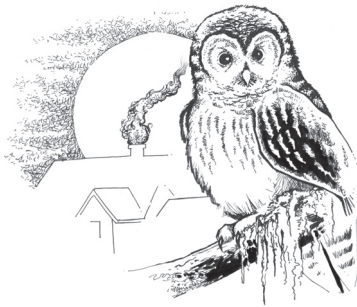


Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve
P.O. Box 421
Roscommon, MI 48653



Gahagan Open House/General Membership Meeting

Sunday, September 21, 2014 1-4 PM
Beverages and finger food -- Program begins at 1:30
Your invitation and details begin on Page 1

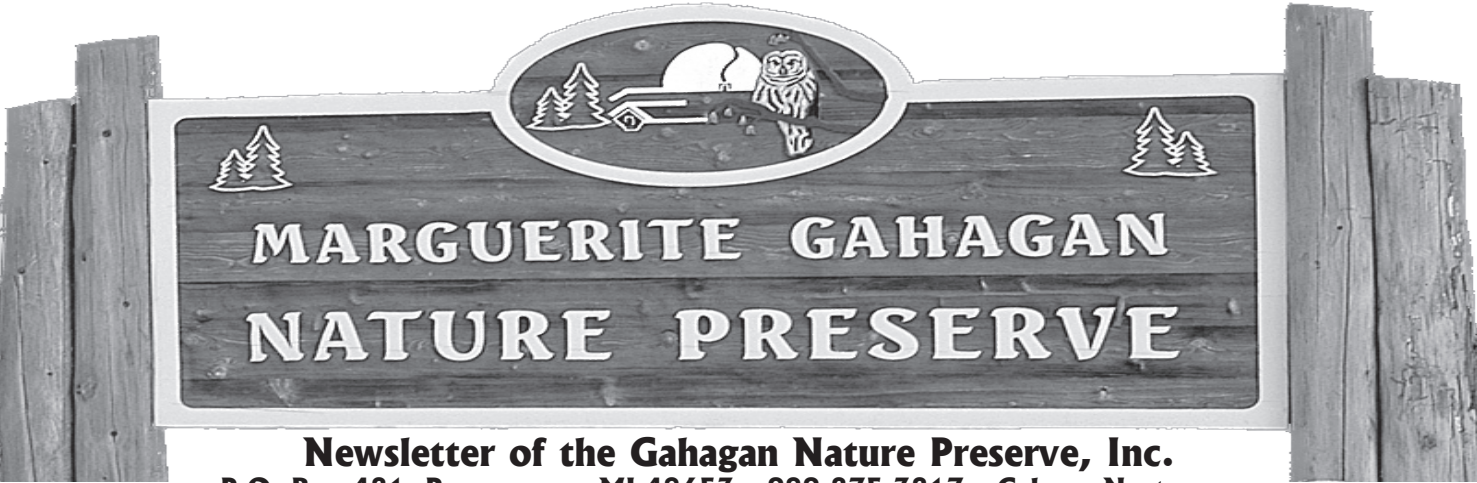


PINE WHISPERS
The Biography & Writings of Marguerite Gahagan
founder and publisher of the *North Woods Call*

During a news reporting career spanning from 1930 to 1980, Marguerite became Michigan’s preeminent voice for conservation issues. Activist, humanist, novelist and national award-winning reporter, learn of her incredible life and a legacy that continues to shape our outdoors today.

Great reading for the cabin
Wonderful gift for the nature lover

For more information and to order visit
www.GahaganNature.org
Sales benefit the environmental education programs of the
Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve



Newsletter of the Gahagan Nature Preserve, Inc.
P.O. Box 421, Roscommon, MI 48653 • 989-275-3217 • GahaganNagture.org
Issue #27 ~ Fall 2014

You are cordially invited to our
Annual Open House and Membership Meeting
on Sunday, September 21, 2014 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve is always open to the public. You can wind your way through the trails observing the huge pines, hemlocks and cedars, stroll out to the gazebo to discover the beginning of Tank Creek, or dawdle by the pond listening to the sounds of nature at any time. On Sunday, September 21, you are invited to do just that, as well as to join us in recognizing several individuals who have made pronounced contributions to the preserve.

