



# Paw Prints



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 7

JULY 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

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

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## Little Acorns Preschooler Program Returns to Dahlem

Ready...Set....Explore!

The Dahlem Conservancy is pleased to offer its popular preschooler program, "Little Acorns", this summer. Children 1-3 years of age and their guardians will join Dahlem Educator, Linda Crocker, for a series of one hour adventures in nature. The FREE program will be presented at the Dahlem Center in two series during the month of August:

**Mondays 10:00 am -11:00 am**  
or  
**Saturdays 8:30 am - 9:30 am**

Bring your early-learner and enjoy hands-on, nature-based activities and crafts while fostering an appreciation for nature's wonders. The program will take place rain or shine, however, an emphasis will be placed on immersing young children in the outdoors while cultivating connections between adult and child. Call



517-782-3453 to register while space is available.

Dahlem's Little Acorns program will also be traveling during July and August through a new outreach initiative. Participating Jackson County library branches and area locations will be hosting the preschooler program in an effort to reach a wider audience. The program schedule will be announced on our website at www.dahlemcenter.org. Call 517-782-3453 for the most up-to-date information. Please share this information with those unable to attend Little Acorns at the Dahlem Center.

Funding for this summer's program is made possible through the Great Parents, Great Start grant. With this season's anticipated success, Dahlem hopes to offer future Little Acorn series at the Center.



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

## "Birds, Blooms, & Butterflies" Festival Coming Soon!

Dahlem invites all to attend our 2nd annual "Birds, Blooms, and Butterflies" festival on:

**Saturday, August 22nd**  
**9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

at The Dahlem Center.

Highlights of this year's festival include Hummingbird banding courtesy of renowned Naturalist/Photographer Allen Chartier, a program on Swallows by MDOT Naturalist, Dick Wolinski, Monarch Butterfly tagging with Jackson Audubon, a live presentation on raptors, a program on avian population restoration with Executive Director of "Saving Birds Thru Habitat", Kay Charter, and much more!

Several on-going events throughout the day will include a bird hike with local bird experts, exhibitors, children's crafts, and the serving of great food!

Over 300 individuals attended last year's Festival and we anticipate an even greater turnout this year.

Call 517-782-3453 for more information or visit www.dahlemcenter.org

*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!**

## **Message from the Education Director**

*by Kimberly May*

### **JPS Summer School at Dahlem**

The Dahlem Conservancy has recently taken part in sharing valuable environmental education experiences with Jackson's urban youth. In June, Dahlem provided 3rd through 6th grade summer school students with an opportunity to leave their classroom desks and explore the outdoors while successfully meeting appropriate grade level content expectations.

Weekend Manager / Educator, Linda Crocker, and I developed and presented three weeks of themed lessons and activities for two hours each Monday through Thursday. This has been an incredibly rewarding opportunity, not only in expanding Dahlem's spectrum of outreach and program variety, but also for the students of McCulloch Academy of Technology and Science and Frost Elementary.

Urban youth not only lack exposure to the natural world at home, but also do not make up a significant portion of our audience at the Dahlem Center. This season's partnership with the Jackson Public Schools has been a triumph in providing these students with hands-on interaction with **live** plants, animals, and ecosystems, and not just textbook pictures. Equally important, it has allowed Dahlem to cultivate tomorrow's environmental stewards outside the confines of the classroom. By the second week these children went from squirming at the sight of a toad to begging to hold it in their hand (even if it happened to "pee")!

Dahlem looks forward to the possibility of continuing this successful and much needed program into the future.

**Hands-on Aquatic  
Invertebrate Exploration  
with JPS Summer School  
students at the  
Dahlem Center  
Leeches are always a  
favorite!**



**Animal Classification Tag  
Game at the  
Dahlem Center.  
Educational and fun,  
even in 90F degree  
weather!**

# Acorns to Oak Trees: immersing yourself in nature

## I Spy...at the Dahlem Center by Kimberly May

Planning to hike the trails but not certain what you'll see this month? Been on the trails but the wildlife seemed to be M.I.A.? Having the upper-hand of being at Dahlem every day, please allow me to present you with the inside scoop...

