



Photos/Steve Gates

# BUGS! in the Garden

**S**hare the gift of decorative painting with a youngster in your life, and you'll be giving him or her a gift that truly lasts a lifetime. This issue's Junior Artist Club project draws on a subject near and dear to many kids' hearts: **BUGS!** And with spring well underway, the topic becomes more timely every day.

Kids, you'll need an adult on hand to prepare and paint the garden invaders pictured here—get one right now, and you can get started. Grown-ups, visit the SDP Junior Artist Club website for more information and great ideas: [www.decorativepainters.org](http://www.decorativepainters.org); choose Junior Artist Club from the left-hand menu.

## PREPARATION

Bear in mind that adult supervision is required throughout this project!

Make sure that the wooden surfaces are smooth and free of dust before be-

ginning. Use the 3/4-inch flat brush to paint all sides of the bee shape *Black*. Clean the brush, and paint all sides of one stake *Orange*.

Now paint all sides of the ladybug shape *Red*. Paint the second stake *Medium Green* all over to go with the ladybug. Clean your brush between each color.

When everything has dried, you may apply a second coat of paint to all the surfaces. Remove any bumps from the dried paint by sanding it very lightly. If you want to give the pieces a rustic look, you can sand some of the edges to expose a little wood.

Use a tracing of the design and white graphite paper to lightly trace the design onto the dry, wooden shapes and the stakes.

Flatten a thin, dry sponge, and use scissors to cut the shapes in the design from the sponge; you'll need a long rectangle for the stripes on the bee, a triangle for the lower part of the lady-

bug, a circle for the big, black dots on the ladybug, and a petal shape for the flowers on the stakes.

## LET'S PAINT BEE

We'll start on the bee by stamping the yellow stripes on with the rectangular sponge. First dip the sponge in clean water and squeeze out the excess. Then dip the sponge into a puddle of *Yellow* paint on your palette, making sure that the paint completely covers the bottom of the sponge. Before stamping the surface, be sure to stamp the palette a few times to remove any extra paint.

Now stamp each stripe onto the bee carefully, adding more paint to the sponge as needed. Don't forget to stamp the sides of the bee as well as the front. Allow this to dry.

If you look at the photo of the finished bee, you'll see a patch of paint in the middle of each yellow stripe that's

## Painter's Checklist

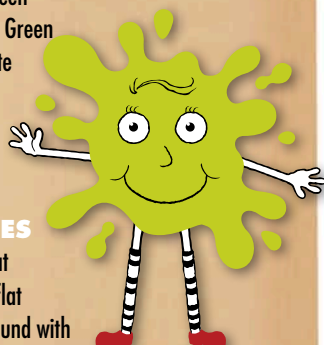
### SURFACE

These wooden bee and ladybug shapes are approximately 22" (55.88cm) tall and 6" (15.24cm) wide.

### PALETTE

#### WEATHERPROOF CRAFT PAINT

Black  
Light Green  
Medium Green  
Off-White  
Orange  
Red  
Yellow



JAC says, "Visit me at Junior Artist Club" [www.decorativepainters.org](http://www.decorativepainters.org)

### BRUSHES

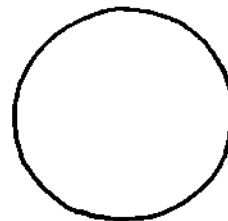
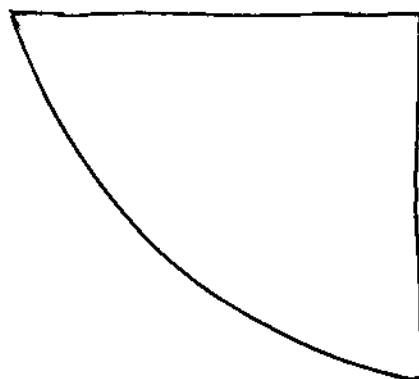
3/4" flat  
No. 10 flat  
No. 4 round with stiff white bristles

### SUPPLIES

Cool-melt glue gun and glue sticks  
Craft beads or pony beads  
Disposable plate for paint  
Fine-grit sandpaper  
Household sponge  
Needle-nose pliers  
Paper towels  
Pencil  
Scissors  
Silver wire (16-gauge)  
Stylus  
Tracing paper  
Water basin to clean brushes  
White graphite transfer paper

### SOURCES

- The supplies needed for this project can be found at crafts stores or online.
- The surfaces can be cut by an adult from 3/4" wood (shapes) and 3/8" wood (stakes) or purchased from Erika Joanne Designs at (360) 769-8870, [erika@erikajoanne.com](mailto:erika@erikajoanne.com), or [www.erikajoanne.com](http://www.erikajoanne.com). For detailed instructions on cutting your own surfaces, contact the artist.



