



Winter 2010

MooseWood Nature Center
P.O. Box 773
Marquette, MI 49855
Phone: 906.228.6250
info@moosewood.org
www.moosewood.org

Winter Hours

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

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

Staff

Amanda Grifka, Naturalist

Board of Directors

Scot Stewart, Chair
Gerald Mogavero, Treasurer
Linda O'Brien, Secretary
Priscilla Chappell
Niko Economides
Bob Kahl
Emily Koren
Lynnea McFadden
Danielle Miller
Sue Payant
Tiffany Rantanen
Alice Reynolds

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 info and download your application today.

WWW.MOOSEWOOD.ORG

MooseWood Nature Center / Presque Isle Park / P.O. Box 773 / Marquette, MI 49855

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.

Invasive Plant Workshops Offered

The MooseWood Nature Center and the Central Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (CUPCWMA) would like to announce a new series of monthly workshops offering information about the threats posed by non-native invasive plants and engaging citizens in the fight against these weedy invaders.

An **'Introduction to Invasive Plants'** will begin the series on **Tuesday, February 23, 2010**. The workshop will define what makes plants invasive and will present information about how invasive plants negatively impact local ecosystems, industries, and our quality of life.

Future workshops will be held on **Tuesdays, March 23 and April 20**. All evening workshops will be held from **6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** An afternoon field work session will be held on **Saturday, April 24 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.** All workshops will be presented by CUPCWMA's Coordinator, Elizabeth Coyne and will take place at MooseWood Nature Center and will be free.

As spring turns to summer, Moosewood Nature Center will host more programs about invasive plants. There will be many opportunities to get involved throughout the summer.

Moosewood Nature Center is a founding member of CUPCWMA, which was formed to coordinate invasive management efforts and share resources



Garlic Mustard is a rapidly spreading weed that is displacing native woodland wildflowers in Michigan.

among the different entities interested in controlling invasive species. CUPCWMA's goal is to reduce the threat non-native and other invasive plant species have on native natural communities in the four central counties of the Upper Peninsula (Alger, Delta, Marquette, and Schoolcraft counties) through education to the public, removal and prevention of population, and restoration and rehabilitation of native species.

Reservations are not required for the workshops. Additional information can be found at www.moosewood.org or call (906) 228-6250 or www.upicweeds.org or (906) 225-0399.

Candlelight Fund-Raiser March 6

A **Candlelight Ski & Snowshoe Fund-Raiser** will be held from **7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

Hike, snowshoe, or ski through the beautiful trails of Presque Isle Park lit by candle luminaries. Set your pace on the winding path and nibble on winter treats provided at several stations. Local astronomers will identify constellations to help you better enjoy the star-studded sky. At trails end warm up at MooseWood with hot chocolate and snacks and learn what's new at the nature center.

Tickets are \$5/child, \$10/adult, and \$25/family. Advance tickets will be sold at MooseWood Nature Center during open hours, local businesses in the community, and available from staff and board members. Proceeds from this event will benefit educational programming and exhibits.

In addition, door prizes will be drawn throughout the evening. Some exciting door prizes for the event include: a dog sled ride for one adult or two youth from Snowy Plains Kennel in Gwinn, MI., two one-day passes to Marquette Mountain, dog whispering session with Andrew Bek, framed photograph from local teacher and freelance photographer Scot Stewart, two MooseWood family memberships and t-shirts. All purchased tickets serve as door prize entries.

MooseWood Nature Center would like to thank the generous supporters of this fund-raising event.

Volunteers are needed for this fund-raiser. If interested in volunteering or selling advanced tickets, please contact Tiffany at tiffany@moosewood.org or call (906) 228-6250.

News from the Board

The New Year ahead is filled with excitement and promise of big changes. We stand at an important crossroad in our future and hope you will join us in our journeys ahead.

The Nature Center

Last September MooseWood signed a new 10-year lease for the MooseWood Nature Center that includes the “center” of the building where we are currently located. This addition is most welcome—it adds to the space where we can expand our exhibits, and more importantly provide a larger area for programs, birthday parties, meetings and other group activities. The area also includes a small custodial closet, a medium sized room for storage and area formerly used for food preparation.

The new leased area is similar to the current center as it was designed as a summer use only area, with no central heating system, insulation or other winter considerations. We are looking forward to the current semester at Northern Michigan University when Professor Michael Andary and his class from the Department of Technology and Occupational Sciences will provide recommendations for building improvements. They will look at energy efficient alternatives, windows, roofing, exhibit and storage areas and actual exhibit designs. It is also hoped we can begin to look forward to renovations and possible make-over ideas.

