



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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The "Birds, Blooms, & Butterflies" Festival is Back!



The Dahlem Conservancy 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.

The 2009 BBB Festival will include a wide array of exciting and educational activities for all ages! A schedule of events will be posted on our website soon.

- Live Hummingbird Banding by renowned naturalist/photographer, Allen Chartier
- Program on Swallows by MDOT naturalist, Dick Wolinski
- Monarch Butterfly tagging with Jackson Audubon
- Live Birds of Prey by Joe Rogers of Wildlife Recovery
- Thrifty Gardening Program with Master Gardeners

- Avian Population Restoration Program by Executive Director of "Saving Birds Thru Habitat", Kay Charter
- Bluebird Nest box Building Workshop
- **And much, much more!**

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

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

Please call 517-782-3453 for more information on attending, participating, or volunteering at the event, or visit www.dahlemcenter.org. Also, see the event flyer on page 5 for further details. Feel free to copy the flyer and share this great opportunity



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

GREAT Annual River Clean-Up



The 260 mile long Grand River has been, and still remains, a vital part of Michigan life for centuries. As the longest river in Michigan, Native Americans referred to the river as *O-wash-ta-nong*, meaning "Far-away-water". Indigenous peoples existed in harmony with *O-wash-ta-nong*, as they depended extensively on the river for food, water, and transportation.

Unfortunately, portions of the Grand River are currently polluted by a significant amount of debris and trash, thus negatively impacting the health of our aquatic ecosystems.

Join the Grand River Environmental Action Team (G.R.E.A.T.) to improve the Grand River on **September 12th** from **9:00 am - 2:00 pm**. We will meet at the **CMS Energy Band Shell** in downtown Jackson. Bring your own canoes if possible, or borrow GREAT's. Lunch will be provided.

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

**THE DAHLEM CONSERVANCY
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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!

2009 Summer Camp was a Blast!



Getting up-close and personal with a tree frog

Making plaster mammal tracks with Education Director Kimberly May



Crafting Wren houses out of clay pots



Venturing out onto the trails to explore the great outdoors



Feeding Franklin, Paul McCormack's African Spur Thigh Tortoise



Face-to-face with a Great-Horned Owl



Catching and releasing aquatic



Naturalist Carrie Benham and her new best friend, a boa constrictor

Geocaching - The Sport where *You* are the Search Engine

Do you love hiking through the trails of The Dahlem Conservancy but are looking to engage yourself in something completely new and exciting? If so, the twelve new geocaches throughout the Dahlem property are sure to keep you guessing!

But what is geocaching, you ask? According to www.geocaching.com, geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate marked containers hidden outdoors, called

geocaches, and then share your experiences online. The website offers easy to understand information for this family-friendly sport.

Currently, there are 9 traditional cache containers, 2 Earthcaches, or natural features, and 1 puzzle cache within Dahlem. To pinpoint the coordinates of these and other nearby caches, visit www.geocaching.com. The Caches are

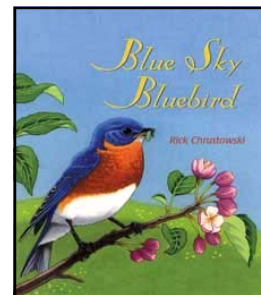


Acorns to Oak Trees: *immersing yourself in nature*

Adventures in Literature Books *by Kimberly May*

Blue Sky Bluebird by Rick Chrustowski (available in the Nutshell Gift Shop)

This author’s collection of non-fiction children’s books offer gorgeous illustrations and informative text full of scientific details that will keep any preschooler to fourth grader (and adults) entranced. Look for Chrustowski’s “Bright Beetle”, “Big Brown Bat”, and “Turtle Crossing” children’s books too!



Use the questions and activities below to begin a Literary Adventure with you child!

Question: How did the nestling bluebirds change while they were in the nest? **Hint:** look back at the pictures and notice the changes in the nestlings’ eyes, beak and feet color, and feather type, color, and length. **Activity:** Have your child make an illustrated timeline of the bluebird’s life cycle using the book. The timeline could be any style: a flipbook, a storybook, or a several pages stapled together to cover the length of the table. Children can even trace or copy the book’s beautiful bluebird illustrations and color and cut them out to form a mobile of their own.

