

michigan nature association



Preserving Michigan's Natural Heritage Since 1952

Oct. to Dec. 2009
Volume 58 Issue 3



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*New Guidebook
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A federally Endangered Indiana Brown Bat
photo by Adam Mann - Environmental Solutions & Innovations

From the Director



One notable deficiency of this decade, as we head into the next, is that it had no widely-accepted name. Earth's human inhabitants called this decade many names: "the two-thousands" (which is technically incorrect because it actually applies to any decade in the next nine hundred and ninety years), "the twenty-ohs," "the zeros," "the pre-teens," "the double naughts" (mainly by our overseas friends), "the O's," or the "zips." This decade will most likely be officially named in retrospect by historians.

Looking forward, what do we call this next decade? Possibilities include "the tens," "the teens," "the twenty tens," or "the two-thousand tens." One online source recently called it D2-2K, meaning the second decade of the second millennium. Whatever we call this coming decade, it will be a decade of great achievement for MNA. The last decade was one of great change, from an all-volunteer organization to a professionally-staffed organization with hundreds of active volunteers and thousands of members and supporters. You have helped increase our capacity to carry out the care and maintenance of our properties and to acquire important new natural places and additions to existing lands across the state.

We have another exciting announcement in this newsletter about a new land acquisition project, on the heels of our Dowagiac Woods addition and our joint project to protect Mystery Valley. You'll read about our new addition to MNA's Roach Point Nature Sanctuary. We are delighted to have this opportunity to permanently protect this property, and MNA's purchase of the excess "outholding" helps the Michigan Department of Natural Resources pursue their goal of consolidating state-owned parcels.

MNA is carefully planning each new acquisition and balancing those acquisitions with our financial ability to acquire new lands, and more importantly, our ability to protect these lands in perpetuity. If you consider that every acre we acquire must be stewarded forever, then each year we add to that duty by adding acreage. We take this duty seriously and have put great thought into recent decisions.

Though general economic conditions are uncertain at this time, we are striving to improve our stewardship of existing nature sanctuaries, while understanding that each new acre is another acre to be cared for. In our acquisition program, MNA is now raising funds for three acquisitions: the Dowagiac Woods addition, the Mystery Valley sanctuary, and the Roach Point addition. In our stewardship program, we are raising funds to care for our properties in perpetuity. These funds come in part from your general support donations, income from the Bertha Daubendiek Stewardship Endowment, and grant funding. We have been very fortunate to have received three recent grants for stewardship efforts in southern Michigan this summer. The Consumers Energy Foundation awarded MNA \$25,000 toward our southern Michigan stewardship efforts, enabling MNA to increase work across much of the Lower Peninsula, focusing on the invasive species threats which are more numerous than in our Northern Michigan sanctuaries. Trail maintenance, conservation education and general maintenance will also receive a boost from the Consumers Energy Foundation grant. In addition, MNA received a \$5,000 grant from REI for improvements at our Lakeville Swamp Nature Sanctuary and a \$7,000 grant from the Dole Family Foundation for Lower Peninsula stewardship.

These tremendous grants and your inspiring support combine to provide the resources we need to steward our lands. This year, your individual contributions to MNA's general support can be matched. Thanks to a generous matching challenge grant from the J.A. Woollam Foundation, which will match certain donations up to a total of \$10,000, you can increase the value of your personal gift this year. For the specifics of the matching grant, please see page 17.

As we move into a new decade together, we move forward on the strong base we built in the preceding decades. With your help, the "twenty tens" will be our best decade ever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jeremy P. Emmi".

Jeremy Emmi
Executive Director

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Michigan Nature Association's Mission

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

inside this issue

Every Sanctuary Has a Story

Roach Point Nature Sanctuary



photo by Jeff Ganley

MNA's largest sanctuary, the Roach Point Nature Sanctuary, is located in Chippewa County on the shores of Munuscong Bay.

By Jeff Ganley, MNA Steward

The Michigan Nature Association is an organization that protects wild areas, both large and small.

The area most near and dear to me is Roach Point Nature Sanctuary in Chippewa County. Roach Point is a land of beauty, mystery, excitement and apprehension. It's a place for rare and unique plants and animals, and yet a place for humans as well. I feel humans will always need wild places to "escape" to for spiritual renewal and soul searching.

Roach Point is wondrous with a vast array of plant communities such as rich conifer swamp, high quality Great Lakes marsh, boreal forest, mesic northern forest, northern wet meadow and northern shrub thicket.

Wildlife abounds consisting of a variety of common and uncommon

species such as coyote, occasional visits from the nearby Cedarville-quarry wolf pack, fox, river otter, mink, pine marten, deer and occasional moose. Several winters ago, an elk wandered across the ice from Ontario and is still believed to be in the area. Roach Point has excellent snowshoe hare numbers and a winter survey for Canada lynx would be a fun project. Black bear scat and other bear evidence was visible during every warm weather trip I've made to Roach Point.

Local residents have seen some great gray owl activity and believe a pair may be nesting at the point.

Hundreds of tundra swans use the bay as a staging area during fall migration and yellow rails have historically nested in the area. In fact, the entire marsh has been described as one of the finest in the Great Lakes.

“... humans will always need wild places to “escape” to for spiritual renewal and soul searching.”

Evening in the marsh brings the sounds of American woodcock, Wilson's snipe, American bittern, sandhill crane, distant loons and many frogs and toads.

The most exciting and recent news, though, is MNA's new addition of 28 acres to Roach Point. This addition, a fantastic wetland wilderness to the south of Munuscong Bay, will remain forever wild, just like the rest of Roach

Point. The new addition was acquired from the DNR, which has recently purchased over 7,200 acres just to the south of Roach Point, protecting a large portion of the legendary Gogomain Swamp, which has been described as the largest and highest quality rich conifer swamp in Michigan.

Roach Point N.S. was made possible due to the generosity of Mason Schafer, who donated most of the land to the MNA over the course of many years, starting in 1978. Barbara Spalding Ely also generously donated a portion.

With our newest addition, Roach Point Nature Sanctuary now exceeds 506 acres, making it one of MNA's largest.

One of my favorite spots at Roach Point is a place I affectionately call "lookout log."

Here I can stand and look out towards the point, across the pulsating sedge meadow and tag alder thicket.

I can scan Munuscong Bay on both sides of the point or just simply lay back and relax; enjoying a picnic lunch as the wind caresses my face.

At times, I catch myself daydreaming in the warm summer sunshine. Dreaming of what adventure I'll have next...what forest I'll explore tomorrow...or maybe dreaming of the day, when a boy becomes a man. Roach Point and its cast of wild characters was one of the inspirations for following story.



photo by Jeff Ganley

The setting sun lights up the sky with amazing shades of red and purple.

The Boy in the Big Wilderness: A Story

Long ago, when the world was new and stillwater pools beckoned, a young boy set out on a great journey.

He longed to satisfy a curiosity, to seek adventure and to follow his heart, exploring a sacred place he dreamed of but had never been.

As he started down the trail, he immediately noticed how beautiful and enchanting the forest was, the way it teemed with life and the way it made his heart feel.

"Croak...croak"....he looked up... there was Raven, black as the night sky. Ruffed Grouse suddenly exploded up from a dense, brushy thicket and scared the boy nearly out of his boots.

"Don't worry," said Barred Owl, silently landing on a balsam branch. "Grouse is afraid of you, that's why he flew off so suddenly."

"But...I didn't mean to scare him." the boy muttered.

Soon, after wandering for what seem like hours, the boy found himself in the dark, damp cedar swamp. He loved the sights and smells that surrounded him. He bent over and looked at the tiny white starflowers, glistening in the morning dew. They seemed to spread across the forest floor like a frost-white carpet. "You're sure pretty" he whispered to them.

It wasn't long before Wolf came over to see who was visiting the big cedar swamp. Wolf howled a mournful howl, which made the boy both excited and nervous at the same time.

Wolf said, "Come with me and I'll show you a great cranberry bog, where you can eat tasty berries until your stomach is ready to burst."

"Are you sure?" the boy asked hesitantly. "C' mon!" and at once, Wolf started off running with the boy following close behind.

"Wait!" Barred Owl demanded. "the sign says, 'stay on the trail!'"

"Ah phooey" the boy resounded as he tried to keep up with Wolf, who



photo by Jeremy Emmi

Every February MNA offer a day-long snowshoeing trip to Roach Point with guide Jessie Hadley. The 2010 trip is scheduled for February 6th.

Continued on page 6

Every Sanctuary has a Story (cont.)

was much faster and more agile. Wolf ran and ran and ran, jumping over fallen logs and splashing through the wet moss until he finally reached the cranberry bog. Wolf looked back but the boy wasn't behind him. Wolf howled but only a distant chickadee made a sound. The boy, who was still stumbling through the cedar swamp, exhausted, stopped and sat down on a stump in disgust.

