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Learn about bugs in Bethany Beach

Class aims to teach kids about
creepy-crawlies

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BETHANY BEACH -- If it crawls, flies or
creeps, it's going to be discussed at an
upcoming class at the Bethany Beach Nature
Center.



Bethany Beach Nature Center director Lisa Daisey helps Jasmine Bellistri, 5, of Millville make a rain stick. (Scott Nathan photo)

Bugging Out is for children of all ages and offered year-round, with different topics discussed each week. The next class is slated to take place from 10:30 a.m. to noon April 24 at the Route 26 facility.

"We always try to base the program around nature," said Lisa Daisey, the center's director. "We also always go outside and think of ideas that have to do with what's happening in the area."

The class begins with a story, discussion and craft. Then, volunteer Dennis Bartow will share insects from his personal collection.

"I have about 30 glass-top trays to share with them," he said. "Kids are naturally interested in crawling critters. Even if they think they are a little icky, they do like to see them."

Along with the story and craft, Bartow will be going outside with the students to hunt for friendly bugs.

"We will have magnifiers, bug boxes for their catches and then we will observe them and release them back unharmed," he said.

The hands-on lesson is why Bethany Beach mom of three Lara Bellestri has attended more than a dozen classes with her children.

"We plan on attending them all," she said. "My kids just love nature."

But the class isn't just informative for youngsters. According to Daisey, adults can learn as well.

"I'm excited about the program because I don't know much about bugs," she said. "It's great that (Bartow) will be sharing his home collection."

Bugging Out is one of many Saturday classes offered at the center. Upcoming topics include beachcombing, whales and gardening. For more information, call 302-537-7680.

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