



## RUN-A-MUNK

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*By: Lori McSweeney*

We did it! The 4th annual Run-A-Munk Trail Race was a great and successful event. Good weather and A LOT of talented volunteers and staff provided an event that was both challenging and fun! This year along with the 5K & 10K, runners could also complete a half marathon, all on trails. The 10K and half marathon courses used our trails, as well as the Lansing Board of Water and Light property to the west and Delta Township's Anderson Park to the east. Permission to use these properties is terrific but would have been meaningless without a good course. Thanks to Corey Baker and his sons as well as David Stierley and many volunteers, the 3 properties were unified to become one great course! We'll be tweaking the course based on race survey results so it can be used throughout the year. Serious thanks to our Race Director, David Stierley, who works tirelessly to make this event top notch.

Many thanks to our sponsors as well. Especially David Andrews, news anchor for WILX TV-10, who not only acted as emcee but also ran the 5K! For a complete list of sponsors please visit our website and remember to thank them when you visit their sites. Special thanks to our staff & volunteers for their unwavering support of our efforts.

Mark your calendar for next year's race, Saturday, November 10, 2012.



## Welcome New Members

Jamie Agler & Marea Pierpoint  
Annie Crockett  
Amy Fox  
James & Cheri Gerhart  
Otto & Dianne Graesser  
Charles & Cindy Hodges  
Arie Koelewyn & Katherine Corby  
Amy Lindstrom  
Scott & Catherine Myers  
William & Jacqueline Payne  
Jeanne Short  
Jon & Susan Stahl  
David & Veronica Thomson  
Chris Trumble  
Kim Vogel

As new members of Woldumar, we invite you to enjoy many benefits including reduced admission to events, theater performances and concerts, free trail fees and a subscription to this newsletter. You also receive a membership card that can be used at various nature centers across the country for free or reduced admissions or other benefits. Please see our website for more details on this reciprocal membership program through ANCA.

The Visitor Center and WolduMarket Gift Shop is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 noon to 4 p.m. The administrative office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you would like to support the effort and volunteer please contact Essie at (517) 322-0030.

## Native Plant Garden



Summer was a real challenge as weather swung from hot and dry to soaking rains. Also, it appeared as though the local wildlife came to love our new garden a little too much and we lost some plants. Children learned how to weed around the native plants, which presented another challenge to some of the new plantings. All in all, however, it was a great experience and by the end of the summer we had all learned a great deal about the plants

that will eventually do best in our habitat. The blooms of plants that thrived were beautiful to behold.

We have left plants standing and a little messy so we can watch for cocoons and allow birds to nibble on seed heads. Throughout the fall we have discovered more and more connections with our education programs and this garden. Students were able to observe birds foraging on the ground and on the seed heads during a lesson about bird identification. Even the plants that had been nibbled on became an education tool. Not only for stressing the importance of native plants as food for our native animals, but also during a lesson about tracks and signs of animals. This garden is a great addition for Woldumar's visitors, two-legged and four-legged alike!

## Winter Break Camp

Explore the winter wonderland while discovering all about survival in the snowy season. Each day will feature different activities including animal tracking, snow shelter building, visiting with Woldumar's resident animals, and exploring the Moon Log Cabin.

**Join us for one day or the entire week!**

**Session I:** December 19 - 23

**Session II:** December 26 - 30

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Extended Care available for additional fee.

**Fee per day:**

\$30 Woldumar members; \$40 non-members

**Fee for entire week:**

\$135 Woldumar members; \$170 non-members

*Campers that come to 3 or more days will receive a FREE camp t-shirt!*

**Please visit our website for information on themes and activities planned for each day and to register.**



## Inside the Garden

*Notes from the Moon Cabin Herb Garden*

*By: Sylvia Colles*

### The Herbs of Christmas



The herb garden is starting its long winter sleep waiting on the promise of the return of the sun after the winter solstice. Every culture developed herbal traditions that helped reassure man that the sun would come back and the earth would once again come alive. Some of the herbs in the Moon Cabin Herb Garden have beautiful traditions associated with this time of the year.

The lavender in the center of the garden is a symbol of purity and virtue. Christian legend tells that it received its lovely scent when it served as a drying rack for the Baby Jesus' swaddling clothes. Another tradition is that Mary's clothes turned blue from contact with the flowers as lavender served as a clothes line. Still another tradition holds that the flowers of rosemary turned from white to blue when Mary gently laid her blue cloak upon the blooming bush. Either is a lovely idea.

