Building Hours

Tues. - Fri.   9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday  10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday     Noon - 5:00 p.m.
Monday     Closed

Trails and Grounds Open
Daily 8:00 a.m. to Dusk

Paw Prints is published bi-monthly for members of the Dahlem Conservancy.

DAHLEM CONSERVANCY STAFF

Director: Tom Hodgson
Office Coordinator: Denise Bigham
Receptionist: Linda Danley
Naturalist: Carrie Benham
Weekend Clerk: Amanda Norris

THE DAHLEM CONSERVANCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Living Life Cycle Exhibit Series

Celebrating Summer Insects
On Display at Dahlem

Beautiful, Awesome, Amazing!!!

Munching, crunching, growing, transforming, or just looking impressive; these living insects of summer are on display in the visitor building.

They include the giant silk moths, cecropia (top left), promethea (top center); and the monarch butterfly (top right). Like you’ve never experienced them before!

Come feed an ant to an ant lion (bottom left), or watch the honey bees do their communication dance (bottom center), or the queen laying eggs.

Late in the summer you’ll also be able to see the super insect predator the praying mantis (bottom right). Then bring in a grasshopper or cricket and watch a food chain in action!

Visit Us This Summer and See For Yourself!!!
Search for New Director Underway

On December 31, 2004 after a failed funding election, Jackson Community College closed the Dahlem Environmental Education Center, the Michigan Space and Science Center and the Down Town Center. All that remain of the last two are memories. Thanks to the dedicated individuals who created The Dahlem Conservancy and negotiated a long term lease with JCC, the Dahlem Center is still going strong.

In January 2005, the Conservancy invited former Director Tom Hodgson out of retirement to help with the transition. He agreed to forgo retirement for two years serving as the Director of the Dahlem Center. This story has a happy ending. Or more accurately a happy beginning, because the Dahlem Center has a “new lease” on life and is doing well.

The community has shown its appreciation for the Dahlem Center’s past contributions by throwing its support behind The Conservancy as it put the Center back into operation. In 2005, the Conservancy received $130,000 in local foundation and corporate grants and $118,000 in private donations, enough to offset the financial support no longer provided by Jackson Community College and to fund several new initiatives.

Summer day camp has been restored, field trips are once again being offered, and new outreach programs have been developed to take into the schools. Public programs, offered nearly every weekend in fall, winter and spring, brought many new visitors to the Center. The buildings and grounds have a fresh new look, and the visitor center is filled with new exhibits. Membership has increased by 12%. Much has been accomplished, but much remains to be done. As Tom’s tenure comes to a close, it’s important to find new leadership that can guide the Dahlem Conservancy in the years to come.

To that end, The Conservancy has begun a national search for a new Director. In December, Tom can pass the baton to a new leader and return to retirement. He will be handing over a new and vital Dahlem Center that, with continued community support, will provide important programs and services for many years.

“I feel good about what we’ve accomplished” says Hodgson. “I encourage Dahlem members and the community to support the new director as they have supported me, so that he or she can meet with the same success.”

Program Coordinator Position to be Filled

At one time the Dahlem Center staff included, a full time Director, Program Coordinator, and Naturalist, and five part time employees. Several years before JCC closed the Center, the Naturalist position was eliminated. One of the casualties of the loss was summer day camp. In December 2004, all the remaining employees both full and part time were laid off and for a time operations ceased.

After successfully negotiating the lease with JCC, The Dahlem Conservancy’s first objective was to take over Center operations, and restore as many programs and services as possible with a limited staff and budget. One of The Conservancy’s long term goals is to restore all of the lost staff positions.

The Conservancy began operating the Center in 2005 with an interim Director and three part time employees. Now after operating for eighteen months, The Conservancy Board of Directors has a clearer picture of its finances and is ready to restore the Program Coordinator position. As with the Director search, this position will be posted nationally to take advantage of the largest possible talent pool.

This does not mean that local applicants will not be considered. Sometimes the best talent is found in our own backyard.

The search and selection process for the Program Coordinator will be timed so that the new Director will be involved in the final selection.

The existing staff members have gone above and beyond the call of duty to restore as many programs and services as possible. They were able to cover the demand for field trips while developing new outreach and weekend programs. Day camp was restored and the Center is now open more days and hours than when it was operated by JCC.

“We’ve had a lot of fun getting the Center back in operation,” says Interim Director Hodgson, “but the growth in programs and demand for services have increased so rapidly that we can no longer sustain them with the existing staff. Restoring the Program Coordinator position will make a huge difference!”

The Conservancy hopes to have the new Director on board by the end of the year and the Program Coordinator soon thereafter.

Dahlem Has New Web Site!

With the help of a grant from the Weatherwax Foundation, the Dahlem Conservancy has a new web site. The site can be reached at the following addresses, www.dahlemcenter.org, or www.dahlemconservancy.org.

It includes up to date information on all programs, special events and other services including both school and public events. Teacher packets for school programs can now be accessed on line, eliminating the need to print hard copies.

