



Paw Prints



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 5

MAY 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
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

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

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A Day with John James Audubon

By Cody Porter and Kimberly May

Do great people make history or does history make great people? The extraordinary life of John James Audubon exemplifies the very essence of American culture during his time. Today, the name Audubon is synonymous with the appreciation of North American bird life; however stories of his adventures and accomplishments as a naturalist and an artist reveal an enchanting complexity you may not be familiar with.

Join The Dahlem Conservancy and the Ella Sharp Museum of Art and History in celebrating Audubon's legacy in the fields of art and science on Saturday, June 6th. Audubon's original artistic masterpieces and personal artifacts will be exhibited at the Ella from June 6th through August 29th. On opening day June 6th, The Dahlem Conservancy will host a talented theatrical performance by Brian "Fox" Ellis as John James Audubon. Afterwards, join "Audubon" at the Ella for a tour of this unique exhibit. Please see page 5 for details.

John James Audubon (1785-1851) was an avid bird-watcher, claiming many times throughout his life to possess an intimate obsession with birds he could not ignore. After immigrating to America from France at the age of 18, Audubon spent the majority

of his next 14 years in the wilds of North America studying, painting, and writing about the birds he loved so dearly.

In 1824, Audubon compiled a monumental artistic masterpiece of life-sized illustrations featuring 497 North American bird species. The Birds of America was groundbreaking material for wildlife art at the time. Prior to Audubon, the only other attempt at drawing all bird species of America had been completed by poet-naturalist Alexander Wilson, whose work consisted of stiff specimen representations. Audubon's work was unique from all of his contemporaries as it portrayed birds moving and behaving as they do in their natural environments.

Audubon would spend the remaining years of his life exploring the American wilderness, constantly observing not only birds, but all aspects of the wildlife that had forever captured his imagination. His impact on ornithology, natural history, and wildlife art is still significant to this day. Audubon discovered 25 species of birds in his lifetime, influenced Charles Darwin's study of wildlife and ultimately his theory of evolution, and set the standard for all following ornithological works.

How Clean Are Our Streams?



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. Even if you missed the volunteer training on April 25th, you are more than welcome to attend:

Collection Day on May 16th
9:00 am - 1:00 pm (revised date)

Bug I.D. Night on May 19th
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm (tentative)

Come see the insects, snails, crayfish, and clams that play a significant role in the quality of our aquatic ecosystem!

No previous experience needed. Materials and car-pooling provided. Pre-registration required. Please contact Cecilia Govrik at 517-784-2800 x208 to sign-up or for more information

Jackson County Master Gardener Association

Spring Plant Sale



Saturday, May 16th
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
at the Dahlem Center

Perennials, Shrubs, Trees, Houseplants
Used Gardening Book Sale, Tool Sharpening

Free birdhouse with purchase of \$50 or more while supplies last

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

**THE DAHLEM CONSERVANCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: John McLaughlin
V. President: Myrna Berlet-Dutcher
Treasurer: Gary Krupa
Secretary: Bob Grover

Trustees

Kathleen Clark Victor Marshall
 Betty Desbiens Robert Price
 Kelley Emerson Kathy Shaw
 Todd Emmons Andy Walz
 Robert Henning
 Samuel Barnes - JCC Representative

**THE DAHLEM CONSERVANCY
STAFF**

Executive Director: Brad Whaley
Education Director: Kimberly May
Office Coordinator: Denise Bigham
Receptionist: Linda Danley
Naturalist: Carrie Benham
Maintenance: Mark Snedeker
People for Wildlife Coordinator: Gary Siegrist
Development Coordinator: Rebecca Mehall
Weekend Manager: Linda Crocker
Communications Assistant: Cody Porter

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 - 1996-2003 Part III 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.

- 1996** - Howard Valen Trailside Feeding Station and Wildlife Photography Blind installed on property
 - Jackson Camera Club erects photo display boards in memory of Jack Patch, dedicated Dahlem board member and skilled photographer
- 1997** - Ecosystem Module developed under Jackson County Intermediate School District (JCISD) / Michigan Department of Education Grant
 - Dedication of the Beck Bridge (small wooden footbridge connecting Dahlem's Fannie Beach Arboretum property to the Wickwire parcel)
- 1998** - Dahlem's first participation in the annual Smokey Mountain National Park Wildflower Pilgrimage
 - Dahlem Environmental Education Center (DEEC) and JCC staff begin participating in the annual DNR Michigan Frog Survey
 - DEEC contracts with JCISD to provide instructors for WaterFest (educational program at Camp McGregor for local elementary students)
- 1999** - Ski Weekend becomes Winterfest
 - Nels Oman hired as Interim Director
 - Pole Barn constructed
 - DEEC acquires ski equipment from JCC
 - Raccoon Ramblers Trail Crew initiated with JCC Foundation Grant
 - First Fall Scarecrow Contest begins

