



Summer 2017

Our Mission

To Celebrate Nature
Through Education and Action
in the Upper Peninsula

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Geof Smith
Carl Wozniak

Erica Pfeiderer,
Animal Supervisor

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
moosewoodnc@gmail.com

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

Mailing address: P.O. Box 773
Marquette, MI 49855

Phone: (906) 228-6250
moosewoodnc@gmail.com
www.moosewood.org

Newsletter Editor
Tiffany Rantanen

Summer Hours

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

Closed Monday-Friday

WWW.MOOSEWOOD.ORG

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

Annual Meeting: Alaska Canoe Expedition Featured

MooseWood will hold its annual board meeting on **Saturday, June 24th at 6:30 pm.** at NMU's Seaborg Center, room WS 2806. We will note the accomplishments of 2016, acknowledge and thank our wonderful volunteers, and announce some of our upcoming programs. Animal Supervisor, Erica Pfeiderer will be introduced and she will report on our current volunteer needs.

A brief business meeting will be held, followed by Geof Smith's presentation: Arctic Canoe Expedition Through Alaska's Brooks Range. Meet with staff and board while enjoying complimentary refreshments. The public is welcome. Donations not required but are always welcome. Additional information on Smith and his expedition can be found at www.moosewood.org.



Smith portages his canoe somewhere in the wilds of Alaska.

Become a Member or Renew Your Membership

There are many reasons to become a member of MooseWood Nature Center. Some members attend educational programs, volunteer their talents and serve on boards or committees; others read the newsletter or celebrate a child's birth with a birthday party. However you participate, being a member of MNC creates a local community—and together, we can “enrich our lives through nature.”

As a non-profit organization, membership is critical to our Mission. MooseWood Nature Center is an independent organization and does not receive financial support from the city, state or county. Memberships are 100% tax-deductible and expire one year from the date you join. Additional membership information can be viewed at www.moosewood.org.

Your membership contributes to sustaining MooseWood Nature Center for the continued environmental education of our children. Some of the benefits of memberships are:

- Subscription to MooseWood News newsletter
- Early notification of special programs and events
- Invitation to and voting privileges at Annual Board and Members meeting
- Discount to select educational classes and events
- Discount for on-site birthday parties
- Free snowshoe rental
- Confidence in knowing that your gift supports our Mission *to celebrate nature through education and action in the Upper Peninsula.*

Checks should be made payable to “MooseWood Nature Center” and can be mailed to P.O. Box 773, Marquette, MI 49855 or bring your payment to the nature center. If you have questions about the status of your membership, please call 228-6250.

We are pleased to announce that MooseWood Nature Center is now a Thrivent Choice enrolled organization. Thank you to the benefit member who recommended MooseWood.

If you are an eligible Thrivent Financial member and have Choice Dollars available to direct, please keep us in mind. For more information or to direct Choice Dollars visit www.thrivent.com or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice."



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ORGANIZATION**

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Upcoming Activities and Events

All events take place at MooseWood unless otherwise noted. Suggested donation: \$5/adult or \$10/family are appreciated.

June

Annual Meeting: Arctic Canoe Expedition Through Alaska's Brooks Range

Saturday, June 24th, 6:30 pm, NMU Seaborg Center, room WS2806

See page one.

Dine to Donate at Aubree's Pizzeria & Grill

Tuesday, June 27th, 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Aubree's Marquette

Have dinner at Aubree's in Marquette anytime between 4pm and 9pm and help support MooseWood Nature Center! 15% of your bill will be donated to your nature center. Just present your server with the printed flyer (from your smart phone works too) or mention you are there in support of MooseWood. MooseWood Nature Center will use funds raised to continue the "beautification" of the nature center. New exhibits, offering more interactive and child-friendly activities, and making the middle and back rooms more inviting and guest-friendly are all ideas we would like to make a reality.

June - August

Nicole's Adventure Series:

Wednesday, June 14, 10:00 am, Nicole's Reptile Adventure: Turtles!

"Dude! Swim on by and learn about Michigan's turtles! It'll be totally righteous!"

Wednesday, July 19, 10:00 am, Nicole's Reptile Adventure: Snakes!

"Ssslither on in to learn about Michigan's scaly friends!"

Wednesday, August 23, 10:00 am, Nicole's Amphibian Adventure: Frogs!

"Hop on in and learn about Michigan's Frogs!"

MooseWood Nature Center is very excited to announce this new summer program series offered by volunteer, Nicole Shane. Shane will share fun facts and information on some of our Michigan turtles, snakes, and frogs through photographs, hands-on learning, crafts and exploration. Recommended ages for the program are 5-13 years. Families are encouraged to attend this fun-filled program. Additional program information can be viewed at www.moosewood.org or on our Facebook page.



