



Spring 2016

#### Our Mission

To Celebrate Nature  
Through Education and Action  
in the Upper Peninsula

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Andrea Polander

The MooseWood News is published three times a year by MooseWood Nature Center, Inc. Ideas, articles, photographs, and artwork are welcome. Submissions must be received no later than the 15th of January, September or May. Send via email to [info@moosewood.org](mailto:info@moosewood.org)

MooseWood Nature Center is located on Presque Isle Park in Marquette.

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Newsletter Editor  
Tiffany Rantanen

#### Spring Hours

Sat. and Sun. 12-4 p.m.  
or by appointment

Closed Monday-Friday

[WWW.MOOSEWOOD.ORG](http://WWW.MOOSEWOOD.ORG)

MooseWood Nature Center / Presque Isle Park / P.O. Box 773 / Marquette, MI 49855

## Superiorland Birding Festival in Second Year

Kicking off its second year, the **Superiorland Birding Festival** continues but will see some changes. It will consist of a series of six birding adventures led by community birding experts. All birding skill are welcome and encouraged to register for each adventure.

The first birding adventure, **Birding the Presque Isle Bog** in Marquette will be held **Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:15 am to 10:00 am**. The cost is free but will be limited to the first 15 participants.

The program will begin with a brief power point describing the birds you are likely to see such as Spring migrants and other potential rarities. Then, a guided bog walk led by our expert ornithology leaders. A meeting to discuss the walk and answer questions regarding the birds, photographing them and optics will follow. Our ornithology leaders are Scot Stewart and Alec Olivier.

Stewart is a charter board member of MooseWood and has taught science for MAPS for more than 35 years. He is also a writer-photographer, contributing to Natural History, National Geographic, Sierra, Lake Superior and other magazines. Scot has written chapters and has contributed photographs for several books on the Great Lakes. He has been writing a weekly column on birding for the Marquette Mining Journal for nearly 16 years and the Marquette Monthly for one year. Photos of over 250 species of birds and other Upper Peninsula natural history subjects can be found on his website, [www.sundewphotography.com](http://www.sundewphotography.com).

A current board member of the Laughing Whitefish Audubon Society, a local chapter of the Michigan Audubon, Olivier is a freshmen at Marquette Senior High School. Birding since the age four, he has led several birding events and will be the summer ornithologist for MooseWood this year. He has had several photographs published by the Mining Journal along with a feature article regarding his passion for birding when he was just 13 years old. Alec has a photo of an arctic tern being displayed at the University of Michigan's Museum of Zoology. He was the first to locate and photograph this rare tern in Grand Marais, Michigan in 2014.

This adventure is sponsored by Wells Fargo Advisors of Marquette, MI. To register for future birding adventures or for more information, please visit [www.moosewood.org](http://www.moosewood.org).



The Sora is a member of the rail family. Usually quite shy, it pokes around the vegetation along the edge of the water, and rarely comes out into the open.

## Polander Hired for Husbandry and Field Trips

**Andrea Polander** is a born-and-raised native from Munising, MI. She moved to Marquette to attend Northern Michigan University and completed her degree in Hospitality Management in 2015. Starting in the summer of that same year, she began volunteering at the Moosewood Nature Center and has helped with recent renovations and displays. Polander loves working with animals and educating others about them. MooseWood's mission statement – *to celebrate nature through education and action in the Upper Peninsula* – is something Andrea can truly stand behind and hopes to inspire others to do the same.

Polander says, *"When you live in the Upper Peninsula all your life, it's hard not to fall in love with nature. I wanted to take my passion for nature and put it towards a good cause, which is how I found my way into Moosewood Nature Center."*



# Upcoming Programming and Events

## April

All events take place at MooseWood Nature Center unless otherwise noted. Donations are always appreciated.

### Marquette State Fish Hatchery Tour

Thursday, April 7, 2:30—3:00pm at hatchery on Cherry Creek Road, Harvey

Hatchery Biologist, Jim Aho will give a tour of the hatchery. At the time of the tour different ages of fish will be present and will be located inside and outside the facility. Please dress appropriately for the weather as it could still be quite chilly outside.

