A Part, Not Apart  
by Tom Meier

If a tree falls in the woods and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound? If a cat is placed in a box, but no one is looking inside, is the cat really there? If children are hiding behind closed doors, transfixed by little boxes shooting artificial light into their brains, but no one is paying attention to them, does it really matter?

My answers, in order, are: Of course, of course, and you bet it does. Sound is a matter of physics, not anthropocentrism. The cat knows it’s in the box and would prefer to be let out. And children growing up detached from the natural world are missing out on one of the most exciting and important aspects of their development.

Recently, I visited the forest of my childhood, the place where I first understood that I was a part of the natural world, and it was a part of me. I didn’t know that when I was ten years old, but the effect is lasting. I lived on a military base, called Fort Sheridan, in northern Illinois, right on the shoreline of Lake Michigan. Most days, the pack of wild boys I ran with could be found walking the steep ravine walls and poking around in the creeks with a sharp eye out for poorly hit golf balls. I remember one massive snapping turtle that had come up out of the lake to lay her eggs, salamanders and frogs, makeshift forts, grapevines, fish, snakes, ghost stories, and the rickety wooden troll bridge.

The base closed in 1993, and the entire street of housing where I lived was torn down, pavement and all. Surprisingly (thankfully!), a section of the base was made into a forest preserve which includes those very ravines where I tromped 22 years ago. I’m proud to say that I can still find a golf ball in the creek, and my feet felt sure of themselves walking along the steep walls. Even though my brain had a hard time sorting out the new, and more often missing, landmarks, my body knew just where it was. This place, this ecosystem and I, are forever connected.

That is what I fear most for children these days – they spend so much time inside, or at highly-scheduled adult-run events and programs. I fear they will grow up disconnected from their own ecosystems, that they may never truly understand that they, we, are a part of the natural world. That just like every chipmunk in the forest, we are subject to the laws of nature. Our food, our shelter, our water, our happiness, our very lives are connected to our ecosystems.

Let the cat out of the box. Let the children play outside, eat wild foods, catch frogs and snakes, meet a snapping turtle up close. Let them engage all of their senses and set their imaginations ablaze. Let them be happier and healthier. Let them be connected.
Mission Moments
from Mary Kate, Executive Director

As Baltimore Woods continues to grow each year, we look for new and exciting ways to provide families and individuals with an opportunity to connect with both our mission and our staff. This spring we are happy to announce that The Woods now has online registration available for all of the public programs we offer. We recognize that many of our families are tech savvy and offering online registration and payment options for all we do at The Woods is helpful to you and your families. In addition to offering online program registration, we have also included information such as program descriptions and whether or not the program is geared for children, families or adults. Visit us at www.baltimorewoods.org for more information and we’ll see you at The Woods!

Local Harvest Dinner:
A Delicious and Educational Evening
By Patrick Burke

Baltimore Woods Nature Center hosted its sixth annual Local Harvest Dinner this past February at The Woods for over 70 guests. The format included cuisine and conversation with a panel of regional food producers. Neil Miller of Farmshed CNY narrated the event in which panelists answered audience questions regarding local foods and farming. The theme centered on how to strengthen the connections between growers, producers, chefs and consumers. Panelists were drawn from local farms and farm-to-table restaurants.

Chef Chris Kuhns served the audience a four-course meal made from locally-source ingredients. This delicious winter menu consisted of cream of garlic soup, braised cabbage with bacon and onions, country beef stew with root vegetables and juniper, topped off with a dessert that consisted of baked apple cobbler with vanilla ice cream.

Local Harvest Dinner is just one of four year-round events that focus on the local food movement. In September, Baltimore Woods holds envIRONmental CHEF homegrown, a collaborative farm-to-table fundraiser. This year began the first Winter Farmers Market; the only one of its kind on the west side of Syracuse, supplying consumers with locally grown and produced foods. The Woods also supports Early Morning Farm, a community supported agriculture farm, which uses Baltimore Woods as a drop off point for its CSA shares.
Birthday Parties
Let’s Party!

Baltimore Woods offers fun, interactive, nature-themed birthday parties for kids ages 3-12. Choose a theme, and our educators will put on a party your child will always remember!

