

MARCH 2001



The Merry Leaflet

Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College

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Programs Reflect Educational Principles

Field Experience at Merry Lea Connects Students and Environment

Education is a prominent aspect of our mission along with preserving ecosystems, and re-creation. It requires a substantial part of our budget and a majority of our staff to deliver educational programs to more than 6000 students each year.

Paul Steury, education coordinator, sees to it that the activities scheduled for young visitors help to foster an understanding of interconnectedness, a sense of place, and a delight in nature. These goals are commonly shared by environmental educators. Additionally, Steury includes a commitment to stewardship as an important added goal for instruction at Merry Lea.

The ways ecosystems are interconnected is emphasized in *Exploring Nature*, a popular program that points out living cycles and illustrates cycles of air, water and energy in examples along the trail.

Farmcraft illustrates how humans depend on the health of an entire food chain and how



Exploration of an ecosystem, as these Leesburg 5th graders are doing in the wetland, is vital to the development of a sense of place. — photo L. Yoder

natural resources have been utilized in the past two centuries.

Maple Sugaring introduces students to the effects of weather patterns and the dynamics of a forest ecosystem to produce natural maple syrup.

The late Aldo Leopold, one of the most influential 20th Century ecologists, championed the concept of “a sense of place.” He insisted that people should have an understanding of the unique biological and physical characteristics of where they live.

“That’s why we focus on our own habitat instead of saying very much about the rain forest when students visit us,” Steury

noted. “Our educators recognize that concern for the health of ecosystems everywhere on the earth is important, but programs like *Exploring Nature*,

Geology and Wetlands provide the information and motivation to help people improve the health of our local ecosystems.”

Field experience is vital to the development of a sense of place. First-person experience promotes feelings of ownership and stewardship in ways that are not possible with only

factual knowledge.

Likewise, journeys into the natural world elicit feelings of joyous wonder.

Steury believes, however, that awareness of interconnectedness and delight in the natural world must translate into active stewardship.

continued on page 7

Elsewhere in this Issue...

Upcoming Events at Merry Lea	2
Special Gift to Fund Herbarium	2
What’s Been Happening at Merry Lea	3
Invasive Plants Threaten Ecosystems	5

Regular Features

From the Director’s Desk	2
Our Featured Volunteer	6
Dave’s NatureNotes	7

From the Director's Desk

Luke A Gascho,
Executive Director

Planning and Earthkeeping



Winter is a grand time for planning. There is a special atmosphere that is created when the ground is covered with snow and there is a chill in the air. The change of pace caused by this atmosphere encourages planning. Perhaps planning has a connection with hibernation – a slowing down to regroup for the next season. In the midst of that hibernation is an energy that is creative and rejuvenating.

Planning is a regular winter event at Merry Lea. During January, we took time to look again at 'who we are,' 'what we do,' and 'where we are going.' This means reflecting on our mission and our individual areas of involvement. It also means looking ahead and around the corner. Involving ourselves individually in these activities is helpful. But working on the questions and visions corporately produces a dynamic of synergy.

Part of the planning included time for noting the cycles that occur in our work at Merry Lea. Our 'cycle thinking' was enhanced by "The Wheel of Learning" model that presents a pattern for individuals that includes reflecting, connecting, deciding, and doing. The elements in the cycle for team learning are public reflection, shared meaning, joint planning, and coordinated action.

Our planning is not complete, nor did it just begin. We are aware of our history and our present. By planning/hibernating together as a staff, we continue to see new and renewed directions for exercising Merry Lea's mission. Together we experience a revitalizing energy like that of an animal stretching after a winter of hibernation.

Winter is not a season of death, but a time of hidden, emerging life.

Gift to Expand Herbarium

Dr. Orië J. Eigsti, botanist and long-time friend of Merry Lea, has provided funds to further develop Merry Lea's herbarium. Dr. Eigsti's career focused on various aspects of botany, including the development of the seedless watermelon. He has had an interest in the plants of Merry Lea for many years and he designated his gift to be used to identify and collect plants on the property. Samples of each plant are to be preserved and assembled in a professional collection known as an "herbarium".