We will be in contact with Jim about the possibility of obtaining a date and time of when the fish trucks will release young fish into Lake Superior down at the lower harbor. When this info is relayed to us we will do our best to post on our Facebook page and send out emails. Their may be learning opportunities/questions once the fishery staff are finished.

### The Five R's of Sustainability

Tuesday, April 12, 6:00—7:00pm

This workshop aims to bring awareness to the general public about the five R's of sustainable living: Refusing, Reducing, Reusing, Recycling, and Rotting (composting). Please join us in helping reduce our carbon footprint by making small changes to your everyday life. Feel free to bring a friend! Audience: adults, minors must be accompanied by an adult.

### Spring Community Climate Fair

Saturday, April 16, 1:00—4:00pm

Join us at the Spring Community Climate Fair where you and your family will learn how climate change affects the Marquette community and what you can do to get involved. Talk with experts and representatives of local organizations on how to be a good steward of the environment. Share your knowledge with others and get connected while enjoying snacks and listening to live music from local artists. Organizations include Food Recovery Network, the Marquette Climbing Coop, Northern Climate Network, The Flying Moose and more!

### Marquette Children's Fair

Saturday, April 23, 10:00—1:00pm at the Westwood Mall

MooseWood will have information on what we do—programming, birthday parties and recruiting new volunteers for the summer. We will also have a live animal or two on hand along with other animal related exhibits.

## May

### Superiorland Birding Festival: Birding the Presque Isle Bog

Saturday, May 7, 8:15—10:00am

Please refer to front page for registration and program information.

## June

### Annual Meeting Presentation

June, date and venue yet to be determined

Northern Michigan University professor, Jim McCommons will focus on George Shiras III with a special emphasis on the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Act and his role in its passing. McCommons has written a book on Shiras which will be out in 2017. More information will be available soon.



The Marquette State Fish Hatchery raises both lake and brook trout along with a hybrid of the two called a splake.



An American Robin sits in a white paper birch tree.

## Spring After School Program Begins May 5th

MooseWood Nature Center will be offering a **Spring “Junior Naturalist” After School Program**. The program is being offered to students in grades 3—5 at Graveraet Elementary. It will be offered over a 3-week time period on **Thursdays, May 5, 12, and 19 from 3:30—5:30pm**. There is a \$12 fee for the program (three sessions) and will take place at Moosewood Nature Center on Presque Isle. Northern Michigan University Outdoor Education and Recreation Instructor David Kronk will instruct the program assisted by one or two NMU students.

Students participating in the program need to bring a daypack with a water bottle, raingear, old shoes and clothes. A healthy snack and juice will be provided at the Moosewood Nature Center prior to students going outside for learning games and adventures. Activities for each session are listed below but are subject to change.

**Session 1:** Students will be introduced to outdoor education, recreation safety and related gear. Cooperation games such as the knots game, skin the snake and the blob will be played. Birding basics with binoculars, insect basics and collecting and identifying with field guides will also be offered. And finally, students will learn how to use a compass, then explore for salamanders and other wildlife.

**Session 2:** Students will start off with some pond exploration, water quality testing and then play the macro-invertebrates game. Finishing up with an animal tracking hike.

**Session 3:** Students will learn and play the survival game, animal populations game, followed by the muskox maneuvers game.

It is our hope that this this program will grow into a three season program (Spring, Fall and Winter).

For questions or to register for the after school program contact David Kronk at [dkronk@nmu.edu](mailto:dkronk@nmu.edu) or [info@moosewood.org](mailto:info@moosewood.org).



Recent participants of the Birch Bark Angel program held last December.

## Board Welcomes Wozniak, Thanks Past Board Members

**Carl Wozniak**, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the School of Education, Leadership, and Public Service at Northern Michigan University. He has also taught science for the Grosse Pointe Public Schools and ran education programs for the University of Michigan Museum of Natural History for almost a decade prior to that. Carl is married to Debra Morley and has two adult children, Ben and Erica.



Wozniak states, *“The natural beauty of the Upper Peninsula is one of its greatest draws. As an educator I have found that helping individuals develop an understanding of the natural world has been a driving force for me, because in doing so I learn more, too. Our environment is the perfect laboratory, and joining the Moosewood Nature Center’s board was a natural progression for me to work with other community members in learning about and showcasing this little corner of our globe.”*

The MooseWood Board of Directors would like to thank our former members, Bob Kahl and Linda O’Brien. Our Board members and volunteers’ commitment and energy keep your Nature Center going.

