

Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center

4101 River Bends Drive – located east of Ryan Road, between Auburn and 22 Mile Roads
Phone 586-323-2478 Fax 586-323-2479 E-mail naturecenter@shelbytwp.org

OPERATING HOURS

Mondays	Closed
Tuesdays	Closed
Wednesdays	10:00am-6:00pm
Thursdays	10:00am-6:00pm
Fridays	10:00am-6:00pm
Saturdays	10:00am-6:00pm
Sundays	Noon-5:00pm

Registration Information

On-line enrollment is available for many Nature Center programs and activities, but many programs are Walk-in Only. If an activity number is listed with the description, you can register for it on-line, by phone with a credit card (call PRM), or walk in with cash or a check. Visit www.shelbytwp.org/departments/prm and click on the On-line Registration link to register

For questions or to register for FREE classes call 586-323-2478 or email the Nature Center at naturecenter@shelbytwp.org

Nature Center Refund Policy

- Refunds for most classes will be honored if the request is made before a class meets for a 2nd time.
- Refunds for 1-day events, or classes, or camps, or for programs that meet for consecutive days must be requested at least 7 business days prior to the scheduled date.
- \$7 per enrollment will be deducted from refunds for processing unless description lists a different fee.
- A refund check will be mailed 3-4 weeks from date of request for cash and check transactions.
- Your card will be credited for VISA or MasterCard refunds.
- Refunds will not be issued for any fee of \$7 or less.
- No partial refunds can be issued.

Frequent Flyer Miles Anyone?

Recently we have been catching several types of beetles using bait traps. These beetles aren't known to be pests, but it is interesting to know which ones live in this region. The traps sometimes consist of a small plastic bucket containing molasses, yeast, and water hanging from a 6 foot shepherd's hook. Sap Beetles and Long-horned Beetles sense the molasses and fly to the bucket and get caught. We caught several batches of these beetles last summer during our Advanced Bug Camp for students. This year one trap yielded some beetles along with a few yellow jackets, several kinds of moths, and a number of flies. But the real surprise came when our microscope revealed 2 tiny animals that look almost exactly like minute scorpions but without a stinger on their tails. They were Pseudoscorpions. Pseudoscorpions are tiny predators with pinchers that have venom. They use the venom to subdue their prey which is often a springtail or other minute soil creature. They are not dangerous at all to people, but they cannot fly nor climb a tall metal shepherd's hook. So how did they end up in our beetle bait trap?



A few weeks after their capture we were going through basic information on Pseudoscorpions and found a strange photograph. The picture showed a good-sized Crane Fly with a Pseudoscorpion attached to its leg by the Pseudoscorpion's tiny pincher. That's right; Pseudoscorpions actually hitch a ride on other insects! Scientists call it "phoresy". And they are not the only animals that practice this hitchhiking feat!



This is just one of the rather amazing things we have discovered in our parks. Visitors have contributed a host of other interesting observations. You may discover something equally exciting on your very next visit if you are on the lookout. Hope to see you here soon and learn about the things you find here!

Nature Notes

Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Specimens Sought

Shadbush has received several nice rock and mineral donations since our last newsletter. Ideal specimens would come from the Great Lakes Basin and should be about 2½ inches thick at their maximum with an appealing surface for viewing. Identification and location of the source of specimen is ideal but not required. Please call the Nature Center if you are interested in making a donation. Thank you.



Spring and Summer at Burgess-Shadbush

This spring is a great time to visit the Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center with our award winning gardens, surprising variety of plants and animals, and inviting trails that beckon visitors to explore our nearly 800 acre park. Check out our Heron Festival on Saturday, May 6, Log Cabin Day on Sunday, June 25, and our many other programs and events. Be sure to consider our summer camps that are popular with students and parents. They vary in topics and run for most of the summer. Remember that some camps fill quickly. We hope to see you this spring and summer here at the Nature Center.