Thyme is believed to be one of the herbs used in the manger. It signifies the courage and strength of the Christ Child. Legends say that this pungent antiseptic herb was collected from the fields outside Bethlehem to make a soft bed for Mary during the birth of her child. The pennyroyal used in the manger to add a pleasant aroma and also to repel insects is believed to have burst into bloom the moment the Christ Child was born. Thyme and pennyroyal are both part of the herb garden at Woldumar. Another traditional manger herb, sweet woodruff, is a shade lover that we are not able to grow in our sunny garden, but could be planted as a lovely ground cover in your shade garden. Sweet woodruff grows demurely close to the ground representing humility. When it is dried, it has the scent of new mown hay and vanilla.

This is the time of year when we decorate our homes with holly, ivy, mistletoe and other greenery. Each has charming legends associated with why we use them. Mistletoe is the plant of fertility that beckoned the return of the sun for the Goths, Celts, and Druids. The Christian church banned mistletoe from most of its institutions and suggested using holly instead. One night as the holy family was fleeing to Egypt, Joseph heard the soldiers riding behind them. There was no place to hide except for beneath the branches of the holly bush. Normally there would have been no leaves to shield them, but, that night, the holly miraculously pushed forth its leaves and grew sharp thorns to hide the family. Since then, the holly has borne leaves all year long.

We wish you joy and peace as you celebrate your traditions this season.



## Winter Fun at Woldumar



Don't let the snow and cold keep you inside this winter. Winter is one of the best times to search for wildlife. Even if you don't see an animal on your exploration of the trails, you are sure to see many signs that they are out there and active. Tracks, scat and feeding areas are easily seen in the snowy wilderness. Come out and enjoy the trails by hiking, snowshoeing or skiing.

Cross country skiing is welcome (and fun) on our trails. We do not groom trails for skiing and the trails are also open to hikers. Please be courteous of each other and walk to the side of the ski tracks when possible.

If you don't have your own snowshoes, we have some you can rent. Please stop in the Visitor Center for snowshoes and to warm up after your trip on the trails. Snowshoes are \$2 per hour for Woldumar members or \$5 per hour for non members.

## Winter & Spring Eco Adventure Teen Camp

Eco Adventure is Woldumar's high adventure camp for 12-16 year olds. In the past, this program has only been offered during the summer months, but in 2011/2012 we will offer it during Winter Break and Spring Break.

The Winter Break session will run December 27 – 29 with a cold-weather campout on Wednesday 12/28. The session will feature winter sports such as snowshoeing and sledding, with an educational emphasis on winter ecology and cold-weather survival.

We are seeking input from parents for the Spring Break Session, which will run April 3-5. It is yet to be determined whether this session will take place at Woldumar or will be an "Eco-Trip" – a three-day, two-night off-site campout. Parents are encouraged to express their preference and suggest ideas for the session by emailing Kevin at [trac@woldumar.org](mailto:trac@woldumar.org).

Watch the Woldumar web site for information about Summer 2012 Eco Adventure and Eco Trip offerings.

## Calendar of Events

Call (517) 322-0030 to Register for a Program. Pre-registration required.

The Visitor Center and offices will be closed  
Saturday, December 24-Sunday, December 25 & Saturday, December 31-Sunday, January 1.  
Trails are open everyday from dawn to dusk.

### December Events

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#### **Holiday in the Log Cabin**

**Saturday, December 3, 3 - 5 p.m.**

Experience the holidays in the pioneer times. Visit the 1860s log cabin & make a holiday craft. \$2 Woldumar members; \$3 non-members

#### **Members Holiday Party**

**Saturday, December 3, 6 - 10 p.m.**

Bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert to pass and join fellow members for a celebration of the past year's accomplishments. Also enjoy music from Powerlight Band.

#### **Mid-Michigan Bluegrass Society**

**Sunday, December 18, 2 - 7 p.m.**

Monthly concerts; musicians & public welcome. \$4/person; \$2/students, seniors & members

#### **Winter Break Camp**

**December 19 - 23 & December 26 - 30, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Sledding, animal tracking, and visiting an 1860s log cabin are only a few of the fun activities for campers during Winter Break Camp. Join us for one or more days of fun winter exploration. See page 2 for more details. Visit our website for online registration



### January Events

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#### **Mid-Michigan Bluegrass Society**

**Sunday, January 15, 2 - 7 p.m.**

Monthly concerts, musicians & public welcome. \$4/person; \$2/students, seniors & members

#### **Basic Cheese Making**

**Thursday, January 19 & 26, 6 - 8 p.m.**

Gary Colles will lead participants through artisan cheese making. Registration required. \$25 Woldumar members; \$30 non-members. Other cheese making classes will be offered in the spring. Please see our website for more details.

#### **Snowshoe Night Hike**

**Saturday, January 21, 6 - 8 p.m.**

Explore Woldumar at night. Snowshoes are available in a limited quantity; please let us know if you are able to bring your own when you register. \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members. Pre-registration is required.

## January Events cont'd

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### **“Chili” Winter Evening**

**Saturday, January 28, 4 - 10 p.m.**

Sleigh rides, chili dinner, barn dance, log cabin tours, and more. Please see article on page 8 for more details. Please RSVP by January 27.