Color versions of the Paw Prints newsletter are also available on-line.

The site also includes background information about the Dahlem Center and The Dahlem Conservancy, membership information, downloadable day camp registration forms and more.

Those who visit the web site will also be able to e-mail us to get answers to specific questions. The site is designed to be easily changed and updated. New pages and information can be added at any time.

We encourage everyone to visit our web site and see for yourselves. We will be looking for new ways to use our web site and are open to suggestions from members and friends.
On April 22, we served a hot dog lunch to over 100 hard working volunteers for the Earth Day work bee. Those helping were Carrie Benham, Sharon Best, Vera Tuttle, Louise and Bernie Riggs, Allie Mae Henning, Karen Backer, Don Dutcher and Kathy Clark. Food served was donated by the Jackson Fraternal Order of Police Lodge # 70 with assistance from Shane LaPorte. Bottled water was furnished throughout the day by Polly’s.

As of this date, the Friends organization has sponsored Carrie Benham as a teaching naturalist for the rest of the year and has also helped sponsor Outdoor Adventure Day Camp in July.

The Jackson County Master Gardeners Association, along with Friends, held its annual Spring Plant Sale on May 20 from 9:00 am. To 2:00 p.m. in the pavilion on the Dahlem Center Grounds. Kathy, Louise, Vera, Karen and Dorothy helped with the Friends table.

Our annual meeting was held at 1:00 p.m. May 25, at the Dahlem Center. The door prize of a hummingbird feeder was won by Mary Payne. Members shared some good ideas for discussion and refreshments were served. The same officers were re-elected.

We appreciate the work of a special group of Master Gardeners who keep up our gardens and walkway. Friends supply money for their annuals and mulch. We have also purchased a hose carrier/storage cart for watering the gardens and solar lights for the walkway.

Downtown Development Cruise Nights are underway. Please stop downtown if you can. Charley DeGroote will be at his usual spot on the corner of Bucky Harris Park selling popcorn and cold drinks. Once a month during the summer you will find Friends volunteers helping here. We’ll be calling for 50/50 drawing help.

Kathy Clark
Charlie DeGroote
Carrie Benham
Sharon Best

Louise Riggs
Dorothy Dyer
Maria Maldonado
Jim Best
Betty Desbiens - Membership

The weather was beautiful for the plant sale and the crowds were large and enthusiastic. Proceeds go to Master Gardeners & Friends

Master Gardener President Laurie Eberts Carson presents a check for $1,181.82 to Friends President Kathy Clark for Friends share of plant sale profits. Other Master Gardeners look on.

The 2006 Spring Plant Sale, the most successful ever, netted $3,541.63 for Dahlem and the Master Gardener Program. The Friends of Dahlem received $1,181.82 as their share of the proceeds and the Master Gardener program donated another $337.66 to The Dahlem Conservancy.

Dahlem’s beautiful entrance gardens were created and are maintained through the volunteer efforts of Jackson County Master Gardener members. The gardens, which contain many hummingbird and butterfly plants, show one way to create backyard habitat that will make residential properties attractive to wildlife.

The Conservancy would like the Arboretum at Dahlem to eventually become a community demonstration area for wildlife friendly landscaping that could be duplicated in neighborhoods throughout the county. Many thanks Master Gardeners!

The Jackson County Master Gardener Association is sponsoring a summer garden tour on Saturday July 8 from 9:00 am. to 2:00 p.m. The tour features some of the areas best private gardens.

The gardens on the tour and their owners are Carol Dingman 1327 Warren, Dolores Ray 604 S. Higby, Mark Snyder 3333 Vrooman Rd., Lee Tingley 4860 Sequoia, and Don and Marie White 9575 Hanover.

Also featured on the tour will be “The Natalie Emmons Memorial Children’s Garden” at the Dahlem Center. This Dahlem Garden was developed and is maintained as a public service by the Jackson County Master Gardener Association.

Admission for the tour is $10.00 per person. Tickets will be sold at each location. The proceeds will be used to enhance Jackson County Master Gardener Association sponsored community gardens including those at Dahlem.

For additional information call Laurie Eberts Carson at 517-629-7225.
Hanover Horton fifth graders turned recycled bowling balls into beautiful “gazing balls” that make excellent garden accents.

Finding Your Way is now Much Easier

Ever get lost along the five miles of trails in the Dahlem Center’s natural area? Some visitors have! Now each trail intersection is equipped with a map with a “You are here” arrow to show you exactly where you are and how your location relates to the rest of the trail system. Now all visitors can walk the trails with confidence.

New trail intersection maps like the one above make it easy to navigate Dahlem’s five miles of trails.

Hand Made Crafts Donated to Friends

Mrs. Janice Wetters’ fifth grade class at Hanover Horton Elementary, under the direction of art teacher Scott Marvin and Mrs. Taimi Demeuse, created hand decorated gazing balls which they donated to Friends of Dahlem for the Spring Plant Sale. Thanks to all who participated in creating these fascinating garden ornaments.