Since 1997 (the year the preserve was established) Eagle Scout candidates from Boy Scout Troop 944 of Roscommon have completed a variety of projects at the preserve. These projects have improved access to the cabin and the trail system and enhanced the onsite education program.

1997	Howard Huffman	Main boardwalk over the swamp
1998	James Gagne	100 foot boardwalk to the gazebo
1998	Andy Powrie	Ramp to the living room entrance
2001	Ben Barber	Footbridge across tank Creek near Brookside exit
2002	Josh Scott	Ramp to the classroom entrance
2006	John Ekdom	Deer Exclosures
2009	Matt Compo	Boardwalk to Tank Creek
2009	Nathan Compo	Platform at Tank Creek
2011	Jon Hahn	Green trail improvement
2014	Noah Ekdom	Outdoor classroom bench seating

The visiting naturalist program began in 2002 and brings Gahagan’s Education Director and resident Naturalist, Tom Dale, to classrooms across a six county area. Since its inception, the Visiting Naturalist program has been enjoyed by roughly 4000 students each year. Provided by Kirtland Community College, each child is given a pencil and an animal sticker commemorating the theme of that year’s presentation. The beautiful artwork for each year’s sticker has been created and donated by KCC art instructor, Scott Rice.

Accomplishments at the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve depend on people who love the outdoors, value the environment and realize the need to educate our youth about the natural world. Please plan to join us in recognizing and giving thanks to these individuals who have contributed to the mission of the preserve. Our informal presentation will begin at 1:30, followed by fellowship and a guided walk.

Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve
Board of Directors ~ 2014-2015

Chairperson: Jeff Mellgren
Vice Chair: Troy Fairbanks
Secretary: Bobbie Werle
Paul Bertrand
Brian Hutchins
Craig Jacobs
Jeremy Jones
Richard Silverman
Susan Huffman
Theresa Bradley

Tom Dale, Education Director
275-8206 thdale@core.com

Tracy Bosworth, Exec. Director
989-390-0903 tracyboz@yahoo.com
adm@GahaganNature.org

www.GahaganNature.org
Message machine at cabin 989-275-3217

Gagahan Calendar
2014 Events

Sept.-May: ELF Program in local schools
Sept. 6: AuSable River Collection 10am Gates Lodge
Sept. 15: Fall Field trips begin
Sept. 18: MGNP at Fireman’s Festival
Sept. 21: 1-4pm Open House at Gahagan
Oct. 25: Cabin Closing

2015 Events

Feb. 16-April 16: Visiting Naturalist Program
April 25: Spring Clean Up 9-Noon
April 28: Spring Field trips begin
June 6: AuSable River Collection
July 21-23: Nature Camp
July 23: MGNP Family Night

Board of Directors meet on the 2nd Monday at 7:00 pm.
Everyone is Welcome to attend.

For up-to-date schedule, changes and event details visit
www.GahaganNature.org.

Come Join Us at the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve!

Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve operates as a non-profit organization run by volunteers and funded by its members, generous donors and the endowment left by Marguerite. Did you know that it provides environmental education for many of the schools in the surrounding counties? Did you know that the 60-acre preserve is open to the public for hiking, snowshoeing, birding and many other uses? Did you know we have an asphalt and boardwalk trail that is wheelchair friendly? It travels through woods and wetlands and along the beginnings of Tank Creek. Interested in learning and helping? Please join us!

Yes, I/we want to join Marguerite Gahagan Nature preserve. Enclosed is my/our yearly membership.

\$20 ☐ Individual / \$30 ☐ Family / \$50 ☐ Organizational \$_____ Donation

I am making a donation of \$_____ ☐ in memory of, ☐ in honor of _____

Name: _____ Ph: (_____)

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ @ _____

Please make checks to Gahagan Nature Preserve, Inc. and mail to P.O. Box 421, Roscommon, MI 48653
You can also donate, join, or renew your membership on-line at www.GahaganNature.org

The great thing about remembering is that you don’t forget!