Designs are shown at actual size.

a lighter yellow, or even white. That patch of paint is a *highlight*. We'll paint these highlights by dipping a dry no. 4 round brush with stiff bristles—don't use any water!—into a puddle of *Off-White*. Remove the brush, and work it in a circle on your palette until there is only a hint of color left in it. Then sweep the brush back and forth across the highlight area on the bee's stripes very lightly. You can also "pounce" the brush, or poke at the surface with it. Use more pressure in the middle of the highlight to make this area lighter. You can make the highlight brighter by adding more layers of *Off-White*, but remember to let each layer dry before adding the next.

Look at the photo of the finished bee again, and this time find the orange color at both sides of the yellow stripes on the front. This darker accent is called *shading*. To add shading, first wet the 3/4-inch flat brush and pat both sides on a paper towel just until the brush is no longer shiny wet—it should still be wet, but not drippy. Then dip just one corner of the brush in *Orange*, and stroke it on the palette a few times—with all the bristles pressed down, not just the corner—to blend the color into the bristles. The dipped corner of the brush should be really orange, and then the orange should fade evenly until there's no color on the other corner. It's like the volume on the orange is turned up really loud on one corner of the brush, and then it gets turned down until it's completely

gone by the time you get to the other corner.

Now look at the picture again. See how the orange color is to the *outside* on both sides of the stripes? Hold the brush that way as you set it down on the surface at the top of the stripes; push all the bristles against the surface and stroke over the stripe downward to the bottom of the stripe. Repeat this step until all the orange shading is added on both sides of the stripes. If your brush skips along and seems dry, start over with more water. If your paint is runny, start over with less water. Add more paint if it's not orange enough.

Now use the petal-shaped sponge and *Off-White* to stamp the flowers on the *Orange* stake; follow the directions we used to add the stripes to the bee earlier. Let that dry, and then add shading to the petals using the no. 10 flat brush and *Yellow*, loading the brush in the same way that we added the *Orange* to shade the bee's stripes. You can look at the photo to see where the shading goes.

Find a pencil with a dull tip, and dip the tip into *Yellow*. Use this to add yellow dots to the centers of the flowers. Add more yellow dots around the flowers here and there. When this dries, add smaller dots of *Off-White* in the middle of the yellow dots in the center of the flowers.

### LADYBUG

Start the ladybug by looking at the photo and finding the orange high-



lights near the middle of her back. Use *Orange* paint and the dry no. 4 round brush with stiff bristles to dry-brush these highlights on, working just exactly as you did when you added the off-white highlights to the bee's stripes.

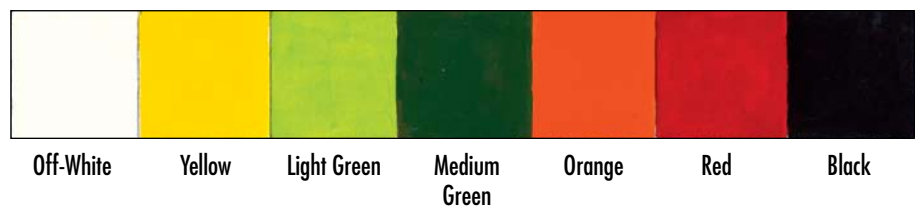
Follow the stamping instructions to add the triangle to the ladybug's back, using the triangular sponge and *Black*. Stamp her head *Black*, too, using the same sponge and being careful to stay within the traced lines. Paint the sides of the ladybug's head and the side beneath the black triangle at the bottom. Use the circular sponge to stamp the large, *Black* spots. Let everything dry.

Now use the eraser end of a pencil to stamp colored dots on each of the *Black* spots using *Light Green*, *Yellow*, and *Orange*. Clean and dry the eraser between each color.

Some smaller black dots come up from the point of the triangle. Stamp the larger of these with the eraser and *Black*. Use a dull pencil tip to dot the others, making them smaller as you move up.

