Once a week I take a twenty minute walk to the river before I start my day of programming. I have noticed the morning dew is now turning to frost and the leaves of orange, yellow, and red are blowing away from the northern wind. It is a perfect time of year to have lunch by the river, or even breakfast. Fish are breaching the surface, largemouth bass are fattening up for the winter, and the habitat is changing right before our eyes.

Autumn is my favorite time of year. Football season is in full swing, the Detroit Red Wings are continuing their quest to extend their playoff berth record, and hunters in camouflage and orange are making up stories about whitetail the size of moose. This time of year deer are in full rut and the mixed forest holds many clues as to their whereabouts. If you get a chance, come to Woldumar and search oak and maple trees for "buck rubs." You will also find tracks and scat along the forest floor. Speaking of animal tracks, squirrels are also making their presences known. Walnuts and acorns have been chewed and stored for the anticipated snowfall. I was recently leading a group of 5th grade students and one student said “the squirrels are bombarding us with walnuts!” Gotta love kids!

I hope you will have the chance to experience Woldumar Nature Center in the fall. It truly is a wonderful feeling walking through the woods with a hint of Jack Frost nipping at your nose. Perhaps I will see you out there. Please feel free to stop into the Visitor Center during open hours to say hello!
8TH ANNUAL
RUN-A-MUNK
5K TRAIL RUN
NOVEMBER 7 9:30AM
visit woldumar.org/events to register

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
New and renewed memberships from August/September 2015

Patricia Huebner
Frank Tegge
William Schaner
Terri Edick
Jenny & Eileen Schneider
Norman Eastman
Jacqueline Wood
Robert Wasserman
Howard Hedlund
Dale, Jan & Anne Dodds
Gordie & Michelle Frederick
Brittney Cox
Stephen & Karen Cessna
Linda Baes
Larry & Sarah Stump
Frederic & Sandy Lammert

George & Annette Ryan
Steve & Susan Greene
Andre & Judith Friedlis
Joyce Hensley
David Cooper
Eugene Wasserman
Win Stebbins
Susan Kendall
Dave & Ada Kidd
Randy & Vickie Karcher
Phil Kline
Mark Bolla
Elizabeth Rice & David Hill
Ronald Planten
Bradley Scherer
Michael Perry

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS
Donors and sponsors from August/September 2015

Barn Painting Fundraiser
Jim & Chris Stiles
Barbara Schmidt
Tim Golisch
Michael Wacyk
Lee Villarreal
Daniel & Janet Van Acker
Todd & Maureen Miller
Daniel & Sharon Wanderer
Mike Moquin & Julia Spalding

American Heritage Festival
Harry O. Culp Insurance
A Complete Rental

General Donations
Patricia Huebner
Terri Edick
JB McCombs
Jacqueline Wood
Robert Wasserman
Howard Hedlund
Juan Vonetti
Linda Baes
Eugene Wasserman
Ronald Planten

Grand Pointe Marina
Sandy Walter
(in memory of Gordon Walter)
I recently had lunch with a longtime family friend. After exchanging personal updates, the conversation turned to Woldumar. I described some of the challenges and some of the successes we’ve experienced in recent months, and how I’ve weathered my transition from a very hands-on educational role to a purely administrative one (I’ll tell you, the ability to reduce stress by stepping out of the office into a small, quiet, peaceful park is a definite benefit of this job!) After listening politely for a few minutes, he confided in me that although he is a longtime area resident who walks at Woldumar regularly, he wasn’t sure what we actually DO here.

Odds are, if you’re receiving this newsletter, you probably do have a good idea of what goes on at Woldumar. You know about our educational camps and school field trip programs. You know that we host annual festivals and a variety of community programs throughout the year, as well as private events like weddings and birthday parties. Of course we maintain the trails, grounds and Visitor Center for walk-in use by the public. It may not seem like a lot, but from one day to the next, our small staff is a flurry of activity in this small, quiet, peaceful park!

This month, our small staff is going to get a little bit smaller. For the past year and a half, Katie Whitecar has served as Woldumar’s Associate Director of Development and Outreach. Katie has made her mark coordinating volunteer projects, planning festivals and events, issuing press releases, managing the gift shop, designing publications, and generally assisting the organization through a bumpy chapter in our history. Katie is leaving to pursue some adventures around the globe before returning state-side to plan her next move. On behalf of Woldumar’s Board of Directors and her fellow staff members, I’d like to wish Katie safe travels and all the best of luck in whatever comes next. You will be greatly missed at Woldumar!

For the rest of us, the flurry is going to become just a little bit “flurrier” in Katie’s absence… just in time for winter, too! We have some exciting winter events right around the corner, so please check our events page regularly! As always, your membership and volunteer support are critical to Woldumar’s success, so please feel free to stop by, swap some stories, share your wildlife sightings, and become more involved in this great community organization!

By Kevin Wernet

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**Please Join Us**

**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: __________________________________________________________

   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: ____________________________

   Total: ____________________________

4. Choose payment type

   □ Cash
   □ Check
   □ Card

5. Complete billing information

   □ Same as member information

   Name: __________________________________________________________

   Address: __________________________________________________________

   Street _______ City _______ State _______ Zip _______

   Phone: __________________________________________________________

6. Complete payment information

   Check #: ____________________________ Exp. Date: _____/_____

   Card #: ____________________________ Exp. Date: _____/_____
Gene Wasserman, a Haslett resident, Board member of the Michigan Bluebird Society and owner of WoodCraft Kits (a not-for-profit hobby/business) will present a short talk on feeding birds. This presentation will include information on identifying common Michigan songbirds, landscaping to provide food and shelter, and information on preventing house sparrows.

Gene will then guide a workshop on how to build a Hopper Seed Feeder ($22), a Suet Feeder ($17) and a small Peanut Butter/Suet Feeder ($8) from a WoodCraft Kit. If you wish to attend the presentation but not purchase a feeder, it is $5 per person. These feeders will attract many of the birds common to Michigan. The kits are easy to build for birders of all ages! They are made of cedar and will be ready to use by the birds. The presentation will be approximately 30 to 60 minutes and kits take about 20 to 40 minutes to build. Contact Gene Wasserman for more info.

517-339-1161 • woodcraftkits@hotmail.com • www.geneswoodcraftkits.com
Visit woldumar.org/events to register

NEW Membership Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Annual Dues</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>Same as student/senior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>+ Camp discount</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>+ Never have to renew!</td>
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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.