

# Woods Writings

70 Years Strong and Still Growing



June 21, 2011 is the 70th anniversary of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents official acceptance of the Upham Woods property from the Upham Family . We feel that it is a very appropriate day as June 21st is the summer solstice!

As we enter our 70th year, we are striving to expand Upham Woods programming by offering additional and regular community programs (read about our CANOE programs below), stay connected to our annual visitors through communications such as this newsletter and social media, and, as always, continually improve the quality of programming and facilities. Later this year, we will officially announce our Legacy Campaign to raise \$4 million for improvement of several facilities at Upham Woods. Winter can be a time to relax and slow down at places like Upham Woods, but we are using it as a time to gear up for a tremendous 70th year!

Keep Smiling!  
Jessica Jens  
Director

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[www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/uphamwoods](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/uphamwoods)  
[fyi.uwex.edu/uphamwoods](http://fyi.uwex.edu/uphamwoods)

Volume 3, Issue 1

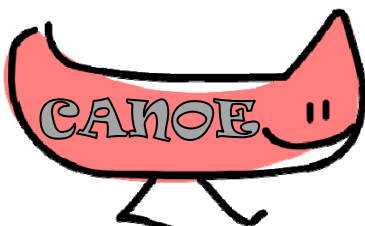
Spring/Summer Edition  
2010



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<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=144873285528252>

## Come to Our CANOE in 2011

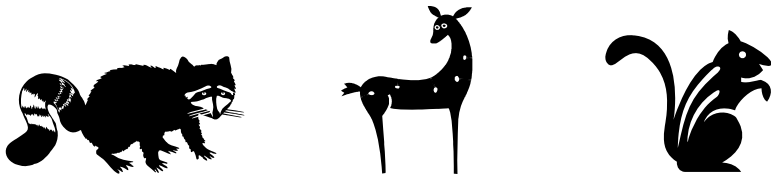


At Upham Woods, we strongly believe in the power of outdoor experiences on youth and families. We see it every time a child looks in wonder at a mushroom on the trail, wades into the backwaters to collect “water bugs,” or rides down the toboggan run with her friends. Because we know first hand the power of the outdoors on physical and psychological health, family bonds, and environmental literacy, we have created the “Children And Nature Outdoor Experiences” program at Upham Woods. A flyer for all of our 2011 CANOE programs is part of this newsletter. Youth of any age, adults, and families are welcome and, to make it even better (if that’s possible),

it’s free! Each program features a hike (which are suitable for older kids and babies/toddlers that can be carried) and nature center based activities (which are great for all ages). We hope to see you at our first program of the year:

**Saturday, February 26, 1 – 4 pm: Winter Wonders**

Take a guided winter snowshoe optional hike through our North Shore property--exploring small caves and looking for winter animal signs along the way OR stop by the Nature Center and make your own paper, check out our reptiles and amphibians and go on a winter scavenger hunt around camp. Twenty-one pairs of snowshoes are available from Upham Woods on a first-come, first-serve basis. You are also welcome to bring your own snowshoes.



## Upham Woods Pages of Honor

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We would like to honor the following individuals and groups who have made a difference at Upham Woods...

### 2010 Donors

Thank you to the following individuals and groups who made donations to Upham Woods from January 1—December 31, 2010 to support our facilities and programming. Your support and generosity allows Upham Woods to continue the legacy begun by the Upham sisters 70 years ago of providing youth and adults a place to explore the natural world.

#### Sweet Sugar Maples (\$1 - \$99)

Dan Teuteberg—*PFD's*

Juneau County H.C.E

Katelyn Kyle & Nature's Classroom Institute—*Corn Snake*

#### Powerful Pines (\$100 - \$499)

Martin & Delphine Ordinans

Joseph & Peggy Ordinans

General Mitchell PTA, West Allis—*Wacky Water Critters Boots*

Robert Buchanan, in memory of Patty Buchanan—*PBM Low Ropes Course*

Madison Metropolitan School District—*Raptors*

Greg Hutchins—*Outpost Tent*

Dodge County 4-H Leader's Association

Ozaukee County 4-H Leader's Association

#### Heroic Hemlocks (\$500 - \$999)

Washington County 4-H—*New Canoe*

County Line Elementary—*Stairs to Tobaggan Run (aka Comet Hill)*

Rawson Elementary—*Boardwalk to Fishing Docks*

#### Champion Trees (\$1000 +)

Winnebago County 4-H Leader's Association—*Rock Climbing Equipment*



Over 8,500 youth and adults visited Upham Woods in 2010. Contributions of time, talent, a funds enable Upham Woods to continue providing affordable outdoor and leadership educational opportunities which are available to all. Thank you donors!

