



Heron Tracks

The Quarterly Newsletter of Seven Ponds Nature Center

VOLUME 54 NUMBER 2 • SUMMER EDITION • JUNE—AUGUST 2021

A Symbol of the Northern Wilderness

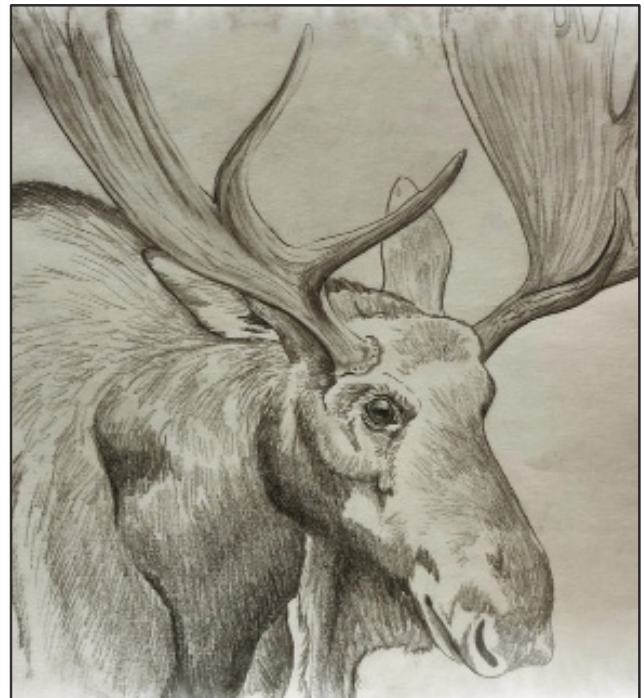
Article and Drawing by Katie McKiernan

I remember the first time I ever saw a moose. I was on a back country canoe trip with some coworkers in western Maine. The day had started off rainy, but quickly gave way to nicer weather. As we paddled out onto the waters of a lake called Mooselookmeguntic, an Abnaki word meaning “moose feeding place”, the call went up from the other canoes of a moose calf standing on the shore. Sure enough there it was, small and alone, or so it seemed. We made sure to steer clear of the calf and made our way out into the big waters for our next campsite.

This was a big moment for me. To view a moose in the wild is an encounter most nature lovers hope to experience but may never get the chance to see. Despite their size moose can be elusive animals. They are the largest species of deer, and can be found in North America, Europe, and Asia. We have moose here in Michigan, but Michigan is located at the southern end of their range making it harder for them to establish a large population. The most notable of places to see moose in Michigan is Isle Royale National Park located in the remote waters of Lake Superior. The word Moose comes from an Algonquian word meaning “stripper and eater of bark”.

Moose are born in late May and early June at a substantial 35 pounds. They are precocious, and soon follow after mom on her daily foraging. The milk they receive is very nutrient rich and the calf will grow two to four pounds a day. In the fall they are weaned just in time for the rut and will weigh a hefty 260-330 pounds! They will stay with their mothers right up until she is about to give birth to her next calf (or calves) and will then be kicked away by the mother. The yearling moose must then fend for itself and there are predators out there waiting to take advantage of an unsure calf. Moose have few predators given their size, but they are preyed upon by wolves, bears, people, and (in rare cases) orcas while they are swimming in coastal waters. It is very hard to take down a full-grown moose in its prime, so predators typically go for the young and the injured.

In physical appearance an adult bull moose can easily weigh over 1,000 pounds and stand over six feet tall at the shoulders. Visually, the main difference between the male (bull) moose and the female (cow) is a large set of antlers the males begin to grow in May and continue to grow until the autumn.



Bulls will hold onto these palmately shaped antlers until around December when they fall off after they are no longer needed for displaying. Through much of the year the antlers are covered in a thin layer of skin and hair called velvet, which supplies blood to the developing antlers. A healthy, mature male will have large somewhat symmetrical antlers. In preparation for the breeding season, called the rut, bulls will vigorously scrape their antlers against anything to remove the itchy covering and expose the bone underneath. This can be a gruesome display since the velvet is, again, supplied by blood vessels. Once the rut comes around, males begin “tending” the cows by eating and bedding down with her. Females will be going into season around the same time so a male may only have the chance to breed one to two cows per rut. Bulls will square off against each other in a show of strength to compete for access to the females, and the chance to pass on their genes. Males will face each other in a stiff-legged walk, swaying their antlers back and forth in a show of intimidation. Many times, confrontations like this are quickly resolved and the lesser of the two bulls concedes. The bigger the antlers, the stronger the male.

Reflections...

For most of you reading this edition of *Heron Tracks*, Seven Ponds has been part of your lives for quite a long time – years, possibly decades, maybe your entire life. Familiar, dependable, comfortable. You may have started visiting the nature center in your youth, perhaps on a school field trip. Now you bring your children, or even your grandchildren, for trail walks, summer camp, or weekend programs. We hear that story all the time, and it's a story we never tire of hearing. We hope you'll continue that relationship through yet another generation.

Some of you, however, are receiving your first-ever Seven Ponds newsletter in the mail. You became a supporting member within the past three months, and this is your inaugural *Heron Tracks*. Welcome!

