



# Paw Prints



VOLUME 33, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2011

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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### From the Executive Director

## A Year in Review

Thank you for your membership and support of The Dahlem Conservancy. Through your generosity of time, talent and resources, Dahlem had a great year in 2010. In addition to the accomplishments detailed with photos on pages 2 and 3. We are also happy to report:

- Membership grew to 935 and we haven't been this high since 1993.
- School Program attendance grew to 5841.
- Walk-in attendance grew to 8208.
- The Birds, Blooms, and Butterflies Festival had great attendance despite inclement weather.
- Because of past demand, the "Night of the Amphibians" was expanded to 2 nights.
- Began a focused effort to document the plant and animal species present at Dahlem.
- Jackson Public Schools sent summer school students out to Dahlem for a second year.



- Ten new schools attained Green School status because of the partnership with Recycling Jackson and the efforts of our Green Schools Facilitator, which forged new relationships in the school systems.
- In addition to all of the financial support that individuals and businesses gave, we were blessed to receive major unrestricted or project contributions from: The Hurst Foundation, The James A. and Faith Knight Foundation, The Dorothy Blakely Foundation, The Bill and Vi Sigmund Foundation, The Consumers Energy Foundation, The Comerica Charitable Foundation, The Detter Family Foundation, an Anonymous Trust, Friends of Dahlem, Men's Garden Club, Master Gardeners, the Jackson Garden Club, the Jackson Audubon Society, the 100+ Women Who Care and the Jackson Junior Welfare League.

# 2010—The Year In Review

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

## THE DAHLEM CONSERVANCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** *Bob Grover*  
**V. President:** *Myrna Berlet-Dutcher*  
**Treasurer:** *Gary Krupa*  
**Secretary:** *Kelley Emerson*

### Trustees

*Kathleen Clark*      *Victor Marshall*  
*Betty Desbiens*      *Rod Melling*  
*Todd Emmons*      *Andy Walz*  
*Bill Sonnett*  
*Steve Patch*  
*John McLaughlin Jr.*  
*Samuel Barnes - JCC Representative*

## THE DAHLEM CONSERVANCY STAFF

**Executive Director:** *Brad Whaley\**  
**Education Director:** *Ellen Rathbone\**  
**Office Coordinator:** *Denise Bigham*  
**Receptionist:** *Linda Danley*  
**Naturalist:** *Carrie Benham*  
**Naturalist:** *Gary Siegrist*  
**Maintenance:** *Mark Snedeker*  
**Maintenance Assistant:** *Dennis Morton*  
**Development Coordinator:** *Rebecca Mehall*  
**Weekend Manager:** *Mark Snedeker*  
**Green Schools Facilitator:** *Jill Butterfield*  
**Ecology Farm Coordinator:** *Chris Gancsos*  
**Ecology Farm Educator:** *Lisa Brown*  
**Communications Specialist:** *Anne Noble*

### 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

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



Through the year, 15 people learned about beekeeping at the Ecology Farm's classes.



Our Tuesday Hike group expanded and spun off some volunteer work groups.



At our Benefit Breakfast, generous donors contributed over \$87,000!



The Dahlem Ecology Farm gardeners got their hands dirty!



We tagged and released over 200 monarch butterflies.



The fruits of their labor...

# 2010—The Year In Review



Two hundred children (a new high) enjoyed Outdoor Adventure Camp.



Through a DNRE grant, we intensified our efforts at protecting sensitive species by removing invasive threats.



Our land trust efforts culminated in a Conservation Easement with Dr. Bruce and Kathi Bigelow.



The Goblin Walks saw a record attendance of 585, shattering the previous high of 423.

The Dahlem Book Club  
February 16 at 3:00 p.m. at The Dahlem Center

New members are always welcome!  
For more information, call 517.782.3453  
February is Reader's Choice!  
Select a nature or environmental book of your choice.  
Read and share with the group.



**Support Dahlem as  
a volunteer!**

Call 517.782.3453 for more  
information

Free to  
Big Brothers  
Big Sisters  
With I.D.

