SUMMER 2021

The Merry Leaflet

Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College | P.O. Box 263, Wolf Lake, IN 46796 | 260.799.5869 | merrylea@goshen.edu | goshen.edu/merrylea

Farm to Table

ASI students served food that they raised and prepared to Merry Lea staff, volunteers, and students and the public.

AMID THE INCESSANT BACKGROUND noise of "the new normal" in a pandemic, there is something profoundly peaceful about eating a homegrown, home-cooked feast beneath apple, pear and cherry trees with neighbors and friends.

Under the dawn of golden hour at Merry Lea Sustainable Farm, new and familiar faces gathered with lawn chairs strapped to their backs as if heading to a little league soccer game. Rather than setting up as spectators, however, these guests were invited to attend the Agroecology Summer Intensive's (ASI) Farm to Table Dinner.

This event celebrated all the accomplishments of the student cohort over the summer and gave students a chance to thank field trip hosts, guest speakers and families for their contributions and support. In a very tangible way, the farm to table dinner allowed the students to show the fruits of their labors, as each of them prepared a dish to share.

ASI students milled about to guide guests on impromptu tours of the farm spaces, hand out dinner menus or simply greet guests with genuine smiles. Cardinal chirps and grasshopper songs overlaid a steady hum of conversation and laughter that carried across the farm's prairie pockets. John Mischler, director of ASI, cupped his hands to his mouth and rang the metal bell to resoundingly announce for everyone to gather.

Over 45 people congregated on the lawn of Rieth Village to hear John and Ruth Mischler, assistant professor in sustainability and environmental education, summarize the cohort's accomplishments with pride and thanks. Behind their audience, delicious smells wafted from tables full of food that teased of tomatoes, oregano, corn, chicken and roasted vegetables.

One by one, the students gave a brief description of the dish they prepared and their personal connection to it.

Greens and produce that ASI students planted, tended and harvested comprised the salad, soup and roasted vegetables. Birch Baer- a junior majoring in peace, justice and conflict studies- shared that their weekly Tuesday morning harvests were a peaceful and rewarding ritual for starting the day, even as someone who is not a morning person.

Shredded chicken came from the broiler hens that students raised as chicks and later butchered. It was topped with currant barbeque sauce made from the black currants from the farm's woody perennial polyculture.

Dessert included sliced peaches from the orchard- a small dent in the 70 pounds they collected- and ricotta cheese made from the milk that students milked from Merry Lea's goats each morning. "Milking the goats was often frustrating, as [the goats] Ruby and Diamond did not always cooperate to move or stand where they needed to," reflected Yujin Kim, a senior majoring in graphic design and sustainable food systems. "However, by being part of Ruby and Diamond's daily routine and completing the other animal chores...I began to recognize the importance of acknowledging the vulnerability and interdependency humans and animals share."

Blackberry sage tea was harvested and brewed on site. It also commemorated the daily tea times during which the cohort, farm crew, and Merry Lea staff relaxed and connected with each other.

"There's something about knowing where your food comes from...that [makes] sharing food more meaningful," said Yujin. Each course was not only delicious, but knowing these ingredients were raised intentionally with care by people who labored and learned in the process made each bite more flavorful.

THE UNIVERSAL CONNECTOR

This scene of people eating on picnic blankets and lawn chairs in the orchard was a living picture of how "food is a connector." Harrison Gingerich, a recent graduate in music and sustainable food systems, described food as a universal human experience that connects us individually, communally and with the physical world.

"Food is a universal language. Everyone

see **Farm to Table**, page 3

VIEWS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE
DR. JASON MARTIN

Standing the Test of Time

HUMANS OFTEN look to the natural world for inspiration when designing new materials and structures. For example, Velcro was developed after an engineer examined the tiny hooks that enable plant burs to cling to passing animals. Nature's time-tested processes can also spur improvements in what already exists. One such process that I find particularly useful when considering Merry Lea's practices is ecosystem resilience.

