



the Overlook

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2025 • VOLUME 37 • NUMBER 1

*“Wilderness is not a luxury
but a necessity of the
human spirit.”*

— *Edward Abbey*

“Wilderness” can be more than far-off untouched forests and mountains – it can be found in our neighborhoods, in a wild patch of greenspace, in a pillow of moss teeming with microscopic life. A healthy relationship with this nearby nature in any form is essential to everyone’s health and well-being, as individuals and communities. It makes us whole.



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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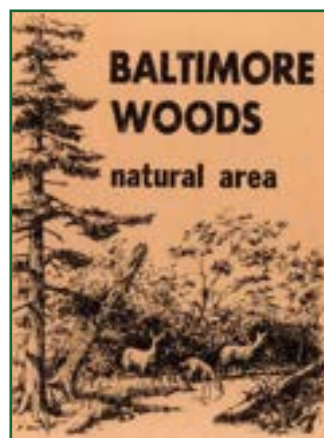
Celebrating Past, Present, & Future

by Whitney Lash-Marshall, Executive Director

We are preparing to embark on a whole new decade together.

Maybe you or someone in your family knew us 59 years ago when things were radically different, including our name! The organization was incorporated as Onondaga Nature Centers in 1966, with a mission “to establish outdoor conservation education centers and to conduct such educational and research projects at such centers as will develop among children and adults a greater understanding and appreciation of nature and natural resources.” For the first few years, there was no formal office, no paid staff, and not even any programming. These “formative years” - as John Weeks, one of our founders, called them - were spent identifying “outstanding natural areas” across Onondaga County, conducting feasibility studies, and developing unique and novel partnerships to bring the vision of formal nature centers at those sites from dream to reality.

Now, picture Baltimore Woods today. We have been on quite a journey since the original 99 acres of this preserve were acquired in 1972 through the efforts of Save the County and help from The Nature Conservancy. The main preserve has grown to over 270 acres with more than 7 miles of trails. Earlier this year, we expanded again with the generous donation of property along Pleasant Valley Road by Dale and Anne Vidler that will become an immersive educational campus. (Watch for more details about the first programs starting there this fall!) The Interpretive Center has more than doubled in size from the original “Hand House” that was moved from Skaneateles to Marcellus in 1979 (and we’re working toward new additions and upgrades!). Along the way, we changed our name twice, spending almost thirty years as the Centers for Nature Education before becoming Baltimore Woods Nature Center in 2008.



Pictured here is the cover from the initial proposal for the Baltimore Woods property (circa 1974).

Across every chapter, that initial commitment to connecting children and adults to nature has remained. We reach more than 20,000 people each year through environmental education programs that go beyond viewing nature to truly experiencing and connecting to it. From the first program about maple sugaring in 1976 to the 41st year of Summer Nature Day Camp in 2025, generations of families have made Baltimore Woods their place to explore, discover, learn, and grow. To facilitate those programs and actively steward the preserve, we now have 12 year-round and more than 15 seasonal staff in addition to the many dedicated volunteers who contribute over 9,000 hours of time, talent, and service each year. Together, we have built a foundation to continue growing toward an exciting future.

As we approach a milestone birthday in 2026, you’re invited to get ready for a celebration! Do you have stories or photographs from the past 60 years at Baltimore Woods that you can share? Was there a program you’d love to see brought back or do you have an exciting idea for something new you’d like to see offered? Email us at connect@baltimorewoods.org and be a part of helping to plan this upcoming year of community events that kick off the next 60 years and beyond!

A Year of Improving Access to Nature

By David DuBois, Director of Stewardship

From school field trips bringing kids into a natural space for the first time, to hikers who walk the trails every week, there is something for everyone at Baltimore Woods.

A large part of stewardship is understanding what people use the space for and what can be done to accommodate them in an environmentally responsible way. This spring and summer, we undertook some exciting improvements to support sustainable access to nature and improve experiences for everyone who visits Baltimore Woods.

