

VOICES FROM THE LAND

VOICES FROM THE LAND CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 2017



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA
IVY CREEK FOUNDATION ~ RIVANNA MASTER NATURALISTS
AUTUMN 2017~IVY CREEK NATURAL AREA~CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

THIS PAGE
INTENTIONALLY
LEFT BLANK



This book and all the creativity and beautiful nature it shows off is brought to you by:

Jeniecia & Raymond & Estevan & Bradley & Cipriano & Jayd & India & Josiah & Solomon & Connor & Saniya & Sameriyah & Ni' Emah & Christopher & Sa'Niya & Amiya & Keyahna & Amani & Tannaaja & Cordaja & Caja & Dulce

OF THE CHERRY AVENUE B&GC

Delaney & Nicholas & Tamiah & Jamrques & Samjana & Jahnese & Alex & Keisiah & Jauann & Tajjah & Lina & Kemari & Ja'Haunz & Jordan & Jada & Judith & Jalen & Deon & Zaylen & Yuri & Terrell & Sharif & Dievion & JJ & Zahauna & Xzavon & Khamdyn

OF THE JACK JOUETT B&GC

Kinsley & Lanaeia & Jaylyn & Molly & Victor & Karman & Ashlynn & Olivia & Ayden & Alexis & Christian & Evonee & Lauryn & Roger

OF THE JAMES RIVER B&GC

Alex & Alexis & Alison & Alonso & Angel & Ashley & Brehannah & Derek & Edwin & Emily & Evelyn & Itzel & Jaquelin & Jimena & Keiley & Liz & Lyndzie & Marjeli & Yaretzi

OF THE SOUTHWOOD B&GC

If you were there and you're not here, we're so sorry we missed your name! We loved making art with you! Here's a space to write your name in if we left you out:





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA

help young people realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens, focusing especially on those who need it most. The Clubs provide after school and summer programming for children and teens, ages 6 to 18. Diverse, professionally developed programs meet the interests of all young people while addressing today's most pressing youth issues, specifically attuned to the physical, emotional, cultural and social needs of children and teens in our community. Plus...it's fun!

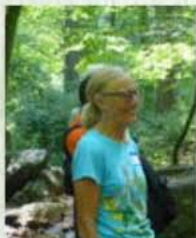
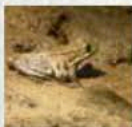
THE CHERRY AVENUE CLUB is the largest of the six Central Virginia clubs and the first regional club in our area. Located adjacent to Buford Middle School in Charlottesville, the club's new facility opened in 2010 and currently serves 850 Club members with an average daily attendance of 230 participants. Our youth development programs focus on daily STEM challenges, cooking programs, and a cycling program that serves all clubs. We also host the organization's first Teen Center.

THE JACK JOUETT CLUB opened in 2003 and currently serves more than 200 members, with a daily attendance of 100 members before and after school from Jack Jouett Middle School and neighboring Greer Elementary. The Club offers an array of quality programs such as Power Hour, Passport to Manhood, Smart Girls, PB&J Cooking, First-Tee, Theater & Improv, and Cycling. Volunteers from the University of Virginia and Albemarle High School as well as the Charlottesville-Albemarle community help serve our members with youth development programming and academic needs.

THE JAMES RIVER CLUB (JRC) meets in the recently renovated former Scottsville Elementary School. This facility opened in 2014 and currently serves 200 members with an average daily attendance of 100 members. The newest of the six Clubs, JRC serves youth in the Albemarle, Buckingham, and Fluvanna areas, and offers quality programs such as Money Matters, Kitchen Creations and Music Majors.

THE SOUTHWOOD CLUB is in the Southwood Mobile Home Park off 5th Street Extended, near land designated to become Biscuit Run State Park. This Club opened in 2000 and currently serves 200 members with an average daily attendance of more than 100 members. Southwood Club programs currently highlight dance, forest education, and leadership, as well as programming for a vibrant Teen Center focused on teen-led activities to accommodate Southwood's growing teenage demographic.

