



Paw Prints



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2009

The John and Mary Dahlem Environmental Education Center

VISITOR BUILDING HOURS

Tuesday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

Sunday - Monday
Noon - 5:00 p.m.

TRAIL HOURS

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

7117 South Jackson Rd
Jackson, MI 49201

Phone: (517) 782-3453
Fax: (517) 782-3441
www.dahlemcenter.org

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Land Stewardship at Dahlem

By Mark Snedeker

STEWARDSHIP and LAND MANAGEMENT...

You have probably heard these terms used recently. They are growing in popular usage amongst conservation-minded people, and for good reason. The connotation of the words "conservation" and "preservation" are currently changing to reflect new ideas regarding our relationship with our natural resources.

This new way of thinking reveals the need to manage our land, much as the Native Americans did for generations before European settlers arrived. They did this mostly through the use of controlled burning. For the past three decades very little land management has been implemented at Dahlem, other than the yearly prairie burn. Beginning this year, and into the future, we are initiating a stewardship program to control the multitude of invasive non-native plants on the Dahlem property. We will concentrate on removal of the spreading Buckthorn and Autumn Olive

shrubs as well as pulling Garlic Mustard; a very tenacious biennial plant that is quickly choking out our native wildflowers. More detailed plans are under development.

This is an excellent opportunity for The Dahlem Conservancy to become a leader in the community by setting an example and serving as an educational resource for you and other property owners.

So, what can you do? First, become aware - educate yourself on what plants and animals are non-native and invasive. Many of these damaging species exist in your own backyard. Second, become involved at Dahlem. We are looking for volunteers on all levels, from crew chiefs and physical laborers, to individuals skilled in identification and inventorying. Look for up-coming announcements on this golden opportunity to become involved, work outside, enjoy nature, and know that you are truly making a difference now and for the future.

Celebrate Earth Day Event for All Ages!

By Cody Porter

The Jackson Area Outdoor Coalition (JAOC) will be sponsoring its third annual "Celebrate Earth Day" event free to the public on April 19th 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Held at Cascades Park, "Celebrate Earth Day" will engage audiences of all ages with exciting, educational, and interactive activities such as canoeing and kayaking through the lagoons provided by G.R.E.A.T., hiking and birding with Jackson Audubon, Geocaching with the Michigan GeoCaching Organization, as well as live animals exhibits, kids crafts and activities, musicians and storytellers.

JAOC's "Celebrate Earth Day" has grown significantly throughout the years in both participating organizations and public visitors. In fact, last year an estimated 600 visitors attended the event and more are expected this year.

As an active JAOC member, The Dahlem Conservancy is proud to join the Coalition in supporting and promoting cooperation among Jackson's environmental and outdoor organizations.

So, come to Cascades Park on April 19th and look for Dahlem's exhibit table. We'll have live animals for you to meet and learn about!. See you there!

Sign-up for 2009 Outdoor Adventure Day Camp!



Summer will be here before you know it! Now is the time to start thinking about how your child will spend their summer days out of school. If you're looking for Great Friends, Great Fun, and Great Times in the Great Outdoors, Dahlem's Outdoor Adventure Day Camp is your answer!

Children entering grades 1-6 this Fall are in for a truly memorable experience at the Dahlem Center. Each grade level of about twenty children is lead in fun outdoor activities and educational programs by a certified classroom teacher assisted by an education-major college student.

Due to last year's popularity, Dahlem will extend our Camp Week offerings to three weeks:

July 6 -10
July 13 -17
July 20 -24

from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Registration is open to members on April 1st and to the general public on April 20th. Please go to www.dahlemcenter.org to download the complete set of Summer Camp forms.

*Paw Prints is published for members of
The Dahlem Conservancy.*

THE DAHLEM CONSERVANCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Naturalist: Carrie Benham
Maintenance: Mark Snedeker
People for Wildlife Coordinator: Gary Siegrist
Development Coordinator: Rebecca Mehall
Weekend Manager: POSITION OPEN
Communications Assistant: Cody Porter
Assistant Clerk: Madeline Lee

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!

