



the Overlook

SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER 2023 • VOLUME 36 • NUMBER 1

“Curiosity is the key to problem solving”

– Galileo Galilei

Children are innately curious about the world around them. Schoolyards, parks, nature centers, and playgrounds are real-world laboratories for their curious minds where the seeds of scientific literacy can take root. The more we can help them access these places, the more future problem solvers there will be.



Baltimore Woods Mission and Vision

Connecting communities and nature in wisdom and wonder.

Baltimore Woods Nature Center is a leader in facilitating opportunities for people to build personal connections to nature. Through engaging experiences and place-based exploration, we envision communities united in stewardship and love of the natural world.

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

Accessing Nature

by Whitney Lash-Marshall, Executive Director

If you close your eyes and think of nature, what images come to your mind?

It is different for each of us. You might picture a particular creature, tree, trail, or vista. It could be a place you visit frequently, like your backyard or a local nature preserve, a destination you haven't been able to visit yet, or a place you haven't visited in a long time - like the first space you remember really experiencing a moment of connection to the outdoors.

We often talk about the benefits of spending time outside in nature and the positive impacts it can have on our mental, physical, and emotional well-being - but so many things can stand in the way of us getting out into these spaces. The challenge of finding time to get outside with busy schedules, that where we want to explore is too difficult to travel to or is inaccessible due to physical limitations, or that we don't see our ideal version of nature in the green spaces closest to us and feel we have to go elsewhere to find it.

Despite barriers to spending more time with nature (which are as personal and different as our mental images of nature), we want to help each person find ways to build those connections. From bringing immersive outdoor experiences with nature to schoolyards across the City of Syracuse during the Baltimore Woods *Nature in the City* program for students who may not be able to visit the preserve (see pg. 8), to offering year-round field trips, camps, homeschool, and public programs that open hidden worlds waiting to be discovered within forests and under rocks, to constructing new trails and restoring habitats that open unique views and provide

additional opportunities for exploration to our community, we are committed to



A family explores the recirculating stream in the Fox's Den Nature Play Space behind the Interpretive Center, accessible via sidewalk and stone dust

increasing everyone's ability to access the natural world.

This fall, we're excited to be a part of Cornell University's Design Connect to improve trail networks and your overall visitor experience at Baltimore Woods, including new accessible trail designs that will meander through the recently restored fields adjacent to the Interpretive Center (see pg. 2) and provide additional flat trails that are more easily traversed than some of the preserve's steeper terrain.

Whether you prefer hiking hilly or flat trails, attending a naturalist-guided program, reading our Woods Weekly e-newsletter, or just want a space to watch the birds (stop into the Interpretive Center and enjoy the Project Feederwatch station and upcoming nature-inspired art exhibits!) - nature is waiting for you every day through Baltimore Woods Nature Center, and we look forward to finding ways to access it together.



Get Engaged in Stewardship!

If you want to help create a cascade of positive effects at Baltimore Woods, you can volunteer at an upcoming Stewardship Work Day!

Saturday, September 2
Wednesday, September 13
Wednesday, October 4
Saturday, October 7
Wednesday, November 1
Saturday, November 4



Voyager Campers this summer became "Guardians of the Green" during a week focused on connecting campers to Baltimore Woods and immersing them in how our stewardship team cares for the preserve.

with invasive herbs that prevent shrub growth or deer browse prevents trees from growing up through shrubs? What happens if certain species are not close enough for seed dispersal in a maturing forest? Each of these potential paths highlight the importance of starting conditions and is the reason stewardship is critical to the long term ecological integrity and viability of natural areas in our changing world.

Habitat restoration has been a major focus of our stewardship time and effort over the past two years. Each project considers what the land could support, what could regenerate on its own, and what actions could guide change in a positive direction to improve habitat. For the 20+ acres of former corn fields on our newest 90 acres we saw a space that could support a wide array of upland communities. Left to its own devices for a few years, we would expect to see weedy native and non-native herbs,

Changing Habitats, Changing Opportunities

by David DuBois, Land Steward

The habitats at Baltimore Woods are the foundation for everything that happens on the preserve. From hiking trails to field trips, adult programs to camps, none would be possible without the physical space that is the Baltimore Woods Preserve. These habitats and the preserve itself are not static; they are constantly in flux responding to disturbance and changing species.