The first site we worked on was the Griffiths Trail. From a brushy streamside corridor to a beaver pond, this area has changed a lot over the years. Today, it is a complex floodplain wetland and upland that supports a tremendous diversity of native plants and animals. Throughout these dramatic changes, one thing stayed the same: the bridges. There were two old bridges here that predated the beaver dams, and they had some problems. Both were low to the floodplain, and when water levels rose during increasingly common flood events, they would confine the creek and increase bank erosion. This reduced the lifespan of the bridge and negatively affected the creek banks and downstream habitat. These bridges also presented an increase in trail difficulty, as the steps up were a challenge for some to navigate. With the financial support of NYSEG and the hard work of our devoted team of stewardship volunteers, we were able to address both of these problems: we raised the bridges to pull them above potential floodwaters, and built ramps to eliminate the steps up. These improvements will bring the experience of walking through this wonderland of natural processes to more people for years to come.

We also added an improvement to Phillips Pond to facilitate hands-on experiences for field trips and campers. In the past,

the steep and often slippery banks of the pond made it difficult for kids to navigate and erosion of sediment into the pond has also been a concern. After evaluation by our stewardship committee,

we installed 3 steps to facilitate easy access to this beautiful spot where hundreds of kids make lasting memories of finding hopping frogs and other pond wildlife each year. This work would not have been possible without help from stewardship volunteers and a hardworking team of volunteers from Baxter in Skaneateles. These stairs improve access and create a space where high quality nature education can happen day after day without destroying the places the critters call home.

Access to nature can look different for every person and every use. Access can mean less physically challenging trails for some, but it also means creating spaces where more people can get up close and personal with the natural world safely and sustainably. Here at Baltimore Woods, we are trying to create and maintain the spaces that foster a lifelong appreciation of nature for all to experience. From seeing wildlife in its natural habitat to building the bridges that allow others to experience nature, there are lasting memories waiting for you at Baltimore Woods.



Volunteers from Baxter in Skaneateles worked to build stairs to the pond to improve access for all.

Help maintain the trails and steward the preserve as a *Workday Volunteer!*



**First Saturday of each month
(9am-12pm)**

**Wednesday Evenings (5-7pm):
September 3
October 1**

**Join Stewardship staff to tackle projects across the preserve.
Tools and training provided,
we just need you!**

*Scan the QR code to sign up for an upcoming
Stewardship Workday!*

*If you'd like to volunteer more regularly, or bring
colleagues for a volunteer day, email
volunteer@baltimorewoods.org!*



The Patty Weisse Educational Assistance Award Goes to...



This year's recipient is Owen Alexander, who soon after graduating from Marcellus joined this summer's Nature Day Camp staff to share his favorite camp traditions and explore the preserve with the next generation.

Congratulations, Owen, and thank you for all your years of service as a teen volunteer at Baltimore Woods!

Meet Our Volunteer Coordinator!



Hello everyone, my name is Kat Resanovich and I am the new Volunteer Coordinator and Environmental Educator at Baltimore Woods! I have been with Baltimore Woods part-time since January 2024, but after graduating from SUNY-ESF with a degree in Environmental Education and Interpretation this spring, I have transitioned into this new full-time role. It has been an exciting couple of months, and it has been so amazing getting to know the incredible community of volunteers we have here - and getting to add new ones to our growing community!

One of my favorite experiences so far has been getting to know our volunteers and learn about their connections to Baltimore Woods. An example that stands out is Paul Mooney, a long time volunteer who has contributed time and talent for many years as a member of the A-team, a trail steward, crafting incredible woodwork and signage, helping with events and parking, and building on-site projects and exhibits. Around the same time that I transitioned into my new role, Paul began volunteering at the front desk; in fact, we were both learning how to work at the front desk together. At first, Paul felt like he didn't have enough to do when there weren't visitors in the Interpretive Center, but by meeting and working with Paul and the other front desk volunteers, we have come up with an easier way to connect ongoing projects with volunteers that directly support staff, programming, and the organization. Now, Paul not only works at the front desk weekly welcoming people to The Woods, but helps staff with many projects, including redesigning the front desk manual and helping us transition to a new credit card machine!

From the weekly force of the A-Team to the front desk volunteers that greet hundreds of people in the Interpretive Center every week, I have felt so lucky to be a part of the volunteer team here. I am so excited to continue working with and growing our volunteer programs this season, and hope to see you around!

Become a Volunteer!

