



Heron Tracks

The Quarterly Newsletter of Seven Ponds Nature Center

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Wuchak

Article and Artwork by Katie McKiernan

How much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood? It is a little rhyme I have heard time and time again when discussing woodchucks with any group of people. In reality, a woodchuck, unlike a beaver, does not chop or “chuck” wood. When European settlers came over to North America they didn’t know what to call the little burrowing animal that would sometimes stand up and whistle in alarm. When they heard the First Peoples of the Cree Nation call it a wuchak, the term was misinterpreted and the name “woodchuck” stuck. Whatever you call them, woodchuck, whistle pig, or groundhog, they all are referring to the same animal, *Marmota monax*.

As the most widespread of all the marmot species, woodchucks can be found throughout the eastern United States and Canada. Their range extends into western Canada and as far north as Alaska. Woodchucks are a type of ground squirrel species. They are found in a variety of habitats including fields, forests, under buildings (much to many people’s dismay), and brush piles. It is easy to find woodchuck burrows due to the “steps” or dirt piles found at the entrances. They can have many burrows in an area that they will rotate between every 4-6 days. The number of burrows is determined by population density in an area. The more woodchucks found in a location the less burrows for everyone. Fewer woodchucks in an area can lead to one animal having up to 14 burrows to rotate through. For each burrow, there may be 1-3 entrances with which the woodchuck can enter (and escape from). Burrows can be up to 6 feet deep and a whopping 43 feet long. It is no wonder this animal can spend up to 80% of their life underground.

Most of that time in the burrow is spent during the winter months. Woodchucks are one of North America’s true hibernators. Many animals will go into torpor or a winter sleep, but woodchucks will take it a step further. It all starts in fall when they are packing on the pounds. Woodchucks will not eat or drink during the long winter months, so, it is important to put on lots of fat reserves before entering the

burrow for the last time that year. Woodchucks are mostly herbivores, eating all types of plant materials from roots, to seeds, to fruits. They are opportunistic, though, and won’t turn down a tasty insect. They have even been witnessed feeding on chipmunks from time to time.

Woodchucks in Michigan will hibernate 3.5-6 months. More northern members of the species will hibernate for longer due to the longer winter weather. Once they enter the burrow they will seal up the designated chamber with dirt, feces, and plant materials. They make their hibernating burrow in an area that will hopefully be free from flooding and warm enough under the frost line. There they will begin hibernation by slowing their heart rate down from 130 beats per minutes to only 10 beats per minute. Their body temperature will drop to only 36 degrees Fahrenheit. Again, they won’t be eating or drinking during this time, but



Reflections...

A few days ago, I was down by the A-Frame Bridge, enjoying our wonderful new boardwalk. This project was made possible because of a very generous gift from one of our long-time supporters. It was the type of gift we don't often receive, and understandably so. But it got me thinking about the generosity of so many people over the past 57 years, and how all of those gifts – large and small – made Seven Ponds Nature Center happen, made everything here possible.

As a non-profit organization, we depend on financial support to fulfill our mission, to provide service to our community, to maintain our buildings and grounds, to pay our bills, and to pay our small staff a modest wage. Everything we do at the nature center is the end result of donations, membership dues, program fees, and fundraising dollars provided by our supporters.

Unfortunately, we have seen a decline in the overall level of giving over the past few years. And we are not alone. According to Giving USA, Americans are giving to charity at the lowest level in nearly three decades. When faced with high inflation and economic uncertainty, it's natural for people to tighten their personal budget. According to the report, contributions to organizations focused on the environment dropped by 8.9% while educational organizations saw a 10.7% decrease, when adjusted for inflation.

What does this mean for Seven Ponds Nature Center? First of all, Seven Ponds is a financially sound organization. We have always been careful with our dollars, creating a balanced and reasonable budget each year, and striving to stay on budget. Our staff, executive director, and board of directors are mindful of our expenditures and revenue. We try to do as much as we can with as little as possible.

But the bottom line means we often must make difficult decisions, sometimes compromise on what we would like vs. what we can afford, and limit the number of staff we have. This means we cannot offer the number of programs to schools that we would like to offer. It means we cannot manage our property to the fullest extent we would like to. It means we may lose quality, trained, experienced staff who leave not because they don't love the nature center, but because they need to earn more income.

