



**Baltimore Woods
Nature Center**
Nature in your hands



the Overlook

JANUARY - APRIL 2020 · VOLUME 34 · NUMBER 1

Getting to Know You...

Nature is all around us,
everywhere you look.
Take some time this season
to get to know your local
nature neighbors, and see
how rich with life your
community can be.

2020 Annual Meeting

All members are invited.

January 28, 2020
Potluck dinner at 6:00pm
Meeting at 6:30pm

The meeting will include a review of 2019 and the election of members of the Board of Directors and officers. The ballot will be available on our website before January 15.

New Year...New Look!

The Overlook format has changed. You'll still find all the stories you enjoy, but now there's more of them!



4007 Bishop Hill Road
P.O. Box 133
Marcellus, NY 13108 (315) 673-1350
www.baltimorewoods.org

Nature in Your Hands ...

by Whitney Lash-Marshall, Executive Director
and Emily Overstrom, Environmental Educator

As your community-based nature center we strive to serve as a space for people of all ages to get outside and enjoy new moments in nature. For us, “nature in your hands” is more than a tagline - it’s a philosophy that is central to the programs we offer and the experiences we provide. We believe that hands-on, engaging experiences in nature have a profound impact on us, both as individuals and as a broader community. They help us be more aware of the wonders of the natural world, allow us to de-stress and feel restored, and ultimately inspire us to be connected to and help steward the environment we live in.

For many of you who visit Baltimore Woods, you find these connections along the trails as you seek out special spaces where you can reflect, recharge, and just get away from day-to-day life. For others, you come here looking for up-close encounters with the natural world to discover more about the amazing things that happen in nature every day. **How has Baltimore Woods Nature Center helped you experience “nature in your hands?”** Maybe it was a public program where you saw a new bird up close, maybe you heard a child tell the story of seeing a frog in the pond for the first time on a field trip or how salamander feet tickled as they walked along her hand on Earth Day, or maybe your family shares multiple generations of stories of swamp day at summer camp. No matter the season or how big or small the moment, we want to know how these immersive experiences in nature have made a difference for you, your family, and our community.



Our vision for the future is to put nature in even more hands by providing new opportunities for environmental education, recreation, play, and research. We’re working to expand the preserve, reach broader audiences, strengthen our community partnerships, offer new programs and increase the number of programs we offer - and we want to hear from our community! Send us your stories to connect@baltimorewoods.org.

Don’t have a “nature in your hands” moment yet? What better time to try this out than in the new year! Our upcoming programs will help you accomplish this, including those that help us experience nature in a new way, like “Our Homes, Their Habitats”, or help us to slow down and appreciate the world around us, like “Beauties of Winter” in February or “The Trees are Calling and I Must Paint” in April. We hope you’ll join us to experience the restorative qualities of getting outside and connect to nature here at Baltimore Woods.

...Nature in More Hands!



Baltimore Woods Nature Center fosters enduring stewardship of our natural world by offering immersive programs and a place in Central New York for everyone to cultivate appreciation and personal connections to nature through environmental education, recreation, play, and research. *We put nature in your hands.*



Heading out for a Hike?

Find an updated trail map on our website.

Baltimore Woods: A Place for Everyone

Nature adventure day camps allowing kids to put nature in their hands through unstructured outdoor exploration for over 30 years.

A community gathering place for meetings, retreats, and weddings.

Trails ready for enjoying hiking, snowshoeing, and nature watching — free of charge and open dawn to dusk 365 days a year.

Unique curriculum-based school field trips led by a dedicated team of environmental educators.

Recurring events that promote health, wellness, and sustainable living throughout the year.

Environmental education programs that inspire stewardship and love for the natural world in all seasons.

Come visit soon!

This Season at Baltimore Woods...

