



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

# the Overlook

Fall



2010



Volume 24



Number 4

## Valuing the Everyday

This fall The Woods is taking time to appreciate the natural blessings we encounter everyday. Both our countryside and cityscape offer abundant opportunities to connect to nearby nature. In Syracuse, join special guests Erica Wheeler and Robert Michael Pyle for a celebration of our soulful cityscape, and the Edens we can find even in vacant lots. Also, visit Baltimore Woods and take advantage of opportunities to appreciate the beauty and tranquility the natural world provides us with everyday.

## The Mystery Man Revealed

by **Katie Mulverhill**

I read a lot of books in college. Most of them I cannot remember now, though I am sure I learned a great deal from each one. The exception is a book entitled *Children and Nature*. It is about psychological, sociocultural and evolutionary investigations into the relationship between, you guessed it, children and nature.

As you might imagine, most of the essays in this book could appear a bit dry and forgettable, but one of the essays struck me.

similar experiences as a child. I bet if you think back to your childhood you would have some of those memories, too.

I could relate to what this author was writing about, then he dropped a bombshell: children were not able to have those same experiences today. He postulated this was not because children were plugged into their gaming systems and television sets, or because it wasn't safe to play outside anymore, but because those natural places for children to play are disappearing faster than any other natural resource around. That was a real eye opener to me, and has helped shape me into the person I am today. I want to help children stay connected to their world by introducing them to the small bits of natural world that they can still find around them. It is one of the reasons I was attracted to Baltimore Woods and its *Nature in the City* program, which does just that.

Not long ago I was at a staff meeting when Patty started talking about a big event coming up in October. Some hot shot scientist was visiting to talk about his two main areas of interest: Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), and how children make their connections to nature. I was interested right away, and reminded of that essay I had read so many years ago. I was inspired to look it up and share it with the rest of the staff. When I did, I should not have been surprised to see that the author of the essay that had made such an impact on me was the same man scheduled to visit Baltimore Woods in the fall: Robert Michael Pyle.

We are fortunate to have such a respected scientist visit CNY for a public appearance. Pyle's views on nature and the value of nature play on developing children can make people rethink the value of the "empty" or "wasted" spaces in our landscape. He is an inspiration to many people, and his views can shape policy. I hope that you don't miss this opportunity to hear him speak. I sure won't!

## The Woods Welcomes Robert Michael Pyle

North America's preeminent butterfly expert, scientist and open space advocate  
Robert Michael Pyle visits Baltimore Woods and Syracuse.

**Thursday, October 7th**

**Presentation: Eden in a Vacant Lot**  
5:30pm, Palace Theater, 2384 James Street, Syracuse, NY. This event features dynamic speaker Robert Michael Pyle, renowned scientist and champion for children's need for open space. He will inspire the community to rediscover the mundane, "waste" spaces in Syracuse. The event will be given in honor of Syracuse resident and founder of *Light a Candle for Literacy*, **Geneva Hayden**. Hayden's tireless commitment to the children in her Southside neighborhood has transformed their lives. General admission fee: \$5

**Butterfly Hike with Robert Michael Pyle**  
10am, Baltimore Woods Nature Center, 4007 Bishop Hill Road, Marcellus, NY. Event held rain or shine. Advance registration required, space is limited.

Members: \$10;  
Nonmembers: \$20



**Friday, October 8th**

**Butterfly Hike** (same as Thursday, above)

**Pyle book signing**  
3-4pm, Baltimore Woods.  
Free

The author seemed to really get me and verified why I was enrolled in one of the best environmental science schools in the country. As a child I got to explore the natural world around me—catching fireflies, finding a bush large enough to climb under and use as a fort, rolling over logs hoping to find salamanders. It was the everyday things that made a difference; not the yearly trip to a national forest (but that was fun too!). He got it because he had



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## Baltimore Woods Nature Center

*Nature in your hands*

# The Overlook

The Overlook is a membership benefit of Baltimore Woods Nature Center. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. Baltimore Woods is a not-for-profit organization that offers people of all ages opportunities to enjoy and learn about nature first-hand in a positive environment that encourages lifelong respect for nature, for others, and for self. The Interpretive Center is open Monday through Friday 9am to 4pm, and Saturday 10am to 4pm. Closed Sunday. The Center will be closed Monday, September 6th. Hiking trails are open every day dawn to dusk. Hiking and parking are free.