Changes will, of course, happen on their own, but our ongoing stewardship efforts also strive to promote a cascade of beneficial effects for plants and animals that call these areas home, for children who learn about nature through the lens of these places, and for everyone who uses the trails today and into the future.

The classic example of change is the process of succession, such as when a field grows shrubs that give way to a forest. But the real world is much more complex! What happens when a field fills

such as Queen Ann's Lace, Tall Goldenrod, and White Clover before being displaced by mostly invasive shrubs within the decade.

This shrubland would then begin to give way to a relatively species poor secondary forest by the end of the second decade. Eventually that forest might regenerate some more advanced forest structure and recover native species, but this process would take centuries, and could stall out from competition from any number of non-native species or disruptions.



Thanks to the Columbian Foundation and other donors, over 150 pounds of seeds were planted in former corn fields this spring.

were replaced with farmland or out-competed by tree growth. Considering timeframes, likely outcomes, and conservation value, this spring we planted a diverse assemblage of nearly 25 native grasses and wildflowers. These grassland species will fill in relatively quickly and create a stable basis for a community that is more resilient than an unmanaged field. That allows us to have more opportunities for interesting trails, hands-on nature experiences, and supporting native plants and animals.

The positive effects of these actions sometimes take years or decades to fully realize, but the effects of success are tremendous for everyone and everything that comes into contact with these efforts. A forest does not grow overnight, but the sooner we start, the sooner we will see that forest and experience all the benefits that come with it.



In collaboration with the SUNY-ESF Restoration Science Center and the help of many volunteers, 30+ acres are in active restoration.

Instead, we have elected to change those starting conditions to foster native grassland and oak forest communities that approximate the native warm season grasslands that once existed in the county but

Forests of the Future



Restoration projects across the preserve got a huge boost this past school year during stewardship and service learning field trips from local schools. This spring, we welcomed 94 7th grade students from Marcellus who planted 100 trees in what was once an agricultural field and 50 students from Union Springs who helped improve ecosystem health and diversity by scattering wildflower seeds throughout secondary forest understories and the warm season grasslands on the newest part of the preserve.

It is an incredible thing to have this generation of students take part in restoring habitats that future students will enjoy as campers, on field trips, and hiking with their family. One Marcellus student shared “I love nature, so that’s one of the reasons I love being a part of this project. I love trees and it always makes me sad to see fields broken down with nothing there.”

But the best part? These students were already making plans to come back and visit when they were seniors - or even when they have families of their own - to see and share just how much the wildflowers and trees had grown along with them.

Volunteer Spotlight

One section of the Boundary Trail looks very different this fall than it did in the spring thanks to the incredible efforts of our A-team volunteers!

When culverts blew out in April following a heavy rainstorm (a problem that has been plaguing this section of trail with increasing heavy storms over the past few years), volunteers were on site the next morning helping staff put in a repair and brainstorming a longer-term solution.

Today, culverts have been replaced with a ford and bridge that allows the stream to flow unimpeded over and under the trail, improving aquatic connectivity and reducing overall maintenance needs. On your next hike you can choose to cross the stream through the ford, take advantage of stepping stones, or enjoy the new bridge

and the beautiful views of the surrounding forest. Thank you to everyone who made this project possible!

Visit baltimorewoods.org to see a video of this transformation.



Trail washout in April.



With the support of the Marcellus, Skaneateles, Moravia, and Skaneateles Sunrise Rotary Clubs, 1,300 Hemlock trees were treated against Hemlock Woolly Adelgid over the past year. Thank you for protecting these critical forest species!

The Patty Weisse Educational Assistance Award Goes to...

This year’s recipient is Lukas Grieb, who has been a camper, Teen Volunteer, and an Assistant Counselor with our Summer Nature Day Camps

Congratulations, Lukas!



Volunteers building the armored ford.



Bridge completed in August.

This Season at Baltimore Woods...

