



# Paw Prints



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 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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## Holiday Bazaar




Friday and Saturday  
December 4th & 5th  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

### Buy Local!

Support The Dahlem Conservancy

**DON'T MISS THIS SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY!**


 *Homemade baked goods: delicious pies, cakes, cookies, breads, & more!*

*Hand-crafted items from local artists* 

 *Fresh evergreen wreaths & tree trims*

*Nature guides, children's books, toys, nature-themed t-shirts & gifts* 

 *High quality bird feeders, seed, suet, & wildlife nest-boxes*

*Plus! Truckload Birdseed Sale!*   
*sunflower, thistle, & wild bird mixes*

The Friends of Dahlem will offer hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies to reenergize weary shoppers. While adults search for the perfect present, children are invited to participate in a live amphibian and reptile program on "Hibernating for the Holidays" with Education Director, Kimberly May.

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



## From Little Acorns Grow Mighty Oaks!

For those who are unfamiliar, "Little Acorns" is a one hour series of adventures in nature for toddlers and preschoolers accompanied by an adult companion (parent, grandparent, aunt/uncle, sitter, neighbor, etc.). The program allows young children and their adult companions to discover, hands-on, all that nature has to offer.

Throughout July and August, the Little Acorns outreach program was presented at local daycare settings as well as the thirteen branches of the Jackson District Library. The program reached between 350 and 400 people, bringing to them an appreciation for the outdoors. Since its renewal in August, the program here at Dahlem has reached an average of 96 people per month, and has resulted in a number of new families becoming Dahlem members.

Currently, the Saturday program has been cancelled due to low numbers, but the Monday afternoon program is thriving. Though Little Acorns will not be meeting in December, it will resume in January (Mondays 1:30-2:30 pm).

Consider registering your "little acorn." Enjoy one-on-one time with a special child in your life while fostering a love and appreciation for nature's wonders.

 **Call 782-3453 to register.**   
**Space is limited.**  
**Member \$25/month**

*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

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Kathleen Clark Victor Marshall  
 Betty Desbiens Rod Melling  
 Kelley Emerson Kathy Shaw  
 Todd Emmons Andy Walz  
 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  
 \* Full-time staff

**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!**

# Give the Gift of Nature

**I know what I want for Christmas!.... One Thousand Dahlem Members!**

The Dahlem Conservancy is a community-based organization. The Dahlem Center you've come to know and love would not exist without the time, energy, and financial support of the greater Jackson-area community. One of our current targets for this month and in the upcoming year is to increase our membership.

You have already made a commitment to become a member. Who do you know that would appreciate what Dahlem does, who Dahlem is, and what Dahlem stands for? Have you ever talked to them about being a member? Back in the 1990's Dahlem had approximately 1,000 members. Right now we're just above 850 (and have been growing steadily for the last 4 years). Reaching that former high again can be accomplished...and within the next month. If every member made the choice this year to give just one gift membership as a Christmas gift, we'd soar past our previous all-time high.

Think of all the gadgets, bobbles, and knick-knacks we all give and receive each year during the holidays. Perhaps just one gift under the tree can be replaced this year by a membership card to Dahlem.

Who do you know that cares about the outdoors? Who do you know that would like to bring their children to a Saturday afternoon program where they can see and learn about live wild animals? Who do you know that can appreciate our beautiful five-mile trail network through a variety of habitats - all just waiting to be explored? Who do you know that wants to take part helping to connect area students to the natural world? I hope more than one name comes to mind!

Give a gift membership now and simply invite this new member to become acquainted with Dahlem. In January, February, and March we'll have a great slate of weekend programs to offer.

I know we can double the size of our organization in a short period of time if we all just take a few small steps forward together. So we're asking for your help to propel Dahlem to a new milestone. Help us reach 1,000 members! And help someone else build a relationship with the outdoors. Give the gift of an experience this year. Give a gift membership to Dahlem.