Please don’t forget to take care of your MGNP membership dues. Dues are one of the biggest sources of revenue for our organization. We need to hang on to every membership we currently have and we need to grow. We have approximately 310 addresses on our mailing list, but many individuals and families are just not current with their dues. Individual memberships are just \$20 per year and family membership dues are \$30. If you are an internet user, you can log on to www.GahaganNature.org and quickly take care of your dues through the secure PayPal link. You can process your payment through your PayPal account or by entering your debit or credit information as a stand-alone purchase. You can even make a donation through a link on the website. So please, don’t forget to join us by updating your membership today. If you are receiving our newsletter and prefer to be removed from the mailing list, just let us know. You can email us at adm@gahagannature.org or leave a message at 989-275-3217. *Thank You!*

MGNP Family Night at RADL

Each year, Nature Camp wraps up with Family Night. This year we decided to hold the program at the Roscommon Area District Library in the beautiful and large conference room. It was a good decision to do so in light of the numerous artifacts on display!

Jim Miller, director of the Michigan Outdoors Skills School in Mikado Michigan, brought a wonderful program entitled “Wilderness Skills of our Ancestors.” An outdoorsman and writer, Jim is one of the nation’s leading advocates of the study and application of traditional wilderness skills and crafts. He discovered the beauty and essence of the natural world at an early age and has spent countless hours studying the skills of our ancestors in woods, fields, and streams throughout the Great Lakes region

Jim’s program was enlightening and informative. He demonstrated and displayed many natural materials, tools, techniques and products he has used and employed while creating items. His demonstration included hides, pelts, bows, arrows,

baskets and a 14 foot birch bark canoe, all created using ancestral techniques. Jim took questions from the crowd and invited all to come up and view, as well handle the many items he had on display.



Jim Miller

Jim discusses the art of skinning a bear.

Memberships from
August 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014

Beverly and Carl Peters
Mary & Brian Hutchins
Jim & Carol Garlo
Doug & Ginny Nagel
Bob & Dawn Tupper
Rich & Cathy Koupal
Jerry & Joyce Johnston
Art & Kathryn Ketelhut
Dr. Robert & Donna House
Eleanor Washburn
Jerry & Darlene Weinrich
Bob & Norma Boyle
Nadyne Hunt
Mark & Tracy Bosworth
Terry Nanry
Don & Elaine Granzine
Mark & Peggy Scott
Bruce & Betty Phillips
Larry Dashner
Pete Petoskey
Merlin & Betty Walworth
Bob & Julie Borak
Marge Torongo
Susan Huffman
Stephen & Pam Miller

Diane Lippert
Mike & Sue Glover
Brian & Janet Carson
Jeremy & Lois Jones
Paul Bertrand
Tom & Joyce Zeneberg
Phyllis & Tom Dale
Julie Boushelle
Ralph & Nancy Rucinski
Mike Kent
Colleen Criner
Jay & Lorrene Spaulding
Theresa Custodio
Anna & Don Sylvester
Hazel Babcock
Doug & Ginny Nagel
Susan Worden
Sue & Scott Mires
Dominic & Jennifer Dale
Stan & Patti Dombrowski
John & Betty Colwell
Jason & Pauline Jobson
Roger & Mary Fechner
Roy and Betty Spangler
Vicki & Pat Springstead
Joe & Peg Madore
Gary & Sharon Boushelle

Stu Powrie
Don & Suzanne Pennell
Bobbie & Jerry Werle
Mark & Jo Ann Doyle
Al Schultz
Richard Dennis
Anne Gahagan
Anne & Russell Kidd
Rich & Carol Silverman
Carole Chilton
Martha Clapp
Tom & Patti Moreau
Dick & Theresa Bradley
Millie & Jeff Mellgren
Gary & Sharon Boushelle
Nathan Krupp Family
Cliff & Carolyn Colwell
Troy Fairbanks & Nancy Martindale
Susan Moy
Scott & Janice Montross
Caryl & Ed Fischer
William Burrows
Richard Seton
Mark Burger
Merlin & Betty Walworth
Robert & Clarice Williams

MGNP Long Range Plan

In November of 2013, The MGNP board of directors approved a plan to guide to programs and projects at the preserve. The following is a synopsis of the plan.

Habitat Protection: Habitat protection is the principle focus of the Preserve’s mission statement.