"That's great" he thought, "Wolf ran too fast and now here I am... lost." The boy cried out but no one replied. He shouted out to Raven, "please help me find my way back to the trail!" He shouted to Owl, to Wolf and to anyone else that might hear him. The boy became scared. "Alone in the big wilderness and no one to help me" he thought. Soon, it started to rain. The boy stomped his feet in anger crushing a whole clump of tiny white starflowers. He lashed out at all that he loved, cursing at Wolf for running so fast. He yelled at Raven for ignoring him and not helping him find his way back to the trail. He scolded Barred Owl for not warning him about the dangers of leaving the trail.

After a long time, shivering in the cold rain, the boy, sad and alone, slowly started to realize what he had done. He bowed his head and began to cry. He felt sick to his stomach. What could he possibly do to bring back the tiny white wildflowers? What could he possibly

say to Wolf, Raven and Owl to help them forgive him? The tall cedar trees just swayed quietly in the cool, wet breeze, seemingly indifferent.

After a while, Barred Owl finally came and landed on a tall Paper Birch. The boy looked up, straining his neck, and said, "Owl, can you ever forgive me for the way I've acted? I should have listened to your words; I should have stayed on the trail."

"I'm sorry" he pleaded to Raven but he heard no reply. "I'm sorry Wolf" the tearful boy called out, only to hear the breeze drifting through the trembling aspen leaves.

The boy got down on his hands and knees and talked to the mud saying, "I'm sorry for trampling your beautiful white wildflowers that grew so proudly in your warm, fertile soil."

Barred Owl finally spoke out. "What we do to the land has many consequences for many years to come, and for all those who come after us. What took thousands of years to create can be broken and torn in an instant. Our relationship with the land is not unlike our relationship with each other, only too often, learning by past mistakes. Imagine what can be accomplished with nurture and foresight. We all have to take responsibility for our actions... for what we've done and left undone."

The boy knew only by accepting his own shortcomings, could the healing process begin. Only when he saw the



photo by Charlie Eshbach

Visitors to Roach Point are encouraged to bring lots of time and snacks in order to explore our largest sanctuary.

wilderness for more than just his own needs, could he be at peace with it.

Barred Owl led the humbled boy out of the forest. Wolf was never seen again, and to this day, there is a bare spot, deep in Raven's woods where once there were beautiful white starflowers.



How to Help

How many opportunities do you get to leave your mark on such a special place? MNA must raise \$37,500 to cover the acquisition and endowment costs for the Roach Point addition. Your contribution will have a lasting impact, ensuring that the sanctuary remains a jewel in the crown of MNA's sanctuaries. Use the remittance envelope included with this newsletter or go to www.michigannature.org and contribute today!

This aerial photo shows Roach Point reaching out into Munuscong Bay.

Stewardship Update: Accreditation

By Allison Bartlett, MNA Intern and Natalie Kent-Norkowski, Lower Peninsula Stewardship Coordinator

As you have heard, the Michigan Nature Association is gearing up to apply for accreditation with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in the next few years. This voluntary certification process is used to refine and make a land trust's policies and operations more effective for the purpose of becoming an overall more recognized and potent organization. There are standards and practices for every aspect of the organization, some more challenging than others especially for an organization of MNA's size and history.

In the stewardship realm, MNA must have a complete profile of each sanctuary in its possession, which involves regular documented monitoring, posted boundaries, a management plan and organized records. In order to meet our stewardship goals, we are enlisting the aid of sanctuary stewards as well as office volunteers.

Sanctuary stewards play a vital role in at least two stewardship tasks in the accreditation process: sanctuary monitoring and boundary marking. Monitoring involves the volunteer steward visiting his or her assigned sanctuary and filling out a report twice per year documenting

the condition of the sanctuary, new or ongoing threats, species observed, supplies needed and so on. The reports are submitted via mail or email.

To kick start the boundary marking accreditation task, Stewardship Director Sherri Laier and Lower Peninsula Stewardship Coordinator Natalie Kent-Norkowski gathered a group of sanctuary stewards from southwest Michigan on July 10 for an informational workshop, updating them on the accreditation process as a whole and discussing several tools that can help stewards identify and post signs on sanctuary boundaries. Some of these tools include using certified surveys, compasses, metal detectors, GPS technology and working with neighbors. The southwest Michigan stewards are now on their way toward helping each other and the stewardship staff with this daunting and challenging job. We are hoping their successful performance can serve as a model for other areas of the state.

The management plan writing accreditation task is completed by MNA stewardship staff. Frequently, stewardship staff will ask stewards or other volunteers to assist with this process that produces a plan detailing the sanctuary's history, conservation values, restrictions,

How To Help

If you or someone you know may be interested in becoming a steward or an office volunteer to help with these critical and time-sensitive tasks, please contact Lower Peninsula Stewardship Coordinator Natalie Kent-Norkowski at (517) 655-5655 or nkent@michigannature.org

threats and future goals and objectives.

The remaining stewardship accreditation task requires the organization and analysis of sanctuary records. This lengthy process occurs in the office and involves scrutiny of legal documents such as deeds, title insurance, surveys and tax records to be sure that all is well with each sanctuary. Detail-oriented office volunteers available on a regular basis are greatly needed for this task. A legal background is helpful but not required. Due to the initial training required for this task, interested volunteers should be available at least one day per week.

If you or someone you know may be interested in becoming a steward or an office volunteer to help with these critical and time-sensitive tasks, please contact Lower Peninsula Stewardship Coordinator Natalie Kent-Norkowski at (517) 655-5655 or nkent@michigannature.org.



Eastern Upper Peninsula Field Representative Keith Saylor and steward Charles Goodrich mark a boundary tree at the Barvicks Sand Dunes as part of the Boundary Marking workshop conducted by MNA's stewardship staff on July 10.

photo by Allison Bartlett

Going BATty

By Anusuya Das, MNA Intern

These are widely misunderstood winged mammals. Mostly abundant in the tropics, there are more than 900 species of them worldwide. Of the 45 species occurring in the United States, Michigan alone has nine species of these nocturnal creatures that are born naked and blind. Welcome to the enigmatic world of bats.

A single bat can consume between 600 and 1,000 mosquitoes and other insect pests within an hour. A single colony of 150 big brown bats can protect local farmers from 33 million or more

rootworms each summer. Little brown bats are noted for being the best bug killers in the world. So why are they still widely misunderstood despite the benefits they pose to the environment?

"I believe what leads to misconceptions is probably because [bats] are nocturnal and secretive. So, for many years researchers were unable to really observe these animals to see what they were doing," said Dawn Vezina, an education specialist with the Organization for Bat Conservation. "Also, the way American movies have had depicted bats as scary and sinister has also led to a lot of misconceptions about them." The most common misconception surrounding bats is that they carry and spread rabies. There is no denying that some bats do get rabies. But according to Vezina, statistics reveal that when healthy populations of bats are tested less than half a percent test positive for rabies.

Of the 45 species of bats found in the United States, six are federally-listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Of these, the Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) dwells mostly in Indiana but also occurs in some regions of Michigan. The eastern pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*) is of special concern in the state and the evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*) is listed as endangered in Michigan.

Dr. Allen Kurta, Biology professor in Eastern Michigan University, who has done research on the evening bat and the endangered Indiana bat, said



"the evening bat is found in only one location in Michigan, hence considered threatened. If something happens to that location then the state will no longer have evening bats. A similar thing is going on with the eastern pipistrelle. These species of bats primarily hibernate in the mines." During winter when food (such as insects and fruits) availability drops, some bats hibernate while some migrate to warmer places. Several bat species hibernate in dense clusters on cave walls or ceilings. U.S. cave bats spend winter hibernating in caves (or mines) and move to trees or buildings during summer. Tree bats rarely dwell in caves. They roost in trees during summer and spend winter primarily in hollow trees. "So, if you start destroying the places where bats hibernate then they are only hibernating in a few places then potentially you could end their existence in Michigan," says Dr. Kurta.

Is urban sprawl having an effect on bats? According to Robert Locke, Director of Publications at Bats Conservation International, urban sprawl leads to habitat loss. "Cities are expanding and with that ranching, farming and agriculture are also growing which is reducing [bats] habitat. If they don't have a place to roost during the day then they won't have adequate places to forage and detect the insect. Hence, they will either leave or disappear." Locke also said that although the little brown bats are widespread they are afflicted with white nose syndrome which is a disease that is having a devastating

impact on hibernating bats in the North East and it is spreading. Kurta said that urban sprawl can potentially be a problem to majority of bats that roost on trees. "The more trees that are cut down to make life for urban sprawl, the less habitat are available for these bats as far as roosting goes."

Other than rapid urbanization, climate change is another reason behind their decreasing population. Said Locke, "changes in water supply due to climate change can have an enormous impact." He added that decrease

in insect population and change in their distribution can have an irreversible impact on bat population. Due to warmer climate, certain species are being found further north than they were before, said Kurta.

Bats found in the U.S. are insect eaters and hence are the main controllers of night flying insects including agricultural pests. "If they were to disappear we would be totally overwhelmed with night flying insects and the farmers would be desperately trying to save their crops from insect pests," said Vezina.

This insect eating service is really essential to reducing pesticide use, said Locke. "Also, bats are important pollinators and seed dispersers. So, their disappearance would not only be a penalty to the environment, to humans, but to the entire biodiverse sphere of life."

Are you a Writer?