Adopt a Burgess-Shadbush

Nature Center Critter

Interested in adopting an animal? This is a great way to introduce to your child what it means to care for an animal, in case you're thinking they might be ready for one. When a patron adopts a Nature Center animal, we encourage them to come in and hold that animal, help feed it, change its water and assist with bedding changes. None of this is required, but it gives children a great opportunity to learn a little about what it really means to have an animal. Your donation will help offset animal care and unexpected expenses such as vet bills. We also encourage children and families to bring in approved treats for that animal. We ask for a donation of \$25 for smaller animals and \$50 for larger animals. As part of the adoption, the adopter's name will go on a list of contributors and put on display around the Nature Center. Please contact the Nature Center Staff for further details. Also, please call ahead if you wish to visit or feed your adopted animal.



Visit and Volunteer at Our Teaching Gardens

The Shadbush Gardens are divided into 3 sections: The Deer Resistant Garden, Pollinator and Native Plants Garden, and the Historical Plants Garden. Each themed garden contains a wealth of information, and brochures are available on the bulletin board by the entrance. During the summer the gardens are utilized by day camp kids as they learn about identification and functions of plant and insect life. All plants are labeled for easy identification.

These award winning gardens are credited to a group of volunteers spearheaded by the wisdom and driving force of Dianne Granthen. Anyone who would like to join this friendly group of gardeners is encouraged to sign up through the Nature Center by calling 586-323-2478. Copies of the gardening schedule can be found in the Nature Center displayed near the front door.

Upcoming Events

Owls & Owl Calling

Saturday, February 25

Begins at 7:00pm

Free Program – A phone call is appreciated if you plan to attend.

Three kinds of owls regularly make River Bends Park their home. Great Horned Owls are fierce predators that often start to nest in January or February. The amazing calls of the Barred Owls are always worth a trek into the darkness and the eerie calls of Eastern Screech Owls amaze and thrill us. We will start the evening with a short program about Michigan owls and owl adaptations. Then we will go out and voice call and machine call the 3 species we have here hoping to hear them or even see them as they fly. Dress for the weather, bring flash lights, and we will hit the trail if weather permits. The event is free but please call and tell us you are coming, walk-ins are welcome.

Exotic Animal Day

#232406-A1 Sunday, March 12 11:00am-4:00pm

Cost: \$3 - Adults and Children age 4 & up - at the door

Noted Naturalist and Educator Randy Baker from Naturalist Endeavors will be our guest presenter for this event. He'll be bringing some of his animals, including some not normally seen at the Nature Center and sharing his expertise and stories about a variety of exotic animals.

Our first program will feature some gentle animals for younger children and may include small lizards, snakes, and tarantulas. We will also have an up-close area that allows children to have a hands-on experience with rabbits, chickens and other fluffy or feathered critters, just in case the slimy and scaly are not for you!

Later visitors can enjoy a live animal program with spiders, both native and exotic. Then see some larger animals including various species of snapping turtle, larger snakes, and lizards.

You may also get to meet a variety of exotic pets and get information about which ones are good choices for pets, and which ones are difficult, and which are not recommended.

We will also cover some basic information about exotic animal care. Animals will be on display and many will be available to touch or hold. Cameras are always welcome! Seating is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.



Skunk Cabbage and the First Signs of Spring Walk

Saturday, March 18

1:00-3:00pm Free Program

Which Michigan Wildflower produces enough heat to melt away a little of winter's cold? Join us as we search for the weirdest wildflower almost anywhere on earth which is also the one that produces the second greatest amount of heat (when it blooms) of all known flowering plants on earth!

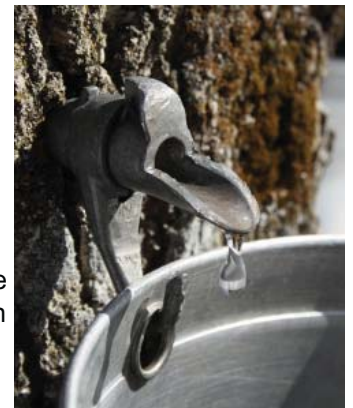
No preregistration is available. Please call us if you plan to attend. Scouts and other groups need to call us and give us estimated numbers of attendees in advance.

