



SUPERIOR LAND PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWS

SPRING-SUMMER
2011
P.O. BOX 130041
ANN ARBOR, MI
48113-0041

WCC Students Take Final Exam at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve

by Jen Koppin

Tuesday, June 21- Students in Catherine Marquardt's field biology class at Washtenaw Community College took their final exam on the trail in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (C.H.N.P.). Students were required to identify a number of native plants and trees, as well as different ecosystems, and answer questions about the surrounding environment.

The field biology class, which is offered at WCC in the Spring/Summer and Fall semesters, focuses on recognizing local plant and animal communities, identifying individual species within those communities, and understanding the disturbances that can change these environments. Much of the allotted class time is spent outdoors, in and around Washtenaw County, learning how to interpret local fields and forests. Students visited several sites during the semester, including a flood plain forest, a



see WCC p. 2

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

by Marion Morris

During 2010 and into this year, your SLPS Board has been actively involved with others in Superior Township to conserve additional properties. These endeavors often proceed slowly, with many steps before coming to fruition. We will keep you informed as we move forward on these projects.

Reintroduction of native trees and plants continues, in cooperation with the Superior Township Parks and Recreation Department, and through diligent efforts by SLPS member Ellen Kurath. We have had tables at the Ann Arbor Green Fair (June 10), the Superior

see News p. 2

beechn-maple forest, and a boreal bog. Catherine Marquardt, the instructor, chose C.H.N.P. as the site for the final exam because of its species richness; the park has a diverse population of plants and animals, and there are several different ecosystems within the preserve. The class walked through a typical Oak-Hickory forest environment, but also observed a marsh, an outwash plain, and an old field. Students had not visited this particular site before, and answered questions without the help of a field guide. They were required to identify individual species, such as Sugar Maple, Shagbark Hickory, Basswood, and Poison Ivy as well as answer questions like "What type of forest are we standing in right now?" and "How long has it been since this was an agricultural site?" One of the highlights of the exam, though unplanned, was watching a garter snake devour a wood frog next to the trail. The Cherry Hill Nature Preserve provides a variety of natural ecosystems which are well-suited for educational purposes.

Township Green Fair (June 18), and we'll be at the Dixboro Fair (August 6).

Our SLPS Board is looking for a new member. The Board meets at 7:30 PM on the third Tuesday of each month at the old Superior Township Hall (across the parking lot from Superior Township Hall). If you're interested, please call me at 734-482-7414 or Dan Moerman at 734-483-3283.

Most importantly, with your help, SLPS will continue fostering a culture of collaboration among environmentalists, farmers, and policy makers, so that we can deliver on our goal to facilitate protection of open space in Superior Township.

Thank you for your support!

Swallowtail Butterflies

article and illustration by John Copley

Several species of Swallowtail butterflies can be found in the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve. All can be identified by the "tails" protruding from their lower wings, which are allegedly used to help escape predators. A hungry bird gets the tail, and not the rest of the butterfly. There are Zebra, Tiger, Black and Giant Swallowtails in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve, and recently, after planting 2 Spicebushes in the park, we have Spicebush Swallowtails also. Like most Swallowtails, they are large and beautiful butterflies. The Spicebush Swallowtail is very dark, much like the Black Swallowtail, but with a greenish iridescence on its hind wings. There is a row of white spots on its forewings

see Butterflies p.3

If you share our goal...

.... of preserving the rural character and natural habitat of Superior Township, please become a member

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl
\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk
\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Goldfinch
\$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk
\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Screech Owl
\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Other
_____ |
|--|--|

Name _____

Address _____

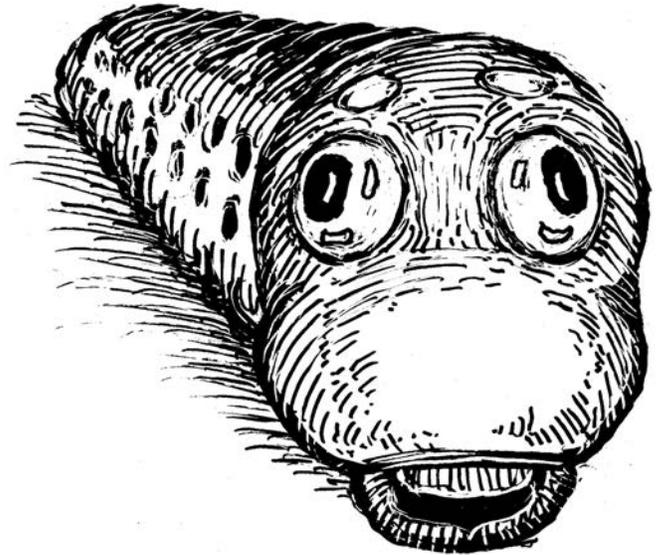
Please send to SLPS, P.O. Box 130041
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Butterflies, continued from p.2

