



Attention all home schoolers...

Join us at the Boardman River Nature Center for the 2009/10 season of

At Home in the Natural World!

At Home in the Natural World is an environmental education program for home school students 5-12 years old. This program is designed to get kids outside, introduce them to the wonders of nature, allow them to explore the outdoors, and participate in an active learning environment. Each session will include a hike, hands-on activities and take-home materials. Outdoor exploration contributes to emotional, physical and social development, and it is through early childhood experiences in discovering the wonders of nature that the next generation of stewards are born.

Where: Boardman River Nature Center, 1450 Cass Road

When: Selected Thursday mornings from 10:00-11:30 a.m. (see schedule below)

Fee: \$3 per child per session

Registration: Call the Nature Center at **231.941.0960** or email **cmasterson@gtcd.org** to register your child for this program. This year, registration is required and space is limited, so register early! You may register for one or all of the sessions listed below.

October 8, 2009 – Signs of Fall

10:00-11:30 a.m.

What are Michigan animals doing to prepare for winter? Why do trees turn color and drop their leaves in the fall? Join us at the Nature Center as we look at some of the signs of fall. We'll conduct some fun hands-on activities in the classroom and then take a hike along the Sabin Pond Trail. We'll explore a variety of seeds and look at how they're adapted for dispersal. Learn why some seeds are called nature's hitchhikers. We'll learn to identify trees by their colorful leaves and start a leaf collection. Be prepared to discover some of nature's fall wonders and enjoy the beautiful trails surrounding the Boardman River Nature Center.

December 10, 2009 – Animals and Their Habitats

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Where are all the animals? Are they snug in their winter homes? Join us as we explore some of our area habitats and look for signs of animals. We'll learn to identify some Michigan mammals by their tracks and make some plaster tracks to take home. After some hands-on activities in the classroom, we'll hit the trails for a brisk walk along the Fox Den Trail. Come dressed to have fun and explore!

February 11, 2010 – Insects and Life Cycles

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Where do insects go in winter? If you look really hard, can you find any insects outside in February? Did you know that some insects have a natural antifreeze? We'll look at insect life cycles and take a closer look at how insects survive the winter. Hands-on activities in the classroom will include looking at a variety of insects' eggs under the microscope, and exploring the wonder of galls. Outside, we'll look for insects and their life stages around the buildings and on trees. Everyone is guaranteed to learn something about nature's most prolific critters and their importance in the web of life.

April 8, 2010 – Signs of Spring

10:00-11:30 a.m.

The days are getting longer and the sun is beginning to warm up the surrounding land. The chill of winter is giving way to the first signs of spring. What are some of the first trees to leaf-out and bloom? Are there more animals out and about? Have you seen a robin yet? Let's explore some of the wonders of spring with hands-on activities in the classroom and then we'll look for signs of birds building nests, caterpillars hatching out, and mammal activity around the Boardman River. Come prepared to try your hand at making a bird's nest and have fun as April heralds in Spring.

June 10, 2010 – Plants around Us

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Do you want to learn to identify our area wildflowers? Can you tell which plants are invasive and what you can do to prevent their spread? Do you know what poison ivy looks like? Join us at the Boardman River Nature Center as we take a closer look at native and exotic plants. We'll take a closer look at some of our native plants and their uses by the early settlers. We'll make pioneer tooth brushes, learn what you can eat in the woods, and which plants to avoid. Dress to go off the beaten path as we explore the wonder of Michigan plants.



**Grand Traverse
Conservation District**

1450 Cass Road, Traverse City, MI 49684
231.941.0960 / www.NatureIsCalling.org

Nature is Calling...pick up!