You may notice that some of the articles that appear in the MNA newsletter are written by our members. If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, please contact Paul Steiner at: (517) 655-5655 or paul@michigannature.org.

New Keweenaw Guidebook

By Anusuya Das, MNA Intern

Walking Paths & Protected Areas of the Keweenaw is the new guidebook published by the Michigan Nature Association. This 80-page, one-of-its-kind guidebook describes 22 sanctuaries and preserves in Houghton and Keweenaw counties.

Each description in this quick reference and easy-to-use guidebook includes driving directions, a trail map, unique plants and animals, a description of the geology, and the conservation history, along with color photos of each site. Along with MNA, seven land conservation organizations and units of government with protected lands in the Keweenaw Peninsula collaborated to put together this new guidebook.

Printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink, the new guidebook is a long-awaited upgrade to the last Keweenaw guidebook of the MNA – *Walking Paths in the Keweenaw*, first published in 1989, then updated in 1995. The first booklet had black and white pictures with scaled down maps and only described MNA nature sanctuaries in Keweenaw county.

The new guidebook is designed to increase awareness of local land conservation efforts and special habitats in the Keweenaw, its unique features, and rare plant and animal species found in Houghton and

Keweenaw counties.

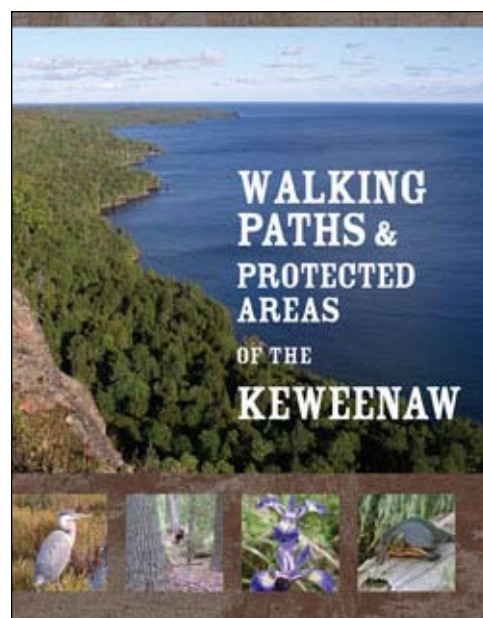
"I noticed that a lot of people were unfamiliar with the sanctuaries and preserves open to the public for walking, education, and non-motorized enjoyment," said Joan Chadde, K-12 education program coordinator for the Michigan Tech Center for Science & Environmental Outreach and Western UP Center for Science, Math & Environmental Education, who compiled the guidebook. "I hope this publication will help families spend more time outdoors exploring the Keweenaw."

Chadde said that the original plan was to update the old Keweenaw guidebook because MNA had acquired new sanctuaries that were not described in the previous guidebook. The idea was also to describe projects by other conservation organizations and units of government other than MNA and be more useful to the local community at large.

This guidebook also describes each of the land conservation organizations and governmental units engaged in protecting land in the Keweenaw. Moreover, a two-page description titled 'Geology of the Keweenaw Peninsula' provides a quick yet comprehensive insight on Keweenaw's geology. The last page lists additional walking paths in Houghton and Keweenaw counties which may be handy for those who want to explore beyond the 22 sanctuaries and preserves described in the guidebook.

According to Chadde the best feature of the guidebook is that it is a one-stop information hub of all the sanctuaries and preserves in the Keweenaw Peninsula. She is confident that through the new Keweenaw guidebook, MNA and the other organizations are going to gain visibility and people are going to appreciate more what each of these organizations has done in protecting these sites.

MNA thanks graphic designer, Susan Sanders and Clare Rosen for the amazing maps she prepared. Each map is in color and has detailed illustration which lends greater depth and dimension to them for quick and easy reference. Each partner organization wrote the descriptions for



their sanctuaries and provided photos. The Michigan Nature Association published the guide.

The following land conservation organizations and units of government in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties contributed to the guide:

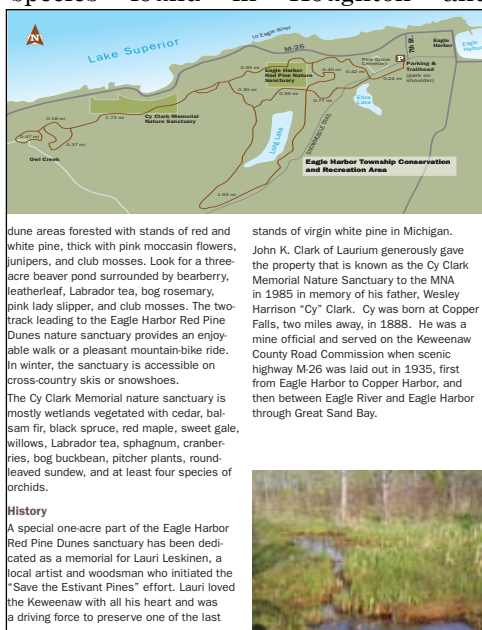
Michigan Nature Association
Gratiot Lake Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy
Copper Country Audubon
Keweenaw Land Trust
Grant Township
Keweenaw County
Eagle Harbor Township

The guidebook is now for sale for \$14.95 at 22 locations in the Upper Peninsula, in addition to online sales by MNA. More than 700 of the 4200 copies printed were distributed to partner organizations and businesses in this first month!

Order your copy from: Michigan Nature Association michigannature.org or call (517) 655-5655.

In the Keweenaw, contact: Joan Chadde 487-3341 or jchadde@mtu.edu or Charles Eshbach ceshbach@keweenawtraveler.com

Additional Michigan Nature Association merchandise is available at www.michigannature.org or from Cafepress at www.cafepress.com/michigannature



This sample page shows the Eagle Harbor Red Pine Dunes and Cy Clark Memorial.

From the President



By Steve Kelley
MNA President

One of the downsides to a traditional newsletter is the length of its production schedule. This is our last newsletter for 2009, but my article is being submitted in August to meet our September publishing schedule for the October-December newsletter.

So, where are we as of late August? Doing well, thanks to the continuing hard work of staff and our many volunteers.

Here are some highlights:

- Our Fall Adventure to the Eastern UP sold out in record time. By the time you receive this, I am confident we all had a fun, interesting, and informative weekend. We look forward to seeing you next year!

- Our beautiful new *Walking Paths & Protected Areas of the Keweenaw* book continues to receive rave reviews and sell at a rapid clip. Longtime member and former trustee Joan Chadde edited this winner, building on two earlier editions of the book. If you have not ordered your copy, it is available through the MNA website and office and many bookstores in the UP. It will make a thoughtful gift for your friends and family this holiday season.

- We continue to raise money to pay off our purchase of an additional 140 acres for our outstanding Dowagiac Woods sanctuary. If you have contributed, thank you. If not, please consider a contribution to help us pay off this acquisition this year. And, if you have never been to Dowagiac Woods, consider pulling out (or pulling up) your calendar now and penciling in a visit next year. Around May 1 should provide peak spring wild flowers. You will not be disappointed.

- We also continue to raise money to pay off our Mystery Valley purchase in conjunction with the Michigan Karst Conservancy. Preserving the karst geologic features of this Presque Isle County property, including its inland sinkhole draining to Lake Huron, deserves our support. We also would like to get this paid off this year so we can focus on additional opportunities.

- We continue to receive significant support for our ongoing operations including our important stewardship work. In addition to operational support from many members, we recently have received significant stewardship and operational grants from the Consumers Energy Foundation, Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), and several private foundations. Thank you.

- Stewardship and operational donations are being used to upgrade boardwalks at Estivant Pines in the Keweenaw and Lakeville Swamp in Oakland County, as well as stewardship work at more than 50 other sanctuaries.

- We continue work on a number of exciting new acquisitions. Given our need to first pay off the Dowagiac Woods and Mystery Valley purchases, our current focus is on donated properties. We are working on more than

five proposed/expected donations of beautiful heritage properties that have been in donor families' ownership for many decades. These prospective donors want MNA to preserve these habitats for the future as they have been respected by these donor families in the past.

- We continue to prepare to apply for accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. For MNA, with many statewide sanctuaries – 165 sanctuaries in 56 counties and counting, many of them acquired many years ago -- and a relatively small staff, this is a substantial, time-consuming undertaking in addition to and in some cases in lieu of the other work we would like to be doing. Nevertheless, for future fundraising competitiveness and enhanced operational purposes, we continue to believe this is an important step to complete.

- We have initiated discussions with a major university to develop a template sanctuary joint program. Goals include integrating select MNA sanctuaries into the environmental and biology curricula, including class and individual research projects, and alerting students to MNA membership and service opportunities. If this can be successfully undertaken, we hope to develop similar programs with other Michigan universities over the coming years.

- We have received several significant bequests. An accepted bequest will be used in keeping with the donor's stated intent. In the absence of specific donor instructions/restrictions (such as "buy land in Keweenaw County"), bequests ordinarily will be added to MNA's endowment, generating income for years to come to support stewardship of existing and later-acquired sanctuaries and other operations. Please contact the MNA office with any planned giving questions.