and hind wings, and along the sides of its body. There are 4 red spots on the upper surface of the hind wings and several red spots on the underside. But the most fascinating thing about the Spicebush Swallowtail is its caterpillar. In the beginning stages it is a small drab brown creature, but as it grows, it changes color and undergoes an amazing transition. Before it enters the last instar, or phase before becoming a butterfly, it is a green caterpillar of good size, with two large yellow spots on its head which look remarkably like eyes- complete with black “pupils” and white “reflections” to make them appear more realistic- perhaps to frighten any potential predator! During the day, it folds a leaf of the host plant around itself to hide, and waits for night to come out and feed.

Swallowtails are just one species of butterfly to

be found at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve. Almost any warm sunny day will provide a wide variety of these beautiful insects for visitors to enjoy. Pay a visit to this lovely park and see how many you can discover!



HAVE YOU THANKED A PLANT TODAY?

by Marion Morris

Thank a plant today and every day for the oxygen you breathe! Practically all oxygen on Earth, 21% of the atmosphere, was put there by plants. Oxygen is a byproduct of one of the life processes of plants – photosynthesis. It's left over after water and carbon dioxide (a waste product that we're happy to get rid of) are made into simple sugar.'

The green in the plant is chlorophyll; give thanks for the green! It has the ability to absorb energy from the sun, then behave as an enzyme, converting carbon dioxide and water to sugar. Starting with this, fat and carbohydrates are made. Proteins are formed by the addition of nitrogen and often phosphorus, which come from the soil.

Since animals lack the ability to start with elemental substances and build tissue, plants are absolutely vital to the existence of animal life. If all plants suddenly disappeared from Earth, our planet would revert back to a lifeless object.

The root hairs of plants extract minerals from the ground, which, along with photosynthesis and oxygen production, make animal life possible on this planet. In our present efforts to upgrade the quality of life, plants are playing an important role. Besides providing food, plants make our surroundings pleasant to look at, and they reduce air pollution, cool the Earth by releasing water vapor, and reduce noise pollution by deflecting and absorbing sound.

So remember – thank a plant!

DONATIONS

We thank all the folks who have given so generously to Superior Land Preservation Society during the last year.

Charles & Roberta Anderson
Eric & Pat Appleberry
Cathy Bach & Brian Hazlett
Thomas & Sylvia Barnabei
Rosalind & Bob Barnsdale
Bill & Fran Beckley
Tom Berry
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Ann Robbins
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Fred R. Secrest
Steve & Darlene Secrest
The Shively Family
Sylvia Taylor
Brad Tomtishen & Lynda Oswald
Paul K. & Barbara G. Trojan
Marianne Udow-Phillips & Bill Phillips
Jane & John VanBolt
Ellen Elliott Weatherbee
Judith Wysocki
Henry & Dorothy Zelisse
Karl & Ann Zinn

OUR MISSION

- To maintain and protect open spaces in Superior Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan. These areas include, but are not limited to, nature sanctuaries, nature preserves, natural areas, many of which contain or contribute to habitat for wildlife and plants.
- To help residents of Superior Township obtain conservation easements on their properties to prevent them from being developed.
- And, overall, to preserve land resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

New Planting

By Ellen Kurath

An old map of Superior Township says “Dense Forest” and shows very little else. Then settlers came and cleared the land, so that only a few trees remained. Some good ones were along lot boundaries, or on steep places or in swamps, but others were the culls – sickly and of poor form, and not a good seed source for new trees.

That was the first big change. In recent years, land used for many years as pasture has been reverting to seedling trees and shrubs. This has been the second change, but because of the limited number of seed parents, too much of the new growth is nuisance plants. Along the roadside are many dead trees, and some hardwood stands are trees of poor quality. Nowadays, there are many trees, but most are less than fifty years old, and they are a limited selection; as each epidemic has come along, lack of diversity has made the losses worse.