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# Upham Woods Pages of Honor

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## County Line Elementary School Staff, Chaperones, and Students!

Because of the hard work and dedication of over 100 students, teachers, and parents of County Line Elementary (in German Town, WI) the Upham Woods toboggan run has a beautiful new set of earthen stairs, rope railing, and a new name!

This was the first visit for County Line Elementary. Their new principal, Cathy Shultz is a veteran of Upham Woods. When she joined the staff at County Line she brought them to Upham Woods too! Thank you Cathy!

Participating in a service project is something several schools include in their programming at Upham Woods. It helps the students learn new skills (such a creating



earthen stairs), can be a good form of physical fitness (all the shoveling in this project sure was), and helps everyone learn the importance of stewardship and service (and makes you feel good too).

Because of County Line Elementary's incredible service, we've agreed to name the toboggan run **Comet Hill**. Now the County Line Comet's legacy will always be part of Upham Woods.

## Katelyn Kyle & Nature's Classroom Institute

One of our most beloved educational animals at Upham Woods is Cornflakes our Corn Snake. Cornflakes has been part of Upham Woods for well over 15 years. His estimated age is now close to 25 years. Unfortunately, this makes us all very sad because he is at the very top of a captive Corn Snake's life expectancy. To help us prepare for that inevitably sad day, we now have an additional Corn Snake we are grooming to be a remarkable educational animal for our reptiles and amphibians class (Scales, Scutes & Skins). Because of the amazing generosity of Katelyn Kyle (a past naturalist at Upham Woods) and the outdoor center where she is the Education Director (Nature's Classroom Institute in Mukwonago, WI) we have added Popcorn the Corn Snake to our family. Popcorn is young and has many years ahead of teaching youth and adults about the amazing adaptations of reptiles. Popcorn came from a family of captive Corn Snakes that were donated to Nature's Classroom Institute. Thank you Katelyn!



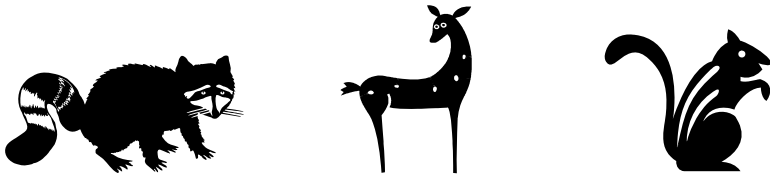
## Snowball the Tree Frog

We would also like to welcome "Snowball" our new tree frog to Upham Woods. Snowball was found by the director's 4-year-old daughter, Aspen Jens, on a abnormally warm autumn day in Mazomanie, WI. He has become acquainted with his amphibian roommates, and we are looking forward to adding him to our reptile & amphibian classes this year.



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## Keep Updated On Upham Woods Happenings

Become connected with Upham Woods year round! We now have a variety of social media options to help promote Upham Woods and invite everyone to become part of its legacy!

We encourage you to visit our new blog at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/uphamwoods> We will be posting regular updates about programs, fun Upham Woods happenings, staff changes, community programs, ways you can help Upham Woods and so much more. To keep up to date, you can subscribe to the RSS feed OR you can enter your email address on the site and receive messages when a new post is added.

If you are on Facebook, Upham Woods has an open group you can join at: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=144873285528252> Our naturalists like to post fun “nature nuggets” and pictures of Upham Woods happenings on this page. We also use this site to announce upcoming programs and to welcome groups to Upham. There is a “discussion” section where anyone can provide ideas on what they like best about Upham and ways they think it could be improved.



## Collecting the History of Upham through YOUR Stories



Maybe you are from Oregon Middle School and have a story to share about the annual cardboard boat race?

In 1969, UW-Cooperative Extension published “Camp Upham Woods: The Story of it’s First 25 Years.” Since that time, there has not been a collective effort to document the history of this special place, facility, programs, and guests. To begin that process, we would like to collect as many personal stories about your time at Upham Woods as possible. Storytelling is a very important way of preserving history and many facts may be gleaned through stories of the past. For example, on our Facebook page, Debbie shared one of her favorite memories as, “Taking the zip line across the river to the island.” Our current staff never knew there was a zip line to the island! (Actually, this is something we joke about as a potential excellent addition to the facility.)

We invite you to share your stories about Upham Woods. You can mail or email them to us ([jessica.jens@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:jessica.jens@ces.uwex.edu) is the best email to use) or enter them on our blog or Facebook page. I would also like to share some of those stories in this newsletter (with your permission, of course). Don’t let your special memories of Upham Woods get lost as time marches forward. Thanks for your help!

