

# Visionary UConn Design Students Take On Bauer

Month after month, it appeared on the Bauer Park Committee's agenda: the LONG RANGE PLAN. It loomed over us. It is a difficult task to conquer in an evening's meeting or even series of meetings. Then a seed of an idea emerged: why not have the University of Connecticut Landscape Architecture Program take on Bauer Park as one of their projects? After all, Barb Yaeger, former Bauer Park Committee member, and I had gone through the program ourselves, so we knew intimately well the attention Bauer Park would receive.

Each project that the UCONN students tackle starts with an intensive analysis on several different scales. Often, city-wide or regional analysis might include such information as open space analysis, circulation and node details, and park amenity comparisons down to the detail of the site level. Ultimately, all this

analysis, our detailed program needs combined with their individual creativity, influences the students' final site plan.

The answer was "yes, we should." The Bauer Committee and the Beach and Recreation Department agreed this would be a good idea. All the needed paperwork was done so that Professor Kristin Schwab could put the Bauer Park Project on the UCONN Landscape Architecture seniors' calendar for a three- to four-week project in the fall of 2010.

In the interim, the Bauer Committee brainstormed ideas and compiled facts to submit to the students to guide them in their planning of the Park. The date was set and the students and Prof. Schwab attended the annual Harvest Festival at the (continued on page 2)



Who are all these kids and why do they look so happy?...page 5



Who are the dogs of Bauer Park? The second in a new series written by kids... page 3



The varied and vivid results of the 2010 Photo Contest page 7

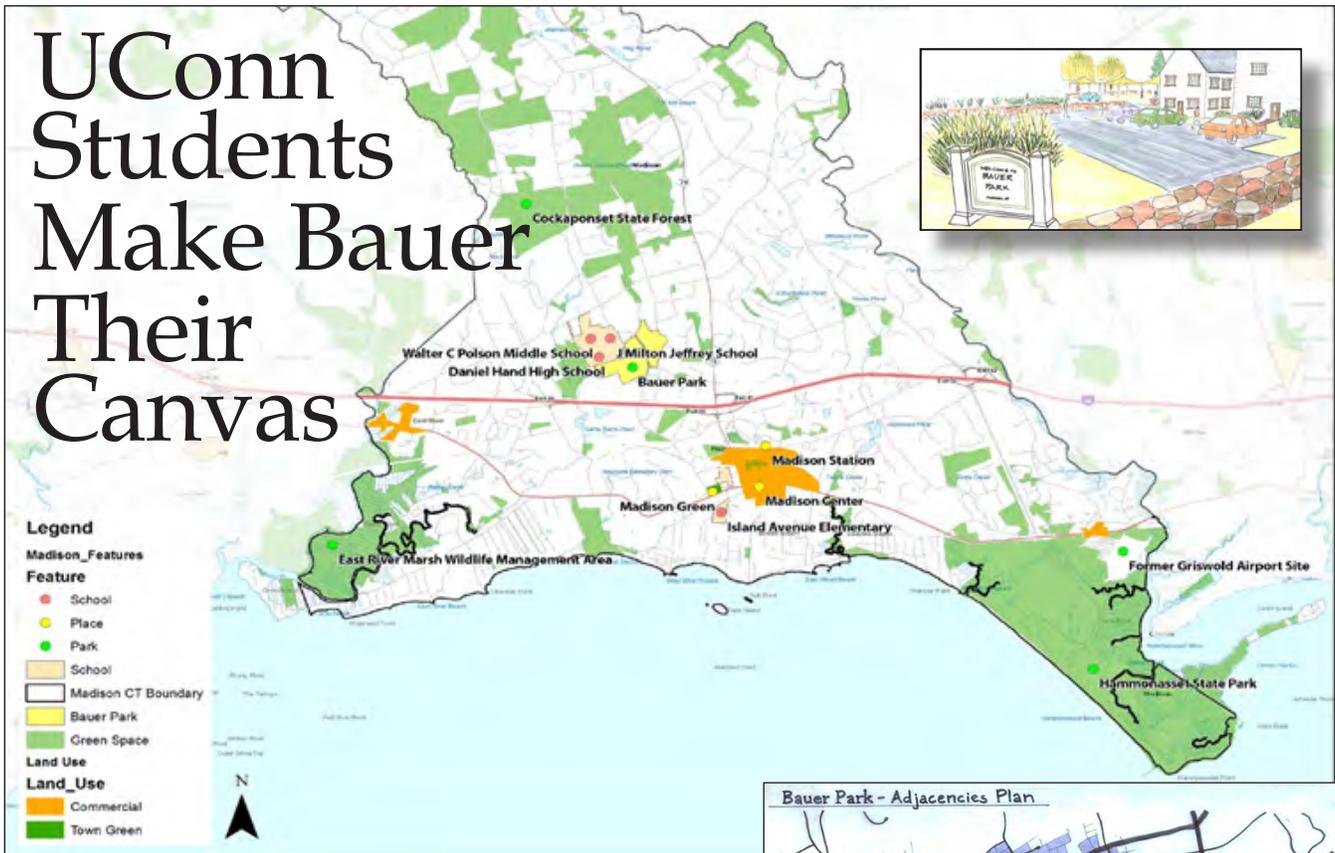
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UConn Students Jackie Grenus and Jessica Carrier were inspired by the farm's history in creating their proposed plan for Bauer Park.

