

Scouting About

News from the South African Scout Association.

www.scouting.org.za



SCOUTS
South Africa

Member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement

0860SCOUTS

DEVASTATION IN HAITI



Since the announcement of the earthquake and devastation in Haiti, the international Scout brotherhood has mobilized behind a major aid initiative, Actions are being multiplying everywhere to assist the Haitian Scouts and it is becoming easier to establish contact with them now.

The World Scout Bureau, with the Scouts et Guides de France, the historical partners of Haitian Scouting, are coordinating the offers of support coming from National Scout Organisations. Any support coming from South African Scouting can be channelled through our own National Head Quarters.

Mr Richard Avery, Director External Relations and Marketing, World Scout Bureau writes – “Our Fellow Scouts in Haiti will need our full support as they have demonstrated their full capacity and ability to do the job.”

Having experienced the difficult consequences of many natural disasters, the Haitian Scouts have acquired expertise

that they have once again put at the disposal of the people of Haiti and have come forward and presented themselves to the association's president, Gerard-Marie Tardieu, to offer their services of assistance.

In the very early stages of the tragedy, reports of what Scouts undertook reads like the TV pictures we all watched at the time with horror, in the comfort of our safe living rooms. Scouts of Jacmel helped local firemen to find and rescue victims trapped under rubble, and helped in the distribution of food and water to the victims. The Scouts of Saint-Marc, put in place a makeshift clinic to provide primary care to the injured. The Scouts of St-George and Caleb Groups helped over 2000 survivors to reach the borders of Dominican Republic in their own cars. The Scouts of Gedeon de Carrefour Group have pulled out over 300 bodies from under the debris and saved about 725 victims. They have hand-fabricated coffins to bury twelve fellow Scouts who died. They undertook the very necessary and difficult task of digging a communal trench to bury 150 of the dead. The stories go on – read www.scout.org/en/blogs

Autumn 2010

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



Benjamin Slabbert - Gauteng
Darren van Gool - Gauteng
Aubrey Wessels - Gauteng
Brendon Whelan - Gauteng
Candice Waurich - Gauteng
Shannon McEvoy - Gauteng
Robert Klein - Gauteng
Chad Clarke - Gauteng
Patrick Sparks - KwaZulu Natal
Jo-Ann Chang - North West

CUB TRAIL

I am reliably informed that the New Programme Cub Trail Book will be available in May 2010. It will appear on the South African Scout Web Library section as soon as the final wording, illustration and layout has been finalized.

SEA SCOUT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The three Sea Scout Groups in Port Elizabeth, Humewood Sea Scout Group, Algoa Sea Scout Group and St Croix Sea Scout Group, got together and celebrated with a display and water activities at the busy Boardwalk Complex on the sea front just before Christmas. At the large site they were allocated, they put up a display with flags, banners, models and pictures of Sea Scouting. The activity that drew most public interest was the building of a large Kontiki raft with cabin and again adorned with flags, which was launched onto the complex's lake. A programme of canoe racing and activities was undertaken on the water available. It proved to be a great opportunity to “show off” Sea Scouting, and a recruiting drive, in front of the many

thousands of holiday visitors that thronged the well known facility over the three days it lasted. Maybe some of those upcountry visitors who inquired about Scouting might now be part of the movement in their home towns.



be prepared....

ENCHANTING CREATURES!

When I was a very small boy in a very big boarding school, after a bit of soccer, trying to catch and ride the wild donkeys that we encountered about the place, I was somewhat bored. I recall latching onto an older boy "who could speak French", he came from some north African country where that was the language and he collected insects. He was only a year or two

older than me, but he put up with me tagging along. We were not very "green" in those days, and went along with our nets and "killing bottles" to collect our insects. That evening, once our specimens had dried out a bit, we stuck a pin through them and pinned them to a card, a display where we could study them under a magnifying

glass to see their construction and beautiful colours which soon faded in death.

Well today, Cubs and Scouts don't do that sort of thing. We might catch our insects, keep them for a while for study, then, release them to go about their business. Enjoy this extract from Veld Lore and meet our fellow travellers on planet earth.