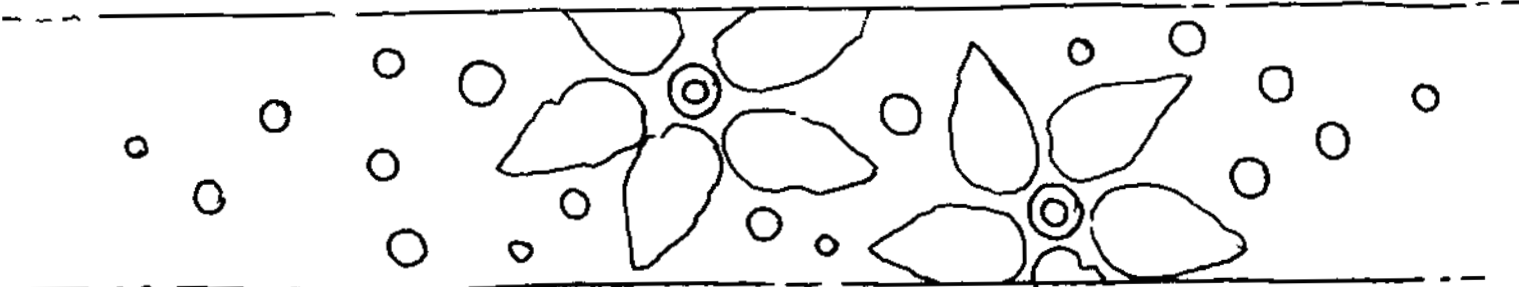
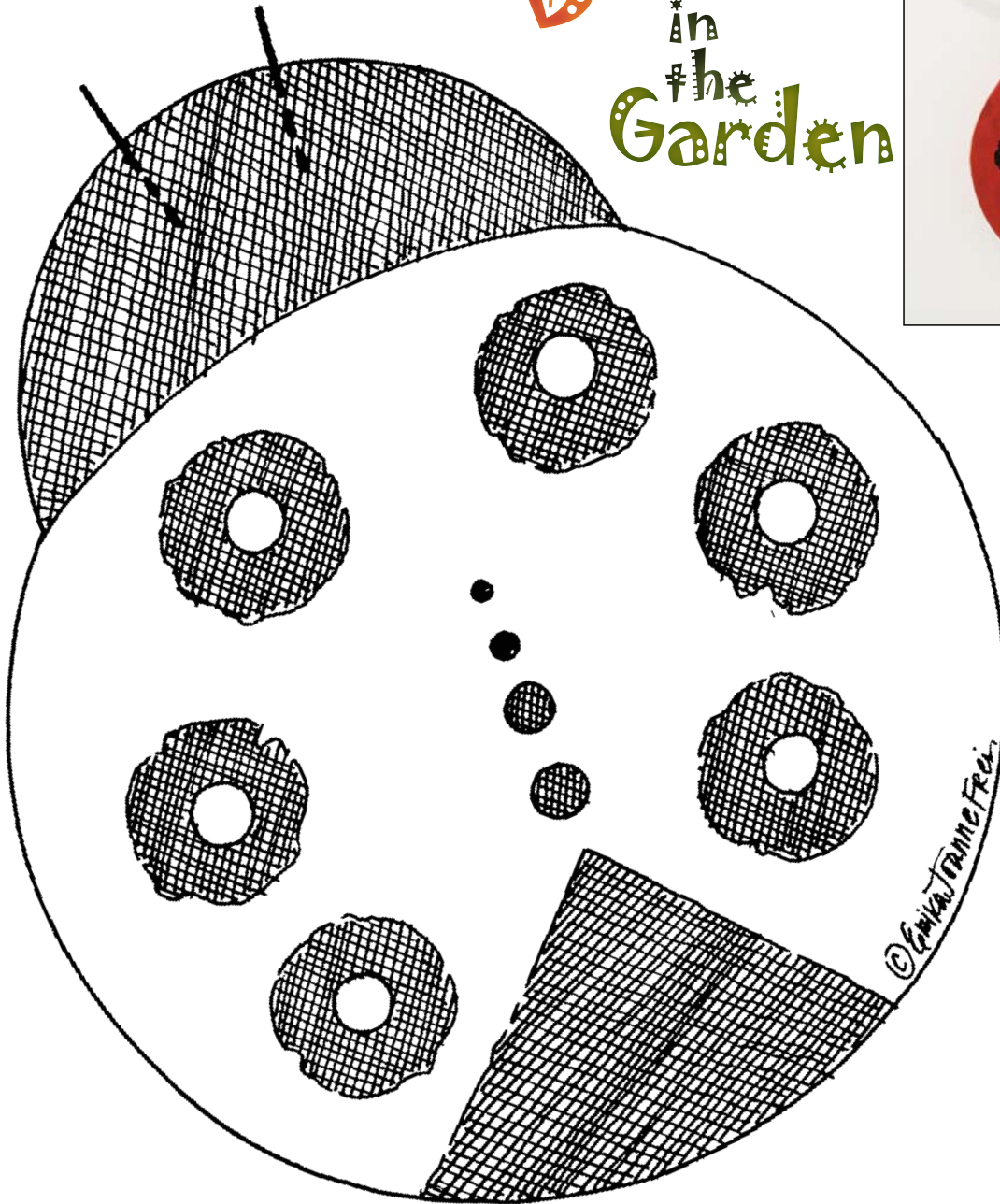
With the petal-shaped sponge, stamp *Off-White* flowers on the green stake. Let these dry. Add shading to the inside of each petal with the no. 10 flat and *Yellow*. Dip a dull pencil tip into *Light Green*, and add dots around the flowers. Dot the center of the flowers with *Orange*; let these dry, and add smaller dots of *Yellow* on top of the orange.

