

michigan nature association



Preserving Michigan's Natural Heritage Since 1952

January to March 2011
Volume 60 Issue 1

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CREDITS AND COMMENTS

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Please direct any and all comments, suggestions, questions, concerns, and queries about this newsletter to Communications Coordinator Matt Hund. You may reach him by calling the MNA office at (517) 655-5655 or by emailing mhund@michigannature.org.

MNA MISSION

The purpose of the MNA is to acquire, protect and maintain natural areas that contain examples of Michigan endangered and threatened flora, fauna and other components of the natural environment, including habitat for fish, wildlife and plants of the state of Michigan and to carry on a program of natural history study and conservation education, and to carry on such activities as permitted under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act.



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From the Director

Have you been thinking about the economy, too?

With constant media coverage, significant changes in the way the economy affects us, and nearly a decade of downturn, it's hard not to.

At the Michigan Nature Association, we know that the economy plays a significant role in how well we carry out our Mission. What we sometimes forget is that our Mission also has an effect on the economy. Our efforts to protect Michigan's special natural areas positively influence the economy of the state whether it is through quality of life, environmental quality, human health or scenic nature. And we have been doing so for nearly 60 years.

Quality of life is important to most people. Sometimes it gets set aside when concerns over the economy come up, but the two are linked. The ability to hike, bird watch, photograph, snowshoe or kayak in a place of beauty and stability, a place you know will be protected forever, is very important. Simply seeing the beautiful natural areas and scenic nature that MNA protects can positively impact quality of life. For those with children, the ability to watch them explore and play in nature and improve their quality of life is priceless.

The economy can also be related to environmental quality: the quality of our air, land and water. "Natural services" provide benefits that have far reaching implications for quality of life, and also human health. The wetlands we protect filter our ground water supplies; our healthy native prairies in wet and dry regions of the state reduce soil erosion with deep-rooted native plants; our riverside sanctuaries act as storage during floods, reducing downstream flooding; and the thousands of acres of forest we protect clean the air, sequestering carbon, releasing oxygen, and filtering particulates out of our air supply.

MNA also has a direct impact on Michigan's economy. We use Michigan-based companies for most of our needs. The sanctuary signs you see when you visit one of our nature sanctuaries are made in Michigan. Our stewardship vehicles are made by Michigan companies. The real estate services we utilize during the land acquisition process are Michigan companies. Our publications are printed by Michigan companies.

It is bold to say that helping MNA protect Michigan's special natural areas also protects the economy, but it's true. Donations to MNA go to a Michigan non-profit, and we make sure those donations cycle back into the Michigan economy when we use that money. In addition, the hundreds of you who live out-of-state are helping our peninsulas remain pleasant. Using that money positively impacts the quality of life, environmental quality, human health, and scenic nature of Michigan.

To help us further boost the Michigan economy, please encourage a family member or friend to join MNA. And, as detailed on page 9, we continue to need your support for our special property projects.

Whether the beginning of 2011 has you thinking about the economy or the quality of life in Michigan, we hope you will think of the Michigan Nature Association.



Jeremy Emmi
Executive Director
jemmi@michigannature.org
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From the President

Happy New Year to all!

Milestones

MNA likely will pass two significant milestones in 2011.

We informally note the 60th anniversary of the 1951 coming together of the bird study group in Macomb County which eventually became MNA. Harry Truman was President, Rachel Carson's *The Sea Around Us* had just been published, above-ground nuclear testing was about to start in the Nevada desert, and Sputnik, *Silent Spring*, Earth Day, personal computers, email, websites, and Facebook were all years away. Our formal incorporation took place on February 21, 1952 (as the St. Clair Metropolitan Beach Sanctuary Association). We plan a formal 60th anniversary celebration around that date in 2012.

Our formation, however, would not mean nearly as much if our second milestone was not also on the horizon. We now protect more than 9,700 acres in 169 sanctuaries and plant preserves in 57 counties. In 2011 we expect to celebrate protection of our 10,000th acre. We are working on several significant projects which will move us over the 9,900 acre mark by early 2011. What will be our 10,000th protected acre? We will of course let you know!

A sincere "thank you" to our persistent predecessors and our donors over many years.

The Richard W. Holzman Award

The Board has established the Richard W. Holzman Award to recognize those who have provided selfless service to MNA over many years in a variety of roles, typically including service as a Trustee. At our October 29 Volunteer & Donor Recognition Dinner we honored Dick Holzman, Stan Dole, and Fred Dye with the first Holzman Awards. Dick served MNA in many roles including 14 years as President and 20 years as a Board member. Stan has served as MNA's Treasurer and a Trustee for many years. Fred Dye has served as a steward and Trustee and led many of our outreach efforts with presentations to groups over the years. More details are available on the MNA website. Congratulations!

Other Recognitions

As detailed in our last newsletter and on the MNA website, the October dinner also recognized Volunteers of the Year Bill Atkinson, Joan Chadde, John Fody, Charles Goodrich, and Tina Patterson and recognized and thanked recent land donors Dick & Posy Shuster, Susan Mohrmann, Catherine Rustermier, Lauren Braun, James Van Campen III, Anne Marie Caissie, and John Woollam and the J. A. Woollam Foundation. Thank you!

Our stewardship staff continues to diligently work to

protect our existing properties. Thank you Andy, Matt and Katherine, our many volunteer stewards, our contractors, and all those who contribute to our stewardship program!

Strategic Planning

While we have had a clear Mission for years, we continue work on a more defined Strategic Plan. Part of the overall Strategic Plan is our Strategic Conservation Plan, to guide future land acquisitions. Three interim conclusions:

1. To independently complete a comprehensive statewide strategic conservation plan with sufficient input from other stakeholders is beyond our current resources. We expect to pursue such a plan in collaboration with others in the coming years. In the interim, we have updated our land acquisition criteria and are finalizing an interim strategic conservation plan to evaluate proposed land donations already being offered to us.

2. As the first land conservancy group to acquire Michigan land for permanent protection (1960, Red Wing Acres, St. Clair County), MNA often "went it alone." We are now better focused on working together with other conservancies, governmental entities, and individual land owners to comprehensively and perhaps more efficiently protect larger land areas, with an emphasis on connectedness and corridors among respective protected properties.

3. In the near-term we will focus on buffering our existing sanctuaries through protection of adjacent properties where feasible, whether by us or others, whether by acquisition or conservation easement, but preferably by donation. We will evaluate other offered properties with a focus on donations rather than acquisitions and an intent to refer offered properties where appropriate to local conservancies.

We hope to complete the Strategic Conservation Plan and overall Strategic Plan early in 2011.

Spring Events

Trustee election ballots will be mailed to members by January 31, and are due by March 1 at 5 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you at our April 9 Annual Members Meeting in southeast Michigan and on our Spring Adventure to southwest Michigan, including one of the MNA crown jewels, Dowagiac Woods, on April 29-May 1 (detailed in the News Briefs on page 8).

Thank you for your continued support of MNA. Best wishes for a safe and prosperous (and generous) New Year!

Stephen M. Kelley

MNA President

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Stewardship Update



MNA would like to thank all of the volunteer stewards who assisted with the sanctuary monitoring program this past year. We achieved the goal of ensuring that all MNA sanctuaries were visited, and received reports about each sanctuary for the first time in decades. This not only helps the stewardship program keep up-to-date on activities across the state but is a key step in achieving the organizational goal of LTAC accreditation. This will help make MNA a stronger organization and ensure greater long-term protection of the sanctuaries we strive to protect.

We have achieved more than we initially thought possible and look forward to more accomplishments in 2011. We welcome our new stewards from 2010 (see the list of names in the News Briefs on page 18), and are eagerly seeking stewards to help with exciting (some ongoing) projects in Alpena, Baraga, Delta, Huron and Marquette Counties.

The following are a few of the projects completed by stewardship staff and volunteers in 2010:

- ***Black Creek Nature Sanctuary (Keweenaw County)***
Stewardship staff and volunteers installed a small parking area adjacent to the sanctuary so trail-users will have a safe area to leave their cars off the road.
- ***Bullard Lake Fen Plant Preserve (Livingston County)***
Volunteers were organized to manage glossy buckthorn and Phragmites (invasive species) to protect native species and a rare prairie fen habitat.
- ***Lefglen Nature Sanctuary (Jackson County)***
Staff and volunteers conducted a controlled burn of the property, effectively managing the non-native, invasive grasses that threaten the prairie remnants.
- ***Mystery Valley Nature Sanctuary (Alpena County)***
Stewardship staff and volunteers worked with the Michigan Karst Conservancy to put up boundary signs and trail markers to make the sanctuary accessible.
- ***Sand Creek Prairie Plant Preserve (Hillsdale County)***
Staff and volunteers conducted a controlled burn and removed invasive brush to maintain a prairie remnant and the species therein.



