



Stubnitz  
Environmental  
Education  
Center  
*in Heritage Park*

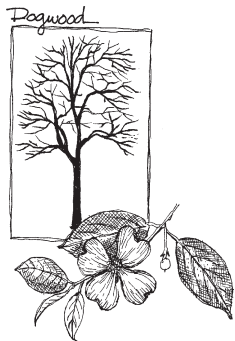
# Environmental Explorations

Stubnitz environmental education programs are offered as a service of the Lenawee Intermediate School District

## Creating a Schoolyard Habitat

The vision: students, teachers, and parent volunteers—all working together to create a wildlife habitat on school grounds. A schoolyard habitat, used effectively by students and their teachers, produces incredible opportunities for learning across the curriculum. It can be a place in which students learn to make a difference and improve the quality of the environment in which they live. It becomes a place where environmental education can be taught throughout the year.

Stubnitz Environmental Education Center will offer a professional development workshop for teachers and administrators on “Creating a Schoolyard Habitat for Wildlife,” Wednesday, February 13, 2002 from 8:30-3:00. Presented by SEEC Coordinator Pam Bunch, Blissfield Service Learning Teacher Kevin Grasely, and Ray Rustem, DNR Director of the Natural Heritage program, this workshop will lead teachers through the process of planning and funding a habitat development project for their school. In addition, they will take home ideas for using the habitat in a variety of lessons and subjects.



Any schoolground can become an outdoor classroom for use by teachers in all disciplines, in direct connection to the curriculum. When this happens, there are important benefits for all involved.

For students,

- ◆ Interest in school subjects is sparked by the opportunity to apply knowledge and do something real.
- ◆ Basic skills are reinforced by applying concepts in the real world.
- ◆ Science literacy, social skills, and cooperative learning are brought to focus through the process of designing, implementing, and utilizing habitat development projects.
- ◆ The outdoor classroom provides a site for hands-on activities with a real world connection, while developing respect and awareness of nature.
- ◆ It facilitates content area learning, emphasizing the concepts of connection, interaction, and diversity.



For teachers,

- ◆ It brings an opportunity to incorporate a variety of strategies, topics, and experiences to the curriculum.
- ◆ Teaching out-of doors brings novelty and freshness to learning.
- ◆ Student achievement is enhanced by the opportunity to apply and reinforce learning in the real world.
- ◆ The outdoor classroom is accessible at any time, providing a setting for ongoing study throughout the school year.



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