The herbarium is an important resource for students in botany courses and for professional botanists.

The herbarium at Merry Lea began soon after 1981 when Goshen College assumed responsibility for the center. Much of the collecting to date has been done in the summer with the assistance of college students.

The gift is a stimulus to improve the breadth of the collection. Time will be allocated for collecting new specimens, especially spring and fall plants. A computer database will be updated to serve as an efficient tool in using the herbarium as a resource for study. Additional space will be designed to house the Merry Lea collections including additional cabinetry. The goal is to develop an herbarium that represents not only Merry Lea, but also the region of northeastern Indiana.

This gift is a wonderful boost toward achieving that goal.

Join Us for these Spring Events

Merry Lea's series of dinner programs continues on Saturday, April 21, from 4 - 8 pm with a focus on wildflowers and wetlands. Visit the woods at the Farmstead to see prairie trillium, bloodroot, and cut-leaved toothwort, and then join us for a nutritious meal. As evening falls, you'll hear the chorus of frogs in the wetlands outside the barn.

On that same day, April 21, Merry Lea will team up with the Peabody Public Library in Columbia City (where the program will be held) to provide an in-depth look at "Wetlands." Learn more about their importance, function, and preservation. The program features two concurrent sessions – one for adults and one for children – that run from 1 - 3 pm. It also includes a visit to the restored wetland located just outside the library.

April 25-29 finds us in Smoky Mountain National Park for the wildflower tour. (see back page for details)

continued on p 6

Merry Lea, created with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy and through the generosity of Lee A. and Mary Jane Rieth, is operated by Goshen College. The Center provides a comprehensive program of environmental education and recreation.

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Executive Director	Luke A. Gascho
Program Director	David Miller
Director of Land Management	William F. Minter
Assistant to the Executive Director	Larry Yoder
Lindsey Fellow	Mary Linton

Field Office Manager
Property Supervisor
Volunteer Coordinator/Instructor
Education Coordinator
Instructor
Intern
Intern
Intern

Marian Miller
Kerry Goodrich
Jean Newsom
Paul Steury
John Zimmermann
Alicia Brinton
Erin Clymer
Krista Daniels

MERRY LEA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Luke Gascho, <i>ex officio</i>	Nancy Price
Paul Keim <i>ex officio</i>	Christian Rieseberg
Pat Hluchota	Mary Jane Rieth
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The *Merry Leaflet*, published in March, June, September and December, provides news about programs and developments at Merry Lea. Larry Yoder, Editor. News about Merry Lea is on line at www.goshen.edu/merrylea.

What's Happening at Merry Lea

January Meetings Focus on Strategic Planning

Executive director Luke Gascho led several sessions with Merry Lea's staff to strategically plan for the coming three years.

"The direction for development of Merry Lea comes from our board and Goshen College," Gascho noted, "but much of that direction and vision comes out of the information provided by our staff. They're the ones in intimate contact with the natural systems and they hear the comments and needs expressed by our visitors."

During the half-day sessions held in January, the twelve staff members reviewed the relationship of activities to Merry Lea's mission and they suggested directions for future programming and additions to facilities.



Executive director Luke Gascho moderates a meeting of Merry Lea's staff as they identify strategic directions for the coming three years.
photo - L. Yoder

Clymer Completes Internship

Intern Erin Clymer completed her six month internship on February 13. She has moved to Pittsburgh where she will pursue a career in theater while studying voice and dance.

Erin graduated from Goshen College last May with a degree in English, and then she applied for a six-month internship at Merry Lea because of her interest in environmental issues. She worked with students on the trail, played the role of the mink at Enchanted Forest, supervised the Sunflower Festival, worked with youth in Merry Lea's Outdoor Explorer Club and employed her artistic talents to create curricula, fliers and newsletters.

