



Dahlem
Jackson's Nature Place

Paw Prints

Winter 2020 Volume 43 Issue 1



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mighty Naturalist Program
Series starts Jan 3! See page 3 for more dates and details!

January

1/17—Little Acorns Nature Pre-school Open House 5-7PM

1/20—Little Acorns Nature Pre-school online registration open!

February

2/4—Chocolate Sensation held at Ella Sharp Museum 6-8PM

TBD—Jackson School of the Arts Winter Painting Class

Keep an eye on our event pages for the specific date/time!

2/13—Volunteer Trail Leader Training for Maple Sugar Program 8:30AM-12PM

2/20—New Volunteer Open House 5-6PM

March

3/7 Community Gardens Sign-up & Winter Workshops 11AM-1:30PM

3/21 Maple Madness Tours

12-3:30pm Reservations Required

Paw Prints is now Quarterly!

You will now get more up-to-date information on the great programs, projects, and outdoor opportunities at Dahlem! Always stay up to date by visiting our website, www.dahlemcenter.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

Jackson Young Professionals Grant Funds Snow Shoe Winter Adventures at Dahlem!

By: Lyndsey Adams, M.S., Development Coordinator, Biologist

Guess what Jackson County residents?! We now have another fun way for you to get outside during the winter months and take advantage of our natural resources to improve your health and wellness. Thanks to a generous grant from the Jackson Young Professionals, Dahlem will have snow shoes available for 2 hour rental—\$5 kids & \$10 adults, with a \$2 discount for members. We want individuals and families to come out and enjoy our trails, get exercise, and connect with nature. We have 5 miles of trails on 300 acres of land and winter is a prime time for bird watching, hunting for animal tracks in the snow, trekking through the coniferous forest, and watching the herds of deer that call our woods home.

People who live in northern climates are more likely to suffer from the "winter blues" or the more severe Seasonal Affective Disorder. Increased time inside can also lead to a more sedentary lifestyle that contributes to chronic disease, such as diabetes and heart disease. Having a variety of outdoor activities available in the winter provides incentives to get outside and maintain or improve both mental and physical health.

In addition to renting them for personal use on the trails, there will also be guided hiking programs. How about a moonlit snow shoe walk or a kids adventure hike? Keep an eye on our website and social media pages for dates and times!

JACKSON
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Help Needed!

To make sure this amazing opportunity is available on weekends, Dahlem needs volunteers to staff the gift shop/exhibit area. If you are willing to help out on the weekends, please contact:

Misty Brunette
Volunteer
Coordinator
mleigh189@gmail.com

3rd Annual Chocolate Sensation

Tuesday, Feb 4th 2019

6:00—8:00 PM

Ella Sharp Museum

Community Room

3225 Fourth St.

Jackson, MI 49203

\$35/person ahead
\$40 at the door

All reservations include:

- 1 glass of wine/bottle of beer
- Chocolate samples & Appetizers
- Entertainment
- Silent Auction & Wall of Wine!



Dahlem
Jackson's Nature Place

Reservations

Call 517-782-3453 or Go Online

www.dahlemcenter.org/events/chocolate-sensation



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Events

Mighty Naturalist Program Series

Back by popular demand! The Mighty Naturalist program is for ages 0-5. Each session is a different adventure—how about getting squirrely or hands-on learning about the sounds and textures of nature. Programs are on select Fridays from 9:30-10:45am. Cost is \$5 for members, \$8 for non-members. Guardians and kids under 1 are free! *See page 3 for more details about the sessions & dates or visit www.dahlemcenter.org/events.*

Chocolate Sensation Feb 4th, 6-8PM

An evening of decadent indulgence at the Ella Sharp Museum! Guests of the Chocolate Sensation will enjoy desserts provided by local area businesses such as Gilbert's Chocolates, Jackson Candy and Fudge Factory and Vito's Espresso, as well as appetizers, beer, and wine. This year music will again be provided by local musician Brandon Marceal. Reservations are \$35.00 per person if you register online or \$40.00 at the door. Reservations includes one glass of wine or bottle of beer, chocolate samples, appetizers, entertainment and silent auction. Register online at:

<https://www.dahlemcenter.org/event/chocolate-sensations/>

Little Acorns Nature Preschool Registration

The Dahlem Center's Little Acorns Nature Preschool will be open for registration on January 20th. We are Jackson's first nature preschool, integrating a love of nature into indoor and outdoor learning experiences. Students are engaged in many STEM-based activities and are kindergarten ready upon completion of the 4-year old program. Children must be 3 or 4 years old by 9/1/20 and potty trained in order to register. If you would like to take a tour of the preschool, please contact Assistant Teacher Jeanine Hoffman at: jhoffman@dahlemcenter.org or 517-782-3453.



