

Natural Area Preservation News

Protecting and restoring Ann Arbor's natural areas and fostering an environmental ethic among its citizens

Volume 13, Number 3

Autumn 2008

Park Focus: Marshall Nature Area

by Shira Diem, Anna Shipley, and Jason Tallant

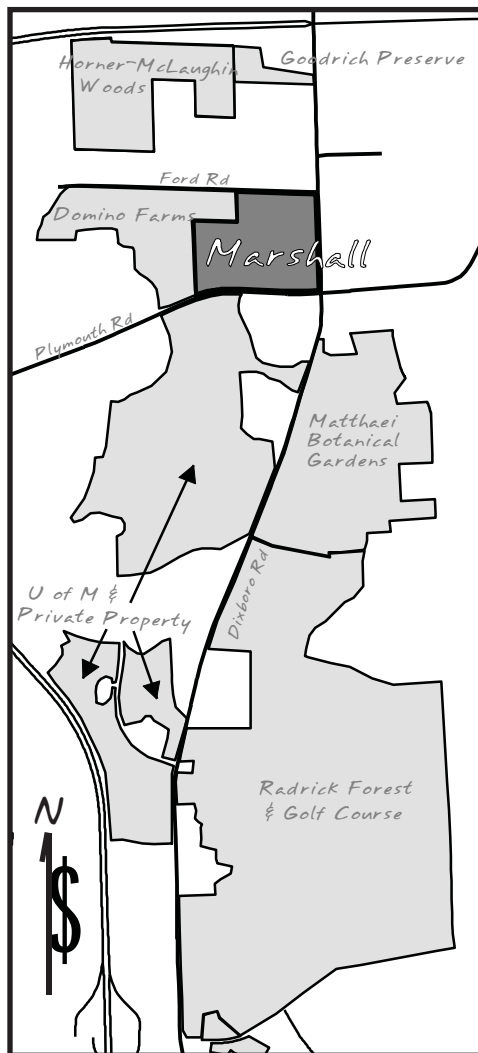
From a bird's eye view, Marshall Nature Area would be an alluring place to land. Comprising just over 87 acres, this is one of the larger natural areas in the Ann Arbor parks system. Surrounded by nearly 1700 acres of undeveloped land, Marshall is situated in the heart of an even larger habitat complex owned by the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Parks, and private land owners. In our opinion, this can be viewed as Ann Arbor's largest ecological network. Marshall's role in this network is significant as it provides ecological structure and health in an increasingly fragmented and disturbed environment.

Marshall Nature Area is able to support a significant diversity of fauna and flora through its varied ecological communities and steep rolling topography. Upon entering the natural area from Dixboro Road, you immediately find yourself engulfed in a canopy of upland oak and hickory. Walking to the top of a knoll along the entrance trail, you find an open old field surrounded by oaks. This was the former homestead of the Marshall family, who lived on the property until 1966, when it was sold to the City to preserve it as a wildlife sanctuary. As the home aged and could no longer support a caretaker, the city removed the home and re-vegetated the area. Since that time, many native plant species have come to flourish here. The majority of the areas traversed by the trail loop in Marshall wind through this mature oak hickory forest. The similarity of the surrounding mature oak woodlands

to the north, west, and south is what makes this such a valuable ecological network. These connections allow for the exchange of genetic information by providing pathways for movement between separate populations of a species. The potential for genetic exchange is potentially significant here in contrast to other Ann Arbor natural areas where there is more fragmentation due to urban development.

Marshall and the surrounding landscape are interconnected in a way that provides a home for many habitat-specific fauna and flora. One such species that undoubtedly benefits from this high quality habitat is the Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrine*). Although Hooded Warbler populations across the region are on an upswing, the species is still considerably rare to spot in Ann Arbor. The heart of the Hooded Warbler's habitat is mature oak woodlands perched on steep topography, and Bird Hills is the only other City-owned natural area which hosts this species.

Additional ecological communities found within this natural area are old-field prairie, bottom-land forest, shrub thickets, and pine plantation. A ravine crosses the site from the northwest to the southeast, leading towards Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The ravine historically drained to Fleming Creek, a tributary of the Huron River, and now provides transition zones between different ecosystems. The wet shrub thickets transition to the old field prairies, which transition to the upland oak hickory



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Coordinator's Corner

A few months ago I had the opportunity to attend a half-day presentation at UM by Peter Forbes, Director of the Center for Whole Communities, based in Vermont. I've attended many such presentations over the years. Most are interesting, some are informative. This one was transformational! In that 4-hour session I completely changed the way I think about NAP's role in this community.