COLLECTING INSECTS FOR STUDYING



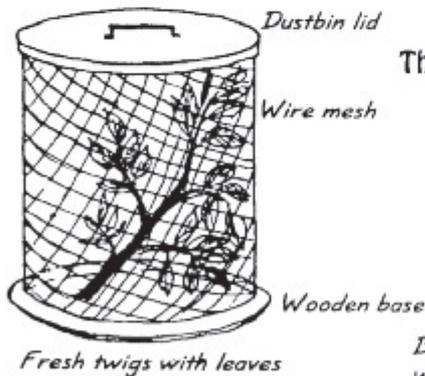
The simplest way is to hold an umbrella or a piece of cloth under a shrub while you shake the branches. Insects will fall into the umbrella and can easily be collected.

HOW TO COLLECT INSECTS

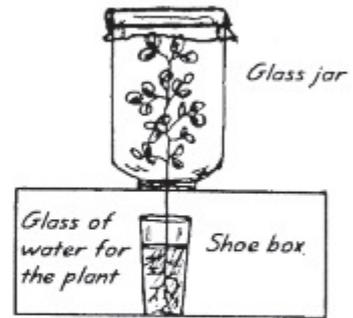
Insect collection and study is a truly fascinating, rewarding activity. Insects are best captured with a butterfly net — or, use any of the other good ways shown in these sketches from the World Scout Bureau's new book "Help To Save The World" by Carl A. Lindstén. It's a goldmine of ideas for environmental conservation projects.



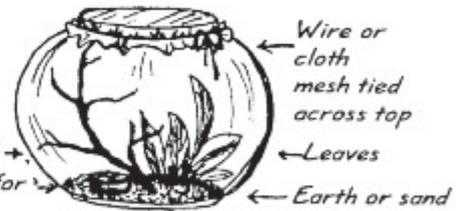
It is interesting to study how insect eggs, cocoons or caterpillars develop. Try to identify your insect with the help of an insect book.



Three Types of Cages for Insects



Make a hole in the shoe box for the plant



Note: When you have completed your study return the living creatures to their natural environment.

A fish bowl or large glass jar makes a good home for insects.

Be sure to take the same kind of leaves or food you found the insect living on, so you can feed it at home.

EAT OR BE EATEN!

That's the law, in the world of insects. For the insect, death stalks everywhere.

A bird may suddenly swoop down in search of a tasty morsel. Or

some larger insect may pounce from behind a stone, or out of a hole in the ground. Or, a spider web may entrap, or a chameleon shoot out its tongue, and so on.

Activity:

Go on a short ramble, in pairs. Keep an eye open for insects and their predators in action. Make brief report-back notes on anything you may observe.



WEATHER BRIEFS – DEEP FREEZE BRITAIN

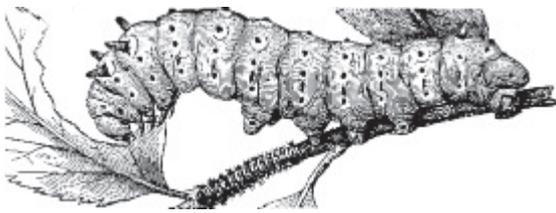
Scouts are prepared to have a good time in the icy conditions.

Scouts and their Leaders have overcome sub-zero temperatures at a winter camp at the Movements national campsite near Chingford Essex. Organisers considered

cancelling the event but 2500 youngsters, aged from 10 to 18 were happy to keep warm snowboarding, abseiling and trampolining. A spokesman said "We want

our young people to be aware of risk and their environment".

The Daily Telegraph – 11 January 2010



BREED SILKWORMS AND OBSERVE & RECORD THE CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH

About the best way to study an insect's cycle of life and death is to go back to one's younger days and, in a cardboard shoe box or something similar, breed some silkworms.

When the silkworms season comes around again in your neighbourhood, beg or buy about a dozen silkworm eggs from some enterprising young breeder and put the paper strip of eggs in the box. Keep the box in a dark, cool place. Observe daily and watch for the eggs to hatch. Keep a perforated lid on the box, to protect against predators.

When the young worms larvae emerge from the eggs they are little dark wriggling creatures about 5 mm long. Start feeding them at once with plenty of fresh mulberry leaves, daily. These tiny worms have an enormous appetite and eat their own weight in mulberry leaves every day.

In 4 to 6 weeks the tiny worms become plump white caterpillars, up to 6 or more centimetres long. They are then ready to spin their cocoons. They find a corner in the box somewhere, or a handy mulberry branch, and start spinning.