This spring many people are “discovering” Seven Ponds Nature Center. Perhaps they've seen the brown signs on M-24 or M-53, and finally had time to make the drive down Dryden Road. Maybe it was a road trip north from the metro Detroit area. Sometimes it's a fairly local person who never had the opportunity to make a visit – but this year they determined to do so.

Regardless, it's always a pleasure for us to welcome these first-time visitors to the nature center. We enjoy giving them a tour of the building and highlighting some of the trails they might like exploring. If they are a willing audience, we share with them the story of Rip and Patty Schemm, Don and Bee Naish, and the founding of Seven Ponds Nature Center way back in 1967. And we are always sure to explain how all of this was made possible – and continues to be possible – through the generous support of thousands of people over these many years.

More often than not, it seems, they choose to become members. And of course, this delights us. Our members mean the world to us, and more members means more opportunities for us to do what we love best: help people develop a deep connection to the natural world. And help people experience the joy of discovery.

Welcome all, and enjoy!

Daryl Bernard
Executive Director



CORKS & CAPS ~ save the date!

Our annual Corks & Caps Fundraiser will be held Friday, August 6, 2021 at 6:00 PM at the Metamora Golf & Country Club. This fun event is one of our most important fundraisers of the year and we hope you will be able to attend and support the nature center. Typically held in early June, we decided to move the event back a couple months in hopes that we will be able to gather and enjoy a fun evening together by then.

Individual registration for the event is forthcoming, but if you'd like to support the event as a sponsor, please consider taking advantage of the following sponsorship levels:

Platinum \$1000

Signage and Recognition in program & *Heron Tracks* newsletter
8 tickets to Corks & Caps plus 8 passes to Seven Ponds

Gold \$750

Signage and Recognition in program & *Heron Tracks* newsletter
6 tickets to Corks & Caps plus 6 passes to Seven Ponds

Silver \$500

Signage and Recognition in program & *Heron Tracks* newsletter
4 tickets to Corks & Caps plus 4 passes to Seven Ponds

Bronze \$250

Recognition in program & *Heron Tracks* newsletter
2 tickets to Corks & Caps plus 2 passes to Seven Ponds

Heron Tracks

is published quarterly by Seven Ponds Nature Center
a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation
www.sevenponds.org 810-796-3200

The mission of Seven Ponds Nature Center is to conserve the natural environment of Seven Ponds as a sanctuary for native plants and animals, as a living classroom for environmental education, and as a peaceful retreat for its visitors. The nature center fosters an understanding and appreciation of our natural world and development of an environmental ethic in the people and communities of Southeast Michigan through education, service as a community resource, and responsible stewardship of Seven Ponds and adjacent lands.

Executive Director:
Director of Environmental Education:
Office Manager:
Naturalists:
Gift Store Manager/Weekend Receptionist:
Weekday Receptionist:
Maintenance - Buildings & Grounds:

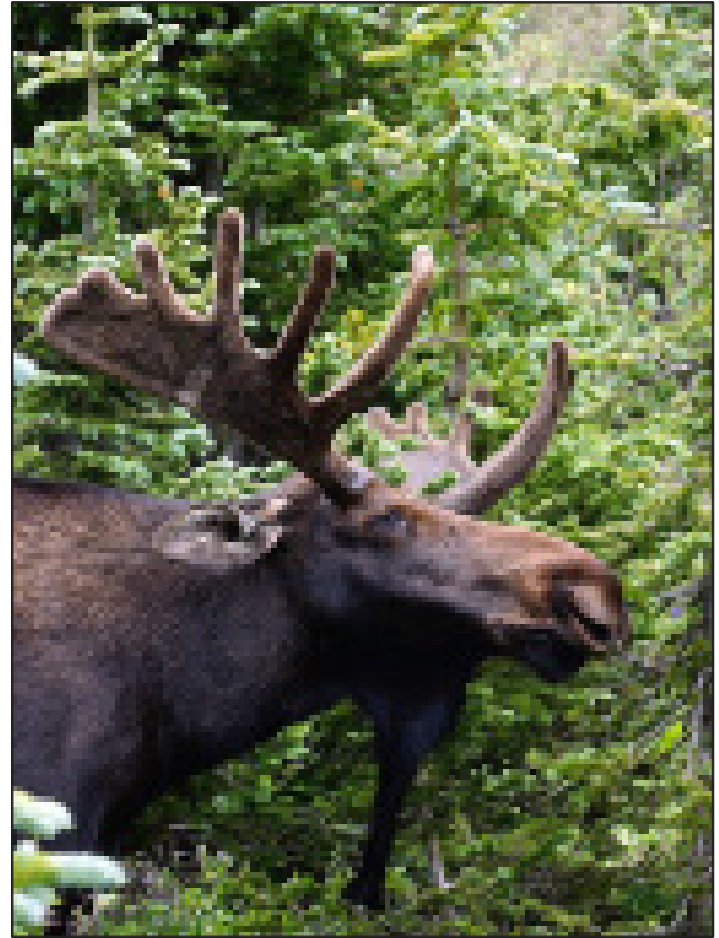
Daryl Bernard
Carrie Spencer
Diane Rankin
Nicole Kopas, Katie McKiernan
Stacey Holinsworth
Krincy Rice
Mike Grappin

However, if no resolution is accomplished, they may lock antlers together and begin a bout of shoving. These are no simple pushing disputes, but thunderous matches where males can end up permanently injured. Antlers could break, sides could be gored, and eye injuries could lead to blindness in a male. Fights may last a short amount of time, while others can last for hours. Only to the victor go the spoils, and in this case, the females.

