



michigan nature association

oct-dec 2008
newsletter

dedicated to the preservation of michigan's natural heritage since 1952

volume 57 issue 4



From the Director

We know we can't protect all of Michigan's natural areas alone. We have you, our members and supporters, who make it possible.

The Michigan Nature Association also works with other groups around the state to help protect our natural resources. In addition, we are a member of the Land Trust Alliance, an organization that works with hundreds of land trusts or land conservancies to provide the necessary policies, tools and mechanisms to ensure natural areas are thoroughly protected into the future.



In this issue of the Michigan Nature Association newsletter, you will read about a new partnership with the Michigan Karst Conservancy to protect one of the most breathtaking limestone sinks in Michigan. Although this is the first time that the Michigan Nature Association has partnered with another organization to jointly own a piece of land, we have cooperated with many groups over the years to preserve Michigan's best natural lands.

Our Colby Plant Preserve near Alpena is managed jointly with the Headwaters Land Conservancy, which has a conservation easement over the property. Another joint venture MNA has undertaken is the conservation easement we hold on a property owned by Trout Unlimited in Kent County. We are now working on a plan to protect a piece of land in conjunction with the Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy in the Flint area.

MNA also protects land adjacent to property owned by other land trust groups in Michigan. We protect the Carolyn and Rifka Sharon Hultmark Memorial Plant Preserve in southwest Michigan with adjacent land protected by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy. In the Upper Peninsula, the Michigan Nature Association owns the 369-acre Lake Superior Nature Sanctuary and works with the Little Traverse Conservancy, which owns the 360-acre Jinny Palms Nature Preserve, to protect the native habitats. In Michigan's thumb, MNA preserves the rare painted trillium in the Elmer P. and Irene Jasper Woods Nature Sanctuary, right next to the Detroit Audubon Society's preserve.

These partnerships extend to local and state governments too. The Michigan Nature Association protects lands near several state recreation areas and parks, including the Rifle River Recreation Area and Fort Wilkins State Park. Some of our nature sanctuaries are even inside incorporated cities and villages such as Battle Creek, St. Clair, Williamston and Munising.

Often our partnerships result in increased land protection, both in area and degree. We are proud, as Michigan's first land trust/conservancy, to have worked and to be working with so many organizations throughout the state.

Our new partnership with the Michigan Karst Conservancy is a logical and natural continuation of the years of building bridges that the Michigan Nature Association has engaged in to benefit all of Michigan's special natural places. We at MNA hope that our partnerships in the land preservation community will help create a synergistic effect, resulting in better and more protection of our natural heritage.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Emmi".

Sincerely,
Jeremy Emmi

**9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday**

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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.



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Front Cover: Two yellow-necked caterpillars at Genevieve Casey Nature Sanctuary during MNA's 2007 Fall Adventure by Keith Saylor

Every Sanctuary Has A Story ...

James D. Rooks Memorial at Garden Brook



Photo by Charlie Eshbach

A view of Copper Harbor from the James D. Rooks Memorial Nature Sanctuary

By Charlie Eshbach, MNA Western Upper Peninsula Representative

The James Dorian Rooks Memorial Nature Sanctuary at Garden Brook is one of the gems in MNA's seventeen crown jewel in the Keweenaw Peninsula. Nestled on the side of Brockway Mountain, just a mile from the village of Copper Harbor, this sanctuary preserves a unique mix of plant communities with several rare species thriving in the niche habitats created by the mountain and Garden Brook. These vary from the harsh windswept dwarfed trees on the top of Brockway Mountain to the towering eastern white pine forest along Garden Brook.

This range of habitat supports several unique plant species. Two species found in the sanctuary, heart-leaved arnica and wild lilac, can only be found in Michigan in Keweenaw

County. Heart-leaved arnica (*Arnica cordifolia*) is a perennial plant with bright yellow, daisy-like flowers whose fluffy seed heads resemble dandelions in the fall. [This plant is State Endangered.] The wild lilac (*Ceanothus sanguineus*) or redstem ceanothus, is a flowering shrub with charming clusters of white blossoms. [It is State Threatened.] These plants are not only rare, but are also known as "western disjuncts" which refers to isolated species that are separated by many hundreds or even thousands of miles from where they now commonly grow. Both occur more commonly out west. The arnica grows in boreal forests with elevations of at least 7,000 feet. It appears it grows best as the elevation increases.

From the arid Copper Harbor bedrock to the glacial till supporting huge eastern white cedars along

"Two species found in the sanctuary, heart-leaved arnica and wild lilac, can only be found in Michigan in Keweenaw County."

the brook, this 78-acre preserve, established 29 years ago has become even more precious to us since 2005 when we honored James Dorian Rooks (1935-2005) by dedicating the sanctuary in memory of him.

Jim was a Keweenaw naturalist, an avid birder, and environmental educator. He enjoyed sharing his great love of nature and the Keweenaw through his guided nature hikes (Bear Tracks Eco-Tours based in Copper Harbor). His long association with

the Michigan Nature Association was instrumental in establishing the broad variety of preserves we protect in the Keweenaw today. Jim's passing left a huge void in the natural interpretation of the Keweenaw in Copper Harbor. A fitting memorial, Jim's remains rest in the Copper Harbor cemetery next to his memorial sanctuary.

Today the 2-mile trail is an easy and relaxing walk from US-41 just below the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge. This trail is a part of a network of trails which will eventually link Eagle Harbor, Copper Harbor and the Estivant Pines. The trail will extend to the south shore of the Montreal River and out to the tip of Keweenaw, over 20 miles total.

On August 2nd and 3rd, 45 people attended a nationally led trail building school in Copper Harbor. We listened to lectures on Saturday, and on Sunday we built over 1,000 feet of trail reroute and a 115 foot bridge at the Rooks Memorial. We learned the proper way to design a trail that will be pleasant to hike while meeting national standards. The fine points of drainage and grade were shown to be the key to



View of Garden Brook at Jim Dorian Rooks Memorial Nature Sanctuary

Photo by Charlie Eshbach

was a great opportunity to learn from national experts. These young people marvel at the MNA's accomplishments in the Keweenaw and the beautiful trails we have established. Several were from the six other conservancies

access for hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing is accelerating in the Keweenaw and the Jim Rooks Memorial at Garden Brook is in the middle of a growing system of trails, including the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge Nordic Trail System. As the Mountain Lodge and Conference Center extend their season from 6 to 12 months, and the non-motorized year-round use of the trail system grows, the three MNA sanctuaries in the immediate area will become centers of interest; Klipfel, Rooks and Estivant Pines.

The James Dorian Rooks Memorial is on the leading edge of sanctuary management and stewardship. The principles of preservation, protection, public access and sustainability are applied and working here to minimize impact, and thus protect this sanctuary into perpetuity.



Photo by Charlie Eshbach

Two woodlillies (*Lilium philadelphicum*) spotted at James D. Rooks Memorial

the sustainable trail which will last for years with little maintenance. The original trail was built in 1980; needless to say we have learned a lot about trail building since then and this school

in the Keweenaw and remarked how Garden Brook and the other MNA preserves are of such high quality and popular to visitors.

Public demand for non-motorized

Getting There

From Houghton, drive 45 miles north on US-41 to Copper Harbor. About ¼ mile past the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, and a ½ mile before the intersection of US-41 and M-26, look for the MNA sanctuary sign on the left (north side of highway) indicating the trailhead for the sanctuary. There is a small parking area at the trailhead.

Stewardship Update:

Karner Blue Nature Sanctuary

By Sherri Laier, Stewardship Director



The Karner Blue Nature Sanctuary is a special place in Newaygo County with an ecological history that defines its place in the Michigan Nature Association's line up of premium sanctuaries. The habitat is dry sand prairie with white pine and oak barrens. We are working to join disjunct populations of the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly together into a single population.

A home once stood at the south end of the sanctuary along with several outbuildings. A fire destroyed the house sometime early in the 1900's and the outbuildings began their decay long ago. At the edge of this home site is the steep bank leading to the floodplain of the Muskegon River. This was the place where the homeowners and their neighbors discarded their waste. From jars and bottles to car axles and barrels, the slope and wetland were loaded with "history".