Direct contributions and inquiries to:  
Baltimore Woods Nature Center  
Box 133 · Marcellus, NY 13108

Website: [www.baltimorewoods.org](http://www.baltimorewoods.org) · Telephone (315) 673-1350

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## Meadow Management

by Jeff Devine

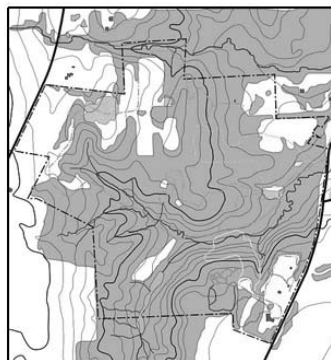
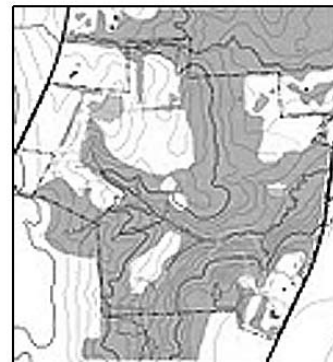
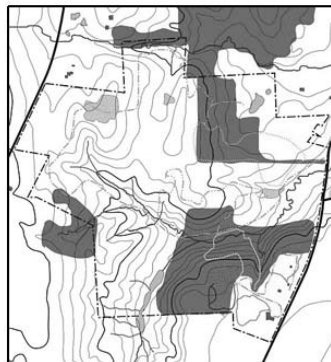
Of all of the natural habitats in the eastern United States, the one that has suffered greatest loss in modern times is meadow.

Before humans migrated to North America, meadows were an important part of the ecosystem. They were created and maintained by both large herbivores and wildfires. When humans arrived, they hunted out some of the herbivores, but they also brought fire with them. Fires, both accident and deliberate, were set to clear land for farming and hunting, or escaped camp fires. This created even more meadow habitat. With the European migration, more land was cleared for farming and vast forests were clear-cut to build the new nation. The amount of meadow habitat in the eastern U.S. hit its peak.

For the last 100 years or so, we have been losing meadow lands. Fewer fires escape and wild fires are suppressed. Farming has declined. The remaining farms, with modern equipment and farming practices, work land more efficiently. Abandoned farm land is now covered with houses or allowed to reforest. The demand for timber and firewood has declined — woodlots that were once regularly harvested are now left alone. In suburban areas the ride on a lawn mower allows even the largest lot to be kept well groomed.

Historical aerial photos show that Baltimore Woods was once more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  open land, and when the property was protected in 1972, nearly half of the land was meadow and shrub fields. For the

past few years we have been working to maintain the diversity of habitat, preserving and reclaiming our meadows and even allowing new meadows to grow. We work to preserve by mowing a portion each year to keep woody vegetation down, preventing reforestation. We restore the habitat by removing the woody (and mostly exotic) vegetation. We allow new meadow to grow by letting areas we previously kept mowed to grow wild. This has the added benefit of saving both time and fuel, and reducing pollution.



*clockwise, from top left:*  
1938 map, 1980  
map, 2010 map of  
the property shows  
the encroachment on  
meadows.

# September

Calendar of Events

## 11 Fossil Collecting Field Trip with the Museum of the Earth 11am-2pm

Join staff from BWNC and the Museum of the Earth, Ithaca, NY, for a fossil hunt in Jamesville. Experts from the museum will be on hand as we discover a wealth of fossil evidence from Central New York's watery past. Cost, location and registration available at [www.museumoftheearth.org](http://www.museumoftheearth.org), or (607) 273-6623 x 13.

## 14 Keep It Natural with John Weeks 10:30am

Renowned Central New York naturalist John Weeks leads this monthly series of talks for adults, with refreshments, and occasional walks. Registration required. Members \$5; nonmembers \$8. **Reading the Landscape** – Gain eyes to see the past through study of the landscape today.

## 15 Weed and Feed Noon

Wednesdays at 10am volunteers gather to spruce up the gardens, grounds, and trails. On the third Wednesday of the month BWNC invites volunteers to a lunch of locally harvested foods. Lunch is served in the Interpretive Center. We hope you will join us! Please register.