- 1. The Preserve is a participating member of the AuSable River Watershed Restoration Initiative. We need to focus some of our resources on removing invasive species that threaten our preserve and feature programming that educates the public about this issue.
- 2. The Au Sable River Watershed Monitoring Project will continue with the support of our preserve through administration of the program.
- 3. With the guidance of the Weyerhaeuser Corporation Forestry Management, a timber harvest of 10 acres will be performed during winter 2014
- 4. Develop an Aquatic Invasive species teaching kit.
- 5. Jointly pursue with the village to control spotted knapweed along joining border.
- 6. We need to endeavor to reduce brush and downed dead trees/woodpiles adjacent to the cabin. We will make a request of the village that they maintain a firebreak along the property line that we share with the compost/recycling site.
- 7. Acquisition of Forest Wyckoff property off of M-18 to allow access to the Preserve from the Highway and connect with the proposed walking path network being pursued by Roscommon Metro Park Authority (RMRA)

Education: Education has and will continue to be a very important focus of our preserve.

- 1. Two interpretive signs need to be completed. Topics for the signs are the deer exclosures and the woodlot cuttings/clear-cuts.
- 2. Community Programming. We need to provide a limited number of programs for the community on topics that are consistent with our mission.
- 3. Create a school transportation subsidy fund to assist classes from other school districts to plan field trips.
- 4. Expand services/program opportunities at the preserve during summer and/or winter by hiring a part time Naturalist.
- 5. Acquire a fulltime Naturalist/Education/Executive director.
- 6. Effort needs to be taken to showcase our education programs in the community utilizing our projection equipment.
- 7. Enhance Trail interpretation allowing for interaction with visitors through traditional sinage or QR coding.
- 8. Market the book, Pine Whispers.
- 9. Keep the cabin open throughout the winter provided we have a naturalist to run programs at the Preserve during the winter months.
- 10. The funds currently allocated to the education program are inadequate to employ someone who actually intends to earn a living as an environmental educator. Funding for education staffing needs to be increased.

The Physical Plant: Preservation and improvement of our property and buildings is crucial to continued use of the preserve.

- 1. Upgrade windows for eventual winter use.
- 2. We still need to upgrade our outdoor lighting, especially for our parking lot, utilizing LED/Solar environmentally responsible technology
- 3. We need to clean and preserve our outdoor decking, porches and boardwalks.
- 4. We need to treat our blacktopped handicapped friendly trails.
- 5. Construction of a seasonal (with option for future all weather) single stall handicapped accessible outdoor bathroom.
- 6. Construction of an open air pavilion for outdoor education 22 x 35 with a concrete slab adjacent to the south end of the garage.
- 7. Circular bench seating for 30 children needs to be constructed at the outdoor classroom site.
- 8. Bleacher seating (portable) for 30.
- 9. Addition to the cabin to incorporate a large classroom sufficient for a crowd of 75 @ 2400 square feet (40 x 60) with bath rooms.
- 10. Create a boardwalk from the green trail to the flowing spring on the northeast portion of the property.
- 11. Add a guided trail for the blind to a portion of our wheelchair-friendly trail.

Mission Statement: The Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve was established to perpetuate Marguerite’s life-long appreciation of the north woods. Its mission is to protect the balanced habitat that supports and maintains a wide variety of plant and animal species. Its goal is to encourage awareness of the need to preserve habitat and wildlife.

Nature Camp 2014: Protecting Habitat

Our 14th Nature Camp was held on July 22-24. We had a full house with 24 awesome six to eleven year olds. Tuesday’s focus was how deer browsing impacts vegetation. After some introductions and habitat information, the kids broke into groups of three and headed off with their data sheets to observe and record the impacts of deer browsing.

Two “deer exclosures” exist on the Gahagan property, one in the upland forest and one in a clear-cut area. The exclosures are 50 by 50 foot areas enclosed by 8 foot high fences to keep deer out. The area inside is sectioned into 100, one-meter square plots. Two adjacent unfenced 10 by 10 meter plots are also sectioned, in order to provide a basis for comparison.

The groups headed to the upland forest to find their meter-square plot in the unfenced area. Each surveyed the height of the trees and recorded the numbers into one of three categories: trees below two feet tall, from two to five feet tall and greater than five feet. Then it was over to the neighboring enclosed plot. This sampling provided quite a challenge. Just finding the corresponding meter plot inside the exclosure was difficult due to the concentration of vegetation. When all the numbers were totaled, the results were very informative. The plots inside the exclosure contained 17 times the number of plants compared to the plot outside the exclosure!