We have much to be thankful for and appreciate your continuing support of Michigan's only statewide land trust. If feasible, please consider volunteering for MNA or otherwise actively supporting the organization. We look forward to your continuing feedback and input as we preserve Michigan's heritage and plan MNA's future. And keep visiting the MNA website for current information on scheduled field trips, sanctuary work days, and other MNA news.

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

Expanding Our Reach: Online Networking

By Anusuya Das, MNA Intern

With the upsurge of social media, more and more nonprofits are increasingly utilizing various forms of social networking tools to their benefit. Most non-profit organizations are faced with the issue of a limited budget. But most of the social networking Web sites can be used at absolutely no expense.

“Social media can be done with just time. One does not necessarily have to invest in fancy tools. Social media gives your constituents the ability to fund raise for you. Of course such tools may not substitute traditional modes of communication but can definitely help in building relationships”, said Danielle Brigida who is the social media outreach coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation.

David Poulson, associate professor at the Knight Center for Environmental Journalism at Michigan State University said, “Non-profits typically rely on grassroots organizing, and in that, social media is an excellent way in multiplying those efforts. The advantage of social networking is that it does not cost anything. It costs nothing to establish a profile on Facebook and Twitter.”

Given that traditional forms of marketing and communication still exist and are available, why do non-profits need the aid of social media? “That is where increasingly the audiences are. Communication and marketing is all about being able to reach out to your audience. With all these social networking tools, we make sure that we do not abuse them but try to engage people by calling their attention to things that we think are important.” said Nancy Severance, director of marketing and communications for the Audubon Society.

The most exciting part of the majority of these social networking web sites is the liberty and ease of content creation that they offer to their users. “Content is pretty much what drives social media right now. Having relevant and interesting content even if it is for a niche audience, would serve the purpose. Twitter is really about sharing

resources and ideas instead of sharing what one is eating for breakfast,” said Brigida.

Some of the popular social networking web sites at present are Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Wordpress. Each of these social networking websites caters to different needs and users. But just being present on these web sites would not serve their purpose. Active participation is what garners interest and following. Explaining how being on various social networking web sites can help non-profits like Michigan Nature Association, Peggy Dolane, principal of Provient Marketing and a firm supporter of social media said, “Being on various social networking web sites can help MNA to build connections with other environmental groups”

Facebook is primarily about reaching out to and/or sustaining contacts with people whom you have known in the real world via the Internet. It allows users to friend someone, join/open a group or a fan page, add an event, post blog/picture/video links, and communicate with fellow Facebookers by messaging (like emailing) or in real time via its instant messaging. It is very easy to set up an account on Facebook. All you need is a valid email account to sign up. Michigan Nature Association is on Facebook too. Join our group at <http://www.facebook.com/MichiganNatureAssociation>.

Twitter allows its users to follow people or organizations as per their interests. Users also follow those whom they know in real life. Twitter is a good tool in order to widen one's scope and to network. Full length conversation is not possible on Twitter due to the 140-character limitation per update. Twitter is where you need to be to keep abreast with the latest, the news and developing stories. Twitter users can post updates or “tweets” both from their computers as well as their web compatible cell phones. Follow MNA on Twitter - <http://twitter.com/michigannature>.

On LinkedIn one must join as an individual and not an organization. Networking has been considered a vital component to success and LinkedIn

is a valuable tool in terms of building a network. MNA can send a messages to our network and post events. Users can also join groups where they can start and participate in discussions. Various groups can be used for advocacy, to promote events and to find volunteers and board members. If you are a member, an employee, an intern or worked with the Michigan Nature Association in the past, you may join MNA's group on LinkedIn here - <http://www.linkedin.com/companies/michigan-natureassociation>.

A blog is a type of website, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order. Many blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject; others function as more personal online diaries. The ability for readers to leave comments in an interactive format is an important part of many blogs. Most blogs are primarily textual, although some focus on art (artlog), photographs (photoblog), sketches (sketchblog), videos (vlog), music (MP3 blog), and audio (podcasting). MNA is currently looking for someone to help maintain and update its blog, if you are interested please contact Paul Steiner at psteiner@michigannature.org. Feel free to check out MNA's blog at <http://michigannature.wordpress.com>.

E-Newsletter Now Available

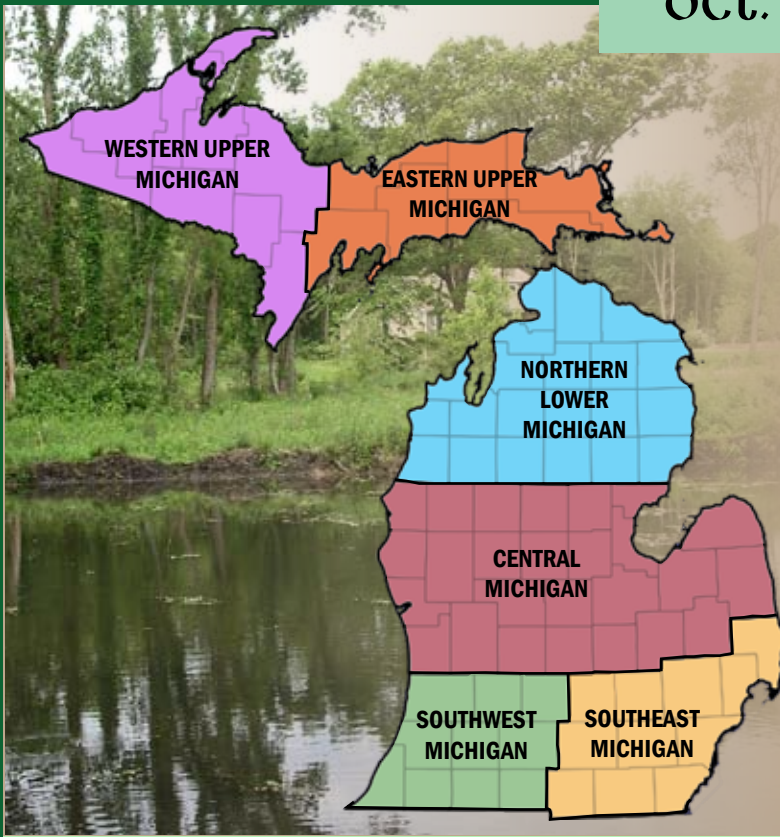
In an effort to save paper, keep our printing costs down and make it easier to share your newsletter with friends, the MNA newsletter is now available via e-mail. If you would like to receive your newsletter as an Adobe PDF, please e-mail us at

michigannature@michigannature.org

Archived copies are also available on our website under “News and Events.”

mna schedule of activities

oct. 2009 through feb. 2010



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

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

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

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Wednesday, October 14

Wednesday, October 28

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Butternut Creek

Berrien and Van Buren Counties

Please help us remove invasive shrubs threatening the unique prairie fen at this sanctuary.

Tuesday, November 10

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Beck Memorial

Berrien County

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

Wednesday, November 11

Wednesday, December 9

Wednesday, January 13

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Butternut Creek

Berrien and Van Buren Counties

Please help us remove invasive shrubs threatening the unique prairie fen at this sanctuary.

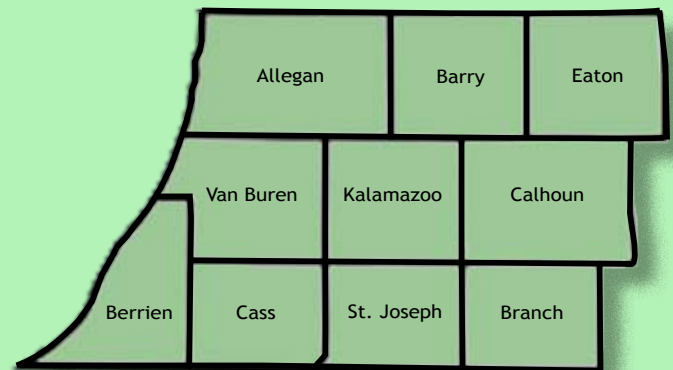


photo by Natalie Kent

Ralph and Marena Markel visit Karner Blue N.S.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Tuesday, October 13
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Parsons Memorial
Clare County

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

Thursday, October 15
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Krum Memorial
Montcalm County

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

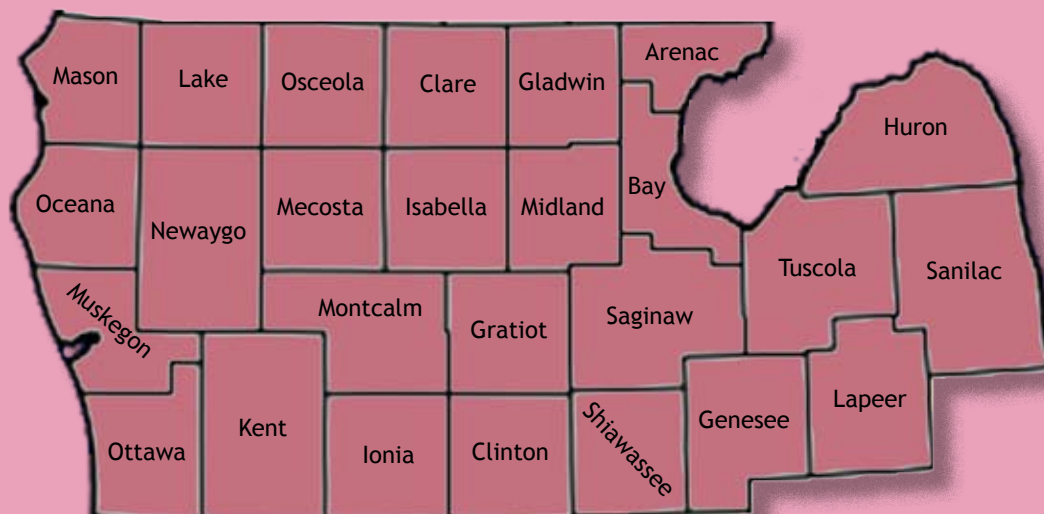
Tuesday, October 20
Tuesday, October 27
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parsons Memorial
Clare County

