

November 2019

WILD KIDS

SEASONAL NATURE EDUCATION FOR KIDS AND THEIR GROWN UPS



**Making
Mushroom
Spore Prints**

**How to
Whistle with
an Acorn Cap**

**Citizen Science
Projects for
Nature Study**

**Seasonal poetry,
activities,
nature journal
pages & more**

From the editor

BY ALICIA BAYER

Happy November!

What is the weather like where you live this month?

Here in Minnesota, it's already pretty cold even though winter doesn't officially start until December. Many birds have flown south but there are still lots keeping us company. Even birds that migrate like Canadian geese will hang around as long as there is enough food. Bald eagles stick around as long as the lakes aren't completely frozen, since they like to fish in our nearby lakes.

Our gardens are put to bed and we are enjoying the last of their bounty, eating things like pumpkins that happily trailed across the yard all fall growing big and orange. We leave the spent flowers and dried stalks for wildlife that will rely on it this winter -- birds will eat the seeds from the dried flower heads and rabbits will make dens in the thickets of black raspberry canes in the back yard, for instance. Our neighbors have nice tidy yards but we love how many birds, rabbits, squirrels and even the occasional opossum get through the winter in our wildlife-friendly yard.

This fall has been a bountiful year for mushrooms like oyster, chicken of the woods and giant puffball mushrooms. If you can find some mushrooms of your own, you can make beautiful spore prints from them. We show you how in this issue.

Squirrels and other wildlife have gathered lots of the acorns, but there are still acorn caps all over the ground. In this issue we'll show you how to whistle with them. It takes some practice but is fun once you learn how!

Wherever you are in the world, I hope you have a fantastic month with lots of wild adventures!

Alicia



Why is Wild Kids free?

Kids (and their grown ups) need nature, and nature needs us! Our family believes in the importance of sharing & helping each other, and of passing on skills to help our world and each other. As long as we are able, we plan to produce Wild Kids to help do this for families who find it useful.

All materials copyright Alicia Bayer and Wild Kids Magazine.

This publication is free for personal use. Please do not redistribute.
Contact: alicia.bayer@gmail.com

Find lots more links, information and fun to accompany this month's themes at
www.magicalchildhood.com/wildkids

Go Wild in November

10 WAYS TO PLAY & LEARN WITH NATURE THIS MONTH

Make a floral arrangement of dried flowers and branches

Make a goal to get outside every day this month

Learn to whistle with acorn caps (we tell you how in this issue)

Track the temperature high and low each day and look for patterns

Feed some ducks, seagulls or pigeons

Go walking in the rain (or snow!) Make sure you dress for the weather!

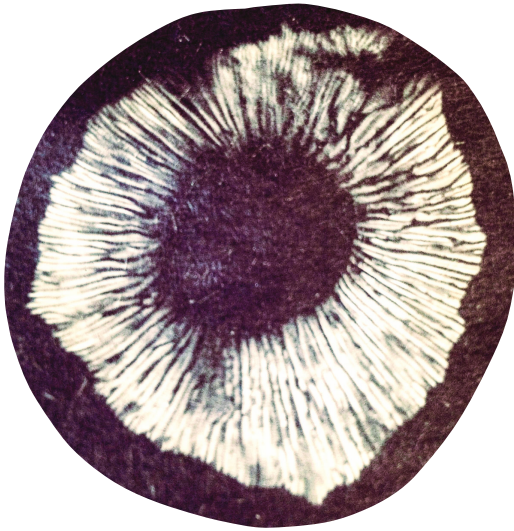
Go bike riding

Hike someplace you've never hiked before

Gather up pine cones or other natural materials and do a craft with them

Make spore prints (we tell you how in this issue)

Making Mushroom Spore Prints



Have you ever heard of spore prints? Mushroom collectors use them as ways to identify mushrooms. Making spore prints is easy and so much fun.

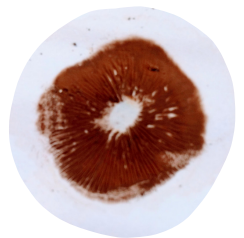
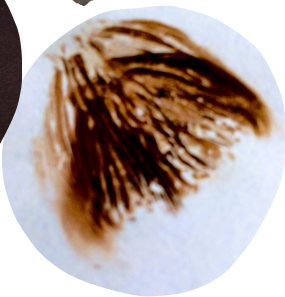
Simply take a relatively fresh mushroom, remove the stem, and put it gills-down on a piece of paper. Since some spore prints are white, you might want to do one on white paper and one on black.

Cover your mushroom with a bowl to keep it undisturbed and leave it for a few hours or overnight, then carefully lift the mushroom to see your print. If it's rather dry or old, you can sprinkle water on the top of it.

Spore prints can be brown, white, pink or black, just to name a few of their colors. Ink caps release so many black spores that people mix them with water to make ink!

If you want to preserve your spore print, spray it gently from a distance with artist's fixative or hair spray.

Why not start a spore print collection and see how many mushrooms you can gather and ID?



