**CALENDAR**

### May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>WWC Open 1-4, Guided Walk @ 2 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fun on the Farm Day @ WWC, Family Fun from 9am—12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>WWC Closed—Trails Open Mother’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Stewardship Network Program: Identifying Wild Flowers 9:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>WWC Open 1-4 pm, Guided Walk @ 2 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Wild Ones Program: Saul Lake Bog Preserve Tour 6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Volunteer Applications for Summer Camps Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Volunteer Training for Summer Camps 1-2:30 pm @ WWC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>WWC Open 1-4 pm, Guided Walk @ 2 pm *Volunteer Training for Summer Camps 1-2:30 pm @ WWC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>WWC Closed—Trails Open Memorial Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### June

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>All Summer Camp Registrations Due!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>WWC Open 1-4, Guided Walk @ 2 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Last Day of School!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>WWC Open 1-4, Guided Walk @ 2 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Tiny Trekker Summer Camp Begins!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Junior Master Naturalists Summer Camp Begins! 9:30–3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Junior Master Gardener Camp Begins! 9:30–3pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### July

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>WWC Closed—July 1–10 Trails Open!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>WWC Open 1-4, Guided Walk @ 2 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Junior Master Naturalist 9:30—3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Junior Master Gardener 9:30—3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>WWC Open 1-4, Guided Walk @ 2 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>WWC Open 1-4, Guided Walk @ 2 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fun on the Farm Day!**

Saturday, May 7th 9:00 am–12:00 pm

Join us for a day of Fun on the Farm! Ever been eye to eye with a newborn calf? Want to pet a lamb? The Lowell High School FFA Chapter will provide you with these opportunities and more as you get a chance to get up close and personal with several of our barnyard friends. This FREE event is GREAT for families of all ages!

**DON’T MISS Summer Camps Get all the info on pages 4 & 5!**

- **Junior Master Gardener** (grades 4th—8th) Thursdays: 9:30—3:00, June 16—Aug 11
- **Junior Master Naturalist** NEW! (grades 2nd—8th) Tuesdays: 9:30—3:00, June 14—Aug 9
- **Tiny Trekkers Summer Series** (parent/child class PreK—6) Mon-Thurs, 10am OR 1pm, June 13-16
- **Volunteer Opportunities!** We are looking for a few volunteers to help us explore the summer! Please fill out and return application by May 20th. Thank You!

**Tiny Trekkers Summer Nature Series**

Mondays through Thursday June 13, 14, 15, 16

Cost is $20 per child for the 4-day series. Spring Series Topics: Field Study Fun, Circle of the Sun, Rocks to Soil, Fantastic Fishing 12 spots in morning session - 10:00-11:30 am 12 spots in afternoon session - 1:00 – 2:30 pm 616-987-2565 or email rjohnson@lowellschools.com.

Registration deadline is June 3rd!
Community Garden Plots For Rent!

Since its birth, the Wittenbach/Wege Center’s Community Garden has been sowing friendships, growing community involvement and raising an appreciation for the land. It’s become a place for those without sunny backyards or balconies to still enjoy the benefits of gardening. Network with other gardeners, relax from the day’s stresses and get active all while enjoying the benefits of being in the out-of-doors.

Several plots are still available for the 2016 growing season!

Your Plot Is Waiting...

The WWC is pleased to be able to provide members of the Lowell Community the opportunity to rent a Community Garden plot. Plots are available in two sizes. Half plots are 10 feet by 12 feet (120 square feet) and are available for $20. Full plots are 10 feet by 25 feet (250 square feet) and are available for $35.

Each plot will be tilled at the beginning of the year when weather permits and has access to water. Gardeners are encouraged to provide their own tools but tools will be available during open hours.

Plots are limited. For more information, or to reserve your plot, please contact Courtney Cheers, WWC Director and Community Garden Coordinator, at 616-987-52565 or ccheers@lowellschools.com.

Plant Sale Starts May 31

The Lowell High School Plant Science students have been growing vegetable and flower varieties in the greenhouse. Some of these plants are used in the fourth grade service learning garden plots which are cared for by Junior Master Gardeners and food grown is donated to FROM food pantry.

Any remaining plants will be available to purchase starting May 31. Each day the greenhouse will be open from 8-4 and plants will be available on a first come, first serve basis. It’s a great way to get affordable plants for your garden.

