

michigan nature association



Preserving Michigan's Natural Heritage Since 1952

January to March 2010
Volume 58 Issue 4

WHAT'S INSIDE

Discover Goose Creek
Nature Sanctuary

Taking an Indoor
Season Outside

Events That Span the
Season and the State

Key Dates to Save for
Upcoming Meetings

And Much More!

Lake Superior Shore
Photo By Natalie Kent-Norkowski

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From the Director



In late November I found myself in the MNA office on a Saturday catching up on some work. It was a beautiful day outside, with nature mimicking the conditions of an early spring day. Suddenly I had the urge start spring cleaning, even though winter had not even come yet.

What was this feeling? Whatever it was, I wasn't the only one who had it. When I went home that day, I found several of my neighbors cleaning or working on outside tasks they had been putting off. Was it just that everyone was trying to get a last bit of work done while the weather was mild? Or, was it that we respond to certain changes in the weather in either an innate or a conditioned manner?

Waterfowl can be coerced out of migration by warm temperatures or plenty of food. Perhaps humans are easily fooled into spring cleaning by a gorgeous fall day that feels like spring.

Seasonality is an aspect of human life and that of virtually every living organism on earth. Research shows that our Circadian (daily) clocks are disrupted by daylight savings time every year. However, seasonality in humans has drastically declined in industrialized countries over the last 60 years.¹ The major factor of why seasonality has declined was described as “dissociation of human biology from the seasons.”

Our artificial lighting, air conditioning and heating systems shelter us from the seasons, as do many of our modern conveniences. But outdoors, our native plants and animals live a different life, tied inextricably to the seasons. Food and energy become more scarce this time of year, whether it's sunlight for the white pine, insects and berries for the chickadee, or rabbits for the red fox.

I encourage you to get outside this winter and re-associate yourself with this season. Snowshoe, ski, hike or sled your way through nature. Scan the ground for animal tracks, look at the sky to see what birds stay year-round, and try to identify the trees by their bark alone.

Enjoy the sights, knowing that your support of MNA is helping to protect Michigan's best natural places. When your fingers become so cold you can't feel them, go inside. Eat healthy food and appreciate the fact that we are dissociated enough from the seasons to be warm in winter but not enough to forget what a wonderful season it is. And, if the urge to hibernate comes over you, give in.



Photo by Natalie Kent-Norkowski
A view of Lake Superior at the Keweenaw Shores Nature Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Emmi
Executive Director

¹Roenneberg, T. (2004). The decline in human seasonality. *J. Biol. Rhythms* 19, 193–195.

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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

Goose Creek Nature Sanctuary



Photo By Keith Saylor

The Goose Creek Nature Sanctuary is home to many native plants that have survived a struggle with invasives and remains a place of tranquility.

By Keith Saylor Eastern UP Field Representative

There are places of significance throughout Michigan. Some of them are man-made and others are natural. Some of these places attract so many people that the man-made and the natural are somehow blended into a mutual solemnity.

Of the natural places, there are those that are wonderful and compelling, and then there are also those that are venerable. These are the weighty places that take up the souls of men and women so that they feel the ages upon them and their breath is taken away as whisperings of the natural history of the place imbue understanding.

The Goose Creek Nature Sanctuary is

one of those places. The landscape reflects the ages; harkening back to glaciation when the landscape and resulting living things was shaped by the heaving of massive ice forms.

Goose Creek is a prairie fen complex made up of distinct yet intertwined and interrelated spheres of plant life. The plants found here depend in large measure on the hydrology of a particular area in the fen complex. The Michigan Natural Features Inventory highlights “several distinct vegetation zones” in a prairie fen and designates them as inundated fen, sedge meadow, marl flats, and wooded fen. Each one of these zones can be found within the Goose Creek Sanctuary.

Someone once told me “a fen weeps.” That phrase will stay with me because it is the true essence of a prairie fen;

especially in the marl flat zones. Seeps run through the fen from ridges supporting oak openings toward the creek that follows the boundary of the sanctuary. Unlike flowing brooks or streamlets, the creek seeps ooze through the fen often just beneath the vegetation. It is so pleasurable and meditative sitting among the sedges and grasses on a hot quiet summer afternoon with a subtle breeze caressing and cooling the skin. But then ... hold your breath ... listen quietly ... put your head close to the moist ground ... you hear it; a very subtle crackling or popping as water oozes through the fen. The fen weeps as individual tears slowly work their way along the cheek of the fen.

Late last summer I was in the sanctuary watching a nesting pair of cedar

waxwings. I had watched them off and on from incubating to just before fledging. It was a warm afternoon and I was struck by the connection I felt. So many things this place had revealed, shared, and taught to its frequent visitors. I became overwhelmed by the beauty of the place. I penned this into my notebook:

"I love the observation that a fen weeps. The ground water just so slowly passing through the fen from higher ground and into the creek. There is just something powerful and very spiritual contemplating the weeping fen and the wild plants and

animals that this weeping supports."

I went on to write:

"I cannot ignore the intimacy I experience here; especially during a warm and humid afternoon. Observing and experiencing a fen can be incredibly intimate; inviting and yielding, touching to the very quickening of the spirit ... soul soothing ... water oozes into the raw flow of the stream. Life and Love in communion!"

Like so many other places of power and venerability, this place reveals little to those who are casual visitors. To truly

know Goose Creek, you must spend time there. Here there are no predetermined paths. There are only those that can be followed through a relationship with the fen. Only those light troughs of intimacy with the fen. It is the relationship with you and the fen that determines the depth of your journey.

1. Michigan's Natural Communities: Prairie Fen, <http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/communities/community.cfm?id=10667>

A Brush With Buckthorn

Photos By Sherri Laier

A few years ago, the landscape's testament to venerability, and to the diversity of living things growing there, was threatened by the encroachment of non-native invasive plant species, in particular, the glossy buckthorn. The shrub threatened to change the very character of the place by so thoroughly populating the landscape, very little else could grow.

The glossy buckthorn's growing population became one of the major threats to the sanctuary. The Michigan Nature Association's Stewardship Director Sherri Laier coordinated and managed an effort to halt the buckthorn invasion. Areas of the sanctuary were completely dominated by large buckthorn shrubs so Sherri along with her volunteers began a determined effort to remove the invasive shrub. This effort included days of cutting and treating the shrubs with herbicide, backpack spraying of the shrub's foliage, and executing prescribed burns. A few years later, much of the buckthorn is now removed and native plants have begun growing in the shrub's stead. Among these plants are many state threatened plant species, like the small white lady's slipper. They now thrive where, just a few years ago, there were none growing at all. The landscape's historic context was preserved through the MNA's efforts.



(Above) An MNA crew member uses a controlled burn to remove invasives from Goose Creek Nature Sanctuary.



(Below) With careful stewardship, white lady's slippers now thrive at Goose Creek.

Stewardship Update: Buckthorn

**By Charles Pearson
Volunteer Steward**

The MNA schedule of activities in this newsletter includes workdays to remove glossy buckthorn from the prairie fen at Lefglen. What is buckthorn and why do we want to remove it?

There are two species of buckthorn that cause problems in our natural areas, glossy buckthorn and common buckthorn. Glossy buckthorn is a bigger problem in fens so I will concentrate on that in this discussion, but the techniques for dealing with common buckthorn are similar. Glossy buckthorn is a small tree brought from Europe for use as an ornamental tree and for hedgerows. It can be recognized by the spotted bark, glossy leaves, yellow wood when cut, and berries that are green early in the year, later turning red and finally black.

It is a good ornamental since it has glossy leaves that stay on a long time, pretty berries, and any seedlings that result from the berries are easily eliminated when the lawn is mown. It is a good hedgerow (living fence between fields) because it grows thickly and any seedlings are plowed under with conventional tillage or killed by herbicide using zero tillage techniques.

However, it causes a problem when it gets into a fen. Birds eat the berries but the berries have a purgative effect on the bird's digestive system so they pass through quickly and are planted in the fen. The only insect that eats buckthorn is the Japanese beetle, also a non-native, and it only does cosmetic damage. The buckthorn trees grow quickly and thickly. They shade out the native, sun-loving plants and lower the water table, degrading the habitat for the natives and making it easier for more buckthorn to grow.

Removing buckthorn is a multi-step, multi-year process. The first step is to cut it down. MNA uses loppers and pruning saws for hand cutting and a brush cutter for power cutting, sometimes using a chainsaw for a really big tree or to cut a big tree into pieces after cutting it down.

If we only cut the tree down, it will produce multiple sprouts from the stump



(Top Center) Volunteers and one of their buckthorn brush piles. Buckthorn for the next workday is in the background. Photo By Sherri Laier

(Lower Right) The fen below is covered with buckthorn. Photo By Sherri Laier

(Lower Left) Buckthorn bark showing spots. Photo By Jeff Ganley

and since there is an intact root system, they will grow very fast, making a thicker growth than before and producing seeds in less than a year. To prevent this we apply herbicide to the stump. The herbicide used is either glyphosate or triclopyr. They are both approved for wetland use. Since most premixed herbicides have added ingredients harmful to wetland creatures we use the pure chemical and add a wetland approved herbicide to enhance penetration into the stump and a dye so that we can tell which stumps have been treated. The herbicide is

applied with a sponge applicator made with PVC pipe to hold the herbicide, a valve to control flow, and a sponge to contact the stump. This insures that the herbicide only contacts the stump and not adjacent plants.

