



Howling Herald



Newsletter for Northern Michigan's Young Naturalists

It's **SPRING** again in northern Michigan! Slow down, or you might miss out on something happening. Look around you carefully and observe your surroundings. There is so much going on if you tune in with all your senses. The thawing of the earth leaves a fresh, clean smell in the air, new plants pop up through the ground, creatures come out from a long winter's rest, or fly home to put music back into the quiet, sleepy northern woods.

Spring can come and go so fast that summer seems to suddenly be upon us. By slowing down and taking notice of a few little things, you are sure to enjoy the many wonderful signs. You'll soon realize just how many amazing things are happening all around you in the spring. Read on and learn more about signs of spring to look for...



Photo by Mark Tegge

The spring peeper is a common sound in early spring. Just a few of these little frogs together can make it tough for you to sleep at night... welcome PRING!!

SIGNS OF SPRING!



morel mushroom

- Morel mushrooms!!
- The sound of melting snow!
- Wildflowers popping up: Trillium, Spring Beauties, Irises
- The angle of the sun keeps changing, and the days are getting longer!
- Robins and other song birds are back with their beautiful colors and sounds
- FROGS! Spring peepers are one of the first you'll hear - a definite sign of spring!
- More people outside...Happy People! (Count how many smiles you see)
- Wild leeks - a relative of the onion family. Look for leafy greens in woods where Trillium grow.
- Buds on trees - a green tint grows richer with each day on all the leafless deciduous trees.

Inside



Club Updates



Spring Outing!!!



Lichen Love



Springtime Fun



Henry Makes Waves

Club News

Winter Outing Scrapbook...

Club members explored Headlands Nature Preserve with Conservancy helper, Stephanie. With the help of snowshoes and tracking tools, they discovered which animals brave our cold Michigan winters. Check it out below to see what they found on their hike.... (looks like quite a journey!)



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

Who's Around When Snow's on the Ground?

Recognize any of the tracks and signs? These are just a few we found!

1. Snowshoe Hare
2. White Footed Jumping Mouse
3. Squirrel (summer) nest in tree
4. Red Squirrel
5. Pileated Woodpecker Holes
6. Red Fox

Other Tracks of Winter

- Ruffed Grouse
- Coyote
- Deer
- Porcupine
- Vole/Shrew

Wildflower Hike and Nature Journaling



Where: Headlands Nature Preserve
When: Saturday, May 20th 2006
Time: 10am - 12pm

Announcing the location of the 2006-2007 Young Naturalist Club Outings....



Round Lake Nature Preserve!



Beginning next fall, join Conservancy staff as we explore Round Lake Nature Preserve through the seasons! Located in Harbor Springs (also the location of the Conservancy office), on Powell Road off M-119. This 60-acre preserve was originally donated to the Conservancy in 1980 and boasts 2,500 feet of Round Lake shoreline. The vegetation found on this preserve consists of mixed hardwoods, conifer forest, lowland cedar swamp and marshlands along the lake.

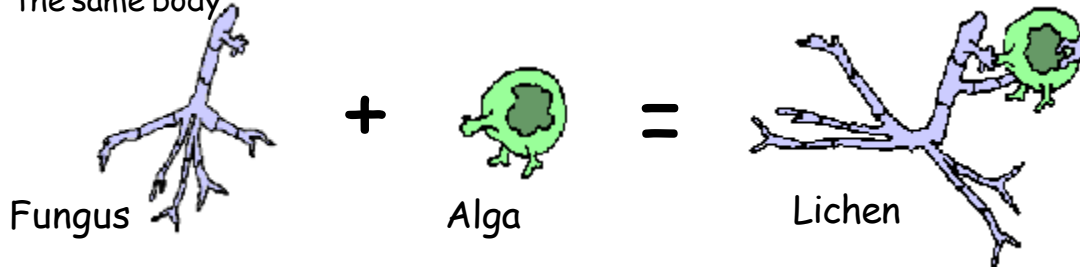


The porcupine is one of many critters that calls Round Lake home.