Ecosystems are communities of interacting organisms and the physical environment that they occupy. They are bounded by factors like climate and topography, powered and maintained by external inputs such as energy from the sun, and experience periodic disturbances like disease. Resilience is the capacity of ecosystems to thrive following disturbances. Ecosystems that are diverse, responsive to change, and well connected to the wider world are more resilient and successful over time.

Merry Lea is like an ecosystem in many ways. Our team consists of working groups that interact like populations of species. We are bounded by our mission, budget and the resources available on our property. Fueled by our passion for improving the world, we are empowered by the financial support of our friends and neighbors. And as was demonstrated this past year, although we are not immune to disturbances in the wider world, we certainly are resilient!

We are currently asking ourselves what can we do to improve the resilience of Merry Lea so that we are prepared to weather whatever disturbances may come next? Because diversity is critical for ensuring resilience in nature, how can we increase diversity in our staff and programming? Are we adequately responsive to changing interests and needs of our audiences? Are there additional audiences outside of our current ecosystem that we should be connecting with? Is our fiscal engine strong enough to support efforts to improve resiliency and ensure that we remain strong and vibrant?

Be on the lookout for several exciting developments at Merry Lea in the coming months as we seek to increase our organizational resilience, such as our new Junior and Teen Indiana Master Naturalist program, our soon-to-be completed StoryWalk in partnership with Noble County Library and the tenth anniversary of our Sustainability Leadership Semester!

Just as the sun's energy supports the function of natural ecosystems, your generosity is critical for ensuring Merry Lea's resilience. While we are blessed to have an endowment that supports our general operating costs, we are reliant on other financial sources to develop new programs, projects and partnerships. Please consider powering our efforts by making a gift at **goshen.edu/merrylea/donate**.

As always, thank you for the critical role that you play in our ecosystem!

ABOUT MERRY LEA

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

The Merry Leaflet, published in spring, summer, fall and winter, provides news about programs and developments at Merry Lea. Elena Fischer is its editor and the author of articles without bylines. See the news tab at **goshen.edu/merrylea** for more updates.

TEAM MEMBERS

Rian Bylsma
Environmental Educator

Kaeli Evans
Farm Manager

Elena Fischer
Communications Specialist

Kerry Goodrich
Property Supervisor

Carol Good-Elliott
Environmental Educator

Tom Hartzell
Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs

Jason Martin
Executive Director

Bill Minter
Director of Land Management

John Mischler
Director of Agroecology

Ruth Mischler
Assistant Professor, SEED

Joel Pontius
Director of Sustainability Leadership Semester

Jonathon Schramm
Associate Professor, SEED

Jennifer Schrock
Leader of MCCN

Kaitlyn Sproles
Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator

Marcos Stoltzfus
Director of Environmental Education Outreach / Assistant Executive Director

Maria Tice
Administrative Assistant / Volunteer Coordinator

BOARD MEMBERS

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Ex Officio: **Jason Martin**

Farm to Table, continued from page 1

needs it," said Birch. Birch is drawn to large social, economic, and political systems that his interdisciplinary major introduces. As he realized his own passions, he saw "food as the avenue" for creating positive change in these systems to foster healthy lives and communities.

This ASI cohort featured undergraduates studying English, history, graphic design, environmental science, psychology, sustainable food systems and more. Not all these ASI students entered the program with prior experience in agriculture, but each left with a better understanding of the food system as it came alive for them.

For example, the students designed an education garden, witnessed organizations tackling food justice in Fort Wayne, and raised food with permaculture principles. Permaculture is an approach that uses holistic thinking to design and maintain agricultural systems that benefit and integrate land, resources, people and ecosystems. Permaculture works with nature, rather than against nature.

Emily Hilton-Nickel, a recent graduate in biology and psychology, noted that incorporating animals into the farm's agricultural practices in a regenerative way produces a healthier and more productive farm. The students learned how to take advantage of the animals' natural inclinations and instincts. According to Emily, letting the goats and chickens graze, fertilize soil with their manure and eat bugs in a large area is an important way of doing land management and "animals do it better than machines."