Check out MNA's "The Nest Cycle of the Ruby Throated Hummingbird" D.V.D. and watch the female build her nest with *Parmelia* lichen.

Available for purchase at:
www.michigannature.org

Buckthorn can be cut any time of year but in the spring there is high sap flow which can wash the herbicide off the stump before it penetrates, resulting in lower effectiveness. Fall and winter are best for killing the buckthorn although a cold windy day isn't so good for the volunteers.

The cut buckthorn trees are put into brush piles. This uncovers any stumps that were not treated, gives access to the area and visibility for follow-up work, congregates the seeds in one place and gives us a good sense of accomplishment when we look at all the piles. It also provides shelter for wildlife and makes it easy to eliminate the branches by burning if we want to.

Removing the mature trees is just the first step. At least a few of the stumps will develop sprouts, even if they were treated, and the years of seeds in the soil will produce thousands of seedlings. The stump sprouts are eliminated with foliar herbicide, a more dilute solution of the same herbicide used for stump treatment.

There are three ways of eliminating the seedlings. For very small areas, such as around a rare orchid, they can be hand pulled. For larger areas either herbicide spraying or torch burning (think flamethrower) is used. Herbicide has the

disadvantage of killing nearby natives when it drifts. Torch burning does not cause as much collateral damage to natives as spraying, but it's intensive, has more safety issues, is stressful on your body (try carrying a 40 pound propane cylinder on your back through a hot day while wearing Nomex), and won't work on stump sprouts encountered during the process.

After the seedlings have been eliminated there are large bare areas. If the fen wasn't badly degraded there will still be native seeds in the soil and in adjacent areas. Wind-borne native seeds such as swamp thistle, goldenrod, milkweed, aster, and blazing-star easily move into the bare area from adjacent locations. If there are not enough natives nearby or we want to increase the diversity we will plant seeds collected locally. Local insects have evolved to feed on local genotype seeds so we prefer these over seeds of plants from far away.

Three years after the large buckthorn have been cut down, the fen will be well on the road to recovery, with a thick growth of native plants. At this time other management tools such as prescribed burns can be started. Monitoring continues indefinitely in order to eliminate any buckthorn that escaped the first two years



Photo By Sherri Laier
A buckthorn sapling is held up at Goose Creek Nature Sanctuary.

or that have been planted from elsewhere by a bird.

If you would like to participate in buckthorn eradication, look for a restoration workday at a preserve near your home and come out to help. If you become a Sanctuary Steward you can do much of the management yourself, see the changes from month to month and enjoy the discovery of flowers or butterflies or grassland birds that haven't been seen in the fen for years due to the thick buckthorn.

2009 Featured Interns

By Jocylen Fox Journalism Intern

Without the help of many volunteer and intern hours the MNA wouldn't be able to accomplish its mission. We would like to take this opportunity to thank and highlight a few of our volunteers from this past fall.

Taehoon Kim

Taehoon Kim was a senior this fall at Michigan State University studying advertising. He was busy at the MNA as a graphic design intern working on the eighth edition of the guidebook and newsletter materials.

Rebecca Hullman

As a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) intern, she makes maps that show all the different features of sanctuaries. Rebecca became interested in the MNA because of their mission to protect Michigan's resources.

Woei Wang

Woei Wang, from Saginaw, is also a GIS intern. Like Rebecca, he has been using GIS to make maps of the sanctuaries for the upcoming guidebook and management plans.

Mike Schmeding

Originally from New Jersey, Mike Schmeding joined the MNA as an office

intern. Although this internship was provided through a sociology class, Mike hopes to stay throughout the spring.

Jasmine Bentley

Jasmine Bentley is a student at Michigan State University in finance and is studying to become a financial analyst. As an MNA volunteer, she has many tasks that include filing and re-organizing financial documents.

Jocylen Fox

From Elk Rapids, Jocylen worked this fall as a journalism intern. Her responsibilities included writing for the newsletter, editing articles and updating social media outlets such as Facebook and MNA's blog.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who have given their time to make MNA's mission a possibility. Through the time given by many individuals, MNA is better enabled to protect Michigan's natural heritage.

Winter Activities Galore



Photo By Charles Eshbach

High winds create “wind art” in Michigan’s upper peninsula. Outdoor winter activities are one of the best ways to see this natural art.

By Anusuya Das Journalism Intern

Take your pick from the gamut of recreational activities that our sanctuaries offer every winter. Skiing, snowshoeing, sledding and species identification are just a few activities this winter that can not only keep you busy but also warm.

If the sound of snow crunching under your boots is music to your ears, the icy winter air rejuvenates your mind, the moist scent of the snow-covered tree beats any designer perfume labels,

Remembering MNA
in your will or estate
plan helps us protect
special plants, animals
and habitats for future
generations.

or the mere thought of a snowball fight brings out the child in you, then winter is the season for you. Indulge in various recreational activities during winter in our sanctuaries and usher in this pristine season in all its mirth and glory.

In Michigan, the annual mean snowfall accumulation ranges from 30 to 170 inches of snow. With so much snow around, Michiganders can participate in various recreational activities. While cross-country and downhill skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, hiking, snowmobiling and dog sledding are the popular ones, some also venture out in the snow-covered woods for winter camping, bird-watching, ice fishing, species identification, field-trips, and photography.

The Michigan Nature Association has 165 sanctuaries and preserves in over 50 counties. Each sanctuary has its own distinct character and charm. During winter when snow, the seasonal settler,

takes refuge on the ground, lakes, bogs, swamps, sloughs, prairies, tree branches, stumps, logs of our sanctuaries, their true flavor, particularly of the ones in the Upper Peninsula, resurfaces in the form of various winter recreational activities.

From the winter sports enthusiast to the nature lover, no one leaves our sanctuaries disappointed. Moreover, what distinguishes our sanctuaries from others is that since 1952, while conserving land we have also preserved a variety of natural habitats. The combination of a variety of terrain and habitat blended with a plethora of recreational activities is what makes our sanctuaries the ideal adventure spot during winter.

Though motorized sports like snowmobiling or four-wheeling are not allowed in our sanctuaries, people come from far and wide to cross-country ski and snowshoe in the Roach Point Nature Sanctuary every winter. Roach Point

is spread over 500 acres of land in Chippewa County, sandwiched between Lake Superior and Lake Huron. The 2010 winter snowshoeing adventure trip at Roach Point is scheduled for February 6 (check our web site at www.michigannature.org for updates).

MNA members Mac Deuparo and his brother, Joe have participated in Roach Point winter snow-shoeing field trips and recommend it to everyone who seeks a unique winter experience and great time. The two brothers have also snow-shoed at Timberland Swamp and Big Valley Nature Sanctuaries in Oakland county. Deuparo visits the 76-acre Lakeville Swamp Nature Sanctuary, north of Rochester, in the winter because the Cedar swamps remind him of northern Michigan and solitude that is hard to find around a big city.

Another sanctuary that embodies enchanting solitude and exudes serenity is the Estivant Pines. Estivant Pines is a popular hotspot for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Known for its enormous old-growth white pine trees, Estivant Pines is a habitat-rich property spread over 508 acres in Keweenaw County. Charles Eshbach, a photographer and Western U.P. Field Representative, said about the Estivant Pines, “though popular, it is a little harder to get to the Estivant Pines because the road to get to the property is not ploughed.” Thus, getting to this sanctuary that is nestled amid imposing old-growth white pines can be quite challenging yet exciting. During winter, snowshoeing is one of the most effective ways to get around this sanctuary. Other than being a popular winter recreational activity, snowshoeing is also a common way to get around in the woods during winter.

For MNA Eastern Upper Peninsula Field Representative Keith Saylor, our sanctuaries offer unique opportunities during winter. Saylor’s favorite winter time activities include bird-watching, lichen species identification and tree-climbing for empty bird nests. Saylor said that he does bird-watching during winters in the U.P. where different species of owls like the northern hawk owl, big gray owl, snowy owl and some species of finches can be seen in winter. Each sanctuary has its own unique bird population depending on the habitat. Therefore, bird-watching is not restricted



Photos By Keith Saylor

(Above) Antler lichen is one of many species that are fun to identify in the winter. There are hundreds of lichen species that grow on trees and rocks making them easier to identify in cold months.

(Right) Ram’s horn lichen is found in many MNA sanctuaries. In several sanctuaries there are many species of lichen that can be identified.



to any one sanctuary alone. Different bird species can be found at each.