I can't possibly summarize the entire workshop here, so I'll just share a few key points that left an impression. There are 10,000 environmental organizations in the U.S., with combined memberships of 4.5 million people. Does that sound like a lot? It's only 1.5% of the U.S. population. That's all. The majority of those individuals are fairly homogenous in terms of race and socio-economic status. The percentage of the U.S. population interested in "ecological restoration," NAP's traditional "call to arms," is even smaller. One of the reasons is that we're not speaking the same language; we're not using words that resonate with each other. While "endangered species" and "global climate change" and "biodiversity" may be effective battle cries for NAP's traditional core constituency, those words don't resonate as loudly with some segments of the population as do terms such as "environmental justice," "water pollution," and "urban greening." As a result, we're not connecting with large swaths of our society.

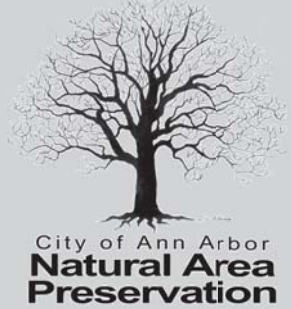
This point was driven home for us this summer when the Ann Arbor District Library asked NAP to lead six walks in Stapp Nature Area as part of the grand opening of their new Traverwood Branch. We agreed, but I have to admit that I thought six walks was overkill – 1 or 2 walks would probably be all that we could fill. But we had over 200 people attend! And some walks were so full we had to call in more staff to help lead them. I was amazed! Why the phenomenal turn-out? One big reason is that NAP wasn't handling the advertising. It was not a "NAP Event" as much as a "Library Event" and that attracted an entirely different audience than we could have reached on our own.

We need to do more such partnering with community organizations if we hope to really build long-term support for our City natural areas. We need help reaching out to segments of society where we don't currently have a presence. Why? Ann Arbor's parks and natural areas belong to everybody, not just 1.5% of the population. If we want the public to value and care for these natural areas into the coming decades, we need to make sure we're building a relationship with the broadest segment of our community possible.

So, this is a new challenge for us at NAP, and it's one we're going to need help with. Are you part of a community group that doesn't know about NAP? Do you have neighbors who have never been to a volunteer stewardship workday? Does your organization have a complementary mission to NAP's? If so, we'd like to work together to build a "Whole Community" here in Ann Arbor.

- David Borneman, Natural Area Preservation Manager

For more information visit www.wholecommunities.org.



A unit of the City of Ann Arbor
Public Services, Field Operations

The mission of Natural Area Preservation is to protect and restore Ann Arbor's natural areas and to foster an environmental ethic among its citizens.

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Nancy Stoll

If you would prefer to receive your
next newsletter via e-mail please
contact NAP

Volunteer Appreciation Potluck & Costume-Dance Party!

Wednesday, October 29
 Cobblestone Farm - 2781 Packard Road
 Potluck & Award Presentation 6:30 - 9:00 pm
 Harvest Costume Dance Party 9:00 - 10:30 pm

Let's share good food, learn a little, and browse all the beautiful pictures from the photo contest. Awards will be presented for Volunteer of the Year, Photo Contest Winners, and the best costumes! There will be live music and dancing to celebrate this year's harvest afterwards. Please bring a dish to pass, anyone you would like, and your own place settings. Costumes are optional.

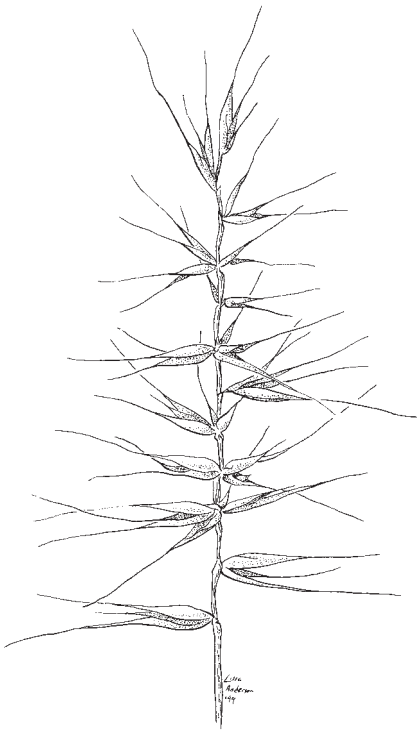
Please call NAP to RSVP at 734.996.3266.

