

## Looking Beyond the Landscape

Interested in learning more about regional invasive species and the importance of planting native?

GTCD's Invasive Species Network is looking to schedule the 'Looking Beyond the Landscape' presentation over the winter to clubs or groups. This 30 minute presentation will touch on the impacts of our choices on our natural world. Learn about the importance of planting native species, the results of invasive species surveys in area parklands, and how you can make a difference. Your group will leave inspired to make simple choices to protect our precious natural resources. The number of presentations is limited so call Matthew or Robin at 231.941.0960 today to schedule your group!



### Holiday Hours:

The Boardman River Nature Center will be closed to the public:

// Friday, December 23

// Saturday, December 24

// Saturday, December 31

The trails will remain open to the public 7 days a week from dawn to dusk.

## The GTCD Is Proud to Announce...



## Swingshift and the Stars

Please support us in our goal  
to raise \$50,000!

In line with the theme of Dancing with the Stars, Swing Shift & the Stars is a charity dance-off where local celebrities compete in a dancing competition from September – December to raise funds for a nonprofit that they represent. The GTCD has been fortunate to be the first environmental organization selected to compete! Our dance team, Kathy Lauterbach and Rich Budek, have danced their hearts out, and have helped the GTCD raise over \$17,000 so far! In order to vote for your favorite dancer you must be in attendance and donate a minimum of \$5 to go towards your organization of choice. For more info or to donate online in between dance-offs, please visit [swingshiftandthestars.com](http://swingshiftandthestars.com). Support the GTCD by joining us for the last dance of the competition: Friday, December 16!

## Peepers



Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m.  
Ages 3-5 // \$5 per child per session

The 2011-12 season of our popular Peepers preschool program is under way! This fun and educational program is designed to foster the exploration of nature, as children explore seasonal nature themes. Each morning will include indoor and outdoor activities, so dress for the weather! No pre-registration required and drop-ins are always welcome. View the schedule: [NatureisCalling.org](http://NatureisCalling.org)

## Nature is calling...

Pick up with our Community Stewardship Series!

# December Programs



Photo by: John Gessner



Grand Traverse  
Conservation District

[NatureisCalling.org](http://NatureisCalling.org) // 231.941.0960

Boardman River Nature Center  
1450 Cass Rd, Traverse City, 49685  
(Just 3 miles south of downtown Traverse City)  
Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10a.m. - 4p.m.

[NatureisCalling.org](http://NatureisCalling.org)

# December

# Programs

## With the Grand Traverse Conservation District

### Holiday Nature Arts & Crafts Sale

**Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.– 4 p.m.  
Boardman River Nature Center**

Come to the Boardman River Nature Center and get a jump on your holiday shopping! Choose your real, natural Christmas tree, wreath, centerpieces, and ornaments. Find nature gifts for that special friend or relative, including cedar birdhouses, nature books, t-shirts, local wine, cherries and other agricultural products, hand carved wood items, nature prints, recycled crafts and much more! Bring the kids to make natural tree ornaments while you shop! All ages welcome. Proceeds benefit the Grand Traverse Conservation District.



### Snowshoeing the Commons Natural Area

**Saturday, December 10, 1-2 p.m.**

**Meet at the Garfield trailhead  
(across from the TBA-ISD building)**

As temperatures drop and the snowflakes begin to fall, now is the perfect time of year to hit the trails with your coats zipped and your snowshoes strapped on!



Join us at the Commons Natural Area for a guided hike of just one of the many parklands the Grand Traverse Conservation District manages. \$5 suggested donation.

*The GTCD's Community Stewardship Series is sponsored in part by the Oleson Foundation.*

### Parklands Picture Challenge!

**Submissions due Saturday, Dec 17 by 4 p.m.**

Pop Quiz: Which parklands do the GTCD manage? It may be surprising to hear, but the GTCD manages 8 different parklands... that's over 3,000 acres of land in the Grand Traverse region! It's your job to get out and enjoy these natural areas, which is why we're daring you to participate in the Parklands Picture Challenge.

Between now and December 17, take a snap shot of four of your favorite trails managed by the GTCD. Images must be submitted in person (on disc), via email (to [mhandke@gtcd.org](mailto:mhandke@gtcd.org)), or posted to the GTCD Flickr group by 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 17. Images can be scenic or they can show individuals enjoying the trails. All entries must include: name, date picture was taken, and the email & phone number of the photographer. Only 4 picture submissions allowed per person. A judging committee will vote on their favorite photo and the 1st place winner will take home a GTCD gift basket and have their photo displayed at the Boardman River Nature Center, on the BRNC's Community Stewardship Series February flyer, and in a GTCD eNews. All participants' images will be shared on the GTCD's Flickr page & 2nd and 3rd place runners up will have their images displayed at the NC. For more contest information, call 231-941-0960.

Don't know where to begin? Visit [NatureisCalling.org](http://NatureisCalling.org) for a list of all the parklands the GTCD manages.



### SwingShift – the FINAL NIGHT!

**SwingShift & the Stars  
Dance – Off for Charity**

**Friday, Dec 16 /Cost: \$20 /\$25 at the door**

**Doors open 6:30 p.m. / Show starts at 7:30 p.m.** Join us at the City Opera House as local celebrity Kathy Lauterbach and dance partner Rich Budek represent the Grand Traverse Conservation District in their last dance competition of the season. Please come & support our organization as we participate in this amazing fundraising event. Participants can vote for their favorite dancer by donating a minimum of \$5 to an organization of their choice that is being represented in the competition. Nature is calling for your help– vote Kathy & Rich and Donate to the District!!

Sponsored by:



**Visit our new RIVER MURAL at the  
Boardman River Nature Center!**



**\*\*For all programs requiring registration, participants must register by the Wednesday prior to the program.**

**231.941.0960**