Lichen identification is another of Saylor’s favorite winter activities. The great thing about lichens is that, unlike flowers, they grow slowly. For some lichens vegetative reproduction happens in the winter which means they are in full bloom. The southern part of the state is better for lichen identification because most of the time there is no snow on the ground. Saylor said, “in the UP, you won’t be necessarily looking for lichens on the ground but there would be hundreds of different lichen species that grow on the trees and rocks.” So far Saylor has identified over a hundred lichen species in our sanctuaries.

Saylor also does a lot of tree-climbing for bird nests to find out what kind of birds are nesting in the area. “In the winter, I am looking for nests that are



(Above) Frost collects on fringed gentian in the coldest months of the year.

Continued From Page 9

obviously not active nests, as it is a way for me to know what birds were nesting in the area. It is easier to spot a nest in the winter when all the leaves are off the trees and shrubs than in the summer.” Many bird species come back to the same spot where they nested in the previous year. So, the best time to track bird nests for species identification is during winter when the nests are empty.

Along with offering the thrill of spotting an elusive bird or of piercing through the icy cold air while skiing, our sanctuaries also have several volunteer opportunities during winter.

There are scheduled activities that offer opportunities to work on sanctuary restoration projects or to take guided field trips to learn about the habitat and unique flora and fauna of various sanctuaries. Volunteers can help MNA with invasive species removal and trail maintenance. Invasive species removal usually involves shrub cutting and herbiciding which require the greatest amount of time and labor. Most of invasive species removal work is done in the southern part of the state where invasive plant species proliferation is most rampant. There is less invasive species removal work to be done in the UP. In lower/southern Michigan, trail maintenance is another opportunity that volunteers can help us out with during winter.

Enthusiasts can best prepare



Photo By Charles Eshbach
A group of people snowshoe through MNA's Redwyn's Dunes Nature Sanctuary.

themselves for these winter activities by dressing in layers, carrying enough food and water (take care not to litter), a compass or a GPS, a flashlight and appropriate sporting gear. If in the Keweenaw, it would also be a good idea to carry the new MNA quick-reference guidebook, *Walking Paths & Protected*

Areas of the Keweenaw that describes 22 sanctuaries and preserves in Houghton and Keweenaw counties.

So, when a variety of recreational activities abound in our sanctuaries during winter, there are plenty of reasons to step outside and liberate oneself from the cold confines of this season.

Bertha Daubendiek Historical Exhibit

By Anusuya Das
Journalism Intern

Every year the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame honors Michigan's historical and contemporary women. This year's highlight is the new history exhibit entitled "Resourceful Women: 30 Who Worked to Preserve Michigan's Water, Woods, and Wildlife." Created by the Women's Historical Center curator Patricia Majher, this exhibit is a valuable and long-overdue celebration of women who helped preserve wildlife, restore state forests, and enact landmark environmental legislation.

Thenewexhibit, "Resourceful Women" is a compilation of the contributions of 30 courageous women who, through

their work as politicians, policy makers, artists, activists, educators, and scientists shielded, nurtured and promoted the state's natural resources and the environment in the 20th century. It is a great honor for the Michigan Nature Association that Bertha Daubendiek, a co-founder of the MNA, was selected as one of the honorees.

Daubendiek led MNA as the Executive Secretary for 49 years, and retired in 2001. She helped found MNA in 1952, the first non-profit conservancy in Michigan. Daubendiek played a key role in MNA's first 150 sanctuaries and preserves, including the remarkable Estivant Pines in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Daubendiek received numerous awards and laurels for her conservation

work in Michigan. In 1974, she was named 'Volunteer of the Year' and just five years later, she was chosen as 'Michiganian of the Year.' The Michigan Women's Hall of Fame recognized her efforts and inducted her in 1994. In 2002, the Wildlife Habitat Council gave her a special lifetime achievement award. Her work was also recognized and honored by the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education.

Bertha Daubendiek passed away on November 16, 2005, in Port Huron, Michigan at the age of 89.

The "Resourceful Women" exhibit is on display through February 19, 2010.

For More Information go to: www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org

Kate Shavrnoch: Addition to MNA

By Jocylen Fox
Journalism Intern

The Michigan Nature Association has been through many changes this past fall including new additions to the organization. One such addition took place this October when Kate Shavrnoch joined the staff team as the new administrative assistant.

Kate was born in Marquette, but soon moved to Detroit with her seven brothers and sisters due to what Kate believes was her mother's preference for shorter winters. At the age of 13, Kate and her family moved to Williamston. Throughout her young adulthood, Kate never dreamed of living in Williamston again, but after living in Ohio, Virginia, Arizona, and most recently Texas, Kate came "home" to Michigan after recognizing the true value the area has to offer. The other states Kate lived in lacked the beautiful changing seasons and were too far from her family.

Kate graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in art history. She chose this course of study because her family has always been interested in the arts and many of her relatives are artists. Teachers used to joke that Kate was their "cultured" student. With this background, she naturally gravitated toward art after studying anthropology and archaeology for a couple years. She originally had intended to further her education in art, but is no longer sure what may happen.

The road into administrative work happened rather quickly for Kate. Her work in this position started in college at Michigan State University's Plant Research Lab. After taking a break to care for her two daughters, she went back to work at a hospital as an administrative assistant for emergency medicine in Virginia which she found rewarding. Her time spent in real estate was not as fulfilling. The only aspect of the job she enjoyed was being able to view all the houses. After working for a circuit board company and a logo business in Arizona, Kate worked for Jacob's Engineering Commissioning Group (JECG) in Texas. Commissioning is a process to ensure the quality of the design of a building

to make sure it operates as intended and that the owners are prepared to maintain the system. According to Kate, this field has been rapidly growing due to its association with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

Kate left the job in Texas to come back to Michigan. Though she misses working at JECG, she's had a good experience with the MNA thus far. What's different for her at MNA's nonprofit organization is that she feels her work has meaning. When asked about the differences in her experiences, Kate says, "Working for a publicly traded company (JECG) makes you very low on the food chain. Working for a small company wasn't bad - they care more for their employees, but you definitely know the bottom line is profit."

The nonprofit work of MNA is less stressful than the larger companies for Kate. She likes being able to walk to work in addition to the extra time she gets to spend with her family. As the MNA's administrative assistant, she is responsible for helping everyone in the workplace with general office functions. The last monthly meeting was very informative for her as to what everyone does at the MNA. Since she has only been here for a short period of time, Kate is still getting adjusted to the organization. For this reason she is unsure of what improvements she may be able to make, but her diverse work experience has given her a variety of skills she may use to suggest easier, more efficient ways of performing administrative business functions.

When not at work, Kate can be found reading, walking the dog with her husband, or spending time with her two daughters. She and her family love the outdoors and architecture. Some of their favorite activities include going to museums and finding new places for walking and hiking. She especially enjoyed the trails off of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and those offered in Sedona, Arizona.

Kate took an interest in hiking and nature from a young age. While visiting her grandparents in Northport, Michigan (on the state's west lakeshore), she and her siblings would go for walks with



Photo By Jocylen Fox
Kate Shavrnoch sits at her new desk.

their grandmother who would tell them about the birds and wildflowers they encountered. When it was just Kate and her little sister exploring the woods, they commonly became lost. After going an unfamiliar way into the woods at 11, Kate and her then 9-year-old sister walked around the woods for hours trying to find their way home. They came home scared and hungry covered in dirt after falling down a hill on the journey. From then on, the two would do their best to take familiar paths. Besides exploring the forests, Kate enjoyed taking walks on the beach every night and going to the meadow near her grandparents' property to watch for deer and other wildlife.

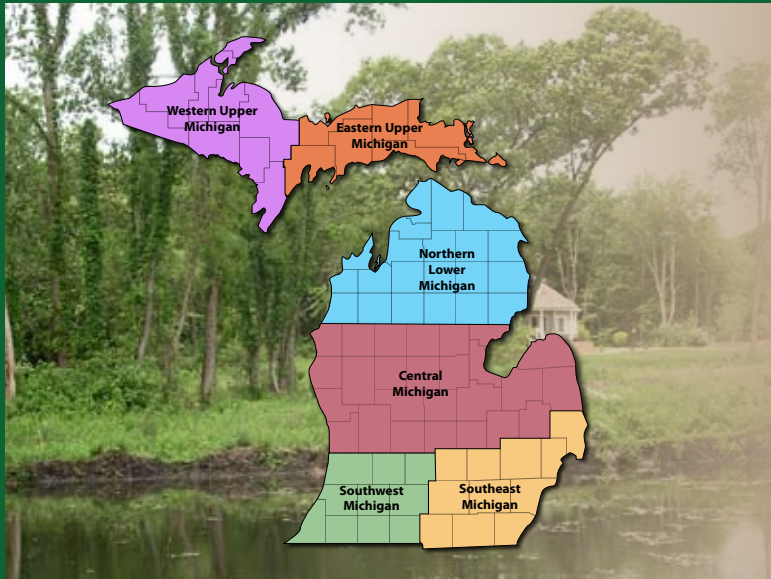
On her affinity for nature, Kate has said, "I just loved to be outside and still do."

