



# Walking the Woods

Summer 2008

## Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve



### I'm Not a Biology Major

I'm an English major.

Visitors to the BIC may wonder how I ended up at this job when they discover my lack of environmental knowledge and reluctance to teach. I have

worked as a program assistant for the past two year at the BIC, but my husband and I are soon to leave Calvin and Grand Rapids behind.

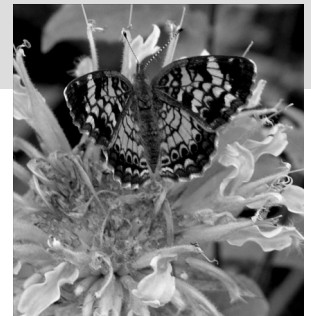
Researching for displays and other materials has taught me much about God's creation and fostered a curiosity for local natural history that will accompany me wherever I may travel in the future. And exposure to green thinking made me realize there are easy and practical ways every person can care for creation. I will miss my office window overlooking South Pond, feeding the frogs in the terrarium, and having fun with the people at the Ecosystem Preserve. But whatever I end up doing next, I'm thankful to take with me my new-found excitement about becoming green and studying natural history. ~ Rita Schneider

*Note: Rita and her husband moved to California in July. She is missed by us all!*

### Becoming Green: Native Landscaping

Consider using native plants in your garden:

- Native plants attract native pollinators and seed eaters
- Native plants mean less yard work and chemical inputs



- Native plants provide important sources of genetic diversity for wild populations
- Native plants help connect us to our home place

Visit the Web site of the Wildflower Association of Michigan ([www.wildflowersmich.org](http://www.wildflowersmich.org)) and see the "Sources of Native Plants" page for a list of Michigan businesses that supply native plants.

For inspiration, visit the new butterfly house and check out the native plants we just planted.

### Thank you!

Over \$2000 was raised from our Native Plant Sale on May 3 to help support the Wetland and Woodlands Summer Camp.

## Upcoming Educational Programs & Events

Mark your calendars now to attend the following program:

*September 6, 2008 " Beautiful Impressions" 10:00 to 11:00 am*

Even the smallest leaf has an amazing design. Come to the Ecosystem Preserve and look at it from an artist's perspective! We will collect leaves, twigs, stones, petals and other natural materials in the preserve and make sun prints of them to take home. This is a hands-on program perfect for families with children from age 5 to 10. Enrollment is limited to 25 people.

To register please call 616-526-7601

or email [preserve@calvin.edu](mailto:preserve@calvin.edu).

Proverbs 31:8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves..."

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## Hours

### Bunker Interpretive Center

Monday—Friday 9 am to 5 pm

Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

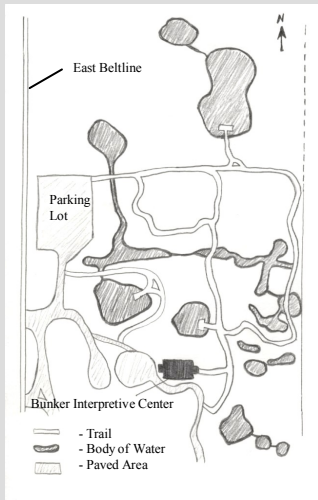
(school year only)

Closed Sunday

### Trails

Open Daily

Dawn –Dusk



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*Walking the Woods* is published quarterly as an educational connection to Calvin staff and students, neighbors, volunteers, and friends who support the Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve with their involvement and care.

## Critter Corner

### Viceroy

*Limenitis archippus*

The Viceroy closely resembles a Monarch: its wings are rusty to reddish orange above, with black veins and white spotted, black outer margins.

### Monarch or Viceroy?

#### Viceroy:

- Have a black band across the hind-wings.
- Are smaller
- Hold their wings partly open when they rest. Monarchs close their wings.
- Make a few quick beats, then glide when flying. Monarchs are steady fliers.



Viceroy



Monarch

Caterpillar: resembles a bird dropping; brown or olive, mottled

Habitat: meadows and wetlands

#### Native Nectar Plants:

Asters, Black-berry, Golden-rods, Joe-pye Weed, Thistles

Native Host Plant: Willow

**Nectar Plant:**  
provides food for adult butterflies  
**Host Plant:**  
provide food for caterpillars

## Unplugged: Connecting Children with Nature

*The purpose of this column is to provide you with some small ways you can get the children you know outdoors and enjoying God's creation.*



Things with wings seem to on my mind this summer with our Winged Wonders Summer Camp and working on the Butterfly House. Children and adults alike are fascinated by creatures that fly and insects in general. One of the simplest and easiest ways to pass a lazy summer afternoon is to go on an insect hunt. As far as equipment

needed, empty peanut butter jars with holes poked in the top work well for observing insects, an umbrella, and a quick set of hands (which most children have) are all you need. A local field with lots of tall grass works well for observing and catching an assortment of insects. However, in case you do not have any fields next to your house place an open umbrella upside down underneath a tree or shrub and gently shake the tree. With some luck you should get some tree loving insects in your umbrella. Encourage your children to spend time observing the insects, watching what they are doing, and letting them go where they were found. Our campers had a hard time with the letting go part. This is something you just need to keep reinforcing over time. Now for those who want to try catching butterflies and dragonflies you will need a aerial net. (Acorn Naturalist sells some great nets and a ton of other fun books and science equipment [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com).) After an afternoon of chasing around and observing grasshoppers, butterflies, and more, your children will be exhausted but yearning to spend more time outside. For more hands-on activities with insects check out [Insectigations](#) by Cindy Bloom at the Grand Rapids Public Libraries. ~ Jeanette

For a rainy afternoon below is a list of my favorite storybooks about insects...