# UConn Students Make Bauer Their Canvas



Analysis pieces were done as a group and included an adjacencies study (middle right), a circulation analysis (lower left), as well as a land use map (large).

(continued from page 1)

park on October 16 to kick off their project. They came with maps and markers and collected data, took photos and interviewed townspeople about what they wanted to see in the future at Bauer Park.

From there, the students went back to campus to hole up in their studio and, working both in groups and individually, to produce analysis pieces, diagrams, photo collages, charts, and more, all of which ultimately culminated in five site plans that would hopefully contribute in some way to the future of Bauer. On November 1,

four of us travelled to Storrs to critique the students' work.

Well, we were all amazed with the amount of work and creativity that we were presented with. Each plan had a different approach and unique answers to the questions we had posed. Five plans were a lot to take in during the course of one afternoon, and while no one design was perfect in and of itself, each had brilliant elements.

One suggested creating several "classroom" spaces throughout the park to augment our environmental education. Another revisited the historic tradition of planting sugar maples along Copse Road to define the beginning and end of the farm. One created an Arboretum in the park. Several moved the entrance to be directly across from Hunters trail. One transformed the perennial garden to an orchard. More than

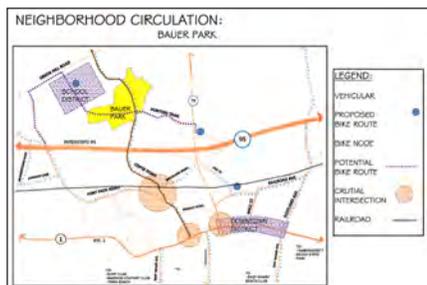


one dreamed of viewing platforms behind and overlooking the west pond that's used to irrigate the Community Gardens, where another imagined an adjacent picnic area. The ideas go on and on. The five plans and a large scale model are now on display at the town campus.

The next step is to glean the best ideas from these plans, see where they intersect with the committee's existing aspirations and limitations, and, thanks to the contagious inspiration of this gifted group of students, develop a visionary Master Plan for Bauer that will guide our work for a long time to come.

– Heather Atwater

(See more UConn work on page 6)



# A DOG FOR ALL SEASONS

It was a beautiful evening at Bauer Park, and guess who I got to meet...a very friendly woman, Nimi Auerbach, and a lovely Siberian Husky. About 10 years ago Nimi and her family set out to find a dog for the family. They lived in Pennsylvania at the time. Nimi told her husband she hoped for a dog who didn't shed much and look what she got! A Siberian Husky...for those of you who don't know they are very, very fluffy and shed regularly. Then it came time to name this husky pup. Since Alaska has Kodiak islands and Kodiak bears, the Auerbachs figured Kodiak would suit him.

