



michigan nature association

Preserving Michigan's Natural Heritage Since 1952

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Volume 58 Issue 2

WHAT'S INSIDE

*Explore Dowagiac
Woods Nature
Sanctuary*

*Natural History
Assessments*

*Prairie Ronde:
A SW Michigan Jewel*

*Fall Adventure to
Eastern UP*

Dwarf Lake Iris
taken by Charles Peirce

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From the Director



Exposure to risk is something I've been hearing more about lately in the media, especially in relation to finances. In land protection, risk often refers to potential hazards to the ecological well-being of habitat. There are many risks to a given area of land or body of water, and one of the biggest risks or threats is invasive species, which we often discuss in the Michigan Nature Association newsletter. Many threats can enter through the perimeter of a sanctuary, whether they are invasive plants or human-induced threats such as off-road vehicles or dumping.

Since the perimeter of a nature sanctuary is where most threats will appear first, the distance of perimeter around a sanctuary is a factor in the level of risk to the sanctuary. For example, a long slender parcel will have proportionately more perimeter than a square parcel. Two small squares will have more edge proportionately than one large square. Thus, adding property to existing nature sanctuaries usually increases the protected land while reducing the

proportionate threat. In addition, many native species prefer the thick canopy or shaded ground that interior habitats offer.

The Michigan Nature Association has been working to add land to existing sanctuaries for some time. In 1969, the Michigan Nature Association made its first addition to an existing sanctuary with the acquisition of land at our Lakeville Swamp Nature Sanctuary. That same year, we also added land to our Timberland Nature Sanctuary. In the last few years, we have expanded our Black Creek, Morgan-Porritt, Big Valley, Saginaw Wetlands, Fred Dye, Petite Wetlands, and Estivant Pines sanctuaries.

This year we will be raising the funds for our purchase of an addition to our Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary, creating MNA's largest sanctuary in the Lower Peninsula. This is the second time the Michigan Nature Association has added property to Dowagiac Woods, the first being a critical parcel of land along a tributary in 1995.

Another type of risk is the risk of spreading resources too thin in a down economy. The Michigan Nature Association is working to make each new acquisition be the most effective use of resources to maximize the value of your support. Our Mystery Valley project with the Michigan Karst Conservancy, our other recent land acquisition project, has reduced by half the amount of resources each group must commit to the project by working together to protect this resource.

Every acre added to an existing sanctuary is important, and given the fact that the Michigan Nature Association protects these special places forever, we can acquire sizeable amounts of land over long periods of time. We are in this together for the long haul, and whatever challenges present themselves, we will meet them and continue to protect Michigan's unique natural places.

We are excited to bring you the news of the Dowagiac Woods addition and welcome you to tour it following the Members' Meeting on April 25th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeremy Emmi". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "J" and "E".

Jeremy Emmi
Executive Director

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Every Sanctuary Has a Story: Dowagiac Woods
Page 4

Dowagiac Woods' Communities
Page 6

Funds Needed for Dowagiac Woods Addition
Page 7

Current Activities at Dowagiac Woods
Page 8

Coaster Brook Trout
Page 8

Natural History Assessments
Page 9

Development Update
Page 10

Trustee Election Results
Page 10

Nature Notes by Bill Bliss
Page 11

Schedule of Activities
Page 12

Trustee Profile: Gisela Lendle King
Page 16

Prairie Ronde Savanna:
A Southwest Michigan Jewel
Page 17

Featured Volunteer: Dave Wendling
Page 18

Volunteer Opportunities
Page 18

Saying Goodbye to Special Friends
Page 19

Members and Donors
Page 20

You Can Make A Difference
Page 23

Fall Adventure Announcement
Page 24

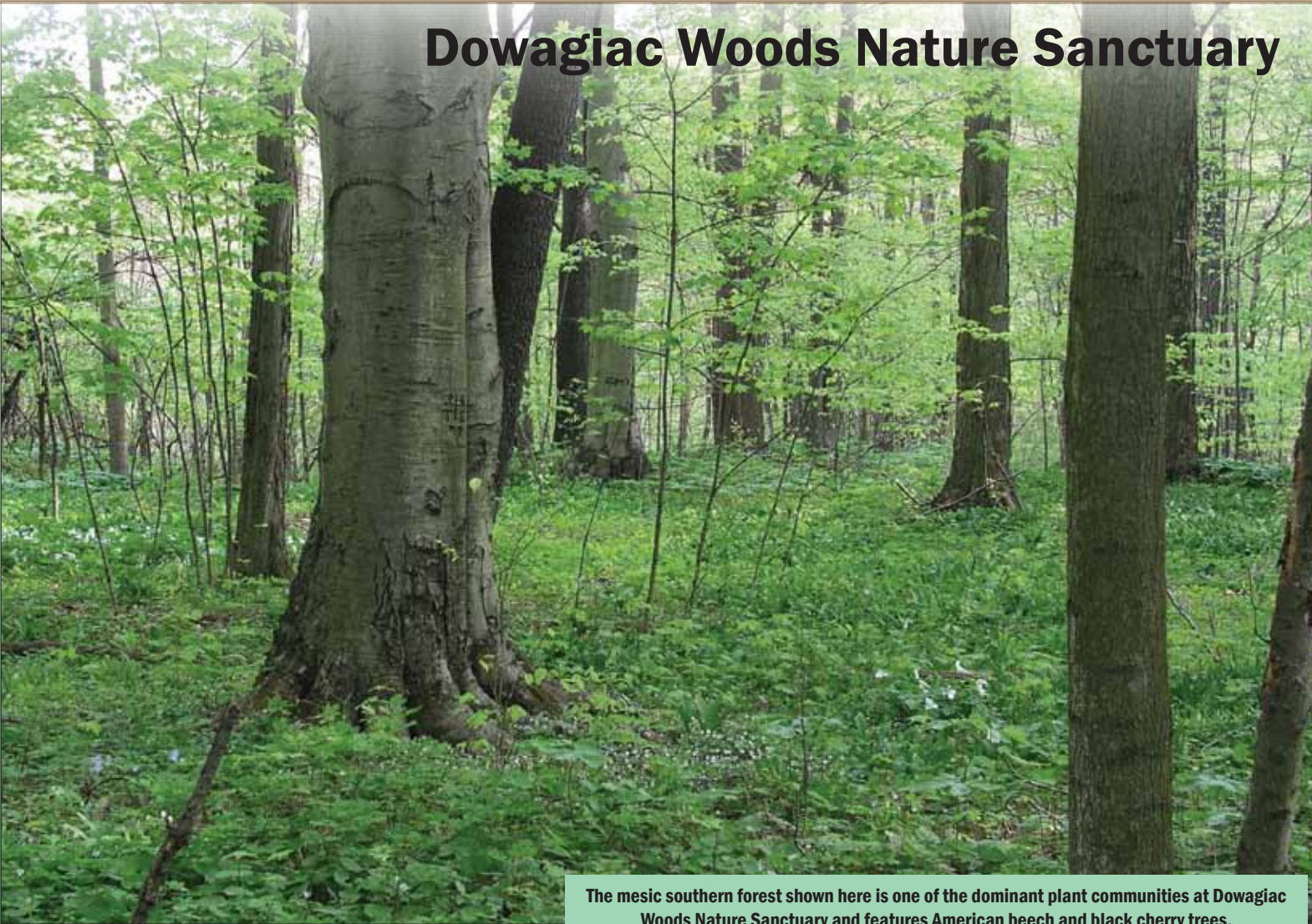
Michigan Nature Association's Mission

The purpose of the Michigan Nature Association 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 as permitted under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act.

Inside This Issue

Every Sanctuary Has a Story

Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary



The mesic southern forest shown here is one of the dominant plant communities at Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary and features American beech and black cherry trees.

By Dave Wendling, MNA Steward

Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary is a living example of how the forests were when the first settlers came to Michigan. The sanctuary is a spectacular natural area; because the majority of the property has never been plowed or clear-cut, there is an incredible species diversity. Wildflowers, trees, birds, and other animals flourish here, and the great size of the woods is a factor vital to their survival. Thanks to a 150-acre addition last fall (see page 7 for more details), the sanctuary is now the largest in the Lower Peninsula.

Plants flourish at Dowagiac Woods in countless numbers, with more than 50 species of wildflowers that bloom in the spring. Here is a plant community that shows what a forest floor free from human development looks like.

Nearly 50 species of trees have been

found, and at least 49 different types of birds nest here. The woods is also a haven for nine plants and animals classified as in danger of becoming extinct in Michigan.

Since Michigan became a state in 1837, Dowagiac Woods has experienced only two major alterations. In the early 1840's, the Dowagiac River, which runs along the sanctuary's southeast boundary, was channeled and straightened. Prior to the channelization, there were many meanders of the river. Today, one remains as "Crescent Pond", which can be seen at the north end of the River Trail.