## 18 Barefoot Hike 1-2:30pm

Remember running around outside barefoot as a kid? Come feel the earth under your feet again at Baltimore Woods, as Barefoot Bob (official member of the Barefoot Society of CNY) reconnects you to this underutilized mode of transportation. Join Bob for a half-mile hike over grass, wooden bridges, leaves and soil. Registration required, accommodates 5-20. Members \$5, \$15/family; nonmembers \$8, \$25/family.

## 18 Art Gallery Reception 2-4pm

Tour the current exhibit of wildlife art, meet the artist Cindy J. Page, and enjoy an afternoon with friends, art and nature. Free and open to the public.

## 19 Autumn Garden Tour and Native Species and Perennial Plant Sale at Sycamore Hill Gardens, Marcellus 11-4pm *see sidebar for details*

## 20 Nature's Little Explorers 10-11am

Children and parents— join us in fun and discovery as we learn about the natural world around us! These guided explorations follow the *Growing Up Wild* curriculum and are designed for children 3-5 years old. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Registration required, accommodates 5-20 preschoolers. Members \$8/preschooler; nonmembers \$12. **Ants On Parade** Explore the hidden world of ants through an arts and crafts project and outdoor experiment. Start to discover how ants understand their world.

## 25 Make and Take Rain Barrel Workshop with Cornell Cooperative Extension

Save the rain and save money. Using a rain barrel to water your backyard garden conserves water, and building your own will provide considerable savings over purchasing ready-made models. Space is limited; contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at (315) 424-9485 for time, cost, and registration.

## 27 Home School Expeditions 10-11am

Join BWNC educators as we discover the wonder and excitement of science in the great outdoors. Students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Siblings are welcome to attend but need to be registered. Registration required, accommodates 5-20 students. Members \$8/student; nonmembers \$12. **Fantastic Frogs** Come explore the amazing life of frogs. Learn about the life cycle of frogs and other amphibians. Spend time down at Phillips Pond. For students K-6.

# Autumn Garden Tour at Sycamore Hill Gardens

## *Native Species and Perennial Plant Sale*

For you brave souls who came out in the Mother's Day blizzard and those who didn't, here is your opportunity to enjoy the garden in milder weather!

Join us at Sycamore Hill Gardens for a preview of fall in the garden. Pack a picnic lunch, bring your blanket and enjoy this lovely arboretum and perennial garden as it gracefully enters the fall season. Located at **2130 Old Seneca turnpike in Marcellus**, the garden consists of 25+ acres with over 500 varieties of trees, perennials and over five acres of ponds.

Linger with your children along the banks of the ponds to feed the colorful Japanese Koi. Ring bells and gongs in the bell garden and play in the maze. Then head across the street to the Native Species and Perennial Plant Sale where our plant experts will assist you with your selections. Representatives from Habitat Gardening in Central New York, a chapter of Wild Ones, will provide informational materials about the benefits of landscaping with native plants.

The garden tour (tickets required) and plant sale (no admission charge) run from 11am to 4pm on Sunday September 19th. Spend as long as you wish wandering the paths and enjoying the gardens. Picnicking is encouraged. Tickets for the garden tour are \$5 in advance, \$10 at the gate. The event will be held rain or shine with the plant sale in one of the barns if it rains.

Tickets can be purchased at Baltimore Woods by phone or in person, and at Silver Springs Farm Market on West Seneca Turnpike in Onondaga Hill. Call for additional advance sale locations. All proceeds benefit Baltimore Woods.

*See you there!*



Sycamore Hill Gardens are open only a few times a year to the public. They are stunning in every season. Join us for this special autumn treat.

# Erica Wheeler

## The Soulful Cityscape Concert

Friday, October 8th, 7:30pm

Westcott Community Center  
826 Euclid Avenue, Syracuse

General admission fee: \$10

Erica Wheeler's original folk song writing and singing are both entertaining and deeply touching. Her songs convey the vivid imagery and meaning of place in her own life, while evoking the memories of special places from her listeners. Her music leads people to tap into their personal connection to place and experience a sense of completeness and belonging.