Thank you to the Nations Honor Society Students who help move mulch, tackle weedy garden beds, create recycled fire starters to sell, and so much more! We appreciate your time, energy and service!

Thank you to the all the volunteers, Lowell Area Historical Museum and staff members that helped make Maple Syrup Days a success!

Thank you Jeff Chadderdon and Family for photographing Maple Syrup Days.

Thank you Barb Armbruster for donating nature calendars, maps, and posters.

Thank you Don Hutchinson for the cool bird nests and eggs, they are on display in the front entry.

Thank you Lee Schab for donating several wildlife books to our library along with a globe and calendars.
The Stewardship Network — West Michigan Cluster
https://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/

Upcoming Events
- Identifying Wildflowers Using Newcomb's Wildflower Guide
- How To Design and Install A Rain Garden — A Hands-On Workshop
- Join our Naturalists on Sunday afternoons at River City Wild Ones

River City Wild Ones
Visit: www.rivercitywildones.org for full program information

Upcoming Events
- May 16 — Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve Tour 6:30 pm
- June 20 — Michigan Wildflower Farm Tour 6:30 pm

Wid'ol Ones Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmental sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Wid’ol Ones is a for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.

Kent County Conservation District
http://kentconservation.org/
Kent Conservation District Office
3260 Eagle Park Drive NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Call 616-942-4111 x 100

Their mission is to protect and enhance the natural resources of Kent County. They accomplish this with voluntary programs available for private landowners in rural and urban areas, such as wildflower identification, conservation assistance and Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance (MAEA) verification, Farm Bill Programs, and technical assistance to all landowners.

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Nature News: Be In The Know
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JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER CAMP
Junior Master Gardener camp (JMG) is a youth gardening program in cooperation with extension. It engages students in “hands on” group and individual learning experiences that provide a love of gardening, develop an appreciation of the environment, and cultivate the mind! All levels combine academic achievement, gardening, nutrient dense food experiences, physical activity, and stewardship engagement. All levels will meet on the same dates and participate in the same study trips and stewardship projects such as:

- Community involvement by growing fresh vegetables to donate to the F.R.O.M. Food Pantry.
- Building entrepreneurial skills by selling produce at the Lowell Farmers Market.
- Visiting local farms and businesses to better understand Michigan’s rich agricultural contributions.
- Developing stewardship and leadership skills helping care for the WWC gardens.

**LEVEL 1** — for campers entering grades 4, 5, 6 in the fall of 2016. — Gardeners will explore the garden and nature while learning about plants and insects. Topics include: Plant Growth & Development, Soils & Water, Ecology, Insects & Disease, Landscape Horticulture, Fruits & Nuts, Veggies & Herbs, and Life Skills/ Career Exploration in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

**LEVEL 2** — for campers entering grades 5, 6, 7, 8 in the fall of 2016. — Level Two activities are more in-depth focusing on plant growth and development with increased independent study and expanded experiments. It’s a great way for gardeners to build upon their plant knowledge and further develop their understanding of plant biology!

**THURSDAYS, June 16 — August 11, 9:30am — 3:00pm** (No JMG Camp July 5th)

JUNIOR MASTER NATURALISTS CAMP
Junior Master Naturalists Camp (JMN) is an 8-week nature discovery camp that will explore the plant and animal biodiversity of MI habitats. Each week campers will explore a different MI habitat and experience nature first hand!

Our camp leaders will guide students towards an awareness and appreciation of our natural world, using hands on activities, incorporating citizen science tools, developing team building and stewardship concepts, and encouraging individual growth in observation and outdoor skills. Acorns and Oaks will work together to create a field guide of the plant and animal communities of the WWC.

Each day will explore the following areas:
- Nature Journaling, Outdoor Skills, Stewardship Project, and Habitat Study.

**ACORNS** — for campers entering grades 2, 3, 4 in the fall of 2016. — Acorns will explore nature while observing and learning about Michigan habitats.

**OAKS** — for campers entering grades 5, 6, 7, 8 in the fall of 2016. — Oaks will meet on the same dates and times as Acorns and will participate in all off campus study trips. Oaks activities are more in-depth focusing on habitat growth and development with increased independent observation and expanded experiments. It’s a great way for students to build upon their habitat knowledge and further develop their understanding of ecosystems!