Last Chance For Day Camp!

July 10-14
For Children Entering 1st thru 6th grades
$75/member child
$90/non-member child
Just a few openings left
Call 517-782-3453

Bug Nannies Needed Again

The cecropia exhibit has been a big success. We still have a few adults that have not emerged. The exhibit will soon be replaced by one that features growing cecropia and promethea caterpillars.

We will need bug nannies again this summer to raise the caterpillars for next year’s exhibit. We will supply the instructions if you will provide the time. Bug nannies will bring the cocoons in at the end of the summer and we will store them for next year.

Interested? Call the center at 782-3453
Save a Bunch at Nutshell Summer Clearance Sale!

Selected Items reduced up to 75% to make room for new inventory!

**Thanks to the Following for Their Generous Donations:**

In Memory of Rosemarie Herbert
Betty Desbiens

In Memory of Jean Preston Edison
Robert & Jane Damm

In Memory of Richard Bennett
Kim & Valerie Kennedy

In Memory of Robert Preston
DeWayne Baxter
Lucille Damm
Diane Gosin
Marguerite Damm
Ervin & Clara Haase
Glema Hochstetler
Patricia & Don Scouten
Russell & Virginia Smith
Dorothy Waddicar

In Memory of Gracia Smith
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Anderson
Neil, Laurie, Sam & Alexandra Arvy
Carlyle & Mary Bishop
Friends from the Boos Senior Center
Texie Gibson
Madelin Farrell Gifford

In Memory of Gracia Smith (cont’d)

Sally Hulcher
Elizabeth Jones
Mike & Sandra Kerwin
Sheldon & Jean Laughlin
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Lewis
Edward Peterson
Jill Rieman
Donna & John St. Andre
Ford & Laura Topping
Charlene, Aunt Chuck, Loretta & Michael
Marsha Young and Families

Sandra Rentschler
Sandra Richards
Gloria Stevens
Sonia Sutch
Susan & Dale Sylvester
The Garden Lovers
Virginia Thompson
Erma Turner
J. Stanley & Frances Weaver
Richard Wetzel
James Winter

Raccoon Ramblers
Trim Trails Twice Monthly

If you enjoy light trail work and good company, you'll want to join the Raccoon Ramblers from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

Their duties include removing small branches from trail surfaces, trimming low hanging branches from shrubs and small trees and picking up litter.

They also report large trees or limbs blocking trails to be removed later by “The Chain Saw Gang.” For more info call Dahlem at 782-3453.


**Member’s Corner**

**We Would Like to Welcome**

**The Following New Members**

Larry & Cheryl Baker
Ray & Sarah Clark
Brian & Lisa Cornell
Colleen Bailey
Marge & Bob Berry
Brian Brockie
Todd & Wendy Diefenthaler
Kay Fill
The Garden Lovers/
Stephen Syrjamaki
Ann Holeso
Nancy Jennings
Evelyn Leonard
Lisa Magon
Harold Miller
Ray & Lisa Pape & Family
Michael & Cindi Pedersen
Shirley & Lloyd Preston
Kenny Price
Angie Ruger
Jeanene & Lance Satterthwaite
Chris & Dianne Scheele
Michael Schilling
Cathy & Jerry Sykes
Jeff & Angela Taylor
Mark & Lorrie Taylor
Virginia Thompson

Newen & Suzy Turpel
Mrs. Gene S. Wandel
John & Andrea Weaver
Richard Wetzel

**Thanks to the following for renewing their memberships**

Barbara Anderson
Beverly & Michael Avery & Family
Tim & Denise Bigham
M. Dean Borton
Isabelle Brown
Shirley Chu
Donald & Betty Depew
Bill Flannery
Alf & Connie Granholm
David & Natalie Halsey
Margaret & Lee Hausler
Mary Lou Hayes
Dr. Gedy Helmer
Janell Houser
Patrick Hoxie
Arlene Kampmueller
Kim & Valerie Kennedy
Dorothy Kerr
Blaine Lyle
Mary Lienhart
Colvin & Kristine Matthews
Linda McMillin
Philip & Karen Moilanen
Charles & Christina Murphy
Nancy Parzych
William & Barbara Rafaill

Virginia Ritsema
Sandra Rentschler
Sandra Richards
Ione Rutledge
Jerrold Schrotenboer & Karen Lewthwaite
Jim & Janet Sexton
Jean Shappee
Kenneth Smith Family
Robert Snyder Jr.
Gloria Stevens
John & Pat Stover
Tina Stuart & Family
Sonia Sutch
Dale & Susan Sylvester
Laurie & Mark Tankersley
Chet & Jill Taraskiewicz
Erma Turner
Ila Wandtke
Sharon Watters
J. Stanley & Frances Weaver
Gary & Elizabeth Williams
Beverly Wilson
James Winter
Marlene & David Zwitter

Newen & Suzy Turpel
Mrs. Gene S. Wandel
John & Andrea Weaver
Richard Wetzel