"The special events were significant," Erin reflected, "but the opportunity to increase my knowledge about

natural history was the highlight for me".

She applauds the way Merry Lea values creativity and makes it possible for staff members to explore multiple avenues of education. Erin cherished the way people at Merry Lea emphasize rejuvenation and reconnection in nature.

"The staff is diverse and they freely share individual perspectives for the benefit of all," she noted.

Her long-term goals include work in musical theater and studies in theology. Eventually, she would like to open a spiritual environmental retreat center for women.

"Merry Lea has helped me to better understand the logistics of how to manage my future dream," she added.

We wish her the best in her pursuits and we know she will succeed.



Erin Clymer has completed her six-month internship at Merry Lea —photo L. Yoder

Merry Lea Represented at HASTI Conference

Alicia Brinton, Krista Daniels, Jean Newsum, Paul Steury, and John Zimmermann attended sessions of the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc which were held in Indianapolis February 7-9.

In addition to attending sessions, the staff members greeted visitors at Merry Lea's booth in the exhibition hall.

Geologist Conducts Staff Training Session

Kevin Miller, geologist with technical services of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Office of Land Quality visited Merry Lea on January 12 to present a seminar for staff members about the use of the Global Positioning System and Geographical Information Systems

The day-long training session covered use of equipment and software related to this new technology.

Global positioning (GPS) is now widely used in navigation, surveying, delivery services and agriculture. It can accurately identify the location of nearly any place on the earth.

Geographical information systems (GIS) include spatial data collected about one or more places on the earth.

When the two systems are combined, it is possible to create maps and three-dimensional drawings that illustrate the relationships of characteristics for one or more locations.

Merry Lea's new Mobile Environmental Laboratory includes computers, software and global positioning units to enable teachers and their students to gather data and create maps or tables that summarize the information.

At Merry Lea, staff members will use the equipment to accurately map the trails, identify boundaries, and collect information about the plants and animals that are present.

Sabbatical Studies Provide Fresh Perspectives

Dr. Mary Linton, Lindsey Fellow at Merry Lea, has been studying elsewhere during her sabbatical time this year.

In the meantime, John Smith, Professor of Education at Goshen College, has made Merry Lea his location for sabbatical study. He will be with us until May to gather information about environmental education. He is using his sabbatical to review course offerings in teacher education at Goshen College. Smith's specialty is science education.

"We want to anticipate future requirements," Smith observed, "so I'm reviewing our courses to be certain that our curriculum will provide solid preparation for high school teachers."

Educators expect environmental education to be an increasingly important part of the science curriculum.

"Environmental education was not even a discipline in earlier years of science education," the Ohio State University graduate noted.

Smith will observe environmental instruction at Merry Lea, and confer with Paul Steury, education coordinator at Merry Lea. Steury is a facilitator for the North American Association for Environmental Education's effort to develop national standards in environmental education.

Professor Smith will also accompany members of Merry Lea's staff as they conduct research and manage our ecosystems. He expects to use the information to design a new course in teacher education that integrates earth science, environmental science, science investigation and methods for science education.

The professor's work includes interviews with our staff and reading in Merry Lea's collection of writing on environmental education and natural history. He also makes time for experiences of solitude and silent retreat in the natural settings at Merry Lea.

"I've felt welcomed as a new person at Merry Lea," Smith added, "and the resources available for a visiting scholar are substantial."

Professor Smith's two previous sabbatical studies included research projects in teacher education at the



Dr. John Smith reviews information about environmental science at Merry Lea as he develops his new course in science education – photo L. Yoder

National Center for Teacher Education at the University of Texas and the National Center for Science Teaching and Learning at The Ohio State University.

Linton engages in writing and reflection

Since August, Mary Linton has been absent from the classroom and office in order to more fully experience the natural and written worlds. In the middle of her year-long sabbatical, Linton reflected on where she's been and what is yet to come in the next six months.