- 2000** - Dan Ashton hired as Director
 - Dahlem's Maumee Bay Eco-tour replaces Point Pelee Eco-tour
 - First collaboration with county library for Summer Reading Program finale
 - First Meteor Shower Campout held
- 2001** - Frog Pond installed outside Wildlife Viewing Window
 - Glossy buckthorn eradication program begins on property
 - Management Committee structure initiated
 - New Raccoon logo created for the Dahlem Center
- 2002** - Dahlem involved in formation of the Cultural Organization of Jackson (COJAX)
 - First Butterfly Fiesta held
 - Dahlem's Discovery Backpacks developed with JCC Foundation Grant
- 2003** - DEEC launches Nature Photography Contest
 - Natalie Emmons Memorial Children's Garden installed and dedicated during Bug 'n' Butterfly Fiesta
 - New educational workshops include hypertufa puddlestones, digital photography, beginning birding, and soapstone carving
 - Budget cuts lead to loss of teacher/naturalists and Summer Day Camp cancellation

...To be continued...



Dahlem Workbee 2009 - A Great Success!



On Saturday, April 25th, over 80 volunteers gathered at Dahlem for our annual Workbee. Despite humid conditions, a laundry list of "Workbee assignments" were completed, including the painting of the 3-sided rain shelter, as well as the fences outside the pole building and along South Jackson Rd., the spreading of mulch from the arboretum to the bridge, the preparation of a new native garden around the Dutcher Classroom, and large-scale removal of Garlic Mustard, Autumn Olive and other invasive species from the trails! Many thanks go out to all of the dedicated volunteers, including the Friends of Dahlem for preparing lunch for everyone!

The Dahlem Book Club Dates for upcoming meetings and book selections are:

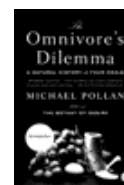
May 14th **"Garbage Land – On the Secret Trail of Trash"** by Elizabeth Royte

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.



June 11th **"Omnivore's Dilemma"** by Michael Pollan

What should we have for dinner? The question has confronted us since man discovered fire, but according to Michael Pollan, the bestselling author of The Botany of Desire, how we answer it today may well determine our very survival as a species. Something organic? Or perhaps something we hunt, gather, or grow ourselves? The omnivore's dilemma has returned with a vengeance, as the cornucopia of the modern American supermarket and fast-food outlet confronts us with a bewildering and treacherous food landscape. What's at stake in our eating choices is not only our own and our children's health, but the health of the environment that sustains life on earth.



*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 May or June.

Free to
Big Brothers
Big Sisters
With I.D.

May 2009 Public Programming

Free to
Big Brothers
Big Sisters
With I.D.



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 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.



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:



"Discover the NEW Dahlem" Tours

Dahlem is growing! Come learn all about The NEW Dahlem Conservancy! Join us for an enlightening tour of our mission, progress, and plans for the future.

Upcoming Tour Dates:

- May 5 - 4:00 pm
- May 6 - 5:30 pm
- May 16 - 10:00 am
- June 2 - 4:00 pm
- June 3 - 5:30 pm

- *The one hour program takes place indoors.*
- *Light refreshments will be served.*
- *Reservations are requested.*
- *Call (517) 782-3453 to reserve a date & time*
- *Bring a friend and help share Dahlem's mission!*



The Dahlem Conservancy proudly presents

A Day with John James Audubon

Saturday, June 6, 2009

In honor of the John James Audubon Exhibit at the Ella Sharp Museum of Art and History, Dahlem is pleased to sponsor the appearance of Brian "Fox" Ellis performing the persona of Audubon at The Dahlem Conservancy and Ella Sharp Museum.

AUDUBON AT THE DAHLEM CONSERVANCY

Audubon's Travels and Travails

10:00 - 11:00 am & 11:30 -12:30 pm

Spend an hour in the studio of one of America's greatest naturalists and wildlife artists. Listen to his enchanting tales of adventure and artistic endeavors and celebrate the natural history of North America as he saw it in the early 1800's.



PLUS! Join us for a guided bird walk on the grounds of Dahlem 8:00 am to 9:00 am (beginning birders welcome; bird walk optional)

ELLA SHARP MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY

Birding in the Museum

2:00 - 4:00 pm

*Visit with Audubon as he interprets his art on exhibit. Exhibit will feature 60 life-sized hand-colored engravings from his masterwork, *The Birds of America*, as well as photographs, documents, and personal artifacts of Audubon's life.*

The nationally traveling exhibit is on display from June 6th to August 29th, its only Michigan destination.



AT THE DOOR Ticket Sale

- *Audubon's Travels and Travails*: \$8 adult (children 5-12 yrs old \$5)
- *Birding in the Museum*: \$8 adult (children 5-12 yrs old \$5)

ADVANCE Ticket Sale

Save \$2 per individual when you attend BOTH events!

