

michigan nature association



Preserving Michigan's Natural Heritage Since 1952

July to September 2010
Volume 59 Issue 3



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Creek Nature Sanctuary

A Native Michigan Fruit:
The Thimbleberry

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And Much More!

Rudy Olsen Memorial Falls
at Twin Waterfalls Plant Preserve
Photo By Mike Zajczenko

From the Director



MNA's mission includes the commitment to protect the places we preserve in perpetuity. The concept of perpetuity is hard to grasp. In some ways, it's similar to being introduced to the concept of infinite space when your grade school science teacher discussed the universe. Hands would go up and children would ask, "What's at the end of the universe?" If you're a fan of author Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, a restaurant is at the end; if not, then maybe nothing is at the end.

Some astrophysicists estimate the universe, if finite, is currently about 158 billion light-years wide. So, the universe may not be quite as mind-bogglingly infinite after all.

The same goes for perpetuity in relation to what we do. Perpetuity is defined as eternity, lasting an infinite amount of time. Some theories say the universe may cease to exist after approximately 10^{100} years. Coming back to Earth, estimates conclude that the planet may become unbearable for humans and other life forms in 500 million years. So, our perpetuity is really on a human timescale, lasting as long as humanity lasts. In 500 million years, there will have been about 20 million more generations of people living on the planet. I think those 20 million generations are a perfectly acceptable reason to protect Michigan's natural areas.

Whether "in perpetuity" means 20 million generations to you, or you are merely concerned with those born today being able to grow up and enjoy Michigan's magnificent forests and lakeshores, MNA is fulfilling that role.

Over the past 58 years, MNA has protected important high-quality natural areas across the state, and we continue to do so. In this newsletter is the announcement of another great project in the Upper Peninsula. This project was generously donated with endowment to help care for the land in perpetuity.

It is wonderful to have such special places donated to MNA; such donations help relieve the potential monetary burden of buying every parcel of land. As a reminder, MNA still needs funds for the three recent large land purchases it made. There is about \$478,000 left to raise. This amount is the remainder of the funds needed for Mystery Valley, the Dowagiac Woods addition, and the Roach Point addition. Please consider a special donation toward one or more of these projects to help complete their protection and open the door for new acquisitions using the enclosed envelope. With your help, all of these special places will be protected "in perpetuity."



Photo by: Jeff Ganley
A beautiful day at a new addition to MNA's Roach Point Nature Sanctuary in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey P. Emerson".

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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.

inside this issue

Every Sanctuary Has a Story

Black Creek Sanctuary



Photo by: Rebecca Schultz

The 242 acres of Black Creek Nature Sanctuary sit on the western side of the Keweenaw Peninsula and boast a large variety of plant life.

By Rebecca Schultz
MNA Volunteer

As I drive up to visit Black Creek Nature Sanctuary in Michigan's western Upper Peninsula, I pass through the twin college towns of Houghton and Hancock, and then the historic mining town of Calumet. The sanctuary is located in the western UP in the central Keweenaw Peninsula, the small finger of land extending into Lake Superior. It is the second week of May, but the trees are only beginning to leaf and bud and we had a snowstorm just two days prior: par for the course for springtime in the Upper Peninsula. The sun shines today, however, and the snow from several days ago has since melted.

The entrance to the Black Creek Nature Sanctuary is set back a few feet from the road and is inconspicuous enough that you might miss the sign if you are not watching closely. I park by the side of the road and hike in. The Black Creek Nature Sanctuary is lovely. It is comprised of 242 acres of varying terrain including sand

dunes, boreal forest, two creeks, beaver ponds and the crowning glory, a stretch of Lake Superior shoreline. Black Creek Sanctuary even harbors the rare *Astraeus*, commonly known as earthstar fungus, and other fungi as well as many species of lichen for those interested in mycology and lichenology. Plant life includes wintergreen, rattlesnake plantain, several orchid species and trailing arbutus.

I first cross some sandy dunes with large clusters of blueberry bushes, then



Photo by: Charles Eshbach
The sanctuary has varying terrain from sand dunes to boreal forests.

drop down slightly to cross the Black Creek. The trail winds along the creek for a time, approaching and then leaving it. The music of steadily flowing water is quite peaceful. I see plenty of evidence of beaver activity, including two large ponds and a beaver dam. The trail passes through a boreal forest with birch, aspen, white and red pine, sugar maple, balsam fir, and northern white cedar. Woodpeckers rap frequently although I do not spot any, and squirrels chatter noisily. Black-backed woodpeckers have reportedly been sighted in the sanctuary. After passing through the forest, the trail ascends a ridge and approaches Hills Creek, which has large cliffs of rust red stamp sand, a by-product of copper mining, along its banks.

Copper mining was a major part of the economy in the Keweenaw Peninsula from the 19th century until the mid-20th century. Rock was crushed or stamped to extract the copper, and the residue once the copper was removed was called "stamp sand."

