

michigan nature association



Preserving Michigan's Natural Heritage Since 1952

October to December 2010

Volume 59 Issue 3



A fall day at Rizor Memorial Nature
Sanctuary
Photo By Kernie King

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Experience Thornapple
Lake and River

Add some sedges to your
outdoor life

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of the Year

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Dinner

Protect a Piece of
Michigan

From the Director



Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett have recently been asking billionaires across the globe to pledge the majority of their wealth to charity. The super-rich do give, on average, large amounts to charity, however many are surprised to learn that the most money comes from regular folks who care about a given cause.

The reality of charitable giving is that most of it comes from individuals, and most of those individuals are not billionaires. Individuals give more than corporations and foundations combined each year – an amazing 75% of all donations. Including bequests and other planned gifts, that total nears over 80% of all giving.

Without our corporate and foundation donors we would not meet our annual budget. We also couldn't meet our budget without your individual support. Every time we receive a donation of membership dues, a contribution toward acquiring a new sanctuary, or a gift toward one of our endowments, you are supporting MNA's programs across the state. As we near the end of the year, I want to thank you, our individual members and donors, for your support.

As each year ends, one of you is the single donation that puts us “into the black” and ensures we can meet the responsibilities of the Association. The difference between surplus and deficit in some years is often only a few contributions, so every single one of you is directly responsible for our success.

When we do have surpluses at the end of a fiscal year, those funds are put directly into our programs, whether it is the cost of a new acquisition, stewardship, buying a new printer to replace the aging printer that was becoming too expensive to repair, or saved as a reserve fund for unexpected future program needs.

When I started at MNA almost nine years ago, I quickly gained a new appreciation for donors who support nonprofits. You care deeply about what we do and your gifts, of time and money, ensure we are able to carry out our mission of protecting Michigan's most special natural places. We owe everything to you; this is your organization. You fund your programs, you make up your Board of Trustees, you volunteer in innumerable ways.

I was an MNA member before I became Executive Director, and from the first day, I made sure we used your support wisely. Today, with a strong board and dedicated staff, we are moving together toward a brighter future. We're protecting and preserving more land than ever, and working more efficiently than ever.

On the “inside,” it’s amazing to see how much each individual gift increases our ability to do more good work. Please know that each gift, no matter what size, is helping us protect the natural places you love. Your fellow members, who make up the MNA board and are on the staff, thank you especially this year.



As the weather cools down and leaves change color, MNA's commitment to protecting our MNA sanctuaries continues.

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

Earlier this year, Executive Director Jeremy Emmi was appointed to the Environmental Advisory Council to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

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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, and to carry on such activities as permitted under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act.

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Give Nature to Those You Love
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Every Sanctuary Has a Story



Thornapple Lake and River

Photo by Sherri Laier

The Thornapple River on a beautiful September day. This portion of the river is now protected thanks to a conservation easement developed between the property owners and the Michigan Nature Association over the last several years and finalized this year.

By Kimberly Hirai

MNA Intern

Every spring the lowlands on a 60.2-acre piece of Thornapple lakefront flood. As the first Michigan Nature Association sanctuary established in Barry County, the parcel provides habitat for aquatic invertebrates such as crayfish and a variety of reptiles, amphibians, and plants that peek at their surroundings from the surface of the water.

The Beginning

Longtime Barry County residents Richard and Rosemary Shuster noticed the threat of encroaching land use many years ago.

"We've been very concerned about the overdevelopment of Barry County for many years," Richard Shuster said.

He said he has noticed the lakes tightly lined with homes. Agricultural, industrial and urban development are also common to the area near Thornapple River and Lake,

making it hard for nature to flourish.

This summer marked a milestone and a step toward a more natural future. Last December, the Shusters donated over 60 acres of lakefront on Thornapple lake. This spring, the second part of the donation was completed and MNA received a conservation easement protecting over a third of a mile of Thornapple riverfront. The properties are the first MNA sanctuaries in Barry County.

Thornapple Lake Nature Sanctuary

The 60 acres of MNA's newest lakefront sanctuary were purchased in the 1970s by Dick and Posy Shuster and donated to MNA in December 2009.

Western Regional Stewardship Organizer Matt Schultz explored the naturally flooded land this spring and waded through multiple feet of water as he explored the property.

MNA is now responsible for managing the floodplain forest and southern mesic forest in addition to ponds, streams and

other examples of wetlands that make up the Thornapple Lake Nature Sanctuary.

Silver maple, red ash, sycamore and box elder fill the lower level of the floodplain forests at both Thornapple Lake and Thornapple River. Shagbark hickory, hackberry, butternut, black walnut, sycamore, and swamp white oak populate the canopy. The land is often subject to flooding and provides a dynamic and changing habitat as the areas near streams and rivers erode, flood, and undergo sedimentation. The forest also provides habitat to a variety of bird species, including birds including the woodcock and downy woodpecker.

Southern mesic forest is also a habitat type found within both properties, where American beech and sugar maple trees stand on flat and rolling ground. Bitternut hickory, white ash, tulip tree, white oak, red oak and basswood are also common to this natural landscape, in addition to those birds found in the floodplain forests. Black-throated green warbler, scarlet tanager and ovenbird can be found here as well. Trees

in this area are estimated to possibly be more than 200 years old.

Thornapple River Nature Sanctuary

In May, the Shusters granted a conservation easement over 62.51 acres of their property along the Thornapple River. Upland, wetlands and 1,850 feet of undeveloped riverfront make this property so special.

The conservation easement is an agreement between the Shusters and MNA which controls development as well as other activities present and future landowners can perform on the property, thereby protecting these natural resources. Although MNA owns almost all of our sanctuaries outright, conservation easements are a valuable tool in protecting land in cases where the owner wants the land protected but does not want to give up all rights to the land. For example, in this case the Shusters have a small portion near the front of the property that they can continue to use. Also, if they were to ever sell the property, the new owners are restricted on what can be built where.

The Shusters purchased the riverfront piece in the 1960s as an outdoor haven for their family's recreational passions, hiking, picnics, cross country skiing and

other adventures.

Today, protection of these properties will fulfill their wishes to preserve a natural piece of Michigan. This important parcel is a piece of the natural corridor running along the Thornapple River and provides key wetland habitat. The corridor provides breeding, feeding, nesting and shelter habitats for a variety of resident and migratory bird species while allowing them to move freely up and down the river.

The river piece is also unique for its large trees, undisturbed wetlands, a perennial stream and a diverse forest full of trees of many different ages.

The Future

"There's no way that governmental parks can do the whole job," Shuster said. "We need private property to have nature flourish completely ... I think the conservancy movement is helping to do that."

Over the years, Richard Shuster said he and his wife held on to the properties because they "believe in protecting the ecology, and it just seemed like a property that should be protected." MNA is fortunate that the Shusters and all of its members are so dedicated.



American Germander is one of the many plants that can be found at Thornapple Lake. Matt returned from a trip to the lake with numerous pictures of summer flowers.

Quick Facts- Thornapple Lake

Class: B (Open to the public but difficult to get to)

Difficulty: Moderate (can be wet)

Acres: 62

County: Barry County, SW

Terrain: Buttonbush swamp and floodplain forest

Thornapple River

Class: C

Difficulty: Moderate

Acres: 62

County: Barry County SW

Terrain: Hilly

Stewardship Update

As 2010 wraps up, MNA thanks everyone who assisted us in completing the monitoring of our 168 plant preserves and nature sanctuaries. This is a significant goal to complete and will lead to greater protection of our beloved MNA properties. We still have a few properties around the state which need monitoring completed and would love any last minute assistance. The more members and volunteers who assist, the more time that is available for staff to focus on putting together programs to better protect the natural diversity held within these areas.

Our regional organizers are also starting to connect volunteers in similar geographical areas to work together on projects within their preserves as many hands make lighter work. If you are in an area of the state with numerous preserves and would like to work cooperatively with others in your area, please use the regional organizers to help formalize or initiate these connections and build a stronger MNA volunteer community. It is also good to remember that holding regular volunteer days will help recruit new volunteers and members interested in the local sanctuaries and MNA.

Letter from the President



**By Steve Kelley
MNA President**

This last Letter of 2010 remembers several longtime members, reports on our continuing efforts to protect land, and our efforts to collaborate with others, and to recognize several of our volunteers.

The Lasting Gifts of Mason Schafer

On July 5, 2010, with other MNA representatives, I attended the Adrian funeral of one of the MNA pillars, Mason C. Schafer. I knew Mason primarily from decades of his photographs in MNA publications, his reputation for excellent stewardship field work, and his other efforts on behalf of MNA. We offer our continuing condolences to Mason's brother Melvin, his sister Louise Everts, and his extended family.

As a part of his purposeful life, in addition to service to his church and community, Mason acquired and progressively donated to MNA many of the parcels which now comprise our Roach Point sanctuary in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Following his first donation in 1978, the Roach Point sanctuary grew to 552 acres as of Mason's death.

Now, since Mason's death, Melvin Schafer, a much-respected MNA volunteer in his own right, is in the process of transferring, as he believes Mason would have wanted, more than 250 additional Roach Point acres previously owned by Mason to MNA. With these additions, the Roach Point sanctuary properties will total more than 800 acres, making Mason's diligently-pursued vision MNA's largest sanctuary. We are very, very grateful for Mason's life and lasting gifts.

Update on the Lakeside Daisy Project

When more than routine stewardship is needed, MNA volunteers work together to implement solutions. MNA's Lakeside Daisy Project is an outstanding example of such efforts. Here is an update, but first some background.

In 1988, the federally-threatened Lakeside Daisy (variously *Tetraneurus herbacea*, *Hymenoxys herbacea*, and *Hymenoxys acaulis* var *glabra*, the Eastern four-nerved daisy) was known in the United States only in a small Lakeside, Ohio population, and in a very small Illinois population (our Ohio friends insist that theirs is "the only natural United States population of the Lakeside daisy"). None were known in Michigan.