By Becky Wilson, Environmental Educator

January has arrived and a thick coat of ice covers Phillips Pond. Quiet and still, it's a perfect spot to pause and consider your role as a quiet observer. Snow covers the land like a blanket, keeping the creatures underground warm and cozy. The trees sigh with the weight of winter, their buds closed and waiting for the warmth of spring.



The collective heartbeat of the land lies deep below, dreaming of the sun. Not all animals have the option of sleeping through the cold. A red fox travels by the pond, listening, smelling, looking for food. It's much harder to find a decent meal during winter, but the fox is a skilled hunter. An unlucky mouse moving underneath the snow will likely become lunch.

As the months move on through freezing February days and into the various moods of March, subtle changes occur at the pond. The ground begins to thaw slowly, the ice starts to melt, and sap flows through the trees, waking them up. The buds on their branches

become swollen, ready to burst as the spring equinox arrives. A sign of longer days of sunshine to come. When winter breaks its icy grip at last, vibrant life springs forth once more. Under the still waters of the pond, aquatic insects like damselflies and dragonfly larvae zoom this way or that, in search of the energy that sustains them.

A red-tailed hawk screams into the wind, opening her wings to soar, circling high above the pond. Her eyes scan over you, standing along the bank, just another link in the chain of life at The Woods.

Experience Winter in a Whole New Way!



Snowshoes can help you experience The Woods in a whole new way! If you go with a group, try taking turns going first on the trail. This way you'll spread out the extra work of breaking through the fresh snow among the group members! Baltimore Woods members can sign out snowshoes at the front desk at no charge, and rental fees are just \$5 for other visitors! We offer a wide selection for both children and adults.

Stories the Land Tells Us

by Fran Lawlor, Land Manager

A walk through the woods can reveal more than we realize. The heart of Baltimore Woods may beat in the Hemlock-Hardwood Forest ecological community of the Baltimore Brook Basin. To take the pulse, hike the Valley Trail below the Faust Woodland Garden and linger on the bridge. Study both sides of the valley, the finest at The Woods. The shady slopes and rich soil grow fine trees: hemlock, sugar maple, yellow birch, basswood, and bitternut hickory tower over muscle wood, witch hazel, hop hornbeam. The forest floor is rich with ferns, foamflower, jack-in-the-pulpit, trout lily, trillium, and more.

This part of the woods was not cleared by early settlers for pasture or crops. Remnants of fallen and uprooted trees of the past have made the hummocks and hollows on the forest floor. The mycorrhizal laden duff layer under the leaves enhances the nutrient uptake by the trees and wildflowers. Take the time



to inhale deeply and quietly observe what is going on around you.

Cross the bridge and take a left turn on the Boundary Trail, taking in the scenery on each side. Soon the woods open wide as Weeks Meadow emerges on the left, another ecological community, a successional old field growing to a new forest. On the right is the deer fence protecting the Rich Sloping Fens across

Spring Brook. Further up the hill the forest is much younger and simpler. On the left before you reach the spruce grove is yet another community, an early successional hardwood forest, created by old farmland yielding to the inevitable forest of the Northeast. Notice the lack of hummocks and hollows, the forest floor devoid of wildflowers and saplings. There are only two dominant tree species, sugar maple and ash, with occasional black cherry and, to the right, some poplars mixed in. You'll spot many small blue flags marking plots where researchers are studying strategies to repopulate the diversity of the original forest. The challenges are many: increased deer browse, lack of mycorrhizal networks, no seeds from mature plants, to name a few.

This land is rich with stories. When you take the time to wander and observe, nature unfolds them before you. We invite you to lean in and listen.

Market Brings Local Food and Friends Together

by Sue Jones, Market Manager

It's true! Simple acts of stewardship, like shopping for locally produced items at the Baltimore Woods Winter Farmers Market, can make you feel you're doing your part to help the planet and your community!