The other change was the selective cutting of timber. This began in the early 1940's and ended in 1961. Fortunately, the owner Joseph Jerue selectively logged the woods and used teams of horses to pull the logs out to a

“... it soon became apparent that at Dowagiac Woods every tuft of green was topped by a wildflower bud...”

sawmill that was located where the pines are currently standing north of the parking lot.

The woods have never been plowed or grazed, nor has it been planted except for the pines and some other trees around the parking lot. It is said that the pines were planted to serve as a barrier to hunters who were in the habit of driving their Model T's into the woods to shine deer at night.

There have also been a few minor disturbances. Square Pond was created by the Standard Oil Company and was used for water when they drilled for oil in the late 1930's – early 1940's. The company never found oil, but hit a brine well which spouted out onto the woods. Some of the brine settled in depressions in the woods and killed the plants and trees growing there. It took years before things began growing again. The well, located southwest of Square Pond, has since been capped.

Dowagiac Woods was well known by Isaac "Ike" Hunter, a local farmer and naturalist. He was a birder and belonged to the Cass County Audubon Society. He was also a member of the Michigan Nature Association, and when the property came up for sale he notified the Michigan Nature Association. He knew its significance and that the blue-eyed Mary grew there.

In MNA's book "In Retrospect" Bertha Daubendiek, one of MNA's founders, reminisced:

It was my privilege in 1981, as we were studying the woods before acquisition, to visit it every weekend for six weeks from the last of March through the first of May. It was an exciting and uplifting experience I have never forgotten. At first a green fuzz appeared everywhere on the ground. Somewhere else, this would have turned into grass, but it soon became apparent that at Dowagiac Woods every tuft of green was topped by a wildflower bud. The progression was slow but steady, until everywhere there were flowers, all jammed together. Some



Hunter's Creek peacefully flows through the sanctuary on its way to the St. Joseph River.

other woods have two peaks of bloom, in April and in the middle of May. But not at Dowagiac. No matter what day you go in that six weeks' period, blooms are everywhere.

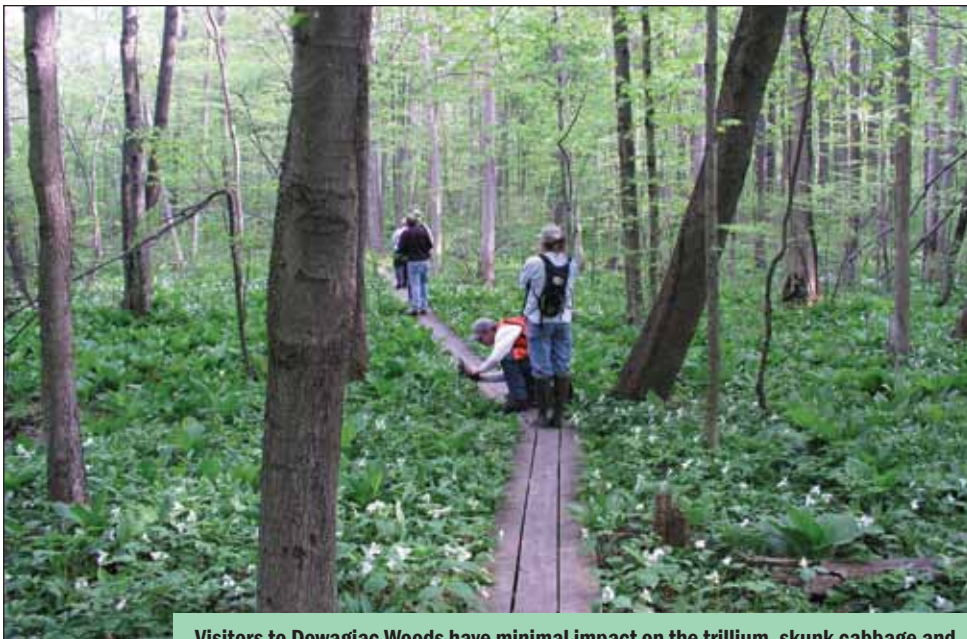
On January 3, 1983, the Michigan Nature Association purchased 220 acres of this fabulous property.

The Cass County Audubon Society played a very important role in both the fundraising and in the care of Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary. They held various fundraisers to raise money to buy a section of the woods. They were not alone in this effort – residents of Cass County raised 20% of the money needed to purchase the sanctuary, quite an accomplishment during hard economic times.

"Titmouse Tales", the official minutes of the Cass County Audubon Society wrote in 1982:

July brought a lot of extra activity on the Dowagiac Woods Project as Bertha Daubendiek cracked her whip and we jumped into action. Isaac Hunter became a qualified tour guide, Carl Biek became chief engineer and recruited help in building a bridge across the creek, Gene Fuessle recruited help from his students who helped as guides and in any way they could, Frank McKaye became so involved in lecturing and showing film strips that Millie almost divorced him on grounds of desertion, Ann and Naomi Biek took care of registration and the distributing of fact materials and became an accomplished trail hiker. Other members did their part by providing articles to be raffled off at our meetings, and Gretchen Lenz was invaluable at plant identification. The monthly raffles continue to bring money toward our pledge for the woods.

The Audubon Society formed a Care Committee that became involved in maintaining the trails, building boardwalks and making bridges. The committee often led groups of local Boy Scouts from Troop 563 on work days and one of the scouts constructed the largest bridge at the sanctuary as an Eagle Scout project. The bridge crosses a tributary of the Dowagiac River that was named "Hunter's Creek" in honor of Ike Hunter after his untimely death.



Visitors to Dowagiac Woods have minimal impact on the trillium, skunk cabbage and other wildflowers thanks to the protective boardwalk.

Dowagiac Woods Communities

By Natalie Kent, Lower Peninsula Stewardship Coordinator

The two dominant plant communities at Dowagiac Woods that support such incredible diversity are floodplain forest and mesic southern forest.

Located along major rivers and streams, floodplain forests are most extensive in Michigan's Lower Peninsula with species diversity being the greatest in the southern Lower Peninsula. Although there were an estimated 2.7 million acres of floodplain forest in Michigan in the 1800s, agricultural drainage and urban fill have reduced that number to around 300,000 acres with trees greater than eighty years old.

At Dowagiac Woods, trees characteristic of a floodplain forest community include silver maple, white ash, black ash, sycamore, cottonwood, American elm, black maple, hackberry, swamp white oak, yellow birch and red maple. The sycamore and hackberry are at their northern limit - here these trees are often able to survive in such floodplains because the low topographic position delays warm temperatures, which in turn leads to a delay in leaf out and a reduction in the risk of late spring frost damage.

Typical floodplain forest community ground flora at Dowagiac Woods include jewelweed, sensitive fern, skunk cabbage, stinging nettle, lizard's tail, swamp buttercup, golden ragwort, marsh marigold and blue flag iris.

In addition to plant life, floodplain forests usually support a large number of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians by providing essential hibernation locations, breeding sites, forage areas and travel corridors.

Floodplain forests also help maintain cool water temperatures in the summer and are integral to flood prevention because they provide areas for water overflow.

Mesic southern forests are the most common forest community in the southern half of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, and they are the most diverse and productive forests in our state. Many of these forests were cleared for agriculture and the loamy, fertile soils have proven ideal for this



Blue-eyed Mary is one of the wildflowers species that bloom each spring at Dowagiac Woods.

use—they now support some of Michigan's most productive agricultural lands.

Today, Michigan contains about 1.3 million fragmented acres of mesic southern forest and windthrow is the main disturbance regime.

Mesic southern forest communities always contain sugar maple, American beech or both. These species dominate the canopy of the forest, leading some people to refer to this type of community as a beech-maple forest. Other trees characteristic of this community that occur at Dowagiac Woods include bitternut hickory, tulip tree, ironwood, red oak, basswood and white oak. One of the more interesting species present on the sanctuary is pawpaw, which produces an edible fruit often called Michigan's wild banana.

The ground flora of a mesic southern forest is incredibly diverse. At Dowagiac Woods, one will encounter some of the more common species like wild geranium, common white trillium, Jack-in-the-pulpit, hepatica, spring beauty, wild blue phlox, Dutchman's breeches, violets, toothwort, trout lily and wild

ginger, as well as some lesser-known species like harbinger of spring and blue-eyed Mary.

For more information and to find reference material for this article, please see:

Dickmann, D.I. 2004. Michigan Forest Communities. Michigan State University Extension, East Lansing, MI. pp.32-36, 57-61.

Kost, M.A., D.A. Albert, J.G. Cohen, B.S. Slaughter, R.K. Schillo, C.R. Weber, and K.A. Chapman. 2007. Natural Communities of Michigan: Classification and Description. Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Report No. 2007-21, Lansing, MI.

Sargent, M.S. and K.S. Carter. 1999. Managing Michigan Wildlife: A Landowners Guide. Michigan United Conservation Clubs, East Lansing, MI. 297pp.

