

Title of Session: Nuts About Nature - Signs of Spring

Moderator: Bill Hilton Jr.

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Started recording in After School Online Room (#1460)[TappedIn] at Tue Apr 8 18:06:40 2003 PDT.

BJ dropped 2003/04/08 Nuts About Nature - Signs of Spring.

BJ . o O (I LOVE the [Hilton Pond] newsletter :-)

BJ [Helpdesk] says, "I'm still recovering from the woodpecker tongues though...that was amazing"

BillHi says, "Thanks, BJ. I love it when you love the newsletter. :-)"

BillHi says, "You don't see woodpecker tongues everyday, y'know, nor Wood Ducklings."

BJ [Helpdesk] nods solemnly. The wood ducklings were dear!

BillHi says, "Thanks for not saying, as several correspondents did, that they were "soooooo cute.""

BJ [Helpdesk] says, "well, they were! Cute is good."

BillHi says, "Nah, "Cute" is a Human Value Judgment (HVJ)."

BJ [Helpdesk] says, "the whole article was well written...starting with the shadow following the mother duck...very dramatic"

BillHi says, "Thanks. I'm glad it wasn't really a Snapping Turtle."

BJ [Helpdesk] says, "they are all in TI2 right now"

BillHi asks, "Well, what are they doing over there?"

BJ [Helpdesk] asks, "would you like to go to Ti2 and join them and do your session there?"

BillHi says, "I can do that, but I already forgot how."

BJ [Helpdesk] says, "I'll project the url"

BillHi asks, "Beam me up, Scotty?"

BJ [Helpdesk] projects the URL:
www.tappedin.org/new

[Ed Note: The Nuts About Nature discussion was moved to TI2]

Room: ASO

BjB joined the room.

BillHi: Ah, what a great class tonight. A Canadian, A North Dakotan, a Pennsylvanian, and a South Carolinian.

SusanR: I see.

SusanR: Variety is the spice of life.

SheriO: So Bill, I was reading about a Newsletter. What do you do?

BjB: Bill, did you introduce yourself to Sheri?

SheriO: I assume you are from South Carolina

BillHi: Sue, you'll be interested to know that on Thursday of this week I'm doing an interview on the CBC out of Nova Scotia, via a show called "Maritime Noon."

BillHi: It'll be about hummingbirds and my "Operation RubyThroat: the Hummingbird Project."

SusanR: Hmm. Unfortunately we do not get the show here in Ontario.

BillHi: Sheri, I taught high school and college biology for many years and now am executive director of

Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History, a non-profit education, research, and conservation organization in York SC.

BillHi: "Nuts About nature" is my way of reaching out to get teachers and others excited about natural history.

SusanR: Good luck Bill. It could possibly migrate to Ontario.

BillHi: Sue, I don't think they do a Web cast of the show via the CBC site, but they might.

SusanR: We have a show called The Daily Planet, www.exn.ca. Try to get on that one.

BillHi: If you have a contact, I'd be glad to work with them.

BjB: I'm going to put the url for Hilton Pond in the transcript <http://www.hiltonpond.org/>

BillHi: Sue, you'll be glad to know that on 5 April I banded my first Ruby-throated Hummingbird of the year here at Hilton Pond, and I got two more yesterday. I assume you're still snowed in?

SusanR: Do approach them. Check out the site.

BillHi: Okay, i will.

SusanR: We warm up and then we go into a freeze. Weird winter. The birds must be confused.

BjB . o O (I know I am!)

BillHi: Well, your hummers haven't arrived yet, and the other birds will do just fine.

BillHi: BJ? Confused?

BjB Nods...with this weather. We had snow yesterday

BillHi: So, Sue, are you getting my weekly reminders for the photo essays on "This week at Hilton Pond."?

SusanR: Snow in Pennsylvania!

SusanR: Yes, Thanks Bill.
BillHi: Did you read about Wood Ducklings this week?
BjB thinks Sue is multitasking
SmichelleO joined the room.
BillHi: Dum de dum. Whatcha want to talk about, BJ?
BjB: Hi, Smichelle
BillHi: Ah, a newcomer! :-)
SusanR: How can you tell BjB? I was just checking my email from Bill.
BjB nods to Sue
BjB: Smichelle, can we help you?
BillHi: Hi, Michelle.
BjB: Michelle, Bill is leading a discussion on Science and signs of spring..
BjB: might be an interesting topic for your foreign language classes
BarryW joined the room.
BjB: hi, Barry.
BarryW: hi
BarryW: not used to working after week off
BillHi: Hello, Barry. care to chat about nature's signs of spring?
BjB: Barry, Bill is leading a discussion on Science and Signs of Spring if you'd care to stay
BarryW: ok
BillHi: Barry, where you from?
BjB: Bill, want to introduce yourself to Barry?
BarryW: illinois
BarryW: norridge
BarryW: 10 minutes from ohare
BillHi: Ah, so spring hasn't arrived at your house yet?
BarryW: nope
BarryW: came & went
BarryW: just got done working 13 hrs
BarryW: at school at 7
BarryW: worked at home until 8
BillHi: Barry, I'm Bill Hilton Jr., executive director of Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History in York SC, and principal investigator for "Operation RubyThroat: The Hummingbird Project."
BarryW: had to cut budget
BillHi: Your schedule sounds like BJ's. What do you teach?
BarryW: wait
BarryW: <http://collaboratory.nunet.net/repositories/categories/index.cfm?repositoryid=11>
BarryW: my site
BarryW: Technology Ed
BarryW: formerly ind. arts
BarryW: www.ridgenet.org
BarryW: AND
BillHi: Gotcha.
BarryW: ridgewoodcheers.tripod.com

BarryW: no www

BillHi: So are you interested in natural history?