VOICES OF THE LAND: INTEGRATING LANGUAGE & LANDSCAPE, ART & CULTURE



VOICES is a unique, innovative program that mixes experiences in nature, creativity, science and technology together, ultimately encouraging a deeper awareness about our place in nature. Started in 2006 under the umbrella of the Monarch Teachers' Network, the **VOICES** curriculum celebrates the wisdom of cultures from around the world as a means to tease out the artist, poet, writer, listener and performer inside all of us, regardless of our station in life.

The approach, which travels seamlessly between nature experiences to wordplay, digital photography and design, results in books like this one. It has traveled throughout the USA, as well as to the far-flung reaches of the world, including Mexico, Turkey, Latvia, Romania, Spain, Italy, Japan, Poland, Scotland, Canada, and New Zealand. Participants of all ages come from Native American and 1st Nation populations as well as suburban and urban contexts.

In June and July 2017, **VOICES** founder Erik Mollenhauer and his wife Kris visited Ivy Creek Natural Area in Charlottesville to give two-day trainings for 50+ adult volunteers, teaching us not only how to oversee the **VOICES** program, but how to embrace the joy of creative play. Grants from the BAMA and Karen & Bryce Smith-PRANA Fund allowed us to bring **VOICES** to four Boys & Girls Clubs over an eight- to twelve-week period in Autumn 2017, culminating in field trips at Ivy Creek Natural Area. These pages illustrate and celebrate some of the glorious interactions between more than 50 school-aged children, 50+ volunteers, and nature.



What we did...

We all took walks out into nature & explored the forest.
We learned about how farmlands returned to nature.

We looked for colors out in the woods.

We gathered art materials.

We made our art from

sticks, seeds

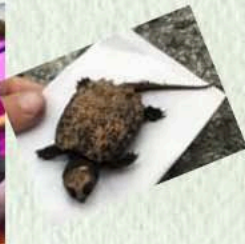
pine cones

& rocks,

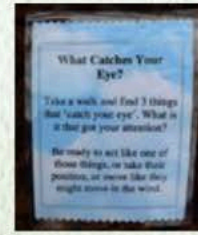
& berries

& leaves

& bark



We read poems & stories about nature.
 We played with words and sounds.
 We made artworks & then
 We made our own poems
 about our art.



What we did...

We gather leaves, acorn tops,
 sticks, and rocks, white wood
 from the farmhouse,
 slugs and worms,
 walking through the fall woods,
 looking for our special spot.

Look in a tree trunk!
 We can clear out leaves
 and make a cave for art.

Maybe we should keep looking?
 Down the path?
 WOW! look at that deep ditch!

We make the switch,
 start digging, deep in leaves and
 mud, clearing a space for art,
 we could dig all day!

Suddenly time runs away
 Time to start stacking our pieces:
 moss covered log is an ant bridge,
 acorns are stepping stones,
 twisted vine on a tree branch a spiral
 staircase,
 a stick in the ground with a leaf—
 a windmill, like life.

Take steps back to see the art
 made by you & me;
 rock in sunlight has diamonds,
 leaf colors say "pick me up,"
 upside down leaf is a heart.
 and that's art—
 a mood like sun shining in my life
 on a fall-like day.

--Olivia, Ayden, and Alexis



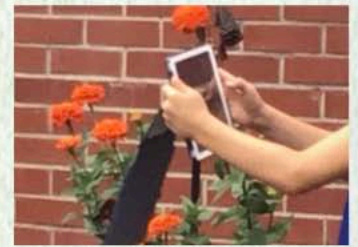
We made an artwork together as a team.
We explained the story of our art to each other.
We listened with respect to the other artists' stories.



UN MILPIÉS EN NUESTRO ARTE

Enrollado como una bola
"¡Despierta, tipo!"
Dos antenas se asoman
como ramas en el aire.

