



OUR MISSION

To Celebrate Nature Through
Education and Action in the
Upper Peninsula

ENTRANCE IS FREE!

Visitors and members are welcome at
MooseWood Nature Center. Some programs
may require a fee and advance registration.

View from the Center

By SCOT STEWART

New Lease for Life

The hopes and challenges that 2009 has brought to MooseWood Nature Center seem to mirror the ones reflected in the entire country – amazing new development possibilities and the financial challenges to make dreams come true.

MooseWood and the City of Marquette have been working through the development of a new lease that would turn over another portion of the Shiras Pool Building and official control of the pool area to MooseWood Nature Center.

Bigger Center, More Exhibits

We have long realized our center was too small. We have not had enough space to properly develop changing displays, to host school class visits and other large groups, and provide instruction in inclement weather. Our new lease will provide us with the center portion of the pool building to help us improve services in both these areas. This area will be used to expand our exhibits plus an indoor observation area looking out to the pool area. We will also begin developing the area to provide indoor programs.

Pool to a Pond

Nearly a year ago the city officially turned over the pool area to MooseWood. Our plans to convert the pool to a pond were temporarily put on hold until late in 2008. Now back on track to explore the process of transforming this area, we hope to create a pond with natural vegetation, providing habitats for aquatic insects, amphibians, fish and birds. The pond would provide MooseWood the opportunity to offer additional wetlands programming to both school and community groups. Using parts of the existing pool bottom, we hope to develop a handicapped accessible ramp opening the door to pond studies by individuals not always able to enjoy dipping for insects, fish and tadpoles.

Bird Watching

The neck of Presque Isle is a natural pathway for moving and migrating birds. Birds such as black-billed cuckoos, merlins and Cooper's Hawks cross it regularly during the summer as they move between nests and feeding grounds. During migration, blackbirds, flycatchers, warblers, sparrows, and more solitary species like northern shrikes, common snipes, American bitterns, scissor-tailed



A Monarch caterpillar eats common milkweed.

flycatchers stop off at Presque Isle. Attracted by water and food, the neck is an especially good bird funnel. MooseWood hopes to landscape the area around the pool to make it even more attractive to birds and other animals.

Flowers, Fauna and Things that Fly

By planting wildflowers including milkweed, wild bergamot, jewelweed, and other native flowers a butterfly-hummingbird garden is planned to draw these colorful species. They will join eastern bluebirds that nested at the pool for the first time since the pool was established. Justin Burton's industrial arts classes at Bothwell Middle School built several nesting boxes that were placed next to the Center last summer. One was home to the bluebirds during the summer of 2008, and they remained around the center into mid-October.

Planting American mountain ash and crab apple trees can help draw waxwings, grosbeaks, robins and other fruit eating birds during winter months and the addition of spruces and balsam fir trees to the area will enhance warbler habitat during spring and fall migration.

A Year-round Friendly Environment

These changes will create a natural area that can be used year-round by hikers using the bog walk, school groups wanting wetlands programming, birders and visitors expanding their experience at Presque Isle.

Winter 2009

MooseWood Nature Center
P.O. Box 773
Marquette, MI 49855
Phone/Fax: info@moosewood.org
www.moosewood.org

Winter Hours

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

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

Staff

Stephanie Bajema, Naturalist

Board of Directors

Scot Stewart, Vice-Chair
Gerald Mogavero, Treasurer
Linda O'Brien, Secretary
Priscilla Chappell
Bob Kahl
Emily Koren
Natasha Koss
Danielle Miller
Alice Reynolds
Joy Verlinden

Tiffany Rantanen, Editor

Call for New Board Members!

If you would like to take an active
role in shaping the future of
MooseWood Nature Center,
join us as a Board Member.

Ideal candidates bring strengths
in the following areas:

Community Outreach
Building a Membership Base
Fund-raising
Program Planning
Advocacy

Log on for more information
and download your
application today.

