



Paw Prints



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Guest Column & Little Acorns	2
Acorns to Oak Trees, & Book Club	3
September Weekend Programs	4
October Weekend Programs	5
Community Events	6
Friends of Dahlem	7
Naturalist's Niche	8

2nd Annual "Birds, Blooms, and Butterflies" Festival Highlights



Jackson Audubon Society's Connie Spotts releases a Monarch Butterfly after demonstrating the proper method used when tagging these avian-voyagers. Dahlem's very own Naturalist, Carrie Benham, also informed the public by presenting "Life of the Monarch Butterfly" earlier in the day.

Joe Rogers of the Wildlife Recovery Association shows off a stunning Snowy Owl to audience members. In addition to the Snowy, other birds of prey also presented by the Wildlife Recovery Association included Eastern Screech Owls, an American Kestrel, a Great Horned Owl, and a Rough-legged Hawk.



One of the most distinct aspects of the festival was the replica Bald Eagle's nest built by Dahlem's own "Tuesday Morning Nature Group" in honor of the first recorded nesting Bald Eagles in Jackson County. The replica meets the average measurements of a Bald Eagle nest, which can weigh up to 1 ton!

The second annual "Birds, Blooms, and Butterflies" Festival was a tremendous success. With roughly 600 participants this year, attendance, when compared to last year's event, was doubled.

A sincere "thank-you" is in order for the hard work of Dahlem staff and volunteers, and the organizations and individuals who made the festival happen. Many thanks to all who attended as well. We look forward to seeing you all next

Goblin Walks Coming Soon!



Friday, October 23rd
and
Saturday, October 24th

Join us for a night of magical fun as we celebrate the Halloween season. Take a walk on our trails as lighted pumpkins guide your journey. Along the way, you will meet several forest creatures who will share stories about their life in the forest. End the journey with hot cider and doughnuts sponsored by the Friends of Dahlem!

Why wait until Halloween night to get dressed up in your costume? Come celebrate Halloween a few nights early and have some "not so scary" fun at the Dahlem Center. It will be a night to remember!!

Watch for registration form in Paw Prints October issue.

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

THE DAHLEM CONSERVANCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: John McLaughlin
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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!!**

**Your membership makes a
difference!**

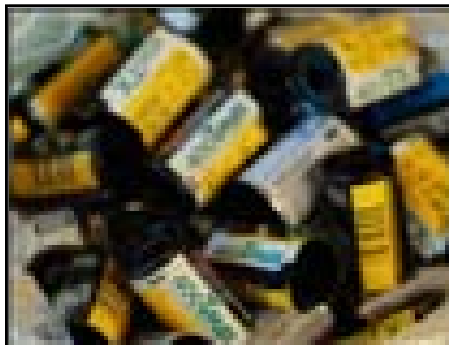
**Help us protect the outdoors for
future generations!**

Recycling Film 101

With the digital age of photography well entrenched in our lives, many of us find ourselves with those green or yellow boxes of film in the fridge or freezer. Last week, I pulled two of them off the shelf in the fridge and they were dated mid- 2007... do you think they were expired? Better question, I guess, is even if they are expired, are they any good?

If properly stored (a cool dark location), even after a couple of years past the expiration date, the ability of that roll of film to accurately capture and preserve life's memories is usually minimally impacted. So, even if the film is a couple of years old, the best way to deal with it is to load it in the camera and shoot away.

What if the camera is gone and the film



remains? While the easiest but least environmentally friendly method of dealing with it is to toss it in the trash, it would be much better to recycle the film as it contains silver, which is the "active" ingredient in film. Silver is a light-sensitive metal that reacts when exposed to light to create the images we are trying to capture. When the film is recycled, the silver can be salvaged and reused, decreasing the need to mine for more silver.

How do you recycle the film? It's easy! Take

those unwanted rolls of film to your local photo shop. If they still employ analog or "wet image processing", they will likely have a process in place to recover the remaining silver from the processed film.

The processed, expired film they receive will then be shipped back to the refinery to recover the silver for further use.

It is a good idea to call your local photo shop prior to bringing in your used film to ensure that they will accept it, although this should not be too problematic, as most shops generally will.

-Steve Noble
Recycling Jackson

www.recyclingjacksonmi.org



The Dahlem Conservancy presents

"Little Acorns"



A series of one hour hands-on adventures in nature for toddlers accompanied
by an adult companion

Nature-based activities, stories, finger plays, mini hikes, crafts, and more!

Mondays (Sept. 14, 21, & 28) 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
or Saturdays (Sept. 12, 19, 26) 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Free for the month of September. See www.dahlemcenter.org for future dates and fees.