As we move through 2024 and face our future, we hope our members and supporters will continue to find value in what we do, in who we are. We hope that you will continue to support Seven Ponds financially, through your membership and your financial contributions.

We are here for you. And we are here because of you. We can't make it any other way.

Daryl Bernard, *Executive Director*

Dispatches from the Field

Seven Ponds Nature Center has offered field tours to destinations throughout North America and beyond for more than thirty years. These field tours generate important revenue for the nature center, which supports our educational programs and stewardship efforts. The impact of these tours goes far beyond revenue, however. Participants are immersed in amazing natural landscapes where nature is experienced close-up and first-hand. Relationships are forged, and many tour participants come home lifelong friends, nature being the common bond. Non-members become members, and many tour veterans become some of the nature center's most devout supporters.

In April, Seven Ponds led a birding field tour to south Florida, where participants explored the many habitats that help make the area a prime destination for birders. The pine flatwoods provided access to several unique species, including Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, and Brown-headed Nuthatch. In the coastal scrub, the group found Florida's only endemic bird species, the Florida Scrub-Jay. Exploring the urban areas in and around Miami brought the group in contact with many exotic birds which now call south Florida home, including Red-whiskered Bulbul, Scaly-breasted Munia, and several parrot species. One of the very special aspects of this tour was a boat trip 60 miles west of Key West to Dry Tortugas National Park, where thousands of seabirds such as noddies, terns, frigatebirds, and boobies nest. South Florida was a tour that participants will remember for a lifetime.

In late May, birders traveled to South Dakota to explore the Black Hills, Badlands, and grasslands of that region, along with a day trip into Wyoming to Devils Tower National Monument. Coming up in June, a group from Seven Ponds will travel to Copper Harbor and then to Isle Royale National Park to take in the natural wonder of that region. Reports forthcoming for both of these tours.

Check the nature center's website for details about future Seven Ponds field tours. Come travel with us!

Heron Tracks

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www.sevenponds.org 810-796-3200

The mission of Seven Ponds Nature Center is to conserve its natural environment as a sanctuary for native plants and animals and to serve as a community resource for environmental education that fosters an understanding, appreciation, and stewardship for our natural world.

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

Daryl Bernard
Carrie Spencer
Paula Cope
Madison Christol, Adrianna Allen
Gina Stoldt
Damian Goidich
Del Hunsinger



instead relying on fat stores accumulated during the fall. By the time they come out of the burrow in the spring they could be as much as 30% lighter. They will alternate between levels of deep torpor and arousal where they will check on temperature conditions to see if it is time to emerge. With global warming making seasonal temperatures rise, woodchucks are coming out of hibernation earlier, as was the case with the woodchucks around Seven Ponds this year.

Males will emerge from hibernation about a month before the females. Their job is to establish territory in time for the ladies to make their debut. A male woodchuck will have territory that will overlap with 1-3 females. Breeding season begins in late February and goes through March. Gestation lasts only 30-32 days with 3-4 young born in mid April. Baby woodchucks, also called chucklings, will stay in the burrow for 20-30 days.

In the wild, woodchucks can live 6 years but only average 2-3 years. They have a wide variety of predators to keep an eye out for. Foxes, coyotes, dogs, bobcats, fishers, weasels, mink, Red-tailed Hawks, and Great-horned Owls make up some of their top predators in the Michigan area. Woodchucks are also called “whistle pigs” for the shrill whistle produced when scared or on alert. This will alert other woodchucks in the area there is danger nearby. During the warmer months woodchucks can be found eating, grooming, digging, and sunning themselves on rocks. They can climb trees to escape danger or find food, and will

even swim if need be. Most of the time they are trotting or waddling around from place to place, but they can reach running speeds of 10mph.

Every February 2nd people all over North America celebrate this little animal on Groundhog Day. Originally started in Europe with hedgehogs and badgers, European settlers used the woodchuck to predict the length of winter in North America. If the woodchuck sees its shadow it will be frightened back into its burrow and we will have 6 more weeks of winter. If it emerges and sees no shadow, then spring is on its way! While this tradition does not actually predict the true length of winter, it is fun to call upon Punxsutawney Phil every year to herald the start of the seasonal change. The famous groundhog got his start in 1887 and is said to have survived on “groundhog punch” to keep his eternal youth for so long. This year he was named the official state meteorologist of Pennsylvania.