The Pool to Pond Project

Our new lease with the city also includes the Shiras Pool and surrounding grounds. For over a year, we have been working to convert the pool into a pond and restore the area around it to a more natural state. Among the ideas being considered are phasing out nonnative species, creating a hummingbird-butterfly garden, planting trees that will benefit wildlife with food and cover, designing a tree-lined corridor to assist amphibians moving from the Presque Isle woodlands to the pond to breed, and introducing wetland plants for the pond itself. Funds are currently being pledged by local organizations to start this project and grants are being pursued. More funding and help will be needed to complete this undertaking.

When completed, access to the area will be through the nature center and will offer year-round use. A wetlands complex should provide excellent habitat for water birds and landscaping can provide additional wildlife viewing opportunities to a place already enjoyed by many. A trail in the pond area will connect to the Bog

Walk and plans are being developed to include handicap access into the water for students studying pond life. As many elementary school classes study pond life, MooseWood hopes to develop a great destination for them and provide programs too.



Youth explore the unique creatures of local pond water.

One other consideration under study is the construction demonstration bog, attempting to establish a small sphagnum bog adjacent to the pond to showcase the moss,

orchids, cranberries and other plants found in the bog nearby. It will be a challenging undertaking that underscores the difficulty in restoring a valuable disappearing plant community. The work at the Shiras Pool is a most unique project.

We Need Your Help

We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to be located in one of the most remarkable city parks in the country and are very grateful to have such wholehearted support from Marquette’s City Commission. MooseWood is a nonprofit organization that derives our funding from memberships, private, service organization and corporate donations, and grants. Our hope is that the community will continue to embrace our endeavors to interpret the natural history of the bog, dunes, beach and forests of Presque Isle Park and restore a part of it to a more natural place. We look forward to hearing from you about how we can serve both residents and visitors better—please give us your ideas and suggestions for programs, building renovations, and changes to the pool area.

Thank you for your past support. We need your continued contributions to make our hopes for the future a reality.

Scot Stewart

Board Update



A Marquette native for over 20 years, **Niko Economides** enjoys the journeys of life.

Niko has worked for several nature centers as a naturalist, historian, and curator, has built boats and log cabins living off the land, and has worked with youth at the Huron Mountain Club.

In 2007, he purchased the national historic schooner Coaster II and now his journey is leading him back to the beginning—Nature Centers!

“I hope to add to the hands-on activities at MooseWood, things like maple sugaring, forest farming, natural building, old time and primitive skills and deep ecology. I believe being human is one of society’s greatest challenges. I feel our love of nature is a path to our humanity.” —Niko Economides

Save the Date: April 22

You are cordially invited to the Annual Meeting of the MooseWood Nature Center, April 22, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Room of Peter White Public Library.

Following a brief business meeting, this year's program "Landscape Restoration" will feature presentations given by Elizabeth Coyne, Coordinator of the Central Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area and Sue Rabitaille of Borealis Seed Company and Manager of the Hiawatha National Forest Greenhouse. The program will discuss identification and removal methods of invasive species and landscaping with native plants.

Food and drink will be provided though friends and members are encouraged to bring a dish to pass along with own table service for the potluck social. Musical entertainment and a children's craft activity will be provided.

Plan now to attend the MooseWood Nature Center's Annual Meeting—we look forward to seeing you in April!



Rod Hubert (left), Logan age 5, Landon age 6, and Teddi age 2, had some extra love to share with a corn snake during a recent visit to MooseWood.

2009 Bog Scholarship Winners Announced

Van Antwerp Hall
Organization for Outdoor Recreation Professionals
Outdoor Recreation Center

The above Northern Michigan University organizations were awarded cash scholarships to be given to their favorite charity.

For the latest information on MooseWood, join our email news list by sending a message to: newslist-subscribe@moosewood.org

Teachers and Educators!

This spring, supplement your classroom with hands-on learning by taking advantage of our FREE interactive programs made available through a generous grant from the Marquette Breakfast Rotary.

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



MooseWood staff, members, and volunteers got into the holiday spirit singing Christmas carols at the Westwood Mall in Marquette. From left are Alicia Hodgins, Keirrah Grifka, Bear Grifka, Andrew Bek, Nathan Koscielny, MooseWood Naturalist Amanda Grifka, and Cole Grifka sitting.

Snowshoes for Rent

Snowshoeing was once an important mode of snow travel. When European settlers came to America, they learned to make snowshoes from Native Americans, later developing their own styles. Settlers would use snowshoes during their daily winter activities and to explore unknown wilderness.



Today, snowshoeing is a popular sport affording great outdoor fun, low impact exercise, and is a wonderful way to experience Presque Isle Park's winter wonderland. If you can walk, you can snowshoe.

