

**In nature, we learn about co-existence,
interdependence, interrelationship - and kinship. Go out
and introduce yourself to the rest of the family!**

Nature Therapy



October 26, 2007

Dear Gardeners,

Today I want to focus on our wildlife. I hope most of you watched Planet in Peril on CNN last Tuesday and Wednesday nights. If not, there will be other chances to see one of the most important and well-done documentaries of our time. I'm sure that you all have watched the pictures of the California wildfires. Many say that except for the arsons, the fires were a part of nature renewing itself. Yes... the sad part is all those who lost their homes – they had tried to share themselves with nature. It's a chance we take. Almost anywhere today we see clear-cutting, bull-dozing, the true rape of the land. This is NOT natural.

Planet in Peril tried to explain the interdependence of all life on one another – plants, animals, fish, birds, humans, natural resources. Like it or not, ALL the earth is a part of the web of life – totally interconnected. In teaching schoolchildren, one of the best games is our Weaving the Web game. Everyone forms a circle. Each has drawn the name of a plant, animal or resource (bird, butterfly, fish, eagle, bear, water, trees, spiders, flowers, human, etc.) and wears this on a sign around the neck. One person is handed a skein of yarn and is told to give it to someone in the circle who has some sort of connection to your own sign. Before the game is over, there is TRULY a huge web between all those playing the game. Can you name two things above that are not related in some manner? I can't.

The documentary also pointed out that 70% of all plants used in cancer medications are grown in the rainforest, and there are so many more to be discovered – if there is any rainforest left. Overpopulation of all the earth – much of it in third world countries, accounts for the lack of resources. In 50 years, the world's population will **double** from what it is today. I'm glad I'm a senior citizen!

To change the subject slightly, the drought has us all dismayed and afraid of what is to come. I wrote an article for the Chamblee Newsletter about this, mentioning some of the things we can all do – keep a large pot in one side of the kitchen sink – use this to save the water that's wasted in getting hot water to your sink. Use it for houseplants, outside plants, and DON'T forget the birdbaths! You'll be surprised at what you can collect. Put out tubs, buckets, etc., to catch whatever rainwater does fall. Right now, it's liquid gold! Please e-mail me (kpackard@bellsouth.net) your favorite water saving methods – and while you are at it, your favorite wildlife and also the plants that are surviving the drought. I would like to put the lists on our website (www.chambleewildlifehabitat.com).

Now – **the news** ! Next Thursday night, November 1, at 7:30 PM join us at Senior Connections to hear one of the best programs of the season. **Dave Smith** of Ashe-Simpson Nursery, formerly of Saul's wholesale nursery – will be with us to discuss what to do – and not do in the garden now, and to answer all kinds of questions. Dave is great – he knows everything – including why my newly planted St. John's Wort shrub was dying a couple of months ago. (Too much water). Also – thanks for a successful Stream Clean-Up!

I went to the Methodist Church Saturday in hope of seeing Henry the Hawk released after rehabbing. To my disappointment, I found out that he is not recovering as he should, and will probably remain at Chattahoochee Nature Center in the Education Department.

In December, we will be having a potluck Holiday dinner at Joy and Rex Simms' home on our regular meeting night. I will send out more info about this later.

Please try and join us Thursday night. It's difficult to get good speakers and we need your support. See you then... Love, *Kay*