A Walk through Dahlem History - 1986-1995 Part II of IV

Although considered to be a new organization, Dahlem has a long, rich history. In light of the renewed Paw Prints, as well as several other changes occurring at Dahlem, it seems only fitting to take a look at the growth Dahlem has undergone since its beginning. Through a four-part journey, we will follow Dahlem throughout the years and reflect on this growth, with a profound sense of optimism for the future.

1986 - Maple Syruping and winter school field trips added
- Dahlem Friends Group initiated on November 11th
- Feasibility Study conducted

1987 - Addition of first education wing to original visitor building
- First School Concerts and Visiting Naturalist programs conducted
- Katz Property, a 40 acre off-site land parcel, donated to Dahlem
- Pheasants Forever project with DNR
- First DEEC (Dahlem Environmental Education Center) Garage Sale

1988 - Hatch Woodlot, a 21 acre off-site land parcel, donated to Dahlem
- Contracts with Addison and Bertha Robinson Schools
- Dahlem sponsored canoe trip to Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada

1989 - NAI (National Association of Interpretation) Regional Conference hosted during Bluebird Festival
- Bat House installed along trails

1990 - Dahlem Promotional Video Tape produced
- First Wildflower Sale and Biking for Independence held

1991 - First Natural Resources Days sponsored by the Junior Dorcas Society
- Greta Garbage program developed (funded by the Junior Welfare League)
- Exhibits added with a donation from Ernie Golombek
- Expansion and dedication of the Nut shell gift shop through Rotary Club donation
- Schafer Dry Cleaning hanger collection and Walk on the Wildside initiated

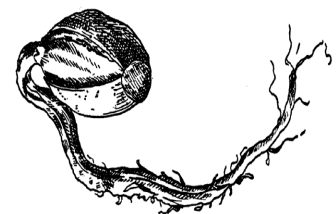
1992 - Firsts for: Friends Garage Sale at Fall Festival, Celebrity Dinners, Seed Truck at DEEC, Crane and Color Bus Tour, "Sounds of the Earth" tape recorded by Tom Hodgson, Babes in Sugarland pre school program
- Greta Garbage declared best program of the year by NAI Region IV

1993 - First Benefit Dinner and Auction
- Trees for Tomorrow plantings
- Bluebird research article by Dahlem intern, Terri Schmidt, published in Sialia: Journal of the North American Bluebird Society

1994 - Eco-tours with Jackson Convention & Tourism Bureau
- Moon Walks & Outdoor Adventure Travelogues initiated
- Cement walkway from parking lot installed
- Dahlem begins desktop publishing of MAEOE Newsletter
- Diane Valen appointed Interim Director

1995 - Dahlem & Tom Hodgson receive North American Bluebird Awards
- Dahlem coordinates Jackson's 25th Anniversary Earth Day Fair
- Tom Hodgson retires and Tom Blodgett hired as Director

...To be continued...



Acorns to Oak Trees: immersing yourself in nature

Share Nature to Save the Earth

by Kimberly May

For the past 39 years the global observance of Earth Day on April 22nd has served as a reminder of our planet’s widespread environmental degradation as well as a call to action to reverse it. Although the environmental issues and the methods of communication may have changed since 1970, one Earth Day objective remains the same... to increase awareness.



During the Earth Day season we may feel inundated with all this information on current environmental concerns, only to be followed by the persistent marketing of “easy”, “quick”, and even “money-making” tips to save our planet. For many people, all this “awareness” may be overwhelming and simply goes unnoticed or forgotten over time. Even with the greatest intentions, a commitment to those “25 easy tips to save our planet” sometimes falls to the same fate as an unsuccessful New Year’s resolution.

In order for information to resonate within someone it needs to connect with his or her personal values. A vital first step necessary in effective awareness is fostering a *connection to* and an *appreciation for* our natural resources.