Maple Syrup Program

Saturday, March 25 11:00am–3:30pm Cost: \$3 - Adults & Children age 4 & up

/574-01 11:00am /574-02 12:00pm /574-03 1:30pm /574-04 2:30pm

Programs begin at the times listed above. You will learn about how sugar gets into the tree, travel to a maple tree, learn how to recognize maples, and find out about the tapping process. We'll also gather around a fire to learn about the boiling-down process, have a dish of ice cream with warm maple syrup as a topping and more. Visitors will also have a chance to use an old fashioned brace and bit to drill a tap hole into a tree and look closely at the features of maple trees. Pre-registration is required by coming into the nature center and paying by cash or check. **Online registration in NOT AVAILABLE for this event.** Register early as this event fills quickly.





EGG-citing Event

#232404-A1 Sunday, April 9 1:00-4:00pm

Fee: \$4 per participating child

Event recommended for ages 3 and up

Pre-registration and pre-payment is recommended! All children must be accompanied by an adult!

Join in the fun and have an egg-citing time. Children will delight in all the activities.

- Decorate eggs - **be sure to bring 6 hard-boiled eggs**
- Go on an Easter egg hunt
- Decorate an Easter Bag
- Hear about the legend of the Easter Bunny
- Have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny
- Play some egg-citing games
- Be sure to bring your camera!

Spring Nature Walk

#332450-A4 Saturday, April 22 1:00-3:00pm

Fee: \$2 per person age 4 and up

Wild spring flowers are just one of the things to look for at this time. Early spring insects may be out and butterflies that hibernated all winter may be active as well as a few winter and spring mushrooms. Tree flowers are in full force and the earliest pollinators are out and about.



Heron Festival and Spring Into Nature Celebration

Saturday, May 6 10:00am-2:00pm

#132408-B1 Fee: \$2 per person age 4+

Pre-Registration is appreciated, but walk-ins are welcome.

This event will meet at Holland Ponds (located on the west side of Ryan Rd, ½ block north of 22 Mile Road, about 1 mile north of the Nature Center).

Take an opportunity to enjoy the springtime and learn about birds and their identification. We will visit the Great-Blue Heron nesting area and explore the Bluebird nesting boxes throughout the park, and dip for pond critters as well! Enjoy a cookout at the pavilion on site from Noon to 1:00 pm. Please bring hot dogs, buns, chips and beverages - we will provide the fire, roasting forks, and condiments.

Notes: In case of inclement weather some alternate programs will be offered at the Nature Center during the day. Two years ago many of the Great Blue Herons moved out of the area to nest elsewhere. We will have to wait and see if any herons choose this site for nesting this year.



This Event Sponsored by Dr. Ban R Barbat



A River Day Celebration – Wildlife Along the Clinton River

Saturday, June 3 10:00am-1:00pm
FREE EVENT

Join us as we explore along the Clinton and use nets to try to catch some river-related critters. NOTE: High water in the river can prevent us from reaching the river and then another wetland walk will be substituted. A free t-shirt usually accompanies participation in this event. Numbers of shirts of each size are limited.

Please call 586-323-2478 to let us know of your intentions to attend this **FREE EVENT**.

Log Cabin Day

Sunday, June 25 11:00am-4:00pm
FREE EVENT

National and Michigan Log Cabin Day is Sunday, June 25 this year, and to commemorate this event we will open our replica log cabin to the public for tours and talks. We will share information about log cabins, early settlers, and artifacts from times past.

Scout and other groups are always welcome but please call in advance to let us know you plan to attend.



Special Evening Program:

Catching Moths and Other Insects with Black Lights and Bait



Saturday, July 29 7:00-11:00pm **FREE EVENT**

We appreciate a call if you plan to attend this event but walk-ins are welcome.

Join us as we participate in a National Moth Week Event. After a short introductory program we will “sugar” or bait moths early and later check baits for moth visitors. Later we will set up some moth light traps and sheets using black lights to attract our quarry. We will then observe, capture, and identify some of the moths that show up. A humid, overcast day is often followed by a good night for moths. Call the center to see if this program will be held if questionable weather interferes. A great reference and identification guide for moths is the book by David Beadle and Seabrooke Leckie: **Peterson Field Guide to Moths of Northeastern North America**.

The Great Spider Hunt

Saturday, August 5 1:00-3:00pm **FREE EVENT**

We appreciate a call if you plan to attend this event but walk-ins are welcome.