Since 2014, the market has been a place where customers can meet and buy goods from some of CNY's top sustainable growers and artisanal food and beverage producers. Bob Lee from Balsam Rose Soap Company, who has been selling his handmade products at the market since its inception, commented "I enjoy greeting friends at the market; both vendors and customers...a great continuation of the many summer farmers markets, customers

have the opportunity to purchase local goods all year long."

The market is also more than a chance to shop. The room is fragrant with the smells of freshly roasted coffee, there's always a colorful backdrop of local nature-inspired art on display, and occasionally, we feature local musicians. Customer Jane Hastedt noted, "I enjoy buying goods that have been produced or grown nearby and not shipped from hundreds of miles away and getting to know the folks that produce what I buy. And it's just fun to be here. I always bump into someone I know at the market."

After shopping, customers can wander to the back deck to watch birds enjoying their



Purchase a tote bag in the gift shop to hold all your market goodies!

own "local food" or enjoy a hike. Mark your calendar for these upcoming market dates: January 11, February 8, March 14, and April 11 from 10am-1pm. Free parking. Look for the market on facebook.



January



Snowflakes are bigger and more intricate when the temperature is close to 32° F.



Star Party: Quadrantids Meteor Shower

January 3, 7-9pm

For all ages

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Come see the Quadrantids meteor shower, a crescent moon, and winter skies. The area around Orion offers the brightest stars and clusters in the sky. Also, have a close-up look at the moon, and maybe catch a few shooting stars from the Quadrantid meteor shower. Back-up date January 4th.

Nature's Little Explorers: Celebrate Winter!

January 8 - February 12, Wednesdays, 10-11am

For ages 3-5

Cost: \$35 members; \$50 public



No need to stay inside just because it's cold and snowy! Let's journey out into winter and celebrate all the wonderful things we can find in the fields and forests during this six-week series. Weekly themes will include: Snow, Ice, Winter Birds, Winter Animal Homes, Keeping Warm, and Tracks and More Tracks!

Helping Our Winter Residents

January 9, 10-11:30am

For adults

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Where did they go? What are they doing? How can I help them? Join us for a walk and a craft all about the animals toughing out the winter and discover fun ways we help them out.

Trail School: High Hill Traverse

January 16, 10am-12pm

For ages 5-15

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Baltimore Woods has some epic hills - let's go find them and soak in the winter views. Who knows what we'll find along the way? Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Our Homes, Their Habitats

January 18, 11am-12:30pm

For all ages

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Bring the whole family out to The Woods and get acquainted with the critters crawling around in your home. Spiders, insects, and myriapods, oh my!

Winter's Flying Jewels

January 23, 10-11am

For adults

Cost: \$6 members;

\$9 public



Birds are busy this time of year, which means it's the perfect opportunity for birding! We'll watch the feeder and take a short hike to look and listen for these wintertime gems. All birding levels welcome; binoculars available to borrow.

Winter's Artists

January 25, 1-2:30pm

For ages 3 and up

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Let your inner artist out! Let's get outside to shake the winter blues off and make beautiful natural arts and crafts. We will use nature's materials around us to create chilly masterpieces.

February



Hibernating groundhogs may lose half their weight by this time.

Owl Prowl: Owls in Time

February 1, 7-9pm

For ages 10 and up

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public



Owls have been both feared and adored throughout human history. Come listen to stories about owls in time followed by a winter night walk in search of these mysterious birds of prey.

Trail School: Trails of the Tricksters

February 6, 10am-12pm

For ages 5-15

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Foxes and coyotes move all around Baltimore Woods at night. This trip will take us far and wide as we follow wild tracks wherever they might lead! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Talkin' Twigs : Exploring Winter Trees

February 13, 10-11:30am

For adults

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Don't be a fair-weather tree friend. Trees are good to know all year round! Winter trees can be challenging to identify, but with a little help, each of us can find ways to get to know their wintry faces. Program has a short hike on flat terrain.

Sweetheart Snowshoe

February 14, 7-9pm



For adults

Cost: \$20/couple for members; \$30/couple for the public.

