



HIKING MICHIGAN

OUTDOORS FOR EVERYONE

HIKINGMICHIGAN.com

The dictionary defines hiking as:

"An extended walk for pleasure and health".

ISSUE #47. PAGE 1.

WHAT'S THE LATEST

Lots of milestones for Hiking Michigan in 2012. We could have taken more advantage of many of them, if my personal health had not gone to Venus, but that's OK, Mom Nature is not going anywhere, and the wonderful people that make up Hiking Michigan will remain wonderful. :-)

Our Outdoor NewsLetter reached a new readership level, by crossing the 18,000 downloads line with our last issue. Just AMAZING! We are hoping that this 47th issue will exceed 30,000 readers, since we are distributing this particular issue across the entire state.

As well as having the NewsLetter online and downloadable from there, we are printing up about 2,000 copies to be left at various Outdoor stores, and local Outdoor Vendors through out the state. Not sure where this will go. We may end up with a permanent printed Magazine, as well as the web site/online version. This remains to be seen. This 47th issue just happens to be a Bird jammed issue. Many articles & Bird pictures.

There will be many changes over the Winter months here at Hiking Michigan. We will of course continue with our scheduled Hikes, Snow shoeing and Winter activities for both the S.E.MI. club, and with the new North/Central group as well. Look for many new happenings

TRAILS REPORT

HIKING TRAILS NEED WORK

Trails quality and maintenance varies all over the place, from Park to Park. Some of the trails are in great shape, having gotten a good clean-up from various Volunteer groups. Others are in desperate need of some work. There are some trails that have completely vanished, due to the total lack of maintenance. This is primarily in our State Parks. I will tell you why in an article later in this addition. The Metro Parks and most of the County Parks have been well maintained and are in great shape. No matter what the Trails conditions, Fall is a wonderful season in Michigan.



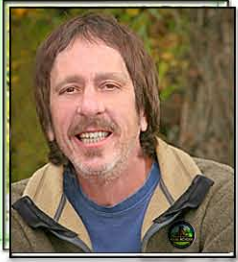
"FALL SUNSET"

ALL ABOUT BIRDS - MICHIGAN

This bird identification gallery is being developed to help our web site visitors identify and learn more about birds that can be seen in Michigan. Species are grouped by taxonomy. By simply clicking on a group name you will see all the individual species within that group. Next, to get a full description of the bird, click on its name and a new window will open. This is the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "All About Birds" page. It contains a full description of each species including behavior, habitat, vocals and other interesting facts.



[HTTP://WWW.ALLABOUTBIRDS.ORG/GUIDE/SEARCH](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search)



I SAW IT ON THE TRAIL

BY: **Rob Golda** - HIKING MICHIGAN

The Woodchuck (*Marmota monax*), or Groundhog, is one of the best known wild mammals in the N.E. USA, but few realize this rodent is a member of the Squirrel Family. When North America was first settled, woodchucks were relatively scarce, but as timbered areas were opened and woodland edge, fence rows and meadows increased, the woodchuck's range expanded.

Woodchucks prefer to live along the edges where timbered areas are bordered by open land or along fence rows and heavily vegetated gullies or stream banks. Here they dig their burrows. The main entrance is often located beneath a tree stump or rock and is usually conspicuous because of a pile of freshly excavated earth and stones. Side entrances are smaller and better concealed. The tunnels lead to an enlarged chamber, 3-6 feet underground, which contains the nest.

By the end of October, most woodchucks are curled up in a profound sleep in their underground nest. So deep is this sleep that even if an animal is warmed up, it requires several hours to awaken. The woodchuck is almost a complete vegetarian, eating leaves, flowers and soft stems of various grasses, of field crops such as clover and alfalfa, and of many kinds of wild herbs. Certain garden crops like peas, beans and corn are favorites. Chucks occasionally climb trees to obtain apples and pawpaws which they relish.

The breeding season begins in mid-February soon after the animals emerge from hibernation. Pregnancy lasts 31-33 days and the single, annual litter is born toward the end of March. At birth, the two to nine young are naked, blind and helpless. They measure about four inches long. The eyes open when the young are about 4 weeks old; although the kits come to the opening of the burrow at this time, they seldom venture outside until 6 or 7 weeks old. By midsummer, the young are 20 inches long and weigh about four pounds. About this time, they may dig temporary burrows near the nursery which they use for a short period. Later, they move some distance away and establish their own homes.

The role of the woodchuck as a builder of homes for other animals is significant; because of this, the woodchuck occupies an important niche in the wildlife community. Skunks, foxes, weasels, opossums and rabbits all use woodchuck burrows for their dens.



DETAILS:

Size: 16 - 20 inches long, not including a six inch tail

Weight: between 6 - 14 pounds.



Full grown Adult Woodchuck (Groundhog)



Typical Woodchuck Burrow

I SAW IT ~~ON THE TRAIL~~ IN MY BACKYARD

BY: **Chris Harbowy** - HIKING MICHIGAN



Nature lovers are always on the lookout for new discoveries. As you know, hikes are a great place to experience nature and see wildlife. However, your own backyard can also be an interesting source of nature, especially if you pay close attention.

I live in a subdivision in the small Village of Holly where the homes are packed tightly together. The village is surrounded by wooded countryside, so over the years I've experienced more wildlife than I did when I lived in Royal Oak. Consequently, those living a rural lifestyle will have a greater variety of wildlife experiences.

I've been very happy with the birding at my house. I recommend using shelled peanuts in your feeder. You'll attract a more varied assortment of birds. Here are some of the more interesting birds I've seen at or near my bird feeder.

*The wildlife at my house is not limited to birds.
The following animals have stopped by for a visit:*

BACKYARD WILDLIFE:

Red Squirrel
Fox Squirrel
Mole
Groundhog
Opossum
Raccoon
Skunk
Shrew
Rabbit
Field Mouse
Baby snapping turtle
Toad
Frog



Red bellied Woodpecker

BIRD FEEDER BIRDS:

White Breasted Nuthatch
Tufted Titmouse
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Cooper's Hawk
Cowbird
Grackle
Red-Winged Blackbird
Mallard Duck
Black Duck
Crow
Cardinal
Hummingbird
Red Bellied Woodpecker
Screech Owl



Opossum in a Live Trap



*Immature Red Squirrel
on my window sill*



*Mallard Ducks
and Fox Squirrel*

I SAW ~~IT ON THE TRAIL~~ IN MY BACKYARD

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CONTINUED



BY: **Chris Harbowy** - HIKING MICHIGAN

I hope that this article sparks some interest in the home nature experience. Please contribute your comments below and let me know what interesting things you've seen in your yard.

*Here's where paying close attention pays off.
The following insects have been spotted at my residence:*

Luna Moth on my fence



BACKYARD INSECTS:

Luna Moth
Eastern Dobsonfly
Emerald Ash Borer
Polyphemus Moth
Katydid

Some other aspects of nature have surprised me including:

BACKYARD SURPRISES:

Morel Mushrooms
Crocus Flowers



Eastern Dobsen Fly on my electrical junction box outside



Polyphemus Moth on my driveway

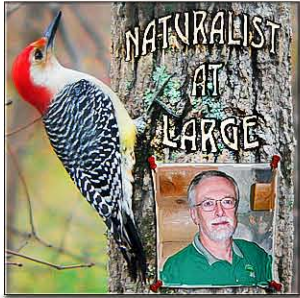


*Unidentified Moth on my Garage door
Do you know this Moth?*



NATURALIST AT LARGE

ISSUE #47. PAGE 5.



Dan Farmer is a long-time Michigan Naturalist with a wide ranging interest in nature, heritage, and outdoor topics. He is currently the Naturalist for Shelby Township Michigan at Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center, in River Bends Park. He has served as naturalist at several nature centers in southeastern Michigan, taught graduate classes at Wayne State University, and done program presentations and consulting throughout the region. Dan specializes in plant and animal identification with a particular interest in insects and spiders.

FALL COLORS and GALLS

BY: **Dan Farmer**

NATURALIST at the
BURGESS-SHADBUSH Center

Fall Colors

It seems impossible that fall is upon us again. One of the truly great things about fall in Michigan is the amazing color that plants provide. There is a widely believed myth that rainy weather produces great color. It does not. Color is produced when sugars are produced in leaves on sunny days and the green chlorophyll begins to decay. Other pigment levels increase and become dominant. Cool nights, acidity, and other factors affect the colors that we see. Damp days simply make the leaves shiny and more vibrant. Different plants reach their peak colors at different times depending on the yearly weather.

Later August and early September are great times to look for the very colorful Poison Sumac in swampy areas. The leaves of this sometimes troublesome plant turn a beautiful coppery red and make the plants stand out like they were labeled. Don't pick them for a leaf collection as the rash causing urushiol is still present in leaves, stems, and roots. The same goes for Poison Ivy, which turns a rather odd pink color. It is likely that a few leaf collections are submitted by students with an unexplained itchy rash.

It is said that the leaves of some plants turn to red to attract birds to their less than tasty berries. Maybe it is true in the natural world as well as the human world that the poorer the product the more advertising is needed to make a sale. I always notice the deep red color of the leaves of the vining Virginia Creeper with its blue-black berries (which resemble wild grapes but contain toxins). The similarly fruited wild grapes produce wonderfully sweet berry-like fruits (after frosts) but their leaves gradually turn a dull yellow. Wild grapes are eaten by more species of birds and mammals than any other Michigan fruit.





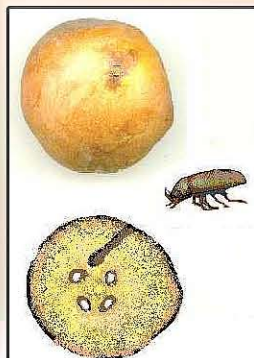
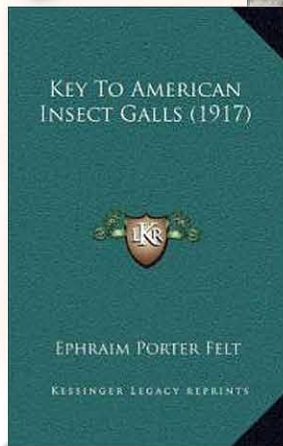
Galls

Fall is also a good time to look for galls. Galls are odd growths that can occur on about any part of a host plant depending on the species. Galls are often caused by insects, the animal "hi-jacks" the plant by chemically inducing it to grow an odd structure which becomes a food supply and a protective shelter for the developing insect larva. Leaves that fall often are more accessible to the gall seeker. After leaves fall twig and stem galls are easier to see as well. Recently I found a great work about galls for sale on-line. Titled Key to American Insect Galls by Ephraim Felt, this work was published in 1917!