Singer, songwriter, educator and conservation advocate, Wheeler says: "I offer programs that mend the rift by bridging the heart and mind. I take people on a journey that often surprises them, ushering them through a doorway, where they find a connection they didn't even know they had, or perhaps had just forgotten in the rush of their everyday busy lives."

Erica Wheeler shares in the deep connection to nature promoted and felt by Baltimore Woods Nature Center and by Robert Michael Pyle. In addition to her keynote concert Friday evening, she will be opening Pyle's presentation "Eden in a Vacant Lot" with a few songs, on Thursday, October 7th. Please join The Woods for both these important and soul inspiring events

For more information about Wheeler and to preview her music, please visit [www.ericawheeler.com](http://www.ericawheeler.com).



# October

Calendar of Events

## 1 Star Party

8-10pm

Gaze into deep space through the telescopes of astronomer Bob Piekielek. Enjoy views of Jupiter, Uranus, and Neptune, as well as star clusters and nebulae. Back-up date Saturday, October 2. Registration required. Members \$5, \$15/family; nonmembers \$8, \$25/family.

## 7&8 The Woods Welcomes Robert Michael Pyle

North America's preeminent butterfly expert, scientist and open space advocate Robert Michael Pyle visits Baltimore Woods and Syracuse. *See cover page for event details.*

## 8 The Soulful Cityscape Concert: Eric Wheeler

7:30pm

*See sidebar on this page for details.*

## 12 Keep It Natural with John Weeks

10:30am

Renowned Central New York naturalist John Weeks leads this monthly series of talks for adults, with refreshments, and occasional walks. Registration required. Members \$5; nonmembers \$8. **Attracting Wildlife** – John Weeks walks the Backyard Wildlife Trail to reveal ways to make your backyard more wildlife friendly.

## 13 Weed and Feed

Noon

Wednesdays at 10am volunteers gather to spruce up the gardens, grounds and trails. Each month, The Woods invites volunteers to a lunch of locally harvested foods. *Due to a scheduling conflict, please note that the lunch is being held a week early in October.*

## 15 Cabin Campfire: Homespun Harvest

7-8:30pm

Visit the pioneer cabin and discover how the area's pioneers celebrated the bounty the natural world provided. Enjoy harvest traditions from times gone-by such as pumpkin carving, a moonlit goldenrod maze, traditional songs and stories around the fire, and local cider and doughnuts at night's end. Make it your own harvest tradition and join us! Accommodates 10-25 participants,

registration required - members \$7, family \$20, nonmembers \$10, family \$30.

## 18 Nature's Little Explorers

10-11am

*See general description on September 20.*

**Spider Web Wonders** Spooky spiders fill our thoughts during Halloween. Spiders are often confused for insects and thought of as scary small creatures, but are in fact an important part of our ecosystem. Come discover the amazing world of webs and go on a spider safari.

## 20 Project Learning Tree Workshop

9am-3:30pm

BWNC is pleased to host this workshop for K-8 educators. Project Learning Tree provides educators the tools, training, and resources they need to bring the environment into the classroom – and their students into the environment. Materials are multidisciplinary and follow state and national education standards. Accommodates up to 20 participants, registration required by October 13. Cost: \$15, includes lunch, Project Learning Tree materials and workshop. For more information on Project Learning Tree visit [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org).

## 23 Children's Book Fest

Hughes Elementary

345 Jamesville Avenue, Syracuse

10am-3pm

Read! Reuse! Recycle! This year's Book Fest focuses on stories about our natural world and caring for it. Kids and their parents are invited to join the festivities and be a part of the interactive play based on Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax*, at 2pm. Free.

## 25 Home School Expeditions

10-11am

*See general description on September 27*

**Tree Life Leaf Art** Explore the woods to observe and identify different trees. Examine various structures of a tree, their function, life cycles, growth requirements, and how trees adapt to the seasons. Students use a fun take-home craft to discover the diversity and beautiful features of leaves. For students K-2.

## 30 Double Dog Dare Walk

8-9pm

BWNC dares you . . . no, double dog dares you, to walk through the woods with only the moon lighting your way! Search for creatures that go bump in the night and treats hidden along the trails. Accommodates 10-25 participants, registration required. Members \$5, \$15/family; nonmembers \$8, \$25/family.