A very sincere thank you to everyone who has made these and other projects possible throughout the past year, and thank you to everyone who continues to support our work through volunteering and donations.

Also, a special thank you to Keith Saylor who has recently left his contract position as a regional stewardship organizer to move out west. Keith worked throughout the state on behalf of MNA for many years. We all wish him the best, now and in the future.

To find out how you can help with stewardship efforts at MNA, please check our Upcoming Events on page 12, go to the website and click How You Can Help, or email Stewardship Coordinator Andrew Bacon at abacon@michigannature.org.



A Tale of Two Sanctuaries

BUTTERNUT CREEK AND FOUR MACOMB COUNTY LADIES

by Hannah Ettema, MNA Communications Intern

Nature sanctuaries were acquired by MNA for many reasons, some to protect rare species and some to preserve endangered species; some protect rare and endangered habitats. This is a story about two MNA sanctuaries that do all of the above.

A large portion of the Butternut Creek Nature Sanctuary is taken up by the once commonly occurring prairie fen habitat that is now rare, where rare species such as the Mitchell's satyr, eastern box turtle, eastern massasauga rattlesnake, purple milkweed and others are now protected forever. The Four Macomb County Ladies Nature Sanctuary borders this habitat and helps to buffer it from the outside world. Both are essential habitat for these rare species to flourish.

Twenty years ago, donations were made by Arthur and Marion DeHerts and Ronald Holden toward what would become Butternut Creek. Four Macomb County Ladies was acquired in 1989 through donations from Jack and Susan Struwin, which allowed protection of more land

for rare and endangered species. The flat lowlands of these adjacent sanctuaries contain a rare combination of species and habitat that cannot be found anywhere else.

Joe and Pat Roti Roti from Buchanan, Michigan became the primary stewards of both sanctuaries in 2009, originally falling in love with the unspoiled state of the sanctuaries.

"It's enjoyable [to be stewards there] because it's so pristine," says Pat.

From visiting Yellowstone National Park at an early age, Pat learned that people can "love something to death." Protecting these properties right now is the only way we can ensure that there will be something there for a while, she says.

"We won't have anything left for our children if we don't protect it now," she says.

Joe appreciates the wildlife. "Butternut Creek is especially interesting because it has a fen full of butterflies and dragonflies," he says.

"We won't have anything left for our children if we don't protect it now."

~ Pat Roti Roti, MNA Volunteer Steward

"The MNA staff can't be everywhere. It's great that other people take an interest and can be there if something happens."

The stewardship program at MNA depends on volunteer stewards who help monitor sanctuaries through visitation, reports and projects. As stewards, Joe and Pat enjoy going out in the field to complete reports. "Looking for the flora and fauna is the fun part," says Joe.

Don Reed, MNA member and Trustee, has volunteered at the sanctuary, helping improve habitat by cutting brush and removing invasive species.

"I have fond memories of this area," he says. He appreciates that it is home to the federally endangered Mitchell's Satyr butterfly. "That in itself makes the sanctuary important, but other species live there too."

And MNA's work to protect the Mitchell's Satyr butterfly has not gone unnoticed. Don says that the Michigan

Natural Features Inventory has congratulated MNA for efforts to protect the habitat and butterfly.

This area contains a prime example of a prairie fen, a rare ecological habitat that is a type of wetland. Only found in the post-glacier Midwest, prairie fens are wetlands that are rich in calcium and magnesium, leading to the development and support of specialized plant and animal life.

The hydrology is delicate and needs to be preserved in order to maintain the unique flora and fauna. For more information about these habitats, see the feature in the April 2010 newsletter.

The Butternut Creek and Four Macomb County Ladies Nature Sanctuaries are both classified by MNA as 'C' sanctuaries, meaning they can only be visited with an MNA guide.

However, the MNA Spring Adventure is headed to southern Michigan in late

April and will offer MNA members and guests a rare glimpse at both of these sanctuaries and the rare habitats (and possibly species!) that they protect. For more information about how you can come along for this unique opportunity, contact the MNA office or click on News and Events at www.michigannature.org.

QUICK FACTS:

Butternut Creek N.S.

Class: C (accessible with guide only)

Acres: 97.58

Location: Southwestern Michigan

Primary Habitat: Prairie Fen

Four Macomb County Ladies N.S.

Class: C (accessible with guide only)

Acres: 56.36

Location: Southwestern Michigan

Primary Habitat: Wooded

RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES THAT CALL THE TWO SANCTUARIES HOME

EASTERN BOX TURTLE

In Michigan, the eastern box turtle is listed as a special concern species. Federally, the turtle nears threatened status each and every day. The eastern box turtle requires a habitat that includes forest with sandy soils near a reliable source of water.

The average shell is five to eight inches long with black, brown, yellow and/or orange colorings.

The greatest threats to the eastern box turtle are habitat destruction and fragmentation. Fragmentation also isolates populations, which may cause the species to lose the genetic capability to successfully reproduce in the near future.



EASTERN MASSASSAUGA

Michigan's only venomous snake, the massasauga, can grow to be 18 to 30 inches long. It eats small rodents and frogs, has gray and tan colorations with black and brown splotches, prefers wetland habitats such as a prairie fen, and gives birth to 8 to 20 live young in late summer.

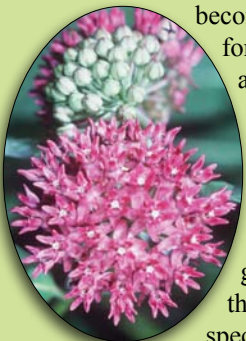
The greatest threats to the eastern massasauga are habitat loss, fragmentation, and human persecution. In Michigan, it is a species of special concern and is a candidate for special concern listing at the federal level.



PURPLE MILKWEED

The purple milkweed is listed as a threatened species in Michigan, mainly because it prefers moist habitats like the prairie fen which is becoming increasingly rare. Milkweed is responsible for supporting a variety of wildlife both as food and as habitat, including the monarch butterfly, and blooms in late June and early July.

The largest threats to the purple milkweed are loss of the moist prairie fen habitat resulting from human activities as well as competition for land from invasive species like glossy buckthorn and invasive grasses. And as the milkweed becomes more rare, so do other species.



MITCHELL'S SATYR

The Mitchell's Satyr is a medium-sized butterfly that is usually tan in coloration and distinguishable by four or five eyespots on each wing. A federally-listed endangered species, it only exists in a few places worldwide. Larvae feed on sedge and bulrush and, after a two week pupation stage, adults fly for only ten days or so in late June and early July.

Because it depends on the fen, the greatest threat to the satyr is habitat alteration from suburban development and loss of hydrology. Due to its restricted range, only a few isolated populations can be found in the U.S., some of which are located at these sanctuaries.



News Briefs

For full news stories visit
www.michigannature.org and
click on News and Events

NEWS AND EVENT UPDATES FROM MNA

SPRING ADVENTURE IN THE WORKS; SIGN UP NOW!

Planning is currently underway for the first ever Spring Adventure, which will take place in southwestern Michigan. Wildflower enthusiasts will get a real treat at each of the stops, and participants will see one of MNA's crown jewels: Dowagiac Woods.

Additional sanctuaries in the area to be visited include two Class 'C' sanctuaries (Butternut Creek and Four Macomb County Ladies, see feature on page 6) that are home to several rare and endangered species of plant and animals, as well as Coldwater River, Barvicks Sand Dunes, Trillium Ravine and Black River Nature Sanctuaries.

Sign up for the Spring Adventure beginning January 1, by going to the online store at the MNA online store, or by contacting MNA Communications Coordinator Matt Hund by phone at (517) 655-5655 or by emailing mhund@michigannature.org.

Mark your calendars now for April 29 through May 1, and join us for this unique look at MNA sanctuaries in southwest Michigan.

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING APRIL 9

MNA will host the Annual Member Meeting on April 9 this year, with special guest speaker Dr. Tony Reznicek from the University of Michigan Herbarium and a tour of the nearby Risor Nature Sanctuary.

