



EarthBeat

EMBRACING NATURE • ENGAGING MINDS



Bats in the belfry? Probably not.

Bats rarely live in belfries. They prefer quiet places, free from cobwebs, that aren't too drafty.

Learn more at: www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Cottage/3005/

Outdoor, Environmental, and Experiential Education—Ebersole Has It All

According to Wikipedia outdoor education usually refers to organized learning that takes place in the outdoors. Environmental education refers to organized efforts to teach about how natural environments function and, particularly, how human beings can manage their behavior and ecosystems in order to live sustainably. The term is often used to imply education within the school system. Experiential education is a philosophy of education that focuses on the transactive process between teacher and student involved in direct experience with the learning environment and content.

Since 1977 all three of these learning concepts have been part of the programs taught at the Lansing School District's Ebersole Center. Ebersole is a facility where teachers from all school districts can bring their students to learn while having fun outdoors. Lansing School District LSEA President, Jerry Swartz states, "Many of our teachers may be unaware of the rare jewel currently available to our students and staff in the Lansing School District. This Jewel is our very own Ebersole Center. I am a proud participant of 10 overnight adventures at the Center in my modest career and fear that the recent under usage may be a result of a lack of awareness of all there is to experience at the Center. I encourage our educators to check out this opportunity further by logging on to the Ebersole Website and exploring the options!"

If you are a teacher who would like to incorporate an outdoor, environmental and experiential educational program into your classroom, the Ebersole Center still has dates available for the 2008-2009 school year. Groups that book for an overnight visit in the months of December, January or February will receive a 15% discount off the base student price. The Center also has many weekend dates available for church groups, adult groups, family reunions, or any other event you would be interested in hosting.

To learn more about Ebersole programs and pricing please call 517/755-5000 or visit us online at <http://ebersole.lansingschools.net>.

Support Ebersole while surfing the 'net!

GoodSearch & GoodShop ('til you drop!)

Did you know you can support Ebersole Center while doing things on the internet that you would be doing anyway? Ebersole is now a member of "GoodSearch"— an online search engine (much like Google). Each time you search, a donation is given to Ebersole Foundation!

To start donating, go to www.goodsearch.com. Enter "Ebersole Center Foundation" under "Who do you GoodSearch for?" Then go ahead and search and you will automatically raise money for Ebersole! You can even make GoodSearch your home page.

Another neat part of GoodSearch is "GoodShop." For every online purchase made through the GoodShop site, retailers will donate a portion of their sales. So, whether you shop at Amazon, Barnes & Nobel, Home Depot, Ebay or hundreds of other online stores, you can raise money for Ebersole at the same time! **Please remember to use GoodShop when you are doing your online holiday shopping.**

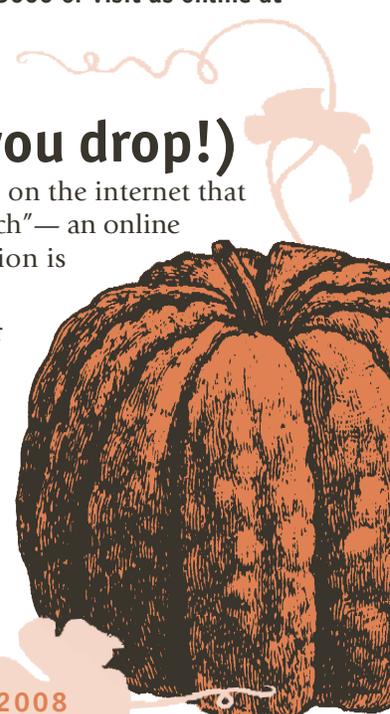


Ranger Randy Wilson releases a pair of Painted Turtles into Jackson Lake.

Ebersole Awarded

Last June, Ranger Randy Wilson of the Michigan Deputy Ranger Patrol contacted Ebersole to inquire about the possibility of releasing two rehabilitated turtles into Jackson Lake. The pair of Painted Turtles had been injured by vehicles on area roadways. After recovering in captivity they were strong enough to be reintroduced to the wild. Ranger Wilson successfully released both turtles into the lake on June 27.