Visit Dowagiac Woods Saturday April 25

MNA will be hosting a Community Open House on Saturday, April 25th. The event will be an opportunity for area residents, as well as those across the state, to visit this special place and have an opportunity to learn more about Dowagiac Woods through tours, literature, educational presentations and hands-on displays. There will be three guided tours at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm, and children's educational activities at noon and 2pm. Visitors to the sanctuary will also be able to walk through the sanctuary on their own accord if they do not wish to take a guided tour. The Community Open House is free and open to all.

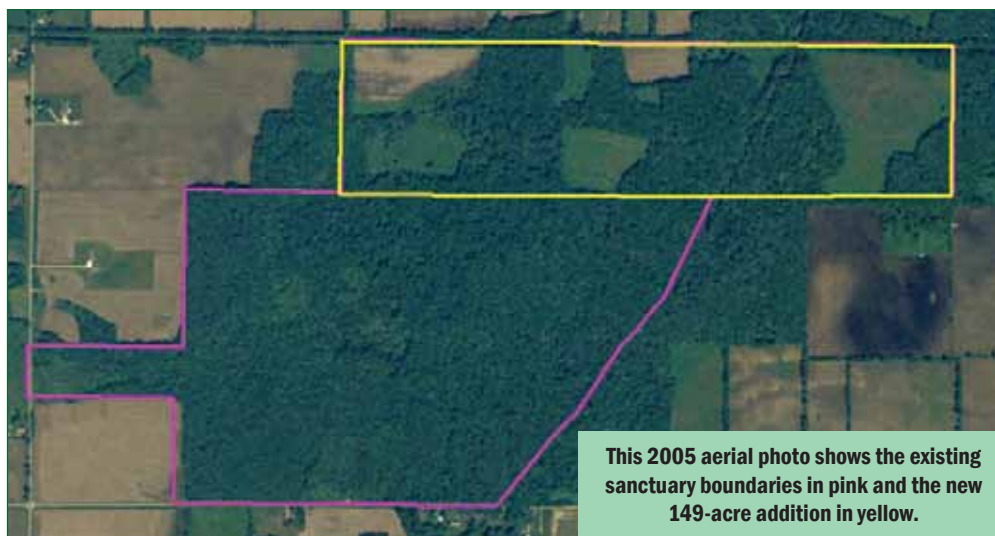
Funds Needed for Dowagiac Woods Addition

By Barry Horney and Elizabeth Szufnar

Last August, MNA received notice of a land auction in Pokagon Township, Cass County. Among the parcels were two tracts totaling nearly 150 acres and lying on the north boundary of the Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary.

MNA had one week to act. Staff, the Land Acquisition Subcommittee and the Board of Trustees began the work of evaluating information about the land and deliberating the possibility of acquiring these tracts.

One week later, the Land Acquisition Subcommittee made its recommendation to the Board of Trustees at an emergency meeting. With Board approval, the Executive Director successfully bid on the two parcels, outbidding local farmers who hoped to convert it to agricultural land. Most of the addition is forested wetlands. That is very similar to the existing sanctuary, with some old fields mixed in. The addition protects more riparian floodplain forest, which is very



Dowagiac Woods is considered the “jewel in the crown” of MNA’s Lower Peninsula sanctuaries. To purchase the two tracts, money from MNA’s Revolving Land Fund was used. The Revolving Land Fund was created as part of the Statewide Land Protection Campaign to allow MNA to purchase land on short notice but requires that MNA pay the fund back as money is raised. The time to raise money is now - \$375,000 to cover the acquisition and endowment costs. With this newsletter, MNA is launching our effort to raise these funds in 2009.

How many opportunities do you get to leave your mark on such a special place? There are many causes and organizations that want and deserve your support, and MNA is keenly aware that times are tough for Michigan residents. But please consider this:

- The addition to Dowagiac Woods is an incredible asset to the sanctuary and to the local residents, as well as the people who come from many miles away to visit. Michigan’s natural environment is disappearing and without direct involvement from private citizens and organizations, our unique natural areas will be lost forever. MNA focuses on preserving only the highest quality natural areas and in this way, we help preserve Michigan’s natural diversity, which results in healthier ecosystems throughout the state, even in areas not protected by MNA.
- Contingent upon funding, MNA also intends to use the addition acquisition as an opportunity to revitalize the sanctuary – repairing,

and possibly expanding, the existing trail system; creating new sanctuary signs; conducting more stewardship activities to remove invasive species; and restoring old farm fields in the addition to native forest.

- Your contribution will have a lasting impact. MNA holds our own deeds and conservation easements, thereby guaranteeing that this special place will be there for people to enjoy now and forever.

Dowagiac Woods has been described as a big outdoor museum crammed full of living things. As a result of the acquisition of the addition and maintenance activities, MNA hopes to offers sanctuary visitors an experience like no other – an opportunity to step back in time and see the forest as our predecessors did.



Dutchman's breeches are one of 50 species of wildflowers that can be found at Dowagiac Woods during April and early May.

important to migrating and resident birds, as well as many other animals. There is no doubt that the preservation and restoration of this habitat will contribute to a healthier ecosystem.

How to Help

How many opportunities do you get to leave your mark on such a special place? MNA must raise \$375,000 in 2009 to cover the acquisition and endowment costs for the Dowagiac Woods addition. Your contribution will have a lasting impact, ensuring that the sanctuary remains a jewel in the crown of MNA’s sanctuaries. Use the remittance envelope included with this newsletter or go to www.michigannature.org and contribute today!

Current Activities at Dowagiac

In addition to the periodic maintenance of the trails and boardwalk at Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary, MNA has actively been removing garlic mustard, an invasive plant, for nearly five years. Two control methods have been employed for this species at Dowagiac Woods - hand pulling in the spring and foliar spraying with wetland-approved

herbicide in the fall and winter when most native species are dormant. A thorough garlic mustard survey of this site in 2004 helped MNA identify and prioritize areas of the sanctuary for one or both of these management techniques. Although we have been removing this species from certain areas of the sanctuary for several years now, Dowagiac Woods is a large

site and there are many sections still requiring attention. In recognition of this, we have scheduled four dates this spring to hand pull garlic mustard from some of the highest-quality areas in the sanctuary.



Dedicated volunteers remove garlic mustard from the sanctuary.

protect DOWAGIAC WOODS

MNA is looking for additional help to continue removing invasive garlic mustard from this sanctuary. If you're able to join us for one or more of these work days, please contact Paul Steiner at psteiner@michigannature.org or (517) 655-5655.

Wednesday April 22,
Tuesday April 28,
Saturday May 2,
Tuesday May 5

All events are from
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Coaster Brook Trout

By Mary Ann Czechowski, Trustee

Trout was named the official state fish of Michigan in 1965 by an act of the Michigan legislature. Four species of trout are found in the State: brook, brown, lake and rainbow. Brook trout, popular for sport fishing throughout the state and noted for superb gastronomical qualities, received the more specific official designation in 1988.

Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), commonly known as brookies, are found in clear, cold streams, ponds, and lakes throughout Michigan, often in headwater areas. They live on a diet of fresh animal matter, crustaceans, small fish and insect larvae. Spawning in fall or late summer, brookies deposit their eggs in gravel beds at headwater areas of cold springs. The presence or absence of brook trout can be a superb indicator of either pristine habitat or of environmental deterioration.

Coaster brook trout are a special subspecies of brook trout that spend part of their life in Lake Superior. Coasters were described by 19th century Lake Superior explorers as occurring in great numbers along the coast of the lake. They gave the fish the name "coaster" because of this.

By the early 1900s, the coaster population had declined to small numbers, scattered along the Lake Superior coast.

It is believed that the fish, which annually swim upstream in cold Upper Peninsula streams to spawn, may have become a victim of extensive logging in the late 1800s, with associated erosion and stream degradation. Over-fishing and the introduction of the sea lamprey also are believed to have contributed to the decline.

Many groups have worked to rehabilitate Upper Peninsula streams to improve coaster habitat. Efforts have included restoration of degraded stream banks, and stocking of streams with fingerling coaster trout. Conservation groups like the Michigan Nature Association are also playing a vital role in protecting these streams.



Seasonal Natural History Assessments

By Keith Saylor,

Eastern UP Field Representative

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Seasonal Natural History Assessment focuses on four or five of the Michigan Nature Association's thirty sanctuaries in the Eastern Upper Peninsula during a given year. Each year, starting in



Marlene Planck gets her feet wet while surveying rare plants at a sanctuary in Chippewa County.

spring 2009, surveys and behavioral observations of plants and animals in select MNA sanctuaries will be gathered and later codified, resulting in a natural history "word-painting" spanning each season of the year.

We are seeking volunteers who are willing to become historians; helping to write the natural histories of MNA sanctuaries in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

The goals of the program are:

1. Complete seasonal species surveys of the plants, animals and fungi. Record habitat and any behavioral observations.
2. Complete natural histories for each Eastern Upper Peninsula sanctuary on a seven year rotation.
3. Offer opportunities to learn about sanctuary and become natural historians through personal

and hands-on experience while contributing to the written records of the sanctuaries.

4. Contribute to Land Trust Alliance (LTA) accreditation through a comprehensive survey and snap-shot of the sanctuaries' natural history.