Then, in 1993, a small population was found in the Eastern UP by Gladys and Cliff Wallwork, members of the Sault Naturalists Club. In 1996 MNA was informed of the population. In 2004 MNA acquired the location, protecting the daisy population as well as other federally threatened and state listed species on the property.

Many worked to protect the population. However, concerned that roadside maintenance, development, or natural disaster could

wipe out the Michigan population, a decision was made to carefully collect – under permit – a precious few Lakeside Daisy seeds. The goal: To grow enough plants in a controlled environment to establish a second colony in a more protected Michigan location. Seed was collected by Stan Kuchta and transferred to Tony Reznicek for germination and care until ready for transplantation. [Dr. Reznicek is Assistant Director and Curator of Vascular Plants at the University of Michigan Herbarium.]

On June 25, 2010, two-year-old nurtured Lakeside Daisy plants were transported to the UP for planting by Keith Saylor, MNA's Eastern UP Contract Regional Stewardship Organizer.

Success is not assured, given transplanting, local growing conditions, and of small mammal herbivory risks. Nevertheless, many volunteers deserve our thanks for work over several decades to protect this very rare species, including those identified above and: Fred Case, Marlene Planck, Sherri Laier, Pat Grogan, Todd Hogefre, George Ford, Christie Deloria, Charlie Eshbach, Mary Ann Czechowski, Bertha Daubendiek, Jeremy Emmi, Natalie Kent-Norkowski, and Mark Jaunzerns. With your support, our efforts will continue to protect this very rare plant.

The Echo Lake Conservation Easement

We continue to work with the J.A. Woollam Foundation and The Nature Conservancy to permanently protect 480 acres surrounding Echo Lake in Marquette County. As of this writing, the paperwork is not finished but the parties expect that the Woollam Foundation will (1) enter into a conservation easement to protect the property with, and provide certain endowment to, MNA and then (2) transfer fee ownership of the 480 acre sanctuary to TNC subject to MNA's conservation easement. We thank the Woollam Foundation for its on-going protection of special Michigan properties and its generosity to MNA and TNC, and appreciate TNC's work with us on this project.

Volunteer & Donor Recognition Dinner

As described on the next page, our Volunteer and Donor Recognition Dinner will be on October 29, 2010, in Lansing. Please join us with other members and your friends and families to recognize this year's honorees who have contributed, sometimes completely behind the scenes, to MNA's success. Our congratulations to Joan Chadde, Bill Atkinson, John Fody, Charles Goodrich, and Tina Patterson, our 2010 Volunteers of the Year.

Other Recognitions

In other news, in April MNA lost another dear friend, Kernie King, memorialized elsewhere in this issue. We also thank Trustee Beverly Bandt for her years of service on the Board and with regret accept her recent resignation. We will miss Bev's wisdom and cheery disposition.

May you and yours enjoy these seasons of harvest, thanksgiving, and holiday spirit. Thank you for your continued support of MNA this past year.

Stephen M. Kelley
skelley@michigannature.org
(586) 563-3500

Volunteers of the Year

By Carolyn Sundquist
MNA Intern

On October 29, the Michigan Nature Association will honor our 2010 Volunteers of the Year as part of our Volunteer and Donor Recognition Dinner at the Lexington Lansing Hotel in Lansing. All MNA members and supporters are invited and encouraged to celebrate with us but if you are unable to we still want to share the great work accomplished by the Volunteers of the Year.

As an organization, we are extremely fortunate that so many of our members are willing to help out in so many different ways. This does make it hard to pick a single Volunteer of the Year, so we didn't. Below are short bios and explanations of the work done by each of the honorees.

Joan Chadde

Michigan Nature Association member Joan Chadde moved to the Upper Peninsula in 1995, having never heard of the MNA. During her long bike rides, however, she noticed MNA signs along the road and decided to learn more.

Since joining in 1995, Joan has been an extremely valuable asset to MNA. Over the years she has organized a number of very successful events in the Upper Peninsula including the popular Family Adventure hike series and served as a member of the Board of Trustees. She is also a steward for the Robert T. Brown Sanctuary in Houghton County and teaches programming about the wetlands there. Joan also encouraged a local high school to "adopt" and use the sanctuary in its curriculum.

In addition to her work on the sanctuary, Chadde spent three years editing and pouring over every word of the new *Walking Paths & Protected Areas of the Keweenaw Guidebook* that came out last year. Almost 1,500 books have been sold and it has received compliments from residents and tourists alike. Joan also leads hikes to the different sanctuaries mentioned in the book and was a valuable resource for planning the Fall Adventure this year.

"I was really surprised and felt appreciated to be named a Volunteer of the Year," Chadde said. "I put a lot of hard work into that guidebook and I am grateful for the recognition."

Charles Goodrich

Charlie Goodrich was introduced to the Michigan Nature Association ten years ago during a battle in his township over a historic building called Grange Hall. In a letter protesting the decision to tear the building down, MNA was mentioned. Charlie was intrigued and soon discovered a sanctuary a mere four miles from his house! It only took one walk on the land to convince him he wanted to help MNA preserve land like the area near his home.

Charlie was good to his word and in less than a year he built 3.3 miles of trails and cleaned up the 79 acres that had once been a dumping ground for trash. At the 40-acre Barwick Sanctuary, he is currently building a new trail single-handedly.

Charlie is the steward for Hamilton Township Coastal Plain Marsh and Riley-Shurte Nature Sanctuary.

Charlie says he is happiest with a chainsaw or shovel in his hand. His goal is to help MNA acquire more land to protect species and encourage collaboration with other organizations similar to MNA.

Bill Atkinson and John Fody

If you visit one of our St. Clair County nature sanctuaries and see two guys cutting out invasives, making sure the boundaries signs are right, fixing trespass damage, there is a good chance those two are Bill Atkinson and John Fody. Bill and John are friends that serve as co-stewards for an amazing four sanctuaries. McGaw Memorial, Leonatti Memorial, Polovich Memorial and Jasper Woods all benefit from their watchful eyes and strong backs. Each of these sanctuaries is beautiful but these are not low maintenance sanctuaries by any stretch of the imagination.

In addition to filling out the annual monitoring reports all stewards are asked to complete, John and Bill conduct numerous workdays each year. Earlier this year, they spearheaded the removal of a ten cubic yard dumpster worth of trash and debris that was left on and near the Alton McGaw Memorial Nature Sanctuary. The debris included everything from old bikes and water softeners to kitchen trash and old computers. Bill and John have two volunteer days scheduled later this year to remove the invasive (and sharp!) multiflora rose from Polovich and McGaw Memorials.

Recognition Dinner

Please join us to recognize our Volunteers of the Year and everyone else that makes MNA goal of preserving the best places in Michigan forever possible by attending the Volunteer and Donor Recognition Dinner later this month.

Where: Lexington Lansing Hotel
925 South Creys Road
Lansing, MI 48917
When: 6:00 pm October 29th
Cost: \$25 per person

Please reserve your spot by October 22 by calling (517) 655-5655 or visit our website at www.michigannature.org.

It is rare that anyone from MNA sees one of them without the other, which is why we are honoring them both Volunteers of the Year.

Tina Patterson

Making sure our quarterly newsletter is flawless is a daunting task, but Volunteer of the Year Tina Patterson is dedicated to making sure it happens. She edits all the stories before they are printed and even writes for it herself. This past year, Tina has also contributed three "Because of You" stories. The "Because of You" series featured profiles on volunteers who have dedicated their valuable time and effort to make MNA a success.

"Her ability to connect with the people featured and other members – it's one of a kind," said Jeff Proulx, former Communication Coordinator for MNA.

While Tina is helping with our communication efforts, her husband Bob is also volunteering in the office on a number of projects, "Her insight and above and beyond writing make her unique," said Proulx.

Since retirement, she has found time for the things she has always been passionate about, like being an equestrian. Tina recently bought two horses, Remy and Noble, and enjoys trail riding with them. Horseback riding, along with volunteering for MNA are two things she loves.

She is honored to be recognized by the Michigan Nature Association.

The Great Stewardship Circle

By Andy Bacon
Stewardship Coordinator

Many an ecologist knows that in order to preserve the wonder of biological diversity within a natural system, that system must be protected. Without maintaining the natural processes it is not possible to protect and maintain the individual species of plants and animals. The first well-stated reference to this concept I heard, or at least the first I remember, was by the often quoted Aldo Leopold who observed that "The first step in the art of tinkering is to save all the pieces."

This is not just true of natural systems. If one thinks of an automobile, there are numerous systems which need to be maintained in order for the car to function. In cars these include systems such as electrical, lubrication, air intake, fuel intake, exhaust etc. If any one piece of the system within the automobile fails, the car will not run smoothly or may even completely fail to operate. This concept is true within natural systems as well. If certain processes are not operating within the landscape then pieces of the system will be lost, parts of the entire system will fail to operate, or the natural system could fail and be lost completely. This becomes extremely important when trying to preserve and manage rare native communities of plants and animals.

To follow up on this concept of the importance of preserving the natural processes within the landscape in order to protect the biological diversity, this stewardship column is going to present a six part series devoted to identifying six areas where parts of the natural processes on the landscape have broken down. Topics to be covered include 1) fragmentation of habitat and the importance of scale, 2) loss of predators, rise of herbivores and associated shifts in the ecological balance, 3) loss of fire regime and the loss of fire dependant natural communities, 4) alteration of hydrology on wetland and riparian systems, 5) invasive species (the gunk clogging your engine), and 6) factors altering nutrient availability.