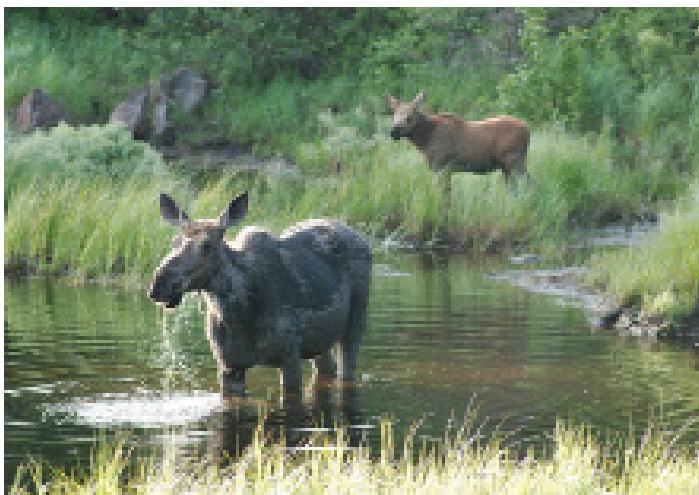
In the wintertime, moose suffer from a different kind of foe... winter ticks. A single moose may suffer from tens of thousands of ticks causing significant blood loss to the animal. Unlike white-tailed deer, moose are stimulus groomers which means they will only groom themselves when they feel an irritation. This leads to legions of ticks riding around on a moose throughout the year. The ticks will do their feeding of blood during the cold winter and spring months. By this time the moose has begun scratching so severely to rid itself of the parasites that it has removed large sections of fur from its body. This can be dangerous during the harsh winters and wet springtime months. Hypothermia can lead to death for a moose weakened by cold and anemia.

During the warmer seasons, moose can be found around areas of water. These large animals, with their dark colored hair, have trouble with the heat. They are unable to sweat away any of the excess heat in their body, so they easily become uncomfortable in warmer weather. To help cool themselves down they will begin to increase their breathing at around 38 degrees Fahrenheit. Their large nostrils are used to pull in cool air past moist membranes in their respiratory system and cool the moose via evaporation. At 70 degrees they become more stressed and will search out cool places to bed down and rest. Moose will then seek water when the temperature reaches 85 degrees to cool off and to also partake in aquatic plants rich in sodium by diving down some 18 feet at times.

It is no wonder moose can feel the effects of climate change so readily. They rely on the cold to keep their body regulated and with rising temperatures they will be forced to seek new



territory in higher latitudes. Our Michigan moose might not fare so well in the near future. Michigan is the at the southern end of their range and are only found in the Upper Peninsula and Isle Royale. It was found that carbon isotopes taken from the teeth of moose and wolves on Isle Royale act as a time capsule of sorts to document the rise in atmospheric carbon emissions. As the carbon in the atmosphere has increased so has the amount documented in the teeth of moose increased. Rolf O. Peterson, the resident biologist on the island, wrote in his book *The Wolves of Isle Royale - A Broken Balance*, "There is no place on the planet that remains unaffected by human technology, and the most insidious of all environmental risks are those we cannot see."



I hope to one day see a Michigan moose. They are elusive at times, but their form is unmistakable. From my travels in Maine, I was able to win a single moose antler from the Moose Festival, hosted by their Department of Natural Resources. That antler now rests securely above my desk here at the nature center, a constant reminder of the large animal it once belonged to. I can't help but wonder where the antler's twin is and if the moose it once adorned is still out there somewhere standing as a proud symbol of the great, northern wilderness.

Wandering with the Birds

By Daryl Bernard

Over the course of a lifetime, a birder may see any number of birds. Most birders keep track of the birds they have seen and identified: their Life List. In Michigan it's possible to see 300 or more of the roughly 700 regularly occurring bird species in North America, but to increase one's Life List much higher than that, traveling is required. By visiting different parts of North America, birders can see birds unique to those regions and work on building their Life List.

Of course, a list is just a list. It's a fun way to tally a lifetime of bird observations, but in no way does it replace the experience of those observations. The places, the people, the birds, the memories... these far outweigh the importance of the list itself. That said, I have always been a keeper of lists. And I've been a lover of nature since childhood. So, naturally, when I found out in my college ornithology course that there were people who went out looking at birds, and kept lists of the birds they saw, and that these people were called birders, well, I decided right then that birding was perfect for me. Since that time, I have been a birder. And I have kept a Life List!

Birding primarily in Michigan, my Life List quickly grew to the mid-200s. Family trips to South Carolina and Florida bumped my total considerably, and in Colorado a stunning Lewis's Woodpecker became Life Bird #400. After birding the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas, a trip to California yielded Life Bird #500, a Pigeon Guillemot, seen on a boat trip on Monterey Bay.

