



Spring 2010

Our Mission

To Celebrate Nature
Through Education and Action
in the Upper Peninsula

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Andrew Bek, Naturalist

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The MooseWood News is published three times a year by MooseWood Nature Center, Inc. Submissions of ideas, articles, photographs, and artwork are welcome. Send via email to tiffany@moosewood.org or phone (906) 236-9573.

MooseWood Nature Center is located on Presque Isle Park in Marquette.

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Marquette, MI 49855

Phone: 906.228.6250
info@moosewood.org
www.moosewood.org

Spring/Summer Hours

Closed Monday-Friday
Saturday 12-6 p.m.
Sunday 1-6 p.m.

Beginning June 12

Thursday-Sunday 12-4 p.m.

WWW.MOOSEWOOD.ORG

“Set Sail” for MooseWood Nature Center

MooseWood Nature Center would like to announce the “Set Sail” for MooseWood Fund Raiser, **Saturday, July 10 at 6:00 p.m. with special guest, Karl Bohnak.** This inaugural event will raise money to benefit the programs and exhibits at the nature center.



The national historic Coaster II sails on beautiful Lake Superior.

The event is being offered to members of MooseWood Nature Center as a benefit of membership. Reservations are required. Members interested in this evening sail are asked to make a donation of \$100 or more. Passengers will meet at the Mattson Lower Harbor Park in Marquette and should expect the sail to last at least four hours.

Experience the real depths of Gitche Gumeé using all of your senses as you experience her waves,

shoreline, and winds sailing on the national historic schooner, the Coaster II. A typical sail will take you past the dramatic cliffs of Presque Isle, around the White Rocks, a dip into Middle Isle Bay where breath taking views of forested islands with Sugarloaf and Hogsback Mountains seen in the distance.

Niko Economides purchased the Coaster II in 2007. The schooner carries six passengers and a four-man crew – Niko, Captain and ships carpenter; Jill, crew and scheduling; Thanos, first mate; and Cyrus, helmsman. The Coaster II has quite a history spanning over 75 years on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, both sides of the equator, and now on the Great Lakes.

Karl Bohnak, author of *So Cold A Sky, Upper Michigan Weather Stories* will give a talk on some of the most notable and notorious weather events of the past. Bohnak, a self proclaimed snow “freak” developed a passion for weather at the age of seven. Severe weather captivates and excites him even today. A book signing opportunity will also take place during the sail. To order your copy of Bohnak’s book, visit www.upweatherhistory.com.

As you watch the evening sunset, enjoy a light dinner compliments of BabyCakes of Marquette. The menu includes a specially made “Thick as Fog” pea soup, homemade bread, and a dessert.

To make reservations please call Tiffany at (906) 236-9573 or 228-6250. For more information about the sail, please call 361-3668 or www.superiorodyssey.com.

Summer Day Camp begins June 21

Four weeks of fun-filled Summer Day Camp is once again being offered starting June 21st. Engage your children or grandkids in the great outdoors through nature exploration, fun-filled activities, and hands-on learning fun on Marquette’s very own Presque Isle Park.

Naturalists for this years camp include: Amanda Grifka, current naturalist at MooseWood Nature Center; Sue Payant, currently a MooseWood Board member and has recently retired from AMCAB; and Andrew Bek, past camp instructor and is MooseWood’s school program naturalist.

This years camp will offer exciting experiences to students five to 14 years. Sessions include: **Camo Camp, Monarchs Abound, Mini-Beasts, Wilderness and Survival, Cold Blooded Encounters, along with Bog, Beach, and Forest and Birds, Birds, Birds!**

Morning sessions will be held from 9 a.m.—12 noon while afternoon sessions will be offered from 1 p.m.—4 p.m. Campers can enjoy a full day of camp by attending both a morning and afternoon session for their age group. Snacks will be provided but campers are asked to bring a brown bag lunch. The fee for registration is \$55 for members and \$65 for not-yet-members per child for each session enrolled. A full day fee for members is \$100 with a not-yet-members fee of \$120.

A camp registration form is included in this newsletter. Additional forms and detailed camp descriptions can be found at www.moosewood.org. For more information, please call (906) 228-6250.