The Michigan Nature Association acquired the butterfly habitat along with the decaying outbuildings and historic dump site in March of 2000.

This spring we decided to clean it up. This was a daunting task. The slope was so steep that it took both hands to get back up the hill once you were down. How were we going to drag that trash up? Some of it was much larger than we were!



Photo by Sherri Laier

Dragging the trash up the hill was a daunting task

Here is where we met our new friends from Sergent's Logging: Butch Sergent, his employees, son Brian and Don Krisatis. Butch volunteered the use of his equipment and staff for two days to tear down the buildings, remove recyclable material from burnable material and separate the material that had to go to the landfill. Then the guys sent a winch down the hill and hauled load after load of metal and glass debris up the slope to be separated at the top.

For two days Sanctuary Steward Chuck Vannette worked tirelessly beside the loggers along with volunteer



Photo by Sherri Laier

Working hard to clean up Karner Blue Sanctuary

Joe Deuparo and volunteer John Bagley. On the third day Chuck Vannette and Rod Geers, Steward of the nearby Newaygo Prairie Nature Sanctuary, hauled all the junk into the township during their Annual Spring Cleanup day.

This winter we will burn the piles of wood and by next season, with the help of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grant, we hope to restore that portion of the sanctuary from its old field condition to dry sand prairie.

A heartfelt thanks to Sergent's Logging and the wonderful volunteers who made this cleanup such a success.

BEFORE



AFTER



Photos by Sherri Laier

Get Involved: Become a Steward

The Michigan Nature Association relies heavily on volunteer stewards to help maintain our sanctuaries. The basic requirement for becoming 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 is not required.

By becoming a steward you not only help the MNA protect its sanctuaries, but you'll also be able to get into the field and see the amazing events that happen in nature. If you are interested in becoming a steward please contact Natalie Kent at (517) 655-5655 or nkent@michigannature.org.

MNA is currently in particular need for stewards in these counties:

Alger

Chippewa

Huron

Lenawee

MNA Protects Another Sanctuary

By Barry Horney, Land Protection Specialist



On July 19, 2008 the Michigan Nature Association Board of Trustees approved an offer from the Michigan Karst Conservancy for the Michigan Nature Association to partner with it in taking ownership and jointly working to preserve and manage a 76-acre feature, commonly referred to as Mystery Valley.

Karst is a type of land feature created by the action of slightly acidic water flowing into any opening (crack, crevice, fracture) in soluble bedrock materials such as limestone, dolostone (commonly referred to by its' mineral component dolomite), and gypsum. The erosive nature of such activity results in underground voids, caves and other features which can result in subsidence.

This particular karst feature is located in Posen Township, Presque Isle County. It is distinguished by a large karst collapse area and is believed to be the finest known example of a karst valley with a swallow hole in Michigan.

The Michigan Karst Conservancy, who initially undertook the acquisition of Mystery Valley, encountered difficulties with attracting interest and support in its efforts to fund the purchase. So as not to lose the opportunity,

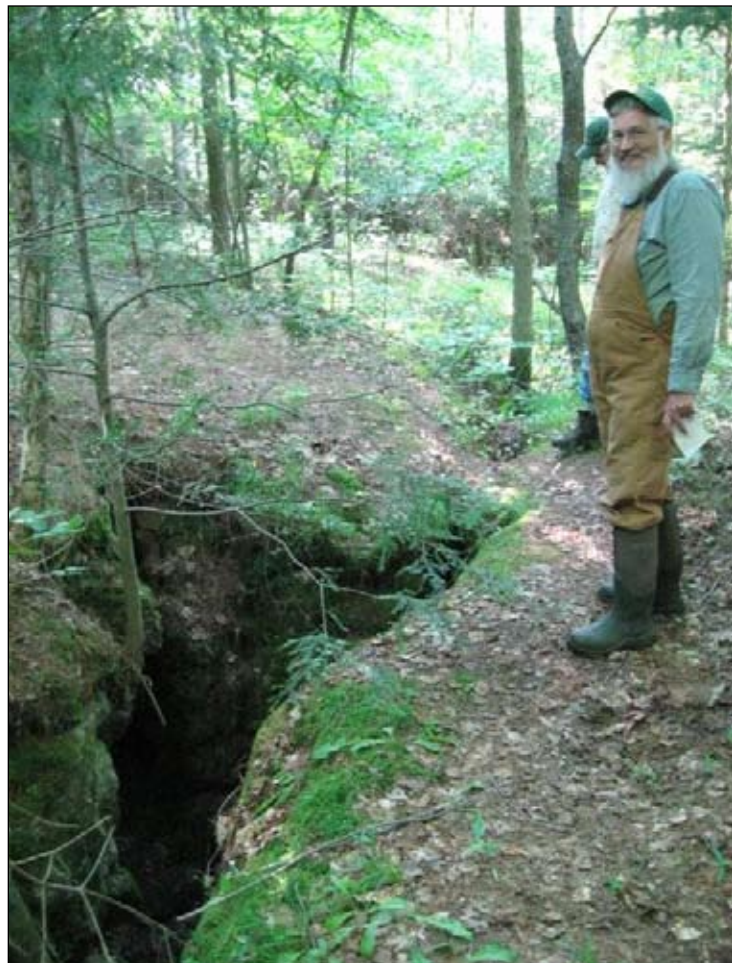


Photo by Sherri Laier

These photos show how large the fissures given enough time.

the Michigan Karst Conservancy approached the Michigan Nature Association, the only Michigan conservancy with a comparable mission, seeking to enlist us in making protection of Mystery Valley permanent. The Michigan Nature Association Board of Trustees, after thoroughly considering the offer, has directed the staff to work with the Michigan Karst Conservancy in developing a joint agreement for acquiring, protecting, and managing this extraordinary Michigan land feature. This effort will likely result in a long-term partnership with the Michigan Karst Conservancy.

Interested in Donating Land?

If you would like to make your land a Michigan Nature Association sanctuary/plant preserve please call (517)655-5655 or visit www.michigannature.org and click on "how you can help"

MNA Schedule of Activities

Welcome to the MNA Schedule of Activities!

As you know, Michigan weather can be unpredictable. For this reason, it is important to register for these activities so we can notify you in case of a cancellation. Please remember to verify your contact

information when you register by calling the office at (517) 655-5655, or e-mailing volunteer@michigannature.org.

When joining us for a Volunteer Day, please remember to wear sturdy boots and gloves, and bring water and a snack or lunch.

OCTOBER EVENTS

Tuesday, October 7

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parsons Memorial

Clare County – 80 acres

Interested in seeing fall colors, Ferguson Lake and signs of beaver activity? Here's your chance to do so and also help remove autumn olive invading the upland forest of this sanctuary.

Directions: From US-127, take US-10 West/MI-115 West and get off at the Old State Road exit. Turn north onto Old State Road, drive for about a mile, and then turn west on Ziggy Road. Park in the driveway for 1328 Ziggy Road, about a half mile from Old State Road.



Looking for a field trip or volunteer day? We have reorganized this section so they are all in order. You can tell if an event is a field trip or volunteer day by the color of the header. Volunteer days have a green background and field trips have a blue background.

Thursday, October 16

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saginaw Wetlands

Huron County – 155 acres

Contribute to the innovative research and management efforts here at this incredible sanctuary! Activities will involve removing invasive shrubs to restore this sanctuary to quality lakeplain prairie. Call office for directions.



Wednesday, October 8

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeville Swamp

Oakland County – 76.35 acres

Help remove invasive shrubs and/or burn brush piles created during previous volunteer days at this diverse sanctuary with prairie fen, southern wet meadow, and relict conifer swamp.

Directions: From the North - Take M-24 South and turn East onto Burdick St., which will eventually become Lakeville Rd. Turn South onto Rochester Rd from Lakeville Rd. *

From the South - Take M-53 North to 32 Mile Rd. Go West on 32 Mile Rd. and then turn North on Rochester Rd. *

* Continue on Rochester Rd. until you reach a gravel turn area/parking lot on the West side of the road. Be sure to look for the MNA sign by the parking lot.