Finally the trail follows Hills Creek



Photo by: Charles Eshbach
There are many active beaver ponds in the sanctuary as well as two creeks.

to a lagoon formed by the convergence of Hills Creek and Black Creek. The lagoon flows out onto the Lake Superior shoreline. A few small whitecaps ruffle the surface of Lake Superior, though she is mostly calm, reflecting the intense blue of the sky. Though I have lived in the Upper Peninsula for several years, Lake Superior never loses her power to inspire awe and put things into perspective. There is not much of a breeze today and the lake is calm, but I never forget that it must have its respect.

The hike through Black Creek Sanctuary is about 4.5 miles in total and is moderate in intensity and difficulty. The trail is well maintained and several pleasant benches

beckon you along the trail to rest, observe wildlife or eat a snack. The trail does a fair amount of climbing, but the hills within the sanctuary are mostly rolling with few steep ascents or descents. The trail is marked. Pay close attention to the markers as there is a private road near the sanctuary and it is easy to take a wrong turn.

The initial 121 acres of the Black Creek Sanctuary came courtesy of Ruth Sablich of Calumet in 1991. She inspired a group of her Calumet High School classmates to donate as well, and money was raised for the purchase of an additional 120 acres in 1992. Robert Verville contributed another 200 feet of Lake Superior shoreline for the sanctuary in 2006. Many thanks to Jim and Joy Ziemnick, the Black Creek Sanctuary stewards, for their help.

Directions

Take US-41 north from Houghton/Hancock through Calumet, turn left onto M-203, and then take M-203 south past Waterworks Street and Tamarack Road until you reach Tamarack Waterworks Road. Turn right and go 2.5 miles on Tamarack Waterworks Road to Cedar Bay Road. Turn right onto Cedar Bay Road. Go about 2.5 miles to nearly the end of the public part of the road. The Black Creek Sanctuary sign is set back from the road on the right. Park on the shoulder of the road.

Quick Facts

Class: B (a little difficult to find)
Difficulty: Moderate
Acres: 242 with 1500 feet of Lake Superior shoreline
County: Keweenaw County, UP
Terrain: Flat to rolling



Map from: Walking Paths Guidebook
Black Creek Sanctuary is on the Western Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.



Photo by: Charles Eshbach
The crowning glory of the Black Creek Sanctuary is 1,500 feet of Lake Superior shoreline.

New!: Manistique Dune and Swale



Photo by: Keith Saylor

The Manistique Dune and Swale Nature Sanctuary is a new acquisition for the Michigan Nature Association. It is at the southern end of Schoolcraft County in the Upper Peninsula.

By Keith Saylor
Eastern UP Contract Regional Stewardship Organizer

Imagine... a shoreline with a series of sandy ridges, called dunes, separated by troughs or swales holding open water. Slowly, over many years, the shoreline recedes creating new ridges and troughs. Now imagine walking from the shoreline past the newly created dunes and swales to the original series. Colonies of cladonia lichen and grasses have established themselves on the dunes along with emergent aquatic and partially aquatic plant forms in the swales. Then it happens, by some cosmic anomaly, that time is no longer leashed by temporality, and the whole dune-swale complex blooms with vegetation. The grasses and lichen thicken, shrubs burst forth and then tree forms shoot skywards. In the swales, decaying plant life creates floating mats. Sedges thrive and orchids decorate the whole wetland. Suddenly, you are swept up

so quickly your breath is taken; then, just as suddenly, you stop.

A massive white pine tree now cradles you on branches at its apex. Succession slows. From this vantage point, you see a natural community now mostly wooded. Even some of the swales are wooded, although the ridges still exist. Some swales are still somewhat open. However, they now hold very little water and shrubs dominate.

Welcome to MNA's Manistique Dune and Swale Nature Sanctuary. It is a late succession wooded dune and swale complex offering the visitor a wonderful opportunity to learn from the rich, natural history it reflects and experience an important natural feature.

Dune and swale communities are often fragmented by housing and road development, as this parcel is to the east, north and south. It is a wonderful example of wooded dunes and swales in the late stages of succession supporting nesting wild bird species like merlin, ruffed grouse, ruby-

crowned kinglet, red crossbill, winter wren, Northern saw-whet owl, and American woodcock. Porcupine, snowshoe hare, flying squirrel and whitetail deer call this natural community home.

Walking across the area from south to north provides views of a number of wooded ridges. The ridges are populated with black spruce, balsam fir, white cedar, white pine,

Quick Facts

Class: A (easy to find and visit)

Acres: 29.12

County: Schoolcraft County, UP

Gifted by: Four independent land owners, gifted the land to MNA.

Endowment by: Dr. John Woollam

Terrain: Dune and swales, with water in some of the swales.