When I asked Nimi three characteristics to describe Kodiak, this is what I got. He likes his freedom, curried food, and is a talkative pup! As I listened to Kodiak it was like he was trying to tell me about himself too! Over the years Kodiak has been part of the Auerbach pack. Although, Kodiak seems to believe that Nimi, her husband and children are part of his pack. When I asked Nimi if Kodiak has changed her life at all, she stated that Kodiak has brought



love and warmth to the family.

Bauer Park is also an important part of Kodiak's life; he walks at the park and plays with his canine friends every day. His favorite part about being at Bauer is seeing his friends, like energetic Sadie, and sniffing around the grounds of the park. From 6am every morning to 4:30pm, Kodiak waits for the chance to walk and enjoy life at Bauer Park.

After meeting Kodiak it is easy to see how he has become such an important member of their pack! A big thanks to Nimi and Kodiak for making this interview possible. It was a pleasure!!!

*This article is the second in a new series, written by the kids of Bauer Park, about the dogs of Bauer Park (and their owners).*

## Greenway Trail Schedules March Walk at Bauer

The Shoreline Greenway Trail's regular First Saturday Walk will be held at Bauer Park March 5 at 10AM. This moderate two mile walk will be led by John Paulson, a member of the Bauer Park Advisory Committee and of the Madison Team for the Shoreline Greenway Trail. For several years the Shoreline Greenway Trail has held these popular walks rain, snow, or shine, and even once in a threatening hurricane. They are free and the public is encouraged to join in. Sturdy shoes and a walking stick are always helpful. SGT arrow signs

will point to the meeting place in the large parking area to the north of the farmhouse.

The Shoreline Greenway Trail is a developing pathway for non-motorized recreation and alternative transportation from New Haven Harbor to Hammonasset Beach State Park. Approximately twenty-five percent of the trail is either constructed or in process including the trail crossing Hammonasset State Park that is approaching fifty percent completion. While most of the

pathway of the Shoreline Greenway Trail through Madison is yet to be determined, the Madison Team for the trail hopes to be able to provide spurs to Bauer Park and the adjacent schools in line with its mission to provide safe alternative routes to key locations within each town. More information about the trail is available at [shorelinegreenwaytrail.org](http://shorelinegreenwaytrail.org).



# ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND...

## Bauer Park Classes and Programs, Winter 2011

*This is an abbreviated listing; a full listing of Bauer Park educational programs and information is available at <http://www.madisonct.org/bauerpark.html>. Bauer Park is located at 257 Copse Road. If you would like to be added to the Bauer Park e-mail announcements list, please include your e-mail address when registering for programs; it will not be shared with any other organization.*

### Adults/High School Students

#### LEARN TO I.D. TREES IN WINTER

Saturday, 2/13

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Walk on the trails of Bauer Park and quickly learn to identify trees without their leaves.

Program # 401063A \$5/person

#### MAPLE SUGARING

Friday, 2/25

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Come and learn how maple syrup is made, from tree to table.

Program # 401051C \$5/person

#### DISSECT AND DRAW FLOWERS!

Monday, 3/7

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Dissect several species of flowers and make a scientific botanical drawing. No experience necessary.

Program # 401063B \$5/person

### All Ages/Families

#### FAMILY MAPLE SUGARING

Saturday, 3/5

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Come and learn how maple syrup is made, from tree to table.

Program # 401051D \$5/person

Program # 401051E \$15/family

#### GET READY FOR BLUEBIRDS!

Sunday, 4/10

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Learn about these lovely songbirds, tour the Bauer Bluebird Trail, and learn how to become a bluebird nest box monitor for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Program # 402071A \$5/person

Program # 402071B \$15/family

#### ASTRONOMY NIGHT

Saturday, 4/30 (Rain date: Sunday, 5/1)

8:00 p.m.

See Saturn and the spring constellations through the Astronomical Society of New Haven's telescopes.

Free

### Preschool/Kindergarten

#### OCEAN DETECTIVES

Thursdays, 1/13 - 2/17

Learn about plants and animals that live in the sea and how marine animals eat, move and protect themselves.

