



# Waterloo News

## Past Board Member Spotlight Jennifer Punttenney

Jennifer retired from the WNHA Board last spring after devoting fifteen years to our mission. We were sorry to see her go and will miss her insights and contributions, but we are delighted to report that she is continuing her job as the purchaser of books in our gift shop.

### Board of Directors

#### Chairperson

Erik Zempel

#### Vice Chair/Membership

John Lixey

#### Secretary

LouAnn Eder

#### Treasurer

Wendy Broshar

#### Programs/Gift Shop

Kathy Claflin

#### Trustees

Bill Wells

Meg Gower

Jennifer Koppin

Patrick Muldoon

Gregg Burg

#### Park Interpreter

Open

During her time on the Board, she co-chaired and later chaired all of the special events put on by the Association. These included the Maple Sugar Festival, the annual meetings, and other programs and events. Twelve years ago she became our gift shop book buyer and is responsible for the exceptional variety of nature-themed books available. The native plant garden in front of the building was designed and planted by a 4-H group under the supervision of Jennifer and Carol Strahler.

Whenever special projects came up, we could always count on her to volunteer her time.

Jennifer's background in education and the natural sciences made her a perfect fit for being involved with the WNHA. She grew up in Kansas, got her undergraduate degree at Monmouth College in Illinois, and later got her Masters from the U-M School of Natural Resources. She taught for eight years at a Montessori school, spending her summers as an interpretive naturalist at Sleeping Bear Dunes. She coordinated visitor programs at the U-M Museum of Natural History in the 1980's and then began teaching science at the Ann Arbor Public Schools, first at Forsythe Middle School and later at Huron High School.

Jennifer is the proud grandmother of twin grandsons and a granddaughter who have benefitted from her love of nature. She often travels to Traverse City to do "Grannie duty."



### Discovery Center Building Hours Winter 2024\*

\*Saturday 10am-5pm

\*Sunday Noon-5pm

\*Dependent on staffing and center remodeling schedule

Closed Monday-Friday

Waterloo Recreation Area  
Trails and Grounds open  
From Dawn to Dusk Daily

A \$14 annual Recreation Passport is required for entry in the Waterloo Recreation Area. A self-pay station is located at the upper parking lot of the Discovery Center or at the Secretary of State with license plate renewal.



We are grateful to Jennifer for all the time she has donated to WNHA and for continuing to help with the gift shop!

*The Board of Directors are currently seeking individuals interested in enhancing the experience of the Waterloo Recreation Area. If you enjoy the outdoors and want to help continue the programming at the Discovery Center we invite you to email us at [waterloonha@gmail.com](mailto:waterloonha@gmail.com) and we will be happy to discuss the opportunities to become involved.*

# WATERLOO NAUTRAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

*January-March 2024*

***Please Note: The DNR is currently in the process of hiring a new park interpreter. \*See message from the chair.\* In addition, major renovations are in the works for the Discovery Center with no confirmed construction dates at this time. Programs may be meeting outdoors at the park pavilion next to the Discovery Center if building is not available. Weekend Discovery Center hours will resume when a new park interpreter is hired. We appreciate your patience and understanding as the park makes improvements for your future enjoyment.***



### WINTER ORIENTEERING

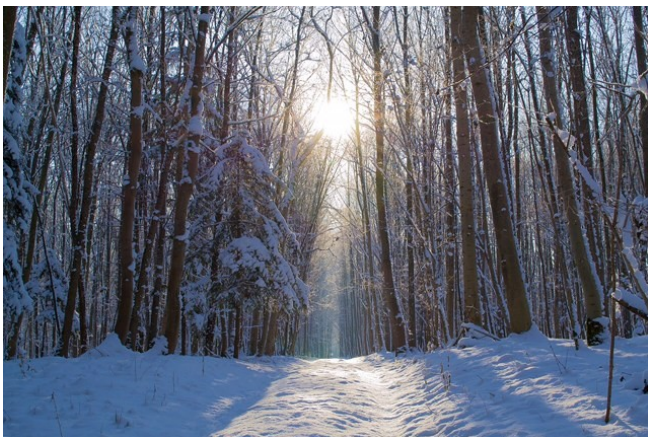
***Sunday, February 4***  
***2:00 – 4:00 p.m.***