# November

Calendar of Events

## 6 Bird Excursion:

### Montezuma's Migrants

7:30am-Noon

Peak waterfowl migration at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge brings over 200,000 ducks and geese to Central New York. BWNC staff will be on hand to point out rare migrants before they move on to warmer waters. Accommodates 6-25 participants. Registration required. Donations are appreciated.

## 9 Keep It Natural with John Weeks

10:30am

Renowned Central New York naturalist John Weeks leads this monthly series of talks for adults, with refreshments, and occasional walks. Registration required. Members \$5; nonmembers \$8.

**Lurking in the Trees** Worcester, MA could be almost anywhere in America. But when a foreign invasive pest—the Asian longhorned beetle—was discovered to be killing Worcester's maple trees, the city took decisive action to halt the spread of the beetle, protecting trees across New England from certain death. Watch the film produced by The Nature Conservancy and learn about ways we can protect against invasive pests.

## 11 Pioneer Day Camp

9am-4pm

See side article for details.

## 13 Drawing on Talent: Members

### Second Annual Art Exhibit

#### Reception

2-4pm

Everyone is invited to visit the gallery in November and December and view the artworks created by our members. Join us for this public reception, meet the artists, and join in the artist community at Baltimore Woods. Free.

## 17 Weed & Feed

Noon

BWNC greatly appreciates all the volunteers who give their time and efforts to further our mission. On the third Wednesday of the month BWNC gives volunteers a lunch of locally harvested foods at the Interpretive Center. We hope you will join us!

## 17 Reel Topics Movie Series

6:30-8:30pm

The Woods presents a viewing of the documentary *Beauty and the Beast: A Tale of Two Lakes*, a film exploring the differences and relationships of the history of Skaneateles and Onondaga Lakes. After the film enjoy dessert and discussion with our expert panel including Bob Werner, retired SUNY-ESF limnologist, and Joe Heath, legal council for the Onondaga Nation. Accommodates 18-60; registration required before Nov 12. Members \$10, family \$30; nonmembers \$15, family \$45.

## 20 Saturday Fly-Tie

11am-Noon

As fishing season wraps up BWNC gives you this chance to learn and share fly tying techniques. Bring your tools and materials to practice fly tying while enjoying coffee, fish stories, and camaraderie. Registration required, and donations are appreciated.

## 22 Nature's Little Explorers

10-11am

See general description on October 18.

**Terrific Turkeys** How do wild turkeys survive? What does a wild turkey eat? Discover what it would be like to be a wild turkey in Central New York.

## 25 Thanksgiving Day

*Interpretive Center Closed*

Thanksgiving Day the trails of Baltimore Woods give you an opportunity to walk off that delicious holiday meal! The Interpretive Center is closed, but the trails and parking are open and FREE dawn to dusk. The Interpretive Center reopens Friday November 27 at 9am.

## 29 Home School Expeditions

10-11am

See general description on October 25

**CSI: Baltimore Woods** 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.

# Pioneer Day Camp

Thursday November 11th

9am – 4pm

Get back to basics this Veteran's Day at Baltimore Woods! Come to camp for a fun filled day when we'll use games and activities to rediscover pioneer living. The adventure happens on November 11th. Camp runs from 9am to 4pm, with early and late care available. Registration forms are available on our website, pre-registration is required. Space is limited so don't miss out! Cost is \$35 per camper, family membership required.

## Second Annual

# Drawing on Talent Members Group Art Show

November 1st to  
December 30th

### *Calling all BWNC Member Artists!*

Because of the unprecedented success of last year's members group art show in the Weeks Gallery, we are doing it again this year.