MooseWood Nature Center has an assortment of Tubbs and Sherpa snowshoes available for rent to adults and youth. Rental rates are \$5/day, \$8/weekend (2 days), and \$15/week (7 days). Members rent snowshoes for free. Snowshoes are available on a first come first served basis or call (906) 228-6250 for availability.

February Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at MooseWood Nature Center, are free to members, \$5 /person or \$10/family for not-yet-members. View more program info at www.moosewood.org.

Critter Feeding:

Saturday, February 6 & 20, 3 p.m.

Fee: \$5 suggested donation appreciated

Audience: Children and Families

Learn about and feed the animals—snakes, turtles, toads, fish, and a frog.

Recycled Valentine Craft:

Saturday, February 13, 2-3 p.m.

Fee: Donations appreciated

Audience: Children and Families

Create a valentine or flower bouquet for your special valentine using recycled items.

MooseWood at Kaleidoscope:

Saturday, February 20, 12-4 p.m.

Meet: Superior Dome

Look for MooseWood at Kaleidoscope. Enjoy games, activities, or a craft.

Snowflake Science:

Saturday, February 20, 1-2 p.m.

Fee: \$2 supply fee for members/\$4 supply fee for not-yet-members

Audience: Ages 5 and up recommended

Learn how snowflakes are formed, their different shapes and create a craft. Take a closer look at some preserved snowflakes then capture and preserve them yourself.

Beginning Snowshoeing:

Sunday, February 21, 2-3:30 p.m.

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

Audience: Beginners

Learn the basic skills of snowshoeing and enjoy a hike along the Presque Isle trails. Snowshoe rental available.

Introduction to Invasive Plants:

Tuesday, February 23, 6:30-8 p.m.

Fee: Donations appreciated

Audience: Adults

The first in a series of workshops in collaboration with the Central Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area will define invasiveness and present information about how invasive plants negatively impact local ecosystems, industries, and our quality of life.

Feb. Events Cont.

Winter Camping Skills:

Saturday, February 27, 1-3 p.m.

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

Audience: All ages welcome

Learn important survival skills: Avoiding frost bite and hypothermia and what clothing to wear. Participants will also be able to demo winter camping equipment and try out and learn to make a quinzhee!

March Events

Candlelight Ski & Snowshoe

Fund-Raiser:

Saturday, March 6, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Fee: \$5/child, \$10/adult, \$25/family

Audience: All ages welcome

Enjoy the beautiful trails of Presque Isle lit by candle luminaries. See page one.

Eben Ice Caves:

Saturday, March 13, 10-2 p.m.

Meet: New Moon Tavern, Eben Junction

Fee: \$5 suggested donation appreciated

Audience: Families and Friends

Discover what the Eben Ice Caves are on this easy to moderate hike. Ice cleats are recommended.

Critter Feeding:

Saturday, March 13 & 27, 3 p.m.

Fee: \$5 suggested donation appreciated

Audience: Children and Families

Learn about and feed the animals—snakes, turtles, toads, fish, and a frog.

Pot of Gold Orienteering:

Sunday, March 14, 3-4 p.m.

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

Audience: Families

Participants search for the 'pot of gold' using a compass and simple instructions that lead from one clue to the next.

Invasive Plants Workshop:

Tuesday, March 23, 6:30-8 p.m.

Fee: Donations appreciated

Audience: Adults

Learn which non-native invasive plants are local priorities and how to identify them.

April Events

Easter Egg Orienteering:

Saturday, April 3, 2-3:30 p.m.

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

Audience: Families

Critter Feeding:

Saturday, April 10 & 24, 3 p.m.

Fee: \$5 suggested donation appreciated

Audience: Children and Families

Learn about and feed the animals—snakes, turtles, toads, fish, and a frog.

Skunk Cabbage: Nature's Early Risers

Thursday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.

Rain date: Saturday, April 17, 3 p.m.

Meet: Jack's parking lot (north) in Harvey and car pool to site

Fee: Free to members, \$5/adult or

\$10/family for not-yet-members

Audience: All ages welcome

Get an up close and personal experience with nature's earliest bloomers. Discover how this unusual wildflower is adapted to living in harsh conditions. Program offers photo opportunities.

Invasive Plants Workshop:

Tuesday, April 20, 6:30-8 p.m.

Fee: Donations appreciated

Audience: Adults

Learn more invasive plant identification as well as control techniques and methods.

Invasive Plant Workshop: Field Work

Saturday, April 24, 1-2:30 p.m.

Fee: Donations appreciated

Audience: Adults

Participants will get a chance to go into the field to learn more identification and get busy controlling nearby infestations.



A large group turned out for the Scarecrow Craft this past November.

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:

- \$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 Postcards
- Send information about Corporate Membership Benefits and partnership Opportunities
- Other _____

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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.

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

This newsletter printed on 100% post consumer non-bleached paper.

