

Discovering the Natural Sciences in North Carolina: A Video Review

by Margaret Martin

North Carolina teachers and educators will find in the following four videos a wealth of information on the natural sciences to be used in classroom and workshop settings. Each video highlights many aspects of the natural sciences emphasizing North Carolina locales. All of the videos are available from the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences.

Learning from Experience — Ecology of an Island [Videocassette]. Raleigh: N.C. State Museum of Natural Sciences, 1994. VHS. 30 minutes. Cost: video and manual, \$28.75; manual only, \$6.00. Audience: teachers/workshop leaders.

Video and accompanying manual are intended for anyone who would like to become more effective in working with groups as a teacher/leader, and for any educator who uses direct experiences as a teaching strategy. Although the process described in this workshop is designed for an educational experience that occurs over a week or a school year, many of the principles outlined are important to the success of any group educational experience. The video contains Ocracoke Island flora and fauna footage which can be used in classroom teaching.

Creating Butterfly Gardens [Videocassette]. Raleigh: N.C. State Museum of Natural Sciences, 1993. VHS. 60 minutes. Cost: \$17.00. Audience: teachers/educators.

Learn about specific plants and animals that can be used in a butterfly garden, along with practical tips on garden design, plant selection, and successful gardening in a school setting. Fascinating details of the natural history of butterflies and moths that can be attracted to a garden are demonstrated using live animals, costumed characters, and close-up video footage. Suggestions are also given on how to raise butterflies and moths in the classroom and on strategies for using a butterfly garden in teaching various subjects.

Creating Mini-Ponds at Your Site [Videocassette]. Raleigh: N.C. State Museum of Natural Sciences, 1993. VHS. 60 minutes. Cost: \$17.00. Audience: teachers/educators.

Produced during a satellite workshop, this video contains tips on creating mini-ponds on school grounds. Studio demonstrations show how native plants can be used to help maintain a balanced pond environment. Video clips and live animal demonstrations highlight examples of the fascinating creatures attracted to mini-ponds. Practical tips on using a mini-pond as a teaching resource are also shared.

Freshwater Wetlands — Life at the Waterworks [Videocassette]. Raleigh: Environmental Media, 1995. VHS. 30 minutes. Cost: video and guide, \$24.95; guide only, \$6.00. Audience: Grades 4-8.

Along with an accompanying teacher's guide, this video is an introduction to six of North Carolina's wonderful freshwater wetlands: freshwater marsh, river wetland, seasonal pool, mountain bog, pocosin, and savanna. Experience the sights and sounds of wetlands, including diverse carnivorous plants such as the Venus's-flytrap and the sundews. Visit each wetland type with a scientist as a guide to the wildlife and to the environmental issues concerning wetlands. The teacher's guide provides background information and activities to help teachers introduce freshwater wetlands into their science curriculum. It is also an introduction to the new Freshwater Wetlands exhibit at the N.C. State Museum of Natural Sciences.

All of these videos are available directly through the N.C. State Museum of Natural Sciences. Mail orders to: School Programs, N.C. State Museum of Natural Sciences, P.O. Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555.

Make check payable to Museum Extension Fund. Price includes shipping and handling. Add 6% N.C. sales tax. Please allow four to six weeks for delivery.

For a teacher's guide to State Museum programs and materials, call (919) 733-7450 (fax: (919) 733-1573) or write to the above address.