These tangible skills empower undergraduates like Birch in the fight for food sovereignty- the right and means for everyone to grow or buy healthy foods regardless of class, race, culture, social standing or background, according to Birch.

Throughout the summer, students wrote reflections about farm chores, field trips and concepts they explored in class. "I've come to realize what a valuable tool food can be in social interactions, situations of injustice, educational opportunities, and for healthy living," wrote one student. "Food is something that we all need, but it should be something that we're all able to freely enjoy and use to bond with each other and the natural world, no matter where we live or what our background is."

The intimate experience of working on a farm while exploring ethical, systemic and local perspectives, creates a foundation that students can tap into from a variety of ways.

For Catherine Williams, a senior in sustainable food systems, the applicability of ASI is direct. Her family owns a farm that is mostly leased for growing corn, soybeans and hay. The farm has been passed through the generations, and Catherine wants to keep the land in the family. She hopes to turn it into a small, diverse farm to bring fresh food back to her town of Walkerton, Ind. As a Native American single mom of four kids, she desires to sustain her family by cultivating healthy soils to one day give back to her community. "If we take care of the land, it will provide," said Catherine.

For other ASI students, the relationships they cultivated with the plants, animals and one another produced somewhat intangible takeaways, but are nonetheless deep and meaningful.

Many see the processes they witnessed in nature as a metaphor for their own lives. According to one student, just as basil will add flavor to a tomato plant in close proximity, our own health, satisfaction and self-esteem are impacted by close individuals who surround us.

Another student noted how the permaculture ethic breeds diversity. "From an ecological perspective, [biodiversity] makes systems more resistant to disease and predation.

Catherine Williams (*left*) and **Erica Gunden** (*right*) serve salad at the farm to table event.

[Likewise, we] should consider having a diverse social model too," wrote this student. "Making sure that diversity is pervasive in systems we create, makes [those] systems more resilient and sustainable." Including people of different genders, races and other backgrounds allows for unique ideas and perspectives to strengthen economic security, agency, health care and more.

Perhaps the most impactful learning outcomes are those that shed new light on students' personal journeys and worldviews.

One student reflected, "If we can see ourselves as both caretakers and those who are taken care of, we might seek to repair our damaged relationship with the world around us. I think this relationship is central to healing the problems that humans have created among each other as well. When we realize that we are all connected, we learn to take on common goals as humans and tackle problems together."

Thank you for your support

Thank you for donating to Merry Lea this quarter. Your support has contributed to environmental programming, maintaining facilities and upkeeping hiking trails.

Shirley Friesen
Larry & Barbara Herr
David & LouAnn Kanagy
Melissa Kinsey
Jocele Meyer
Sam & Jan Schwartz
John & Joann Smith
Ryan & Nisha Springer
Kaitlyn & Michael Sproles
Jerry & Melinda Sweeten
Evelyn & Roger zumFelde

Hickory Scholar & Summer Research Projects

Bird Banding and Point Counts

Mira Yoder
Goshen College '24
Majors: Biology, Computer Science

Ruby Meyer
Goshen College '23
Majors: Biochemistry, Chemistry

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH?

Both Mira and Ruby worked with Merry Lea staff and volunteers to band songbirds and near passerines (a group of birds that includes woodpeckers) to contribute to the continent-wide project, Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS). This project collects and analyzes data from bird banding stations across North America to assess patterns in birds' ranges and survivorship, and the impacts of habitat, weather and climate change.

Mira and Ruby set up and checked nets for seven days throughout the summer. They recorded the species, sex, age, weight, wing length and other identifying markers of each bird they caught. They also recorded its band number (if previously banded), or Carol Good-Elliott, environmental educator and project leader, would band it.

Mira also conducted bird point counts at 34 sites across Merry Lea, surveying each site three times. She visited the sites between 6 and 10 a.m., taking the temperature and windspeed, and recorded all the bird species

she saw and heard. Mira could then assess whether Merry Lea's changing habitats – from restoration projects and succession – have affected bird populations over time, by comparing her data with a similar study done in 2004.

