

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute

for environmental education

701 W. Cloverdale Road
Hastings, MI 49058

tel. 269.721.4190 | CedarCreekInstitute.org



Summer Calendar of Events June–August 2024

Visitor Center Hours
Monday–Friday, 9 am–5 pm

Institute Closed
Independence Day
Thursday, July 4, 2024

Trails Open Daily, Dawn–Dusk

Lupines along the Institute's storybook trail — June 2023

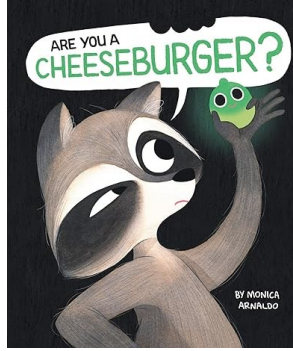
Calendar of Events

June Storybook Walk: *Are You a Cheeseburger?*

by Monica Arnaldo

Grub is a lonely racoon, rumbling in the trash looking for food. Seed is just a seed, patiently waiting in the trash for someone to plant it. When these two meet they realize they might be able to help each other, and so begins an unlikely friendship. But Grub has one big question first: What will Seed grow? Will it be Grub's favorite food, cheeseburgers? After your storybook adventure, stop by the southside of the Visitor Center and learn more about Michigan's native plants.

Free (Self-guided on Black Walnut Trail)



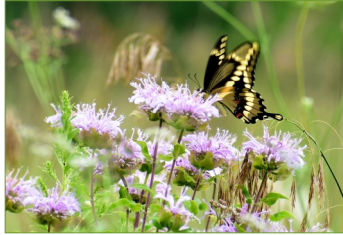
This storybook walk is thanks to the generosity of Joel and Barbara VanDyken.

Summer Wildflower Nature Walk

Saturday, June 1–Sunday, June 30

Can you identify common summer wildflowers? Put your skills to the test while learning about the many varieties of colors, shapes, and patterns of Michigan's wildflowers.

Free (Self-guided on Lupine Trail)



Native Plant Sale and Bob Pierce's Artist Reception

Pre-order until May 27

Sale and pick-up date:

Saturday, June 1

9 am–Noon

Artist Reception: 10 am–Noon in the Visitor Center

See flyer at the end of this calendar newsletter for more information on the Plant Sale, Artist Reception and Exhibit.

Free

Stewardship Workdays

Wednesdays, May 15–August 7

9:30 am–Noon

Get outside with the stewardship crew! This summer, learn how to identify plants, remove invasive plants, care for new plants, and other stewardship skills. Please dress to be outside and bring water and a snack. Gloves are provided.

Open to all ages and skill levels.

Free



Fun Fridays in the Play Space

(Ages 10 and under with adult, Family-friendly)

Fridays June 7 through August 2

10 am–Noon

Join us for nature play in the Play Space this summer. Explore the outdoors with hands-on activities, games, and snacks. These are come-and-go events. Caregivers must remain with their children during these family-friendly events and are encouraged to actively play and explore alongside the children.

Free

Summer Family Scavenger Hunts (Family-friendly)

Poisonous Plants Edition Tuesday, June 11 6:30–7:30 pm

Berry Edition Tuesday, July 9 6:30–7:30 pm

Join us for a scavenger hunt while learning about nature.

There will be prizes for all! Food will be provided. This event is sponsored by Barry County Great Start Collaborative.

Free

2024 Trail Blazers Social Hikes (Ages 18+)

Join us for social hiking on your own schedule. We realize it can be hard to commit months in advance. The Institute is now offering 'drop-in' access for our social hikes. Sign up only for the month(s) you can attend. Each hike is about 1.5 to 2 miles in distance. Terrain is uneven and hilly on grassy to dirt-packed, and sometimes muddy, trails. Please register for either a Thursday or Saturday hiking day. We will hike rain or shine, but reschedule in cases of extreme weather. Space is limited.

