

PLUGGED IN FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ART

GET **connected** connected

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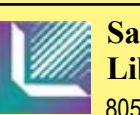
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 Santa Barbara County Parks
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 Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum
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 Art From Scrap
805-884-0459 www.artfromscrap.org

 USDA Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest
805-968-6640 www.fs.fed.us/rs/lspadres

 South Coast Railroad Museum
805-964-3540; www.goletadepot.org

This Month's Theme: Beneficial Bugs

Many people think that all bugs, or insects, are pests. In fact, most bugs are harmless, and many are beneficial to humans.

In order to grow healthy food, farms need bugs!!! Some bugs, like bees, help pollinate plants and flowers, and other bugs, like ladybugs, eat insects that like to eat crops before they get to

you. Farms, like Fairview Gardens, need a balance of good and bad bugs to stay healthy. There are many different types of bugs, including predators, pollinators, forecasters, and decomposers.

Predators



EGGS



LARVAE



PUPA



ADULT

LADYBUG

Pictured above are the four stages of a ladybug's life. Ladybugs are especially beneficial in gardens and ecosystems because they eat aphids, a common pest to many plants. Lady bugs eat the most aphids while in their larval stage.

ACTIVITY: See if you can find all four ladybug stages on a plant in your yard or in your garden.

Pollinators

Man's best friend among the insects is the honey bee. Bees transfer pollen from one flower to another as they gather nectar to feed themselves and their young. Humans are very dependent on this process, since flowering plants are the main source of our food, timber and fiber, and provide forage crops for livestock.



BEE

Forecasters

Water bugs are excellent indicators of water quality and ecosystem health. Each aquatic bug species can tolerate a particular level of pollution, temperature, mud or silt in the water. Visit the Watershed Resource Center to see a water bug exhibit and learn more about aquatic insects.



WATER BUG

Reading Bugs

"Catch the Reading Bug" is the summer reading program slogan at your local library. Visit your library or www.sbplibrary.org to find out about all the summer fun.



ACTIVITY: Learn more about bugs at Fairview Gardens Summer Farm Days from June-August on the farm.


http://www.fairviewgardens.org/classes_kids.html

Bug Search Puzzle

Find these hidden words: pollinator, predator, forecaster, beneficial, bugs, insects, decomposer, wasp, beetle, butterfly.

E C P E E D A B E R P N N G E E
L K S D F I X U O E K I E H D O
B A E F L I N G B W A S P R H I
O M A R O R E S P N L S O W N D
A V H U A R D A E A I D L G O D
J S R U S E E E I C E V L I A K
W I Y E C J L C C L T U I C C O
O Q E C P E I T A O D S N J I E
G L Z C R F T S H S M S A R D S
W O F B E E T L E Y T P T V E D
G O C N D L I O F T H E O H R R
P E E P A V S O S F X I R S L F
M B U T T E R F L Y P M W O E T
G O Z S O L R N C N N F S B Y R
M T E R R U I H L O A C Y W S F
H E O L H T S S A H B L N M R E

 Marine Science Institute, UCSB
805-893-8765 www.msi.ucsb.edu

 Kids Do Ecology
805-892-2500 nceas.ucsb.edu/nceas-web/kids

 Wildling Art Museum
805-688-1082 www.wildlingmuseum.org

 Ty Warner Sea Center
805-962-2526 www.sbnature.org

 The Outdoor School at Rancho Alegre
805-686-5167 www.theoutdoorschool.org

 The Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens
805-967-7369 www.fairviewgardens.org

Page by Tiffany Cooper, Fairview Gardens Center For Urban Agriculture, and Janice Rorick, Santa Barbara Public Library.

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