

Moths in Moonlit Meadows

Follow the work of Duke Farms educator and artist, Meghan Martin, as she demonstrates the progress on her newest work entitled, *Moths in Moonlit Meadows*. Along the way, we will be posting guided questions aligned to the environmental and natural sciences that formulate the basis of her design decisions. Throughout the project you will:

- Be introduced to 14 native species of moths while learning fun facts about their features
- Develop a keener sense of the biodiversity exhibited in healthy meadows
- Discover the important role moths play in our environment

In preparation, please note that the project includes 25 days of posts prior to unveiling the completed work. We hope you enjoy the adventure while discovering the ecological significance of meadows and moths to our natural world.

Kate Reilly, Manager of Education, Duke Farms

Mural Progress Number 1



Why do you think the artist chose a nighttime background for this project?

Mural Progress Number 2



The artist has chosen to create the work as a *triptych*. The entire dimensions of the project are 6 feet by 4 feet. Can you provide a definition for the word “triptych?”

Answer to Post 1: The title of the project includes moths, which are nocturnal. Moths are usually more active and visible at night.

Mural Progress Number 3



If Meghan painted all of the full moons appearing during one typical year, how many moons would she include? If one moon was considered a “blue moon”, does that change your previous answer? How?

Answer from Post 2: A triptych is a series of three panels that are designed to be displayed together to create a unified piece.

Mural Progress Number 4



Notice how green the painting has become. Meghan has included grasses, leaves and... what is that vine creeping up the tree? Need a hint? Leaves of 3? Let it be.

Answer to Post 3: There are typically 12 full moons per year, one per month. On limited occasion, a month will have two full moons. This second full moon is called a Blue Moon.

Mural Progress Number 5



Meadows offer a rich assortment of plant types. Can you count how many species of flowering plants now appear in this meadow?

Answer to Post 4: The vine is poison ivy and the foliage serves as a food source for the larvae of the eyed paectes moth, *Paectes oculatrix*.

Mural Progress Number 6



Maybe you have seen one of the 100+ species of this plant. It usually grows to be 2-4 feet high or more! What is it commonly called?

Answer to Post 5: There are 7 different types of flowering plants painted in this meadow.

Mural Progress Number 7



A favorite for bees of all sorts, the flowers are said to look like ragged pom-poms. Can you recognize this plant?

Answer to Post 6: The plant is referred to as goldenrod, and there are many different species within the genus *Solidago*.