Kahl joined the Board shortly after MooseWood was established. He worked at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in lamprey control and has had a deep interest and love of wildlife sharing his love and passion with children visiting the Center. Bob was truly dedicated to making MooseWood a significant education institution in Marquette.

A transplant to Marquette, O’Brien joined the board with a teaching background and right away jumped in with her energetic enthusiasm for working with children and peers with similar interests. Most recently, Linda kept the Board informed on the financials and keeping MooseWood on track with the State.

It was a pleasure serving on the Board with Bob and Linda and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

### Thank You!

**Julie Olivier for your commitment and effort  
keeping the books for us!**

## Adopt-a-Critter Program

Symbolically adopting an animal at the MooseWood Nature Center is a great way to show a concern and commitment for animals on exhibit and those who star in educational programs. Did you know that it annually costs \$130 to feed one of our corn snakes?

As a critter friend, you can help provide habitat enrichment, food and medical care and inspire our visitors and community through educational programs. We welcome clubs, organizations, school classrooms, scout troops and families. Anyone can participate! Adoption packages make unique gifts for birthdays, holidays or other special events.

For a list of available adoptees and adoption packages please visit [www.moosewood.org](http://www.moosewood.org) or pick up a pamphlet at the nature center.

MooseWood would like to thank the Marquette Senior High School Environmental Club for participating in the program. Their names will appear on the animal exhibits in which they have adopted.



Blue-Spotted salamanders spend most of their time hiding under logs, rocks or leaf litter except when they come out to breed in early Spring. If you would like to take part in its care and feeding, consider adopting through the Adopt-a-Critter program.

**Celebrate your child's**

## Birthday Party at MooseWood!

Partygoers receive private use of the Nature Center inhabited by critters and wildlife, a professional educator to lead a 45 minute to one-hour custom designed nature program (indoors or outdoors) and use of room for refreshments, gift opening, and games.

Suggested themes include: In Cold Blood (amphibians and reptiles), Marvelous Michigan Mammals, Wildlife Ecology, Scavenger Hunt, Going Batty, Big Bad Bog or Create Your Own!

Call to schedule your child's party today: 228-6250 or visit [www.moosewood.org](http://www.moosewood.org) for more information.

### New Look for Website

Recently, we went live with our new website. With the new look, improvements will continue to be added along with keeping our members and visitors informed.

The website is still a work in progress as we familiarize ourselves with the process of using and updating it.



Thank you!

### MooseWood: For Rent

Are you a business, non-profit, organization, home-school group, or looking for a venue?

MooseWood is available for rental for your meetings, workshops or small events.

For more information or rates, email [info@moosewood.org](mailto:info@moosewood.org) or call 228-6250.

## Year of the Pond

Moosewood Nature Center and the Superior Watershed Partnership have rejoined forces to again plan to convert the concrete Shiras Pool back to a pond and wetlands. A cooperative of people from both organizations plus some interested community members have reviewed the old project plans, the construction plans of the Shiras Pool and the hydrology of the neck of Presque Isle. They've decided that the original idea of removing concrete from the edge to a depth of three to four feet is a safe and valid way to proceed. Boardwalks, similar to those in the Bog Walk, would be the least environmentally disturbing way to circumnavigate the new pond and wetlands.

The biologists in the group feel that pond, emergent wetland, and wet meadow are the most likely habitats to emerge with the removal of concrete and sloping of the pond edges. A sphagnum bog could re-evolve on site if conditions are right. The pond and surroundings would be excellent habitat for reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects and small mammals.

The pond and wetlands, with access by boardwalk and pier, would become a natural educational center for area schools and Northern Michigan University students. Linear studies on water quality, habitat change, wildlife and invertebrate populations will be unique as nowhere else in the country has a cement pool been returned to a natural habitat. An overview of plans for renovation will be presented at the upcoming Annual Meeting to be held in early summer.



MooseWood's Pool to Pond Project sign is pictured above. The sign is located near the entrance to the nature center informing visitors what our plans are for its future.

