

## Hello and welcome to the 2019 Season!



I trust that you all had a great winter. My staff and I are looking forward to another great season in a long line of other great seasons. Our favorite preserve is in

great shape and for the first time as manager of TSNP I have completed surfacing the trails before Mother's Day Weekend. (Not bad for an old man!) The plants are exploding in their Spring growth, the migratory birds are arriving, the Sun is shining, and life is good. Visit the gem of West Traverse Township for a walk on our trails or come for the fun and informative programs and workshops. Just be sure to visit.

We would like to remind everyone that the 2019 parking stickers are available at the nature center. They are free for residents of West Traverse Township and still only \$15 for non-residents.

See you soon and often,

*John and Deb Riggs*

### Kids' Crafts - Wednesdays (10am – Noon) July 10 & 24, Aug 7

Our childrens' programs have gone through evolutions with this year's concentrating on fun nature based craft projects. We will of course take advantage of our beautiful trail system. Pack a snack and a drink. **Please call to register.** Cost of the program is included with the \$5 parking fee and is free to residents of West Traverse Township. Ages 5 – 11.



### Fairy Houses with Deb – Mondays (5pm – 8pm) July 8, Aug 5

Our resident fairy house artist, Deb Riggs will show you how to take natural materials and turn them into a beautiful diminutive abode that could occupy a garden as well as a special place in your home. **Please call to register. Fee \$15**

### Wild Edibles and Medicinals – Saturdays (10am – Noon) July 6 & 20

Join us on a tour of Thorne Swift's array of wild edible and medicinal plants. You will be given an opportunity to sample a collection of prepared food stuffs and teas. **No Reservation Required. No fee beyond that required for parking.**



### Hypertufa Planters – Thursday (6pm – 9pm) July 18

Learn how to make a planter out of a mixture of Portland cement, peat moss, and perlite. This flexible mixture creates a relatively lightweight container that mimics carved stone and can be overwintered without damage from cracking. **Please call to register. Fee \$15**



### Hunting in the Night Sky - Friday and Saturday (9pm – 11pm) July 26 & 27

Given clear skies, we shall investigate the night sky with our trilogy of telescopes. Join with us and take advantage of the double stars, galaxies, nebulae, and star clusters that July has to offer. **No Reservations Required. No Fee**

### Birch Bark Baskets – Thursday (5pm – 8pm) August 1

Birch bark is a wonderful material to work with: Durable, flexible, and beautiful. We will be making a style of basket that will insure success even if one is new to this medium.

\*Birch bark supplied will not be stripped from live trees.

**Please Call to register. Fee: \$15**

### Thorne Swift Folklore – Friday (8pm – 9:30pm) August 16

Join us on a tour of Thorne Swift that touches upon the unusual. As the manager since 1997, I have not only had the honor of living on site, I have been privy to sightings and stories from visitors and locals that will entertain and create a little wonder about this amazing place. **No Reservations Required. No Fee.**

Thorne Swift Nature Preserve is a co-operative effort of West Traverse Township and Little Traverse Conservancy.



The Piping Plover is an endangered species of bird that is in residence at Thorne Swift. We ask that our visitors do their part to help insure that Piping Plovers are able to continue as a part of our wild bird population. Their habit, by its very nature is in conflict with summer time fun on Michigan beaches. These little birds, as well as their cousins the killdeer nest on the ground making them an easy target for predators as well as dogs roaming beaches off leash. As their nests and eggs are well camouflaged, people simply walking over them is also a potential problem. Although it is true that we cannot prevent neighboring property owners



from walking along the shoreline as long as they remain in “wet sand” and continue moving, we are able to set boundaries for our visitors. One of these boundaries is between our public beach area and our protected area which includes our dunes and that section of beach that is suitable Plover habitat. In this vein, we ask that all of our visitors not only respect our protected area but also inform staff if they see other visitors within our protected zone. We would also encourage people to learn about the Piping Plover so when they are on the observation platform they will be able to recognize this bird and alert staff to their presence.

We thank you in advance for your help.

## Thorne Swift Nature Preserve's Swift Current

Volume 35

Summer 2019



### Trail Hours:

April 15-November 15: 10am until sunset

### Nature Center Building Hours:

Memorial Day-Labor Day: Daily 10am-7pm

Labor Day-October 20: Weekends only

### Parking Fee: \$5    Season Pass: \$15

\*No fee for West Traverse Township residents  
& members of Little Traverse Conservancy

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