\$14 adult (children 5-12 yrs old \$8)

Tickets available for advance sale at The Dahlem Conservancy (517) 782-3453 and The Ella Sharp Museum of Art and History (517) 787-2320

Volunteer's Corner

2009 Volunteer Appreciation Event!

All Dahlem Conservancy volunteers are invited to join us for a special evening to honor your hard work.

The talented performer Brian "Fox" Ellis will present
An Evening with John James Audubon

Friday June 5th 6:00 ~ 8:00 p.m.

Donations Needed for Master Gardener's Plant Sale

Donations of plants and gently used gardening-related books are greatly appreciated.

Please drop off books and potted and labeled plants at the Dahlem Center.

Thursday, May 14 or Friday, May 15
 From 4:00-6:00 PM



Raccoon Ramblers Starting Soon!

If you enjoy light trail work and good company, you'll want to join the Raccoon Ramblers from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, starting May 13th.

Their duties include removing small branches from trail surfaces, trimming low-hanging branches from shrubs and small trees and picking up litter.

They also report large trees or limbs blocking trails to be removed later by "The Chain Saw Gang." For more info call Dahlem at 782-3453.

Up-Coming Community Events



Purple Martin

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Jackson Audubon Society (JAS)
www.jacksonaudubon.org

Friends of the Falling Waters Trail
www.fallingwatertrail.org

Grand River Environmental Action Team
www.great-mi.org

Falling Waters Trail Event
"Trillium Transplant"
 Saturday, May 2nd
 10:00 a.m.

We have the opportunity to save trilliums from a site that is to be developed and transplant them along the Falling Waters Trail.

Meet in the parking lot of Tractor Supply on Springport Road. Bring your shovel and gloves. We will then regroup at the Weatherwax trailhead parking lot to transplant the flowers along the trail.

Call Nancy Seydell at 569-2535 for further information.

Falling Waters Trail Event
Annual Dinner
 Monday, May 4
 5:30 p.m.

This combined event for the Friends of the Falling Waters Trail and the Jackson County Parks Association will be held at the Cascades Manor House.

Cost of the dinner is \$11. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Parks office or at the door.

JAS Meeting
"Birds and Breakfast"
 Saturday, May 16th
 7:00 a.m. or 9:00 a.m.

Meet at Haehle Sanctuary at 7:00 a.m. for early birding, or meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Portage Lake boat launch picnic area for a provided breakfast followed by more birding. Call Gary Siegrist at 517-522-5990 for more information.

G.R.E.A.T.
Paddle Outing
 Sunday, May 24th
 12:00 p.m.

A joint trip with the Great Lakes Paddlers will be held on River Raisin in Washtenaw County.

A cookout will be held prior to launch at Sharon Hollow (at the Mill). From there, the trip will continue through the river, ending at the Manchester Dam.

News from The Friends of Dahlem

*"Sweet April showers- do spring
May flowers."*

-Thomas Tusser

Through cold and misty rain showers, the Friends opened up our popcorn booth at the Earth Day Celebration activities at Cascades Park on April 19. The crowd was appreciative in spite of the weather. We had a good time promoting the environment, going green, and introducing Jackson to the many local organizations and clubs that offer and do so much for this area. The event was sponsored by The Jackson Area Outdoor Coalition. Bob and Allie Mae Henning, Val Periat, Dorothy Dyer, Kathy Clark, Amanda Clark, Janice Wetters, Denise Bigham and daughters sold 162 bags of popcorn and helped youngsters with shell necklaces, friendship pins, plastic bugs, flower giveaways and more – Green Hats off to these folks!

Our next activity is the preparation and serving of a sloppy joe lunch to all who volunteered at the Work Bee April 25. Taking care of the center and its grounds is ongoing. A "labor of love". We

thank the F.O.P. Lodge # 70 and Mary Jo Schultz for their yearly donations to this lunch.

The Friends will also take part in the annual Plant Sale with the Jackson County Master Gardeners on May 16. Dig, cut, divide, and pot those little plants, shrubs and trees and donate to the sale. These can be brought to the center May 14 and 15th. During this time, Friends will also have some wooden garden benches for sale and will offer pastries and drinks for a donation. The popcorn machine may also be out and running.

The Friends annual meeting at the Center will be Thursday, May 21st at 10:00 am. We plan a short business meeting, light refreshments and a door prize. Come join - be a Friend of the Dahlem Center.

New additions to our list of donors from the Valentine Tea include Cathie and John McLaughlin and Debbie and Fred Marshall.

Friends - is a nonprofit organization providing volunteer and financial support to the Dahlem Center since 1987.

