



## Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center

4101 River Bends Drive – east of Ryan Road, between Auburn and 22 Mile Roads  
Shelby Township, MI 48317 Phone 586-323-2478 Fax 586-323-2479  
E-mail [naturecenter@shelbytp.org](mailto:naturecenter@shelbytp.org)

### Registration Information

On-line enrollment is available for many Nature Center programs and activities! If an activity number is listed with the description, you can register for it on-line. Visit [www.shelbytp.org/departments/prm](http://www.shelbytp.org/departments/prm) and click on the On-line Registration link to register.

To pre-register for FREE classes call 586-323-2478 or e-mail the Nature Center at [naturecenter@shelbytp.org](mailto:naturecenter@shelbytp.org)

### OPERATING HOURS

Mondays	Closed
Tuesdays	Closed
Wednesdays	9:30am-6:00pm
Thursdays	9:30am-6:00pm
Fridays	9:30am-6:00pm
Saturdays	9:30am-6:00pm
Sundays	Noon-5:00pm



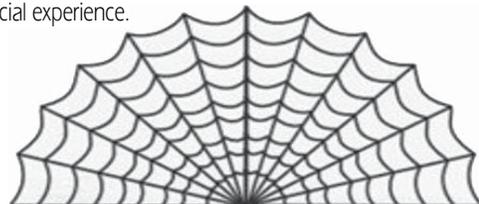
### A Tiny Tarantula from Shadbush

North America is home to a few kinds of tarantulas. Usually we think of tarantulas as large, somewhat “creepy” spiders. Some are native and some were “introduced” accidentally. All are found in southern states. But the tarantula family includes some smaller spiders as well. Michigan has at least one and maybe two smaller members of this family.

During our Advanced Bug Camp in June 2014 we captured one. Campers were introduced to “pitfall traps”, which are smooth sided drink containers sunk into the earth so their tops are exactly at ground level. Metal “guides” are then crisscrossed over the top of the cups so that critters encountering the guides will often choose one of two directions. If they head toward the cup they often fall in and are waiting there the next day when campers check for them. The animals are caught unharmed and campers eagerly examine their catch for interesting insects and other critters. This year in one of the pitfall traps was a large wolf spider along with a spider about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch long. A quick look revealed the characteristic large “jaws” or chelicerae of a tarantula. It was just like the tarantulas we have on display but smaller. We suspected we were looking at the Purseweb Spider – a tarantula relative found in Michigan and many other states. In fact, scientists suspect that our state may have 2 kinds of Purseweb spiders.

A few weeks after our find, a regular visitor to the park brought me a photo of another of these elusive spiders taken here at about the same time. It is likely that the photo was of a male, like the spider we caught, and that they were wandering in search of a mate. The most unusual thing about Purseweb Spiders besides their kinship is the strange webs they build. They make a tubular web going along the ground up the side of a tree. This allows them to hang out inside the web and attack and bite any insect that crawls over the web. After making a slit in the web they drag their prey inside and repair the cut in the web. If you take hikes in any of the forested parks in southern Michigan you can watch for this web. If you find one please photograph it and take a reading of its location if you can. We would love to learn about the whereabouts of one of these odd webs.

The Purseweb Spider, along with about 600 other Michigan Spider species is not a dangerous species. Remember that the Northern Black Widow is our only known dangerously venomous spider (the Brown Recluse is not native here but is a southern spider that has been found a few times in Michigan where it was brought in.) Finding this Purseweb Spider was exciting and helped make our camp a special experience.



### Holiday Closures

Burgess-Shadbush will operate with amended hours during several days in November. The Center will close at 4:00pm on Saturday, November 15 and Wednesday, November 20. Shadbush will also be closed Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28 for the Thanksgiving Holiday and from Monday, December 22, 2014 thru Tuesday, January 13, 2015. We will resume normal hours on Wednesday, January 14, 2015. The center will also be closed on Good Friday, April 3, and Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015.