Bring the family and challenge yourselves to an afternoon adventure in the forest with outdoor enthusiast Meg Gower. Winter is a great time of year for learning how to use a compass to find your way in the woods. This program is suitable for all ages and skill levels. Compasses will be provided or bring your own. **Please register at [waterloonha@gmail.com](mailto:waterloonha@gmail.com). Include your name, phone, and number of people attending.**

### VERNAL POOL PATROL

***Sunday, February 18***  
***2:00 – 3:00 p.m.***

From frozen frogs to floating fairies and fragile fingernail clams, Master Naturalist Doug Jackson shares the wonders of our enchanted woodland pools. Learn about the fascinating creatures that inhabit these pools and find out how you can participate in a statewide program collecting data about them. Your data will help to protect these often overlooked, yet delicate and important, ecosystems referred to as the coral reefs of the Midwest. **Free admission**  
**Please register at [waterloonha@gmail.com](mailto:waterloonha@gmail.com). Include your name, phone, and number of people attending.**



### NATURE IN WINTER

***Sunday, February 25***  
***2:00 – 3:30 p.m.***

Naturalist Robert Ayotte will lead a walk along the Discovery Center trails to find out about life in the forest in winter. Learn how to recognize some of our native plants and how they are adapted to survive the frigid temperatures. We will search for signs of animals, including their tracks if there is snow on the ground. Dress for the weather, and be prepared for icy trails. **Please register at [waterloonha@gmail.com](mailto:waterloonha@gmail.com). Include your name, phone, and number of people attending.**





## BIRDHOUSE PAINTING WORKSHOP FOR KIDS

*Sunday, March 3  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.*

Bring your child to the Discovery Center to paint a birdhouse for your garden. Steve Rogacki has donated wren houses for this event which were made in his woodshop. Paint and supplies will be provided. This workshop is appropriate for children ages seven and up and parents must attend with them. Dress for painting!

Cost: \$4 supply fee per birdhouse. Limit 2 per family. Program fees apply for non members.  
**15 Birdhouses available. Please register in advance at [waterloonha@gmail.com](mailto:waterloonha@gmail.com). Include your name, phone, and number of birdhouses you are requesting.**

## SNAKES AND TURTLES LIVE!

*Sunday, March 17  
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.*



Nature Discovery will present a fun and educational program about snakes and turtles that can be found in our state. Observe these intriguing creatures up close as you learn about their diverse life styles and survival skills. Following the program, you will have the opportunity to handle some of these gentle reptiles.

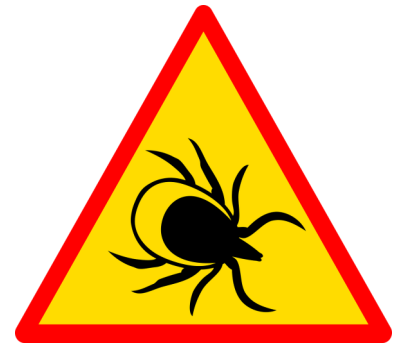
**Please register by calling 734-475-3170. Include your name, phone, and number of people attending.**



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MICHIGAN TICKS

*Sunday, March 24 - 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.*

Who wants to come home after a wonderful day outside to find a tick attached to them or their furry companion? NO ONE! Ticks unfortunately love the Michigan outdoors too, and the risk of tick-borne diseases is increasing. Come learn about these creatures and how to avoid them, so that you can continue to enjoy the great outdoors. **Please register by calling 734-475-3170. Include your name, phone, and number of people attending.**



**Advance reservations are requested for all programs!**

To make reservations email us at [waterloonha@gmail.com](mailto:waterloonha@gmail.com) with your name, phone number, and number in your party. An annual \$14 state passport is required for entry to the Eddy Discovery Center in the Waterloo Recreation Area located at 17030 Bush Road . To reach the Discovery Center from I-94 take exit 157, go north and follow the signs.