Bring your valentine for a romantic, lantern-lit snowshoe for two through the evening woods. Together, you'll discover romantic notes hidden along the trail and share some quiet moments outdoors. Then, warm up indoors with hot drinks and decadent desserts. Limited to 20 couples; registration is required. Snowshoes provided.

Mammal Detectives

February 15, 1-2:30pm

For ages 8 and up

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Discover the different evidence mammals leave behind as they travel through the forest. We'll gain new investigation skills as we explore and try to answer the who, where, and why of mammals in the winter.



Meet the Baltimore Woods Education Team!



Tom Meier



Becky Wilson



Alexandra Grove



Emily Overstrom



Rand Michaels



Eliza Phillips

Star Party: Mercury and Venus February 15, 5:30-8pm

For all ages

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

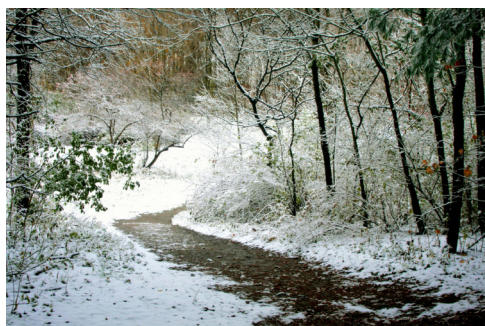
This is our best chance to see the elusive planet Mercury, right after sunset, plus great views of the winter skies surrounding the constellation Orion. Venus will also be visible as it makes its way around the sun, getting closer to Earth each week. Back-up date Feb. 16th.

Beauties of Winter February 27, 10-11:30am

For adults

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Sometimes nature reminds us to slow down. Come join us for a walk where we will do just that: slow down, look, listen, and find the beauties of our woods that are often hidden during other times of the year.



Combat Winter Blues February 29, 1-3pm

For adults

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Connecting with nature in the chilly dark winter months can be challenging. Come make a beeswax candle that can be your beacon of light, followed by a snowshoe hike where we'll discover more ways we can invite nature into our lives.

March



This month, watch for early blooming flowers like snowdrops.

Nature's Little Explorers: Calling in Spring!

March 11 - April 22

Wednesdays, 10-11am

For ages 3-5

Cost: \$35 members; \$50 public

Spring is almost here, the snow will soon melt and the trees and flowers will wake up! Our mission? Call in the spring! Who do you think will be the first birds to fly back? When will the sleepy animals wake up? There's only one way to find out – get outside and see! Weekly themes will include: Melt the Ice and Snow, Calling on Birds, Light and Dark, Calling Wood Frogs and

Peepers, Sally Forth Salamanders, and Chipmunk Chatter. (No class on April 8.)

Magical Maples and Munchies March 12, 10-11am

For adults

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Is there a tree so magical as a maple? Join us in a celebration of all things maple, including some special maple treats! This program will include a short walk outside to our sugar bush. Snowshoes provided.

Trail School: Camouflage! March 19, 10am-12pm

For ages 5-15

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

It's everyone's favorite camp game — winter style! We'll head out to all the best places to play Camouflage and see who's the best at blending in. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Amphibian Alert Rust March 19 – Mid-April

For ages 5 and up

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Each spring during the first warm rainy night after the equinox, hundreds of amphibians move from underground lairs to vernal pools. To find out when Baltimore Woods will attempt to observe this migration at Labrador Hollow, watch for alerts on our website, or sign up online to be put on our alert list.

Star Party: Farewell Winter Skies March 20, 7-9:30pm

For all ages

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Venus is at its best viewing position for the year, high above the western sky at sunset. Plus, we'll say farewell to winter skies. Back-up date March 21st.

Into the Sugar Bush March 21, 1-2:30pm

For ages 10 and up

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Spring is right around the corner, which means it's time to harvest a naturally sweet treat—maple syrup! We'll journey through the history of maple sugaring,



PROGRAMS

learn when and how to tap, and taste sweet syrup along the way.