By Bridget Jones, Environmental Educator



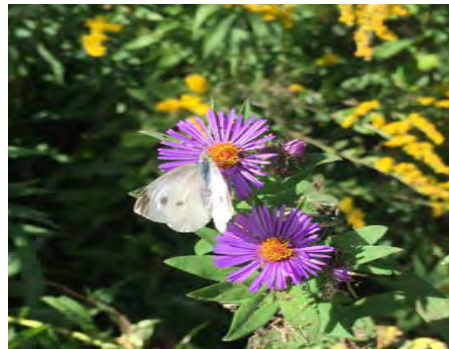
When we think of fall colors, red, brown, gold and orange often come to mind. However, early fall also brings splashes of bright yellow and purple to the fields at Baltimore Woods.

Fall wildflowers like goldenrod and asters are one of the earliest signs of the changing season. These flowers start to bloom in late summer, filling sunny habitats like fields and trailsides, and will continue to bloom until frosts begin. Goldenrod are easily recognizable by their towering spears of yellow flowers. Asters, circular flowers with thin purple or white petals, often grow nearby.

In addition to their visual beauty, these late-blooming flowers also provide

an important food source for wildlife. Many insects, including bees, flies, and butterflies, rely on nectar from these flowers as they prepare for cooler weather to set in. As the season progresses and the flowers fade, goldenrod and asters will continue to provide resources for insects and other animals. Birds eat the seeds from these plants, while some insects spend the winter inside goldenrod galls.

Alongside the changing fall foliage, goldenrod and asters bring their own spectacular colors to the start of the



season. This fall, keep an eye out for these beautiful wildflowers, and take a moment to see if you can spot the insects and animals that rely on them.

The Winter Farmers Market at Baltimore Woods



Second Saturday of each month
from 10am-1pm

November 11
December 9
January 13

February 10
March 9
April 13

Shop for locally produced and grown products to enjoy fresher and more delicious food while vastly reducing the carbon footprint of your food.

Admission and parking are free.
Find the Winter Market on Facebook.

Currently in the Gallery

Field and Forest

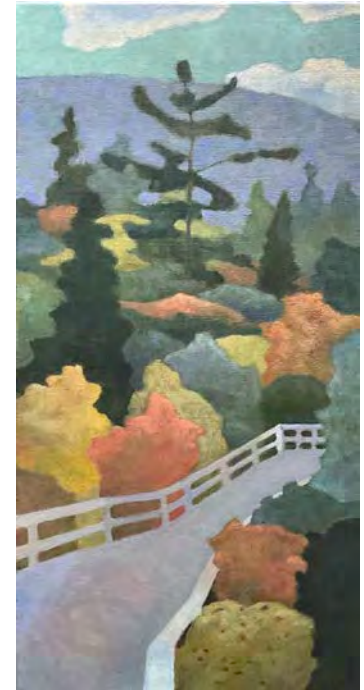
by

Karen Burns

On Display

September 9 - October 27

Reception: September 16,
2:30-4pm - open to the public!



Labrador Hollow IV

Upcoming in the Gallery

Drawing on Talent Member Art Exhibit

November 4 - December 21

Reception: November 4, 2:30-4pm

Call for Artists!

Members of Baltimore Woods are invited to submit work to our 14th annual members' exhibit.

Visit www.baltimorewoods.org or stop by the Interpretive Center to pick up the entry form and guidelines.

Submission deadline:
October 16



Nature Adventure Day Camp

Monday, October 9, 9am-3pm

Friday, November 10, 9am-3pm

Ready for a break from school? Come for an adventure outside in the woods, hiking, exploring, and playing in the Baltimore Woods Nature Camp tradition. Cost: \$52/child.

**Search for school break camps at
baltimorewoods.org and sign up.**

**2024 Winter and Spring Break
camp dates coming soon!**

Outdoor Programs Just For Kids

Whether you're searching for opportunities to meet other homeschooling families, extending your learning to the outdoor classroom, or just looking for some child-led discovery in the great outdoors, Baltimore Woods is the place to go! Developed by our expert education team, these monthly sessions run from September to June.

