

Howling Herald



Spring 2008

Newsletter for Northern Michigan's Young Naturalists

Spring Awakenings.....

There's something magical about spring. It bursts with life and activity!

Salamanders and frogs are waking from their long winter's nap.



Warblers, hawks, and other birds are returning from their winter homes.



Dragonflies, bees, butterflies and other insects are emerging.



Turtles and snakes are coming out of their deep sleep.



Wildflowers are blooming in many colors.

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Young Naturalist News

We were sad  that the winter outing was cancelled and the make-up date didn't work for participants, but we hope to see lots of you at the spring outing! 

The date for the spring outing has been changed since the first date picked is on a holiday weekend. The next page has details about the outing. Hope you can make it!

Please see the special note below for important information about the Young Naturalist Program.



Please Take Note!



A change is taking place in the distribution of the Howling Herald newsletter and monthly activity pages. We will no longer be mailing these publications to you. Instead, seasonal activities will be available on our website.

The seasonal outings and summer program series will continue as usual. Notifications of these events will be available in Little Traverse Conservancy's quarterly newsletter, in local newspapers and magazines, and on the Conservancy's website. Keep on the lookout for outing notifications!



SPRING OUTING 2008
SATURDAY, MAY 10TH
10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

THORNE SWIFT NATURE PRESERVE

SPRING TREASURE HUNT

No, we won't be looking for gold, but we will seek out nature's treasures at the Thorne Swift Nature Preserve! Leaves unfurling, flowers blossoming, insects emerging - life is renewing all around! Use a treasure map and written clues to help you locate some natural treasures. Seek out the scrolls to find out interesting facts about what you find and add stickers to your chart along the way to show what you've discovered!



To Sign up for this Adventure,
Call the Little Traverse Conservancy office
at 231-347-0991.



This field trip is for 7 - 12 year olds..
There is no charge, but **Registration is Required.**

Vernal Pools

Chances are you've seen one, but didn't know that it had a special name! Vernal pools are temporary pools of water, meaning they don't stay around all the time. They usually form in the spring from rain and melting snow and then disappear in the summer when it's drier and hotter. You can find them in many natural areas, such as forests and meadows. They are also called vernal ponds.

Does anything live in a vernal pool? You bet! They are actually important habitat for many land and semi-aquatic species, providing places for frogs, salamanders, and turtles, to reproduce, or have young. These young critters are a bit safer in vernal pools since fish don't live there. Some frogs, birds, or traveling animals also use the pools for feeding and resting.



Wood frog tadpoles in a vernal pool



fairy shrimp

Some very little critters also live in vernal pools. Unlike most animals that inhabit vernal pools, fairy shrimp spend their whole lives there. These small crustaceans are about 3/4 of an inch long and are food for the larger animals in the pools.



A vernal pool



The same spot in summer

Can you answer these riddles?



Activity Corner

A) WHAT DID THE BIG FLOWER SAY TO THE LITTLE FLOWER?

D) WHAT DO BEES DO WITH ALL THEIR HONEY?

B) WHERE DO ANIMALS GO WHEN THEY LOSE THEIR TAILS?

E) WHAT BIRD CAN LIFT THE HEAVIEST WEIGHT?

C) WHY DID THE FROG SAY "MEOW"?

F) WHAT IS SMARTER THAN A HUMMINGBIRD?

(answers on back page)



Spring Scavenger Hunt

Cut me out and take me on a spring hike. What will you discover? This is a "finding" scavenger hunt instead of a "collecting" one. Circle each item as you find it.

TREE LEAF WITH POINTED EDGES

PURPLE FLOWER

FEATHER

TREE WITH NEEDLE LEAVES

ROTTING LOG

PINE CONE

PEBBLE

ANIMAL HOME

YELLOW FLOWER

VERNAL POOL

INSECT

TREE WITH NEEDLE LEAVES

BIRD WITH ORANGE ON IT

FOOD FOR A RACCOON

Henry Knows

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What is the difference between a butterfly and a moth?

Let's start with how they are alike. Butterflies and moths are both insects, so they have three body parts and six legs and most have a pair of wings and a pair of antennae. They can seem hard to tell apart, so in what ways are they different?



Butterflies bodies tend to be thinner
Their antennae are thicker at the tip.
They fly mainly during the day.
When at rest, their wings are held back over their bodies.
They are usually bright colored.



Moths' bodies tend to be thicker/stout
Moths antennae are thin or feathery.
They fly mostly at night.
When at rest, their wings lay flat.
They are typically dull colored.

Answers to riddles on page 5
A) What's up bud?
B) To a re-tail store
C) He was learning
a foreign language
D) They cell it
E) A crane
F) A spelling bee



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