I have always enjoyed watching the woodchucks come up to the feeders here at Seven Ponds. In the spring, they look a little rough and skinny, but quickly fill up on the seasons’ offerings. By the fall they are nice and plump, and ready for the long nap. I remember once witnessing a woodchuck feasting on seeds with a tussocks moth caterpillar perched on its head (pictured on page 1). I can honestly say they are one of my favorite animals, and I look forward to their appearance from hibernation every year.

Around the Center

Welcome Naturalist Adrianna Allen!

The nature center recently hired a new full-time naturalist. Please join us in welcoming Adrianna Allen of Lapeer. As a fifth-generation Lapeer resident, Adrianna is devoted to supporting the unique biodiversity of southeast Michigan. Adrianna's background is in scientific illustration, with her illustration work being featured in publications such as Astronomy Magazine and exhibited throughout the U.S. at venues such as National Geographic Headquarters. After eight years of experience as a scientific illustrator, Adrianna decided to take on a new challenge, earning her master's degree in Conservation Biology and working in various environmental roles, including as a wetland wildlife field technician, environmental scientist, and U.S. Forest Service intern. She is excited to share her passion for science communication and learn from the visitors and patrons of Seven Ponds. When not pointing at plants or pulling sticks out of her hair, Adrianna can be found pointing at MORE plants or wondering how so much mud got INSIDE of her boots. She also enjoys reading, gardening, and spending time with her family. We are thrilled that Adrianna has chosen to join the Seven Ponds team!



New Summer Intern Brenna Olko

We are excited to welcome Oakland University student Brenna Olko as an intern naturalist this summer. "Hi, I'm Brenna and I'm so excited to be Seven Ponds' summer intern! I just finished my third year of undergrad at Oakland University towards my Environmental Science degree and plan to graduate next summer. This will also be my third year of working at a summer camp, but first at Seven Ponds. I'm really looking forward to combining my two passions of working with kids and nature together. Outside of school, some of my favorite outdoor activities are kayaking with my family and counting how many turtles we see, going on hikes, especially in the Upper Peninsula, and making flower crowns out of dandelions for my dogs. As the summer intern I have so much to learn and so much to share and I can't wait to do it all here!"



LCCF Endowment Fund

The Seven Ponds Nature Center endowment fund at Lapeer County Community Foundation continues to grow! This year, Seven Ponds received \$2,380.84 from earnings, which were used to help offset transportation costs for our neighborhood schools' field trips to the nature center. Thank you LCCF!

Seven Ponds Tributes Memorials, Buy-a-Tree, In Honor

In memory of Sally Suyama

- Dale & LuAnn Allen
- Arlen & Sara Bates
- Zuhlke, Schmidt, and Ullman families
- Anita Harrand
- Becky Henning
- Michaele Murphy
- The Wasilewski Family
- Kay Ullman
- Frank Zaran
- Carl & Marion Claucherty

In memory of Suzie Robinson

- Carole Bardenstein
- Nancy Harvey
- Nancy Hoops
- Lois Rosebrock

In memory of St. Francis and Doe

- Calliope Fahoome

Buy-a-Tree in honor of M. Lynn & Lynn Rose 55th Wedding Anniversary

- M. Lynn & Lynn Rose

Buy-a-Tree in memory of Sally Suyama

- M. Lynn & Lynn Rose

Buy-a-Tree in memory of Thurston & Mary McDonald

- M. Lynn & Lynn Rose

Buy-a-Tree in memory of William & Kathleen Teschke

- M. Lynn & Lynn Rose

In memory of Jocelyn Scofield

- Micaela & Gary Boomer

In memory of Marlin Marshall

- Corrine Hall, Ruby Hall, Mak Celustra
- David Brown
- Gayle Lovely



Boardwalk Update

Our handy maintenance man Del has added curbs to our new boardwalk. It looks amazing!