More information about the meeting can be found on our website or by contacting the office.

MNA PREPARES FOR LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION

MNA continues to prepare to apply for accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Our large

number of properties, most acquired before the current standards were adopted, and related paperwork present challenges that many newer and/or smaller groups do not have to face. Progress is being made with the results making MNA more efficient.

MACOMB COUNTY RESIDENTS HELP MAKE NATURE ACCESSIBLE

On March 26, 2011, MNA will host volunteers from various community youth groups for a day of fun and nature education in Macomb County.

The event, a part of a larger effort to add safe parking and make nature more accessible, is made possible by a \$10,000 grant from Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI). It will take place at MNA's Wilcox-Warnes Nature Sanctuary on Schoenherr Road in Shelby Township and will include:

- A tour of an MNA sanctuary
- Education stations where participants can learn about forest conservation and water ecology
- A work station where participants will help place new/additional boardwalks to upgrade the trails
- Refreshments provided by Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), sponsors of the event

Volunteer assistance and event leaders are vital to the success of this project; for more information about how you can help, contact MNA Communications Coordinator Matt Hund by emailing mhund@michigannature.org.



Ted Soldan, MNA steward, builds boardwalk to upgrade a trail system at the Estivant Pines Nature Sanctuary.

MNA'S LOOKING GLASS SHINED UP WITH HELP FROM LOCAL SCOUT

With the help of MNA stewards, 17-year-old Evan Harris took a significant step in his journey to become an Eagle Scout.

Working to complete the requirements for advancing to the highest rank that the Boys Scouts of America bestow, Evan chose to demonstrate his ability to organize and lead a service event by contacting MNA Regional Stewardship Coordinator Katherine Hollins for project possibilities.

On November 13, 2010, Evan completed a service project he organized to clean up MNA's A Looking Glass Plant Preserve (located near Bath), which had up-to-then been home to a decrepid outbuilding and piles of scrap left by previous residents.

Evan, with the help of friends and fellow scouts he mobilized to join the effort, cleaned up the mess, and restored the natural state of the sanctuary.

Scouts or other groups seeking service projects to promote the natural environment in Michigan may email michigannature@michigannature.org for ideas or information.

VOLUNTEER/DONOR RECOGNITION DINNER

On October 30, 2010, MNA hosted the 2010 Volunteer and Donor Recognition Dinner to honor all of those who help make MNA's goal of protecting natural areas in Michigan possible. More than 60 people gathered at the Lexington Lansing Hotel for an evening of recognition and appreciation.

Special honors went to Richard W. Holzman, Stanley Dole and Fred Dye, who were the first recipients of the Richard W. Holzman Award for selfless service in a variety of roles at MNA.

The 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award went to Bill Atkinson, Joan Chadde, John Fody, Charles Goodrich and Tina Patterson, who were recognized for their invaluable support to MNA through various channels.

Also recognized and thanked at the dinner were those who made new sanctuaries possible through the

*(left to right) MNA
Trustee Jerry Gray,
Land Protection
Technician Natalie
Kent-Norkowski,
Member David
Dye, Trustee Fred
Dye and Member
Margaret Moran
pose together after
Fred received
the Richard W.
Holzman Award.*



donation of land: Dick and Posy Shuster for land at Thornapple Lake and Thornapple River; Susan Mohrmann, Catherine Rustermier, Lauren Braun, James Van Campen III and Anne Marie Caissie for land at Manistique Dune and Swale; and John Woollam and the J.A. Woollam Foundation were recognized for donation of a conservation easement at Echo Lake.

We look forward to next year's dinner to recognize and thank the outstanding volunteers that help keep the Mission of MNA alive.

*-News Briefs continued on page 18
with Fall Adventure Wrap Up, New
Stewards in 2010 and more -*

MNA'S SPECIAL PROJECT PROPERTIES

You may have read in recent mailings about some of MNA's special project properties. Purchase of the Mystery Valley Nature Sanctuary as well as additions to the Dowagiac Woods and Roach Point nature sanctuaries still need your support.



MYSTERY VALLEY

The Mystery Valley Nature Sanctuary in Presque Isle County holds an amazing geological formation: a sinkhole created from eroded limestone. Partnering with the Michigan Karst Conservancy, MNA continues to raise funds, thereby protecting one of the most geologically important sites in the state, allowing future generations to observe this rare formation. We still need to raise \$113,000 to complete this project.

ROACH POINT

In Chippewa County, MNA recently purchased an additional 70 acres of coastal wetlands and northern coniferous forest, and is working to protect additional acres at the Roach Point Nature Sanctuary. With the new addition, the sanctuary protects more than 500 contiguous acres of land, including



vitaly important wetland habitat that is essential to the ecosystem. The value of the wetlands here is incalculable, but we still need to raise \$30,000 to complete this project.

DOWAGIAC WOODS

Currently, MNA is working to protect a critical 149-acre addition to Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary, bringing the total protected area to 384 acres. This is MNA's largest nature sanctuary in the Lower Peninsula, and will remain a protected treasure forever, but we still need to raise \$341,000 to complete this project.



To contribute to these or other MNA initiatives, please visit our website at www.michigannature.org or contact our office by calling (517) 655-5655 or emailing michigannature@michigannature.org.



Rise of the Herbivores

AND THE ALTERATION OF ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

by Andrew Bacon, MNA Stewardship Coordinator

Since the last Ice Age, the wildlife and habitats of the Great Lakes region have been in a state of flux—continually adapting to changes in regional climate, the influence of humans and technology, and an ecological tug-of-war between competing species, populations and communities.

Prior to European settlement, the Great Lakes ecosystem had already evolved into a complex ecological web. Interaction between similar species included competition for food, water and shelter leading each individual species to occupy a “niche” separate from any other individual species.

For example, the gray squirrel eats nuts and seeds in deciduous forests while the red squirrel eats nuts and seeds in coniferous forests; each is an example of a species that eats food produced by plants, but that are preyed upon by larger species, carnivores such as owls, bobcats or wolves.

The food web of the Great Lakes is enormously

complex, but evolved according to the climate and diverse ecological relationships found here.

During settlement of the Midwest, bounties were placed on most of the predators at the top of the food chain to assist settlers trying to make a living in the harsh wilderness. The removal of these top predators, specifically wolves and cougars, from the ecological web of the region resulted in the drastic changes that eventually led us to how our ecosystem functions currently (see graphic on page 11).

Numerous studies have demonstrated that predator and prey populations go through boom and bust cycles together during periods of hardship or surplus. Once predators are removed from the system though, expanding prey populations are no longer checked by a subsequent increase in the predator population. Rather, current prey populations are maintained at an increased level until other factors, such as starvation or disease, enter the equation.

“The results of sustained browsing by white-tailed deer over numerous years has resulted in wildflower and shrub species extirpation.”

~ Andrew Bacon, MNA Stewardship Coordinator

Rise of a Herbivore

In the Great Lakes region, the most apparent example of this imbalance is white-tailed deer. Many factors contribute to this imbalance, including forest fragmentation and manmade alterations to the landscape, an increase in food resources corresponding to the increase in agricultural land, and lack of predators. Current controls of deer are hunting, disease and deer/car collisions.

In recent years, our heavily developed suburban and agricultural landscapes now contain ever-smaller forest fragments and wildlife corridors which play host to one of the largest white-tailed deer herds in the history of the state. The results of this demonstrate an ecological system that is out of balance, and one that will be detrimental to the chances for continued survival of numerous species, both animal and plant.

White-tailed deer are selective browsers, meaning they move through an area picking and choosing preferred species of plants to eat. Preferred species include trillium and numerous other wildflowers, white cedar, leatherwood, viburnum and dogwood. The typical white-tailed deer will eat all of the preferred species available in an area before starting to browse on others.

The Negative Effects

By the time a woodland exhibits evidence of browse pressure on less chosen food species such as ash, oak,

beech and spruce, a wide diversity of plants will have been browsed to the point of local extirpation. These browsing tendencies are amplified in many woodlands due to the tendency of white-tailed deer to seek cover by congregating in forested areas during the winter months.