Photo by: Keith Saylor

The Manistique Dune and Swale Sanctuary is a wonderful example of wooded dunes and swales in the late stages of succession supporting nesting wild bird species like merlin, ruffed grouse, ruby-crowned kinglet, red crossbill, winter wren, and American woodcock.

yellow birch, white birch, and aspen.

There are wetlands between the ridges with no open water, but the soil is sometimes saturated. You will find that small aspen, balsam fir and cedar trees, along with willow and dogwood shrubs, establish within the swales.

There is an interesting natural feature to the east that resembles a dried up marly flat (one with a mixture of clays) that may have

once been part of larger northern fen. It has the feel of an alvar—a vegetative environment that is limestone-based. If you have the opportunity to visit, be mindful of the history of place and imagine all the incredible plant community transformations that have happened here as you enjoy the natural features and natural history plays out before your eyes.

“A Beautiful Peninsula”

A song for Michigan, written by Betty Wilkins and performed by Amy Ferstl. If you are interested in learning more about this song or about purchasing copies, please call the MNA office at (517) 655-5655.

Live Next to an MNA Sanctuary!

One of our members, who lives adjacent to A Looking Glass Sanctuary in Clinton County, is selling her home and land. It would be wonderful to have another conservation-minded person living next to the sanctuary. The sanctuary and the private property both border the Looking Glass River. The sanctuary is a mix of habitat, with river floodplain, upland forest, open meadow and a small marsh.

It is a 35-acre setting on the Looking Glass River. Custom built in 1996, this home offers a first floor master suite, open kitchen and dining area, large living room with loads of windows offering splendid

vistas, two upstairs bedrooms with a second full bathroom, first floor laundry and a full walkout basement (partially finished), has ample storage space and is plumbed for a third bathroom. There is a separate 30 x 40 pole barn. The location is just 10 minutes north of East Lansing and the Michigan State Campus! Priced to sell at \$219,900.

If you are interested, contact Realtor Brian Huggler of Huggler & Bashore (Coldwell Banker Hubbell BriarWood) at (517) 492-3422, or his email address: bhuggler@cb-hb.com. Ask about MLS#197004.



This home, owned by an MNA member, is for sale and borders the gorgeous A Looking Glass Sanctuary in Clinton County, Michigan and the Looking Glass River.

Nature Notes: Thimbleberry

By Carolyn Sundquist
Journalism Intern

Thimbleberry, *Rubus parviflorus* Nutt., is a Michigan native which holds a special place in state history. Thimbleberry was first named in 1810 by Thomas Nuttall, who gave it the species name meaning “small-flowered,” even though the flowers may be up to 5 cm wide. Today, the thimbleberry is found throughout the Upper Peninsula except in Luce County and in seven counties of northern Lower Peninsula. The fruit or “berry” is bright red and when mature, expands and resembles a thimble. The edible fruits are made up of many small red berries and fall to the ground when ripe. Thimbleberry is in the rose family, Rosaceae and the genus, *Rubus* L., meaning bramble or blackberry.

Description

The twigs of the thimbleberry are green, while older stems are covered with tan, papery, shedding bark. Groups of thimbleberry are usually represented by several dispersed stems that have arisen from rhizomes (underground stems). It has large, lobed leaves, which are green above but pale underneath and turn luminous orange to maroon in the fall. It has white flowers, which are usually in groups of two to seven. The fruit of the thimbleberry are hemispherical, fragile and easily detached from the center core.

Range

Its range stretches from Northern Mexico to Alaska and northeast to the Great Lakes region. It is abundant in thin woods of the northwestern Upper Peninsula and on Isle Royale, but also found in the northern lower peninsula. Thimbleberry forms large thickets in northern hardwoods and moist aspen-birch woods.

Growth Habits

Thimbleberry grows in almost all types of soil and is most common in cool, moist areas. It particularly enjoys the north slopes of mountains and grows on open, wooded hillsides, along streambanks and roadsides. It occurs in both individual and grouped stands. Thimbleberry is resistant to fire and generally benefits from any

type of disturbance. It usually reappears during the first year after disturbance. Thimbleberry stands also serve as a great protective cover for conifer seedlings. Thimbleberry flowers normally bloom in June and July, while the fruits mature in July and August. The flowers are pollinated by insects and the seeds are scattered by birds and mammals that eat the fruit.

Uses

Thimbleberry provides food for a variety of wildlife, including humans. The fruit is edible and can be made into tarts or jams. While it is a little tarter than a raspberry, the fruit makes a delicious snack while hiking. Participants of the Fall Adventure may be able to view thimbleberry when they travel to Keweenaw County, where residents are famous for their thimbleberry jelly. The young shoots of thimbleberry are also very juicy and can be boiled or eaten fresh.

