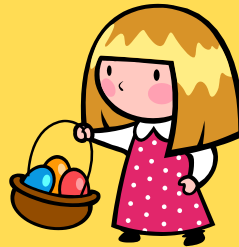


CO-OP CAPERS

The Newsletter of the Williamsburg Parent Cooperative Preschool

CO-OP CALENDAR

4/1 (R)	Monthly tuition due
4/5-12 (M-M)	NO SCHOOL/Spring Vacation
4/13 (T)	School Re-opens
4/22-23 (R, F)	NO SCHOOL/Parent-Teacher Conferences <i>AM 2's will meet</i>
5/1 (Sa)	Monthly Tuition Due
5/2 (Su)	Carnival
5/27-28 (R, F)	Last Days



Deadline for submissions to Co-op Capers is 5/7. Please contact Lorelee Clark (258-3254) for further information. We welcome news of local opportunities for family activities. Submissions via e-mail are strongly encouraged: loralee13@verizon.net

DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED

CO-OP will be represented at the Earth Day Event at Waller Mill, April 24th. In order to prepare, any donations of the following items would be GREATLY appreciated:

1. Old, broken crayons
2. Paper egg cartons
3. Markers

There will be a box in the hallway across from the kids' coat racks where you can drop the items. And please, don't think because it is just one crayon or one egg carton it wouldn't be worth it—EVERY bit of help and effort is appreciated!

—Lorelee Clark, Editor

HAPPY
Easter, Crafty Kids!



Want to try a fun, cheap, easy way to color your Easter eggs this year? Kool-Aid! Mix it with warm water, let your eggs soak a bit and ta-dah, done. The strawberry, berry, lime and orange work well. Avoid lemon-lime and grape because they don't color well. The flavoring doesn't make the eggs taste or smell like fruit--they just smell like eggs. (gingerbreadsnowflakes.com)