From time to time I will try to include some pictures of galls you can watch for. In the mean time be sure to check out oak trees. With the abundance of Michigan oak species and with their proclivity to host gall makers, you are likely to have some success when you examine them. For identification you can check some on-line web sites. I have not found a site that is terribly complete, but if you do let me know at farmerd@shelbytwp.org. To get you started see if you can find an oak apple gall. These are green, walnut-sized galls that by mid-summer turn brown in Southern Michigan. I found them on a Red Oak or Red-Black Hybrid Oak. They are caused by a wasp and have been used in past times in the production of ink.

I wish you happy hiking and nature watching.

See you soon,
Dan Farmer



EDITOR NOTE: We very appreciate the informative and wonderful articles from naturalist, Dan Farmer. His expertise & many years of experience in and around natural things makes him a treasure trove of valuable information for all of us. Read more soon from Dan on his Blog at: <http://naturalistatlarge.wordpress.com/>



EDITOR EDITORIALS

INVASIVE SPECIES
MICHIGAN'S
BIGGEST NIGHTMARE

Rob Golda

This is the one place in the Newsletter, website and other Internet connections, where I get a chance to just say what I want to say. It is my opinion and does not reflect the opinions of Hiking Michigan or its members. This particular months Editorials are strong opinions, but the subject matter needs strong actions quickly to save what we still have here in Michigan.

We have an agency in our beautiful state of Michigan, that we pay for, to watch after our Natural Resources. This agency is supposed to not only take care of our healthy ecosystems and waterways, but it is there to watch after these things and keep them healthy and flourishing for now and future generations. The agency even has the name of just what it is suppose to be doing and looking after....the Department of Natural Resources.

But we have a critical problem in Michigan. INVADERS. Invasive Species who have infiltrated our lands and waters. Many do not have any enemies, so they flourish unchecked on our state lands and in our lakes and rivers. Most have been left completely unchecked and dealt with by anyone other than concerned Volunteer citizens and outdoor groups. Why are the only people that are battling the biggest problems we have to our Natural Resources in Michigan, Volunteers? Would you not believe that this severe problem of Invasive Species, be best handled by a state agency we foot the bills on and was created to fight matters such as these. Our DNR?

Yes.....the DNR is involved in Invasive Species control. They have ONE Steward DNR Ranger, who handles more than 12 Parks in S.E.MI. alone. ONE

Ranger! There are NO regular maintenance programs at any Park to regularly battle this war which is at such a critical stage. You cannot even find listed funding in the DNR budget that addresses Invasive Species. yet it is the biggest problem that faces our states healthy Ecosystems. Why is this?

Almost 2 years ago, the people of Michigan showed an overwhelming support for our Natural Resources, Parks and waterways, by supporting the new PASSPORT sticker program. In fact.....we the people showed such a strong support for this, we exceeded the needed revenues by over 34%. That's right.....not only did our DNR collect enough money from the PASSPORT system to maintain our Parks & Waterways according to their own budget needs, but they exceeded the funds needed by over 34%. So tell me.....why is the biggest problem facing a healthy ecosystem and quality Natural Resources in our state, not being addressed? It certainly is not from a lack of funds. So what is it? Incompetence Lack of Caring? Misguided focus?

Poor focus from DNR management like the A.D.D. attention to Linear Bike PATHWAYS through out the state, is at the root of this problem. Will the DNR finally see what their real jobs are when the state is one big Mono culture of Invasive Species and Amusement Parks?

These are my personal opinions and do not reflect anything other than that. Rob Golda

MY APOLOGIZES

I would like to share my deepest apologizes, for leading all of you down a Path that I was fooled about myself. I was convinced that the new PASSPORT Parks sticker program would be the solution to finally bringing in steady, needed funding for our Parks, Waterways and Natural Resources in Michigan. I was convinced while speaking with various DNR officials, that this would produce the funds needed to maintain our DNR and get our Natural Resources healthy once again. That if the PASSPORT system really worked well, that the funding would be enough to not only keep our Ecosystems healthy and strong for future generations, but it would be enough to finally rebuild our infrastructure that had been abandoned for more than 15 years by the lack of proper funding from our state Legislators.

It was all a lie. I was fooled completely. The PASSPORT system was a big success. In fact....the people of the state of Michigan stood strong and exceeded the needed funding, by more than 34%. yet almost nothing has been done by our DNR with the rebuilding of our Parks and Waterways infrastructures, or with Invasive species control and Trails repairs and maintenance. Instead.....much of the PASSPORT moneys have gone on hair brain Parks & Recreation notions of connecting every Park and small town in our state, together, with Linear Bike PATHWAYS. Now the DNR is telling us they need more money. Money to gain control of Detroit's Belle Isle, and to build an ADVENTURE Center in Detroit, and to resurface Tennis courts in seasonal towns. Towns that are a part of the Linear Bike PATHWAYS system. I apologizes for being such a Fool and letting these fake DNR officials, convince me that their goals where genuine and honest. I then told as many people as I could, through Hiking Michigan, that the PASSPORT sticker was a good thing. It is not. It only finances the insane agendas of a few power hungry DNR officials. Most of which should be removed. I am so very Sorry.

Fun tips FROM HAPPY CAMPERS

I get all types of Tips, Tricks and helpful suggestions, from our over 6,000 Hiking Michigan members. One of the most popular "Happy Campers" sheet, has been the one on PEROXIDE and it's many uses. Bet you never thought this item should even be included in your Pack and survival Kit?

PEROXIDE



This is what "Oxi-Clean" is mostly made of (3% peroxide).....did you know that????

This was written by Becky Ransey of Indiana. I would like to tell you of the benefits of that plain little old bottle of 3% peroxide you can get for under \$1.00 at any drug store.

My husband has been in the medical field for over 36 years, and most doctors don't tell you about peroxide, or they would lose thousands of dollars.

1. Take one capful (the little white cap that comes with the bottle) and hold in your mouth for 10 minutes daily, then spit it out. (I do it when I bat he)

No more canker sores and your teeth will be whiter without expensive pastes. Use it instead of mouthwash. (Small print says mouth wash and gargle right on the bottle)

2. Let your toothbrushes soak in a cup of 'Peroxide' to keep them free of germs.

3. Clean your counters, table tops with peroxide to kill germs and leave a fresh smell. Simply put a little on your dishrag when you wipe, or spray it on the counters.

4. After rinsing off your wooden cutting board, pour peroxide on it to kill salmonella and other bacteria.

5. I had fungus on my feet for years - until I sprayed a 50/50 mixture of peroxide and water on them (especially the toes) every night and let dry.

6. Soak any infections or cuts in 3% peroxide for five to ten minutes several times a day. My husband has seen gangrene that would not heal with any medicine, but was healed by soaking in peroxide.

7. Fill a spray bottle with a 50/50 mixture of peroxide and water and keep it in every bathroom to disinfect without harming your septic system like bleach or most other disinfectants will.

8. Tilt your head back and spray into nostrils with your 50/50 mixture whenever you have a

cold, or plugged sinuses. It will bubble and help to kill the bacteria. Hold for a few minutes then blow your nose into a tissue.

9. If you have a terrible toothache and cannot get to a dentist right away, put a capful of 3% peroxide into your mouth and hold it for ten minutes several times a day. The pain will lessen greatly.

10. And of course, if you like a natural look to your hair, spray the 50/50 solution on your wet hair after a shower and comb it through. You will not have the peroxide burnt blonde hair like the hair dye packages, but more natural highlights if your hair is a light brown, reddish, or dirty blonde. It also lightens gradually so it's not a drastic change.

11. Put half a bottle of peroxide in your bath to help rid boils, fungus, or other skin infections.

12. You can also add a cup of peroxide instead of bleach to a load of whites in your laundry to whiten them. If there is blood on clothing, pour directly on the soiled spot. Let it sit for a minute, then rub it and rinse with cold water. Repeat if necessary.

13. I use peroxide to clean my mirrors with, and there is no smearing which is why I love it so much for this.

I could go on and on. It is a little brown bottle no home or Camping trip should be without! With prices of most necessities rising, I'm glad there's a way to save tons of money in such a simple, healthy manner.

Use Caution when trying the the 13 uses for Peroxide, listed above. Peroxide, though helpful in so many ways, can also be lethal as well. Proper dosages and the correct mixtures are required for the results indicated here.



BY: **Rob Golda**
HIKING MICHIGAN



Plants that remain green through winter can be called evergreens. Several genera contain species known as wintergreen: *Chimaphila*, *Gaultheria*, *Polygala*, *Pyrola*, and *Trientalis*. Nonetheless, the plant most frequently called wintergreen in horticulture and in herbal medicine circles is *Gaultheria procumbens*.

There are very few edible berries that hold their firmness and endures as well all through the winter, as WinterGreen. It is native in much of eastern North America, and is cultivated way beyond, wherever conditions permit. Mostly it is prized as an ornamental; relatively few people use it as an edible, or medicinally.

Wintergreen is a perennial herb with a creeping stem that sends up erect branches, finely-toothed, ovate leaves of pale green when young, and then leathery, dark green when mature. The shrubby evergreen also bears bell-shaped white or pink flowers that bloom from May through September, followed by scarlet fruits, and the plant reaches about six inches in height. It is rather ornamental and may be found growing in forests or on mountains, thriving in acid soil in partial shade. Wintergreen is so named because it remains "ever" green in the deepest part of winter and provides important winter nourishment for deer, partridge and other native fauna.