**Brad Whaley**  
 Executive Director

## Gift Membership Form

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to give a gift membership to the party below.**

Recipient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**My Membership Gift to the above recipient is:**

Individual \$24  Family \$36  Senior \$12 Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Check (made payable to The Dahlem Conservancy)

Credit Card  Master Card  Visa

Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Verification Code: \_\_\_\_\_



## Acorns to Oak Trees: *immersing yourself in nature*

### Seed Torpedoes: Conifer Cones by Kimberly May

“Pine cones” are a ubiquitous sign of the holiday season. Although many of these once seed-bearing torpedoes are dropped by trees in the pine family, they are not necessarily from pine *trees*. Confused? Many of our well-known conifer (or cone-bearing) trees, such as cedars, firs, hemlocks, larches, spruces, and pines are categorized under the Pinaceae (or pine) family. Other coniferous tree families include specific species such as cypress and yews. *Most* of these trees are covered with tough waxy needles which remain on the tree year-round, earning them the name “evergreen”.

The cones you see on the forest floor contain the female reproductive organs of the tree, while the pollen-dispersing male cones are much smaller and often go unnoticed, clustered on the branch tips. The female cones are found high up on the top tree branches, within reach of pollen dispersed by the wind from other trees of the same species. Once the female cone is fertilized, develops seeds, and dries out in autumn, its scales open to release the seeds within. These seeds are a nutritious source of food for many animals.

So next time you walk Dahlem’s trails, enjoy the great diversity of female cones on the forest floor, from tiny Eastern Hemlock cones, tufted Douglas Fir cones, long Norway Spruce and White Pine cones, to short squat Red Pine cones. Check out the Peterson First Guide to Trees in the Nutshell Giftshop for \$5.95.



**Eastern Hemlock Cone: 1”**



**Eastern White Pine Cone: 4-8”**



**Norway Spruce Cone: 5”**



**Douglas Fir Cone: 3”**



**Red Pine Cone: 2.5”**



**White Spruce Cone: 2”**

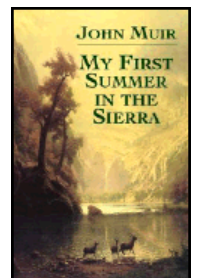
## The Dahlem Book Club

New members are always welcome! For more information, please call 517-782-3453.

**January 14 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - at The Dahlem Center**

**“My First Summer in the Sierra” by John Muir**

*John Muir, a young Scottish immigrant, had not yet become a famed conservationist when he first trekked into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, not long after the Civil War. He was so captivated by what he saw that he decided to devote his life to the glorification and preservation of this magnificent wilderness. My First Summer in the Sierra, whose heart is the diary Muir kept while tending sheep in Yosemite country, enticed thousands of Americans to visit this magical place, and resounds with Muir's regard for the "divine, enduring, unwasteable wealth" of the natural world. A classic of environmental literature, My First Summer in the Sierra continues to inspire readers to seek out such places for themselves and make them their own.*



Free to  
Big Brothers  
Big Sisters  
With I.D.

## Dec/Jan 2009 - 2010 Public Programming

Free to  
Big Brothers  
Big Sisters  
With I.D.



*Ecology and Environment Series*.....  
**North American Owls & Owl Prowl: 4:00 p.m. Saturday, December 12 (\*special time)**

Some of these mysterious night sky hunters can be heard right here at Dahlem. Join People for Wildlife Coordinator, Gary Siegrist for the indoor presentation "North American Owls - Their Secret Lives" on our nocturnal predators. Afterwards, at 5:30 pm, we will venture out on the wooded trails and listen for the owls' eerie calls as well as other wildlife sounds of twilight.

*Family Wildlife Adventure*.....  
**Hunters of the Night: 3:00 p.m. Saturday, January 9 (\*special time)**

The Howell Nature Center will share with us their live beautiful birds of the night, including the stunning snowy owl! Afterwards, everyone is invited to take part in a hands-on guided owl pellet dissection and children's owl craft. At 5:00pm an introductory presentation of several local owl call recordings will be presented and at 5:30pm we will venture out on the trails for an owl prowl. Advanced registration for the owl prowl is required as well, due to space limitations. Bring a flashlight, warm apparel, and your curiosity!



