Join us on September 26 for a day rich in history, tradition, and local culture. Step back into the 1860s with traditional crafting demonstrations and living history actors at the Moon Log Cabin; take a ride through Woldumar’s prairie and pine forest in a covered wagon; glide down the Grand River as you take in the beauty of fall in mid-Michigan; and support local artisans at the outdoor vendor market. Live performances by the Pretty Shaky String Band, The Further Adventures of FatBoy and Jive Turkey, and banjo player Randy Markey will be taking place throughout the day as well as craft activities for kids and naturalist-led hikes through Woldumar’s trails. Organizations such as the Greater Lansing Wood Carvers, the Capitol City Quilters, and the Lansing Model Railroad Club will be sharing their talents among dozens of other local crafters and educators. There are still opportunities to participate in this annual celebration! We are searching for vendors, sponsors, and volunteers to help us make this year’s festival the best one yet. For more information on how you can get involved, call 517-322-0030 or e-mail katie@woldumar.org.

Woldumar Camp Discovery was a wild success this summer. We would like to thank you for supporting a program that educates, inspires, and encourages kids to play outside. Without people like you, we would not be able to serve our community. This summer our campers had the opportunity to take risks, grow, and learn new skills in a natural setting. Our counselors were committed to creating an environment where everyone’s voices were heard, bullying was not acceptable, and diversity was celebrated. Many campers got to experience pontoon boat rides, fishing, pond dipping, shelter building, and other activities that take them beyond a classroom setting. Again, we thank you for supporting our efforts to provide these services. Looking forward, winter camp is around the corner. We will be spending our days playing winter games, fishing, sledding, making art, and learning winter wilderness survival skills. There will also be a Woldumar Winter Olympics event! We hope to see you and your children for a winter good time. If you have any questions please call (517) 322-0030 or you can email camp@woldumar.org.

American Heritage Festival
September 26, 10am-5pm
Woldumar’s annual celebration of mid-Michigan culture. Now searching for vendors, sponsors, entertainers, and volunteers!

Run-A-Munk 5K Trail Run
November 7
A 5K fundraising event on Woldumar’s trails. Register online before October 19 for an early registration discount!

Bring a Bit of Woldumar to Your Own Backyard!
By Katie Whitecar
At the Woldumar Visitor Center, we love to take some time out of our day to watch the birds gracefully flutter around our feeders. Goldfinches snack on thistle while downy woodpeckers and blue jays duke it out for the last remaining sunflower seeds, creating an experience for viewers that is both entertaining and educational. Take this experience home with you by purchasing from our new stock of bird seed and feeders in the gift shop. Our selection includes a variety of seed mixes and feeders perfect for birdwatchers of all levels. Call 517-322-0030 to save some time and order ahead! See reverse side for our fall gift shop hours, or stop by our booth at the American Heritage Festival.
Summer Weddings at Woldumar  By Victoria Churchill

This summer, Woldumar’s RE Olds Anderson Rotary Barn has been buzzing with activity. The barn, once a home to dairy cows, is now used to host programs that teach children and adults about the wonders of our surrounding natural environment. On the weekends, couples come out to celebrate the most important day of their lives: their wedding day!

The Woldumar rentals team has worked hard to ensure that couples and their guests can enjoy every aspect of their day in one of the most memorable spaces the Lansing area has to offer. The rich history of the Hal and Jean Glassen auditorium, a common reception space, brings a warm nostalgic feeling to wedding guests as they gaze upon the vintage string lighting and take in the sweet aroma of aged pine. The nature surrounding Woldumar also adds to the allure and romance of the location. From the soaring birds to the curious woodchucks to vibrant wildflowers and lush green canopy of walnut trees at the Walnut Glen Amphitheatre - a popular ceremony site - nature is alive, in full bloom, and beautiful as ever.

The revenue from our wedding rentals always goes back into our mission to educate people about the natural environment, so we are thankful for the couples who see the beauty of Woldumar and choose to share their special day with us.
On July 23, Woldumar had the privilege to host, and I had the privilege to participate in, a 2.5 mile “fun run” (contradicting terms for some, I’m sure). The free event was co-sponsored by Subway Restaurants and Playmakers, and welcomed over 500 participants on what eventually turned into a gorgeous Thursday evening. The program was intended to build healthy habits within our community, while generating awareness of local parks and trails. Participants were encouraged to make donations to Woldumar, which they did with great generosity. A big “THANK YOU” is owed to Andy Marsh, Rob Antcliff, and all of the Playmakers staff who made the event possible.