**American Toadlets:** Watch where you step! This year's tiny toadlets are out and about hopping on the trails. The size of a dime, it's hard to believe these bumpy brown amphibians were slimy black legless tadpoles swimming in the ponds just two months ago. Gently pick one up to take a closer look. No worries...you can't get warts from toads, but please return the little guy to its natural habitat. Very few of these bite-sized cuties survive to adulthood. That is why female toads may lay long strands of up to 15,000 eggs!



**Muskrats:** Think you saw movement in the pond outside the Center? Perhaps it was Mr. or Mrs. Muskrat returning to their den under the deck with a mouthful of cattail stems. The semi-aquatic rodent can hold its breath for 15 minutes and swims by moving its tail back and forth in the water. In Native American creation stories, it was only the muskrat who successfully delivered the mud on which the Earth is created. Babies have been spotted in the nearby grass, so be quiet and patient and you too might catch a glimpse!



**Harvestman:** Although you might see Mark, our ever-working maintenance man on the trails, I'm referring to the tiny arachnids often called "daddy long-legs". You're sure to see these guys crawling across the trails, exploring their environment with their legs. When you find one it's probably in search of food, however humans are certainly not on the menu. Harvestman are completely harmless to people. They are not true spiders and lack venom and silk glands although they prey upon other tiny invertebrates. 400 million year old fossils of this primitive arachnid have been found and appear very similar to our present-day friend.



**Turkey Vultures:** Look to the sky when you reach the prairie. See a dark silhouette of a soaring bird? It's most likely our resident Turkey Vultures searching for food. Unlike most birds, Turkey Vultures use their sense of smell to detect their "delightful" diet of rotting meat. They rely on the stands of dead trees around Dahlem to roost in and can sometimes be seen perching on the west side of the prairie. Turkey Vultures use rising drafts of warm air to soar upon with their 72 inch wingspan.



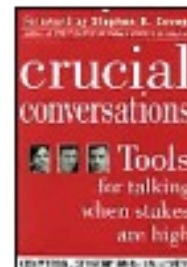
## The Dahlem Book Club

New members are always welcome! Bring a friend for insightful and interesting discussions on timely topics!

**August 13th 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Dahlem Pavilion (indoors if inclement weather)**

**“Crucial Conversations - Tools for Talking When the Stakes are High” by Kerry Patterson**

*A powerful, seven-step approach to handling difficult conversations with confidence and skill. “Crucial” conversations are interpersonal exchanges at work or at home that we dread having but know we cannot avoid. Crucial Conversations offers readers a proven seven-point strategy for achieving their goals in all those emotionally, psychologically, or legally charged situations that can arise in their professional and personal lives. Based on the authors’ highly popular DialogueSmart training seminars, the techniques are geared toward getting people to lower their defenses, creating mutual respect and understanding, increasing emotional safety, and encouraging freedom of expression. Among other things, readers also learn about the four main factors that characterize crucial conversations, and they get a powerful six-minute mastery technique that prepares them to work through any high impact situation with confidence.*



Please call 517-782-3453 if you are interested in joining, for more information, or to order the book through our gift shop.



*Join Certified Massage Therapist & Yoga Instructor, Peggy Smith, for a unique community yoga series presented in Dahlem's tranquil setting. Donations welcome. Dates of each session are listed below. Please contact Peggy at 517-745-8140 for more information.*

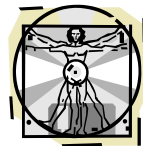
**Debunking the Myths of Yoga**

Saturday, July 11th, 2:00 - 4:30 pm



**Yoga For and From the Heart**

Saturday, August 1st, 2:00 - 4:30 pm



**Yoga and Subtle Energy of the Body**

Saturday, August 29th, 2:00 - 4:30 pm

**Want a FREE week of Dahlem Day Camp?**

Summer Day Camp is quite literally right around the corner! Be sure to spread the word to relatives, friends, and neighbors about this great inexpensive educational opportunity! The person who refers the most campers will be refunded the full cost of camp on Friday pickup. Everyone who refers at least 1 new camper will be entered into a drawing for a free camp scholarship! Go to [www.dahlemcenter.org](http://www.dahlemcenter.org) to download the complete set of Summer Camp forms and be sure to name the person who referred you. See you this summer!