Nature's Little Explorers

Preschool mini series
for ages 3 and 4

Tuesday Afternoons
1:30-3:30pm



Trail School

Child-led nature explorations
for ages 5 to 13

Tuesday & Thursday Afternoons
1:00-4:00pm



*These programs fill up quickly. Save your child's spot today!
Register online at baltimorewoods.org.*

September

15 In Search of Tiny Worlds in Nature 10-11am

Have you ever taken a moment to observe the world from a bug's eye view? The mossy, licheny undergrowth here at Baltimore Woods holds a rich diversity of life just waiting to be discovered. Daddy long legs pounce on insect prey, tardigrades dwell among the mosses, and tiny mushrooms spring up from the soil. In this micro hike exploration, we will take a closer look at the intricate world of tiny things. For adults and teenagers. \$6 members; \$9 public.

16 A Night at the Woods 7:30-9:30pm

While our trails close at dusk, some life in The Woods is just starting to stir when the sun goes down. Join us for a bona fide Baltimore Woods tradition as we explore the exciting and mysterious nocturnal forest! Using flashlights, black lights, and no lights at all, we'll put our senses to the test as we listen for owls and look for glowing mushrooms. Don't miss your chance to experience A Night at The Woods! Program for all ages. \$6 members; \$9 public.



23 Baltimore Woods BioBlitz Kickoff! 10am-12pm

Calling all citizen scientists: get ready for a Baltimore Woods BioBlitz! From September 23-October 23, you can help us understand, celebrate, and protect the biodiversity of The Woods by recording what you see out on the trails.

On September 23, we'll gather to kick off the BioBlitz! We'll review how to use the iNaturalist app, build skills in identifying wildlife, and work as a group to record as many species as we can find. Join us for a fun morning outdoors as we get to know local wildlife and welcome the fall season, all while giving back to The Woods. Program for ages 8 and up. Free!

29 Secrets of Clouds 10-11am

Clouds hold the key to the weather forecast. In this program, we will learn about the different types of clouds and how their method of formation can tell us what is going on in the atmosphere. Join us to discover the secrets behind the clouds. Program for adults. \$6 members; \$9 public.

30 Nature Yoga Adventure 1-3pm

Join Naturalist and RYT Becky Wilson on an adventure through the trails of Baltimore Woods as we search for inspiration to create yoga asana (poses) based on the nature we observe, much like the process the ancient yogis used to design the poses we still use today! Once we have completed our hike, we will put our poses together for a unique yoga experience out in the field. It's sure to be a family adventure to remember! Program for all ages. \$10 ages 6 and up; ages 5 and under are free.

October

Experience a Forest Therapy Walk



During this slow, mindful, and quiet walk, Certified ANFT Forest Therapy Guide June Leo-Randazzo will provide a series of relaxing invitations to engage all your senses, release your mind chatter, and deepen connections to nature, allowing you to connect with yourself and others through nature in new ways.

Upcoming Forest Therapy Walks:

October 8
November 4 (for families!)
December 2

13 Little Brown Birds that Could 8-10am

People are often captivated by brightly colored birds like cardinals and warblers. Have you ever taken a moment to admire an equally beautiful sparrow, thrush, or wren? Join us for a morning adventure in search of migrating "LBBs" (little brown birds) here at Baltimore Woods. We'll learn about how to tell them apart, the journeys of their fall migrations, and how the preserve provides important habitat and food for them. Program for adults and teenagers. \$6 members; \$9 public.



Autumnal Fairy Festival

Saturday, October 14, 12-4pm

Meet the Fairy Queen
Explore the enchanted trails
Stroll through the labyrinth
Make fairy houses in the gardens
Create a handcrafted wand
Share in the magic of The Woods!

*Costumes are encouraged and
imagination is a must!*
For all ages. \$10 members; \$15 public.



20 Star Party: Orionids Meteor Shower 7-9pm

The peak of the Orionids meteor shower. We will also have a 1st-quarter moon to deal with, but as it sets, the sky will get

darker and hopefully more meteors will become visible. Saturn will be rising later in the program, and we may also get a peek at Jupiter. Bring a lawn chair to watch for meteors. This program is offered for free thanks to our Star Party sponsor, Marcellus Smiles. Program for ages 8 and up.



27 Secret Camp Spots Tour 10am-12pm

Have you heard of Peanut Hill or Harrison's Hideaway? Campers at Baltimore Woods spend their days exploring secret spots of their own beyond the marked trails. If you've ever wanted to see Baltimore Woods through a child's eyes, now's your chance! We'll take a behind-the-scenes tour of the places campers play, explore, and make lifelong connections to nature. Join us to see what makes these places so special and rediscover your inner child! Program for adults. \$6 members; \$9 public.