Named for their unique hinged plastron, box turtles will be one of the species highlighted during the first "Nicole's Reptile

Volunteer Opportunities Available at MooseWood

By Erica Pfeleiderer

Do you have one to four hours a month that you'd like to commit to interacting with your community? If you answered yes, then consider becoming a volunteer at MooseWood Nature Center. Our small, dedicated group of volunteers do an excellent job of feeding our education animals, interacting with visitors during business hours, hosting birthday parties and presenting programs. But with summer almost here, things are busier than ever at the nature center and we can barely keep up with the demand – which is not a bad problem to have! We are looking to expand our volunteer base in order to continue to provide our community with the services they have come to expect over the years.

If you enjoy interacting with children, teenagers, or adults, MooseWood has an opportunity for you. Perhaps you are more of a "behind the scenes" person and would enjoy things like feeding the animals, fundraising, designing exhibits or writing grants. If so, we have an opportunity for you, too. Individuals, families, and small groups of friends are all encouraged to volunteer. We have volunteers of all ages and experience levels, and hope you will consider joining us. If you are interested, or to find out more about our volunteer program, visit www.moosewood.org or contact Erica at moosewoodnc@gmail.com or by phone at 228-6250.



Volunteer, Jorie O'Brien (pictured) and Tiffany Rantanen recently shared their knowledge of animal skulls, pelts, and tracking patterns to Girl Scout Troop #5001.

Treasurer or Book Keeper Wanted

The Board of Director's is currently seeking a Treasurer (who would sit on the Board) OR a Book Keeper. Most of the work can be done in your own home but we would prefer someone in the Marquette County area. Though not required, we would encourage attending some monthly meetings so that you can meet other volunteers in person and get to know our organization's needs. Training sessions to familiarize you with our accounts, etc. will be available.

This position would be responsible for:

- Manage profit & loss and balances using Quickbooks online
- Prepare payroll taxes
- Prepare non-profit taxes, 990's
- Oversee debit cards
- Prepare monthly checks for payment of utilities, insurance, and bi-weekly payroll for one part-time employee

For more information, please contact us at moosewoodnc@gmail.com or 228-6250 with your name, number and the best time to contact you.

Pfleiderer Hired as Animal Supervisor

Welcome Erica!

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Erica Pfleiderer who has been hired for the position of Animal Supervisor. She will be responsible for the general care, maintenance and husbandry of our resident educational animals. Erica will also train, educate, and supervise animal care volunteers to ensure they are practicing safe and approved methods of feeding and maintaining their enclosures. She has great ideas for recruiting additional volunteers.

Pfleiderer has recently settled in Marquette, from southern Georgia. She joins MooseWood with a long list of professional experiences including: invasive species, forestry, wildlife rehabilitation, and a teacher naturalist among others. Please help us welcome Erica as she learns the duties of her new job and settles in. We are very confident she will maintain the quality animal care to be expected and help MooseWood move forward with our Mission into the summer and fall seasons.



Recently hired in April, Erica will care for the educational animals and oversee the volunteer program.

Thank You Andrea!

The MooseWood Board of Directors would like to say "Thank you!" to Andrea Polander for her time and energy on the recent renovations at the nature center. The interpretive information, mural and decoration of the new animal and center exhibits is truly impressive. Thank you so much Andrea for all that you have accomplished in your short time with us!

Yes, we accept Econo Foods register receipts

MooseWood participates in Econo's "We Share" program and can receive 1% of the total of receipts that we turn in.

They add up quickly to an incredible donation bi-annually. We just need you to save your receipts.

Drop off your receipts at MooseWood Nature Center during open hours, Saturday and Sunday 12-4 pm or bring them to a program or event. Or mail them to:

MooseWood Nature Center
PO Box 773
Marquette, MI 49855

Thank you all for your support. And don't forget to shop Econo Foods and help support your Nature Center!

A Special Shout Out to Beth Millner Jewelry

Through the Beth Millner Jewelry Fundraising Program, a portion of the proceeds from her Honeycomb Series is donated to MooseWood for our efforts in establishing and maintaining a pollinator garden and continued bee and environmental education.

The Honeycomb Series are handcrafted sterling silver pieces available in charms, pendants, and earrings in bee or honeycomb styles.

Learn more about this series and other fundraiser jewelry by visiting www.bethmillnerjewelry.com.

Beth Millner Jewelry has donated over \$900 to MooseWood Nature Center so far. Thank you Beth! your community support is greatly appreciated.