For more information or to register call the Dahlem Center at 782-3453 (Space is limited)

Acorns to Oak Trees: *immersing yourself in nature*

“The Only Thing We Have to Fear is Fear Itself”

by Kimberly May

Franklin D. Roosevelt’s quote remains timeless and true to this day. It can be applied to not only the state of our nation, but also to our daily lives. Fear can often prevent someone from fully enjoying his or her life experiences, and more often than not, results from a lack of knowledge. While immersed in the outdoors, hiking on the trail, or even during a picnic, have you ever encountered something that caused you fear? If so, were you able to rationalize the source of your fear? Did you later research your beliefs to see if they were accurate?

One common fear many people share is a fear of snakes. Unfortunately, it is usually rooted in misconceptions or irrational beliefs. One simple step towards facing the fear is to shed misguided beliefs and learn the facts:

An impressive array of 18 different snake species call our state home. Each one is truly unique, beautiful, and serves a vital function in our environment as predators. Only one is “venomous” (the Massasauga rattlesnake), while the other 17 are harmless. An unlikely bite from a non-venomous snake will result in a simple scratch that should be treated as any other minor injury. An even less likely bite from a Massasauga (only 1 to 2 bites are reported each year from Michigan and Ontario, the province and state with the most Massasaugas) should be promptly treated by a medical professional. Likely candidates for snake bites are individuals attempting to kill, threaten, or remove a snake. Snakes prefer to slither in the opposite direction of an approaching human, if you give them the chance. They can sense the vibrations of your footsteps on the ground well before you see them. This includes the state protected Massasauga, the smallest and least-potent venomous snake found in the United States.

Massasaugas are incredibly shy. They have no desire to interact with people, however if a person causes the snake to feel cornered and threatened it may rattle its tail as a warning. Simply back away and allow the snake to escape. More interesting information can be found on the DNR website.

So fear not and appreciate the diversity of life that surrounds us. A little common sense and knowledge can turn one’s fear into respect and appreciation.



The Dahlem Book Club

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

September 10 1:00 p.m. - Dahlem Pavilion (book discussion)

2:00 p.m. - Guided Nature Hike

“Silent Spring” by Rachel Carson

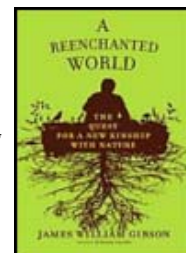
Released in 1962, *Silent Spring* offered the first, shattering look at widespread ecological degradation and touched off an environmental awareness that still exists. Rachel Carson’s book focused on the poisons from insecticides, weed killers, and other common products as well as the use of sprays in 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.



October 8 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Dahlem Pavilion

“A Reenchanted World: The Quest for a New Kinship with Nature” by James Gibson

James William Gibson reveals in this insightful study, the culture of enchantment with nature is making an astonishing comeback. A surprising and enlightening investigation of how modern society is making nature sacred once again. Gibson finds a remarkably broad yearning for a spiritual reconnection to nature. As we grapple with increasingly dire environmental disasters he points to this cultural shift as the last utopian dream, the final hope to protecting the world that all of us must live in.



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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!



Discover Dahlem

Outdoors.....

The Lost Art of Archery: 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 26

The invention of the bow and arrow is considered to be a pivotal point in human history. Cold Arrow Archery instructors, Leslie Bertram and Dan Klee will share the rich history of traditional archery and the use of longbows and recurves through hands-on educational fun. All gear and literature are provided. All ages are welcome to

Family Wildlife Adventure.....

Got Milk?: 2:00 p.m. Sunday, September 27

Get ready for a selection of live animals you have most likely never seen before! Come to Dahlem to see mammals from around the world presented by The Creature Conservancy. A baby Red Kangaroo, a Muntjac, the world's smallest deer, an Egyptian Fruit Bat, also know as a "flying fox", and last, but not least, a sleepy Two-toed Sloth (with an opportunity to touch its unique fur). Participants will be asked to remain quiet in their seats for the duration of the program.



Discover Dahlem Outdoors.....

GeoCaching 101: 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 10

Embark on a treasure hunt through Dahlem's trails! The Southeast chapter of the Michigan GeoCaching Organization (MiGo) will provide basic instruction on how to get you started and have fun with this popular family pastime. Whether you are beginner, experienced, or just wish to satisfy your curiosity, come check it out! The fundamentals of equipment selection, use, and locating caches will be presented. Prior to the program a Meet-n-Greet of fellow geocachers will take place at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome.



Family Wildlife Adventure.....