New Volunteer Open House Feb 20th, 5-6PM

One thing is for certain—Dahlem would not be the great nature place it is without our volunteers! Never volunteered at Dahlem before? No problem! We are having a new volunteer orientation meeting on Thursday, February 20th from 5-6PM. There are many great ways to volunteer at Dahlem, including trail maintenance, planning events, helping in the gift shop, or serving on one of our committees. For more information please visit: www.dahlemcenter.org/volunteer-opportunities/

Community Gardens Sign Up & Workshops

March 7th, 11AM-1:30PM

Join us at our Community Garden open house and learn about raising your own food and honey surrounded by a community of wonderful gardeners! This year will include vendors and special workshops on gardening topics, such as "Mycelium and the Health of Your Garden," an "Intro to Bee Keeping," and "How Plants Produce What Pollinators Need." Of course our seasoned community gardeners will be onsite to answer any questions. Plots are \$40 + Membership for the season
\$10 members, \$12 non-members gets you in to all seminars!

Maple Madness Interpretive Tours

March 21st, 12-3:30PM

Dahlem's maple sugaring operation is small but an ideal site to demonstrate the science of collecting maple tree sap and making our favorite tasty maple syrup topping. Sign up for an interpretive guided 1 1/2 hour tour at 12:00 pm or 2:00 pm to learn about the history of sugaring, and learn through hands-on STEM activities; how to identify the right trees to tap, how tapping is done, how trees 'work', and finally, see the sap being boiled down at the sugar shack, and where everyone gets to taste the sweet golden nectar of the sugar maple. Fee: \$6/ Dahlem member; \$8/non-member. Advanced registration for tours required at <https://www.dahlemcenter.org/event/maple-sugaring-interpretive-tours/>



Now Hiring!

Camp Counselors & Assistants

Outdoor Adventure Summer Day Camp



Dahlem is hiring counselors and assistant counselors for summer camp! Please contact us for more job information or download the form at dahlemcenter.org and follow the instructions to apply. Camp staff must have valid First Aid, CPR, and Bloodborne Pathogens certifications. Camp staff and camp volunteers must also provide proper ID for Dahlem to conduct a background check.

Our summer camp is offered to children ages 3 to 12 years and is based outdoors, so most of the day is spent in the forest and fields on our 280 acres. Each week has a different theme, so there's never a dull moment!

For more information, contact our Camp Director

Carrie Benham cbenham@dahlemcenter.org or 517-782-3453



Dahlem's Youngins'

Mighty Naturalist Simple Questions, Big Discoveries

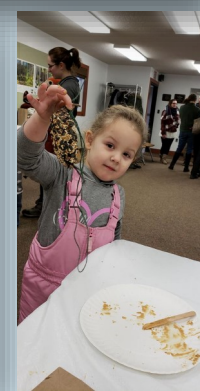
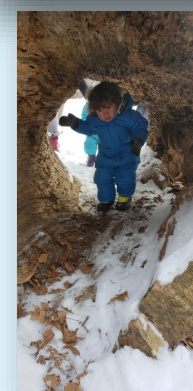
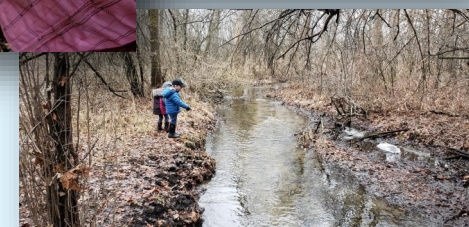
Share your love of nature with your young child(ren)! The Mighty Naturalist program takes kids on an adventure to explore and play with nature while developing critical early childhood skills and growing self-confidence. The Programs are geared toward children 5 years and younger with an adult caregiver to learn about animals, winter survival, birds, tracks, and more. Each program offers a different theme and activities to give you and your mighty naturalist many program opportunities (See below for upcoming themes and dates; for more detailed descriptions, visit our Facebook and website event pages).

Cost: \$8 per child, or \$5 Dahlem member. (Free for caregiver and children under 1)

When: Friday mornings 9:30-10:45AM Registration is required.

You can register by visiting our website www.dahlemcenter.org/events or call 517-782-3453.

Invite your friends to sign up, too!



Harmonies Heard in the Little Acorn's Classroom

A generous grant from the Louis Glick Memorial & Charitable Trust brought Harmony Garden Music Therapy to Dahlem for monthly music programs in our Little Acorns classes.



**Join us for our Little Acorns
Preschool Open House for
New Families!**
Friday, January 17th
5:00—7:00 PM

MN 2020 Schedule

1/3—Nature Painting and Texture Art Class

Collect a variety of nature items and experiment with the unique stamps & designs they make.

1/10—Snow Much Fun

A hike on a snow covered trail, snowflakes, frozen bubbles, snow angels, and a winter art craft

1/17—How Animals Survive in the Winter Time

Learn about hibernation, migration, & adaptations by finding outdoor clues to how animals survive the harsh winter

1/24 Our Feathered Friends

Feathers, flocks, and fancy nests—do some bird watching and experiment with what it's like to have a beak!

1/31—Winter Animal Tracks

Go on a hunt for animal tracks to see where they've been and where they are going

2/7—Super Squirrely

Go on a squirrely outing and see what squirrels are up to in the winter—climbing, stashing, & flying?!

2/14—Tree House—Who Lives There?