Thimbleberry fruit is an important dietary staple for many other animals. It is eaten by black bears, coyote, skunks, grouse, pheasant and other small mammals and birds.

Dense thickets of thimbleberry can provide a perfect nesting habitat for many small birds. In summer months, it is a cool place for deer to take cover from the sweltering heat. Small mammals love to



Photo by: Charles Peirce
The native thimbleberry is food for wildlife and hikers. It's found in most of the Upper Peninsula and northern lower Michigan.

make thimbleberry stands their home or use it for escape, resting and reproductive cover.

Thimbleberry bark was also traditionally used by Native Americans for soap and the leaves were used in a medicinal tea and also applied to burns to minimize scarring.

1. USDA, NRCS. 2010. The PLANTS Database. 28 May 2010. <<http://plants.usda.gov>>.

2. Voss, E. G., (1985). *Michigan Flora, Part II*. Ann Arbor, Michigan. Regents of the University of Michigan.

In Memory of Bill Bliss

You may have noticed in the last newsletter that Nature Notes was not written by Bill Bliss, the creator of this feature. Sadly, Bill passed away on March 29, 2010 at the age of 93. We have decided to honor Bill by continuing his column using guest columnists. Bill was a rare individual with knowledge and interests spanning a vast range of the natural world. The only way to fill Bill's shoes is to use many feet.

Bill was always discussing some aspect of the natural world and its curiosities. Not a biologist by training, he received a degree in chemical engineering in 1940. He spent much of his career trying to

reduce chemical emissions through new development processes.

Outside of work, he was an active Quaker and helped found Quaker Earthcare Witness. Bill and his late wife, Isabel, lived near a beautiful fen in the Ann Arbor area and many of Bill's finest photos came from that fen. One of Bill's most popular photos with MNA members was the cover photo of the July-September 2007 newsletter, a cecropia caterpillar.

Bill had passion and deeply cared for nature. He enjoyed learning and shared his knowledge with others. We hope that Nature Notes will continue to educate and interest its readers in the way that Bill loved.

Stewardship Update



Photo by: Charles Eshbach
One of the many sanctuaries protected by MNA is the James Dorian Rooks Memorial, located near Copper Harbor. It was acquired in 1979 by the MNA and was originally the Brockway Mountain Nature Sanctuary. It was renamed after James Dorian Rooks of Copper Harbor in 2006.

By Andy Bacon Stewardship Coordinator

I have been hired to fill the role of Stewardship Coordinator for the Michigan Nature Association. I am excited to work in Michigan where I grew up, having spent eight years running the land stewardship program for the Natural Land Institute based in Rockford, Ill.

The stewardship position became open after Stewardship Director Sherri Laier accepted a position with the Oregon Department of Natural Resources and Natalie Kent-Norkowski decided to take on a new role at MNA working on land preservation issues last fall. In addition, Charlie Eshbach has retired from his role in the Western Upper Peninsula. We wish all of them success as they move forward and thank them for their years of dedication.

As a result of this turnover, we have reorganized our stewardship team and the board has greatly increased our stewardship budget. In the Western Lower Peninsula Matt Schultz is our new, full time Regional Stewardship Organizer. Matt was a volunteer steward at the Helmer Brook Preserve and has years of experience with wildlife habitat

management. Katherine Hollins is our new Regional Stewardship Organizer for the Eastern Lower Peninsula, having recently completed her graduate degree at University of Michigan. In addition to our new staff, Keith Saylor continues his role as the Eastern Upper Peninsula Contract Regional Stewardship Organizer. The Regional Stewardship Organizers are charged with overseeing management issues and activities within MNA sanctuaries and working with the volunteer stewards, neighbors and local conservation communities to implement the MNA conservation program.

In the western UP we have recently contracted Adrienne Bozic, a Northern Michigan University graduate student who has been an MNA steward at Twin Waterfalls and Handford Memorial. We have also contracted Bill and Nancy Leonard, who are intertwined in the local conservation community, for the Keweenaw Peninsula. Contractors fulfill many of the same functions of staff. As we move through the year, we hope to achieve many goals. Completion of monitoring for all 168 nature sanctuaries and plant preserves is at the top of our list. We will also continue to implement

quality natural areas management with the assistance of our dedicated volunteer corps to help retain the diverse natural quality held within the borders of our nature sanctuaries and plant preserves. Anyone who is not currently involved is encouraged to contact the stewardship staff to learn how they can contribute to the preservation of Michigan's natural heritage.

We are also moving toward accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission by preparing site management plans to ensure there is a clear vision and a described set of management goals for each property. Additionally, we continue to post boundary signage to clear up any confusion about where our properties lie on the landscape. This will help neighbors avoid accidental encroachment onto our nature sanctuaries and plant preserves while decreasing potential disturbances to them. It will also assist visitors by identifying boundaries and reduce accidental trespassing.

