



WETLANDS GAZETTE

Volume 5, Issue 3

November 2009

Are You Looking For a Challenge? **Article by Doug Aziz, President**

At our November 3rd meeting the Board of Director's approved the submittal of a grant application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$40,000. The grant is for the construction of a boardwalk which will turn the Dragonfly Pond Trail into a loop. It is a matching grant which will require Friends of the Mead/McMillan Association, Inc. to provide an equal amount of funding. The expectation is that the Friends contributions will primarily be in the form of in-kind labor and donations of materials required to complete the trail. Consequently, we will be asking you, the membership, to step-up as volunteer labor if, in fact, the grant is approved.

A fund drive will also be conducted whereby individuals and/or organizations can purchase individual planks or entire sections of boardwalk as well as benches or interpretive signage as a means of showing their appreciation of the education programs at Mead Wildlife Area.

It will take considerable effort to meet our commitment of in-kind labor to fulfill the requirements of the grant and we hope we can count on you to look at this project as a means of "paying-it-forward" for what Mead Wildlife Area means to you.

Friends of the **Mead/McMillan**

Officers

- *President—Doug Aziz
Mosinee 693-3491*
- *Vice-President—Kent Hall
Stevens Point 344-8081*
- *Secretary—Jim Yulga
Wisconsin Rapids 435-3177*
- *Treasurer – Sue Hall
Steven's Point 344-8081*

Directors:

- *Doug Aziz*
- *Beth Clouse*
- *Randy Cutler*
- *Don Fox*
- *Don Furo*
- *Sally Furo*
- *Stephanie Haka*
- *Kent Hall*
- *Sue Hall*
- *John Shippy*
- *Bob Trembl*
- *Jim Yulga*

DNR Staff on board:

- *Tom Meier, Project Manager*
- *Brian Peters*
- *Pam Stange, Educator
Office 457-6771*

Webmaster:

- *Jim Yulga*

Editor:

- *Dave Grabski
dgrabski@charter.net*

Notice of Annual Meeting

**Annual Meeting of the Friends of Mead-McMillan
Association, Inc.**

When: Saturday, January 16, 2010

**Location: Stanton W. Mead Education &
Visitor Center**

Time: 9:00 AM



Manager's Report

Article by Tom Meier

This quarter has been an eventful one for the Mead and for the Friends. Many exciting events have taken place that I feel are very significant and noteworthy. This year is the 50th Anniversary of the Mead and we held a grand celebration on August 29th. We had a pancake breakfast, celebrated the original gift of the property from Consolidated Water and Paper Company with George Mead and Susan Feith, facilitated future use of the property by visitors and introduced the public to our new DVD about the property: "A Journey through the Mead-On the Banks of the Little Eau Pleine River". This is a great historical and management overview that was filmed and produced by Gerard Fuehrer of Auburndale and sponsored by the Friends. It was a wonderful day with friends, neighbors, and visitors. The pancake breakfast was attended by over 350 people and is going to become an annual event. The celebration would have been impossible without the help from members of the Friends and many volunteers. Thanks to all involved for making that day a success!!



This has been our second year of "Winged Artistry" a professional exhibit of high end taxidermy that most of us have never seen before. Last year the show brought in over 3000 visitors and this year is a repeat of that type of interest. The exhibit is put on in conjunction with "Birds in Art" an exhibition at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau. If you were not able to take it in this year, mark your calendars for August 2010. Bring the family, you will be impressed!

We also have a new big screen HDTV in the lobby of the Center that was donated by Rudie Schuette. It allows us to play DVDs of the property and other wildlife oriented productions. It is great for visitors and students alike.

This fall we received an award acknowledging the significant wetlands of the Mead. Be sure to read the article by Patrice Evers on this significant award.

Finally but certainly not least is the fact that our Educator, Pam Stange, has now been with us in her full capacity as the Natural Resources Educator for one year. Pam, along with Mead Staff and a host of volunteers, has taken the Mead's educational program to a new level. Over that time period, we serviced over 5000 children and adults. A report on Pam's accomplishments during this first year has just been completed and is available upon request.