**THEMES:**
- Turtle Time
- Peanut Hill
- Woodland Fairies
- Animal Tracks
- Bug Bonanza
- and more...

Up to 15 guests
1-1.5 hours plus time for cake!
Saturdays at 10:30am or 1:30pm
(other days & times upon request)
Cost: $130

Rentals
Our pavilion and large program room at Baltimore Woods are the perfect setting to host a family get together, corporate retreat, wedding or party!

**RENTAL RATES**
- First three hours $55/hr
- Subsequent hours $45/hr
- Additional hours $25/hr (beyond operating hours)
- Booking fee $50 (required for all rentals)
- Pavilion fee $100 (optional add-on)
- Refundable damage deposit required for all rentals

*Note: Rates quoted are for members of Baltimore Woods*

The staff at Baltimore Woods is trained by Marcellus Ambulance to gain early access to care in the event of heart attacks, strokes, choking and other emergencies.

Are YOU ready if there is an EMERGENCY?
Are YOU trained to do what might be necessary?

If not you should get certified by taking a class at Marcellus Ambulance
Contact Steve: (315) 494-1069

CPR / First Aid Training

Art Gallery

**Student Art Show**

**Student Art Reception**
Saturday, May 2nd
2:00 – 4:00pm

**Exhibit**
May 2nd – June 11th

The Baltimore Woods Nature Center Student Art Exhibit celebrates both nature and the artistic achievements of students in the elementary grades through high school. The gallery will be filled with a colorful and varied array of nature related artwork in a variety of media including painting, printmaking, collage, photography, ceramics and drawing.

The following school districts will be represented:
- Auburn Enlarged City School District
- Marcellus Central School District
- West Genesee School District
- Jordan-Elbridge Enlarged School District
- Skaneateles Central School District

**Upcoming in our Gallery**
Watch for our September/October exhibit as watercolorist Lucie Wellner of Pompey and oil painter Robert Glisson of Syracuse display their work.
May

2, 3, 9, 10 Weekend Wildflower Walks  
2-3pm  
Baltimore Woods Nature Center’s premier woodland wildflower garden is a local treasure. Join caretaker Audrey Loewer for a pleasant walk through one of the wonders of spring. Each week new species will bloom, and Audrey will reveal their past and present medicinal and culinary uses. The garden is wheelchair accessible; please call ahead if you need assistance. Donations appreciated. No pre-registration required.

May 6 – June 11  
Nature’s Little Explorers: Warm Spring Series  
10-11am  
Join us for Nature’s Little Explorers Mini Adventures! This fun-filled, six-week series will engage your preschooler through nature crafts and hands-on exploration that will awaken their senses to the wonders of the natural world. This program is offered on Wednesdays or Thursdays. Ages 3-5, participants must register for the full series and be accompanied by an adult. $35 for members; $50 for nonmembers.

8 Star Party: PLANETS!  
7-10pm  
This will be our best chance to see Mercury, which we get to do perhaps once or twice per year, right at sunset (come early). Venus and Jupiter will be visible, and Saturn rises as Mercury and Venus set. Back up date May 9th. For all ages. $6 for members, $9 for nonmembers.

9 Derby Hill Bird Festival  
9am-2pm  
Onondaga Audubon Society is having a party at Derby Hill — and you’re invited! Visit www.onondagaaudubon.org for more information. A carpool will leave Baltimore Woods at 9am, please call 673-1350 if you want to join the carpool. Free.

10 Mother’s Day Garden Tour at Sycamore Hill Gardens  
11am-4pm  
See ad on page 11

23 Birds on Tour!  
8am-noon  
It’s the perfect time to find birds! Come out to Baltimore Woods Nature Center for a morning of birding and enjoy all the sights and sounds that spring birds have to offer. This walk is perfect for beginners and experienced birders alike; don’t forget your binoculars and hiking boots! $6 for members, $9 for nonmembers.

20 Butterfly Chase  
11am-noon  
Get up close to the beauty of butterflies. We’ll learn about the majestic Monarch, her incredible journey from here to Mexico, and how we can help her along her way. Then, we’ll grab nets and run through the fields to see how many different butterflies we can catch. You can even feel their legs tickle your nose before watching them flutter away. For all ages. $6 for members, $9 for nonmembers.

