



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

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www.dahlemcenter.org

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Outdoor Adventure Day Camp Bigger and Better!



Summer is just around the corner! How will your child spend his or her 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 led in fun outdoor activities and educational programs by a certified classroom teacher assisted by an education-major college student.

But this is not summer school! Dahlem's Outdoor Adventure Day Camp is a great informal, hands-on learning experience filled with exciting, educational activities. Our goal is to keep the children so busy having fun, they won't realize they are also learning until it's too late! Unique activities are planned for each grade level so that children can



look forward to new experiences each year they return.

Special programs for 2009 include live reptile and raptor programs by Classroom Critters and Wildlife Recovery. More exciting programs will include animal tracking, nature journaling, birdhouse building, orienteering, hiking, and the ever popular Water Olympics!

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

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

Registration has already begun, and positions are filling quickly. Cost is \$90 for members and \$105 for non-members. Please reserve your child's or grandchild's today and pass the word on to relatives, friends, and neighbors about this great inexpensive educational opportunity! Go to www.dahlemcenter.org to download the complete set of Sum-



Audubon Bird Hike at Dahlem

In light of Dahlem's special event, "A Day with John James Audubon", on Saturday, June 6th, what would be more appropriate than a celebration of the very birds Audubon himself once marveled, in the very manner Audubon himself would have preferred; a **bird hike** !

Prior to Brian "Fox" Ellis's first presentation at 10:00 am Dahlem will host a bird hike throughout the Dahlem property at **8:00 am**. People for Wildlife Coordinator and local bird expert, Gary Siegrist, will guide birders, beginner and expert, throughout the trails in search of an array of birds.

Hikers will be rewarded with a deeper understanding of our native bird diversity, hopefully some unique species sightings, and possibly a live appearance by Audubon himself!

The cost of the hike is included in the \$8 ticket price for the June 6th event. Admission to the bird hike without the event ticket is \$3.00 for non-members and FREE for members. There is a limited capacity for this event, so please call 517-782-3453 to reserve a spot in advance today!

*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 - 2003-2008 Part IV of IV

Although considered 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'll follow Dahlem throughout the years and reflect on this growth, with a profound sense of optimism for the future.

2004 - With another millage failure, discussions on a proposed separation of the Center and J.C.C continue
- Dahlem hosts the 20th Bluebird Festival.
- In November, J.C.C. lays off Dahlem staff
- In December, The Dahlem Conservancy is formed as a new, independent non-profit. Its primary purpose is to manage the John and Mary Dahlem Environmental Education Center. The secondary objective includes "the protection of additional lands through land conservancy programs."

2005 - Past Director, Tom Hodgson, returns as the Interim Executive Director
- The Center's hours are restricted to 10-2pm, Tuesday and Friday. Staff is provided by J.C.C. representative as the lease agreement with J.C.C. is negotiated
- In March schools come to Dahlem for Maple Syrup programs. Denise Bigham, Linda Danley, Carrie Benham are hired for limited hours to coordinate the spring school programs
- Lease agreement signed with J.C.C. in July, giving the Dahlem Conservancy keys to the buildings and expanded weekday hours
- Outdoor Adventure Camp is back for one week with 63 students attending
- After Labor Day, Dahlem begins new series of weekend programs and expands hours to 9-5pm, Tuesday-Friday, Saturday 10-5pm and Sundays 12-5pm

2006 - The Dahlem Conservancy Board begins strategic planning and board development
- Grants help create new outreach program to schools and a van for transportation purposes.
- "Our World of Water" outreach program serves 1776 students and 20 schools in its first year.
- Lacking maintenance staff, 115 volunteers assist the Conservancy during the spring Work bee.
- In the fall, Conservancy hired part-time Maintenance Mark Snedeker. Brad Whaley hired as new Executive Director.
- Wickwire Farmhouse and barn receive major renovations / upgrade. Pumpkin patch is added.