An avid devotee of the written word, Professor Linton has spent much of her time focused on writing. In collaboration with the City of Elkhart Water and Wastewater program, she submitted a paper on the design of small town wastewater treatment.

"I've also been working on an insect ecology paper from work I did for my

Ph.D. dissertation and working on my creative writing," Linton explained.

Linton has also devoted time to the study of field identification of fungi. She has enjoyed connecting with the midwestern mycology group and venturing on "forays" with them. (Linton explained that mycologists do not go to "meetings", "field trips", or "surveys", but rather "forays".)

"They're some of the funnest scientists I've spent time with," she added.

Work on Goshen College's new Environmental Studies major, which Linton was instrumental in creating, is also part of her sabbatical itinerary. She is producing a guide to internships for majors in the new program.

This led to a new collaborative relationship.

"While working on this project, an opportunity came to work with some independent consulting firms to implement Indiana's Wetland Conservation Plan. We wrote a grant and will be working together for the next two years," Linton explained.

A sabbatical is equal parts professional development and personal refreshment. "It's nice to have the time to travel, go to conferences and read," Linton said.

With a broad focus on wetland studies, she's been able to visit various wastewater wetlands, some of them used by private homeowners.

continued on p 6



Staff members gather after a session of strategic planning. First Row: Alicia Brinton; Second Row (left to right) Krista Daniels, Paul Steury, Erin Clymer, David Miller, Larry Yoder; Third Row: John Zimmermann, Bill Minter, Jean Newsum, Marian Miller, Kerry Goodrich, John Smith, and Luke Gascho. Lindsey Fellow Mary Linton is on sabbatical. photo – V. Campbell

Mission Includes Control of Invasive Exotic Plants

Bill Minter,
Director of
Land
Management



Preserving an ecosystem sometimes means destroying some of the organisms that are present there.

That's the seemingly paradoxical situation that faces me as director of land management and Kerry Goodrich, property supervisor. We are the two full time members of Merry Lea's staff who are charged with fulfilling the part of Merry Lea's mission that deals with "providing a natural sanctuary for Northern Indiana's plants and animals". A significant part of our work is to monitor Merry Lea's 1150 acres for the appearance of invasive plant species and take appropriate action to control them.

Invasive plants are now recognized as significant threats to the biological integrity of natural areas such as Merry Lea. Many are "exotic", that is, non-native species that were intentionally introduced from other regions of the world. (commonly Eurasia and the Far East) While some arrived accidentally, most have been introduced as ornamentals or for purposes related to soil conservation, wildlife habitat or agriculture. About 25% of the 2,300 plant species that grow wild in Indiana are exotic. Most of these cause little trouble. However, among the introduced plants are aggressive species that degrade or destroy thousands of acres of natural plant communities in Indiana.

Most invasive species are ecological pioneers, efficient colonizers that, once introduced, quickly establish themselves in recently disturbed areas such as agricultural fields or construction sites. Invasive species typically displace native plants because of their characteristically faster growth rates, efficient seed dispersal, and broad tolerance to environmental conditions.

Invasive plants impact wildlife by eliminating the naturally occurring

plants that native animals need for food and cover. They degrade habitat for rare wildflowers by monopolizing available light and nutrients. Competition from exotics is the primary threat for two-thirds of all endangered species.

Much of Merry Lea was in crop production up until the early 1970's. As agricultural activities ceased, a number of invasive, exotic species appeared. Some invaded from surrounding lands, but others, such as autumn olive, were intentionally planted on site as recommended plants to improve wildlife habitat. (Biologists have since learned to pay more attention to the overall impact when an exotic is intentionally introduced into an ecosystem to achieve a particular goal.)

To learn more about invasive species...

visit Merry Lea and pick up copies of two brochures recently published by Indiana agencies: *Invasive Plants of Indiana*, and *Landscaping with Plants Native to Indiana—Recommended Plants and their Sources*.

