



Howling Herald



Winter 2007

Newsletter for Northern Michigan's Young Naturalists



❄️ Snug in the Snow ❄️

What happens to animals when the days get shorter and the snow starts to fly? Many head for warmer climates. Others get ready for winter by putting on a thick coat of fur. Some animals head underground for hibernation.

There are different kinds of hibernation. The “true” hibernators sleep so deeply that they are almost impossible to wake up. Woodchucks, ground squirrels and bats are “true” hibernators. True hibernators do get up every few weeks to nibble on food, and sometimes to use the bathroom.

Bears are not “true” hibernators. Bears are considered light sleepers because they are easily awakened from their winter slumbers. These in-between hibernators are simply taking long winter naps. Skunks, raccoons, opossums are also in this group.

Can you think of any other animals that hibernate? How about our cold-blooded friends...snakes, frogs, salamanders and turtles? Cold-blooded animals can't warm themselves up, they need to find a way to protect themselves from the cold. Frogs and turtles bury themselves in the mud below the frostline.



Inside



Winter Outing!



Color Me Page



What is a Walker?



Snowflake Facts

Club News

Note: The fall outing was cancelled due to the weather. We will save the fall activity for next year!



Upcoming Event: Winterfest!!

Where: Goodhart Farms Preserve

When: Saturday, February 3rd, 2007
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

What: Exploring winter wonders:
snowshoeing, animal tracking,
and... having fun outside!



What to do this winter...



- snowman competition
- snow tunnels
- gingerbread houses
- catch snowflakes
- winter walk
- sledding!
- go caroling
- play outside til your cheeks turn red, then go inside for some hot cocoa!

Prepare for the winter outing by learning the terms on the following page. Get ready to learn how animals travel through the snow. See if you can find any tracks like these in your backyard, or schoolyard....

Club News

1.) Hoppers



Snowshoe Hare



2.) Waddlers



Bear tracks in the snow



3.) Walkers

4.) Bounders



Otter



Deer

What happened here?

Tracks often tell stories about what animals have been up to. Here it looks like the food chain in action! A small mammal, such as a rabbit or porcupine became lunch for a large bird. Did you know the Great Horned Owl is one of few predators to the skunk? Could that be what happened here?





Ermine (short tailed weasel)

Cool Camo!

These weasels have brown to yellow-brown fur with lighter colored fur on the belly. The tip of the tail is often black. They grow white fur in the winter, but the tip of the tail remains black. When an animal chases the weasel, it will often chase the black tail tip and miss catching the weasel.



Weasels are carnivores (meat-eaters) who eat over 40 percent of their own body weight each day. These little mammals are excellent hunters. Go weasels!

Black-capped Chickadee



Fluffing up his feathers helps keep this little chickadee warm and dry on the chilly winter days and nights.

Chick-a-dee-dee, chick-a-dee-dee-dee!
Have you ever heard this sound while walking in the woods or playing in your yard? Were you able to spot the source of this sound? If you did, you spotted a black-capped chickadee. This small bird, easily recognized by its black cap, black bib and white cheek, is a year-round resident of Michigan and a favorite visitor to backyard feeders.



Activity Corner

M G D H S C A R F F O E I E W
D K S E D F M I T T E N S C D
I X T U C D R B A W D L Z U U
O E S P N E H O L I D A Y S U
U R I F P G M T S N O W M A N
P C O L D P X B Z T A H K U B
E B A Q U M O G E E B O L Y V
H C Q U J O N E Q R I I S S F
E E Y K T C K X Z V H P T Q X
K Q X S Y Y J L F S O E U E I
F O N Y G E M P L M K N A Y Q
Y O C N T Y N E N C M I M A M
W U H A S M D B A U C W I U Z
C Y G D B S Z J D J U L Q N O
J N Y A E B L Q P A D E C H G



Boots	Ice
Cold	Jackets
Snow	Mittens
Snowman	Scarf
Winter	Skiing
December	Sled
Fireplace	Holidays
Frostbite	Hat



COLOR ME

Ask Henry

Young Naturalist Club
Little Traverse Conservancy
3264 Powell Rd.
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

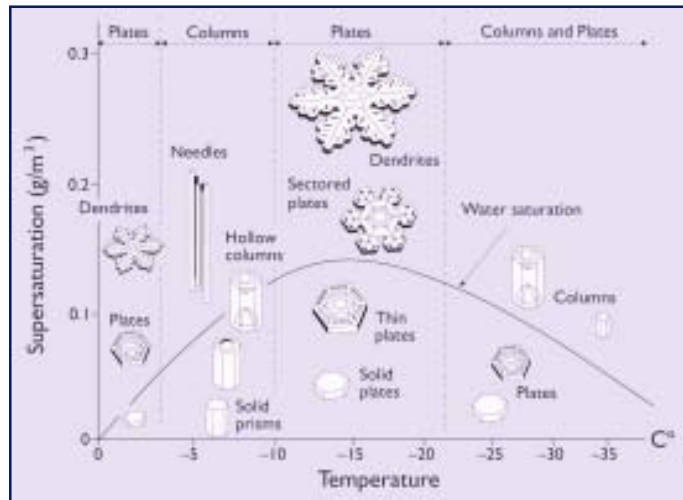


Dear Howling Henry,
Why are no two snowflakes the same?

-Sarah, Harbor Springs, MI.

Dear Sarah,

Great question! The shape of snowflakes are influenced mainly by temperature and humidity (moisture in the air). Each snowflake is actually a tiny crystalline structure created by particular weather conditions. Because crystals are so complex and the environmental factors are so many, each snowflake takes on a different identity, kind of like our fingerprints!



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