

Shared Wonder

~

A

Modern

Charlotte Mason's

Nature Study

Volume 1

Entomology

I am a geek. I know it, and wallow in it sometimes. I am not the most knowledgeable at nature study, but I just love going out and learning about the wondrous world that God made. Yet nature study can be intimidating or, perhaps more often, unappreciated by those new to Charlotte Mason and those new to nature study. Nature study teaches many things from helping us to see closely: seeing patterns, seeing changes, seeing details, seeing God's power. It is also foundational to a great science education. Learning from the world around us, takes our understanding of all science to a higher level, increases our curiosity, and helps with our ability to make sound hypothesis in later years. More than that, it is good for our souls and our bodies. Being in nature decreases stress, increases the ability to pay attention, decreases depression, helps you sleep, is lovely exercise, and nature study brings you closer to Him. Looking at all that he has made is awe inspiring.

I was not exactly sure how to write this plan. So we are winging it. I schedule two nature walks a week with an extra day for studying a particular place repeatedly. Not only that, but I think you ought to be out every single day. (Told you I was a geek.) We are going to study watercolors-which are a little different dry brush-in all the years but year one. We are going to read some lovely living books. This Volume is going to study entomology: the study of bugs, but we will study other things as well. Study what God puts in your path, it is there for a reason. The variety is also helpful when it comes to interesting all God's children, but the the focus allows us to go deep in one area. The focus will change each year, and sometimes more than one focus will fit a year better. With more insects than any other animal in the world, we are going to have fun with this one.

Supplies will vary with person to person, and I am including a supply list on the pinterest board. That said, we will need a nature journal that can handle the watercolors, and watercolors. Binoculars are always handy, but with bugs, I prefer a hand lens. (magnifying glass) You might also want some habitats to observe an insect more closely before releasing. I will include some resources for raising butterflies, and an ant farm, and seeds for butterflies...you get the idea. You will want to dress comfortably, especially your feet.

Try to work with your weather. Here in the deep south, we go out EARLY in the summer. In the winter, afternoons work well. You might need to wait until after lunch, or have a look from inside in coldest winter of the northern climes. Or perhaps a very quick foray outside? Don't fight the weather, but work with it. It will teach you much about nature as well. Note the weather in your nature journal entries. Patterns will emerge and fascinate you.

Try to work with your environment. Insects are a great start to nature study because they are everywhere! Apartments, nature preserves, city or country, they all have insects. So while it is lovely to go into a park, studying nature where you are is very convenient for everyone involved. Convenient tends to mean we are more likely to do it.

When I started nature study with my children, I was doubtful of the value and really disinterested. What a blessing God gave me! I sit at my desk with binoculars beside me. My office overlooks the pond and pasture, so when I need a mental break or some joy, I just have to look. You will often see Facebook posts with ponderings from the porch. I do lots of pondering as I sit on my front porch and look. My wish for you is that you will find a bit of that joy and wonder that I have when I think of my Creator and the beauty that he has wrought, especially in the ordinary.

Sending blessings to your homeschool,

Susan Vaughan Harnish

Booklist for Form 1

No Excuses Watercolor (art for nature study)

http://www.amazon.com/Excuses-Watercolor-Techniques-Sketching-Journaling/dp/1440339856/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

Little Busybodies: Public domain

http://www.amazon.com/Little-Busybodies-Jeannette-Augustus-Marks/dp/1505312175/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1457818382&sr=1-2&keywords=little+busybodies+Moody+and+Marks

The Nature Connection by Leslie-Nature Study Handbook for today

http://www.amazon.com/Nature-Connection-Workbook-Families-Classrooms/dp/1603425314/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1452702965&sr=1-1&keywords=nature+connection

The Grasshopper Book (easier)

http://www.amazon.com/Grasshopper-Book-Wilfrid-Swancourt-Bronson/dp/0865346909/?linkId=23ec05778018ea6be9b38fef616cc697&ref=as_li_ss_tl&qid=1455101389&s=books&sr=1-2&keywords=grasshopper+book%2C+bronson&ie=UTF8

Extraordinary Life

http://www.amazon.com/Extraordinary-Life-Story-Monarch-Butterfly/dp/0531300021/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1457818289&sr=1-2&keywords=extraordinary+life

The Wonder World of Ants (easier)

http://www.amazon.com/Wonder-World-Wilfrid-Swancourt-Bronson/dp/0865346917/ref=sr_1_8?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1457817818&sr=1-8

Dragon in the Sky

http://www.amazon.com/Dragon-Sky-Story-Darner-Dragonfly-ebook/dp/B00MGWSKEI/ref=sr_1_9?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1457818038&sr=1-9&keywords=dragon+in+the+sky

OPTIONAL: Not scheduled. Use at your discretion.