Want to become a volunteer? Fill out an application and set up a time to meet with Kat today! We'd love to have you join the vibrant community of volunteers at Baltimore Woods that are an essential part of our team and mission. Scan the QR code or visit baltimorewoods.org/volunteer today!



Program Spotlight



This summer, over 580 campers made memories exploring the natural world – totaling more than 3,200 hours of adventure, learning, and fun! We are so grateful to our dedicated camp staff and teen volunteers, without whom none of this would have been possible. Check out videos of all 8 weeks of summer exploration at baltimorewoods.org/summer-camp-at-baltimore-woods.



In August, we welcomed over 200 guests during two collaborative performances with the Skaneateles Festival. Thank you to the Festival staff for their partnership, the musicians that shared incredible talents, and our volunteers who helped to direct parking in the newly expanded lot and guided visitors along the trails to enjoy unforgettable musical performances out in nature.

This Season at Baltimore Woods...

By Lizzy Suzedell, Environmental Educator

Each season presents a new chance to explore the restoration areas around Baltimore Woods. In under 5 years, the field adjacent to the Interpretive Center has transformed from an agricultural cornfield into a beautiful meadow, and right now, nature is putting on one last show before it rests for the winter.

Upon entering the aptly named "Meadow Trail," you are quickly surrounded by tall goldenrod- a weedy (but lovely) common native plant with vibrant yellow stalks of flowers. Stopping to gaze across the landscape reveals patches of more colors throughout the sea of yellow with the help of seed spreading by volunteers and the Restoration Science Center at SUNY-ESF, which has helped establish more native plants.

A journey further along the trail shows the diversity of species that this habitat supports. The hairy white oldfield asters are brightening some of the spaces, and the New England aster is showing off its striking purple flowers (see photo in next column). Big bluestem grass is blooming with its turkey foot-shaped flowers, while the indian grass is turning golden.

The plants that bloomed earlier in the summer, such as milkweed and dogbane,



now have their seeds flying through the wind on fluffy parachutes. The leaves on twenty oak trees, scattered throughout the meadow by the Habitat Gardeners of CNY, are turning red and letting us know that autumn is on the way.

Over the summer, sparrows, goldfinches, bluebirds, indigo buntings, and kestrels were among the many species that made a home here. It has also become a great stopover spot for birds during their busy fall migration. Closer to the ground, deer, foxes, and coyotes are occasionally seen near dawn and dusk. Zooming in closer, grasshoppers are jumping from every direction, and orbweaver spiders are creating intricate webs in the leaves.

This season at Baltimore Woods, I hope you can explore the magic of restoration in the meadow!

Currently in the Gallery

Nature Photography

by

Don Crumb

On Display

September 7 - October 27



Reception: September 7
2:30-4pm - open to the public!

Upcoming in the Gallery

Drawing on Talent Member Art Exhibit

November 1 - December 19

Reception: November 1, 2:30-4pm

Call for Artists!

Members of Baltimore Woods are invited to submit work to our 17th annual members' exhibit.

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

Applications due October 1

The Winter Farmers Market at Baltimore Woods



Second Saturday of each month
from 10am-1pm

November 8
December 13
January 10

February 14
March 14
April 11

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 @
Winter Farmers Market at Baltimore Woods

*Want to get the most up to date
information on programs, events,
and the preserve?
Scan here to get the Woods Weekly
e-newsletter each Sunday!*





Scan the QR code or visit
baltimorewoods.org/school-break-camps
 to sign up!

Nature Adventure Day Camp

Registration open NOW!

Monday, October 13, 9am-3pm
 Tuesday, November 11, 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.

**Save the dates! Registration opening soon for
 2026 Winter and Spring Break Camps!**

January 19
 February 16-20
 March 30-April 3

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.