Native Gardens and You!

March 26, 10-11:30am

For adults

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Native plants have many benefits for you and for wildlife. Learn how to create native gardens to experience these benefits right outside your door - and leave with a planted seed to get you started on your journey!

Equinox Meditation Hike

March 28, 2-3:30pm

For adults

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Spring is here at last! Learn meditative ways to tap into the new and fresh energies of spring through mindful hiking and nature journaling.

Earth Hour

March 28, 8:30-9:30pm

Take part in a global grassroots movement to celebrate nature and our planet. Turn off the lights for one hour as a reminder that all of humanity has the responsibility and the power to preserve the Earth.

April

Pink Moon
April 23

*It's National Poetry Month.
Let spring inspire you!*

Trail School: Overlooks, Fields, and Forests

April 2, 10am-12pm

For ages 5-15

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

The first signs of spring are finally near, and the Overlook and Field to Forest trails will take us right into the heart of the awakening forest. Who knows what secrets we'll uncover? Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Volunteer Lunches

January 15, February 12
March 18, and April 15
@12:30pm

The After Party: Observing Vernal Pools

April 16, 10-11am

For adults

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

The spring amphibian migration is a wet, cold extravaganza! Join us at Labrador Hollow to observe the development of new life in the vernal pools.

Weekend Wildflower Walk

**April 18, 19, 25, 26, and May 2, 3
2-3pm**

Program for ages 15 and up

Free program; donations appreciated

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. Call for accessibility information.



The Trees are Calling and I Must Paint

April 18, 4-6pm

For adults

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

From the smallest plant to the largest mountain, nature inspires us all in different ways. Join us for a mindful hike and painting as we find inspiration in the springtime forest.

Trail School: Hike to Salamander Hollow

April 30, 10-12pm

For ages 5-15

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

The seeps and springs throughout Baltimore Woods are homes for many creatures. This week we will head out to Salamander Hollow, where - you guessed it - we can find salamanders! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Star Party: Lyrid Meteor Shower

April 24, 7-9pm

For all ages

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

The Lyrid meteor shower peaks about this time and Venus will be easily visible. Join local astronomer Bob Piekiet in saying "hello!" to spring skies.

Earth Day Restoration Project

April 25, 10am-12pm

Volunteers welcome!

Earth Day at Baltimore Woods means habitat restoration, and we need your help! To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day we will plant 50+ plants into the woods and remove 50+ invasive plants! Bring your work gloves and a favorite trowel, shovel, lopper, or pruner. We will provide tools if you don't have them. Lunch provided. Pre-register on our website.

Earth Day Celebration

April 25, 1-4pm

Free community program!

It's Earth Day! Come on out to Baltimore Woods for a fun and educational event

including info booths on home energy, recycling, crafts, guided nature walks, live animal shows, and a special live performance of Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax*.



UNLESS

Wildflower Hike with Famous Poets

April 30, 10-11:30am

For adults

Cost: \$6 members; \$9 public

Baltimore Woods has an astonishing display of spring wildflowers. Come for an inspiring walk with the words of famous poets as they help us appreciate this ephemeral moment.

Don't forget to pre-register for programs online at www.baltimorewoods.org/programs.

Join us for fun with friends in the forest!

School Break Adventure Camps

Offered in January, February, April, and November, our school break camps give kids a chance to get outside in the fresh air and explore their environment through creative nature play. These themed camps are designed with flexibility in mind, allowing parents to sign their kids up for one day or a whole week of fun!

Registration Details: School break camps are for children in grades K-8. \$52/child/day. Family membership required. Pre-registration is required. Before and after care are available. Space is limited. **Register online at baltimorewoods.org!**



JANUARY CAMP

CSI: Baltimore Woods

January 20, 9am-4pm

It's a real winter whodunit animal mystery in the woods! Look for clues, follow tracks, ask probing questions and get to the bottom of things. Grab your magnifying glass and become an official Baltimore Woods Crime Scene Investigator!