**Outdoor Adventure Day Camp**

July 6 -10, July 13 -17, July 20 -24  
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cost is \$90 for members and \$105 for non-members. Please register your child or grandchild today!

**Up-Coming Community Events**



Dunlin

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

Jackson Audubon Society (JAS)

[www.jacksonaudubon.org](http://www.jacksonaudubon.org)

Grand River Environmental Action Team (G.R.E.A.T.)

[www.great-mi.org](http://www.great-mi.org)

Legacy Land Conservancy

[www.legacylandconservancy.org](http://www.legacylandconservancy.org)

Fitness Council of Jackson

[www.fitnesscouncil.org](http://www.fitnesscouncil.org)

**G.R.E.A.T. Paddle Outing**

July 4th 12:00 p.m.

**Huron River (Washtenaw County)**

The joint trip, hosted by Great Lakes Paddlers, will begin at Delhi (East Delhi Road) to Argo Dam (Longshore off Pontiac). Potluck picnic during trip.

Option for car caravan departing Jackson Crossing near Shell Station at 10:30 am.

**JAS Fieldtrip "Visit to Hosta and Butterfly Garden"**

July 11th 10:00 a.m.

Betty and Clarence Owens, hosts of the 2009 Hosta American Society Convention, will guide you through their award-winning garden. Meet at 3390 Allston Drive in Jackson for the tour. Call Connie Spotts at 417-529-9031 for directions.

**Fitness Council of Jackson Portage Lake Triathlon**

July 12th 8:00 a.m.

**Big Portage Lake Triathlon**

0.5 mile swim, 16 mile bike, 5 mile run

**Duathlon**

2 mile run, 16 mile bike, 5 mile run

**Legacy Land Conservancy "Getting Kids Involved with Nature"**

July 18th 3:00 p.m.

Looking for ways to foster a connection with nature? At this Stewardship Network workshop, Andy Brush & Mark Charles lead a discussion on how to involve children in nature. There is a fee of \$10.00 for members of the Stewardship Network and \$15.00 for non-members.

**JAS Fieldtrip "Point Mouillee Shorebirds"**

August 8th

August is a good time to search for migrant shorebirds in this vast wildlife management area. RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL AS WE HOPE TO HAVE A SPECIAL PERMIT TO ENTER THE REFUGE BY VEHICLE. Call Don Henise at 517-795-7752 to reserve a spot.

**G.R.E.A.T. Paddle Outing**

August 16th 12:00 p.m.

**Grand River Through Downtown Jackson**

Joint trip with The Dahlem Conservancy High Street (US 127) to Elks Club (Lansing Ave, south of Parnall Road) Cookout after with food provided.

Free to  
Big Brothers  
Big Sisters  
With I.D.

Free to  
Big Brothers  
Big Sisters  
With I.D.

# July/Aug 2009 Public Programming



*Art in Nature Series*.....

## Journaling Nature Series: 10:00 a.m. Saturdays, July 11, July 18, August 1, & August 15 (\*special time)

Become intimate with the outdoors, just as John James Audubon did, as you learn basic sketching, watercolor, and journaling techniques on the trails! Join Education Director Kimberly May for each 1.5 hour session, or just one; new nature subjects and landscapes will be introduced with each session. Art materials are provided but feel free to also bring your own. Please wear appropriate outdoor attire. The program will take place inside if inclement weather occurs. Participants 12 years and up are welcome. Cost of \$3 per person covers materials. Space is limited.

*Art in Nature Series*.....

## Wild with Art: 10:00 a.m. Saturday, July 25 (\*special time)

Children grades 2-6 will get up close and personal to our natural environment through the outdoor art-based activities of nature journaling. Join Education Director, Kimberly May, for an artistic exploration of the trails using all our senses. Art materials are provided. Please wear appropriate outdoor attire. The program will take place inside if inclement weather occurs. Cost of \$3 per child covers materials. Space is limited.



*Art in Nature Series*.....

## Sketching Hunters of the Sky: 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 8

Draw upon the majestic beauty of live hawks and owls! Join us in learning basic sketching and watercolor techniques in the presence of live birds from Joe Roger's Wildlife Recovery. Art materials are provided but feel free to also bring your own. Cost of \$3 per person covers materials. All ages are welcome; adult supervision required for children under 12. The program will take place indoors. Space is limited so reserve your seat today!