Once her kids are in college, Kate and her husband plan on traveling both overseas and within the USA. For now though, Williamston, Michigan is the place she'll call home. She looks forward to showing her daughters around the state this summer, taking them to Northport, Mackinac, and the Upper Peninsula. Though she'll miss the mountains of the West, she loves Lake Michigan and feels the state offers some of the most beautiful scenery she has ever seen.

In the short time Kate has been here, she has helped everyone at the MNA. Her contributions will continually assist the organization and help with running an efficient workplace.

mna schedule of activities

Through March 2010



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 January to March 2010.

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 volunteer@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 will also get directions to the sites.

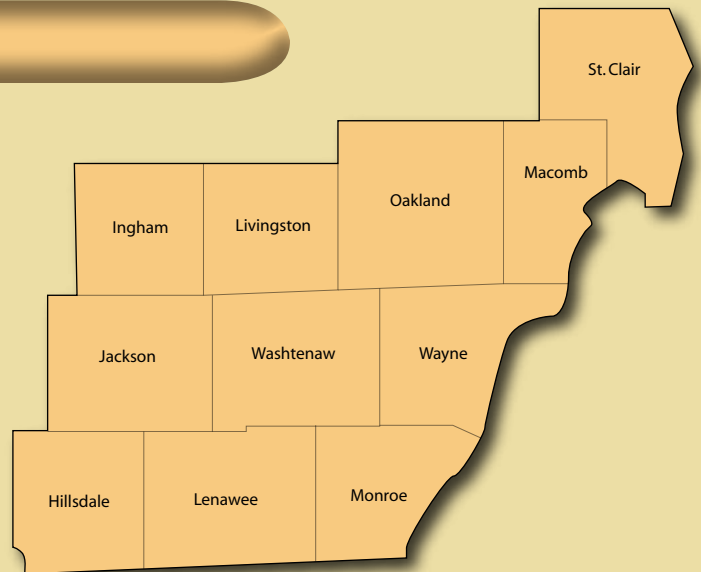
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Tuesday, January 5
Tuesday, January 12
Tuesday, January 19
Tuesday, February 9
Tuesday, February 16
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lefglen

Jackson County

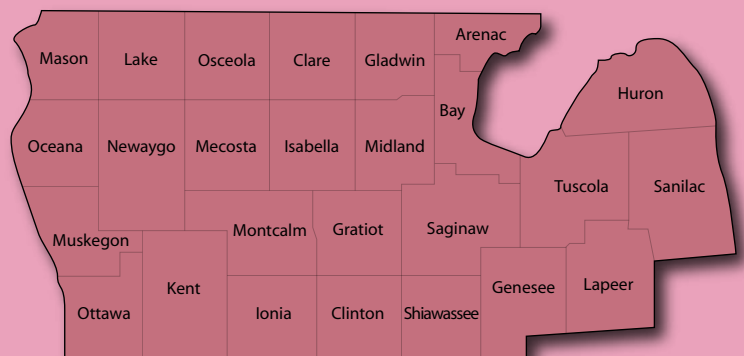
Please help us remove glossy buckthorn and other invasive shrubs from this sanctuary's unique prairie fen.



CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Saturday, February 13
Meet at 10 a.m.
A Looking Glass River
Clinton County

Join MNA's Executive Director Jeremy Emmi as he guides a field trip through this unique preserve.



SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

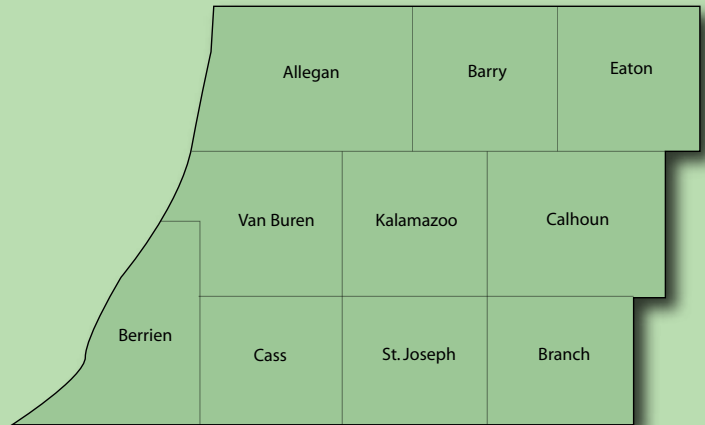
Wednesday, January 13

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Butternut Creek

Berrien and Van Buren Counties

Please help us remove invasive shrubs threatening the unique prairie fen at this sanctuary. Call the office for directions.



NORTHERN LOWER MICHIGAN

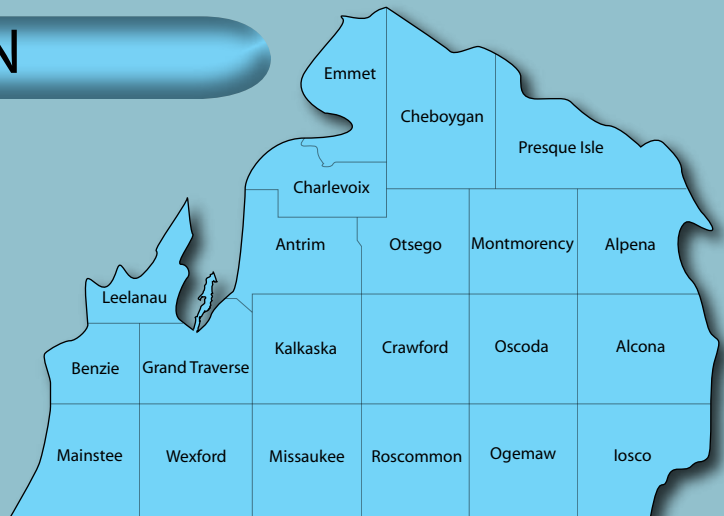
Saturday, January 16

Meet at 10 a.m.

Green River

Antrim County

Join Steward John Porter for a Green River Nature Sanctuary snowshoe adventure complete with cedar swamps, the Green River and a beaver dam. Participants will need to bring their own snowshoes for this event.



WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA

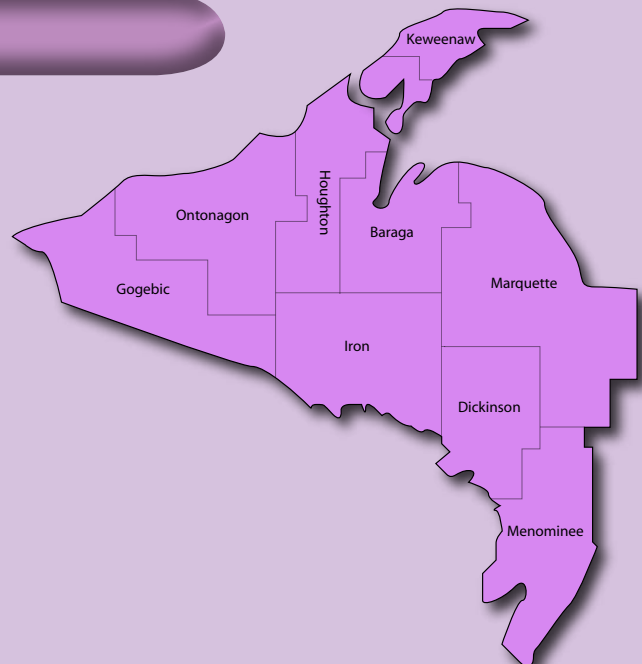
Saturday, January 16

Meet at 10 a.m. Copper Harbor Visitor Center

Estivant Pines

Keweenaw County

Join MNA's Western UP Representative Charlie Eshbach for a winter trek into the peaceful Estivant Pines Nature Sanctuary! Participants will need to bring their own cross-country skis and/or snowshoes for this event. For more information and to sign-up, please contact Charlie Eshbach at (906) 281-3500 or ceshbach@keweenawtraveler.com



EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA

Saturday, January 23 From Dawn to Dusk Martin Bay Delta County

Join us for the Winter Natural History Assessment of Martin Bay. The goal is to record which species are present in the sanctuary this time of year, along with notes on their microhabitat and/or behavior. All experience levels are welcome. If you are interested in helping with this, you must contact MNA's Eastern UP Representative Keith Saylor at (517) 388-0013 in advance of the event to register and receive additional information. The group will not be able to accommodate unexpected participants who show up the day of.

Saturday, January 30 From Dawn to Dusk Pat Grogan Orchid Bog Chippewa County

Join us for the Winter Natural History Assessment of the Pat Grogan Orchid Bog Nature Sanctuary. The goal is to record which species are present in the sanctuary this time of year, along with notes on their microhabitat and/or behavior. All experience levels are welcome. If you are interested in helping with this, you must contact MNA's Eastern UP Representative Keith Saylor at (517) 388-0013 in advance of the event to register and receive additional information. The group will not be able to accommodate unexpected participants who show up the day of.