Board Welcomes Skelding and Kellow to Board

Thom Skelding was born and raised in Kalamazoo, Michigan. While on a summer camping trip with his brother Jim through the U.P. during the summer of 1974, they stopped in Houghton so Jim could see some of his old fraternity brothers from MTU who were still in the area. They found out that a new mine, the Tilden Mine was opening and they were looking for employees. They both dropped off applications on their way thru and were both hired that November. Thom worked at both the Tilden and Empire Mines for 32 years, working a variety of jobs and retired in 2006 at the age of 52.

In 1984, Skelding bought a cabin deep in the woods north of Ishpeming where he still resides today. Long winters in retirement got Thom looking for volunteering opportunities: Bell Hospital, Upper Peninsula Natural Luge in Negaunee, and now Moosewood. Skelding states, *"From my many years observing nature, I felt I could contribute to a place like Moosewood Nature Center, and so far it has been very rewarding."*

Born and raised in Republic, Michigan **Cheryl Kellow** retired after 35 years from Tru North Federal Credit Union as the Manager of Mortgage Lending. She is a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Cheryl's hobbies include kayaking, photography, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing. Kellow says *"I enjoy the outdoors and volunteering for different activities in the community."*

Pollinators and Pesticides

By Susan Payant - Beekeeper

Pollinators are responsible for the food we eat and the nutrition of many other species. Honey bees pollinate 1/3 of the U.S. food supply. Today pollinators are suffering for a variety of reasons: loss of habitat, pests, disease and use of dangerous pesticides. Pesticides harmful to pollinators include many insecticides, some fungicides and herbicides.

Pesticides:

- Weaken the bees immune system, making them susceptible to mites and disease.
- Contaminate the colony by bringing back contaminated pollen.
- Effect the bees ability to navigate back to the hive.

These chemicals are killing our bees. If you see any of these ingredients listed on products in your home or your local garden center, do not use them – **Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, and Thiamethoxam.**

Pesticide Poisoning Prevention:

- Purchase plants and seeds from retailers that do not use systemic insecticides during nursery production.
- Use non-chemical methods to control pests.
- Restrict or eliminate pesticide use, especially when forage plants are flowering.



Both honey and native bees are important pollinators. Consider using organic fertilizers and creating pollinator gardens that offer an assortment of bee loving nectars.

Celebrate your child's

Birthday Party at MooseWood!

\$70.00 for up to 12 children

Members receive a \$10 discount

(discount starts at family membership and up)

Partygoers receive private use of the Nature Center inhabited by critters and wildlife, an educator led 45 minute to one-hour themed nature program (indoors or outdoors) and use of room for refreshments and gift opening.

Suggested themes include: In Cold Blood, Marvelous Michigan Mammals, 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 for more information.

Programming Highlights and Thank Yous!



In February, we had great attendance during the "Birds Need Love Too" program. Sliced apples and cardboard shapes were smeared with peanut butter and covered in bird seed for our Michigan winter birds to enjoy.



Owls were featured during the month of January. Taxidermy owls, posters and books decorated the center. Owl Pellets were dissected in search of bones to determine if the owl ate a type of rodent, bird, or maybe something else.



Students play the Web of Life game during the recent Spring After-School program instructed by retired Pictured Rocks ranger, Dave Kronk.



Volunteer Brandon Young shares his acquired knowledge of Wild Edibles recently during an information program held at the Presque Isle Bog in May. Additional programs are being planned, please refer to www.moosewood.org for future dates.

Thank You! To our Dedicated Volunteers and Businesses!

Allison Ranusch, Jessica Rockett, Kaitlyn Bartz, Maria Rockett, Andrea Polander, Melissa Switzenberg, Christie Bleck, Nicole Shane, Thom Skelding, Cheryl Kellow, Geof Smith, Dave Kronk, Erica Pfleiderer, Mari Shelafoe, Julie Olivier, John Mallo, Anna Kase, Shannon Darby, Riley Jepnema, Hannah Wainright, Sarah Sikkema, Carl Wozniak, Sue Payant, Scot Stewart, Jessica Laxo, Jeremy Misale, Brandon Young

Thill's Fish Market, Farmer Q's

A New Partnership:
Look for MooseWood Nature Center and the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve offering educational and fun activities at this year's Hiawatha Music Festival.

Renew Your Membership Now for 2017!

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 do not wish to receive mailings

☐ Sign me up to receive email news & program updates

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 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

☐ Children's programs

☐ Donating a nature collection

☐ Volunteering opportunities

☐ Other _____

Thank You!

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

Save MooseWood Paper and Postage!

Subscribe to the e-mail news-list to receive program schedules and special events by sending an email to moosewoodnc@gmail.com with Subscribe in the subject line.

Please recycle this newsletter when finished
by passing it on to someone else. Thank you!