So, during this Earth Day season, and for every season of the year, I encourage you to commit to this one “effective” way to save the earth... share your appreciation of it with someone else. The opportunities are endless any time of the year for you and your family to share the environment and help give those “25 tips”, as well as Earth Day, a deeper, longer-lasting meaning. *Try one of these to get started:*



Bull frog

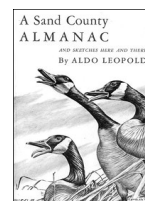
- ☛ Take your co-worker for a relaxing stroll or calorie-burning hike on the trails
- ☛ Help your neighbor set up a backyard bird feeder
- ☛ Mention the joy you receive from watching the antics of your backyard wildlife while chit-chatting with someone new
- ☛ Invite your child’s friend to a weekend environmental education program
- ☛ Tell a friend how resilient and cost-effective your backyard native plantings are
- ☛ Help your child or grandchild build his or her own lean-to shelter out of branches in your backyard
- ☛ Or simply, next time you stumble upon a slimy frog, say “awww” instead of “ewww”. The positive effect you have on those listening around you may be more than you will ever know!

The Dahlem Book Club

The Dahlem Book Club has met twice to discuss “Hot, Flat, and Crowded” by Thomas Friedman. Twelve members gathered at Wickwire Farm for lively and interesting discussions on the timely topics addressed in Friedman’s book. Dates for upcoming meetings and book selections are:

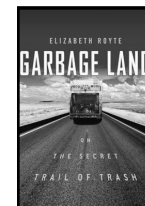
April 16th “Sand County Almanac” by Aldo Leopold

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) is considered by many to be the father of environmental education and wildlife ecology. The Almanac is a collection of essays describing the land around Leopold’s home in Sauk County, Wisconsin. A Sand County Almanac was published in 1949, one year after his death. Now 50 years later, Leopold’s words still ring true, still teach relevant lessons and still inspire.



May 14th “Garbage Land – On the Secret Trail of Trash” by Elizabeth Royte

The wild adventure begins once our trash hits the can – as Elizabeth Royte boldly follows the things we’ve “disposed of” to their ultimate (and often surprising) destination. Melding science, travelogue, anthropology, and a strong dose of clearheaded analysis, Garbage Land reminds us that our decisions about consumption and waste have a very real impact.



New members are always welcome. The Dahlem Book Club meets from **1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Wickwire Farmhouse**. Please call 782-3453 if you are interested in joining the group to discuss one or both of the books selected for April or May.

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April 2009 Weekend Programs

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Ecology and Environment Series.....

Recycling Jackson: 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 4 (*special time)

What on earth is e-waste? Can Styrofoam be recycled? Join Mary Hertler Tallman of Recycling Jackson for a family program on our County's newest recycling initiatives. All ages will learn the where, why, and how it's easy being green in Jackson. Eco-friendly craft activity afterwards.

Ecology and Environment Series.....

Bluebird Workshop: 2:00 p.m. Sunday, April 5

Learn how to attract and enjoy this beautiful "piece of the sky" with Gary Siegrist, People for Wildlife Coordinator. You will also learn step-by-step, how to make, install, and care for productive bluebird nest boxes.

Cost of program, Members \$7, Non-members \$11. Price includes nest box kit and guided assembly. Additional kits can be purchased at Nutshell gift shop.



Ecology and Environment Series.....

Magic of Spring Migration: 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 11

Imagine flying for thousands of miles, passing many dangers, to return to the same location where you were born without any help from your parents. Have you ever wondered how and why birds migrate? Gary Siegrist, People for Wildlife Coordinator, will help unlock the wonders and magic of spring bird migration.

Family Wildlife Adventure.....

Night of the Amphibians: 7:00 p.m. Saturday, April 18 (*special time)

Join Dahlem staff for our annual spring frog frenzy! We'll introduce you to a host of local amphibians, and their eggs and larva. Begin indoors and finish with a wet and wild "stomp in the swamp" to hear, see, catch and release these spring croakers and peepers. Bring boots and a flashlight and dress for the weather. It will be a night to remember!



Ecology and Environment Series.....

