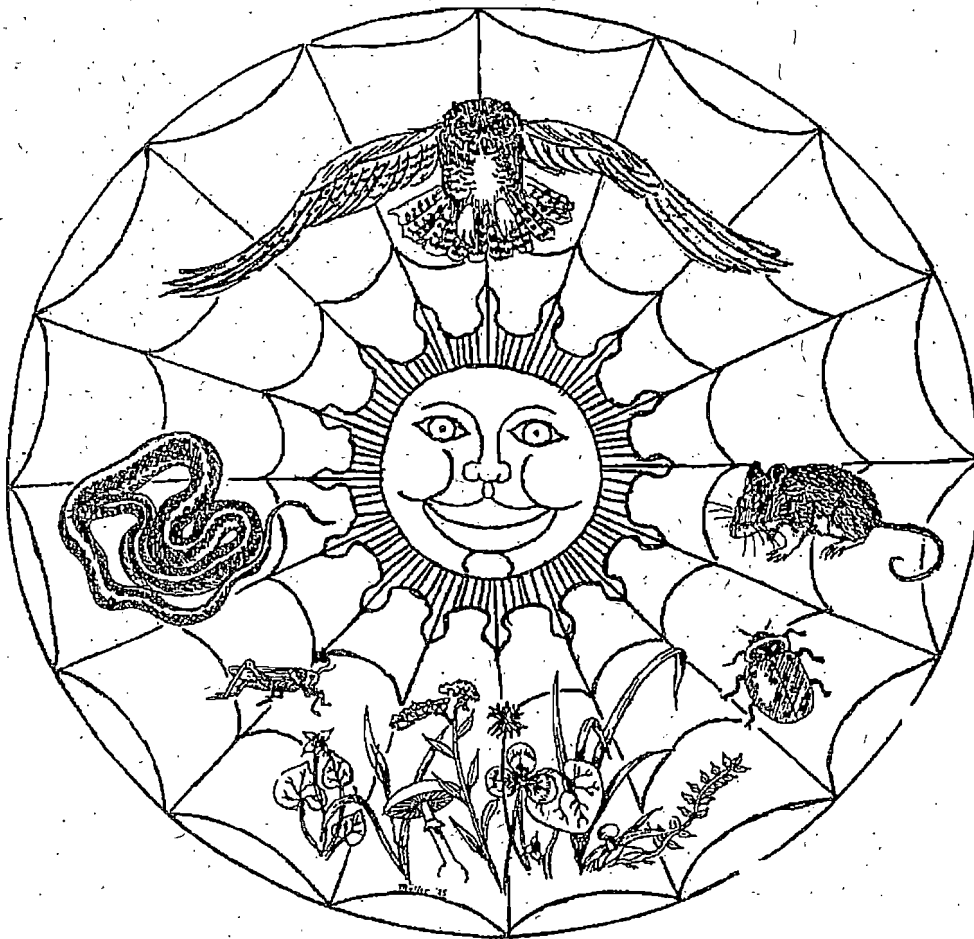


## **EATON COUNTY NATURALIST PROGRAMS**

If you are thinking of ways to enhance your curriculum, why not try a field trip to a local park for a program led by the Eaton County Parks Naturalist. If a field trip doesn't suit your needs, I can come to your classroom. Environmental education is an informal discussion that involves each student through questioning and hands on activities. I use a variety of visual and hands on displays to convey the topic message during classroom programs. Please see the field trip and general topic lists for a topic of interest to you. If there is a topic you wish to discuss with your class, that doesn't appear on the list, I would be happy to design a program for you. Please call me at least two weeks in advance to arrange for a special topic program.



### ***JACKIE BLANC, NATURALIST***

Eaton County Parks and Recreation  
133 Fitzgerald Park Drive  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837-9766  
517-627-7351  
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## **FIELD TRIP TOPICS**

General Tour - This field trip can be done any season. It gives students an overview of what they can find outside by using their senses. We will talk about birds, flowers, trees, rocks, and mammals. Anything else of interest to the group will be investigated.

From an Ocean Came the Ledges - Your class can learn the natural and cultural history of the Ledges. The scientific processes of rock formation and weathering will be discussed. We will look at actual fossils and walk the Ledges Trail.

Friends or Foes? - Take a walk with the Naturalist and learn about animal characteristics and behaviors. Depending on the age of the students we can talk about ecological topics such as habitat, niche, and adaptation. Please specify when making reservation.

Batten Down the Hatches - This is a great fall program. Your students will discover what happens to all the animals and insects as they get ready for winter. This program can be extended into the winter months. We will walk on the trails searching for animal tracks and burrows.

Park Plants - This usually makes a great spring program. Come out and see the beautiful spring wildflowers. Activities can be designed for all ages. For example we can study topics ranging from colors, shapes, and smells to reproduction, adaptations, and plant uses.

Nature Walk at Your Site - Your school yard and surrounding natural areas are habitats. During the walk, we will discover what lives there. The students will be shown and made aware of the nature around them.