On both sides of their bodies are glands which have become filled with thick, glue-like material. Each worm now presses this out in two thin threads which stick together, as they emerge from an opening in the upper lip called the "spinneret".

The fluid threads at once harden in the air into the single tough silk fibre, and the larvae weave them into cocoons surrounding their bodies, by bending their heads backward and forward in a figure-eight loop.

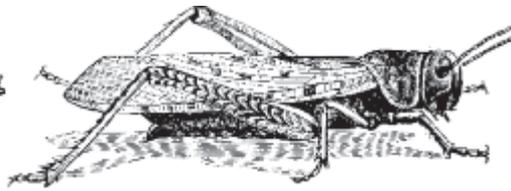
In three or four days the silk cocoons are completed. Put the best of them aside in a box in a warm place, until the moths emerge to lay eggs for the next season's brood of worms.

Thus, what seems on the surface to be "kid-stuff" to the teenager is, in fact, a splendid demonstration of a particular insect's life and death cycle.

Activity:

Set up a silkworm breeding station as outlined above, observe what happens daily, and keep a simple diary of events in log-book style. Consider, if you have access to a suitable camera, making step-by-step colour slides of the process.

The yellow silk can of course be removed from the cocoon, and wound on a card for display.

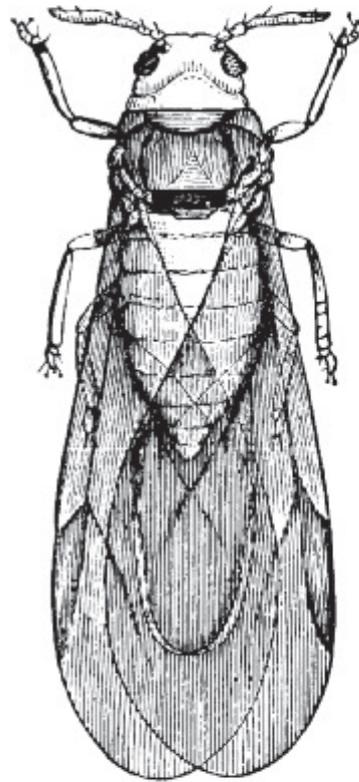


THE STRANGEST TALES EVER TOLD

Wherever there is life there are insects, the six-legged creatures of land, air and water. There are so many that if you could put all the insects in the world on one side of a huge scale, and all the remaining animals, including the fish in the sea, and man, on the other side, the total would be small and insignificant compared with the number of insects.

Whenever men have tried to calculate insects by numbers, they have reached such staggering sums that the human mind fails to grasp them.

Most people pay little attention to insects, yet those who explore the insect world find it stranger than all the fairy tales ever told. You can get well and truly hooked on insects when you look into their eternal welfare, find out how they protect their young, or get their food, and study the magic that puts wings on the caterpillar or turns the helpless grub into the busy bee.



FLEA

INSECTS ARE VITAL!

Insects play a very important part in helping to maintain the balance of nature:



Activity:

Arrange with a beekeeper to show you his hives and explain how the bees get to work. Find out about wild bee swarms — but don't poke about near them.

Ask Skip to organise a Troop visit to the local museum to view their insect collection, and listen to a talk by the staff entomologist.

BE AWARE! Some people have an allergic reaction to insect stings, bites and secretions so go prepared with proper dress and wear gloves when handling insects. Be like a bird, recognize dangerous insects by their warning colours, attitude and attack mode.

B-P's OUTLOOK

Standardisation of Badges



In view of a very elaborate curriculum that was recently drawn up by one authority for standardizing the tests for badges, I was obliged to criticize it in this sense:

"I hope that the compilers are not losing sight of the aim and spirit of the Movement by making it into a training school of

efficiency through curricula, marks and standards. Our aim is merely to help the boys, especially the least scholarly ones, to become personally enthused in subjects that appeal to them individually, and that will be helpful to them."

"We do this through the fun and jollity of Scouting; by progressive stages they can then be led on, naturally and unconsciously, to develop for themselves their knowledge. But if once we make it into a formal scheme of serious instruction for efficiency, we miss the whole point and value of the Scout training, and we trench on the work of the schools without the trained experts for carrying it out."

"We have to remember that the Scoutmasters are voluntary play leaders in the game of Scouting, and not qualified school teachers, and that to give them a hard-and-fast syllabus is to check their ardour and their originality in dealing with their boys according to local conditions."