View from the Center

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Working Board and Volunteers

There have been many personnel changes at MooseWood, too. A grant that provided partial funding for our Executive Director position ended and as a result we have not replaced Suzan Travis-Robyns, who resigned after our funds were cut. Our board is now a true working board, planning and carrying out programs, developing our ideas and designs for the Center, and running most day-to-day activities. Fortunately, Naturalist, Stephanie Bajema remains on staff to operate the center on weekends and care for all the animals. Still, there are many tasks and volunteers can make a big difference. Consider donating your time. Click www.moosewood.org for details.

Growth Potential

Just as the country and other non-profits struggle with funds in these trying economic times, MooseWood does too. The Center has operated on a shoestring budget for most of its active 12 year life. We have never done a very good job explaining our financial needs and shortcomings. As a result we have plugged away in a small center, with limited number of staff, and have often found ourselves wearing a variety of hats as we fill many hours with the Center's activities. We continue to work very hard for this valuable community asset and want you to be a part of our success.

MooseWood has now reached a financial crossroads and needs your help. The current task at hand is to keep our doors open and continue to offer science and nature programs for the community and area schools. Funding the amount of \$9,850 is needed to update exhibits, pay utility bills and provide staff for school and community programming through May 2009.

If you have supported us, a big, heartfelt thank you! If you have not yet become a member, please join or renew your membership now. Should you be able to make a greater contribution, consider sending a check today.

As we explore the possibility of expanding our facility and examine our plans for the pool-to-pond area development, we will post more information about the associated costs, volunteer opportunities and how you can get involved.

Be a part of our evolution into a bigger and better nature center here in beautiful Marquette.

WAYS TO SAVE! EMAIL VS SNAIL MAIL

Will this be our last newsletter?

An electronic newsletter is environmentally friendly. In an effort to save time, paper and postage, MooseWood is considering making our newsletter available online only. What do you think? Do you want this newsletter mailed to you or would you prefer to go online to read it? Call MooseWood at 228-6250 and leave a message or send us a message at info@moosewood.org.

When online you may sign up to receive program updates, special events and a link to our newsletter by sending a request to newslist-subscribe@moosewood.org.

Free Programs Offered

Attention Teachers and Educators!

Supplement your classroom with hands-on learning by taking advantage of our FREE interactive programs made available through grants from the Marquette Community Foundation.

Available programs include Water, Water, Everywhere!, Marvelous Michigan Mammals, Orienteering, In Cold Blood/Reptiles and Amphibians, and Bug-eyed Insects are available to all school districts in Marquette County. Most programs are targeted for grades K-6; however, some one-hour programs can be customized for older grade levels.

Too cold outside for outdoor programs? We'll come to you. MooseWood can travel to your school for fun environmental education in the classroom.



Jesie Melchiori, (right) Director of the Great Lakes Rodeo, presents a grant check to volunteer grant writer Jessica Robyns, 12, (center) and Tiffany Rantanen, (left) a board member at MooseWood Nature Center. Robyns wrote a grant to Great Lakes Rodeo which will fund one outdoor education program for her sixth-grade class at Bothwell Middle School in Marquette. Profits from the Great Lakes Rodeo go exclusively to the funding of youth programs. Great Lakes Rodeo took the additional step of requiring all grant applications be written by the youth who would benefit from them.

Program Director Missed

MooseWood was sad to say goodbye to Program Director, Brittany Burgio returned to her native New York earlier this winter. Brittany served MooseWood participants for over a year, assuring that our mission and outreach would reach the greater community. If your child attended MooseWood's Summer Day Camp last year, or if they attended a program in the past year, they surely have met and will miss Brittany.

Brittany was adaptable and always willing to help out when needed. We send our gratitude out to Brittany for her hard work and efforts to ensure quality nature and educations for all. MooseWood wishes her the best in all her future endeavors.

Bad to the Last Drop

By DANIELLE MILLER

Twelve or fifteen years ago, bottled water first started appearing in gas stations, restaurants and vending machines next to carbonated beverages and sports drinks. In the beginning, most people laughed at the very idea of paying for water, especially those owning wells. Slowly, reluctantly the convenience and taste won people over and bottled water became the second most popular beverage behind pop. In fact, in 2007 Americans consumed 8.8 billion gallons or 29 gallons per person. So, what could be wrong with drinking bottled water?