We will use a variety of search techniques to find and identify a few of the spiders at Shadbrush. We will also learn the importance of spiders to human health and our ecosystem. Information about Michigan’s #1 spider that should be avoided will also be included. Important references for identifying some of the spiders you see will be covered. NOTE: You will not handle or touch live spiders during this program.



Special Programs

Nature Tales for Preschoolers

Fee: \$2 per child ages 3 to 5

Wee ones are delighted as they listen to an assortment of nature tales sure to please the littlest of listeners. This is an entertaining nature-related adventure with a story, craft or nature outing. Suitable for ages 3-5 (must be accompanied by an adult). Program topics are subject to change without notice based on weather and other considerations. We are not offering any afternoon classes at this time. Classes typically run 1 hour depending on the activities planned.



Please register for the following dates by using the activity numbers listed:

Mar 2	#212220-G1	Thu	Mar 16	10:00am	#212220-G2
April 6	#212220-H1	Thu	April 20	10:00am	#212220-H2
May 4	#212220-I1	Thu	May 18	10:00am	#212220-I2



Home School Classes

Programs are available for any child age 4 and up. They cover a variety of natural science, heritage, and outdoor topics, and most have indoor and outdoor elements. In case of bad weather other topics may be substituted.

Cost is \$3 per participating child. Younger non-participating siblings are welcome. Pre-registration is available, but not required, however groups or families of 5 or more should call the center at 586-323-2478.

Home School programs are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month (later in the month when the center's schedule conflicts) from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Please register for the following dates by using the activity numbers listed:

Birds of Prey - We will learn about Hawks, Eagles, and Owls and learn about how they survive in nature. We will also listen to some of the sounds owls make.

Wed Mar 1 #212845-G1 1:30-3:30pm

Signs of Spring at Holland Ponds - We will meet at the Nature Center and travel to Holland Ponds Park. Some amazing insects make their nests in this park, as well as many different types of birds. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather.

Wed Apr 5 #212845-H1 1:30-3:30pm

Spring Hike - We will explore a favorite trail at the Nature Center discovering wild plants and animals as we go. We will emphasize important science concepts. Bring binoculars, magnifiers, a small pack with water and a snack.

Wed May 3 #212845-I1 1:30-3:30pm



Summer Camps & Field Schools at the Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center

All camps require pre-registration which must include pre-payment.

For more information, call the Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center at 586-323-2478 or e-mail to: naturecenter@shelbytwp.org.

To pay by cash or check stop by the nature center or call the center with credit card. Online registration is also available at: http://www.shelbytwp.org/departments/prm/web_trac.html

Please make sure that on the first day of camp you bring:

- completed health form
- summer recreation release form and waiver
- a list of adults authorized to pick the child up from camp

Children must have these 3 completed forms on file in order to participate in camp. Please arrive at least 30 (thirty) minutes early for the first day of camp to make sure all your paper work is in order. There is a supplies list for every camp. If you do not receive any of these forms or the supplies list, please contact the nature center at 586-323-2478. We can provide these forms in person or by email. Parents and guardians are always welcome to stay and observe or participate in any camp, but it is not required. Camp elements are those scheduled at time of publication and are subject to change. See beginning of this newsletter for registration dates.

Archery Camps

NOTE: Archery Camps are scheduled to be held **at the Township Bus Garage (behind the Library)** in 2017. Participants should dress to be outdoors and have hats and water bottles. Participants must also use equipment supplied by the Nature Center.

Beginning Archery - Children who are entering grades 4-6 will have an opportunity to learn and practice basic archery skills. Archery games will strengthen sighting ability. This program is registered with the Camp Archery Association; allowing members to take part in a beginning level competition for the "Junior Yeoman Archery Award". Students will receive more information regarding the competition at the first class.