Native American tribes brewed a tea of Wintergreen as one of their many herbal treatments for rheumatism, as well as a pain reliever for headache, fever, sore throat and various aches and pains. Many tribes also employed it as an aid to breathing by increasing lung capacity while hunting or carrying heavy loads, and the Montagnais of Canada drank Wintergreen tea to treat paralysis. Early American patriots used Wintergreen tea as a substitute for tea during the American Revolution and later adopted it as a remedy for headaches, muscle aches and colds. Wintergreen should not be used by people who are allergic to aspirin.

In spring the young leaves are very glossy, bronzy-colored, and tender. At this time they are fun to nibble raw or add to mixed salads. Very soon they become too tough to chew. But they still can be used to make a tea, or just to scratch and sniff. Traditionally, in September the leaves were harvested to use to distill the oil from. In winter the leaves often turn partly reddish or purple, at least in colder climates.

Remember here: When playing around with natural herbs and remedies, extreme caution should be used. Severe allergic reactions and illness can be the results from improper use.



WinterGreen plant in the Winter months



WinterGreen plant and Flowers in the Springtime

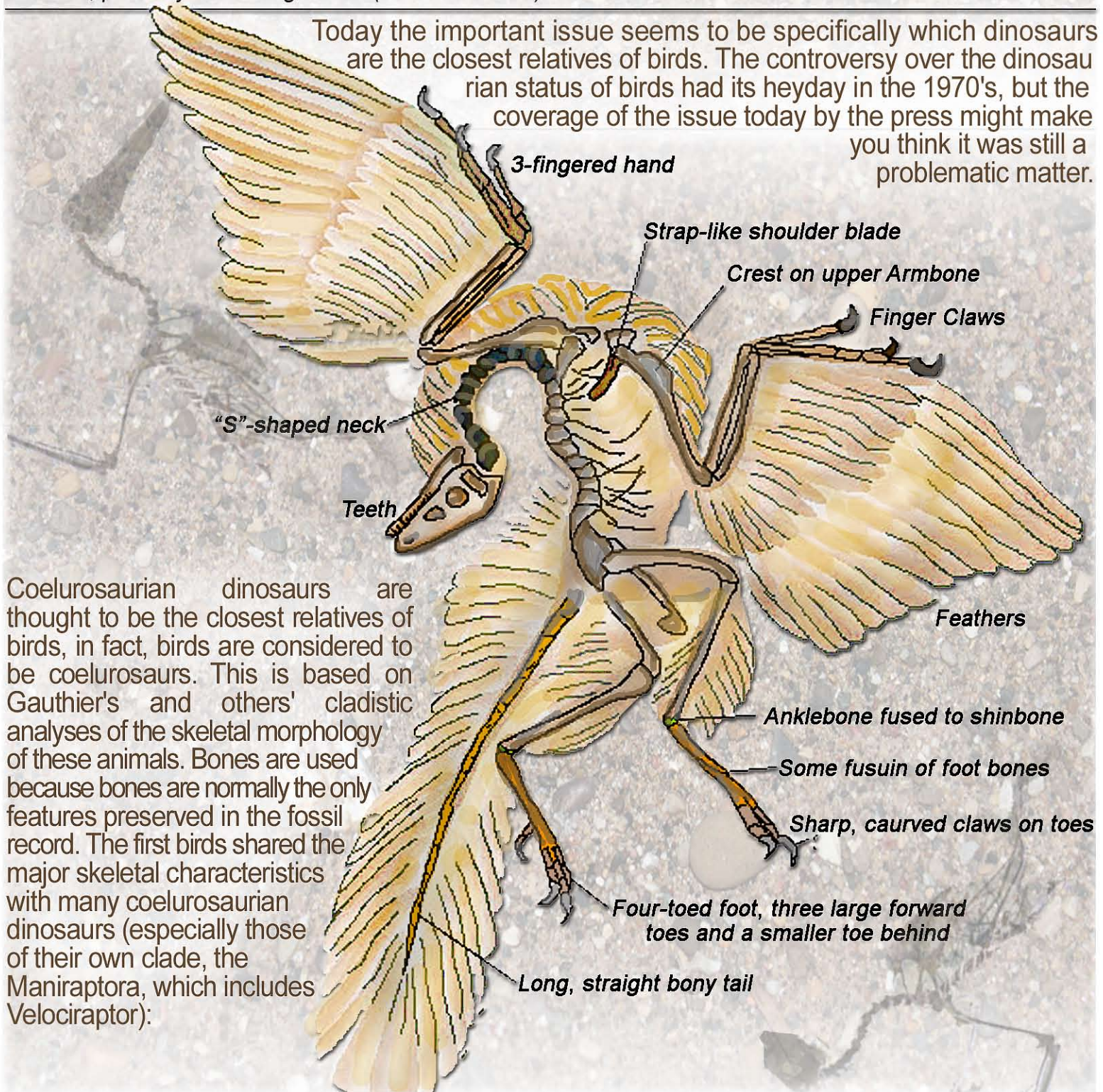
FLYING DINOSAURS

THE FIRST BIRDS



Ask your average paleontologist who is familiar with the phylogeny of vertebrates and they will probably tell you that yes, birds (avians) are dinosaurs. Using proper terminology, birds are avian dinosaurs; other dinosaurs are non-avian dinosaurs, and (strange as it may sound) birds are technically considered reptiles. Overly technical? Just semantics? Perhaps, but still good science. In fact, the evidence is overwhelmingly in favor of birds being the descendants of a maniraptoran dinosaur, probably something similar (but not identical) to a small dromaeosaur. What is this evidence?

Today the important issue seems to be specifically which dinosaurs are the closest relatives of birds. The controversy over the dinosaurian status of birds had its heyday in the 1970's, but the coverage of the issue today by the press might make you think it was still a problematic matter.



Coelurosaurian dinosaurs are thought to be the closest relatives of birds, in fact, birds are considered to be coelurosaurs. This is based on Gauthier's and others' cladistic analyses of the skeletal morphology of these animals. Bones are used because bones are normally the only features preserved in the fossil record. The first birds shared the major skeletal characteristics with many coelurosaurian dinosaurs (especially those of their own clade, the Maniraptora, which includes Velociraptor):

YOU LOVE TO WATCH BIRDS...WHERE DO YOU BEGIN?



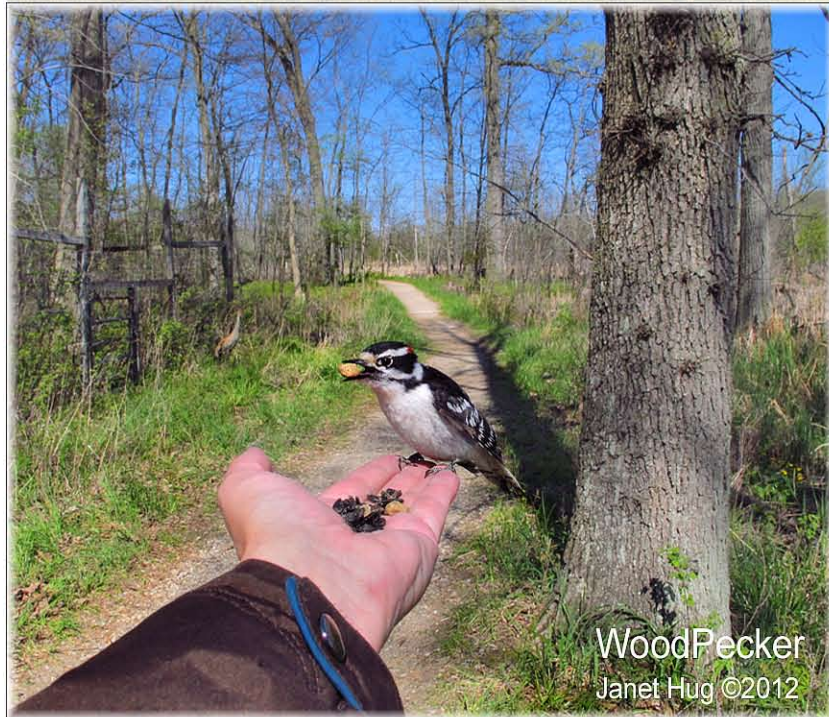
BY: Janet M. Hug

We are so very pleased to have Janet doing our Birding in S.E. Michigan column. Janet is not only an avid Birder, but an accomplished photographer. So she just does not study and observe birds in the wild, but has the talents and patience to capture their images. All the photos as well as the text is Janet at her finest. Her forth installment is on How to get started in Birding. We hope you enjoy the wonderful writings and pictures



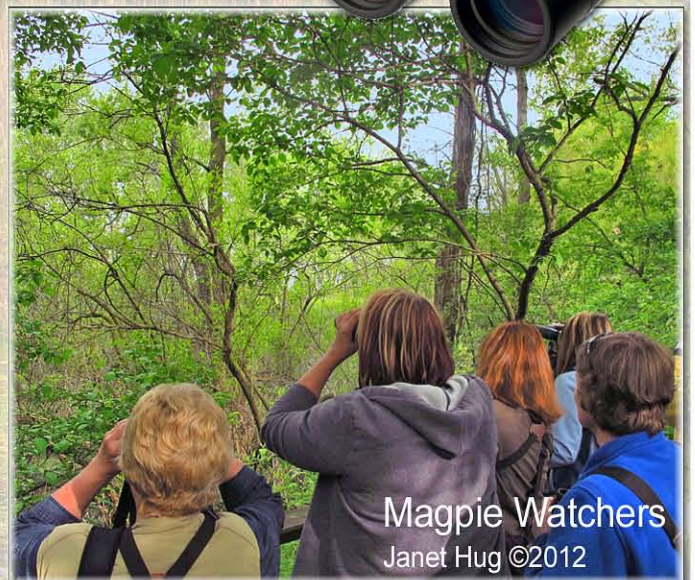
Birding can be anything you want it to be. Birding can be as simple and uncomplicated as noticing the birds in your yard to making it your career as a wildlife biologist. What makes birding a rewarding activity is the ability to observe them wherever you happen to be, all it takes is for you to be observant of the birds around you. Blind individuals are birders, too. They use their listening skills to identify birds. As a birder, you will be joining the millions of people who participate in this rewarding hobby. You are not alone in your love of birds.