Night Hike - Participation in a night time exploration of animals, planets, stars, and self. Contents: astronomy, night sounds, animal behavior, fear, and adaptation. This program is only offered at night.

Cemetery Visit - A look at local area history through the investigation of grave markers. Contents: burial, epitaph, weathering, properties of stone, early American lifestyle, life span, symbols, and beliefs about death.

## **GENERAL TOPICS**

Astronomy - Study constellations, stars, sun, and planets. Contents: star legends, mathematics, direction, motion, phases of the moon, and sky occurrences. This program is offered day and night with some modifications.

Conservation - Conservation of natural resources which are closely associated with agriculture and land use. Contents: Utilization, human needs, preservation, natural resources, and man's role in the natural environment.

Energy - A look into the force that keeps modern society in existence. An examination of how energy affects our lives and what can be done to conserve our diminishing supplies. Contents: alternative technology, energy properties, conservation, and societal needs.

Water Conservation - A look into the importance of water. How water affects our lives and what can be done to conserve water during our daily use.

Ever-Changing Earth - An investigation of imprints captured in stone that were made by organisms of the past, as well as how the earth constantly changes. Contents: geologic time, environmental change, fossilization, properties of various rocks, and weathering.

Weather - An introduction to meteorology. Contents: meteorology, weather, forecasting, environmental measures, and the water cycle.

Animal Life - An examination of characteristics and interactions between animals. Contents: adaptation, predation, life cycles, energy cycles, classification, animal observation, and animal tracks.

Nature's Communities - Exploring animal habitats and ecological communities to discover how basic survival needs are met through interaction of community members and their environment. Contents: survival needs, wildlife management, animal homes, natural and human communities, territorial behavior, successional change, interrelationships, life processes, and life needs.

Wetland Ecology - An ecological look at plant life, animal life, and physical components of a pond and a stream. Contents: pond succession, distribution of organisms, watershed, adaptations, community, water cycle, reptiles and amphibians, habitat, and characteristics.

Forest Through the Trees - Depending upon the season, an exploration of the various trees in the woods to include characteristics, leaf coloration, and forest management. Contents: patterns, adaptation, change, interdependence, diversity, characteristic identification, deciduous trees, evergreen trees, seasonal changes, growth, and value.

Maps and Compass - An introduction to the use and reading of maps as well as the basic concepts of the magnetic compass. Contents: area, compass work, directions, distance, measurement, and pacing.

Outdoor Chef - An introduction to the different types of fires and methods of cooking outdoors. Contents: Measurement, fire building, cooking, menu planning, nutrition, health, and safety.

Indian Life - A study of Indian culture, dwellings, tribes, and livelihood. Contents: history, role-playing, stalking, sign language, fire building, demography, architecture, customs, and lifestyles.

Sensory Awareness - An experience designed for deepening awareness of self, nature, and other people. Contents: five senses, cooperation, self and group trust, sensitivity to and appreciation of the environment.

## **NATIONAL WILDLIFE SLIDE SETS:**

We Care About Eagles

This Is Your Land

Let's Clean The Air

Water We Can't Live Without It

Predators!

## **OTHER PROGRAMS OFFERED**

Trees of Michigan  
Weather Folklore  
Conservation and Art  
Soil; A Living Entity  
Bac Pac Man; Hiking and Backpacking  
Hunter Safety  
Ice Fishing  
\*Cross Country Skiing Techniques  
Geology  
Water and Water Quality  
Birds; Sights and Sounds  
Insects and Honeybees  
Forestry; Measurement of a Tree  
Habitats; Create an Animal  
Ecosystems  
\*Nature at Night  
Creative Expression  
What's Happening? An Overview of the Eaton County Parks and Recreation  
Department

Freddy the Fungus  
Mammals of Michigan  
Forest Fires and Prevention  
Winter Survival Skills  
Woodland Management  
Junior Angler; Fishing Techniques  
Windbreaks; What Do They Do?  
Soil Conservation  
Nature Expression  
\*Nature Scavenger Hunt  
Animal Homes  
Web of Life  
\*Wildflower Walk  
\*Camping  
Scout Badge Work  
Rita Reduce (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)  
For Goodness SSSSnakes

\*Denotes Field Activity Only

## **YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW**

- Programs are free to groups within Eaton County. There is a \$15 program fee for non-county groups.
- Weather is always unpredictable, so make sure your students dress accordingly. We will go out in light rain. If you have questions or concerns about the weather or want to cancel or reschedule your program, please call the morning before your program.
- I can more effectively teach your students if they are in small groups of 15 to 20. If your class is larger, we can make arrangements to divide them up into smaller groups and have different stations of activities.
- Picnic sites are available at Fitzgerald, Fox, and Lincoln Brick Parks to school groups, who have a program with the Naturalist during the week, at no cost. If you would like a picnic site, please tell the Naturalist when making program reservations.
- Please provide chaperons.