Minimum 5, maximum 16 campers. **Fee: \$50 resident, \$57 non-resident**

#112601-B1	Tue-Fri	July 18-21	9:00-11:00am	4 days
#112601-B2	Tue-Fri	July 25-28	9:00-11:00am	4 days

Intermediate Archery - Children entering grades 4 and up have an opportunity to review, improve their basic archery skills, and participate in competition for the "Yeoman Archery Award" and beyond. This is a registered program with the Camp Archery Association, so participants will continue from the rank they completed in Beginning Archery. *PRE-REQUISITE: Must have completed the Beginning Archery course through the Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center.*

Minimum 5, maximum 16 campers. **Fee: \$50 resident, \$57 non-resident**

#112601-B3	Tue-Fri	July 18-21	Noon-2:00pm	4 days
#112601-B4	Tue-Fri	July 25-28	Noon-2:00pm	4 days



Exploring Nature Camp - This day camp is specifically designed for children entering grades 3-6 who have a strong interest in nature and science and would like an opportunity to explore the wonders of the natural world and learn more about it. Minimum 8, maximum 24 campers. **Fee: \$59 resident, \$66 non-resident**



Activities may include:

- Field Search for Insects with nets
- Looking for "Ground Beetles"
- Handling Shadbush Animals
- Log Cabin Activity
- Dipping with nets for Water Bugs
- Camp Fires, Fire Safety, Fire Starting
- Bird Search with Binoculars
- Nature Hike to the "Bowl"
- Pond Water under the Microscope
- And More...

#112611-B1	Wed-Fri	Aug 2-4	1:00-4:00pm	3 days
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56 Parks and Recreation

Nature Center

Junior Explorers - Campers entering grades K-3 explore nature and natural science through walks, games, live animals, catching invertebrates with nets, microscopes, magnifiers, and more. We will also expand our creativity with various nature related crafts. Each day we'll take hikes throughout the park to search for craft materials, explore the terrain and learn about some of our local plants and animals. (Hats and water bottles are required as we will be taking daily walks.) Minimum 8, maximum 20 campers. **Fee: \$45 resident, \$52 non-resident.**

#112604-B1 Wed-Fri Aug 2-4 9:00am-Noon 3 days

"Little's" Camp - Preschoolers ages 3-5 explore nature through walks, live animals, hands on experiences, magnifiers, stories, animal puppets and more. Nature themes are designed to support science concepts and are built around having fun and using the imagination. Snacks are suggested. Minimum 8, maximum 16 campers. **Fee: \$30 resident, \$37 non-resident**

#112605-B1 Wed-Fri Aug 9-11 10:00am-12:30pm 3 days



Outdoor Skills Camp - Geared for those entering grade 4-7, this camp will introduce air rifles and rifle safety, casting using rods and reels, basic outdoor cooking, animals that can be pests and the best ways to deal with them, ways to safely observe and encounter wildlife, camp fire starting and building, hikes, and much more. We also plan to spend part of one day fishing at the municipal pond, an activity that is a catch and release fishing experience. The campers will also learn to ID the fish they catch. The nature center supplies the rods and reels for this activity, but campers may bring their own equipment if they desire. All events are weather dependent. Minimum 8, maximum 24 campers. **Fee: \$60 resident, \$67 non-resident**

#112607-B1 Wed-Fri Aug 9-11 10:00am-3:30pm 3 days



All Scout Groups Welcome

The Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center is pleased to announce that individual scout groups are welcome to schedule programs with us. Call or email us for a listing of topics that we offer. You may choose a badge or achievement that is nature related or come out for a general topic. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and all other scout groups are welcome to attend our other scheduled events but please notify us in advance. Fees: scout programs are usually \$4 per Scout or sibling, with a minimum of \$24 per program. There is no fee for adults. At least one scout leader is required for each event. Please call us at 586-323-2478 for details.

Birthday Parties at the Nature Center

You can hold a special birthday party at the Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center for your child. The party can include a chance to touch, hold, and be photographed with some of our live animals. It also includes our popular nature walk if weather permits. Your reservation will include the use of our Multi-use Room for 4 hours. This room holds about 24 total adults and children. You may bring decorations, food, table covers, cake, and party favors. Parties are available on a limited number of dates due to Nature Center events, and are typically held Saturday or Sunday afternoons. The fee is \$120 for Shelby residents and \$145 for non-residents. The registration is confirmed when payment is made. You can register in person at the Nature Center with cash or check. Call us at 586-323-2478 for details.

