

MAY 2025

WILDROOTS NATURE PLAY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

"We have the courage of the dandelion
to push past the stones
when the spring joy is rising.
We have the courage of the dandelion,
we are made of the stuff that never gives up."

-From the song "The Courage of the Dandelion" by Sarah Pirtle

Friends, we are delighted to announce that WildRoots nature play programs are returning this month! We have been enjoying our Rambles and have met some wonderful new families, and we have plans to host this style of hike in the future (we have one on **May 8th**). However, after a long pause in nature play programming, we look forward to sharing our magical outdoor play space with the community!

On Thursday, **May 15th**, we will be hosting a Spring Clean-Up "Open House," where we welcome friends old and new to see our space and give us a bit of a hand getting it ready for our nature play programs. Drop in between 9:30 and 12:00. We can't wait to see you!

Beginning Thursday, **May 22nd**, we will officially be hosting our nature play programs! Register using the Google Form linked on our website.



Important Information

As a non-profit, we are able to further our mission with the help of generous donations from individuals and businesses. However, our operating costs have increased dramatically this year, as insurance premiums have gone up. Moving forward, we will be asking for a small fee per family for each play session. We aim to keep our programming as financially accessible as possible, while also ensuring that we are able to cover our operating costs. If you choose to register for 5 or more play sessions at once, you will be given a 20% discount on the family rate of **\$10/play session**.

Nature Highlights

Jack-in-the-pulpits are woodland flowers that change sex from year-to-year. If they had a year of good sun, moisture, and nutrition, they have enough energy the following season to produce the female flower and the seeds. If they aren't well-nourished, they will develop male flowers instead.



Mayflies spend the majority of their lives underwater and only emerge to reproduce, dying after they do so. They don't even eat once they reach the adult stage of the life cycle!



Female *black flies* are the only ones that feed, so that they can produce eggs. When they bite, their saliva contains an anticoagulant that causes a lot of bleeding and discomfort for their hosts. And it's not just your imagination - they do love to bite children!



White-tailed deer are birthing fawns now, usually twins. While the fawns are nursing, the mother must leave them hidden in the grass (hence the dappled coat) so that she can find food and water.



A rainbow of *songbirds* are up at the first light of dawn to sing their hearts out. Usually, it is only the males who sing, in order to communicate about nesting territory or to attract a mate.



Painted turtles leave the pond only to seek out a nesting site. The female digs a hole and deposits around 6-8 eggs (can be anywhere from 2 to 20 however), covers them with dirt and grasses, and makes her way back to the pond. The eggs hatch by late summer or fall, and the baby turtles usually overwinter in the nest and emerge in spring.