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

Thursday, October 29
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Krum Memorial
Montcalm County

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



Tuesday, November 3
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Parsons Memorial
Clare County

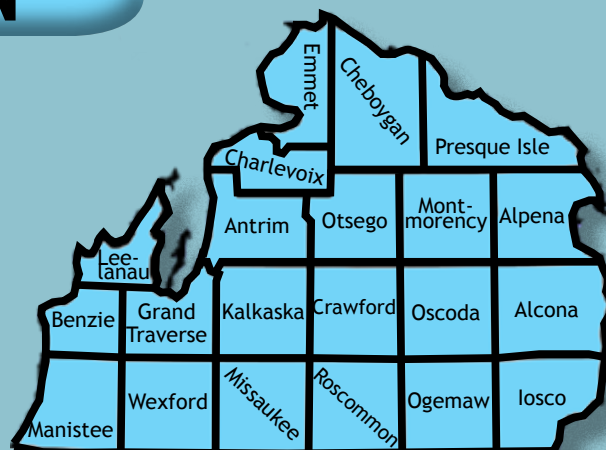
Interested in seeing fall colors, Furgeson Lake and signs of beaver activity? Here's your chance to do so and also help remove autumn olive invading the upland forest of this sanctuary.

NORTHERN LOWER MICHIGAN

Saturday, January 16
Meet at 10 a.m.
Green River
Antrim County

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

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



EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA

Saturday/Sunday, October 24/25

From Dawn to Dusk Both Days
Swamp Lakes Moose Refuge
Luce County

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

Saturday, October 31

Meet at 10 a.m.
Fred Dye
Mackinac County

Please help us remove spotted knapweed and other invasive plants threatening this sanctuary's unique pale purple coneflower. Hot dogs, water and soft drinks will be generously provided by steward George Ford.

Saturday, January 23

From Dawn to Dusk
Martin Bay
Delta County

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

Saturday, January 30

From Dawn to Dusk
Pat Grogan Orchid Bog
Chippewa County

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

Sunday, January 31

From Dawn to Dusk
Two Hearted River
Luce County

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



Saturday, February 6

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

8 a.m. Optional Breakfast at Ang-Gios Restaurant in Cedarville
Roach Point
Chippewa County

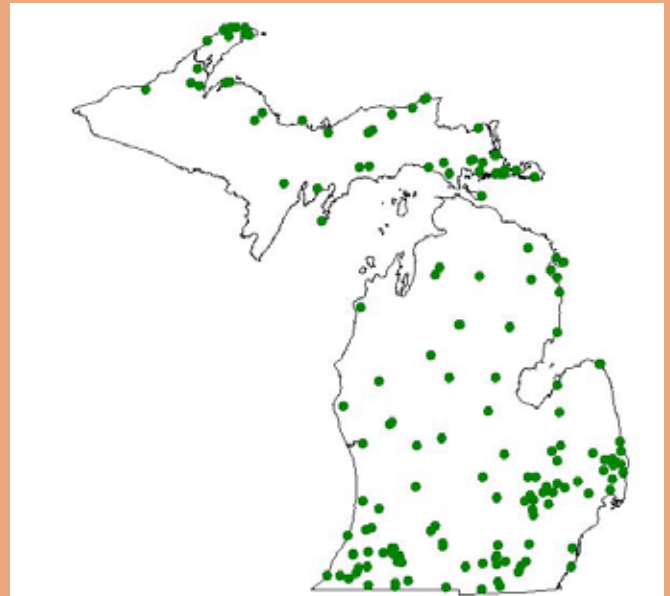
Cost: \$20, includes snowshoe rental if needed

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

Saturday/Sunday, February 20/21

From Dawn to Dusk Both Days
Swamp Lakes Moose Refuge
Luce County

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



Please remember to R.S.V.P. for these Volunteer Days and Field Trips. You can do this by calling the MNA office at (517) 655-5655 or emailing volunteer@michigannature.org.

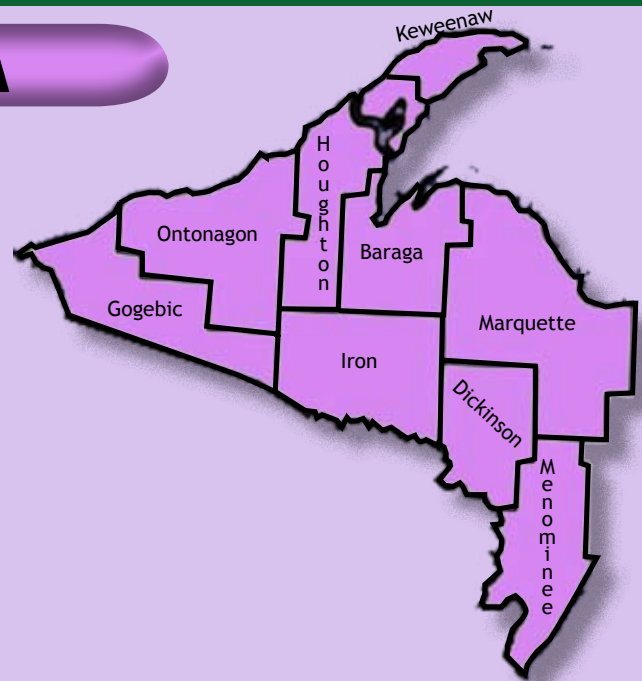
Each dot on the map represents an MNA's sanctuary. If you are interested in a sanctuary near you that doesn't have any volunteer days or field trips scheduled, please call 517-655-5655 or email michigannature@michigannature.org

WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA

Saturday, January 16

Meet at 10 a.m. Copper Harbor Visitor Center
Estivant Pines
Keweenaw County

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



SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Saturday, October 24

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
McGaw Memorial
St. Clair County

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

Thursday, November 5

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Rizor
Livingston County

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

Saturday, November 7

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Lakeville Swamp
Oakland County

Please help us remove invasive shrubs threatening the natural communities at this site.

Saturday, November 14

Saturday, December 12

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
McGaw Memorial
St. Clair County

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

Tuesday, January 5

Tuesday, January 12

Tuesday, January 19

Tuesday, February 9

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Lefglen
Jackson County

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



Tuesday, February 16

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Lefglen
Jackson County

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

Please help your program leaders plan for these events by registering with the office at (517)655-5655 or emailing volunteer@michigannature.org. Directions to the sanctuary will be provided when you register.

Nature Notes: The Bartrams

by **Bill Bliss, MNA Member**

"The Bartrams had before them an unmapped virgin country filled with quantities of unknown plants and animals. In that day the thoughts of most Americans were turned towards the conquest and taming of the wilderness; but the Bartram's looked upon it with the eyes of great botanists, of philosophers, of explorers, historians, and ecologists.

While they wished to see new areas open for settlement, they deplored the destruction of natural beauties that followed the wake of the white man. Nearly two centuries ago William expressed the modern belief that man should use his environment wisely and safely, and never abused it."

John and William's approach to nature was refreshingly different. To find out what "new" trees, birds, reptiles, insects, soils, as well as plants were grist for their journals, the naturalists in Sweden and in England asked John and William to provide a description. Blunt and brief were the entries by John; while William's were vivid and joyous.

This was the "new continent", no longer a British possession after 1776. The continent had plantations owned by British entrepreneurs – orange groves for example. They often provided him overnight hospitality as and when needed and available. Otherwise he slept out in a tent – there's a report of his about sleeping well off-shore on a lake on the St. Juan River with alligators nearby. Far enough – these aquatic creatures, moving swiftly in water, but very slow on dry land, choose to live in the water.

JOHN BARTRAM

John Bartram, a Quaker, was the first great American naturalist. In 1731, he established first botanical garden in the Western Hemisphere. It is located on the west bank of the Schuylkill River, a section now a part of Philadelphia.

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, and other noted people sought his company. John corresponded with, and sent seeds and specimens of his discoveries by agents to the king of England, to Linnaeus and to Peter Kalm, a Swedish professor of



photo provided by the John Bartram Association

A picture of the Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia

Natural History and the Economy. He also sent seeds to Franklin for sale during his years in Paris, France.