**Visit The George W.
Mead Wildlife Area
Online**

<http://meadwildlife.org/>

**Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitors
Center**

Photo by Tom Brown



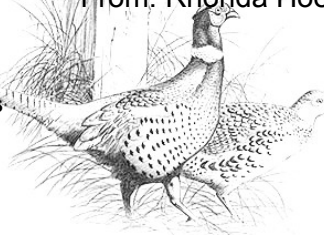


Mead-elicious Recipe Section

Recipe for: Partridge Casserole

From: Rhonda Hoesly

2 Birds (breast meat)
1 pkg seasoned bread crumbs
1 medium onion
2 stalks of celery
1 T. parsley flakes
3 ½ cups broth from cooked birds



½ cup melted butter
1 can Cream of Chicken soup
½ cup flour
2 eggs
1 can of mushrooms

Simmer birds with onion, celery, & parsley until tender (~2 hrs). Cool, remove meat from bone, save broth. Mix bread crumbs, 1 ½ cups broth & melted butter. Save 1 cup of bread crumb mixture.

Put bread crumb mixture into bottom of casserole dish. Mix soup, ½ cup flour, & 2 cups broth. Cook until thick, add eggs, and cook 2-3 minutes more. Cool, pour half of sauce over bread crumb mixture in casserole dish, layer meat & mushrooms, & balance of sauce. Top with 1 cup of bread crumbs & 4 T of melted butter. Bake at 350° for ½ hour.

Recipe for: Blueberry Bars

From: Virginia Stange

Filling (cook until thick):
1 ½ cup Blueberries
2/3 cup water

Crust:
1 ½ cup flour
1 ½ cup oatmeal
¾ cup shortening

¾ cup sugar

1 cup brown sugar
½ tsp. salt



Mix these ingredients as you would for a pie crust. Spread ½ into the bottom of a 9x13 cake pan, cover with filling, spread remaining crust on top. Bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes.



History and Future of the Mead Dog Training Area

Article by Ken M. Blomberg

A little over two decades ago, several gun dog enthusiasts approached Mead Project Manager Tom Meier about establishing a dog training and field trial area on a small area on the east end of the Mead. With strong support from Tom and his staff, it became a reality and has become one of the premiere areas of its type in the state. Today, it attracts folks and their hunting dogs from all corners of Wisconsin and from afar, as trialers and judges come from numerous other states.

According to the ongoing long range plan, the Mead Class 1 Dog Trial and Training Grounds were created in 1988. This area is designed to provide participating groups and individuals an opportunity to train dogs and hold test and competitive trials. The "Mead Grounds Association", (MGA) representing participating groups and the Department of Natural Resources,

is charged with managing the grounds within the scope of this five year plan and the intent under which the grounds was established. Permits for training and events are issued out of the Mead Project office and scheduling of all organized activities is taken care of through the Grounds association. At present the area comprises of 3 fields, forest fringe and open water wetland. Developments include 3 parking areas and a shelter.

The mission of the MGA, through management of this area, is to encourage, through training, the use of dogs in sport hunting and to allow through test or trials, aspects of the art of dog training and obedience. Attempts will be made to incorporate and accommodate the needs of each interested group into present and future design plans for this area. This will be undertaken with the understanding that the size, topography, soils, and general field layout of the grounds as well as adjacent land use may limit the desirability of the area for trial and training groups. We will also hold yearly hunting dog seminars, youth hunts or other public activities to hopefully generate more breed club use of the facility.

The long-term goals include water site area improvements. Utilize a water area south of DNR's Eau Pleine River boat landing and expand dog training grounds into area. Improve parking areas to accommodate growing needs. Create grassland connecting corridors between fields to facilitate combined use of these areas. Enhance, through planting and other methods, the density and stability of open field grass areas. Improve public use facility aspects of the grounds. Establish off ground sites to allow special trial and training opportunities that cannot be accommodated on grounds, with the understanding that such uses must be compatible with the general management and use of the wildlife area. Continue management of timbered areas occurring on and adjacent to the grounds for the enhancement of aspen in clear-cut situations. And finally, continue an established policy governing the upkeep of the well and sanitation.

The training and trialing season is over this time of the year; however the area is open for multiple uses and can be accessed by automobile. Next time you visit the Mead, take a look.



Photo of Sue2 by Erik Blomberg



"Junior Naturalist"



This page is dedicated to the many students & children "junior naturalists" who visit the Mead Wildlife Area. The natural world is filled with plants and animals, each with their own special job or **niche**. A **niche** is the role played by an organism in the natural world. Your role (**niche**) as a junior naturalist is to tell us about your experience in the outdoors in the form of a short story, poem or drawing.