Entry forms will be available at The Woods and on the website soon, but meanwhile, here are the entry requirements in a nutshell:

**Application DUE by October 1.**

**Artwork DUE at The Woods by Friday, October 29.**

**Reception is on Saturday, November 13, 2-4pm.**

- You must be a current BWNC member
- Artwork must be original
- The work must be ready to be exhibited, (2-D wired for hanging; sculpture on a stable base.)
- All fine art will be considered, including painting, drawing, sculpture, fiber and fabric arts, woodworking, jewelry. *Nothing from a kit please.*

**Baltimore Woods**

(315) 673-1350

[www.baltimorewoods.org](http://www.baltimorewoods.org)

# Join BWNC today!

*Share your love of nature*  
**GIFT MEMBERSHIPS**  
available at  
Baltimore Woods Nature Center

*Call (315)673-1350  
to sign your friends up!*

## Baltimore Woods Nature Center offers the best ...

- nature observation and enjoyment
- flower, herb and wildflower gardens
- adventure nature day camps
- 6+ miles of hiking trails
- public programs year-round for seniors, adults, families and children
- art gallery with Members-Only exhibit
- bird-watching station
- Discovery Library for nature study
- educational exhibits
- volunteer opportunities in many areas

## Annual Membership Level

- \$15 Senior/Student
  - \$25 Individual
  - \$40 Family
  - \$75 Sustaining
  - \$100 Patron
  - \$250 Benefactor
  - \$500 Philanthropist
  - \$1,000 Life
  - Donation Amount  
*(in addition to membership)*
- 

**Make checks payable to:**  
**Baltimore Woods Nature Center.**  
*Visa and Mastercard accepted.*

**Return this coupon with payment to:**  
**BWNC**  
**P.O. Box 133**  
**Marcellus, NY 13108**

# Suits for the City

It takes a lot to get us to dress up at The Woods, but our friends at AXA inspired us to don dress suits in 90 degree weather! AXA collected \$5 from employees for a “jeans day” at the



company. AXA then matched their employees’ contributions and

came up with support to co-sponsor *Nature in the City* at Meachem Elementary in Syracuse for the 2010/11 academic year. So here’s the BWNC staff trying our hardest to show our solidarity with our AXA friends.

## Thank You

Baltimore Woods’ *Nature in the City* program is a creative, efficient and effective way to teach science to K-6 grade students in Syracuse. This approach helps in many ways:

- Learning is more effective in the context of children’s daily lives and neighborhoods
- Valuable instruction time is conserved by eliminating bus transportation
- Less greenhouse gas is released as children use their own muscle power for walking fieldtrips.

**Baltimore Woods thanks the following for sponsoring *Nature in the City* during the 2009/10 school year in Syracuse:**

- Dominion Transmission
- Lockheed Martin
- National Grid
- Time Warner Cable
- SRC Tech
- Lockheed Martin Employee Federated Fund
- Byrne Dairy
- CNY Community Foundation
- O’Brien and Gere
- Bond Schoeneck and King, PLLC
- M&T Bank
- SU’s Near West Side Initiative
- The Umeschandra Patil Family Trust

**We thank the following for their support of the Bee Repair/Re-siding project at our headquarters:**

- The Allyn Foundation
- BWNC Board of Directors
- Columbia Foundation
- Cooper/Crouse Hinds
- Erie Materials
- Key Bank
- McClurg Associates

## Volunteer Facts

Did you know that our volunteers logged nearly 8000 hours in 2009? In the gardens, on the trails, at the front desk, at the events...we have volunteers that work many hours to help Baltimore Woods be the special place it is. If we did not have these talented people stepping up to give their time, we would need almost four additional paid staff positions. Being a membership-driven organization without government funding, these volunteers allow us to put our resources into the programs and facilities that make Baltimore Woods a premier nature education organization.

## Volunteers Make a Difference

On July 23, Welch Allyn dispatched 25 able-bodied volunteers to The Woods to complete two major projects: rebuilding the bridge on the Valley Trail, and tackling major clean up of the overgrown sign garden in the main parking lot. The bridge project was a collaborative effort with Welch Allyn contributing funding, people-power and engineering skill, SU School of Architecture completing the designs, CNY Land Trust helping with funding and coordination, and Liverpool Lumber discounting material costs.



Volunteers make a difference every day at The Woods and we are grateful to everyone for their support.