John was an original member of the American Philosophical Society. In 1751, Benjamin Franklin and David Hall published (at Philadelphia) an American edition of Dr. Thomas Short's *Medicina Britannica* "with a preface by Mr. John Bartram, Botanist of Pennsylvania..." This text included many of his comments, both medicinal and ecological, on Native American plants.

WILLIAM BARTRAM

"I have often been affected with extreme regret at beholding the destruction and devastation which has been committed or indiscreetly exercised on the extensive fruitful orange groves on the banks of the St. Juan's River by the new planters... Some hundred acres of which, at a single plantation, have been entirely destroyed to make room for the indigo, cotton, corn, batatas. As they say to exterminate the mosquitoes, alleging that the trees near the dwellings are haunts and shelters for those persecuting insects. It is only a small coppice, or clump, nakedly exposed and destitute: perhaps fifty or one hundred trees standing near the dwelling house."

William Bartram was the fifth son of John Bartram. William inherited his father's intelligence, his appreciation of nature, and his great power of observation. At heart he was a naturalist with a poet's appreciation for

nature. William's dream was to explore the lush, exotic South, pursuing its little-known region. His resulting book, *Travels* (1791), placed him as a great nature writer.

THE BARTRAMS' EXPLORATORY JOURNEYS

John Bartram

1743 – Philadelphia to Oswego

1765-1766 St. Augustine (FL) up the St. John's River

William Bartram – 1773 – 1778 Georgia and Florida (to Pensacola)

SOURCES

John & William Bartram's *America*, a 418 page volume

Selected from the writings of the Philadelphia Naturalists

Edited by Helen Gere Cruickshank
Selections mostly from William

Bartram's *Travels*

Written by William Bartram in 1791,

A diary of exploring the St. Juan's (now John's) River in Florida.

"AMERICA" published 1957 by Devin – Adair Co.

John & William Bartram's *America*; a selection from the writings of the Philadelphia Naturalists, edited by Helen Gere Cruickshank published in 1957 by the Devon-Adair Co.

A Terrifying Battle with Alligators, and Reports on Other Reptiles William Bartram writing in his report, *Travels*.

Travels, William Bartram

Featured Interns

by Allison Bartlett



This summer, the Michigan Nature Association's Williamston headquarters was bustling with the activity of

six different interns. At any given time, Anji, Kate, Megan, Leigh-Anne, Anusuya and I could be seen working hard on different MNA projects. We had a lot of fun learning more about Michigan's natural heritage and helping MNA while making new friends!

Hailing from East Lansing, Anji Reynolds is currently a senior attending Michigan State University studying studio art. During the summer, she was one of MNA's graphic design interns, and designed several of the sanctuary brochures. She chose MNA because she loves the outdoors and agrees that preserving the state's natural resources is an important thing to focus on. In her spare time, Anji enjoys painting and photography. After graduation, Anji hopes to start her own publication.

Originally from Ann Arbor, and currently of Webberville, Kate Ward was also a graphic design intern with MNA. She was responsible for the design of many of the sanctuary brochures and several mailings. She currently attends Lansing Community College and is finishing up her graphic design degree. Kate discovered her love of graphic arts while working as Chief Editor to her high school's yearbook, and one day hopes to work for an advertising agency or design firm. She chose to work with MNA because she heard of the organization's reputation

for being a great place to work, and she enjoys the outdoors. Kate also enjoys writing poetry and performing with her theater group, The Town Hall Players.



Megan Priess, of St. John's, also did graphic design work for MNA, and divided her time between working on the newsletter and brochures. She is currently a senior at Michigan State, majoring in advertising. She loves being able to market to people using her creativity. Megan heard of the position through a friend and was hoping to gain more experience in design. Megan also works at the greenhouses at MSU, and in her spare time she likes going to concerts, spending time with friends, and watching the Detroit Red Wings. After graduation, she hopes to move to a big city and dreams of someday working for a record label.



Leigh-Anne Kast joined MNA this summer as our first legal intern. Originally from Queens, New York, Leigh-Anne received her bachelor's degree in environmental science from SUNY Albany. Leigh-Anne currently resides in Lansing and is working toward a law degree at Cooley Law School. She hopes to become an environmental lawyer and, as she puts it, "save the world." As MNA's legal intern, Leigh-Anne worked to solve property record problems and find missing files. She was a huge help in organizing the MNA legal files! In her spare time, Leigh-

Anne enjoys being outside and taking in all nature has to offer.



Anusuya Das is originally from New Delhi, India. She received both a bachelor's and master's degree in English literature from the University of Delhi. She came to Michigan State University last fall to pursue a master's degree in environmental journalism. Anusuya served as a journalism intern for MNA, writing for the 8th edition guidebook, editing and compiling articles for the newsletter, and drafting recommendations for the MNA Web site. She enjoyed working for a nonprofit organization and learning about Michigan's natural heritage. In the future, Anusuya hopes to work for a nonprofit organization, a magazine, or a publication writing about environmental, women's, or health issues.

I spent the summer as MNA's other journalism intern, with a mission to make MNA more well-known throughout the state. My responsibilities included writing articles for the MNA newsletter, drafting parts of the 8th edition sanctuary guidebook, submitting press releases, and contacting media outlets. I also wrote the copy for a Dowagiac Woods public service announcement. I'm currently a senior at Michigan State, majoring in communication. After graduation, I plan to continue doing public relations work for small companies and nonprofit organizations, and am considering going to law school.

Your donation to MNA can be matched!

The J.A. Woollam Foundation has presented MNA and its members with a special matching challenge grant.

The Foundation will match select gifts dollar for dollar, up to a maximum of \$10,000. Eligible donations are:

All new memberships.

All memberships that were lapsed in the past year (or years) and renew in 2009.

Any increased membership donations. (If this year's donation is greater than last years, the difference in the two amounts will be matched)

All eligible donations must be received by MNA before December 31, 2009. Please take advantage of this opportunity to help MNA by renewing, increasing your annual support, or encouraging a friend to join MNA!

Featured Volunteer

By Karen Harris

Twelve year old Abbie Harris of Edwardsburg, Michigan, has always been interested in the natural world and believes in taking an active role in her community. Her commitment to community service led her to become a steward for the Michigan Nature Association's Radebaugh Memorial Plant Preserve in Edwardsburg last summer. And her research into the natural world led her to be named a 2009 Young Naturalist Award winner in an essay contest sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York.

Abbie's award winning project was titled "You're Fired! The Use of Fire to Eliminate Non-Native Plants in a Prairie Restoration: A study of three restored prairies." She visited restored prairies at Fernwood Botanical Gardens in Buchanan, the Geneva Prairie in Cassopolis and the Atkinson Dewey Street Prairie in Dowagiac several times over the span of a year and a half to catalog the percentage of native and non-native plants in random samples. Two of the prairies, the Fernwood Prairie and the Atkinson Dewey Street Prairie, were slated for prescribed burns in the Spring of 2008. She again cataloged the plants after the burns to determine if fire could be a tool in ridding restored prairies of invasive, non-native plants.

Abbie originally did the research study as a 4-H fair project. She entered in the 2008 Cass County Fair and earned a blue ribbon.

At the start of the school year last September, Abbie shared her project with her seventh grade science teacher, Ron Grzeskiewicz, at Edwardsburg Middle School. On the recommendation of her teacher, she entered the project in the Young Naturalist Award. She was named one of two seventh grade winners out of more than 800 entries.

Presented by the AMNH, the 12th Young Naturalist Award encourages young people to explore the world around them and recognizes the accomplishments of students who have investigated questions they have in the areas of biology, Earth science, ecology, and astronomy. The essays



Abbie Harris works her way through the overgrowth at Radabaugh Memorial

are reviewed by a panel of judges that include environmentalists, science teachers and Museum educators and scientists. The twelve winners of the contest, two from each grade, win cash prizes and a trip to New York for the awards ceremony at the AMNH. Their projects are published on the Museum's web site and are excerpted in Natural History magazine's August issue. The nominating teachers win educational classroom materials.

Excited about her award, Abbie said, "It is a big honor to be picked for the Young Naturalist Award and there are so many people who helped me with my project, including my grandfather, Richard Atkinson, my science teacher Mr. G, and Heidi Gray, the naturalist at Fernwood. I want to thank them for taking the time out to help me work on my project and encourage my interest in prairies."

She added, "New York was great! I was really impressed with the AMNH and I loved Central Park."

Abbie is not finished with research projects just yet. She is currently conducting a study of several no-till soybean fields that have snowmobile trails through them to determine if the soil compaction from the winter trails has a lasting impact on the growth and production of the crop. She again plans to enter this study in the Cass County 4-H Fair, but may also enter

it in the Young Naturalist Awards for next year. She is also planning a study of how surface materials of bat houses affects the bats' echolocation and their ability to find their way back home.

Abbie is the Michigan Nature Association's youngest steward and she cares for the Radebaugh Memorial Plant Preserve, the last undeveloped lakefront land on Eagle Lake in Cass County. She has assisted in erecting the MNA sign and is currently working on marking the boundaries of the three-acre sanctuary. She also removed trash and invasive plants and is working on a plant list for the preserve.

