



PAW PRINTS

The John and Mary Dahlem Environmental Education Center
A Program of The Dahlem Conservancy

February 2009

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Dahlem Center Hours

Tues - Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Noon - 5:00 p.m.

*Monday Noon - 5:00 p.m.

The trails and grounds are open from dawn to dusk every day. The entrance gate is opened at 6:30 a.m. and locked at 9:00 p.m.

Contact

Phone: 517 - 782 - 3453

Fax: 517 - 782 - 3441

Website: www.dahlemcenter.org

Address: 7117 South Jackson Rd.

Jackson, MI 49201

***New Hours!**

Join the new "Dahlem Book Club"!

You're invited to take part in a two session book discussion at Dahlem's Wickwire Farmhouse. This season's book selection is the bestseller "Hot, Flat, and Crowded" by Thomas L. Friedman. Please see the book review on this page. Participants will discuss Parts I and II (pages 1-199) at the first session on Thursday, February 26th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and continue with Parts III, IV, and V (pages 200-412) at the second session on Thursday, March 12th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Those attending are encouraged to review the book's discussion guide at: <http://us.macmillan.com/hotflatandcrowded#guides>

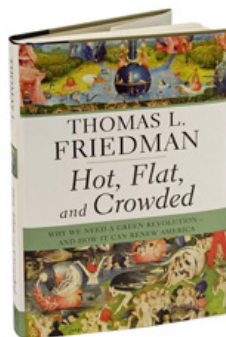
and share questions of their own at each session.

Come for rousing conversations, new perspectives, good company, and homemade light refreshments. Participation is free but seating is limited so please call to reserve yours today!

Sessions will take place at the Wickwire Farmhouse at 1427 Wickwire Rd in Jackson (turn right out of the Dahlem Center onto South Jackson Rd and Wickwire Rd is your next right. The Farmhouse is on the south side of the road, between South Jackson Rd and Browns Lake Rd.)

Book Review: *Hot, Flat and Crowded* by Thomas

During the frigid weeks of February, cuddle up on the couch with the hot bestseller that has also made its way to President-elect Obama's nightstand table: "Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution - and How It Can Renew America" 2008 by Thomas L. Friedman. The Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of the 2005 bestseller *The World is Flat* reveals in his new book the tremendous opportunity awaiting America in



tackling the globe's growing economical and environmental issues. In his title, Friedman refers to the three challenges facing the nation and the world; global warming, the "flattening of the world" as a metaphor for the increasing middle class and consumption by countries such as China, India, Brazil, and Russia, and finally, the steady growth of the global population and its resource demands. Friedman clarifies these issues through his optimistic and practical approach. He also exposes the how the roots of these chal-

Mission Statement: The mission of The Dahlem Conservancy is to provide environmental education and land conservancy services to the residents of South Central Michigan.

Paw Prints is published for members of The Dahlem Conservancy.

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Are You A Dahlem Member?

If not, become a member today and you will receive:

- Free admission to most public programs
- Advanced registration and reduced rates for Day Camps and Goblin Walks
- 10% discount on purchases in the Nutshell Gift Shop
- Paw Prints monthly newsletter of events and information
- Access to trails for cross-country skiing.

Membership Fees:

Individual Membership \$24
 Family Membership \$36
 Senior Membership \$12

Memberships also make great gifts for friends and family!!

Help us protect the outdoors for future generations!

Friends of Dahlem Jay



A huge thank you to our 109 bakers for the Holiday Bazaar December 5th and 6th .The aroma of mulled cider and rising bread dough lured folks into the baked goods room. This year both the crafts and the bakery were together in the new addition. This made it easier for checkout purposes and shopping .

Volunteers for the two day event were Allie Mae and Bob Henning, Kathy Clark, Bernie and Louise Riggs, Betty Desbiens, Lauri Dahlem, Mary White, Maria Maldonado, Vera Tuttle, Dorothy Dyer, Fred and Debbie Marshall, Barb and Dean Borton, Delores Walbrecq, Barb Wellman, Val Periat, and Mary Baird. Sharon Best and many of the folks listed above were the calling team. If you want to bake next year, please let us know. If you want to be taken off a calling list, let us know that also. The list changes every year. The Friends of Dahlem

thank you and hope that you'll continue coming to weekend programs where you will find us selling soda and popcorn . Our Board of Directors will meet in January to review the Bazaar and make plans for the February Valentine Tea. Suggestions and new members are always welcome. We got two new members during the Holiday Bazaar as well as a renewal membership. Welcome Mary Baird, Val Periat and Jean Davis.