There will be five assessment groups with a maximum of four people per group. Each group will focus on one of the following: birds; insects; reptiles and amphibians; mammals or plants

A group leader will be supplied with a form to record the species seen and observations about the behavior, or micro-habitat, of the species observed. Surveys are balanced with observational reports in order to provide context. For example, if a black-backed woodpecker was observed, the bird assessment group would not merely check it off on the supplied checklist, but each person in the group would write their observations on the behavior of the bird. What was it doing? What type of tree was it in? Was it observed entering and exiting a cavity in a tree? It is important to record as much observational information as possible. In this way, the group's individual behavior and habitat observations will be drawn together into a history of the natural events witnessed. The individuals in the group will become

Join an Assessment Team

Please consider joining the assessment team for one or more of the following assessment days. All assessments will start at dawn and finish by dusk.

May 20th - Martin Bay

May 30th and 31st - Swamp Lakes

Moose Refuge

June 6th - Two-Hearted River

June 7th - Pat Grogan Orchid Bog

Call the MNA office at (517)655-5655 or email volunteer@michigannature.org to sign up, get more information and for directions.

reporters contributing to a natural history of the sanctuary...they become natural historians.

Become a Steward

The Michigan Nature Association relies heavily on volunteer stewards to help care for our sanctuaries. The basic requirement for a steward is to visit the sanctuary twice a year and report on its condition. Many stewards go above and beyond by leading field trips and volunteer days but it's not mandatory. By becoming a steward you will not only help MNA protect its sanctuaries, but also witness the amazing events that happen throughout the seasons. If you're interested in becoming a steward, please contact Natalie Kent at

(517) 655-5655 or nkent@michigannature.org

MNA is in particular need of stewards in these counties:

Schoolcraft

Ontonagon

Jackson

Lenawee

Development Update

By Elizabeth A. Szufnar, Development Director

Philanthropy in the United States has its origins in mutual assistance, religion, civic participation, individualism and limited government. The hardships of the early settlers, where government was weak and distant, forced people to join together to establish law and order, to help one another, and to undertake community activities, such as building schools and churches, to promote the common good. Out of these experiences grew a tradition of citizen initiatives and individual efforts to promote the public welfare.

The modern notion of philanthropy began with Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish-born American industrialist and businessman. In 1889, he published an essay titled "Wealth" (also known as "The Gospel of Wealth") in which he held that it was the duty of the wealthy to distribute their fortunes, administering them to benevolent causes – philanthropy was the key to making life worthwhile.

Carnegie established one of the nation's first grant-making foundations in 1911, and other wealthy benefactors, such as oil tycoon John D. Rockefeller, followed suit. Today, there are tens of thousands of these institutions – private foundations, community foundations, and corporate foundations to name a few - that hold several hundred billion dollars in assets.

However, these institutions are now rivaled by another charitable force, one that Carnegie could have hardly foreseen- the gradually-expanding influence of individual donors of modest means. In 2007, a total of \$306 billion was contributed to charitable organizations. The largest group of contributors? Individuals. Individuals gave \$229 billion – almost 75% of the total. Of that 75%, all but 1% comes from households earning less than \$70,000 per year. [Foundations and corporations gave \$38.5 billion (12.5%)



Grinnell Memorial Nature Sanctuary at Bare Bluff can be seen across Fish Cove from the Kenneth W. and Timothy S. Gunn Memorial in Keweenaw County.

and \$15.7 billion (5%), respectively.]

Individual donors contribute to a diversity of causes such as the environment, the arts, education, social activism, and religion. Indeed, it could be said that Carnegie's gospel of wealth - originally directed to the affluent - has become scripture for millions of people.

By the time of his death in 1919, Carnegie had given away over \$350 million (approximately \$4.2 billion adjusted to 2007 figures). Since that time, philanthropy has become deeply rooted in our national psyche and the willingness of Americans to give cuts across all income levels. . . each of us can be our own Andrew Carnegie.

MNA Trustee Elections

On March 1st, MNA members elected two new members to the Board of Trustees - Kurt Jung and Jerry Gray. Five trustees were also re-elected - David Neven, Steve Kelley, Karen Weingarden, Margaret Welsch and Stan Kuchta. Each Trustee brings unique experiences and the capacity needed to guide MNA into the future. We would also like to thank and recognize outgoing Trustees Joan Chadde, Cheryl Collins, Leah Knapp, Daya Kujansuu and Vicki Levensgood. The new Board was seated at the March 21st Board of Trustees Meeting.

Even though the election just ended, we are already searching for candidates for the 2010 election. Michigan Nature Association Trustees are elected to four-year terms on a rotating basis and are expected to attend, in person or via conference call, six meetings a year. As a Trustee, you will play a key role in setting organizational policy,

shaping the long-range strategic plan, fundraising, serving on committees, and helping to implement MNA's annual plan.

All nominations for next year's election are due by December 1, 2009. If you have any questions or are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees, please contact Beverly Bandt, chair of the Nominating Committee at:

6945 Applegate Road
Applegate, MI 48401-9711
bbandt@greatlakes.net
(810)622-9962

Nature Notes:

A “Mousetrap” Carnivore: Bladderwort

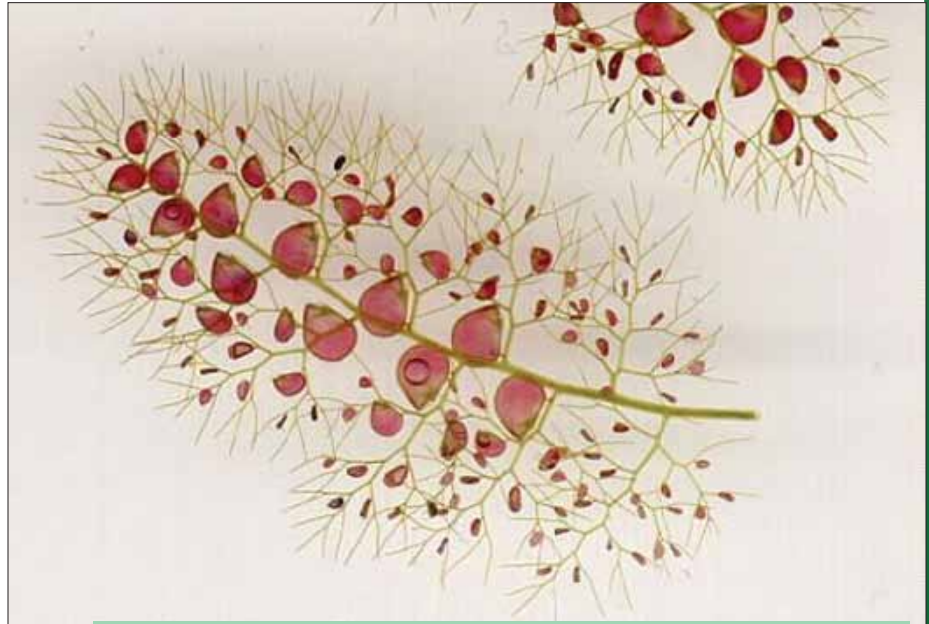
Michigan is home to several carnivorous, or insectivorous, plants such as bladderwort, pitcher plant, sundew and butterwort. In this article, MNA member Bill Bliss highlights bladderworts which capture insects like a mousetrap.

By Bill Bliss, MNA Member

Bladderwort, *Utricularia vulgaris*, is the incomparable mechanical trap. It can be found floating in the sphagnum moss section of the fen. The single yellow blossom of bladderwort rises on a stem out of the water. Under water, the plant has small “split-pea” size bladders that capture prey by sucking it into its pear-shaped capsule. Minute creatures such as water fleas, mosquito larvae, etc. become dinner for the plant. The bladder is recognized as a marvel of engineering design. It took botanists over 50 years to decipher the process and such a mechanism has not been found in any other genus.

The tiny bladder features a top-hinged door whose base sits in a recessed gap between two thresholds. It is slightly bowed outward so the water pressure difference between inside and outside forces a tight seal at its base. In addition, this tiny bladder provides a “velum” or awning attached to the outer threshold that serves as a “throw-rug” to further seal the door bottom. And finally, it provides a sealant substance - mucilage - to be assured of an effective seal.

Why all this? A non-leak seal is critical. Within the capsule are glands which “pump out” the interior water so the pressure inside is less than the exterior. When a minute



This dyed image of the bladderwort's bladders from www.bestcarnivorousplants.com shows how large the bladders can become when inflated (and dyed).

insect hits an external lever, the seal is broken and the insect is sucked inside.

Though it has moving parts, the property of irritability is not used. Particularly, after the door opens, which it does only passively, it instantly recovers its original position all in 1/33 second. Though its movements are made possible by turgidity, there is no change of turgor - hence the instant reversibility of movement. It is indeed a complex “engineered” design. For such a mechanism we cannot find an analog among other plants. Without further amplification, we may regard bladderwort as unique.