I had joined the 500 Club – something I had dreamed about since I started birding. Would another hundred birds be possible? Could I gain membership in the venerable 600 Club? The bigger your list, the more challenging it becomes to find new birds. New Mexico took me to 522...another trek into Florida added a half-dozen...I cracked 540 in Oregon...my first-ever trip to Southeast Arizona yielded what was likely my last big chunk of Lifers, and I came home at 582. My birding road since that time found me picking up birds in Michigan, New Jersey, Texas, and Florida.

My Life List stood at 599, and suddenly I found myself knocking on the door of the 600 Club...but what would it be? In late January birders found a wayward Northern Wheatear in northwestern Ohio. I made the drive down with my son, Danny, and birding friend, Brian. We arrived to find several birders on site and the bird perched up in a tree. Northern Wheatear. Life Bird #600. Easy.

Traveling home I reflected on the amazing journey these 600 birds had led me on for nearly three decades. And I wondered what birds and adventures may still lie ahead, awaiting discovery, as I'm out there wandering with the birds.

Around the Center

Feel the Burn!

Early in April the weather was perfect to try one of our more extreme techniques of property management: a prescribed burn in our tallgrass prairie. Seven Pond's staff was ready with back pack sprayers full of water, rakes, and shovels to help control the blaze as part of Earl's Prairie was set on fire. Fire is a natural part of the prairie ecosystem life. The nutrient rich ash will help fuel the plants springing up for this year's growing season. By mid-summer plants will be taller and have more blooms than in the unburned areas. The blaze will also help to keep invasive species back. Check out the prairie the next time you visit us and see if you can spot the differences.

Northern Goshawk Visitor

This past March we were excited to look out the window and see a Northern Goshawk checking out the birds at our feeders. Goshawks are the largest of the three accipiters that call Michigan home. They are very uncommon in this area with the last ones seen in 1994, 1998, and in February, just south of Dryden.

Welcome New Staff!

Next time you visit Seven Ponds, you may see a number of new faces. We're very excited to announce the following additions to our small staff:

Krincy Rice - Weekday Receptionist
Del Hunsinger - Seasonal Maintenance
Mike Kingensmith - Seasonal Field Crew
Steve Mowbray - Seasonal Field Crew
Hunter Smith - Seasonal Field Crew
Heidi Couch - Seasonal Naturalist
Dominique McKillop - Seasonal Naturalist
Jasmine Brock - Summer Intern Naturalist

You'll meet Krincy when you step through the front doors or hear her voice when you call. Del is assisting with various maintenance projects around the center. Mike, Steve, and Hunter - our field crew employees - are dedicated to ridding the nature center of invasive plant species. Dominique, Heidi, and Jasmine will be working with our Camp Seven Ponds summer campers. We are very happy to have all these dedicated people on staff!

Seven Ponds Tributes

Memorials, Buy-a-Tree, In Honor

In memory of Gregory Velasco

- Eddie and Kimberlee Adcock
- The Alumbaugh Family
- David and Michelle Barker
- Jay Bonahoom
- Peter and Karen Brennan
- Danice Chisholm
- Martin and Valerie Cotanche
- Jack Fry
- Frank and Elyse Germack
- E. W. Grobbel Sons, Inc.
- Mary Jones
- Shelly Kemp
- Connie Kramer
- Mike Lamoreaux
- Sharon and Bill Marshall
- Gloria Mason
- Allison and Sean Reinbold
- Leon Richardson
- Marie Ring
- Royal Roofing Company
- Mike and Sue Roten
- Susan Kores Sirkle
- Carol Swanson
- Gary and Debbie Sweetapple
- Ashley Toenjjes
- CarolAnn Wasilco
- Nancy Waters
- Christine Quane, Caroline Michniak, Pamela Ronson, Izzy Quane
- David Tait and Lynette McLeod, members of the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit
- Kilgour Scottish Centre of the St. Andrews Society of Detroit

In memory of Lawrence "Bud" Beeler

- Ruth Dostie
- Jeanica James
- Ed and Dawn Marges
- Lynne Staszak
- Henry Ford Hospital Ultrasound Department

In memory of Theodore Duncan

- Helen and Jerry Phillips

Buy-a-Tree in memory of Anthony Lanum

- Elliott Addis

Buy-a-Tree in memory of Sue Cornell

- Doug and Nan Toppin

In honor of Elaine Clampitt

- Candice Clampitt

In honor of Lois Rheume's Birthday

- Marianne Bohm
- Crystal Campagne
- Paula Janda
- Nancy Kautz
- Miriam Marcus
- Catherine Minolli
- Deb Stallings
- Cynthia Stroebel

Here and There...

Thanks to **Gerald Buck** for a much-needed grating of our driveway and parking lot. More thanks to Gerald for using his trailer to deliver our John Deere Gator to Greenia's for some required service.

Thanks to **Marci Stewart** for the donation of binoculars and geology specimens.

Thanks to **Peg Flower** for the donation of teaching, art, and office supplies.

Thanks to **Stacey Holinsworth** for the donation of office supplies.

Thanks to **Jan Giesken** for the donation of binoculars.

Thanks to **Lynn and Lynn Rose** for the donation of a power washer.

Thanks to **SO MANY PEOPLE** for donating items for our annual Stingers Rummage Sale!