When birders first start out they often feel overwhelmed and may ask themselves, will I ever master this hobby? Don't be concerned if you can't identify a House Sparrow from a House Wren. You will gain birding skills with experience. Even expert birders, on occasion, get stumped by a bird identification. You are not alone if you find yourself confused by a bird that doesn't quite fit the description in the field guide. Bird plumage is the brightest during the breeding season and some warblers look dramatically different in their fall plumage. Birds going through a feather molt can look ragged and disheveled. You may even encounter a curve ball in the form of a hybrid bird or duck. Knowing that birds change their appearance throughout the year will help you to identify them and be open minded to a wide variety of identification possibilities.



WoodPecker
Janet Hug ©2012

eBird



Magpie Watchers
Janet Hug ©2012

There is always the bird that gets away without an identification - it is part of the fun and excitement of birding. You admire the birds for their incredible survival skills and move on to the next bird you spot. Birds need to keep moving to avoid predators. If you can't see a bird, then a predator probably can't, either.

YOU LOVE TO WATCH BIRDS...WHERE DO YOU BEGIN?

BY: Janet M. Hug

As you decide to look more closely at birds, your first purchase should be a field guide and a pair of binoculars. A birding field guide is a must for every birder. A field guide will have techniques on how to identify birds by learning their anatomy and the accompanying descriptions. Birding field guides are written in different styles using photographs or illustrations of birds. Field guides will also include a range map and descriptions of the bird's habitat. It is a personal preference which field guide you choose to use. Binoculars range in price from \$100 to well over \$1,000 for a top-of-the-line pair of binoculars. A typical binocular used for birding is an 8X42 model. Binoculars are also offered in 10X50, however, they are very heavy and difficult to hold still when birding. To help choose your next pair of binoculars, visit your local camera or sporting goods store. Organized birding festivals will often have optics representatives on hand displaying a variety binoculars and price ranges. Also, check out birding and nature magazines and their

websites for articles on optics and binoculars recommended for birding. The following link from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology gives an in-depth explanation of binoculars. <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/gear/binoculars/>

As you study birds, you will discover that birds live in different habitats. Michigan bird habitats can be classified as deciduous forest, coniferous forest, grasslands, prairies and wetlands. For instance, would you typically find a Ring-billed gull in the middle of the deep forest or a woodpecker on the beach? Each bird is suited to its particular habitat and requirements for survival.

Before you set out on a birding hike, find out the type of habitat you will be visiting. Having knowledge of the area you are visiting will help you to narrow down the type of birds you may encounter at that location. A book on Michigan birds is another great tool to add to your reading list. A resource not to be overlooked is your local Audubon Society for help in finding great birding habitats.



Eastern Screech Owl

Janet Hug ©2012



Kirtland's Warbler

Janet Hug ©2012



Prothonotary Warbler

Janet Hug ©2012

YOU LOVE TO WATCH BIRDS...WHERE DO YOU BEGIN? BY: Janet M. Hug

The use of computer technology has been invaluable to the scientific and birding community. The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, a research unit of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, is a world leader in the research and conservation of birds

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/page.aspx?pid=1609>

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has created a web-based data entry program called eBird, to help birders keep track of their bird sightings. By using this data, the research staff at Cornell are able to monitor the health and well being of birds. Ebird has a range of features including maps and graphs, e-mail alerts to birds in your area, lists of birds by location in your county, state and by year. By contributing bird sightings through eBird and participating in Project Feederwatch, an entire network of birders from across the country are helping to fill in the pieces of the puzzle about where and when birds migrate, what time of year they occur, and their distribution. Ebird has an iPhone / iPod application "app" for submitting your sightings on-line. The eBird app is called BirdLog NA. A companion app to eBird is BirdsEye, which accesses eBird data giving you access to bird sightings, birding hotspots and rare birds found near you. Check for birding apps through your smartphone app store.

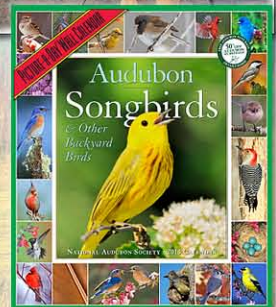
Osprey/Kensington Metro Park

Janet Hug ©2012



Belle Isle/Late Fall

Janet Hug ©2012



<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/page.aspx?pid=1162>

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/about> <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>

While current birding publications and social media pages are great tools for birders, having a network of birding friends is indispensable. When I started out birding, I didn't know any other birders, and I longed for the companionship of people who understood my passion. Joining your local Audubon chapter will do wonders for your growth and knowledge about birds. Your local Audubon chapter members are the birding experts for the area. Audubon groups offer field trips to help you learn about the birds in your area. An out-of-state field trip may also be on the agenda. During the month of May, witnessing the warbler migration at Magee Marsh, east of Toledo, Ohio, has to be the highlight field trip of the year. In early May, this birding festival dubbed the Biggest Week in American Birding is devoted to the celebration and conservation of birds. At this festival, you will meet 1,000 of your best birding friends all searching for that elusive life bird they came to see. While there, you may even be lucky enough to find the rare Kirtland's Warbler during its migration to northern Michigan.

YOU LOVE TO WATCH BIRDS...WHERE DO YOU BEGIN?

BY: Janet M. Hug

Being out on a field trip with experienced birders helps you improve your observation skills. By watching experienced birders use their own skills - looking for subtle movement in the trees or shrubs to detect birds, keeping their eyes on the target location and bringing the binoculars up to their eyes instead of looking down and trying to relocate the birds, you will gain skills and knowledge that a book can't teach you. Birders also listen for birds, for many are able to identify birds by their calls and sounds. These are small things you pick up when you go birding with experienced birders that improve your skills and increase your confidence. In addition to field trips, Audubon chapters have monthly meetings featuring speakers discussing their area of expertise or presenting programs of their birding adventures. My home chapter, the Oakland Audubon Society in Oakland County, Michigan, welcomes all birders to attend the meetings and field trips. Audubon chapters are also looking to the next generation of young birders and are creating Young Birders Clubs designed specifically for their age group. The Flying Wild curriculum is available to young birders to help them learn about birds and nature.

<http://www.flyingwild.org/aboutus.htm>

New opportunities for young birders are on the horizon. Stay tuned for more information, or contact me by e-mail.

As you begin your birding hobby, remember to make it fun and don't get discouraged if you feel overwhelmed. You don't have to be an expert ornithologist to be a birder. You are the designer of your birding hobby. You can make it a casual hobby or you can make it your career - just get outdoors and enjoy the world of birds. There is someone out there just like you watching the birds. Welcome to the club.

Happy Birding,
Janet Hug



Social Media Administrator
Oakland Audubon Society

Audubon



Wood Duck

Janet Hug ©2012



Ring-necked Drake

Janet Hug ©2012



The best way to describe me would be to say, I am an outdoors woman at heart who grew up in the city of Ferndale, Michigan (just outside Detroit). As a kid, I couldn't wait to escape to the lakes, woods and fields outside the city limits. Our small backyard and surrounding neighborhood offered a limited glance at the beauty of nature. I enjoy spending time in the outdoors and learning new things just for the sake of knowledge. There is joy in finding things out.

Flickr:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/jkissnhug/>

Twitter: JkissnHug

Facebook: Janet Kissick Hug

Google+ - JKissnHug

Blogspot:

<http://jkissnhug.blogspot.com/>

Social Media Administrator
Oakland Audubon Society.

eBIRD:

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/about>

HIKING NORTH/CENTRAL MICHIGAN



A VIEW from NORTH/CENTRAL

BY: **Mark Wilson** - Director at Hiking North/Central Michigan - Hiking Michigan

What an amazing summer it's been! Things have gone in just about every direction, and none of those directions were really planned, but they sure have been filled with excitement and adventure for me. It started this spring when I was introduced to the Green Pine Lake trail by my friend Hal. This is a 16 mile trail system in Clare County that we are slowly losing back to the State Forest because of absolutely no maintenance on the part of the state. Hal and I spent days searching for old markers and trying to figure out places where the trail was nearly indefinable. By mid-summer all but a 2.5 mile section of the trail had a solid GPS track.



The trail intersects with the Lost Lake Scout Reservation property and in July Jeff Hanft was attending Scout Camp with his troop at Lost Lake. Jeff had expressed interest in the trail as well, and Jeff and I were able to hike a good part of the eastern section of the trail where we were able to get a solid GPS track of the remaining untracked 2.5 miles of trail.

Now with the mapping skills of Rob Golda and all of our combined efforts, Hiking Michigan has produced a beautiful map of the Green Pine Lake Trail and Lost Lake Scout Reservation. The trail still needs much work, but the most exciting part of this entire project is that upon visiting the trail now, I can see that people have started to use the trail, and that's a great thing!

As most of you know I spent some time as a National Park Service Volunteer this summer as well. I worked one week on South Manitou Island and 2 weeks on North Manitou. I can honestly think of no more of a fulfilling experience than to work as a volunteer on these islands. The NPS truly loves its Volunteers and treats them like gold. For me it was a great experience and I was able to meet some truly amazing people.

Manitou Island



Manitou Island



A VIEW from NORTH/CENTRAL CONTINUED



BY: **Mark Wilson** - Director at Hiking North/Central Michigan - Hiking Michigan

One part of me wanted to strap on my backpack this summer and just melt into the woods not to be seen for weeks, but looking back on this summer I'm so very thankful that I chose to volunteer my time. If you ever have the time and the means to do it, it's a great experience.

Most importantly this summer has given me the opportunity to make contacts and lay the ground work for some future events for Hiking Michigan. We have the basic plans laid out for a trail clearing expedition to North Manitou Island in 2013, and we also have similar plans for the Green Pine Lake Trail. These are not sweat dripping work projects, but rather fun filled adventures that will allow us to give a little back

while having a great time.

What started out as a bad situation with losing my job, really turned into the best summer that I've had in years. All summer I've been trying to remember a quote that I heard about working hard and missing out on the Natural world, but I can't seem to come up with it. The general premise of the quote was something like this: Every time I talk to someone who is financially successful I feel quite sure that happiness is no longer a possibility in life. Yet when I enter the forest and talk with nature, I'm convinced quite the opposite.