Changes in the Butterfly Garden

One of the beautiful features near the nature center building is the Butterfly Garden, which attracts native pollinators and nature center visitors alike. When you visit the nature center this summer, you will notice changes happening in the garden. The old cedar split rail fence - which we loved - has been removed. Unfortunately, while the fence added an attractive ambiance to the garden, it did nothing to prevent wildlife such as deer, rabbits, and woodchucks from devouring the plants that our volunteer crew works so hard to maintain. We decided to install deer-proof fencing around the garden to protect the plants from browsing wildlife. For a time, this will certainly affect the attractiveness of the garden, but eventually when the plants will grow sufficiently, the fence will blend in while safeguarding the plants. This project was made possible due to a generous grant from the Ralph L. & Winifred E. Polk Foundation.

Here and there...

Many thanks to the following for their generosity:

- To **all the folks** who dropped off items for our Stingers Rummage Sale.
- To **Tim Kirkland Well Drilling** for checking on one of our wells at no cost.
- To **Tillson Street Plumbing** for coming out and checking on a couple plumbing issues at the nature center at no cost.
- To **Marianne Bohm** for donations of books for our natural history library.

Volunteer News

On the Trail

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

- **Claudine Zach** for feeding the animals in Critter Corner every week. Awesome as always!
- **Bob Albrecht** for his work cleaning our fish tank regularly.
- **Marianna Fitzgerald** and **Bruce Childs** for their continued work in our library.
- Our Assistant Naturalists who help with school groups: **Nancy Kautz**, **Marianna Fitzgerald**, and **Kathy Cole**.
- **Gerald Buck** for bringing his equipment to the nature center and grading our driveway and parking lot.
- **Paula Lafountain** for helping at the Native Plant Sale - again!
- **Michelle Maust** for her amazing job with our Pint-Sized Explorers program.
- The awesome crew from **WYLD** for a day of invasive plant removal.
- Our wonderful **Stingers** for organizing and hosting their Resale Shoppe and Bake Sale during EcoDay, and **Mike Grappin** for assisting the Stingers with set-up.
- All of our **nest box monitors** for tracking the nesting success of songbirds using our nest boxes.
- Our many EcoDay volunteers, who helped make this event possible: **Marianna Fitzgerald**, **Kathy Cole**, **Matt Smith**, **Abby McClusky**, **Allen Rosenbalm**, **Sallie Walker**, and **Del Hunsinger**.

Volunteer Opportunities

Call us at 810-796-3200 or contact Adrianna Allen at aallen@sevenponds.org if you are interested in volunteering at Seven Ponds. You can also fill out the volunteer interest form located on our website at sevenponds.org

ASSISTANT NATURALIST CLASSES

These classes are open to Assistant Naturalists only. Classes take place on the third Thursday of the month and begin at 3:00 PM. If you would like to become a part of this rewarding program, contact naturalist Adrianna Allen at 810-796-3200 or aallen@sevenponds.org.

Bats of Michigan

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 3:00 PM

Take flight into the night as we learn about these nocturnal mammals.

JULY & AUGUST - NO CLASSES, SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

Board of Directors News

At the March 23 meeting of the Seven Ponds Nature Center Board of Directors, the board appointed three new members and elected officers. Terri Chapdelaine, Kathy Churchill, and Sandy Cornell all concluded their terms of service to the board. Three new members were appointed: Micaela Boomer (Almont), Argie Renieri (Dryden), and Scott Tieg (Lake Orion). The following slate of officers was elected: Joanna Pease, Chairperson; Kelly Heyener, Vice-Chairperson; Nancy Buck, Treasurer; Paul Messing, Secretary. To see a complete list of board members, visit our website at sevenponds.org/board/.

Stingers Rummage Sale!

The Stingers' Annual Rummage Sale will be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 13-15 at the nature center. A special "member's only" pre-sale will take place June 8. All items in the rummage sale are available on a donation basis - you name the price. The Stingers donate all proceeds from the sale to Seven Ponds to support environmental education programs for children, so please be generous. Mark your calendars and join us for this sale!

Item donations will be accepted through June 9.

Seven Ponds Clubs!

**Astronomy Club • Beekeeping Club
Birding Club • Photography Club
Butterfly Gardeners • Friends of Herbs
Friends of Seven Ponds (The Stingers)**

Visitors are welcome at all club meetings.

For additional information about any of the clubs which meet at Seven Ponds, please visit sevenponds.org.