Program # 401066A 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Program # 401066B 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Fee: \$60

#### NATURE DETECTIVES AT BAUER PARK

Thursdays, 3/3 - 3/31

Each week, explore a different ecosystem at Bauer Park -- the forest, meadows, ponds and streams.

Program # 405051G 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Program # 405051H 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Fee: \$50

#### MADISON NATURE DETECTIVES

Wednesdays, 4/6, 4/13, 4/27, 5/4

Explore a different site in town each week, from the beaches to the forests.

Program #301021A 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Program #301021B 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40

#### MINI-EXPLORERS

**Come learn about nature and science through activities such as hiking, singing, games, reading and crafts.**

**For Preschoolers ages 3-5, accompanied by an adult.**

**Fee: \$8/class**

#### ANIMAL TRACKS AND TRACES

Friday, 2/11

Go on a mystery hunt for tracks and other signs of winter animals venturing out in the snow.

Program # 401057C 10:00 - 11:00 am

Program # 401057D 1:00 - 2:00 pm

#### IT'S SUGARING TIME!

Friday, 3/4

Learn how to tap the trees and then how to collect the sap to turn it into syrup.

Program # 401057E 10:00 - 11:00 am

Program # 401057F 1:00 - 2:00 pm

### HOP INTO SPRING

Friday, 4/8

Learn all about rabbits, and see if you can jump as far as a rabbit can!

Program # 301057A 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Program # 301057B 1:00-2:00 p.m.

### KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT

**A fun way for your kindergartner to spend the other half of the day. Each class includes a story, game, craft and outdoor exploration.**

Fee: \$10/class

#### WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

Wednesday, 2/9

From plants to predators, explore the food chain and web.

Program # 401064C 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Program # 401064D 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

#### FEED THE BIRDS

Wednesday, 2/16

What's it like to be a bird hunting for food in the winter?

Program # 401064K 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Program # 401064L 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

#### MAGICAL MAPLES

Wednesday, 3/2

Learn how to tap a tree to turn sap into syrup.

Program # 401064E 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Program # 401064F 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

#### FAIRY HOUSES AND WIZARD CASTLES

Wednesday, 3/16

Create a fairy or wizard and build a special home for it.

Program # 401064M 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Program # 401064N 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

#### AWESOME AMPHIBIANS

Wednesday, 3/30

All about frogs, toads, salamanders and newts!

Program # 401064I 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Program # 401064J 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

#### WONDERFUL WORMS

Thursday, 4/14

Earth's master recyclers! Find and learn about them.

Program # 401064G 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Program # 401064H 1:00-2:30 p.m.

**Sign up for the Beach & Recreation Department's Nature Listserv to read about environmental programs and events at Bauer Park, Rockland Preserve, the Griswold property and the town beaches. Send a message to [gazdac@madisonct.org](mailto:gazdac@madisonct.org) and put "Nature Listserv" in the subject line.**

... GET INVOLVED AT THE PARK



Spring may feel like a long, long way off this year, but FALL??

Yes, indeed, believe it or not, planning for the 2011 Harvest Festival is already underway.

**Please join us!**

Whether you have a lot or a little time to spare, there are so many ways to help. It's the perfect cure for cabin fever. Call (203) 245-5623 for more info.

# VOLUNTEER



Teen assistants Josh Danetz and Vanessa Passaretti with children in the Nature Explorers summer camp