Mil patas
Como unla ola
Como una luma sobre
me mano
Ondulando,
coquilleando,
caminando.



"What is Brown? My boots are brown." "WORMS! Uck!" "Chocolate icecream & chocolate syrup!"
"What is Brown? I am brown." "A piece of bark." "Fat acorns are brown."

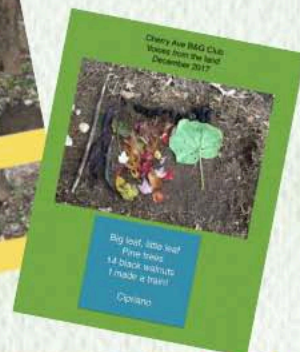
We made photographs of our artworks (with our iPads!).
 We collected words & wrote poems about our art.
 We used our words and photos to design posters.



Building
 A rainbow of nature
 A line going down,
 Moving faster and faster and faster
 Changing colors
 Is it hard?

Trailing
 Mushrooms all together around a big
 mushroom,
 A little group of leaves and a turkey's tail,
 A turtle, A little plum, A pancake,
 An egg with sprinkles, sunny side up.

Creating
 A rainbow, A group of life.



AND finally, we performed our poems for each other & sometimes it was soooo hard to do, but even though we were glad when it was over, it made us laugh & holler & shriek, a lot!

What we did at CHERRY AVENUE!!



Bursting sunrays
over leaf chickens
Sun dances off the iPad.
Falling down from the sky

Like a star
Red Green Blue
of the sun's rays
came
crashing
down.

Leaves like
chickens in the grass
Buck-baa
Buck-baa
Buck-baa.

A comet
A portal to the night.

--by Estevan, Solly & Connor



It looks beautiful!
Yellow-gold leaves,
Pine needles
together,
So soft.

Let's build
a shelter--
the big leaf
covers it
just like
an umbrella.
A bird's nest,
and the egg is here.
A trail leads to the nest
So the mother can find her babies.
Tiny pods make a huge flower.
A mushroom--but don't eat it!
Living in the wild!
Everyone is related by God.
It looks SO beautiful!

--by Raymond, Jenicia and Jayd





VOICES FROM
THE LAND

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
CHERRY AVENUE
FALL 2017

Art and Poetry by
Sinayah
Christopher
Conner



WALKING LEAVES

One little green guy
sits on a brown leaf.
Little leafs carried
on a wooden highway.
The leaves are dancing
across the bridge.
They are going to a party
with a cake and a piñata.
All the leaves jump off the
bridge
when the party is over.



VOICES FROM
THE LAND

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
CHERRY AVENUE
FALL 2017

Art and Poetry by
Solly



The tree bark sprinkled on the fire
like it's snowing.
The pine needles like a campsite.
Mushrooms are seats for people,
Like a campfire with seats around.
Red leaves look like fire.

PRAYING MANTIS

Big eyes in face, popping out
Mouth a tiny triangle.
Hind legs bent to jump
And wings to escape
other animals.
Arms and hands pointy, prickly.
Like a half heart.



Red berries on a leaf.
Juicy juicy center
Surrounded
By a ferris wheel of purple petals
Flying into the crowded grass
A cement surprise!

--by Saniya & San'iyah

PRAYING MANTIS & SPIDERS
--by Esteven, Solly & Sameriah

SPIDERS

Eight long legs jump to e s c a p e !
A teeny face,
A face in a body.
To walk like a spider,
We need a partner!



FALL 2017

Art and Poetry by
Ni'emah and Leriah



Looked like a fort
A top, protecting from
the rain
It claps like a pop
The mushroom is
protecting
the Queen, King
a Knight and Princesses



What we did at JACK JOUETT!!



"We each got different colored paint swatches from the hardware store and we all charged through the woods trying to match the paint colors to nature. Red brought the pokeberries out, so we gathered them, crushed them, and wrote our names in their juice with feather tips."