Dover Coloring Book of Insects

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0486279987/?pf_rd_t=36701&pf_rd_p=2084660942&pf_rd_s=desktop-4&pf_rd_r=0T4C871B560N719ST7GJ&pf_rd_m=ATVPDKIKX0DER&pf_rd_i=desktop&ref=s9_cartx_gw_g14_i8_r

Ralph Masiello's Bug Drawing

http://www.amazon.com/dp/1570915261/?ref=cm_sw_r_pi_dp_7G4uvb1W06VVB

Booklist for Form 4

Watercolorist Essential Notebook

http://www.amazon.com/Watercolorists-Essential-Notebook-Gordon-MacKenzie/dp/0891349464/ref=pd_sim_14_56?ie=UTF8&dpID=51%2BuIGwVtOL&dpSrc=sims&preST= AC UL160 SR117%2C160 &refRID=0285HCWEBXPM7QTXVE81

Life on a Little Known Planet

http://www.amazon.com/Life-Little-Known-Planet-Biologists/dp/1558212493/?ie=UTF8&refRID=1H7RQ7Z3E25QM08A5SK5&dpSrc=sims&dpID=51CCYF28H5L&ref=pd_sim_14_3&preST= AC UL160 SR105%2C160

Journey to the Ants

http://www.amazon.com/Journey-Ants-Story-Scientific-Exploration/dp/0674485262/?qid=1457466025&s=books&sr=1-3&keywords=ants+and+wilson&ie=UTF8&ref=sr_1_3

A Field Guide to the Familiar

http://www.amazon.com/Field-Guide-Familiar-Learning-Observe/dp/0874518652/ref=pd_sim_14_2?ie=UTF8&dpID=71YD342J5AL&dpSrc=sims&preST= AC UL160 SR105%2C160 &refRID=16DKX9XXQ3NEJ03WZ3C2

King Solomon's Ring: animal behavior

http://www.amazon.com/King-Solomons-Ring-Routledge-Classics/dp/0415267471/?ref=pd_bxgy_14_img_3&ie=UTF8&refRID=13PMMSYBVRB0VF8664F

The Curious Naturalist: collection of naturalist stories

http://www.amazon.com/The-Curious-Naturalist-Everyday-Mysteries/dp/0892725109/?ie=UTF8&refRID=1HZGKAMPE1THVEWGF7GD&dpSrc=sims&dpID=51DsFzNABUL&ref=pd_rhf_dp_s_cp_6&preST= SL500 SR90%2C135 '

The Natural World of Lewis and Clark

http://www.amazon.com/dp/0826217664/?ref=cm_sw_r_pi_dp_BAWnvb0JQEDK1

Reference Books

Collect books like this over time. You do not need to have them all now: not scheduled.

These are especially suited to Form 2

Creepy Crawlies and the Scientific Method

<http://www.amazon.com/Creepy-Crawlies-Scientific-Method-Experiments/dp/1555911188>

The First Book of Bees

http://www.amazon.com/first-book-bees-First/dp/B0007DOSB2/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1457975393&sr=1-2&keywords=the+first+book+of+bees+tibbets

Milkweeds, Monarchs, and More

http://www.amazon.com/dp/0965747239/?ref=cm_sw_r_pi_dp_kOD7vb1MFGG5R

Pet Bugs by Kneidel

http://www.amazon.com/Pet-Bugs-Catching-Keeping-Touchable/dp/047131188X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1452721424&sr=1-1&keywords=pet+bugs

Ants of North America

http://www.amazon.com/Ants-North-America-Guide-Genera/dp/0520254228/ref=pd_sim_14_30?ie=UTF8&dpID=41PCkxOFpml&dpSrc=sims&preST= AC UL160 SR99%2C160 &refRID=1WVJGYSV1PJPEMVYRMDQ

The Book of Beetles

http://www.amazon.com/The-Book-Beetles-Life-Size-Hundred/dp/022608275X/ref=pd_sim_14_4?ie=UTF8&dpID=61IAWzjYlGL&dpSrc=sims&preST= AC UL160 SR108%2C160 &refRID=1WVJGYSV1PJPEMVYRMDQ

Bees in your Backyard

http://www.amazon.com/The-Bees-Your-Backyard-Americas/dp/0691160775/ref=pd_sim_14_6?ie=UTF8&dpID=5102NQjgcqL&dpSrc=sims&preST= AC UL160 SR128%2C160 &refRID=1WVJGYSV1PJPEMVYRMDQ

Dragonflies

http://www.amazon.com/Dragonflies-Magnificent-Creatures-Water-Land/dp/030019708X/ref=sr_1_13?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1457973287&sr=1-13&keywords=dragonfly

Week One

Day Two

- ☐ Nature Connection
- ☐ A Field Guide to the Familiar

- ☐ The Grasshopper Book
- ☐ Journey to the Ants

Your reading will guide your nature study today:

- ☐ Nature Connection:
- ☐ A Field Guide to the Familiar:

- ☐ Then 20-30 mins to work on a drawing in the nature journal. You might want to take a picture or have a specimen to be released later, or maybe this is a good day to journal outdoors.

This would be the time to:

- ☐ Make an entry in Your Calendar of Firsts
- ☐ Add to your Lifetime lists

Week One

Day Four

- ☐ Little Busybodies
- ☐ Knowing Insects through Stories
- ☐ Life on a Little Known Planet

- ☐ The Grasshopper Book
- ☐ Journey to the Ants

- ☐ No formal nature walk today, just time to play outside

- ☐ However, during their outside time they might have finds for the Calendar of Firsts or the Lifetime Lists. They might want to work on their nature journals, and that is fine.

***This is a good slot for rescheduling a nature walk.