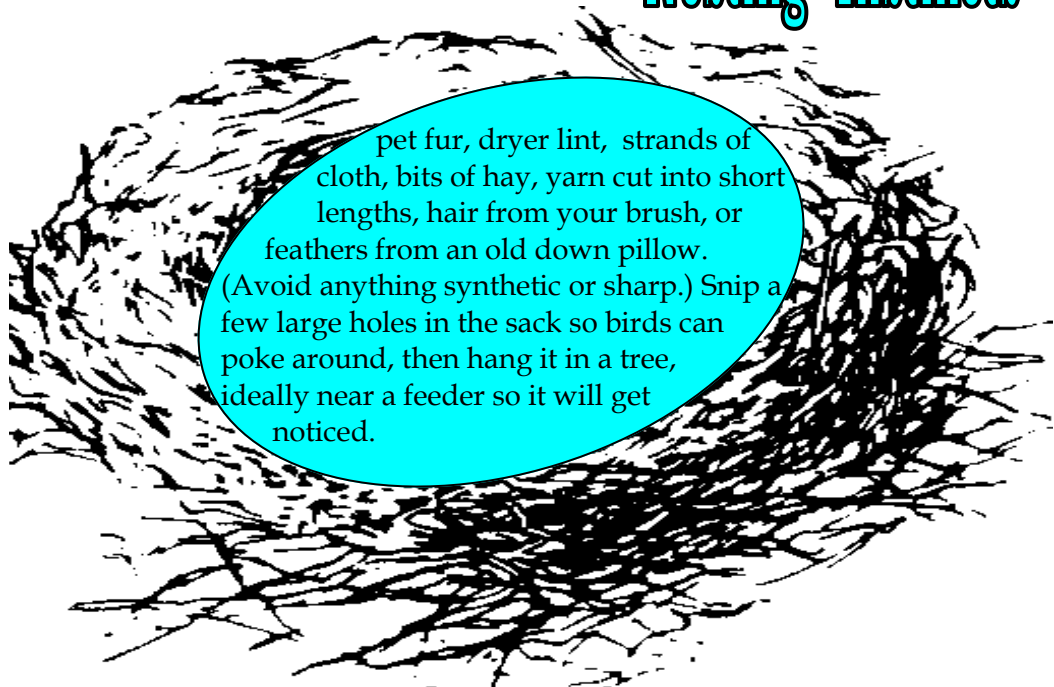
Spring Tree Blossoms

You'll need sticks, tissue paper, pencil, and glue. Gather one or two sticks that have fallen over the winter. Cut squares of colored tissue paper 3x3 inches and have your child wrap one of the squares at the eraser end of a pencil, dip it in glue, then place the glued end on the stick. Continue until the stick is nearly covered.

preschooleducation.com/aspring.shtml

For most birds, nest-building supplies consist of whatever nature has lying around: wood, grass, twigs, fur, & feathers. You can provide the birds with easy-to-obtain nest fodder by stuffing a mesh onion bag with materials such as...

Nesting Instincts



pet fur, dryer lint, strands of cloth, bits of hay, yarn cut into short lengths, hair from your brush, or feathers from an old down pillow. (Avoid anything synthetic or sharp.) Snip a few large holes in the sack so birds can poke around, then hang it in a tree, ideally near a feeder so it will get noticed.

EARTH CORNER: Get out there and enjoy Spring!

Go outside with a fresh notebook, a pen or pencil, and a few kid-friendly field guides from your local library.

- Make a “nature” map that shows the trees that line your street, the plants in your garden – all the natural landmarks nearby!
- Note the types of birds, mammals, and insects you see as you wander through your local “habitat.”
- Go on a Spring scavenger hunt together.

Create a nature table in your home. What to do with all those little treasures your kids found on their scavenger hunt? There are many ways you can display natural treasures in your home – and avoid finding crushed leaves and dirty rocks on your living room furniture:

- Table or Shelf: Designate a flat surface for shells, acorns, etc. Use colored fabric to protect the surface. For a little extra fun, make it a mini-museum, using folded index cards as name plates for each item.
- Vase: A clear vase can store a lot of items -- rocks, shells, nuts, etc -- in a relatively small space.
- Shoe Holder: Place objects in a hanging shoe organizer with clear pockets, found at many dollar stores or other discount retailers.
- Boxes: The many different compartments in a tackle, sewing or tool box serve as great organizers.

(some ideas from nwf.org)