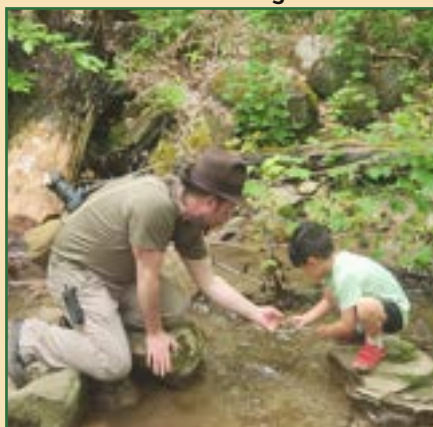
Nature's Little Explorers

Preschool mini series
 for ages 3 and 4,
 accompanied by an adult
 Tuesday Mornings or Afternoons
 10am-noon
 1:30-3:30pm



Trail School

Child-led nature explorations
 for ages 5 to 17
 Tuesday & Thursday Afternoons
 1:00-4:00pm
 See website for age groupings
 and offerings



NEW: Teen Trail School with Jeff Devine

Child-led nature explorations
 for ages 11-17
 Thursday Afternoons
 12:30-4:30pm



These programs fill up quickly. Save your child's spot today!
Register or join the waitlist online at
baltimorewoods.org/outdoor-programs-for-kids

September

Join our Literature & Nature Book Group



Calling all nature-loving bookworms! The Literature & Nature Book Group at Baltimore Woods welcomes you to nourish and enhance your appreciation of the natural world with ongoing friendly discussions of great writing on that theme. Open to all interested adult members of the community.

Group meets the 1st Saturday of the month, 10:30am-12pm

Upcoming dates:
September 6
October 4
November 1
December 6

12 Insect Journeys 10am-12pm

Butterflies and dragonflies are on the move! Monarchs are just one of many insect species that embark on epic fall journeys. Let's head out in search of migrating insects and learn how to attract butterflies and dragonflies to areas around your home. Come discover the challenges that they face along their travels and how we can support these winged wonders. For adults. \$6 members; \$9 public.

Star Parties at Baltimore Woods



With powerful telescopes and a wealth of knowledge, Bob Piekil is your tour guide to the stars and planets.

Star Parties are offered for free, thanks to our sponsor Marcellus Smiles!

Upcoming dates:
September 12 (7-9pm)
November 17 (7-9pm)

13 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 at an event for all ages! 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.

16 Forest Tour 10-11:30am

The forests at Baltimore Woods are full of biodiversity. We will be going on a deep dive into this ecosystem, using hand lenses to look close at mossy logs and binoculars to investigate the treetops. Come discover the extraordinary life around The Woods! Program for adults. \$6 members; \$9 public.

20 All About Turtles 10am-12pm

Turtles have some of the most fascinating adaptations on Earth. Turtles originated over 200 million years ago, surviving mass extinctions and growing to have over 300 species worldwide. We'll gather in the John A. Weeks Interpretive Center to learn about turtles' adaptations and to meet our live turtles! Program for all ages. \$6 members; \$9 public.

25 Discovering Tiny Worlds 10-11:30am

Explore the miniature world of forests and meadows along the Harrison and Meadow Trails. Using microscopes, hand lenses, and other tools we will experience complex ecosystems that support larger communities from the ground up. Journey with us into worlds unknown and overlooked! Program for ages 18 and up. \$6 members; \$9 public.

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 in new ways.

Upcoming dates:
September 14 (10am-12:30pm)
October 26 (10am-12:30pm)
November 9 (12:30-2:30pm)
December 13 (12:30-2:30pm)

October

2 Painting Fall Leaves with Acrylics 10:30am-12pm

Experience the joy of fall colors by making fun art outside! Let's go for an adventure to search for scarlet, gold, orange, purple, and brown leaves on the forest floor. We'll go out to the Harrison Trail and collect leaves, then paint our discoveries on old pieces of repurposed wood. Program for ages 5 and up. \$6 members; \$9 public.

10 Forest Clay Creations 10am-12pm

Take inspiration from myth, literature, and your own imagination to create works of art. In the heart of Baltimore Woods we will sculpt tree spirits using our hands, natural clay, and other found materials. Bring your sense of whimsy and creativity to reveal the hidden faces of the trees! Program for ages 5 and up. \$6 members; \$9 public.

November



Autumnal Fairy Festival **Saturday, October 11, 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.

