

Thornton W. Burgess Society  
Green Briar Nature Center

EDUCATION BROCHURE



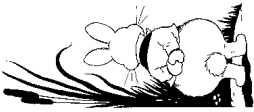
“Nature study is the *Golden Key* to the  
vast storehouse of knowledge.”

Thornton W. Burgess

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Joan Benttinck-Smith  
Foundation

Thornton W. Burgess Society  
Green Briar Nature Center  
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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Thornton W. Burgess Society is a Massachusetts Department of Education provider. We offer a variety of opportunities during the year for educators. Current listings are available on our web site at: <http://www.thorntonburgess.org>.

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO EDUCATORS

The Swain Natural History Library houses field guides, research books, children's nature books, science and literature curriculum guides and numerous GEMS guides. Your entire school may become a library partner for a fee of \$25.00 per year. This allows teaching staff full library privileges.

Educators may borrow furs, skulls, mounted specimens, etc. by contacting the education department at least 1 week ahead for a week long loan period. There is no fee but the educator assumes responsibility for the artifacts.

**NEW in 2008-CLASSROOM KITS:** Support from **Bank of America** has allowed us to create 3 classroom kits available for loan at no charge on a first come basis. The kits are geared toward Grades K-4. Each kit has curriculum materials, natural history artifacts and other hands-on materials. Loan period is 2-weeks.

**BIRDS**— This kit uses sports team mascots, recordings of common bird sounds, examination of beaks and feathers and field guides to spark interest in our feathered neighbors.

**MAMMALS**—This kit contains lots of hands-on materials (furs, skulls, scat replicas, tracks and chews) to help support a thorough exploration into the Mammal's Class.

**HONEY BEES**—This kit is designed around a week of lessons using literature and games to explore the life history of honey bees. Explore what it means to be an insect, how bees communicate and their role as pollinators.

## ABOUT OUR STAFF

The education staff at the Burgess Society consists of full and part time paid teacher naturalists. The average classroom and field experience for our staff is 16 years.

## ABOUT THE THORNTON W. BURGESS SOCIETY

The Thornton W. Burgess Society was founded in 1976 as a non-profit, environmental educational organization to honor the memory of Sandwich native Thornton Waldo Burgess and to carry on his work of “inspiring reverence for wildlife and concern for the natural environment.”

Born in Sandwich in 1874, Mr. Burgess achieved international fame as a children’s author, conservationist and naturalist. He wrote over 170 books and over 15,000 nature stories published daily in newspapers nationwide.

The Society-owned Green Briar Nature Center and Jam Kitchen, located off Route 6-A in East Sandwich, abuts the Town-owned Briar Patch Conservation Area. Situated near the banks of the Smiling Pool Pond, famed abode of the very wise Grandfather Frog, the new Putnam Education Building houses classroom space and our live animal exhibits. Hiking trails wind through the Briar Patch, wherein reside such Burgess characters as Peter Rabbit and Johnny Woodchuck. We are open year round with abbreviated winter hours.

The Thornton Burgess Museum, located in historic Sandwich Village, is leased from the Town of Sandwich. Housing a vast collection of Burgess artifacts and memorabilia, the Museum offers historical exhibits and is open from Mid April through Mid October. It is within walking distance of many other attractions including the Sandwich Glass Museum and the Hoxie House.

Since 1996 the Burgess Society has leased the East Sandwich Game Farm property from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. This property encompasses a variety of habitats including salt marsh, upland forest, meadows and freshwater pond and swamp. Trails are open to the public.