June

12 Star Party: Planets, Again!  
8-10:30pm  
In case you missed the show last month, here’s another chance to see Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn in all their glory. It doesn’t even have to be completely dark to get good views. Back up date June 13th. $6 for members, $9 for nonmembers.

27 Frog Catching Party  
10:30-noon  
Frogs! Where? Down at Phillips Pond of course! Join our Naturalists for a celebration of all things frogs as we engage in this classic childhood activity. Space is limited to 30 people, registration is required. For families. Children under age 3 are free. $6 for members, $9 for nonmembers.

30 Container Gardening Workshop  
10-11am  
Enjoy the wonders of fresh food from the garden without the need for a lot of space or weeding. Practically anything grown in a traditional garden can be raised in containers, with less work. You’ll mix soil and take home your very own “Salad Bowl” garden! Bring 15” pot, gardening gloves, and trowel. For ages 7 and up. $20 for members, $30 for nonmembers.
July

17  **Star Party: Summer Skies**  
9-11pm  
No moon and dark skies give us the best views of the summer Milky Way and the richest star fields of summer. Also, Saturn will be front and center. *Back up date June 18th.* For all ages.  
$6 for members,  
$9 for nonmembers.

18  **Frog Catching Party**  
10:30-noon  
Frogs! Where? Down at Phillips Pond of course! Join our Naturalists for a celebration of all things frog as we engage in this classic childhood activity. Space is limited to 30 people, so register early. Family event with registration for ages 3 and up. $6 for members, $9 for nonmembers.

25  **Black Light Hike**  
8:30-9:30pm  
Humans can only see a limited range of light, but to animals that can see ultra-violet light, the world is full of marvelous colors. Join us for a night hike through the forest as we take a UV flashlight in search of glowing insects, algae, flowers, and fungi to discover this colorful luminescent world. For ages 4 and up.  
$6 for members,  
$9 for nonmembers.

August

12  **Star Party: Perseid Meteor Shower**  
9-11pm  
It’s the annual Perseid meteor shower, one of the year’s finest, plus Summer Skies and the Milky Way. Look into the heart of our Milky Way galaxy to see the finest examples of rich star clusters and gaseous nebulae. Also find fantastic views of Mars and Saturn. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to lie back and watch for meteors when you’re not at a telescope. *Back-up date August 13th.*  
For all ages.  
$6 for members,  
$9 for nonmembers.

15  **Solar Party with Bob Piekiel**  
1-3pm  
With special telescopes, sunspots, solar prominences, and magnetic storms can be viewed clearly and safely. Come and have a close-up look at our nearest star and see it as you’ve never seen it before. *Back-up date August 16th.*  
For all ages.  
$6 for members,  
$9 for nonmembers.

17  **Star Party: Summer Skies**  
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No moon and dark skies give us the best views of the summer Milky Way and the richest star fields of summer. Also, Saturn will be front and center. *Back up date June 18th.* For all ages.  
$6 for members,  
$9 for nonmembers.

22  **Barefoot Hike**  
1-3pm  
Free your feet! Come feel the earth under your soles at Baltimore Woods as Barefoot Bob (our Star Party leader) reconnects you to this underutilized and healthy mode of transportation. Join Bob for a half-mile barefoot hike along the Valley Trail over grass, wooden bridges, leaves and soil. Your feet will thank you! This program is not intended for families with strollers. For ages 4 and up.  
Back-up date August 23rd.  
$6 for members,  
$9 for nonmembers.

25  **Black Light Hike**  
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Volunteer Lunches  
Baltimore Woods greatly appreciates all the volunteers who give their time and efforts to help further our mission. One Wednesday of each month Baltimore Woods gives volunteers a lunch of locally harvested foods at the Interpretive Center. All volunteers are welcome! Please call ahead to register.  

Time: Noon  
Dates: May 20  
June 17  
July 15  
August 19  

WHAT’S NEW?  

Online Registration is now available for all of our public programs!  
Visit  
www.baltimorewoods.org to sign up!  

-  
Children under three are free at any public programs that are designed for families.  
-  
Improved program descriptions, including age recommendations and frequently asked questions to make it easy to register & fun to attend!