### Visit Shadbush When You Get a Chance

There are usually lots of old-style toys for kids along with pages to color, our crawl-through Clinton River Display, puzzles, live animals, historical and natural history displays, and more. Please be sure to note our winter programs including Maple Syrup Day, Winter Hike and Cookout, Winter Fest, and more.

### Help and Donations Needed

Christmas related items are needed for our “flea market” table during Pioneer Christmas. Items for the event will be taken starting Nov. 1 will be accepted until December 4. Sales will benefit the Friends of Shadbush who will use them to support programs and projects for the nature center. The Friends also welcome donations of used books (not paperback novels) for resale. We also are looking for volunteers interested in greeting visitors, taking phone calls, and similar types of experience. Please contact Shadbush Nature Center for details.

### Adopt a Burgess-Shadbush Critter

You might want to adopt one of our critters too in honor of someone you know. Your name and the name of a person or a business will go on the animal’s aquarium for the year. Adoptions are \$40 for larger animals and \$20 for smaller critters. Some animals will require more than one adoption fee to pay for its care for the entire year. General donations are also welcome to fund an occasional trip to the vet or other special care situations. Thanks for supporting the critters at Burgess-Shadbush and those that enjoy seeing them.



## Upcoming Events

### Deer Day

#332448-A1 Sat Nov 1 11:00am-4:00pm

**Fee: \$3 for adults and children ages 4 and up**

Discover the world of Michigan deer including the White-tailed Deer, Elk, and Moose; get facts from Professors "Buck Horn" or "Doereen Cervine". Have some fun with a deer craft and enjoy a walk looking for deer signs. Ages 8 and up can shoot arrows at a target (with help from our volunteers – using our equipment only). Have some fun while learning about deer, impressive and popular local animals. Please call for details.

12:30pm Archery – ages 8 and up.

1:00pm Program "All About Deer"

1:30pm Archery – ages 8 and up

2:00pm Deer Sign walk

2:30pm Archery – ages 8 and up

3:00pm Program "Introduction to Deer of the World" (upon request)



### Santa is Coming to the Nature Center!

Sun Dec 14 1:00-3:00pm

**Free Event – No registration necessary**

The sound of reindeer hooves just might be heard on the roof of the Nature Center because a special visit from the big guy dressed in red has been scheduled! That's right, the Jolly One, Santa Claus will be dropping in to get those last-minute wish lists from all the good little boys and girls in Shelby Township. Kids, ask your favorite adult to bring you to the Shadbush Nature Center and tell them not to forget their cameras. **THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS LAST CHANCE TO SEE OLD SAINT NICK** before he gets ready for that special Christmas delivery.



### A Pioneer Christmas

"A Celebration of Christmas from the 1800's"

#332401-A1 Sat Dec 6 11:00am-4:00pm

#332401-A2 Sun Dec 7 Noon-4:00pm

Spend an afternoon at Shadbush discovering how the pioneers and early settlers of our area celebrated the Christmas season. Visit our Pioneer Cabin and see how area settlers may have decorated for Christmas. The "Sisters of the Union" will be greeting and showing the cabin to our visitors. Don't forget to stop and visit with them. There will be crafts and activities for all ages. Test your knowledge of old-time traditions and artifacts in a sit-down program the whole family will enjoy. You can also sample homemade cookies and top off the day with a cup of hot chocolate. There will also be a cookie and baked goods sale and a used book and used item sale – proceeds go the Friends of Shadbush to help with funding for future programming at Shadbush.

Make old-fashioned ornaments from natural and artificial items. This 45 minutes activity has limited seating with a limit of 25 per session, so be sure to sign as soon as you arrive. Sign up is on a first-come first-serve basis. Session times will be available on the day of the event. Free wagon rides will be available at select times during the event if weather permits. Fee: \$5 per person - per day, ages 4 and up. Pre-registration is appreciated but not required.