NAP CALENDAR AVAILABLE

NAP has a yearly calendar that you can pick up, free of charge, at our office or any of our events, starting with the Volunteer Appreciation Potluck on October 29.

We won't be mailing the calendar to everyone this year, to help reduce costs and make sure the calendars get to folks who will use them.

If you can't make it into the office, give us a call and we'll mail you one.



NAP Puzzler Answers:
 1) butternut 2) hackberry
 3) hawthorne 4) dogwood
 5) chinquapin oak

Stewardship Network Conference 2009



*The Science, Practice & Art of
 Restoring Native Ecosystems*

Friday & Saturday, January 23 & 24,, 2009
Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI

Join us for this information-packed, fun two-day conference linking wildlife enthusiasts, nature lovers, land managers, and researchers from throughout Michigan to improve the science, practice, and art of caring for natural lands and waters.



The Stewardship Network
Pulling together for nature

Visit our website at www.stewardshipnetwork.org
 or call 734-996-3190 for more info.



Volunteer Stewardship Calendar

AUTUMN 2008

Natural Area Preservation
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E-mail: nap@a2gov.org
www.a2gov.org/nap

*Workday orientations start promptly at listed times. Please wear pants and closed-toe shoes.
Minors must be accompanied by a guardian or contact NAP in advance to obtain a release form.*

September

September 5, Friday



Photo Contest pictures due today!!

Remember all are welcome to participate: pros and amateurs of any age. Contest categories are: Nature Up Close, and Spirit of the Seasons. Winning photos will be printed in the Ann Arbor News, included in the NAP wall calendar for 2009, and may be used for future NAP fliers and brochures. We also have prizes! Winners will be announced at the volunteer appreciation potluck and costume party on October 29th. Lots of fun guaranteed! For more information, including how to enter, getting an entry form, and detailed photo specifications, go to: www.a2gov.org/NAPphotocontest

September 7, Sunday
Fritz Park Stewardship Day
1:00 to 4:00 pm



There are fewer invasives in this park, but we need to be vigilant. To help out, park on Russett Street at the east entrance of Fritz.

September 9, Tuesday
Huron Arbor Stewards Circle
Brueggers Bagels on N University
7:30 to 8:30 am



Soil health is the ground from which our restoration efforts grow. What are the threats to soil health? How do we protect and restore our soil?

September 13, Saturday
Dicken Woods Stewardship Day
9:00 am to 12:00 noon



Join the Friends of Dicken Woods in the annual cutting of woody invasive shrubs! Buckthorn and honeysuckle crowd out many of our native plants. Meet at the park entrance at the end of Dicken Dr.

September 13, Saturday
Lakewood Stewardship Day
10:00 am to 1:00 pm

It's shrub cutting season! Meet us at the Lakewood Elementary School parking lot off Gralake Avenue (three blocks south of Jackson Avenue).

September 14, Sunday
Furstenberg Native Plant Garden Stewardship Day
12:00 to 3:00 pm



Join Park Steward and Master Gardener, Aunita Erskine, in taking care of this valuable native garden. Meet in the Furstenberg parking lot off Fuller Road, across from Huron High School. A short nature walk will be held at the end.

September 14, Sunday
Redbud Stewardship Day
1:00 to 4:00 pm



Non-native buckthorn and honeysuckle are everywhere, but with your help we can keep them at bay. Meet at the park entrance at the intersection of Parkwood Avenue and Jeanne Street.

September 21, Sunday
Hansen Stewardship Day
1:00 to 4:00 pm



Join us as we clear an area for native plants to flourish. Meet in the Grace Bible Church parking lot (1300 South Maple Road), south of West Liberty.

September 27, Saturday
Evergreen Park Stewardship Day
9:00 am to 12:00 noon



Today is National Public Lands Day! We will work on ecological restoration in one park, while being part of the nationwide effort to protect the environment. Meet at the park entrance on Valley Drive.