29  **Incredible Edibles!**  
10:30-11:30am  
Join us on a walk through the woods and learn about our incredible edibles! Our local forests have a number of plants with medicinal and delicious properties. Find out how to identify and use these practical plants. For ages 10 and up.  
$6 for members,  
$9 for nonmembers.

29  **Bats!**  
7-8:30pm  
Misunderstood by many, repulsive to some, and feared by others, come spend an evening, indoors and out, as we find out why bats are truly beneficial creatures, with undeserved reputations. Meet at the lower parking lot. For ages 5 and up.  
$6 for members,  
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$9 for nonmembers.
Summer Nature Day Camp
At Baltimore Woods
a summer tradition for over 25 years!

Traditional Camp
K-8th Grade
Eight, weekly sessions July 6–August 28
10am-3pm

This is the core of our summer camp programming: week-long day camp adventures that promote discovery, physical fitness, problem-solving skills, social interaction, and awareness through direct contact with the natural world.

Multiple Week and Multiple Child Discounts are available.
A Baltimore Woods Family Membership is required to attend camp
Before and after care is available.
Camp is led by trained environmental educators.
Counselors are certified in first aid and CPR.

Nature’s Little Explorers Camp
Ages 4 and 5
July 13–August 21
10am-12pm

Specially designed for the youngest nature nuts! Half-day programs led by caring counselors - themes include Water! Water!, Bug World, Habitat Hunt, Frogs and Toads, and Fairy-Land.

Session 1
July 13-17
Bug World

Session 2
July 20-24
Water Water!

Session 3
July 27-31
Fairy Land!

Session 4
August 3-7
Frogs and Toads

Session 5
August 10-14
Habitat Hunt

Session 6
August 17-21
Water Water!

For more details and to register online for summer camp, visit www.baltimorewoods.org
Voyager Camp

5th – 8th Grade
July 6 – August 7
10am – 3pm

For campers looking for a bigger challenge or wanting to try something new. Themes include Water Worlds, Mammals, Wilderness Survival, Herps and Raiders of the Lost Woods!

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<td>July 6-10</td>
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<td><strong>Mammals!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Herp it UP!</strong></td>
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**Session 4**
July 27-31
**Wilderness Survival**

**Session 5**
August 3-7
**Raiders of the Lost Woods**

Teen Camp

9th-11th Grade
August 3– August 21
10am–3pm

Nature isn’t just for kids; it’s for young adults too! Hands-on, action-packed weeks made for teens. Themes include Primitive Survival Skills, Photography, and Nature Documentary Film Making.

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<td><strong>Teen vs. Wild: Primitive Survival Skills</strong></td>
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For more details and to register online for summer camp, visit www.baltimorewoods.org
Finally spring is here! We are all looking forward to our 3rd grade Nature in the City series; it’s one of our favorites! The 3rd program in this series is a field trip to Elmwood Park in May or June. Students get hands-on experience as they venture through the Furnace Brook with D nets searching for macro-invertebrates. Baltimore Woods Nature Center educators teach students how the presence of such creatures can tell us about the water quality and how that impacts Onondaga Lake. Nature in the City’s 3rd grade series is sponsored by Onondaga County Save the Rain and the Syracuse City School District.

Thank you to our Nature in the City Sponsors!

Nature in the City Sponsors for 2014-2015 School Year

Bellevue Elementary
Friends of Bellevue Elementary
Delaware Elementary
The Jim and Juli Boeheim Foundation
Dr. King Elementary
Upstate Medical University & Price Chopper’s Golub Foundation
Ed Smith Elementary
Key Bank
Franklin Elementary
Lockheed Martin Employee Federated Fund
Frazer Elementary
National Grid
Hughes Elementary
Maxian+Horst
AXA Financial Advisors
Huntington Elementary
Friends of Huntington Elementary
HW Smith Elementary
SRC, Inc.
LeMoyne Elementary
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield
Walmart
McKinley- Brighton Elementary
Friend of McKinley-Brighton Elementary & The Jim and Juli Boeheim Foundation
Meacham Elementary
Colonial Laundromat
Porter Elementary
Time Warner Cable’s Connect a Million Minds
Roberts Elementary
National Grid
Salem Hyde Elementary
Lockheed Martin
Seymour Elementary
Carrier
Van Duyn Elementary
Byrne Dairy & O’Brien & Gere
Webster Elementary
Dominion
Weeks Elementary
Lockheed Martin

Third grade programming in 11 of the 19 schools is funded by Onondaga County Save the Rain.
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**May**

Belted kingfishers line their nests with layers of fish bones, scales, and arthropod exoskeletons for insulation.