The education staff consists of full and part-time teacher naturalists with many years experience working with children and adults in formal and informal settings. For further information visit our website at [www.thorntonburgess.org](http://www.thorntonburgess.org)



Sammy Bluejay



Jimmy the Skunk

## PROGRAM LISTINGS

### AMAZING MAMMALS

An introduction to the characteristics shared by animals in the Mammal Class. Explore hair/fur, teeth, and other physical adaptations. Includes live mammals. Grades Pre K-6



### ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION

An introduction to classifying animals based upon similarities and differences in appearance and behavior. Explore physical characteristics, life cycles and adaptations for survival of Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians and Insects. Grades Pre K-6

### ANIMALS IN DANGER

Discover some of the causes driving organisms toward endangerment and extinction. Meet live animals and examine animal artifacts from the Cargo for Survival donation program of the U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife Department. Artifacts include elephant ivory and walrus tusk jewelry, sea turtle shells, skins and furs. Grades Pre K-6



### ANIMAL TRACKS AND SIGNS

Be a nature detective and examine evidence left behind by mammals, birds and insects. Explore signs through actual chewed nuts, acorns, pine cones and twigs. Examine model animal feet. Create a tracking guide to bring home using ink stamps and rubber feet. Grades Pre K-6



*“Interest in living things is inherent and interest is the primary essential in education.” Thornton W. Burgess*

## BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS



An introduction to characteristics of animals in the Class Aves. Hands-on exploration using mounted specimens and artifacts including feathers, beaks, feet, nests, models of eggs and bird song.  
Grades Pre K-5

## BURGESS LIVE ANIMAL STORYTIME



Our naturalist/storytellers present a lively rendition of a Thornton Burgess animal story followed by hands-on exploration with artifacts and live animals related to the story.  
Grades Pre K-2

**“Nature study is a basic element in education.” Thornton W. Burgess**

## CAMOUFLAGE CRITTERS



Hide and seek is not a game to wild animals. Many animals mimic the appearance of distasteful or dangerous animals in order to survive. Includes slides of animals and animal artifacts.  
Grades Pre K-4

## DIGGING DECOMPOSITION



Explore the natural cycle of decomposition within a local forest through a hands-on examination of forest soil. Program provides a basic understanding of how soil is formed and its importance to life on our planet.  
Grades Pre K--6

## DINOSAURS & FOSSILS



Explore the life and times of dinosaurs, compare and contrast similarities and differences among animal and plant fossils. Explore how some fossil species are similar to modern species.  
Grades Pre K-2

## EGGS TO LEGS

All living organisms experience growth, development, reproduction and death. This program explores organisms which emerge from eggs and have legs. Seasonal offering, check for availability. Grades Pre K-5



## EXAMINING ARTIFACTS

Student groups explore small “archeological” caches called middens by excavating artifacts contained in several layers of soil and sand. Each group maps their midden, cleans and classifies artifacts discovered and makes inferences about the items uncovered. Grade 3



## EXPLORING ROCKS AND MINERALS

Hold millions of years of Earth’s history in your hand as you explore Metamorphic, Igneous and Sedimentary Rocks and over 30 specimens of Minerals. Grades 3-6



## FOREST HABITAT

A habitat is more than just a home. Explore the connection between plants and animals living in our local forests. Create a forest energy web and food chain.  
Grades K-5

## INSECTS AND THEIR HABITATS

Explore a variety of habitats around Green Briar Nature Center looking for insects and their signs. Adaptations, basic identification skills and comparing species are explored. Seasonal offering, check for availability.



**“No magic can compare with watching a caterpillar spin its cocoon and later emerge an exquisite moth.” Thornton W. Burgess**

## MODELS, MAPS AND MOVEMENT

Explore different types of maps of local areas. Create contour models. Compare and contrast coastal areas to show coastal erosion and the movement of Earth's materials through charts and detailed maps. "Navigate" a course from Barnstable Harbor to Boston as packet ships of the 1800's did daily. Grades 6-8

## POND HABITAT



A habitat is more than just a home. Examine pond water to discover amazing creatures. Micro projector enables the entire class to view microscopic animals. Explore the connection between living and non-living parts of a freshwater system. Grades 4-8

*"Nature is the pioneer teacher." Thornton W. Burgess*

## REVOLUTIONARY WAR DOCTOR



Society Naturalist Philip Kyle portrays Barnstable Doctor James Thacher, Revolutionary War surgeon. Student volunteers assist in a hands-on exploration of common medical practices, potions and mock surgeries. Assembly or individual classroom presentations. Grades 3-6