## February Events

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### **Birdseed Sale Pick up**

**Saturday, February 11, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Tuesday, February 14, 3 - 5 p.m.**

Help wildlife and help Woldumar by purchasing high-quality seed for your bird feeders. See page 7 for order form. *Orders must be placed by January 30th.*



### **Owl Prowl**

**Saturday, February 11, 5 - 9 p.m.**

Join Wildside Rehabilitation and Education Center and a selection of their birds of prey to find out, up close and personal, about the lives of these fascinating creatures. Admission is \$5/person for Woldumar members, \$8/person for non-members, plus one item from Wildside's wish list. Pre-Registration is required. See article on page 6 for more info.

### **Great Backyard Bird Count**

**Friday, February 17 - Monday, February 20**

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages and abilities in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. Visit [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc) for more information.

### **Mid-Michigan Bluegrass Society**

**Sunday, February 19, 2 - 7 p.m.**

Monthly concerts, musicians and public welcome. \$4/person; \$2/students, seniors & members

**Please visit our website for additional scheduled programs and classes.**

## Visitor Center News

During the winter months of December, January and February the Visitor Center and Woldumarket Gift Shop will be open Wednesday - Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 12 noon to 4 pm.

Woldumar's Visitor Center is also a great place to come face to face with some of nature's living wonders. Blanding's Turtle, Tiger Salamander, and two Eastern Fox Squirrels are just a few examples of Woldumar's animals that are eager to meet and educate you on the ways of the wild.



**Find us on  
facebook**

[www.facebook.com/  
woldumar](http://www.facebook.com/woldumar)

## Holiday Party

Join the Woldumar Board, staff, members, and friends for a fun evening on Saturday, December 3 from 6 to 10 p.m. We ask that you bring a fancy hors d'oeuvre or dessert to pass. Warm drinks will be served, but you may bring your own drinks if you wish. A short member meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Help us celebrate the past year's accomplishments and vote for new board members to help shape Woldumar's future.

Don't forget to wear your dancing shoes, beginning at 7 p.m. Powerlight Band will be playing for our entertainment.

## Woldumar Board

Tim Frisosky, Vice Chair  
Stephen Kutas, Treasurer  
Bruce Peffers, Secretary  
Andria Ditschman, Member-at-Large  
Karl Hausler, Director Emeritus  
Richard Wright, Director Emeritus

Cathy Cole  
Debi Cole  
Sylvia Colles  
Michelle Crook  
Jeff Friedle  
Joel Hoffman  
Anne Hokanson  
Frank Tegge  
Josh Tudor

## Woldumar Endowment

Dick Beers, Trustee  
Steve Cessna, Trustee  
JB McCombs, Trustee

## Woldumar Staff

Lori McSweeney, Executive Director  
Lena Swehla, Education Coordinator/  
Camp Director  
Kevin Wernet, Educator & Rental  
Coordinator  
Stephaney Guild, Bookkeeper &  
Educator  
Jerry Moran, Technology Specialist  
Jessica Rogner, Educator  
Essie Solano, Volunteer Coordinator

Woldumar is a 501(c)3 non-profit.  
All contributions to Woldumar are  
tax-deductible.



## Owl Prowl

Woldumar's Annual Owl Prowl is one of our most popular community programs and we are excited to have Louise Sagaert of Wildside Rehabilitation and Education Center join us again with some of her owl friends.

The event will be held on Saturday, February 11 from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Rotary Barn. From 5 - 6 p.m. there will be owl pellets to dissect, owl crafts to make and more. Louise and other volunteers from Wildside will begin the live owl presentation at 6 p.m. After the owl presentation we will head out on the trails in search of these fantastic nocturnal hunters. Be sure to dress for the weather and practice your best owl calls!

Admission is an item from Wildside's wish list plus \$5/person for Woldumar members or \$8/person for non-members (children 12 and under are free). Wildside is a nonprofit organization and relies on support from the public for funding and supplies. Paper towels, Dawn dish soap, black oil sunflower seeds, postage stamps, and latex gloves are a few items Wildside always needs. The complete wish list and more information can be found on our website at [www.woldumar.org/events.php](http://www.woldumar.org/events.php) or call (517) 322-0030.

## Tales from the "Trails"

By: Lena Swehla

On a late November day, a flash of blue caught my eye out the window. I stuck my nose to the glass and spotted an Eastern Bluebird. I called over other staff and volunteers to enjoy this sight with me. As we sat and watched these beautiful birds flying around, we counted at least nine other species of birds all searching for food around the administrative office. After spending nearly ten minutes watching out the window I realized I had



*Eastern Bluebird, male*

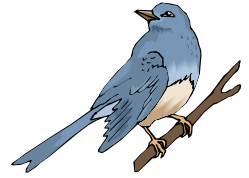


*Dark-eyed Junco*

4th grade students from Lansing waiting for me to start a lesson on animal homes and habitats. I left the office and walked toward the Rotary Barn only to scare up Dark-eyed Juncos, American Goldfinches and two Red-bellied Woodpeckers from the native plant garden along the fence between the buildings. The birds sure are enjoying the native seeds and insects from that garden.