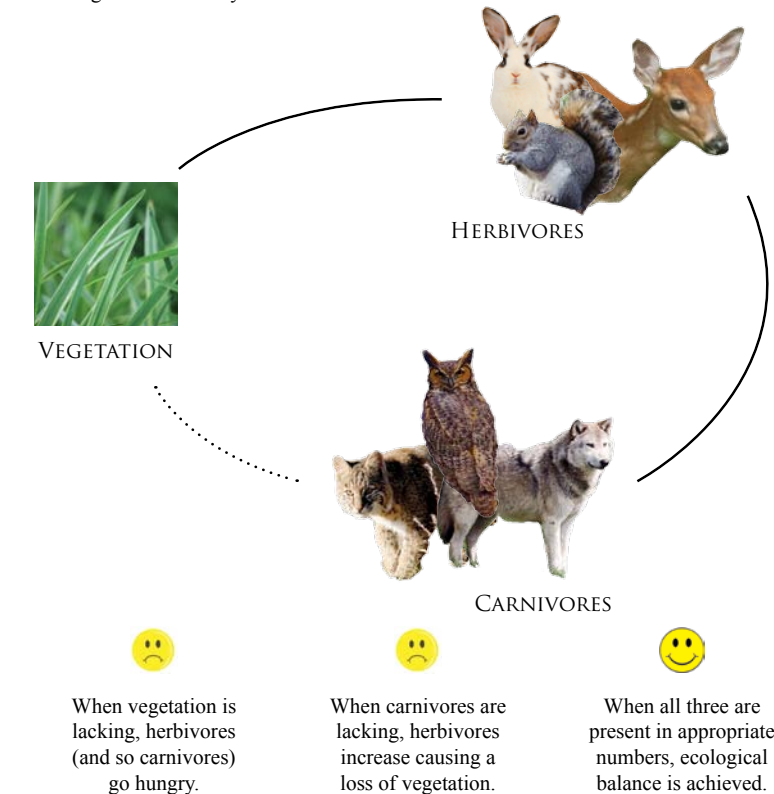
The results of sustained selective browsing by white-tailed deer over the

potentially affect tree regeneration within a forest, leading to massive changes in the forested habitat.

Additionally, these substantial shifts in the understory habitat of the forest have also been demonstrated to have direct effects on the nesting success of some species of ground- and shrub-nesting birds. Other studies have indicated that high deer populations serve as a vector for the dispersal and establishment of non-native and invasive species that further threaten the forest and various communities.

The Great Lakes Food Web

The roles of vegetation, herbivores and carnivores are very different, yet inextricably linked. Ecological balance is maintained by the appropriate presence of each in a given community.



GRAPHIC BY HANNAH ETTEMA

Moving Forward

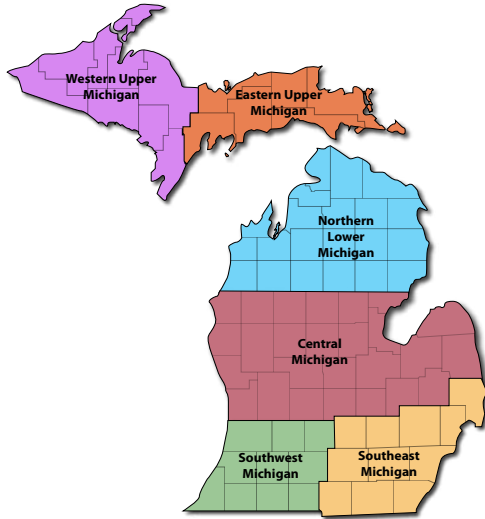
For the past few years, numerous volunteer stewards and members have been reporting loss of diversity and concerns related to white-tailed deer browse at numerous MNA sanctuaries in the southern Lower Peninsula.

In the coming months, MNA will begin collecting data from some of these sanctuaries to determine if this trend, which is being observed throughout the Midwest, is also occurring within the MNA sanctuary system. If data collection determines that MNA

sanctuaries in this region are being adversely affected, a white-tailed deer management program (including lethal control) will be considered.

If you are interested in providing input for a white-tailed deer management plan and/or are interested in learning more, please contact our Stewardship Coordinator Andrew Bacon by emailing abacon@michigannature.org.

upcoming events



JANUARY 1 THROUGH MAY 1, 2011

The map to the left will assist you in finding what area of Michigan you are interested in. Use the following sections to see upcoming events in selected areas from now through May 1.

As always, please email or call the MNA office to R.S.V.P. for these events, and come join us in our efforts to make Michigan better. If you are planning to attend one of these events, more details can be provided by the MNA office.

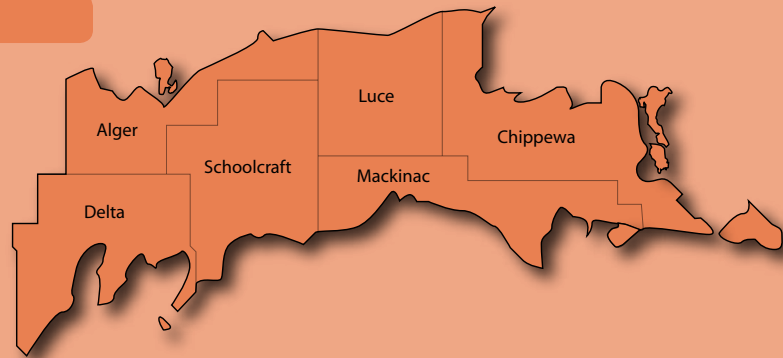
Many MNA events are led by volunteers and members. If you would like to lead an event, please contact our office by calling (517) 655-5655 or email michigannature@michigannature.org.

EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA

Hike: Soo Muskeg Nature Sanctuary Chippewa County

Sunday, February 6
10 a.m.-12 p.m. (approx.)

Join us for a snowshoe hike in the eastern U.P. We'll visit this sanctuary just outside Sault Ste. Marie, and as we traverse through this spruce and balsam boreal bog, we will look for signs of wildlife.



WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA

Hike: Eagle Harbor Red Pine Dunes and Cy Clark Memorial Nature Sanctuaries, Keweenaw County

Sunday, January 9, meet at 2 p.m.

Join us for a cross-country ski trip into Eagle Harbor led by MNA Stewards Mary Probst and Joan Chadde.

Hike: Black Creek Nature Sanctuary Keweenaw County

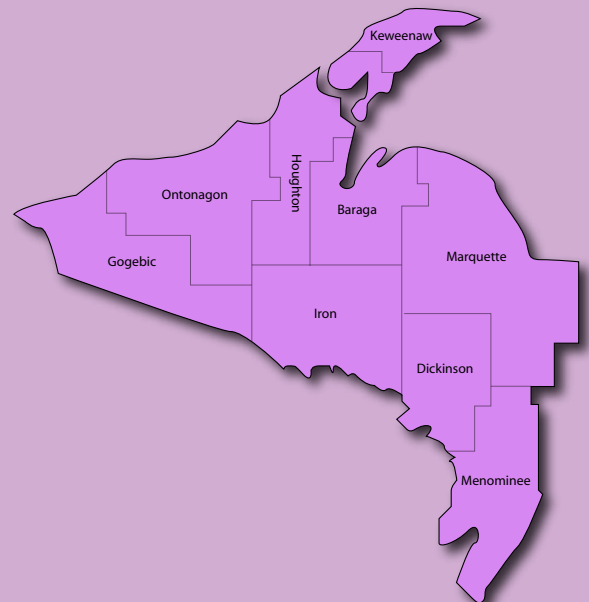
Saturday, January 22, meet at 1 p.m.

MNA Stewards Peter and Jill Pietila will lead the hike and invite participants to their home for warm refreshments after.

Hike: Keweenaw Shore and Upson Lake N.S. Keweenaw County

Saturday, February 12, meet 2 p.m.

MNA Steward Joan Chadde will lead this hike into the snowy Keweenaw.



NORTHERN LOWER MICHIGAN

Hike:

Mystery Valley Nature Sanctuary

Presque Isle County

Saturday, February 5

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Join MNA Staff and Stewards as we journey by snowshoe along the snowy trails of one of our special project properties: the Mystery Valley Nature Sanctuary.

Learn about 'karst' and other geologic formations as we follow the trails marked in cooperation with our partners, the Michigan Karst Conservancy, that lead us down to the main sinkhole loggers used to joke would carry you straight out to the lake.



CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Volunteer Day:

A Looking Glass Nature

Sanctuary

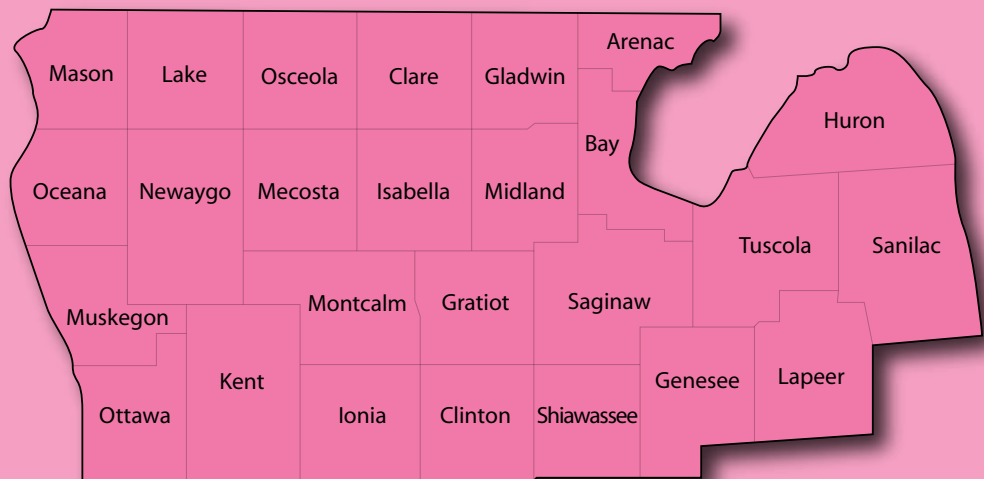
Clinton County

January 15

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Join us for a volunteer day to help remove autumn olive and witness for yourself the work done by Eagle Scout-hopeful Evan Harris during his November workday.

The sanctuary is now free from debris and a decrepid, old outbuilding that used to rest on the property. Thanks to Evan and a group of friends and fellow scouts, the sanctuary is clear of garbage. Now we need your help to clear it of invasives.



Volunteer Day:

Karner Blue Nature Sanctuary

Newaygo County

January 18 and 19

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Please join us for a volunteer day to burn the brush piles that resulted from invasive species and habitat management conducted during the warmer months to enhance the prairie at this preserve.

Volunteer Day: Dauner-Martin Nature Sanctuary, Genesee County

February 5, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Please join us for a volunteer day to help with the removal of autumn olive at one of our most frequented nature sanctuaries.

Dauner-Martin, near Flint, continues to see large amounts of visitation from nearby urban areas that would otherwise have very little access to nature. Help us maintain this sanctuary as an educational tool and passive recreation site, that will be used by many generations to come.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Volunteer Day: Edwin and Margarita Palmer Memorial Nature Sanctuary Kalamazoo County

January 8, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Please join us for a volunteer day to help remove glossy buckthorn and promote native species development.

Volunteer Day: Butternut Creek Nature Sanctuary, Berrien and Van Buren Counties

January 10, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Please join us for a volunteer day to help with the removal of dogwood and woody invasives.

Volunteer Day: Campbell Memorial, Helmer Brook Nature Sanctuary, Calhoun County

January 15 and 23, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Your help is needed to remove glossy buckthorn.

Volunteer Day: Edwin and Margarita Palmer Memorial Nature Sanctuary Kalamazoo County

January 28 and February 12 and 20
10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Please join us for a volunteer day to help with the removal of glossy buckthorn.

Volunteer Day: Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary, Cass County near Dowagiac

March 5 and March 12, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Your help is needed to remove autumn olive and multiflora rose from one of the MNA special project properties. With visitors planning to stop in for the Spring Adventure in late April, we need to prepare the sanctuary by removing as many invasives as possible. Be part of the team that promotes amazing wildflower displays and unmatched beauty at one of MNA's crown jewels.

Volunteer Day: Hamilton Township Coastal Plain Marsh Nature Sanctuary Van Buren County near Decatur

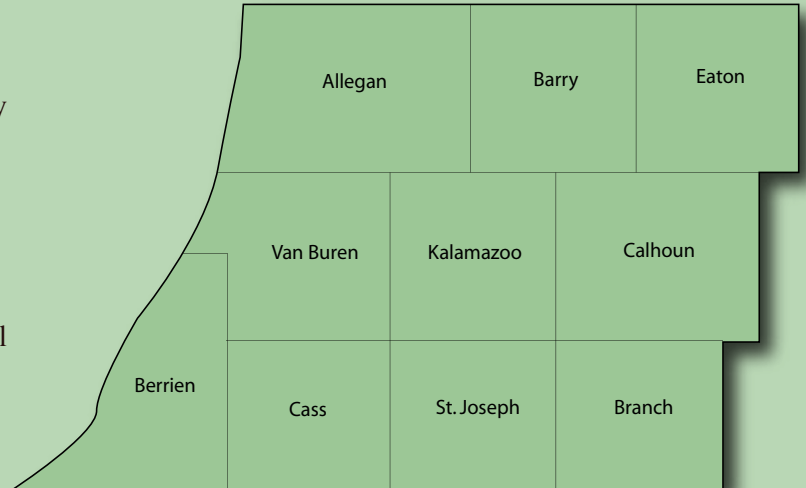
April 16, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Please join us for a volunteer day to help with the removal of garlic mustard in a sanctuary known for its Atlantic disjuncts.

Volunteer Day: White Pigeon Nature Sanctuary St. Joseph County

April 23, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Please join us to help remove garlic mustard.



Volunteer Day: Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary, Cass County near Dowagiac

April 23 and April 27, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Your help is needed to remove garlic mustard from one of the MNA special project properties. With visitors planning to stop in for the Spring Adventure in late April, we need to prepare the sanctuary by removing as many invasives as possible. Be part of the team that promotes amazing wildflower displays and unmatched beauty at one of MNA's crown jewels.

MNA Spring Adventure Southwest Michigan

April 29-May 1, pick-ups beginning at 5 p.m.

Dowagiac Woods, Trillium Ravine, Coldwater River, Butternut Creek, Four Macomb County Ladies and Barvick Sand Dunes Nature Sanctuaries

Join us for our first annual Spring Adventure to visit the amazing wildflower displays and stunning beauty of a pristine forest system! Visit endangered habitat home to various species on the endangered species list and explore a protected sand dune ecosystem, all stewarded by MNA.

Sign up for the Spring Adventure beginning January 1, by going to the MNA store online at www.michigannature.org, or contact MNA Communications Coordinator Matt Hund by phone at (517) 655-5655 or by emailing mhund@michigannature.org.

Mark your calendars now for April 29 through May 1, and join us for this unique look at MNA sanctuaries in southwest Michigan.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AT THESE EVENTS BY CALLING (517) 655-5655 OR EMAILING MICHIGANNATURE@MICHIGANNATURE.ORG.

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Volunteer Day: Lefglen Nature Sanctuary

Jackson County

January 9, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Please join us for a volunteer day to tackle glossy buckthorn which is threatening to degrade this rare prairie fen.

Volunteer Day: Bullard Lake Fen Nature

Sanctuary, Livingston County

January 17, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Please join us for a day of removing glossy buckthorn.

Field Trip: Wilcox Warnes Nature Sanctuary

Macomb County

January 29, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Come out for a fun winter hike led by naturalist and experienced hike-leader, Rob Golda.

Volunteer Day: Goose Creek Nature Sanctuary

Lenawee County near Cement City

January 30 and February 27

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Please join us for a day to help remove glossy buckthorn.

Volunteer Day: Lefglen Nature Sanctuary

Jackson County

February 3 and February 19

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Please join us for a volunteer day to tackle glossy buckthorn which is threatening to degrade this rare prairie fen.

Volunteer Day: Wilcox Warnes Nature

Sanctuary, Macomb County

February 8, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Please join us for a day to help remove glossy buckthorn.

Volunteer Day: Hardy Memorial Nature

Sanctuary, Livingston County

February 19, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Please join us for a volunteer day to help remove glossy buckthorn and honeysuckle.

Volunteer Day: Bertha A. Daubendiek Nature

Sanctuary, St. Clair County

February 21, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Please join us for a volunteer day to help remove barberry.

Volunteer Day: Wilcox Warnes Nature

Sanctuary, Macomb County

March 26, 10 p.m.- 2 p.m.

Join us for a day to learn about forest conservation, plant



identification and ecology. Help upgrade a trail system and make nature more accessible. Refreshments provided by REI.

Annual Member Meeting

Southeast Michigan

April 9, 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

(with field trips at 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.)

Come for the annual MNA update from board and staff, listen to special guest speaker Dr. Tony Reznicek and take a field trip to visit the Lyle and Mary Rizer Nature Sanctuary.