Volunteer News

On the Trail

Thanks to all the many volunteers who helped with a variety of tasks this past spring.

- Joanna Livingston for feeding the animals.
- Joey “Tree” Drinkhorn, Adam Reittenbach, and Joshua Burr for climbing the trees to clean out the Wood Duck nest boxes for another year.
- Noah Elkins for helping with various tasks around the nature center.
- Joey Janicki for helping to clear trees out of Earl’s Prairie.
- Our nest box monitors for keeping tabs on our nesting Tree Swallows, Eastern Bluebirds, House Wrens, and Black-capped Chickadees.
- All of our wonderful garden volunteers for getting the gardens ready for another year of beauty.

Invasive Plant Work Day

Nicol Kopas, our naturalist charged with land stewardship, is planning an invasive plant workday on Sunday, June 13 from 2:00 to 4:00. Please register online and join us to help reduce the negative impact these invaders have on our forests and fields.

Volunteer Opportunities

Call us at 810-796-3200 or contact Katie McKiernan at kmckiernan@sevenponds.org if you are interested in volunteer-

Assistant Naturalist Classes

These adult classes are held on Saturdays and usually start at 12:00 PM and run to 3:00 PM. Classes are open to Assistant Naturalists only. If you would like to become a part of this rewarding program, contact Seven Ponds at 810-796-3200 or Katie McKiernan at kmckiernan@sevenponds.org.

EXPLORER PROGRAMS - 3rd & 4th Grades

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 12:00 PM

Continuing with our new programs, we will be learning about the changes to the 3rd and 4th grade curriculum. Lots of pond dipping!

EXPLORER PROGRAMS - 5th Grade

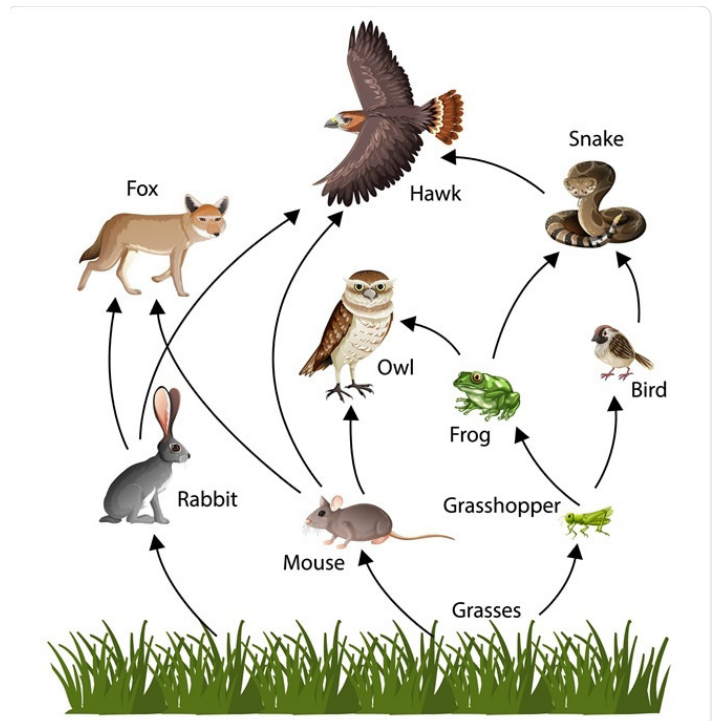
SATURDAY, JULY 24, 12:00 PM

Food chains and food webs are the focus of 5th grade programs. Let’s make those connections and discover what food chains/webs are at Seven Ponds.

EXPLORER PROGRAMS - Middle School

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 12:00 PM

Our final groups are middle school. Come and learn how to teach our young adults with fun nature lessons.



TREK the TRAILS!

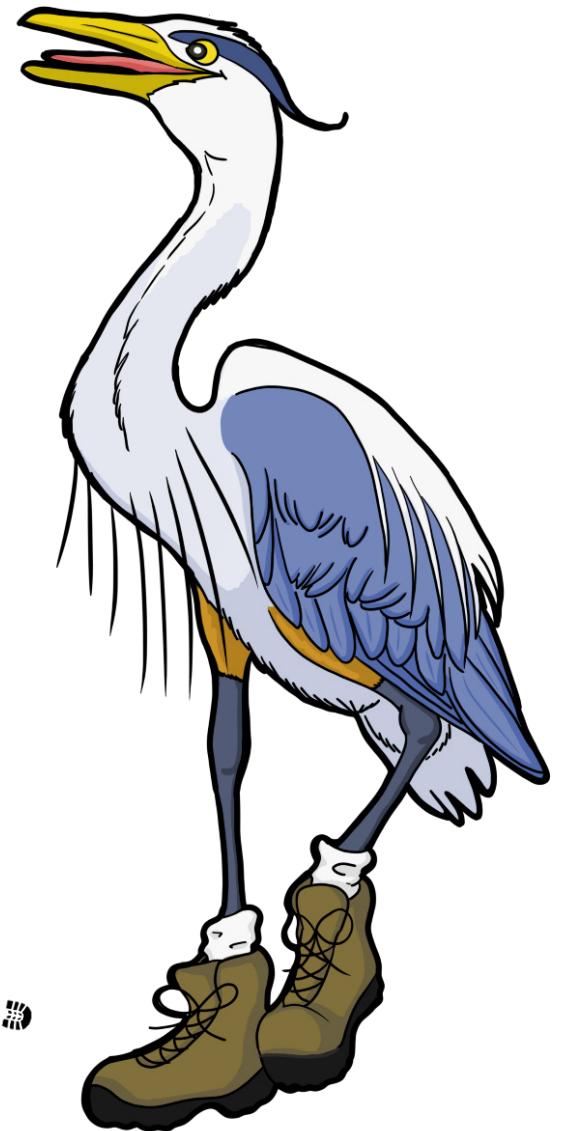
A hiking fundraiser for Seven Ponds Nature Center August 1 through August 31