Four or five Eastern Bluebirds were around the buildings all day long flying between the trees, the birdhouses and the ground. I spent most of the afternoon with one eye on work and one eye focused out the window. Ahh...the joys and distractions of working at a nature center.

# Birdseed Order Form



Thank you for supporting Woldumar's birdseed fundraiser!

To guarantee your order, we must have it prior to **Order Before Date**. Orders received after this date will be filled on the basis of availability. Orders may be picked up on **Pick-up Dates and Times** listed below. It is important you pick up your seed during these times when volunteers can assist you.

**Order Before Date:** January 30th

**Pick Up Dates:** Saturday, February 11th from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
 Tuesday, February 14th from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Next Sale Dates:** May 12th (Order by April 30th)

**Orders may be placed by**

**Mail:** 5739 Old Lansing Rd  
 Lansing, MI 48917

**Phone:** 517.322.0030

**Fax:** 517.322.9394

**Or Email:** birdseed@woldumar.org

	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Subtotal
Oil Sunflower		_____ 25 lb @\$24.00	_____	_____
Striped Sunflower		_____ 25 lb @\$23.00	_____	_____
WOLDUMIX		_____ 25 lb @\$16.00	_____ 50 lb @\$30.00	_____
Cracked Corn		_____ 20 lb @\$7.50	_____	_____
Custom No Mess	_____ 10 lb @\$13.00	_____ 20 lb @\$25.00	_____	_____
Thistle	_____ 10 lb @\$14.00	_____ 20 lb @\$26.00	_____	_____
Sunflower Chips (med)	_____ 10 lb @\$20.00	_____ 20 lb @\$39.00	_____	_____
Safflower	_____ 10 lb @\$11.00	_____ 20 lb @\$20.00	_____	_____
			<b>Subtotal</b>	_____
			Woldumar Member Discount (5%)	- _____
			Subtotal after Member Discount	_____
			6% Sales Tax	+ _____
			Subtotal after tax	_____
			Donation to bird feeding fund	+ _____
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>_____</b>



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Type:**

- Cash
- Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (Checks payable to Woldumar Nature Center)
- Mastercard  Visa

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use Only- Do not write below this line.

DATE PAID \_\_\_\_\_ DATE PICKED UP \_\_\_\_\_

*Proceeds support Woldumar & its environmental education programs*

\*Prices and dates subject to change\*



# WOLDUMAR NATURE CENTER

Environmental Education & Preservation  
5739 Old Lansing Rd • Lansing, MI 48917

Change Service Requested

Nonprofit Rate  
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Lansing, MI  
Permit No. 824

**Please pass  
it on or  
recycle when  
through!**



## “Chili” Winter Evening

*Enjoy the winter season with an eventful evening at Woldumar*

For many, January can be a frozen, gray month. We forget that the outdoors can still offer enjoyment, and we tuck ourselves away in our warm houses until we see signs of spring. This January, Woldumar is determined to not let that happen to you! Join us for our annual ‘Chili’ Winter Evening on Saturday, January 28th and let us remind you why winter is wonderful! Outside activities include horse-drawn sleigh rides around the trails, a bonfire with hot drinks to help you get cozy after your ride, tours and treats in the Moon Family Cabin with live historical demonstrations and, of course, snowshoe rentals! Inside the Rotary Barn we will be hosting a silent auction fundraiser throughout the evening featuring great items from local crafters and upstairs will be a delicious chili dinner with dessert! We are happy to have the Lansing local Powerlight Band back again to provide great live music and all your Motown favorites. We hope to see you and your family out for this winter wonderland celebration!



Please register early to ensure your spot on a sleigh ride, registration can be done over the phone at 517-322-0030 or online at our website: [www.woldumar.org](http://www.woldumar.org).

Below is a full list of events and times.

- 4 - 8 pm: Sleigh Rides, Chili Dinner, Moon Log Cabin Tours, Snowshoe Rentals
- 7 - 10 pm: Powerlight Band- Live music and dancing
- 4 - 10 pm: Silent Auction Fundraiser

**Visitor Center & Gift Shop Winter Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 12 noon - 4 p.m.**

**Administrative Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm. Trails open from dawn to dusk daily. Other hours determined by programs & events.**

*Woods, Water, Wonder* is a periodical published by Woldumar Nature Center. Woldumar Nature Center is owned and operated by Woldumar Nature Association.