Please allow at least 2 hours to complete the program. ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PAID ADULT.

### Winter Bird Watching and Christmas Bird Count

Sat Dec 20

10:00am-3:00pm

**Free Event – No registration necessary**

Join us as we search the park for bird life. Beginners are welcome as the day will include basic information on bird identification. Please call in advance to let us know when you are coming so we can meet you. You can stay at the event as long as you like. Feeder watchers (here) are also needed. Our count totals will be added to the Macomb County Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count held that day.



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## Programs for the Family

### Winter Hike and Cookout

#332450-A2 Sat Feb 21 12:00-3:00pm

**Fee: \$2 for adults and children ages 4 and up**

We will hike one of our favorite trails to look for signs of winter wildlife. Bring hot dogs, your drink, chips, marshmallows and other ingredients for s'mores, etc., and enjoy a winter cookout and a marshmallow roast around the fire. Lunch is scheduled from Noon to 1:00pm. Preregistration is appreciated but walk-ins are very welcome. Be sure to dress for the weather, and bring walking sticks or ski poles, binoculars, and cameras.

### Owls and Owl Calling

Fri Feb 27 7:00pm **Free Event**

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 glimpse them as they fly. Dress for the weather, bring flash lights, (adults only will carry flashlights), and we will hit the trail (conditions permitting). The event is free but please call and tell us you are coming (walk-ins are welcome).



### Exotic Animal Day

#132406-B1 Sun Mar 8 11:00am-4:00pm

**Cost: \$3 for adults and children age 4 and up**

Our first program will begin at 11:30 am with some gentle animals for younger children. Some of those animals may include small lizards, snakes, and tarantulas. We will also have a "petting zoo" area that allows children to have a hands-on experience with rabbits, chickens, rats and other fluffy or feathered critters, just in case the slimy and scaly are not for you! At roughly 1:00 pm there will be a live animal program by Naturalist, Dan Farmer. This program will focus on spiders, both native and exotic. You won't want to miss this opportunity to see a tarantula up close!

At 2:00 pm we will offer a program involving some larger animals including various species of snapping turtle, an American alligator, a Savannah monitor, and larger snakes and lizards. You will also get to meet a variety of exotic pets and get information about which ones are difficult, and those not recommended as pets. 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. Noted Naturalist and Educator Randy Baker, from Naturalist Endeavors will be our guest presenter and will be bringing some of his animals, including ones not normally seen at the Nature Center. Cameras are always welcome!

### Maple Syrup Program

Sat Mar 14 11:00am-3:30pm

/574-01 11:00am

/574-02 Noon

/574-03 1:30pm

/574-04 2:30pm

**Cost: \$3 for adults and children age 4 and up**

In the programs that begin at 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. You will 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 IS NOT AVAILABLE for this event. Register early as this event often fills.



### It's Spring, Let's Look for a "Secret" Wildflower

#332450-A3 Sat Mar 21 1:00-3:00pm

**Fee: \$2 for adults and children ages 4 and up**

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 and one that produces the second greatest amount of heat when it blooms of all known flowering plants on earth!

### "EGG" citing Easter

#232404-A1 Sun Mar 29 1:00-4:00pm

**Fee: \$4 per participating child, (recommended for ages 3 and up).**

Pre-registration and pre-payment is recommended. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring your camera, join in the fun and have an "egg" citing time! Children will delight in these activities:

- Decorate eggs (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



### Spring Nature Walk

#332450-A4 Sat Apr 25 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. Spring butterflies that hibernated all winter may be active as well as a few spring and winter mushrooms. Tree flowers are in full force and the earliest pollinators are out and about.





## Special Programs

### Naturalist's Choice

Join the Naturalist or Assistant Naturalist as they invite you to some of their favorite programs, hikes, and activities. Fees are as listed. Select Saturdays at times given.

#### Winter Bird Watching and Christmas Bird Count

See program description previously given in this newsletter.

