

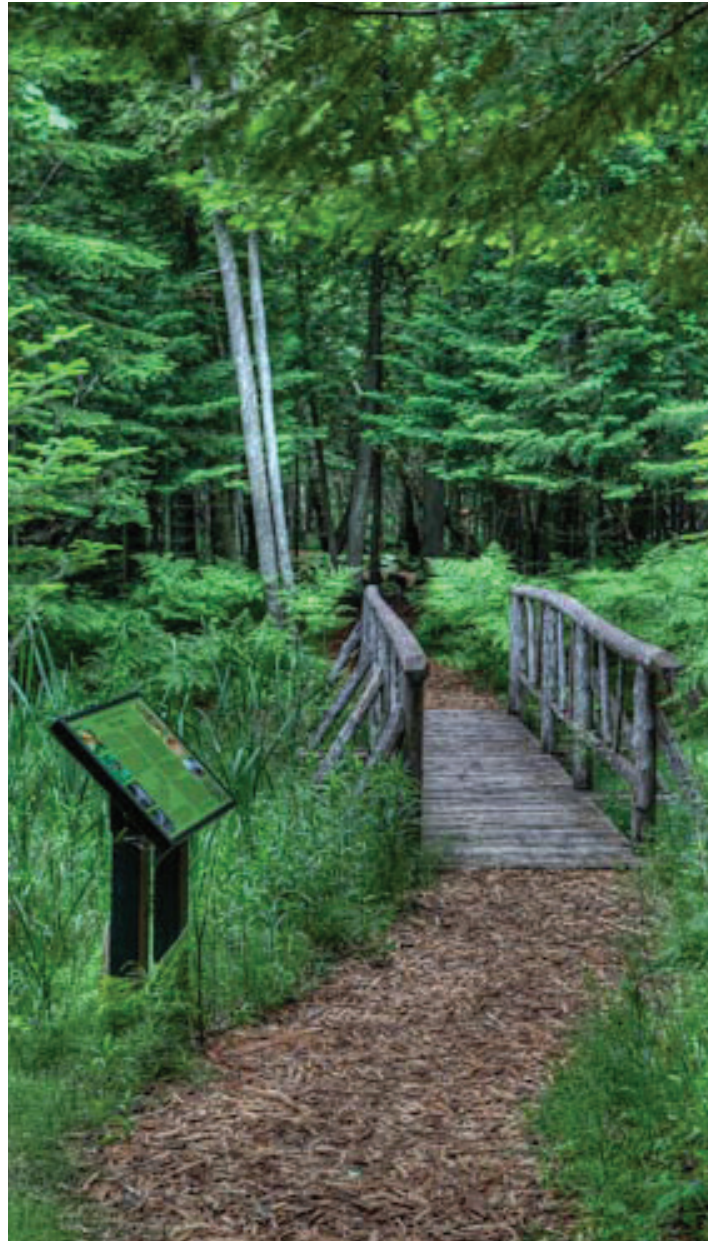
A Word on Invasive Plants

There may not appear to be a direct connection between our yards and gardens to natural ecosystems, but there truly is. Many of the foreign species over taking and damaging native habitats were introduced by well-meaning people purchased from garden shops. Whether the plants moved into other areas by seeds on a hiker's feet, blown by the wind or dumped into the woods by a landscaper matters not; serious damage occurs.



Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)

This is a complex issue and space is limited but do know that alternatives are available with little research. Instead of planting *Vinca minor*, or Myrtle as it is called, think about wild ginger, or any number of native ground covers. Instead of Honeysuckle, perhaps choose Juneberry. This of course varies with region, soil, and sunlight, but we all have access to the internet and can search out forms of native plants. Most importantly though, before purchasing that garden plant at the shop, check to see if it is a "bad plant". Do your part to protect the natural world beyond the borders of Thorne Swift and thank you for your help.



Thorne Swift Nature Preserve is a co-operative effort of West Traverse Township and Little Traverse Conservancy. Thorne Swift Nature Preserve was established in 1992 with a gift from Elizabeth Kennedy. It includes 30 acres and 375 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline.

Thorne Swift Nature Preserve's *Swift Current* Summer 2021 - Volume 36



Trail Hours

April 15 - November 14
10am to sunset

Nature Center Building Hours

Memorial Day - Labor Day
Daily 10am - 7pm

Labor Day - October 24
Weekends only

6696 Lower Shore Drive
Harbor Springs, Michigan 49740
231.526.6401



Hello and welcome to the 2021 season!

Spring is here in full force. We traded random snow falls in April and May for warmer weather and sunshine, and everything is looking up.

Last year we saw a few changes that will be carried over: due to the doubling of our attendance and a huge increase in donations, we **have suspended our parking fees**. Our observation is that not stopping cars to charge fees as they enter sets a happier, more giving tone. Also, with COVID restrictions now relaxed, our nature center building is open and ready for visitors.



Other news includes a return to offering programs as well as an expansive beach thanks to extended boundaries and a drop in lake level! All in all, it promises to be a great season.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you all soon and often,

John Riggs

Thorne Swift Summer Programs

Medicinal and Edible Plants – Monday (7– 8:30pm) July 12 & August 23

Spend an evening with us as we explore how we can relate to the natural world in a new way, learning how to take advantage of nature's grocery store. No Reservations Required. No Fee.

Birch & Twig Robin Shelf – Monday (6–8pm) July 19

Join us for an evening of fun, creating a nesting box that not only attracts Robins, but can also be used for Eastern Phoebes or Barn Swallows. Please call for tool list and to register. \$15 Fee.

Story Telling – Saturday (8–9:30pm) July 24

Everyone needs to slow down and experience story telling around a fire from time to time to stay centered. That, along with eating chocolate, marshmallows, and graham crackers all melted into one tasty package! Families as well as individuals are welcome. No Reservations Required. No Fee.

Fairy Houses with Deb – Monday (5–8pm) August 2

Deb's Fairy House workshops have become a mainstay in our summer schedule for good reason; they always fill up quickly. Mark this day on your calendar and have fun creating your diminutive masterpiece in good company. Please call for tool list and to register. \$15 Fee.

Celestial Observation – Saturday (9:30–11pm) August 7

Given clear skies, we will be able to view a variety of stellar objects from galaxies to nebulae to jewel-like double stars. We will be using our two telescopes, but you are welcome to bring your own telescope or binoculars. No Reservations Required. No Fees.

Terrariums – Monday (5–6:30pm) August 16

Discover the fascinating miniature world of terrariums. We are offering a practical workshop on setting up your own self-sustaining miniature world. We will supply all of the materials beyond your own special container. Plastic will work, but glass will work better. Please call for details and to register. Fee \$15.

Photographs by Liesha Pier