FEBRUARY CAMP

Predator vs. Prey

February 18-21, 9am-4pm

It's Predator vs Prey all week long this winter break! Each day we'll learn about different predators and their prey through games, crafts, and imaginative play. Visit our website for full details.

Tuesday

Foxes and Rabbits

Wednesday

Coyote and Deer

Thursday

Owls and Mice

Friday

Predator vs. Prey Capture the Flag



SPRING BREAK CAMP

BioBlitz!

April 6-10, 9am-4pm

Do you know how many different animals and plants live in Baltimore Woods? There's really only one way to find out – join us for a full week of running around the woods to find as many different living things as we can! Each day will have a different focus, so join us for your favorite or come every day to discover it all!

Monday

Small, Smaller, Smallest!

Tuesday

All Birds All the Time!

Wednesday

Reptiles and Amphibians Galore!

Thursday

The Great Log Roll Off!

Friday

Mammal Mania!

DON'T MISS OUT ON SUMMER CAMP!



Early Bird
Registration
opens March 1st.

Sign up by April 15th
and save \$10!





2019-2020 Sponsors

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Syracuse City School District

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* We welcome these new partners to Nature in the City!

** Thank you to our ten-year community partners!

Nature in the City News!

By Alexandra Grove, Environmental Educator

The new year brings with it exciting opportunities for educators and students to explore the natural world around them. Educators get to see students light up when they walk in the room with something amazing to share, like watershed models, peregrine falcon mounts, and snow catchers.



Third grade students from Syracuse City School District calculate water quality based on the creatures they caught during a field trip at Elmwood Park.

The second we walk into a school, children recognize the *Nature in the City* logo on our shirts. Young faces widen in smiles as they ask if we will be visiting their class today. A familiar voice sparks recognition as it exclaims, "I was in your camp group!" The job of an educator is multi-faceted. When school is out, our educators transform into camp counselors. All year long we make connections between nature, ourselves, and budding stewards. It is always a pleasant surprise when we see campers in the classroom.

Families that connect their children both as students in the classroom and campers at The Woods experience our approach to nature in these different settings. Although Baltimore Woods and green spaces in the city may appear dissimilar to these students, we show them through interactive, outdoor lessons that opportunities for discovery emerge in both spaces. The look of wonder as we explore their school yard parallels the encounters with nature they have during camp. One of the families we connect with shared about her two children, "Both kids like to name plants in our neighborhood they have seen at [Baltimore Woods]."



Summer campers at Baltimore Woods learning about the insects they caught in Phillips Pond.

As we transition back and forth from counselors to educators, we maintain a passion for getting children to explore the outdoors. We show children how to put nature in their hands everywhere they go. Our place-based, hands-on *Nature in the City* lessons instill a sense of belonging as children get outside to discover the wonders right outside their door.

Want to become a partner or volunteer with *Nature in the City*?

Contact Whitney Lash-Marshall at whitney@baltimorewoods.org

Nature Notes...

The Superlative Chickadee

by Tom Meier, Camp Director

Edwin Way Teale, famous naturalist of the last century, says that “winter is a time of superlative life.” On the harshest of winter days in Central New York it can be difficult to agree. To find the truth in his statement, look no further than the bold black-capped chickadee in your backyard.

Chickadees and winter simply go together. Few other birds have the array of survival tactics at a chickadee’s disposal. A thick coat of feathers and sleeping in small tree cavities is just the beginning. Large brains help them find stashed food from warmer months. They

conserve energy at night by lowering their body temperature an average of twelve degrees. During the day they stuff themselves with seeds, berries, and frozen insects, building fat reserves which burn off almost completely during the night.

