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**Baltimore Woods Nature Center Features Upstate New York Nature Photography
in “Staff Pics” Exhibit**

Written by Gallery Coordinator Karen Jean Smith

Baltimore Woods Nature Center is excited to present a newly conceived exhibit in the art gallery this summer titled “Staff Pics!” The public is invited to enjoy the exhibit when the Interpretive Center is open: Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm and Saturdays from 10am-4pm.

“Staff Pics” not only connects people to nature through art, but also connects visitors to the dedicated people who work at Baltimore Woods. Each of the staff members was asked to contribute a photograph of their choosing for display. The requirements were these: the subject matter had to be related to nature anywhere in Upstate New York, and the photo had to be accompanied by educational or anecdotal text.

The result is a delightful exhibit that illustrates the varied interests of our staff including favorite animals, plants, places and experiences. For example, Executive Director Whitney Lash-Marshall contributed a photo of a shared experience with her little boy. The text for her photo of salamanders in human hands reads: “Nature in your hands’ is something so integral to every one of our programs here at Baltimore Woods, but it means something different when you get to put those words into action with your own child. We love exploring the trails, and I’ll never say no when I hear the words “Mom, want to go searching for salamanders with me?”

Camp Director and Program Manager Tom Meier put his photography skills and love of ferns together for his contribution of “Unfurling Maidenhair.” He also takes the opportunity to educate with this statement: “Northern maidenhair ferns can be found all along the Valley Trail at Baltimore Woods. The unfurling fiddleheads can form intricate twisting shapes that fascinate me. An even closer look reveals delicate pinnae (leaves) and the complexity of even the smallest things in nature.”

Baltimore Woods Nature Center wishes to thank the Skaneateles Area Arts Council for their contribution that will help us connect people to nature for years to come. This summer, “Staff Pics” is funded through their SKARTS grant program. Future summertime “Staff Pics” exhibits will also be possible because of their generous 2025 grant.

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.

A portion of the proceeds raised from the sale of the artwork goes to support the mission of Baltimore Woods Nature Center.

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