Kathy Clark, Allie Mae Henning, Carrie Benham, Sharon Best Board of Directors: Betty Desbiens - membership, Louise Riggs, Dorothy Dyer, Maria Maldonado, Vera Tuttle and Jim Best.

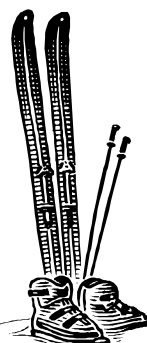
Our bright blue, heavy duty trash bags are always available to purchase at the center. This is a year's supply. We can deliver if needed. 787-3163.

Kathy Clark
 Friends of Dahlem

**This article was intended to appear in last month's issue of PawPrints. Due to various, unforeseen complications, the article never made its way in. I personally wish to apologize for this mishap, and thank the Friends of Dahlem for all of their hard-work and dedication to the Center over the years.*

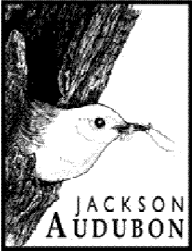
-Cody Porter

Cross Country Skiing at Dahlem



This winter promises to be a snowy one! Come out and make the most of the snow at Dahlem! Cross country skiing is free to all Dahlem members. With over 5 miles of scenic winter trails, its hard to imagine anywhere better in Jackson to enjoy the breathtaking beauty of winter in Michigan. Not a member? Call 517-782-3453 or stop by to join the Dahlem family!

Upcoming Events



Fieldtrip: Saturday-Sunday, February 7-8, 2009 - Sault Ste. Marie- Join Lathe Claflin and Gary Siegrist for a weekend of birding in the great North in search for owls, crossbills, and redpolls. Make your own motel reservation. Call Gary for more information. (517-522-5990)

Meeting: Friday, February 12, 2009 - Location: Vista Grande Villa - Andy Walz will present "Natural Jackson." Andy will show us the many pictures he has taken through the years of the Cascades, Ella Sharp, Waterloo, and the Dahlem Conservancy. Please bring a dessert to share.

This is a reminder for all who are able and willing to participate in this year's "Great Backyard Bird Count". From February 13 through February 16, birders of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to tally the different species and amounts of birds they see and then submit the data to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to help scientists generate a snap-shot of where birds are across the continent. Visit <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html> for more info.



Help Needed for Maple Syrup Programs



DEECAN Training for the Maple Syrup Program is Tuesday, February 24th. March is for sharing the art and science of maple syrup-making with elementary and pre-school students. Anyone and everyone who is willing to volunteer is welcome to attend.

Become a Maple Syrup Tour Guide. Meet the other enthusiastic volunteers at 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. We'll set up the equipment, fire up the evaporator and familiarize you with the Sugar Bush Tour. Students and parents love this early spring program. You will too!

The Dahlem Conservancy invites the community to enter this year's photo competition and discover Dahlem through the seasons!

Come out with your camera and explore 300 acres of natural beauty...who knows what you might capture! The contest and entry dates are divided into the four seasons of 2009: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall. Winners from both the adult and children divisions will be selected at the end of each season. Prizes not only include gift certificates to Dahlem's unique Nutshell Gift Shop, but privately guided tours of two birding and wildflower hotspots for spectacular photo opportunities! A selection of



entries will be exhibited at the Center each season, and all entries will be presented to the public at the end of

the year. The deadline for the Winter Season photos is March 31st, so get to the trails and start shooting today! You may discover Dahlem in a whole new way!

Official contest rules and entry forms are available at the Dahlem Center Nutshell Gift Shop. Check out our website (www.dahlemcenter.org/events.php), or email Kimberly at kmay@dahlemcenter.org for further information.

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January/February 2009 Weekend Programs:

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Ecology & Environment Series.....