I look forward to seeing everyone at some of our upcoming events.

Mark Wilson



Pine Forest Trails



Join Hiking
North/Central the
Spring of 2013 for
Trails restoration at
Green Pine Lake



Hal on the Trails

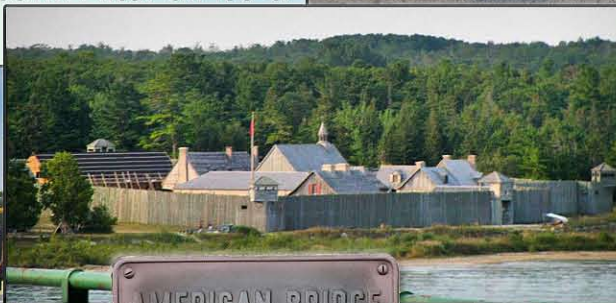
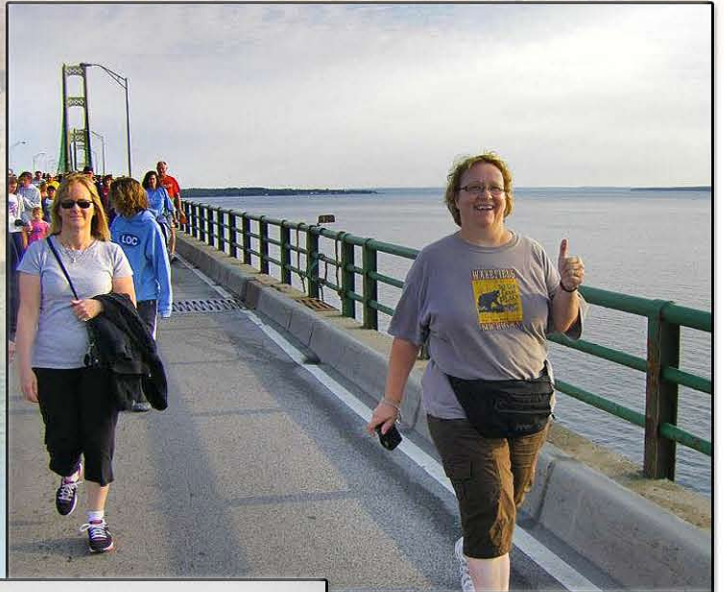
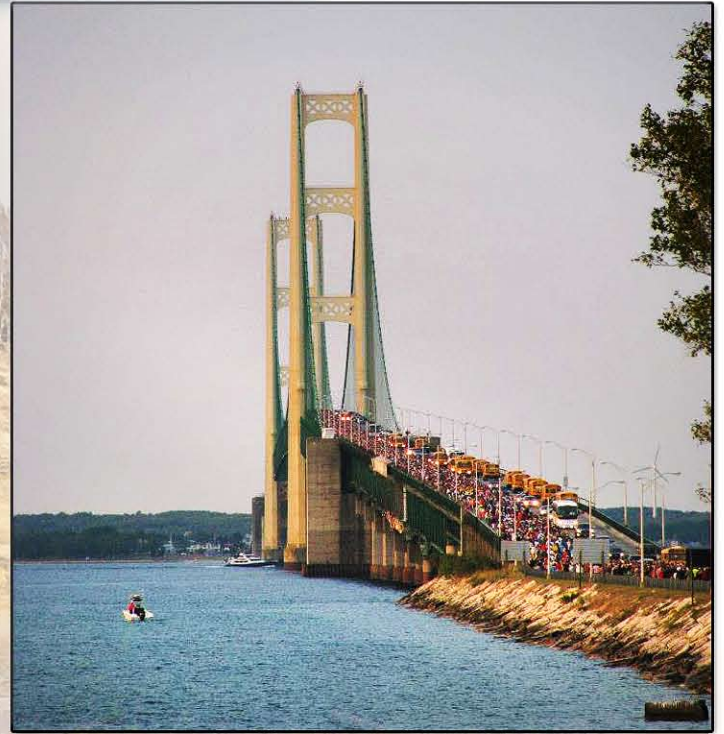


Many Ponds

MACKINAW BRIDGE WALK

BY: *Peggy Gunter Mohr*

The alarm clock buzzes at 4:00 am, time to head to the Mac Daddy – the Big Mac, Mackinaw Bridge that is. How appropriate to walk 5 miles in celebration of 5 years cancer free!! I can do this. Drive 2 hours north and what do I see? A very well organized event. School buses from Traverse City and other districts. You see this could be a logistical nightmare with tens of thousands hoofing it across the bridge. I first see the governors group and the runners coming across the finish line. As we head across the bridge to the starting line in St. Ignace, there is a steady stream of walkers heading south in the North bound lane where cars normally travel. Finally get dropped off by my chauffeur, just for him to head South again to Mackinaw City to be prepared for our pick up at the end of our journey. As we head across on our walk there are National Guard members posted every 20 – 30 feet on both sides of our walking lane. There are happy family's walking together and every age group and ability you can imagine. Boats in the water, Bridge authorities on the top bridge tower and a few planes flying overhead. In the distance you can see the beauty and splendor of Mackinaw Island, the lighthouses in the Islands's Harbor, a Para Sailor and the Mackinaw Point Lighthouse. I say out loud "this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to get these photos", then I correct myself – "it's actually a once a year opportunity". My brother in law repeats the chant – "this is a cake walk" and then corrects it to "I wonder if the guards are going to eat their cookie out of their box lunch, I want a cookie!!!" Hey there is the finish line and wow here is my certificate – time for a photo opp!!! Let's do this again next year!!! After all it's a "cake walk" or is it a cookie????



BIRDING ACROSS THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

BY: **Cindy Flynn**



When I first started birding six years ago, I wanted to go out every chance I got to learn everything I could. I spent a great deal of time at the Chippewa Nature Center (CNC) in Midland, where I met many local birders. Over the years, my family spent many hours there, hiking the trails and volunteering in the programs. In fact, we loved it so much that I now have a brother employed there full time, and I worked as a substitute in their nature preschool program before moving.

In January of 2011, I moved to Mancelona, in the northwest part of Michigan. While I love the beauty of north-western Michigan, I have really missed being part of an organization

and learning from others. At the same time, I've come to enjoy the solitude of the wilderness area. Northern Michigan is one of the most beautiful areas I've ever been in and my experiences in exploring new trails without an organized group have helped me to grow as a birder. I now know more birds by sound than I ever thought I would. I still have a lot to learn though!

This year, I set a goal for myself to spot 365 species of birds in Michigan. I still have family downstate, a brother in Marquette, and a sister in Grand Rapids, so I figured I should be able to cover a good portion of the state by visiting family. What I didn't count on was the fact that Michigan doesn't have 365 species native to the state, so in order to meet the goal I would have to

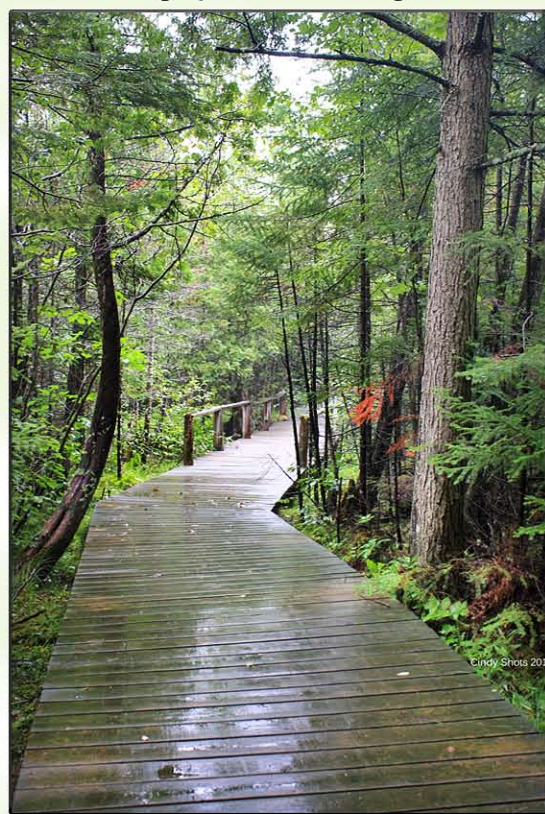


native to the state, so in order to meet the goal I would have to see many accidentals. Also, my husband is a farmer and we lost most of our crop this year, which meant we weren't able to travel as much as I wanted to.

While my list of birds spotted this year is over 100, I've come to accept I most likely will not reach my goal for the year.

Instead, I'm going to set a new goal for the coming year based on whatever my final number is for this year. I've come to realize it's not always the destination that's important, but the journey. Over the past few years of birding, I've found several areas that are my favorite birding places to visit in Michigan. They include:

1. *Grass River Natural Area in Alden.*
2. *Chippewa Nature Center in Midland.*
3. *Pine Baron Trails in Gaylord.*
4. *Houghton Lakes Flat Area along Old 27 in Houghton Lake.*
5. *Seasonal Roads in Antrim and Kalkaska county.*



Birding in the rain at Grass River is awesome!

CNC Provides an indoor wildlife viewing area as well. It's a great place to mark off your species list while you watch for more birds to come in!