Of course that was not all that we did. Wednesday centered on terrestrial insects. A puppet show detailed the stages of metamorphosis and the habitat components needed for each stage of an insect’s life. After hiking to a variety of habitats, we were excited to find some Monarch eggs attached to the milkweed growing on the wildflower berm at Gahagan’s parking lot. After a few activities highlighting insect adaptations, camper worked to improve our insect habitat by planting some new perennials in our butterfly garden.

Thursday was a real splash! Early in the morning Tom and Tracy collected a few buckets of river water containing insect specimens from the South Branch of the AuSable. Utilizing the same process as followed by the AuSable River Watershed Monitoring program, the kids “picked” the insects from their water sample. Using hand-lenses, tweezers, pipettes and classification charts, anything wiggling was sorted into ice cube trays for classifying and counting. The type, quantity and variety of these macro-invertebrates are used to score the quality of the water system. The greater the diversity of insects, the better the water quality. As determined by the data, the AuSable provides a tremendously high quality, rich habitat for the fish living in its tributaries. After a short trek through the trails, the specimens were released into Tank Creek, one of the headwaters of the South Branch.

Rounding out the Nature Camp experience are two cherished annual activities: froggin’ and T-shirt makin’. An abundant spring frog population apparently created a hearty feast for some predator the week before camp. This year’s foray into the pond habitat produced only two frogs. But there is never any limit on fun while collecting and releasing! Nature Camp Rocks!



Abelina, Devon and Luna get cozy in their unfenced plot section.



Joe, Ian, Tom and Shana plant perennials at the Gahagan cabin.



Molly gets up close to determine in which tray section to place her specimen.



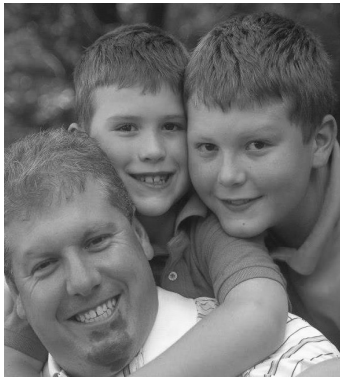
Haley and Madison design their one-of-a-kind camp T-shirts.



Bug sorting is engaging!

Tommy, Brett and Eden wind their way through the exclosure to find their plot.





Scott Rice, pictured here with sons Zachary and Kendall, will be recognized by MGNP at our open house in September. Scott, an art instructor at KCC since 1996, earned his B.F.A. in Illustration from Kendall College of Art and Design and his M.F.A. in Painting and Drawing from Central Michigan University. Since joining Kirtland's faculty, Scott has helped create six new associate degrees and two certificates for art students. At the same time, Scott has assisted numerous students in the pursuit of scholarships to attend Kendall College of Art and Design. To date, those scholarships total more than \$750,000. It is with that same generous spirit that Scott has provided our Preserve with so many contributions of artwork and graphics. Some of his work will be on display at our open house. You won't want to miss it.

Volunteer Opportunity Environmental Learning for the Future (ELF)

ELF is an award winning program developed by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. It is designed for elementary-aged children and taught by parents, grandparents and other community volunteers. ELF's information and activities promote understanding and appreciation of the natural world. Volunteers gather monthly at their school site for a short training workshop, during which they learn information and activities they will later share with students. Volunteers then schedule an hour to present in one (or more) classrooms. All materials and supplies, such as thermometers, compasses, animal skulls and pelts, rock kits, collections, puppet shows, and more, are provided in the ELF kit. MGNP provides the training and the ELF teaching kits. Please consider sharing your time to help our children deepen their experience with nature, expand their understanding of ecological principles and promote responsible action to conserve our natural heritage. Or, just become a volunteer because ELF is a blast and kids are fun to hang with. Call Tracy at (989) 390-0903.