2007 - Conservancy hires Education Director Randy Hill. Foundation grants allow two new hires: People for Wildlife program coordinator, Gary Siegrist and Fundraising Project coordinator, Becky Mehall.
- Dahlem helps launch the Jackson Area Outdoor Coalition with the first ever "Celebrate Earth Day" public event
- Expansion of parking lot, construction of new prairie kiosk, and gathering patio
- Initiates summer youth outreach program - "Food For Young Minds."
- With partners, Conservancy initiates Adopt-A-Stream water quality monitoring program

2008 - Expansion of Dutcher classroom, offices & Rotary Pavilion.
- Creation of new summer event - Birds, Blooms, & Butterflies Festival.
- Ongoing development of land conservancy policies and partner networking.
- Construction of 3-sided storm shelter for trails & major boardwalk renovations.
- Kimberly May hired as Education Director in December

2009 - ... *Thank you to all our members for growing with us!*



Acorns to Oak Trees: immersing yourself in nature

A Summer of Natural Play *by Kimberly May*

School will soon be out and, to a child's mind, the coming months offer endless opportunities to enjoy the freedom of no homework and hours of sunshine for fun and play. And thanks to Richard Louv's bestseller *Last Child in the Woods*, influential organizations such as the No Child Left Inside Coalition, and individuals who simply have not forgotten what it is like to be a child, we are aware of the unmatched benefits of playing outside in nature. The positive impact on your child or grandchild's mental and physical health is long-lasting and undeniable.

However, if your child only has access to a monotonous carpet of green (or mostly green) lawn, there is little freedom or inspiration for creativity. But don't fret. Choices for play do not mean you have to raid the nearest toy store. It can simply mean adding variety in your outdoor environment.

Below are several ideas for you and your child or grandchild to create together to provide a richer outdoor natural play experience, healthier minds and bodies, and a long-term connectivity with nature.

Sensory garden

Either in a large container or in the ground, create with your child a "hands-on" sensory garden full of plants that are for touching, smelling, and, yes, even picking. Encourage children to come in contact with their natural world, not fear it and perceive it as something for "adults only". Herbs such as thyme, sage, peppermint are intriguing to the nose as are lamb's ears, houseleek, thistle, and hostas are to the hands. Take a challenge in planting the all colors of the rainbow!

If space is available, set a meandering path or two through the garden to entice the imagination even more.

Tree Pieces

Place 3-10 tree trunk sections, each varying in height from 6 to 12 inches, in a wavy line. Provide some sturdy wooden boards of at least 12 inches in length. Children can use these as seating for a "performance", a bridge to test their balance, a fort wall, or move pieces around to suit their needs. A large tree trunk section on its side can be added and used for adventurous climbing or a ride on an imaginary stallion!

"Places for Play should offer children opportunities to: engage with their natural surroundings, be sociable and solitary, create imaginary worlds, test boundaries, construct and alter their surroundings, experience change and continuity, take acceptable levels of risk."

Dig and Discover

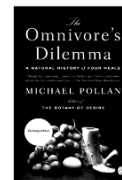
Toss out that tiny turtle sand box and create a dig and discover area by lining a shallow hole in the ground with sheet plastic, fill with sand, and line the edge with rocks of assorted sizes. A simple designated digging area that is free of tree roots is an even easier alternative. To either, provide collection of cut branches of different lengths and thickness for children to construct bridges, forts, fences, etc with. Also include a variety of rocks and shells to bury and excavate.

The Dahlem Book Club

June 11th 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Dahlem Pavilion

"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. Please call 517-782-3453 if interested in joining or for more information.



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 wild-life 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 scenic trails 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 will be open from June 6th to August 29th, making the Ella 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

Dahlem is Astonished by Community Generosity!

In recent months The Dahlem Conservancy has been very fortunate to receive a number of major contributions.

You have certainly noticed that the Michigan Automotive Compressor Inc. logo continues to appear under our weekend programs listing. For the fourth year in a row, MACI has made a much appreciated gift to sponsor these public programs - \$5,000 in 2009. This gift has allowed Dahlem to host 35-45 public programs per year. This has been a huge contributing factor toward our growth in membership, donors, volunteers, and gift shop sales. We extend our sincere gratitude to MACI for helping Dahlem move forward as a new organization these last few years. Thank you!

Just days ago we received word that the Weatherwax Foundation approved a \$38,000 proposal to continue funding our Development Project. The Dahlem Board recognizes that long term, sustainable funding can only come through focused and deliberate effort. Over the last 18 months we have been on a path to reach out and connect more deeply with the community. This grant is a vote of confidence in our journey. Thank you!

Late in 2008, I opened an envelope and pulled out a check. I read it - and then read it again - and



Donations from extraordinary people such as long-time supporter Don Dutcher have made many Dahlem visions a modern day reality.

then read three or four more times, finally realizing that I was holding a check for \$100,000! After contacting the donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, we learned that there was no special "earmark" and the Board could choose how to best put this to use. The donor simply had a long term fondness for Dahlem and wanted to help. After consideration, the Board elected that three-fourths should go into the Dahlem endowment to help provide long-term sustainability. The other quarter would be held unrestricted in 2009, prudently waiting to see what would happen with the current economy and donations/grants through the year. Thank you!