Bladderwort looks significantly different above the water with beautiful yellow flowers.
“Photo: www.knoch1.de”

request for articles

You may notice that some of the articles that appear in the MNA newsletter are written by our members. If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, please contact Paul Steiner at:

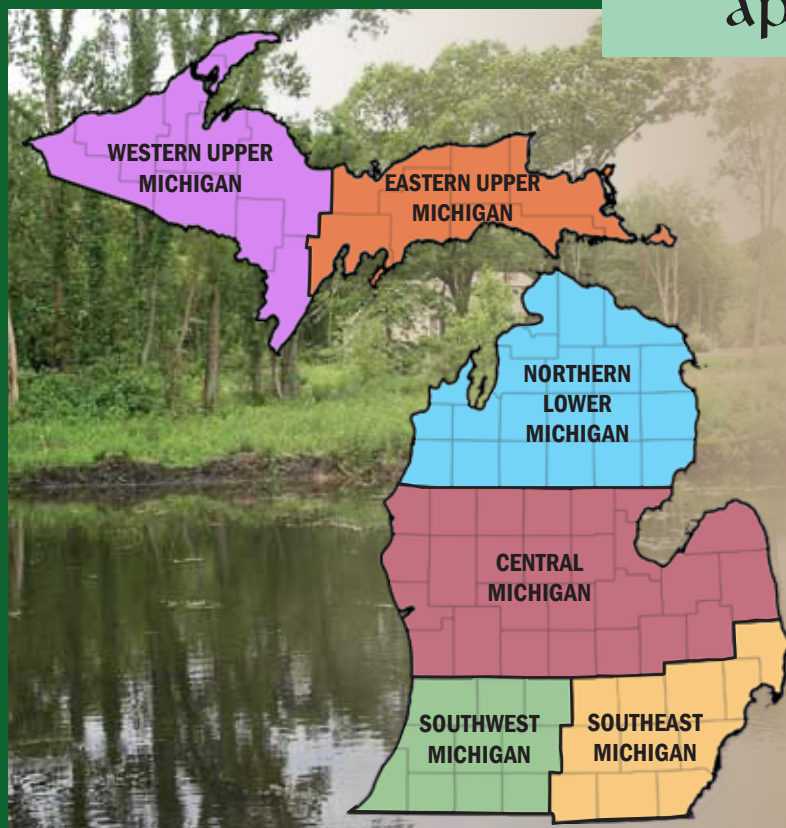
(517) 655-5655 or

psteiner@michigannature.org

for more details.

mna schedule of activities

april through july 2009



The Schedule of Activities has been redesigned to be more user-friendly and help our members and volunteers find their favorite activities with ease. Please let us know how you like it.

The map to the left will assist you in finding what region of Michigan you are located in. Use the following pages to see activities scheduled in your region from April to July 2009.

As always, please call the MNA office to R.S.V.P. for these events at (517)655-5655 or you can email us at michigannature@michigannature.org. Please let us know if you are planning to attend so we can share that with our program leaders, most of whom are volunteers. It helps greatly with planning. When you R.S.V.P. you can also get directions to the sites.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Saturday, May 16

Meet at 10 a.m.

Genevieve Casey

Oceana County

Join stewards John Hendrixon and Brad Hyde on a tour of this sanctuary that was once owned by U.S. Senator and Secretary of State, Daniel Webster. You will find a large marsh in the north part of the sanctuary, groves of pine and cedar in the south, and a low-shrub and lichen barren area in the center.

Saturday, May 16

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Coldwater River

Kent County

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from this sanctuary's beautiful forest along the Coldwater River. The Coldwater River Watershed Council has generously offered to provide lunch to all participants.

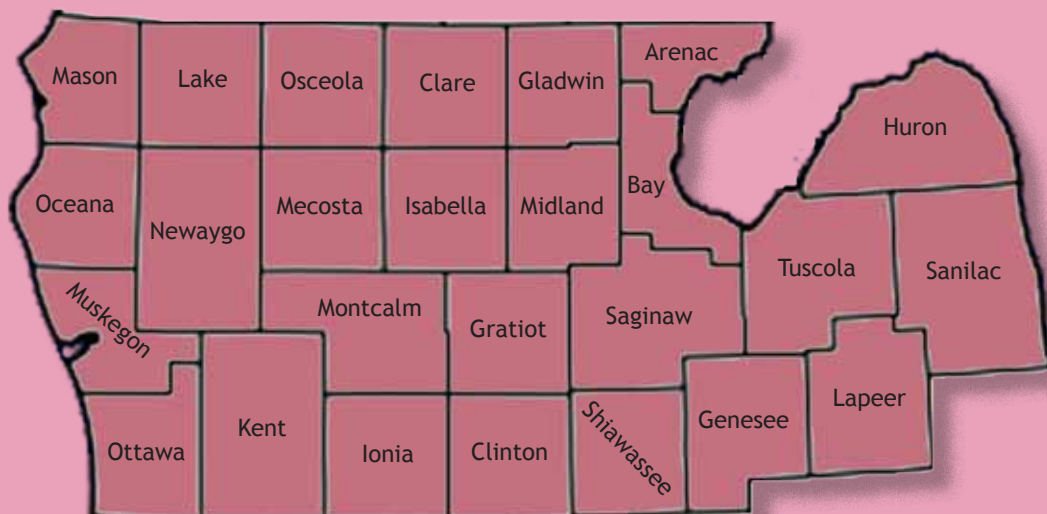
Tuesday, May 19

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Krum Memorial

Montcalm County

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard and young autumn olive from this beautiful sanctuary on Millmine Lake.



Saturday, July 18

Karner Blue and Newaygo Prairie

Newaygo County

Jeff Ganley will lead three events at two sanctuaries in one day! Starting at 9 a.m. at Karner Blue, Jeff will lead a volunteer day to clear spotted knapweed on the sanctuary. After the pull, at 1 p.m. Jeff will lead a guided tour of Karner Blue. Later that night at 8 p.m., we will have a rare evening field trip at the Newaygo Prairie Nature Sanctuary. Optional Sunday events exist as well. Call the MNA office for more details.

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Saturday, May 2

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Timberland Swamp

Oakland County

Help MNA steward Walt Kummer clean up at MNA's largest nature sanctuary in Oakland County.

Saturday, May 9

Meet at 10 a.m.

Wilcox Warnes

Macomb County

Travel with steward Margaret Moran through this sanctuary's mature mixed hardwood forest and along the new boardwalk looking for spring wildflowers and listening for migrating birds. A short trail dedication ceremony will be held before the hike. We will be naming two memorial trails in memory of MNA members Jane Kohring and Margie Watkins, two friends who enjoyed visiting MNA sanctuaries. Both Jane and Margie lived in the metro Detroit area and helped MNA's efforts in Macomb County in the early years of the Michigan Nature Association.

Saturday, May 9

1 p.m.

Timberland Swamp

Oakland County

The main trail at Timberland has been rejuvenated. An inaugural hike will be led to dedicate a memorial trail in memory of Alicia Orihel, of Oakland County. A dedication ceremony will be held before the hike.

Saturday, May 16

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rizor

Livingston County

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from this sanctuary's beautiful floodplain along Cornell Creek.

Saturday, May 16

10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Polovich Memorial

12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Jasper Woods

Polovich Memorial and Jasper Woods

St. Clair County

Join stewards Bill Atkinson and John Fody for a delightful spring walk in two unique sanctuaries. The tranquility of Polovich Memorial will be a treat as you listen for birds and take in views of the Pine River bordered by an array of blooming wildflowers. Jasper Woods, with its secluded hemlock groves and unique painted trillium, also promises to satisfy your curiosity. The group will meet at Polovich Memorial and then travel to Jasper Woods.

Saturday, May 16

10 a.m. to Noon

Broehl Memorial #1

Lenawee County

Prepare to embark on a journey into this attractive Irish Hills sanctuary with MNA member and botanist Bob Smith. Noteworthy features here include the clear and refreshing upper reach of Wolf Creek that winds through the property, an oak-hickory forest and a variety of spring wildflowers. Be sure to keep your eyes and ears open for birds as well.



Sunday, May 17

Meet at 2 p.m.

Rodman Memorial

Washtenaw County

Please help remove invasive garlic mustard and dames rocket from the Saline River floodplain and adjacent beech-maple forest on this sanctuary. Trillium, appendaged waterleaf, Christmas fern, agrimonia, spicebush and many other native species await your visit and assistance.

Sunday, May 17

Meet at 1 p.m.

Alice Moore Woods

St. Clair County

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from this sanctuary known for its giant white, red and burr oaks.

Wednesday, May 27

Meet at 9 a.m.

Red Cedar River

Ingham County

Join MNA member Jim Hewitt for a birding and botany trip into the floodplain of the peaceful Red Cedar River. Experience the sanctuary as you never have before with new stairs and boardwalk made possible with assistance from MNA contractor Keith Saylor, REI, sanctuary donor Doug Price and many exceptional volunteers.

Saturday, June 20

Meet at 1 p.m.