Trail Blazers Social Hikes Schedule

Thursday, June 13 or Saturday, June 15

Beech Maple Ridge Trail—Blue

Thursday, July 11 or Saturday, July 13

Brewster Lake Trail—Red

Thursday, August 15 or Saturday, August 17

Tall Grass Prairie and Cedar Creek Trails—Yellow and White

Members \$2 | Non-Members \$3 (per hike)

Conservation in a Changing World Series:

Fashion and Conservation—Cutting from a Different Cloth (Ages 15+, Under 18 with Adult)

Wednesday, June 12

Dinner: 5:30–6:30 pm

Program: 6:30–7:30 pm (in-person and on Zoom)

In the United States alone, we generate enough textile waste to fill the Mall of America, the largest shopping mall in the U.S., every six days. Jackson Riegler, founder of Oshki Sustainable Apparel Company, will discuss the harmful effects of “fast fashion” on the environment and what his company is doing differently to not only reduce waste but also repurpose Great Lakes plastic pollution into sustainable clothing. This program will be presented in-person and on Zoom. A recording of the program will be available to all registered participants on the Institute's YouTube Channel. *Please register by Tuesday, June 4, to reserve a dinner.* To sign up for additional programs in this series, go to CedarCreekInstitute.org.

Program and Dinner: Members \$15 | Non-Members \$21

Program Only: Members Free; Non-Members \$8



Fun Fridays Schedule

Date Nature Investigation

June 7	Bubble Fun	July 19	Out of this World
June 21	Nature's Music	August 2	Nature in Disguise
July 5	Wet and Wild		

Sponsored by



Calendar of Events

What's in Your Backyard Discussion: What's Bugging You? Tick and Other Pest Prevention

(Ages 15+, Under 18 with Adult)

Wednesday, June 26

3:30–4:30 pm

(in-person and on Zoom)



Join Will Miller, Assistant Professor of Biology at Calvin College, as he discusses surveillance trends for ticks and tick-borne diseases in West Michigan, tick prevention methods, and a few ideas for reducing risk of tick exposure around your home. This program will be presented in-person and on Zoom. A recording of the program will be available to all registered participants on the Institute's YouTube Channel. To sign up for additional programs in this series, go to [CedarCreekInstitute.org](https://cedarcreekinstitute.org).

Program: Members Free | Non-Members \$8

For Entire Series: Members Free | Non-Members \$12

Finding Fiddleheads: Fern Identification Hike

(Ages 15+, Under 18 with Adult)

Saturday, June 29

10 am–Noon

Michigan is home to almost 50 different fern species, some dominating forest understories while others only adapted to life in unique places. Join David Wendling of the Michigan Botanical Society and get an up-close look at the fascinating world of ferns. Learn about their vast diversity, identifying characteristics, how they are different from other plant species, and their variety of habitats. We will be using the book, *Fern Finder* by Anne and Barbara Hallowell. You may borrow a copy from the Institute, or purchase it at the Institute's gift shop or from online booksellers. Space is limited, so please register early.



Members Free | Non-Members \$8

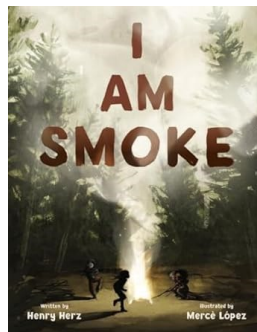
Limited to 15 participants.

July Storybook Walk: *I AM SMOKE*

by Henry Herz; Illustrated by Mercè López

Narrated by Smoke itself, learn how humans have used and benefited from smoke over the centuries from cooking to communication. After your storybook adventure, stop by the southside of the Visitor Center and learn more about the important role of smoke and fire in nature.

Free (Self-guided on Black Walnut Trail)



This storybook walk is thanks to the generosity of Joel and Barbara VanDyken.