## The "Great Flood" of September 2010

From September 25—29, 2010 the Wisconsin River experienced major flooding. Upham Woods did not escape the path of this onslaught of water. Thanks to some very hard work by the Upham staff, assistance from the Juneau County volunteer fire crew and Wisconsin Dells business owners, and a little help from Mother Nature herself, most of camp survived the flooding rather well. The exception was our new fishing dock area that will require some additional work this spring and also our brand new boat docks which will (remarkably) only need a couple of pieces replaced.



Campfire Circle



Riverside Picnic Area



Boat House & Docks (the ramp usually slopes down, not up)

## Remember Our New Energy Education Programs!

Beginning in March 2010, Upham Woods began including the following new, hands-on energy education programs as part of their program offerings.

### Energy Education Programs Available to Groups at Upham Woods

The following new programs are available to groups visiting Upham Woods.

Energy programs are included in the standard programming fees.

The Wonders of Renewable Energy (grades K-2): Discover the wonders of renewable energy through hands-on activities, songs, stories, and games. Build and sail a wind powered boat. Play the "Race to Save Energy" board game. 1 - 1 ½ hours

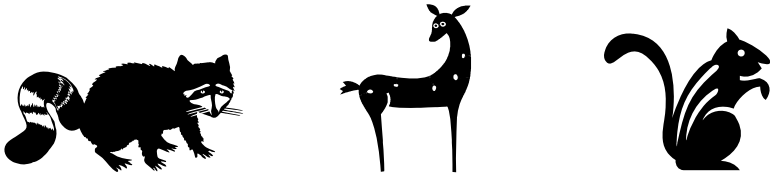
Pedaling to Save Energy (grades 3-5): Learn the importance of renewable energy and perform experiments to find out how much energy we use in our homes. Use a watt meter, pedal an energy bike, and play energy Jeopardy. 1 - 1 ½ hours

Get Blown Over by the Wind (grades 6-8): Learn about the power of wind energy. Build and test your own anemometer to determine the strength of the wind and a wind turbine to create energy. 1 ½ - 2 hours

Discover Hydropower Energy (grades 9-12): Learn about the power of the water through hydropower energy. Generate your own energy through hydropower experiments. Determine how much energy you use in your household through activities using a watt meter and energy bike. 1 ½ - 2 hours



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# Mystery Picture Page

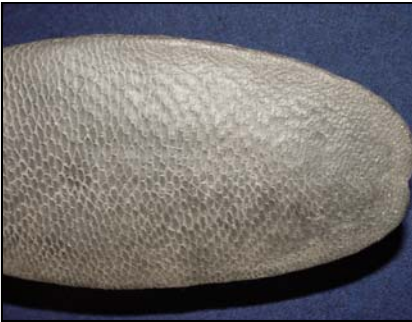
How well do you know Upham Woods? In each newsletter, we will have two pictures from around camp. If you think you know what either or both of the pictures are, email your answers to Jessica Jens at [jessica.jens@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:jessica.jens@ces.uwex.edu). The first correct answer will be published in the next newsletter, along with two new pictures. **Congrats to Picture #1 winner: Katelyn Kyle!** We seemed to stump everyone, including Katelyn with picture #2. *The hint for this issue's mystery pictures: they all celebrate the history of Upham Woods.*



Summer Picture #1

**Garlic Mustard**

In Katelyn's response, she called garlic mustard "disgusting." We couldn't agree more. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a non-native plant that aggressively invades woodlands in Wisconsin and many other states. It was originally brought to North America from Europe as an herbal edible in the late 1800s. Garlic mustard has no natural controls in North America so it has readily spread across the North American continent from its point of introduction in the eastern United States. Garlic mustard spreads to new areas by seed dispersion; the seeds are small and can attach themselves to animals such as deer, dogs or even humans, so it's important to clean your shoes and dogs if you've traveled in an area infested with garlic mustard. Once garlic mustard invades a wooded area it will eventually out-compete most other native understory plant species so nothing else can grow on the forest floor.



Summer Picture #2

**Beaver Tail from "Alvin" our Beaver Mount**

Possibly the most defining characteristic of the beaver is its tail. It is broad, flat, and covered in large blackish scales. They use their tails for temperature regulation, fat storage, as a prop while standing upright, and for communication. They are known for their alarm signal: when startled or frightened, a swimming beaver will rapidly dive while forcefully slapping the water with its broad tail, audible over great distances above and below water. This serves as a warning to beavers in the area. Despite what you may have learned from cartoons, beavers do not pack mud down with their tails. Instead, they scoop it up with their forepaws and apply it to the dam with their feet and snouts.