*Edutainer*.....

## Great Animal Stories and Songs: 2:00 p.m. Sunday, July 12

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.



*Discover Dahlem Outdoors*.....

## Guided Bird Hikes: 9:00 a.m. Every Tuesday

Join Dahlem staff for an educational and rewarding hike on the trails in search of our seasonal feathered friends. Sightings have included Scarlet Tanagers, Blue-winged Warblers, and Red-headed Woodpeckers just to name a

*Discover Dahlem Outdoors*.....

## Golf Cart "Tour of the Trails": 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Saturdays (by special request only)

Do you want to enjoy the outdoors but walking the trails poses a problem? Guided golf cart tours of Dahlem's scenic trails are available with advance registration. Up to five guests may be accommodated so invite a relative, friend, or a neighbor for a one hour peaceful exploration of Dahlem's forests, prairies, and wetlands. Please wear appropriate outdoor attire; golf cart is uncovered.



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  
unless otherwise noted**

Check out our website at [www.dahlemcenter.org](http://www.dahlemcenter.org) for the most up-to-date program offerings!

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



## Volunteer's Corner

### *Come Join Our Team!*

The Dahlem Conservancy invites you to join our growing team of volunteers. Whether you enjoy being in the public eye, behind the scenes, or on the trails, Dahlem has a rewarding opportunity just for you! ***Which do you enjoy?....***

***Being in the Public Eye.....*** Contact Carrie or Kimberly: 517-782-3453

#### SCHOOL PROGRAM TRAIL EXPLORER

*Foster an appreciation for nature in today's children!*

- Assist in presenting indoor /outdoor elementary school programs at the Center.
- Receive quality training in the school programs you select: Spring Programs: Frogs & Toads, Signs of Spring, Who Lives There?, Spring Birds, and Maple Sugaring; Fall Programs: Animal Homes & Habitats, Nature Prepares for Winter, World of Insects, and Signs of Fall (Programs are offered Tuesday-Friday during school hours). Additional titles may be added.

#### PROGRAM AMBASSADOR

*Help represent Dahlem and greet our visitors!*

- Meet new and interesting people while gaining experience in public speaking.
- Greet visitors, introduce speaker and up-coming programs (Programs are generally offered Saturdays / Sundays at 2:00 pm).

***Behind the Scenes.....*** Contact Kimberly, Carrie, or Denise: 517-782-3453

#### ANIMAL KEEPERS CLUB

*Join the club and care for the Dahlem Center's live animals!*

- Assist in weekly / monthly animal care and handling (volunteers under the age of 13 must be supervised by their guardian).
- Receive training in animal care and natural history and share your knowledge with the public before and after scheduled weekend programs. Attract wildlife and help maintain the Center's feeding stations by filling feeders.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS ASSISTANTS

*Pitch in to make Dahlem's Events a success!*

- Assist in the planning, preparation, or cleaning up for annual public events such as: Birds, Blooms, & Butterflies Festival, Maple Sugaring, Goblin Walks, Benefit Breakfast, Night of the Amphibians, and much more!

#### OFFICE ASSISTANTS

*Big or small, your help keeps Dahlem growing strong!*

- Fold and label Dahlem's monthly newsletter, assist with paperwork filing, computer data entry, mailings, or answer phones.

***On the Trails.....*** Contact Gary or Mark: 517-782-3453

#### WILDLIFE STEWARDS

*Enhance and maintain Jackson's natural heritage!*

- Monitor specific wildlife species such as Eastern Bluebirds, Purple Martins, and Monarchs at the Center and local area.
- Enhance native habitats with nestbox installation and native plantings.

#### TRAIL & FACILITY MAINTENANCE TEAM

*Get outdoors and help maintain Dahlem's trails for all to enjoy!*

- Assist with light or heavy trail maintenance / repair and receive training and experience in invasive plant removal.
- Assist with regular grounds and facility maintenance.
- Provide skilled labor in carpentry, plumbing, etc.