We live in a world where most people choose personal convenience over environmental impact. But buying bottled water, especially for those living in the Great Lakes, should not be an environmental sacrifice. According to the EPA, the Great Lakes contain about 84 percent of North America's surface fresh water and about 21 percent of the world's supply. So, if we have the most and we know it's good, why pay to have it shipped in? Yes, it's true some bottled water comes from artesian wells or natural

springs and can be filtered for contaminants, but about 25 percent come from municipal water supplies. Currently, suppliers do not have to label their sources on bottles and it's not regulated like tap water. Additionally, the manufacturing of disposable plastic bottles uses nearly seven times as much water than you actually drink and enough barrels of oil each year to fuel 100,000 cars. Not to mention what happens to those bottles when they are empty. Between 1995 and 2005 the amount of recycled plastic bottles increased from about 775 million pounds to about 1,170 million, while the amount headed to landfills increased from 1,175 million to 3,900 million pounds.

What are the alternatives to bottled water? First, there is your own tap. If you don't like the taste or smell, purchase a filter. Many products are available, including units for your faucet or in your fridge. Installing a water softener or cleaning system is also an option. Second, there is convenience. People don't drink water only at home. I recommend carrying your own reusable, preferably metal, water bottle wherever you go.

The following websites were used as references for the above article:

http://www.bottledwater.org/public/statistics_main.htm

<http://epa.gov/greatlakes/basicinfo.html>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5467759/>

http://www.treehugger.com/files/2007/02/pablo_calculate.php

<http://www.container-recycling.org/mediafold/newsarticles/plastic/2008/5-24-NY-BottledWatersImpact.htm>

Board Update

MooseWood Nature Center would like to welcome new member, Alice Reynolds to the volunteer Board of Directors. She joins eight other members of the board.

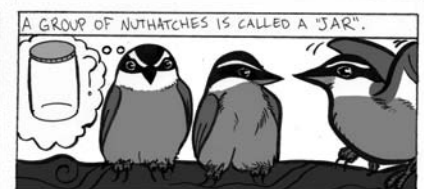
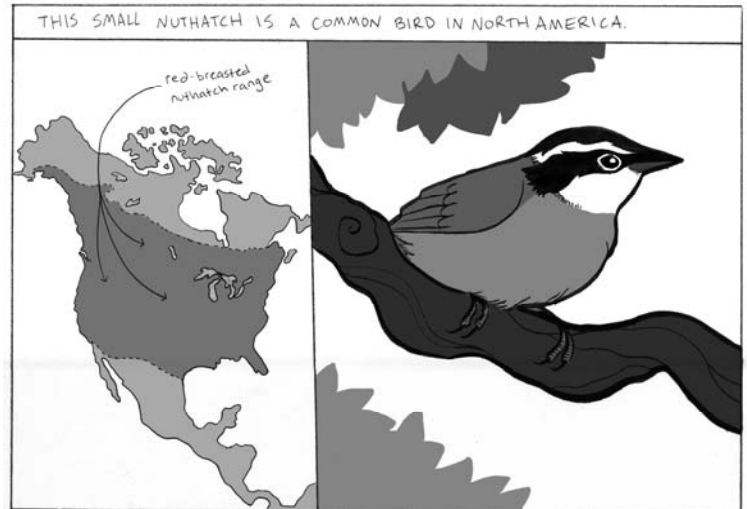


Alice Reynolds was born and raised in Marquette. Her background in teaching and her concern for the natural environment led Reynolds to the MooseWood Nature Center Board of Directors.

During her childhood she was taught to be aware of her natural surroundings; learning

to treat the woods and all the creatures in it responsibly and with respect. "The staff at MooseWood Nature Center teach children responsibility and respect for nature through school and public programs. I am proud to be affiliated with an organization that is teaching our children to preserve nature for future generations, says Ms. Reynolds.

The illustration to the right is the first in a series of six creative cartoons by Naturalist, Stephanie Bajema. See other examples of her work by visiting www.intheforest.org.



March Events

Critter Feeding:

Saturday, March 7, 3 pm.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Free to members, \$5 suggested donation appreciated/family for not-yet-members.