**TUESDAYS, June 14 — August 9, 9:30am — 3:00pm** (No JMN Camp July 5th)

general information for Both Camps

- Contact Courtney Cheers to register at ccheers@lowellschools.com or 616-987-2565
- Each camp runs 6 weeks, hours are 9:30 am — 3:00 pm.
- Camp fee is $160 and include materials, supplies, and transportation to and from study trips.
- Campers will be responsible for bringing a sack lunch each day camp meets.
- Camp size is a maximum of 15 students per session with a minimum of 5 students per session.
- 4 points possible to earn each week with 26 points required to earn a certificate of completion
- No camp July 5 or July 7 (Week of July 4th)
- Registration begins April 11 — Ends June 3!
- Student and Adult Volunteers are wanted for Summer Camps!
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- Registration begins April 11 — Ends June 3!
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- **Your Child’s Safety**: We are serious about maintaining a safe learning environment for your child. All program instructors are either employees of Lowell Area Schools or volunteers and have participated in criminal background and driving record checks. Activities involve working on uneven surfaces, bending, twisting and walking outdoors. Persons with limited mobility and sensitivity to the sun and heat should consider these factors. If individualized attention is needed for campers with special needs, please contact Courtney Cheers to discuss options.
- **Scholarships Available**: Financial support is available to help offset the registration cost. For students in the Lowell Area Schools District, the Lowell Education Association offers scholarships for elementary and middle school students attending academic summer camps. Applications are available in your child’s school office.
- Home school students and students attending from other districts requesting financial support, please contact Courtney Cheers for information on scholarships made possible through the generosity of donors such as the Lowell Showboat Garden Club.
- If your group or business would like to donate to the Summer Camp Scholarship Fund, please contact Courtney for more information.
TINY TREKKERS—Summer Camp Series

June 13, 14, 15, 16 (Rain Date: June 17)
10—11:30am OR 1—2:30pm

Tiny Trekkers is a nature program for children 3-6 years old and their parent, grandparent or care-giver. Cost is $20 per child for the 4-day series. Children under 3 and homeschool families are welcome to attend. There is a $10 per child fee for additional siblings over 3.

Topics: Field Study Fun, Rocks to Soil, Circle of the Sun, Fantastic Fishing

12 spots available for the morning session - 10:00-11:30 am
12 spots available for the afternoon session - 1:00-2:30 pm

Please RSVP by calling Courtney or Rachel 616-987-2565
or email rjohnson@lowellschools.com

Registration deadline is June 3rd! Space is Limited...Register Early!

Summer Volunteer opportunities

WWC is seeking Teen and Adult Volunteers for the summer!

Volunteers play a key role in our summer camps and stewardship projects. Please consider joining our team for the Junior Master Gardeners (JMG) camp, the Junior Master Naturalists (JMN) camp or Tiny Trekkers Camp! Opportunities also exist for Garden & Trail Stewardship Projects.

- Teen and Adult Positions: Tiny Trekkers runs 4 days June 13-16 from 9:00am to 3:00pm each day.
- Teen and Adult Positions: JMG and JMN are both 8 week programs from June 14 to August 11th, with the week of July 4th off. JMN is held every Tuesday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, and JMG is held every Thursday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. You can join us based on your availability. Preferred availability is for a minimum of 4 consecutive weeks but not required.
- Teen and Adult Positions: Garden/Trail Stewards, Nature Center Projects: project and steward days will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer.
- Volunteers should have a love of the outdoors and an ability to interact well with children who are excited to learn about gardening and nature! We also ask that volunteers be comfortable participating in camp activities that involve working on uneven surfaces, bending, twisting, and walking outdoors.
- All adult volunteers will need to have a Lowell Area Schools background check prior to volunteering.
- Summer volunteers will need to attend one of our mandatory training sessions, which will be held on Saturday, May 21 from 1:00pm-2:30pm or Sunday, May 22 from 1:00pm-2:30pm.
- Volunteer Applications are Due May 20!
- If we have not described a position that matches your talents and interests, give us a call! All contributions of time, talents, and energy are welcome!
- To request a volunteer application for our summer camps or stewardship projects, please contact Courtney Cheers no later than Friday, May 20. 616.987.2565 or by email, CCheers@lowellschools.com.

Thank You!