28 How To Not Be Afraid of The Dark 7:30-9pm

Are you afraid of the woods at night? Maybe it's from that scary story your grandma told you, or that scary movie you watched, or maybe it is simply because humans do not have night vision. Face your fear by joining us on a walk in the woods at night! We will be tuning into "creepy" night sounds, discussing what those sounds actually are, and how your eyes may deceive you at night. Program for ages 5 and up. \$6 members; \$9 public.

November

3 Fall Field Trip to Montezuma 10am-12:30pm



Early November is an exciting time to witness the wonders of fall bird migration at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Join us on this guided adventure as we search for journeying migrants such as waterfowl,

shorebirds, and more. We will also learn about the history of this place that is so crucial as a migration stopover site for birds. Program for ages 15 and up. \$9 members; \$13 public.

17 Identifying Winter Weeds 10am-12pm

Plant identification can be tricky in the winter! While many focus on the woody plants like trees and shrubs, a shocking diversity of herbaceous plants can be confidently recognized throughout the colder seasons. Winter plant ID is one part knowledge, one part forensics, and one part imagination, but with these skills you can impress your friends by identifying plants and plant remains even under deep snow. Program for adults. \$6 members; \$9 public.

18 Campfire Pumpkins 1-4pm

Cooking over a fire connects us with our ancestors in a very tasty way! Using traditional campfire cooking methods like



roasting, coal stacking, and cast iron we'll cook up some pumpkins just like people would have done 250 years ago. While the pumpkins are roasting, we'll learn about the history of Marcellus and Baltimore Woods, ponder how life was different back then, and how we can still see evidence of their lifestyles on the landscape today. Then we'll eat! For ages 5 and up. \$10 members; \$15 public.

December

8 Sketching Nature Series: Discovering Winter Weeds 10-11:30am

Central New York becomes a world of grays and browns during the winter, but we can still appreciate the beauty of winter weeds long after their greenery has faded. Join us for a walk around our meadows to find and identify winter weeds and learn about how they provide

food and shelter for wildlife. We'll bring some clippings back to the nature center where we can sketch them and study them further. Program for ages 16 and up. \$6 members; \$9 public.

9 Caroling in the Woods 7-8:30pm

Pick up a lantern and song sheet and enjoy a beloved tradition at Baltimore Woods. This event is free for all, and as always, donations are appreciated. Lanterns will be provided. Bring a small flashlight if you prefer. Program for all ages. Free!



16 DIY Eco-Friendly Ornaments 10am-12pm

Tired of plastic snowflakes and glitter? Decorate your tree with ornaments that you and your family made from things you can find in nature! Come learn how to make natural ornaments using natural winter-plant based dyes to paint them. We will be using conifer cones, tree cookies, and rose hips to make mini wreaths, and baked salt dough that will be a great canvas for our natural dyes. Program for ages 5 and up. \$9 members; \$13 public.

21 Winter Solstice Hike 7-8:30pm

The winter solstice, with only nine hours of sunlight during the day, transforms our world into a quiet moon-lit wonderland at night. While it can be easy to forget in the dark, the winter solstice is truly a night of beginnings. Come for a tranquil lantern-lit walk to discover and celebrate the promise of longer days ahead. Program for ages 8 and up. \$6 members; \$9 public.

Check Your Member Status

To renew or verify the status of your membership at Baltimore Woods or to give a gift membership, please call our office at (315) 673-1350 for assistance.



Back to School, Back to Nature

By Katie Robideau, School Programs Manager

September means the start of a new school year for students across Central New York, and for us a transition from summer camps to field trips and the Baltimore Woods *Nature in the City* program. Soon we'll begin the 22nd year of visiting elementary classrooms across the Syracuse City School District (SCSD) to deliver three, one-hour lessons designed to support the science curriculum and bring engaging experiences to students through hands-on activities and outdoor exploration.

We returned to 100% in-person lessons last year, and our team



of Environmental Educators is excited to begin visiting all the K-5th grade classrooms (over 500!) across 22 schools. For over 8,000 students, it will be a new year of putting science into action through nature, exploration, play, conducting experiments, and making observations about the world around them.