Sunday, January 31 From Dawn to Dusk Two Hearted River Luce County

Join us for the Winter Natural History Assessment of Two Hearted River Nature Sanctuary. The goal is to record which species are present in the sanctuary this time of year, along with notes on their microhabitat and/or behavior. All experience levels are welcome. If you are interested in helping with this, you must contact MNA's Eastern UP Representative Keith Saylor at (517) 388-0013 in advance of the event to register and receive additional information. The group will not be able to accommodate unexpected participants who show up the day of.



Saturday, February 6 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. 8 a.m. Optional Breakfast at Ang-Gios Restaurant in Cedarville Roach Point Chippewa County Cost: \$20, includes snowshoe rental if needed

Biologist Jessie Hadley of Woods & Water Ecotours will lead participants through this sanctuary's cedar swamps and Great Lakes marshes to the frozen shore of Munuscong Bay. Participants should be able to snowshoe at least three miles. A traditional U.P. lunch is included with the registration fee. Enrollment is limited this year so be sure to register early! For more information or to register, call Jessie at (906) 484-4157 or e-mail info@WoodsWaterEcotours.com

Saturday and Sunday, February 20 and 21 From Dawn to Dusk Both Days Swamp Lakes Moose Refuge Luce County

Join us for the Winter Natural History Assessment of Swamp Lakes. The goal is to record which species are present in the sanctuary this time of year, along with notes on their microhabitat and/or behavior. All experience levels are welcome. If you are interested in helping with this, you must contact MNA's Eastern UP Representative Keith Saylor at (517) 388-0013 in advance of the event to register and receive additional information. The group will not be able to accommodate unexpected participants who show up the day of.

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

Letter from the President



By Steve Kelley
MNA President

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

The Fall Adventure continued its tradition of visiting interesting places with interesting people. Highlights included two Drummond Island stops (the full-size bus drove right onto the ferry) with natural history introductions from steward

Sherry Kovach and further presentations from MNA Eastern UP Field Representative Keith Saylor.

I urge you to take any opportunity you get to spend time with Keith in the field. When I watched part of the recent National Parks series on PBS, the descriptions of John Muir reminded me of Keith Saylor!

As we start a New Year, I would like to touch upon several MNA transitions as of late November 2009:

- We are working to better prioritize MNA's day-to-day efforts. MNA has lead the way in preserving Michigan habitats supporting rare and endangered species since 1952, in the process acquiring 165 nature sanctuaries and plant preserves across our diverse and wonderful state. As we approach our 60th year, we applaud the work being done by other land trusts around the state and look forward to further cooperative efforts which most efficiently preserve additional key Michigan areas for future generations.
- To do the best job we can, we need additional organizational "capacity" to steward our current sanctuaries and evaluate further acquisitions. Thankfully, MNA's long history of extraordinary volunteer service continues with sanctuary and preserve stewards, other field volunteers, office volunteers, student interns, legal volunteers, and many, many financial supporters. Coordinating and supplementing our many volunteers is our excellent employed staff and our select independent contractors. Additional volunteers are needed in a wide variety of areas and welcome.
- At least some of the additional activities we would like to pursue are unlikely to be pursued without a somewhat larger paid staff. Many of our key stewardship staff already feel overwhelmed with the daily demands of trying to maintain our 165 existing properties and easements and coordinate more than one hundred volunteers. Larger (or additional) office space also likely will be needed in the near future.
- High priority, "big picture" activities underway include:
 - Completion of baseline reports and annual monitoring reports for each of MNA's 15 conservation easements
 - Completion of detailed management plans for each sanctuary and plant preserve
 - More specific boundary marking

-Upgrading our sanctuary-related office files.

- We also continue to work toward applying for accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. We are not happy with the impact this effort is having on MNA's other work but recognize its importance as a matter of organizational credibility to current and future supporters. The sheer number, geographical diversity, ecological diversity, and age of MNA's 165 properties combined with the pre-2001 all-volunteer nature of MNA make this a very major undertaking for MNA. At our November 2009 Board meeting the Board, senior staff, and key volunteers again committed to applying for accreditation. However, with the benefit of 14 months' experience on this path, the Board asked staff for additional data to assist in re-evaluating the 2011 goal for that application. The Board also approved subcontracting additional accreditation-related work.
- At our November Board meeting we also adopted a specific process for developing a more "big picture" Strategic Plan for MNA. Like the accreditation application, this process is expected to spread beyond 2010. A very important component of our overall Strategic Plan will be development of a Strategic Conservation Plan. The new Strategic Conservation Plan is expected to guide our future acquisitions and stewardship work for at least the next 10 years. Topics likely to be considered include how to best work with other conservancies for the effective, efficient protection of existing and additional properties. Please feel free to provide us with your input as we develop the new Strategic Conservation Plan.
- In an effort to increase capacity, we have made several internal staffing changes. We have promoted Paul Steiner to Operations Director and transferred to Paul several of Executive Director Jeremy Emmi's operational responsibilities, freeing Jeremy to focus principally on capacity building. Coincident with Paul's promotion, we have moved our part-time administrative assistant, former intern Jeff Proulx, to a newly-created Communications Coordinator position, and Kate Shavrnock has been hired as MNA's new administrative assistant. As a part of this realignment, the previous Development Director and Office Manager positions have been eliminated. Also, at her request, we have moved Natalie Kent-Norkowski from Lower Peninsula Stewardship Coordinator to a new part-time position, Land Protection Technician. The Lower Peninsula position has been revised to Stewardship Coordinator and, as of this writing, Paul Steiner is in the process of filling that position. We hope these changes continue to move MNA forward.
- We again have an excellent set of candidates for Trustee in this election. We joined MNA to protect Michigan's natural heritage, not to sit in frequently tedious Board meetings. I thank each of our Trustees and candidates for their willingness to serve, and encourage each of our members to vote.

Best wishes for the New Year!

Stephen M. Kelley
skelley@kelleycaseylaw.com
(586) 563-3500

Because of You: Charles Goodrich

The MNA welcomes a new series of stories profiling in depth some of our extraordinary volunteers who have made the MNA the successful conservancy it is today. Our initial profile introduces you to Charles “Charlie” Goodrich who for the past 10 years has been a sanctuary steward in Hamilton Township. The MNA would like to thank Charlie for the opportunity to profile him, and for his 10 years of dedicated commitment to our mission. We call this new series “Because of You.”

Story and Photos By Tina Patterson Office Volunteer

It was a cold and drizzly November day, the kind Michigan is so well known for, as I headed off to meet Charles “Charlie” Goodrich at his home in Decatur, on the southwest side of our mitten. Charlie is steward of the Hamilton Township Coastal Plain and the Riley Shurte Nature Sanctuaries. After driving past the corn fields surrounding Charlie’s home, the smiling face and sparkling blue eyes that greeted me made the gloomy day melt away.

Charlie welcomed me into his comfortable house which he pretty much rebuilt himself and had been his family’s home for over 71 years. Charlie is a man obviously content with his life and comfortable in his own skin, who thankfully, has no intention of laying down his chainsaw and shovel to sit back and watch the world go by.

With five kids, 12 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren, Charlie came to the MNA in what he describes as an “odd way.” About 10 years ago there was a battle in his township about tearing down an old Grange Hall which had been used for the Hamilton Town offices. In a letter protesting the destruction of this historic building mention was made of the Michigan Nature Association, piquing his curiosity. Charlie decided that he wanted to know more about the organization working to preserve and improve our open spaces.

Upon learning that there is a sanctuary less than four miles from his home, Charlie went out and walked the property and said “This is what I want to do, I want to make this land



Charles Goodrich stands beside a sugar maple that he estimates to be well over a hundred years old. During Charlie’s interview he enjoyed pointing out some of the specimen grade trees in the Hamilton Township Nature Sanctuary.

available to the people in our community.” Being a man who puts his thoughts into actions, Charlie quickly set to work building trails through the Hamilton Township Coastal Plain Sanctuary. With the help of a son and a grandson, the 79 acres that had once been a dumping ground for trash, illegal hunting and poaching were cleaned up in less than a year and three loops of trail were built totaling 3.3 miles.

With obvious pride Charlie pointed out to me the beautiful sign his friends made showing the location of the trail, and the Grange Hall that still stands thanks to the work of the community. Getting a taste for community involvement, Charlie became a member of the Hamilton Township Planning Committee, a Zoning Administrator and a Trustee of the Township. The Grange Hall now boasts historical status with the state, and is in the process of being restored with the interior work complete and a new roof to

go on soon.

The restored Grange Hall and an additional 80 acres of natural land borders the sanctuary and opens this area for the enjoyment of all. Charlie was pleased to point out the work that had been done to keep this bit of history a vibrant functioning part of Decatur. The once abandoned Grange building now is filled three times a year with laughter and fun as “old fashioned dances” are held. When renovations are complete Charlie says they hope to host weddings and other community and cultural events.