"I could quite imagine it frightening away many Scoutmasters of the right sort."

"The syllabus as suggested seems to go a good deal beyond what is prescribed as ours does in Scouting for Boys; and if the proportions of the ingredients given in a prescription are not adhered to you cannot well blame the doctor if the medicine doesn't work."

"Our standard for badge earning — as I have frequently said — is not the attainment of a certain level of quality of work (as in the school), but the **amount of effort exercised by the individual candidate**. This brings the most hopeless case on to the footing of equal possibility with his more brilliant or better off brother."

"We want to get them ALL along through cheery self-development from within and not through the imposition of formal instruction from without."

GUERRILLA GARDENING

Guerilla Gardening, like the name suggests, is an individual or a group of people going out under cover of darkness, with or without the permission of the owners to clean up and plant a garden or trees on land in their neighbourhood, which has been left in a neglected state. Being Scouts, I would suggest that you obtain the necessary permission. Get on the web and enter "guerilla gardening" and obtain information on the project.

Guy Caws, Group Scouter of 1st Malvern Scout Group, reports on a "Guerilla Gardening" project undertaken by Scouts of the Stainbank District, KwaZulu Natal Province.

According to Martin Clement, Education Officer at the Durban Botanic Gardens, Guerilla Gardening is a rebellious form of gardening in public places that have been left derelict or have been forgotten. Six scout troops (1st Malvern, 1st Escombe, 1st Yellowwood Park, 58th Durban, Umhlatuzana and 1st Hillcrest) identified a neglected area in their neighbourhood. In order to prepare for the great assault, 27 patrol leaders and seconds in the district attended a course in permaculture techniques at the Durban Botanic Gardens on Wednesday evening 27 September 2009.

Friday 13th November saw more than 100 scouts getting into action. The sites were cleared, prepared and the plants were planted within two hours. Despite the rain there was a festive atmosphere at each site. The scouts



Scouts, Yerissa Govender, Anthony Hamlett, Kaveshan Maistry and Travis Jones of 1st Malvern Scout Troop, working on their Guerilla Garden.

worked hard and were supported by parents and friends. An entourage of guests and the media visited the sites under the guidance of the District Commissioners.

The 1st Hillcrest Troop planted five trees to mark the groups 50th birthday. Umhlatuzana chose to clear a local illegal drinking spot. Plants were obtained through various sources. One group's plants were sponsored by a nursery whose owner is a Springbok Scout!

Saturday 14th November dawned with six new public gardens in the Stainbank District. The plants were chosen to be low maintenance and all groups have committed to ongoing maintenance of the gardens.

SCOUTING RESOURCES CD

Electronic Resources for Cub and Scout leaders

This CD-ROM provides a huge collection of ideas and resources for the Scout leader, Cub leader, Scout Group Committee member, or senior Scout.

The second edition of the CD (released in 2010) contains:

- Latest version of the Pack and Troop management database program
- A full copy of the www.scouting.org.za website
- Over 3400 clipart images
- Over 2000 sample programmes, ideas and files for Cub and Scout programmes
- An extensive library of South African Scouting books
- Photos, forms, PR material, and much more
- A special Western Cape section

How to Order

You can buy the CD from the Western Cape Scout Shop, or order a copy for delivery by post.

Cost: R10, if you buy it in the shop, or R30, including postage and packing anywhere in South Africa.

To order, please send your name, phone and email, proof of payment, and the shipping address for the CD, to Western Cape Scout HQ. adminwc@scouting.org.za

LIDZ NEWREST CUB PACK – TRANSKEI

At a recent Cub Camp the proud Duty Sixer breaks the Pack flag while the Leaders and Pack salute. Pack Scouter Lindeni Ndinga proudly displays their home made flag. The Cubs of Lidz Pack, with one voice, proclaim their flag the best in the OR Tambo District.



SCOUT & CUB FLAGS

The design for the new Scout & Cub flags was accepted by National Council at their recent meeting. The new design will be what all Scout Groups will use for future flags. The design will be phased in as and when new Groups are formed and older Groups replace their existing flags. If, like

Lidz Pack, you intend making your own flag, get a copy of the new design from your Head Quarters and follow this design and colours.

Contributions can be:

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be prepared....