The Nature of Fire

Monday, July 1–Wednesday, July 31

Fire can be frightening but also foundational. This month's educational nature walk trail focuses on the importance of fire to the health and survival of different species and their habitats.

Free (Self-guided on Lupine Trail)



Summer Wild Tea Tastings with Maggie Conklin

(Ages 15+, Under 18 with Adult)

Saturday, July 13

1–4 pm

Join Maggie Conklin, Maven of Heirloom Academy and Naturopathic Doctor, for nature's tea party! Learn about the many common and wild plants that can be made into teas and summer drinks. You will sample teas made from common backyard plants, learn how to identify those plants, and explore how to create your own mixtures. Participants will receive handouts and resources. Be prepared for a fair amount of walking and standing, and dress appropriately for the weather.

Members \$15 | Non-Members \$21

Summer Nature Book Club Meet-up

(Ages 15+, Under 18 with Adult)

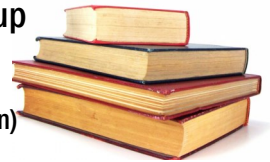
Tuesday, July 16

10:30 am–Noon (Early Bird Group in person)

7–8:30 pm (Night Owl Group on Zoom)

Come for a friendly discussion about the nature books you are reading, and maybe get some titles to build your own summer reading list! For this summer's meet-up, we will focus on pollinators (bees, butterflies, birds, bats, or your favorite pollinator). You can read a book of your choice (fiction or non-fiction) about a particular pollinator and share your feelings and thoughts with the group. The daytime group will meet outside (weather permitting). To sign up for additional programs in this series, go to [CedarCreekInstitute.org](https://cedarcreekinstitute.org).

Free



Stroll and Read (Family-friendly)

Wednesday, July 17

6–7 pm

Fish Hatchery Park, 1011 W Green St. Hastings

Families will participate in a variety of fun, hands-on activities and games outside that will get everyone moving and learning together. Food will be provided at this come-and-go event. This event is hosted by the Barry County Great Start Collaborative, the Hastings Public Library, and Pierce Cedar Creek Institute.

Free

Conservation in a Changing World Series:

Field Station Tour: Conservation on the Ground

(Ages 15+, Under 18 with Adult)

Thursday, July 18

Program: 11 am – Noon (in-person and on Zoom)

Lunch: Noon – 1 pm

Optional Afternoon Field Trips: 1–3 pm (in-person)

Learn about the exciting “on the ground” conservation happening this summer at the Institute's Field Station. Participants will have the opportunity to visit with researchers and fellows in the field to learn about their research and art. This program will be presented in-person and on Zoom. A recording of the program will be available to all registered participants on the Institute's YouTube Channel. *Please register by Wednesday, July 10, to reserve a lunch.* To sign up for additional programs in this series, go to [CedarCreekInstitute.org](https://cedarcreekinstitute.org).

Program and Lunch: Members \$15 | Non-Members \$21

Program Only: Members Free; Non-Members \$8



Wild Edible Plants Accessible Tours

(Ages 9+, under 18 with Adult)

Monday, July 22 10 am–Noon

Tuesday, July 23 10 am–Noon

Wednesday, July 24 10 am–Noon

Interested in wild foraging but not quite up to hiking the Institute's trails? This is the program for you! Tour the Institute's trails searching for wild edible plants from the comfort of a motorized, all-terrain vehicle. Learn how to identify common summer edible plants and even taste a few along the way. This tour is extremely limited (maximum 5 per tour), so please reserve your spot early.

Members \$7 | Non-Members \$10

GALA IN THE GARDEN

Saturday, July 27 6–9 pm

The Institute's annual fundraising extravaganza—an event you will not want to miss! See flyer at the end of this calendar newsletter for more information.