The stewardship staff is excited to continue meeting and working with all of MNA's wonderful volunteers throughout the year.

Welcome Stewardship Staff!

By Tina Patterson and Paul Steiner
MNA Volunteer & Operations Director

MNA would like to officially welcome and introduce our new stewardship staff. Many of you worked closely with Sherri and Natalie, both of whom have moved on to new positions, Natalie within MNA and Sherri in Oregon. To replace them we hired three new staff. Andy Bacon is replacing Sherri as the coordinator of our stewardship program. Matt and Katherine are taking up new positions as Regional Organizers to give us more of a local presence and improve the quality and quantity of your volunteer efforts by providing more training and opportunities. In the short time they have been on the job they have been busy reaching out to our existing stewards and volunteers, but if you have not had the opportunity to meet them yet, below are short bios on each.

Andrew Bacon, Stewardship Coordinator



Andy Bacon is happy to be back “home”. Raised in Williamston, he and his wife Christine, along with children Olivia, 9, and Jack, 3, have spent the past eight years in

Rockford, Illinois where Andy headed the stewardship program for the Natural Land Institute. Coming back to Williamston, and his new position with MNA, is even more exciting for Andy as his focus has been working in the natural resources field, especially with “non-game” resource management. A graduate of Lake Superior State University, Andy earned a BS in Fisheries and Wildlife Management.

Andy became interested in plants and animals as a boy, enjoying times with his father and grandfather fishing and being “out of the suburbs”. He joined the Boy Scouts not to earn badges but to spend more time in the wilderness. Currently, weekends and free time are spent with his own two children sharing his love of nature and especially birding. (He has been a piping plover monitor at Whitefish Point.) Other hobbies include watching his favorite Michigan teams, the Lions, Tigers, and the MSU Spartans. Like



Photo by: Natalie Kent-Norkowski

One of the trails in Trillium Trail Sanctuary in St. Clair County. This sanctuary is one of over 165 protected areas of the MNA and its stewards.

many of us he is also trying to exercise, with an emphasis on “trying”.

Andy’s job at the MNA is to develop the stewardship program and coordinate all the stewardship efforts across the state. He sees as his goal “To find a way to make the stewardship program succeed at meeting the numerous and widely varied goals which have been set forth and ultimately build a stronger program”. His background in working in stewardship and land management within a non-profit environment as well as hands on experience in ecological restoration and natural area management make him a perfect fit for his new position as Stewardship Coordinator.

Katherine Hollins, Eastern Regional Stewardship Coordinator



Katherine Hollins is a 2010 graduate of the University of Michigan with an MS in Natural Resources and Environment with a concentration in Behavior,

Education and Communication. She is especially proud of her skills in working with people and feels her experience with recruiting, maintaining and coordinating volunteers will be her strongest contribution to MNA.

Katherine was raised in Virginia, and her family still resides there, but she has found friends in Michigan and enjoys the vitality of Ann Arbor where she plans to live at least for the immediate future. A graduate with distinction from the University of Virginia, her undergraduate degree is a BA in Psychology and she has experience in mediation and conflict resolution.

Katherine worked at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and the Nichols Arboretum in program development and volunteer coordination. At the University of Michigan, Katherine received awards from the Michigan Garden Club (2010) and the Maize Behavior Award (2009). Katherine brings knowledge of land restoration and GIS to the MNA. (In the simplest terms, GIS is the merging of

cartography and database technology). She also worked for the Student Conservation Association building, maintaining and restoring trails, and she has managed work days. All of these skills are important for her new position as Eastern Regional Stewardship Organizer. Katherine will be responsible for eastern Michigan, from the Ohio border, up the Lake Huron coast, to the Mackinac Bridge.

Multiple hobbies keep Katherine busy, she loves to cook, hike, read, garden, bike, both play and listen to music and a wide variety of craft projects occupy whatever free time she has.

Her goals for the MNA are to do a good job of managing, maintaining and/or restoring the properties MNA currently has and bringing more people into active participation in the organization. She believes that in her role she can help people connect to the natural world which will lead to more environmentally responsible actions in their daily lives.

A bonus for Katherine in coming to MNA is her passion for learning, and she knows that with the staff and volunteers she will be working with, she has a wealth of knowledge to tap into. Her obvious passion for people, love of nature and desire to work collaboratively all point to a very successful future for Katherine at MNA and we look forward to hearing exciting things from her.

Matt Schultz, Western Regional Stewardship Coordinator



Thirty two year old Matthias “Matt” Schultz is a true renaissance man. Matt is someone you just want to talk with all day, and you would still not “plumb all the gold”. Matt started college as a music major and is a talented pianist. A 2000 graduate of Swarthmore College he had plans to become a physician like his sister, a pediatrician in L’Anse, Michigan. Along the way his love of nature drew him in another direction and it is MNA’s good fortune that it did. Matt later attended the University of Maryland and received his Masters Degree in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development in 2006.