Abbie is also currently working with the newly developed Edwardsburg Sports Complex to encourage them to plant a restored prairie with walking/jogging trails. "It's a win-win situation," she explained. "Prairies are pretty so it gives the visitors to the complex something interesting to look at while they are working out and it is good for the wildlife in the area. Birds, insects and animals will find a home in the restored prairie."

Abbie is the daughter of Paul and Karen Harris of Edwardsburg. She has three sisters, Katie, Mollie, and Elizabeth. She raises and shows chickens, turkeys, goats and rabbits.

In addition to 4-H, Abbie is involved in band, cheerleading, track, and gymnastics. She volunteers at Edwardsburg Primary School, Edwardsburg Fire Department and Leaps and Bounds Gymnastics in addition to serving as a steward for the Michigan Nature. She is a youth member of the Dowagiac Conservation Club and a junior member of the American Poultry Association.

Become a Steward

The Michigan Nature Association relies heavily on volunteer stewards to help care for our sanctuaries. 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 Natalie Kent-Norkowski at (517) 655-5655 or nkent@michigannature.org.

Roach Point N.S. Expands

by **Jeremy Emmi,**
Executive Director

MNA's newest acquisition is an addition to MNA's second-largest nature sanctuary in the state, Roach Point. We have acquired an outstanding parcel of 25+ acres in Mackinac County from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

This land was acquired through the MDNR Land Consolidation Strategy process. Under this three-step process, land in all 83 Michigan counties first undergoes a boundary update to identify parcels which would be good additions to MDNR land and those that are appropriate to sell. This is based largely on the concept of consolidating MDNR holdings to better manage them and to sell parcels which are not adjacent to other MDNR holdings.

The second step is to review all parcels and either classify them as to be retained by MDNR, sold/exchanged but protected, or sold/exchanged. The third step is conveyance; this parcel was sold to MNA as a protected parcel under the conveyance process. This means that the land, according to the MDNR, is to remain protected, and

MNA, as a conservation organization, had first opportunity to acquire this land.

The MDNR holds title to approximately 4.5 million acres of Michigan land, much of which came into MDNR ownership through tax reversion in the 20th century. This purchase by MNA worked perfectly for both MNA and the MDNR because MNA can now permanently protect a key property in Roach Point's ecosystem and the MDNR can use the sale funds to acquire important "in-holdings" within or adjacent to other state lands in Michigan.

The addition is an interesting mix of forestland and wetlands, with a patch of rare marsh on the edge of Munuscong Bay.

Roach Point has been acquired in pieces, with land added in 1978, 1981, 1988, 1993, and now in 2009.



map by Natalie Kent-Norkowski

The pre-addition sanctuary is shown in red with new addition shown in green.

It will again be MNA's largest nature sanctuary in the state again at well over 500 acres, a title it has held on and off over the years, most recently becoming the second-largest when the Estivant Pines added over 100 acres in 2005.

We must now raise \$35,750 for the acquisition and endowment of this parcel, a critical component of Roach Point Nature Sanctuary.

The success of MNA relies on the support of people like you...

In fact, we can't do it without you. Your support is critical and will ensure that MNA has the resources to remain a vibrant organization, capable of responding to new challenges and opportunities and protecting and maintaining our sanctuaries and preserves in the manner that is a hallmark of MNA.

Please consider contributing to MNA this year so that we will have the necessary resources to achieve our shared goals.

If you contribute at least \$250 between July 1 and December 31 (either a one-time contribution or the sum of your contributions) you will be entered into a drawing to win an excursion to one of MNA's premier sanctuaries or preserves throughout the state:

Lost Lake
Carlton Lake
Jasper Woods
Lakeville Swamp
Powell Memorial

Big Valley
Grinnell Memorial
Lake Superior and Pat Grogan Orchid Bog
Saginaw Wetlands
Goose Creek
Black River

Bird Island
Gunn Memorial
Butternut Creek
Walker Memorial
Handford Memorial

An MNA staff person and/or volunteer steward will lead you and up to three guests on a private tour of the sanctuary or preserve of your choosing. The excursion will include a picnic lunch. Imagine the beautiful view from Bare Bluff at Grinnell Memorial, or enjoying your lunch beneath the hemlock groves of Jasper Woods. Each MNA sanctuary offers a different atmosphere from adventurous and trailblazing, to calming and scenic.

Date to be arranged in consultation with MNA. 6 winners will be selected. For more information on our sanctuaries, go to www.michigannature.org

Trustee Profile

Jerry Gray

By Mary Ann Czechowski, MNA Trustee

Jerry Gray was elected to the Michigan Nature Association Board of Trustees this past spring, 2009. He is an enthusiastic new Board member, with a great interest in the natural environment of Michigan and preservation of the natural environment. A long time resident of southwest Michigan and northwestern Indiana, his employment and educational background are in economics.



When and how did you first learn about MNA?

I first learned about MNA in 2006 from the campaign to raise funds for the Estivant Pines expansion. After visiting the MNA web site I discovered that there are two MNA sanctuaries practically in my own backyard, White Pigeon River Nature Sanctuary and Karl Chen Memorial Prairie Nature Sanctuary.

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

Over the years I had contributed to various national environmental organizations. In 2006 a friend introduced me to the concept that if you want to save the world, a good place to start is your own backyard. About the same time I learned through MNA that there are important eco-systems, which are home to rare species throughout Michigan, even in St Joseph County, where I live.

Preserving far away trout streams and rain forests are indeed important projects and worthy of financial support, yet contributing to them came to feel like adding drops of water to big ponds. By contributing to MNA, I know the money is helping to preserve eco-systems in my own state and county, where the impact is noticeable and more appreciated. MNA also offers the opportunity to get my hands dirty as well as learn more about my own local environment, as well as occasions to meet others locally that share the same passions.

There is also a spiritual element. I believe we are called by our Creator to be stewards of His creation. It is within natural areas that we can marvel at the splendor of creation. As Shakespeare said in *As You Like It*, "And this our life, exempt from public haunt, Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, Sermons in stones, and good in everything."

What activities are you currently participating in with MNA?

I've been a co-steward of the White Pigeon River and Karl Chen sanctuaries since 2006. I have pulled garlic mustard and cut invasive shrubs. There's also been a little excitement chasing after ORVs and putting out neighboring wild fires. I have made working visits to other preserves in southwest Michigan. The youth group at my church participated in my May workday at White Pigeon Sanctuary and I'm in conversation with a local Boy Scout troop about work projects.

I was elected to the Board of Trustees in Spring 2009, and I serve on the Board Finance and Development committees. I've learned that my fellow Board members, as well as the MNA Staff, are quite active, hard working and passionate about protecting Michigan's natural heritage.

Where do you live? Are you from Michigan?

I grew up in northwest Indiana and have lived in the "Michiana" area most of my life. I currently live outside White Pigeon with my wife and son.

My two daughters are both in college, at Grand Valley State and Michigan State. We live across the road from the Oldenburg farm and evergreen nursery, which has been in my wife's family for four generations. It borders the White Pigeon River and is downstream from the White Pigeon River Sanctuary.

What is your occupation? Where were you educated?

I have been employed with Mennonite Mutual Aid (MMA) for the last eleven years. I work in marketing and wholesale for the MMA Praxis Mutual Funds, which specialize in socially responsible investing. I earned a BA in economics and management from Albion College and a MA in applied economics from Western Michigan University.

In college I had considered majoring in environmental science and management, but chose economics instead. Both are studies of complex dynamic systems. A key reason I work with the MNA is that it gives me the opportunity to pursue both areas of interest.

When did you first become interested in nature?

I've had an interest in the natural environment for as long as I can remember. My childhood and adolescent years were filled with hunting, fishing, and camping trips with my Dad and brothers. I also learned important lessons about respecting the environment and civic duty through the Boy Scouts of America.

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

The Great Lakes and their supporting river basins are what make our state special. The dunes of Lake Michigan are my favorite. The flood plain forest of the White Pigeon River Sanctuary is particularly interesting to me. There is such a diversity of plant life between the flood plain, the steep river banks, and the transition into the oak savannah.

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

What's special about MNA is its statewide geographic reach. It's a cross between national and regional land conservancies. Our preserves are comprised of a widely diverse set of ecological systems that have unique features and, in turn, unique management issues. MNA's long history also makes it unique. The land conservancy movement is evolving and I hope MNA will stay at the forefront. Protecting land involves much more than just buying it, but includes the responsibility of preserving it.

I recently had the opportunity to visit England and it gave me a greater appreciation for preservation. Shakespeare's fourth generation descendant destroyed his final house because he couldn't agree with town officials on how the property should be managed. We need to make inter-generational decisions.

Do you have a favorite MNA Sanctuary?

By default, White Pigeon River and Karl Chen Memorial are my favorites because they're so close to home. Yet, I can't say practically that I have a favorite because I've mostly been to sanctuaries in southwest Michigan and there are so many across the state I'd like to visit. In June I did get to visit the nearly impenetrable Roach Point Sanctuary in Chippewa County.

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

The Michigan Nature Association is not a collection of sanctuaries and plant preserves, but also of volunteers, donors, and staff who give of their time, talent, and money. I would like to see MNA develop more ways for volunteers to get involved on a regular basis, similar to groups like Kiwanis or Trout Unlimited.

