

“Sharing My Journey in Nature”: Photography by Sheldrake volunteer

In this photography exhibit by Sheldrake volunteer environmental educator Anthony Waring, almost all of the pictures were taken in the areas where Sheldrake environmental educators lead local field trips for elementary school children. They were taken within the last year to be utilized as visual aids for classroom teaching, each one representing something - color, shape, pattern, life cycle, plant, animal - that might be discussed during a lesson or on a field trip.



Waring's journey in nature began at a young age with his grandparents' encouragement to go out and play in the woods, followed by the discovery of a pileated woodpecker - or a "crow in a party hat" as his mother described it - in his backyard when he was twelve. In his early twenties he lived near and frequented a park in Virginia. At the same time, he worked in the marketing department of an environmental law group.

Here, after confessing he had spent his entire life in New York City and never actually been to a wetland, his coworker "the expert on wetlands" asked if Waring could show him the park near his home. This became an annual event with "the marketing guy" leading a wetlands tour for environmental attorneys.

About a year and a half ago, when Waring moved to Larchmont with his family, he learned about Sheldrake's Volunteer Environmental Educator Training Program. He pictured becoming an environmental educator as an excellent way to be involved in his daughter's elementary school life. Since graduating from the program, Anthony has not only been leading Sheldrake Environmental Center's field trips for the local elementary school children, but has developed a Resource Center for the benefit of all of Sheldrake Environmental Center's educators. The photos in this exhibit are among the various materials available in the Resource Center. Meanwhile, Waring's daughter, currently a 2nd grade student at Murray Avenue School, is involved in her dad's environmental calling, acting as a sounding board for field trips, offering suggestions, and even providing artistic help.

This ongoing exhibition is free and open to the public Monday through Friday (except holidays) 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information, call 834-1443.