Tickets \$50 each

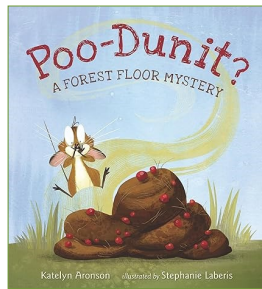
August Storybook Walk: *Poo-Dunit?*

A Forest Floor Mystery

by Katelyn Aronson; Illustrated by
Stephanie Laberis

Join Mouse in her hilarious quest as she questions all the forest animals and explains in detail (and rhyme!) why the poo does not resemble theirs! After your storybook adventure, stop by the southside of the Visitor Center and learn more about animal scat (poo!) and how it can be useful in nature.

Free (Self-guided on Black Walnut Trail)



This storybook walk is thanks to the generosity of Joel and Barbara VanDyken.

Animals Tracks on the Trails

Thursday, August 1–Saturday, August 31

Be a nature detective and learn about common animal tracks you may encounter on the trails. Then search for animal signs along the rest of the Institute's trails.

Field Station End of Summer Celebration

Wednesday, August 7 6:30–8:30 pm

7:00 pm – Writers' Readings

Join us for an end of summer learning celebration with the Institute's Field Station. Don't miss the opportunity to interact with student researchers, artists, writers, and stewardship fellows and see the results of their summer work. Explore research results in a poster walk, enjoy a gallery of student artwork, and listen to writers share pieces of the work they have been crafting all summer.

Free

Dive-in Movie: Migration Style (Family-friendly) at Hastings Community Education & Recreation Center

Friday, August 9 6–8 pm

Take flight (or should we say swim) and join us for a family-friendly movie in the pool. Take a break from swimming and learn about birds and migration with hands-on activities and snacks. This event is hosted by the Hastings Community Education & Recreation Center, Barry County Great Start Collaborative, Hastings Public Library, and Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. Doors open at 6 pm. Movie starts at 6:30 pm.

FASST (First Responders, Armed Services, Students, Seniors, Teachers) \$3
Adults \$6

Family \$15 (up to 6 in same household)

No pre-registration required; Pay at the door

Specialty Dinner–Fish Fry

Friday, August 16 Dinner: 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Enjoy this buffet-style dinner prepared by our talented kitchen staff, featuring traditional fried perch, a baked fish, potato wedges, coleslaw, cornbread, a delectable dessert, and refreshing beverages. This family-friendly dinner is dine-in only. Seating is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot now for an unforgettable evening of great food and good company.

Registration deadline is Friday, August 2.

Member Adults \$20; Children \$10

Non-Member Adults \$25; Children \$15 (plus tax)

Children ages 6–12; 5 and under are free

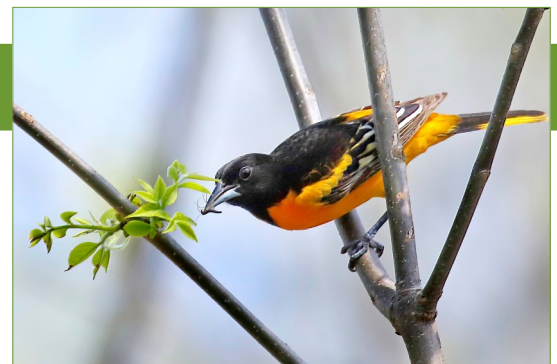
**Registration, additional program information, and menus available at
CedarCreekInstitute.org or call (269) 721-4190.**

Ongoing Events

Bob Pierce – Birds and Butterflies and other Creatures that Fly Photography Exhibit June through September 2024

Bob's photography exhibit will be on display and for sale in the Institute's Visitor Center June through September 2024.

See insert for more information.



Have you heard about Pierce Pickups?

Have a busy week coming up? No time to cook? Tired of fast food? Don't stress about what's for dinner. Try a Pierce Pickup. These frozen entrees are 100% homemade and are a great alternative to making your own meals. It's so simple, just go to CedarCreekInstitute.org to view the menu and place your order!