ELF Schedule for 2014-2015

Collins Elementary and Our Lady of the Lake Schools: "Adaptations" theme

Kits: Amazing Insects, Hunter-Hunted, Teeth and Skulls, Beaks and Feet and Feathers, Owls, Thorns and Threats, Frogs and Polliwogs

St. Joseph Catholic School: "Earth and Sky" theme

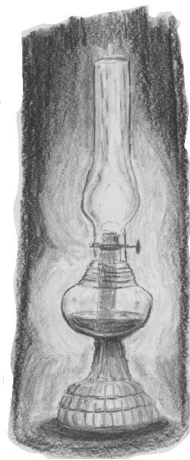
Kits: Finding Your Way, Erosion, Pebbles and Rocks, Breath of Life, Sound Symphony, Water, Wind and Clouds, Sun Power

Roscommon Elementary: "Designs of Nature" theme

Kits: Spiders and Webs, Variations on a Leaf, Cones, Snow and More, Tracks and Traces, Winter Weeds, Camouflage, Honeybees

*A storm in the woods is unlike a storm in the city.
In the woods the world is the cabin – four log walls –
Keeping out the rushing wind, the rain.
The power goes off.
The old kerosene lamp throws beams on golden walls.
There are nostalgic memories that belong
To the odor of the kerosene lamp,
The yellow flame held steady within the tall chimney.
Flames in the fireplace glow gold and blue.
A wet log hisses and crackles:
Small sounds as the thunder roars and chases, Small
flame as the lightning blazes across the sky.
It is still – even with the thunder, the beating rain.
Stillness of the woods alone, storm-tossed trees And
cabin of logs.*

Marguerite Gahagan
The Lamp - 9/10/1958



FALL FIELD TRIPS

Field trip scheduling for fall 2014 is in full swing. Slots are available from September 15th until October 24th, and they are filling up already. As always, field trips can be tailored to meet the objectives of each particular grade level. Please contact Tom at thdale@core.com to get your class on the schedule.

Pictures tell a story and the numbers don't lie!

While spring of 2014 was one viciously wicked mosquito season, it did not deter participation in our Spring Field trip program. Over 700 elementary students from 28 classrooms trekked out and about the preserve this past spring. While programs vary from grade-to-grade, every class gets to observe the variety of aquatic organisms dipped from the waters of our pond. Mosquitos, tadpoles, salamanders, midges, in various stages from egg to adult are viewed first from hand lenses at the edge of the pond then through the high powered projection microscope in the cabin. The pupa stage of a mosquito is one impressive looking creature when it is 3 feet long up on the screen!



Tom Dale projects images of benthic macro-invertebrates (aquatic insects) for Grayling's AuSable Elementary second graders from Mrs. Boik's class.



Some of Mrs. Hutek's Roscommon Elementary students stop on the bridge over Tank Creek for a photo op.

Gahagan and the Roscommon Area District Library

By Roberta Werle

Words, words, words!

These are among the many things the Nature Preserve and the new Roscommon Area District Library share. Marguerite Gahagan was a master wordsmith, a respected member of the community, a conservationist and at times stirred the pot of controversy. In the end, both are valued for their dedication to knowledge, reading and lifting the values and culture of all ages in the area.

For those of you who have not visited the Roscommon area during the past year, you will be amazed and pleased with the site of the new library, located on M-18 just a quarter mile down Southline Road from the Gahagan Nature Preserve. Not only is the library a repository for books, films, computer links to the world, a meeting place and a great place to snuggle into a comfy chair in front of a fireplace and spend an afternoon having an adventure reading; it is also built to meet conservation standards. Geo-thermal wells supply the heating and air conditioning of the building. The roof run off is collected in two beautiful strings of copper cups that empty into a holding tank and is distributed to the flowers in the planters on either side of the door.

Your Board of Trustees agreed to provide the library with nature oriented programs throughout the year. Tom Dale and Tracy Bosworth have made several presentations at the library during the past two years. They've taken buckets of mucky water and items to identify the "critters", brought chemical and scientific experiments, animal pelts, skeletons and years of teaching experience to the library. All fun and eagerly enjoyed by those in attendance. The library was the site for family night this past July, when Jim Miller made his presentation of "Wilderness Skills" at the end of Gahagan's day camp week.

The library, its books, community programs, dedication to conservation, nature programs, education and a spirit of fun and hopes for the future are goals in common with our Nature Preserve. Although there are no firm plans, as of this writing; hopefully, there will be a time when some of the library hands on programs can be presented at the Nature Preserve.



Tom Dale presents the Visiting Naturalist program, "Cat Tales," to an engaged crowd at RADL.

Tracy has 2 eager volunteers exhale through straws into a jar of Bromothymol blue solution. BTB is an indicator which changes color in the presence of carbon dioxide.