Family Night Hike: 7:00 p.m. Saturday, October 17 (*special time)

Venture out onto the trails for some fun in the dark! Kat Whaley will lead a bundle of exciting activities for the whole family to enjoy under the mystique of the night sky. Afterwards, join us for hot chocolate and S'mores by the campfire. Space is limited, please reserve early. This program will be presented in junction with the "Cranes, Color, and Cabernet" Festival hosted by the Sandhill Crane Vineyards.



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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October 2009 Public Programming

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Family Wildlife Adventure.....

Bats of the World: 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 18

Step into the world of bats with this exciting multimedia presentation from the Organization for Bat Conservation! Come meet a wide variety of live bats from around the world, including “micro” bats from America and African bats with 4 foot wingspans! The presentation will include ethnic music and differing cultural perspectives on these mysterious creatures. Learn about echolocation, food webs, and the importance of bat conservation.



Family Wildlife Adventure.....

Goblin Walks: Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24

Can't get enough of the Halloween season? Your spooky holiday experience doesn't have to be limited to one night! Join Dahlem staff and several forest creatures for a nighttime walk through the Dahlem trails as illuminated pumpkins guide your journey. Along the way, stories of life in the forest will be told by the creatures that inhabit our area. After the adventure, relax with hot cider and doughnuts provided by the Friends of Dahlem! Check back soon for exact times, as several walks will be beginning at various times throughout both nights. Watch for registration form in Paw Prints October issue. **\$4.00 for members and \$6.00 for non-members**

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.

"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:

September 1 - 4:00 pm
September 2 - 5:30 pm
October 6 - 4:00 pm
October 7 - 5:30 pm

- *The one hour FREE 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!*

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:



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 pm Volunteer Training

October 3rd 9:00-1:00 pm Bug Collection Day

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

Call Cecilia Govrik at 517-784-2800 ext. 208
for more information.

Training for School Fall Programs

Thursday, September 10; 9 am - 12 pm

Do you like nature? Are you interested in preserving the environment? Do you like to work with children? If so, then **becoming a Volunteer Trail Explorer** is just for you!

Our 2009 Fall programs include:

Signs of Fall - Preschool, 1 hour; Begins Sept. 15



- In this program, students will discover the world around them as summer slowly turns into winter. Students will look for signs of change.

Nature Prepares for Winter - offered to Kindergarten and Grade 1, 1.5 hours; Begins Sept. 15



- Students learn how seeds, fur, needles, underground homes, and antifreeze help nature's creatures survive the winter.

The Interesting World of Insects - Grades 1 & 2,



2 hours; Offered Sept. 15 - Oct. 16

- Students learn about special adaptations and life cycles of these fascinating animals, and use nets to catch them!

Animal Homes & Habitats - Grades 2-4, 2 hours; Begins Sept. 15



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Jackson County Parks

<http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/Parks/>

Grand River Environmental Action Team

<http://www.great-mi.org/>

Food System Economic Partnership

<http://www.fsepmichigan.org/>

Up-Coming Community Events

Jackson County Parks "End of Summer" Fireworks Show

September 5th
6:00 pm

Send summer off with a bang at the Cascade Falls County Park! In addition to the dazzling display of fireworks, a live musical performance by The Saucecats will keep audience members entertained throughout the night.

Admission is \$5.00 per person. Children under 10 get in free when accompanied by an adult.

Stage show begins at 7:00 pm and fireworks begin at 9:30 pm

Call 768-2902 for more info.

Grand River Environmental Action Team Grand River Annual Clean-Up

September 12th
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Grand River Clean-up at the CMS Energy Band shell off Cooper St. in Downtown Jackson.

Feel free to bring your own canoe. No need to reserve a boat as GREAT canoes will be available.

Lunch provided.

G.R.E.A.T. promotes public awareness for the need to protect and preserve the Grand River.

Food System Economic Partnership Homegrown Festival

September 12th
5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

The HomeGrown Festival Celebrates Local Food and Community and seeks to focus broad mainstream attention on the community-wide benefits of eating from our own food shed.

The festival will take place at the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market (315 Detroit St., Ann Arbor, MI).

www.homegrownfestival.org

News from the Friends of Dahlem

Thank-you are in order for the wonderful crew who brought, served, and cleaned up for the “Birds, Blooms, and Butterflies” Festival on Saturday, August 22nd



at the center. The day was cool, but just right for looking at all the exhibits and relaxing with a walk or a hot dog lunch. Friends working Saturday included Mary White, Allie Mae and Bob Henning, Bernie and Louise Riggs, Dorothy Dyer, Vera Tuttle, and Kathy Clark. Big thanks also to Mary Jo Schultz for her donations.