*Family Wildlife Adventure*.....  
**Owl Prowl: 5:30 p.m. Sunday, January 10 (\*special time)**

Due to the overwhelming turnout of last year's Owl Prowl, an additional hike will be held. There is a limit of twelve people per hike, as traveling with a smaller group will increase the chance of hearing owls. So reserve a spot in advance, because it is sure to fill! Please bring a flashlight, warm apparel, and your curiosity!

*Discover Dahlem Outdoors*.....  
**Guided Nature Hikes: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Every Second and Fourth Tuesday**

Join Dahlem staff for an educational and rewarding hike on a portion of 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": offered between 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (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.

### You've Got Mail!

Want an email update of up-coming programs? Dahlem is collecting member and non- member emails to place on our distribution list for a monthly email that will describe up-coming scheduled programs and announcements. It will serve as a friendly program reminder or an opportunity for you to forward the program information onto interested friends, family, and neighbors. Please email [kmay@dahlemcenter.org](mailto:kmay@dahlemcenter.org) with your email address in the subject space. Your email will not be shared with anyone else. If you choose to unsubscribe, simply email [kmay@dahlemcenter.org](mailto:kmay@dahlemcenter.org) your request. Thank you!



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](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:*



# Celebrating the Gifts of Nature for This & Future Generations

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Event Raises Over \$70,000 for Dahlem



The Dahlem Conservancy hosted the 2nd annual Benefit Breakfast on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Davis Banquet and Conference Center. 250 guests were treated to a complimentary breakfast and one hour program highlighting the Dahlem mission and vision. A very special thank you to the **Dahlem Ambassadors, hosts and guests** whose efforts and attendance made the event an overwhelming success.

The morning was kicked off by a delightful performance of "Nature Needs Kids, Kids Need Nature", performed by Dibble Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students of Mrs. Bullinger and Mrs. Braunreiter, directed by Mrs. Jackie Livesay. Guests continued to be inspired with a short video and presentations by Brad Whaley, Fran Parker, and Myrna Berlet.

The event brought in over \$72,000 in unrestricted operating funds. The Dahlem Board and staff thank all of the guests who generously made an investment in the future and ongoing success of Dahlem. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the generous donor who offered a Challenge Gift of \$15,000, matching all new, extended or increased multi-year pledges. We are pleased to announce the match was met and exceeded. The funds raised at the

event provide a significant portion of the Dahlem day to day operating budget. The generous community support demonstrated at the event ensures Dahlem is able to provide, expand and sustain programming and services that will cultivate future stewards of the earth.

If you have questions about, interest in working on, or attending the 2010 event or wish to contribute in other ways, please contact Becky Mehall, Development Coordinator, at 782-3453.

*The event was sponsored by:*

- **CP Federal Credit Union**
- **American Title Insurance Company**
- **Abbot Thomson & Beers PLC**
- **Karen Barnes, Wells Fargo Advisors LLC**
- **Rod Melling, Surovell Realtors**
- **R W Mercer Co.**
- **McDonald's**

Support from these sponsors is greatly appreciated. A sincere thank you to all who contributed to the success of the event; it couldn't have happened without each and every one of you!

The Dahlem Development Project is made possible through support from the Weatherwax Foundation.



*It's the Season  
for Giving at  
Dahlem!*

As we reminisce on all that we have to be thankful for with the passing of Thanksgiving, and the upcoming season of giving, Dahlem has reason to give thanks in light of two profoundly generous donations this past month.

While perhaps no one enjoys the newly remodeled feeding station at Dahlem more than the birds!, supplying our feathered friends with food for the entire winter can really take its toll financially. However, thanks to a birdseed donation of over two-tons from the Lowe's Home Improvement store of Adrian, Michigan, Dahlem will have enough seed to keep its Purple Finches and Common Redpolls full throughout the winter season!

As if such a donation were not exciting enough, Dahlem also received two much-needed renovations to its grounds in November. Thanks to the suggestion of longtime Dahlem volunteer, John Lane, the Jackson area Habitat for Humanity offered its services to Dahlem. On November 13th John and ten volunteers poured a new cement floor and repaired the walls and foundation of the "Sugar Shack". Afterwards, the crew used additional cement to pave a new sidewalk between the new office space and the front walkway.