Saturday, October 18

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Butternut Creek

Berrien County – 103 acres

Please help us remove invasive shrubs that are taking over this high quality prairie fen. Call office for directions.



Thursday, October 9

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saginaw Wetlands

Huron County – 155 acres

Contribute to the innovative research and management efforts here at this incredible sanctuary! Activities will involve removing invasive shrubs to restore this sanctuary to quality lakeplain prairie. Call office for directions.



Saturday, October 18

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Dowagiac Woods

Cass County – 235 acres

Join steward Dave Wendling for a tour of one of MNA's largest sanctuaries in the Lower Peninsula! One of Dave's specialties is fern identification so come prepared to learn about some of these interesting plants here including broad beech and grape ferns.

Directions: Travel west out of Dowagiac on M-62 and turn south onto Sink Road. After turning east onto Frost Road, look for the parking area and large sanctuary sign on the north side of Frost Road.



Friday-Sunday, October 10-12

MNA Fall Adventure

Huron and St. Clair Counties – 6 Sanctuaries

Join us for our 6th annual MNA Fall Adventure! This year we'll be visiting Saginaw Wetlands, Kernan Memorial and Sonnenberg Memorial in Huron County and Brennan Memorial, McGaw Memorial and Jasper Woods in St. Clair County. Please call the office for more details.



Monday, October 20

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Red Cedar River

Ingham County – 9.6 acres

Join us as we finish assembling a new boardwalk here in the rich floodplain of the Red Cedar River.

Directions: Take I-96 to the Williamston exit and head north on Williamston Road/Putnam Street. Go through the stop light in downtown Williamston and turn east onto Church Street, which turns into Rowley Road. From Rowley Road, turn south onto Cedar Ridge Drive. Meet the group where Cedar Ridge Drive ends.



: October through February

Tuesday, October 21

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rizor

Livingston County – 19.5 acres

Please help us remove several invasive shrubs here including autumn olive, honeysuckle, barberry and multiflora rose. After the volunteer day, join us for a trip to the local cider mill for fresh apple cider and donuts.

Directions: From northbound US-23, take exit 70 for Clyde Road. Cross over the expressway and turn right onto Old 23. Drive north 2 miles to Fausett Road, turn left, and drive $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to Shannon Glen Drive. Turn left onto Shannon Glen Drive and then right onto River Walk Drive. Continue to the cul-de-sac and park near the chain gate.

From southbound US-23, take exit 75 and turn right onto Center Road. Turn left onto Old 23 and follow it south two miles to Fausett Road. Turn right onto Fausett Road and follow the above directions from Fausett Road.



Thursday, October 23

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saginaw Wetlands

Huron County – 155 acres

Contribute to the innovative research and management efforts here at this incredible sanctuary! Activities will involve removing invasive shrubs to restore this sanctuary to quality lakeplain prairie. Call office for directions.



Monday, October 27

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Red Cedar River

Ingham County – 9.6 acres

Join us as we finish assembling a new boardwalk here in the rich floodplain of the Red Cedar River. See directions for the October 20 volunteer day.



Wednesday, October 22

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeville Swamp

Oakland County – 76.35 acres

Help remove invasive shrubs and/or burn brush piles created during previous volunteer days at this diverse sanctuary with prairie fen, southern wet meadow, and relict conifer swamp. See directions for the October 8 Volunteer Day.



Tuesday, October 28

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Genevieve Casey

Oceana County – 23 acres

Please help us remove multiflora rose, glossy buckthorn and other invasive plants that are spreading into the sanctuary.

Directions: Travel on US-31 toward Shelby, MI. Take the Shelby Rd. exit and turn east onto Shelby Rd. Turn north onto 72nd St. and travel approximately 3 miles to Buchanan Rd. Turn west onto Buchanan Rd. and travel approximately 2 miles. The sanctuary entrance will be on the north side of the road just after you cross the creek. Look for the new sanctuary sign.



Wednesday, October 22

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Barvicks Sand Dunes

Van Buren County – 40 acres

Help continue trail building and boundary marking at this unique forested dune community. Call office for directions.



Wednesday, October 29

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Krum Memorial

Montcalm County – 17 acres

Please help us remove invasive autumn olive from this beautiful sanctuary on Millmine Lake.

Directions: Take County Road 522 four miles east of Stanton. Look for the sanctuary entrance on the north side of County Road 522.



Thursday, October 23

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parsons Memorial

Clare County – 80 acres

Interested in seeing Ferguson Lake and signs of beaver activity? Here's your chance to do so and also help remove autumn olive invading the upland forest of this sanctuary.

Directions: From US-127, take US-10 West/MI-115 West and get off at the Old State Road exit. Turn north onto Old State Road, drive for about a mile, and then turn west on Ziggy Road. Park in the driveway for 1328 Ziggy Road, about a half mile from Old State Road.



Don't forget to register for these Volunteer Days!

Call the office at (517) 655-5655 or e-mail volunteer@michigannature.org.



Photo by Sherri Laier

Jeremy Emmi and Carl Bouton at a Black River volunteer day

Don't forget to register for these Volunteer Days!

Call the office at (517) 655-5655 or e-mail volunteer@michigannature.org.

Thursday, October 30

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saginaw Wetlands

Huron County – 155 acres

Contribute to the innovative research and management efforts here at this incredible sanctuary! Activities will involve removing invasive shrubs to restore this sanctuary to quality lakeplain prairie. Call office for directions.



Wednesday, November 5

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Krum Memorial

Montcalm County – 17 acres

Please help us remove invasive autumn olive from this beautiful sanctuary on Millmine Lake. See directions for the October 29 Volunteer Day.



NOVEMBER EVENTS

Saturday, November 1

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

McGaw Memorial

St. Clair County – 14.2 acres

Please help us remove invasive autumn olive and honeysuckle at this preserve along the valley of Mill Creek.

Directions: Take M-136 roughly 12 miles west of Port Huron and turn south onto Fargo Road. Go one mile on Fargo until it ends, then pull into the driveway ahead and slightly to the left of you – 7981 Beard Road.



Thursday, November 6

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saginaw Wetlands

Huron County – 155 acres

Contribute to the innovative research and management efforts here at this incredible sanctuary! Activities will involve removing invasive shrubs to restore this sanctuary to quality lakeplain prairie. Call office for directions.



Thursday, November 6

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wilding

Cass County – 3.69 acres

Help remove invasive shrubs at this lovely preserve on the Dowagiac Creek. Take a break and look for some of the 24 native tree species identified here.

Driving Directions: Take M-51 South of Pokagon, MI. Look for the green Wilding Plant Preserve sign on the West side of M-51 in between Maple and White Roads.



Monday, November 3

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Red Cedar River

Ingham County – 9.6 acres

Join us as we finish assembling a new boardwalk here in the rich floodplain of the Red Cedar River. See directions for the October 20 volunteer day.



Saturday, November 8

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parsons Memorial

Clare County – 80 acres

Interested in seeing Ferguson Lake and signs of beaver activity? Here's your chance to do so and also help remove autumn olive invading the upland forest of this sanctuary. See directions for the October 7 volunteer day.



Tuesday, November 4

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wilcox Warnes

Macomb County – 44.8 acres

We'll be working on trail and boardwalk maintenance and expansion, boundary marking and invasive species removal at this beautiful floodplain forest.

Directions: Head north on M-53 from M-59. Take the 26 Mile Road exit and head east on 26 Mile Road. Turn south on Schoenherr Road and look for the sanctuary entrance on the west of Schoenherr Road.



Monday, November 10

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Red Cedar River

Ingham County – 9.6 acres

Join us as we finish assembling a new boardwalk here in the rich floodplain of the Red Cedar River. See directions for the October 20 volunteer day.



Wednesday, November 5

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeville Swamp

Oakland County – 76.35 acres

Help remove invasive shrubs and/or burn brush piles created during previous volunteer days at this diverse sanctuary with prairie fen, southern wet meadow, and relict conifer swamp. See directions for the October 8 Volunteer Day.