Learn how to spot and identify clues about which animals live in and around forests

4/3—Life Under a Log

It's not just a mushy, rotten log—it's home to many animals and an important part of their lifecycles

A Message from Ben Dandrow Executive Director

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Thank you for a Very Successful 2019 - Looking Forward to 2020

I want to wish all our members, donors, sponsors, and volunteers a Very Happy New Year and a heartfelt thank you for a fantastic 2019. Dahlem soared to new heights in 2019 because of your giving, be it financial or material donations, or volunteering of time and service. Because of your generosity, we ended the year in the black for the fourth consecutive year! This is an important accomplishment for a non-profit because we want to reassure you that we are good stewards of your generosity. Every year is a financial challenge for nonprofits like Dahlem. Our continued sustainability depends on the generosity of those who care about Dahlem because we have no other sources of revenue. This past year was particularly gratifying because charitable giving, despite a very strong economy, was down nationwide 3% with declines in every nonprofit category save one group.

There were many exciting highlights in 2019: Over 20,000 visitors came through our gates; 7400 students participated in our school programs; and 7100 participated in our public programs, an increase of 356 over 2018. For the third consecutive year the Little Acorn preschool was at full enrollment.

A major highlight was the completion in

August of the Phase 1 project of Dahlem 2020. Phase 1 was driven by concern for the safety of our Little Acorn students and the comfort of our visitors. We want Dahlem to be a destination of choice for the Jackson community and for our guests to enjoy their time here. The project added a new family friendly restroom for the public, modernization of the two existing restrooms, and the installation of a new dedicated restroom in the classroom with child friendly fixtures for the Little Acorn preschool students. The cost of the project was \$100,000 and was made possible in part by grants totaling \$44,000 from the Pat and Phil Willis Foundation, Speckhard-Knight Foundation and the Addison P Cook III Foundation. The balance came from Dahlem's operating fund, demonstrating the board and staff's belief with an investment in the future.

We move forward in 2020 with great optimism about the future for the growth and development of our facilities and programs. Our optimism is a result of the support that you have given us and we will continue to work hard to earn your continued support in pursuit of our mission to provide environmental edu-

cation and outdoor experiences to the people of south central Michigan.

Finally I would like to give a shout out to my dedicated hard working staff of six part time employees who played a large part in the successes of 2019. Kassandra Stelmaszek and Jeanine Hoffman Little Acorn Preschool, Lyndsey Adams Development Coordinator, Mark Oakley Maintenance, Denise Bigham Office Coordinator, and Carrie Benham Naturalist.

Sincerely,

Ben Dandrow
Executive Director

2019 Financials

Income	Jan-Dec 19	YTD Budget
Contributions - Restricted	\$29,025	\$0
Contributions - Restricted Grants	\$26,450	\$40,000
Contributions - Unrestricted	\$215,000	\$100,000
Total Income all Sources	\$562,256	\$416,394
Expenses		
Advertising	\$6,247	\$4,031
Payroll	\$238,418	\$242,631
Printing	\$4,737	\$5,007
Program Expenses	\$20,651	\$15,351
Supplies	\$11,784	\$9,557
Total Expenses	\$469,293	\$390,399
Net Income	\$92,963	\$25,995

Special Report: Responsible Disposal of Medications Helps the Environment



Cheryl Norey
Communication
Relations, MACI
Guest Contributor

One of Michigan's greatest asset is our fresh water lakes, rivers, ponds, streams... which is why the Michigan Dept of Environment is asking for YOUR help to spread the word about their online Household Drug Takeback Map, and how to properly get rid of old medication. Data suggests 80% of Michigan waterways have measurable levels of prescription &

nonprescription drugs, steroids, & hormones. Antibiotics, hormones & antidepressants from human meds are now evident in Michigan fish, including bass, walleye, steelhead and perch.

Current Problems

1. Keeping old meds in the house is a risk for drug abuse and accidental poisoning.
2. Throwing old meds in the trash is a problem because they go to landfills, where rainwater washes them into the ground, into well water, rivers, lakes, etc..
3. Flushing meds down the drain puts them directly in septic systems or

Wastewater Treatment plants. Wastewater treatment does NOT filter medications and they all end up directly in the water.

4. Drop off your old medication at a Take Back Site on the Household Drug Take Back Map. Take Back Sites send the meds to an incinerator, where active drug components are destroyed.

The EGLE interactive Household Drug Take Back Map is at: Michigan.gov/EGLEDrugDisposal. Enter your Zip Code to find a location.

Thank you! You Made 2019 a Great Year at Dahlem!

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Dahlem

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In 1976, Betty Desbiens donated the funds to establish the John and Mary Dahlem Environmental Education Center. With contributions over \$75,000 this year, she continues to be our biggest supporter. Thank you Betty; Dahlem thrives thanks to your generous spirit and commitment.

Grants & Foundations

Bill & Vi Sigmund Foundation
Louis Glick Memorial & Charitable Trust



Memorial donations

*Thank you to all who made Dahlem part of a
lasting legacy in memory of those departed*

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