Ranger Wilson nominated the Center for an Environmental Education award, which we were pleased to receive at the Deputy Ranger Patrol's Annual Awards Dinner on September 27.





Torey Byington



Kevin Curran

Ebersole Welcomes Two New Staff Members

Torey Byington is Ebersole Center's new Director/Site Coordinator.

Torey grew up in Michigan and graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies and Science. After graduating, she worked as an Environmental Planning Assistant for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments before moving to California in 1998. Most recently, Torey was the Environmental Director for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe in Nixon, Nevada, where she supervised a staff of 15 employees while managing 14 environmental programs on the 476,000 acre reservation.

Torey's plans include increasing awareness of the Center both in the Lansing School District and state-wide; attracting new groups to Ebersole; and increasing center funding through grant writing. She also looks forward to being closer to her family and once again experiencing Michigan's changing seasons.

Torey can be reached at 517-755-5001.

Kevin Curran joins the Center staff as the new Ebersole Health Officer.

Originally from Byron, New York, Kevin discovered an interest in the medical field and water rescue while acquiring his first responder's certification for a white water rafting guide position.

In 2003 Kevin enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard, and his first duty was on a 110 foot patrol boat out of St. Petersburg, Florida. He advanced to petty officer and was later transferred to Niagara Falls where he became an EMT and the medical petty officer. His passion for the medical field grew and he was assigned to U.S. Coast Guard Sector Buffalo for the remainder of his enlistment. There, Kevin learned how to run a clinic and acquired a variety of skills from medical terminology to sutures.

Kevin can be reached at 517-755-5006.

Dynamic Dragonflies: One of Earth's Very First Flyers

Jackson Lake, located on the Ebersole Center's property, is home to a myriad of different plants and animals. If you sit quietly near the edge of the lake you can hear and see all sorts of animals moving about, everything from frogs along the edge, to fish swimming in the depths, to birds singing in the cattails. As you watch and listen, something will probably catch your eye. You will see amazing flying animals that can dart around the surface of the water very fast, they can hover in one place, and they can even fly backwards! These little animals that resemble helicopters are dragonflies.

Dragonflies have existed on the planet longer than any other insect, in fact the earliest known evidence of dragonflies dates back about 300 million years ago. Dragonflies were the largest insects of all time and had a wing span of over 24 inches, that's 2 feet! Modern day dragonflies are obviously not nearly as large as their prehistoric relatives, however in some parts of the world they can grow to have wingspans stretching eight inches or more.

There are about 5,000 different kinds (species) of dragonflies, and approximately 450 of these occur in North America. The study of dragonflies and similar species like damselflies, is a relatively new field, with new species being discovered and observed all the time, in the near future we may see the known number of dragonfly species double or even triple. Dragonflies can be found in almost every continent in the world, and come in all sorts of sizes and colors.

Although their name suggests it, dragonflies aren't flies at all. Flies only have one pair of wings, while dragonflies have two. Dragonflies are not related to dragons either...they are a type of insect, with three separate body parts, a head, a middle section called a thorax and a tail end called an abdomen. Like other insects, they have six legs. A dragonfly has huge eyes in order to see its prey. Some species have such large eyes that they actually touch each other.

Dragonflies have incredible life cycles. Adult dragonflies live for up to one year and in their time as adults they will mate and the female will lay up to 1,000 eggs in some body of water such as a lake, river, pond or stream. After about a month, the eggs hatch, but the babies don't resemble the adults at all. The baby dragonfly also called a naiad or nymph spends the next three to five years hunting for prey, feeding and growing until it is ready to turn into the adult flying form. A dragonfly nymph will molt approximately ten times before it is ready to take on its adult form. When the time is right and the nymph is ready, it climbs out of the water onto an emergent plant along the waters edge and molts for the last time. The newly emerged adult dragonfly must sit in the sun and let its new skin harden and wings firm up before it can fly. This is a very dangerous time for the dragonfly and the new adults can become easy prey for birds, frogs and other animals.

Once the adult dragonfly has completed the drying process it is ready to begin hunting for prey and moving on to the next stage of its life cycle. The dragonfly will find a mate, reproduce, and the circle of life will continue for these amazing animals.