Volunteer Day: Frances Broehl Memorial 1

Nature Sanctuary, Lenawee County

April 12, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Please join us for a day to help remove garlic mustard.

Volunteer Day: Robert Powell Memorial

Nature Sanctuary, Lenawee County

April 14, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Please join us for a day to help remove garlic mustard.

Volunteer Day: Brandon Township Nature

Sanctuary, Oakland County

April 16, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Please join us for a volunteer day to spruce up the trail and remove overgrown reed canary grass at this 20-acre sanctuary.

Volunteer Day: Alice W. Moore Woods Nature

Sanctuary, St. Clair County

April 23, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Please join us for a day to help remove garlic mustard.



PHOTO FROM MNA ARCHIVES

WANTED!

THE STORY OF THE WOLF

by Hannah Ettema, MNA Communications Intern

Once present in all of Michigan's 83 counties, the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) hit an all-time low with a presence in only one county before making a comeback from near extirpation. By 1910, the wolf had disappeared entirely from the Lower Peninsula, and by 1960 had almost disappeared from the rest of the state.

Since legal protection began in 1965, the wolf population has grown exponentially. And from less than 20 in Michigan before 1992, the population of the gray wolf has jumped to more than 500 today.

In August 2010, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) captured a wolf pup in Cheboygan County, confirming a breeding pack and officially marking the return of the wolf to the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

The historical range of the wolf covered a majority of the continental U.S. (except southeastern states). Today in the U.S., the gray wolf lives only in northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan as well as portions

of the upper Great Plains and Rocky Mountain states.

Across the U.S., groups are working to bring back predators like the wolf. Recovery efforts are currently being undertaken in the southwestern U.S. for the Mexican wolf, a smaller subspecies of wolf. In western North Carolina, a red wolf-coyote hybrid is slowly growing in number.

Wolf Management

On the federal endangered species list, the wolf is currently managed by the federal government. Because Michigan cannot manage the wolf individually, some negative interactions erode social acceptance and public support. Farmers, especially, question the wisdom of saving the wolf, and the current policy of non-lethal control (such as lighting systems and sirens).

Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin recently petitioned to have the wolf removed from the federal list. The original recovery goals for the gray wolf have

“A steady, growing population of predators is a necessary indicator of a healthy ecosystem.”

~ Brian Roell, Wolf Coordinator for the Michigan DNRE

been met and exceeded. In September 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the information in the petitions may warrant delisting but could take as much as a year to review.

Rolf Peterson, an MNA member and research professor at Michigan Technological University, believes that Michigan would do an excellent job managing the wolf. “Michigan DNR personnel have done a good job monitoring recovery and enforcing laws against illegal killing,” he says. Now we need support, because, “the future of wolves (and other species) is in human hands.”

If a person were to be in danger from a wolf, lethal methods could be taken in the future; however a non-rabid wolf endangering a human has never been reported. The DNRE has also worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-APHIS to address the problem of livestock killed by wolves. Conflicts between wolf ecology and human societal values create complex and numerous management considerations.

Why We Need the Wolf

Without a top-tier predator like the wolf, experts agree that ecosystems will fail. Predators, like the wolf, maintain ecological balance. If the wolf disappears, primary consumers like deer, would overpopulate and wipe out producers, their primary food source.

“A steady, growing population of predators is a necessary indicator of a healthy ecosystem,” says Brian Roell, wolf coordinator for the DNRE. He says that foresters are seeing the positive effects of a wolf population.

“There are areas where we could not regenerate maple trees, but now (with the wolf) it’s possible,” he says. Roell also says that hunters in Michigan have nothing to worry about: the rising wolf

population is not a threat to deer. Even if both the deer and wolf populations suddenly fluctuated, neither population would disappear from Michigan. And more than 500 wolves in the Upper Peninsula may sound like a lot, but the likelihood of seeing one is low. Roell compared the wolf population to the black

A Tricky Comparison

The gray wolf in the wild is often mistaken for its cousins, the coyote and the domestic dog. Below is a few facts to help tell them apart.



bear population, currently estimated around 17,000 in Michigan and says, “How often do you see a bear?”

MNA and the Wolf

Contributing to the health of ecosystems as top predator, the wolf’s presence has been beneficial to numerous MNA properties. There are few places in the Upper Peninsula that the wolf does not inhabit, and sightings of the wolf have been reported at Harry and Hattie Handford Memorial Nature Sanctuary in Alger County as well as at Redwyn’s Dunes Nature Sanctuary in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Evidence of the wolf through either scat, tracks or kills has been seen at other

MNA properties including Rockafellow, River Bend, Lake Superior, Black Creek and Baraga Old Growth Nature Sanctuaries. As the wolf continues to breed in the Lower Peninsula, it is possible that it could be seen in Cedar River or Green River Nature Sanctuaries in Antrim County among others.

Why the Wolf Gets a Bad Rap

Thanks to fairy tales like *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The Three Little Pigs*, the wolf has become a frightening symbol to children everywhere. When asked why, many point to history.

“Literature about the wolf started bad feelings. Only stories about the bad,” says Ted Soldan, MNA Steward of the Estivant Pines Nature Sanctuary.

“Having a top carnivore is a sign of a healthy ecosystem,” Soldan adds. Sharp teeth and a menacing grin make the wolf appear fiercer to humans than they are but most are the same size or smaller than domestic dogs. And in his community, feelings about the wolf remain mixed, he says.

In the Upper Peninsula, livestock attacks increased this year. More than fifty cattle, seven sheep and two dogs have been killed in wolf related incidents, and the wolf is known to repeatedly target the same farm. Farmers who have experienced depredations receive financial compensation for their losses, and many have turned to non-lethal control methods prescribed by wolf researchers.

According to the DNRE, negative effects like depredation are getting easier to manage. However, continued public support is necessary for the success of the wolf in Michigan.

To find out more about the wolf in Michigan visit www.michigan.gov/dnre or www.fws.gov/endangered and type Gray Wolf in the search bar.

News Briefs cont.

For full news stories visit
www.michigannature.org and
click on News and Events

NEWS AND EVENT UPDATES FROM MNA

FALL ADVENTURE WRAP-UP

With more than 50 people in attendance, MNA visited sanctuaries along the way to-and-in the Keweenaw Peninsula this September, marking the 2010 Fall Adventure.

Friday's picnic lunch at Hartwick Pines was followed by a visit to the Twin Waterfalls Nature Sanctuary. Saturday's excursions to the Redwyn's Dunes, Keweenaw Shores No. 1, Upson Lake, Estivant Pines and James Dorian Rooks

Memorial Nature Sanctuaries were "fun and enlightening experiences" despite some iffy weather. Sunday's exploration of the newly acquired Manistique Shores Dune and Swale Nature Sanctuary highlighted the journey home. Thank you to everyone who made this Fall Adventure a success.

For more information about our first ever Spring Adventure, please see the News Brief section on page 8.

NEW STEWARDS IN 2010

In 2010, stewardship staff made significant improvements to MNA's sanctuary monitoring plan. For the first time in a great while, all of MNA's properties were monitored and their condition reported back to the main office.

Thank you to all of our volunteer stewards for making this possible, and we would like to extend a special welcome and

thank you to our new stewards, listed below by region and with the sanctuary or preserve where they volunteer.