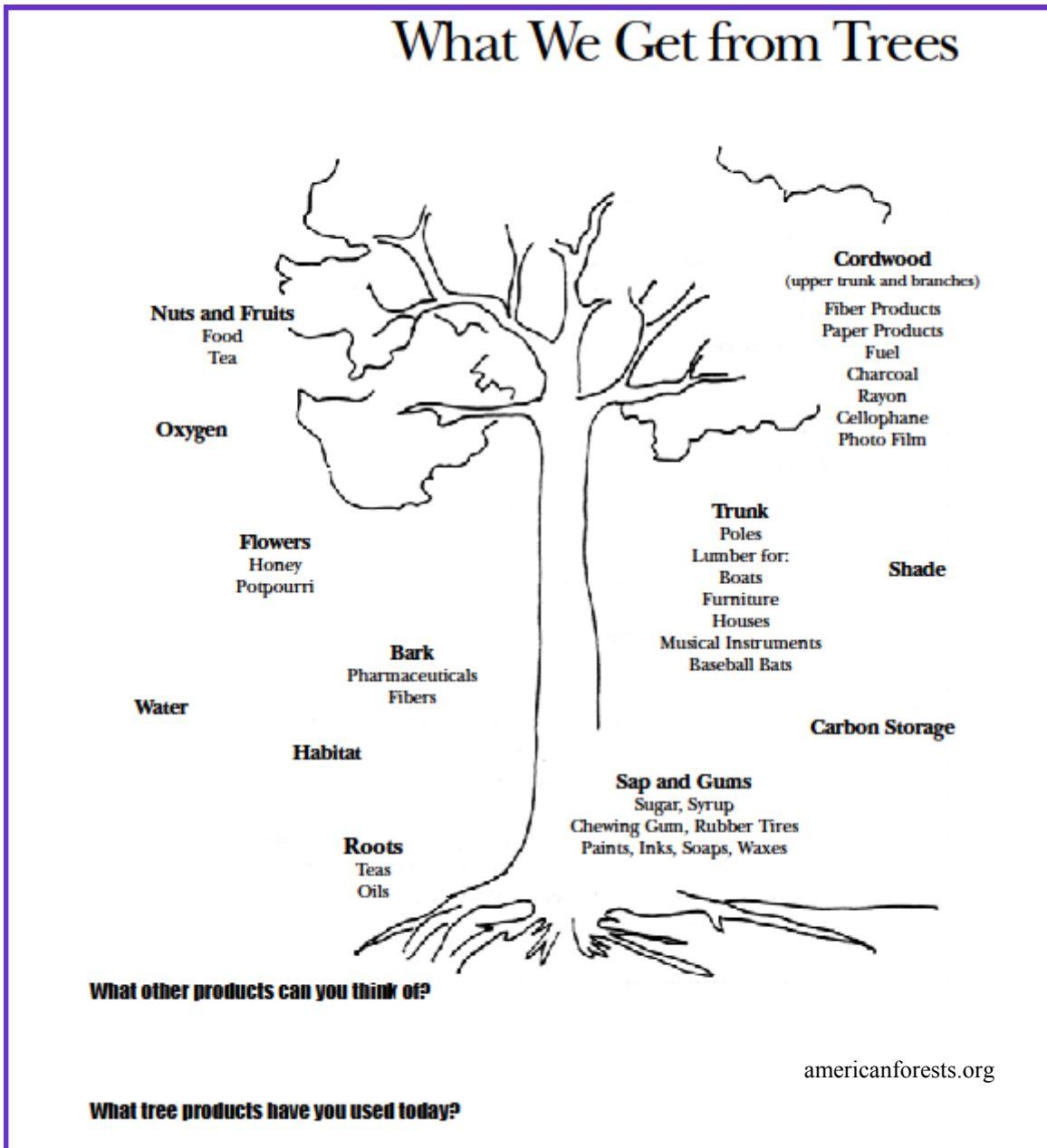
SPRING SCAVENGER HUNT LIST:

1. BUD ON TREE *
 2. BIRD'S NEST *
 3. COCOON *
 4. ANT *
 5. ANTHILL *
 6. INSECT (other than ant) *
 7. STEM WITH BUD SCAR *
 8. YOUR STATE FLOWER *
 9. DANDELION
 10. FLOWER GROWN FROM A BULB *
 11. SEED *
 12. STAMEN *
 13. PISTIL *
 14. DEW *
 15. POLLEN *
 16. SPORE BEARING PLANT (mushroom) *
- *LOCATE, BUT DON'T PICK OR TAKE



Celebrate Arbor Day!

Take the time to share this picture with your pre-schooler. Let your child color the picture and talk about how important trees are to us, all animals and the planet. Awareness helps our children learn to cherish our natural resources. Celebrate trees April 30th and every day! You can also check out arborday.org/states/?state=VA for membership information, planting tips, volunteer opportunities and more.



Earth Day is 4/22/10

Save *the Honey Bees*...
Save *the World*!

What do honey bees have to do with saving the world? **Everything!** According to the US Department of Agriculture, these under-appreciated workers pollinate 80% of our flowering crops which constitute 1/3 of everything we eat. Their loss could effect not only dietary staples such as apples, broccoli, strawberries, nuts, asparagus, blueberries and cucumbers, but may threaten our beef and dairy industries if alfalfa is not available for feed. One Cornell University study estimated that honeybees annually pollinate \$14 billion worth of seeds and crops in the US. Essentially, if honeybees disappear, they could take most of our insect pollinated plants with them, potentially reducing mankind to little more than a bread and water diet.