Born in Iowa but raised in Pennsylvania, Matt currently resides in Hickory Corners with his wife Anne Royer who is working on a PhD in Ecology and Evolution at MSU. Together Matt and Anne enjoy foreign travel, cooking, gardening, and birding. Matt loves to play chess, soccer and hockey, and continues to play the piano for pleasure. Anne and Matt met at a nature center with an attached working farm. Sustainable agriculture is another common interest. The two

enjoy cooking (Indian food is a current interest), gardening and supporting local growers.

Matt was a Regional Biologist for the Wildlife Habitat Council and supported habitat enhancement programs at about 200 corporate sites across the Midwest. Matt’s experience includes, but is not limited to, invasive plant management, prescribed burns and leading and attending workdays. Before accepting his new position as a Western Regional Stewardship Organizer he volunteered regularly with MNA. Since 2007 he has been a steward of the Betty and Ralph Campbell Memorial Plant Preserve at Helmer Brook in Battle Creek.

A major reason Matt is excited about coming to MNA is that he wants to spend more time in the field working with volunteers and enjoying a greater connection to individual sanctuaries. Two immediate goals are to increase the number of volunteers in stewardship, and to raise the visibility of MNA to the public. Matt will be responsible for overseeing volunteers and contractors on about 50 sanctuaries in the western Lower Peninsula, from the Ohio/Indiana border up the Lake Michigan coast to the Mackinac Bridge. He plans to show how active land management conserves biodiversity. Excited to start working towards his goals Matt says, “I can’t believe I am getting paid to do what I love.”

Join The New 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.

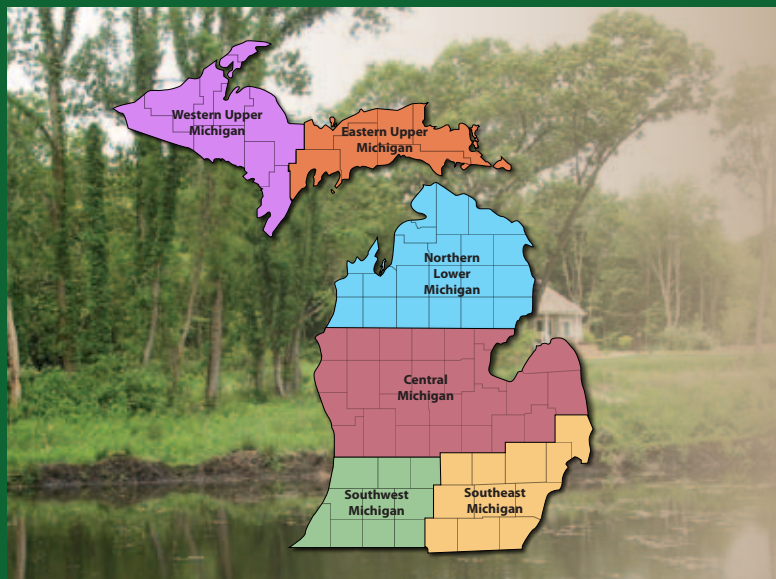
Your donation can be one annual gift, or you can give through monthly giving via your saving or checking account or your credit card. Monthly giving can be set up to be automatic, with no action required on your part once it is established. **Only \$85 per month (technically \$83.34) in monthly giving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

mna schedule of activities

Through October 2010



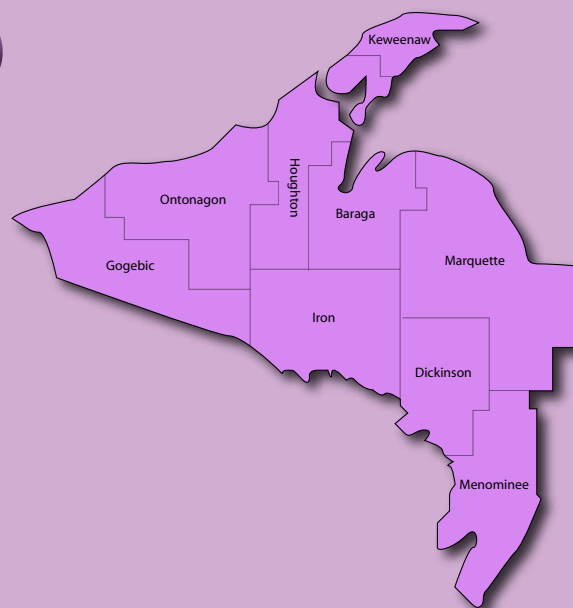
The map to the left will assist you in finding what region of Michigan you are located in. Use the following pages to see activities scheduled in your region from July to October 2010.

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.

WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA

Friday, September 10 - Sunday, September 12 Fall Adventure!