18 Trails Ultimate: 14 Trails, 7 Miles **10am-4pm**

Do you consider yourself an ultimate hiker and a lover of the outdoors? Baltimore Woods is hosting a guided hike through the preserve's seven miles of trails. We'll be taking in the changing world around us while touching on how outdoor recreation strengthens our mental and physical health. Join us at Baltimore Woods for a full day of hiking with others who enjoy pairing exercise with nature exploration! Program for young adults and adults. \$6 members; \$9 public.

20 Under the Logs **10-11am**

Log rolling brings us the joy of discovery. We will be going on adventures around the leaf litter and fallen logs to look for as many different creatures as we can find. Join us to explore the world of millipedes, slugs, salamanders, and more – all living under our feet. Program for adults. \$6 members; \$9 public.

6 Access to Green Space **6-8pm**

Baltimore Woods is hosting a forum where you can listen, ask questions, and learn about navigating barriers people face in the outdoors. Access to nature and nature education varies around the country. While some grow up with the influence of nature and all its benefits, others do not have the same opportunities. We'll talk with professionals about their experiences identifying and addressing access barriers and what they think a future with inclusive access to nature and nature education looks like. Program for adults. \$6 members; \$9 public.

7 Montezuma Field Trip **10am-12:30pm**

As fall transitions towards winter, a grand spectacle of bird migration is unfolding and the Montezuma Wetlands Complex is one of the best places in North America to see it. As we tour the most active parts of Montezuma to watch geese, ducks, shorebirds, and more, we'll discover the stories of how they can travel so far. We'll also learn how the history of human interactions with the wetlands have given birds a wing up. Program for adults and older children. \$9 members; \$12 public.



15 Animal Winter Prep **10-11am**

Animals around the forest are getting ready for a journey of survival this winter. How do they do it? We will go on a slow walk around The Woods to learn about the unique adaptations that different creatures have developed to get through this harsh season. Join us to discover what the animals are up to during this important time of preparation. Program for adults. \$6 members; \$9 public.

December

1 Discovering Wildlife Through Trail Cameras **10am-12pm**

Trail cameras capture what your eyes may never see! With trail cameras we can observe the local ecosystem and learn all about the natural world right in our own community. We'll be learning how to set up trail cameras and how to adjust features, hiking to set them up around Baltimore Woods, and taking a look at captured footage from other Baltimore Woods trail cameras. Join us to capture the mysteries of nature with trail cameras. Program for adults. \$6 members; \$9 public.

11 Weird and Wonderful Woodpeckers **9-11am**

Have you ever wondered how woodpeckers avoid getting headaches, or how they find insects hiding under tree bark? Come along to learn about the many adaptations that help these resourceful birds to survive. We will watch woodpeckers at our birdfeeders, search for areas where woodpeckers have been especially active in the forest, and learn how they help our local ecosystems. Please bring binoculars if you have them; a few extras will also be provided. Program for adults. \$6 members; \$9 public.

13 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!



Fostering Learning & Joy with *Nature in the City*

By Katie Robideau, School Programs Manager

Just like that, we are wrapping up summer programs and getting ready to head back into classrooms and welcome students on field trips for the 2025-2026 school year!

Each year from September to June, we share countless memorable moments with K-5 students across the Syracuse City School District through the Baltimore Woods *Nature in the City* program. From the excitement in the hallways as students eagerly ask, "Are you coming to our classroom today?" to joyful shouts of "Hey, it's *Nature in the City*!" it's clear how much this program means to them.

One moment that stands out to me from this past spring was in a visit to a second grade classroom during their winter

lesson, "Breakfast for Birds." As students gathered around asking questions, one of them couldn't contain their excitement and exclaimed, "*I am about to explode with joy!*" It's moments like these that remind me of our impact.

As we reflect on all we explored and learned together last year across classrooms and greenspaces, we extend our thanks to everyone who helps make this program possible. We celebrate the wonder, discovery, and connection that *Nature in the City* fosters and we can't wait to see what this upcoming year - the 24th year of the program! - will bring.

Here's to more science adventures, nature explorations, and maybe even a few more students exploding with joy.



"The most beneficial part of Nature in the City for my students is the opportunity for sensory engagement and hands-on learning. Many of my students thrive in environments where they can touch, see, hear, and explore nature directly. These experiences help improve their focus, reduce anxiety, and support the development of social and communication skills in a natural, calming setting. Nature in the City provides inclusive, accessible outdoor learning that meets the diverse needs of my students..."