Birding 101 Course: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 15 and 29 and Fieldtrip TBA (*special time)

If you like watching birds in your backyard or are planning to travel the world to see 10,000 species, you will want to join Gary Siegrist, People for Wildlife Coordinator to discover the secrets of becoming a better birder. This 3-part workshop includes two classroom sessions and one weekend field trip to a birding hot spot. Topics include: use of binoculars and field guides, bird identification, behavior, habitat, and where and how to find them.

Cost : Non-members: individual \$35 family \$55 Members: individual \$25 family \$40

PROGRAM CATEGORIES:

Family Wildlife Adventure - exciting nature programs for children and adults often involving live animal encounters

Outdoor Travel Adventure - world travelers share their expeditions to ecologically unique locations

Edu-tainers - fun, interactive, and educational entertainment for children and adults

Ecology and Environmental Series - informative programs on local and national topics

Discover Dahlem Outdoors - interpretive guided nature walks on the trails for children and adults

Check out our website at www.dahlemcenter.org for the most up-to-date program offerings!

All programs presented at the Dahlem Center at
7117 South Jackson Rd. Jackson, MI 49201

Advance Registration is Required.

To Register Call 517-782-3453

Admission is \$3.00 per person

Dahlem Conservancy Members Admitted Free

The Dahlem Conservancy is proud to announce that these programs are sponsored by a generous grant from:



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May 2009 Weekend Programs

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Family Wildlife Adventure.....

Woodcock-Watch and Campfire: 8:00 p.m. Sunday, May 3 (*special time)

Timberdoodle, bogsucker, Labrador twister, no matter the name, the peculiar American Woodcock is a sight to see! Gather around the fire pit to hear the story of this little woodland bird's unusual courtship displays, then venture out on the trails to the bird's dancing grounds. We will sit quietly to witness its amazing acrobatics and listen to hear what other wildlife is out at night! Children 12 and up welcome. Space is limited to 25. Flashlight recommended. **Cost of program: Members \$2, Non-members \$5 Includes S'mores, hotdogs, and beverages**

Family Wildlife Adventure.....

Dragons, Damsels, and Fairies of the Spring Pond: 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 16

Explore the realm of fairy shrimp, dragonfly and damselfly nymphs, fierce predaceous diving beetles, and more mysterious creatures of the pond. Education Director, Kimberly May will guide children 6 years and up in hands-on activities to learn about these tiny inhabitants of our underwater world. Space limited to 25 children. Guardians attend for free.



Edutainer.....

Great Animal Stories and Songs: 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 17

Prepare to be entertained! Tom Hodgson is back by popular demand to share his many talents with you and your family. Everyone will enjoy and play a part in his fascinating stories and songs of the great animals around us. Tom has recorded several CD's and has long history of sharing his love of nature at the Dahlem Center.

Edutainer.....

Native American Story-telling: 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 30

Jane Murray, whose Ojibwe name is Shawanah, will offer a fascinating glimpse into the philosophy and culture of Michigan's Woodland Indians through the mastered art of story-telling. Children (8 years and up) and adults alike will be entertained, educated and empowered by her authentic stories and their timely relevance. CD's will be available for purchase.



Upper Grand River Watershed Adopt-A-Stream Program

Become an Adopt-A-Stream volunteer!



Put on your boots and join in on the fun as Stream Monitoring continues this Spring! Volunteer groups will take to the streams and help collect the creatures that inhabit them. Inventory of these "macro-invertebrates" helps us to track the health and water quality of our river system. Volunteers learn the techniques of "bug" collecting during Training Day April 25th and put them to use on Collection Day May 2nd. Finally we will identify our catch during Bug I.D. Night on May 5th. Come see the insects, snails, crayfish, and clams that play a significant role in the quality of our aquatic ecosystem!

Contact Cecilia Govrik at 517-784-2800 x208 to sign-up or for more information.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Saturday, April 25th
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

MacCready Reserve
9243 Skiff Lake Rd
Liberty Township

BUG COLLECTION DAY

Saturday, May 2nd
9:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Meet at the Dahlem Center
7117 S. Jackson Rd.

