

## Letterboxing at Homer Lake

Letterboxing is an amazing adventure game played by people all over the world. To play, you follow clues to find a hidden box with special items inside.

Letterboxers use clues and crack codes to find the hidden treasure- a letterbox! The letterbox contains a unique stamp and a logbook. Visitors can stamp their discoveries in their own journals, and record their visit in the logbook, either by writing their name or using their own signature stamp.

If you're interested in learning more about this real life treasure hunt, visit [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org) or <http://www.atlasquest.com>. These sites contain more information, answers to frequently asked questions, and clues!



Homer Lake is home to the Cycle of Life series. This letterbox series has four letterboxes, each with its own unique stamp. The clues and stamps are based on the lifecycle of a monarch butterfly.

## Cycle of Life (4) LbNA #50328

This letterbox series is located at Homer Lake Forest Preserve. A map and directions to the preserve can be found online at [http://ccfpd.org/About/Map\\_Directions.html](http://ccfpd.org/About/Map_Directions.html).

Note: A tree identification guide and a compass may be helpful in finding these letterboxes.

Find the parking lot at the Flicker Woods Trailhead to begin your search.

1. **Eggs:** Begin hiking the Flicker Woods Trail from the trailhead. You will start out heading east. Turn left at the T, and continue down the trail. You will eventually approach another T-intersection with an interpretive sign and a Leopold bench. Designed by the famous naturalist Aldo Leopold, these benches were made to sit two ways, forwards and backwards. If you thread your legs through the bench, the back rest becomes an elbow rest. The purpose of this design is so you can sit and rest your arms as you look through binoculars. Try sitting in the Leopold bench this way, and then spy a bent-over, decaying tree stump about fifty feet in front of you. "Eggs" resides within this stump.
2. **Caterpillar:** Continue down the trail to the right; you will be heading south. Spot several down trees on your left, and before the trail bends, find one stump that is holding down another. "Caterpillar" resides within this stump.
3. **Chrysalis:** Continue south on the trail, and follow the bend. Peer down at the Salt Fork River below you. Loop by the fireplace and foundation, and keep the red barn on your right. Across from the red barn, on the right side of the trail, is a tree that used to be a 2 from 1. Where one half broke off, about 4 feet above the ground, is where "Chrysalis" hides.
4. **Monarch Butterfly:** Continue to follow the trail north. Pass at least ten shagbark hickory trees with shaggy bark. Find a spindly-looking 3 from 1, which was formerly a 4 from 1. You might also notice that some of its bark has been shredded by deer antlers. Inside the stump of the fourth, under lots of sticks and debris, is where you will find "Monarch Butterfly."

Continue north down the trail to the gate. To get back to the trailhead, turn left on the trail and loop back around to the Leopold bench.