Recently, in the Township Parks and on privately owned land, planting has commenced, done by Parks workers and other interested individuals. The intention has been to diversify, to re-establish varieties, which may have been here before but were not numerous, and to bring in wider genetic stock for varieties already present, but perhaps inbred. Most of these plantings are native, and are suited to the climate and the land here.

This has not been large-scale re-forestation. There are trees here already. The purpose is to bring in young trees and shrubs from the hardiest available stock. These are being set out in various locations, in hopes that at least some of them will survive the climate or not be eaten by deer, mice, and other animals.

The expectations are moderate. However, if some survive and develop, they can become seed

sources for the future. This will take a while, but if nobody does it, it will not happen. This way, there’s a chance for long-term success.

Primarily, plantings are native varieties, the original local population having been lost or reduced to very few. Individual areas already have interesting varieties, that were catalogued in a survey by Ellen Elliott Weatherbee in 1992, and more have been added since. However, invasives like autumn olive, buckthorn, and others have become a serious concern, requiring a lot of work to limit them. New plantings are less prolific than these invaders, so they need attention, protection, and some luck with the weather.

Although there are many difficulties in renewing native plants to an area that has been greatly changed over time, adding diverse native varieties will give Superior Township the benefit of a more interesting countryside that is better able to withstand botanical epidemics.

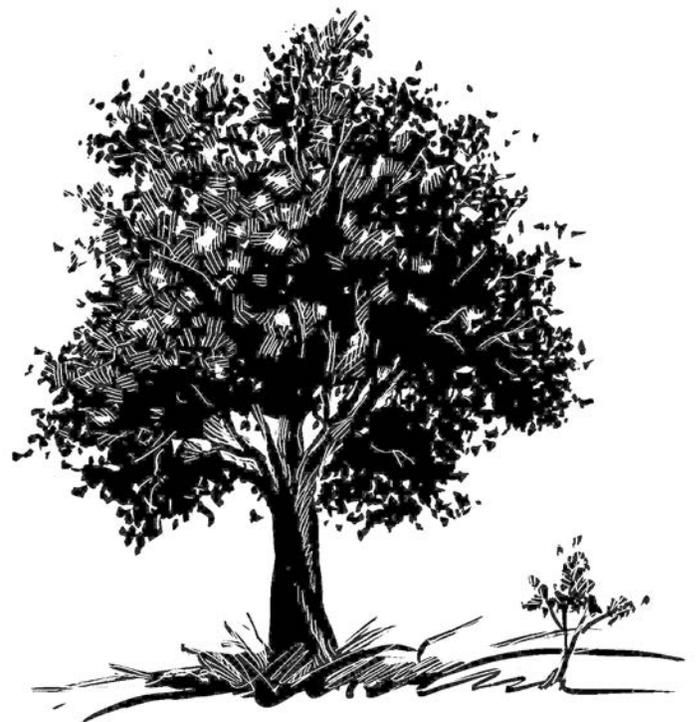


Illustration by John Copley

Road Names in Superior Township The Short List*

by Karl Williams

Albert Drive – Named in 1976 after Albert Staebler, a long time area farmer whose property fronted on the east side of the road north of Fleming Creek.

Ann Arbor Road – See Plymouth Road.

Ann Arbor Trail – See Plymouth Road.

Berkshire – See Dawn.

Berry Road – Named after Joseph G. Berry, who had purchased property fronting on the road in 1926.

Cherry Hill Road – The road that leads to the village of Cherry Hill from Dixboro.

Church Street in the village of Dixboro – Named for the fact that the Dixboro Methodist Church fronts on this street.

Clark Road – Probably named after Crawford Clark, who owned 40 acres in section 1 of Pittsfield Township fronting on the road.

Curtis Road – Named after Leslie Curtis, a long-time farmer in Salem Township.

Cynthia Drive off Albert Drive. Named for Cynthia, a niece of Stanley Rozwood, who owned the land on which the road was built.

Dawn – Formerly called Berkshire. One of the few roads that remain from the World War II Willow Village era. No information regarding the source of either name. The name was changed sometime in the late 1950's or early 1960's.

Dixboro Road – The road to the Village of Dixboro

from the Geddes settlement on the Huron River on the south, and South Lyon on the north.

First Street – So named on the 1877 plat of the settlement of Superior in section 32 of Superior Township.

Ford Road, M-153 – Named after William Ford, who owned a farm at what is now the intersection of Ford Road and Greenfield Road in Dearborn Township, Wayne County.

Frains Lake Road – The road running south from near Frains Lake into the center of Superior Township.