Forest fragmentation and the importance of scale

When it comes to protecting and managing adequate habitat for wildlife the three key principles required for any species to survive are food, water and habitat. However, the amount and distance between these factors varies greatly by species. Most of us are familiar with so called backyard wildlife species. Animals such as the northern cardinal, fox squirrel, or morning dove. These wildlife species tend to have the requirements of their life cycle met in relatively small areas making them a common sight for many of us outside the kitchen window. Prior to settlement these species would typically have been found in the edge habitat where two different natural communities came together such as where a prairie gives way to woodland or within a savanna. Today a home with a mowed lawn, a few oak trees and a few shrubs replicated over an acre or two is more than enough to meet the requirements of many of these species because these edge habitats were often historically smaller in size.

With the rapidly changing world in which we live, wildlife can sometimes be categorized into two groups: generalists and specialists, much like doctors. Typically, generalist species of wildlife tend to be highly adaptable, able to use multiple sources of food and shelter and cope with changing situations related to food, habitat, and water where they live. Most of these generalist wildlife species have been able to cope with man-made modifications across the landscape and the pace of development to the point where many of them such as the raccoon or white-tailed deer are more abundant than prior to European settlement. On the opposite side are the specialists which are wildlife species that require very specific habitat conditions to live and produce viable offspring. Specialists may require numerous specific factors including water quality, soil type, humidity, or the size of a forest or grassland.

A group of particular concern over



Photo by: Philip Bergquist
Dowagiac Woods in Cass County is a large forest block protected by MNA.

the last 20 years has been neotropical migrants, which is a guild of migratory birds which nest in the United States and Canada and winter in central and South America. Neotropical migrants primarily include warblers, vireos, flycatchers and swallows but also include some species of hawks, ducks, shorebirds, nightjars, blackbirds and others. One of the primary issues with many of these species has been the fragmentation of forests by roads, power and gas lines, trails, and general development. Many species of birds require large blocks of forest in order to successfully nest and raise their young. As the size of a forest block decreases or is broken into pieces, the incidences of nest predation by species such as raccoons and of nest parasitism by species such as the brown-headed cowbird increase. As a result of increased predation and parasitism, many blocks of forest in the agricultural midwest fail to have enough eggs hatch and birds raised annually to replace their parents creating a net decrease in that species' population in the region. For many species of neotropical migrants such as the Kentucky warbler, cerulean warbler, or scarlet tanager forest blocks need to be in excess of 200 acres before nesting success reaches a level where enough offspring are produced to replace the parents. Smaller forest fragments are often referred to as population "sink"

areas" due to the tendency of nests to fail, they are also known as ecological traps where inexperienced birds may believe the requirements for nesting are present but fall victim to unseen dangers of predators and parasites. Although MNA does have numerous plant preserves and nature sanctuaries which are forest fragments designed to protect various rare plants, MNA also protects numerous nature sanctuaries which are parts of large forest blocks such as Timberland Swamp in Oakland County, Roach Point in the eastern Upper Peninsula, Estivant Pines in the Keweenaw Peninsula, and Dowagiac Woods in southwestern Michigan.

It is important to recognize that the effects of habitat fragmentation are not limited to neotropical migrants, they are just one example. Some plants are also susceptible to the effects of fragmentation with an excellent example being the American Hart Tongue Fern, a federally endangered species protected within MNA's sanctuary system. This fern requires a closed canopy forest which maintains cooler temperatures than in local fields, and higher humidity levels. This vulnerability to temperature and humidity levels creates problems for the plant if fragmentation opens up the canopy in close of proximity to the fern. The increased penetration of sunlight from a nearby forest edge creates minor increase in temperature paired with additional wind penetration into the forest which increases potential evaporation and then decreases the humidity creating a very real problem for the survival of this fern as well



Photo by Cindy Mead

A red-eyed vireo takes flight. Vireos prefer large trees that are often found in the core area of a forest although they thrive on the fringes as well.

as many other forest interior plants. Proximity to the forest edge also tends to increase the risk of invasion of various non-native plant species, particularly when located adjacent to transportation corridors.

The final point is that the effects of fragmentation are not isolated to forests, this is an issue in many natural communities whether forests, grasslands, or wetlands. Another example would be the plight of grassland birds, many of which have demonstrated drastic population declines across their range during the last 40 years due to fragmentation. For grassland birds, the presence of treelines breaking a once sprawling prairie into smaller fields provides new perches for predators such as hawks, nest predators such as crows, and dispersal or transportation corridors for mammals such as coyotes. Any of these are potential threats to a grassland bird trying to nest. Grassland birds that currently struggle with lack of core grassland habitat include dickcissel, bobolink, henslow's sparrow, and

northern harrier. MNA protects some high quality grassland communities of notable size including Goose Creek Grasslands in Lenawee county and Saginaw Wetlands in Huron county.

While habitat fragmentation is a serious issue for many species of plants and wildlife in Michigan it is important to recognize that fragmentation is not the only issue which is affecting our wildlife. Many other situations are also affecting our wildlife including invasive species, changing hydrology, and the loss of fire from the landscape. In our next issue we will discuss the impacts of excessive levels of white-tailed deer grazing on both the flora and fauna found throughout Michigan.

If you would like to contribute to protecting forest blocks MNA is still fundraising for additions to both Dowagiac Woods and Roach Point which will help ensure that adequate interior forest habitat is available in perpetuity at these sites for neotropical migrants and other wildlife.

U.S. Coast Guard Asks for MNA's Assistance

In light of the recent oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico all Americans are more in tune to the potential environmental hazards posed by our 21st century lifestyle. The pipeline leak near Marshall in August, which fortunately didn't impact any MNA sanctuaries, drove home the point that these disasters can happen in Michigan too. As part of their planning process to protect the Great Lakes, the U.S. Coast Guard, is in the midst of creating a spill/ HAZMAT response plan which includes the Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan. This plan will be the first line of defense and assist in clean up in the event of a toxic spill in the Northern Great Lakes system and depending upon location could be vital in protecting any one of MNA's coastal plant preserves or nature sanctuaries. As part of this effort MNA has been asked for assistance. If any MNA members or volunteers would be interested in being trained to respond to such an incident, the USCG is conducting training sessions at this time so that in the case of an accident personnel are ready to respond throughout the state. MNA will also hold onto a list of individuals who are potentially interested in assisting if there is a spill incident in Michigan at which time the list would be released to the USCG to expedite the volunteer response. One of the main problems in the Gulf has been difficulties coordinating potential assistance in a timely manner and this process would help to set the wheels in motion quicker. If anyone is interested in training or in being on a responders list for environmental disasters in the northern Great Lakes please call the MNA office and inform us of your interest.

Planned Giving: Guarding the Future of MNA and Michigan's Natural Places

In 2010, MNA lost several longtime members who supported the organization in many different ways. Some of them volunteered on sanctuaries, some gave monetary donations, some lent their writing talents, and some scouted out new natural areas to protect.

In addition to this support during their lifetime, many of these individuals also made one final gift – a planned gift – to MNA. Two longtime MNA members remembered in this issue, Kerrie King and Mason Schafer, left generous planned gifts to MNA that will help MNA for many years to come. Planned gifts left in a will, trust or other instrument, are often the largest single gift MNA receives in a year. In fact, in eight of the past ten years MNA's largest single gift was a planned gift or bequest.

Whether it is a will, a trust, or one of several other mechanisms, a planned gift involves a benefit that shifts when the donor's life ends. Most often, a gift moves to the Michigan Nature Association, but as you'll read below, other planned gifts can benefit MNA during the donor's life, and shift to the donor's heirs afterward.

There are a wide variety of planned giving options. MNA can talk with you about your planned giving ideas and intentions, but, in addition, you should consult your legal or financial advisors before completing any planned gift document. MNA has summarized the more common vehicles used to meet your end-of-life gift decisions below.

Bequest through a will

A will is the most common form of planned giving, and the one most people are familiar with. A will can direct virtually any type of gift to MNA, upon the donor's death. One benefit of a will is that the costs of executing a will can be very low, and a close friend or family donor can be appointed to carry out the wishes of the donor. One liability is that wills can be challenged and sometimes overturned in court.

Life insurance policy

Typically, a donor names MNA as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. One



Photo by Mike Zajczenko

Memorial Falls at the Twin Waterfall Nature Sanctuary in Munising was protected in honor of past MNA members . MNA will host a field trip to Twin Waterfall on October 9.

benefit is that payment of a life insurance policy does not have to go through probate.

Real property

MNA accepts bequests of property. The two major types of property are natural areas that are intended for use as a sanctuary, and real estate such as houses, commercial property or other land intended for resale with the proceeds to benefit MNA. Capital gains taxes are avoided this way.

Real property with a retained life estate

This type of gift is initiated when the donor is living. A gift of land is made to MNA, with a "life estate" retained by

the donor. The donor has full use of the land during their life, and upon death, the ownership automatically transfers to MNA.

IRA's, 401k's, 403b's or other retirement plans

Gifts can be given from retirement accounts during a donor's lifetime, or MNA can be listed as the beneficiary of the account, receiving the balance upon death. This also avoids probate for these accounts.

Charitable gift annuities

Here, a donor transfers an asset to MNA during their life. Then, MNA pays the donor a fixed percentage during their lifetime and the remainder of the asset

passes to MNA. One benefit is that part of the initial transfer amount is tax deductible.

Deferred payment annuities

In this type of annuity, a donor transfers an asset to MNA, usually earlier in life. The annuity payments are withheld until the donor is at least 60 years of age or until some set date after that point in life. One benefit is that the donor usually receives a higher rate of return because of the deferred gift. Another benefit is that the donor will usually also receive a larger charitable tax deduction.

55% of adult Americans do not have a will.

Charitable remainder annuity trusts

Similar to a charitable gift annuity, here the donor transfers assets to a trust instead of directly to MNA. The trust then makes fixed annual payments to the donor or specific beneficiaries. When the trust terminates, the remainder then passes to MNA. One benefit is that the donor receives the tax deduction immediately when the trust is created instead of when MNA receives the remainder.