Thank You to the Following For Their Generous Donations: (3/21/09 - 4/23/09)

- William Allen
- Barbara T. Anderson
- Employees of Orthopedic Rehab Specialists
- Jack Esterline
- Leslie & Dorthy Gibbs
- Martin Griffin
- John Hand
- Alison Jacokes
- Nancy McCormack
- Barb & Ed O'Connor
- Kenneth "Jerry" Peters
- Donna Petersen
- Bill & Jean Reid
- John & Patricia Reynolds
- William & Alice Siegrist
- Erma Turner
- Vera Tuttle
- Wachovia Foundation Matching Gifts
- Dennis & Marcia Whitehead

In Memory of Maxine Dahlem

- Allegiance Health
- Leslie Black
- Betty Desbiens
- Bernard & Louise Riggs

In Memory of John Blivin

- Mary Ellen Blivin

In Memory of Jonathan Black

- Gary & Jann Krupa
- Judy Dahlem Lancaster

In Memory of Marie Whiting

- Bea Warren

Gift in Kind

- Brad Whaley - Used Office Furniture
- Paul Brencher - 30-Gallon Aquarium

Members Corner (Through 4/21/09)

Welcome New Members!


- Laurie & Neil Arvy
- Sam Barnes
- Janell Bumpus
- Jacki Fagan
- Martin Griffin
- Judith Irwin
- Michael Krontz
- W. Robert Ochs
- Katrina Reamer
- Martha Shaeffer
- Helen Zimmerman

- John & Joan Feldvary
- Nancy Ford
- Les & Dorthy Gibbs
- Grant & Dottie Griebeno
- Thomas Heikkinen
- David & Ann Jackson
- Kathy Lincoln
- Susan Lovell
- Rita Lundberg
- Gerald & Karen Maas
- Allan & Deanna Malan
- Barb & Ed O'Connor
- Wayne & Margaret Olney
- Dr. & Mrs. Ralph Otten
- Jerry Peters
- Donna Petersen
- Bill & Jean Reid
- John & Patricia Reynolds

- James & Barbara Rocco
- Crystal Rody
- Mary & Bob Schafer
- James & Judith Schneider
- Jim & Janet Sexton
- Connie Spotts
- Judy Stevenson
- Beverly Strickrodt
- Mary Swartz
- Mike & Teresa Tucker & Family
- Vera Tuttle
- William & Diana Wagner
- Jacqueline Walton
- Virginia Waters
- Don & Fern Watkins
- John & Andrea Weaver
- Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Weaver


Thank You for Your Membership Renewal!

- Norman Billups
- Mary Ellen Blivin
- Tucker & Tricia Boyers
- Jessica Carter
- Marie Dillman
- Judy & Darold Ebersole
- Kenneth Elenbaas
- Jack Esterline



Friends Fundraiser

Bright Blue, Recycled Trash Bags
30" X 36" - 100 per box
\$25 (with \$10 tax deductible)
Available at the Nutshell Gift Shop



Naturalist's Niche

"The Eagle Has Landed" by Gary Siegrist

No, I am not talking about walking on the moon. Instead of saving the best news for last, I would like to start off by saying we now, for the first time in recent history, have a Bald Eagle's nest in Jackson County . It is not known when the last nesting of a Bald Eagle took place in Jackson . A group of us have searched, and not found any historical records for eagle nests in the county. It could possibly have been before the 1900's. If you have any ideas on where to find any documents regarding this issue, please call me. It is truly a wonderful success story of how this bird species has made such a remarkable recovery in Michigan .

Along the same storylines, the Peregrine Falcons that for last couple of years have been nesting in the City of Jackson are back on the County Building . They are being seen on the 16th floor, so when you are downtown make sure you look up. I could not have imagined being able to observe Peregrines and Eagles nesting in my home county. Taking care of the environment around us will help ensure these amazing raptors continue to



nest in our area.

Spring Migration has finally started to power up. Daily, we receive reports of Yellow-rumped Warblers, Field Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, and White-throated Sparrows. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Rusty Blackbirds, Brown Thrashers, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets are being reported on Jackson County. Here at Dahlem, we have had Hermit

Thrush and Fox Sparrow. Lots of swallows are back with Tree Swallows, Purple Martins, and Barn Swallows leading the list. Joining local nesting birds, some of our winter friends are still with us at the feeders. Pine Siskin, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Tree Sparrows are still hanging around. In fact, if you see a Pine Siskin flying with either nesting material or food in its mouth, call or e-mail. Alan Chartier is keeping records on this northern-nesting species that normally does not nest here in southern Michigan . I will see that he receives any reports that you send me.

We have started the Tuesday morning nature hike again; we will be leaving the gift shop at 9:00 a.m. sharp. Come along and join us as we explore Dahlem's flora and fauna, talk about what birds we are seeing, and flowers that are blooming. It's my version of a nature book club, only its outside!

Gary Siegrist
People for Wildlife Coordinator
gsiegrist@dahlemcenter.org

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