Lakeville Swamp

Oakland County

Join Morgan-Porritt Plant Preserve steward Sherry Jakubik and steward Fred Dye for a visit into this white cedar swamp, which is one of the most species-rich areas of its kind in Oakland County. More than 400 species of native plants are found here including showy lady's-slippers and round-leaved sundew.

Please help your program leaders plan for the events by calling the office at (517)655-5655 or emailing volunteer@michigannature.org.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Wednesday, April 22 EARTH DAY

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dowagiac Woods

Cass County

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from this extremely diverse and exceptional sanctuary. The beauty of the many native spring ephemerals will reward you for your efforts.

Saturday, April 25

Annual Membership Meeting

Pokagon Township Office

Cass County

Meeting begins at 1 p.m.

After the meeting, join us for a tour of Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary known for its amazing spring wildflower display. Near the end of the tour, you will have a chance to help the sanctuary by removing invasive garlic mustard on your way out.

Tuesday, April 28

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dowagiac Woods

Cass County

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from this extremely diverse and exceptional sanctuary. The beauty of the many native spring ephemerals will reward you for your efforts.

Wednesday, April 29

9 a.m. to Noon

Hamilton Township Coastal Plain Marsh

Van Buren County

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from this unique sanctuary that protects a coastal plain marsh.

Saturday, May 2

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dowagiac Woods

Cass County

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from this extremely diverse and exceptional sanctuary. The beauty of the many native spring ephemerals will reward you for your efforts.

Sunday, May 3

Meet at 2 p.m.

Brewer Property

Kalamazoo County

Join biological scientist, author and MNA member Richard Brewer on a journey into one of the best remaining beech-maple (mesic southern) forests in Michigan, complete with an impressive display of more than 20 species of wildflowers in bloom this time of year.

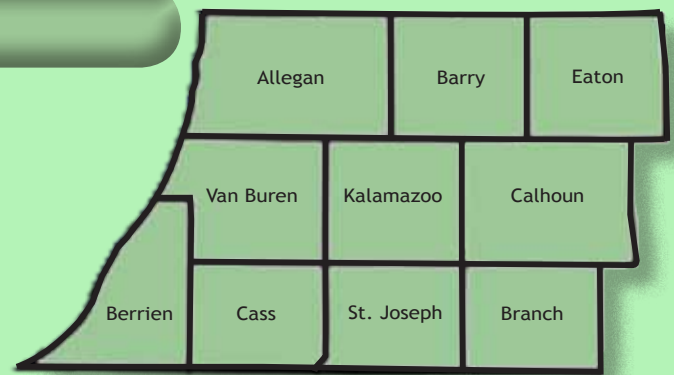
Tuesday, May 5

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dowagiac Woods

Cass County

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from this extremely diverse and exceptional sanctuary. The beauty of the many native spring ephemerals will reward you for your efforts.



Thursday, May 7

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Prairie Ronde Savanna

St. Joseph County

Please help us remove invasive plants that are shading the prairie of this remarkable preserve.

Saturday, May 9

Meet at 11 a.m. Field Trip

Meet at 1 p.m. Volunteer Day

Kope Kon

Branch County

Join MNA member Jeff Ganley for a walk through the virgin oak, hickory and tulip trees that this sanctuary is known for. Visiting the red maple swamp and the shoreline of Lake George may be an option for those who bring waterproof kneeboots or don't mind getting wet. Please consider staying after the field trip to help remove invasive garlic mustard threatening the diversity and long-term viability of this site.

Saturday, May 9

9 a.m. to Noon

Hamilton Township Coastal Plain Marsh

Van Buren County

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from this unique sanctuary that protects a coastal plain marsh.

Saturday, May 16

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

White Pigeon

St. Joseph County

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from the sanctuary's oak-hickory woods and White Pigeon River floodplain. Be sure to enjoy the views of the river along with some of the unique trees here, including redbud and pawpaw.

Thursday, May 21

Thursday, June 4

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Prairie Ronde Savanna

St. Joseph County

Please help us remove invasive plants that are shading the prairie of this remarkable preserve.

EASTERN UPPER MICHIGAN

Wednesday, May 20

From Dawn to Dusk

Martin Bay

Delta County

Join us for the Spring 2009 Natural History Assessment of Martin Bay! See page 9 for more information.

Saturday, May 30 - Sunday, May 31

From Dawn to Dusk Both Days

Swamp Lakes Moose Refuge

Luce County

Join us for the Spring 2009 Natural History Assessment of Swamp Lakes Moose Refuge! See page 9 for more information.

Saturday, June 6

From Dawn to Dusk

Two-Hearted River

Luce County

Join us for the Spring 2009 Natural History Assessment of Two Hearted River Nature Sanctuary! See page 9 for more information.

Sunday, June 7

From Dawn to Dusk

Pat Grogan Orchid Bog

Chippewa County

Join us for the Spring 2009 Natural History Assessment of the Pat Grogan Orchid Bog Nature Sanctuary! See page 9 for more information.



Wednesday, July 15

From Dawn to Dusk

Martin Bay

Delta County

Join us for the Summer 2009 Natural History Assessment of Martin Bay! See page 9 for more information.

Saturday, July 25 - Sunday, July 26

From Dawn to Dusk Both Days

Swamp Lakes Moose Refuge

Luce County

Join us for the Summer 2009 Natural History Assessment of Swamp Lakes! See page 9 for more information.

WESTERN UPPER MICHIGAN

NORTHERN LOWER MICHIGAN

There are no events scheduled for the Western Upper Peninsula or Northern Lower Peninsula until this fall. If you are interested in coordinating or leading an event please contact the MNA office at (517)655-5655 or email Natalie Kent at nkent@michigannature.org.



The Thunder Bay River flows through the Colby Plant Preserve near Alpena in the Northern Lower Peninsula.



Trustee Profile



Gisela Lendle King

By Mary Ann Czechowski, MNA Trustee

Gisela Lendle King has been active in the Michigan Nature Association for nearly 20 years, assisting with land acquisition and protection, especially in Oakland County. First elected to the Board of Trustees in 2004, she is a strong advocate for the ecology of the natural environment and for the habitats preserved by the Michigan Nature Association. Gisela takes an active interest in stewardship of MNA sanctuaries and plant preserves, and in governance of the Michigan Nature Association.

When and how did you first learn about the Michigan Nature Association?

I first learned about the Michigan Nature Association in the early 1990s, during an Earth Day event, where the Michigan Nature Association announced its plan to save the last wild places in Oakland County. I realized that MNA was looking at land in the township where I lived, and I called Bertha (Daubendiek), co-founder of the MNA and executive director at that time, and offered my help. I became involved with the exploration of future sanctuaries such as the Big Valley, Rose Center Wetlands, Morgan Porritt, and others.

What has continued your interest in MNA?

The fact that MNA acquires land that protects rare and endangered plants and animals, and unique Michigan habitats, keeps me interested. Searching for those and studying an area, and then actually finding something rare and unique is absolutely fascinating to me. I learn something new every time I go out into the field. I have had some of the best times sharing those experiences with our volunteer explorers.

What activities are you currently participating in for MNA? What have you participated in?

I am currently a member of the Governance Committee. I have also worked with the Chair of the Sanctuary Committee on land acquisitions, a complex process necessitating much scrutiny to make sure a certain parcel of land has the features we are looking for.

Do you have a favorite MNA Sanctuary? Why is it a favorite?

My favorite sanctuary is the Big Valley, where I first met the MNA explorers and volunteers. We would spend many days, weeks and months, often stuck in the muck, looking for rare and interesting “wild things.” The Big Valley has a multitude of different micro-ecosystems and, therefore, many different types of habitat side by side interacting with each other, an interesting phenomenon due to the glacial till beneath the surface soils. It is also very beautiful, with 15 to 20 rare species documented.

Where do you live? Are you from Michigan?

I live in Rose Township, a rural community in northern Oakland County. I am from Germany, where I lived until my early twenties.

When did you first become interested in nature and the natural environment?

When I was still an infant, my father would bring me frogs, toads and snakes, so I’ve been told. When I was older, Papa and I would explore and hike the forests and fields in my home state of Hessen. I have always liked outdoor activities and adventures, and discovering interesting wild things.

What, to you, is special about Michigan, and the natural environment of Michigan? What aspect of the natural environment of Michigan interests you the most?

Besides Michigan’s many lakes and streams, it is definitely the many wetlands, particularly the upper headwaters with their mucky streams that are so special and interesting. That is exactly what one finds in the Big Valley. When I first came to Michigan more than 40 years ago, I found the biggest snapping turtle I ever saw in a little swampy bay near a lake. Sadly, that is now a parking lot. I decided back then that I wanted to get to know more of Michigan’s wilderness. I bought a rubber raft and, armed with geological survey maps and binoculars, I persuaded my family to come with me to explore the back country of Michigan.

What, to you, is special about the Michigan Nature Association, and what MNA has accomplished and is continuing to accomplish?