Charitable remainder unitrusts

This is similar to the charitable remainder annuity trust, with the main difference being that the annuity payments are not fixed, but variable, with the value recomputed annually. The main benefit here is that the donor can continue to

make additional gifts to the trust during their lifetime, thus increasing the annuity payments they receive and qualifying for additional tax deductions.

Charitable lead unitrusts

This instrument is in some ways the reverse of the above trusts. Here, the donor puts an asset into a trust; then the income, defined as a percentage of the trust, goes to MNA during the trust period. When the trust terminates, the remainder goes to the donor's family or other designated beneficiary. One benefit is that the trust term isn't only defined by the life of the donor; it can be a term of years or the life of one or more named individuals.

Charitable lead annuity unitrusts

Similar to the above trust, this instrument pays a fixed sum to MNA during a set period of time. After this period, the trust can redetermine the payment amount for the remainder of the trust term.

A more detailed overview of each of the above planned giving instruments is listed on the MNA website under the "How You Can Help" button.

MNA would be happy to answer questions you have regarding planned giving or visit with you to discuss your wishes and how they might be carried out. We can also refer you to estate planners in Michigan who may be able to help you with the completion of a planned gift.

For more information, please contact Jeremy Emmi at 517-655-5655 or jemmi@michigannature.org.

Help Kroger Help MNA

There are many places to grocery shop, but only one Michigan food chain will pay MNA up to \$1,200 per year for each of our members who shops in their stores.

The program is called "The Community Rewards Program" and is part of the Kroger chain's commitment to building stronger communities. In order to participate MNA members need to register at krogercommunityrewards.com.

If a member does not have a computer they can register using one of the computers at a public library or at a friends or even at the MNA's office.

Once registered, each time one shops at a Kroger Store and swipes their "Kroger Plus Card" it will be a credit towards Kroger making a quarterly donation in that person's name to MNA.

When registering be sure to indicate you want your donation to go to NPO number 90723 to ensure that the MNA is the recipient of your generosity.

Everyone who wishes to participate must register their Kroger Plus Card in advance for credits to accrue. The krogercommunityrewards.com website is easy to navigate and takes you through each step to complete the registration process without any complications.

If you do not already have a Kroger Plus Card ask for one at the service desk of your local Kroger store.

If you have any further questions the Kroger support number is 877-567-7587, or you can call the MNA office and ask to speak to Paul Steiner at 517-655-5655.

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:

Chippewa

Keweenaw

Baraga

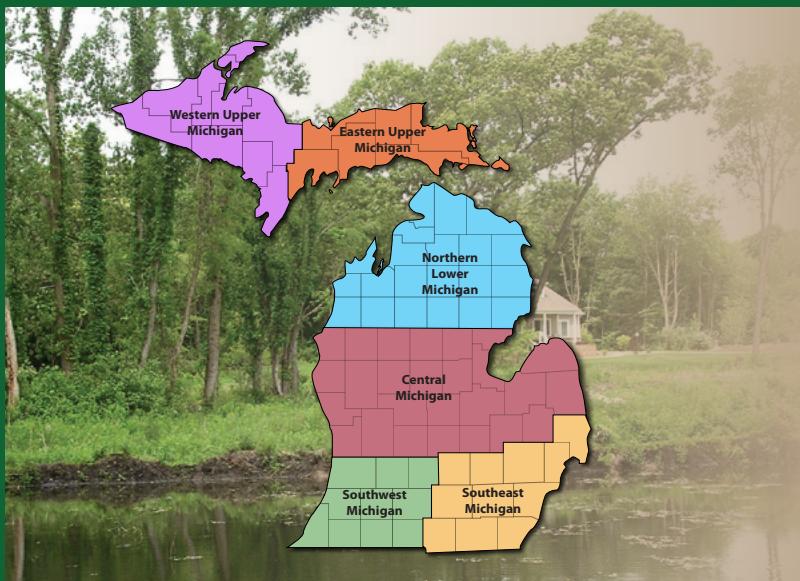
Osceola

Alpena

Huron

mna schedule of activities

Through January 2011



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 October 2010 to January 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. When you R.S.V.P., please notify staff if you need directions to the sites.

EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA

Saturday, October 9

11am

Field trip: Twin Waterfalls Preserve

Alger County

Please join us on a tour of the this preserve in Munising where we will observe both canyon-like waterfalls, learn about the geology of the sandstone Munising Formation, and observe a variety of interesting plants.



WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA

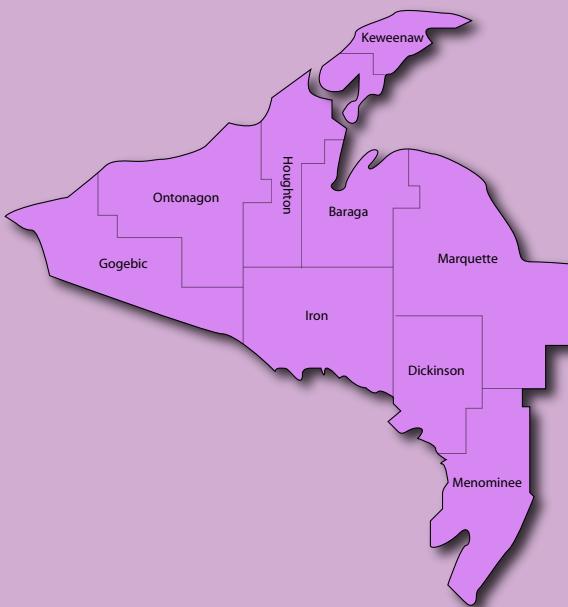
Saturday, October 23

1pm

Field trip: Keweenaw Shores #2 (at Dan's Point)

Keweenaw County

Join us for a walk to this sanctuaries shoreline of conglomerate rock which houses numerous fascinating plants and shows the angle of the Keweenaw dipping into Lake Superior. We will try to pull scattered purple loosestrife plants along the shoreline to assist in protecting the sanctuary from this invasive species.



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

NORTHERN LOWER MICHIGAN

October 2

10am

**Volunteer Day: Mystery Valley Nature Sanctuary and Thunder Bay Karst Preserve
Presque Isle County and Alpena County**

In partnership with the Michigan Karst Conservancy, the Michigan Nature Association's Mystery Valley Nature Sanctuary will be one of the locations for the last of the regular set of work days this year. The weekend will consist of trail completion at Mystery Valley along with surveying boundaries and installation of boundary markers.

Meet in the parking lot of the Stevens Twin Sinks unit of TBKP (on Leer rd.) at 10:00AM Saturday morning. Contact Dave Luckins (deluckins@aol.com) or Aubrey Golden (geldencamp@comcast.net) for directions and details concerning overnight accommodations and dining.



CENTRAL MICHIGAN

October 11

10am-2pm

Volunteer Day: Birch Creek

Sanilac County

Get out in the beautiful fall weather for some outdoor exercise! In the past, one corner of this sanctuary was used for illegal dumping. We will help contribute to previous efforts by the steward and other volunteers to remove this trash and get this sanctuary looking good. There will be opportunities to carry trash of all sizes, so get ready for a workout and some teamwork! Afterwards, volunteers will have the opportunity to tour other portions of this 28 acre sanctuary. As this is a B sanctuary, you will benefit from having steward and staff presence to show you where to cross Birch Creek and point out other interesting features of the site. Gloves will be provided.

October 15 and 28

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: George and Jesse Krum Memorial

Montcalm County

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

October 23

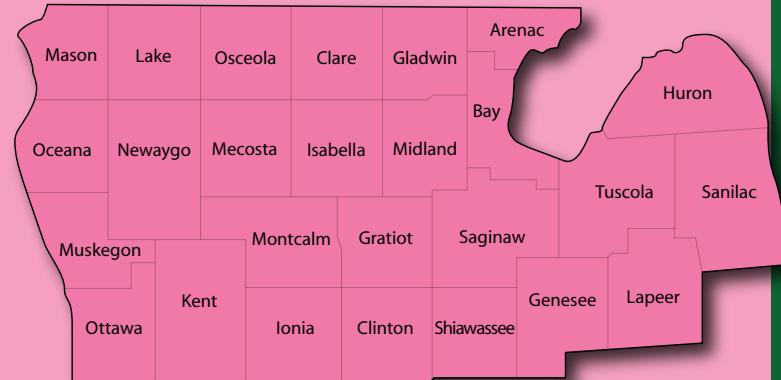
10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Dauner Martin Nature Sanctuary

Fenton, Genesee County

Come out to help us update the trails that crisscross this 155 acre Fenton treasure! We will mark approximately 4.5 miles of trails with colored diamonds and conduct other minor trail maintenance. If time permits, we will cut, stack, and herbicide invasive shrubs near the wetland.

This sanctuary is heavily used by area residents. Sprucing up the trails will allow users to safely explore the area in all seasons and can help it to be more inviting to first-time visitors. Help keep this sanctuary looking good!



December 6

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Saginaw Wetlands Nature Sanctuary

Huron County

Last year, woody shrubs and trees were removed from the edges of this top-ranked Lakeplain wet-prairie to help keep it open. This year we will follow up the brush cutting project by completing the brush piles adjacent to the firebreaks. Our ability to safely conduct burns is dependent on the weather previous to and on the day of the proposed burn. Please RSVP if you even think you might want to come so that you can be included on email updates if the weather necessitates a date change. After the volunteer day we will tour a portion of the sanctuary.

January 18 and 19

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Karner Blue Nature Sanctuary

Newaygo County

Please join us for a volunteer day to burn the brush piles that resulted from management to enhance the prairie at this preserve.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

October 5

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Edwin and Margarita Palmer Memorial Kalamazoo County

Please help us remove invasive shrubs to open up this beautiful sanctuary to protect the prairie fen habitat found here.