## STEP BY STEP



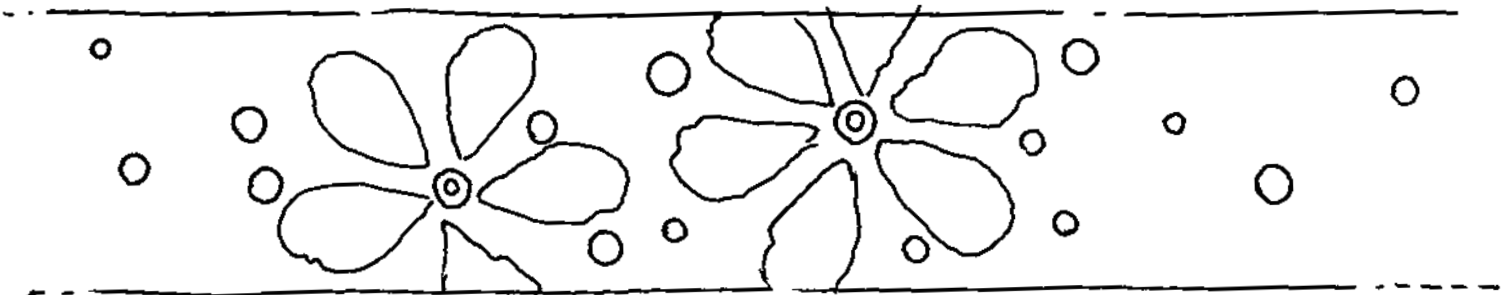
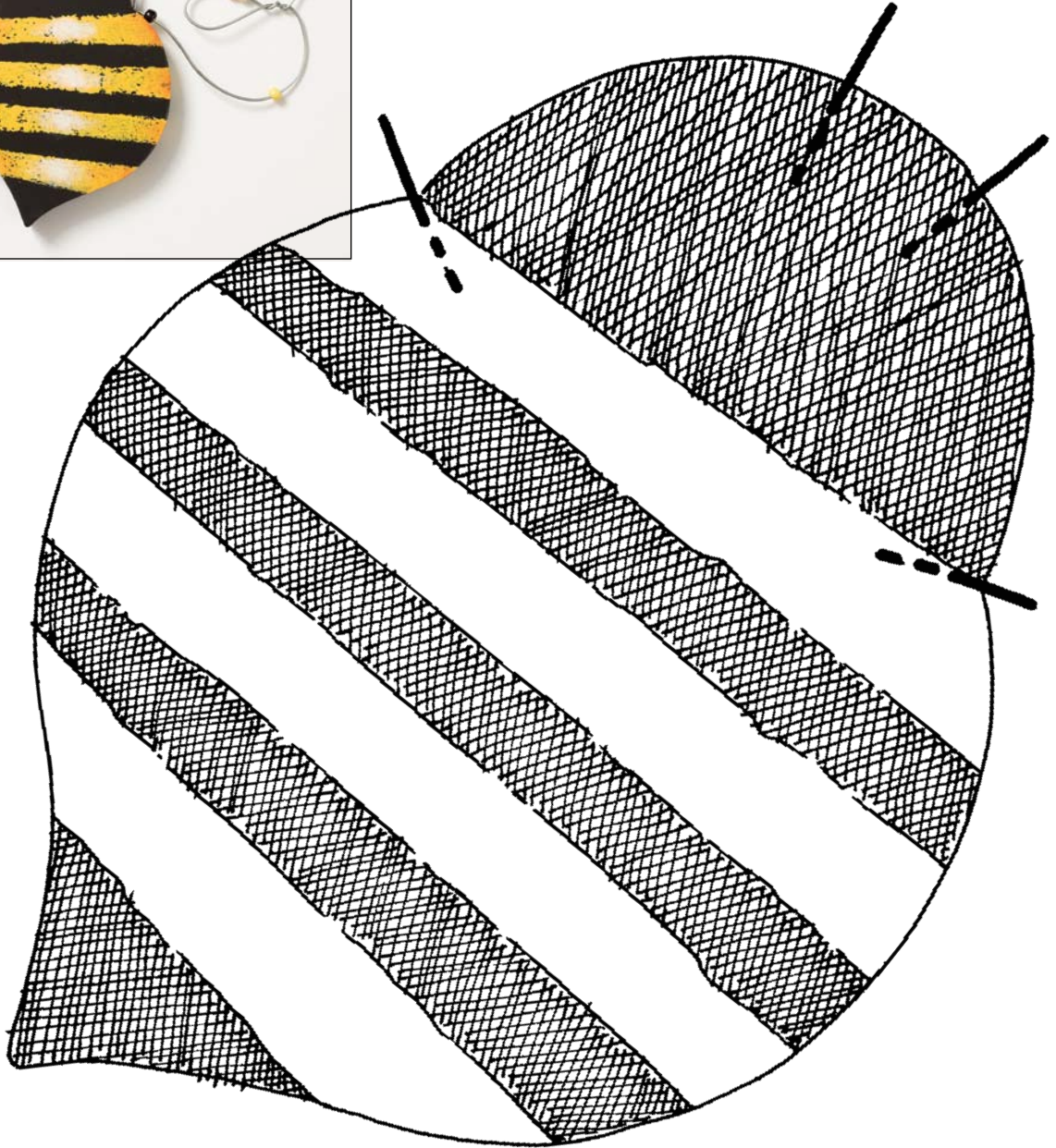
# BUGS in the Garden