Sat Dec 20 10:00am-3:00pm **Free Event**

**Winter Outing at Holland Ponds** - The tracks of Coyotes, Mink, and other winter-active wildlife are common at Holland Ponds if weather permits. Bird species are the most varied there of all of our parks. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars, and prepare to enjoy some winter wildlife. Call the center in case of questionable weather at 586-323-2478. **Fee: \$2 for adults and children ages 4 and up**

#332450-A1 Sat Jan 17 1:00-3:00pm



#### Winter Fest and Family Cookout

Join us for a day filled with winter and wildlife activities including: winter wildlife walk; mammals in winter program; animal tracks and sign craft; "look closely" with magnifiers and microscopes; snowflake activity, "Professor Frost Bite"; wildlife skulls,

skins, and scat session; live animals; and more. Snow shoes and "Fox and Geese" game are snow dependent. Cross country skis are welcome but park trails are not groomed. Bring hot dogs, your drink, chips, etc., and enjoy a winter cookout and a marshmallow roast around the fire. Lunch 11:00am-12:30pm. Preregistration is appreciated but walk-ins are very welcome. Note: Some activities are snow-dependent so call for details. **Cost: \$3 for adults and children age 4 and up**

# 232402-A1 Sat Jan 31 11:00am-4:00pm

### Science Olympiad

#### Don't Bug Me - Introduction to Insect Orders

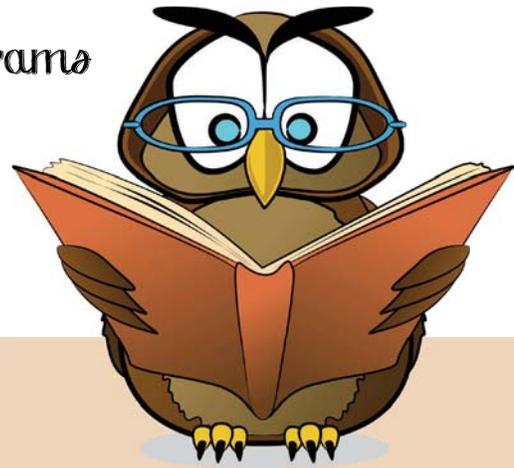
#212853-A1 Sat Feb 7 10:00am-12:30pm

#### Wildlife Safari - Topic is "Amphibians and Reptiles"

#212853-A2 Sat Mar 7 10:00am-12:30pm

CALL THE NATURE CENTER FOR REGISTRATION at 586-323-2478. Only a limited number of registrants can be accommodated. **Cost per program: Students and siblings \$3 each, parents and team leaders are free if room allows.**

Our Science Olympiad programs are designed to provide sound background information with some creative suggestions for remembering basic groups of animals. A challenging sample quiz will be given using photographs, preserved specimens, and sometimes live animals. Students should bring recommended books and notes to help with quiz and may want to take notes during the program.



### Nature Tales for Preschoolers

Wee ones are delighted as they listen to an assortment of nature tales sure to please the littlest of listeners. This is an entertaining 1-hour nature adventure with a story and a craft or outing. Suitable for ages 3-5 (must be accompanied by an adult). Early registration is requested! Each class is limited to 24 children. Please note that stories and craft or activities are subject to change. **Fee: \$2 per child ages 3-5**

Thu Nov 6 "Hibernation" Story and Walk or Craft  
#312220-D1 10:00am #312220-D2 1:30pm

Thu Nov 20 "The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything" - Story and Craft  
#212220-E1 10:00am #212220-E2 1:30pm

Thu Dec 4 "The Winter Comes" Story and Walk or Craft  
#212220-A1 10:00am #212220-A2 1:30pm

Thu Dec 18 "Gingerbread Boy" Story and Craft  
#212220-B1 10:00am #212220-B2 1:30pm