## Teen Volunteers Help with Summer Programs

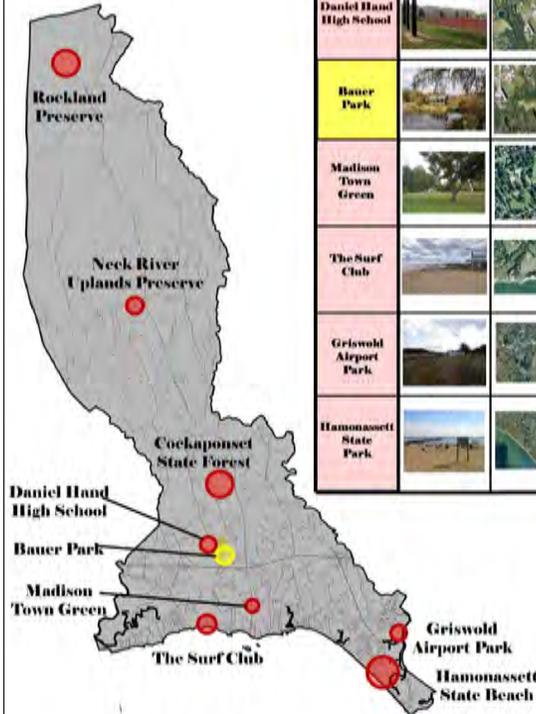
Bauer Park had a dedicated group of teen assistants this past summer. Twelve students in grades 5-12 participated in the new Bauer summer volunteer program. Students assisted with all aspects of summer camps and programs, from helping instructors set up and clean up, to reading stories, making nature crafts, catching frogs and more! The students got a taste of careers in outdoor education and were eligible to receive community service hours. We offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to: Annabella Capaccio, Sonny Capaccio, Camila Castro, Josh Danetz, Charles Evans, Zazie Fox, Elizabeth Griffin, Joe Hurley, Andrew Levy, Darius Mostaghimi, Vanessa Passaretti and Gillian Shaughnessy. We hope to work with you again next summer!



It may be COLD, but it's not too early to start dreaming of summer and your next GARDEN! Mark your calendars now: reservations for Community Garden plots begin in March. Residents can renew their plots between March 1 and 31; plots not reserved by then will become available to newcomers on April 18, 2011.

# Individual Open Space Matrix

	Iconic Photo	Aerial Map	Size/ Type	Site Uses	Owned By	Managed	Access
Rockland Preserve			649 Acres/ Natural Forest Land, Active	Hiking, Wildlife/Tring, Wildflowers, Education (Interpretive trail)	Team of Madison		Traffic - Rt. 78 Trailhead - Dead End Road, Parking Lot at Briens Way
Neck River Uplands Preserve			113 Acres/ Natural Forest Land, Passive Recreation	Hiking, Bunting, Bird watching, Spectroscopy, Passive Rec, Cross Country Hiking	Madison Land Conservation Trust	Madison Land Conservation Trust	2 Trailheads, Parking Lot(s), Walk after Intersected by Residential Destination.
Cockaponset State Forest			435 Acres/ State Forest, Natural	Hiking Preserve	State of Connecticut	State of Connecticut	Driving Walking
Daniel Hand High School			70 Acres/ High School, Active Paths	RE Athletics, Summer Sports, Education	Team of Madison	Team of Madison	Ample Parking, as well as Vehicles. Destination for both hour and visitors.
Bauer Park			68.5 Acres/ Active Recreation	Walking Trails, Community Gardens, Spectroscopy, Fall Festival, Annual Fair	Team of Madison	Volunteers	Mainly Driving to Park Parking Inside
Madison Town Green			Passive, Open Green	Green Art Fair and Passive Rec, Planned Hort. Exhib. Gathering, Walking	Green Team (Madison, Housh, Fry) Madison Congregational Church	Madison Dept. of Economic Development	Church Parking Lot, Parking in front of Chamber of Commerce, Walk from Youth Center
The Surf Club			47 Acres/ Recreation, Waterfront	Plastic Areas, Sports Fields Beach Bird Watching (Passive/Preserve)	Team David, Public Access	Team of Madison	Driving, Ample Parking Destination
Griswold Airport Park			47 Acres/ Inactive	Currently Unused, Proposed Use Use Park			
Hamonasset State Park			1000 Acres Active Rec, Natural Waterfront	Beach Park, Camping, Hiking, Swimming, Fishing, Boating, Nature Programs	State of Connecticut	Department of Environmental Protection	Parking, Drive to Site, Destination



This open space matrix, developed collaboratively by the UConn Landscape Architecture students, highlights Bauer Park's unique features and overviews Madison's open spaces.

## Huge Harvest Festival Thanks!

The annual Madison Bauer Park Harvest Festival was held on October 16th this year. With the help of many, it was another huge success. Despite the wind, we had the largest turnout yet, and the many events and attractions were enjoyed by all.