BarryW: bjb - check that site out

BarryW: i do that too

BjB nods to Barry

BarryW: n history

BarryW: I do not know

BillHi: Nature study?

BarryW: exactly what does it entail

BarryW: study of nature?

BillHi: Well, it certainly doesn't entail an "exact" discipline. :-)

BillHi: Through "Nuts About Nature" I try to get kids (and teachers) excited about science learning through nature study.

BarryW: please describe in less than 10 words

BarryW: ok

BillHi: BJ, let's take Barry over to <http://www.hiltonpond.org/ThisWeek030322.html> .

BarryW: do you have a web address

BarryW: read my mind

BjB: check that url out, Barry

BarryW: ok

BjB: Bill has some great interdisciplinary resources that you might want to share with your teachers, Barry

BillHi: Each week on the Hilton Pond Web site I post a photo essay about some natural history topic. This week it's about a new bunch of Wood Ducklings that hatched out on Hilton Pond.

SusanR: I must share this with our teachers. Our school board just closed our outdoor science centre due to financial reasons.

BillHi: Oh, Sue, that pains me through and through.

BarryW: I looks quickly

BarryW: is it appropriate for HS?

BillHi: Barry, it's appropriate for K-adult. please send an e-mail to your teachers to take a look at the Web site for Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History at <http://www.hiltonpond.org>.

BarryW: ok

BillHi: And, I have another Web site that's a crossdisciplinary, international initiative called OPERATION RUBYTHROAT: THE HUMMINGBIRD PROJECT

BarryW: just printed out the address for my son to show his teacher

BarryW: 5th grade

BarryW: what is your other site about?

BillHi: Great. students in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and the seven Central American countries are participating in Operation RubyThroat.

BillHi: Here's a blurb on the Hilton Pond site:

SusanR: I am going to share your site with our kindergarten teachers. Many of them have incubators in their classroom. This is invaluable. Your photos are awesome.

BillHi: "Operation RubyThroat: The Hummingbird Project"

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

BillHi: Everybody loves hummingbirds, and these tiny feathered dynamos can be used to help students learn about science, math, geography, culture, and virtually any academic discipline. Operation RubyThroat is an award-winning cross-disciplinary project in which participants in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Central America collaborate to study behavior and distribution of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). This Web-based project is open to anyone, but K-12 teachers and students especially are invited to participate. The Operation RubyThroat Web site--the most comprehensive one available about hummingbird natural history, banding, and research--is an outreach initiative of Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History near York, South Carolina, USA (<http://www.hiltonpond.org>). Operation RubyThroat is affiliated with The GLOBE Program (<http://www.globe.gov>), through which students correlate hummingbird observations with data about climate, atmosphere, hydrology, soils, and other abiotic phenomena. Operation RubyThroat is funded in part by the National Science Foundation.

BillHi: Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History

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

BillHi: Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History near York, South Carolina, is a non-profit organization whose Mission is "to conserve animals, plants, habitats, and other natural components of the Piedmont Region of the eastern United States through observation, scientific study, and education for students of all ages." The Center is the most active bird banding station in the Carolinas and an education site for the federally endangered Schweinitz's Sunflower. Its Web pages include informative text and photographs of flora and fauna that can be found in most habitats in the eastern U.S.. Included are descriptions of the Center's long-term bird banding research projects (including hummingbirds) and "This Week at Hilton Pond," a pictorial account of natural changes through the seasons. Teachers, students, parents, birders, and conservationists will find this Web site to be a rich source of information about all sorts of nature topics.

BillHi: Sue, thanks for your kind words about the photos. They were hard to take! :-)

BjB: the witching hour is upon us. ...

SusanR: Thanks Bill. I must run!

BjB: any last words for the good of the order, Bill?

BillHi: Barry, both my Web sites have been recognized by education, science, and media groups, including Eisenhower National Clearinghouse, USA Today, Scientific American, national Academy press, etc.

BillHi: Well, thanks to all for coming. It's raining like crazy here, so I may be floating up your way soon.

BillHi: See everyone next month, I hope.

SusanR: Check out exn.ca (The Daily Planet) I am sure they would be interested.

BillHi: I will, Sue, and thanks for the tip.

[The next Nuts About Nature Discussion is scheduled for Tuesday, May13, 2003 at 6pm PDT/9pm EDT]