## February/March 2011 Public Programming

Free to  
Big Brothers  
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### Reptile Program 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, February 6

The always popular Paul McCormack will share his eclectic collection of live cold-blooded reptiles with audiences of all ages. Come see turtles, snakes, and lizards from Michigan and around the world! Learn about what makes these species so special! Space is limited to allow for better viewing.

### Peru! Peru! 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 12

Ever since she was a child, our Education Director, Ellen Rathbone, dreamed about visiting Peru. In the winter of 2000 her dream came true and she joined a group of naturalists for a tour of that country. See images of long hanging nests, giant lily pads, piranha, tropical plants and poison dart frogs as Ellen shares with us the first leg of her journey, through the Amazon rainforest.



### Garden Design & Seed Starting, 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 13

Join Dahlem's Ecology Farm Educator Lisa Brown for the second community gardening workshop of the year. Lisa will discuss many aspects of garden design including layout, plant rotation, companion planting, seed starting, planting for pollinators, pest control, and much more. Contact the Dahlem Center for any questions.

### Guided Nature Hikes: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Every 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 you simply enjoy a stroll outdoors, all are welcome. Please wear appropriate outdoor attire and hiking shoes. Binoculars suggested but not required.



### Moonlight Skiing: 7:00 p.m. Saturday, February 19

Don't miss it! Moonlight skiing on Dahlem's trails with Jim Seitz. It's a whole different world on the Dahlem trails at night and Jim and his wife, Jan, will be your guides on this cross country ski adventure. Binoculars suggested but not required. The route is a little over 2.5 miles — bring your skis and dress for the weather!

### Winter Wildlife Signs, 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 26

The best thing about winter is discovering how much wildlife activity is around us. Dress warmly and be ready to explore our property, on trails and off, as we search for all kinds of winter wildlife signs with Dahlem's new Education Director Ellen Rathbone.



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 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:*

 **Michigan Automotive Compressor, Inc.**

Free to  
Big Brothers  
Big Sisters  
With I.D.

## February/March 2011 Public Programming

Free to  
Big Brothers  
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### North American Waterfowl ID Program 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 6

How well do you know your waterfowl? Waterfowl migration is just approaching its peak for the Jackson area, so what better time to hone your waterfowl identification skills! Naturalist Gary Siegrist will guide you in identifying and appreciating the diverse species of waterfowl during his informative presentation for all levels of interest. Don't miss it!



### Wild Types—Native Plant Program 2:00 p.m. Saturday, March 12

What is a native plant species? Join Wild Types Native Plant Nursery owner Bill Schneider as he defines the native plant species we have locally and what can be best practices for incorporating them in our landscaping and gardening. In this presentation, participants will learn that native plant species can be an added component and not the enemy!

### Backyard Composting and Vermiculture 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 13

Join Jesse Raudenbush from Starr Valley Farms for the third community gardening workshop of the year; Backyard Composting and Vermiculture. Jesse will explain various methods of do-it-yourself composting and share information on the process, benefits, common problems, and materials required for healthy compost. The workshop will also include a brief introduction to vermiculture. Contact us if you have any questions.



### Maple Sugaring Program 12:00 p.m. Saturday, March 19

Come see the sugaring process step-by-step, with hands-on activities for all ages. Guided walks begin every twenty minutes. Hike to the sugar bush, try your hand at tapping, and see sap being converted to syrup. Maple sugar candy and syrup will be for sale in the Gift Shop. We'll be outside for the tour, so please dress for the weather. Call ahead to register for a time slot—tours start every 20 minutes, with the last tour at 2:00 p.m.

### Birdscaping Your Back Yard 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 17

Join naturalist Gary Siegrist for an in-depth program on how to turn your grassy expanse into a backyard haven for finches, cardinals, titmice and more. You'll learn which plants and shrubs provide the best food and shelter, the importance of water, and how to maximize your viewing pleasure.



## Tap Into Some Fun!

### Help Needed for Maple Sugaring Program

#### Maple Sugaring Program Volunteer Training

Thursday, February 17 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

March is ideal for sharing the art and science of maple sugaring with elementary and pre-school students. Anyone and everyone interested in volunteering is welcome to attend! Meet the other enthusiastic volunteers and learn a wealth of information. We'll set up the equipment, fire up the evaporator, and familiarize you with our unique Sugar Bush Tour. Students and parents love this early spring program. You will too! Join us in sharing a sweet experience!