A Word from the Board

After a slow start, summer seems to have arrived in full force in mid-May here in the Upper Peninsula. At MooseWood, summer means more guests, summer camp, and this year, some major landscape work. Spring work included planning future developments inside the center with the NMU construction class, planning creative new summer camp programs, and looking outside the center at a land stewardship program now within the center's lease with the City of Marquette.

MooseWood's mission statement begins *"To promote understanding, stewardship and love for the natural environment..."* Over the years some of the center's activities and work by the board and staff have included coastal clean-ups along the shore of Lake Superior, highway clean-ups on M-28, weed pulls, and workshops on solar and wind energy alternatives. Nearly all these activities and programs have occurred off site - at locations away from the nature center.

This summer will be a little different. A committee consisting of Greg Cleary and Skye Haas of the Laughing Whitefish Audubon Society, Ryne Rutherford of the NMU Biology Department, Bruce Ventura former MooseWood board member and treasurer, Melissa Middleton former DEQ biologist and wetland mitigation specialist, Renee Leow and Jaime Beranek of the Marquette County Conservation District, and I have been planning the changes to the former Shiras Pool next to the nature center.

Technical assistance has been provided by Whitewater and Associates of Amasa, AECOM, and the NMU Construction Class under Mike Andary to make decisions regarding the removal of portions of the pools reinforced concrete. The idea is to create a wetland area to support wading, shore and other water birds, insects, and amphibians and well as aquatic plants.

The area was once part of the Lake Superior dune-bog complex that runs intermittently along the south shore of the lake. Another idea under consideration is to create a demonstration bog featuring sphagnum moss, cranberry and other bog plants found in the



Scot Stewart, (left) Bob Kahl, and Greg Cleary (not pictured) plant nearly 100 trees.

nearby bog. This small area would give visitors a close-up look at a bog community, and possibly return a small part of the grounds to its original bog status.

A wetland complex will provide a great learning environment adjacent to the center for school and other groups to study aquatic life in the city limits. It will extend the time visitors might spend at Presque Isle Park in the city, in an area now being used year-round.

Becoming stewards of this land is an honor. To be a part of this project and return some of the area to a more natural and possibly original condition and greatly improve its value to a wider diversity of wildlife holds to our mission. It contributes to the beauty of one of the best municipal parks in the world. Thank you to all who have assisted and continue to contribute to our efforts to make this a spectacular part of Presque Isle. Please come and see what we are doing!

Scot Stewart

Board Update

Michael Posthumus, his wife Rachel, and his dog Chewbacca are new residents of Marquette County as of August, 2009. Mike moved to Marquette to pursue a Masters degree in Education Administration at Northern Michigan University. He moved from Jackson, WY where he worked as a residential education instructor for the Teton Science Schools and developed his passion for experiential place-based education, especially in outdoor environments.



Mike is excited to be a part of the MooseWood Nature Center and looks forward to helping create innovative programs for the community. He enjoys outdoor recreation sports, photography,

and woodworking when he isn't spending time hiking with Rachel and Chewie.

During the Annual Meeting in April, Posthumus was elected to the vacant Vice Chair position for a term of one year.

He will also be assisting Andrew Bek during the Wilderness and Survival Summer Camp session for youth 12-14 years, scheduled for July 26-29. With his knowledge and experience acquired at the Teton Science Schools and his passion for the outdoors, Mike would like to pass on this knowledge to a younger generation.

In February, **Emily Koren** announced her resignation from the board of directors. She was a great asset offering her knowledge and skills as an Outdoor Recreation major to MooseWood's school programming.

Thank you Emily for your many contributions to MooseWood Nature Center and we wish you well.

Birding at the Neck

Birding at the neck of Presque Isle is about to change. MooseWood, the Laughing Whitefish Audubon Society, Northern Michigan University biology department, Superior Watershed Partnership and the Conservation District have been studying migrant and resident species of birds found on the Bog Walk, around the pool and on Presque Isle, and plants that influence their lives there.

It is an amazing place with a stunning array of birds that are commonly found there and are attracting many unusual birds too. Presque Isle offers an old growth pine-hemlock forest, a sphagnum bog, open fields and Great Lakes shoreline. Its convergence of habitat provides for the needs of many species. Connecticut warbler, scissor-tailed flycatcher, northern shrike, Nelson's sharp-tailed, lark sparrows, and short-eared owls are just a few of the special vagrants that have been seen there.

