

The Bailey's Crossroads Rotary Club sends Annandale Terrace Kids to the "Nature in Flight" Summer Camp.

(Right) Happy Campers



Ms. Suzanne Holland, Assistant Manager of the Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale, Virginia, writes:

"The staff of Hidden Oaks would like to extend our collective thanks for Rotary's generous donation that allowed six low income students from Annandale Terrace Elementary to attend a week of "Nature in Flight" camp at Hidden Oaks last month. I have attached some photos to show what a wonderful time the children from three families had during their week of learning about animals that fly and the science of flight. They met live owls, hawks and falcons presented by a wildlife rehabilitator. They handled and released ladybugs and monarch butterflies. They created crafts that buzzed like cicadas and make insect traps from soda bottles. They particularly enjoyed making a souvenir t-shirt from camp. But the best of all was the time in Nature Playce looking for worms, frogs and other critters and the time sent searching for crayfish and salamanders in the creek. Although the children live less than a mile from the nature center, none of them had ever been here nor had they ever explored a stream.

One 9 years old camper said in all earnestness that this was the best trip of his entire life, describing the stream explore day. His younger brother teared up when he realized that camp was five days long, not ten weeks as he had hoped. The children made new friends and several spent additional hours after the camp playing with their parent in Nature Playce and visiting the learning stations and live animal exhibits in the nature center. They all enjoyed seeing a magnified feather under the Wentzscope (donated by the Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads last year).

The parent liaison at the school was delighted to be our contact with the families for most of the adults spoke little to no English. The Center provided the t-shirts and other camp bring-a-longs. The children had a wonderful experience thanks to your Club's generosity!"



(Left) Getting to know a Monarch
Butterfly