October 9

10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Field Trip: Dowagiac Nature Sanctuary

Cass County

Join us for the Mushroom and Fern Field Trip at Dowagiac Woods. Paul Olexia will be leading the discussion, a Professor Emeritus of Biology at Kalamazoo College and an expert on mushrooms. Dave Wendling holds a special interest in ferns and will be leading the tour on them.

October 10

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

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

Your help is needed to remove invasive shrubs to open up this beautiful sanctuary to create habitat for the native rare species.

Thursday, October 14th

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Hamilton Township Coastal Plain Marsh Van Buren County

The invasive shrubs multiflora rose and glossy buckthorn threaten this beautiful and unique sanctuary. We will cut and herbicide these shrubs.

October 23

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Edwin and Margarita Palmer Memorial Kalamazoo County

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

November 6

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Earl and Gene Beck Memorial

Berrien County

Your help is needed to remove multiflora rose, autumn olive and other invasive plants that are spreading into the sanctuary.

November 13

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Dowagiac Woods

Cass County

In 2008, MNA acquired a large addition to this flagship preserve in southwest Michigan. The addition consists of old fields, wetlands, and some farmed fields. MNA is trying to encourage natural succession in the addition to create a larger unit of forested area. Autumn olive is an invasive shrub that can freeze succession in old field habitats. Join us as we remove the autumn olive and create space for trees!

	Allegan	Barry	Eaton
Berrien	Van Buren	Kalamazoo	Calhoun
	Cass	St.Joseph	Branch

January 8

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Edwin and Margarita Palmer Memorial Kalamazoo County

Help with the removal of glossy buckthorn.



Photo by: Keith Saylor

A barred owl leaves its nest in search of food for its young (not pictured but observed).

January 10

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

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

Help with the removals of dogwood and woody invasives.

January 15 and 23

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Campbell Memorial at Helmer Brook Calhoun County

Your help is needed to remove glossy buckthorn.

January 28 and February 12 and 20

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Edwin and Margarita Palmer Memorial Kalamazoo County

Help with the removal of glossy buckthorn.

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

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

October 9

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Stephen M. Polovich Memorial

St. Clair County

Join us for a day of removing aggressive, non-native vegetation at this unique 18 acre MNA sanctuary. Volunteers will learn to identify and remove multiflora rose. We will pull smaller plants and cut-and-treat larger ones. This will help maintain previous work that has been done here and expand the fight to protect these woods, afterwards there will be a tour of the sanctuary.



Photo by Natalie Kent
The Pine River flows through Polovich Memorial. Join us for a volunteer day here on October 9.

October 11th

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Goose Creek Grasslands

Lenawee County

A tremendous amount of effort has been put forth to restore the prairie fen at Goose Creek Grasslands. We will be working to control glossy buckthorn resprouts that are popping up throughout the restoration area and a few remaining mature plants. We'll also work on some reed canary grass that is a problem at the preserve.

Please bring a sack lunch, water & water-proof boots. If possible, please bring a kayak or canoe. We will canoe or kayak in to the NE part of the preserve.

October 30

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Rizor Nature Sanctuary

Livingston County

A variety of non-native invasive shrubs such as honeysuckle, autumn olive, and multiflora rose threaten this creek-front nature sanctuary. We will identify, cut, and herbicide these shrubs to help maintain previous work conducted on this property. This will be a great opportunity to learn about these different species. If conditions permit, we may also conduct some trail structure maintenance.

November 1

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Goose Creek Grasslands Nature Sanctuary

Lenawee County

Help with the removal of glossy buckthorn.



November 6

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Alton D. McGaw Memorial Plant Preserve

St. Clair County

Join us for a day of removing a variety of invasive shrubby plants at this 14 acre sanctuary located adjacent to MNA founder, Bertha Daubendiek's former residence. Volunteers will learn to identify and remove Multiflora rose, Autumn olive, and Honeysuckle. For most of these plants, we will cut them with loppers or hand saws and treat their stumps with herbicide, afterwards there will be a tour of the sanctuary.

November 9

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Lefglen Nature Sanctuary

Jackson County

Please help us remove invasive shrubs from the sanctuary.

November 13

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Hardy Memorial

Livingston County

Join us for a day of removing aggressive, non-native shrubs at this 22 acre MNA sanctuary. Buckthorn and Honeysuckle are encroaching from the roadway into this fen habitat. We will cut and treat these shrub stumps with herbicide to re-open the fen and keep them from spreading, afterwards there will be a tour of the sanctuary.

December 27

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Goose Creek Grasslands Nature Sanctuary

Lenawee County

Help with the removals of glossy buckthorn.

January 9

Volunteer Day: Lefglen Nature Sanctuary

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Jackson County

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

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

Nature Notes- Sedges



Photo by Tony Reznicek
Carex Davisii or Davis's Sedge

by Dr. Tony Reznicek
Curator of Vascular Plants at University of Michigan Herbarium

For many people keen on natural history, sedges remain impenetrable, except for rhymes that begin with “Sedges have edges...” But they are very important to Michigan botany and everyone can easily learn some basics, like how to tell grasses from sedges at a glance. Check the leaves. Grasses have leaves that are basically arranged in two rows. That is, each leaf of a grass as you spiral up a stem is 180 degrees removed from the one below. If the stem has a number of leaves, that results in the leaves arranging themselves in two rows. In the case of sedges, each leaf as you spiral up a stem is only 120 degrees removed from the one below. That results in the leaves being arranged in three rows. That is much more reliable, once learned, than whether the stems are round (most grasses) or triangular (i.e., have edges). Naturally, this is not so easily seen at first because many grasses and sedges have only a few stem leaves, plus, wind, rain, and trampling can shove leaves out of place. But look for the three ranked leaves in open habitats where the leaves can spread, and you will soon catch on. After that, you will be tuned to the nuances and will be often be able to spot the difference

in the leaf arrangement even in clumps and from a distance. I promise. And even without knowing all the species, people do appreciate the form and texture of sedges; tall and nodding, stiff spikes, fine mats, and so forth – they are becoming popular in landscaping for their contributions to form and texture in the garden.

I'll argue, however, that a basic background in the part sedges play in Michigan's natural communities is also essential. For one thing, sedges form a large chunk of the flora. By my last count, there are 270 species in the sedge family (Cyperaceae) in Michigan. Of these, 184 are in Carex alone! That adds up to sedges being nearly 10 percent of the entire flora of the state. Only the Aster family



Photo by Tony Reznicek
Carex platyphylla or Broadleaf Sedge

(Asteraceae) with 305 species is larger. One last important fact about sedges; unlike the Aster family (and the grasses), almost all species are native. There are only a handful of rare introductions among all the sedges in Michigan. By way of stark contrast, 135 species of the Asteraceae – about 44 percent – are aliens. So the sedges are actually the largest family of native species in Michigan.

Not only that, they are the most important dominants of plant communities after woody plants. Sedges, especially *Carex stricta*, the tussock sedge, dominate wet meadow communities, and cover many thousands of acres in the state. Wetter, coarser sedge meadows are dominated by large stands of *Carex lacustris*, *Carex utriculata*, and several other species locally. A number of species of sedges together dominate fens, one of the richest plant communities in the state. Many emergent marshes are dominated by sedges, especially the so-called leafless bulrushes (*Schoenoplectus* species). Less well known is that sedges also play a major role in forest understories. One of the great evolutionary radiations in North America has been the penetration of forests by species of *Carex* and their diversification in forest understories. If you are walking through a rich, moist hardwood forest in the spring, you may have seen that the showy ephemerals occur in a “grassy” matrix – except that the matrix is actually composed of sedges! In fact, people have commented to me on occasion that they have worked hard to try to make their woodland wildflower garden look natural, but they just can't get it right. I suspect the sedges are missing.

So why are there so many sedges in Michigan? One answer is that it is hard to find a plant community in Michigan where sedges do not play a role. The most active sand dunes lack sedges (though they do occur on more stable dunes). Sedges are scarce on dry rocky cliffs (along with everything else!). Only a few species occur in submerged aquatic communities (though they may be abundant). Sedges are well represented in almost all other plant communities. But that is not the entire story. In many habitats, sedges not only occur, but are represented by many species. In some southern Michigan fens, 15 – 20 species of sedge play a major role including a dozen or so *Carex* plus species of cotton grass (*Eriophorum*), twig rush (*Cladium*), beaked rush (*Rhynchospora*), spike rushes

(Eleocharis), bulrushes (Schoenoplectus), and even nut rushes (Scleria). Moist lakeshores, both on the Great Lakes and on some inland lakes (especially in the “sand country” of the southwestern Lower Peninsula) may have, especially during low water level years, similar numbers of sedges, again, in a number of different genera. But the most striking example of a large number of sedges in a plant community is the diversity of Carex in the understories of rich, moist hardwood forest in southern Michigan. There, much to the dismay of ecologists who need to identify them, you can sometimes find 25 to 30 species of Carex in the richest sites – even over a small area.

So how does one cram so many sedges into a single habitat, like a fen or a forest understory? The number of species is at least partly due to the fact that the family dominates the community type – most of the species present are sedges, as on some lakeshores, but does not account for plant communities where sedges are diverse but not the dominants. If one looks at forest understories, we can see hints of an answer to this question. Looking closely, you can see visibly different looking sedges on hummock tops, sides, and bases. Some species show up only around the edges of depressions and others are in the wettest parts of depressions. Distinctively different looking plants are on steep slopes. Some seem to occur preferentially along trails and in other patch disturbances, and so forth. The uniform forest floor is actually a complicated



Photo by Tony Reznicek
Eriophorum viridi-carinatum or thinleaf cotton sedge

mosaic of microhabitats differing in moisture (hummocks versus moister depressions or even vernal pools), light (north versus south facing sides of hummocks and tree trunks), soil (old tree tip-ups, where the depression exposed mineral soil, but the trunk has contributed much organic matter where it rotted). So at least part of the answer is that sedges are habitat specialists. Many sedges, especially rare ones, in fact, specialize in

very specific habitats. Some are found only in acid soils in mats of haircap moss. Some only in hummocks of sphagnum bogs, some only in fens, and so forth. And here is another reason to learn sedges. You can turn this around, and if you find a specific sedge, you can say quite a lot about the habitat. So keep an eye out for sedges the next time you are out and watch where different ones grow, even if you can't name the species.