Question: When do the nestling bluebirds become fledglings? **Hint:** Once the nestlings have outgrown the nest they leave and become fledglings but are still cared for by the bluebird parents. During the summer you may find songbird fledglings that have left the nest and are on the ground. Chances are the parents are still caring for the bird while it learns how to fly and search for food on its own. The best help you can offer is to leave the bird be. There is no better parent for it than another bird! However, if feel the fledging is in danger, place it in a small container with drainage and tack this to the nearest tree. The less time you hover around the fledgling, the sooner the parents will feel safe enough to bring it food.



Question: What type of habitat do the bluebirds live in? **Hint:** look back through the pictures; is it a wetland, a forest, a neighborhood, or an open field? **Activity:** Come see Dahlem’s bluebird houses strategically placed around

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.



September 10th 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Pavilion (indoors if inclement weather)

“Silent Spring” by Rachel Carson

Released in 1962, Silent Spring offered the first, shattering look at widespread ecological degradation and touched off an environmental awareness that still exists. Rachel Carson’s book focused on the poisons from insecticides, weed killers, and other common products as well as the use of sprays in agriculture, a practice that led to dangerous chemicals in our food sources. Presented with thorough documentation, the book opened more than a few eyes about the dangers of the modern world and stands today as a classic and landmark work. Rachel’s work prompted an enormous environmental movement that continues and is relevant today.



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Art in Nature Series.....

Journaling Nature Series: 10:00 a.m. Saturdays, 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.....

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!



Ecology and Environment Series.....

GREAT/ Dahlem Canoe Trip: 12:00 p.m. Sunday, August 16 (*special time)

Join Dahlem and the Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) for our annual joint canoe adventure. This trip will be through downtown Jackson, beginning at High St. (US 127) and ending at Elks Club (Lansing Ave.). Food will be provided! If needed, GREAT can also provide a canoe, however, there is a limited amount and will be on a first come, first serve basis. This trip is free for everyone. Call 517-782-3453 to reserve a spot or for more information.

Art in Nature Series.....

Wild with Art: 10:00 a.m. Saturday, August 29 (*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.



Ecology and Environment Series.....

Older Than Dirt: 2:00 p.m. Sunday, September 13

Join us as we venture to the home of geologist Mike Hoover as he presents his one-of-kind collection of rocks and minerals from around the world and shares his wealth of geologic knowledge. You'll see specimens of all sizes, colors, and even ones that glow-in-the-dark! Please meet at the Nutshell gift shop and carpool with us to Mike's nearby residence for this family-friendly event! What better way to spend Grandparent's Day than to enjoy learning about the ancient and magnificent materials that surround us... rocks and minerals!

Ecology and Environment Series.....

Journey of the Cranes: 2:00 p.m. Sunday, September 20

As they gather together to migrate south, Sandhill Cranes can be counted by the thousands each Fall in our local area. Join People for Wildlife Coordinator, Gary Siegrist, as he reveals the intriguing natural history of the crane and the where, when, and how to best enjoy this spectacular seasonal event!



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 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:



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Discover Dahlem Outdoors.....

Guided Nature Hikes: 9:00 a.m. Every Tuesday

Join Dahlem staff for an educational and rewarding hike on Dahlem's five miles of scenic trails in search of our seasonal fauna and flora. Whether you are a birder with your eyes to the sky, an amateur botanist with your nose to the ground, or simply enjoy a stroll outdoors, all are welcome. Please wear appropriate outdoor attire and hiking shoes. Binoculars suggested but not required.

Discover Dahlem Outdoors.....

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

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 reserve your tour at least 7 days prior to your selected tour date and wear appropriate outdoor attire; golf cart is uncovered.



Join us for Outdoor Learning and Fun!

Birds, Blooms, and Butterflies Festival



FREE

Saturday, August 22nd
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



at the Dahlem Environmental Education Center
(Just 15 minutes from downtown Jackson!)

