NatalieCH: This whole discussion was rather strange

BJB2: what about that nature has cycles...

MistyT: I agree

BJB2: and when you teach about the cycles...you don't put the human element into it

CandiceP: that makes sense

BJB2: you look at supply and demand for basic needs...food, shelter

BJB2: reproduction

DavidWe: The cycle happens regardless of the humans

BJB2 nods to David

NatalieCH: yes it does, so why couldn't we just address this issue

MistyT: thank you

DavidWe smiles

BJB2: because you were supposed to come up with the information

BJB2 . o O (scientific method)

DavidWe: It's one thing if Bill TELLS you the answer...

BJB2: Bill didn't want to do your thinking for you

BJB2 . o O (he was modeling how you should be teaching your students...)

BJB2: you also don't want to 'give' your students all the answers...you want them to learn thinking skills

DavidWe . o O (Guide on the Side/Sage on the Stage)

SusanR: Let your students do the thinking and reasoning.

BJB2 nods to Sue

NatalieCH: I understand that

MistyT: good point but I believe many of us were lost the whole time.

DavidWe: It can be a little scary to do that...it's less planned out

NatalieCH: I was lost, because he did not target his discussion to the background of his students

DavidWe can understand Misty's point

MistyT: Exactly

BJB2: perhaps it will help when you look at the transcript

NatalieCH: He should have given clues to what Vermont is like, because I have never been there

NatalieCH: and could have had a more meaningful learning experience

DavidWe: I think that's a valid point, also, Natalie

DavidWe looks at the clock on the wall

BJB2 wonders if students in Texas have no idea about different biomes?

SusanR: I think Bill likes to use deductive reasoning

BJB2 thinks it is the witching hour. Thanks, David

DavidWe: It's getting late for me, at least

MistyT: I know about them but I feel like I didn't get much out of this discussion

DavidWe: It's an hour earlier in Houston, right?

MistyT: yes

NatalieCH: Well, it has been real. Good night all

DavidWe: Some students may not ALWAYS get a lot out of the classes we all teach

BJB2: Thank you all for joining the discussion. I hope you find some bit of value from the discussion....you certainly worked hard for it!

DavidWe: The aim is to try and be a little better the next time

DavidWe agrees with BJ

NatalieCH: Misty, I agree

TeneikaP: Thanks

DavidWe waves bye to the Houstonians

CandiceP: Good night!

KaseyM: Good night (sweet dreams of bears)

TeneikaP: bye!

DavidWe: Pooh!

SusanR: Goodnight all

MistyT: bye

DavidWe . o O (Eeyore, piglet, etc.)

NatalieCH: good bye