We at Dahlem extend our utmost gratitude to the donors mentioned in this article. Your benevolent contributions will go tremendously far in helping Dahlem achieve its goal of connecting the community to our wonderful environment!

# Cross Country Skiing at Dahlem

This winter promises to be a snowy one! Come out and make the most of the snow at Dahlem! Cross country skiing is FREE to all Dahlem members. With over five miles of scenic winter trails, it's hard to imagine anywhere better in Jackson to enjoy the breathtaking beauty of winter in Michigan. Not a member? Call 517-782-3453 or stop by to join the Dahlem



## Go See Our Tree!

Next time you're downtown before Jan. 3rd, please visit Dahlem's "nature-themed" tree displayed in the Michigan Theater. Visitors can vote for their favorite non-profit tree by placing a dollar in the marked boxes. The winnings are split equally with the Theater. Vote for Dahlem!



# News from the Friends of Dahlem

The Friends of Dahlem thank the many groups who participated in the October scarecrow contest during the Goblin Walk. Judging was done by Pat and Ray McMillen, Mike Olney, Joan Gale, Sue and Evan Dalke and Mary Carol and Jay Kuehn. The Cat in the Hat and the Lorax were enjoyed in the main building courtesy of Betty and Don DePew and the Jackson Library.

A baked goods calling is now underway for the Holiday Bazaar. If you are not called this year please feel free to donate anyway. We try hard to rotate our calling list. Some of you have become famous for your creations. You may call Kathy Clark for more information 787-3163. Come shop and enjoy pies, cookies, breads, candy and more December 4th and 5th. If you missed the pre-paid poinsettia sale we will have a few plants available at this time.

The week after the Holiday Bazaar we anticipate delivery of the pre-paid Poinsettia plants from Rakers Acres. These plants will be at the center December 11, 12 and 13 for your pick up. Your help and support was appreciated in this wonderful fundraiser.

Friends have given funds in October for our naturalist Carrie Benham's salary, scarecrow contest prizes, needed items for the Goblin Walk and refreshments and decorations in the pavilion for the Goblin Walk.

Visit the center again after the holidays for skiing, walking, weekend programs, shopping, bird-watching, soda, and popcorn.

The Friends of Dahlem wish you warm holiday wishes and good health in the coming New Year. We are thankful for your support this year and in the past!

*Kathy Clark*



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Sierra Club Michigan Chapter  
[www.michigan.sierraclub.org](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org)

Upper Grand River  
[www.uppergrandriver.org](http://www.uppergrandriver.org)

Jackson Audubon Society  
[www.jacksonaudubon.org](http://www.jacksonaudubon.org)

# Up-Coming Community Events

### Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Hickory Hills Trail - Waterloo Recreation Area

December 12th  
9:30 am

Waterloo is the largest state park in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The trail starts at Gerald Eddy Discovery Center and passes through an oak/hickory forest. We will hike approximately 6 miles with possibilities to extend our hike up to 2 miles, if we desire. So, let's lace up our hiking boots, because in this part of the world, any given pathway will point us to Pure Michigan. Bring water, snack, a smile, and good humor. Free.

### Upper Grand River Watershed Council Watershed Webcast - "Erosion/Sediment Control"

December 15th  
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

City of Jackson Water Dept.  
2nd Floor Conference Room  
515 Water Street

Please join us for lunch and a webcast on the elements of effective local erosion and sediment control programs. It will describe how to address NPDES MS4 construction runoff control requirements, developing meaningful erosion and sediment control plans, how to review the effectiveness of erosion and sediment control practices, and more.

### Jackson Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count

December 19th

Help gather valuable data for scientists by participating in the Christmas Bird Count this year!

Bird counts such as this provide Ornithologists and other scientists with vital information regarding the trends and health of bird populations across the country.

Participate in the field or even from the comfort of your own feeders!

Call Don Henise at 795-7752 for more information.