Saturday, September 27
River Ecology
Hudson Mills to Dexter Huron
12:00 to 5:00 pm



Hudson Mills Metropark is a beautiful stretch of river and one of southern Michigan's jewels. River ecology, natural history, and human influence will be the focus of our trip. We'll stop along the river for a short plant hike and at the Dexter Cider Mill for cider and yummy donuts. Bring extra money for the Cider Mill. Adults only. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required for the paddle program. Led by Jennifer Hollenbeck, Huron Clinton Metroparks. Registration: www.stewardshipnetwork.org or (734)-996-3190 Cost: \$45

Sunday, September 28
How Global Warming Will Affect Michigan's Natural Areas
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1:00 to 5:00 pm



Most Scientists agree that the global climate is changing, but there are still uncertainties about how those global trends will translate into ecological impacts at regional and local scales. This workshop will feature a lecture by University of Michigan botanist Tony Reznicek - who has advised The Nature Conservancy on potential effects on plant communities in Michigan - followed by a hike to consider the issues in the field. Registration: www.stewardshipnetwork.org or (734)-996-3190 Cost: \$10 for Stewardship Network Members, \$15 for Non-Members.

Don't forget, ALL NAP workdays are family friendly!!!

September 24 to 30

"Get Out" Challenge

Celebrate "Take A Child Outside Week" by joining the "GET OUT" Challenge and discover the natural world through your child's eyes. Explore your city parks and your own backyard by completing 8 out of the 10 adventure challenges throughout Ann Arbor by the end of October and earn a special prize. Outdoor investigation, scavenger hunts, and guided hikes will kickoff a fantastic month of family fun and exploration. Visit www.lesliesnc.org for more information and to download a participation form. In partnership with Natural Area Preservation and National Wildlife Federation.

Sunday, September 28

"Get Out" Challenge KickOff

Leslie Science and Nature Center

1:00 to 3:00 pm

\$5/person, free for LSNC members

Tuesday, September 30

"Get Out" Challenge Nature Hike

Mary Beth Doyle Park

6:30 to 7:30 pm FREE!

Join LSNC and Natural Area Preservation for a "plants in our parks" evening walk. For extra fun, show up early and bring a picnic. Hikers will meet at the parking lot on Birch Hollow Drive (off of Stone School Road). Though this hike is free, Pre-registration is appreciated. Visit www.lesliesnc.org to register.

October

Saturday, October 11

Oak Woodland Restoration

Leslie Science and Nature Center

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Oak Woodlands are home to some of our most beloved native spring wildflowers, a spectacular array of birds and other wildlife, and are wonderful places for peaceful walks. But our oak woodlands are in peril! Acorns need sunlight to germinate, but then the young oaks still need to make it up to the canopy if the oak woodland is to be perpetuated. What is it that's threatening them? Come to this indoor and in-the-field session to learn more about what we can do to protect, restore, and



manage these precious natural areas. Leaders: Ryan O'Connor, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Dave Borneman, City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation, and David Mindell, PlantWise. Registration: www.stewardshipnetwork.org or (734)-996-3190 Cost: \$10 for Stewardship Network Members, \$15 for Non-Members.

October 11, Saturday

Huron Hills Golf Course

Woods Stewardship Day

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

A few species of non-native woody plants have widely invaded our woodlands. Meet us on Hunting Valley off Provincial Drive and we will go forth to cut down those invasives. Tools and snacks provided.



October 14, Tuesday

Huron Arbor Stewards Circle

Brueggers Bagels on N University

7:30 to 8:30 am

Deer often have a major impact on our natural areas. How have you included deer in your management decisions? What problems and solutions have you had with deer?



October 18, Saturday

Greenview Park Stewardship Day

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Another opportunity to cut invasive shrubs! Meet at the Greenview Park sign, on Greenview Road, across from Barnard Road.



October 18, Saturday

Swift Run Stewardship Day

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Fall is for seeds! We will be collecting them from native plants to disperse in areas where natives are less well established. We'll meet you on Eddy Street, off of Verle Avenue.



October 18, Saturday

Mary Beth Doyle Park

Stewardship Series

1:00 to 4:00 pm

We'll take seed collected earlier in the day from nearby Swift Run Marsh and disperse it in our recently planted area to give it a healthy head start on the invasives. Meet us at the parking lot off Packard Road, across from Easy Street.



October 19, Sunday

Sunset Brooks Stewardship Day

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Help us continue our trail and invasive work. Meet at the park entrance on Sunset Road, at the end of Brooks Street. We provide tools and snacks.



October 26, Sunday

Barton Stewardship Day

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Learn to identify native plants in the important seed-bearing stage of their growth cycle. Meet at the Barton Dam parking lot on Huron River Drive. (Note that Huron River Dr. is closed between Main St. and Bird Rd., use Newport Rd. to Bird Rd. to Huron River Dr.)



