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## **Nature Connections: Experiences that bring us joy**

Written by Gallery Coordinator Karen Jean Smith

Nature brings joy to us in many forms. It affords us opportunities to play, relax, and learn. It provides opportunities to appreciate the infinite variety in our world such as a chance sighting of a remarkable creature or the beauty to be found in a forest.

These are the themes shared with us through photographs taken by members of the BWNC Staff and Board of Directors in the exhibit "Nature Connections" at Baltimore Woods Nature Center in Marcellus, NY.

The public is invited to enjoy the exhibit in the gallery of the Interpretive Center now through August 29, Monday through Friday 9 - 4, and Saturday 10 - 4. Admission and parking are free.

The photographs were selected from each contributor's private collection, and they reflect a wide variety of individual pastimes and passions in Upstate New York. Visitors to "Nature Connections" will find common interests - whether it be appreciation for the beauty of an Adirondack lake in the fall (Raquette Lake, Cody Harrington, Board member), or the discovery of a rare plant with a funny name (Goosefoot Cornsalad, David DuBois, Director of Stewardship) or even the promise of a peaceful paddle in a kayak. (Guy Swenson, Board member)).

Creature lovers will enjoy the images of a red-spotted eft (Elizabeth Suzedell, Summer Assistant Health Director), a hawk sighted in a Marcellus neighborhood (Richard Weber, Board President), or a lady beetle discovered during Trail School Open House (Katie McLaughlin, Environmental Educator.)

Beyond simply enjoying the photographs in "Nature Connections," is the opportunity for learning about nature through accompanying text that the participants have provided. In addition, visitors to the exhibit have the opportunity to learn about some of the people who help to bring the wisdom and wonder of the natural world to our community.

Baltimore Woods Nature Center wishes to thank the Skaneateles Area Arts Council who made this annual exhibit possible through a founding grant in 2025.

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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.