BUG I.D. NIGHT

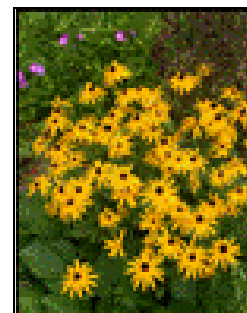
Tuesday, May 5th
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Jackson Community College
McDevitt Hall

Master Gardener's Plant Sale

Saturday, May 16th
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A bounty of beautiful blooms will be for sale at the Dahlem Center!



Help Needed To Lead Spring Programs!

Volunteer Trail Explorers (guides), new and experienced, are invited to attend **training class** for School Spring Programs on **Thursday, April 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at the Dahlem Center. Trail Explorers are needed to lead small groups of Jackson area school students on the trails to teach and engage children in hands-on activities, observation, and experiencing nature in action. Being a volunteer Trail Explorer is enjoyable, exciting and truly rewarding opportunity. Don't miss out, join us on April 2nd to learn more!

Please call Dahlem at 782-3453 to reserve your seat.

The four programs for review include:

▪ **Signs of Spring... for Preschoolers, 1 hour program.**

Students discover the wonders of a world awakening to spring by using all of their senses.



▪ **Who Lives There?... for Kindergarteners, 1.5 hour program.**



Students search for animal homes and learn why we make our homes the way we do.

▪ **Spring Birds... for 1-3rd graders, 2 hour program.**

Students use binoculars to observe our feathered friends up close, and learn more about nests, singing, adaptations, and identification.



▪ **Frogs and Toads... for 1-3rd graders, 2 hour program.**



Students will learn about life cycles and characteristics of these amazing amphibians! Do frogs really feel like a wet dill pickle?

MANY HANDS.....

Annual Work Bee and Spring Clean-up at the Dahlem Center

Saturday, April 25th

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



You may have heard the Chinese proverb, Many Hands... Make Light Work. Now is your chance to join the "many hands" of the Dahlem Center's corps of volunteers for our annual work bee. Join us for a fun day as we gather to improve the center. Individuals, families, and groups are all welcome! Lunch is provided by the Friends of Dahlem. Please call [517-782-3453](tel:517-782-3453) and let us know if you are able to join us for this fulfilling work event.

Up-Coming Community Events

JAS Meeting

"Birdscaping Your Yard"

April 9th 7:00 p.m.

Ella Sharp Museum

Gary Siegrist will show us how to enhance our yard by using native plants that will attract wildlife.

Jackson County

Conservation District

"Spring Tree Sale"

Tree Pick-Up Dates: April 18th, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and

April 19th, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Pick-Up Location: Jackson County Airport Maintenance Building

Phone: 517-782-7404

Falling Waters Trail Event

"Salute to Volunteers"

April 22nd, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a salute to all volunteers of the Parks System, including the Falling Waters Trail. Anyone who has volunteered in any capacity is invited to come to the Jackson County Commission meeting at the Jackson County Tower Building.

Whether you are a regular volunteer or have helped out on a clean-up day, a planting day, or one of our events - please come and join us.

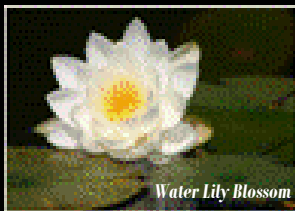
Community Forum Series

"Michigan's Energy Future"

April 16th, 6:30 p.m.

Speaker, David Gard, Energy Program Director, Michigan Environmental Council will address clean energy alternatives within the context of the current economic crisis. Discussion and comments will follow. Location is the Jackson District Library - Carnegie Branch, 244 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson in the Clare H. Sergeant Auditorium (lower level).

The program begins at 6:30 pm. Child care is available on site by calling in advance to 517-740-2629.