October 29, Wednesday

Volunteer Appreciation Potluck

and Harvest Costume Party

Cobblestone Farm - 2781 Packard

Starts at 7:00 pm

All volunteers are invited to our annual appreciation event! See announcement on page 3 for more details.

November

November 1, Saturday

Scarlett-Mitchell Stewardship Day

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

If you have not yet helped with invasive woody plant removal in the city parks, here is your chance! Meet in the Scarlett Middle School parking lot off Lorraine Street.



November 2, Sunday

Huron Parkway Stewardship Day

1:00 to 4:00 pm

We have made great headway in this lovely nature area over the years controlling invasives and spreading the natives. Help us continue the progress! We'll meet at the Park Steward's house at 3470 Woodland Road, off East Huron River Drive. Tools provided.



November 11, Tuesday

Huron Arbor Stewards Circle

Brueggers Bagels on N University

7:30 to 8:30 am

Winter is a great time to get into nature - and work! What types of restoration can we conduct in winter? What restoration is best conducted in winter? What do you do in winter?



Park Steward Erudition

Hi. I'm Drew Lathin. I am a member of the leadership team at C. Raker & Sons, a horticultural company, in Litchfield, Michigan. As a leader, coach, cheerleader, and critic, I meddle in the disciplines of lean manufacturing, quality, and organizational development. Recently, I was tasked with researching and exploring the possibility of adding ecological restoration as a line of business.

As a new Park Steward for Miller Park, I hope to slowly over time turn those invasives into an ecologically balanced park that people and animals can enjoy and learn from. I also hope to build my skills in restoration to benefit the community, my work, and my interests.

A healthy ecology is the basis for a healthy economy - Claudine Schneider

Spotlight on the Red-eyed Vireo

by Dea Armstrong

The Red-eyed Vireo is one of the most common long-distance migrants found in the woodlots of Ann Arbor Parks. These birds arrive in our area in late May from South America and begin singing their monotonous "Here-I-am. Where-are-you?" song from high in the canopy. While the male sings and forages high in the trees of his approximately-one acre territory, his mate prefers to find her food in the mid-to-low part of the canopy. It is also at this height where she builds her nest, usually in the fork of a horizontal branch. Though often parasitized by the Brown-headed Cowbird, this species is doing well in large and small woodlots in Michigan, including Ann Arbor parks with a few acres of woods.



Photo by Kelly McKinne

Staff Updates



Shira Diem has migrated back to the Ann Arbor area and is happy to work with NAP, once again. She will uncover the mysteries of the inner workings of NAP as she will be assisting the outreach team. She is looking forward to all of your calls



Nancy Stoll – I have been volunteering in the NAP office for about a year. Now I'm a staff member! I work twenty hours per week, currently with the Community Service Volunteers, coordinating the Photo Contest, assisting in the office, and leading an occasional workday. I also

went to a workshop in June about building community in environmental organizations by sharing personal experiences with nature. I look forward to meeting more NAPPers and swapping stories! *Note the black cohosh at LSNC in Nancy's picture.*



Laura Mueller – After spending a few years as a photographer, I switched gears and joined an AmeriCorps program which focused on environmental education and stewardship. The next years led to field crew positions with The Nature Conservancy throughout Indiana and Minnesota. I've recently returned to Michigan to help care for the Natural Areas of Ann Arbor. It's wonderful to have a chance to be a part of conservation efforts close to home!

Staff Alumni News

Suz Ewing, beloved crew member of 2 years, has moved to Denver, CO to pursue a career as an EMT. We wish her all the best!



Congratulations **Dana Novak**, Outreach Assistant, and **Randy Messick** on the arrival of their twin baby boys. Welcome to the world Oliver and Henry!

NAPennings

Thank you...

- ♥Clif Bar & Co. for donating tons of snack bars for our volunteers
- ♥Macomb County Master Gardeners for their generous contribution to Furstenberg Native Plant Garden
- ♥Northville Rotary for helping at Doyle, Furstenberg, and Hollywood workdays.
- ♥PVC for helping at Hollywood (see adjacent article).
- ♥Girl Scouts' hard work at pulling garlic mustard Marshall.
- ♥Temple Beth Emeth's assistance Huron Hills Golf Course Woods.
- ♥Youth Volunteer Corps' help every week this summer!
- ♥UM Summer Discovery Program helping at Argo through the summer.
- ♥Michigan District Youth enthusiasm at Ruthven.