**Thank You For Your  
Generous Donations:**

(10/22/09 - 11/20/09)

Cindy Allen  
Barbara T. Anderson  
Steve & Sue Anderson  
Marge Barden  
Karen Barnes  
David & Janet Barrett  
Michael & Judy Barry  
Stephen & Margaret Beison  
Timothy & Denise Bigham  
Stephen & Deb Boone  
Donald & Kristen Braunreiter  
Robert & Patricia Carlton  
Renee Carroll  
Brad & Julie Clark  
Donald & Kathleen Clark  
Charles & Marguerite Clevenger  
Pam & Dawson Colby  
Clark & Elizabeth Conant  
Craig & Laurie Dahlem  
Clark & Linda Danley  
John & Diane Deming  
Donald & Betty Depew  
Dorothy M. Blakely Foundation  
Stephanie Drago  
Margaret Eaton  
Edward & Marilyn Eden  
Ronald Ellison  
Dale & Meredith Fay  
Charlotte Finnegan  
Fraternal Order of Police, Jxn Lodge  
70  
Maryanne Fuchs  
Regina Funkhouser  
Suzanne Gaertner  
Margaret Gilson  
Bob & Pat Goldsmith  
Ann Green  
Cheryl Gumper  
Jack Hanson  
Deborah Hartstuff  
Lois Heady  
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Thomas Hodgson  
Ronald & Joan Hoffman  
Maurice & Dorothy Huffer  
Barry & Ellen Keatley  
Michael & Linda Killian  
Margaret King  
Mary Kirkland  
Frank & Jo Korotney  
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Ronald & Michelle Kuhlman  
Susan Lackey  
Andy & Kathy Ladwig  
Jon & Donna Lake  
Kevin Lavery  
Eileen & David Spalding Lehnert  
Wayne & Karen Leja  
Jan & Terry Maino  
William & Kae Marcoux  
Victor & Gretchen Marshall  
Ed Mathein  
Michael & Pamela Matthews  
Clyde & Laurel Mauldin

Lois McGauley  
John & Katherine McLaughlin  
Rodney & Debra Melling  
Terry & Sue Mierzwa  
Richard & Abby Mortensen  
Don & Phyllis Murch  
Jane Murray  
Steve & Anne Noble  
Cheryl Norey  
Margaret O'Connor  
Christina Olds  
Heather & Robert Price  
Mark Rabinsky  
Ronn Rasmussen  
Don & Sandra Richards  
Bernard & Louise Riggs  
Helen Rossell  
Lisa & Kurt Rudolph  
Sandhill Crane Vineyards  
Gary & Pam Schaufler  
Marilyn Scheffel  
Mark Schissler  
James & Janet Seitz  
James Sexton  
Robert Sexton  
William & Alice Siegrist  
Mark & Barbara Snyder  
Timothy & Sarah Snyder  
Irene & William Sonnett  
Sandra Steele  
Gloria Stevens  
John Stewart  
Sandra Sweet  
Laura & Steve Thurlow  
Chris & Lucy VanLonkuyzen  
Ethel VanSchoyck  
Martha (Libby) Warner  
Scott & Cindy Weaver  
Katherine & Richard White  
Jonathan Williams  
  
*For Parking Lot Improvements*  
William Cooke  
  
*Candles for Goblin Walks*  
Friends of Dahlem  
  
*Benefit Breakfast Sponsor*  
Rod Melling  
  
*For Fundraising Project*  
The Weatherwax Foundation  
  
*In Memory of Richard E. Basore*  
Robert Basore  
  
*In Memory of Sandra Rentschler*  
Berntson Family in Iowa  
Donald & Kathleen Clark  
Betty Desbiens  
Kenneth & Mary Ellenbaas  
Betty Halsey  
Susan Hitchingham  
Howe Family  
William & Cheryl Kantor  
Joe & Melanie Kittel  
Ethel Oberlander  
Carolyn Rollins  
Mary & Don White  
Martha Willard

*In Memory of Hazel Thelan*

Walter & Joyce Carlson  
Don & Alice Hall  
Jim & Karen Kelsey  
Larry & Julie Wetherby

*In Honor of Don Dutcher's  
95th Birthday*

Jack Arndt  
Robert & Cynthia Davey  
Phyllis LaChance  
Colvin & Kristine Matthews