### **"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:

July 7 - 4:00 pm  
 July 8 - 5:30 pm  
 July 14 - 4:00 pm  
 August 4 - 4:00 pm  
 August 5 - 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!*

# News from the Friends of Dahlem



**Checks were presented to Dahlem Executive Director, Brad Whaley, and President of "The Friends of Dahlem", Kathy Clark, by Betty Lorenzi and Nancy Lyke of the Jackson County Master Gardeners. Dahlem received these generous donations for its role in this Spring's plant sale held by the Master Gardeners.**

**Thank You to the Following For Their Generous Donations:**  
(5/23/09 - 6/23/09)

Barbara T. Anderson  
Brian Briddell  
Betty Desbiens  
Edward & Marilyn Eden  
Jerry & Pat Mangas  
Melling Tool Company & Employees  
Gary & Nancy Siegrist  
Kenneth & Ruth Smith  
Susan & Dale Sylvester

*Blue Jeans for Charity*  
City of Jackson Employees

*Naturalist Position Funding*  
Friends of Dahlem

*Spring Plant Sale*  
MSU Master Gardeners

*In Memory of Marie Whiting*  
Dorothy Dyer

## Members Corner (Through 6/20/09)

### *Welcome New Members!*

Ann Gould  
Keith & Jenny Hansen  
Frank & Jo Korotney

### *Thank You for Your Membership Renewal!*

Jessica Adams  
Marge Berry  
Donald & Kristen Braunreiter  
The Chilson Family  
Ray & Sarah Clark

Ray & Sarah Clark  
Dennis & Sarah DaPra  
Diane & John Deming  
Joe Dempski  
George & Kelly Goodell  
Robert Handgartner &  
Florence Osborne  
Margaret & Lee Hausler  
Jay & Sue Hoffman  
Jim & Cyndy Hong  
Janell Houser  
Patrick Hoxie  
W.B. & Maggie Jensen  
Kim & Valerie Kennedy

Drs. Ralph & Cheryl Kluk  
The Koebbe Family  
Anthony LaPorte Family  
Evelyn Leonard  
Dr. Gedy Love  
Jerry & Pat Mangas  
Thomas & Lillian Mathes  
Michael & Cindi Pedersen  
Sandy Rentschler  
Brian & Sarah Richmond  
Ron Shankland  
Jeana Shappee  
Channing & Lori Smith  
Kevin & Juli Smith

Erik & Carrie Stevens  
Dale & Susan Sylvester  
Robert Snyder Jr.  
Laurie & Mark Tankersley  
Phyllis Tschabrun  
Newell & Suzy Turpel  
Bob & Suzi Venners  
Ila Wandtke  
Robert & Dianne Welsh  
Joan Wiegman

# Friends Fundraiser



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

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



## STOP the Paper Chase

Can't see the forests because all the trees are being cut down to make paper? Then you'll be happy to learn a growing number of companies are producing "tree-free" paper alternatives. Here are some ingredients to look for the next time you buy stationery, envelopes, notepads, or folders:

- **Post-Consumer Waste:** "Post-consumer waste" is the paper you throw out or recycle. Buying paper made from a high percentage of post-consumer waste helps reduce the number of trees needed to make paper "from scratch." It also saves energy and keeps paper out of the landfill.
- **Hemp:** Hemp produces its own natural pesticide, and grows so quickly it produces twice as much fiber per acre as pine. **Note:** Hemp was originally banned in the United States because it comes from the same botanical species as marijuana (even though it cannot be smoked). Paper, clothing, and other materials made from hemp are increasingly available from many manufacturers in the U.S.; hemp continues to be grown in several countries around the world.
- **Kenaf:** Kenaf, a cousin to the cotton plant, uses 15-25% less energy than pine to make pulp.
- **Bamboo:** This fast-growing grass produces 4 to 5 times the fiber of the fastest-growing commercial tree species.
- **Agri-Pulp:** Agri-pulp combines agricultural waste along with post-consumer waste to make paper.
- **Cotton:** Another new paper option is made from organically grown cotton that grows in several colors, including green, brown, and white.

### Did you know?...



It takes 60 percent less energy to manufacture paper from recycled stock than from virgin materials.

Source: Save Our Planet: 750 Everyday  
Ways You Can Help Clean Up The Earth

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
JACKSON, MI  
PERMIT NO. 36

The Dahlem Conservancy  
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Jackson, MI 49201  
[www.dahlemcenter.org](http://www.dahlemcenter.org)