All WNHA sponsored indoor programs are \$2 per person or \$5 per family unless noted.

**WNHA members are admitted Free.**

**Please check our website [wnha.org](http://wnha.org) for additional information!**

## Don't Miss Out On More Fun Events at the Eddy Discovery Center!!!!



### OLD-TIME MAPLE SUGAR FESTIVAL

*Saturday, March 9*

*10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.*

*It's time for that traditional rite of spring –  
tapping maple trees.*

Take a guided walk to see various methods of collecting sap and how it is boiled down to make syrup. Antique equipment for making syrup will be on display from the Waterloo Farm Museum and maple products will be available for sampling and purchase. Perfect family activity to look forward to the coming spring!



*Free Event sponsored by the WNHA*



*No registration required!*

***Thanks to all who attended our annual meeting!***

Our first post-covid annual meeting was held Sunday November 12 at the Discovery Center. A brief meeting was held with a recap of the year and election of board members. We were then treated to a special interactive animal show from Science Alive! A fun time!



*Find us online at:  
**wnha.org***

*Like us on Facebook @  
**Friends of Waterloo Recreation Area***

*Follow us on Instagram @  
**friends\_of\_waterloo***



## *A Message from the Chair*

I write this letter, having arrived home about an hour ago after working all day moving 3 U-Hauls worth of my family's belongs into our new house. Of course, after having a noticeably warm December absent a white Christmas, Mother Nature decided to make it snow on our moving day. The snow made everything more difficult – the truck handled poorly on our little 2-track drive, it made for slippery footing for unloading the truck, and mud and snow got everywhere. It was a long, hard day.

But I had these moments of tranquility on my many trips back and forth, as I drove through that beautiful stretch of Waterloo where it borders M-52 north of town. Early in the morning, the frosty whispers of snow touched every branch and needle of every tree. Green Lake had just frozen completely over in the last day or two and was now a perfectly white expanse. It seems as though the entire park had gone to sleep under a crisp white blanket.

The Waterloo Recreation Area seems especially quiet this winter – though not because of the snow. If you've stopped by the Discovery Center recently you may have noticed that it is currently closed to visitors. As many of you know, Katie McGlashen, who has been the Park Interpreter going back many years, took on a new job leading the State's new initiative to send every fourth grader to a State Park. So until a new interpreter is hired, the center will remain closed. The good news is that the DNR has been great working with us – our Sunday programs were only slightly impacted and the Maple Sugar Festival is still on!

Winter serves as a reminder that quiet and stillness often precede significant transformation and growth. And while some might view winter as a period of inactivity, we know it as an essential period of rest, renewal, and preparation for the vibrant awakening of spring.

Until the snow melts and the first buds of spring arrive, I extend our warmest wishes for a restful winter to you.

*Erik Zempel, Chair*



### **GIFT SHOP OPEN ON WEEKENDS IN WINTER!**

(Subject to DNR staffing for 2024)

Visit the WNHA Discovery Center Gift Shop to find outdoor related gifts and books for all ages!

All proceeds benefit the Discovery Center Activities!