Nature's Niches

Poem by Mary Miché

I've got a niche in nature no matter what you say.
I've got a niche in nature and its gonna stay that way.
I've got a niche in nature and so do you.
Everything that's living has a niche in nature too.

Do you know what a niche is? It's where something fits just right.
Well, nature has niches so that everything fits tight.
We each have a place in nature, whether we're big or small
If niches are protected, there's room enough for all.



Student from Woodside
Elementary, age 7

Leaf Painted T-Shirts

Supplies:

Assorted <u>Fresh</u> leaves-Do Not Press	
T-shirt or Sweatshirt	Fabric paint
Paint brushes	Tin can
Old newspaper	Paper towels



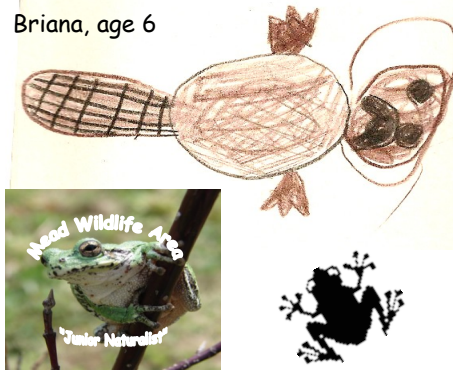
Steps:

- 1). Prepare material by putting old newspaper between the fabrics.
- 2). Prepare paint by pouring small amounts into containers, you may wish to mix some.
- 3). Paint one side of leaf (the underside works best because it has more veins and the imprint will show-up better).
- 4). Lay leaves with paint side down on fabric.
- 5). Apply equal pressure to all parts by using a jar, old clean tin can, old newspaper, or paper towel. This is called Pressure Painting.
- 6). Do as many leaves as you want, in any pattern.
- 7). When you paint on fabric, you need to Water Proof it. The way you do this is after the t-shirt is completely dry; put it into the dryer on low for 10-15 minutes. This process is called Heat Setting.



5th Grade Student
from St. Vincent
DePaul, age 10

Briana, age 6



If you have a story, poem or drawing about your visit with your school group or on your own,
please submit them to your teacher or to Pam Stange at stange.pamela@wisconsin.gov.





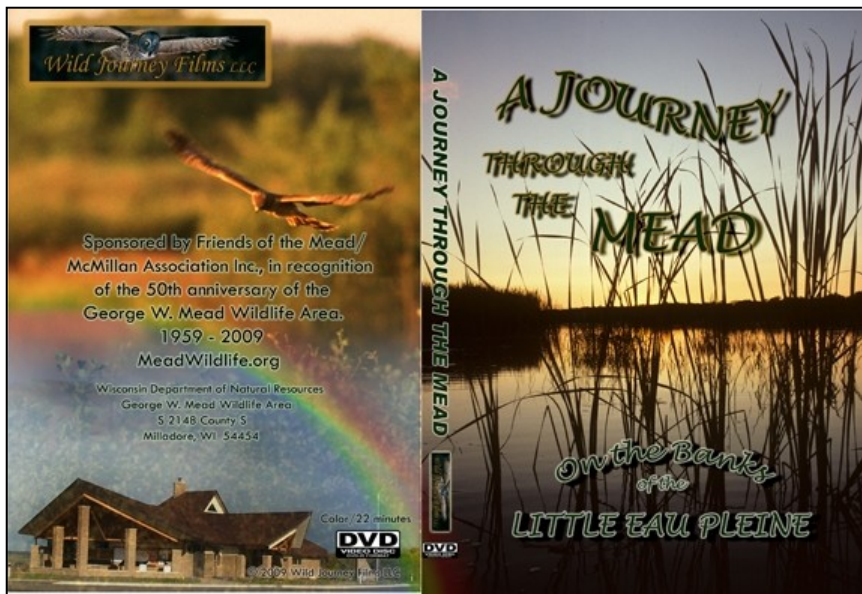
Mead 50th Anniversary Celebration

Photos by Betty Ptacek, Luke Fara, Patrice Eyers and Pam Stange



Christmas Gift Ideas

Mead Wildlife Area Commemorative Video or Pin



\$3.00

An introductory video showcasing the management of the diverse landscape and wildlife found on the Mead Wildlife Area.