As the days grow longer and our corner of the world warms to the sun, chickadees are the first to sing about it with their happy “cheese-burger!” song. As Teale says, “On the roughest day of winter, when life seems overwhelmed by storm and cloud, watch a chickadee, observe its good cheer and take heart.”



Learn about chickadees and other birds that overwinter in Central New York by attending the “Winter’s Flying Jewels” program on Jan. 23rd.
Photo credit: Jonathan Kresge

Kids Place

NEW YORK BIRDS

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

BLUEBIRD	DUCK	OWL
CARDINAL	FALCON	ROBIN
CHICKADEE	GOOSE	SWAN
CROW	HAWK	VIREO

A Note from Miss Hiss



My friendsss! It’s been ages since I’ve had a chance to write you. To those of you who have visited The Woods recently but haven’t seen me, I apologize. It’s my resting season, or hibernation as some call it. I can still hear and smell you though, so I appreciate your visits! I will be back out in the spring when it’s warmer and my hunger wins over my instinct to sleep.

If I’m resting when you visit, you can say hi to my shelled friend, Fern! She’s quite noisy. I can hear her jumping into the water, her shell making a loud whack noise as it hits the bottom of her tank. How does she not get shell-aches, I wonder?

Oh, and I hear from my human caretakers that we’re expecting a new resident soon. Be sure to check out its habitat, I hear it’s exquisite! They won’t let me tell you what species it will be. They want to make it a surprise. What’s your guess?

Did you know I have an email address? I’m pretty tech savvy for a snake. Email me at misshiss@baltimorewoods.org. I’d love to hear from you! See you at The Woodsss!

Miss Hiss

Join Baltimore Woods

Share your love of nature

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

available at

Baltimore Woods Nature Center

**Call (315) 673-1350
to sign your friends up.**

Baltimore Woods Nature Center members enjoy ...

- program, rental, and gift shop discounts
- discounts at 180 other nature centers
- free snowshoe use on-site
- summer and school break camps
- knowing they are helping preserve our valuable and beautiful environment both now and in the future

Join online at baltimorewoods.org, call (315) 673-1350, or mail the form below.

Annual Membership Level

_____ \$20 Senior/Student

_____ \$30 Individual

_____ \$40 Family

_____ \$100-\$200 Patron

_____ \$1000 Life

_____ Donation Amount
(in addition to membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Yes, I want to receive *The Overlook* newsletter by email to save paper and reduce mailing costs.

**Make checks payable to:
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**Return this coupon with payment to:
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P.O. Box 133
Marcellus, NY 13108-0133**

Leaving a Legacy of Stewardship

by Meg Schader, Membership and Development Coordinator

The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to think about your priorities and plans for the future. If The Woods has been an important part of your life, consider making plans to support us in 2020 and beyond. A community resource, Baltimore Woods Nature Center relies on people like you to support our efforts to help everyone create healthy relationships to nature.

Through our immersive, hands-on programs, we are educating future caretakers of our community. Our programs for children and adults help foster appreciation for our natural world today, which is the foundation for an ethic of stewardship tomorrow.

Your support is essential for our success in 2020 and for the years to come. Whether it's a planned gift from your IRA this year or a planned gift through your estate, your donation helps shape the future of our community, and may also generate a significant tax benefit for you. Planned gifts ensure a strong future for our nonprofit, allowing us to build

a steady, predictable source of income so that we can help future generations learn to understand, respect, and protect nature. If you would like help arranging a planned gift, we can connect you with tax professionals who are available to help.



If Baltimore Woods has been an important part of your family, consider making a commitment to our mission by becoming a life member this year. Life members help us build our endowment and help create a legacy for nature. Since our endowment is managed by the Central New York Community Foundation, you can feel secure in knowing that your investment will support us for many years into the future.

Planned gifts and life memberships allow us to fulfill our mission and pursue our vision with the confidence that we have the support of our community for years to come. If your goals for 2020 include promoting environmental awareness and practicing stewardship of our natural world, becoming a life member or making a planned gift to Baltimore Woods is one way to do that in your community.