Blanding's Turtle

Liam Elias
Goshen College '22
Major: Environmental Science

Tyler Hudson
Manchester University '22
Major: Environmental Studies

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH?

Blanding's turtles are Indiana state endangered semi-aquatic turtles that rely on multiple habitats for foraging, laying eggs and breeding. Liam and Tyler trapped and attached radio tags to four female and two male Blanding's turtles

to better understand their habitat usage and behavior in hopes of better protecting them. Because these turtles cross a range of habitats, this species is heavily impacted by habitat loss and land development.

After attaching radio tags, Liam and Tyler went into the field each week to relocate the turtles using a radio telemetry receiver and antenna. They recorded their specific locations using a GPS unit to document frequency of sightings and travel patterns. Tyler also determined multiple habitat characteristics at each turtle location, such as soil type, vegetation and topography to overlay on a map.

Liam experimented with different types of bait in the turtle traps to determine which would be most effective for capturing turtles in future surveys and what type of microhabitats the turtles prefer to use for foraging.

Salamanders

Laura Ullom-Minnich
Manchester University '23
Majors: Biology, Environmental Studies

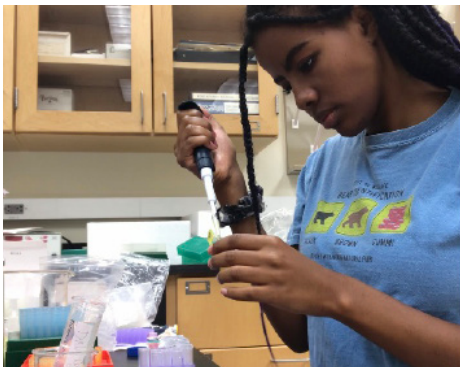
Assisted by Liam Elias

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH?

"Just because you see different types of salamanders, doesn't necessarily mean [those populations are] diverse." Laura is studying which locations across Merry Lea have genetically diverse populations of salamanders and why. This pilot study focuses on four species of salamanders: Jefferson/blue-spotted complex (hybrids of the two species), spotted, small-mouthed and Eastern red-backed salamanders. The goal is to assess population dynamics and genetic diversity of these species at specific sites.

After collecting tissue samples from each salamander, Laura extracted DNA to genotype them: a process that looks at the genetic make-up of each salamander and compares these findings to that of the others. After various tests are conducted, specific traits that an organism inherited from their parents are revealed. This information can then be compared across individual salamanders to examine the overall genetic diversity (or lack of) within and between populations at certain sites.

Because these traits can be pinpointed to



exact locations at Merry Lea, these tests can tell us whether populations are inbreeding, if certain species are hybridizing at specific sites and more.

Small Mammals

Tasha Brubaker
Manchester University '22
Majors: Biology, Environmental Studies

Assisted by Tyler Hudson

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH?

Tasha studied the population dynamics and habitat use of small mammals, specifically northern short-tailed shrews, mice and meadow voles. Because very little research has been done on northern short-tailed shrews, Tasha focused primarily on this species to better understand their preferred habitats. She hypothesized that shrews would be more abundant in ecotones (an area of transition between two habitats) between prairies and woods, because of the variety of microhabitat conditions present in these zones.

With help from Tyler, Tasha surveyed small mammal populations in six prairies using 150 – 160 traps baited with dried meal worms for the shrews and sunflower seeds for the mice and voles. When shrews and voles were captured, Tasha and Tyler trimmed off patches of their fur so that previously captured individuals could be identified and the size of their populations could be more accurately calculated. Fur samples were also

sent to a lab at Manchester University where other students and faculty researchers examined the DNA to determine if the populations are inbreeding.