If you would like to get involved with the Pond to Pond Project or would like to make a donation to this ambitious project, please contact Jo Foley at [jfoley1950@gmail.com](mailto:jfoley1950@gmail.com).

## Garlic Mustard: A Threat to Native Woodland Habitat

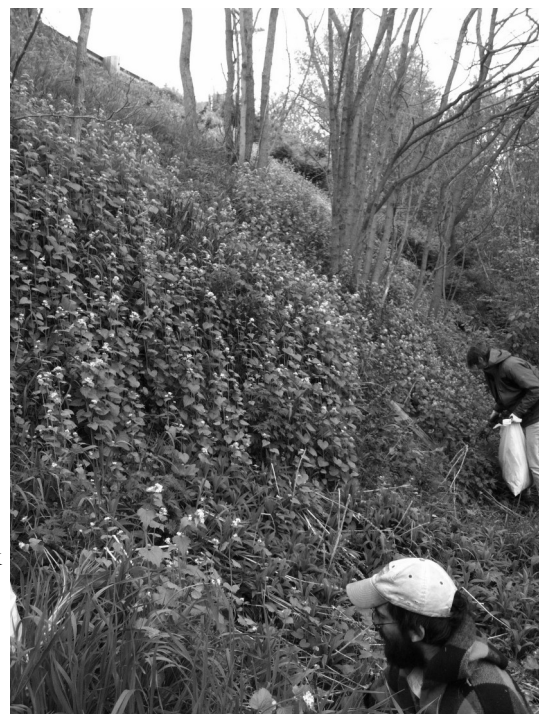
By Mindy Otto, CUPCWMA Coordinator

Please be on the lookout for infestations of garlic mustard, (*Alliaria petiolata*). Garlic mustard is a conservation concern for several reasons which include: displaces native woodland plants, degrades wildlife habitat, causes long-term degradation of forests by shading out native tree and shrub seedlings and produces chemicals that inhibit other plants growth.

It is a biennial up to three feet tall found in woods and open areas. Rosettes appear very early; they may be distinguished from violets by strong garlic odor. White flowers appear from April to June. To manage its spread, pull up the plant with the entire root before seeding, and remove all flowering heads. Always clean off shoes, pant cuffs, bike tires and other items carefully before leaving garlic mustard areas to prevent the spread of seeds. Plants should be bagged and disposed of in a landfill. Do not compost, or you will risk contaminating your compost pile.

If you see these non-native invasive plants please report them to the Central U.P. Cooperative Weed Management Area (CUPCWMA) at [www.cupcwma.org](http://www.cupcwma.org) or call (906) 226-8871 ext. 116. Or, visit the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) at [www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu). Should you need help identifying them, please do not hesitate to give us a call or bring a sample in a sealed bag to our office at 780 Commerce Drive Suite C, Marquette, MI 49855.

"This project was funded in part with funds from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program through the Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Quality, and Agriculture and Rural Development. In addition, some funding provided by the U.S. EPA through a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant to the Alger Conservation District."



Volunteers pull and bag the invasive garlic mustard.



## Renew Your Membership Now for 2016!

Please join us in celebrating nature through education and action by becoming a member today or renewing your membership.

☐ I would like to volunteer. Please contact me at the below number or email

☐ I would like to receive the quarterly newsletters only

☐ I would like to receive news using the below email address

☐ I do not wish to receive mailings

### Membership levels:

☐ \$5,000+ Maple

☐ \$2,500+ Oak

☐ \$1,000+ Pine

☐ \$500+ Cedar

☐ \$100 Birch

☐ \$50 Aspen (Non-profit)

☐ \$25 Family

☐ \$20 Individual/Senior

☐ \$15 Student

☐ \$ Pool to Project

Mail to: P.O. Box 773, Marquette, MI 49855

☐ I would like to make an anonymous donation

☐ Date ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Address change

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Age(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### I am especially interested in:

☐ Family Education

☐ After-School Programs

☐ Nature Field Trips

☐ Adult Nature Programs

☐ Volunteering

☐ Donating a nature collection

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

*Thank You!*



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by passing it on to someone else. Thank you!



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