



**Baltimore Woods
Nature Center**
Nature in your hands

Pre-School Environmental Education Programs



Teacher Information & Program Descriptions

2009—2010

*Baltimore Woods Nature Center Transforms Individuals
And Communities Through Place-Based Education*

Welcome to Baltimore Woods Nature Center (BWNC)!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address Baltimore Woods
Nature Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 133
4007 Bishop Hill Road
Marcellus, NY 13108

Phone 315.673.1350

Fax 315.673.3671

Website
www.baltimorewoods.org

Email
emma@baltimorewoods.org

What is Baltimore Woods Nature Center?

Baltimore Woods Nature Center is a not-for-profit (501(c)(3)) environmental education organization headquartered at Baltimore Woods in Marcellus, New York, about 12 miles west of Syracuse, NY. BWNC offers a newly constructed Nature Interpretation Center, 182-acre nature preserve, and six miles of trails at Baltimore Woods for public use.

Mission...

Baltimore Woods Nature Center transforms individuals and communities through place-based education. This transformation is achieved through frequent positive experiences that cultivate a strong sense of wonder. BWNC accomplishes this through teaching and interactive programs that take place at Baltimore Woods as well as in urban, suburban, and other rural landscapes of Central New York.

Directions to Baltimore Woods



Please visit www.mapquest.com for directions to 4007 Bishop Hill Road Marcellus, NY 13108.

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Why Choose BWNC Programs for your Class?

Nature is essential to children's overall development—emotionally, intellectually, physically, and socially. Our children's detachment from nature has gained national attention since Richard Louv's recent book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*. Research has shown that children are smarter, cooperative, happier and healthier when



they have frequent and varied opportunities for

free and unstructured play in the outdoors. BWNC's programs are designed with this in mind—blending positive interactive inquiry-based nature activities with school curricula and NYS learning standards.

To learn more about the importance of children and their connection to nature, visit www.cnaturenet.org.

Program Experiences



In Your Classroom

BWNC programs can range from 60-120 minutes in length and can be designed to fit the needs of your classroom. Presentations include visuals like PowerPoint presentations and offer hands-on/ minds-on materials for students such as:

- Animal mounts;
- Live animals;
- Natural artifacts;
- Activities or games related to the topic.



"Our field trip offered what the text and the classroom missed ."
Morgan Rd. Elementary

Field Trips

Take a field trip to Baltimore Woods and experience our on-site programming! Programs in this brochure can take place at Baltimore Woods in the John A. Weeks Interpretive Center and outdoors in over 180 acres of our nature preserve. During your visit, students can explore hiking trails, streams and ponds. Classes can stay for lunch in the pavilion and picnic area as well as a large indoor program room with indoor bathrooms.



How do BWNC programs meet the educational needs of your students?

BWNC has developed their nature education programs to be age and developmentally appropriate. BWNC provides opportunities for students to have direct experiences with the living environment by bringing nature education into the classroom. Whether talking about the life cycle of the red-winged blackbird, pond ecology, or insects, the staff at BWNC introduces complex scientific concepts to students with interactive inquiry-based curriculum.



Visit our website at

www.baltimorewoods.org

Teacher Information

Program Logistics

Program Length — BWNC programs can range from 60-120 minutes in length and can be designed to fit the needs of your classroom.

Transportation — Transportation to the program location is the responsibility of the teacher or school.

How to Arrange for a Program

1. Fill out the program registration form and send to BWNC at least one month in advance of desired program date. Registrations are processed on a first come, first serve basis. Submission three months in advance is recommended and encouraged, due to demand. The form can be submitted via email, fax, or hardcopy mail.
2. Your program confirmation will be sent via email within one week of BWNC's receipt of your program registration form.
3. Optional (not required): If your program is outdoors, consider arranging for chaperones so that there is at least one adult for every 10 students. Teachers are responsible for supervision at all times.

Preparing for an Outdoor Program

Students, teachers, and chaperones should dress according to the weather. In inclement weather outdoor activities may be shortened, but unless the weather is severe we will still go outside. Please have students wear hats, gloves, boots, and coats in the cold weather and rain gear when needed. Clothes and apparel may get dirty or wet on outdoor programs—please advise your students of this.

Cancellation Policy

If you decide to cancel your program, you must do so two weeks in advance of the program date or you will be charged a \$50 cancellation fee. In the case of questionable weather, BWNC will determine if the program should be cancelled. BWNC honors school snow cancellation policies.

Costs

BWNC classroom programs and fieldtrips to Baltimore Woods cost \$130 for the first hour of programming for up to 20 students. For an additional hour of programming or for more than 20 students there is an additional \$50 fee. A \$25 travel fee applies to all off-site programs. This helps ensure the best quality experience for your students. Material fees may apply for some programs.

Discounts

Multiple program discounts are available.

- Coordinate with other teachers and save! For multiple programs at the same location on the same day, only one off-site fee (\$25) applies.
- Sign up for two or more programs in one day! This applies to both on- and off-site programs.