Within the last few months, we

received a donation of \$50,000. This gift also came with a promise of another \$50,000 in 2010 and an even larger amount at an undetermined point in the future. This contribution was made anonymously by a long-time Dahlem supporter and we are extremely grateful. Split equally, half will support our efforts to start functioning as a local land trust and half will support development of a utilization and implementation plan for the Wickwire Farm site. This gift allows Dahlem to move into new areas beyond the traditional. This is important so that we can connect with new audiences and partners, enlarging and diversifying our overall base of support and impact in the community. We intend this to be a complementary enhancement to our primary environmental education mission. We applaud the donor for such forward and innovative thinking. Thank you!

With our sincerest appreciation and gratitude - Thank You!

If you are interested in becoming involved in any of these initiatives, please don't hesitate to contact us at 517-782-3453. We welcome all levels of involvement! The Dahlem Conservancy only serves the community well when the community is an active partner.

"Discover Your 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:

June 2 - 4:00 pm
June 3 - 5:30 pm
July 1 - 5:30 pm
July 7 - 4:00 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!*

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.

Future Volunteer Projects

Listed below are projects that we are currently interested in pursuing with the help of volunteers. This list is not complete, so for additional projects or to express an interest in one already listed, please call 517-782-3453.

- Invasive species removal (Garlic Mustard, Glossy Buckthorn, Autumn Olive, etc.)
- Feeding Station restoration
- Pond Restoration
- Species inventory (birds, amphibians, mammals, plants, etc.)
- Native Landscaping
- Mulching of trails (pending sufficient resources)
- Many other miscellaneous maintenance projects

Attention Jackson Legacy Students

As a result of The Jackson Legacy Program's inception, Dahlem has seen an increase in the number of local college students looking for volunteer opportunities in order to complete the 80 hours of community service required for each year under the Legacy scholarship.

In light of this, future projects which stand to benefit Dahlem greatly are being created constantly, leaving ample opportunity for students to fulfill their community service duties.

If you find yourself in need of community service hours, please feel free to contact Dahlem at 517-782-3453. Extensive knowledge of the outdoors is not required, as many of the projects involve nothing more than physical labor. However, if you possess an interest in any aspect of wildlife, you will find plenty of options that satisfy your curiosity!

Members Corner

(Through 5/22/09)

Welcome New Members!

Linda Allen
Jean Brennan
Mike & Cheryl Gumper
Deborah Johnson
Lora Kilmer
Melanie Kittel
Madeline Lee
Elaine Piper
Connie Poisson
Don & Ida Smith
Steve & Brenda Smith
Mark & Lorrie Taylor

Thank You for Your Membership Renewal!

William O. Allen
Barbara Anderson
Marjorie Anderson
Curt & Karen Askins
Richard & Betty Barca
Erne & Pat Beffel
Dean & Barb Borton
Marge Bradley
Carolyn Brandt
Shirley Chu
The Combs Family
David & Kim Cwynar
Rick & Deb Davies
Donald & Betty Depew
Scott & Heidi Doman
Judy Dynnik

Robert & Paula Girard
Jamie & Lori Grace
Mark & Michelle Guenther
Natalie & David Halsey
Dr. & Mrs. Russell Hanson
Mary Lou Hayes
Randy & Heather Hill
Ivah-Marie Hurst
Nancy Jennings
Arlene Kampmueller
Eldred Kennedy
Dorothy Kerr
Phyllis Kostich
Judy Gail Krasnow
Phyllis LaChance
David Lawrence
Blaine Lyle
William & Kae Marcoux
Colvin & Kristine Matthews
Rebecca Mehall
Philip & Karen Moilanen
Christina Murphy
Eileen O'Leary
Ron & Nancy Parzych
Dr. Daniel Phelan
Shirley & Loyd Preston
William & Barbara Raffail

Steve & Amanda Rand
Nancy Reid
Dan & Nancy Rigg
Virginia Ritsema
Dan & Joan Rogers
Lisa & Kurt Rudolph
Ray & Kim Saari
Robert & Roberta Sexton
Kenneth & Ruth Smith
Nancy Smith & Robert Gaecke
Gloria Stevens
Lorraine Stone
Dr. John & Pat Stover
Ewell & Barbara Stowell-
Robert & Sonia Sutch
Chet & Jill Taraskiewicz
Larry & Jan Thomas
Albert Thorrez
Erma Turner
Mrs. Gene Wandel
Sharon Watters
Dennis & Marcia Whitehead
Dr. Craig & Susan Whitmore
Gary & Elizabeth Williams
Jimmie Wright
Marlene & David Zwitter

Deadline for Spring Season Photos Approaching!



