



February 2007

# Get Outside!

Young Naturalist Club



Nature Activity Page



*This Month*

## Show Your Love

*for Nature...*

### Edible Bird Valentine

Make an edible valentine for the birds by "painting" suet on a heart shaped piece of cardboard, and sprinkling it with seeds.



### Do Some Stargazing



February is the perfect month to do some stargazing. It still gets dark early, and the stars appear very bright during the winter months. The North Star, or Polaris, is visible all year through which is why it has been such a useful navigation tool for hundreds of years. To find Polaris, look for the Little Dipper - Polaris is the last star in its handle. It's a good idea to know what you're looking for before you go outdoors. Other stars to be on the lookout for this time of year are: the Big Dipper, Orion, and both Canis Major and Minor. Stargazing is best done lying down, so pull up a chair and a blanket and choose a spot away from distracting lights.

## Respecting ALL Wildlife

Are there any animals that you really don't like? Say, worms or snakes, or the moles that make tunnels in the lawn where you play ball? If you stop to think about these creatures, they all play an important part in nature, sometimes even directly benefiting us without our realizing it. Earthworms are terrific soil builders and a gardeners best friend. Snakes aren't slimy, they are shy and keep to themselves and rid your property of rodents. And moles? Well, they do aerate the soil (let air get underground) with their tunneling. Take a moment to imagine how other animals would be affected if they didn't exist.



*Donate some of your time to a local animal shelter or humane society. Or make a craft, such as dog biscuits, to drop off at the shelter if you don't have the time to volunteer.*



## Henry Knows!

## Once In A Blue Moon

When there are two full moons in one month, the second is called the blue moon. As this happens infrequently, the saying once in a blue moon means "very rarely." Some people think the term refers to the actual blue tint that the moon takes on due to atmospheric conditions, again this is a rare occurrence.



Little Traverse Conservancy  
3264 Powell Road  
Harbor Springs, MI . 49740

## Explore a Nature Preserve!

### Seven Springs Preserve

#### **Seven Spring Nature Preserve**

From Hwy. 27/75 in Indian River, turn west onto Prospect Road, just north of the bridge. Continue straight on Chippewa Beach Road 1.1 miles which curves north. Look for the preserve sign about a quarter mile past the curve.