Attach antennae at lines.





Attach antennae and wings at lines.





### FINISHING WINGS & ANTENNAE

Here we'll need an adult to step in and finish up the bugs.

To create the bee's wings, use needle nose pliers to cut a 28-inch length of 16-gauge silver wire. Place a couple of craft or pony beads onto the wire. Find the middle of the piece, and fold it in half. Move the beads to the fold, and then twist the wire together about 1-1/2 inches above the center, forming a loop into which the beads are enclosed. Twist the wire a second time. Add a few more beads to each end of the wire, and then bring the ends together, forming a heart shape, and twist the ends together at the bottom. Be sure that the ends are twisted tightly enough to fit into the holes drilled into the side of the bee shape, and clip off any excess. Repeat these steps for the second wing.

Cut one 15-inch length of wire for each antenna. Use pliers to cinch a small loop at one end of the wire (this will be the outer end of the antenna), and form each wire into a swirl. Trim any excess, and add beads. Use the pliers to cinch a small bend in the near end of each antenna: this will help with fastening the antennae into the holes in the wood. Use a cool-melt glue gun to affix the antennae and wings, and you're ready to go ...

Absolutely **BUGGY!** 🐛

**Attention educators!** This JAC project has been designed to conform to U.S. National Visual Arts Standards. As such, it is suitable material for use in public and private schools, scouting, home-schooling, after-school child care, camps, and more. SDP approves its reproduction and use for educational purposes; see our website ([www.decorativepainters.org](http://www.decorativepainters.org); choose Junior Artist Club from the left-hand menu) for information and more great ideas!

#### ARTIST'S SKETCH

Erika Joanne Frei has been a decorative painter for twenty-two years and a member of SDP since 1999. "I feel it is so important that we expose children to



the arts—especially those who struggle in school because their creative abilities aren't recognized," Erika says. "To give a child the chance to explore with a brush will plant in them a new skill that might blossom into something beautiful."

Erika's latest venture is a line of *Paint & Pencil* design packets wherein realistic painting is achieved by basecoating in acrylics and adding detail in colored pencil. You may write to Erika at [erika@erikajoanne.com](mailto:erika@erikajoanne.com), or visit her website at [www.erikajoanne.com](http://www.erikajoanne.com).