-3rd grade special education teacher, Franklin Elementary School

Journey of a Seed

By Bailey Whiffen, Environmental Educator

"[The students] love going outside to explore what was taught in the lesson!"

-2nd grade teacher, Roberts Pre-K-8 School



This year we introduced a new first grade lesson, "Journey of a Seed," which taught students about native seeds in Central New York and how they move around in the environment or disperse! In its first year it became very popular with students and our education team. Students were able to learn about a variety of different types of seeds that they may find around Syracuse such as burdock, maple seeds, bitternut hickories, and many more.

The students loved touching and smelling the different types of seeds and exploring the different ways they disperse. Once they learned about the different types of seeds, we grabbed our magnifying glasses and went outside to explore in their own school yard to see what we could find! They loved using the magnifying glasses to get up close to the different flowers, seeds, and sometimes even bugs they found right outside their school!

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

This year we heard from teachers representing every grade level across 20 schools. Out of those 99 teacher's responses:

- 100%** indicated that the *Nature in the City* program enhanced and enriched their classroom instruction.
- 97%** found that *Nature in the City* visits increased student understanding of the science standards/topics.
- 96%** feel their students show an increased interest in the natural world as a result of our program.
- 95%** agreed that all three *Nature in the City* lessons directly supported their science curriculum.



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

"The students are able to foster a deeper understanding of grade level content through hands-on projects, real world experiences, and engaging learning activities in the classroom."

- 1st grade teacher, Delaware Primary School

"Making connections with real life experiences. It brings our classroom lessons to life!"

- 5th grade teacher, Syracuse Latin Pre-K-8 School



View the 2025-26 Impact Report at baltimorewoods.org/nature-in-the-city



Contributing Partners

Thank you to everyone who opened new worlds of discovery for over **8,200 students** through nature exploration in every *Nature in the City* lesson during the 2024-2025 program!

The Syracuse City School District •

National Grid • Onondaga County Save the Rain •

KeyBank • The Green Family Foundation •

Bob Hurka and Susan Stewart •

The Dorothy and Marshall M. Reisman Foundation •

Lockheed Martin Employees Federated Fund •

Jim and Juli Boenheim Foundation • BHE GT&S •

Jacquelyn and Steve Miron • SRC, Inc. • C&S Foundation •

Rakuten • Community Bank • Price Chopper's Golub Foundation •

Joyce and Robin Jowaisas • David and Jayne Wilson •

Katie and Bob Doucette • John and Candace Marsellus •

Gary and Maureen Germain • Bernie Carr •

Harvey's Garden Charity Night • Anonymous Donors and Friends



Be Part of the Joy!

We're kicking off the 24th year of *Nature in the City*, and you can give the gift of exploration, discovery, and learning to every K-5th grade classroom across the Syracuse City School District.

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.



Seed the Future of Baltimore Woods

Even the largest trees across the preserve today were once a small seed. Like the nature that surrounds us, Baltimore Woods Nature Center is poised to grow as we celebrate and plan for the next 60 years of serving you and the Central New York community.

As a private 501(c)(3), we rely on contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations to move our mission forward, and your gift today will sow not only the literal seeds of restoration efforts but also the seeds of wonder, sparking interest in the natural world through education, opportunity, and access to nature.

With your support we will continue increasing habitat diversity through expanding the on-site native tree nursery for restoration and stewardship projects, grow the capacity of beloved educational programs where kids can swap screens for streams and explore the great outdoors, and take key steps toward reducing barriers to nature through purchasing an Action Trackchair, and facility and trail updates.

Give today, grow tomorrow!



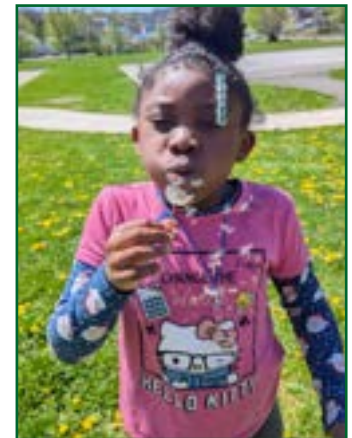
Give safely online with your credit card at baltimorewoods.org/give or by scanning the QR code



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 specific funding initiatives



More Than "Just" A Preserve

By Rick Weber, Board President



If you are like me, you will seize any chance for walk in the woods. To be able to leave the hustle and bustle of the world behind – even if only for a few moments – and escape into nature with your own thoughts (or with your close friends or family) is a real pleasure.