Join MNA staff and Trustees for a weekend exploring Michigan's western Upper Peninsula! The trip will consist of guided tours and exploration of some of the MNA's showcase protected lands in this unique part of the state. Space is limited so be sure to reserve your spot soon! (see back cover)



EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA

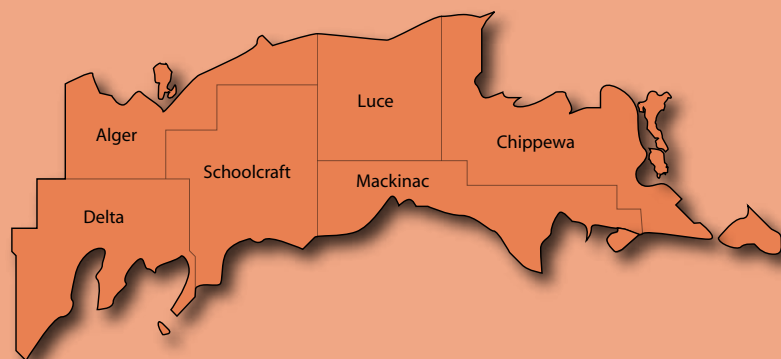
Saturday, August 21

10 a.m.

Field Trip: Manistique Dune and Swale Nature Sanctuary

Schoolcraft County

Join MNA staff on their first fieldtrip to this new sanctuary. While there, visitors may discover the unique flora and fauna supported by sandy ridges and watery troughs characteristic of this natural feature. Cladonia lichen and grasses dot the dunes and a number of wild bird species, including merlin, red crossbill and ruby-crowned kinglet, are known to inhabit habitats in this sanctuary.



NORTHERN LOWER MICHIGAN

First Saturday of every month through October 10 a.m.

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

In partnership with the Michigan Karst Conservancy, MNA's Mystery Valley Nature Sanctuary will be one of the locations for this set of volunteer days. The work will consist of trail completion at Mystery Valley along with surveying boundaries and installation of boundary markers. Additionally, regular maintenance at Twin Sinks and Bruski Sinks, Michigan Karst Conservancy properties, will be conducted. Meet in the parking lot of the Stevens Twin Sinks unit of TBKP (on Leer Rd.). Contact Dave Luckins (deluckins@aol.com) or Aubrey Golden (goldencamp@comcast.net) for directions and details concerning overnight accommodations and dining.



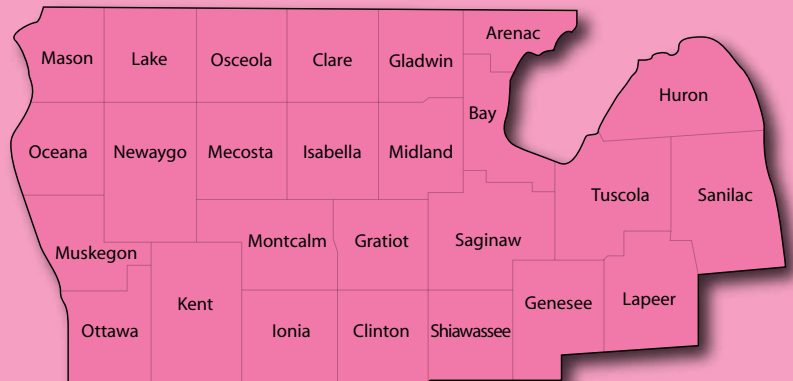
CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Saturday, July 17

10 a.m.

Field Trip: Newaygo Prairie Preserve Newaygo County

The Newaygo Prairie Preserve is one of the most important prairie remnants in Michigan. Land Steward Chuck Vannette will lead a prairie walk. A tour of this prairie provides an opportunity for those who attend to observe rare flora that are particularly adapted to a dry sparta sandy loam.



Saturday, September 18

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: Newaygo Prairie Preserve Newaygo County

Native seed collection and redistribution at Newaygo Prairie. Steward Chuck Vannette will lead this workday.

Thursday, October 28

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Volunteer Day: George and Jesse Krum Memorial Plant Preserve Montcalm County

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



Photo by: Natalie Kent
Participants of MNA's 2007 Fall Adventure explore the Newaygo Prairie Preserve in Newaygo County.

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

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Tuesday, September 21

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

Please help us remove invasive shrubs to open up this beautiful sanctuary to create habitat for the rare Mitchell's satyr butterfly.