Cattle Grazing and Burning Prairies

Skylar Antonides
Goshen College '23
Major: Environmental Science

Alex Neufeld
Goshen College '24
Major: Biology

Madison Sorg
Goshen College '22
Major: Environmental Science

Janell Stoltzfus
Goshen College '23
Major: Environmental Science

Josie Strader
Goshen College '22
Major: Environmental Science

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH?

This research has been ongoing for several years, comparing the impacts of different prairie management practices: burning and grazing. Students and research faculty are assessing the potential for sustainably grazing domestic livestock on native prairie plants and the effects of burning on the ecosystem.

Every summer, students conduct plant surveys and collect soil cores in each section. They record data to examine how plant communities have changed over time, including: the number of plants, types of species, plants' height, how many are flowering, soil density and grain size, and soil type.

Some students conducted individual projects with this research:

Skylar Antonides — Arbuscular Mycorrhiza Fungi (AMF)

AMF is a type of fungi that creates an interconnected network between plants, nutrients and fungi in the soil. AMF forms into plants' roots, so plants can use AMF as conduits to send nutrients to each other. AMF can also gather nutrients themselves to exchange with plants. Skylar is interested in the conditions surrounding AMF development: how much AMF colonizes a plant's roots and if grazing and fire affect the amount of AMF. He also hopes to assess if AMF correlates with the amount of carbon stored in the soil.

Madison Sorg — Insect Communities

Madison investigated how burning and grazing treatments alter the overall insect communities, including pollinators, in the prairies being tested. She specifically sought to understand insect reactions to these disturbances, which are vital in a prairie.

Josie Strader — Carbon Sequestration in Soil

Josie took soil samples from areas adjacent to the prairies being tested to compare amounts of carbon, nitrogen and organic matter. She took samples from agricultural fields and mown strips of cool season grasses to compare with the prairie plots on how much carbon each area sequesters or stores. To understand soil health, Josie calculated carbon-nitrogen ratios, since both elements are taken from the environment by plants and cycled for maintaining healthy ecosystems.

To read more about each project, see our website

Mary Linton: A Key Thread In Merry Lea History

IF YOU START YOUR HIKE AT THE Learning Center and go straight on the gravel road toward the Onion Bottom wetland, you'll pass through the Holy Cow Swamp. This isn't an official name of course, but the story of Mary Linton yelling "Holy cow!" as she unexpectedly plunged in its depths gets retold at Merry Lea every so often.

Mary Linton, a former Goshen College biology professor from 1989-2002, frequented Merry Lea's wetlands and woods for class fieldwork and research projects. She largely conducted research on salamanders, trapping and tracking these species and studying how seasonal water levels affected populations' movements. Thus, tromping through Merry Lea's marshes and swamps with chest waders or muck boots were normal activities for Linton.

Historically, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) created waterfowl habitat by using dynamite to blast holes in low lying areas to be filled with rainwater. Decades ago, this practice was done at Merry Lea by DNR biologists. And during a routine survey of a brush-filled wetland with students, Linton discovered one such hole. Wading through the swamp her footing suddenly dropped, and Linton exclaimed, "Holy cow!!" as she floundered her way to a splashing recovery.

It is a story that elicits at least a sly smile if not laughs from Merry Lea staff who heard it from Linton herself. But those full smiles and joyful expressions only scratch the surface for those who learned from, worked with, laughed with, taught with or were friends with Linton.

Mary Linton died June 13, 2021 at 66 years old, and **in homage to her legacy, Merry Lea is officially renaming the Holy Cow Swamp to the Linton Swamp.**

Linton established a bridge between Goshen College and Merry Lea that still exists today. When Linton was hired at Goshen College, she independently took the initiative to connect with Merry Lea. Not only was she the college's first female biology professor, but also was the first to regularly conduct classes and fieldwork at Merry Lea. Her wetland ecological interests coincided well with what the nature preserve provided.

