



November 12, 2018

Dear Neighbor,

Welcome to winter in Cooper Township! Hopefully, you and your family have been able to get outside and enjoy some of the beauty that nature has to offer this time of year. We at the Kalamazoo Nature Center (KNC) value the relationships that we've formed with our neighbors over the past 58 years and we hope that as time goes on we continue to strengthen those connections. Remember the strength of the whole is only as strong as its parts, and as a connecting neighbor to KNC you are part of our whole. If you have any questions or concerns about KNC please do not hesitate to contact the Nature Center at 269-381-1574. In an effort to communicate recent happenings and events at KNC I'd like to take a moment to remind of you of a couple of items:

Annual Deer Management

In an on-going effort to maintain the ecosystem balance on our grounds we will again be holding a deer management hunt on Nature Center property. This year's event will be conducted on December 16th and 17th. **The Nature Center will be closed to visitation during those days.** Carefully selected participants will be stationed at pre-determined locations throughout the Nature Center property. Chosen individuals have passed a proficiency test and have been screened by the law enforcement department of the DNR for any violations that would disqualify them from participating. Locations of sites are at safe distances from our boundaries and a comprehensive orientation for the participants assures a safe event for those directly involved including our neighbors. We work with representatives from the DNR and other conservation organizations in planning and organizing this event, which is part of their statewide deer management program. **If you have any concerns or questions during this period please call 269-491-0488.**

Increased Awareness

With 1,100 acres, the Nature Center often faces the same challenges that Cooper Township residents as a whole face, such as trespassing, unauthorized activities and vandalism. We encourage our neighbors to become members of KNC and take advantage of this backyard treasure and in return we hope that you will help us by being our eyes and ears. Please feel free to contact us if you witness anything suspicious on our grounds and please remember that if you are using our trails that bikes, dogs, horses and motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Again, please give us a call at 269-381-1574 if you have comments or questions.
Thank you and best wishes for a happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

Ryan Koziatek
KNC Stewardship Field Director