Don't forget to register for these Volunteer Days!

Call the office at (517) 655-5655 or e-mail volunteer@michigannature.org.



Photo by Sherri Laier

Melvin Schafer tells a story to his brother Mason during an MNA volunteer day at Broehl Memorial Nature Sanctuary

Tuesday, November 11

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Butternut Creek

Berrien County – 103 acres

Please help us remove invasive shrubs that are taking over this high quality prairie fen. Call office for directions.



Wednesday, November 12

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parsons Memorial

Clare County – 80 acres

Interested in seeing Ferguson Lake and signs of beaver activity? Here's your chance to do so and also help remove autumn olive invading the upland forest of this sanctuary. See directions for the October 7 volunteer day.



Wednesday, November 12

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeville Swamp

Oakland County – 76.35 acres

Help remove invasive shrubs and/or burn brush piles created during previous volunteer days at this diverse sanctuary with prairie fen, southern wet meadow, and relict conifer swamp. See directions for the October 8 Volunteer Day.



Thursday, November 13

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saginaw Wetlands

Huron County – 155 acres

Contribute to the innovative research and management efforts here at this incredible sanctuary! Activities will involve removing invasive shrubs to restore this sanctuary to quality lakeplain prairie. Call office for directions.



Thursday, November 13

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Beck Memorial

Berrien County – 3.32 acres

Please help us remove multiflora rose, autumn olive and other invasive plants that are spreading into the sanctuary. Call office for directions.



DECEMBER EVENTS

Wednesday, December 3

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeville Swamp

Oakland County – 76.35 acres

Help remove invasive shrubs and/or burn brush piles created during previous volunteer days at this diverse sanctuary with prairie fen, southern wet meadow, and relict conifer swamp. See directions for the October 8 Volunteer Day.



Photo by Natalie Kent

Volunteers at Rizor after a hard day's work. Look at how much garlic mustard they got rid of!

Thursday, December 4

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saginaw Wetlands

Huron County – 155 acres

Contribute to the innovative research and management efforts here at this incredible sanctuary! Activities will involve removing invasive shrubs to restore this sanctuary to quality lakeplain prairie. Call office for directions.



Saturday, December 6

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

McGaw Memorial

St. Clair County – 14.2 acres

Please help us remove invasive autumn olive and honeysuckle at this preserve along the valley of Mill Creek. See directions for the November 1 Volunteer Day.



Tuesday, December 9

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lefglen

Jackson County – 218 acres

Help remove glossy buckthorn and other invasive shrubs from this sanctuary's beautiful prairie fen.



Directions: From I-94, take the Grass Lake Road exit and head south toward Grass Lake on Mt. Hope Road. When you come to the stop light on Michigan Avenue, turn right (west) onto Michigan Avenue. Continue west on Michigan Avenue until you come to Wolf Lake Road. Turn left (south) onto Wolf Lake Road and drive about four miles until you reach the sanctuary sign on the east side of Wolf Lake Road just south of Rexford Road.

Looking for a field trip or volunteer day? We have reorganized this section so they are all in order. You can tell if an event is a field trip or volunteer day by the color of the background. Volunteer days have a green background and field trips have a blue background.



Photo by Natalie Kent

Neighbors at the Radebaugh Memorial Dedication earlier this year enjoy the view of Eagle Lake

Thursday, December 11

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Butternut Creek

Berrien County – 103 acres

Please help us remove invasive shrubs that are taking over this high quality prairie fen. Call office for directions.



Thursday, December 11

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saginaw Wetlands

Huron County – 155 acres

Contribute to the innovative research and management efforts here at this incredible sanctuary! Activities will involve removing invasive shrubs to restore this sanctuary to quality lakeplain prairie. Call office for directions.



Wednesday, December 17

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeville Swamp

Oakland County – 76.35 acres

Help remove invasive shrubs and/or burn brush piles created during previous volunteer days at this diverse sanctuary with prairie fen, southern wet meadow, and relict conifer swamp. See directions for the October 8 Volunteer Day.



Thursday, December 18

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saginaw Wetlands

Huron County – 155 acres

Contribute to the innovative research and management efforts here at this incredible sanctuary! Activities will involve removing invasive shrubs to restore this sanctuary to quality lakeplain prairie. Call office for directions.



Don't forget to register for these Volunteer Days!

Call the office at (517) 655-5655 or e-mail volunteer@michigannature.org

JANUARY EVENTS

Wednesday, January 7

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeville Swamp

Oakland County – 76.35 acres

Help remove invasive shrubs and/or burn brush piles created during previous volunteer days at this diverse sanctuary with prairie fen, southern wet meadow, and relict conifer swamp. See directions for the October 8 Volunteer Day.



Saturday, January 10

Meet at 2 p.m.

Redwyn's Dunes

Keweenaw County – 36.37 acres

MNA Trustee Joan Chadde will lead a snowshoe hike into this beautiful preserve along Great Sand Bay. The one mile trail here will take you through beautiful stable dunes covered with red oak and pine.

Directions: From Eagle River, follow M-26 north 3.6 miles to the sanctuary entrance sign and trailhead on the right side of the road.



Tuesday, January 13

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lefglen

Jackson County – 218 acres

Help remove glossy buckthorn and other invasive shrubs from this sanctuary's beautiful prairie fen. See directions for December 9 Volunteer Day.



Saturday, January 17 Sunday, January 18

Meet at 1 p.m.

Green River

Antrim County – 40 acres

Steward John Porter will lead a snowshoe trip along the scenic Green River, one of Michigan's classic trout streams, and into the adjacent coniferous woods of this special site. After the trip, participants may also join in an overnight camping adventure on nearby DNR property. Please call the office for more details.

Directions: From Mancelona, head north on M-66. After you pass Eddy School Road and Pinney Bridge Road, slow down and look for the new sanctuary sign on the east side of M-66.



Wednesday, January 21

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeville Swamp

Oakland County – 76.35 acres

Help remove invasive shrubs and/or burn brush piles created during previous volunteer days at this diverse sanctuary with prairie fen, southern wet meadow, and relict conifer swamp. See directions for the October 8 Volunteer Day.



Saturday, January 24

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A Looking Glass Sanctuary

Clinton County – 13.63 acres

Please help us remove multiflora rose, autumn olive and other invasive plants that are spreading into this sanctuary located on the Looking Glass River.

Directions: Take Highway 127 to the Round Lake Rd. Exit, go east on Round Lake Rd. Turn south on to Babcock rd and cross over the river. Turn into the driveway for 10415 Babcock Rd. and park in the old field on the south side of the house. The sanctuary is directly adjacent to this house, look for the MNA sign.



Saturday, January 24

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Black Creek

Keweenaw County – 241.62 acres

Join stewards Jim and Joy Ziemnick for a snowshoe outing into this beautiful preserve. Enjoy the new wilderness trail with several newly installed foot bridges. Hike will be moderately strenuous. Pack plenty of water and snacks.

Directions: Take M-203 and turn North onto Tamarack Waterworks Rd. just West of Calumet, MI. Turn Northeast onto Cedar Bay Rd. There is parking available on the East side of Cedar Bay Rd. Less than 1/4 mile South of where Cedar Bay Rd. ends, a footpath begins. Look for the sanctuary sign and trail head across from the red & white 911 street addresses 4175 and 4185 Cedar Bay Road, Calumet, MI 49913



Tuesday, January 27

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lefglen

Jackson County – 218 acres

Help remove glossy buckthorn and other invasive shrubs from this sanctuary's beautiful prairie fen. See directions for December 9 Volunteer Day.



FEBRUARY EVENTS

Wednesday, February 4

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeville Swamp

Oakland County – 76.35 acres

Help remove invasive shrubs and/or burn brush piles created during previous volunteer days at this diverse sanctuary with prairie fen, southern wet meadow, and relict conifer swamp. See directions for the October 8 Volunteer Day.



Looking for a field trip or volunteer day? We have reorganized this section so they are all in order. You can tell if an event is a field trip or volunteer day by the color of the header. Volunteer days have a green background and field trips have a blue background.