Wandering with the Birds *By Daryl Bernard*

We drove up the Florida Keys from Key West that morning, steadily making our way back to the mainland, with a couple of quick bird stops along the way. After a break for lunch and a few more stops south of Miami, we headed into the teeth of Miami highway traffic, enduring a slowdown that lasted for several miles, making a fifteen-mile drive take more than an hour.

Our destination was Oleta River State Park, where we hoped to wrap up our birding tour of south Florida by connecting with a very special bird. A misplaced Yellow-headed Caracara, a raptor that hails from South America, had found its way up to Florida in 2022, and had been residing in the area for almost two years. Local reports had it dividing its time between three nearby locations: Haulover Park, Florida International University, and Oleta River State Park. Our plan was to stake out the state park until evening, hoping to intercept the bird of prey before our dinner and the end of our tour.

After surviving the late afternoon traffic, we paid our fee, gaining entry into the park. I must admit that my hopes were low: I had already missed this bird twice. Waiting a couple hours for the bird to show, only to miss it again, felt like a bad way to end our tour of south Florida. Still, we had to try.

Driving through the park to the spot where we would wait, one of the passengers suddenly stated that our guide – driving separately – had texted our group with the news that a local birder was looking at the caracara, perched in a palm tree, at Haulover Park. Right now! I quickly made a U-turn, entering Haulover Park on my phone's map app. It was eight minutes away.

We drove with frantic anticipation, excited about the possibility of connecting with this rare bird, but nervous that it might take flight before our arrival at Haulover. Chasing a rare bird is always a combination of adrenaline and dread. And there is nothing you can do to accelerate time. You simply drive as quickly as you safely can, and you hope, and you worry.

As we pulled into the park, we spied the birders, their eyes and binoculars and scopes and cameras aimed up into a palm tree. And in that palm tree we spotted our quarry, glowing in the late afternoon Florida sun. We parked and piled out of the van, every birder for him or herself as we hurried to the bird, which seemed oblivious to its many admirers. Training our lenses on the caracara, we all basked in the joy and relief that washes over a birder at the culmination of a successful chase. And the bird was glorious. For more than ten minutes we enjoyed every angle, sharing our scopes with passers-by who asked what we were all looking at, and hearing them gasp as they viewed this beautiful, wayward visitor through our optics.

Fate smiled upon us that day, allowing us to share a few special moments with a very special bird. That happens – sometimes – when you're out there, wandering with the birds.



Corks & Caps Fundraiser for Seven Ponds

Our annual Corks & Caps event will take place this year on Saturday, August 17 at the Metamora Golf and Country Club. This event is our most important fundraiser of the year, and we would love to see our supporters there. As in the past, the evening will feature an amazing full course meal prepared just for us by the chef at the country club, along with a variety of wine and beer. Special features include raffles for a party tub and several custom-created baskets, a wine pull, live music, and a live auction with professional auctioneer Brian Rowley. This is always a fun evening and raises critical funds for the operation of the nature center. Registration will take place online at our website. Please check the event flier in the program section of this edition of *Heron Tracks* for additional information. Individual tickets are available, as well as sponsorships covering 2, 4, or 8 attendees. Space is limited and you won't want to miss out on this wonderful event.



The Tom & Gaye Butterfield Rookery Gift Shop

Warmer days are finally here and the Rookery Gift Shop is a great place to browse while you cool off! We are fully stocked with field guides for your outdoor adventures and books for your beach day reads. Summer doesn't last long, let's get out there and enjoy it!



Come in and smell our new candles! It has been a while since we have had candles in the shop, so we are excited to offer you a nice selection from Coyer Candle Co. These candles are made in Michigan, smell wonderful, and make the perfect gift.



The Rookery Gift Shop is open Tuesday through Sunday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. One of the benefits of being a member of Seven Ponds is a 10% discount in the gift shop! Binoculars are excluded from the discount as we are already offering the lowest price possible.

When you shop with us, you know your dollars are supporting our mission.

Seven Ponds Nature Center

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www.sevenponds.org

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Summer Programs

June - August
2024

Summer is the perfect time to visit the nature center and participate in our programs. Seven Ponds offers something for everyone, from preschoolers and older children to families and adults. Mark your calendar for some programs, walks, and classes. Unless indicated, program fees are \$3 for Seven Ponds members and \$5 for non-members. Pre-registration is required for all programs, and registering online is quick and easy. Visit sevenponds.org to register.