BIRDING ACROSS THE STATE OF MICHIGAN CONTINUED

BY: *Cindy Flynn*

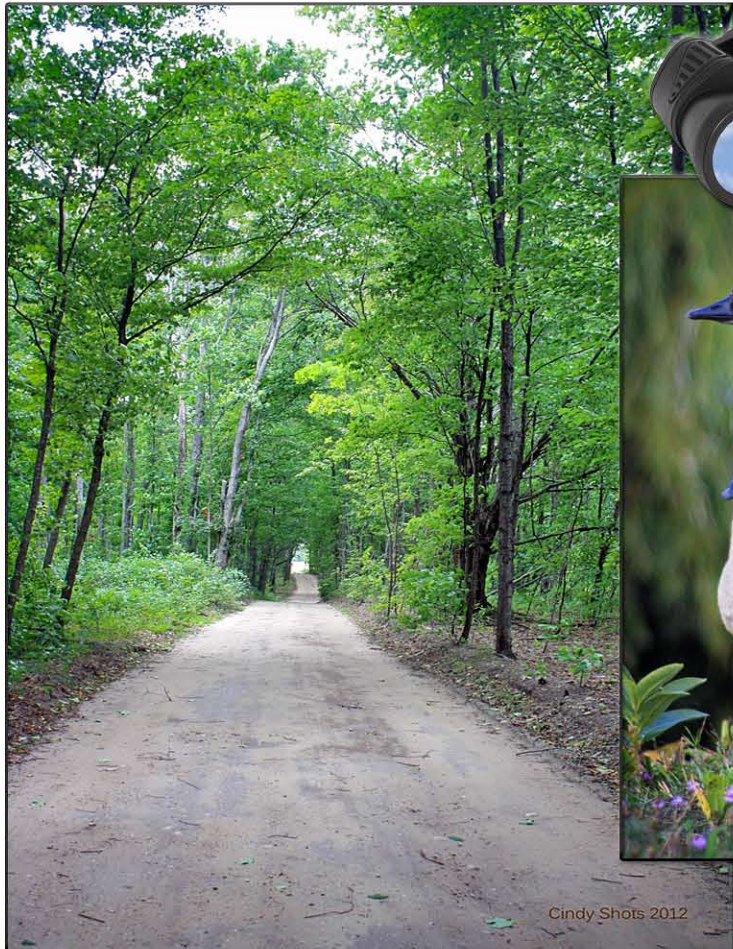
Birding places to visit in Michigan. They include:

1. Grass River Natural Area in Alden. Grass River has several trails to hike, and a new Nature Center building put in last year. They are free, although are appreciative of donations. Some of their trails take you through wetlands along the river, many of which have boardwalks for easy walking.
2. Chippewa Nature Center in Midland. With over 50,000 visitors a year, and about 1,200 acres, CNC provides many nature opportunities, including some awesome trails for hiking and birding. The trails are free, and some of the group events are free as well.
3. Pine Baron Trails in Gaylord. These trails are provided by the DNR. There are several trails that connect, running through mostly woodland area, especially pines.
4. Houghton Lakes Flat Area along Old 27 in Houghton Lake. This spot has a viewing platform over wetlands, and areas where you can walk along the dikes.
5. Seasonal Roads in Antrim and Kalkaska county. The roads are usually not open in the winter time though, and are best done mostly by car, although because they are seasonal and seldom traveled, you can get out and walk around some. I have spotted many song birds traveling slowly down seasonal roads!

DON'T BE AFRAID TO GET OUTSIDE WITH YOUR BINOCULARS OUT AND READY TO GO!

TRY A NEW PLACE TODAY.

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT FIND.



Cindy Shots 2012

Forests on both sides of a seldom traveled road can be awesome places to find warblers, sparrows, finches, and more.



Cindy Shots 2012

Besides watching for wildlife, be sure to keep an eye out for other hidden gems along the way!



The Flats are home to many waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. During the spring, summer, and fall months, one can often find Canada Geese, Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Bald Eagles, and much more!

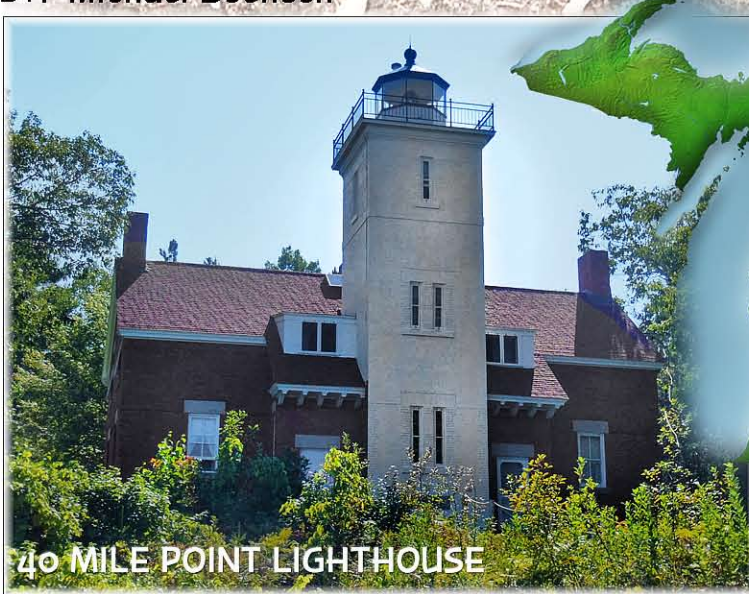


ROGERS CITY IN REVIEW

ISSUE #47. PAGE 20.

STATE PARK, CONSERVATION AREA, LIGHTHOUSE

BY: Michael Boensch



40 MILE POINT LIGHTHOUSE



Rogers City is a great place to take a weekend trip. There are many different places to go hiking and many interesting places to visit and explore.

Camping is available at Hoefft State Park. The park is located about 5 miles from Rogers City and is located along the Lake Huron shoreline. According to the website for this state park, it is one of the first 14 Michigan State Parks. The property was originally donated by Paul H. Hoefft, a lumber baron.

The campground has 143 campsites. The campground is fairly hilly and has a variety of trees throughout. Even tho the campground is located along the shoreline of Lake Huron, it is not possible to see the Lake from the campground. If you get up before sunrise, it is possible to get a picture of the sun coming up over the water. Great star glazing opportunities are available on clear nights as well.

One of the areas for hiking is the Herman Vogler Conservation Area. It is located on the north end of town. The Conservation Area consists of many different habitats. The habitats include hardwood highlands, cedar thickets, marshes and swamps, and the Trout River Flooding area. The trails throughout this area are over 7 miles long.

Another great area for hiking is Thompsons Harbor State Park. It is located about 15 miles east of Rogers City. It is an undeveloped park along Lake Huron with 2 rustic cabins and 6 miles of trails. One of the main features of the park is the coastal fen. It is a very unique area with fragile ecosystem. You can see plants at can only grow in this type of ecosystem. Some of the plants include Bladderwort, Dwarf Lake Iris, Indian Paintbrush, Pitcher Plant, and Thread-leaved Sundew.



PITCHUR PLANTS



THOMPSON HARBOR FEN Area



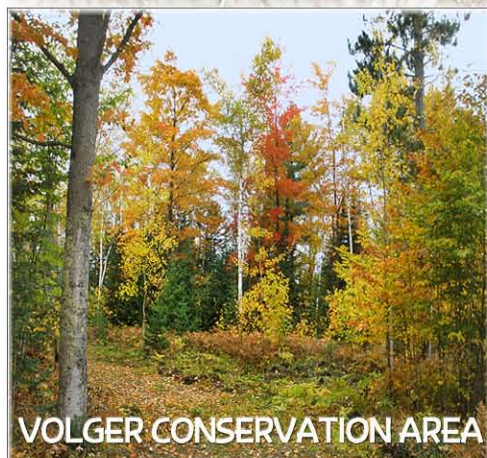
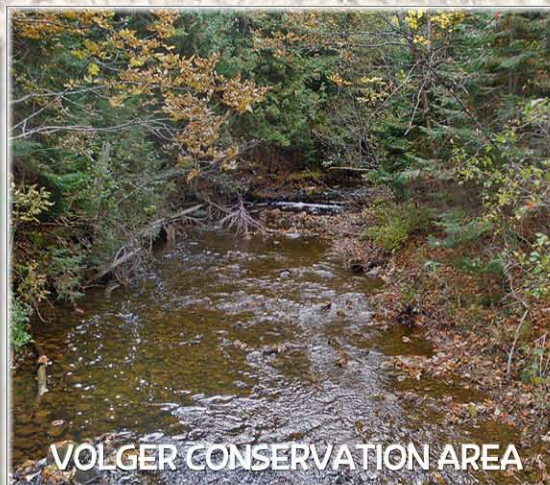
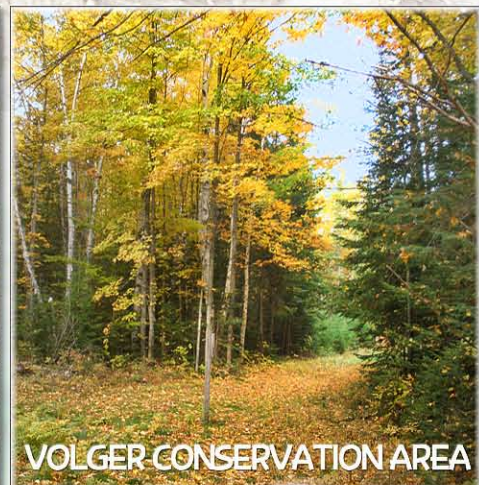
THOMPSON HARBOR

BY: **Michael Boensch****Rogers City Limestone Quarry**

One of the places to visit and explore is the 40 Mile Point Lighthouse. It is located about 7 miles north of Rogers City. While there, you can take a tour of the lighthouse including climbing the tower. On the beach by the lighthouse you can see the remains of the "Joseph S. Fay" shipwreck. You can also take a tour of the restored pilot house from the steamer "Calcite". For more information on the lighthouse, you can visit their website at www.40milepointlighthouse.org.

Another place to visit is the limestone quarry. It is located on east end of Rogers City. It is the largest limestone quarry in the world. It has been in continuous operation since 1908 and it is estimated there is enough resources remaining to last another 50 years. There is two overlooks for the quarry. The Quarry View overlook is located off of US-23 south of Rogers City. At the Quarry View overlook, you have a good view from the middle of the quarry. The Harbor View overlook entrance is located on Calcite Road on the east end of Rogers City. At this overlook, you can see the freighters being loaded and a display of all the different products sold from the quarry.

If you are in Rogers City and you are looking for a place to eat, I recommend Scill's Grill. They are located in downtown Rogers City on East Erie Street. One of the owners is a graduate of Schoolcraft College of Culinary Arts. Everything they make is homemade from local products whenever possible. When I was there, they were quite busy and it took some time to get my food but it was definitely worth the wait.