\$12.00 each Or 2 for \$20.00

While Supplies Last

Both of these items can be viewed and purchased from the Friends' Souvenir Showcase at the Mead Education & Visitor Center.

Mead Wildlife Area is now on...



Become a fan on our Facebook page to keep connected with updates, photos and happenings at the Mead. Connect and share your photos and ideas with others who enjoy the wildlife area. **www.facebook.com**





Green-Wing Day

Article by Patrice Eysers

Photos by Randy Rusin



On August 15th, local Green-wing members joined us for a morning of duck banding. The day was very successful and A LOT of fun. The kids had a great time learning about ways to identify different duck species. They also had the opportunity to watch Barb Bodenstein, Wildlife Disease Biologist from the USDA in Madison, as she collected swab samples from the ducks to test for disease. After our morning in the field, the kids came back to the classroom for juice and snacks and watched our DVD, A Journey Through the Mead. A special thanks goes out to all the parents who took the time to get their young water-fowlers involved in this wonderful learning experience. We sure enjoyed it!



Wish List Update

We would like to thank the following people for helping fulfill some of our dreams:

- ♦ **Ruth (Rudie) Schuette** for the Sony 46in LCD HDTV and Western Digital HD Media Player with an external hard drive. This system was installed before our 50th celebration to play our introductory DVD "A Journey Through the Mead". It is also capable of playing other DVD's and PowerPoint presentations to better acquaint our visitors to the Mead Wildlife Area.
- ♦ **Betty Ptacek** for the easy to use Nikon digital camera. We are using it for recording visiting groups and events happening at the Center.
- ♦ **Barb Altmann** for the coffee maker. This will be used in our library for small conference groups.

If you would like to make an in-kind donation or see our complete Wish List, you can do so by viewing past newsletters on our website: www.meadwildlife.org



The Mead Receives Wetland GEM Award

Article by Patrice Evers



Photo by Brian Evers

In May 2009, in celebration of American Wetlands Month, Wisconsin Wetlands Association launched a new *Wetland Gems* program. The program aims to increase public awareness of and appreciation for all of the state's wetlands and to generate community pride in and commitment to stewardship of local wetland treasures.

The WWA worked with experts from around the state to develop a list of 100 wetlands for the special recognition. Ninety-three sites were chosen to represent Wisconsin's 12 wetland types present in each of the State's 8 geographic regions and seven sites were selected as Workhorse sites - sites that illustrate the functional values of wetlands (flood attenuation, water quality, habitat, and recreation/education).

Mead wetlands were recognized as Workhorse Wetlands in the category "Recreation/Education". The WWA has published a wonderful fact sheet detailing Mead's commitment to recreation and education as well as our dedication to holistic wetland management. A portfolio of outreach materials for the *Wetland Gems* program to help citizens get to know these wetland treasures of our state is available on their website <http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/gems.htm>

Mead Building Awarded LEED Platinum Green Building Certification

Article and Photos contributed by Tom Brown

The Stanton W. Mead Wildlife Area Education & Visitor Center has been awarded LEED® Platinum Green Building Certification. This is the highest possible level of certification for sustainable design and is the first and only State or publicly-owned building in Wisconsin to achieve this honor.

Tom Brown, Architect for the Mead Project, received formal notification of the Platinum LEED certification after submitting extensive and detailed documentation about all aspects of the building project for review by the U.S. Green Building Council. The announcement was



LEED Certification (continued on page 8)



LEED Certification (continued from Page 7)

made at the recent 50th Anniversary celebration held at the facility. Rudie Schuette and George Mead represented all of the many donors at the announcement ceremony.

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is the nation's pre-eminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. It is the first new building in Wisconsin to be built to the LEED Platinum standard, but the second to receive such certification. The Aldo Leopold Legacy Center outside Baraboo, built after the Mead facility was occupied in 2006, was the first to receive Platinum certification under the LEED for New Construction program in 2007. A third project, the renovated Hunzinger Construction Offices in Milwaukee received Platinum certification under the LEED for Commercial Interiors program.

