J**nior naturalist program to be offered in Pickens County**

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PICKENS - Clemson Extension in Pickens County is offering a series of half-day Saturday programs for young people 8 to 13 years old covering a variety of topics in the natural world. The topics correspond with the science curriculum for grades 3-6.

The program will cover subjects ranging from birds and insects to weather.

Five of the 10-program series will be offered each year. Two programs will be offered every fall and spring and one program will be offered each winter. Participants who complete five of the 10 programs within a two-year period will earn the status of Junior Naturalist. They also will receive a T-shirt and naturalist tool.

Each program costs $10, which includes a morning snack, notebook and materials for the program.

Youths should dress in sturdy shoes as hiking will be a small part of most programs.

**Programs for the first year are:**

* Junior Ornithologist (birds): Sept. 20 – Table Rock State Park, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

* Junior Dendrologist (trees): Oct. 25 – Clemson Experimental Forest; 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

* Junior Geologist (rocks): Feb. 7, 2009 – Jones Gap State Park; 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

* Junior Wildlife Biologist: March 14, 2009 – Clemson Experimental Forest; 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

* Junior Herpetologist (reptiles and amphibians): April 4, 2009 – Jones Gap State Park; 9 a.m.–noon

Topics for the second year will include water quality, weather, natural history, plants and insects.
Registration is limited to 15 participants per program. For more information, contact Marguerite Porter, 4-H youth agent, at the Pickens County Extension office at marguer@clemson.edu or 864-878-1394, ext. 111.

This program is offered through Pickens County 4-H, part of the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. Extension offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family stats and is an equal opportunity employer. Should anyone require special accommodations due to a disability, please notify the office at least 10 days prior to the event.