For more information, please call (517) 782-3453.



# Michigan Green Schools Initiative Deadline is March 1



Michigan Green Schools is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to assisting all Michigan public and private schools in achieving environmental goals. A green school, also known as a high performance school, is a community facility that is designed, built, renovated, operated, or used in an ecological and resource-efficient manner. Participating schools achieving at least 10 out of 20 points achieve green school status, 15 points earns an emerald status and a school meeting all 20 points is awarded evergreen status.

Last year 21 schools in Jackson County achieved green status or better! This year the application process has been changed. Due to each school's unique setting, available resources, specialized leaders and other gifts and challenges, the school may create its own program to qualify for points. For example, Springport High School has a location that lends itself to agricultural education. Their school has a greenhouse where the students grow vegetables. The heat produced for the greenhouse is from a corn burner and they purchased the corn from local farmers. The students were able to purchase the vegetables in the student farm market. They also used manure from local farms as fertilizer to eliminate the need for chemical fertilizer.

The application period for this year runs from is January 1 to March 1. Upon online submission, a "green team" from Dahlem and the Jackson County Intermediate School District will evaluate each school's points to determine which level of green the school will be awarded. The school will be given a flag if it is a new school, or a pennant if it is a returning school, at an awards ceremony in late spring and will be featured in an article in the Jackson Citizen Patriot. Go Green!

## Friends Fundraiser

**Bright Blue, Opaque Recycled Trash Bags — 30" by 36" - 30 Gallon—100 per box**  
**\$25 (with \$10 tax deductible) At the Nutshell Gift Shop**



### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**The Great Backyard Bird Count**  
[www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc)

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

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

## Upcoming Community Events

### The Great Backyard Bird Count

Friday, February 18 to  
 Monday, February 21

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event for bird watchers of all ages to count birds and create a real-time snapshot of where birds are. Anyone can participate for 15 minutes or as long as you like. Go to the GBBC website (at left) for details.

### Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

Sunday, February 13  
 Proud Lake Hike

Enjoy a moderately paced, 5-mile hike through forest, wetland and riverside habitats. Hike goes whatever the weather, so dress accordingly. From I-96, exit 159, follow Wixom Rd. N. 7 miles, follow park signs to trailhead parking lot. Call Tom Griebe, 248.349.8782

### Jackson Audubon Society Waterfowl Trip In the Jackson Area

Saturday, March 19

The trip will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet at the eastside Meijer parking lot. Parking is limited at the lakes, so carpooling is necessary. Call Don Henise at 517.795.7752 for more information.

**Thank You For Your Generous Donations**

(12/17/10 - 1/14/11)

- |                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Charles & Dana Aymond          | Jerome & Veronica Nelson            |
| Robert & Evelyn Barbour        | Steve & Anne Noble                  |
| Richard & Jacqueline Barczak   | Byron & Thelma Peek                 |
| Myrna Berlet                   | Cheryl Roe                          |
| Peter & Jackie Blake           | James & Pam Rossman                 |
| Margaret Bradley               | Dorothy Schultz                     |
| Ann Clark                      | Lynwood Seamans                     |
| Comerica Charitable Foundation | Donna Shiley                        |
| Consumers Energy Foundation    | Irene & William Sonnett             |
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| Diana Ebinger                  | Ron & Anita Whaley                  |
| Daryl & Linda Frederick        | Joanne Wilkie                       |
| James & Lori Grace             |                                     |
| Edward & Helen Greene          | Betty Desbiens                      |
| Jonathan Hoover                | <i>In memory of Deborah</i>         |
| Lola Howell                    | <i>Dahlem Kaspar</i>                |
| Hurst Foundation               | Judy Dahlem Lancaster               |
| Jackson Audubon Society        | <i>In memory of Deborah</i>         |
| Jackson Garden Club            | <i>Dahlem Kaspar</i>                |
| Roy & Lois Kelly               | Frank Jamieson                      |
| Mickey Kress                   | <i>In memory of Margaret</i>        |
| Dale Kurtz                     | <i>Dahlem</i>                       |
| John Lane                      | David Knight                        |
| Jack & Nancy Lapinski          | <i>In honor of Kimberly May</i>     |
| Karen Marsack                  | Mickey & Connie Kress               |
| Clyde & Laurel Mauldin         | <i>To recognize Gary Stegrist's</i> |
| Charles McClafferty            | <i>nature tours</i>                 |
| John & Catherine McLaughlin    | Doug & Sandy Leffler                |
| Kirk & Marty Mercer            |                                     |
| Moore Pediatrics & Associates  |                                     |
| Richard & Abby Mortensen       |                                     |
| Judith & Timothy Murray        |                                     |
| Nancy Naylor                   |                                     |