Throughout the month of August, Seven Ponds staff will be hiking the trails in friendly competition with one another - here at the nature center and elsewhere. Follow their progress on the nature center's website and Facebook page, and pledge funds to your favorite staff member to help them raise important funds for environmental education.

How you can support Seven Ponds:

- > Make a pledge in support of Seven Ponds staff hikers
- > Hike and raise funds for Seven Ponds

Check the Seven Ponds website for more information about how you can support this effort and help raise funds for Seven Ponds!



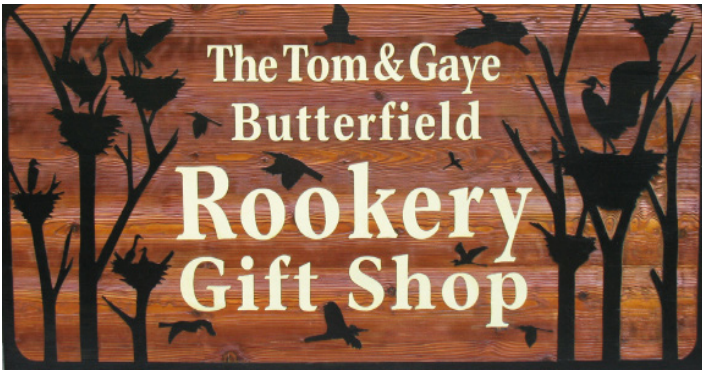
Seven Ponds Clubs!

Visitors are welcome at all club meetings. For additional information about any of the clubs which meet at Seven Ponds, please visit sevenponds.org.

Astronomy Club • Beekeeping Club
Birding Club • Photography Club
Friends of Herbs • Butterfly Gardeners
The Stingers

Stingers Rummage Sale Reminder

The Stingers' Annual Rummage Sale will be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 17-19 at the nature center. A special "member's only" pre-sale will take place June 12. The basement is overflowing with great items and all are for sale on a donation basis - you name the price. All proceeds from this sale support environmental education programs for children, so please be generous. Mark your calendars and join us for this sale!



The Rookery Gift Shop offers a variety of locally handmade items. Including body products like body powder, foot scrub, wax melts, lip balm, lotion bars, and soap. As always we have our locally made honey, maple syrup, teas, sniffle bags, bug off, lavender wands, wax melts, vinyl decals, faux leather earrings, hand crafted jewelry, and artwork made by local artists. Other items are bird houses, bird feeders, birdseed, field guides, children's books, nature themed jewelry, toys, puzzles, games, and wind chimes. So come get your unique items today!

Include a gift membership or Rookery gift certificate with your next purchase. These are the gifts that keep giving through all the seasons.

Seven Ponds Nature Center

3854 Crawford Road
Dryden, MI 48428
810-796-3200
www.sevenponds.org

Address Service Requested

To help reduce the abundance of single-use plastic items we have reusable Chico bags that are made from recycled materials. Other reusable items are Blue Q bags, totes, pencil cases, lunch bags, and coin purses all made from 95% recycled materials.

BIRDSEED HOME DELIVERY!

We now offer birdseed delivery within a 20-mile radius for just a small \$5.00 delivery fee.*

CURBSIDE SHOPPING!

Curbside shopping is also available - just call the nature center to place an order and we will deliver right to your vehicle.*

*All delivery and curbside orders must be prepaid.

Purchases made in the Rookery Gift Shop support the nature center, including all of the programs we do and land stewardship we perform. Your purchase dollars help us do good things!

THANK YOU!

Non-profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2
Dryden, MI
48428

Summer Programs

June - August
2021

Summer is the perfect time to visit the nature center and participate in our programs. Seven Ponds offers something for everyone, from preschoolers and families to adults and seniors. Mark your calendar for some programs, walks, and classes. Unless indicated, program fees are \$3.00 for adults, no charge for members or children 12 & under. COVID-19 precautions may be in place for various programs - check our website for more information. Please register online for all programs at sevenponds.org.

June

Moth Exploration

Sunday, June 6, 9:00 PM

These beauties of the night are diverse in so many ways. On this walk we will talk about moths of all different kinds and set up "traps" to attract moths in for viewing. Cecropia moths will be emerging around this time of year. Maybe we will get the chance to see one or two.