Even undisturbed areas of Merry Lea do not escape the impact of invasive exotics. Natural habitats usually lack the insects and diseases that keep exotic plants in check in their countries' of origin, and as a result, exotics can come to dominate an area in a short time. The proliferation of garlic mustard in Hoosier woodlands is a good example.

Invasive species that have established populations at Merry Lea include autumn olive, multiflora rose, white poplar, crown vetch, Canada thistle, reed canary grass, common reed, garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, sweet clover, smooth brome, and tall fescue.

Others that are not established but have the potential impact to Merry Lea's ecosystems in the future include purple loosestrife, dame's rocket and glossy buckthorn.

To control these, Kerry and I must

understand the biology and lifecycles of problem species, and then employ techniques that will neutralize the advantages that an exotic has over native species. This is often easier than it sounds, because control must not irreparably harm the ecosystem we're trying to protect. Further, sufficient labor or money may not be available to achieve adequate control. Moreover, land managers must take into account the season, the degree of infestation, and the environmental impact of a control practice. Depending on the factors that apply, we employ, individually or in combination, controls that include hand-pulling; mowing; fire; selective herbicides; and cutting with brush saws, loppers or chainsaws.

Merry Lea cooperates with the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves to help investigate the potential for biological controls such as insect predators specific to garlic mustard and purple loosestrife.

Growing, Literally: Merry Lea Hosts Second Summer Farm Camp

Remember the first time you pulled a carrot from the garden or took that first bite of home-grown watermelon? These memories are becoming part of the experience of youths who take part in Merry Lea's Summer Farm Camp. Young gardeners learn horticultural skills as they care for their own plots at the Farm where they grow produce and learn, first-hand, that the earth makes their lunch!

The gardeners will also be explorers as they do everything from watching the red tailed fox and its prey to visiting other nature preserves and area farms. With their mentoring counselors, the summer campers will learn to be environmental citizens who can improve their community by planting seeds and reaping harvest, both literally and figuratively.

Young gardeners between the ages of 6 and 12 should contact Merry Lea to register. No previous gardening experience is necessary. The program runs for 9 weeks and meets 3 days per week. The registration fee of \$35 includes refreshments, seeds and printed materials.

Volunteers' News

Jean Newsum,
Volunteer
Coordinator



Vern Campbell—Our Featured Volunteer

When I accompany Vern Campbell on a nature trail, I'm in the presence of a master teacher engaging in an activity he knows and loves.

I asked Vern how he first developed this love for the natural world. Vern grew up on a farm near Brazil, Indiana, and he told me about a weekly ritual in his family. Each Sunday afternoon his father would lead the family through their 14-acre woods, sharing his knowledge of plant and animal life.

That experience left a lasting impression. As Vern and his wife, Edith, raised their four boys, he, like his father, shared his love of the outdoors with them. Two of his boys share his favorite outdoor hobby, fishing, and Vern also enjoys birding with his brother, Glen.

Vern attended Manchester College

and Ball State where he received degrees in education and administration. He taught and served as a school principal for many years.

Vern learned of Merry Lea in the early 1980's when he was teaching at Leesburg School near Warsaw. He wanted his 5th grade pupils to experience some of the wonders of nature that had always been a part of his life. Vern and his colleagues met with the staff at Merry Lea. Together, they designed a two-day, overnight experience that has since been used by Leesburg and many other schools.

Volunteer Training Set for April 12

Training for spring teaching volunteers will be held at the Learning Center on Thursday, April 12 beginning at 9am.

John Roe, a graduate student at IPFW in Fort Wayne, will share about his research on endangered snakes of our region.

Volunteers will also learn about the ongoing salamander research being conducted at Merry Lea.

A light lunch will be served.

Call Jean Newsum at 219-799-5869 (jeann@goshen.edu) to become a teaching volunteer and take part in the training session.

