



# Howling Herald



Newsletter for Northern Michigan's Young Naturalists

## It's Summertime Time for BERRIES!!!!

Summer is a great time for many activities and treats. But berries are one of the best treats around you can hunt for, find and eat! There are strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries, just to name a few. Look at the best time to find various berries below.



Strawberries



wild -- May- June, planted- all summer

Raspberries



wild -- July - August, planted - July - August

Blueberries



wild -- July - August, planted - July - October

Blackberries



wild -- August - September



## Places to Pick Yummy Berries

**The McDonald Preserve** is a great place to pick wild **strawberries**.

From M-119 take a right onto W. Conway Rd and a left onto Clayton. The preserve will be on your left.

**Pondhill Farms** is a wonderful place to visit and pick **raspberries**.

Take M-119 north towards Cross Village. The farm is about 4 and half miles north of Harbor Springs.

**Stutsmanville Bog Preserve** is the place for wild **blueberries**. From Harbor Springs take State Road north about 5 miles the preserve is on the right-hand side of the road.

If your looking for **blackberries** **Ransom Preserve** is the spot. From Petoskey take US-31 south 9 miles to Burgess Rd. and turn left. Go 3 1/2 miles to Quarterline Rd and turn left. Then go one mile to Maple Grove Rd. and turn left. The parking lot is about 3/4 mile down Maple Grove Road.



## Inside



Club Updates



Incredible Insects



Web Art, and Insect Cages



Clouds



Piping Plovers

# Club News

## Spring Outing Scrapbook...

Club members explored Headlands Nature Preserve with Conservancy helper, Stephanie. We saw many beautiful wildflowers and made a fun and pretty vase with sticks and a jar. Check out the members below making their stick vases.



## Flowers seen at Headlands spring outing



1. Jack -in-the-Pulpit



2. Smooth Yellow Violet



3. Rosey Twisted Stalk



4. Trillium



5. Yellow Lady Slipper



6. Broadleaf Toothwort

Keep your Wednesdays Open!

Summer Nature Programs

Where: Little Traverse Conservancy Preserves
When: Wednesdays June 28th - July 26th
Time: 10am - 12pm

See enclosed flyer for more details on the nature programs.

Sign Up a Friend for the Young Naturalist Club!

Do you have a friend you think would enjoy receiving this newsletter and club outing information?

If you do then sign them up today! Remember the club is free and just like you, they will receive a welcome packet full of fun information they can take with them on their next outdoor adventure!

Friend's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Your friend must be between the ages of 8-12 and live in the one of these five counties: Mackinaw, Chippewa, Charlevoix, or Cheboygan. Cut this out and send it in to:

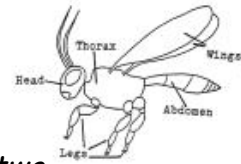
Little Traverse Conservancy
3264 Powell Rd.
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

or email the information to:
renee@landtrust.org

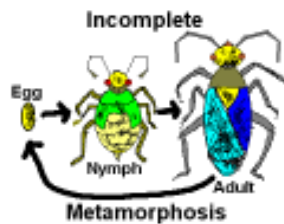
Did you know there are more insect species than bird, fish, reptile, amphibian, and mammal species combined? Almost one million kinds of insects have been discovered and there may be three times that number.

## What is an Insect?

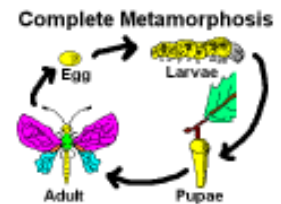
Insects are small animals with six jointed legs attached to a three-part body ( head, thorax(*chest area*), and abdomen(*tail end*)). Many have one or two pairs of wings. (*Spiders with eight legs and two body parts are not insects.*) Each insect has one pair of antennae or feelers and they have their skeletons on the outside.



## What a Life!



Most insects go through a three or four part lifecycle called metamorphosis. Metamorphosis includes *egg, nymph, adult* or *egg, larva, pupa, adult* stages.



## What Good Are They Anyway?

Insects may seem creepy and annoying sometimes, but they are very important and useful creatures. Many plants require the help of insects in order to reproduce and make fruit. For example, that tiny black fly that likes to bite us in spring, well those little annoying creatures pollinate most of the blueberry plants. So without them we would not get to eat those yummy blueberries in August. Some insects even provide us with useful products like honey, wax and silk!!

### Check out those Insects!

**Hunt for insect homes** (under rocks and fallen leaves, in bark and water)

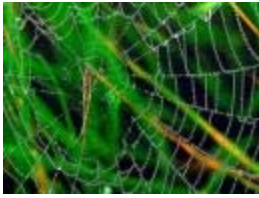
**Read a story or poem about insects.**

**The Bug** by Marjorie Barrows or **Dragonflies** by Molly McLaughlin.



## Activity Corner

### Web Art



- Hunt spider webs on a calm day. (Look for webs that are no longer inhabited.)
- Sprinkle powder on web.
- Carefully lift web with paper until web breaks free and is stuck to paper.
- Spray with pump hairspray.

#### Materials:

spider web  
black paper  
talcum powder  
pump hairspray

#### VARIATIONS:

- Spray paper with hairspray. Work quickly, following the same technique above.
- Sit beside an inhabited web and draw the same design you see.
- Glue string or thread on black paper in a web design.

### Be a Cloud Watcher!!

Summer is a great time to watch clouds. So find a nice spot in your yard, lie down and look up at the clouds. Are they wispy or fluffy, lumpy or puffy? Moving fast or moving slow? Up high or down low?

If you switch on your imagination, you may see animal shapes, letters of the alphabet, or other pictures in the clouds. Check out some of the cloud types shown below.



stratus



cirrocumulus



cumulus

### Construct an Insect Cage.

The insects that do well in captivity aren't too fussy about where they stay. A large glass jar (punch lots of tiny holes in the lid) works well. A more spacious cage can be made from some materials you probably have at home. You'll need two round cake pans of equal diameter, some screen and some modeling clay.

Cut the screen a foot wide and a couple of inches longer than the circumference of the pans. Make a tube from the screen the same size as the pans (sew or tape the seam). Press some modeling clay into the two pans, and place one on each end of the screen. The clay will secure the screen and make the cage escapeproof.

If you hope to keep insects any length of time, you'll need to provide food and water. Try offering leaves from the plants you found the insects on or near. Give them water by sprinkling a few drops on a cotton ball.



# Ask Henry

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## Check Out This Nest!

Can you find the nest in this picture? It is very well camouflaged and that's what makes it hard to see as you are walking down the beach. This is a Piping Plover nest. They are an endangered shorebird that live on the shores of the Great Lakes. Piping Plovers eat insects spiders and crustaceans. Piping Plovers nest in wide flat open sandy beaches with very little vegetation. You may have noticed some areas of beach in Northern Michigan that are closed for this bird. The Piping plover is a very sensitive bird and if it is scared off its nest too much it will abandon the eggs. This is one reason for the beach closure near their nests. Another reason is due to how hard it can be to avoid stepping on a plover nest. Which as you can see are very well camouflaged. As of last summer, there were only 54 breeding pairs of plovers in the Great Lakes region. In order for Piping Plovers to be taken off the Endangered Species list, there need to be about 150 pairs. So the next time you see a piping plover nesting area sign, give them a hand and take your beach gear to another spot.



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