Mary Linton resided in Wisconsin from 2002-2020 as an ecological and wetland consultant

Dave Miller overlapped with Linton as Merry Lea program director, where he supervised the Lindsey Fellowship research program. This fellowship historically funded individuals who worked with education programs at Merry Lea. However, Miller and Merry Lea staff redefined the position to help fund a Goshen College biology faculty member to conduct ecological research at the preserve in addition to teaching on campus. They offered the position to Linton, who became the first Lindsey Fellow as it appears today.

Miller credits Linton as a liaison spanning the physical distance between Merry Lea and the college, including the challenges that distance bred. "She was well respected on campus, and I know her work here was important as a step along the way" in developing relationships and furthering Merry Lea's research and collegiate programs.

"She set up the model of connecting students in an academic field setting at Merry Lea. She set the tone," said Bill Minter, Merry Lea's land manager.

INNOVATIVE MENTOR AND ROLE MODEL

During an overnight field excursion, Linton led students on the trails with her Walkman. Under the blanket of night, she played cassette tapes of owl calls, eliciting responses from live owls swooping in, creating a feeling of "being part of the ecosystems," described a former student of Linton's, Andrew Gascho Landis.

Linton taught by "creating experiences for students to make their own discoveries," said Gascho Landis, who is now an environmental science professor at State University of New York Cobleskill.

"[Linton] made me excited about biology in a different way," said Carol Good-Elliott longtime Merry Lea environmental educator. During her time as Linton's student, Good-Elliott was invited to conduct macroinvertebrate research at Sleeping Bear Dunes. "She was so enthusiastic about whatever she was finding, enthusiastic about pulling on chest waders and going into 33-degree water to look at these critters" in the middle of winter, chuckled Good-Elliott.

Like rushing to embrace an old friend once separated by space and time, Linton's joy and wonder never wavered as she greeted salamanders, mosses and dragonfly nymphs anew, extending a warm welcome to these old and new friends. On bended knee and hand lens

held to her eye, she humbly introduced students to the hidden intricacies of their backyard's biodiversity.

"Her ability to pull students in was unparalleled," Gascho Landis remarked with admiration. "As I reflect on…my own teaching, she had the ability to create a sense of wonder that I haven't seen in many other instructors and sometimes have a hard time emulating myself."

But Linton did more than introduce her classes to ecological fieldwork. "Mary was an innovative professor at the time," said Suzanne Beyeler, a former student and environmental studies program director and assistant biology professor at Manchester University. Linton assigned creative arts projects in her biology classes like writing, poetry or artwork. This embodiment of the liberal arts resonated with students like Beyeler who see how communicating, creativity and problem solving have "been critical at how effective I've been as a scientist."

LOVER OF LIFE

This affinity for the arts stemmed from Linton's own personal "artistic streak," according to Miller. A poet herself, her humor came through in her written works, according to those who had the privilege of reading her poetry.

"She was very witty, had a very ready laugh and made other people laugh easily with her," reflected Miller. Her humor permeated her lectures and work, putting on what Beyeler called, "a show."

Linton created a life-giving environment that cultivated a space for students to be themselves and learn from their mistakes with grace. Colleagues noticed this respectful approach to all her students. "In the way she interacted [and] communicated to the students, it said, 'I genuinely care about you.' That was Mary always," said Larry Yoder, former Merry Lea executive director.

Linton let her curiosity and humor exude as "a willingness to have fun and be playful in her work," described Good-Elliott. "A lover of life," said Miller. "That's her."

RIPPLING LEGACIES

Although Linton took the initiative to bring students to Merry Lea, no lodging facilities existed at the time, so groups would sleep at nearby Bear Lake Camp. Thus, she provided the incentive for Merry Lea to establish an ecological field station.

As Merry Lea commenced its strategic planning process under former Executive Director Luke Gascho in the late 90s, the team identified a vision for designing more collegiate field coursework and opportunities. Linton's "leadership in terms of conversation [and] how she structured courses for inquiry and hands-on learning was significant for our planning process," described Gascho.

Linton created the curriculum for designing an environmental studies major while Gascho worked on the administrative details. This major came to fruition in 1999. And Linton's impetus for utilizing Merry Lea as a rich resource led to the development of onsite, environmentally friendly student residences: Rieth Village.