Water Lily Blossom

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Jackson Audubon Society (JAS)
www.jacksonaudubon.org

Friends of the Falling Waters Trail
www.fallingwatertrail.org

Jackson Conservation District
www.jacksoncd.org

Jackson Area Outdoor Coalition (JAOC)
website coming soon

News from The Friends of Dahlem

The Friends of Dahlem have a wonderful support system for sure. Donations from our bi-annual Valentine Tea have amounted to \$ 2,475 to date. We also have received two large aquariums and a boom box from our letter appeal- along with some nice comments and best wishes. The Friends organization is the small fundraising group for The Dahlem Conservancy and was started in 1987. Many of The Conservancy members were charter members of this group. Funds raised by Friends are used to support educational programs and related activities.

Thanks to these "special" people for their continued support : Susan Lovell, Jann Krupa, Marion Fox, Myrna Berlet-Dutcher, Lois McGauley, Bea Hills, Dorothy Schultz, Bill Cooke, Colleen Phenicie, Dolores Walbrecq, Phyllis Kostich, Lilly Sill, Ron and Bev Potts, Shirley Chu, Ernest Golombek, David Mitchell, Eleanor Klejmont, Barb Anderson, Bea Warren, Shirley Zeller, Susan and Ron Niedzielski, Alyce Oosting, Jacqueline Price, Karen Wood, Linda Goyings, John Lane, Peg Eaton, Don and Pat Masters, Paul Brencher, Mary May,

Doris DeFoe, Kathy Clark, William Allen, Pat Byler, Faith Small, Rebecca Mehall, Marjorie Barden, Ruth Westfall, Frances Reynolds, Vera Tuttle, Charles and Chris Murphy, Barbara Franklin, Gloria Stevens, Dale Kurtz, Ron and Nancy Parzych, Harold and Barb Winters, Stephanie Drago, Nancy and George Rausch, Stanley and Frances Weaver, Margaret Bradley, Louise Riggs, Betty Desbiens, Virginia Vanderbroek, Ewell and Barb Stowell, Jerrold and Karen Lewthwaite, Jerrold Schrottenboer, Lola Dodge, Nancy McCormack, Herbert and Lola Howell, Mary White, Dick and Jacqui Barczak, Allie Mae Henning, William and Linda Rehor, Robert and Cynthia Davey, Clark and Linda Danley, Les and Ellie Langford, Dorothy Dyer, Sharon Best, Sue Clark and David Knight.

April 19 - We will be selling popcorn at the Earth Day activities in Cascades Park.

April 25 - Lunch will be served to the work bee volunteers.

May 16 - Plant sale with J.C.M.G.

Members Corner (Through 3/20/09)

Welcome New Members!

Doug & Ruby Babcock
Gene & Sue Chapel
Susan Covalle
Roxana Crawford
Debra Davis-Gomez
Heather Farquhar
Alicia Freese
Ken & Jan Kesler
Wendy Klintworth
Michael LeMasters
Norm & Pam Lewis
Jacqueline McClintic
Judy Seitz
Kari Spangenberg
Kurt Tschabrun

**Thank You for Your
Membership Renewal!**

Charles & Pat Anderson
Beverly Avery
Karen Barnes
June Bayler

Gene & Judy Bills
Joan & Roger Block
James & Mari Brunner
James & Rosemary Brunner
Renee & Clay Carroll
Brad & Julie Clark
Ashley Crocker
Richard Curry
Craig Dahlem & Family
Joan Day
Morris & Nancy DeGryse
Lola Dodge
Dorothy Dyer
Margaret Eaton
Diana Ebinger
Bryon & Amy Ennis
Reginald Fennell
Travis & Georgia Fojtasek
Marion Fox
Emilie Fracker
Myer & Lois Franklin
William & Dawn Freeman
Amy & Todd Gale
Paul & Barb Gilbert
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Gilzow
Jim & Cheryl Glen
Jeannette Hatt
Bob & Allie Mae Henning
Ron & Joan Hoffman
Beverly Holmes-Carpenter