The Bauer Park Advisory Committee extends its thanks to all who attended and took part in the festivities. Although the festival takes time and a lot of planning, we enjoy showcasing Bauer Park and giving Madison residents the opportunity to visit this truly magnificent place.

Of course, the committee has a lot of help. Special thanks to the Madison Beach and Recreation Department and Facilities Department. The many things they do make our work much easier.

We would like to especially thank our many sponsors and volunteers who gave so freely. Without you, the festival would not be possible. Seeing everyone working together and helping out surely makes for a great day.



## Purslane: the "wonderful weed"

While working hard in my plot at Bauer Community Gardens I chuckle to myself when I see the abundance of purslane (*Portulaca olearaea*) in the communal weed/compost piles. This succulent herb is chocked full of vitamins, Omega 3 fatty acids and is tasty when served either raw in a salad or sautéed in butter or olive oil as the French have done for generations. It is a delicacy. I, too, am guilty of pulling out the purslane seedlings to make room for my tomatoes and eggplant but I try to harvest some of the greens and I have even planted a variety called Golden Purslane. All varieties freeze well; process them as you would spinach.

Michael Pollan, author of "In Defense of Food" among many other books, is a huge fan of purslane. For anyone worried about the cost of food these days, a diet of purslane and a little protein would keep one healthy for a lifetime.

When it's been a mild winter you may find some seedlings of purslane sprouting up in your garden plot as early as March. It is easy to identify and can be found in numerous garden books and searching for it on Google will get you millions of sites to explore. I have grown it indoors during the winter to add to salads and stir fry recipes.

Here is a list of seed catalogs offering purslane and other unusual seeds:

- SeedsOfChange.com
- LocalHarvest.org
- TerritorialSeed.com
- JohnnySeed.com

— Lucinda Pinchot

# Winners of the Bauer Park 2010 Photo Contest



Dianne Roberts "Rise to the Sky"  
Adult - Nature Loves Bauer - 1st place



Pat Anderson "Garden View Towards Farmhouse"  
Adult - Our Community Garden - 1st place

Winners were announced and displayed at the Harvest Festival in October.

Bauer can be at its most photogenic in the winter, so now's the time to start planning for next year's contest...

So give it your best shot, and we'll see you in October!



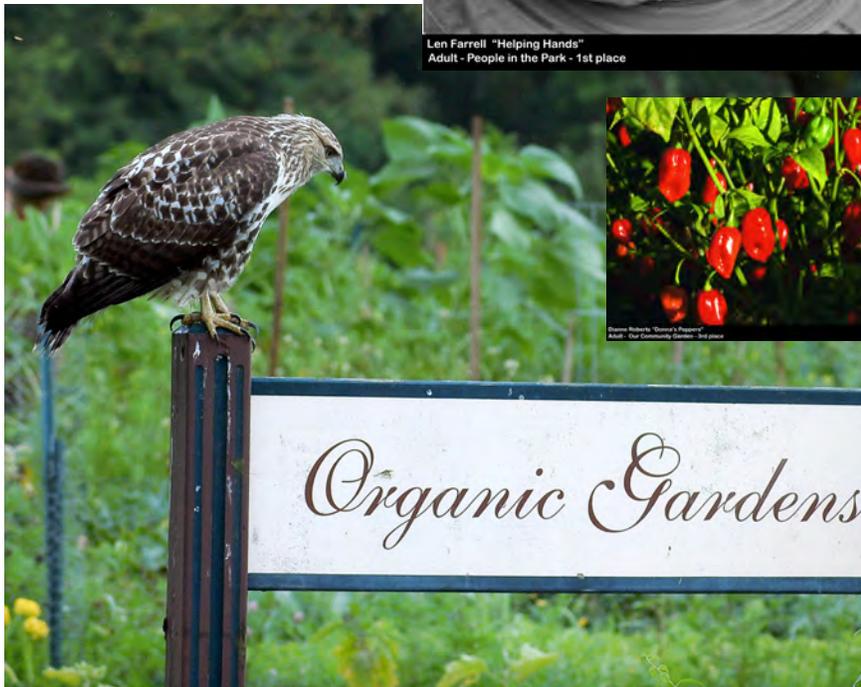
Lewis G. Schaeneman III "Fresh Kill"  
Adult - Nature Loves Bauer - 3rd place