Interested in Planned Giving? To learn more, contact Meg Schader, Membership and Development Coordinator at meg@baltimorewoods.org.

Thank You New Life Members!

Jane Amidon

Lawrence Barlow

Jeremy and Nicole Davidheiser and family

Doug and Pam Hamlin

The Woods now has 72 life members, whose gifts have been added to our endowment. The annual income will support our work in perpetuity.

Resolve to Get Involved in 2020

by Meg Schader, Membership and Development Coordinator

If your New Year's resolutions include becoming more involved in your community, finding more opportunities to enjoy nature, or (meet people who share your hobbies and interests) expanding your social connections, let Baltimore Woods help you make those dreams a reality in 2020! Since our early days, we have relied on the helping hands of our community members to keep us going strong. From gardening and clearing trails to planning annual events, to answering our phones, there's a way for everyone to get involved at The Woods!

Join The A-Team



If you love getting outside in the fresh air and contributing to the management and improvement of the land, consider joining the A-Team. It's a great way to meet hard-working, dedicated people, who share your care for the natural world! The A-Team works on projects to make the preserve enjoyable for all of our visitors. Together, they build amenities like our outdoor pavilion, and bridges along the

trails. They also complete tasks such as lawn mowing, snow removal, and a lot of trail maintenance! They help make the trails safer and easier to navigate, and contribute to the removal of invasive species, allowing the landscape and wildlife to continue thriving at The Woods!

Become a Front Desk Receptionist

When visitors arrive, our receptionists are often the first friendly faces they meet. Volunteers work in three to four hour shifts each day, answering questions about our programs, helping hikers with trail information, answering phones, staffing the gift shop and desk during larger programs and events, and assisting the staff with mailings and projects.



Get Involved as a Gardener

Do you love to garden? Our gardeners keep our front entrance looking lovely year-round. They also help to maintain a native herb garden and often get involved in special projects like our Native Plant Sale each spring.



Join a Special Event Committee

Help The Woods raise awareness and funds to sustain our programs by getting involved in the planning and execution of fun, family-friendly, community events, like our annual Run for The Woods 5K Run/Walk, the Mother's Day Garden Tour at Sycamore Hill Gardens, or the Native Plant Sale at The Woods!

**What special skills or interests can you bring to The Woods?
Visit our website to learn more about volunteering your time!**

Currently in the Gallery *Treasures of Trees*

Quilts
by Sue Ellen Romanowski
Watercolor paintings
by Christy Lemp

January 4 - February 28
Reception: January 4, 2 - 4pm



Goldfish by Christy Lemp



The Tree Swing
by Sue Ellen Romanowski

Upcoming in the Gallery

"The Earth Laughs in Flowers"

Water Media by Judith Hand
Mixed Media by Julie Gratien



March 6 - April 24
Reception: March 14, 2:30 - 4pm



**Baltimore Woods
Nature Center**
Nature in your hands

P.O. Box 133
Marcellus, NY 13108

**Interpretive Center
and Art Gallery Hours:**
Monday–Friday, 9am–4pm
Saturday, 10am–4pm
Closed Sundays

Holiday Closures:
January 1 & May 25

Hiking trails are open dawn to dusk
No admission or parking fees
No pets please

Find us on the web at
www.baltimorewoods.org
or on social media



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New York
Permit Number 9

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NATURE TIP



Keep those winter blues at bay by exploring the outdoors. Spot colorful birds, track animals through the snow, or grab some snowshoes for a peaceful hike.



Save the Dates for Fun in 2020!
Join us for one of these exciting community events!

Earth Day Celebration

April 25

Mothers Day Garden Tour

May 10

Native Plant Sale

May 29 & 30

5K Run/Walk for The Woods

August 16

Autumnal Fairy Festival

October 10

Watch for details on our website at baltimorewoods.org!