Marilyn Hudler
Sean & Carla Kennedy
John Lane
Diane Lawrence
Mildred Lower
Georgia McKee
Abby Louise Minor
John & Rhea Motto
Edward & Jana Olfier
Don Peterson
Bob & Genny Price
George & Nancy Rausch
Chad & Joyce Schmucker
Gary & Nancy Siegrist
Russell & Virginia Smith
Dr. James Spencer
Sandy Sweet
Philip & Judy Trudell
Inman & Meribah Vandry
Ethel Van Schoyck
Betty Thomas
John & Audrey Varland
Bea Warren
Joanne Wilkie
Dr. Melvin & Ann Wolf
Cynthia York
Milton & Diane Zimmer

Thank You to the Following For Their Generous Donations: (2/21/09 - 3/20/09)

Barbara T. Anderson
Marvin & Judith Bills
Renee & Clay Carroll
Craig Dahlem Family
Rick & Deb Davies
Joan Day
James & Bernadette Dewland
Diana Ebinger
Bryon & Amy Ennis
Myer & Lois Franklin
Clyde & Laurel Mauldin
Abbylouise Minor
Edward & Jana Olfier
William & Alice Siegrist
Russell & Virginia E. Smith
Sandra Sweet
Betty Thomas
Bea Warren
Joanne Wilkie
Melvin & Ann Wolf
Cynthia York

In Memory of Jonathan Black
Leslie Black
Arnold & Elizabeth Campbell
Jim & Lois Cyrulewski
Betty Desbiens
Charles Gelletly
Mr. & Mrs. Casimir Kotarba
Joe & Marie Lama
Aleksandra Mariychina
David & Rebecca Parker
Mark & Audrey Parr
Michael Rodenberg
Doris Young

Fish Tank with Hood & Light
Michael Matthews

Signed Bird Prints
Nancy Robidoux

Strawberries & Lettuce for Turtles
Gail & Sara West

Bench for Bud & Gert Kennedy
Annie Kennedy
Bob & Stephanie Kennedy
Thomas Kennedy
Frankie Kennedy
John & Mathea Pielemeier

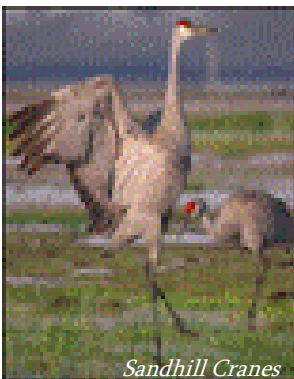
Naturalist's Corner

Bizarre Courtship Rituals *by Cody Porter*

Though seemingly bizarre, even occasionally dangerous, the courtship rituals of the animal kingdom serve a vital purpose in the success of a given species. Many animals use courtship rituals to determine the fitness or health of a potential mate. These rituals help to ensure that offspring produced will inherit favorable genes. As a female is generally the more likely of the two individuals to expend a larger amount of energy in birthing and raising the offspring, females tend to be more selective in choosing a mate when compared to males.

Courtship rituals are also extremely particular to a specific species, allowing individuals in a species similar to another to identify members of their own, reducing the risk of an unproductive hybrid mating, and maintaining the unique characteristics of their species.

The function of mating rituals varies from species-to-species. Listed below are a couple unusual rituals practiced by animals that can be found in the Jackson area. With spring in full bloom, now is the ideal time to head outside and try to catch a glimpse of these fascinating displays of nature.



Sandhill Cranes

One of the most elaborate and elegant courtship rituals of all animals is the dance of the Sandhill Crane. The dance consists of an elaborate series of displays including bowing, arching, stick-tossing, and jumping. Dances may also include aggressive behavior, as pairing is stressful for these aggressive birds. Once courtship has occurred, the pair will usually remain together for life.



Red-backed Salamanders

The courtship rituals of many salamanders (ex. Red-backed salamanders) occur in three phases: persuasion, tail-straddling and spermatophore transfer. During persuasion, males will display a number of different behaviors including head-rubbing, butterfly movements with the forelimbs and snapping, which involves the male standing alongside the female and then snaps backwards. Tail-straddling involves the male approaching the female and positioning his tail in front of her face. The male then proceeds to walk forward, while moving his tail back and forth, causing the female to follow if he is successful. The spermatophore is a small packet of sperm deposited on the ground by the male and collected by the female.

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