Caution: Some mushrooms are very, very poisonous! Do not eat the mushrooms you make spore prints with and wash your hands when you are finished. Never eat any mushroom if you are not 100% sure what it is.

Become a Citizen Scientist!

How kids like you can help nature and scientists

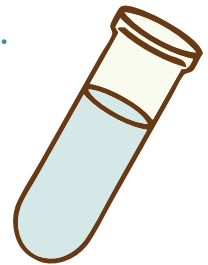
Have you heard of citizen science? That's where ordinary people help scientists by doing things like observing wildlife, analyzing photographs of constellations and even counting the insects in their houses.

There are citizen science projects for just about any place you live and for all kinds of nature topics. You can do a lot of them from your own house, via the computer, while others ask you to report on nature-related observations in your area.



Here are some examples of citizen science projects going on right now that could use your help.

- Count seals and sea lions, or cormorants, gulls, and pelicans in drone pictures taken at the Año Nuevo Reserve in California.
- Use a test kit to collect water quality data from a local water source in your community and report the data to scientists.
- Report sightings of wildlife like parrots you see in the San Diego area or white tailed deer in the Pittsburgh area.
- Take a selfie of yourself by a stream and upload it to the Stream Selfie project to help map streams.
- Log species of butterflies you've seen in your area.
- Report bat structures you find and count the number of bats you see exiting them at dusk.
- Take photos of biodiversity and upload to iNaturalist.



Go to scistarter.org/ to see what citizen science projects you can take part in!

How to Whistle with an Acorn Cap

Did you know you can whistle with an acorn cap? It's suprisingly loud and quite fun once you get the hang of it! Here's how...

Put your thumb knuckles over the acorn cap in a V shape about 4/5 up the acorn, being sure to press so no air can escape except in the V between your thumbs.



Put your lips over your thumb knuckles and then blow hard.



You'll probably have to experiment with how far you hold your thumbs apart and exactly where you blow.

Keep practicing and you'll get it!

Fun fact: Smaller acorn caps have higher pitches.

No acorns? Use a bottle cap!

November Poetry

*"November always seemed to me the Norway of the year."
- Emily Dickinson*

November

By Elizabeth Drew Stoddard

Much have I spoken of the faded leaf;
Long have I listened to the wailing wind,
And watched it ploughing through the heavy clouds,
For autumn charms my melancholy mind.

When autumn comes, the poets sing a dirge:
The year must perish; all the flowers are dead;
The sheaves are gathered; and the mottled quail
Runs in the stubble, but the lark has fled!

Still, autumn ushers in the Christmas cheer,
The holly-berries and the ivy-tree:
They weave a chaplet for the Old Year's bier,
These waiting mourners do not sing for me!

I find sweet peace in depths of autumn woods,
Where grow the ragged ferns and roughened moss;
The naked, silent trees have taught me this,—
The loss of beauty is not always loss!

November Night
By Adelaide Crapsey -

Listen...
With faint dry sound,
Like steps of passing ghosts,
The leaves, frost-crisp'd, break from the trees
And fall.

November

By William Cullen Bryant

Yet one smile more, departing, distant sun!
One mellow smile through the soft vapory air,
Ere, o'er the frozen earth, the loud winds run,
Or snows are sifted o'er the meadows bare.
One smile on the brown hills and naked trees,
And the dark rocks whose summer wreaths are cast,
And the blue gentian flower, that, in the breeze,
Nods lonely, of her beauteous race the last.
Yet a few sunny days, in which the bee
Shall murmur by the hedge that skirts the way,
The cricket chirp upon the russet lea,
And man delight to linger in thy ray.
Yet one rich smile, and we will try to bear
The piercing winter frost, and winds, and darkened air

November

By Sara Teasdale

The world is tired, the year is old,
The little leaves are glad to die,
The wind goes shivering with cold
Among the rushes dry.

Our love is dying like the grass,
And we who kissed grow coldly kind,
Half glad to see our poor love pass
Like leaves along the wind.

HAZELNUT



From: *A Curious Herbal: Containing Five Hundred Cuts Of The Most Useful Plants
Which Are Now Used In The Practice Of Physick,
Written, illustrated and engraved by Elizabeth Blackwell, 1737*

HAWTHORN



From: *A Curious Herbal: Containing Five Hundred Cuts Of The Most Useful Plants Which Are Now Used In The Practice Of Physick,*
 Written, illustrated and engraved by Elizabeth Blackwell, 1737

My Nature Journal

November

November Weather Tree



November Bird List

Birds spotted this month

November Animal List

Mammals, reptiles & other wildlife spotted this month

November Nature Notes

Record any interesting discoveries here -- plants you identify, foods you forage, outdoor activities, cool nature projects, nature books read, or just notes about what it's like outside this week!

Week 1 Observations

Week 2 Observations

Week 3 Observations

Week 4 Observations



Want to see your stuff in Wild Kids?

We welcome articles, photos, artwork and other submissions from kids and their grown ups.

Visit magicalchildhood.com/wildkids to learn more.