

# Nature Week at Heritage Village - Intro

## Why?

I was asked to write an introduction to this six-month series of Nature Week explaining my inspiration.

History fascinates me and much of human history has been controlled by the environment around us. We are, after all, the most successful invasive species the planet has experienced. We adapt well.

I have also always been interested in the amazing diversity of nature. Those folks who say there is nothing interesting left in the world just haven't looked around.

So when the Mackinaw Area Historical Society was blessed to receive a gift of 100 acres of land from Virginia May I was eager to explore. Since the transfer happened in winter I skied the property and noticed a few animals moving about in the snow. I shared my findings with friends and later decided to try to share them further.

Thus arose Nature Week, an excuse for me to learn and share more about the things I was seeing in this rich new woods. Then I bumped into Lorie Axtell, the photographer, who agreed to try to add local photos, Ron Gwilt who was willing to send the newsletter to all of his subscribers and of course the Historical Society who posted all of the articles on line. The result is now history.

The woods is full of interesting creatures and maybe I will return to this project later. For now I am taking history classes that I want to pass, so they will keep my attention for the rest of Fall term!

Thanks for reading and commenting on the essays.

Sandy *Why is bird poop white? (It came up at breakfast a few weeks ago.) The answer is that birds, unlike mammals, don't produce urine. Instead they excrete nitrogenous wastes in the form of uric acid, which emerges as a white paste. Owners of red cars, look out! A study in England found that red cars are most likely to be the target of bird droppings! <http://birdnote.org/show/why-bird-poop-white>*

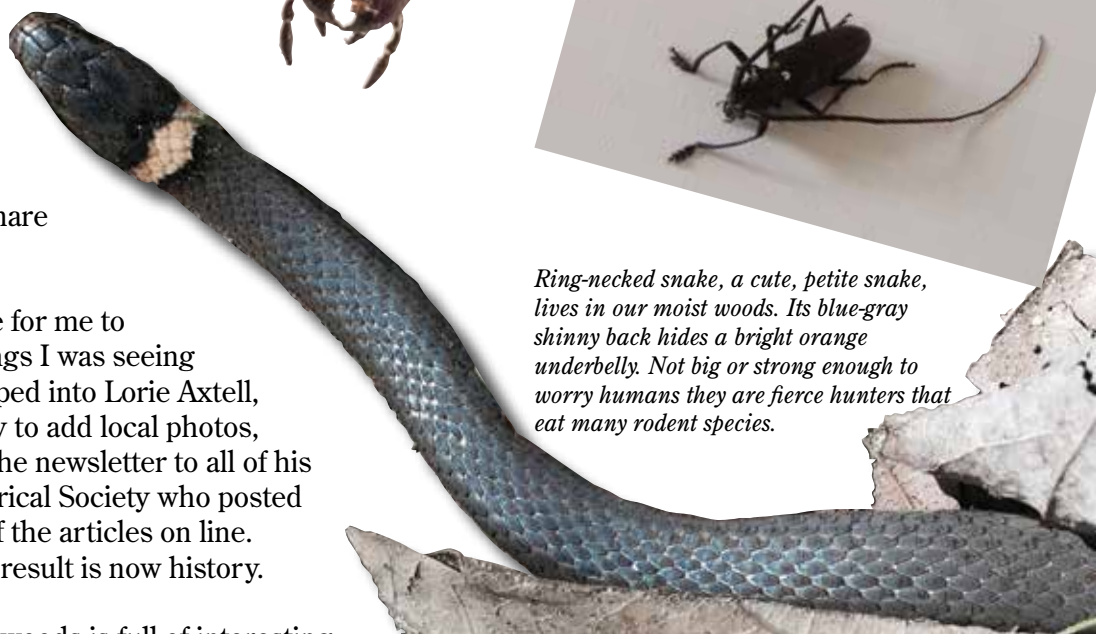
*The long-horned beetle is a commercial lumber pest, chomping on recently cut trees and ruining them for commercial use. At night, near a new pile of cut logs you can actually hear these guys chewing on the wood.*



Lorie Axtell



*Ring-necked snake, a cute, petite snake, lives in our moist woods. Its blue-gray shiny back hides a bright orange underbelly. Not big or strong enough to worry humans they are fierce hunters that eat many rodent species.*



Lorie Axtell



**MACKINAW  
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