Saturday, February 7

9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

8 a.m. Optional Breakfast at Ang-Gios Restaurant in Cedarville

Roach Point

Chippewa County – 479 acres

Cost: \$20, includes snowshoe rental if needed

Biologist Jessie Hadley of Woods & Water Ecotours will lead participants through this sanctuary's vast wilderness from serene 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 to 12 people 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, February 7

Meet at 2 p.m.

Keweenaw Shore & Upson Lake

Keweenaw County – 36.64 & 99.9 acres

Join MNA Trustee Joan Chadde for a snowshoe adventure beginning at the Keweenaw Shore trailhead on M-26 across from Esrey Park. The trail travels over the ridge to Brockway Mountain Dr. where you'll have the option to continue into Upson Lake Nature Sanctuary. The total distance is 2 miles. This is a very interesting trail that offers a cross section of Keweenaw geology and a variety of plant communities ranging from boreal to spruce bog to dry northern forest.

Directions: From Eagle Harbor, turn north on M-26 towards Copper Harbor and drive 6 miles to the Esrey Park roadside park. The trailhead is across the highway and 50 yards west.



Tuesday, February 10

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lefglen

Jackson County – 218 acres

Help remove glossy buckthorn and other invasive shrubs from this sanctuary's beautiful prairie fen. See directions for December 9 volunteer day.



Wednesday, February 18

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeville Swamp

Oakland County – 76.35 acres

Help remove invasive shrubs and/or burn brush piles created during previous volunteer days at this diverse sanctuary with prairie fen, southern wet meadow, and relict conifer swamp. See directions for the October 8 Volunteer Day.



Saturday, February 21

Meet at 2 p.m.

Robert T. Brown

Houghton County – 18.39 acres

Join MNA Trustee Joan Chadde on snowshoes for a winter look at this special sanctuary that protects a northern fen, small pond and black spruce/tamarack/white cedar swamp. Call office for directions.



Trustee Profile: Debby Igleheart

By: Mary Ann Czechowski, MNA Trustee

Michigan Nature Association Trustee Debby Igleheart has long been active as a volunteer for the Association, especially in Oakland County. She has assisted in presenting Michigan Nature Association slide shows to numerous organizations, and tirelessly strived to publicize the work of the Association. Her work as a Trustee includes active membership on the Membership, Communication, and Education Committee, in addition to her many Board responsibilities.

How and when did you first learn about the Michigan Nature Association?

I first learned about the Michigan Nature Association way back in the early 1970's when the Detroit Free Press ran articles about the Estivant Pines and how the MNA was trying to save them. My husband and I were new to Michigan and had no idea where they were or even where the Upper Peninsula was—we just knew that we wanted to support those efforts. It was a wonderful project. We joined the MNA and belonging to such an organization meant we could pursue what was meaningful to us: saving land, including rare and endangered species, so those places would be there for all who come after us, and they could see what we loved—the beauty that surrounds us in Michigan.

What has continued your interest in the Association?

One reason that I continue to enjoy my membership in the Michigan Nature Association is visiting the sanctuaries, many of which are not that far from me in Oakland County. I love seeing rare and endangered species and even just ordinary wildflowers, so I can learn about them and, hopefully, recognize them when I see them again.

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

I am interested in working on the Board of Trustees Membership, Communication, and Education Committee. Currently, I would like to pursue some good ideas for getting children involved in nature, so that when they are adults they will understand the need to protect nature. I think that children need to get out to the sanctuaries, and I would like to work on doing just that. Imagine showing little children their first pitcher plant or sundew! In the past, for

a number of years, Fred Dye (MNA Trustee) and I gave slide show talks to garden clubs, men's clubs, etc.

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

The first preserve that I went to - the Big Valley in Oakland County - remains my favorite. I saw my first pitcher plant there and my first white lady's slipper, also. I didn't know that Michigan had orchids! Now I love going on the Michigan Nature Association Fall Adventure—you see so much and learn so much, all in the company of old and new friends—what could be better?

Where do you live? Are you from Michigan? Were you educated in Michigan?

My husband and I have lived in Michigan longer than anywhere else. Our children were raised here in a one-hundred-twenty year old farmhouse in Bloomfield Township, where we lived for twenty-eight years. We have two (probably two too many) get-away homes, one in the Leland area in the "little finger" part of Michigan; the other in Virginia Beach (Virginia),

which is warmer than Michigan and is our winter place with ocean, seafood, semi-tropical vegetation, etc. I grew up in the Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) area, going to the Jersey (New Jersey) shore; the beach in Virginia is similar. I went to Wilson College in south central Pennsylvania where the Appalachian Mountains, including the beautiful Blue Mountain, were nearby. I majored in English, and eventually became a children's librarian.

When did you first become interested in nature and the natural environment? What caused and influenced that interest?

It's hard to say when and where my love of the natural world began, certainly very early. Now that I am in my 70's, I find I want to know the name of every bird, flower, and tree. I might have studied botany if I were doing it all over again.

What, to you, is special about your work as a Trustee of the Michigan Nature Association?

I enjoy working on the Membership, Communication, and Education committee and hope to find better ways to involve children. I believe children need to get out more into nature and I think MNA can help achieve this goal. I know my early experiences, like trips to Valley Forge, helped me learn appreciate nature.



Photo by Addison Igleheart

Debby Igleheart pulling invasive spotted knapweed from dunes along Lake Michigan

MNA Board of Trustee Elections

By: Paul Steiner, Office Manager



Last spring the Michigan Nature Association held its first contested election for the Board of Trustees since 2005. After the election it came to our attention that many of our members are not aware of exactly how our elections are conducted. Determining the winner is simple - whoever gets the most votes wins. However, who gets to vote, and how they get to vote, is a little more complicated. Since we are entering a new election period with nominations for the Board due in a couple of months (December 1), we wanted to make sure that everyone understood exactly how the elections are run.

First, we need to start with a little history lesson. In 2001, the Michigan Nature Association switched from being a stock-based organization to a membership-based organization. Essentially, prior to 2001, you could own a piece of the Michigan Nature Association stock in the same fashion as you could own a piece of General Motors stock. During elections each stockholder was entitled to one vote per piece of stock owned when voting.

When the decision was made to switch to the much more common membership-based organization, the stockholders agreed to give up their shares in exchange for life memberships and the ability to keep their additional votes in future elections. As a result, former shareholders now receive one vote for every share of stock they used to own per contest. These additional votes are not transferable and upon the death of the former shareholder, the additional votes are retired. Unlike regular members, former shareholders also are allowed to vote in a cumulative fashion. For example, if three trustees were being elected every member would get 3 votes (1 per contest) and could only assign 1 vote per candidate. A former shareholder who had 1 share would get 3 additional votes. As a shareholder they have the option of giving all their additional votes to a single candidate or spreading them around up to three candidates however they see fit.

Although we currently only have about 40 former

shareholders and the majority of votes in elections come from non-shareholders, the Board of Trustees decided that everyone should be aware exactly how our elections are determined since it has been seven years since the change to membership was made, and many of our current members were not around back then. If you have any further questions I will be happy to answer them for you. You can call me at (517) 655-5655 or email me at psteiner@michigananture.org. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that nominations for the Board of Trustees are due by December 1st. More information on running for the Board can be found in the green box below.

Nominations Now Open

The Michigan Nature Association is always looking for new candidates to serve as Trustees. MNA Trustees are elected to four-year terms on a rotating basis. In 2009, seven Trustees will be elected. The Trustees 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.

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**

**All nominations for Trustees are due by
December 1, 2008.**

Help MNA with a "GoodSearch"

By Andy McGlashen, MNA Intern

If you are the sort of person who enjoys exploring the hills, valleys, rivers and forests protected by the Michigan Nature Association, you probably have a healthy curiosity. We are thrilled to announce a new way that you can help support MNA, simply by being curious!