Nominations Needed

The Michigan Nature Association is always looking for new candidates to serve as Trustees. MNA Trustees are elected to four-year terms on a rotating basis. In 2010, two Trustees will be elected. The Trustees are expected to attend, in person or via conference call, six meetings a year. As a Trustee, you will play a key role in setting organizational policy, shaping the long-range strategic plan, fundraising, serving on committees, and helping to implement MNA's annual plan.

If you have any questions or are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees please contact Karen Weingarden, chair of the Nominating Committee at

12943 Borgman Ave
Huntington Woods, MI 48070
kjweingarden@prodigy.net
(248)546-5429

All nominations for Trustees are due by December 1, 2009.

Help MNA this holiday season

A simple way to help the Michigan Nature Association can be found at www.iGive.com. iGive allows users to simultaneously shop online and support the cause of their choice. This means that as you buy gifts for loved ones this holiday season you can have a portion of that purchase support MNA. iGive features more than 700 retailers, including eBay, JCPenney, Expedia, Lands' End, and Apple, and the benefits are endless. Membership is free, and users qualify for exclusive offers and free shipping. The prices are the same or better than regular online shopping, and the retailers donate money to MNA for each purchase. The charitable contribution portion of your gift is also tax deductible to you and iGive tracks your totals each year with a quick report for your taxes.

Up to 25% of the profits from every iGive purchase go directly to MNA and simply searching for items donates a penny or more. iGive also offers a toolbar for Internet Explorer and Firefox users for more convenient shopping. Signing up is easy and free at www.iGive.com/MNA.

Another easy way to help the Michigan Nature Association is to simply search the Web. GoodSearch is a search engine that donates 50% of its revenue to charities designated by users. GoodSearch is powered by Yahoo, and works the same way as any other search engine. You get the same proven search results, while MNA gets about one penny per search. It doesn't sound like a lot, but it can add up fast.

To get started:

- Go to www.GoodSearch.com

- Select your charity of choice to be the "Michigan Nature Association"

- You can then use the toolbar to perform your search

Keep in mind, GoodSearch is only active for your current Internet session, or until you close your browser window. When you open a new browser window, or start a new Internet session, you will have to return to www.GoodSearch.com. There are two ways to avoid this:

- Add GoodSearch to your browser's toolbar; or
- Make GoodSearch your homepage

GoodSearch makes this easy. These two options can be found directly under the "Who do you GoodSearch for?" bar. This way, every time you search the Internet, you're contributing money to MNA.

Memorials and Honorariums

From June 1 to August 31, 2009

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

In Honor of

Roberta Carlson's 75th Birthday
Sue Welch
Jeremy Emmi
Marion Emmi
Pat Grogan
Tamara Gady
Dr. Rosenbaum
Dr. and Mrs. Harold Friedman
Anne Royer and Matthias Schultz
Kevin Barry
Rebecca Schultz
Roby Trow's 75th Birthday
Sue Welch
Karen Weingarden's birthday
Joan Lasher and Lawrence Chase
Barry and Ann Waldman
Lilian Bernstein
Jeremy Emmi
Steve and Mar Sclawy

Iris Witkowski
Sue Welch

In Memory of

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Thomas Brennan
Mary Grossbart
Violet Hudas
Charles Koshar
Alice Rybka
Dr. Lewis Rosenbaum
Jane Bailey
Jeremy Emmi
Alma Dillinger
Audrey Ruddock
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We apologize for any errors or omissions.

BECOME AN MNA PROTECTOR

Join our monthly giving program!

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

With your monthly gift as an MNA Protector, you will provide sustainable, predictable support for our ongoing efforts. It is also a great way to help MNA keep costs down because we save money by not having to send out membership renewal notices each year.

IT'S SIMPLE

Determine what amount you wish to give each month – the minimum monthly contribution is \$10 – and provide MNA with your checking account or credit card information (Visa or MasterCard only). Your contribution will either be automatically transferred from your checking account or charged to your credit card.

And, if you would like to increase your monthly contribution, decrease it, or stop it altogether, just contact us. MNA will handle any changes you wish to make.

IT'S CONVENIENT

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

AND YOU CAN BE ASSURED, IT'S SAFE

Your checking account or credit card information is stored in a secure location in MNA's office and the monthly transactions are conducted by a trustworthy MNA staff member. And, MNA will only transfer the specified amount from your checking account or charge your credit card.

THREE WAYS TO BECOME AN MNA PROTECTOR

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

We encourage you to become an MNA Protector today!

You Can Make A Difference!

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

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

JOIN

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

CONTRIBUTE

- 1 Make a contribution in addition to paying your membership dues. There are several funds you can contribute to:
 - General Support
 - Bertha A. Daubendiek Sanctuary Preservation
 - General Endowment
 - Land Acquisition Endowment
 - Dowagiac Woods Endowment
 - Estivant Pines Endowment
 - Sarah Jane's Endowment
- 2 Become an MNA Protector. The MNA Protector Program is a monthly giving program. Each month, MNA will automatically charge your credit card or deduct from your checking account an amount you choose. By becoming an MNA Protector, you provide sustainable, predictable support and it's also a great way for MNA to keep costs down.
- 3 Make a memorial contribution or an honorarium. You can pay tribute to the memory of a friend or loved one, or honor them, by donating to MNA in their name. Contributions are directed to MNA's General Endowment.

You can double your contribution to MNA!

Many employers offer matching gift programs, so your contribution to MNA could be doubled. Contact your employer's human resources department to determine if they will match your contribution and to obtain the form which you must complete and include with your contribution.

The Michigan Nature Association is a non-profit organization. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law. Consult your tax advisor.

Contribution Levels

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

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

VOLUNTEER

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

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



michigan nature association

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The Perfect Gift This Holiday Season

Are you looking for an alternative gift for the holiday season? This year, 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.

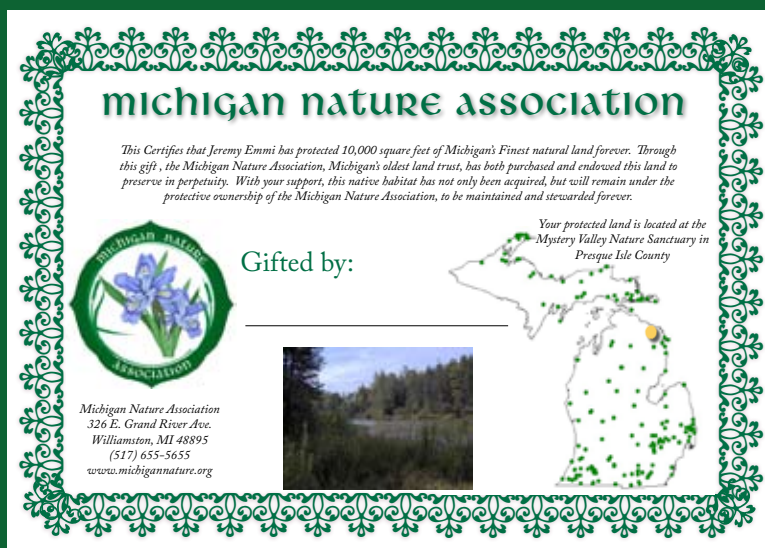
For only 10 cents, you can protect a square foot of prime natural land in Michigan forever. It costs MNA approximately 10 cents per square foot to endow some of the highest-quality natural land in Michigan. We will be selling certificates that show how many square feet of land you have protected in units of 100 square feet. Each 100 square foot section of land costs only \$10 to protect forever.

To put this in perspective, to build an average ranch-style house costs about \$110 per square foot. This is 1,100 times more expensive per square foot than it is to permanently preserve natural land.

Another way to think about this is that a fair price to rent retail space in a typical shopping center is around \$15 per square foot, per month. Compared to 10 cents/square foot to protect natural land forever, it is 150 times as expensive every month.

Compared to one common holiday gift, fruitcake, our certificate is still a great deal. We found a fruitcake that was about one square foot and cost \$24. This is 240 times as expensive as protecting a piece of Michigan forever, but at least the fruitcake might last forever!

In addition, this gift is "carbon negative" which is one step above "carbon neutral." The carbon involved in the paper and postage used to deliver this certificate to you will easily be reclaimed many times over by the natural lands you will protect. Some research we've seen says carbon sequestration by a healthy ecosystem can range widely from .025 pounds/square foot to 2.4 pounds/square foot. Taking the lowest number, we can safely say each 100 square feet will pull at least 2 ½ pounds of carbon out of the atmosphere per year, and



probably much more.

We will send a certificate to someone special stating the number of square feet of Michigan that they have protected forever. Each certificate will be custom made to include and state the amount of land protected and show a representative sample of where your protected are on could be and include a picture of the sanctuary. The cost is \$10 for every 100 square feet, so only \$100 will protect 1,000 square feet of Michigan forever.

If you would like to take advantage of this, you can either visit our website at www.michigannature.org, give us a call, or use enclosed envelope 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 Hanukkah or Christmas, please let us know and allow at least one week for processing before the holiday.