NAP's fantastic volunteers and staff pulled 10,000 lbs. of garlic mustard this spring! A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this such a successful spring!

MSU is doing a study on ash regeneration and Emerald Ash Borer populations in Southeast Michigan. Bandemer and Kuebler Langford Natural Areas are 2 of the host sites for the study. Stay tuned for more details.

A Fantastic Find

During a garlic mustard-pulling session at Cedar Bend Nature Area, NAP crew member Matt Demmon discovered a plant that is new to city parks. The best part is that it's a rare native plant, and not a new invasive! *Aristolochia serpentaria*, or Virginia Snakeroot, is a low-growing herbaceous plant infrequently found in the southern lower peninsula. It ranges from Connecticut to Michigan, and from Florida to Texas. It is not considered common anywhere it is found, and it is listed as a Threatened Species in the state of Michigan. Virginia Snakeroot is in the Birthwort family, which also includes the much more common Wild Ginger. The flowers of Virginia Snakeroot are below the leaves and are rather small. They look like a miniature maroon pipe, similar to other members of it's family. Historically, when it was more common, it was used medicinally as an aid in childbirth.

This is not the first time rare plants have appeared following NAP's restoration efforts in a park. Congratulations to Matt on a great find, and to all of you who have contributed to the restoration of Cedar Bend over the years!

NAP Cooperative Agency Update: PVC

Professional Volunteer Corps (PVC) was founded in 1989, as a service organization donating members' time and energy to several non-profit projects each month in the Ann Arbor area. There are also a few social activities each month. Members are single, widowed, or divorced women and men, 25 and up. PVC holds general meetings the 2nd Friday of each month at the NEW Center, 1100 N. Main, Ann Arbor, at 7:30 pm. Orientation for newcomers is at 7:00 pm.

Park Focus: Marshall

by Shira Diem, Anna Shipley, and Jason Tallant

Continued from page 1

forests and pine stands. These interesting transition zones support a variety of rare wildlife, including Washtenaw County's most significant population of the Silvery Checkerspot butterfly (*Chlosyne nycteis*). Marshall's old-field prairie has an abundance of nectar plants, and its oak woodland edges have a robust population of the Checkerspot's host plant, woodland sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*).

The upkeep of these varied ecological communities is maintained by a diverse schedule of ecological restoration activities. With the thawing of the snow and the first signs of spring, the oak hickory woodland is carefully burned every few years. This assists in the control of non-native, invasive shrubs and creates opportunities for native plant species to colonize areas previously occupied by shrubs. As the spring unfolds, stewardship volunteers and our conservation crew can be seen pulling common invasive species such as garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*). There is a noticeable difference in the woods over the last 5 years due to all of these invasive species removals, as native woodland flora flourishes and expands into new areas.

Take time to get to know Marshall Nature Area and enjoy being in Ann Arbor's largest ecological network – by taking a walk, coming to a stewardship workday or joining our breeding bird survey.

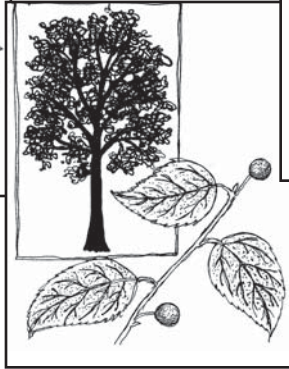
Drawing from gutenber.org

THE NAP PUZZLER!

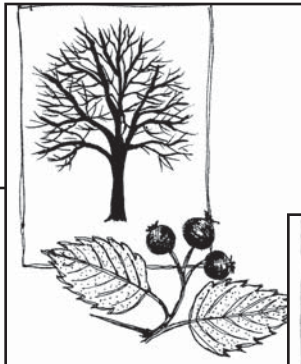
Fall has arrived. Test your tree and leaf identification skills.
 HINT: Choices are... butternut, hawthorne, chinkapin oak, dogwood, and hackberry.



1. _____



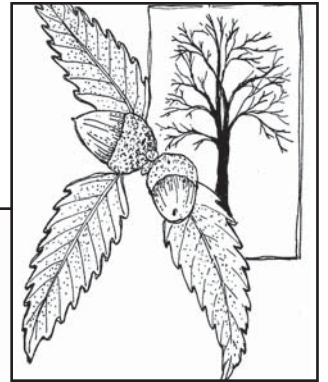
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5. _____

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