With a focus on local examples and green spaces, students can try out being a scientist, tune into what inspires wonder, and create connections between the classroom and the real world.



Last year, in a new 5th grade lesson, students explored different fields of science involved in the local cleanup of Onondaga Lake. Students drew incredible connections between a science unit on mixtures and solutions and the issue of contaminated bodies of water and had many ideas of what we can do to help clean them. I asked students to share what careers in science they found the most interesting, as many like ornithologist and environmental engineer were completely new to them. Without hesitation, two pointed at my t-shirt and said “We want to do *Nature in the City*! How do we do what you do?” It made me smile knowing that our program is encouraging students across the district to not only be good stewards of their environment but is also sparking an interest in sharing their love for the natural world with others through education and storytelling as future leaders.

“I love how this program reinforces the idea that students can study nature anywhere, and they point out the places in their schoolyard and neighborhood where they can find examples.” ~K teacher, McKinley-Brighton Elementary School

Making New Connections

By Whitney Lash-Marshall, Executive Director

In addition to *Nature in the City*, over 1,000 SCSD 5th graders will visit Baltimore Woods Nature Center for an Ecosystem Exploration field trip this fall. Students take in new sights and sounds hiking the trails and explore plants, animals, and food webs. A teacher from Porter Elementary shared the importance of this experience: “*This program was wonderful for my students! It absolutely fostered an appreciation for and interest in the natural world.*”

My students especially loved the field trip to Baltimore Woods, and I loved that I was able to use that shared experience with them as a concrete example when talking about other topics throughout the year (such as food webs in science, and even during ELA to discuss what a forest setting would be like).

The hands-on activities in the lessons supported my students in developing a deeper understanding of our science topics. Thank you!”



To learn more, visit
[baltimorewoods.org/
nature-in-the-city](http://baltimorewoods.org/nature-in-the-city)

What do teachers have to say about *Nature in the City*?

Each spring, we conduct a feedback survey of participating teachers. This year, we had teachers respond from all 22 schools for a total of 169 responses.

95% of teachers found that *Nature in the City* visits increased student understanding of the science standards/topics.

94% of teachers indicated that the *Nature in the City* program enhanced and enriched their classroom instruction.

92% of teachers feel their students show an increased interest in the natural world as a result of our program.



The first lesson for 1st graders this fall is all about the pumpkin life cycle! Students love getting to engage with all the parts of the pumpkin, including squishy insides and seeds!

What is the most beneficial part of the program for students?

"The look on their faces when they get to experience the nature and wonder that is all around them in their everyday lives."

- 2nd grade teacher, Van Duyn Elementary School

"Provided great background knowledge and experiences for our students related to our curriculum. It helped them access the topics for our Science curriculum."

- 4th grade, Dr. Weeks Elementary School

"My students don't get to experience nature very much, but they do with Nature in the City, especially when we take the field trip to Baltimore Woods. Also, the hands-on materials that they bring in really brings the learning to a whole new level."

- 5th grade teacher, Delaware Elementary School



Contributing Partners

Thank you to the sponsors and partners who made the 2022-2023 Baltimore Woods *Nature in the City* Program Possible!

BHE GT&S • Jim & Juli Boeheim Foundation •
C&S Companies • Bernie Carr • Community Bank •
Katie Doucette • The Green Family Foundation • Bob Hurka
and Susan Stewart • Joyce and Robin Jowaisas • KeyBank •
Lockheed Martin Employees Federated Fund • Candace and
John Marsellus • National Grid • NYSEG • Onondaga County
Save the Rain • Price Chopper's Golub Foundation •
SRC, Inc. • The Syracuse City School District

You can create hands-on experiences with science through nature for thousands of students across Syracuse this school year. As we begin the 22nd year of *Nature in the City* lessons, give a gift that brings learning to life!



Become a Sponsor

If you or your company are interested in becoming a *Nature in the City* sponsor, contact Executive Director Whitney Lash-Marshall at whitney@baltimorewoods.org or (315) 673-1350.



Make Amazing Moments in Nature Possible!

If you believe that nature should be accessible to everyone, then make a gift today to help each person experience the true wonder of discovery and connection!