**VOLGER CONSERVATION AREA****VOLGER CONSERVATION AREA****VOLGER CONSERVATION AREA**

EDITORS NOTE:

Michael Boensch is an avid Geocacher and Explorer. He also works closely with the Boy Scouts, doing Geocaching programs and gatherings. Michael is in the middle of developing a Geocaching web site called.....GEOCACHING CAFE. it will be a place to find "How-Tos" on Geocaching, and many Geocaching software items. Also look for Tips and Tricks to help make your Geocaching experience an even better one. The site will be online very soon. WWW.GEOCACHINGCAFE.COM



Quantity or Quality? B.O.W.

ISSUE #47. PAGE 22.

BY: **Sue Tabor**
OUTDOOR BEGINNINGS



The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program is an outdoor educational outreach program which was introduced by the Michigan DNR almost twenty years ago. It is designed to introduce women of all ages to recreational shooting, hunting, fishing, kayaking, camping, hiking, and just about anything else outdoors. For the past three years, it has been my pleasure to serve as the State Coordinator of the BOW program. My job is to find new facilities throughout the state to host BOW events, recruit knowledgeable volunteer instructors to teach women, handle the registration

process, the accounting, the database, promote and market each event, address phone and email inquiries, build relationships with like-minded groups throughout the state and handle every other day-to-day detail that comes up. Breathing is optional. In summary, I am an event planner and my specialty is customer service, and my customers are mostly female.

I love what I do and I believe in the BOW program. I love watching a woman's fear and apprehension vanish when it comes to trying something new, whether it's paddling a kayak, learning how to read a compass, or shooting a shotgun for the first time. The first time "jitters" are quickly replaced with smiles of confidence! That's what the BOW program is really about – building confidence – and inspiring women to get outdoors and enjoy recreation, wildlife, and our natural resources. BOW is a unique non-profit program and women really enjoy it. They feel more comfortable and less intimidated attending a BOW class than many other outdoor educational programs, because they are learning with other women, in a relaxed, non-competitive environment. They love the smaller group setting and the individual attention the BOW program provides.

In the past few years, the DNR has really stepped up the marketing for the BOW program, and as a result, more women are just now finding out about it. Nearly 70% of all women who registered for a BOW class this year were brand new to the program. It stands to reason that those women will tell their family, friends and co-workers about their BOW experience and invite them to participate too. Nearly all of the women, who have attended a BOW Discovery Weekend in the past, invite someone new to come along with them the following year. It feels like the BOW program is really starting to take off and the potential to do more, and attract more women to participate is really exciting!

I was thinking about the future of the BOW program recently, while driving home from a beginning archery



Quantity or Quality? **CONTINUED**

BY: **Sue Tabor** ISSUE #47. PAGE 23.
OUTDOOR BEGINNINGS

class. Ten women attended the class. Ten wasn't my biggest BOW class, nor was it the smallest, but I've never been one to focus on the numbers. To me, the quantity in the class is not as important, as the quality of the class. Lately it seems there are some at the DNR, who do not view the success of the BOW program the same way I do. They are hung up with total numbers-the total quantity of women per year, who register for the classes we offer isn't where they think it should be. They don't believe the BOW program is attracting enough women. They expect 1000's to be participating and they are seriously questioning whether we should keep the program around any longer.

I constantly struggle with what classes I can put out there to attract more women to participate in the BOW program and discover the outdoors. I too, wish I could find a way to attract 1000's, instead of a few here, a few there. The challenge with many BOW classes and events is that in order to ensure and maintain the quality women have come to expect from the BOW program, I can only accommodate so many participants at one time. For safety reasons, our shooting classes are limited to the number of shooting lanes we can have operating at the same time, depending on the facility. I also have to take into consideration the number of one-on-one volunteer certified instructors I have available. My number one priority is safety, and then I attempt to coordinate the class so each woman receives the individual attention she needs to feel safe and comfortable, in order to learn how to properly handle a firearm. The same goes with archery. I try to avoid having women wait in long lines to take their turn. I try to keep things moving and send each participant home feeling confident, excited about their new activity they just learned how to do, and wanting to come back

again, and bring someone new with them the next time. Another example is our charter fishing excursions, which have become wildly popular and always overflow. But they too are limited in size. I can only gather so many Charter Captains together on one given day during their busiest fishing seasons and most boats will only accommodate 5 or 6 people comfortably.

Ten women in an archery class is a pretty insignificant number, when you are charged with attracting 1000's. What is significant, and what the decision makers don't seem to understand, is that the BOW program has changed many women's lives. But it doesn't work in big numbers at a time. It works one woman at a time. It's easy to count to 1000, or 100, or even 10. What I question is ... why are we even counting at all?

How can we possibly count the unique experience each woman who participates in the BOW program takes home with her, and shares with her family, her children, and friends? How do you measure the excitement and confidence she feels, when she learns how to stay safe in the woods while camping or hiking, releases a fish safely from a hook back into the water, fires that arrow into the target bulls- eye, or busts a clay target for the first time with a shotgun?

How do I begin to count the smiles, and yes, even the tears, I've personally stood by and witnessed,



Quantity or Quality? CONTINUED

BY: Sue Tabor ISSUE #47. PAGE 24.
OUTDOOR BEGINNINGS

as a woman's fear turns into joy and she discovers something about herself she never knew existed? How do you put a number on the confidence she now has to step outside and enjoy a new outdoor activity on her own? How do I measure the new friendships made between women at a BOW event?

How do I turn the words of thanks, and the countless letters and e-mails I receive from women after a BOW event, describing how the program has changed their lives . . . how proud their families are . . . into a number?

Happy Outdoors – Sue Tabor



EDITORS NOTES & OPINIONS Robert Golda EDITOR/HIKING MICHIGAN NEWSLETTER

Since the writing of this article by Sue Tabor, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has discontinued the BOW (Becoming an Outdoors Women) program in Michigan. This 20 year tradition will no longer be available to the Women of Michigan. WHY? Please ask that question of Chief Ron Olsen, the head of the Parks & Rec. division at our state DNR. Mr. Olsen is in charge of this program, as well as the unsuccessful "Conquering Recreation 101" program. Mr. Olsen would have you believe that the Conquering Recreation 101 program is a Federally awarded state program. But in reality, Mr. Olsen sits on the Board that selected his program to get an award. The Women of the state of Michigan deserve much better than this. and Mr. Olsen works for the people of Michigan. Let him know he needs to reinstate the BOW program and remove the failure in the Conquering Recreation 101 program. Keep a failure and get rid of a success? That's just bad management. Rumor says there maybe a single BOW program to be held in the U.P. of Michigan, by Volunteers only. This would be something to just keep accreditation going and nothing like the real thing. Contact Mr. Olsen at: DNR-ParksAndRecreation@michigan.gov



Sue will continue to plan special outings just for women, as a volunteer with the National Wild Turkey Federation's Women In The Outdoors program. To stay in touch with Sue, please follow her Outdoor Beginnings blog at: www.outdoorbeginnings.wordpress.com

Sue Tabor's Blog is focused on the outdoors for Women in Michigan. As well as her adventures, there are many links to outdoor groups and organizations here in Michigan.



GREAT BLUE HERONRY

LARGEST HERONRY in S.E.MI.

BY: **Rob Golda** HIKING MICHIGAN

2012 HERONRY NESTING REPORT

So how did the Great Blue Herons do this year, 2012, at the Heronry, located at HOLLAND PONDS? This was their best EVER, to date! A total of 44 occupied nests were recorded in both the front and rear heronries. That surpasses 2011's total of 39 nests, by 5.

Each nesting pair of Great Blue Herons were successful at hatching 2-4 chicks per nest. That unfortunately was not the number of Heron chicks to be fledged from each nest. As with any nesting season for the Herons, there would be the natural order of things ruling the outcome of the Heronry. Each nest does not fledge all hatched chicks. In many cases at least one chick per nest is lost as the weakest or sickly of the hatch. This chick will either not receive enough food, due to the competition amongst it's siblings, or a chick will succumb to illness. This is the way for the strongest of hatchlings to fledge to adulthood.

Another loss to the Heronry was weather. This year in both the front and the rear heronries, a major branch and nesting tree fell to the ground. Taking with it, 3 nests in the front heronry and another 3 nests in the rear heronry. That would have been 50 nests this year. It shows how delicate these Heron nesting sites can be.

If not for the huge success rate, at new nest building there, these 6 lost nest is would have been extremely critical to the Colonies growth. But due to the successful expansion of both heronries, even the loss of 6 nests resulted in a total net growth of the heronries as a whole, from 39 nests in 2011, to 44 active nests in 2012. Still a very successful season, and still the largest Great Blue Heron rookery Michigan. We hope that Shelby Twp. will continue to cherish the fact that more Herons reproduce there in Shelby Twp. then any other place in this corner of the state. Please take care of this rare place for future generations to learn and marvel at this unique place.

HOLLAND PONDS Park is located on Ryan rd., just north of 22 mile rd., in Shelby Twp. There is free parking on the west side of Ryan rd. The Park is open sunrise to sunset.



**HOLLAND
PONDS**

**SHELBY TWP.
Parks & Recreation**

The MAGIC OF A CAMPFIRE

BY: **Rob Golda** - HIKING MICHIGAN

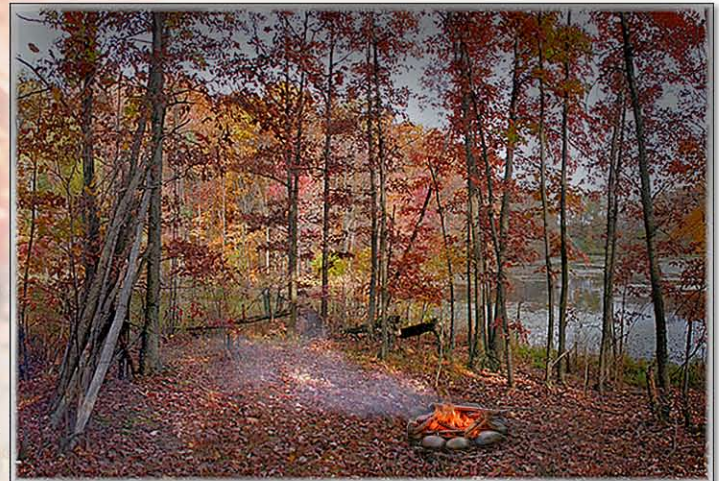
I have noticed on many occasions, that people get plain mesmerized by a Campfire. Or they get this soothing, over relaxed look on their faces, like they do not have a care in the world. I find this even true with myself. Although as a kid, the attraction of fire was to burn my plastic "Army men" & various models, while I tended to my supposed chores of burning the trash. For you youngsters out there, that's what we did with most of our trash when I was a kid. Burned it in a Trash can, out behind the Garage or Pole barn. But I digress. Fire seems to have always been a comforting, relaxing, reassuring part of our human existence. It seems to form a bond between people, even today. I have researched this topic for many years here at Hiking Michigan, and have put together some of the opinions and thoughts of fellow outdoorsman.