**Thank You for Renewing Your Membership!**

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| William Abbott                | Eileen Lehnert & Dave Spalding |
| Anita Allen                   | Graham Lewis                   |
| James & Helga Austin          | Bev & Ted Magee                |
| Mr. & Mrs. Charles Aymond     | Kirk & Kerrie Manders          |
| Mary Baird                    | Karen Marsack                  |
| Carrie & Steve Benham         | Vic & Gretchen Marshall        |
| Sally & Jack Bunce            | Dr. Ed & Jeanine Mathein       |
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| Kelly Gretz                   | Sandhill Crane Vineyards       |
| Dennis & Karen Hackett        | Edward Scott                   |
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| Robert Harkness               | Sherman & Norma Smith          |
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| Donna & Jon Lake              | Scott & Cindy Weaver           |
| Les & Eleanore Langford       | Richard & Katherine White      |
| Jack & Nancy Lapinski         | Ruth Wing                      |
| Jim Lefere                    | John & Phyllis Woodruff        |

**Welcome New Members!**



- Carroll & Joyce Bush  
 Rita Hitchner  
 Heidi Hollenbeck  
 Byron & Thelma Peek  
 Ken & Peg Stapleton



**Cross Country Ski  
 At The Dahlem  
 Conservancy  
 This Winter!**

Call 517.782.3453  
 to find out more!

**Local Organization Earns Statewide Honor**

The Michigan Association of Conservation Districts selected the Grand River Environmental Action Team, or GREAT, as its 2010 "Friend of Conservation." Every year an individual or organization somewhere in Michigan is chosen to receive this award—and this year the recipient was right here in Jackson County!

The "Friend of Conservation" honor is based upon demonstrated contributions to improving the public's understanding of natural resources conservation, partnering with a local Conservation District on resource management projects, and furthering the mission of Michigan's Conservation Districts to help our citizens conserve their lands and our State's resources by working for a cleaner, healthier, and economically stronger Michigan.

## *News from the Friends of Dahlem*

We pause to say thanks...

- ◆ Congratulations and thanks to 97 folks who baked and participated in the Holiday Bazaar. We had the best assortment of baked goods ever! You were awesome !
- ◆ The Friends Poinsettia sale was chaired by Mary White. We sold 225 plants. Both activities provide salary for our part time naturalist, Carrie Benham and funds for Dahlem educational programs and the Dahlem Ecology Farm.
- ◆ We thank the membership, staff and board of the Dahlem Conservancy for support of our fundraisers.
- ◆ February's Valentine Tea will have us stuffing and stamping envelopes for our next activity. This special tea is done every two years. Get your tea cups ready.
- ◆ The Dahlem Center membership and the Friends board of directors appreciate all the support given to us.

## **Cut and Dab Society Strikes Again...and Again**



Join the ranks of our army against nature's non-native invasive plant species that grow here at the Center. Working with a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Cut and Dab Society is reclaiming area along the Glacial Pond and north and west of the prairie. We are concentrating our efforts here because it's critical Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat. This snake has "Special Concern" status in Michigan, which means any wildlife species that may become a "threatened or endangered" species in the future. Workdays are Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon and will run throughout the winter. Questions? Contact Naturalist Gary Siegrist.

Return Service Requested

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

Jackson, MI 49201

7117 S. Jackson Rd.

The Dahlem Conservancy

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