Join The MNA Guardian Society

You may be familiar with MNA's “Guardians of the Future” society. This is an MNA group for individuals who have left a planned gift to MNA, such as a gift in a will, trust, life insurance policy or gift annuity.

MNA created the new Guardian Society for those who wish to support MNA's general operations at or above a set level annually.

General support donations (those that are not toward dues, land acquisition, endowments, etc.) are the bedrock of our day-to-day operations, giving us the resources to carry out our vital programs and further our mission. These donations pay for everything ranging from ridding a sanctuary of invasive garlic mustard to electricity for the office, staff led field trips, saws and shovels and all the other essentials used to run MNA.

The Guardian Society is the special designation for those individuals or couples who commit to supporting MNA with a general support donation of at least \$1,000

annually. Members can still donate to land acquisition or other activities, but commit to at least \$1,000 of their yearly donation toward general support of MNA's operations.

Your donation can be one annual gift, or you can give through monthly giving via your saving or checking account or your credit card. Monthly giving can be set up to be automatic, with no action required on your part once it is established. **Only \$85 per month (technically \$83.34) in monthly giving reaches the \$1,000 per year threshold.**

Whatever option works best for you works best for MNA. Your support of MNA as a Guardian Society member ensures that a stable, dependable level of general support funding is available for our long-term success.

MNA also plans to have a special event for this new society once the first class of society members has joined. To join the Guardian Society, please contact Jeremy Emmi at (517) 655-5655.

Trustee Profile: David Neven

By Mary Ann Czechowski
MNA Trustee

Long-time MNA member David Neven has served as a Trustee of the Association since 2005. A strong supporter of the purpose and goals of the Association, he emphasizes the importance of the natural environment of Michigan and the role of the MNA in preserving it.



When and how did you first learn about the MNA?

I became aware of the Michigan Nature Association after I discovered the Estivant Pines Nature Sanctuary.

What activities have you participated in for the Association?

I became a Trustee to become more supportive and involved in the Association. I knew Stan Dole [Stanley Dole, MNA Trustee], and met Bertha [the late Bertha Daubendiek., MNA co-founder] when she visited Kent County.

What kindled your initial interest in the Association, and what has continued that interest?

I believe and support citizens establishing and funding nonprofit organizations to bridge the gap where government funding and commitment is often lacking; therefore, I joined MNA as a supportive member. I believe in strengthening MNA and maintaining its independence. Preserving the natural land of Michigan and helping in nature education are worthwhile goals.

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

Michigan, located in the center of North America, is fortunate in having an abundance of fresh water and various ecosystems. There is some very old rock exposed in the Upper Peninsula. With agriculture, Michigan has been able to successfully bridge extremes in temperature and climate. Humans need to connect more with the earth; the trees and forests help to relieve stress. There is a spiritual component here as well.

Where do you live? Are you from Michigan?

I have lived in the western part of the Lower Peninsula most of my life, from near the Lake Michigan shore, by South Haven and Douglas, to the urban core in Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids.

What is your occupation?

I am a small investor, property manager, and priest with the Coptic Fellowship. I was previously involved with my family's wholesale business, and served in the leadership with my union at a local furniture shop.

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

My love of nature and the natural environment has been a powerful motivator since my youth.

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

Estivant Pines is a favorite sanctuary of mine, like a natural temple of old growth white pines.

What is special about the Michigan Nature Association?

It is important to me to maintain the ongoing excellence that MNA has had through its sanctuaries, educational programs, members, employees, and volunteers.

Other Trustee News

In May MNA Treasurer Stanley Dole and wife Betsy Dole each received honorary degrees from Olivet College for their years of support for the College, where Stan served on Olivet's Board and as its Treasurer.

On July 3, longtime steward, volunteer, and Trustee Fred Dye celebrated his 90th birthday. At the party in his honor, we heard more about Fred's extraordinary life, including his European bicycle trip at age 16 with its stop at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, VE Day in Paris in 1945, and completing the Boston Marathon at age 70. Truly remarkable!

Nominations Needed

The Michigan Nature Association is looking for new candidates to serve as Trustees. MNA Trustees are elected to four-year terms on a rotating basis. In 2011, five Trustees will be elected. 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 Dave Wendling, acting chair of the Nominating Committee at

11089 Vankal Ave.
Lawton, MI 49065
(269)624-6946
davewndlng@aol.com

All nominations for Trustees are due by December 1, 2010.

Community Foundations

By Jeremy Emmi
Executive Director

Community foundations are public charities that serve a particular region. Five community foundations in Michigan hold endowments from which MNA receives income. Giving to an MNA endowment fund with community foundations in Michigan offers an important tax benefit --- the state tax credit.

If you pay income tax in Michigan, then the law permits you to receive a tax credit on your state income taxes equal to 50% of your gift, up to a certain amount. This is regardless of whether you itemize on your taxes or not.

In addition, if you do itemize on your income taxes, you are also eligible for a federal tax deduction on the entire gift. In some circumstances, upwards of 70% of your gift can come back to you in the form of tax credits and deductions. Plus, your full gift will be working to support the work of the Michigan Nature Association in perpetuity! The fund is held by the community foundation, and the income from the fund is given directly to MNA each year, to protect natural areas in the region covered by the foundation.

When you, your family, or business makes a gift to the Michigan Nature Association Fund at one of five community foundations, your dollars go further as a result of the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit. As mentioned above, the law permits you as a taxpayer to reduce your tax liability by a credit of 50% of the amount contributed (subject to a maximum credit of \$100 for single filers, \$200 for joint filers, and \$5,000 or 5% of tax liability for businesses) to a community foundation endowment fund. So, you could donate \$200 as a single filer and get a 50% state tax credit, plus the federal income tax deduction. Similarly, you could donate up to \$400 as married or joint filers and up to \$10,000 as a business filer, and receive the tax credit.

Please make your check payable to the community foundation of your choice and write **"Michigan Nature Association Fund"** in the memo line.

Donations can be mailed to:
Keweenaw Community Foundation
Michigan Nature Association Fund
P.O. Box 101
326 Shelden Avenue
Houghton, MI 49931

Community Foundation for Muskegon County

Michigan Nature Association Fund
425 W. Western Ave., Suite 200
Muskegon, MI 49440

Community Foundation of Greater Flint
Michigan Nature Association Fund
500 S. Saginaw St., Suite 200
Flint, MI 48502-1856

New this year!

(covering Berrien and Cass counties)
MI Gateway Community Foundation
Michigan Nature Association Fund
111 Days Avenue
Buchanan, MI 49107

New this year!

(covering all SE Michigan counties)
Community Foundation for SE Michigan
Michigan Nature Association Fund
333 West Fort Street, Suite 2010
Detroit, MI 48226-3134

Remember to write "Michigan Nature Association fund" in the memo line of your check, to ensure that it will be counted)

MNA Matching Grant

By Tina Patterson
MNA Volunteer

For the third consecutive year the Michigan Nature Association has the opportunity to earn a challenge grant offered by the J.A. Woollam Foundation. This challenge grant was generously doubled from last year's challenge to \$20,000; a motivating goal indeed. While it is always exciting to win a new grant, it is even a greater honor to have the grantor support an agency for multiple years. When a foundation such as the J.A. Woollam continues to reward MNA it shows that they recognize we meet our conservancy goals and are fiscally responsible. During these tough economic times their ongoing commitment to the mission of MNA is especially appreciated.

It is now up to you, our members and friends, to make a commitment to MNA in order to help us to receive the \$20,000 grant

for our general fund. Some of our major projects to be supported by the general fund for 2011 include the reforesting some areas in the addition to Dowagiac Woods, purchase of needed GPS equipment, stewardship at the new Thornapple Lake Nature Sanctuary, and the ongoing analysis of future property acquisition. These projects and many others require general support monies that come out of our general fund.

In order to qualify for the 1:1 matching grant we are obligated to generate \$20,000 from three sources: (1) Members who renew their membership at a level higher than the past year will have the additional donation amount credited towards the \$20,000 goal. (2) Members who have let their membership lapse, and renew by December 31, 2010 will have their total donation credited to the goal, and (3) all new members who join before the end of the year will be credited with the full

amount of their donation. With the holiday season approaching, purchasing a gift membership for friends and relatives who are interested in preserving and protecting our great Michigan heritage is a wonderful way to introduce them to the benefits of MNA, and will help us reach our goal.

For the past three years we have been successful in reaching the target, generating additional funds for your MNA. This year we have a tremendous opportunity with this increased challenge grant to double last year's effort. We continue to have every confidence that with your help we will once again be successful. All donations must be received no later than December 31, 2010 to qualify for the matching grant.

Thank you for your ongoing support; if you would like additional information on how the matching grant works call 517-655-5655 and ask to speak with Jeremy Emmi.

MNA Authors

By Carolyn Sundquist

MNA Intern

There is a large pool of achievement in the Michigan Nature Association family. One of those achievements we want to recognize is the fact that many of our members have been published. Whether it is a compilation of photographs, non-fiction or children's stories, our authors have dedicated their time and knowledge for the enjoyment of others. We've added a feature to our website highlighting MNA authors.

