



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

Home School Environmental Education Field Trips



Educator Information & Program Descriptions

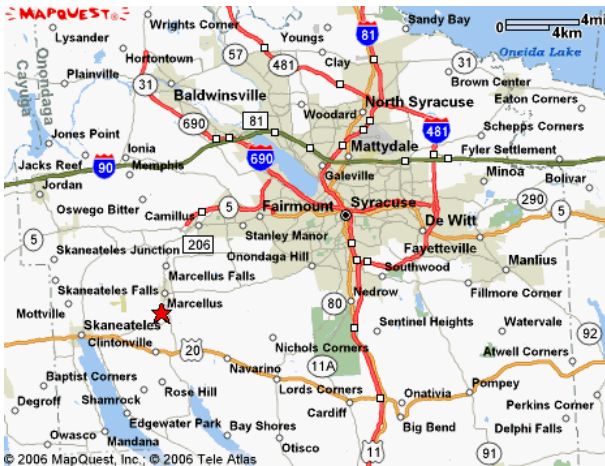
2009—2010

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

Welcome to Baltimore Woods Nature Center (BWNC)!

<p>CONTACT INFORMATION</p> <p>Address Baltimore Woods Nature Center, Inc. P.O. Box 133 4007 Bishop Hill Road Marcellus, NY 13108</p> <p>Phone 315.673.1350</p> <p>Fax 315.673.3671</p> <p>Website www.baltimorewoods.org</p> <p>Email emma@baltimorewoods.org</p>	<p>What is Baltimore Woods Nature Center?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Mission...</p> <p>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.</p>
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Directions to Baltimore Woods



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

Why Choose BWNC For Your Fieldtrip?

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

Students score higher on standardized tests when natural environments are integral to schools' curricula.

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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



"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 Home Schoolers?

BWNC recognizes the unique educational needs of the home school community and is willing to work with you to provide the best program for you. Whether talking about the life cycle of the red-winged blackbird, pond ecology, or photosynthesis, 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 1-2 hours in length and can be designed to fit the needs of your group of students.

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. Arrange for supervision so that there are at least one adult for every 10 students. Home school parents or guardians are responsible for supervision of the students at all times.

Preparing for an Outdoor Program

Students, and supervisors 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 let families know this so they can be prepared accordingly.

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 \$35 cancellation fee. In the case of questionable weather, BWNC will determine if the program should be cancelled.

Costs

Fieldtrips to Baltimore Woods cost \$130 for the first hour of programming for up to 20 participants. For an additional hour of programming or for more than 20 participants there is an additional \$50 fee. Material fees may apply to some programs.



Field Trip Programs



Sensing Nature

Pre K-K
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 K-K
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. Best geared for pre-K and kindergarten—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 students build their own fairy houses in the woods.



What's Bugging You?

K-2nd Grade
Spring or Fall

In this fun and interactive program students learn about insect characteristics and life cycles by observing insects 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.



Amphibian Hunt

K-2nd Grade
Spring or Fall

Students learn about the unique life cycle of frogs, toads and salamanders. On a hike through the woods out to Phillips pond students “hunt” for the amphibians of the forest. At the pond students are given nets to catch and observe the different stages of the life cycle of frogs.



Field Trip Programs



The Snowflake Bentley Story

K-2nd Grade

Winter

Bentley is credited with discovering the fact that no two snowflakes are alike. See Bentley's photographs and discover the different shapes and symmetry that make each snowflake unique! Students will be read to from the richly illustrated book, *Snowflake Bentley*, and play "Snowflake Shuffle" to test their observation skills. A discussion of liquids and solids will help students understand how snowflakes are made. Students make snowflake collecting apparatuses.

Tree Life & Leaf Art

K-2nd Grade

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.

Beneath the Water's Surface

K-2nd Grade

Spring or Fall

Students will be amazed with the variety of aquatic creatures they will find lurking in the stream and pond right here at Baltimore Woods. Students will learn about the special features, functions and adaptations of these creatures.



Field Trip Programs



Sugar Maple



Maple Syrup – Tree to Table

K-2nd Grade or 3rd-5th Grade
(program will be tailored to be age appropriate for your group)
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 on field trips visit the sugar bush to learn about the maple sugar process and see maple sap turned into maple syrup. After this students come indoors for a maple syrup taste test!

Discover Backyard Birds

3rd-5th Grade
All year

Birding is like treasure hunting—your students will be surprised by how many different kinds of birds actually live right here in Central New York. This creative program raises awareness and appreciation for birds while discussing their behavior, adaptations, and unique role in our ecosystem. Students will learn some common backyard birds while being taken on a guided bird walk.



Is that Water Clean?

3rd-5th Grade
Spring or Fall

Students dive-in and explore stream or pond ecology first-hand, as our educators show the students how they can estimate water quality through hands-on sampling either at our pond or stream. Students will get **wet** during this stream or pond exploration, so please come prepared.



CSI: Baltimore Woods

3rd-5th Grade
All year

Students help solve a classic case of predator/prey who-done-it. After a discussion of predator/prey relationships, students investigate a number of “crime scenes” set up with skulls, mounts, and other animal clues. With the help of our environmental educator and simple field guides, students identify who’s been eating whom at Baltimore Woods.



Field Trip Programs



Beaver Wars!

3rd-5th Grade
All year

Did you know that wars have been fought right here in New York over our state mammal, the beaver? Students will learn about beaver adaptations and why they were so valuable to the European explorers. Groups explore the history of the beaver trade, and then go on an exploration of their own to visit a complex of beaver ponds here at Baltimore Woods. (Winter participants will travel on snowshoes.)

Animal Track Stories & Snowshoeing

3rd-5th Grade
Winter/Spring

Discover how to read the stories animals leave behind in nature! By learning the three P's (Place, Pattern, and Print) students will learn a story's setting, characters, and plot. BWNC educators use mounts, posters, books, and animal traces to teach the basics of animal tracking and predator/prey relationships. The program culminates with groups of students working together to create their own track stories using track stencils on poster size paper. **This program is great when coupled with snowshoeing at Baltimore Woods (additional fee required).*



Create-a-Program

Pre K-K or K-2nd Grade or 3rd-5th Grade
All year

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



Educator's Choice

Pre K-K, K-2 or 3-5
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.

Home School Program Registration

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:

Home School Programs
Baltimore Woods Nature Center
P.O. Box 133, 4007 Bishop Hill Road
Marcellus, NY 13108
Phone 315.673.1350
Fax 315.673.3671
Email emma@baltimorewoods.org



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