The Problem: While the honeybee population has been steadily diminishing in the last fifty years, extensive losses in 2006 have caused some scientists to label this the first bee epidemic in US history. It is estimated that this year, US beekeepers lost 1/4 of their colonies which is five times the normal average. What's more concerning is that the bee disappearances are a mystery: they leave their colonies seeking food and simply never return. Few dead bees have been found in or around the colonies, leaving beekeepers and scientists puzzled.

What can we do to save the honey bees?

Bee Native: Use local and native plants in your yard and garden. These plants thrive easily and are well suited for local bee populations, providing pollen and nectar for bees to eat.

Bee Diverse: Give your bees some variety! Plant lots of different kinds of plants in your yard. Plant diversity ensures that your garden attracts many different varieties of bees throughout the year. Bees have good vision and are attracted to several different colors of flowers.

—Georgia PTA Program & Project Series: Save the Honey Bees



Here is a partial list of tried-and-true bee attractors:

Annuals

Asters
Calliopsis
Clover
Marigolds
Poppies
Sunflowers
Zinnias

Perennials

Buttercups
Clematis
Cosmos
Crocuses
Dahlias
Echinacea
English Ivy
Foxglove
Geraniums
Germander
Globe Thistle
Hollyhocks
Hyacinth
Rock Cress
Roses
Sedum
Snowdrops
Squills
Tansy
Yellow Hyssop

Garden Plants

Blackberries
Cantaloupe
Cucumbers
Gourds
Peppers
Pumpkins
Raspberries
Squash
Strawberries
Watermelons
Wild Garlic

Herbs

Bee Balm
Borage
Catnip
Coriander/Cilantro
Fennel
Lavender
Mints
Rosemary
Sage
Thyme

Shrubs

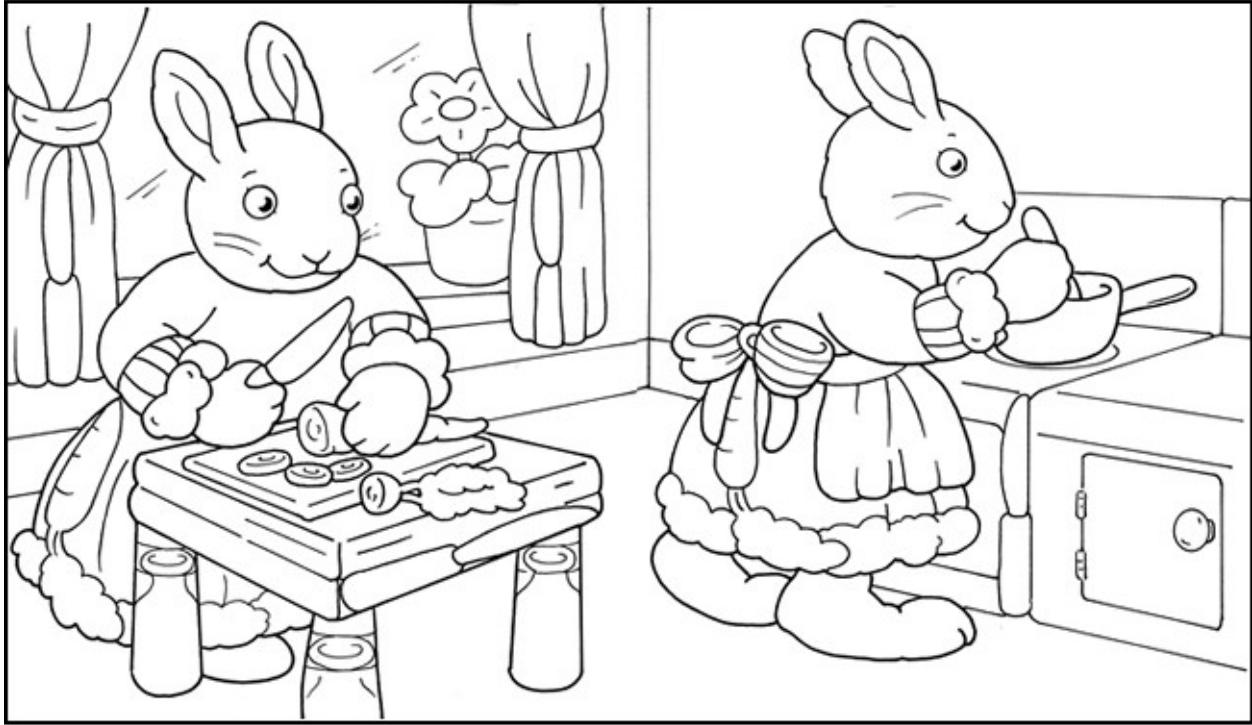
Blueberry
Butterfly Bush
Button Bush
Honeysuckle
Indigo
Privet