While there are over 250 bird species in New York State, there are less than 150 species of trees.

**June**

Fireflies produce what’s called a “cold light” because their light produces no heat.

Monarch butterflies use milkweed toxins which they collect as caperpillars as a defense mechanism against predators.
Insects, including bees and butterflies, can see ultraviolet light.

The July full moon is called the Buck moon because this is the month when bucks begin to grow new antlers.

Rather than using pesticides, pick dandelions! They’re edible from root to blossom.

Bats can eat up to 1,200 mosquitoes in an hour.
Volunteer Spotlight
Meet Karen Smith, our Art Gallery Coordinator...

Many folks at The Woods have known Karen Smith through their own volunteer experiences. Karen has acted as our Volunteer Coordinator since 2011, and in 2014 she moved over to manage our art gallery.

“I enjoyed my time as Volunteer Coordinator because I met so many great people, and learned a lot about both the philosophy and the programs at The Woods. As Gallery Coordinator, I am able to continue with many of these connections, and utilize my creative side as well”, says Karen.

Nature, art, artists, and the environment are the perfect combinations for this former art educator. A new and popular show that Karen has brought to Baltimore Woods is the Student Art Exhibit, held in May and June. We hope you will stop in and browse the gallery regularly to see what great contributions Karen Smith makes to our organization!

Join Baltimore Woods
Share your love of nature
GIFT MEMBERSHIPS available at
Baltimore Woods Nature Center
Call (315) 673-1350 to sign up your friends.

Baltimore Woods Nature Center offers the best ...
• nature observation and enjoyment
• flower, herb, and wildflower gardens
• adventure nature day camps
• 6+ miles of hiking trails
• public programs year-round for seniors, adults, families, and children
• art gallery with members-only exhibit
• bird-watching station
• volunteer opportunities in many areas

Field Trip Volunteers Needed
We need nature loving volunteers to help out with our on-site field trip programs in May and June!

As a volunteer you will be assisting a BWNC educator during a program like Pond and Stream Ecology which is our most popular field trip.

Field trips are usually 2 hours in the morning or afternoon with students from Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Mother’s Day Garden Tour
Sunday, May 10th, 2015
11am – 4pm

Looking to start a new tradition with your family for Mother’s Day?
• Join Baltimore Woods for its annual Mother’s Day Garden Tour fundraiser at Sycamore Hill Gardens in Marcellus.
• Explore over 35 acres of formal gardens, diverse statuary, koi ponds, stonework, a hedge maze and more. Guaranteed to provide a fun and unique opportunity for your family’s special day.
• Tickets: $5 through May 2nd; $10 after May 2nd & at the event; Free for children 8 & under. No pets please.

Annual Membership Level
☐ $20 Senior/Student
☐ $30 Individual
☐ $40 Family
☐ $100-$200 Patron
☐ $1000 Life
☐ Donation Amount
(in addition to membership)

Name
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Address
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Make checks payable to:
Baltimore Woods Nature Center
To pay by credit card:

Credit Card Number
________________________________________
Exp. Date
CVV (3-digit code on back)

Signature
________________________________________

Return this coupon with payment to:
Baltimore Woods Nature Center
P.O. Box 133
Marcellus, NY 13108-0133
The Interpretive Center and Art Gallery are open Monday through Friday 9am to 4pm, and Saturday 10am to 4pm. Closed Sunday. Closed May 25th & July 4th. Hiking trails are open every day dawn to dusk. Hiking, art gallery admission, and parking are free.

NATURE TIP:

Trying to build a fire after a rainstorm?

Use yellow birch bark as your tinder. It easily peels off the trees and contains oils that burn even when wet!

Save the Date

EnvIRONmental CHEF 2015
Sunday, September 13th
3–6pm

Come celebrate locally produced food with some of the area’s top chefs in support of Baltimore Woods!

Watch for more details about this delicious fundraiser at www.baltimorewoods.org