At www.goodsearch.com, you can raise money for land conservation each time you perform an Internet search. Just enter the Michigan Nature Association as

your designated cause, and MNA will receive roughly a penny per search. The people at GoodSearch donate half of their revenue to charities of every stripe, all of which comes from advertisers – it costs you nothing. Furthermore, the site is easy to use, and the search engine is powered by Yahoo!, so you can be sure each search is thorough.

By the way, I just learned that the capital of Oman is Muscat – another penny for the Michigan Nature Association!

The Inside Scoop on Recycling

By: Phillip Bergquist, Administrative Assistant



For many of us, recycling is not as easy as taking our old newspapers and cans to the curb. In fact, only 37% of Michigan residents have access to curbside recycling, and that number is not showing much of an increase from year to year.

When I took a closer look I found that 71% of our waste is put into landfills each year, and only 20% is recycled. On top of that, our overall recycling rate, the amount of waste recycled per person and funding for recycling programs all decreased from 1994 to 2004. During that same period states around us like Indiana and Minnesota, who recycle 35% and 46% of their waste respectively, were using that time to build solid recycling programs that are easy to understand and convenient to use.

Needless to say, we have some catching up to do, and the easiest way for us to increase our recycling rate is to get educated about the process. For example, in the last statewide survey about recycling over half of the respondents gave “too complicated” and “not convenient” as their reasons for not recycling, and those are both causes we can easily address.

www.statelocalgov.net This page lists the websites of all Michigan’s county and city governments so you can contact them about local recycling programs.

In the meantime, I will be the first one to admit that if you do not live in a place that has a curbside recycling program it can be difficult to know what can and cannot be recycled in your area, but there are resources out there to help you get some answers.

Most recycling programs are administrated by the county or city that you live in, so if you contact your local government’s office they should be able to put you in touch with the recycling center closest to you, and give information on what types of items they accept. The most common items accepted through these traditional programs are plastic, paper, glass, aluminum, steel/tin and cardboard. Also, there are several types of affordable containers that you can purchase for your home that will keep your items organized, even if you do not have a lot of space. (visit www.stacksandstacks.com to view some choices)

There are also plenty of items that can be recycled that we do not typically think of; this includes batteries, cell phones, ink cartridges, motor oil, tires, computer disks, CD’s, electronics, appliances, disposable cameras and eyeglasses.

These websites can help you find out where to recycle items:

www.earth911.org At the top of the page you can enter

any item and your location, it will find the closest recycling location to you for that item. (including less commonly recycled items).

www.recyclingcenters.org You can enter your zip code and see both a map and list of all the recycling centers in your area.

Many times we have items in our home that we no longer need, but if they are in good condition, they may be of use to someone else, and that is another way you can recycle. Your local thrift stores, consignment shops and charitable

programs are an excellent way to give these items a new purpose, and a way to keep them out of the dump.

When you no longer need an item try using one of these websites to see if anyone else may have use for it:

www.craigslist.org Access your local Craigslist group by clicking on Michigan and then the city closest to you. You can post an advertisement under the “Free” section for things like old furniture, clothing and books.

www.freecycle.org Search for your location and join a local, online recycling group. You can post items you have that other people might have use for and give them away instead of throwing them in the trash.

www.goodwill.org and **www.salvationarmyusa.org** Use both of these sites to find the nearest re-sale location where you can drop off items like clothing, furniture, house wares, linens and small appliances.

www.habitat.org/env/restores You can contribute home materials like paint, stain, cabinets, doors, lumber and fixtures that you may have left over or don’t need to Habitat for Humanity. They re-sell these items at a reduced cost and use the proceeds to build more homes.

Recycling is and always will be an important part of our efforts to protect the environment, and even though many of us don’t have the convenience of a curbside program, we can still do our part.

If you have any tips, tricks or stories about your own effort to recycle you can share them online by going to **www.mymna.org** and clicking on “Share Your Story” at the top of the page.

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.

Featured Volunteer: Andy McGlashen

By: Meghan Ferguson, Graphic Designer



We are very sad to see our wonderful, summer journalism intern, Andy McGlashen,

leave us. Andy has been an important asset to the staff here in Williamston. He has put hours of hard work into helping with our newsletter, issuing press releases, and writing website content. For those reasons and more, we have chosen Andy for our featured volunteer.

Andy is a master's student in the Knight Center for Environmental Journalism program at Michigan State University. After receiving his bachelors in English, he moved on to a master's program which he hopes to graduate from in less than a year.

Andy originally heard about the Michigan Nature Association through a Capital News story about the bill that gave tax credits for conservation easements. At this time he was an intern at Capital News Service, which is part of the MSU School of Journalism. While there, he reported about the current events in and around Lansing.

Out of all the different internships offered to students in the Knight Center program at MSU, Andy says that he chose MNA because we are



Photo by Katy Maiolatesi

Andy McGlashen, Journalism Intern

an environmental group, but not a political organization.

During his experience here he wrote numerous press releases and expanded and updated our media contacts throughout the state. He says that he will take a lot away from this experience and is very grateful to MNA. He also has gained more insight into conservation and all the different considerations that have to be weighed in the process.

When I asked Andy about his favorite part of interning at MNA, he stated that it was definitely when he went with Sherri Laier, MNA's Stewardship Director, to Goose Creek in June. He also told me that when he was younger he used to camp and fish at Jordan River, which is very close to

Want to Help?

The Michigan Nature Association is always looking for volunteers to help in the Williamston office. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Paul Steiner at psteiner@michigannature.org, or visit the MNA Web site at michigannature.org.

MNA's Green River and Cedar River sanctuaries. He's always enjoyed being out in nature and believes in the work that the Michigan Nature Association does.

Andy was recently married in July. His wife, Katy, teaches middle school Spanish in Williamston. Again, we are sad to see Andy leave, but are happy to know that he would like stay involved with MNA in the future. We also congratulate him on getting married and for his new position as a staff news writer at the Environmental Science and Policy Program at MSU. On behalf of the Michigan Nature Association, we thank Andy for all his hard work this summer and wish him the best of luck in the future!

Saying Goodbye to Special Friends

By Paul Steiner, Office Manager



This segment of the newsletter is usually reserved to say a few words about an MNA member or supporter who recently passed away. Instead we would like to take this opportunity to respond to some questions we have received lately about memorial gifts.

You may notice that in the "Thank You" section of each newsletter, numerous gifts are made in memory of friends or family by MNA members. Although many people make these gifts, most are unaware of what happens to this money that they donate to the Michigan Nature Association.

In order to honor the deceased as much as possible, the gifts go directly into the MNA endowment fund unless you specifically request otherwise. This endowment fund is set up to fund the protection of our sanctuaries and plant preserves forever. When someone gives a donation to MNA in honor of a loved one, they are ensuring the protection of some of the most beautiful and sensitive natural habitats in Michigan forever.

MNA sympathizes with the loss of a loved one and when you give a memorial gift in honor of that person you can be confident that it will have a lasting effect, just like the person who is being remembered. If you have any questions about this endowment fund or how to send a memorial gift please contact us at (517) 655-5655.

2007 Financial Review

By: Paul Steiner, Office Manager



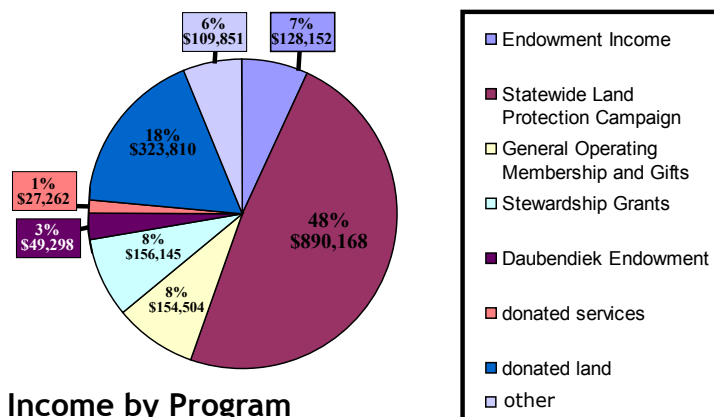
Every spring the Michigan Nature Association's finances are reviewed by an independent auditor. This review gives us a chance to look back at the previous year to ensure we operated effectively and efficiently. Not only does it give us a picture of what happened but it also lets us focus on the future and identify and solve problems before they occur. The following report highlights some of the key findings. A full copy of the audit is available at the Michigan Nature Association office in Williamston.