Some of the topics we may explore include: The geological formation of Round Lake, Native American history, the plants and animals that call this preserve home, fungi, what it means to work at the Conservancy, and much more!

Look for more information about these coming events late summer 2006!

A lichen is formed when a fungus and an alga successfully join together. Only certain kinds of fungi and alga are compatible. They live as one organism, inhabiting the same body.



Lichen grow very, very s-l-o-w-l-y

How slow is slow? Try less than one millimeter per year! Some lichens are thought by scientist to be some of the oldest living things on the planet!



Lichen, What is it good for?

- Lichen can tell us if the air is clean. Many lichens are sensitive to air pollution. Lichen simply cannot survive in such an environment and it will die. If you see lichen growing in your community that is a good indication that your air is clean and healthy.
- Humans can eat some lichens, however many are poisonous and you should not attempt this without an adults help.
- Many antibiotics (used in medicine) are made from lichens.
- A fun use of lichens is making dyes to add color to wool.



Where does lichen grow? Lichen is powerful stuff! It grows where other things cannot. They are "pioneers" or the first organisms to grow on bare rock, desert sand, dead wood, living wood, animal bones and even rusty metal! Because they can "shut down" during extreme weather they can even survive extreme heat, cold, and drought.



Activity Corner

Feelin' Hungry???

Next time you hit the trail for a spring hike, take along this tasty treat for some quick energy!

Ingredients:

peanut butter
honey
flour tortillas
dried fruit
granola

Peanut Butter Pinwheels

Spread creamy or chunky peanut butter and drizzle some honey on a fresh flour tortilla. Sprinkle with granola, throw in some dried fruit and roll the tortilla. Eat it whole or slice into bite size pinwheels.



Bubble Pop Art

Materials:

Liquid detergent
straws
cups
colored paper
crayons or colored pens

Process:

1. Mix a little detergent and water in a cup.
2. Dip the end of a straw into the cup and blow bubbles. (Do not breathe in!)
3. Catch the bubbles in the colored paper.
4. When the bubbles pop, a wet circle will be left on the paper.
5. Draw around the wet outline and make designs with your crayons and colored pens.

Variations:

1. Mix paint into the bubble soap for a colorful print.
2. Set cup in center of white paper. Blow continuously and allow bubbles billow over the cup and onto the paper for hundreds of bubble designs.

This fun project comes to you from, "Good Earth Art" by MaryAnn Kohl and Cindy Gainer



Red-backed Salamanders. The one on the bottom is in a grey color phase.

It's getting to be that time of year...time to be on the lookout for salamanders!

These elusive critters are sometimes difficult to find, but be patient and you are sure to come across a few.

How to handle a salamander: If you are lucky enough to spot a salamander use caution when handling him. Soap, natural oils, and lotion residue on our hands are harmful to their fragile skin. Salamanders absorb moisture through their skin to breathe. It's best to let him rest gently in your hand on a leaf.

Where to look: Salamanders love moist, dark areas. Investigate rotting logs by rolling the log away carefully. You may discover a moist home for a salamander. You can also look under leaf litter on the forest floor. Roll the logs back carefully too when you are done!

Good Luck Exploring!

Ask Henry

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



Henry Explores WaVeS...

Did you know that waves are caused by the wind blowing and rippling up the water? The harder it blows, the bigger the waves become. Strong winds cause very high waves (Petoskey Waterfront park is a good place to observe these waves on a windy day!) Even out in the open water, waves are also quite high.



Try This:

Throw a pebble into the still waters of a pond and watch as it causes ripples. Watch how these spread outward making bigger and bigger circles. It looks as if the water is moving outward, but it isn't. It's only going up and down. It's the ripples that are moving. Waves on the lake and in the ocean move the same way.

Names for different waves:

Ripples: Have a very short wave length

Rollers: Have a longer wave length

Swells: Have the longest wave length of all. Swells are old waves, no longer directly influenced by the wind.



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