

Little Traverse Conservancy's 2010 Knee-High Naturalists Hikes

Each one-hour session includes a hike, exploratory activities or craft, story, water, and a snack. Come prepared for outdoor play, with closed-toed shoes, layers, sun screen, and insect repellent.

Tuesday, June 22 and Wednesday, June 23

PONDERIFIC! Spring Lake Park

Hopping herps, finny fish, busy bugs and much more call a pond home. Come discover the wonders of life in a pond. We'll look and listen for the larger inhabitants and get up close and personal with some of the tiny critters that dwell below the surface. What special parts do they have? What special ways do they move? Can you move like they do? Have fun exploring this amazing habitat. Wear shoes that can get wet!



Tuesday, June 29 and Wednesday, June 30

Goin' On A Nature Hunt! Spring Lake Park

We're goin' on a nature hunt! I see a trail! Can't go under it, can't go through it, guess we'll have to go ON it! A fun twist to the typical scavenger hunt, we'll read the book, "Goin' on a Bear Hunt," then hike the trail to different habitats to discover who lives there, what grows there, and how the animals and plants navigate their way in nature. Fun activities along the way will encourage movement, creativity, exploration and play.

Tuesday, July 6 and Wednesday, July 7

Our Feathered Friends Spring Lake Park

They have wings, beaks, claws, and feathers. They sing, fly, swim, and build nests. Birds are fascinating to watch and enjoyable to learn about. Fly on over to Spring Lake Park to explore the wonderful world of birds. Have fun listening for them, observing them in action, and mimicking their movements.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10-11 am and 1-2 pm ages 3-6

The theme is the same for all four sessions each week. There is no charge for these programs, but pre-registration is required by calling **Melissa at 231.344.1004** or **Alison at 231.344.1010**.

Tuesday, July 13 and Wednesday, July 14

Bug Me! Thorne Swift Nature Preserve

Roll over a log in the forest, find a lady-bug sunning herself on the beach, or watch a dragonfly at the pond! We'll read about insects and bugs and how they blend into their surroundings. Then we'll hike down the nature path in search of our own camouflaged friends. We'll search for chewed leaves and tiny holes, turn over rocks and shake a tree branch (gently!) Bug jars and magnifying lenses will help us capture the critters, learn about them, and release them back into their homes. After hiking, we'll visit the nature center to learn more about the nature that calls Thorne Swift home!

Tuesday, July 20 and Wednesday, July 21

Summer Sensations Thorne Swift Nature Preserve

Awaken your senses with the sights, sounds, scents, and textures of summer. Look for the many colors of the forest, listen carefully for calling birds and buzzing insects, inhale the scents of the evergreens, bark and flowers, and feel something velvety soft, bumpy, or smooth.



Tuesday, July 27 and Wednesday, July 28

Who Lives Here? Thorne Swift Nature Preserve

Explore animal homes just like the animal that lives there! First, listen to a story about animals and their homes. Then, quietly creep into the woods in search of some woodland creatures. What do animals eat? Where do they hide? We will search high and low in a forest, at a pond and on the beach to learn more about the animals that live there. Be careful! You might have to find food for a mouse or hide in tall grass like a baby deer!

Little Traverse Conservancy's 2010 Junior Naturalists Hikes

Thursday, June 24

Adventures In The Sky Skyline Trail, Petoskey

Salamanders, switchbacks and sweeping views, Oh My! Catch a glimpse of Lake Michigan from this new trail. More than 800 acres of land and an elevation of more than 1200 feet creates dramatic views of the northern Michigan skyline. The trail winds up in a switchback pattern, just like climbing a mountain! Lots of wildlife call this area home including the black bear and even a massasauga rattlesnake was recently seen. We'll keep an eye out for smaller species, like red-backed salamanders, as we hike to the scenic overlook.

Thursday, July 1st

Wild Dens and Woodland Adventures McCune Preserve

Where do the creatures hide? How do they make their homes? We'll hone our observations skills by walking through the un-nature trail, then search for secret spaces. What kind of den would you make? We'll use our creativity and ingenuity to build a temporary shelter ourselves using only what the forest provides.

Thursday, July 8th

Bugs-N-Bogs Stutsmanville Bog

Using sweep nets and aerial nets we'll work our way through the tall grasses collecting whatever creepy crawlies we can find. Field guides, bug jars and magnifying lenses (we'll bring them) will help us identify some of the Earth's most unique critters. At the bog, we'll find a whole different environment for exploring life less than 1 inch tall! Wear long pants if you find tall grass too tickly.



Thursdays, 10am - noon ages 7-11

There is no charge for these programs, but pre-registration is required by calling **Melissa at 231.344.1004** or **Alison at 231.344.1010**. Come prepared with sturdy and comfortable closed-toed shoes, weather-appropriate layers, sun screen, insect repellent, and water.

Thursday, July 15

Take a Walk on the Creek Side Five Mile Creek Swamp Preserve

Walk along a tributary to where it flows into Five Mile Creek. Explore the creek and check it out up close. Where does the creek come from? Where does it go? What sips from its edge? What hides in its bed? Enjoy views of the creek from atop a ridge with a dramatic slope to the water. This field trip is for the adventurous child! There are no established trails, so although the walking is not extremely difficult, it is not as easy as a maintained trail and will require maneuvering over logs and through branches.



Thursday, July 22

Caching In Offield Family Preserve

Using real Global Positioning System (GPS) units while hiking through a new nature preserve, we will learn all about geocaching! Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences in the geocache you find, or online. All skill levels welcome. Conservancy staff will have GPS units available.

Thursday, July 29

Adventures in Nature Photography Spring Lake Park

Grab your digital camera for some photo fun with Sarah Mayhew. Refine your observation skills and take some cool nature photos to share with family and friends.