Vern Campbell shares his approach to teaching during the Fall volunteer training session – photo L. Yoder



Vern's retirement from Leesburg school in 1989 permitted more time for birding, hiking, fishing and gardening. In addition, Vern has traveled to China 17 times to deliver Bibles for his church. He is also an active member of the Kiwanis Club, a service organization.

Fortunately, Vern also sets aside time to lend his expertise as a teaching volunteer at Merry Lea. He enjoys the positive contact with children who come, and he appreciates the opportunity to learn from the knowledgeable people that he has come to know here. Those advantages provide our good fortune, as Vern Campbell continues to enrich our programs.

Spring Events – continued from p 2

Merry Lea's Midwest Birding Trip, scheduled for May 6–8, will take registrants to Ohio's Crane Creek and the nearby Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. These nationally recognized birding areas promise a sizable list of species for everyone.

Then, on Saturday May 12, we'll do the May Day Bird Count at Merry Lea and adjacent areas. Our goal is to count all the birds we can find by sight or sound. This event is part of a national effort coordinated by the Audubon Society to monitor bird populations. All birders, experienced or beginners, are welcome.

Organic Gardening with Merry Lea educator Paul Steury is set for Saturday, June 9, from 9–11:30 am.

Steury will give advice on getting started, and he will share techniques and lead a tour of Merry Lea's gardens as he discusses this earth-friendly way to grow nutritious fruits and vegetables.

On May 25 - 26, those interested in sketching the natural world will gather for a two-day Sketching Workshop led by area professional artists. Participants will live in residence at Merry Lea so they can enjoy natural surroundings as they sketch. All housing and meals are included.

Contact Merry Lea for further information about these programs. Some require advance registration.

To register...

or obtain more information about the upcoming programs,

Contact Merry Lea at 219-799-5869 or write to us at Box 263 Wolf Lake, IN 46796. e-mail us at merrylea@goshen.edu

Program booklets that list the full year's schedule are also available.

Sabbaticals – continued from p 4

"They look like gardens—really," she said.

While at the Smith Memorial Mushroom Foray, in central Illinois, Linton was able to do more than identify fungi. "I came face-to-face with a coyote in the middle of the night. That was pretty exciting," Linton said.

Linton will spend the next few months on amphibian studies. She will conduct salamander research at Merry Lea as well as frog and toad surveys in the larger area.

Parts of this year's study will contribute directly to the Plant Kingdom and Limnology classes that Linton teaches at Goshen College.

As far as "the other stuff" is concerned, "[it] always gets into my classes"—the same Mary Linton that does research also teaches the classes.

"When I am juiced about something and learning, my classes get more exciting," she added.

– Erin Clymer and Larry Yoder

Dave's Nature Notes

Dr. David Miller, Program Director



The Blue Jay - *Cyanocitta cristata*

The Blue Jay is a common bird in our area, and it is a familiar and frequent visitor to most bird feeders. This medium sized bird is a member of the crow family, Corvidae. We enjoy spotting its brilliant blue, black, and gray feathers splashed with white when a Blue Jay arrives in our yards.

It's a noisy bird with a loud voice, and it is frequently the first bird to sound the alarm when a Cooper's Hawk comes into view. At its warning all the birds head for the nearest cover. In the Spring the males are frequently heard as they carve out nesting territories. Once they begin to build their nests, they are much quieter, especially when near their nest. This quiet period lasts until fall when the young are

out of the nest and on their own.

Jays usually build nests in conifer trees between 5 and 20 feet up. Four or five eggs are laid and, in our area, they raise only one brood per season. The female does most of the incubating, but the male brings food to her while she broods.

Their primary food sources are acorns, fruit, nuts and seeds. However, they will also feed on insects, and, in the spring, they raid the nests of smaller birds and eat both eggs and nestlings. In the winter Blue Jays enjoy the energy-rich sunflower seeds in our feeders. They'll pick up a seed, use their foot to hold it on the edge of the feeder, and peck it open to extract the kernel inside.

