



## Woldumar in Winter

By Brittney Cox

Thanksgiving has come and gone and the winter holidays are right around the corner. This time of year reminds me to slow down and focus on what I am thankful for. My father and step-mother are retired Air Force veterans. I am thankful to the military personnel who sacrifice for our freedom. I am grateful to have a fiancé who loves and supports me, mothers and fathers who think I am awesome, grandparents who still (try) to spoil me like I was 10 years old, and aunts, uncles, and cousins whom I cherish. I am thankful for my co-workers. We care about each other's lives and happiness. I am also thankful for the opportunity to serve you at Woldumar Nature Center. Nature is amazing and to have the opportunity to earn a living doing what I love is beyond perfect. What are some things you are thankful for? I would love to hear your stories. Please email me at [programs@woldumar.org](mailto:programs@woldumar.org).

Saturday November 21st was the first significant snowfall of the season. The following Sunday I watched numerous community members head out to the trails. Some folks had on snowshoes, others had skis, and others wore warm boots that hugged their feet. The summer birds are long gone, woodchucks are hibernating, but the forest is wild with life. Come view bright blue jays and cardinals fighting for rights to the feeder. Or search the black trail that runs between marker 2 and 10 for the red fox den. Whether you are a member, or a neighbor just passing through, you are important to us. We are thankful for your support and company and want to share all that Woldumar can offer. Hopefully we will have a beautiful snowy winter, minus another polar vortex. That was a bit much!

## Winter Break Camp

- For children in grades K-8
- Sessions run 9-4 each day
- Register at [woldumar.org](http://woldumar.org)

**December 21** Build, build, build! Spend a wonderful day with us building shelters so insulated that YOU could survive a winter night!

**December 22** Travel back to pioneer days in Michigan. Learn how to make butter, fire, and other fantastic creations.

**December 23** Winter Woldumar Olympics are here! Participate in friendly competition throwing spears, hoops, and balls.

**December 28** Art is expressed in many ways. We will dance, sing, paint, draw, write, and make music on a cold winter day. What kind of art will you make?

**December 29** What should you do if you are lost in the woods during winter? We will practice fishing, tracking, and water purification skills.

**December 30** Winter sports are the way to go. Soccer, football, snow shoeing/ winter hiking, fishing, Frisbee, and hiking races are all fun things to do at Woldumar.



## Upcoming Events

### Backyard Birding

**Dec 9, 6-7:30pm**

Gene Wasserman will present information about attracting birds to your yard. Workshop includes building a WoodCraft Feeder.

### Annual Meeting

**Dec 13, 5pm**

Join us to discuss the previous year and hear plans for the next. Current members invited to vote. Please bring a light snack to pass.

### Mid-Michigan Bluegrass & Folk Jam

**Dec 20 2-6pm**

Jamming, open mic, and scheduled performances. For more details call Henry at (517) 482-2382.

### Winter Break Camp

**December 21-23, 28-30**

Woldumar winter wonderland fun for students kindergarten-8th grade.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Owl Prowl

**Jan 15th 8-9pm**

Take a hike at night to see and hear owls in their natural habitat.

### Ice Skate on the Woodland Pond Saturdays in Jan

Open Skate 9-10:30

Sticks & Pucks

10:30-NOON

### Photography Class

Ron St. Germain's popular four-day class will be back

Feb 1, 6, 8, 15.

\$60 per student. All camera types and experience levels are welcome. Limited seating available. Registration at [woldumar.org](http://woldumar.org)



**Woldumar Nature Center**  
**5739 Old Lansing Rd**  
**Lansing, MI 48917**

Nonprofit Rate  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Lansing, MI  
Permit No. 824



## Annual Member Meeting to be Held December 13

Woldumar's staff and board of directors will host our annual members meeting on **December 13 at 5:00pm**. All are welcome to attend as we review the past year, and look forward to what's in store for 2016. Only current Woldumar members will be eligible to vote; **your membership status can be found below your name within your mailing address on the front of this newsletter.**

Please bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share following the meeting.



## Run-A-Munk Wrap Up

### Overall Female Winners

- 1. Zoe Ziegler**
- 2. Alex Terzian**
- 3. Angela Trainor**

### Overall Male Winners

- 1. Lewis Degoffau**
- 2. Zach Woledge**
- 3. Sheldon Little**

On a beautiful November day one hundred runners braved the trails at Woldumar. Zoe Ziegler was the top female runner with a 5K time of 23:44.6. Lewis Degoffau finished with a time of 20:15.1 to be the top male runner. A special "thank you" to all who participated and to our event sponsors! If you are interested in helping plan next year's race, please email [director@woldumar.org](mailto:director@woldumar.org).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*New and renewed memberships from October/November 2015*