## SEEDS AND MORE (Exploring plants)



Examine and classify different types of seeds and seed containers according to adaptations for dispersal and survival. Discover life stories and weather patterns hidden within tree rings. Work to identify twigs and leaves from common trees. Grades 2-5

## SHIPWRECKS OF CAPE COD

Students learn about Cape Cod's historical place as the Ocean's Graveyard through a mini slide show and activities. Presentation includes sea shanties and songs related to events in the show. Activities include mapping ocean floor and shipwreck site. Ideally offered as 2 visits to your classroom. Grades 3-6

## SKULL DIGGERY



Who can solve the mystery of the skulls? Students examine skulls and teeth from a variety of animals as they attempt to identify the predator and prey, herbivore, carnivore, bird, amphibian, mammal, or reptile. Grades 3-6

## SPRINGING INTO SPRING



Nature seems active once again. Explore the pond edge, woods and gardens at Green Briar as we search for signs of spring among the animals and plants that inhabit the Dear Old Briar Patch. Grades K-4

## TIDAL POOLS IN THE CLASSROOM



Incredible salt water creatures crawl and swim through mini tide pools re-created right in the classroom. Students observe and handle a variety of live organisms such as sea stars, sea urchins, hermit crabs, green crabs and snails. Offered September and October, May and June. Grades Pre K-8

*"The ignorance of the average man, woman and child in regard to the most common living thing about them is colossal." Thornton W. Burgess*

## WATER MATTERS



Work through a simulation to discover the distribution of water on our planet. Discover the scientific properties of water through easy to understand HANDS-ON experiments.

Grades 3-6

## WILD ABOUT REPTILES



Meet live snakes and turtles. Examine artifacts such as snake skins, turtle shells and turtle eggshells. Explore what makes these creatures unique among vertebrate animals. Offered September through October, May and June.

Grades Pre K-5

## WILD ABOUT WHALES

Learn adaptations and life styles of toothed and baleen whales. Staff naturalist, Patricia Gonser shares information from her years at Sea World. This presentation includes slides and can be offered in classroom or auditorium setting.

Grades 3-8

## WINTER'S COMING



Who's active? Who hibernates? Who migrates? Students examine a variety of artifacts (chewed nuts and pine cones, fur pelts and track models), live animals and search the trails at Green Briar for clues on how animals spend the winter. Offered November through February.

*"Education is the only thing that can save American wildlife."  
Thornton W. Burgess*

## PROGRAM FEES

- **CLASSROOM LESSONS:** \$90.00 per classroom per hour.  
**EXCEPTIONS:** TIDAL POOLS IN THE CLASSROOM: \$125.00 per classroom. *Additional fee covers time spent in the pools collecting and then releasing live specimens.* SHIPWRECKS OF CAPE COD as a 2 visit to the classroom program is \$150.00
- **AUDITORIUM PROGRAMS:** \$250.00 (Program duration approx. one hour)
- **FIELD LESSONS AT GREEN BRIAR:** \$80.00 per classroom per hour.  
Most of the enrichment programs in this booklet can be presented as a field lesson at Green Briar Nature Center. We can accommodate up to 4 classrooms at one time. Time blocks longer than 1-hour can be arranged at a pro-rated fee. There is also space for eating lunch or snack here on the property.
- **TIDAL POOL FIELD LESSON:** \$90.00 per group of up to 25 students\*.  
This field experience brings students out into the pools, so proper clothing and footwear is required. Time blocks longer than 1-hour can be arranged at a pro-rated fee. Schedule for low tide days in September, October, May and June. **\*NOTE for out-of-town groups:** The Town of Sandwich charges a \$25.00 usage fee for out-of-town groups. This is in addition to the cost for a Burgess Society naturalist-led program.
- **SALT MARSH FIELD LESSON:** \$90.00 per group of up to 25 students.