Adele Porter

Ever since Adele Porter was a child, she was interested in birds. Now she is the author of several "Wild About" bird books including, *Wild About Michigan Birds*. This book is an introduction for children to the birds in our state. "Birds are an integral part of children's life," said Porter. "They are a great way to introduce them to the concepts of science and ultimately to the stewardship of natural resources."

In addition to Michigan, Porter has "Wild About" books for Minnesota, Wisconsin, Northeastern birds, and recently published *Cooking for the Birds*. It features 26 recipes anyone can make for 75 different North American birds. Her books can be purchased at www.adeleporter.com.

Betty Wilkins

Betty Wilkins is the author of two children's e-books and is a songwriter. Her children's books, *Mrs. Koops* and *Behind the Green Fence*, are short stories available through barnesandnoble.com. Her song, which Wilkins hopes will turn into our state song, is titled, "A Beautiful Peninsula."

"I think it would be good for children because I think it represents Michigan well," said Wilkins.

The lyrics mention many of the beautiful and historic parts of Michigan. For example, Wilkins writes, "lighthouses and beaches all around you, majestic shores, of Michigan."

Bruce Montagne

Bruce Montagne spent over 14 years working on *Lake Superior Secrets*. He went to almost every part of Lake Superior in every season. He kayaked, snowshoed, and hiked to get his photographs. Montagne said his favorite place on the lake is Pukaskwa National Park in Ontario, and that "it's one of those places that is captivating and has a spirit about it that is hard to translate into words."

The book can be purchased at www.whisperwood.net. Montagne is also working on a children's book about a fox family he photographed and bonded with up on the north shore of Lake Superior.

Debbie Frontiera

In 1912, the Italian Hall disaster was a very emotional time for the copper mining families living in the Upper Peninsula. Author Debbie Frontiera captures these emotions in her novel about a young girl who experienced the terrible incident. Frontiera wrote the book because she thought there were many good reading materials about the event for adults, but not for children. She also put together a collection of historical pictures from J.W. Mara from the copper mining days. In addition to these two books, she has a series of picture books out titled, *Eric and the Enchanted Leaf*. These nature and ecology themed stories are for three to eight year olds. All of these and others are available on amazon.com or deborahkfrontiera.com.

John Heidtke

With so many digital distractions, kids aren't getting outdoors as much these days. In John Heidtke's new book, *Family Golf Adventures on Michigan Links*, he encourages families to get outdoors and play golf on one of 72 courses he features. He also talks about eco-friendly courses and hopes "readers will listen to nature differently, take advantage of some of the eco-friendly courses, and follow the natural course of the land." Heidtke also features nearby restaurants and nature sanctuaries (some MNA ones!) to visit near the courses. You can purchase the book by sending a 10 dollar check to PO Box 610842, Port Huron, MI.

Ken Ross

In 1988 Ross took a sabbatical from his job as a professor at Adrian College and went to Juneau, Alaska. That is when he decided the story of Alaska needed to be told, so he spent a year in a log cabin writing his book, *Environmental Conflict in Alaska*. The story took two books to write, so he also published *Pioneering Conservation in Alaska*.

"Readers," Ross hopes, "will find it fascinating to learn what happened to the land and wildlife in a very large and special territory of North America. They will discover that many of the leaders ... who inspired our parklands and wildlife protection laws drew much of their experience and motivation from their travels in Alaska. They might also see in Alaska, as I do, a model of the natural splendor we could have elsewhere if we reversed the degradation and destruction of our biosphere."

The book *Environmental Conflict in Alaska* can be found on Amazon.com and also at Baker and Taylor (www.btol.com).

Mary Ann Czechowski

Most people probably don't realize that Michigan is home to gold and silver deposits. *Gold in Michigan*, by MNA trustee, Mary Ann Czechowski, focuses on the mineral gold and locations of the gold mines in Michigan. "It is very extensive," Czechowski, who has her Masters in geology, said. Although it was published in the 1980's, the book is still available at many libraries all over Michigan.

Mark Carlson

Mark Carlson's favorite place to photograph is in the Upper Peninsula. "It is so extensive up there and there is a lot of good habitat," Carlson said. When he was asked if his photos could be used for a Michigan coffee table book, he gladly accepted. *Michigan Simply Beautiful* features his full color photographs from all over the state. The book can be purchased from www.amazon.com or markscarlson.com.

Rod Planck

Rod Planck published his book, *Nature's Places*, because he wanted people to see what he saw through the viewfinder. Most of the photographs in the book are taken in the state of Michigan and Planck feels that "there is something about the excessive wildness here." *Nature's Places* won "The Gold Ink Award" for printing excellence in 1992. His book is available at <http://rodplanck.com/store>.

Dennis Hansen

In 1975 cross-country skiing was a big deal, author Dennis Hansen said, but there wasn't any communication about the existing trails. He was frustrated with the government about the lack of publicity surrounding the trails in Michigan, so he created his book, *Trail Atlas of Michigan*. He started compiling information from government agencies and counties he knew had trail systems and eventually had developed contacts that let him know about any new trails. The book is on its third edition and Hansen is working on another edition yet. The number of trails has grown exponentially, he said, and he is having to consolidate his information on the trails so he can fit them all in. His favorite trail for cross-country skiing in Michigan is the Shingle Mill Pathway east of Gaylord. You can purchase his book at <http://www.michiweb.com/trailatlas/>.

We appreciate all the dedication our published members have invested in Michigan. If you are an MNA author and we missed you, feel free to contact us at michigannature.org for recognition.

Saying Goodbye to Special Friends: Kernie King

By Carolyn Sundquist
MNA Intern

Kernie King fit well into his natural environment—through his treks, he quietly explored the woods and wildlands of Michigan slipping soundlessly through properties and reporting possible lands in need of care to founder Bertha Daubendiek. King's strong but silent personality embodied the spirit of the MNA mission at that time—to quietly purchase examples of Michigan habitat for future generations.

Kernie guided many in his long history with MNA, eventually exploring every type of Michigan ecosystem in every type of weather. King's actions spoke louder than his words. Trekking with a quiet confidence, Kernie believed a habitat would tell MNA what it needed as opposed to aggressive restoration efforts. On tours, he carefully guided visitors, taking care not to disturb the native residents or wildlife. Kernie was as methodical as he was quiet. The naturalist established a record

of bloom times for native plant species now used to determine tour times for MNA.

Friends remember Kernie as the one with the compass when they got lost and the one with an affinity for lady's slippers—camera in hand. Many of those photographs and moments are stored within the folders of MNA files and past newsletters. Kernie's photographs will never capture his dedication to MNA, care for Michigan's unique habitats, or the confidence and curiosity he inspired in those around him, but we are extremely grateful to have them.

If you ever want to see nature's beauty without going outside, the MNA office has thousands of amazing photos and slides taken by Kernie at MNA sanctuaries. Here are three of Kernie's photos. To the right are two painted trilliums, the bottom left is a picture of witchhazel and the lower right are some beautiful fallen red maple leaves.

photos by Kernie King



Mason Schafer

By Mary Ann Czechowski
MNA Trustee

With the death of Mason Schafer on July 1, 2010, the Michigan Nature Association lost a true friend of the Association, a tireless explorer and a major and wonderful supporter.

Mason donated many properties and land for MNA sanctuaries and preserves including Roach Point Nature Sanctuary, Sara Jane Nature Sanctuary, and Saginaw Wetlands Nature Sanctuary. He also volunteered at many of the sanctuaries.

Mason's many contributions to MNA included seemingly endless exploration, helping MNA locate, identify and ultimately acquire and protect numerous parcels of land throughout Michigan which support and preserve habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species. Many of those parcels were purchased by Mason then donated by him to the Association. They are now considered crown jewels in the MNA portfolio of important natural lands.

Mason also understood that merely owning the land was not enough and that for a sanctuary to be effective it needs constant protection. Over the years, Mason served as MNA's steward

at the Roach Point, Goose Creek and Powell Memorial Nature Sanctuaries.

Mason not only did the hard, often difficult field work, and painstaking plant identification, he also was a major financial contributor to the Association. Interested in administrative aspects of the MNA, he formerly served on the Board of Directors, now the Board of Trustees. Mason's writing and photographs can be found in, *In Retrospect*. He also gave a gift to allow MNA to publish the latest MNA Sanctuary Guidebook.

Mason, a bachelor, lived in Adrian. A tool and die maker by profession, he could often be found on his MNA exploratory trips accompanied by his brother, Melvin. He became an active member of MNA beginning in 1976.

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



Photo from MNA Archives
Melvin Schafer (standing left), Kernie King (standing right) and Mason Schafer (kneeling)

MNA Interns



Carolyn Sundquist (left), Kerri Molitor (middle), and Kimberly Hirai (right) interned with MNA last summer.

By Carolyn Sundquist

MNA Intern

Each semester a few Michigan State University, Lansing Community College, or Cooley Law students take unpaid internships with the Michigan Nature Association. Each intern volunteers between 10 and 15 hours a week and is vital to completing key tasks, like writing stories for the newsletter or helping to organize an event. If you ever get to meet one of our interns, please thank them for the great work they do.- Paul Steiner, Operations Director

This past summer, MNA had three journalism interns. They dedicated their time to working on the newsletter, social media, traveling to

sanctuaries and helping out wherever needed.

Kerri Jo Molitor is a senior in Journalism at Michigan State University and hopes to continue her career in communications and graphic design.

The thing that Kerri loves most about MNA is the people. "I've made a lot of friends and I love how dedicated the staff is. Their first priority is to the sanctuaries and making sure that they're protected."

If intern Kerri Jo Molitor could be any Michigan animal, it would be a moose.

"I feel like a moose leads a very stress free life, which I admire and wish I had," said Kerri.

Kerri learned a lot about moose while writing a 3-part series on them for the MNA's blog. Along with writing on the blog, she worked on design layout for the newsletter and brochures.

In her free time, Kerri enjoys yoga, reading and has recently started her own herb garden to use in her cooking endeavors.