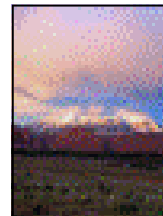
Michigan's Native Americans: 2:00 p.m. Saturday, January 31

Travel back in time and discover life of the Great Lakes Native Americans through live demonstrations and hands-on exploration of authentic tools and artifacts. Randy Baker of Naturalist Endeavors will present the many impressive ways Native Americans adapted to the land during this dynamic program for adults and children 8 years and up.

Outdoor Travel Adventure.....

An American Icon: Utah's Red Rock Canyonlands: 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 3

Clayton Daughenbaugh of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance will lead you on an invigorating photographic expedition through Utah's red rock splendor. The evening will feature a multi-media film on this unique wilderness narrated by Robert Redford, in conjunction with Clayton's presentation on the Utah Wilderness Movement's current critical status.



Family Wildlife Adventures.....

Tales of Scales: 2:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. Saturday February 7

Snakes! Snakes! Snakes! Paul McCormack of Classroom Critters is back by popular demand and will intimately share with you his slithering and scaly friends from around the world. Don't miss your chance to get up close and personal to his stunning 15ft Albino Burmese Python! Seating for each program is limited to 35 so register today!

Family Wildlife Adventures.....

Homeward Bound: 2:00 p.m. Sunday February 8

Put away your GPS unit and meet the true masters of navigation! Homing pigeons' astounding ability to find their way home has intrigued us for thousands of years, transforming a once critical form of communication into an exciting pastime enjoyed by all. Come see Walt Treichel's live birds and learn more about this great family sport!



Edutainer.....

CCC Enrollee: The Past in Person: 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 15

Join us for a peek into the past with Michael Deren as he shares his entertaining portrayal of a Civilian Conservation Corp enrollee of 1941. The fun-filled tale will include songs and music of the bugle, concertina, and washboard while encouraging audiences to become inspired by the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice of the young men who rebuilt America.

Ecology & Environment Series.....

Backyard Habitats for Wildlife Advanced Workshop 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 21

Does your backyard have what it takes to attract birds, butterflies, and more? During this sequel to last year's program, you will learn how to easily invite wildlife into your backyard with People for Wildlife Coordinator, Gary Siegrist. Explore the methods of wildlife attraction as well as how to use native plantings to transform your backyard into the wildlife oasis you've always wanted! You are encouraged to bring plans or pictures of your backyard landscape for discussion.



* Please check our website for the most current and up to date Weekend Program schedule. www.dahlemcenter.org

All programs presented at the Dahlem Center at
7117 S. Jackson Rd.

Advance Registration is required.

To Register Call 517-782-3453

Admission is \$3.00 per person

Dahlem Conservancy Members Admitted Free

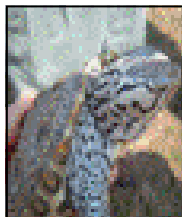
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February/March 2009 Weekend Programs:

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Outdoor Travel Adventure.....

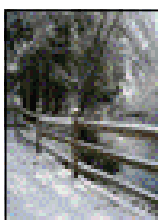
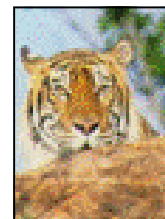
EarthWatch: Diamondback Terrapins of Barnegat Bay: 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 22

Barnegat Bay, N.J. is one of the most extensive salt marsh ecosystems of the East Coast, providing critical habitat for this beautiful and now rare species. EarthWatch team facilitator, Kathy Shaw, will share her remarkable expedition experience of capturing, tracking, and tagging these terrapins in their unique estuary environment.

Family Wildlife Adventure.....

What's For Lunch: 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 28

It's eat or be eaten in the Wild Kingdom! Learn how animals develop amazing strategies for catching food...and how they avoid becoming dinner themselves with the live animals from Potter Park Zoo. Come meet the furry, feathered, and scaly and figure out what makes them predators or prey.



Discover Dahlem Outdoors.....

Guided X-Country Ski at Dahlem: 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 1

Dahlem offers over five miles of scenic winter trails just waiting to be explored. Whether you ski through our woods everyday, or have never set foot on our trails, all are welcome to enjoy this guided hike with People for Wildlife Coordinator, Gary Siegrist. Warm up with hot chocolate afterwards. Bring your own skis, mug, and dress appropriately for the weather.