Arguably even more impactful than Linton's contribution to the creation of Rieth Village and the environmental studies major, was her deep and powerful influence upon individual students.

Carol expressed how "her being female was really important. I wasn't seeing [female role models]…in the field of work I was interested in doing…And the fact that my professor was a woman doing that kind of leadership helped me think about possible [career] options."

Beyeler remarked that "Mary was a female field ecologist at a time when so few women were doing that." As a result of Linton's encouragement and influence, "she was THE reason I went to grad school." One day, Beyeler was sitting outside when Linton walked up to Beyeler and asked, "Where are you going to grad school?" Beyeler had time to get in a "What?" before Linton continued walking. The fact that Linton expectantly asked *where* Beyeler had applied and not *if*, made Beyeler start submitting applications.

While visiting Goshen, Ind. years after graduating, Gascho Landis met up with Linton and her wife for dinner at their house. He expressed to Linton how he wasn't sure whether or not to pursue a Ph.D. as he became disillusioned with academic life. That's when Linton directly said, "We need more professors like you." That moment was pivotal for him, being pointedly told by someone he admired that he would be a great professor. In retelling that scene, Gascho Landis paused to embrace the fullness of that moment with a flood of emotions that touched on gratitude, power and poignance.

Without Linton, the ripples of environmentalism would look quite different in many lives.

And in a moment of vulnerability, it's easy to be left feeling a little breathless by the impact of this one woman and her legacy. But in the spirit of Mary Linton, even if your footing in life has taken unexpected turns, the Merry Lea team hopes to inspire participants to exclaim "Holy cow!" at the new and old friends they meet in nature with renewed joy and wonder.

To read the full article, see our website

If you were one of the many students for whom Mary Linton made a difference or were otherwise inspired by Linton and her work, we invite you to join the staff of Merry Lea during Goshen College's Homecoming Weekend as we remember and celebrate her contributions to Merry Lea.

WHEN: Friday, **Oct. 1** at 2 p.m.

WHERE: Merry Lea

REGISTER: Email **merrylea@goshen.edu**

This event will include the dedication of the newly named "Linton Swamp" and will announce the launch of a new annual summer research scholar award focused on wetland ecology. There will also be time for sharing your memories and reflections of Linton.

Merry Lea
Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College

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Events

Learn more at: **goshen.edu/merrylea**

Water Bath Canning and Live Ferments: Food Preservation Workshop

WHERE: Merry Lea Sustainable Farm
WHEN: Saturday, **Sept. 18** | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join us to learn the science and steps of water bath canning and live fermentation! Walk through each process and leave with samples of your work and the basic equipment to do live ferments at home.

Cost is $20. Registration required by Sept. 16 on our website.

Tales & Trails

WHERE: Various Sites
WHEN: **Last Tuesday each month** | 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Hear a tale and hike a trail with your preschooler to discover the natural wonders around you together! This is a 1.5-hour monthly program designed for children ages 3-5 and their caregiver(s), led by a Merry Lea educator.

Cost is free. Registration not required.
See our website for more details.

Soil to Stomach Family Workshop: Make-and-Take Garden Recipes

WHERE: Merry Lea Sustainable Farm
WHEN: Saturday, **Sept. 18** | 1 – 3 p.m.

Choose your own snacking adventure with this farm-to-plate workshop for the whole family! Choose two recipes to create: starting with harvesting fresh ingredients from our garden and ending with a take-home treat.

Cost is $3.50 per child and $5 per adult.
Registration required by Sept. 16 on our website.

Nature PreK Observation and Professional Development

WHERE: Merry Lea Farmstead
WHEN: Monday, **Oct. 11** or Thursday, **Oct. 28** | 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Ever wonder what a Nature Preschool actually looks like in action? See for yourself with this guided observation and professional development opportunity. Leave inspired, with tangible steps for your own classroom or learning setting!

Cost is $45 per person.
Registration required on our website.