Pat Anderson "Enjoying the Ponds"  
Adult - People in the Park - 2nd place



Len Farrell "Helping Hands"  
Adult - People in the Park - 1st place



Deanna Broderick "Bauer Hawk"  
Adult - Nature Loves Bauer - 2nd place



Dianne Roberts "Dianne's Peppers"  
Adult - Our Community Garden - 3rd place



Pat Anderson "Visitor Variety"  
Adult - People in the Park - 3rd place



Dianne Roberts "The Last Tomato"  
Adult - Our Community Garden - 2nd place

## Did you know?

Penguins don't live near freshwater -- at least none that isn't frozen. Instead they drink salt water. They have a special gland in their bodies that takes the salt out of the water they drink and pushes it out of grooves in their bill. A handy in-house filtration system!

<http://www.kidzone.ws/animals/penguins/facts4.htm>



## Potato Print a Penguin!

A cool and easy project for a snow day. Ask a grown-up for help with the cutting and paint, and maybe for help getting the supplies.

a page...

# The Bauer Bushel ...for kids

## IT'S NOT **L**OVER 'TILL THE **FAT** PENGUIN SINGS...

by Brett French

If penguins were people, large male opera singers would be the most attractive mates for females.

That's because female Adelle penguins in Antarctica pick their mates based on the



male's singing ability. The song may sound strange to humans — it's been compared to a cross between a donkey braying and a stalled car — but to a female Adelle penguin it contains information on the worthiness of the male singer. Particularly, it can tell the female how fat the male is.

It's important for a female penguin to pick a large male with good fat reserves. That's because as soon as the female lays her two eggs, she dives back into the ocean and swims off to feed. She could be gone for days. She could be gone for weeks. While the female is away, the male has to rely on his fat reserves to keep him going while he's incubating the eggs. That means he can't leave them to eat.

While tending the eggs, a male penguin can lose as much as 20 percent of his body weight. If you weigh 80 pounds and lost 20 percent of your weight you would drop 16 pounds and weigh only 64 pounds. That's a lot of weight.

If a male is skinny at the beginning of the nesting season, he may get hungry. If he gets too hungry, he may abandon the eggs before the female returns. Then the chicks will die in the harsh, cold climate of Antarctica.

Can males make their voices sound fat to fool a female? Researchers don't think so, although skinny males can fluff their feathers up to look larger. It was found that the male's song actually changes as he loses weight.

So it's in the female's best interest to pick a large male who has a really great song. Or she could just eat really fast and come back.

Start with a potato. Any old potato will do. Cut it in half lengthwise.

Cut two sections out of one side of the potato, like a wedge on each side leaving a handle in the middle. Set the wedges aside.

Get a piece of white or light-colored paper and cut out an oval smaller, than the cut side of the potato, to be the penguin's belly.

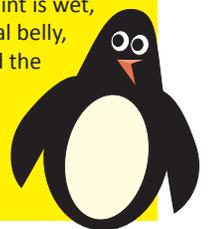
Get a piece of orange or yellow paper, fold it in half, then cut a little "v" out of the fold, to make a beak.

Get two googly eyes.

Spread some black paint on a flat surface such as a plastic, aluminum or paper plate, and press the half potato, cut side down, into the paint. Then press the potato onto the paper; you now have a black body.

Press each wedge into the paint and use them to print wings on each side of the body.

While the paint is wet, press the oval belly, the beak and the googly eyes into it and let dry. Voila!



Articles this page courtesy reprinted/translated courtesy of The Billings Gazette "Outdoors for Kids" page, Brett French, Outdoors editor, Billings Gazette, Billings, Montana. Visit <http://billingsgazette.com/app/outdoorsforkids/video/> to see this and other great articles, and an original video of the potato print project by Jeff Ewelt, director of the Beartooth Nature Center in Red Lodge Montana.