To the right, there is a pie graph (Figure 1.1) showing where income to the Michigan Nature Association was designated by the donor. Not surprisingly the majority of the contributions we received were for the Statewide Land Protection Campaign which ended successfully, having raised \$3 million over three years to protect ten natural areas around the state. The majority of the campaign contributions came from our members. These contributions enabled us to earn the \$375,000 in challenge grants from the Kresge and Carls Foundations which make up about 42% of the campaign income.

The second largest income area was for the general operating fund, which supports just about everything the Michigan Nature Association does including most sanctuary maintenance, publishing this newsletter, and researching and acquiring new land acquisitions projects. Funding the Bertha A. Daubendiek Sanctuary Preservation Fund was a major part of the Statewide Land Campaign, but even after the campaign we had a number of donors who gave to this permanent endowment fund that helps finance our stewardship program. The \$49,298 figure shown are contributions to the fund that did not come from the Statewide Land Protection Campaign. Another \$385,221 was added to the Bertha Daubendiek Sanctuary Preservation Fund as part of the Statewide Land Protection Campaign. The Michigan Nature Association also has a number of other endowment funds that are either dedicated to the general operating fund or for a specific sanctuary. The donations for these endowments are grouped in the "Other" category. An endowment fund is an investment dedicated to a specific program area where the principal is never used, instead the interest, dividends, and a portion of the appreciate, is used by the Michigan Nature Association to fund the dedicated activities.

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not mention the donated services and land. With 164 sanctuaries in 54 counties, the Michigan Nature Association is heavily dependent on our volunteers and in-kind donors to ensure the sanctuaries get the attention they deserve. Unfortunately, due to accounting standards only a small percentage is shown. The \$27,262 of volunteered services that qualifies for recording is only a very small portion of the actual value our volunteers gave us.

It is also useful to look at where our income comes from.



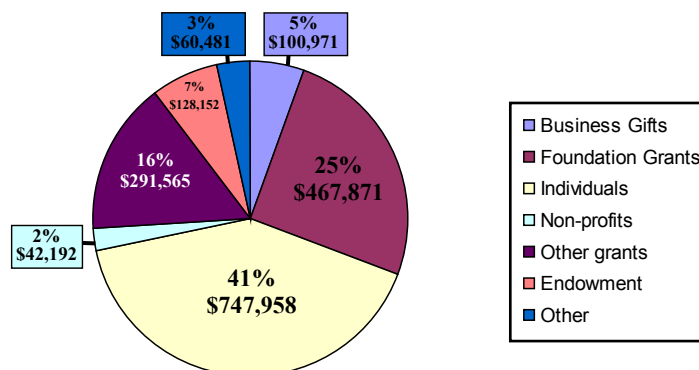
Income by Program

Figure 1.1

Looking at Figure 1.2 you can see that overall 41% of our income came directly from individuals. This included over \$160,000 in bequests from individuals, including Michigan Nature Association co-founder Bertha Daubendiek. The second largest source of income was foundations at 25%, however 80% of this (or 20% of the total income) was a result of the challenge grants for the campaign and would not have been earned without support from individuals. This means that 61% of our income was a direct result of contributions received from individuals.

The Michigan Nature Association was also fortunate to receive a number of grants for the stewardship program. These grants help fund the work at sanctuaries such as Saginaw Wetlands and Goose Creek. These grants totaled \$291,565 or 16% of the total revenue. Another 7% of the support we received last year came from businesses and other organizations. Most of these donations were under \$200. The final 7% comes as a result of income earned on gifts made in the past to one of the Michigan Nature Association endowment funds.

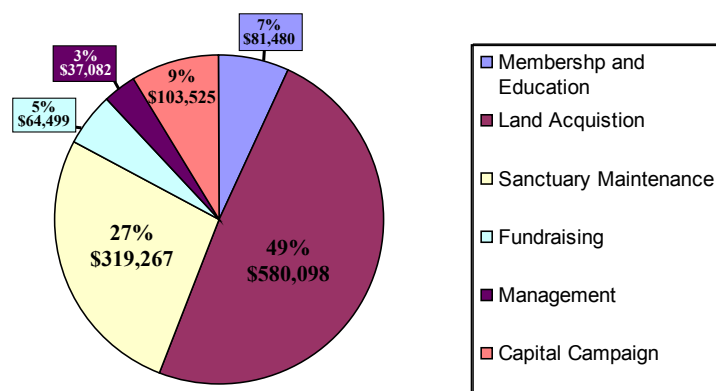
The Michigan Nature Association financial health is clearly dependent on more than just what we have coming



Income by Source

Figure 1.2

in but also on how we spend resources and how much it costs us to operate. The third graph (Figure 1.3) shows where the money was spent by program area. As you can see the largest area at 49% is for Land Acquisition and the second is for Sanctuary Maintenance. Together these two categories account for over 75% of the Michigan Nature Association's expenses. 7% of the Michigan Nature Association's budget was spent on member services and our education program. This includes publishing this newsletter, events such as the Fall Adventure, presenting the Michigan Nature Association to various groups and revamping the website. Finally, every non-profit tries to keep their administrative costs as low as possible and the Michigan Nature Association does that by only spending 3% of its budget on Management and 5% of its budget on Fundraising. The final 9% of the budget was spent on the capital campaign.



Expense by Program Area

Figure 1.3

Moving forward

The Michigan Nature Association has always relied on our membership for our finances and will continue to do so in the future. Although the second chart (Figure 1.2) showed that 41% of our support came from individuals, that is slightly misleading because of the presence of the Statewide Land Protection Campaign which ended last year. If you do not include the two challenge grants from the Kresge and Carls Foundation, contributions from individuals make up just under 50% of all income. The end

of the Statewide Land Protection Campaign means that next year's graphs will look significantly different both in terms of expenses and income as the Michigan Nature Association refocuses on its stewardship programs and membership programs. We are also working to increase the education programs which have been active, but in need of more resources. Unfortunately, we will not have the large foundations matching our members gifts which means that we need to increase the amount we receive from our members (of course we won't have the campaign costs either.) We encourage the large number of new supporters who joined as a result of the campaign renew their memberships and support the maintenance of the properties they helped us acquire.

MNA needs a New Car!

By: Meghan Ferguson, Graphic Designer

The Michigan Nature Association recently lost its company car when it was rear-ended and is now in need of a new one. We are a nonprofit organization with finite resources, thus purchasing a new automobile can be a bit of a reach in terms of financial abilities. We are asking you, our generous members, if there is anyone who would be willing to donate their automobile to our organization. We are seeking a lower-mileage, fuel-efficient car that can seat at least four people. If you would like to contact MNA about this please call (517) 655-5655 or email michigannature@michigannature.org. There are tax benefits you can get from this donation, please contact your financial advisor for more details.



Condensed Statement of Activities

michigan nature association

Year Ending February 29, 2008

Support and Revenue	Operations	Campaign	Special Projects ^B	Endowments	Sanctuary Land ^C	Total
Membership and Gifts	154,504	890,168		60,895	323,810	1,429,377
Grants			156,145			156,145
Endowments						0
Income Received	120,253					120,253
Appreciation				7,899		7,899
Past Appreciation Utilized	100,000					100,000
Donated Services	27,262					27,262
Land Purchased by the Capital Campaign					272,219	272,219
Transfer to Revolving Land Fund from SLPC ^A			893,473			893,473
Transfer to Bertha A. Daubendiek Sanctuary Preservation Fund from SLPC ^A				365,221		365,221
Other	37,773		20,000	40,481		98,254
	439,792	890,168	1,069,618	474,496	596,029	3,470,103

Expenses	Operations	Campaign	Special Projects	Endowment	Sanctuary Land	Total
Membership	73,958					73,958
Land Acquisition	9,569					9,569
Land Purchased		272,219				272,219
Sanctuary Maintenance	210,327		108,940			319,267
Education	7,522					7,522
Management	37,082					37,082
Fundraising	64,499	103,525				168,024
Endowment Appreciation Utilized				100,000		100,000
Transfer to Revolving Land Fund from SLPC ^A		893,473				893,473
Transfer to Bertha A. Daubendiek Sanctuary Preservation Fund from SLPC ^A		365,221				365,221
	402,957	1,634,438	108,940	100,000	0	2,246,335

Net Increase/Decrease	36,835	(744,270)	906,678	374,496	569,029	1,223,768
Beginning Balance	240,075	908,437	906,907	2,820,424	7,442,981	12,318,824
Ending Balance	276,910	164,167	1,867,585	3,194,920	8,039,010	13,542,592

^ATransfers from the campaign bring up Revolving Fund and the Bertha Daubendiek Fund to the amount included for them in the campaign goals.