Gale Road – Named after George W. Gale, who owned land fronting on the road.

Geddes Road – Named after John and Robert Geddes, who, in 1825, settled in section 36 of Ann Arbor Township, and established a sawmill on the Huron River which resulted in a small settlement called Geddesburg.

Goss Road – This road no longer exists in Superior Township, and may have been the name of the road that ran between Gale Road and Dixboro Road in section 19. The right-of-way was officially abandoned in 1939.

Gotfredson Road – Named for the Gotfredson Land Company, which, between 1919 and 1926, acquired 14 parcels of land totaling 10,756 acres in sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 34, and 35, the area of Gotfredson Road and Geddes Road.

Harris Road – Named after the Harris family, long-time residents of Ypsilanti Township.

Hickman Road – Named after John Hickman, who owned land fronting on the road.

Joy Road – Named after James F. Joy, “an old citizen” of Detroit.

LeForge Road – Named after Clinton LeForge,

a landowner at the intersection of Vreeland and LeForge Roads.

M-14 – The only numbered road in Superior Township. It assumed the route number originally applied to the Plymouth – Ann Arbor Road upon its completion in 1979. It is an extension of the Jeffries Freeway east of Plymouth, but has no name (yet) itself.

MacArthur Boulevard – The road was created when Willow Village was built by the government in World War II, and is presumably named after General Douglas MacArthur.

Midway – No longer exists in Superior Township, although it still appears on some Superior Township maps. A road in the World War II Willow Village, believed to be named after the Battle of Midway.

Mott Road – Named for Bert and Daisy Mott, who purchased a farm on the road in Canton Township about 1907.

Napier Road – No information regarding the naming of Napier Road. Possibly named by the Wayne County Road Commission.

Plymouth Road – The road to Plymouth from Ann Arbor.

Prospect Road – Named in the 1930's, it being an extension of Prospect Street in Ypsilanti. Previously called Superior Center Road. The name was changed to avoid confusion with another Superior Road existing in Superior Township.

Ridge Road – Considered so named because a portion of it in Canton and Superior Townships follows an ancient lake beach ridge.

Stamford Road – One of the original roads of the old Willow Run Village, built in World War II. There is no explanation for the name.

Stommel Road – Named after Peter Stommel, who

had the only residence on the road.

Superior Road – Shown as Superior Street on the 1877 map created for platting of the settlement of Superior in section 32, Superior Township.

Territorial Road – There are no roads in Superior Township currently called Territorial Road. This term was once applied to Geddes Road and to Plymouth Road.

Vorhies Road – No definite information on the source of this name.

Vreeland Road – Named after Dr. Clyde Emerson Vreeland, an extensive land owner at the west end of Vreeland Road.

Warren Road – Named after General Joseph Warren “of revolutionary fame”. An extension of Warren Road in Wayne County.

Wiard Road – Named after the Wiard family, early and long-time land owners in Ypsilanti Township.

* “The Short List” refers to this being a concise explanation of the road name. All of these roads have a more extensive history.

The roads listed do not include private roads, except Cynthia Drive, or those that have been created in the more recently established subdivisions.



Illustration by John Copley

Edible Invasives

What can you do with all the garlic mustard you picked in the spring? It was originally planted as an early spring edible, so you can use it in salads – a little garlic mustard mixed with milder greens – or you can use it in other recipes. You probably don't want to cook up all of the bushels you've harvested, but you can make use of a little of it! Here's a recipe originally published in the Detroit Free Press, where it was noted that garlic mustard leaves taste mildly like garlic, while the stems have a mustardy flavor. Many more recipes are available online....just Google "eating garlic mustard".

Garlic Mustard Meat Loaf

Makes 1 meat loaf/prep time 15 min./total time 1hr. 15 min.

Nonstick spray	2 lbs. ground turkey
1 med. onion, diced	1 med. gr. pepper, diced
½ C Italian bread crumbs	2 eggs
2 T garlic & herb seasoning	1T sea salt
1C ketchup for garnish	water as needed
¼ C garlic mustard leaves dried and diced	

Preheat oven to 375 deg. Coat a loaf pan with cooking spray.

In a large bowl, mix together the turkey, onion, green pepper, bread crumbs, eggs, seasoning, sea salt, and garlic mustard leaves, adding a little water as needed to help with mixing. Place the meat loaf mixture in the pan. Bake for 1 hour or until done. Spread with ketchup while the meat loaf is still hot.



Illustration by
John Copley



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