More than fifty years of searching for and finding the last wild places of Michigan, having examples of the rarest and finest natural features, mostly with volunteers, I believe is a huge accomplishment for the Michigan Nature Association. To be able to continue finding such places, and protect them in perpetuity, will continue that legacy in the future.

Do you have any particular goals for helping the Michigan Nature Association as a Trustee?

The last five to ten years have brought many changes and legal challenges to the land trust community. To help navigate our organization safely and successfully toward the future, to stay connected to the many old timers and volunteers who have made the Michigan Nature Association successes possible, and to learn how best to protect our sanctuaries and find other special places waiting to be discovered, that is my wish.

Prairie Ronde Savanna Plant Preserve: A Southwest Michigan Jewel

By Clifford W. Welsch, MNA Steward Prairie Ronde Savanna Plant Preserve is a high-quality MNA savanna located in southwest Michigan, St. Joseph County to be more specific. It is named after the great Prairie Ronde Prairie which was the largest (12,600 acres) of eight prairies that covered the southwest part of the state.

It is a small preserve, 3 acres, characterized as having sandy soil with a high water table. I agreed to become a volunteer steward of this preserve in 2004 knowing that it had not been ecologically-managed for many years and when managed in the past, only very sporadically. In 2004, this preserve was inundated with a number of problematic native and non-native aggressive species, e.g. staghorn sumac, sassafras, glossy buckthorn, multiflora rose, garlic mustard, spotted knapweed and queen Anne's lace, just to name a few. Today, after hundreds of hours of volunteer work, invasive species have been reduced by 95-99%! Removal of these species have resulted in a dramatic increase in the numbers of native species (over 50 native grasses and flowering plants), many of which are on Michigan's rare plant list. From 2004 to 2008, several rare species have increased in number multifold, one of them exponentially! The major



Wild white indigo is one of the many plant species that can be found at Prairie Ronde.

tree species on this preserve are white oak, black oak and scarlet oak.

Efforts toward the eradication of the non-desirable vegetation on this preserve are currently, and will continue to be, undertaken via hand digging and herbicide application (spot spraying, sponge

application and/or basal bark/stump treatments). Importantly, with regard to this particular MNA preserve, it is my opinion that the most important management "tool" that we employ is controlled burning. Since 2004, we have burned this site annually.

In 1995, after retiring as a faculty member of Michigan State University, I decided to devote my retirement activities primarily to the specialty field of ecological restoration, in particular the reconstruction and/or restoration of our state's native tallgrass prairie, one of our state's most



This photo shows part of the sanctuary following an annual burn. These burns have helped eliminate over 95% of the invasive plants on this site. (The native plants return in few weeks.)

endangered land types. From 1995 to 2004, I directed native grass and broadleaf plantings (primarily reconstructions) of greater than 1,000 acres. In 2004, I readily accepted the opportunity, provided by MNA, to direct the restoration of Prairie Ronde Savanna Plant Preserve. This has been a wonderful learning experience because grassland/savanna restorations are in many ways strikingly different than grassland/savanna reconstructions. The thrill of seeing the ecological return of one of our state's most precious natural areas, the return of our native grassland flora as the dominant vegetative species, is of a magnitude that is near impossible to convey. I am hopeful that other MNA members will engage in this activity, either as a volunteer sanctuary steward or as a volunteer helper. Being able to work in the beauty of one of MNA's natural areas around the state and working to ensure that our future generations will have such land types to learn from, enjoy and revere, is a personal legacy virtually unsurpassed.

Prairie Ronde Savanna Plant Preserve is classified as a type "C" preserve due to its sensitive flora. While visitors are welcome, they must first obtain permission from Michigan Nature Association by calling the MNA office at

upcoming volunteer days

Please join

Steward Clifford Welsch

as he continues to remove invasive plants from this remarkable preserve:

May 7

May 21

June 4

All events are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call the MNA office for more details and to R.S.V.P.

Featured Volunteer

Featured Volunteer: Dave Wendling



By Veronica Jackson, MNA Journalism Intern

For a prime example of an active Michigan Nature Association volunteer, look no further than Dave Wendling. A member since 2000, Dave is currently a steward

for Bankson Lake Bog Nature Sanctuary, Flowerfield Creek Nature Sanctuary and he is a co-steward at Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary. He also volunteers at other MNA sanctuaries, enjoys attending special functions like the garlic mustard dinners and attends field trips to different sanctuaries he sees posted in the newsletter.

Dave first learned about MNA in 2000 when he read about a field trip to Hamilton Township Coastal Plain Marsh Nature Sanctuary in a local newspaper. He attended the trip led by sanctuary steward Charles Goodrich. Dave talked to Goodrich about the MNA and became a member after that trip.

For Dave, visiting natural areas where new plants and animals can be discovered is the best part about volunteering. He also enjoys learning about Michigan's native ecosystems while meeting other volunteers. Dave is interested in ferns,

Michigan turtles, and he has participated in frog and toad surveys. He currently participates in the winter "Project FeederWatch" bird count and is part of Wild Ones, a group that promotes using native plants in landscaping. Dave is also a volunteer and steward for the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy.

When asked about his favorite MNA sanctuary or plant preserve, Dave could not pick one. He says he enjoys the spring wildflowers at Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary and Twin Waterfalls Memorial Plant Preserve. In fact, visiting Twin Falls for the first time with his wife Joan is Dave's favorite MNA memory. He says it was like walking into a magical world. Every time they visit the Upper Peninsula they go back. Michigan is special, Dave says, because it has many natural areas not heavily influenced by humans.

Dave has lived in Michigan most of his life. He grew up in Saginaw County on a dairy farm and attended the University of Detroit. He went to medical school in Ann Arbor and completed his family practice residency at St. Joseph Hospital in Flint. Dave currently lives in Lawton with his wife, Joan, and owns a medical practice. He has two grown sons and an eight-month-old granddaughter.

In the future, Dave says he might try to help MNA as a volunteer coordinator for Southwest Michigan.

Volunteer Options

George Romney, a former Michigan Governor, once said: "The magnitude of our social problems will require that all citizens make a commitment to volunteering as a way of life and as a primary opportunity to create needed change."

At MNA our notion of "change" is the protection of Michigan's natural heritage, but we cannot do that without volunteers, without people like you enthusiastically giving your time to support the work that we do each day.

If you have not already done so, take a few minutes to look through the schedule of activities in this newsletter, find a volunteer event you would like to help with and sign-up! We also have a strong need for volunteers in our Williamston office, so whether you prefer working indoors or out, we have an opportunity for you. Who knows you may even have a page of the newsletter dedicated to you! (Of course, if you want to remain anonymous that's fine as well.)

If you have questions, or need help finding the best volunteer opportunity for you, please call the MNA office at (517) 655-5655 or email volunteer@michigannature.org.

electronic newsletter available

In an effort to save paper and make it easier to share your newsletter with friends, the MNA newsletter is now available via e-mail. If you would like to view your newsletter as an Adobe PDF, please e-mail us at

michigannature@michigannature.org.

You will need Adobe Reader (available for free at www.adobe.com)

or Adobe Acrobat to view the electronic version. Most computers already have this capability.

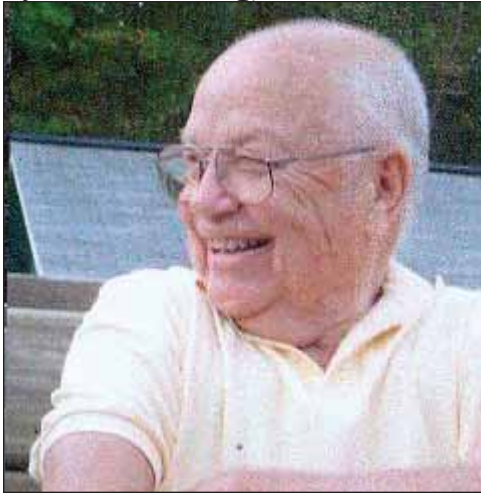
The electronic version of the newsletter also will be available on the MNA website at www.michigannature.org.



Saying Goodbye to Special Friends

Ralph Dreisbach

By Robert Roehrig, MNA Steward



On December 15, 2008 the Michigan Nature Association lost one of our long time stewards. Ralph Dreisbach was born on September 19, 1926 in Detroit and passed away at his home in Holly. Ralph served as a dedicated sanctuary steward for ten

years, taking over the role shortly after the Dauner Martin Nature Sanctuary was acquired in Fenton.

Ralph was one of the most dedicated individuals I have ever met, and the nature sanctuary was one of his main passions. He developed many miles of walking trails in his tenure. Each trail had his handmade marker signs along with the large Michigan Nature Association sign he made at the entrance. You could always find Ralph out

keeping the trails groomed, building bird nesting houses, putting in handmade benches, and other tasks he so much enjoyed such as writing well over 150 articles for the Tri-County Times about Dauner Martin. His dedication to the sanctuary was unrivaled.

Ralph always found time to lead tours for scouting groups, school classes and anyone else interested in the Dauner Martin site. Ralph's heart and soul will always remain within the beautiful forests and fields at Dauner Martin. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.