Dragonflies are very beneficial insects. They feed on other less desirable insects such as mosquitoes and mosquito larva, insects which can carry diseases like West Nile Virus and encephalitis, as well as flies and their larva, just to name a few. Having dragonflies around is helpful to humans and other animals.

Dragonflies need clean water in order to breed successfully, so remember to keep all of our waterways clean!

We Own the Farm—Almost!

Thanks to all of our supporters over these past five years we've done it! Together, we've raised over \$550,000.

Unfortunately, we also had to take out a loan for \$20,000 to make the final payment. By doing so, we bought ourselves a little breathing room to finish the task. Now we've set our goal to have the loan paid off by the end of February at our sixth annual *Give Your Heart to Ebersole* fund raiser.

However, in the mean time, we need your help with donations **now** so that we'll have the necessary dollars by the end of February. Once the land is paid for we can turn our attention towards raising funds to help with student scholarships, endowments, capital campaigns and perhaps additional land purchases should the opportunity arise. So please, whether you've donated in the past or have never made a donation, consider making a gift today so that we can truly own the farm, and the Ebersole Center's "field of dreams."

For more details on making a donation to the Foundation or the "Field of Dreams" Banquet & Auction, please call the Center at (517) 755-5000, or John Schimmel at (517) 881-8883. You may also visit: <http://ebersole.lansingschools.net>.

EBERSOLE FOUNDATION

FIELD OF DREAMS



We Could Own It... Will You Come?

Give Your Heart to Ebersole's "Field of Dreams" Banquet & Auction Saturday, February 28, 2009

With the final payment on our land purchase close at hand, it only seemed appropriate to make "Field of Dreams" the theme for this year's annual *Give Your Heart to Ebersole* banquet and auction. It will again be held at the Eagle Eye Banquet Facility on Saturday, February 28, 2009 and will celebrate finishing this remarkable project of adding an additional 80 acres to the Ebersole Center's current 158 acre holdings, expanding the Center by 50%!

To make this year's banquet a success, we'll need everyone's help either by joining us for the celebration and/or providing donations and sponsorships for our auction and raffle. Tickets are \$35.00 and can be purchased by contacting the Ebersole Center.

Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for this momentous occasion as we celebrate Ebersole Center!

Will You Help? Return this form in the enclosed envelope.

NAME/COMPANY _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

I would like to contribute to the "Field of Dreams" Banquet & Auction in the following way(s):

- My check is enclosed, payable to Ebersole Foundation, in the following amount: \$ _____
- I will provide these items for the auction/raffle:

- I am interested in working at the event. Please contact me.



TidBits

Our Mission...

Inspire learners of all ages to embrace nature, engage their minds, and acquire an awareness of responsible stewardship for our planet.



 Printed on recycled paper.

Ebersole Staff Transitions

Rose Pardee has accepted a promotion to kitchen manager, filling a spot left by Bonnie Brenner who recently retired. She brings with her a vast knowledge of the groups served at the Center. Rose can be reached at 517-755-5003.

Rose's acceptance of the promotion to kitchen manager has left a vacancy in our kitchen. The Center is currently recruiting applicants for a food service/baker cook position.

Nurse Tommie Kost has left Ebersole after five years as Health Officer to pursue other interests. We wish Tommie and her family the best of luck!

New Laptop Computers

Eight laptop computers from the Lansing School District Technology Department are now available for teachers to use while at Ebersole for data collection, reports, and research. They all have internet connections as well as programs for word processing, spreadsheets, graphics, presentations, and databases. These computers will also allow groups to utilize our computer microscopes while at the Center.

Day Programs a Go for 2008-09

The Lansing School District is again encouraging 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade teachers to plan a day-long program at the Ebersole Center. Topics for these programs follow along with District Pacing Guides. Many dates are available on a first-come first-served basis.

Naturalist in the Classroom

Our Naturalist in the Classroom program is being offered again to all school districts during the winter months. Ebersole Center naturalists will bring nature into the classroom with environmentally-based lessons that can be used at all grade levels. These lessons are designed to enhance your current curriculum or provide pre-camp programming for schools that will be attending camp.

An equal opportunity employer.



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