Richard & Janice Bernsten  
John & Diane Revitte  
Ron & Mary Junttonen  
Robert & Carolyn Shoaps  
Ray & Lyda Miller  
Jason & Cindy Wilkinson  
Patricia Thuemmel  
Judy E. Gigante  
Robert & Georgia Curry  
Steven Wilcox  
Helen Joyce Preston  
Carri & John Perry  
Donald Collister  
Sally & Daniel Austin

Lisa Craven  
Richard & Alice Hill  
Sylvia Colles  
Ron & Kathi Mitchell  
Anders Johanson  
Jon & Joanne Bauer  
John D. Hawkins  
Cindy & Russell Shinevar  
Kirk Heskitt  
Susan Jones  
**Life Members**  
Edmund McGarrell  
Ralph & Virgilene Koren  
Seneca Storm

## SPECIAL THANKS

*Donors and sponsors from October/November 2015*

**General Donations**  
Jason & Cindy Wilkinson  
Joe Rathbun  
RE Olds Foundation  
Cindy & Russell Shinevar  
Susan Jones  
Lisa Craven  
Douglas & Katharine Johnson  
Timothy Thelen  
Holly Shutler & Wonderful Giving

**Run-A-Munk Sponsors**  
Andrews, Hooper, Pavlik  
Foster, Swift, Collins, Smith  
Hearing Health Center  
Sylvia Colles  
Julie Pfeifle

**Your Current Membership Status Is Printed On The Address Label.  
Please Call (517) 322-0030 If You Have Any Questions.**

# Membership Levels

Level	Annual Dues	Benefits
Trail Sponsor	\$30	Annual parking pass, newsletter
Student/Senior	\$35	+ Discounts on gift shop items and select programs
Individual	\$40	Same as student/senior
Household	\$50	+ Camp discount
Lifetime	\$1,000 to endowment	+ Never have to renew!

## Membership and Donation Form

**Thank you  
for your  
support!**

**Online** Visit the membership page of our website at [woldumar.org](http://woldumar.org)

**Mail** Please fill out the information below and return with payment to  
**5739 Old Lansing Rd. Lansing, MI 48917**

This is a gift membership

### 1. Fill out member information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Choose membership level\*

- Trail Sponsor \$30
- Student/Senior \$35
- Individual \$40
- Household \$50
- Lifetime \$1,000 (to endowment)

### 3. Determine total payment amount

Membership Fees: \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Gift: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Annual Fund  
 Scholarships  
 Endowment

### 4. Choose payment type

- Cash
- Check
- Card

### 5. Complete billing information

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Same as member information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

### 6. Complete payment information

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

# A Message From the Director By Kevin Wernet

As we prepare to leave 2015 and embark upon a new year, I'm mindful of how far we've come in just a few short months, and I'm proud of the positive direction this organization is moving in.

Despite beginning the year under difficult circumstances with staffing changes and limited resources, 2015 was very good for Woldumar. We had a successful summer of Camp Discovery under Brittney's talented new leadership, with great enrollment, meaningful memories made outdoors, and all kinds of fun! Our fall Field Trip participation exceeded last year's numbers as well as the goals we established for this year. The American Heritage Festival and Run-A-Munk both drew impressive crowds, and membership has been growing steadily.

We have a dedicated and hard-working staff, but these successes wouldn't have happened without the support of a community that is passionate about Woldumar and its mission *to educate people about the natural environment*.

## **THANK YOU for your support in 2015!**

In 2016 we will continue to grow. You will see more opportunities to explore and discover nature with increased community programs on evenings and weekends. We have developed scholarship opportunities to engage even more schools and more families who need help sending their kids to Woldumar. We are in the process of developing new programs for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and an exciting opportunity for preschoolers is on the horizon.

We are developing new relationships with partners and sponsors to help us reach our goals in 2016, but community is and always has been at the heart of this organization, and your continued support is crucial to Woldumar's growth.

## **Please consider supporting our continuing efforts with a year-end contribution. As a private 501(c)3 non-profit, your gifts to Woldumar are tax-deductible. There are several ways to give:**

- If you're not already a member... become one! There are several different membership options available.
- Give someone you care about a gift membership this holiday season.
- Use the "Additional Gift" field on the membership form to contribute to Woldumar's annual fund.
- Use the "Additional Gift" field on the membership form to contribute to Woldumar's scholarship fund.
- Consider a gift to the Woldumar Endowment, to ensure that Woldumar stays strong for generations to come.

As always, please feel free to contact me with your suggestions and comments. Share your photos and stories with us on Facebook. If you have an interesting or unique experience at Woldumar or in nature, I'd love for you to write about it on our blog, or publish it in this newsletter. Woldumar is managed by its members, for its members, and for the local community. I hope 2016 will be a year of growing that community, serving that community in more and different ways, and increasing its involvement in this organization. I look forward to your participation and support!

Thank you,

Kevin Wernet  
Executive Director



**Consider a**  
**GIFT MEMBERSHIP**  
**for the holiday season!**

Give the gift of Woldumar membership by selecting  
"this is a gift membership" at the top of the membership form.