**These brave gardeners from Welch Allyn emerged tired but victorious after their war on weeds and overgrown brush.**

# KID'S PAGE

Joy in Everyday Moments

M V Z R S Y K T L I I S Y B D  
Z X R C E C C Z O G F T A N L  
E K A L F W O N S T I E W S G  
A R Z V J V O B J A O K S U W  
F U U H C U Q L C Y I C A N L  
R A T S V E C H F Y F I L U W  
T Q F U C W O U J N X R A Y G  
Z D D F M C A L V I U C M M V  
S S W A O N T Q J D P S A Q C  
U B L L O S H T M K F E N W V  
N U A Y E T C Z W K C I D G L  
S T O V P U M P K I N P E D U  
E B R L M Z D J N O N H R S J  
T A H Q E Y S A C Z O W X E O  
H J A G H N S L Z C J V A O Q

See if you can find the following words in the word search.

AUTUMN HARVEST SALAMANDER STAR TOAD  
CHOCOLATE PIE SCARF SUNFLOWER  
CRICKETS PUMPKIN SNOWFLAKE SUNSET

## How to make a Seed Bomb

A seed bomb is a little capsule with everything you need to grow a plant all bundled up. Find a spot that is in need of some beautification and "bomb" that spot.

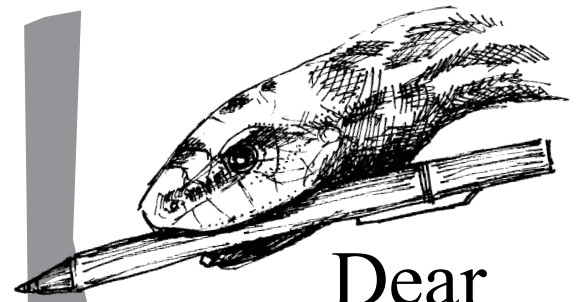
### Ingredients

- 1 part seeds (native seeds preferred)
- 3 parts compost
- 5 parts dry red clay
- 2 parts water

### Recipe

1. Mix seed and compost together
2. Mix in dry red clay (you can add some cayenne pepper to inhibit ants or rodents from eating the seeds)
3. Add water until the mixture has a good consistency for rolling into a ball
4. Form into balls about the size of a large marble
5. Let seed bombs dry in the sun

Now all you need is a nice rain and warming temperatures. The perfect time to throw these is right before a light rainy season. The rain will melt the clay to expose the seeds, and your seed bomb will grow.



## Dear Miss Hiss

Dear Miss Hiss,

Why don't snakes blink? How do you balance yourself when you're hanging? I hope you can answer my questions soon!

From,  
Gabe

Dear Gabe,

Good questions! I have a question for you: why do people blink? Have you ever been in a staring contest? Do you remember how your eyes begin to sting after a while, and then they get watery, and then tears are running down your face and it is just too much to handle and you hold off as long as you possibly can until you just can't take it anymore and you...blink. Human eyes - and that of most vertebrate animals - need to stay clean and moist. Blinking keeps them that way.

You might know that pine snakes, like me, spend a lot of time digging and climbing. All that dirt and sand, and pokey sticks could really hurt my lovely brown eyes. In order to keep them clean, moist, and scratch free snakes have special scales over their eyes (known as oculars or spectacles) that protect them from harm. It's a little like wearing swimming goggles all the time. No need to blink here! Wanna have a staring contest?

As to your other question, I balance myself while climbing by using a combination of very strong muscles and special scales on my belly that can grip onto tree bark. Those scales are called ventral scales or gastrosteges. I also use branches, twigs, or anything that sticks out to push on for extra support.

So, as you can see, I'm simply built for digging and climbing. Good thing too, because that's where pine snakes find yummy mice and bird's eggs! Thanks for your questions and keep them coming!

Sincerely,  
Hiss, Ms.

# Wish List



Picnic tables

New hats and gloves for kids

Dustbuster in good working condition

Upcoming Art Exhibit

## Cynthia J. Page On the Wild Side

Exhibit Dates: September 7th to October 30th, 2010

Public Reception: Saturday, September 18th, 2-4pm

In September and October 2010, prints, drawings, and paintings of wildlife by Cynthia J. Page, artist, naturalist, wildlife rehabilitator, and educator will be presented in The Weeks Art Gallery, BWNC. Included in the exhibit will be some of her original drawings from the 2009 *New York State Breeding Bird Atlas*.

Educated with a fine arts degree and minor in biology, Page worked as a staff artist for Onondaga Nature Centers (which

developed into BWNC), and for Onondaga County producing art, natural history publications and exhibits. She was encouraged by her parents to develop her talent in art, and her interest in animals was also supported.