All the journalism interns have contributed posts to the MNA blog (at michigannature.wordpress.com) and became obsessed with watching the blog stats. The stats show how many people have looked at the blog site, what story they read, and even what website they were referred from.

Intern Kimberly Hirai said, "it was very educational, but at the same time exciting because you could see how many people your work reached."

Kimberly is a second year environmental journalism graduate student at MSU and hopes to

work for an environmental magazine, preferably in the Midwest. Kimberly is an Idaho native and says she "does eat potatoes occasionally." In her spare time Hirai enjoys bowling with her family and has a high score of 237!

With MNA, Kimberly worked on planning the Fall Adventure, updates to the new Estivant Pines brochure, the newsletter and press releases.

Kimberly said her favorite part of working at MNA was learning so many new things, like land acquisitions and being able to write about fireflies, which she would choose as her native Michigan animal.

"They have plenty of habitats to choose from and they're unlike anything else," said Kimberly. "They can light up the night sky."

As for intern Carolyn Sundquist, she would choose to be a bird so she could fly above the beautiful Michigan wilderness.

Carolyn is junior in journalism at Michigan State University and hopes to pursue a career in environmental journalism and travel the world. Her time at MNA was spent working on newsletter articles, press releases, social media and visiting sanctuaries.

Her favorite memory from MNA was visiting Goose Creek Grasslands during a volunteer event and documenting it for the blog.

"I was able to see what goes on behind the scenes and glimpse a part of MNA most people wouldn't," Sundquist said.

Aside from MNA, Carolyn enjoys photography, traveling, and playing soccer.

MNA's Wishlist

The Michigan Nature Association protects 168 nature sanctuaries and plant preserves throughout the state. This means we have to get down and dirty preserving these precious pieces of land. Our work with the nature sanctuaries, and in the office, requires a lot of equipment — and we always seem to need more of it! This is MNA's current wishlist of items we wish we had to help with our work.

Requested items range from tools to office equipment, but if you have anything you would like to donate, we would appreciate it!

Thank you to everyone that responded to the last newsletter article; your items have been very helpful.

- 1. Posthole Drivers**
- 2. Rakes**
- 3. Pliers**
- 4. Compass**
- 5. A wheelbarrow**
- 6. Vicegrips**
- 7. New chainsaws**
- 8. Shovels**
- 9. Cordless drills**
- 10. Hand pruners**
- 11. Bow saws**
- 12. A "deer sled"**
- 13. Metal cabinets/lockers**
- 14. Post hole digger**
- 15. Screwdrivers**
- 16. T-posts**
- 17. Hand saws**
- 18. Adjustable wrenches**



Photo by Matt Schultz
Mike and Paul Roys prepare to kayak to the back of Goose Creek for a volunteer day removing glossy buckthorn from this sanctuary

Memorials and Honorariums

May 1 - August 31, 2010

In honor of Bill Atkinson

MNA Staff

In honor of Joan Chadde

MNA Staff

In honor of Fred Dye's 90th Birthday

Stephen Kelley and Mary Catherine Rentz

In honor of John Fody

MNA Staff

In honor of Charlie Goodrich

MNA Staff

In honor of Tina Patterson

MNA Staff

In memory of Kevin Adkins,

**Robert Basler,
Leah Beatus,
Jerry Byers,
Zena Darwish,
Hennetta Epstein,
Emanuel Epstein, M.D.,
Richard Gershenson,
Alex Haller,**

Phillip Hertz DDS,

**Mr. Mario Lelli,
Edward Mcleod,
Inez Sweet,
Arnold Tucker,
Henry White,**

Academic Internal Medicine Associates

In memory of Judy Desenberg

Sue Welch

In memory of Ann Fuessle

Bill and Suzette Bennett
Roberta Woodruff

In memory of Kernie King

Jeremy Emmi and Karen Meagher
Stephen Kelley and Mary Catherine Rentz
Paul and Aggie Steiner

In memory of Jacob Oswald

Clarence and Sharon Rickard

In memory of Ruth Owen

Pam Clark
Dave and Cheryl Walmsley
Mike and Wendy Werner

In memory of Jan Pelzer

Deutsches Haus D.A.N.K.
Jonathan and Patricia Fisk
Donna and Reinhard Lippert
Richard and Shirley Matthias
Andrew and Sonya Menchinger

In memory of Mason Schafer

Jeremy Emmi and Karen Meagher
Stephen Kelley and Mary Catherine
Rentz
Don and Carolyn Reed
Paul and Aggie Steiner

In memory of Edwin Secord

James and Barbara Gusfa

In memory of Dennis Swatosh

James and Barbara Gusfa

In memory of Curtis Vail

Linda and John Harris

In memory of Darcas Walls

James and Barbara Gusfa

Business Sponsors

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**Academic Internal Medicine
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We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Live Next to an MNA Sanctuary!

By Kerri Molitor

MNA Intern

One of our members is selling his house, which sits across the street from MNA's Karner Blue Nature Sanctuary in Newaygo County. We hope to have another person with the same interests in MNA's sanctuaries and other restoration sites in the area buy the house.

The sanctuary is 80 acres of dry sand prairie and is a remnant of a complex that once spanned over 19,000 acres in Michigan. Built in 1980, the house sits on three acres and is also near the Coolbough natural area, Croton Dam, the North Country Hiking Trail, and great fishing and canoeing on the Muskegon River. It is also perfect for avid bird watchers.

With two, possibly three, bedrooms and two baths, this 1,005 square feet house is perfect for a family. It has a nice kitchen and dining area with

new ceramic tile and a large living room with new carpet, a fireplace, and a large slider leading to a large deck.

On the lower level is a family room, second fireplace, recreation room and bathroom. Sliders lead to a screened porch. Upgrades include a two-year old roof. Appliances are included. It is primarily heated by two gas insert fireplaces with electric as backup.

This house is priced at \$89,900. For more information, call Agent Krista DeWeerd at (616) 532-3042 or email her at Krista@TowneSquareMI.com. Ask about MLS# 10037682.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.trulia.com/property/photos/3019990721-6891-Spruce-Ave-Newaygo-MI-49337#item-0>

or chuck's email: cvann30643@aol.com.



photo by Chuck Vanette
This home, owned by an MNA member, is for sale and adjacent to the Karner Blue Nature Sanctuary in Newaygo County.



michigan nature association

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Give Nature to Those You Love!

**By Jeremy Emmi
Executive Director**

Would you like to give a gift this holiday season that doesn't break or end up in a landfill after six months, need batteries, or have a fifty-page user manual? MNA has some suggestions for you that are as fun to give as to get.

With MNA's "Protect A Piece of Michigan", you can give the gift of protecting a piece of Michigan forever. MNA is now selling certificates you can purchase for friends and loved ones to protect special areas in Michigan by the square foot.

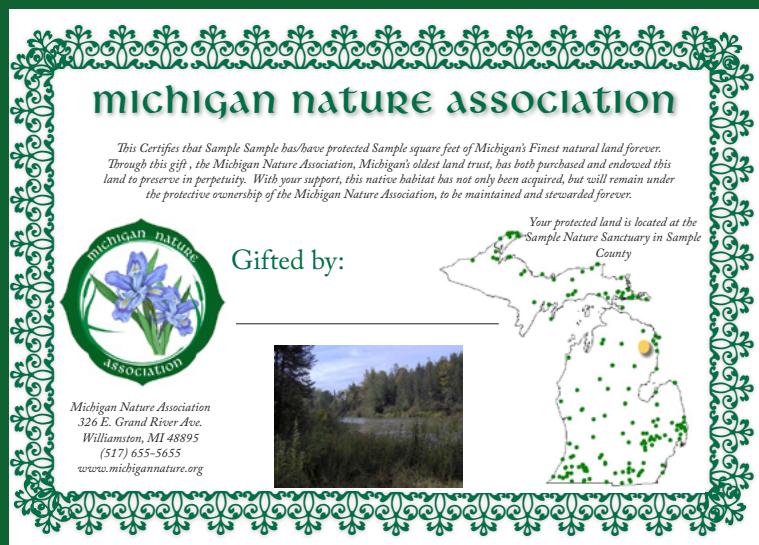
For only 10 cents, you can protect a square foot of important natural land in Michigan forever. This includes the purchase and endowment of some of the highest-quality natural land in Michigan. MNA is selling certificates that show how many square feet of land you have protected in units of 100 square feet. Each 100 square feet of land costs only \$10 to protect forever.

MNA will send a certificate to someone special stating the square feet of Michigan natural land that they have protected forever. The cost is \$10 for every 100 square feet, so only \$100 will protect 1,000 square feet of Michigan forever.

To order a Protect A Piece of Michigan certificate, give us a call, or use the enclosed remittance envelope and send a note with your donation stating the number of square feet you would like protected and the person's name(s) you would like on the certificate. If the certificate is for a particular holiday, such as Christmas, Hanukkah, or a birthday, please allow at least one week for processing, before the holiday.

MNA also has books and a DVD available. Our newest book, Walking Paths and Protected Areas of the Keweenaw, showcases areas to visit protected by MNA and seven other conservation groups in the Keweenaw Peninsula. Other books available are MNA's 7th Edition Sanctuary Guidebook and the hardcover In Retrospect book. MNA's Ruby-throated Hummingbird Nest Cycle DVD is a wonderful 100-minute foray into the nesting hummingbird and other native Michigan birds.

We also have a variety of print-to-order items like shirts, bags and mugs available on the internet at <http://www.cafepress.com/michigannature>. To order books or DVD's you can use the envelope,



call the MNA office, or visit our website at www.michigannature.org and click on the “Merchandise” button. Shirts, bags and other items are available only on the Cafepress website listed above.

Give the gift of nature this year to someone you care about and nurture a love of Michigan's special places.