You can ensure that each person—no matter their means—can find their way to our programs and our forests as we invest in access, maintain existing and blaze new trails, restore habitats, and grow education programs for the community.

As a 501(c)(3), we rely on contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations to deliver programs for all ages in all seasons, inspire artists and scientists, introduce children to nature, and steward the spaces where unforgettable moments in nature happen every day. **You can give the gift of connection with nature in wisdom and wonder to our community today.**



Make your gift today!



Give safely online with your credit card at baltimorewoods.org/give



Make a check out to Baltimore Woods Nature Center and send it to P.O. Box 133, Marcellus, NY 13108



Call Executive Director Whitney Lash-Marshall at (315) 673-1350 with questions or for more details.

Be a Part of the Baltimore Woods Board of Directors!

By Taryn Jirousek, Board President



Like many of you, I juggle family responsibilities, a busy work schedule, and a commitment to my community. When I consider how best to use my time and talents, I first look to what organizations inspire me, and how I can best use my skills to offer a similar inspiration to others.

Growing up in Marcellus, Baltimore Woods was always a part of my life- through camps, Scouts, hiking, and special events. As a parent, it now provides the same connection to nature to my own kids and thousands of others. As I finish up my current term on the Board of Directors, I remain in awe of my fellow board members, staff, and administration of Baltimore Woods, and how they work together, with various passions and skills, to make this organization a true gem in our community.

Do you have a passion for environmental education and stewardship, or just love Baltimore Woods Nature Center? I am asking you to consider being a part of the Board of Directors to help shape the organization and grow the programs, trails, and preserve that tens of thousands of people in our community rely on.

What makes a good board member? First, passion and commitment to our cause of environmental education! We seek members from all different backgrounds, with a variety of skills and talents- including leadership, human resources, promoting accessibility, fundraising, education, exhibit design, communications, business and finance, and environmental professionals.

We'd love to talk to you about how you may be able to serve on the board! For more information, email Nominating Committee Chair, Matt Barber (MathewEBarber@gmail.com) to start a conversation. Elections take place at our annual meeting Tuesday, January 30, 2024 for a 3-year term. Come join us and make a difference in our community and world!

Nature Throughout the Year

There is so much in nature for us to discover all year round, including for Baltimore Woods staff! Think about some of your awesome nature discoveries this year and in the spaces below, draw or write something you found or experienced in nature that you thought was special. We've filled in a few examples from past Naturalist Blogs written by our team of Environmental Educators to get you started!

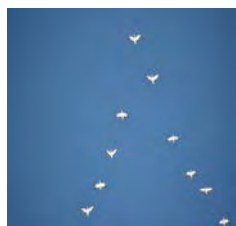
Winter

Bridget discovered flickers of movement under the ice at Phillips Pond, including a giant water bug traversing the underside of the ice! January 15, "A Winter Day at the Pond"



Spring

Anna loved seeing lots of snow geese fly over Baltimore Woods sharing "It's been so special for me . . . especially since I never saw them where I grew up." March 5, "Thousands of Snowgeese"



Summer

While many animals had hunkered down for this shower, Lizzy spied a green frog who jumped and sat out right in the middle of it enjoying the rainfall. June 30, "Appreciating the Rain"



Fall

On a walk to her car, Lizzy saw a branch on a goldenrod that didn't look quite right, almost like a seedpod. It was a walking stick, hiding in plain sight! September 3, "Blending in or Standing Out"





P.O. Box 133
Marcellus, NY 13108

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

Holiday Closures:
November 23 & 24
December 25–January 1

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

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



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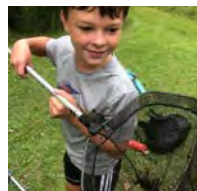
NATURE TIP



As autumn approaches, leaves begin to fall from the tops of trees and blanket the land below. This may be a sure sign for you to grab your rake and bag up all of the leaves on your lawn, but did you know that fallen leaves will actually fertilize your grass and soil?

Leaves provide essential nutrients for your lawn such as nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus. You wouldn't want to miss out on free fertilizer this year!

**This summer, Nature Day campers spent a total
of 14,295 hours exploring Baltimore Woods!**



Where will the trails take you this season?