***Is it time for you to renew your membership?***

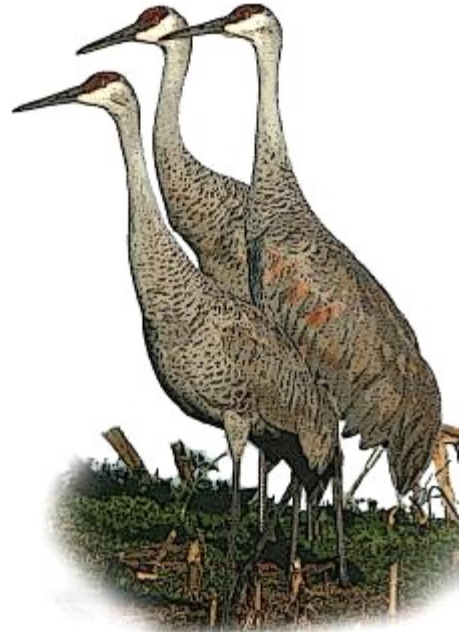
***Your address label will show your renewal month!***

***We appreciate your support of our organization and hope you will continue to be an important part of WNHA!***

Waterloo Natural History Association  
PO Box 504  
Chelsea, MI 48118



Official Newsletter of the Waterloo  
Natural History Association



**MEMBER'S CORNER** The Waterloo Natural History Association gratefully acknowledges the support of the following new members and those who have recently renewed their memberships September 2023 through December 2023.

**Individual**

Robert Ayotte  
Charlie Fredette

**Family**

Faye Stoner Ron Gamble  
James Eyster & Diana Newman  
Julia Hettich  
Stephen Jerant  
Karen & Michael McMahon  
Mallory Hall  
Jeremy Loe & Katherine Lixey  
Timothy & Anne Marvin  
Shannon Owsinski  
Connie & Mark Winters  
Margaret & Brian Kidston  
Linda & Arden Mahlberg  
Ralph & Barbara Powell  
Jessica Ricki  
Barbara Eby & Charles Arnold  
Danielle Doyle  
Chris Dzombak  
Tom & Alicia Lixey  
Monica Walter  
Jacqueline Demeuse  
Lee & John Burke

Steven Schwartz  
Priscilla Spencer  
Jack & Francey Wheeler  
John & Kathie Gourlay  
Jere & Nancy Hinkle

**Senior**

Lakota Grace  
Elizabeth Kinney  
Arlene Taylor  
Kerry Graves  
Patrick Hudson  
Margaret Hudson  
Susan Armstrong  
Lois Wightman  
Michael McEvoy  
Barbara Webb

**Benefactor**

Larry & Eileen Lanning  
Dave & Susan Horvath  
Faith & Ralph Krug  
Dayle & Steve Wright

**Sustaining**

Judy Gray

Connie & Mickey Kress  
Bob & Emilie Polens  
John & Becky Chamberlin  
Nancy Edminster  
Robert H. & D.Kay Kadlec  
Larry & Sarah Nooden  
Gretchen Zale  
Tom & Diane Zatkovich  
Megan McCall & Pat Muldoon

**Corporation**

Chelsea Milling Company

**Donations**

Elizabeth Kinney  
Bill & Cheryl Wells  
Annie's Children's Center  
Sue Jacobs, CPA In Kind

**Life**

Shirley Burg  
Maggie O'Sullivan & Craig Strambam

**Stephanie Doll\* New**

Jeff & LouAnn Eder  
Fisher Family

Daniel & Norma Green  
Rebecca Green  
Jane & Dan Hayes  
Tom & Sharon Hodgson  
Kathryn Issel  
Tom & Sandra Jameson  
Ian & Holly Kummer  
Joseph & Lorin Kummer  
Tom & Shirley Lancaster  
Heather Lane Issel  
Ms. Kay Lantis  
Peggy Liggitt  
John & Anne Mann  
Len Niehoff  
Deborah & Bruce Oakley  
Sue Phare

**Jennifer E. Puntenney\*New**

Dave & Joanne Rowe  
Sally A. Stommen D.D.S.  
Carol Strahler  
Mary Waldyke  
**Guerin Wilkinson\*New**  
Walter Wojtysiak

*Thanks to Chelsea Update*

Save Postage!! Join, donate, or renew your membership online through our secure website!!

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