Invasive Work Day

Sunday, June 13, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Join our Land Steward for an afternoon of working on non-native invasive plants around the center. This is a great chance to earn community service or Master Gardener hours. Bring your own work gloves, water, and tools will be provided. If you wish to bring your own tools, you may

Glow Walk

Saturday, June 26, 7:30 PM

You might be thinking, "What in the world is a glow walk?" Well, that is a great question!! As we walk around the fields and forest edges we will be on the lookout for our glowing insect friends, fireflies or lightning bugs! As we walk we will learn about their lifecycle, habits and conservation.

Yoga at the Ponds with Peaceful Moon Yoga Beginners/Basic Yoga Class

THURSDAYS, JUNE 24 THROUGH JULY 29, 10:00-11:00 AM

Unwind, rejuvenate and relax with Cat Minolli and the 'Peaceful Moon' series. These classes are designed for newcomers and beginning yoga students and/or those who wish to become re-acquainted with the practice. Participants will experience the mind, body, spirit connection while learning basic yoga poses in a serene environment. You don't have to be able to touch your toes or twist into a pretzel to participate, however many postures are done from a seated or prone position on the floor. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat or a blanket. Pillows, additional blankets and any other "creature comforts" are also welcome. Fee is \$10.00. Classes will be held inside the building with COVID-19 protocols in place.

Native Pollinator Exploration

Sunday, June 27, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

June 27th is the last day of Pollinator Week this year. To show our support we will be wandering the gardens and other areas of the nature center to find and watch our native pollinators. As we explore we will talk about who our native pollinators are and what we can do to help protect them.

July

Butterfly Count

Saturday, July 3, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Join our naturalists for our annual count for the North American Butterfly Association. We will check various habitats at Seven Ponds in search of all the butterflies we can find! Bring your favorite butterfly field guide, your trusty net, binoculars, and a sack lunch if you plan to stay through the afternoon. We have extra nets for those who don't have their own. This program is for adults and older children who have an interest in butterflies. Fee: \$3.00.

Fourth of July Holiday

Sunday, July 4, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

The building will be open and a naturalist on duty throughout the day. Stop by the nature center for a trail walk or enjoy a holiday picnic at the ponds!

Prairie Stroll

Saturday, July 17, 10:00 AM

Earl's Prairie will be in top form during this time of the year. Join us as we take a stroll, identifying the plants and animals that live there.

Hop, Run, Fly! It's Jonathan Woods in July!

Sunday, July 25, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

A hop, run, or fly to our satellite property Jonathan Woods! As we hike along the trail we will admire the beautifully, green canopy of the forest as it sways in the wind. We will also be doing fun sensory activities for kids and adults along the way.

Pond Dipping!

Saturday, July 31, 11:00 aM

Grab a net provided by the naturalist and explore what lies below the waters of the ponds. This is a family program which looks at the aquatic insects that live in the waters around the center.

August

Corks and Caps

Friday, August 6

Party at the Ponds!

Saturday, August 7, 11:00 PM – 6:00 PM

See insert for more information.

Walk Around the Ponds

Sunday, August 8, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Gather with a naturalist for a walk around the ponds. It may be warm but we will enjoy the afternoon breeze as we see what's going on around the ponds.

Afternoon with a Naturalist

Wednesdays & Fridays

August 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 at 2:00 PM

Hang out with a Naturalist and learn about all things nature. Each afternoon will bring new and fun nature themed activities.

Family Field Netting

Sunday, August 15, 2:00 PM

What lives in the fields and prairie of Seven Ponds? Join us for an excursion into the grasses to find what insects are active this time of year. All supplies will be provided. Just bring your curiosity.

Morning Paddle at the Ponds

Saturday, August 21st, 9:00 aM

Early morning is one of the best times to view wildlife on the lakes. Dress for the weather. Fee: \$5.00 per person (\$3.00 for members) Minimum: 5 years old to ride and 10 years old to paddle. Please pre-register online by August 19th.

Roving Naturalists

The naturalists will be spending more time on the trails exploring nature with our visitors this summer. You will find them out-and-about with something interesting to share. When you are hiking at Seven Ponds keep a look out for them, and the awesome nature with them!

SUMMER BIRD WALKS

This summer we will offer bird walks on select Wednesday mornings from June through mid-August. Highlighting numerous local natural areas, all walks take place at parks and preserves, generally within ~30 minutes driving time from Seven Ponds Nature Center (two of our walks – Shiawassee and Fish Point – require a longer drive). Our bird walks are open to birders of all skill and experience levels, and beginners are always welcome. Bring your binoculars, your enthusiasm, and be sure to dress for the weather. These bird walks are free for Seven Ponds members and \$5 for non-members. Bird walks are limited to ten (10) participants, and online pre-registration is required. Each summer bird walk will begin promptly at 7:30 AM at the trailhead of the destination park or preserve. Addresses can be found on our website. Please arrive on time and ready to go birding!

Summer Bird Walk #1 – June 2

SHIAWASSEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Saginaw County

Summer Bird Walk #2 – June 9

ROBERT WILLIAMS NATURE PARK
Genesee County

Summer Bird Walk #3 – June 23

ATLAS COUNTY PARK
Genesee County

Summer Bird Walk #4 – July 14

LAPEER STATE GAME AREA - SAWDEL UNIT
Lapeer County

Summer Bird Walk #5 – July 28

FISH POINT STATE WILDLIFE AREA
Tuscola County

Summer Bird Walk #6 – August 11

SEVEN PONDS NATURE CENTER
Lapeer County

PARTY at the PONDS!