Upper Peninsula

Jill Burkland and Randy Freisinger - Gratiot Lake Overlook
The Haeussler Family - Keweenaw Shores
Anna Kirkwood Graham-Soo Muskeg
Nancy Leonard - Keweenaw Shores #2, Hylton Memorial
Mary Probst - Cy Clark Memorial
Mary Powell - Roach Point, Fox River, Lake Munuscong
Peter and Jill Pietilla - Black Creek
Mary Probst - Eagle Harbor Red Pine Dunes
Hannah Rooks - Estivant Pines
Dave and Linda Rulison - River Bend

Northern Lower Peninsula

O.J. Cunningham - Pere Marquette
Natalie Hill - Frinks Pond
Sister Marie Kopin - Parsons Memorial

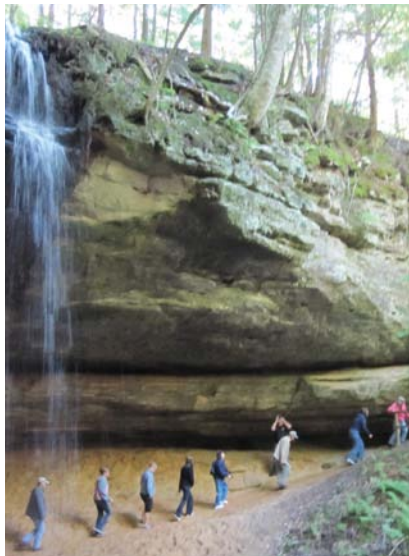
Southwest Lower Peninsula

Judith Brown - Pepperidge Dunes
Wayne Dennis - Allegan Valley
Maggie Ebrite - Dowagiac Woods
Ric Gendernalik - Campbell Memorial
Nick Gressick - Five Lakes Muskegon
Joyce Kebless - Cooper Creek
Bill McNaughton - Thornapple Lake
Linda Miller - Hultmark Memorial
Joe and Pat Roti Roti - Butternut Creek, Four Macomb Co. Ladies

Southeast Lower Peninsula

Angie Adamec - Calla Burr, Lambs Fairbanks
Robb Macleod - Hobert Memorial
Paul and Sue McEwen - Dauner Martin
Chuck Pearson - River Raisin
Dan Sparks-Jackson - Columbia, Goose Creek

For more information on MNA's stewardship program, visit the website and click How You Can Help. If you would like to become a steward, please contact Stewardship Coordinator Andrew Bacon by emailing abacon@michigannature.org.



MNA members and guests enjoy the Twin Waterfalls Nature Sanctuary on the 2010 Fall Adventure.

ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

Get the Annual MNA Update from Board and Staff

Enjoy Guest Lectures from Experts in the Field

Visit the Lyle and Mary Rizer Nature Sanctuary

Reserve your spot now at www.michigannature.org
or contact our office for more information.

APRIL 9



Trustee Profile: Don Reed

Don Reed was elected to the Board of Trustees this past Spring. Don, a retired computer analyst and software developer for MDOT,



became interested in MNA serving as a volunteer in stewardship activities.

Recently, we sat down with Don to ask him about his work with MNA.

When did you first become interested in MNA?

When I approached retirement in 2002, one of my goals was to start volunteering for nature-related organizations. There was a real opportunity for me to make a difference. I started out as a steward-at-large, going to many different sanctuaries, seeing and learning about different habitats, and getting to know good vs. bad.

What MNA activities are you currently involved with?

I am involved in stewardship activities, recently at Lefglen removing buckthorn, as well as working at the MNA office. I have done a variety of stewardship activities at more than 30 different MNA sanctuaries.

I have also been on the MNA burn crew from the very first prescribed burn, and my wife and I have participated in nearly all of the Fall Adventures.

Which sanctuary is your favorite?

I have a fond place in my heart for Goose Creek Nature Sanctuary. It was the first sanctuary I worked on for MNA. I had been expecting to work in nice woodland areas, and instead ended up working in a big, wet, marshy field.

We started removing buckthorn and did our first burn. What a difference it made. We had 3,500 small white lady's slippers show up shortly after the burn, followed by a continuous display of wildflowers all summer long and into the fall. It was an eye-opening experience for me. Goose Creek is no longer a big, wet, marshy field for me: it's a spectacular prairie fen.

Another favorite of mine is probably a favorite of many: Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary in the spring. The variety of wildflowers, ferns, and bird life is breathtaking.

When did you first become interested in nature?

From a young age I was always interested in nature: first hunting and fishing with relatives, then on my own wandering in nearby woods, marveling at all the cool stuff I saw there.

As a child of 9 or 10, vacationing up north, I remember walking alone in the woods near my grandparents' home and discovering a fox den. I watched the foxes play from a hidden spot for hours every day, fascinated.

What is special about Michigan?

I love Michigan because of the four seasons, and the incredible variety of habitat types you find here. Every aspect is interesting, in the right time and place, and especially when in the company of people who know more than I and are willing to share their knowledge. If I had to pick what interests me most, I'd have to say the remarkable characteristics plants have evolved to propagate themselves and survive. I grow native plants from seed as a hobby, especially woodland wildflowers. It is amazing to see how many different methods plants use to disperse their seeds, and how the germination requirements differ depending on the species.

What is special about MNA?

What has made MNA so special to me is willingness to use and encourage volunteer help, and the wide variety of habitat types protected. Other land conservancies tend to be smaller and have less opportunity for volunteers. The Nature Conservancy, much larger, does not offer nearly as many.

When you volunteer for stewardship opportunities with MNA, it doesn't always feel like work. For me, it's like getting a free education, working alongside knowledgeable professionals and laymen. Working hard together, doing good things with other like-minded people strengthens our connections, and it makes MNA almost seem like family.

What are your goals for MNA as a Trustee?

I'd like to see us develop more stewardship capacity. Some of our best sanctuaries have severe problems with invasives, and the longer we wait to address the problems, the more expensive and difficult it will be to get them under control. To do this we need to grow membership, as well as expand and develop our volunteer base.

I think one way to accomplish this is to shift our emphasis to less new land acquisitions and more community outreach. I think in order to become relevant, to let people know who we are and what we do, we need to engage them. For communities near our sanctuaries, stewards and volunteers could do presentations or offer to lead tours for schools, local government, or other groups.

I think too much emphasis has been placed on our statewide conservancy status, and not enough on our local responsibilities. We should fix this and ensure that our sanctuaries provide value and be an asset that the local communities care about.



Because of You



PHOTO BY TINA PATTERSON

JoAnn Hinds and Diamond Die

A WOMAN, A COMPANY, A MISSION

by Tina Patterson, MNA Member and Volunteer

JoAnn Hinds found her passion for nature as a child when she and her three sisters spent fall weekends walking the unspoiled areas north of Roseville. Her dad would take the dogs for a run, bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a day with his daughters.

These early memories are the foundation on which JoAnn built a life of appreciation for all of nature. She is especially fascinated by ducks, and has more than 200 different decoys and paintings in her Grosse Pointe home. Her passion for them is a part of her life today.

Despite her busy schedule as the President and CEO of Diamond Die and Mold Company in Clinton Township, JoAnn still sets aside time for long walks in the woods, bike riding and sharing her love of the natural world through volunteer work with organizations like MNA.

JoAnn is not your standard volunteer, though. To protect and preserve the natural areas that she loves, JoAnn has formed a unique partnership with MNA that often goes above-and-beyond what a single volunteer is

capable of: when there is a stewardship project that needs to be completed at the Wilcox-Warnes Nature Sanctuary near her tool and die plant in southeastern Michigan, she gives all of her employees the day off, with full pay, and these talented trades people donate their time and energy to MNA projects.

Whether constructing boardwalks, creating signs and trail markers, or doing whatever it takes to protect and preserve Michigan's natural areas, this generous and creative use of resources creates goodwill all around. Diamond Die employees love having a day outdoors, MNA benefits from having trained craftsmen and women working on much-needed projects, and JoAnn is gratified to know she is making a difference in the natural areas she loves.

And JoAnn takes her love of nature very seriously, personally purchasing many acres on Beaver Island for preservation. She helped create a biological research station there for her alma mater, Central Michigan

“The more we can preserve for our children, and the more untouched, the better; there is nothing like the calming effect of a walk in the woods.”

~ JoAnn Hinds, CEO of Diamond Die

University (CMU), where she received degrees in biology and teaching. JoAnn also holds an MBA from MSU and an honorary doctoral degree from CMU.

The mother of one now-grown daughter, Kira, JoAnn used to take her daughter and her friends to Beaver Island, making up scavenger hunts in where the girls would identify the lakes on the island, touch a snake, or bring back a wild onion. This shared love of adventure found the two eventually traveling the world: from Alaska to Australia and from African safaris to an Antarctic adventure. JoAnn herself has traveled to more than forty countries.

In the entire world, of which she has seen more than most, JoAnn still holds Michigan first in her heart, especially Beaver Island which she visits at least

three times a year. She finds joy in the protected Michigan monkey-flower, Miller’s Marsh, the old boat house, and knowing that her work in fisheries there helped to protect the small-mouth bass species from over-fishing.

As if her commitment to nature were not enough, JoAnn is now actively involved in raising funds for a new medical school at CMU. Her commitment to this major project is based upon the personal philosophy that medical students must come from rural areas with the hope that they will be more likely to return to the underserved communities in Michigan where they originally came from.