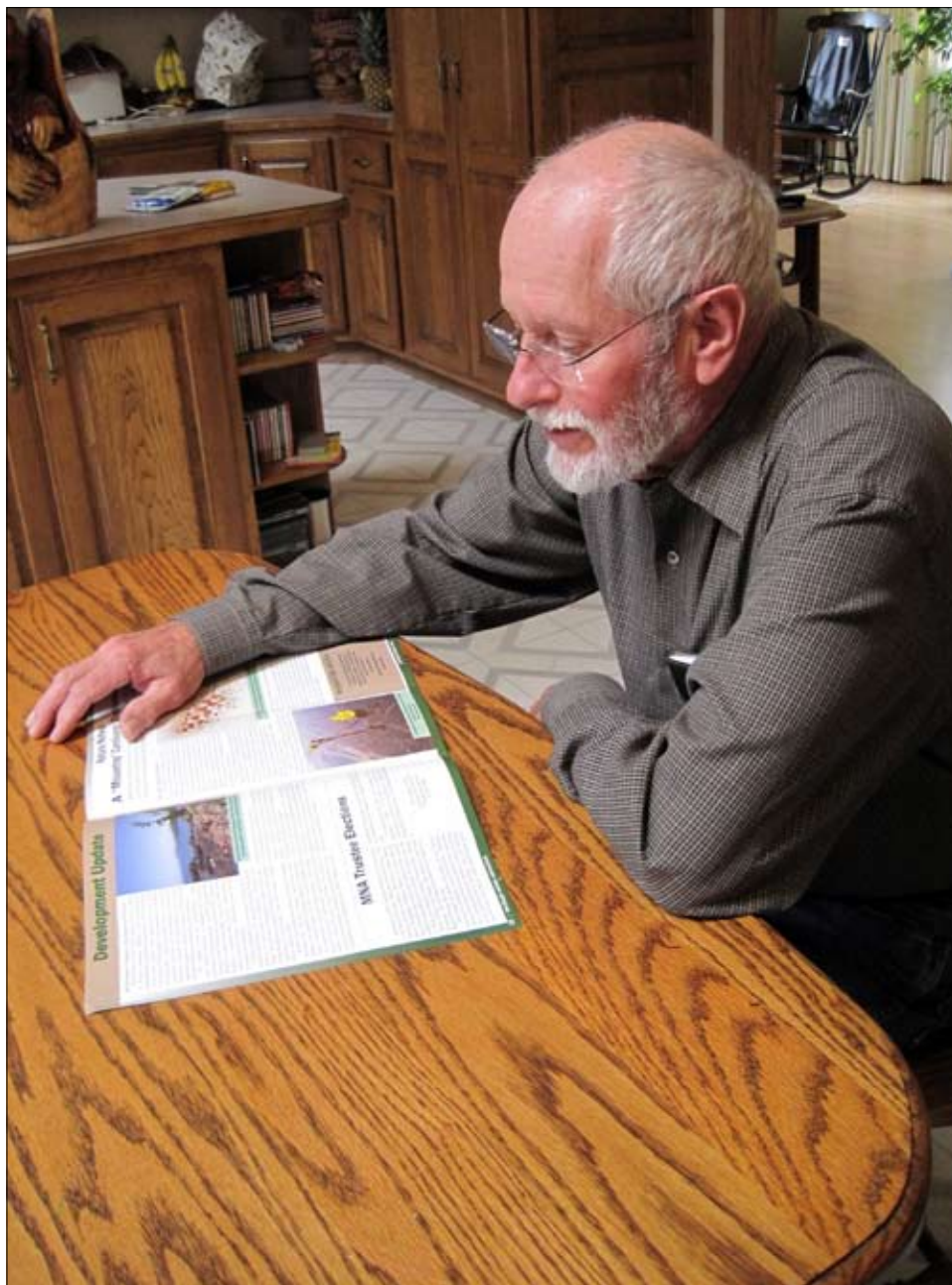
For Charlie it is not enough to steward two sanctuaries (the Shurte with his niece, Tracy Braswell) he also single-handedly built a three-quarter-mile trail in the 40-acre Barvick Sanctuary. He assured me that he is happiest with a chainsaw or a shovel in his hand. At 73 looking much younger than his years and very fit, it is obvious his MNA work keeps him healthy and content.

As evidence of his positive outlook, this past September at the Rudy Olsen Falls in Munising, Mr. Charles Goodrich married his second wife Nancy, a long time friend of both he and his wife of 45 years Pat, who passed away in 2006. Charlie is confident that Nancy will become more involved in the MNA as it is such an important part of his life, and like him she loves to hike and enjoy Michigan's great outdoors. (Congratulations to the newlyweds!)

As for the future, Charlie sees MNA's goal as maintaining its current acquisitions in perpetuity while continuing to acquire more prime sites that should be preserved. He wants to see the MNA concentrate on protecting endangered species and is especially pleased in the direction that the MNA has taken in the past few years to work with other organizations that have shared goals such as the SW Michigan Land Conservancy. Charlie cites as his inspiration Jim Slaghuis who "sparked his interest" in the conservancy, and his friends Dave Wendling and Wayne Dennis and of course Bertha Daubendiek (MNA co-founder).

Whether he is pulling garlic mustard, helping control the spread of multi-flora roses, building trails or walking through a white pine forest, Charlie Goodrich says he is happy knowing he is being active, contributing to his community and preserving the plants, animals and environment for future generations.

I hated to say goodbye to my new friend. It would have been fun to sit and watch his favorite birds, cedar waxwings, arrive with the first snowfall to eat the berries of the flowering crab tree, or to walk with him along his trails. But as it drew time for me to leave, Charlie shared with me a poster on his office wall with sayings that best expressed the feeling in his heart, one of which read, "All of nature is within us, and we in turn are part of nature" ... and for Charles "Charlie" Goodrich, that said it all.



Charles Goodrich reads his MNA newsletter regularly at his kitchen table. As a consistent reader he enjoys following what other stewards and volunteers are doing in sanctuaries across the state as well as at the office in Williamston.



Become a Steward

The Michigan Nature Association relies heavily on volunteer stewards to help care for our sanctuaries. The basic requirements for a steward are 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 is 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 are interested in becoming a steward, please contact (517) 655-5655 or volunteer@michigannature.org.

MNA is in particular need of stewards in these counties:

Livingston

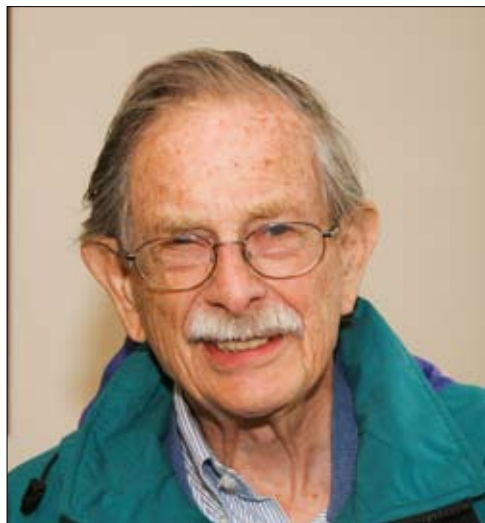
Van Buren

Hillsdale

Shiawassee

Trustee Profile: Fred Dye

By Mary Ann Czechowski
Board of Trustees Member



The enthusiasm that Michigan Nature Association Trustee Fred Dye has for the MNA is apparent in everything that he does for MNA. He has been instrumental in developing a slide show about MNA, which he has presented, and continues present, to groups throughout southeast Michigan. Fred has an MNA Sanctuary named for him, the Fred Dye Nature Sanctuary in Mackinac County, formerly known as the Purple Coneflower Plant Preserve. It is one of the few places in Michigan where the beautiful purple coneflower can be found naturally blooming each summer.

How and when did you first learn about, and become interested in, the Michigan Nature Association?

I first became interested in the Michigan Nature Association back in the early 1990s, when I was Program Chairman for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Rochester Michigan Chapter. I received a brochure, and scheduled a presentation by an MNA representative to the local chapter, which afterwards further wetted my interest.

What kept your initial interest in MNA?

After my wife died in 1994, I decided to join the MNA, as I believed it was an essential organization for land preservation. I went on several field trips locally with Margaret Moran (MNA member and volunteer) and Debby Igleheart (MNA Trustee).

What activities for the Association are you currently participating in, and what have you participated in, in the past?

Currently, I am a Trustee and the co-steward of Lakeville Swamp Nature Sanctuary. I am also the Co-chair of the Membership, Education and Public Relations Committee. I have presented several slide presentations in Oakland County with Debby Igleheart.

Do you have a favorite MNA Sanctuary or Plant Preserve? Why is it a favorite? Do you have other favorites? Why are they favorites?

My favorite, or one of my favorites, is Lakeville Swamp, with the showy lady's slipper. Another is Big Valley Nature Sanctuary, in Oakland County.