I was walking down a path... There were CLAWS coming out of a tree! Some people thought... Oh no, it was TEETH! But it was beautiful to me.
by Zahauna



A piece of bark peel...patterned on the inner side by bugs... a great design for my shirt.

Crack the nut...look closer...peel the outer layer, look closer,,,a half opened nut...look closer....wow, it looks like a cat.

Poke berries...deep purple....purple ink for my feather tip pen...dip a feather tip into the berry and write your name... We love poke berries!



VOICES FROM THE LAND

Looking closely...

It's covered with spots
It's black, like crispy
Smells like a pine...
That smells like dead mint

It's raggedy and crispy

Dead means it was alive
I smashed it... WHY?
To see if it was crunchy and
would break apart...
Testing to see if dead.

It's an old living leaf
The color makes it look dead.

It's an old living leaf, like an old pro

"Kid living"
"Teen living"
"Old living"

Acorn
A pointy thing
A top on it's head
Dark and brownish, kinda red
Crisp on the top
It's gold and brown
It feels rough but outside is smooth
It's sharp at the bottom.

When you hold it it feels smooth but when you look at it it's rough at the bottom.

Reflection
I liked finding things
I liked making art with things
This may not be here next time
It may blow away
I want to see what happens to it.



It looks like a face
Heart shape
The red leaf
The red leaf will turn brown.
That's me!

Loop de loop
The butterfly will get wrinkled and turn brown

I found a nut
The nut smells like shrimp.



That rock is going to get very old.
The rock will last longer than the nut.
It's not going away.



That's a feather - the feather is going to last longer than the leaf.
The feather came from a bird.
That feather is kinda zebra looking - I think it's from a zebra bird.

Use your imagination.



Voices from the Land



The Land Floor by Deon, Jayden, Lina and Zaylen

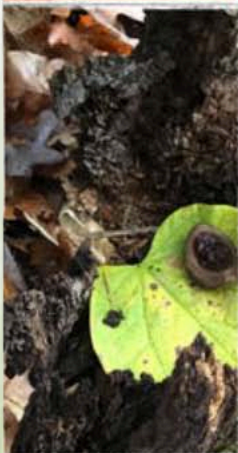
Beautiful.
Dark wood, alive plants,
crisp wood, dried wood,
camouflaged leaf bug
Cover of forest.

Started with a beautiful log.
Yellow leaves added like a sunset,
Purple berries like...wait,
are they the poisonous beauty of the land below?

Looking deeper,
a mushroom, a log
It's a forest floor,
Wait, it's the floor of the land!

Voices from the Land

JJ Boys & Girls Club -JC- Group 2

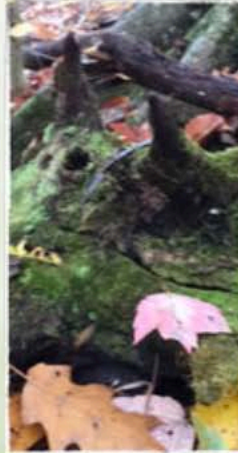


Alice in the Woods

This is like a fairy house
Full of light with yellow leaves, golden leaves
Feel this... It is really soft
This yellow and green leaf... it's like a heart... we
found her heart
This is the roof for her house
That's her fan
And here is her kitchen
The nutshell looks like a bowl... this can be her food
bowl
She gets her food from here
This is her carpet
I found her lamp
And this can be her pillow
Look! Here is her garden
I think the flower should go in her garden
Here's a little evergreen... on the forest floor
And an acorn... without a top
This little red leaf is the baby... no one can take her
leaves, her babies
Alice in the Woods... This is Fun!