*In Memory of Steve  
Kenworthy*

Gary & Lynn Kenworthy

*In Memory of Kathy Gotts*

Kathleen Schissler

*In Memory of Lee Walton*

Ric & Angela Walton

*In Memory of Gil O'Rourke*

Cynthia O'Rourke

*In Memory of Margie  
Laughrey*

Anthony & Elizabeth  
Raduazo

*In Memory of Norene  
Zernickow*

Hubert Zernickow

*Gifts in Kind*

Elizabeth Hayden  
*Benefit Breakfast program  
design*

Lowes of Adrian  
*Birdseed for feeding stations*

Ed Stehno  
*Security lighting at Dahlem*



**Thank you!**

**Members Corner**

(Through 11/19/09)

**Welcome New Members!**

Sally & Jack Bunce  
Ted & Becky Cartwright  
Aaron & Carolyn Cartwright David &  
Karen Desnoyer  
Marilyn Deverell  
Robert & Donna Domm  
Kathy Laughlin  
Stacie Lawrence  
Jonas McCluskey  
Jan O'Shaughnessy & Sue Brinson  
Sandra Riedel  
Songbird Company/Jim Wait  
Carol Weber  
Joe & Ginger White

**Thank You for Your  
Membership Renewal!**

Richard & Jacqueline Barczak  
David & Janet Barrett  
Carrie & Steve Benham  
Jim & Sharon Best  
Dave Bosio  
Craig & Diane Brush  
Edward & Penny Buckles  
Ken Butterfield  
Bob & Pat Carlton  
Pam & Dawson Colby  
Jim & Bernie Dewland  
Dick & Sue Dodge  
Stephanie Drago  
Charles Engel  
Dale & Meredith Fay  
Suzie Gaertner  
Kathie Ghesquiere  
Ben Gilpin  
Linda Goings  
Ann Green  
Edward & Helen Greene  
Bob & Jane Grover  
Lois Heady  
Maurice & Dorothy Huffer  
Brian & Theresa Jurasek  
Glenn & Linda Kinney  
Maddy Miller  
  
Rod & Jackie Monasmith  
Charles & Patricia Nelson  
Steven & Anne Noble  
Frances Reynolds  
Roy & Betty Rider  
Thomas & Carol Rier  
Edward Rockwell  
Marilyn Scheffel  
Mark Schissler  
Ed Stehno  
Mary Steusloff  
Glen & Marianne Susor  
Keith & Lisa Tipping  
Mike & Mary Tylutki  
Robin, Bill & Reed Walker  
Andy & Julie Walz  
Libby Warner  
John & Lucylee Whiting  
Harold & Barbara Winters  
Mark & Kathy Zehner  
Hugh Zernickow

# Naturalist's Niche

## “How Insects Survive Winter”

by Cody Porter

It seems illogical, if not impossible, to consider that organisms as miniscule as insects are capable of surviving the harsh environmental extreme that is the northern winter.

Winter sends birds south, triggers hibernation in furry, well-insulated mammals, and causes humans, arguably one of the most successful and intelligent species, to bundle up with layers of clothing and stoke roaring fires. Surely mere insects could not survive such a demanding force.

Despite the logistic challenges, insects in our area have evolved a varied slew of mechanisms and strategies to survive the bitter Michigan winter.

Listed here is only a mere fraction of these methods. See if you can find more examples as you hike the trails this winter!



Perhaps the most famous example of insects dealing with winter is the Monarch Butterfly's 2,000 mile migration to Mexico each winter. Many other insects migrate seasonally, including dragonflies and many moth and butterfly species, such as painted ladies, gulf fritillary, black cutworm, and fall



There's warmth in numbers for many insect species. Honey bees cluster together as temperatures drop, utilizing their collective body heat to keep themselves and their brood warm. Ants and termites head below the frost line, where their large numbers and stored food keep them content until spring.



Certain insects undergo a

physiological state of dormancy known as diapause. Diapause is regulated by neurohormones at a specific time of season each year which varies among species that undergo this process. Also varying between species is the stage of metamorphosis during which diapause occurs. For instance, black swallowtails spend the winter as chrysalids while mourning cloak butterflies will actually “hibernate” as adults behind loose bark or in tree cavities. The activity levels at which diapause occurs also varies significantly among species, ranging from motionless stages such as

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