



December 14, 2016

Dear Friends of MooseWood Nature Center,

The snowflakes are flying now that winter has finally surrounded us. As we approach an end of a great year, I would like to report to you MooseWood Nature Center's accomplishments of 2016:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SCOT STEWART
CHAIR

SUSAN PAYANT
VICE CHAIR

TIFFANY
RANTANEN
SECRETARY

CURRENTLY OPEN
TREASURER

CHRISTIE BLECK

CHERYL KELLOW

DAVID KRONK

JESSICA LAXO

JEREMY MISALE

THOM SKELDING

GEOFF SMITH

DR. CARL
WOZNIAK

- Completely redesigned, remodeled and painted our main exhibit area. The animal exhibits have updated informational displays and most recently, the box turtles have been moved to their new habitat with a beautiful background mural of native water plants. Animal care coordinator Andrea Polander, board member Jeremy Misale, and past board member Jo Foley led these efforts.
- Added five new dedicated members to the Board of Directors: Cheryl Kellow, Dave Kronk, Jessica Laxo, Thom Skelding, and Geoff Smith.
- Hosted our 17th Annual Haunted Bog Walk welcoming over 600 guests to the center and raising nearly \$5000 to run the nature center and host programs.
- Began a terrific after-school program started by board member, Dave Kronk, a retired ranger and educator from the National Park Service. It has been offered twice and planning is in place to continue next year.
- A new committee of board members and volunteers has begun to develop a more detailed set of elementary school programs to be offered to all local school districts. It will be coordinated with the new standards for science education adopted by the state of Michigan.
- Presented natural history and environmental programs to families and other members of the area.
- Offered educational programs to scouting groups and at birthday parties.
- Provided a meeting place for area non-profits, clubs, and scout groups at low cost.
- Continue to offer a small, but beautiful center of exhibits and interpretation to the community and to visitors exploring one of the most beautiful city parks in the world, Presque Isle.

The Pool to Pond Conversion Project made some strides toward the realization of a wetlands, garden, boardwalk and observation deck. We continue to pull invasive weeds and monitor native plant species.

The animals are faring well and are admired by many visitors. The live turtles, snakes, and frogs are one of the biggest attractions along with preserved skeletons, skulls, hides and full body mounts. Keeping the critters fed and well cared for takes commitment from our dedicated core of volunteers and board members.

MooseWood Nature Center is on its way to greater things and with your help we can continue our educational programs. **Please donate now** to MooseWood Nature Center by renewing your membership for the new year, or if you are able, make an **additional donation** to the Pool to Pond Conversion Project offering hands-on learning and service activities to volunteers of all ages and abilities. All qualified donations are tax deductible.

Your membership, donations and care for science education help us provide educational programming and operate a year-round nature center. MooseWood is a community asset that you can be proud to support. It's one of the natural things that make Marquette so special.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Rantanen
Membership Chair