Family Wildlife Adventure.....

Scats and Tracks: 2:00 p.m. Saturday, March 7

Whose scat is that? Children will become wildlife detectives during this hands-on investigation of local animal evidence. Afterwards, participants can create and take-home their own animal track and explore outside for animal signs on a guided trail hike, weather permitting.



Outdoor Travel Adventure.....

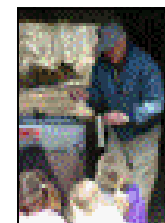
Life in the Serengeti: Saturday, March 14

Nowhere else on earth do large animals exist in such incredible diversity and volume than the African Serengeti. Chris VanLonkhuyzen will share his ultimate safari experience in these grasslands as well as other stunning locations including Tarangire N.P. in Tanzania and the Ngogorongore Crater in Kenya. Come enjoy a personal per-

Family Wildlife Adventure.....

A visit to the Dahlem Sugar Bush: 12:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. Saturday, March 21

Experience the authentic art of maple sugaring and more! Come see the sugaring process step-by-step through hands-on activities for all ages! Guided walks begin every 20 minutes. Hike to the sugar bush, try your hand at tapping, and visit our Sugar Shack to see sap being converted to syrup. Come for a sweet experience! Maple sugar candy and syrup will be for sale in the Gift Shop.



* Please check our website for the most current and up to date Weekend Program schedule.

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Dahlem Conservancy Members Admitted Free

*The Dahlem Conservancy is proud to announce that
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How I Spend my Winter Vacation

As I gaze out from my window and watch that new birds we have at the feeders here at Dahlem, my thoughts look to the future and I can hardly contain myself. It's almost time to head north for the annual Jackson Audubon / Washtenaw Audubon birding trip to Sault Ste. Marie that I lead with Lathe Claflin.

"Why go to the snowy and cold Upper Peninsula of Michigan in the middle of winter" you ask? "Why not head for warmer climates where you can bird in comfort?" Many of my friends just shake their heads and wonder if I'm nuts, after all it's the U.P. in February. What they do not realize is it's the largest concentration of Boreal and Arctic bird species that can be seen in Michigan and only in winter.

The numbers and species of birds can be quite exceptional. First stop could be the power plant on the St. Mary's River looking for the magnificent Gyrfalcon (our largest North American falcon) chasing ducks along the river. Oh my! Well I guess we have one less Common Goldeneye to worry about making it through the winter. Even if the Gyrfalcon is not present it's worth stopping to look for unusual ducks. At varied times a King Eider or Long-tailed Duck have been spotted in the open water pools next to the plant. Bald Eagles came be seen almost anywhere around

the Soo, but are concentrated along the St. Mary's River. One can even see an eagles nest if looking at the right spot across to Sugar Island.

Next, we drive down to see if the Sharp-tailed Grouse are in small branches at the tops of the birches feeding on tender catkins. If we are really lucky, some of the males will be on their dancing lek. Leks are communal display grounds that are used by Sharp-tails to show dominance over other males. It can be quite amusing to hear the weird and unearthly hoots and quacking. You can also hear soft, dry chatter produced by the stamping of their feet as they bow and perform this spectacle over and over. You will be amazed to see Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Pine Siskin, and Purple Finch sharing the same feeder at Dunbar Forest. Hearing a flock of White-winged Crossbills with a couple of Red Crossbills mixed in for good measure as they are flying over overhead is a good possibility.

After we take a short break for refreshments and rest, we head for the "Rudyard Flats". This part of the U.P. is named for its very flat land that has large fields that are good for growing hay. What we will be looking for are the bird species that inhabitant the high arctic tundra above the Arctic Circle. In good years, Snowy Owls will be easy to spot

sitting either on abandoned houses and barn roofs or fence posts. Rough-legged Hawks on the utility poles and at the very tops of large trees are a common occurrence. Flocks of Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs swirling around and waiting for them to set in one place can be madding. It's also very possible to locate a Hawk Owl in good years. What a special treat it is to see this owl sitting surveying the surrounding area looking for the next meal.

