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.

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!

Woldumar in Winter by Brittney Cox

Backyard Birthing
Dec 9, 6:30-7:30pm
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
Dec 21-23, 28-30
Woldumar winter wonderland fun for students kindergarten-8th grade.

By Brittney Cox

• For children in grades K-8
• Sessions run 9-4 each day
• Register at woldumar.org

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

I can teach anyone to use their camera

SAVE THE DATE!

Open Skate on the Woodland Pond
Saturdays in Jan
Open Skate 9:10-10:30
Sticks & Pucks
10:30-NOON

Woldumar in Winter

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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!
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 Woolege
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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New and renewed memberships from October/November 2015

Richard & Janice Bernsten
John & Diane Revitte
Ron & Mary Juntonen
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 & Virginele 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 Shutter & Wonderful Giving

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

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

**Membership and Donation Form**

- **Online** Visit the membership page of our website at 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: ______________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
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

Total: __________________________

4. Choose payment type

☐ Cash
☐ Check
☐ Card

5. Complete billing information

☐ Same as member information

Name: __________________________
Phone: __________________________
Address: __________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

6. Complete payment information

Check #: __________________________
Card #: __________________________ Exp. Date: _____/_____
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 Brittnay’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.