Where do you live? Are you from Michigan? Were you educated in Michigan? In what field? What is your occupation?

I live in Rochester Hills but was born in Dayton, Ohio and moved to Birmingham when I was 10 years old. I went to Cranbrook Prep School, and then to Cornell University, where I graduated in 1942, as a Mechanical Engineer.

During World War II, I was a civilian observer on medium tanks, and helped train the American Army on maintenance and operation on medium tanks and tank destroyers. Then, in 1943, I was shipped to North Africa to help train the French Army in the maintenance of tanks and tank destroyers. In July 1945, I returned to the United States from France, and worked at the Fisher tank plant in Grand Blanc. The contract ended in December 1945, when I was drafted into the United States Army and became a Staff Sergeant after basic training, assigned to running tests on experimental tanks at Fort Knox.

For my service as a civilian with the French Army, I was awarded the Bronze Star, and for my service in the United States Army, I was awarded the Army Commendation Ribbon.

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

During my years in school, both at Cranbrook and Cornell, I was very interested in outdoor sports, and was also on the track

teams where I received my letters. I also did a lot of skiing.

What, to you, is special about Michigan, and about the natural environment of Michigan. What aspects of the natural environment of Michigan interest you the most?

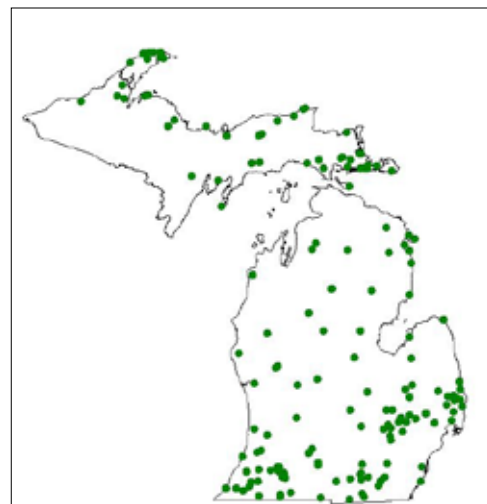
What I think is special about Michigan is the variety of forests and wildflowers preserved by the Michigan Nature Association. I am very interested in the wildflowers and the forests.

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

I believe that the MNA has done an outstanding job preserving wild lands in Michigan, and is continuing to accomplish preservation of natural habitat in the state.

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

I believe one of our goals is to be accredited by the Land Trust Alliance, and to continue as much as possible in maintaining our sanctuaries. My goal in helping the MNA is to be of assistance in my work on the Membership, Public Relations and Education Committee.



MNA is always looking for volunteers. Many of these opportunities occur on our sanctuaries. The map above shows where all of MNA's sanctuaries are located.

Nature Notes: Skunk Cabbage

By Bill Bliss and Jocylen Fox
Member and Journalism Intern

Skunk cabbage, or *Symplocarpus foetidus*, is a fascinating plant known for its pungency, longevity, and growth habits that make it unique to others in Michigan. It can be found in several of the Michigan Nature Association sanctuaries (mainly in southern Michigan) like the Butternut Creek, Brandon Township, White Cedar Swamps, Dowagiac Woods, Yntema Wildlife Oasis, Dauner Martin, and the Red Cedar River Floodplain. The Greek genus species name, *symplocarpus*, relates to the partly closed hollow space where the seed-carrying spike, or spadix, is located. The skunk cabbage's family, *araceae*, is also the family of the Jack-in-the-Pulpit, another plant common in many of the MNA sanctuaries. The species name, *foetidus*, is linked to the pungent smell the plant releases.

Growth Habits

The skunk cabbage is one of the first plants to blossom in Michigan every year. As early as the middle of March, the plant can be seen in its favored habitat of snow-covered land at the end of a cold winter. The majority of plants are unable to prosper in this environment. In March, the plant pokes through the snow, an unusual and attractive sight. In order for the skunk cabbage to thrive in winter months, it stores organic chemicals from the past summer to use as fuel for warming. The temperature inside the plant can be up to 27 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the temperature of the surrounding environment.

It is not unusual to see a cabbage patch of the plant in the snow all in full bloom. In the first stages of the plant's growth, the first parts of the plant's leaves sprout through the ice. The warmth from within the plant melts the surrounding ice to make room for the entire cabbage to blossom. Like the robin, skunk cabbage is often a sign that spring is here.

Flowering

Though the skunk cabbage may seem like a drab plant, the tiny, bright yellow anthers (the male part of the flower that collects pollen) that it uses to produce flowers light up the plant like several sparkling stars. The plant's hooded, slightly modified leaf (the spathe) surrounds the spadix of the plant



Photo By Paul Steiner
Skunk cabbage grows in the wetlands of the Red Cedar River Floodplain Nature Sanctuary.

where the flowers blossom. In this stage, the leaves of the skunk cabbage have a purple tint to them. The hooded leaves never fully open, thus appearing to shelter the flower-covered spadix. So, to see the flowers, one has to get a close look into the spathe. When the skunk cabbage matures, the plant's leaves unfurl. The leaves are large and grow to be around 1.3-1.8 feet long and a foot to 1.3 feet broad. The formed seeds remain in the spadix even when the plant has fallen to the ground in summer. Once in full bloom late in spring, the leaves reflect the vibrancy of the season when they take on a brilliant green color.

Pollination and Protection

Being static and bound to the ground, plants depend on various pollen carriers such as insects, birds, rodents, and wind which are responsible for one plant pollinating another. The plant color, odor, structure, and nectar are the elements that attract pollinators. The skunk cabbage's scent that can be foul is actually what is responsible for the plant's pollination. By excreting the rotten scent, it attracts insects, and particularly meat flies. Once the pollinator arrives at the plant, the warmth the skunk cabbage provides (compared to the outside air) encourages the fly to go further into the spathe. Going from one skunk cabbage to the next, the insect

unknowingly carries the pollen to each plant, stimulating reproduction.

The odor the cabbage emits also keeps some larger animals away, thus saving it from being trampled and damaged.

Life Span

It has been questioned if skunk cabbage is immortal. There have been some skunk cabbages found that are several hundred years in age. However, an erratic and unsuitable climatic condition and environment can stunt its lifespan. In order for skunk cabbage to live, the environment needs to be muddy year round. The wetlands it thrives in start out this way, but tend to dry out over time due to the buildup of decomposed plants. This is a main factor that limits their life span, but the plant could possibly live longer. If wetlands could live forever, it is possible that the skunk cabbage might as well.

Have a question? A great place to start looking for answers is MNA's website:
michigannature.org

Memorials and Honorariums

From September 1 to November 30, 2009

MNA would like to thank all of its members and donors.

In Honor of

Daniel Arnol

By Mary Louise Arnold

Bill Hippach's Birthday

By Sue Welch

Willie Leneah Nelson

By Natalie Hill

The Polovich Family

By Jane McCandless

Nancy Wykes

By Roger Wykes

In Memory of

Violet Bouton

By Richard Brewer and Katy Takahashi

By David Wendling

In Memory of (continued)

Mary Ann Dennehy

Lola Lamberg

Sol Cohen

Jeanette Fried

Frederick Marx

By Dr. Lewis Rosenbaum

Bruce Jamieson

By Susan Vinci

By John and Linda Harris

Clair R. Kennedy

By Carl Linhart

Clayton Stacey

William Kochevar

By James Gusfa

Susie Kraft

Dorothy Morin

By Ruth Baker

Betty Marion

By Carol Sue Martin

Betty Nederlander

By The Bouchards

By Dr. Lewis Rosenbaum

Clarence Papp

By Jon and Donna Block

Dottie Wilson

Marty Puffpaff

By Paul and Susan McEwen

Malou Richards

By Mary Louise Arnold

Curtis Vail

By John and Linda Harris

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Please patronize these important Michigan Nature Association sponsors at every opportunity

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Kelley, Casey & Moyer, P.C.

Stoughton, WI

Kennedy Kids

Traverse City

Hazelnut Kids LLC

Troy

REI

Whitmore Lake

Todd's Service

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

BECOME AN MNA PROTECTOR

Join our monthly giving program!

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.

With your monthly gift as an MNA Protector, you will provide sustainable, predictable support for our ongoing efforts. It is 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.

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 is the case 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.

THREE 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)
- 3) Call the MNA office at 517-655-5655

We encourage you to become an MNA Protector today!

2010 Board of Trustees Election

By Jocylen Fox
Journalism Intern

There are many ways to be an active member of the Michigan Nature Association. One can go to the sanctuaries, help at volunteer days, attend meetings, volunteer at the office as well as a number of other activities. However, one of the most important aspects of being an active member is voting during our Trustee Elections.

Voting is essential for all active members of the MNA. For the MNA's 2010 Board of Trustees election, we would like the most



Photo By Cindy Mead
A chipmunk clings to a tree for a better view.

accurate representation possible. This will benefit the organization as well as all of our members. We want our Board of Trustees to consist of those who our members want to have guiding the organization. In order for this to happen, all members of the MNA need to vote.