[Bugs!](#) -David T. Greenberg

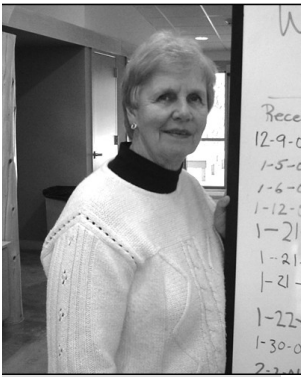
[Diary of a Fly](#) - Doreen Cronin

[Mosquito Bite](#) -Alexandra Siy

[Crickwing](#)- Janell Cannon

[Waiting for Wings](#) - Lois Ehlert

[The Very Quiet Cricket](#) -Eric Carle



## Get to know Carole Gaiser

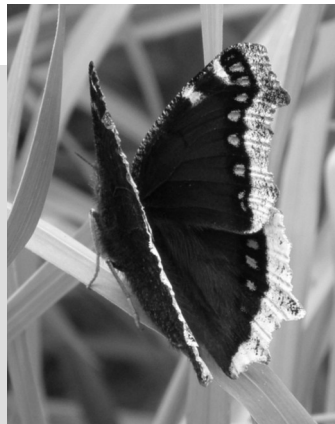
- Carole volunteers as an educational program leader
- She began volunteering here six years ago
- Whiskey Pond is her favorite place on the preserve, especially when there are baby ducks, because it fits so well with the third-grade program on Habitats. "The Pyramid of Life game we play with the third-graders is so meaningful... The balance of nature and the damage the use of pesticides does is something they can take with them for the rest of their lives."

"I started before the BIC was built. It's so great and just keeps getting better and better."

## Volunteer Opportunity

### Fall Program Leaders Needed

For those who enjoy working with children and sharing their love of the outdoors, program leaders are needed to lead elementary school groups through the preserve. Leaders need to be knowledgeable about Michigan flora and fauna and/or be willing to learn, and able to communicate their knowledge in a professional and educational way. Prior experience teaching or working with children preferred. Programs take place in September to November 2008 during school days from 9 am to 2:30 pm. Time commitments vary. Training provided. For more information please contact Jeanette Henderson, Program Manager, at (616) 526-7601 or [preserve@calvin.edu](mailto:preserve@calvin.edu).



## my delight

Though you have made the earth for your delight, I walk your woods and find in hemlock, pine, and poplar shelter from the burning of your sun and fuel to warm me when your cold descends.

I find streaming from the hillside clean water that slakes my thirst, and in the wildness of its flow, trout that feed my hunger.

At your meadow's edge, I pluck raspberries from the cane and wonder at the thrasher in the briars.

With every turn I find extravagance—the unending revelation of your joy's abundance. What other end should I imagine for goldenrod and buttercup, for bloodroot, trillium, and phlox, for jack-in-the-pulpit and Queen Anne's lace, for coltsfoot, mullein, vetch, and lily, for loosestrife and forget-me-not? I am confounded.

What harmony within yourself led you to make your pleasure and my needs be one?

What awful purpose then led you to place your pleasure in my keeping?

What discord now tempts me to seize what you have made and call it mine?

The fitness of this place for my abode portends a grace beyond my strength to hold.

I must be held or fall.

With these words affirming my delight, I yield my inclination to name my own what can be only yours.

Let my delight be as it must yours and yours alone.

~Cheryl Hoogewind  
Preserve Manager 1998 to 2007

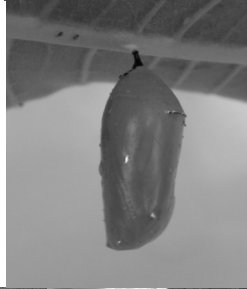
## We appreciate your work!

Marge Hoogeboom's work as a volunteer at the Preserve has inspired many. Fellow volunteer Sharon Bajema says, "She and Cheryl Hoogewind, her daughter, were great mentors." We will miss you Marge and we wish you well as you pursue your other interests. Thanks for volunteering your time and talents these past few years.



# Spring and Summer Fun

- Over 750 students from 15 local schools attended our spring educational programs.
- Around 70 children participated in our summer camp programs.
- Planting in the butterfly house is well underway.
- Two landscape triptychs and 10 banners are exhibited in the main display hallway of the BIC.



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Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve and Bunker Interpretive Center

MINDS IN THE MAKING

CALVIN