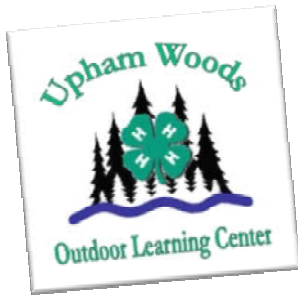


Winter Picture #1

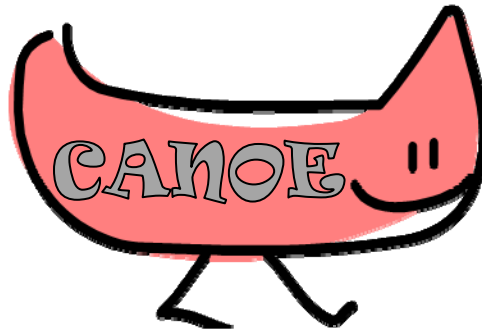


Winter Picture #2





Upham Woods invites you to our...



Children and Nature  
Outdoor Experiences

## 2011 Events

*Programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to all.*

### **Saturday, February 26, 1 – 4 pm: Winter Wonders**

Take a guided winter snowshoe hike through our North Shore property--exploring small caves and looking for winter animal signs along the way OR stop by the Nature Center and make your own paper, check out our reptiles and amphibians and go on a winter scavenger hunt around camp.

### **Saturday, April 2, 9 am – 2 pm & 2 – 5 pm: Fishing Fun & Spring Explorers**

From 9-1, learn the joy of fishing and be trained to lead community fishing programs through a WI DNR Workshop (adults only). Contact Kim Anderson at 608-261-6431 for more information or to register. From 2-5, discover the signs of spring on a guided hike through our North Shore property OR stay in camp to learn how to build your own survival shelter, start a campfire and find your way using orienteering. Explore the seasons through a spring scavenger hunt around camp.

### **Saturday, May 14, 11 am – 3 pm: Annual Stewardship Day**

Volunteer with your family to help spruce up Upham Woods for the summer and also protect our natural resources. All volunteers will have a chance to choose service projects to work on such as painting, building, and invasive species removal projects. Many projects are appropriate for small children. A free lunch is provided to all volunteers. Please RSVP to help us plan food and equipment.

### **Saturday, July 23, 1 – 4 pm: Summer History Break**

Take a trip across the river for a guided history hike of Blackhawk Island. Learn about the historic Dell House, River Rats, and the Snyder Family who once farmed the island OR stay in camp and collect all kinds of "water bugs" and examine them in our wet lab. Enjoy the summer weather through a summer scavenger hunt around camp.

### **Saturday, October 8, 1 – 4 pm: Autumn Splendor**

Enjoy the colors of the season at Upham Woods during a short hike on Blackhawk Island to explore the sandstone caves and have the chance to learn about birds of Wisconsin in the Nature Center including a live raptor presentation, bird beak experiments, and dissecting owl pellets. Enjoy the weather outside through an autumn scavenger hunt.

### **October 15 & 16: Family Camp Weekend**

Bring the whole family to spend a wonderful weekend at Upham Woods, and participate in activities such as canoeing, hiking, archery, campfires, our low ropes course and more! Reservation, registration costs & detailed information available April 1.

**Upham Woods (608)254-6461; [fyi.uwex.edu/uphamwoods](http://fyi.uwex.edu/uphamwoods)**

Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed and directed to the Upham Woods at 254-6461. Please do so as early as possible prior to the program or activity so that proper arrangements can be made. Requests are kept confidential.



**UW**  
**Extension**

# Consider a Donation to Upham Woods



Upham Woods  
Outdoor Learning Center

Gift Guide

Curious about the needs of Upham Woods and what your donation may add to Upham's program and facilities?

Programming and facilities are improved every year thanks to generous donations from individuals and groups. The Upham Woods Gift Guide is a fun way to learn about many of the Center's needs.

The Gift Guide is a wonderful resource to share with anyone who may wish to support the mission and vision of Upham Woods while directly supporting the approximately 8,500 youth and adults who visit every year.

The Gift Guide is available to download off of our website as a pdf document: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/uphamwoods>. It is a "quick link" at the bottom of our main page. If you'd prefer a paper copied mailed to you, please contact Upham Woods (608-254-6461). Thank you for considering a gift to Upham Woods!

## Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center

### Mission Statement

Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center provides educational opportunities to youth, youth leaders, and adults through programs focused on environmental and leadership education.

### 70 Years Strong and Still Growing

Upham Woods is the result of an amazingly far-sighted vision of two sisters from the Upham family. In 1941, when the United States was growing rapidly at the expense of its natural resources, Elizabeth and Caroline Upham decided to save their beloved childhood summer home from the hands of developers forever. These sisters laid the philosophical groundwork for Upham Woods with their stipulations of the land's use. They wrote: "These lands are to be used as an outdoor laboratory and camp for youth, such as 4-H clubs and other people cooperating with the University of Wisconsin in the advancement of conservation, of agriculture and rural culture."

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin—Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program.