The hot dogs that were served by The Friends of Dahlem were all gone and popcorn sold out by the end of

the day. Many thanks to all who helped out and attended. Your continued support is appreciated.

There will be a new Friends fundraiser coming soon: A poinsettia sale in December around the time of

Holiday Bazaar. Be on the look out for fliers or make contact with a Friends member or the Dahlem office to place an order. Flowers will be \$12.00 and available in four different colors. They will be purchased on a pre-paid basis and also available for sale at the Holiday Bazaar. These are top-quality plants and are guaranteed. You won't be disappointed.

Thank You to the Following For Their Generous Donations: (7/22/09 - 8/21/09)

Barbara T. Anderson
Robert & Cynthia Davey
Meghan & Todd Dobben
David Heins
Robert & Allie Mae Henning
Lola Howell
Georgia Nisja
Thomas Schopmeyer
Dave & Jeanne Thomas

Benefit Breakfast Sponsor
CP Federal CU/John Crist, President
Ronald Ellison
McDonald's
R.W. Mercer Company Inc./Kirk Mercer, President

John J. Audubon Program Sponsor
Jackson Audubon Society

6 mini grants/6 "Little Acorns" Programs
The Dawn Foods Foundation

Development Project
Weatherwax Foundation

In Memory of Rozlin Shea Kennedy
Kim & Valerie Kennedy

In Memory of Ruth Ashton
Betty Desbiens

Gifts in Kind

Yori Horan - Digital Temperature Logging Device
Lowe's, Adrian, Michigan - Birdseed



Members Corner (Through 8/21/09)

Welcome New Members!

Nancy Backus
Becky Bowen
Tom & Kathy Boyer
Carole Briggs
Rosemary Davis
Osamu Hamaguchi
Bob & Laurie LaZebnik
Richard & Linda McHenry
Pakmail, Spring Arbor Rd.
Don & Sandra Richards
Mark & Margaret Riggie
Richard Robison
Dawn Singleton
Amy Smith
Jean Wray Stone
Susanne Weible

Thank You for Your Membership Renewal!

Dr. William & Anne Albright
Bob Basore
Kathi & Bill Beiswenger
Tim & Denise Bigham
Denise Curtis
Meghan & Todd Dobben
Ron Ellison
Tom & Nancy Evanson
Alan Gamble
Jerry Holmes
Lola Howell
Edward & Gail Keagle
Patricia Kiessling
Carol Kobert
David Mitchell
Georgia Nisja
Daniel & Caryl Offerman
Con & Norma Oren

Linda Porter
Tony & Liz Raduazo
Linda Rehor
Jim Roberts
Carolyn Rollins
Thomas Schopmeyer
David & Kathy Shaw
Richard Snow
Allen Spiess Jr.
Les & Joyce Syring
Dave & Jeanne Thomas
Gloria Wahlen
Gene Wasserman
Beverly K. Wilson



Naturalist's Niche

“Plant Procreation”

by Cody Porter

Since the dawn of plant life some 1,200 million years ago, plants have been evolving numerous and ingenious strategies of reproduction.

From the possibly exclusive use of spores by the first land plants, to the complex methods of attracting insects and hummingbirds for pollination with one’s flowers, plants display the most diverse means of procreation among living organisms on planet Earth.

See if you can identify the techniques listed here while out on your next hike at Dahlem. Our prairie is in a dazzling bloom, allowing for a florid testimony to the effectiveness of these brilliant tactics!

Birds and other animals eat large quantities of berries that contain indigestible



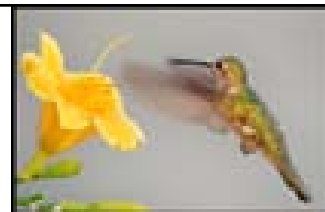
seeds, such as Autumn Olive berries. The seeds pass through their digestive system and are planted and fertilized wherever the animal leaves its droppings, often miles away from the “mother

Instead of carrying backpacks, “Nature’s Hitchhikers” (such as cocklebur) are equipped with hooks and



barbs to snag fur, fabric, and even shoelaces, which allows for a free, long-distance ride and a highly effective (and annoying!) means of

Although the beauty of



genetically-enhanced flowers such as roses is due to recent human intervention, hummingbirds and insects have been shaping the beauty we see in wildflowers for thousands of years. By selectively-pollinating plants with the most colorful flowers, these “avian gardeners” are responsible for the

In Autumn, Jewelweed is best known as “Touch-me-not”, alluding to its exploding seed pod, a form of ballistic seed dispersal known as “explosive dehiscence”.



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www.dahlemcenter.org

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The Dahlem Conservancy

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