This giant black ash, *Fraxinus nigra*, can be found at Dauner Martin which Ralph Dreisbach served as the steward for many years.

Maurice Becker

By Jeremy Emmi, Executive Director



Maurice Becker, a long-time MNA member and supporter, passed away in December at age 87. Maurice designed the artwork for one of MNA's holiday cards that was used a few years ago- a cozy cottage nestled beside a wintertime stream in the forest. I was

fortunate to visit Maurice at his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico in the fall of 2007, where I saw his proudest artistic achievement. The 8' x 20' mural he painted at La Vida Llena, the retirement facility where he resided, depicts many aspects of New Mexico life and ecology. Left a paraplegic since 1952, Maurice painted the large mural

with a specially-built scaffold. He pointed out among the wonderful renderings in the mural a "Tony the Tiger" hot air balloon, presumably a symbol of affection to his many years in Michigan.

Maurice grew up in the Catskill Mountains of New York State, and after being wounded in World War II, continued college at Cornell University. He then married Eugenia Wilkin of Ithaca, New York, and went on to earn a Doctorate from Purdue in Microbiology. Maurice set up and directed state virology laboratories in both Maryland and Michigan, and contributed greatly to civic organizations in the Lansing area during his quarter-century living here. His civic involvement continued in New Mexico, where he was named Albuquerque Citizen of the Year in 1999.

Maurice would sometimes call the MNA office to help from afar on design of materials, such as signs or artwork for publication. He suggested folks to call to aid with acquisition efforts in certain parts of the state and generally helped where he could, even though he was 1,500 miles away. Knowledgeable about the natural world, he was learning a great deal about the New Mexico desert ecosystem, a very different place than the green, wet places of Michigan. A brilliant and caring man, Maurice will be missed dearly.

Members and Donors

From March 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009

Beginning with this newsletter, we will no longer be recognizing donors each newsletter. Instead we will recognize the total contributions donors make each fiscal year in the April newsletter (The MNA fiscal year runs from March 1st to the last day of February the following year.) We will continue to immediately recognize "In Memory" or "In Honor" donations each newsletter, as well as new members. Thank you to all donors who make MNA's work possible.

Dwarf Lake Iris Guardians (\$10,000 or more)

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**Remembering MNA
in your will or estate
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We apologize for any errors or omissions



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Hummingbird DVD Still Available!

MNA member Keith Saylor takes us on a visual journey through the nesting cycle of the ruby-throated hummingbird. You will experience a female hummingbird raising her young over a 43-day period – from nest building to fledging the young. Throughout the video you will glimpse other nesting birds raising their young. An almost two-hour journey that will surely heighten your appreciation of the ruby-throated hummingbird, and wild birds in general, can be yours for only \$29.95. A short clip of the video is available on our website at www.michigannature.org. You can order the DVD online or by calling the MNA office at (517) 655-5655.

Become an MNA Protector

The MNA Protector Program is MNA's monthly giving program where members like you can work together with our staff every month to preserve and protect Michigan's natural heritage. As an MNA Protector, your contribution will go towards our general support fund, providing MNA with the critical support necessary to preserve, protect and maintain our sanctuaries and preserves.

It's simple.

Determine what amount you wish to give each month – the minimum monthly contribution is \$10 – and provide MNA with your checking account or credit card information (Visa or MasterCard only). Your contribution will either be automatically transferred from your checking account or charged to your credit card. And, if you would like to increase your monthly contribution, decrease it, or stop it altogether, just contact us. MNA will handle any changes you wish to make.

It's convenient.

Each month, the transaction will appear on your bank or credit card statement showing the date and amount of your contribution. In addition, MNA will send you a year-end statement reflecting your total contribution because, as with your other gifts to MNA, your contributions as an MNA Protector are tax-deductible.

And you can be assured, it's safe.

Your checking account or credit card information is stored in a secure location in MNA's office and the monthly transactions are conducted by a trustworthy MNA staff member. And, MNA will only transfer the specified amount from your checking account or charge your credit card. With your monthly gift as a MNA Protector, you will provide sustainable, predictable support for our ongoing efforts. It's also a great way to help MNA keep costs down because we save money by not having to send out membership renewal notices each year.

MNA offers three convenient ways to become an MNA Protector:

- 1) Complete the enclosed remittance envelope and return it to MNA;
- 2) Sign-up online at www.michigannature.org (for credit cards only); or
- 3) Call the MNA office at (517) 655-5655.

We encourage you to become an MNA Protector today.

You Can Make a Difference!



The Michigan Nature Association has worked for over 50 years to preserve and protect the finest natural areas in Michigan, which are home to some of the most extraordinary plants, animals, and habitats. We are dedicated to protecting these resources forever so that future generations can experience firsthand what you help us preserve today.

We invite you to support our efforts. The success of MNA relies on the support of people like you. . . in fact, we cannot do it without you.

JOIN

MNA is comprised of individuals who care deeply about the natural heritage of our state. If you're not a member of MNA, please join today. If you are a member, consider giving a gift of membership to a family member or friend who shares your love of nature.

CONTRIBUTE

1 Make a contribution in addition to paying your membership dues. There are several funds you can contribute to:

- General Support
- Bertha A. Daubendiek Sanctuary Preservation
- General Endowment
- Land Acquisition Endowment
- Dowagiac Woods Endowment
- Estivant Pines Endowment
- Sarah Jane's Endowment

2 Become an MNA Protector. The MNA Protector program is a monthly giving program. Each month, MNA will automatically charge your credit card or deduct from your checking account an amount you choose. By becoming an MNA Protector, you provide sustainable, predictable support and it's also a great way for MNA to keep costs down.

3 Make a memorial contribution or an honorarium. You can pay tribute to the memory of a friend or loved one, or honor them, by donating to MNA in their name. Contributions are directed to MNA's General Endowment.

Did you know you can double your contribution to MNA?

Many employers offer matching gift programs on behalf of their employees, so your contribution to MNA could be matched by your employer. For example, if your contribution is \$100, your employer matches that, resulting in a total contribution of \$200 to MNA. Contact your employer's human resources department to determine if they will match your contribution and to obtain the form which you must complete and include with your contribution.

Contribution Levels

\$10,000+	Dwarf Lake Iris
\$5,000 - \$9,999	Karner Blue Butterfly
\$2,500 - \$4,999	Piping Plover
\$1,000 - \$2,499	White Pine
\$500 - \$999	Brook Trout
\$250 - \$499	Northern Maidenhair Fern
\$100 - \$249	Partner
\$50 - \$99	Friend
\$35 - \$49	Member
\$20 - \$34	Living Lightly

At the conclusion of each fiscal year, you will be recognized as a contributor at the level that reflects your total contributions to MNA throughout the year.

VOLUNTEER

The Michigan Nature Association relies heavily on volunteers to help us protect and maintain our sanctuaries.

- 4** Leave a lasting legacy with a planned gift. MNA offers members and supporters the opportunity to make a gift in a number of ways including a will, trust, annuity, insurance or other planned or deferred gift.
- 5** Contribute to the Combined Federal Campaign at your workplace through Earth Share of Michigan.
- 6** Contribute to a community foundation. MNA currently has endowment funds with three community foundations – the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, the Keweenaw Community Foundation, and the Community Foundation for Muskegon County – which provide for support of MNA's properties and future land acquisition in specific counties.
- 7** Change your internet search engine to GoodSearch, which donates 50% of its revenue to the charities designated by its users. Using GoodSearch earns the Michigan Nature Association about one penny per search.
- 8** When you shop online, use iGive.com. A percentage of each online purchase is contributed to MNA.



michigan nature association

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Fall Adventure to the Eastern Upper Peninsula!

By Paul Steiner, Office Manager

With spring in the air, it means it is time to mark your calendar for the Michigan Nature Association's Fall Adventure this October.

This year we will be returning to the UP after three great trips below the bridge. We are still finalizing the agenda but will be visiting Harvey's Rocks on Drummond Island, Fred Dye Nature Sanctuary, Beavertail Point and Lake Huron Sand Dunes all in the Upper Peninsula and Parsons Memorial in the Lower Peninsula and perhaps a couple others as well.



The fall colors should be out in full force at the Fred Dye Nature Sanctuary.



**Steward Sherry Kovach and friends visit Harvey's Rocks
Plant Preserve on Drummond Island.**

Harvey's Rocks is a perfect example of a cobblestone beach. The ghost town of Kenneth is home to the Fred Dye Nature Sanctuary which has one of only two purple coneflower populations in the state as well as numerous animals including bald eagles, sandhill cranes, and black bears. The one sanctuary in the Lower Peninsula we will be visiting is Parsons Memorial. This sanctuary protects two upland northern forest communities, a rich conifer swamp and part of Furgeson Lake.

The trip is planned for October 2 through October 4. As in the past, MNA will rent a bus so all you have to do is meet at one of the two pickup locations- Lansing and Novi - and enjoy a relaxing weekend.

Look for more details in the July newsletter.