

Afternoons at the Aquarium Activities: Forest Friends

Aquarium educators will be demonstrating the following crafts during the June 4 public program from 2-2:30 p.m. Use these directions to craft alongside us during the program, or to create on your own time!

How to make a pollinator water fountain:

Ever wanted to help out our butterfly and bee friends as they pollinate flowers near your home? Creating a pollinator water fountain, also known as a butterfly puddler, gives our small winged friends a safe way to drink water in the summer months. Make one at your home and see who visits for a drink at your pollinator water fountain!

Materials:

- An old plate or pie dish (any high lipped dish will work)
- Sand
- Stones, marbles, rocks, gravel, glass beads
- Water

Step 1: Gather your material.



Step 2: Pat sand down flat on the plate.



Step 3: Place rocks in the sand.



Step 4: Fill dish with approximately one inch of water. Water should be shallow enough for insects to drink without touching their wings.



Step 5: Water should be refilled as often as needed

Native plants are another way to attract pollinators to your yard, porch or balcony. More information about [creating butterfly habitat in Georgia is available here](#), or by visiting the Ecoscapes webpage at <https://gacoast.uga.edu/outreach/programs/ecoscapes/>.

How to make a home for a toad:

This craft is a simple way to help out a toad this summer. A toad home mimics natural structures such as a hole in the bottom of a tree. These covered areas allow the toad to stay cool and keep their skin moist in hot temperatures.

Materials:

- Clay flower pot
- Stones (optional)

Find a cool spot in your yard, woods, or garden. Our example home for a toad is located under a large shady tree. Place the toad home in a location where it will not be disturbed by household pets.

There are a couple of different options on how to make your home for a toad:

Option 1: Use stones to prop up the entrance to the toad home.



Option 2: Bury the flower pot in the dirt, leaving half above ground.



For fun, you can decorate your toad house before setting it up. If you are lucky, a toad will take up residence and live in the home you made it! If you do have a toad move into the home, have fun observing it but please avoid touching or picking up the toad. The oils in our hands can be harmful to the sensitive skin of amphibians.

Activity sheet developed by Madeline McDonald, Marine Education Fellow, June 2020



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