- Live Birds of Prey
- Monarch Butterfly Tagging
- Hummingbird Banding Demo
- Guided Bird Hikes
- Local Organization Exhibits
- Children's Nature Crafts & Activities
- Great Food & Nature Story-telling
- Educational Programs by Renowned Experts
- Thrifty Gardening Program
- And Much, Much More!



THE DAHLEM CONSERVANCY

7117 S. Jackson Rd. Jackson, MI

CONTACT US: 517-782-3453 www.dahlemcenter.org

Sponsored by





Change in Date!

Free Yoga Series at Dahlem

The originally scheduled date for the "Yoga For and From the Heart" session has been changed from August

1st to **August 8th from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm.**

Following this session, "Yoga and the Subtle Energy of the Body" will still take place on its scheduled date of August 29th from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

For more information, please contact certified yoga instructor Peggy Smith at 745-8140.

Mark Your Calendar! Autumn Adopt-A-Stream Dates

Everyone lives in a watershed...help us to monitor the health of ours by volunteering during these Fall events! Learn how to collect and inventory the biodiversity of organisms living beneath the water's surface. It's fun and educational citizen science!

September 19th 1:30-4:30 p.m. Volunteer Training

October 3rd 9:00-1:00 p.m. Bug Collection Day

October 7th 5:30-8:30 p.m. Bug I.D. Night

Call Cecilia Govrik at 517-784-2800 x208 for more information.



The Johnson Preserve

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Fitness Council of Jackson
www.fitnesscouncil.org

Upper Grand River Implementation Project
www.theugrip.org

Legacy Land Conservancy
www.legacylandconservancy.org

Up-Coming Community Events

Legacy Land Conservancy Opening Celebration of the Johnson Preserve

August 2nd
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

All are invited to visit the Legacy Land Conservancy's newest nature preserve: The Lloyd & Mabel Johnson Preserve!

This lovely natural area includes oak forest, buttonbush swamp, and open fields. It connects directly to the southern end of Lillie Park south of Ann Arbor in Pittsfield Township.

See the unveiling of the new sign, enjoy light refreshments, and walk the soon-to-be trails!

Fitness Council of Jackson American Cancer Society's Relay for Life

August 7th & 8th
6:00 pm - 6:00 pm

An unique 24-hour team-fundraising event held to benefit the American Cancer Society Cascades Falls Park.

For more information, please contact Mary Ball at 787-0382 or mary.ball@cancer.org.

For further details, visit www.cancer.org.

Upper Grand River Implementation Project Huntoon Creek Cleanup

August 21st
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Please join the Ingham Conservation District and your local Boy Scouts in a clean up of Huntoon Creek in Leslie.

All interested volunteers should contact Michelle Beloskur at the Ingham Conservation District: 517-676-2290 or michelle.beloskur@macd.org.

Please register by August 7, 2009.

"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:

August 5 - 5:30 pm

August 11 - 4:00 pm

September 1 - 4:00 pm

September 2 - 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!

New Relationship with Partnership Park

Recently a very generous couple came to Dahlem with a desire to leave an impact on the community. We talked about the need for children to have meaningful experiences outdoors and to learn to be good citizens from a very early age. It seemed only natural for them to want to sponsor camperships for Dahlem's Outdoor Adventure Camp in July.

Because of this open-hearted contribution, Dahlem was able to host 12 children from the Partnership Park neighborhood for a full week of camp. In addition to bringing children to Dahlem, we were also able to go to Partnership Park and do our environmental education programs on their site.

We extend our sincerest thanks to the kind donors and also to Jackson Public Schools for providing the transportation at a reduced rate.

Additionally, we want to thank Pastor Jay Cummings at the St. John's United Church of Christ for helping organize this opportunity. With additional funding still remaining, Dahlem is seeking other partnerships like this to fulfill the donor's request and intent.