^BSpecial Projects ending balance includes a \$1,600,000 Revolving Fund to be used to take advantage of opportunities to acquire properties that arise before the funds can be raised. The funds must be later replaced through fundraising.

^CThe Sanctuary Land column represents the value of an MNA sanctuary at time of purchase or donation.

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 receive 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 Michigan Nature Association Web site at www.michigannature.org

Giving Thanks to a Great Editor

By: Meghan Ferguson, Graphic Designer



At the Michigan Nature Association we are lucky to have numerous volunteers who dedicate hours of hard work to our cause and aid us in growing as an organization. Without these volunteers we would not be able to run as efficiently and effectively as we do. So when one of our own has to move on and focus on other projects, we take the time to thank them for all of their passion and dedication to our goals and mission. With this said, MNA's Board of Trustees and staff would like to formally thank our newsletter editor Cathy Bacile.

Cathy has helped our organization in a multitude of ways. One of the biggest projects she assisted us with was the editing of this regular newsletter for four years. She took a publication that was once mundane and ordinary, and with creativity and an eye for detail, made it what you see today. Cathy also helped in the designing of many MNA brochures and various other marketing communications. However, as many of you know, there are limited hours in a day. Cathy is now the Deputy Director of the State House of Representatives Democratic Communications



Cathy Bacile during a snowshoe trip at Roach Point Nature Sanctuary

office. A job like this comes with hours of hard work and responsibility. She must now put her focus on this highly regarded position and move on.

It's with the help from volunteers like Cathy that MNA is able to achieve its goals. We greatly appreciate each and every volunteer that has put hours into making MNA a wonderful organization. We will miss Cathy and we thank her for all of her hard work and dedication over the past years.

Education Section added to Website

By: Phillip Bergquist, Administrative Assistant



One very important part of our mission at MNA is education, and we are very excited to offer a new resource for teachers, community members and kids to learn about conservation and the environment. You can access interesting activities,

online games, environmental curriculums, information on habitats and species in Michigan and links to area outdoor education opportunities through our website www.michigannature.org. The game below is just one example of the exciting activities that we encourage you to take advantage of, please visit www.michigannature.org and click on Education to learn more!

Habitat Interaction Game

Look in the habitat around you and assign each participant an animal or plant that is found there. Tell them that for the purpose of this game, they are going to be that animal or plant.

Start with the producers (the plants). Have the participant(s) who is the plant hold one end of the ball of yarn. If there are more plants, have the first student toss the yarn to the other "plants". Make sure they all hold onto the yarn before they throw it! Tell the plants they are all connected because they all get their energy from the sun.

special michigan animal species



Copperbelly Watersnake

The Copperbelly Water Snake is a medium to large, non-venomous, stout-bodied snake, with adults averaging 30 to 40 inches (76-102 cm) in total body length and reaching a maximum length of 56 inches (142 cm). Adults are solid black or dark brown on top with a plain, unmarked, pale orange to bright orange, red or yellow underside or belly.

Now ask the participants which animals eat the plants; have them connect using the yarn, then connect the animals which eat other animals. Proceed connecting the students with the yarn until all of them are holding another piece of yarn. Continue pointing out the connections between them, or have them come up with the connections themselves.

Once everyone is connected, demonstrate how each individual is important to the community by taking away some member of the web. For instance, pollution kills one of the plants, off-road vehicle traffic disturbs a sensitive habitat or an invasive species takes resources from your community. When that plant dies the participant tugs on the yarn he holds; anyone who feels a tug has been affected by the death of the plant. Now everyone who felt a tug gives a tug. The process continues until every member of the community is shown to have been affected by the death of the plant.

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We apologize for any errors or omissions.

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in your will or estate
plan helps us protect
special plants, animals
and habitats for future
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Braastad Nature Sanctuary

Photo by Charlie Eshbach



Amanda Whitscell removing invasive shrubs at Helmer Brook Plant Preserve



Joe Deuparo and Don Reed at Hamilton Township Coastal Plain Marsh Nature Sanctuary

Photos by Sherri Laier

Community Foundation Tax Credits

Why is it important for you to know that the Michigan Nature Association has set up endowment funds with the Keweenaw Community Foundation and the Community Foundation for Muskegon County? Because contributions made to either of these funds earn you a tax credit, not just a tax deduction, on your state taxes. It is also deductible on your federal taxes. Individuals can earn a tax credit up to \$200 per year, married couples can contribute up to \$400 and businesses up to \$10,000. A \$200 contribution could reduce your taxes by \$130 or more!

Be sure to designate your contribution to the "Michigan Nature Association Endowment Fund" on your check and include a note with your check. Donations can be made to:

Michigan Nature Association Endowment Fund
 Keweenaw Community Foundation
 P.O. Box 101
 326 Sheldon Ave.
 Houghton, MI 49931

Michigan Nature Association Endowment Fund
 Community Foundation For Muskegon County
 425 W. Western Ave., Suite 200
 Muskegon, MI 49440



michigan nature association
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MNA Awarded Matching Grant!



By Paul Steiner, Office Manager

Last year, the Carls and Kresge Foundations challenged Michigan Nature Association members to complete the Statewide Land Protection Campaign, with your help we were able to earn both challenge grants. This year, the J.A. Woollam Foundation has issued a challenge

to the Michigan Nature Association and its members. Following the success of the campaign last year, the Woollam Foundation is challenging the Michigan Nature Association to increase our membership. They have generously offered to match the first \$10,000 donated by new members or lapsed, former members who renew their membership or any increase in membership

donations compared to 2007 for existing members. As it is a challenge grant, MNA will only receive the grant if we meet or exceed the \$10,000 goal. Only membership and general support donations will be matched (i.e. if you donate to the Mystery Valley acquisition or the Bertha A. Daubendiek Sanctuary Preservation Fund, it will not be matched - although please do not let that stop you from donating to them as well.) This means that if your donation meets these criteria above, you will effectively be donating \$2 for every \$1 you give! You don't have to be a new member or lapsed member to help us; if your donation is larger than last year's, the difference will help us meet the challenge.

We are confident that with your help we will be able to reach this goal. All donations must be received by December 31, 2008.

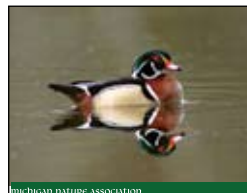
Order your 2009 Calendar Today!

By Meghan Ferguson, Graphic Designer

Want to get a head start on 2009? The Michigan Nature Association is proud to announce that we are now offering our 2009 MNA Calendar for sale! This beautiful calendar makes a great gift for friends, family, and even yourself!

With the holidays fast approaching, an MNA calendar is a fantastic way to show someone you care for them and the environment as well. All proceeds go to the Michigan Nature Association to support our goal of protecting Michigan's most precious natural habitats and rare or endangered species.

This year's calendar is available for \$14.95 including shipping. To order a calendar (or multiple calendars, even better), please use the envelope inside this newsletter, visit www.michigannature.org or call us at 517-655-5655. Not only will you receive the amazing calendar but all the proceeds go to helping the Michigan Nature Association preserve and protect 164 sanctuaries around the state.



To order your calendar, call (517) 655-5655,
visit www.michigannature.org
or use the enclosed envelope.