And so it was that I found myself at Baltimore Woods for the first time years ago, hiking counterclockwise on the Boundary Trail. Listening to the waters in the creeks and the songbirds in the fields, pondering the type of apples at the trailside trees, and enjoying the shade on a hot summer day. I was hooked. I started coming to the preserve at least weekly for a trail run, a hike, or a snowshoe. And then I started coming for the great programs, too.

The more I learned about Baltimore Woods, the more I wanted to become involved. Baltimore Woods is not just a nature preserve: it is a force for nature education and appreciation. *Nature in the City* is an immensely successful program that brings nature to Syracuse City School District schools; Baltimore Woods summer camps truly put nature right into the hands of hundreds of campers. And dozens of programs across every season offer great opportunities to learn more about the natural world and develop a variety of skills in areas such as birding, wilderness survival, native plant cultivation, and astronomy.

And Baltimore Woods is growing, building on a nearly six-decade history of preservation and innovation. The preserve recently expanded to 270 acres, with new trails in place and the planting of hundreds of native tree species on the new acreage. This past spring, another 70 acres was added to Baltimore Woods as an educational campus and the main, upper parking area was expanded, increasing our visitor capacity and event capabilities. But those developments are only the beginning: a number of new initiatives, programs and projects are in development right now. A dynamic staff and dedicated core of volunteers will lead the way as Baltimore Woods prepares to celebrate its 60th anniversary next year – and we invite you to be a part of it!

"On the Spot" at Baltimore Woods

By Kaylen Iorio, Environmental Educator

From sharks and minnows, to introductory name games, to the “down by the bay” song, camps from the east to the west coast share many similarities. However, at Baltimore Woods Summer Nature Day Camp, every camp morning starts off a little differently with an activity called “On the Spot.”

During their week exploring the preserve, campers have the opportunity to discover something new or interesting and present their findings (or ask their questions) to the rest of the campers and camp staff. There are some obvious ground rules: no presenting anything living or that is dead and stinky. When a group is called up front and center to present, campers rush up to share what they have found. From interesting looking sticks, to cicada exuvias, to old car radios, the possibilities are endless!

“On the Spot” takes guided discovery a step further by encouraging campers to share their newfound knowledge with the rest of the camp. It’s wonderful to see the excitement from the campers to share their findings and to learn more about them. Enabling passion about discovery is an important part of learning, and “On the Spot” is a stellar way to get campers interested in learning about the natural world.

As an educator, I am always looking for ways to get kids engaged and excited about learning and discovery, so I am grateful to have joined the Baltimore Woods team and learned about the tradition of “On the Spot.” Here, at Baltimore Woods Nature Center, I have a better understanding of why connecting kids to nature through wonder is such an important part in establishing a genuine relationship with nature. “On the Spot” encompasses Baltimore Woods’ mission in connecting kids to their environment. This pastime will be an activity I keep with me to encourage discovery in the environment and motivate kids to share their knowledge!



It's Your Turn to Play!

As summer wraps up and we get ready for a new season, we encourage YOU to go out into nature and find something interesting that you might not have noticed before. "Present" your findings to your family and friends, or share them with us at connect@baltimorewoods.org! No matter your age, the possibilities of discovery in nature are endless.

Use the space below to track your findings!





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 27 & 28
December 23–January 1

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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NATURE TIP



Log rolling is a wonderful way to connect with nature. There are many creatures that call logs their home! From salamanders to millipedes to beetle grubs, there are so many forms of life to discover.

Remember, these logs are their homes. So, if you partake in log rolling, it is very important to return the log exactly how you found it!

Have you visited the John A. Weeks Interpretive Center lately?
We have a gift shop, art gallery, exhibits, and more!

Have you met Fern the Wood Turtle? See if you can count how many "Ferns" are hiding in this picture of the program room!



Flip the page to read the answer underneath this square!