The result of Page's dual interest in wildlife and in art has been a bountiful artist portfolio.



Cindy Page *Long Eared Owl*

Page's intimate contact with wild animals through her work as a wildlife rehabilitator has gained her direct contact with creatures most people only see in photos. Working daily with species including hawks, falcons, and owls in her educational programs and with other wildlife passing through her rehabilitation center, has informed her artwork both in accuracy of detail, and with the authentic nature of individual species.

Page has a home studio producing art and illustrations specializing in natural history. Her published works include *The Book of North American Birds* by Reader's Digest, 5 breeding bird atlases, many field guides and some limited edition prints. Selections of Page's work from the definitive 2009 *New York State Breeding Bird Atlas* have been exhibited at the New York State Museum and The Roger Tory Peterson Institute.

Both the exhibit and reception are open to the public and offered free of charge.



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

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Marcellus,  
New York  
Permit Number 9

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# September

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday



5

6

North winds and sunny days will increase the number of migrating hawks.

7

8

9

10

11  
Fossil Collecting  
11am-2pm

White-tailed deer and fawns start to shed their summer coats and grow thick winter coats. Fawns now lose their spots.

12

13

14  
Keep It Natural  
10:30am

15  
Weed & Feed  
Noon

16

17

18  
Barefoot Hike  
1-2:30pm

Asters and goldenrods start going to seed.

19  
Sycamore Hill  
Garden Tour  
and Plant Sale  
11-4pm

20  
Nature's Little  
Explorers  
10-11am



Harvest Moon

24

25  
Rain Barrel  
Workshop

26

27  
Home School  
Expeditions  
10-11am

28

29

30

# October

Star Party  
8-10pm



3

4

5

6

7  
Robert  
Michael Pyle  
10am, 5:30pm

8  
Robert Michael Pyle  
10am, 3pm  
Eric Wheeler  
7:30pm

Milkweed pods will open on dry days, releasing their fluffy parachutes and seeds into the air.

10

11

12  
Keep It Natural  
10:30am

13  
Weed and Feed  
Noon

14

15  
Cabin  
Campfire  
7-8:30pm

Autumn leaf colors are at their peak around now.

17

18  
Nature's Little  
Explorers  
10-11am

19

20  
Project Learning  
Tree Workshop  
9am-3:30pm

21



Hunter's Moon

23  
Children's  
Book Fest  
10am-3pm

Apple, sycamore, and white oak leaves change from green to brown, without displaying autumn colors.

24

25  
Home School  
Expeditions  
10-11am

26

27

28

29

30  
Double Dog  
Dare Walk  
8-9pm

31

# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		2	3	4	5	6 Bird Excursion 7:30am-Noon
7		Keep It Natural 10:30am	10	Pioneer Day Camp 9am-4pm	12	13 Art Gallery Reception 2-4pm
14	15	16	Weed and Feed Noon Movie Series 6:30-8:30pm	18	19	20 Saturday Fly-Tie 11am-Noon
 21 Beaver Moon	Nature's Little Explorers 10-11am	23	24	Thanksgiving Day Interpretive Center Closed	26	27
28	Home School Expeditions 10-11am	30	Bullfrogs usually spend two winters as tadpoles.			



## Save the Date

Two events for Baltimore Woods members are coming up—please plan on joining us and mark your calendars to save these dates.

### The Volunteer Community Dinner December 7th, 2010

To express in this small way our gratitude to the many volunteers who help The Woods all year long in so many ways, we invite our cherished volunteers to come together to break bread. And cakes, casseroles, salad, cookies, meats, cheeses... you get the idea. We will ask you to RSVP to reserve your place as seating is unfortunately limited, and we'll be sending more information on that later this fall. Please watch for it and plan on joining us and everyone else who keeps The Woods running so well.

### The Annual Meeting January 25, 2011

This is the big one. Come to the meeting, be part of the voting quorum and enjoy presentations on the activities and exploits of The Woods. More on this later, too.

*For now, please save these dates!*

## *Save the Date*

**Volunteer Community Dinner**

**Tuesday, December 7th  
6-9pm**



**Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 25th, 2011  
7-9pm**