While much of what we do at Woldumar focuses on the discovery and understanding of science and nature, we shouldn’t overlook how a nature center contributes to the health and wellness of our community. It’s a rare day when we don’t bump into someone out the trails finishing up their daily run, walk, or hike. My parents often took me to Woldumar as a child to hike or ski, which set me on the path of healthy living. Our camp programs and school field trips feature active, educational games that involve running, jumping, chasing and tagging, and this November we will host participants of all ages at our 8th annual Run-A-Munk Walk/Run fundraiser. Beyond physical fitness, research consistently finds that spending time in nature reduces stress, lowers blood-pressure, and aids in the treatment of many mental health ailments.

As Executive Director, I am proud that we serve as a resource for maintaining the health of our community, and I am similarly responsible for maintaining the health of this organization.

Over the past year, Woldumar has faced significant financial and organizational challenges. Like a runner training for his or her event, we began an enduring and deliberate approach towards sustainability. We are making real progress, but a community-based non-profit like Woldumar must build community in order to succeed. Above all else, a strong, involved membership is critical to Woldumar’s organizational health. Our members are our decision makers, our gardeners and trail crews, and our spokespeople throughout Greater Lansing. If you’re not currently a member, I urge you to become a part of our community by joining or renewing today.

Back when I had more time on my hands (read: before I was the father of four), I spent a brief few years training for and competing in a number of “fun run” events. Whether I finished first or last, I learned how powerful and inspirational a community can be, as months of training were rewarded by crowds gathered at the finish line, cheering and supporting the runners. That kind of support pushes you to achieve goals that wouldn’t otherwise be possible. Woldumar likewise needs enthusiastic supporters as we strive to be a fundamental resource for the Greater Lansing community.

Kevin Wernet
Executive Director

Visit the membership page of our website at woldumar.org
Please fill out the information below and send form with payment to 5739 Old Lansing Rd, Lansing, MI 48917

1. Fill out member information
Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________
Primary Phone: ____________________________ E-mail: ____________________________
Secondary Phone: ____________________________

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: $ ____________
Total: $ ____________

4. Choose payment type
☐ Cash
☐ Check
☐ Credit Card

5. Complete payment information
Check #: ____________________________ Exp. Date: ___ / ___
Card #: ____________________________
Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express

* See reverse side for full list of membership level fees and benefits
One of the best characteristics of Woldumar is its historical connections to some of the most influential members of Lansing’s past. The Woldumar property originally belonged to Gladys Olds Anderson, daughter of automobile pioneer R.E. Olds. It was donated to the Woldumar Nature Association over 50 years ago to be used for environmental education efforts. With that gift came a large dairy barn, which was dubbed the title of R.E. Olds Anderson Rotary Barn in 2004 when Rotary Clubs in the area helped with major renovations. Since that time, Woldumar has used the space for camps, school programs, and community events, making it an invaluable asset to our environmental education efforts.

In July of this year, a visitor nominated Woldumar to be the recipient of Lansing State Journal’s Make a Difference Day Grant, which would provide us with funds and volunteers to re-paint the R.E. Olds Anderson Rotary Barn. Woldumar made it to the online voting round, and the support we gained was phenomenal; Woldumar had a strong lead for the majority of the time that voting was open. Our lead was swept away during the final hours, which was a disappointment to say the least, but it was a great encouragement to have the support of over 2,000 individuals during that voting week.

A few weeks after the voting had closed, we were approached by Mike Moquin, a volunteer who wanted to help us by painting some of the trouble spots on the barn. He graciously donated his time and supplies for this project, and we were once again astounded by the kindness and support of the community. Art Kyler, a long-time volunteer and lifetime member of Woldumar, saw the importance of a fresh coat of paint and referred us to a company that had recently painted his own barn. Seeing our need, a representative from the painting company gave us a discounted quote, but he mentioned there was a small timeframe in which he would be able to complete the job.

We quickly launched an online campaign in an attempt to raise the funds needed to re-paint the barn. With your help, we were able to raise almost 50% of the necessary funds over one weekend—a true testament to the positive change that can come about with the help of a community. The majority of the barn was painted the next week, and only a small unpainted section remains. Once again, Mike Moquin has stepped in, offering to help with volunteer labor and a donation of supplies to finish the last portion of this project.

We are incredibly thankful for the volunteers and donors who have stepped forward to help with this project. Woldumar exists for our constituents and by our constituents; the benefits of Woldumar’s accomplishments exist because of the tremendous support of the community and are enjoyed by many. If you would like to donate your time, funding, and/or expertise towards the completion of this project, please contact us at 517-322-0030.

NEW membership levels

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<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Annual Dues</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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<td>Annual parking pass, newsletter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student/Senior</td>
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<td>+ Discounts on gift shop items and select programs</td>
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<td>+ Camp discount</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$1,000 to endowment</td>
<td>+ Never have to renew!</td>
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