In May of this year, MooseWood began changing the face of the Shiras Pool area. Nearly 100 trees and shrubs were planted to improve it as wildlife habitat. Serviceberry, choke, black, and cherry trees, red-osier dogwood, and mountain ash were planted offering cover, summer and winter food. Dogwood will serve as anchor plants for flowers to be planted later this summer in a hummingbird-butterfly garden. Tamaracks and balsam fir are the first of many conifers being added to the existing pines and spruce. They draw in foraging warblers and other migrants.

Birders have long recognized the importance of the neck of Presque Isle as a birding site. By adding additional food for birds and shady corridors for many other species, it will become an even better place for birders and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy the park's wildlife. Short trails inside the pool area will connect with the bog walk and give hikers longer walks in this area.



A Black-Capped Chickadee feeds recently at the birdfeeders located near MooseWood.

Another development at the pool area is the addition of digital sound recording equipment by the Northern Michigan University biology department. Dr. Alec Lindsay and one of his students have installed a digital sound recorder at the center to monitor bird, bat, frog and toad calls. Long term recording can be made of resident and migrating wildlife and be pulled from digital cards using software that scans for the sound frequencies the animals employ. It is the first of many they hope to use across the Upper Peninsula to help us understand more about the wildlife.

Presque Isle is a fabulously beautiful area to take a walk, watch birds, get away from the bustle of downtown and get some fresh air. It is a great wildlife area that is getting even better.

Volunteer Spotlight



Joanne Sved is a native of the Upper Peninsula and earned an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts while attending Northern Michigan University.

Sved shows great dedication to MooseWood committing time once a week to the care of the animals at the center. She enjoys spending time with the animals and seeing that their needs are met.

"MooseWood Nature Center offers benefits to adults and youth. The animals and programs offered to schools are a great asset to the Marquette community," says Sved.

While not at MooseWood, Joanne enjoys a good book and exploring her favorite hiking locations – Mount Marquette, Sugarloaf, and Dead River Falls.

MooseWood again would like to say "Thank you" for your dedication to MooseWood and the special care you give to our animals.

Save the Date: Saturday, June 5

Econo Foods: Fund Raiser, 11:00-5:00 p.m.

Join MooseWood volunteers as we bag groceries for donations at Econo Foods grocery store. If you would like to help raise money for MooseWood, please give us a call. All volunteers will receive a t-shirt to wear during the fund raiser.

Full Circle Superior: Presentation, 3:00 p.m.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: \$10 suggested donation

Mike Link and Kate Crowley will give a talk on their expedition circumnavigating Lake Superior on foot. Following the presentation, Mike and Kate invite the public to join them as they continue on their way. To follow their adventure, visit www.fullcirclesuperior.org. All donations to benefit MooseWood Nature Center.

June Events

Please note: program descriptions may be abbreviated. Please log on to view complete program descriptions.

Critter Feeding:

Saturday, June 12, 3:00 p.m.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: \$5 suggested donation appreciated

Audience: Children and Families

Help take an active part in feeding the animals—snakes, turtles, toads, fish, and a frog.

Knee High Naturalist:

Sundays, June 13 and 27, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Donations appreciated

Audience: 18 months to 4 years

Interactive stories will be read aloud followed by fun activities and games.

Invasive Plants: Field I.D. and Control

Tuesday, June 15, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Donations appreciated

Audience: Adults

Participants are asked to bring work gloves and dress appropriately for weed pulling. Car pool to site.

Native Signs: Part I

Saturday, June 19, 3:00 pm – 4:00 p.m.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Free for members/\$5 for not-yet-members or \$10/family for not-yet-members

Audience: All Ages

Discussion on native trail markings and a hike on Presque Isle trails following native trail markings.

Native Signs: Part II

Saturday, June 26, 3:00 pm – 4:00 p.m.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Free for members/\$5 for not-yet-members or \$10/family for not-yet-members

Audience: All Ages

The second Native Signs program will teach basic drumming for communicating over long distances, basic native signs for hunting and commerce, smoke signaling, and how to signal S.O.S using drums and smoke.