June

A Walk in Paul's Woods

Saturday, June 1st, 10:00 AM

Spend the morning relaxing your mind and body during a walk through our beautiful Paul's Woods. We will explore the forest and see what there is to find.

Family Fun Day - Field Netting!

Sunday, June 2nd, 2:00 PM

Bring out your inner entomologist and come discover what kind of critters are living in our fields. We will use field nets and magnifying lenses to help us explore.

Evening Walk

Saturday, June 8th, 7:00 PM

Come experience nature in the evening. Some animals are settling down for the night, while some are just waking up, so let's see what we can find!

Invasive Species Work Day

Sunday, June 9th, 1:00 PM

Join our Land Steward for an afternoon of working on non-native invasive plants around the center. Bring your own work gloves and water. We will provide all necessary tools.

Celestial Skies Over Seven Ponds

Saturday, June 15th, 7:30 PM - 12:00 AM

Join Seven Ponds Astronomy Club for a night of Astronomy! The amateur astronomers of Seven Ponds will guide us through exciting celestial fun under the night skies. This event will happen rain or shine, and is free!

Earl's Prairie Walk

Sunday, June 16th, 2:00 PM

Spend the afternoon in our tallgrass prairie exploring the early bloomers like spiderwort, false indigo, and culver's root.

Messy Mud Day!

Saturday, June 29th, 1:00 PM

Celebrate International Mud Day at Seven Ponds! We will get our mud on playing in the mud, making in the mud, and imagining with the mud. This will be a messy day of mud making!

July

Butterfly Count

Saturday, July 6th, 10:00 AM

Join us for our annual count for the North American Butterfly Association. Nets available for all participants. Fee: \$3.

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

Sunday, July 7th, 1:00 PM

Let's explore Jonathan Woods in the summer. It's a great time to look for critters of all kinds. We'll meet at the nature center and carpool over. Space is limited.

Paddling the Ponds

Saturday, July 13, 10:00 AM

Explore the amazing waters found at Seven Ponds. Our connected lakes will give us plenty to enjoy! Come dressed for the weather. Minimum: 5 years old to ride and 10 years old to paddle. Space is limited, please register by Friday, July 12th.

The Log Life

Sunday, July 14, 2:00 PM

Life under a log is a tiny ecosystem with a whole world of activity. We will spend the afternoon exploring these incredible spaces.

Summer Bird Walk

Saturday, July 20th, 9:30 AM

Grab your binoculars and we'll hit the trails for a morning of birding as we travel through forest, wetlands, and prairie. Loaner binoculars available.

Nature Storytime

Sunday, July 21st, 2:00 PM

Spend the afternoon with a naturalist as we read a nature-themed storybook and make a craft.

Prairie Meander

Saturday, July 27, 2:00 PM

New things are happening in the prairie! From new flowers blooming to new insects singing, we will discover it all!

Spidermania!

Sunday, July 28, 2:00 PM

Come learn about our eight-legged friends during this walk about Seven Ponds. We explore their amazing craftsmanship, their cute dances, and awesome hunting skills.

August

Summer Evening Paddle

Saturday, August 3rd, 7:00 PM

Let's hit the water and paddle the ponds for this naturalist-led canoe paddle. Dress for the weather. Minimum: 5 years old to ride and 10 years old to paddle. Space is limited, please register by Friday, August 2nd.

Invasive Species Work Day

Sunday, August 4th, 2:00 PM

Join our Land Steward for an afternoon of working on non-native invasive plants around the center. Bring your own work gloves and water. We will provide all necessary tools.

Butterflies and Blooms

Saturday, August 24, 10:00 AM

Let's see what pollinators are out and about as we walk about the lakes and prairie. Be prepared to spend a relaxing morning among the flying jewels.

Eat your Yard!

Sunday, August 25, 2:00 PM

Did you know growing in and around your yard are many wild edibles? This afternoon we will search Seven Ponds for some common wild edibles that could be found in your yard.

Snake Search

Saturday, August 31st, 10:00 AM

We'll learn all about the snakes that call Michigan home and meet our resident snake! After that we'll hit the trail on a search for snakes.