Photo by: Emily Powell



Photo by: Margaret Sands-Goldstein

That's right! Believe it or not, it will soon be time for the second deadline for Dahlem's 2009 photo contest, "Capture Dahlem's Seasonal Essence".

Participating photographers took to the Dahlem trails this Winter in search of an award-winning snapshot. While all photographs were greatly appreciated and a very tough decision fell upon the contest judges, it was ultimately Margaret Sands-Goldstein's photograph, "Stream and Riparian Forest" (pictured right) that won the adult's division, and Emily Powell's photograph, "Snowy Corridor" (pictured left) that won the children's division. Congratulations to both! Kudos are also due to our adult honorable mention photographers Kenny Price and James Best for

their photographs of a Red Squirrel and a snowy stream respectively.

With all forms of wildlife in full bloom at the Center, we expect an even tougher decision on June 30th when all Spring Season photographs are due.

We would like to thank all contestants who participated in the Winter season contest and encourage everyone to participate in the Spring season contest, as well as the upcoming Summer and Fall contests.

For contest rules and photo submission information, please visit our website at www.dahlemcenter.org. For more information, please contact Kimberly May at 517-782-3453 or kmay@dahlemcenter.org.

Thank You to the Following For Their Generous Donations:

(4/24/09 - 5/22/09)

- Barbara T. Anderson
- David & Kim Cwynar
- Alison Jacokes
- Nancy Jennings
- Phyllis LaChance
- Kathleen Lincoln
- Orthopedic Rehab Specialists employees
- Henry & Mary Reilly
- Erma Turner
- Jane Volk
- Dennis & Marcia Whitehead
- Craig & Susan Whitmore

In Memory of Maxine Dahlem

- Allegiance Health
- Travis & Georgia Fojtasek
- Bernard & Louise Riggs

In Memory of Naomi "Nan" Cooper

- David & Sandra Gaunt
- Charles & Ann Hallawell
- Ray & Ann Krome
- Airea Mosher
- Patricia Shumate
- Rick Tittler
- George & Wanetta Underhill
- Robert & Fran Richards

In Memory of Kenneth Scott

- Lisa & Kurt Rudolph

In Memory of Marie Whiting

- Robert & Suzi Venners

Gift in Kind

- Ed Stehno - Trash Hauling
- Bill Sonnet - Study skins & books
- H.R. Wilkinson - Encyclopedia of birds
- Joan Marie Peters - 4 original oil paintings
- Jackson County Conservation District - UGRIP grant



Friends Fundraiser

Bright Blue, Recycled Trash Bags — 30" X 36" - 100 per box

\$25 (with \$10 tax deductible) — At the Nutshell Gift Shop



6 Ways to Green Your Road Trip

Looking for trip to kick summer off right? The following tips will focus on making your actual road trip as environmentally-friendly as possible.

1. Pick a "Quality" Destination

The beautiful thing about road trips is that they can be spontaneous enough to allow you to decide even where you are going last minute. One of the benefits of this spontaneity is that your destination can be chosen based on the current air and water quality level of that area.

2. Snack Smart

Instead of individually packaged snacks in plastic wrappers, what about a Tupperware container full of trail mix? Plastic water bottles and soda

cans are fine for home when you can easily recycle them, but what about reusable water bottles and insulated coffee mugs for your drinks on the open road?

3. Plan Your Pit Stops

The more stops you have to make along the way, the more energy you're going to consume during the trip. A good rule of thumb is that if one person makes a stop to use the bathroom or stretch their legs, everyone should try and do the same. It will save you in the long run.

4. Travel During Off-Hours

If you're planning a road trip on Friday afternoon of a three-day weekend, you'll inevitably face some traffic. Stop-and-go driving will reduce your fuel efficiency, plus it will make a three

hour trip seem like three days. Leaving just a few hours later can sometimes make all the difference.

5. Use Pet Caution

Lots of people think road trips are the perfect time to bring along a pet because there aren't the restrictions of air travel. However, keep in mind that a car can be a very restrictive area to a pet, and extra stops along the way to let your pet wind down affect your fuel consumption.

6. Pack Reasonably

Taking two suitcases for a two-day trip is madness, and it will end up weighing down your car and reducing your gas mileage. Even for a week-long trip, try keeping your cargo amount on the low side so your car doesn't have to support extra weight.