In order to vote, one must have been a dues-paying member of the MNA as of January 15, 2010. A dues-paying member means annual members, life members and former shareholders. Each of these members will receive a ballot in early February. These ballots must be returned to the MNA by March 1st at 5 p.m. in order for the vote to be counted. With the ballot will be a biography of each candidate. All votes are kept undisclosed unless that member shares their vote on their own accord.

Once the voting period has ended, all the votes will be counted and members will be informed of the Trustees elected. The results will be promptly communicated to the respective candidates, the Board and staff and posted on the MNA website. The new trustees will be announced with the beginning of the new term at the March Board Meeting.



Photo By Chuck Peirce
A Michigan lily blooms in full beauty.

Please contact the MNA with any questions at (517) 655-5655 and be sure to return your ballot with your vote for the 2010 Board of Trustees.

Nominations for the 2011 election are now being accepted so if you or someone you know would like to run please mail in your materials at your earliest opportunity.

Support MNA with A Story

By Jocylen Fox
Journalism Intern

The authors of the articles for the Michigan Nature Association's newsletters come from everywhere within the organization. Trustees, volunteers, interns, and staff members all work together to create the final product. However, anyone who wants to is able to participate. The MNA wants to hear your nature stories as well. Whether it is about a visit to one of our sanctuaries or about a certain species you have expertise on, we are always interested in hearing from our members.

Participation from people outside the office is always appreciated. It gives new opinions, unique experiences, and diverse information to the MNA. Your stories help bring fresh perspectives and something new to every article. Writing an article for an upcoming newsletter is an excellent way to become more involved with the MNA and can be an amazing opportunity



Photo By Jeremy Emmi
Staff and members discover the beauty of Harvey's Rocks during fall adventure 2009.

to learn more about the sanctuaries or the different species within the sanctuaries.

Everyone is encouraged to send the MNA his or her unique stories. There are only a few things the MNA needs from you in order for your article to be considered for any of the upcoming newsletters. The following criteria are necessary:

- A digital draft of the article
- Your name and contact information

• Photos or graphic to accompany the article with release when appropriate.

Be sure to send all of your materials to the MNA by the deadline of February 5, 2010. If you have any questions or would like more information on deadlines and word counts, contact Jeff Proulx at jproulx@michignnature.org.

We Cannot Do It Without Your Support

Your Time is Needed

Field Volunteers

Trail Maintenance

Removing debris, trimming limbs, posting and maintaining trail markers

Invasive Plant Control

Uprooting invasive plants or applying wetland-approved herbicide to cut stumps using a special applicator (Volunteers working around herbicide must be at least 15 years of age).

Erosion Control

Stabilizing soil on slopes and installing hand rails to assist visitors climbing or descending steep sections of trail

Boardwalk and Bridge Construction

Creating bridges to cross rivers and boardwalks to traverse wetlands

Boundary Identification

Working with surrounding landowners and surveyors to locate and mark sanctuary boundaries

Photography

Taking pictures of species and landscapes to help us monitor sanctuaries

Garbage Removal

Helping clean sanctuaries of debris

Inventory and Monitoring

Recording plants and animals observed at different times of year

Global Positioning System Data Collection

Using a GPS unit to record locations of features and create trail maps

Native Seed Collection and Planting

Helping restore a sanctuary by harvesting native seeds from its healthy areas and planting those seeds in its degraded areas

Field Trip Leadership

Showing people a sanctuary and all it has to offer

Sign Installation

Installing entrance or general rules signs at MNA's sanctuaries

Office Volunteers & Internships

General Office

Aiding in the day-to-day operations of the MNA

Cartography

Collecting geographic information and using this information to prepare stylized maps and charts

Graphic Design

Designing and developing graphics and ideas for a variety of publications

PR / Communication

Executing strategic public relations with supporting media relations and communications while aiding outreach efforts

Journalism

Working with news, descriptive material and ideas of MNA via a widening spectrum of media

Accounting

Analyzing and preparing financial information, and utilizing accounting control procedures

GIS (Geographic Information Systems)

Utilizing geographic information systems to generate maps for management plans

Legal

Resolving discrepancies in the property files for nature sanctuaries.

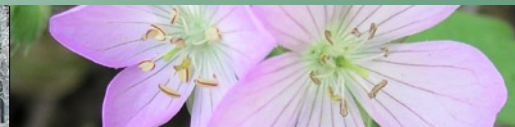
Stewardship

Assisting in the management of sanctuaries, volunteers, and the stewardship staff's daily goals.



4 Steps to Start in Volunteering

1. Determine how much time you have available. Every little bit helps!
2. Visit michigannature.org to figure out sanctuaries around you and learn about MNA.
3. Decide which projects you may be interested in from those listed above. For a list of scheduled VolunteerDays, refer to the Schedule of Activities in this Newsletter or visit michigannature.org.
4. Contact the MNA office at (517)655-5655 to discuss specific project details and needs.



10 Ways to Contribute

1 Leave a lasting mark with a planned gift as part of MNA's Guardians of the Future Society. Your bequest can create an enduring legacy through a number of paths, including a will, trust, annuity, life insurance, or other planned or deferred gift. Contact MNA for more information.

2 Join MNA's Guardian Society for those who pledge to support MNA's general operations at the \$1,000 level per year or above. MNA Guardians commit to the long-term sustenance of the organization through annual general support gifts.

3 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.

4 Renew your membership or donate general support. Individual and family memberships and additional general support donations are the bedrock of MNA's operations, allowing us to carry out our mission efficiently.

5 Give to an MNA endowment where your contribution will grow over the years. Each year, part of the income from the endowment will be used to support programs. MNA endowment funds include:

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.

- General Endowment
- Bertha Daubendiek Stewardship Endowment
- Land Acquisition Endowment
- Dowagiac Woods Endowment
- Estivant Pines Endowment

6 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 put toward MNA's General Endowment so that your gift will produce a lasting legacy in memory or honor of those close to you unless otherwise specified.

7 Contribute to MNA through Earth Share of Michigan at your workplace giving program, where available. If your workplace doesn't have a workplace giving program, contact MNA for more information.

8 Contribute to one of three MNA community foundation funds. The Community Foundation of Greater Flint, the Keweenaw Community Foundation,

and the Community Foundation for Muskegon County – which provide support of MNA's properties and future land acquisition in specific counties. Checks are made out to the community foundation with a memo note designating the gift to the "Michigan Nature Association Fund."

9 Change your internet search engine to GoodSearch (www.goodsearch.com) and choose MNA as your organization of choice. It will donate 50% of its revenue to the charities designated by its users. Each search you make earns about one penny. The more MNA supporters use Goodsearch, the quicker those pennies add up! The site also has a counter so you can view how much those clicks add up to.

10 Do your online shopping through igive.com. Join at www.igive.com/mna and every time you shop at one of over 600 online stores, the store gives a donation to MNA.

For more information contact us at 517-655-5655 or michigannature@michigannature.org

To 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 human resources department to determine if they will match your contribution and to obtain the form which you complete and include with your contribution.



michigan nature association

Preserving Michigan's Natural Heritage Since 1952

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Save the Date: Members' Meeting

**By Jocylen Fox
Journalism Intern**

Spring is fast on its way. In only a few more months, the snow will turn to rain, the trees and flowers will become lively once again, and it will be time for the annual Michigan Nature Association membership meeting.

The MNA Staff and Board of Trustees invite you to join them for this meeting. On May 8, 2010 the MNA will be holding its annual meeting in the South-Central region of Michigan in Lenawee County. The exact time, location and agenda are still being decided but can be expected in the April edition of the newsletter.

The meeting is a time for reflecting on what has been done at the MNA over the past year as well as an opportunity to discuss the goals the MNA hopes to accomplish throughout the course of the year to come.

This is a fun and unique opportunity for MNA members, staff, and Trustees to meet and experience the MNA's mission together. There



Photo By Sherman Schultz

Nodding trillium in bloom at Broehl Memorial #1 Nature Sanctuary.



Photo By Paul Steiner

Members and staff enjoy talking at the 2007 members meeting.

will be guest speakers, food, and a guided tour through one of MNA's Lenawee county sanctuaries. At this meeting, you will not only have the chance to meet fellow members, staff and trustees, but you will also have the opportunity to let your voice be heard.

After the Members' Meeting, you can continue to mingle with other attendees and see, first hand the natural beauty of Michigan that the MNA works to preserve. One of our members will lead a gentle hike into one of the stunning nearby MNA sanctuaries.

Please contact the MNA by calling (517)655-5655 or emailing michigannature@michigannature.org if you plan on attending. Having accurate information on attendees is extremely helpful for allowing the MNA to plan accordingly. It's also important so you can be informed of any changes that may occur.

The Members' Meeting provides a great chance for members across the state to connect with other people sharing in a common goal. It is also a wonderful opportunity to learn what each person can do to help. Please feel free to contact the MNA using the above information with any question you may have.