July Events

Invasive Plants: Field I.D. and Control

Tuesday, July 6, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Donations appreciated

Audience: Adults

Participants are asked to bring work gloves and dress appropriately for weed pulling. Car pool to site.

Critter Feeding:

Saturdays, July 10 and 24, 3:00 p.m.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: \$5 suggested donation appreciated

Audience: Children and Families

Help take an active part in feeding the animals—snakes, turtles, toads, fish, and a frog.

Knee High Naturalist:

Sunday, July 11, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Donations appreciated

Audience: 18 months to 4 years

Please see month of June.

Mythical Monsters:

Sunday, July 18, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Free for members/\$5 for not-yet-members or \$10/family for not-yet-members

Audience: All Ages

Come join us for a super natural experience! Lake Monsters, Witches, Big Foot and Wolf men! We will watch short clips from movies and T.V. on mythical animals of the U.P. and have some fun making up a mythical monster living in the woods of Presque Isle afterward! Do they really exist? You decide!

Reptile Romp: Wetmore Bog

Sunday, July 25, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Meet: Wetmore Bog on Co. Rd. 550

Fee: Free for members/\$5 for not-yet-members or \$10/family for not-yet-members

Audience: All ages

Your shoes will get wet at this site! Dive into pond life at its best! This is a hike devoted to our friends the amphibians! Animals you can expect to see here are green and mink frogs, salamander larva, snapping turtles, painted turtles, and possibly a few garters here and there.

July Events Cont.

Precious Pollinators:

Saturday, July 31, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Free for members/\$5 for not-yet-members or \$10/family for not-yet-members

Audience: Ages 5 to 9

Learn about the many different pollinators of Presque Isle! Make a hummingbird feeder and learn what flowers you can grow to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

August Events

Critter Feeding:

Saturdays, August 14 and 28, 3:00 p.m.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: \$5 suggested donation appreciated

Audience: Children and Families

Help take an active part in feeding the animals—snakes, turtles, toads, fish, and a frog.

Reptile Romp: Lake LaVasseur

Sunday, August 15, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Meet: Lake LaVasseur, turn right onto Kawbawgam Rd off of M-28 East

Fee: Free for members/\$5 for not-yet-members or \$10/family for not-yet-members

Audience: All ages

A nature walk focused on our most feared but friendly U.P. native, the snake.

It's A Bug's Life:

Saturday, August 21, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Free for members/\$5 for not-yet-members or \$10/family for not-yet-members

Ages: Ages 5 to 10

Explore the life cycles of native insects using magnifying glasses and microscopes. A fun craft will follow.

Reptile Romp: 29, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Meet: Strawberry Lake

Fee: Free for members/\$5 for not-yet-members or \$10/family for not-yet-members

Audience: All ages

Romp with us around the muddy edges of a herper's delight! Animals to see: frogs, toadlets, turtles, snakes and more.

Renew Your Membership Now for 2010!

Please join us in celebrating nature through education and action by becoming a member today or renewing your membership.

- I would like to volunteer. Please contact me at the below number or email I would like to receive the quarterly newsletters only
 I would like to receive both the monthly postcards and the newsletters I do not wish to receive mailings

Membership levels:

- \$5,000+ Maple
 \$2,500+ Oak
 \$1,000+ Pine
 \$500+ Cedar
 \$100 Birch
 \$50 Aspen
 \$25 Family
 \$20 Individual/Senior
 \$15 Student
 \$10 Jr. Moose (5-12 yrs)
 \$ _____ Pool Project



Mail to: P.O. Box 773, Marquette, MI 49855

I would like to make an anonymous donation

New Renewal Address change

Name(s) _____

Child's name(s) _____ Age(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I am especially interested in:

- Family Education
 After-School Programs
 Nature Field Trips
 Adult Nature Programs
 Volunteering
 Donating a nature collection
 Send Monthly Postcards
 Send information about Corporate Membership Benefits and partnership Opportunities
 Other _____

Thank You!

All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Subscribe to the e-mail news-list to receive program schedules and special events by visiting www.moosewood.org. Please let us know so that you will be removed from snail mailings of our monthly postcards.

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