

Critter Crawl

On your next visit to the Atlanta Botanical Garden, keep an eye out for the many “critters” that make their home throughout the grounds.

Squirrels: Up in the treetops of Storza Woods from the Canopy Walk you may see a common gray squirrel foraging for food especially for oak acorns and hickory nuts.

Honey Bees: These bees in the Children’s Garden collect nectar from all over the Atlanta Botanical Garden to make their honey.

Butterflies: The Atlanta Botanical Garden is an oasis for many butterflies. During the warm months, look for caterpillars munching on leaves and for monarch, swallowtail and cabbage butterflies visiting flowers.

Bullfrogs: Native to southeastern U.S., these large frogs are not fed or maintained by Garden staff. Instead, they find and colonize our beautiful aquatic ponds including the Aquatic Plant Pond, Reflecting Pond and Children’s Garden Soggy Bog.

Frogs and Salamanders: Observe the diversity of amphibians and their amazing adaptations in the Conservatory Lobby Terrariums. From bright poison dart frogs to camouflaged splendid tree frogs to native cave salamanders, these terrariums are fascinating to explore.

Wood Turtles: Easily camouflaged in the Fuqua Conservatory Rotunda, the wood turtles are equally comfortable in and out of water. Look for their plate of vegetables. Have they eaten all their food today?

Quail: There are five species of quail living in the Fuqua Conservatory Rotunda. They eat insects, special bird food and some of the plants. Male quails make loud calls to mark their territories and in the late spring and early summer you can sometimes find adorable baby quails.

Saffron Finches: Rarely seen even by staff in the Fuqua Conservatory Rotunda, the male Saffron finches are brilliant yellow and the females are a paler yellow and brown.

Snapping Turtle: Snapping turtles in the Fuqua Conservatory Waterfall Pond spend most of their time submerged in water, surfacing periodically to breathe. They feed on fish and other aquatic animals as well as on vegetation and decaying matter. They are valuable scavengers.

Red-Eared Slider Turtles: These turtles live in the Fuqua Orchid Center ponds. They stay in the water almost all the time, except when moving from one pond to another or when basking in the sunlight.