Saturday, June 1

Native Plant Sale

9 am – Noon

Join us at this year's annual Native Plant Sale! For the second year in a row, in addition to pre-order pick-up, we will host an in-person event at the Visitor Center to provide an opportunity for community members to browse our gift shop, purchase additional plants, and consult with our experienced staff on gardening recommendations. Plant stock will be subject to availability so we highly encourage pre-ordering to obtain your desired species before they sell out. Pre-order until May 27 at CedarCreekInstitutePlants.com.

Join photographer Bob Pierce for his artist reception and exhibit, *Birds, Butterflies, and other Creatures that Fly*. His work will be on exhibit and for sale in the Visitor Center June through September 2024.



June through September Exhibit

Bob Pierce – Birds and Butterflies and other Creatures that Fly Photography Exhibit starts June 2024

Bob Pierce, a retired English teacher, dedicated 25 years to teaching in Chester County, PA. His career included coaching the school's Academic Quiz Bowl Team and tutoring students for SAT exams and ESL programs. Since retiring in 2012, Bob has focused on nature photography, particularly capturing flying creatures. Active in bird clubs and the Audubon Society, he's shared his passion through presentations about birds and other animals from the Galapagos to Kenya. Now residing in Calhoun County, MI, Bob continues his photography pursuits, challenging himself to capture the elusive beauty of flying creatures. According to Bob, "Whether up in the trees, or out on a shoreline, or flying above, or nesting with eggs and chicks, or feeding on berries, birds, and bees, and dragonflies continue to be a challenge. When composing, I attempt to find an angle that appeals to the eye and is of interest to the viewer. Most of the photos in this exhibit were taken in places other than Michigan, but all of these flying creatures can be seen at various times of the year here in Michigan."

Birds, Butterflies, and other Creatures that Fly photography exhibit will be on display and for sale in the Institute's Visitor Center June through September 2024.

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GALA IN THE GARDEN

Saturday, July 27

6–9 pm



Event tickets go on sale Thursday, June 6
\$50 each

Enjoy an enchanted evening of delicious food, delightful drinks, and festive music at our biggest and most important fundraiser of the year. This year, we're bringing the festivities back indoors, but also taking advantage of the Visitor Center's wrap-around deck that provides breathtaking views of our amazing surroundings.

One of the highlights of the evening will be our raffle drawing which includes these incredible prizes!

Four-night stay at Barothy Lodge: A "Pure Michigan" Getaway

Enjoy a four-night stay in Eagle Nest, a four-bedroom log cabin with a full kitchen, fireplace, hot tub, pool table, and laundry facilities at Barothy Lodge, a year-round wilderness retreat on the Pere-Marquette River.

Value: \$1,887

Donated by Doug and Margaret DeCamp



Blackstone Griddle and Meat Package

One of the *hottest* items of the summer. Enjoy outdoor barbeques with family and friends and a Blackstone On The Go Outdoor Griddle. With multiple heating zones, this griddle can cook enough food to feed an army at any point in the day – breakfast, lunch, and dinner. A perfect item for chefs of all levels! It even comes with a meat package!

Value: \$400

Donated by Pierce Cedar Creek Institute's Fund Development Council



Weekend stay at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute's Batts Cottage

An opportunity, not normally offered, is a two- or three-night getaway at our own Batts Cottage. Located at Brewster Lake, this rustic, two-bedroom cottage that sleeps three was built by Dr. Lew Batts, the original owner, and features a full kitchen, bathroom with shower, and living area. Available in spring, summer, and fall, based on availability, it's the perfect destination for a quiet getaway. Included is the use of the Institute's boat, perfect for those who want to get out on the water and fish. Whether you come by yourself or bring the grandkids, this truly unique experience is sure to be a memory-maker!

Value: \$350



Raffle tickets go on sale Monday, May 20.

\$5 each or 3 for \$10

Gala in the Garden is sponsored in part by the Douglas A. & Margaret E. DeCamp Foundation.