Voices from the Land

JJ Boys & Girls Club -JC- Group 1



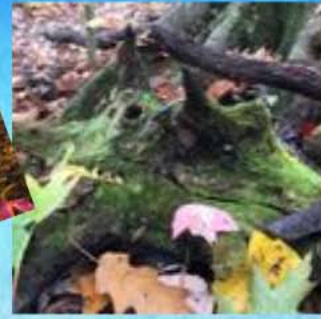
Botany

(a poem for two voices)

Moss logs
Leaf looks like an upside-down heart
Sticks for a bridge
Mushroom kabob
Rocks like diamond
Glow when the sun shines
Making fire
Like an elephant's foot
Make it messy
Picked to blend in
Survival mode.



What we did at JAMES RIVER!!





VOICES FROM
THE LAND

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
JAMES RIVER
FALL 2017

Art and Poetry by
Kinsley
Lanaeia
Jaylyn
Molly



Stringing leaves

Like beads on a necklace or

A bridge to nowhere or

A boy pulling girl's braids or

Native American structure and food or

A mini garden

Red berries stored by squirrels stand out on yellow leaf

Some parts dark red in the shade but bright red in the sun

An adventure that makes us feel like artists or someone
who make sculptures.

Oopsie — something fell on my head





VOICES FROM
THE LAND

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
JAMES RIVER
FALL 2017

Art and Poetry by
Christian, Evonee and Lauryn



A BIRD HOUSE

The birds in their house --
The eggs are alone -- for a little bit
Until they hatch
- brother and sister

When the mom and dad come back
The baby is chirping - hungry for fish and worms

The river is nearby
The baby is sleeping

The mom flies to get fish at the river
Dad stays with the babies

The babies learn to fly with the mom and dad

A birdhouse
Birds live in it

Ooh! What have
we got here??

Come to the welcome mat
Everyone is welcome!
Ring the shell for a bell
Check the feather mailbox
For privacy we have a toilet
in the back



by Kinsley & Jaylyn



VOICES FROM
THE LAND

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
JAMES RIVER
FALL 2017

Art and Poetry by
Olivia, Ayslen and Alexis



The Barn

We gather leaves, acorn tops, sticks,
and rocks, white wood from the farmhouse,
slugs and worms
Walking through the fall woods
looking for our special spot.

Look in a tree trunk!
we can clear out leaves and
Make a cave for art.

Maybe we should keep looking?
down the path
WOW! Look at that deep ditch!

We make the switch
start digging, deep in leaves and mud
clearing a space for art
We could dig all day!

Suddenly time runs away;
time to start stacking our pieces:
Moss covered log is an ant bridge,
acorns are stepping stones,
Twisted vine on tree branch a spiral staircase,
a stick placed in the ground with a leaf - a windmill, like life.

Take steps back to see
the art made by you & me:
Rock in sunlight has diamonds,
leaf colors say "Pick me up",
upside down leaf is a heart.
And that's art - a mood like sun shining in my life
on a fall like day.



The tree started as a seed
a sprout
a home for a chrysalis

A weasel looking sideways
for bugs to eat

Blending greens smooth
with ruffles
then pointy moss

Half is day and half is night
Fire and lava

Voices from the Land

Boys & Girls Club
James River
Fall 2017

Art and poetry by
Victor, Karman & Ashlynn



What we did at SOUTHWOOD!!





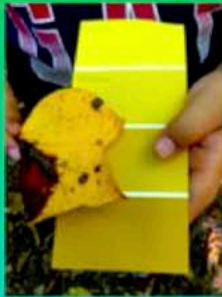
FALL

I just like the whole thing:
 changing colors,
 family of leaves,
 branches with a beehive,
 no leaves,
 big leaves changing
 into a small leaf.
 It looks like a caterpillar.
 But what if the leaves
 aren't leaves
 But sails,
 sails of two rival
 pirate ships
 taking us away,
 far, far away.