It is very interesting in what takes place around a simple Campfire. Some people just sit in a tranquil state and stare at the dancing flames and ever changing colors. Others feel a need to communicate with people around the Campfire. Sharing ideas and thoughts they may normally NEVER discuss with others. Ann Kucera, a Feng Shui expert says this: "Look at the pure Feng Shui theory. Some of the words we associate with fire are passion, integrity, expansion, transformation, and warmth. Just sitting near a fire will bring us closer to the experience of what these words mean". The draw to the fire is immense when one considers these subconscious feelings. Sitting around a Campfire creates a sense of security that seems to bring on an individuals want for understanding. This openness will manifest in mostly calm and submissive behavior. Although in a few people, these secure emotions release uncontrollable actions of a passionate manner. Why? There are the most common questions: Is it all Biological? Are these primitive instincts that come to the forefront when gathered around a safe, warm and protective Fire? Is it our ancestors ways coming out in each of us? The safety of a group of humans, grouped together for the warmth, security & Camaraderie of the Fire?

As for the question about why we might stare into a campfire, we have come up with a couple things:

- Brings society together which is comforting
- Offers safety from harm
- Brings warmth and health
- Is mesmerizing in it's ever-changing movement and flow
- It was mans' first TV set (from Heidi)



INVASIVE SPECIES

MICHIGAN'S BIGGEST PROBLEM

But Who is dealing with this problem?

BY: **Rob Golda**
HIKING MICHIGAN

"AUTUMN OLIVE"

Elaeagnus umbellata

VOLUNTEERS to the RESCUE

Autumn olive is a medium to large deciduous shrub. The upper surface of the leaves are dark green to grayish-green in color, while the lower surface is covered with silvery white scales. The small, light yellow flowers are borne along twigs after the leaves have appeared early in the growing season, May - June, and are very fragrant. The fruits are small, round, juicy, reddish to pink, dotted with scales and are produced in great quantity. The remnant spur branches of this bush, look & feel like thorns, making it very difficult to just push aside, or trough them in the wild.



Silvery colored leaves

Autumn olive exhibits prolific fruiting, rapid growth, is widely dispersed by birds and can thrive in poor soil. It has the ability to produce up to 80 pounds of fruit in a single season. Due to its nitrogen fixing capabilities, it has the capacity to adversely affect the nitrogen cycle of the native communities that may depend on infertile soils. It also creates heavy shade which suppresses plants that require direct sunlight. Autumn olive is found in disturbed areas, along roadsides, in pastures, fields and sparse woodlands. It is often found in poor soils due to its nitrogen-fixing root nodules that allow it to tolerate poor conditions. It can also survive the effects of salt, drought and pHs as low as 4.0. However, it does not grow well in wet habitats or in dense forests. It is Volunteer groups that remove and deal with this plant, state-wide, and not the DNR.

PLANT REMOVAL

***Hand pulling autumn olive seedlings can be effective. However, mowing or cutting autumn olive plants can cause vigorous resprouting. Even repeated cutting is usually ineffective without treating stumps and/or resprouts with herbicide.**



Spotted Berries



© 2002 Janet Novak

Autumn olive is probably the worst Invasive plant that grows in Michigan. It has found more thyn a foot-hold almost everywhere. It lines almost every open field and meadow in the state, as well as the road-side to every expressway and county road. This is truly enemy number one on Michigan's Invasive Species HIT LIST.

You can find Hiking Michigan and our sponsored web sites, Blogs and You-Tube video sites, all over the Internet. There is much to explore and see. And it is all FREE for everyone.

HM web site: www.hikingmichigan.com

HM Blog: www.hikingmichigan.wordpress.com

New HM North/Central Blog:

<http://hikingnorthcentralmichigan.wordpress.com>

HM Facebook FAN:

www.facebook.com/pages/HIKINGMICHIGAN/284929873737?ref=mf

HM North/Central Facebook FAN:

www.facebook.com/pages/Hiking-North-Central-Michigan/149820138449459

HM YOU-TUBE video site:

www.youtube.com/hikingmichigan

The Haven Hill Project (study of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate in the Highland Recreation Area):

www.havenhillproject.org

Stop in at the many NET locations for Outdoor info, Maps and all types of Nature materials.

<http://www.michigannaturalresources.wordpress.com>

Hiking Michigan is sponsoring yet another Internet location called MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES. This Blog and Facebook pages are dedicated to the ID and information on Plants, Trees, Animals, Invasive Species and Natural Resources in Michigan.

MICHIGAN
NATURAL RESOURCES



GO GET OUTDOORS.....Watching our DNR & Natural Resources

This Organization follows the actions and money expenditures of our Department of Natural Resources. It is this state agency entrusted to take care in and properly manage our Natural Resources in Michigan for ALL the people. With the new PASSPORT Park fees in place and the money running 38% over what was even needed to operate the DNR, GO GET OUTDOORS has many concerns about proper money management and the care and concerns for the health of our states Natural Resources. WWW.GOGETOUTDOORS/WORDPRESS.COM

JUST DO IT!!! WE WANT TO SEE THEM

Thanks SO much! I need to note that much of what I post - and the reason I keep posting - is because of the continual encouragement from my friends - like you - in the outdoors! We all have something great to offer when we are not discouraged by preconceptions of what makes a good photo! Go outdoors! Share photos! As everyone knows from my pics you do NOT need a "fancy cam" (I do not have one!)!! You just need to DO IT!



© "Dr. Bob" Setzer, 2012

It is a journey worthy and fulfilling in itself! Yes, a risk to post, but I was never chastised or disappointed for sharing my pics! Do it!!! I want to see them!!!

This is just one of the hundreds of emails I receive from members, regularly. Dr. Bob has been a part of HM for many years, and his enthusiasm is contagious!

<http://www.pbase.com/doctorbass>

HIKING MICHIGAN WHAT'S GOIN ON

I want to Thank all of you loyal members for your patience while I have been recouping from a number of health issues this Fall. It has delayed a number of HIKES and special activities, and your tolerance and good wishes are most appreciated. There is much in the background brewing for both the S.E.MI. and new North/Central groups. By mid winter we should be back onto a regular Hikes and snow shoeing schedule. Big plans are set for the Spring of 2013.

NORTH/CENTRAL & SOUTHEASTERN MI. HIKING MICHIGAN OUTDOOR NEWSLETTER

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MOM and the TRUTH

NORTH/CENTRAL & S.E. MICHIGAN

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FEATURED MEMBERS PICTS.

BY: **Linda Urban**
Nature Photographer

In this issue we are featuring, "Close-up" Photographer Linda Urban. Like some of the other true fanatics out on the Trails, you may have seen Linda on one of the HM Hikes with her tripod, huge lenses and extensive equipment. Quite the load to be carrying. But....you will see it is worth the effort from the results she achieves in her pictures.

Mackinaw Bridge in January

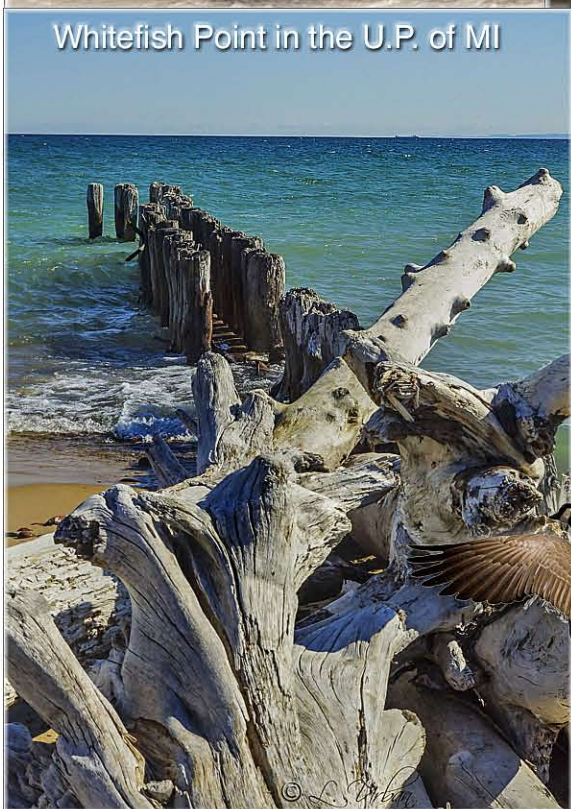


Linda has been taking pictures ever since her parents gave her a Kodak Instamatic with the flash cube on top for her tenth birthday. She enjoys nature and travel photography, capturing the beauty of God's creations. One particular passion is getting a bee's eye view of a flower using a macro lens. Linda and her husband Mike (her pack mule) enjoy photographing different parts of the U.S. & foreign countries.

Mama Moose & calf taken at Isle Royal National Park



Whitefish Point in the U.P. of MI



Mallard pair in flight taken at Dodge Park



Dancing Loon taken at Isle Royale National Park



FEATURED MEMBERS PICTS.

BY: **Linda Urban**
Nature Photographer

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Honey Bee
taken at Shadbush Nature Center



Bird with fecal sac: A fecal sac is a mucous membrane, generally white or clear with a dark end, that surrounds the feces of some species of nestling birds. It allows parent birds to more easily remove fecal material from the nest (keeping the nest clean and bacteria free). The nestling usually produces a fecal sac within seconds of being fed; if not, a waiting adult may prod around the youngster's cloaca to stimulate excretion. Young birds of some species adopt specific postures or engage in specific behaviors to signal that they are producing fecal sacs.