Thank You to the Following For Their Generous Donations: (6/23/09 - 7/21/09)

Barbara T. Anderson
J. Latham & Kathryn Claflin
James & Lori Grace
Sally Harris
David Heins
Dale Kurtz
William & Gudrun MacMillan
Nancy McCormack
Sandra Rentschler
Barbara Snow
Brad Whaley

BBB Festival Sponsor
American 1 Federal Credit Union

Benefit Breakfast Sponsor
Karen Barnes

In Honor of Betty Desbiens
Jean Winchell

In Memory of Kim Meyer-Pelham
Kim & Valerie Kennedy

Gifts in Kind

Dale Danilowicz - Owl & Pheasant mounts

Tom Hodgson - "Music for Mother Earth" CDs and "Songs of the Earth" CDs

George Rausch - Antique Duck Decoys

Myrna Berlet-Dutcher - 1982 Chevy Pickup



Have you seen Smokey Bear?

Our Day Camp song-leader, Evelyn Leonard, lost her 6 inch sidekick during the first week of Dahlem's Summer Day Camp. Please inform us of his whereabouts so Smokey can join us again next year!

Thank you FRIENDs of Dahlem for donating three Nutshell Gift Shop gift certificates towards our Day Camp Evaluation Form Drawing!

Mail your evaluation form by July 31st to be entered into the drawing. There will be a winner for each week of camp!

Members Corner

(Through 7/21/09)

Welcome New Members!

Amanda Anspaugh
William Baird
Kevin & Jennifer Bristo
Lora Burtch
Stephanie Cizek
Jen Dickerson
Alek & Cheryl Ennis
Matt Heins
Matthew & Stefanie Horning
John & Elizabeth Jones

Mary Jo Kennedy
Carolyn Kuhl
Ron & Heather Marienfeld
Travis & Michelle Moore
Annette & Steve Scarpino
Shawn Van Heyningen
Arthur & Anne Vendola
David & Tisha Wowiank

Thank You for Your Membership Renewal!

Jack Arndt
Lathe & Kathy Claflin
Dennis, Lori & Amelia Gardner

Jim & Joyce Grace
Brent & Beth Hall
Sally Harris
Donna Haynes
Dave Heins
Kathleen Herman
Melissa & Scott Hiller
W.B. & Maggie Jensen
Barry & Ellen Keatley
Karen Lewthwaite
William & Gudrun MacMillan
McCoy Family
Joseph Miller
Keith & Mary Margaret Moore
Craig Newman

Craig Newman
Mark & Sandi Pfeffer
Jerrold Schrottenboer
Karen Lewthwaite
Leslie Shaughnessy
Barbara Snow
Richard & Bonnie Warner



Naturalist's Niche

"Jackson's Wildlife in Jeopardy" by Cody Porter

It is no longer a secret that a number of Earth's living species are in a critical decline. Through the worldwide efforts of scientists, environmentalists, and concerned citizens, special attention is now being paid to these disappearing species and, perhaps more importantly, the effects human activity may have on them.

Unfortunately, however, species are still disappearing at an alarming rate. In fact, many scientists estimate we are currently witnessing one of the most rapid rates of extinction in our planet's history.

Listed here are a few of the species scientists are particularly concerned about that can be found in the Jackson area. It would be well worth anyone's time to put forth the effort to find these species. Who knows, it may be our last chance!

Henslow's Sparrow



As a drab, inconspicuous, and faint-singing bird of tall grasslands, the Henslow's Sparrow seems difficult enough to spot, even in places where this bird is relatively common. When you consider the fact that this bird's population is declining by about 7.5% every year due to the agricultural and residential conversion of grasslands and prairies, it seems a wonder that this species is ever seen!

Fortunately for Jackson-area birders, Henslow's Sparrows are spotted with relative frequency in the Waterloo area; in particular, the fields on Riethmiller Rd. across from the

Northern Leopard Frog

The Northern Leopard Frog is perhaps best recognized as the formaldehyde-soaked specimen of high school Biology courses.



Once the most abundant frog species in North America, the Northern Leopard Frog has seen a dramatic decline since the 1970's, most likely due to a combination of pollution, loss of wetland and field habitat, and predation by

Wood Turtle



Under natural circumstances, the longevity of the Wood Turtle (commonly surviving to be 33 years old in the wild!) has always been enough to offset the effects of high nest and hatchling mortality rates. However, in recent years, habitat loss, highway mortality, and collection for the pet trade industry are causing serious declines in adult Wood Turtle populations.

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