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Fun with Phone Solicitors: Remember, it's us against them

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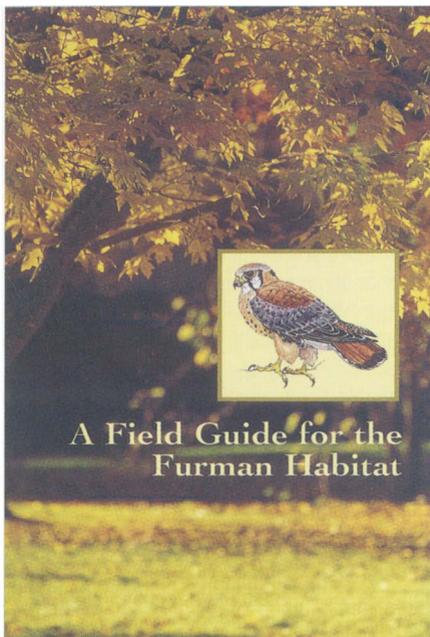
Life on campus: *Field Guide* describes Furman's flora and fauna

Sagittaria fasciculata may sound like just another of those difficult-to-pronounce scientific names for an obscure plant, but on the Furman campus, *sagittaria fasciculata* is a pretty big deal.

More commonly known as Bunched Arrowhead, the wildflower, which grows in wetland areas near the picnic area on the northwestern side of the lake, is considered an endangered species and is protected by the federal Endangered Species Act. Its white flowers bloom in April and May.

This fun fact is just a sample of the information contained in *A Field Guide for the Furman Habitat*, a new guide to Furman's flora and fauna produced by Furman students under the direction of biology faculty members A. Joseph Pollard and Travis W. Perry. The 96-page book has been published as part of Furman's celebration of its 175th anniversary.

The book features information, with illustrations, on 50 of the university's most common vertebrates (animals with backbones), ranging from the grey squirrel — perhaps the most ubiquitous of Furman



animals — to the Muscovy duck, whose males are identifiable by their knobby red face. In addition, the guide provides

photographs and brief histories of 64 tree species on campus.

Without the talent of Adam Drury '01, who provided the photographs, and writers Lynsey Peterson '01 and Kate Ingram '03, the book would not have been possible. Ingram also contributed the detailed, watercolor illustrations of the featured animals.

The guide doesn't claim to be an all-encompassing catalogue of every form of life at Furman. As it states, up to 400 kinds of terrestrial vertebrates alone could live on campus, and the varieties of wildflowers and shrubs are too numerous to mention. But it does provide thumbnail sketches of the most common animals and plants, with an emphasis on native species. For those who spend or have spent any time at Furman, the book serves as a fact-filled introduction to the natural side of life on one of the nation's most beautiful campuses.

A Field Guide for the Furman Habitat is available by calling the university's bookstore at (864) 294-2164 or by visiting the store's Web site at www.bookstore.furman.edu. Cost is \$7.95, plus shipping.

— Jim Stewart

Fun with Phone Solicitors: Remember, it's us against them

The next time an annoying telephone solicitor interrupts your dinner, your nap or your favorite television program, try one of the following responses:

- "The Verbatim Variation," in which you repeat everything the caller says;

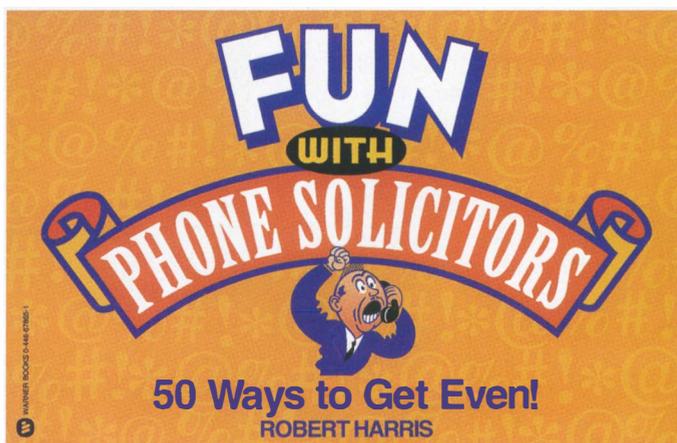
- "The Singsong Sidestep," where you sing your answers to the solicitor's questions;

- "The Come-On Connivance," in which you flirt with the caller — as explicitly as necessary.

But first, to perfect these techniques, you'll have to purchase *Fun with Phone Solicitors: 50 Ways to Get Even!* (Warner Books). And if those approaches don't fit your personality, you can always try one of the 47 other ways author Robert Harris '76 has devised to thwart unwanted solicitations and leave bothersome callers feeling "speechless, frustrated and disoriented." As Harris says in the book's introduction, "Remember: it's us against them. They barge into our homes uninvited, so forget the conventional rules of polite conversation and have some fun."

Each technique comes with a catchy title, a sample scenario and a degree of difficulty rating to help you determine which approach will work best for you. There's also a handy form in the back of the book for you to submit your own tried and true suggestion. (We smell sequel.)

For Harris, an art major at Furman, this lighthearted little book represents a departure from his nine previous publications, most of which cover such topics as desktop publishing, WordPerfect,



Lotus and other computer-related fare. He says, "I'm moving away from the technical books to more popular books that people might actually read."

Fun with Phone Solicitors is the first of several "quirky" titles he expects to publish in the next few years. Next up is a novel, *Nerds Among Us*, scheduled for release by 5:09 Press in March.

To learn more about Harris and his work, visit his Web site at www.rhauthor.com.

— Jim Stewart