Audience: Children and Families.

Snakes, frogs, turtles, and guinea pigs!
Learn about the critters of MooseWood and help feed them.

Eben Ice Caves Hike:

Saturday, March 14, 1-5 pm.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center, drive time is 40 minutes

Fee: Donations are very much appreciated

Audience: All ages are welcome.

Enjoy the ice creations of Mother Nature on this easy to moderate hike. Boots with grippers or use of hiking poles for better traction suggested.

Hop into Nature:

Saturday, March 21, 1-2:30 pm.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Free to members, \$5 suggested donation appreciated/family for not-yet-members.

Audience: Children ages 6 to 9 years old.

Explore the sounds and movements of frogs with songs, activities or crafts.



A Gray Tree frog blends in with its environment.

Critter Feeding:

Saturday, March 28, 3 pm.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Free to members, \$5 suggested donation appreciated/family for not-yet-members.

Audience: Children and Families.

Snakes, frogs, turtles, and guinea pigs!
Learn about the critters of MooseWood and help feed them.

April Events

Critter Feeding:

Saturday, April 11, 3 pm.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Free to members, \$5 suggested donation appreciated/family for not-yet-members.

Audience: Children and Families.

Snakes, frogs, turtles, and guinea pigs!
Learn about the critters of MooseWood and help feed them.



Skunk Cabbage produces its own heat melting the snow around it.

Skunk Cabbage: Nature's Early Risers

Saturday, April 18, 6:30 pm.

Meet: Jack's parking lot in Harvey and carpool to site on M-28

Fee: Free to members, \$5/individual,

\$10/family for not-yet-members

Audience: Families

Learn about Skunk Cabbage, one of nature's most unusual wildflowers. It is one of the earliest blooming wildflowers in the Upper Peninsula and can often be found popping up through snow and ice. Learn how this plant is well adapted to living under such harsh conditions.

Skunk Cabbage photo, (above) by Lorelei Ranveig on www.flickr.com and Gray Tree frog photo, (left) by Stephanie Bajema.

May Events

Wings of Spring:

Saturday, May 2, 10 am.

Meet: Presque Isle Bog Walk

Fee: Free to members, \$5 suggested donation appreciated/family for not-yet-members.

Audience: All birders welcome.

Observe early spring migrants of Presque Isle Bog with birder, Scot Stewart. Participants are invited to share stories of their experiences.

Critter Feeding:

Saturday, May 9, 3 pm.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Free to members, \$5 suggested donation appreciated/family for not-yet-members.

Audience: Children and Families.

Snakes, frogs, turtles, and guinea pigs!
Learn about the critters of MooseWood and help feed them.

Jr. Moose Hike: Signs of Spring

Saturday, May 23, 3 pm.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Free to members, \$5/individual, \$10/family for not-yet-members

Audience: Jr. Moose

Explore Presque Isle for signs of Spring: blooms, tracks, scat, and more.

Critter Feeding:

Saturday, May 30, 3 pm.

Meet: MooseWood Nature Center

Fee: Free to members, \$5 suggested donation appreciated/family for not-yet-members.

Audience: Children and Families.

Snakes, frogs, turtles, and guinea pigs!
Learn about the critters of MooseWood and help feed them.

HAVE A LIGHTBULB MOMENT!

Are you trying to lighten your carbon footprint? It is difficult to do during the short days of winter when you want to keep your house bright and cheerful. However, there is a way to save on your electric bill when you use new energy saving lightbulbs.

MooseWood is working with the Superior Watershed Partnership to distribute FREE compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). Superior Watershed Partnership will keep track of changes in the electric bills that are submitted to them to see what a difference we can make. Marquette homeowners can soon pick up these FREE CFLs at MooseWood Nature Center. Click on our website to find out when these bulbs will be available!

Renew Your Membership Now for 2009!

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:

- \$10,000+ Striped Maple
 \$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)
 \$ _____ Amount enclosed



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 _____

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

I am especially interested in:

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

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Please recycle this newsletter when finished by passing it on to someone else. Thank you!



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