Then as daylight passes into darkness we hunt the ghost of the boreal forest, the king of all owls, the mysterious Great Grey Owl. I am always in awe of this bird and when I get to see it, I consider it a successful trip. As a Matter of fact, one trip, I was lucky enough to watch a Great Grey feeding. As it plunged repeatedly into the deep snow, feet first from a fence post, the owl was rewarded each time with one of its favorite foods a Meadow Vole. I will always remember this scene and the gracefulness of this large raptor.

I hope I have given you a little insight on why so many people from all over the country head north instead of south when the snows of winter comes lurking.

Gary Siegrist
People for Wildlife

The Extended Phenotype; Reaching a Hand to Nature

I find myself sitting atop an ice-covered hill, in the thicket of a vast pine forest which sways profoundly in unison due to the roaring winds above. As I peer out through a large clearing just ahead, my eyes are met with a breathtaking sight. In the open, reddened sky, at the sunset's doing, above a small, frozen land-locked lake, an intense battle for survival is in the heat of existence. A large Red-tailed Hawk is in swift aerial pursuit of a large sord of Mallards, who desperately flock together to avoid being singled-out by the large bird of prey.

As I sit in a stunned bliss at the aesthetics of the hunt, I can't help but feel a deep sense of gratefulness for the area of wilderness that I frequent on a weekly basis. The area, which is conveniently located virtually in my backyard, is strictly preserved for the wildlife by the owner. Much like Dahlem, the area is a safe-haven for biodiversity to thrive without the interference of man, in a time where such locations are becoming increasingly difficult to find.

This thought invokes a sudden revelation in my mind. The renowned Oxford professor of Zoology and Evolutionary Biol-

ogy, Richard Dawkins, developed a theory years ago that helps put the idea of Wildlife Conservation into a deep Ecological perspective. In his book entitled "*The Extended Phenotype*", Dawkins proposes the idea that an organism's genes influence more than just the synthesis of proteins within the organism. He points to the fact that an organism's genes, in part "code" for the organism's phenotypic aspects such as behavior, appearance, etc., which can influence the surrounding environment. He states that because genes provide the basis for most behavior (as some behavior is acquired through social interactions and the environment), which can influence the surrounding environment, they can also influence the genes of other organisms, and in turn, other organisms' phenotypes. Dawkins uses examples such as beaver dams and caddis houses to provide evidence for his theory.

What surprises me is that Dawkins, and many other experts (to my knowledge), have failed to use humans as an example. Our species has perhaps the most apparent example of an "extended phenotype". Through our constant destruction of habitat, and constant interaction with surrounding wildlife, we,

perhaps more than any other species, have influenced our surrounding environment globally. Species are constantly adapting to our behavior, or dying because of it, which in turn influences even more wildlife.

However, as evidence by my neighbor, our influence doesn't have to be a negative one. The wildlife that inhabits his property is influenced in a positive manner. In a larger perspective, the whole of wildlife conservationists working across the globe can be viewed as a collective, positive phenotype reaching out to the environment.

My hope is that by preserving areas for wildlife to live and thrive, rather than constantly decreasing bio-diversity, humans can increase it. It is also my intention to raise consciousness, through the concept of the extended phenotype, that we are an intimate part of nature, not above or outside it. Our species has to collectively realize the power we hold when it comes to the environment, and the potential we have to channel that power towards good, rather than bad.

Cody Porter
Communications Assistant

Members Corner

(Through 1/20/09)