Trees

Alder
American Holly
Basswood
Black Gum
Black Locust
Buckeyes
Catalpa
Eastern Redbud
Fruit Trees (especially Crabapples)
Golden Rain Tree
Hawthorns
Hazels
Linden
Magnolia
Maples
Mountain Ash
Sycamore
Tulip
Poplar
Willows

Quick and Fun Family Projects

- Make a detailed map of your house and yard, based on accurate measurements.
- Put on a treasure hunt
- Invite the neighborhood over for a circus. Make costumes, dress the dog up as a lion, place a tightrope on the floor, practice juggling... use your imagination!
- On a windy day, make a kite and fly it.
- On a warm day, wash the car.
- Make boats from wood scraps and corks, with paper or fabric sails, and sail them down a creek.
- Play store with your children's toys and paper money.
- Play restaurant, writing up a menu of the day's lunch offerings.
- Celebrate a holiday from another country. Research the holiday, make traditional foods, and listen to music from that country.
- Do origami.
- Trace around your child's body on a long sheet of newsprint, and let him color in his face and clothing.
- Decorate each other's faces with face paints.
- Using a sheet, hold the edges and bounce a ball on it, get under it, or ride on it as adults hold onto the edges and walk around.
- Visit artists, craftspeople, musicians, or inventors.
- Make a trip to a home for elderly people.
- Polish your silverware or pots.
- Bake bread.
- Finger paint with shaving cream.
- Cut paper dolls and clothing from catalogues.
- Make macaroni jewelry: Mix food coloring in rubbing alcohol, and stir in uncooked macaroni. Let it dry and string it on yarn for bracelets and necklaces.
- Make seed necklaces: Dye dried melon seeds in food coloring mixed with water. Let them dry, and string them together with a needle and thread.
- Plant a vegetable or flower garden together.
- Make a felt board, covering a piece of cardboard with a felt background, and cutting animals, shapes, or letters out of felt to stick on it.



Betty and Binky Bunny love to cook, but they have misplaced a few things in their kitchen. Help them find:



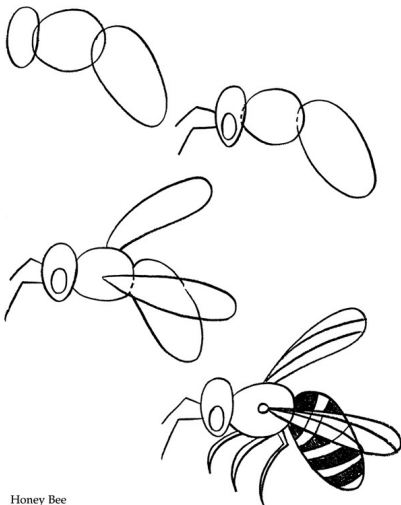
4 knives

2 carrots

2 milk bottles

2 muffins

1 cup



Honey Bee

**YOU CAN
DRAW A
HONEY BEE
OR A BUNNY
RABBIT TO
CELEBRATE
THE
ARRIVAL OF
SPRING!**



Rabbit