By Alex, Angel & Alonso

OTOÑO

A mi me gusta todo:
 colores cambiando,
 familia de hojas,
 ramas con abejera,
 sin hojas,
 hoja grande cambiando
 a hoja pequeña,
 Parece una oruga.
 Pero y si las hojas
 no son hojas
 sino velas,
 velas de dos barcos
 piratas rivales
 llevándonos lejos,
 muy, muy lejos.



What is color?

What is red in nature? An autumn leaf is red.
 My favorite thing I own that is red are my shoes.

What is yellow in nature? A leaf that looks like a fish or a mushroom is yellow.
 The color yellow reminds me of the sun.

What is green in nature? Springtime is green.
 A field of green grass is a good place to run, ride a bike, or play soccer.

What is brown in nature? Fat acorns are brown.
 I think of chocolate ice cream with chocolate syrup.

What is blue in nature? The sky is blue.
 A blue sky means it's a day to play outside.

What is gold in nature? A yellow jacket is gold and black.
 If I owned a lot of gold, I would be rich.

What is white in nature? Clouds and mushrooms.
 White snow makes me want to run outside and play.

What is purple in nature? Pokeweed berries are purple.
 Purple is also the color of a bird's poop after it has eaten pokeweed berries.

What is silver or gray in nature? Fred the worm is gray.
 Grey is the color of "dust bunnies" that hide under my bed.

What is orange in nature? A pumpkin carved into a jack o'lantern is orange.
 Oran "ge" glad we created this poem together!



Rojo Naranja Amarillo Verde Azul Púrpura
 Oro Blanco Plata Gris



UN EXTRATERRESTRE Y SU HIJO
 DE MARTE VUELVEN DE UNA VISITA
 A LA ESTRELLAS *

Tiene puesto ropa verde.
 Y el bebé tiene nariz de Squidward
 Ambos tienen ojos blandos
 Y diez patas que no tienen muslos
 Su pistola de teleportación es el arma
 Que le robó las joyas
 Con una camisa de hojas que le
 esconde todas sus partes...
 ¡Úps! Perdón.

* AN ALIEN & HIS SON FROM MARS
 COMES BACK FROM A VISIT TO THE STARS

by Alexis, Yaretzi, Emily, Derek, & Liz

VOICES FROM THE LAND



Christmas in the Forest

White as snow

We made a tree with a pine cone

And put no snow on top

It's a Christmas tree, with berries

*We spread berries all around in the
middle.*

It can be a little present.

We decorated it with red berries.

With yellow leaves.

With green leaves.

There's a lot of color. It's a forest!

It's Christmas.



Southwood Boys & Girls Club

VOICES FROM THE LAND



Nature

A splattering of colors,
Cherry red, sunny yellow, brown and loads of green,
A Rainbow.

A beautiful, wild, forest floor,
Soft and sweet,
Makes a bed, a camouflage bed, a nature bed.

Look for a seedpod, like honey inside or
maybe baby food,
For the baby inside the seed crib,
Watch for red birds, Christmas trees, berries
On our rainbow forest floor!



Southwood Boys & Girls Club

NATURE: by Jaquelin, Itzel, Alison, Lyndzie & Ashley

CHRISTMAS: by Marjeli, Jimena, Keiley, Evelyn & Brehannah





IVY CREEK FOUNDATION & THE RIVANNA MASTER NATURALISTS



The Voices Field Trip began with a quick tour of the Carr-Greer farm homestead.

VOICES was made possible by the generous contributions of the Ivy Creek Foundation and the Rivanna Master Naturalists. The ICF oversees seven miles of hiking trails and 100+ nature programs, hosting dozens of group meetings in its Education Building. ICF began in 1975 to protect the Ivy Creek Natural Area, some 219 acres of upland woods, streams, pine stands, open fields, and shorelines that cover the foundations of 19th-century River View Farm. The farm, established in 1870 by a freed slave after the Civil War, is one of the few remaining vestiges of the active African-American farming community in this region. Ivy Creek's barn currently houses nature and farming exhibits, and the Carr-Greer homestead is just beginning to be renovated as a teaching center or black heritage museum.