WEDNESDAY BIRD TRIPS & WALKS

This summer we will offer bird walks/trips in June, July, and August. Our bird walks/trips 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. Bird walks are \$3 for Seven Ponds members and \$5 for non-members; bird trips are \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Pre-registration is required online, and bird walks/trips are limited to twelve (12) participants. Note the program description for starting time and meeting place. Please arrive on time and ready to go birding! Vortex Crossfire 8x42 loaner binoculars available upon request.

SUMMER BIRD TRIP - Bird Drive on the Wild Side

Wednesday, June 12, 7:30 AM

(depart from Seven Ponds at 6:00 AM)

Join us as we take a bird drive on the wild side at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw County. We'll meet at the refuge parking lot on Curtis Road, and from there we'll proceed slowly through the 6.5 miles Wildlife Drive, making numerous stops along the route. Birds we may encounter on this trip include herons, egrets, cranes, shorebirds, eagles, hawks, terns, songbirds, and more. We encourage carpooling for this trip to reduce the length of our caravan on the refuge.

SUMMER BIRD TRIP - Evening at Nayanquing

Wednesday, July 10, 4:00 PM

(depart from Seven Ponds at 2:00 PM)

Evening is a wonderful time to spend in the marshlands, and Nayanquing Point is one of the premier birding areas in Michigan. We'll caravan to northern Bay County, arriving at Nayanquing late afternoon to begin our birding adventure. We'll encounter ducks, geese, swans, herons, egrets, cranes, shorebirds, and songbirds - including one of Michigan's only populations of Yellow-headed Blackbirds. This trip will involve 2-3 miles of walking and will conclude with sunset on the tower overlooking the marsh, where we may see or hear American Bittern and Least Bittern.

SUMMER BIRD WALK - SEVEN PONDS NATURE CENTER

Wednesday, August 28, 7:30 AM

Let's take a late-summer walk at Seven Ponds and see what we can find. Typical birds we may see on this walk include Gray Catbirds, Eastern Towhee, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Kingbird, House Wren, and some resident warblers and vireos, plus the typical swallows, sparrows, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, blackbirds, and woodpeckers. We'll get an early start, take a short break at the nature center, then continue our walk.



Corks & Caps

A fun, fundraising event to benefit
Seven Ponds Nature Center

Saturday, August 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
Hosted by Metamora Golf & Country Club

We cordially invite you to attend a festive evening of good food and drink, raffles galore, and good company!

Special live auction mid-evening.

Plated dinner with wine and craft beer included. Cash bar also available.

Tickets: \$125 per person

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

GOLD-\$1500	SILVER-\$750	BRONZE-\$300
8 Seats	4 Seats	2 Seats

ALL sponsors will be recognized in the program and in the Seven Ponds newsletter.

REGISTRATION (Deadline: August 7, 2024)

Register online at sevenponds.org/corks-caps/

Or by phone to Seven Ponds Nature Center at 810-796-3200.

Please be prepared to provide the following information:

- Name, address, phone, and preferred method of contact
- Sponsorship level, if applicable
- Names of guests (including yourself) with correct spelling for name tags
- Choice of entrée per guest
- Credit card information

Entrée Selections

<i>Filet of Beef & Shrimp</i>	<i>Pistachio Crusted Halibut</i>	<i>Wild Mushroom Strudel (Vegetarian)</i>
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If you are unable to attend, but would like to support Seven Ponds Nature Center,
please consider a Sponsorship or Donation.

VIEW Event Details and Live Auction items at sevenponds.org/corks-caps-auction-gallery/

SEVEN PONDS NATURE CENTER

PARTY AT THE PONDS



SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

FREE
ADMISSION AND
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL
ATTENDEES

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

FUN ACTIVITIES!



- Naturalist-led Trail Walk
- Bird Walk through Seven Ponds
- Field Netting: butterflies, grasshoppers, beetles, and more
- Pond Dipping: snail, boatman, nymphs, and more
- Canoeing the Ponds



EXTRAS!

- Food trucks on site
- Live Music
- Stingers Resale Shoppe and bake sale
- Children's area with fun, old-time games and activities
- Children can enjoy the Naturescape
- Seven Ponds clubs presenting special activities



Please register for this free event online at sevenponds.org

FOOD - LIVE MUSIC - SALE