Financial Aid

Financial aid BWNC's environmental education programs is available from a variety of resources. Here are some resources:

- **Target Field Trip Grants** will be awarded to 5,000 educators nationwide with a grant of up to \$800 to take students on exciting, enriching field trips. Apply at [Target.com/fieldtrips](https://www.target.com/fieldtrips).
- **Exploratory and Science Enrichment Program** at Oswego County BOCES offers partial reimbursement for BWNC programs. To see if your district is a participant and for more information, go to www.oswegoboces.org/profservices/artsined/enrich.asp.
- **Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs)** may help supplement costs for BWNC programs.
- **Need Based Scholarships** may be awarded. Contact Baltimore Woods Nature Center for more information.

Classroom and Field Trip Programs



"The children were actively engaged in the learning activities which held their interest."

Stonehedge Elementary



"We are a preschool with children ages 3&4. The children are very in-tune to listening to fairies and quietly walking and using their eyes to find signs of fairies—we love it!"

Skaneateles Nursery School



Sensing Nature

Pre-School

Field Trip or Classroom (All year)

Students will expand their awareness of the living environment using their senses. BWNC staff will lead students on a nature walk, on the walk we will learn how animals use their senses to learn about their environment. We will also learn how to use our senses to be observant and identify objects.

Attracting Woodland Fairies

Pre-School

Field Trip (Spring or Fall)

The highly imaginative mind of the child is used as a stepping stone to the investigation of the living and non-living world of a woodland forest. Students can come to their own conclusions regarding the existence of woodland fairies, whose sole purpose it is said is to protect the plants and animals of Baltimore Woods.

A faireologist teaches the students folklore through the use of story telling, literature, and observation. Afterwards the students build their own fairy houses in the woods and make a fairy necklace.

What's Bugging You?

Pre-School

Field Trip (Spring or Fall)

In this fun and interactive program students learn about insect characteristics and life cycles by observing them in their natural habitat. Equipped with butterfly nets and bug collecting containers, students get an up-close look at the bugs in the fields and forests.



Classroom and Field Trip Programs



Tree Life & Leaf Art

Pre-School
Spring or Fall

Students will explore the woods to observe and identify the different trees around them. The various structures of a tree, their functions, life cycles, growth requirements and how trees adapt to the seasons will be discussed. Through literature and a fun take-home craft, students use the arts to identify and learn the unique features of several leaves and seeds.

Maple Syrup – Tree to Table

Pre-School
Field Trip (March)

BWNC teaches interesting facts about maple syrup history such as: the Iroquois legend of Chief Woksis and the discovery of maple syrup; how cane sugar replaced maple sugar as the preferred sweetener of early Americans; and the history of maple sugaring in New York. Students visit the sugar bush to learn about the maple sugar process and see maple sap turned into maple syrup. After this students come indoors to taste test real maple syrup .

Frog Frenzy

Pre-School
Spring or Fall

Students learn about the unique life cycle of frogs from egg to tadpole to frog. Students will get to see first hand the different life stages of a frog— using nets students will collect all three life stages of frogs from Phillips Ponds right here at Baltimore Woods. Students will get muddy on this expedition and should come prepared. **Please arrange to have the students meet the Educator down at the lower parking lot for this program.*



Classroom and Field Trip Programs



"Our science units are habitats and communities, water around us and this field trip is a good unit wrap-up."

Skaneateles Schools



Create-a-Program

Pre-School

Classroom or Field Trip (All year)

BWNC recognizes the diversity in your curriculum and interests, and wants to provide appropriate support to your classroom lessons. Work with BWNC educators to create your own program tailored specifically to your classroom needs. You provide the topic or educational goal — and we provide the rest! This programming option enables BWNC to offer field trips and classroom activities that are directly related to what your students are studying in school. *An additional programming charge applies to this programming option.*

Naturalist Choice

Pre-School

Classroom or Field Trip (All year)

Not sure what program to select? Let BWNC educators choose for you! We will provide a program appropriate to the season and natural happenings of the area.



Pre-School Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Name of Program _____ Age level _____

Number of Participants _____ 3 options for the Date of Program ___/___/___ or ___/___/___ or ___/___/___

Preferred Start Time of Program _____

A \$50 deposit is required upon registration. Check (enclosed) or Credit Card

Visa/Master Card number _____ Expiration ___/___/___

Card Holders Name _____ Security Code _____

Card Holder Signature _____ Date ___/___/___

Confirmations will be emailed within one week of receiving your application.

Arriving on Time is very important. If you arrive late, your program may be shortened.

Cancellation of a program is honored up to two weeks before the scheduled program date. Programs cancelled less than two weeks before the program date will be charged a \$50 cancellation fee. In the case of questionable weather, BWNC will communicate with group contacts to determine if the program should be cancelled and we will do our best to reschedule in a timely manner.

Submit this form via email, fax, or hardcopy mail to:

Pre-School Programs

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