We Welcome the Following New Members

Douglas Andrews
 Marjorie Barden
 Thomas Bloom
 Brian Briddell
 Margaret Bruce
 Lawrence & Valerie Bullen
 Kris Cale
 Diane Cerqueira
 Cheryl Conrad
 Kim & Barbara Dagenais
 Jack Dakessian
 Doug & Karen Davey
 Dirk & Tina Dietsch
 Edwina, David & Glen Divins
 Dr. Robert & Mrs. Valerie Doane
 Robert Dubois
 Raymond Fix
 David Fleming
 Daryl & Linda Frederick
 Maryanne Fuchs
 Regina Funkhouser
 Lynne Gatz
 Ted & Betty Gulliver
 Ellen Hall
 Carole Hartsuff
 Jon & Cindy Hawthorne
 Mrs. Bea Hills
 Dr. & Mrs. George Hoaglin
 Bill Jors
 Mary Glenn Kirkland
 Tony & Bonnie Krupa
 Ron & Michele Kuhlman
 Jeff Kurfess
 Andy Ladwig
 Jim Lefere
 Lynn MacCready
 Jan & Terry Maino
 Garry & Mary May
 Pat & Shirley McCleer
 Dick & Abby Mortensen
 Thomas Mulnix
 Phyllis & Don Murch
 Diana & John Nally
 Helen Navarre
 Christina Olds

Bill & Sandy Nichols
 Cheryl Norey
 Alyce Oosting
 Glenn & Cathi Pascoe
 Martha Petry
 Barbara Raven
 Jane Robinson
 Trish Ross
 Linda Schaub
 Marion Shroyer
 Pam Sine
 Mark Snedeker
 Jodi Snyder
 Mark & Barbara Snyder
 Ruth Stressman
 Bill Strohaber
 Barbara VanSyckle
 Jeanne Wickens
 Shirley Zeller

Thanks to the Following for Renewing Their Memberships

James Austin
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Aymond
 Mary Baird
 Craig & Diane Brush
 Bob & Pat Carlton
 Bruce & Peg Clevenger
 Willard Conklin
 David & Kimberley Crisanti
 Janice Crispell
 Evelyn August & Michael Digon
 Dale & Meredith Fay
 Barbara Fischmeister
 Ann Green
 David & Sandy Iott
 Mickey & Connie Kress
 Dale Kurtz
 Les & Eleanore Langford
 Jack & Nancy Lapinski
 Vic & Gretchen Marshall
 F. Harold Matthews
 Stephan Nason
 Jim & Janet Seitz
 John & Bethany Voulgaris
 Phillip & Margaret Webb

Thank You to the Following For Their Generous Donations:

(12/19/08 - 1/20/09)

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 Roy & Betty Rider
 Helena & Stewart Robinovitz
 James & Janet Seitz
 Gary & Nancy Siegrist
 Rod & Natalie Stopyak
 Mary Swartz
 Leslie & Joyce Syring
 Chris VanLonkuyzen
 Amanda & Peter Vincich
 Bethany Voulgaris
 Philip & Margaret Webb
 Ron & Anita Whaley
 Geoffrey & Susan Williams

In Memory of Ronald Danilowicz

Shirley Chu
 Robert & Jane Damm
 Virginia Ritsema

In Memory of Rozlin Kennedy

Carla & Sean Kennedy

In Memory of Natalie Emmons
 Carla & Sean Kennedy

In Memory of Ted & Forrest Black

Judy Dahlem Lancaster

In Memory of Jean Wilkins

Abbylousie Minor

Friends Fundraiser

Bright Blue Trash Bags!

30" x 36"

100 per box

Made from recycled plastic materials

\$25 (with \$10 tax deductible)

Available at the
 Nutshell Gift shop

*Friends can Deliver if Needed

Naturalist Corner

Snow Fleas

Ever been on a walk on a warm winter day and noticed what looked like black pepper on the snow? Did you notice it moving? If so, you most likely encountered one of Mother Nature's best survivors; the snow flea.

Snow fleas are small, winged hexapods that belong to the springtail species. The name springtail comes from an abdominal, tail-like appendage known as the furcula, which is folded beneath the body and used to propel the

animal into the air when threatened.

Springtails such as the snow flea spend the majority of their life beneath leaf litter where they eat the spores of fungi, bacteria and algae. They are also one of the main contributors to the decom-



position of decaying organic material.

Snow fleas' tiny bodies are ideally suited for surviving the sub-zero temperatures of winter. In addition to the small size and dark coloration of the creatures, which allows for rapid warming, the animals also possess an anti-freeze like protein similar to those used by fish to survive the frigid waters of winter lakes.

Based on the fossil record, springtails like the Snow Flea are estimated to have come into existence over 420 million years ago, making them the oldest lineage of hexapods known to science today.