**Schedule a program or for more information:** Contact the Education Director by phone 508-888-6870 ext. 13, fax 508-888-1919 or email: [mary.beers@thorntonburgess.org](mailto:mary.beers@thorntonburgess.org)

<b>Links to Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Frameworks</b>					
	Characteristics of Living Things	Heredity	Evolution and Biodiversity	Living Things and Their Environment	Engineering Design
<b>LIFE SCIENCE - PREK-2</b>					
AMAZING MAMMALS					
ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION					
ANIMALS IN DANGER					
ANIMAL TRACKS AND SIGNS					
BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS					
BURGES LIVE ANIMAL STORYTIME					
CAMOUFLAGE CRITTERS					
DINOSAURS AND FOSSILS					
EGGS TO LEGS					
FOREST HABITAT					
INSECTS AND THEIR HABITATS					
SEEDS AND MORE (Exploring Plants)					
SPRINGING INTO SPRING					
TIDAL POOLS IN THE CLASSROOM					
TRASH NOT TREASURES					
WILD ABOUT REPTILES					
WINTERS COMING					
<b>EARTH &amp; SPACE SCIENCE - PREK-2</b>	Earth's Materials				
DIGGING DECOMPOSITION					
EXPLORING ROCKS AND MINERALS					

<b>Links to Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Frameworks</b>					
	Characteristics of Plants and Animals	Structures and Functions	Adaptations of Living Things	Energy and Living Things	Engineering Design
<b>LIFE SCIENCE - Gr. 3-5</b>					
AMAZING MAMMALS					
ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION					
ANIMALS IN DANGER					
ANIMAL TRACKS AND SIGNS					
BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS					
CAMOUFLAGE CRITTERS					
DIGGING DECOMPOSITION					
EGGS TO LEGS					
FOREST HABITAT					
INSECTS AND THEIR HABITATS					
POND HABITAT					
SEEDS AND MORE (Exploring Plants)					
SKULL DIGGERY					
SPRINGING INTO SPRING					
TIDAL POOLS IN THE CLASSROOM					
WILD ABOUT REPTILES					
WILD ABOUT WHALES					
WINTERS COMING					
<b>EARTH &amp; SPACE SCIENCE - Gr. 3-5</b>	Rocks and Their Properties	Soil	The Water Cycle	Earth's History	
DIGGING DECOMPOSITION					
EXPLORING ROCKS AND MINERALS					
WATER MATTERS					

<b>Links to Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Frameworks</b>				
<b>LIFE SCIENCE - Gr. 6-8</b>	classification of Organisms	Evolution and Biodiversity	Living Things and Their Environment	Energy and Living Things
AMAZING MAMMALS				
ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION				
ANIMALS IN DANGER				
ANIMAL TRACKS AND SIGNS				
BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS				
CAMOUFLAGE CRITTERS				
DIGGING DECOMPOSITION				
EGGS TO LEGS				
FOREST HABITAT				
INSECTS AND THEIR HABITATS				
POND HABITAT				
SEEDS & MORE (Exploring Plants)				
SKULL DIGGERY				
SPRINGING INTO SPRING				
TIDAL POOLS IN THE CLASSROOM				
WILD ABOUT REPTILES				
WILD ABOUT WHALES				
WINTERS COMING				
<b>EARTH &amp; SPACE SCIENCE - Gr. 6-8</b>	Mapping the Earth	Earth's History		

<b>Links to Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Frameworks</b>		
<b>Program</b>	<b>Grade 3 Learning Standards</b>	<b>Grade 5 Learning Standards</b>
REVOLUTIONARY WAR DOCTOR	3.12 Explain how objects or artifacts of everyday life in the past tell us how ordinary people lived and how life has changed. 3.5 Explain the important political, economic and military developments leading up to and during the American Revolutionary War.	5.11 Identify the first 13 colonies and explain how their regional differences in climate and farming shaped their economies through the 18th century. 5.14 Explain how development of colonial governments contributed to the Revolutionary War.
EXAMINING ARTIFACTS	3.12 Explain how objects or artifacts of everyday life in the past tell us how ordinary people lived and how life has changed.	
SHIPWRECKS OF CAPE COD	3.8 On a map of Massachusetts, locate the classes home town and its local geographical features. History and Geography 2. Observe visual sources that accompany historical narratives.	
	History and Geography 3. Observe and describe local or regional historic artifacts.	