Jays also store food for the winter. Watch closely when a jay is at your bird feeder. Frequently they appear to pick up a series of sunflower seeds

and swallow them whole. Actually, they don't swallow them, but they place them in a pouch below their tongue instead. When the pouch is full, they will fly away and place the seeds in a cache that they remember and relocate when they need food.

A related species, Clark's nutcracker, is credited by some with the ability to remember many hundreds of these caches of two or three seeds each for up to nine months.

Besides sunflower seeds, Blue Jays also gather and store acorns. Since they don't relocate all of them, those that are missed may germinate. In this way the Blue Jay helps to propagate oak trees.

The next time you come to walk at Merry Lea, watch for this resident. There are lots of them around, and they add an attractive bit of color to the winter scene.

Education Programs – continued from p 1

"It's difficult to orient students to the practice of stewardship when we're with them for only 2-3 hours, but we can begin," he said. "Acting responsibly to care for creation and control our impact on the environment are important lessons to be included."

Meanwhile, Merry Lea instructor John Zimmermann addresses another aspect of environmental education as he develops programs to help teachers meet state standards in science education. Increasingly, standards for science education include objectives related to environmental science.

"The 'education' part of our mission includes helping teachers meet the educational objectives for their students," the former elementary teacher observed. When Zimmermann de-

signs a program to be presented by Merry Lea, he consults state standards and identifies the features at Merry Lea that will help teachers meet a particular state requirement. Frequently, these are the standards most difficult to meet in the conventional classroom.

For example, Zimmermann developed "Nature's Recyclers" in response to Roanoke teacher Shawn Wells's need for a unit on the flow of energy and materials through an ecosystem.

Now, students see natural recycling in action as they visit the bog, see the work of dermestid beetles, and examine decomposing leaf duff.

Parents who home school find effective science teaching to be especially challenging as their students prepare for college entrance examinations.

John has prepared six day-long units for home school science instruction. Home school schedules are generally more flexible, which makes it possible to extend the day and explore a subject in greater depth.

Home school units on the prairie ecosystem, forests, lakes, wetlands and the meadow are scheduled for this spring at Merry Lea.

Zimmermann notes that Merry Lea is uniquely blessed with a sizeable professional staff, diverse ecosystems, and knowledgeable volunteers.

This makes it possible to custom design programs to meet the educational needs of students who visit. Merry Lea's resources also make it possible to reach beyond instruction in natural history to address the broader goals of environmental education .

Merry Lea Calendar

*Make note of these special events coming up
this Spring*

March 25-27	Clean-up at the Sugarbush
April 12	Volunteer Training Day
April 21	Wetlands
April 21	Merry Lea Dinner Program
April 25-29	Smoky Mountain Wildflower Pilgrimage
April 29	Wildflower Hike
May 5	Leopold Ed. Project for Teachers
May 6-8	Midwest Birding Trip
May 8-9	NWF Biodiversity Basics
May 12	May Day Bird Count
May 25-26	Nature Sketching Workshop
June 9	Organic Gardening
June 11-15	Ecology for Teachers
June 18-22	M.E.L. Instrumentation Course

For the latest information, check our web site at

www.goshen.edu/merrylea

Merry Lea Returns to the Smokies

April 25 - 29

Join with your friends from Merry Lea as we travel to Gatlinburg, TN for the Annual Smoky Mountain Wildflower Pilgrimage. See the grand display of wildflowers as you hike the trails of Smoky Mountain National Park. Expert guides will show you the wildflowers as well as plants and animals such as mosses, insects, birds, ferns, and salamanders.

Only \$385.00 double occupancy, \$435.00 single. Includes transportation, housing, tours and some meals.

Registration is limited. Contact Merry Lea today.

Our bookstore at the Learning Center is a perfect place to purchase the latest field guides for nature-loving friends and family.

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