Thu Jan 15 "Agatha's Feather Bed" Story and Activity  
#212220-C1 10:00am #212220-C2 1:30pm

Thu Feb 5 "All About Owls" Story and Craft  
#212220-D1 10:00am #212220-D2 1:30pm

Thu Feb 19 "What's It Like to Be A Fish" Story & Walk or Activity  
#212220-J1 10:00am #212220-J2 1:30pm

Thu Mar 5 "An Ordinary Toad's Extraordinary Night" Story and Craft  
#212220-F1 10:00am #212220-F2 1:30pm

Thu Mar 19 "Once There Was A Tree" Story & Walk or Activity  
#212220-G1 10:00am #212220-G2 1:30pm

Thu Apr 2 "What color is Camouflage" Story & Walk or Craft  
#212220-H1 10:00am #212220-H2 1:30pm

Thu Apr 16 "Where Butterflies Grow" Story and Walk or Craft  
#212220-I1 10:00am #212220-I2 1:30pm



## Home School Programs

Home School programs are available for any child age 4 and up and are held on the first Wednesday of each month (later when the center's schedule conflicts). They cover a variety of natural science, heritage, and outdoor topics. Some programs are held outdoors and many have 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 encouraged but walk-ins are welcome.

**All About Deer** - Children learn about Michigan deer, make a deer track cast. Take a walk and learn to recognize deer sign such as tracks, rubs, scrapes, and other signs of deer behavior. The White-tailed Deer is our largest common mammal and learning about it will increase our understanding and appreciation of this species.

#312845-C1      Wed      Nov 5      1:30-3:30pm

**Build a Simple Bird Feeder and Learn about Winter Birds** - Build a simple "milk carton" feeder. Please bring a rinsed out milk carton for each student if possible. These feeders are easy to make and they really work. We will also review some of the birds that hang around in winter, learn to identify some easy ones, and offer an activity for parents to assign. All ages welcome but the youngest children will need adult help with bird feeder.

#212845-B1      Wed      Dec 3      1:30-3:30pm

**Making Track Casts and Tracking Winter Wildlife** - Winter can be the best time to learn about the travels and behaviors of winter animals. We will make a track cast and weather permitting, go out to track some of the parks' many wild birds and mammals. NOTE: Date change due to Nature Center being closed.

#212845-C1      Wed      Jan 14      1:30-3:30pm



**Make Bugs a Big Deal** - Learn about the main groups (orders) of insects and then test your skills with a picture and specimen quiz. Younger students will benefit from parental help.

#212845-D1      Wed      Feb 4  
1:30-3:30pm



**Michigan Reptiles and Amphibians** - We will learn about some of Michigan's 53 kinds of Amphibians and Reptiles and take a quiz using pictures, specimens, and live specimens. Some kinds will be available to hold or touch. Younger children will benefit from parental help.

#212845-E1      Wed      Mar 4      1:30-3:30pm

**Early Spring Hike at Holland Ponds** - Meet at the Nature Center and we will drive the one mile to Holland Ponds Park (west side of Ryan Road immediately north of 22 Mile Road). Hopefully spring birds will be around including Great Blue Herons at their nests. Binoculars are recommended. Remember to dress for the weather.

#212845-F1      Wed      Apr 1      1:30-3:30pm

## Birthday Parties at the Nature Center

You can hold a special birthday party at 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 and our popular nature walk (weather permitting). Your reservation will include the use of our multi-use room for 4 hours. This room holds about 24 total adults and children. You bring decorations, food, table covers, cake, and party favors. Available dates are limited due to Nature Center events, and are typically held Saturday or Sunday afternoons. The fee is \$120 for Shelby residents and \$145 for nonresidents. The registration is confirmed when payment is made. You can register in person at the center with cash or check. Call Shadbush at 586-323-2478 for details.



## All Scout Groups Welcome

Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center is pleased to welcome individual scout groups to schedule programs with us. Call or e-mail 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.