"On the porch of the farm house, someone picked up a piece of rotten siding that was lying on the ground. When she put it into her team's artwork, we all thought how much it REALLY brought in the farmers' presence. Talk about including one of the TRUE Voices from the Land!"



Each year since 2006, the Rivanna Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists meets at Ivy Creek to train volunteers as educators, collaborators and citizen scientists, contributing to such tasks as monitoring water, surveying birds or trees or pollinating insects, and pulling invasive plant species. In 2017, 132 RMN members provided 10,000+ hours of volunteer labor to care for our natural environment. Twenty-seven RMNers gave 1,300+ hours to bring **VOICES FROM THE LAND** to the **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS** over a twelve-week period in the fall of 2017.



BIG THANKS TO B&GC STAFF & VOICES VOLUNTEERS!



VOLUNTEERS AT IVY CREEK ON THE FIRST FIELD TRIP

ALL VOLUNTEERS: Sarah Bingham, Fern Campbell, Joan Chapman, Becky Dulaney, Christine Kastan, Deborah Anderson, Janelle Catlett, Bevin Cetta, John Cruickshank, Burke Graham, JoAnna Hickman, Martha Ledford, Carolyn Long, Debbie Luzynski-Weber, Karen Mulder, Chris Myers, Susan Rigsby, David Smith, Ida Swenson, Lynda Terrill, Mary Voorhees, Tim Weber, Cindy Westley, Judy Cahill, and Frances Lee Vandell. If we missed your name, know that we couldn't have done it without your help and care!



SOUTHWOOD B&G CLUB

Diana Foster, team coordinator
Alli Englehart

APO Fraternity—Alpha Phi Omega
Andrea Arango, Spanish translations
And all the Club staff who pitched in!



JAMES RIVER B&G CLUB

Marilyn Smith, team coordinator
David Strauser
Lauren Lowe



JACK JOUETT B&G CLUB

Jane Erwine, team coordinator
Welford (Mack) McLellan
Nick Feggans Myron Johnson
Australia Pleasants Patrice Mitchell



CHERRY AVENUE B&G CLUB

Alice Cannon, team coordinator
Martha Fox
Isaac Edwards

**OUR SPECIAL THANKS
TO ANY B&G CLUB STAFF
WE MIGHT HAVE MISSED!**



BOOK DESIGN BY KAREN MULDER, RMN, ICF



"One sweet moment at Cherry Avenue came from a girl who was quite worried about the whole adventure of stepping out into the woods at first. She stood under a little beech tree, her face lighting up in the glow of its changing leaves. The lowest branch was just inches above her head. She declared that it was HER tree—she was adopting it for life. She also broadcast for all to hear that she decided that she totally loved Nature!"

OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS: BAMA & PRANA FUND GRANTS

VOICES was made possible by funding from the Karyn and Bryce Smith PRANA Fund, and BAMA Works. The PRANA Fund focuses on non-profit projects that serve mid-to low-income families by integrating the visual arts with nature, environment, animals, or wildlife. BAMA Works, an outgrowth of the Dave Matthews Band, supports local, national and global charitable programs. BAMA Works has raised over \$40 million and given 1,200+ grants since 1999. Both grants are administered by the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation.

We thank our generous sponsors for enabling us not only to initiate the **VOICES** program, but to streamline our curriculum and run future sessions based on lesson plans from our 2017 program.

"The kids each got different colored paint swatches from the hardware store and we all charged through the woods behind the Jack Jouett Club, trying to match the paint colors to nature. Bright green popped up in a piece of fuzzy moss. Golden yellow matched a leaf on the ground. Red brought the pokeberries out, so we gathered them, crushed them, and wrote our names in their juice with feather tips. Reddish brown brought out the most squeals though, perfectly matching a wriggling earth-worm--some kids got to hold a WORM for the first time in their lives!"