A majority of the sustainable design features on the building were made possible by the highly-successful private fundraising effort by the Friends of The Mead/McMillan Association, Inc., chaired by Kent Hall. These include:

- ◆ A high-performance super-insulated airtight building envelope.
- ◆ Projected total energy use 86% better than model energy codes.
- ◆ Renewable energy generation greater than 25% of total energy usage.
- ◆ 100% of purchased utility energy coming from renewable energy sources.
- ◆ Projected water usage 35% below the EPA baseline.
- ◆ 5 different types of Renewable Energy systems: Wind Energy, Solar Photovoltaic Electricity, Solar Hot Water, Geothermal Heating & Cooling, and Wood Biomass.
- ◆ 100% of occupied space having access to natural lighting and views to the outside.
- ◆ 88% of the building products and 67% of the material ingredients came from within 500 miles of the building site.
- ◆ 97% of the construction waste was recycled and diverted from the landfill.
- ◆ Low or zero-VOC paints, finishes, and non-urea formaldehyde glues.
- ◆ Building materials and furniture with high recycled content.
- ◆ Natural non-irrigated native landscaping and vegetation.

The LEED certification process for the Mead project was delayed due to the unique nature of coordinating documentation information from multiple donors of materials and services involved in the project. Approximately 2/3 of the project budget came from private sources to match 1/3 of the budget from public funds. Major donors included Wausau Homes and the Mead Witter Foundation, along with dozens of area companies, numerous wildlife and conservation organizations, school groups, area foundations, and hundreds of individuals.

Originally envisioned as a 3,700 square foot office building, the total budget approved by the State Building Commission for the Mead project was \$722,000, of which \$547,900 was for construction. Total State funds committed were \$606,600, with \$115,500 to be provided through private fundraising by the Friends of The Mead McMillan Association, Inc. However, the highly successful fundraising effort resulted in a much larger and greener facility being built than was originally envisioned.

The completed building is 6,208 square feet with offices, classroom, kitchen, and interpretive display areas. The construction cost was approximately \$1.5 Million, which included building construction, site work, equipment, furnishings, fees, and \$120,000 for the five different renewable energy systems showcased at the facility and supported by a grant from the Wisconsin Focus on Energy program.

An additional \$1 Million was raised, with a major challenge grant from the Mead Witter Foundation, to support an endowment for the full-time educator at the facility.



Phenology Phun by Pam Stange

Phenology (phe-nol-o-gy) is the study of periodic plant and animal life-cycle events that are influenced by climate and seasonal change. Changes that depend on light levels will be roughly the same date each year, while changes that depend on temperature or moisture levels will vary based on the weather each year. Common examples include the date that migrating birds return, the first flower dates for plants, and the date on which a lake freezes in the autumn or opens in the spring.

November

- ◆ Peak Mallard and Scaup fall migration
- ◆ Last of Sandhill cranes migrating south
- ◆ Ring-necked pheasants winter in cattails
- ◆ Thanksgiving - November 26

◆ December

- ◆ Full moon-December 2
- ◆ Beaver very active getting ready for winter
- ◆ Watch for mink slides and otter slides
- ◆ Lakes freeze over
- ◆ Winter Solstice (shortest day of the year) - December 21

December (continued)

- ◆ Look for snow fleas (springtails) on the snow near dead vegetation
- Weasels and snowshoe hares wearing white coats
- ◆ White-tailed bucks begin to shed antlers

January

- Perihelion (Earth closest to Sun) - January 3
- Black bear cubs are born
- Black-capped chickadees begin spring courtship song
- Red fox, Wolves, Beaver, Canada lynx, Fox and Gray squirrels begin mating
- Great horned owls begin courtship activities
- ◆ Full Moon-January 30



From all of us at the Mead Wildlife
Area and Friends of the
Mead-McMillan Association:

*Have a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New
Year!*



Nature Niches

Articles by Patrice Eyers & Kent Hall

NORTHERN BOGS by Patrice Eyers

Northern bogs are generally associated with low temperatures and short growing seasons where ample precipitation and high humidity cause excessive moisture to accumulate. Northern bogs often form in old glacial lakes. The sphagnum moss of northern bogs causes especially acidic waters. The result is a wetland ecosystem with a very specialized and unique flora and fauna that can grow in these conditions called acidophiles. Nevertheless, bogs support a number of species of plants in addition to the characteristic Sphagnum Moss, including Cotton Grass, Cranberry, Blueberry, Pine, Labrador Tea, and Tamarack. White-tailed deer, black bear, and snowshoe rabbit are a few of the animals that can be found in northern bogs. The Pine Grosbeak, Great Gray Owls, and the Short-eared Owl depend on bogs for survival.