A Celebration of Prairie, Woods, and Waters

Saturday, August 7, 2021
Noon – 6:00 PM

Admission and all activities are FREE for ALL attendees!

Join us for a day of celebration at Seven Ponds Nature Center – open to all members and visitors for a full day of fun, adventure, and discovery for the entire family!

- Food truck on site - TBD
- Children's area with fun, old-time games and activities!
- Stingers Resale Shoppe & bake sale!
- SPNC club and group representatives on-hand for information and demonstrations
*Astronomy Club • Beekeepers Club • Birding Club • Photo Club
Friends of Herbs • Butterfly Gardeners • Stingers (Friends of Seven Ponds)*

FUN ACTIVITIES!

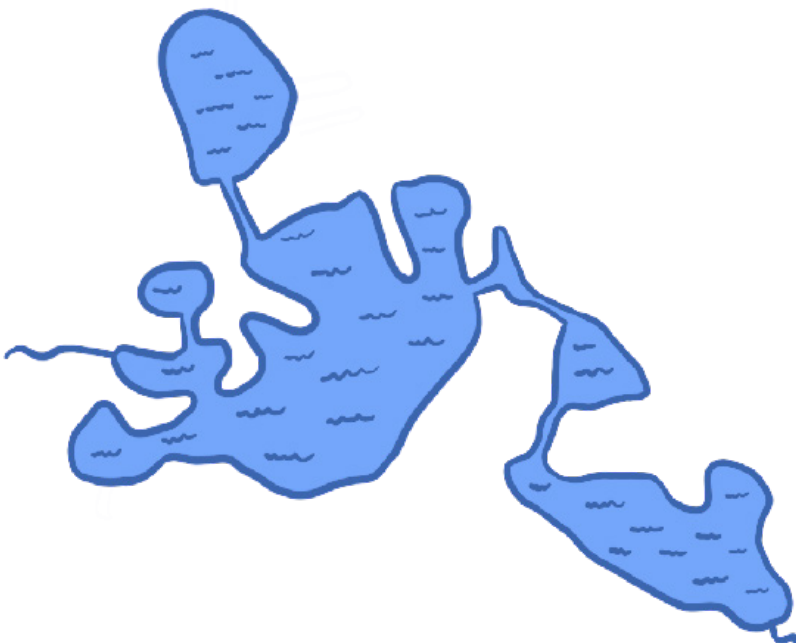
Naturalist-led Trail Walks

Field Netting: butterflies, grasshoppers, beetles, and more!

Pond Dipping: snails, boatman, nymphs, and more!

Golf Cart Nature Tours

Canoeing the Ponds



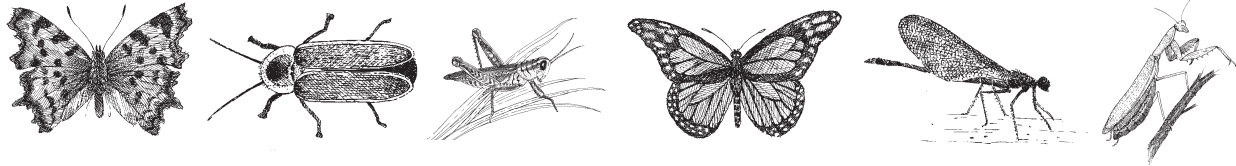
CampSevenPonds!

June - July 2021

Do you like animals, plants, and exploring the out-of-doors? Do you want to make new friends that love nature just as much as you?

If this sounds awesome then Camp Seven Ponds! is for you!

Register online at sevenponds.org!



Pint Sized Explorers - 2 to 3 years old & Knee-High Naturalists - 4 to 5 years old

We will have fun exploring nature using our senses. We will play games, make crafts, read stories, and investigate nature. Parents are welcome and encouraged to play!

Fee: \$28.00 per week (members \$24.00 per week)

Week #1 - June 15 to 18 - 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Week #2 - June 22 to 25 - 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Sign Up for One
Week or Both!

Young Explorers - 6 to 11 years old

We will spend our days exploring nature through games, art, investigations, hikes, activities, and much more. Each week will have a different nature theme. Please bring a bag lunch, a snack, water, and clothes for any weather.

Fee: \$70.00 per week (members \$60.00 per week)

Week #1 - July 6 to 9 - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Art in Nature

Week #2 - July 13 to 16 - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Go Green

Week #3 - July 20 to 23 - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Survival

Week #4 - July 27 to 30 - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Nature Detectives

Sign Up for One Week
or All 4 Weeks!

Junior Naturalists - 12 to 15 years old

We will spend our days exploring nature through canoeing, hiking, games, activities, art, and much more. Please bring a bag lunch, snack, water, and clothes for any weather.

Fee: \$70.00 (members \$60.00)

July 20 to 23 - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Survival



Seven Ponds Nature Center

3854 Crawford Road, Dryden, MI 48428

(810) 796-3200 - www.sevenponds.org

NOTE: Some of the camp sessions listed above may be full. Only sessions with space remaining will have active links on our website.