JoAnn is also a member of the Industry Trade Advisory Committee, a 200-member advisory group that meets in Washington, D.C., to advise

the government on trade policies with foreign nations.

What does the future hold for JoAnn? First, more travel. Her desire to continue exploring the world does not appear to diminish, and her intellectual curiosity about biology and anatomy is not sated.

Second, more nature. There are still four more of the top ten waterfalls in the world yet to see, more habitats to explore, many plants to classify, and people to educate about the beauty all around them.

Finally, JoAnn looks forward to more time to walk the woods looking for her beloved ducks. This takes us back to a walk in the fields and woods with her dad, where it all began. Who knew how far it would lead?

Thank you, JoAnn.

VOLUNTEERING: EXPLORE THE MANY WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP

As you read through this newsletter (or any materials published by MNA), you come to realize how much we depend on and value volunteers. Our mission, our vision, and our projects would not be possible without them, and we are continually grateful.

If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact us. There are many different ways to volunteer, and each allows you to make a difference in the future of Michigan and protection of our special natural areas.

Below is a list of just some of the ways that you can get involved as an MNA volunteer.

EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Help our stewards protect and promote our nature sanctuaries by volunteering at one or more events in your area. Whether you clean up trails, repair signs, or pull invasive plants, you will be making a difference working with your hands.

See the Upcoming Events section on page 12 of the newsletter for information about events in your area.

NEW STEWARDS

We rely on volunteer stewards to help with monitoring and upkeep at our nature sanctuaries. Additional stewards for properties in Alpena, Baraga, Delta, Huron and Marquette Counties are especially needed.

Please contact our office for more information.

PRESCRIBED BURN CREW

Promote healthy ecosystems at our numerous prairie/savanna habitats by joining the MNA burn crew. Stewardship staff are currently seeking members for the 2011 burn season, which will begin on or around March 20.

If you have experience, or are interested in learning about burns, please contact Stewardship Coordinator Andrew Bacon by emailing abacon@michigannature.org.

MNA EMISSARIES

To raise public awareness and promote the Mission of MNA, we are recruiting Emissaries from across the state to serve as organizational hubs for events, field trips, and presentations.

For more information about becoming an Emissary, please see the description on our website.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In February, MNA members will elect Trustees to the Board for four-year terms. Trustees play key roles in setting organizational policy, shaping the strategic plan, and helping to uphold the Mission and vision of MNA.

If you are interested in joining the Board of Trustees, please email your contact information to davewndlng@aol.com.

For more information about volunteering in general, please visit www.michigannature.org and click How You Can Help.

Memorials and Honorariums

SEPTEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 31, 2010

Donations given in honor or memory of MNA members and friends appear here in tribute.

IN HONOR OF:

Viola Jarvenpaa Brown's
90th Birthday
by the Huhnies and Brownies

In Honor of Michigan Outdoors
by an Anonymous Donor

In Honor of Carol Niffenegger
by Fr. David Neven

IN MEMORY OF:

Charles Comsa
by Dr. Lewis Rosenbaum

Marvin Cooley
by Kathy and Mark Johnson

Elizabeth Dorocak
by Dr. Lewis Rosenbaum

Bettie Fairbanks
by Ruth Moody

Ann Fuessle
by Florence Barrett
by Diane and Richard Barrett-Curtis
by Ann Biek
by Cathy and David Butts
by Judy Christ
by Richard Fuessle
by Dave and Carol Kass
by Maggie and Les Klingberg
by Martha and Arlo Knoll
by Ronald and Bonnie Latourette
by Dan Manternach
by Nancy and Doug Middleton
by Mary and Ron Mikkola
by Marilyn and Royal Spear

Mary Lou LaGarde
by Dr. Lewis Rosenbaum

Glenna Levensgood
by Bill and Charity Steere

Chester Lobos
by Bob and Tina Patterson

Richard Metry
by Dr. Joseph James

Henry Paul Niffenegger
by Fr. David Neven

Mike Taylor
by Elinor Taylor

Marjorie White
by Dr. Joseph James

Hildegard Wintergerst
by Ingrid Howarth

Clifford Vaughan
by Dr. Lewis Rosenbaum

To make a donation in memory or honor of someone, please visit our website or contact our office.

REMEMBERING GLENNA LEVENGOOD

June 21, 1921 - November 13, 2010

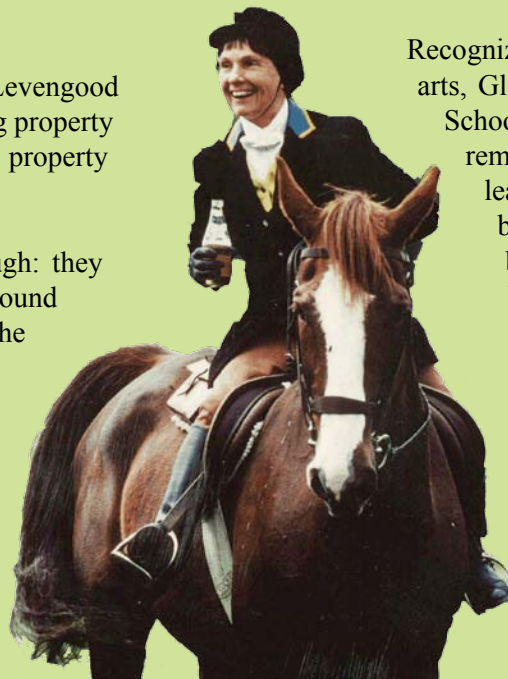
Glenna passed away peacefully at her home in Grass Lake, Michigan after a prolonged and debilitating illness. She will be sorely missed.

Glenna and her husband W.C. "Lefty" Levensgood first got involved with MNA in 1970, selling property well below market value in order to avoid property taxes on the rise.

Glenna and Lefty didn't stop there though: they continued to purchase adjacent land around the original property, combining it with the original property donated to MNA.

Inspired by the message in Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, Glenna and Lefty became advocates for preserving nature. Together they donated land and

money to create MNA's 200-plus-acre Lefglen Nature Sanctuary in Jackson County (which was named by combining Lefty and Glenna). This sanctuary remains home to some of the most diverse animal and plant life in any MNA sanctuary.



Recognized early in her life as a prodigy in fine arts, Glenna attended the Toledo Art Museum School for gifted children in Ohio. Glenna is remembered as an avid horsewoman, 4-H leader, dog lover and passionate friend by those who loved her. She is survived by her husband of nearly 67 years and beloved pets Tizzy, Cutie Pi and Chi.

A donation in her memory and for the ongoing preservation of sanctuaries like Lefglen can now be made to MNA. Please contact the office by emailing michigannature@michigannature.org or calling (517) 655-5655.



MNA Sanctuary Photo Contest

Do you love nature photography?

Then the Michigan Nature Association is looking to showcase your photos in our first annual MNA Sanctuary Photo Contest.

Winners will be featured in our October newsletter and will appear in a special gallery on the MNA website. The photos may also be featured in an MNA calendar in the future.

All entries must be photographs taken at MNA sanctuaries around the state, and must fit one of three categories: *Flora*, *Fauna*, or *Landscapes*. MNA members get their first entry for free; non-members and additional entries are \$3 each (to support stewardship and other activities at MNA).

To enter, download and fill out the entry form found at www.michigannature.org. Photos and completed forms can be emailed to michigannature@michigannature.org or mailed on a CD to the MNA office.

The deadline for entries is August 1, 2011.

Prize packages may include:

- free framing from a professional printer.
- tickets to a live stage performance.
- dinner for two at a four-star restaurant.
- weekend getaway for two up north.

All photos must:

- be taken at one of the more than 160 MNA sanctuaries around the state.
- fit one of the three categories.
- be submitted with a filled-out entry form.
- be submitted as a jpg, tif or gif file.
- be received no later than August 1, 2011.

We at MNA look forward to seeing your favorite parts of nature and some of Michigan's best flora, fauna and landscapes through your lens!



michigan nature association

Preserving Michigan's Natural Heritage Since 1952


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www.michigannature.org
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Experience a forest like the original settlers
at Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary

See blooming wildflowers at Trillium Ravine
and Coldwater River Nature Sanctuaries

Visit an endangered habitat at Butternut Creek and
Four Macomb County Ladies Nature Sanctuaries



Explore a protected sand dune ecosystem at
Barvicks Sand Dunes Nature Sanctuary



APRIL 29-MAY 1



Reserve your spot now at www.michigannature.org
or contact our office for more information.