Photo by Tony Geiger

MEAD MYSTERY ANIMAL FOR NOVEMBER: The Snowshoe Hare, *Lepus americanus* by Kent Hall

What animal can run up to 27 mph and leap 10' in a single bound? No, not "Super Rabbit", the "Snowshoe Hare" (or rabbit).

This species is largely found in bog habitats throughout its range. It is the most widely distributed of all northern hares, extending throughout the northern lower U.S. and to the tree line in all of Canada and Alaska. In Wisconsin, it is found mainly in the northern third of the state. In the Mead State Wildlife area it is uncommon to rare with the best habitat found in the Mead Conifer Bogs, East Unit and West Unit (see Northern Bogs article).

The habitats of most snowshoe hares include a heavily forested area with a dense understory, that are usually coniferous and void of humans. Best populations are thought to be those with low, dense woody vegetation.

As the name implies, snowshoe hares are "creatures of snow". They are larger than other hares weighing 3-4 pounds as an adult. They have incredibly elongated rear feet and the toes can spread out to act like snowshoes, allowing them to move quickly and efficiently through bogs. They also have fur on their feet which gives them traction in the snow and protects their feet. These adaptations make them experts at escaping predators like the wolf, bobcat or lynx. They can quickly change directions and leap up to 10' to escape these predators. They are also good swimmers and will jump into water to make their escape.

Snowshoe hares have a unique molt that is dependent on snow cover. As snow accumulates (Sept.-Dec.), they turn purely white except for a black tinge of hair on the inner tips of their ears. This molt timing is similar to ptarmigan in the bird world. In March-May the spring molt occurs, turning the hare into a uniform grayish brown. These features are classic means of protective coloration.

So where can you see snowshoe hares?—in bogs, but at dusk and at night, when they are active. Since most humans are active during the day, you are not likely to see the animal, only the tracks. So next time you are in a bog in winter, watch out for the special tracks of snowshoe hares—it will be a rare treat if you find them, but good luck with your search.



Friends of the Mead/McMillan Membership

Members of the Friends of the Mead/-McMillan know the value of membership! Great gift for birthdays, Christmas, anniversary or special person who loves the environment! We will send a letter to the recipient letting them know you gave this gift in their name.

Please check the label on the front cover of this newsletter as your membership might have expired. If there is no date on it, you are receiving this newsletter free for now. If your membership is up for renewal or you would like to become a member and help us with our environmental efforts, fill out this form.

If you would like to purchase a membership for your family or friends you can do so by filling out this form. We appreciate your support of our efforts to promote environmental education for youth and adults who come to the Mead Wildlife Area.

The annual membership fee is \$20. Make Check payable to Friends of the Mead/McMillan. Mail to Mead Wildlife Area, S2148 Cty Hwy S, Milladore, WI, 54454.

Renewal _____

New Member _____

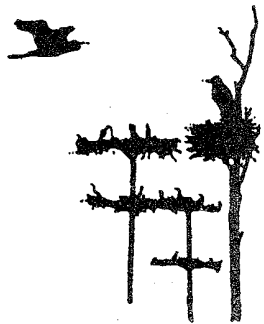
Gift for New Member _____

Name	
Address	
City	
State	
Zip	
Phone	
Email	

Thank you for your support with our environmental endeavors!

Volunteer Opportunities at the Mead

Volunteers are a very important part of the Mead operations. We appreciate their efforts no matter how big or small their contributions. If you have some time or know someone who would like to become part of our volunteer team, please give us a call or visit our website www.meadwildlife.org for a listing of the volunteer opportunities available at the Mead.



**Friends of the
Mead/McMillan
Association, Inc.
S2148 County S
Milladore, WI 54454**

Mailing Address Label

Wetlands Gazette



LOOK Inside for What's NEW!!!

Starting with this edition of the newsletter you will see four regular sections. These sections are designed for our readers of all ages to become more aware of the natural world and encourage you to make a connection to the environment.

"Junior Naturalist": this section is for/from students/children that visit the Mead. It will highlight their artwork, creative writings in the form of poems or short stories, photos, and/or an activity.

***Teachers, students and visitors can submit items for this section.

"MEAD-elicious": this section will feature "wild" recipes from the land.

"Phenology Phun": A brief calendar of the seasonal changes to look for when visiting the Mead.

"Nature's Niches": this section will feature different species and habitat types.