Tuesday, September 28

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Volunteer Day: Betty and Ralph Campbell Memorial
Plant Preserve at Helmer Brook
Calhoun County**

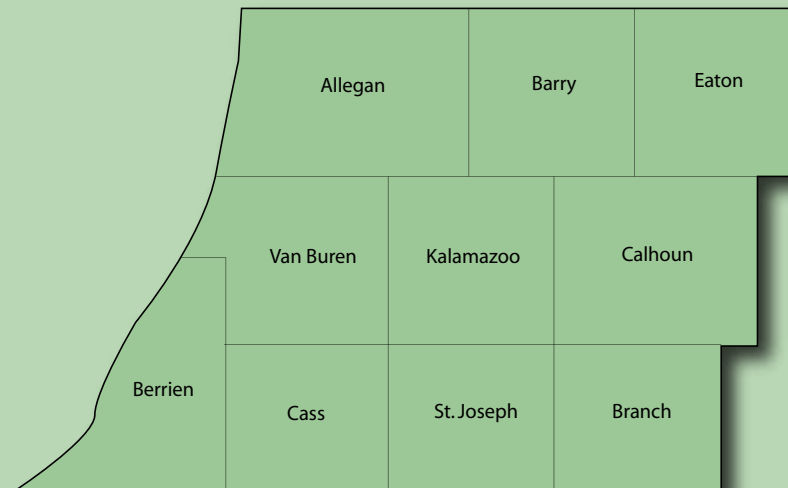
Please help us control invasive shrubs at the prairie fen at Campbell Memorial.

Tuesday, October 5

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Volunteer Day: Edwin and Margarita Palmer
Memorial Nature Sanctuary
Kalamazoo County**

Please help us remove invasive shrubs to open up this beautiful sanctuary to create habitat for the rare Mitchell's satyr butterfly.



SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Tuesday, August 17

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Volunteer Day: Sand Creek Prairie Plant Preserve
Hillsdale County**

Please join us as we remove invasive shrubs that are invading this high quality preserve. We will target autumn olive, bush honeysuckle, common & glossy buckthorn, and multiflora rose as well as controlling mature black locust trees on the edge of the road.

Thursday, September 16

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Volunteer Day: Goose Creek Grasslands Nature
Sanctuary
Lenawee County**

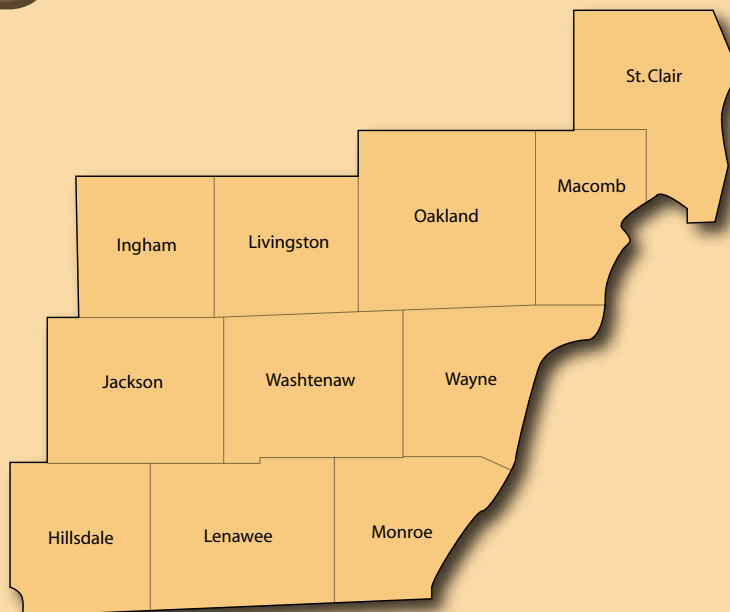
Please help us remove glossy buckthorn from the prairie fen at Goose Creek Grasslands.

Saturday, September 25

9 a.m.

**Field Trip: Lakeville Swamp Nature Sanctuary
Oakland County**

Keep this date free on your calendar for a very special field trip led by Keith Saylor. We will need magnifying glasses as we view the fascinating and beautiful world of lichens. Lichens are the bellwether of air quality in a plant community. This will be an entertaining and educational outing for all ages, do come! As many as 50 different lichen species might be on a single tree; it is a small and fascinating world overlooked by many as our eyes tend to focus on the larger, more colorful flora along the trails.



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

Letter from the President



By Steve Kelley
MNA President

Your efforts and generosity allow MNA to continue to protect land, collaborate with others to do so, and responsibly steward our existing properties.

The Thornapple Projects

At the end of 2009 MNA gratefully accepted a donation of 60 acres on Thornapple Lake from Dick and Posy Shuster of Hastings, Michigan. The new Thornapple Lake sanctuary in Barry County protects shoreline, wetland, and upland habitats adjacent to the naturally-formed, 409-acre, 30-foot deep lake. Thornapple Lake drains through the Thornapple River to the Grand River, eventually to Lake Michigan.

As if that was not enough, in May 2010 the Shusters generously donated to MNA a significant conservation easement consisting of 61 acres on both sides of the Thornapple River. This easement protects approximately 1,850 feet of river frontage, protecting aquatic, wetland, floodplain and upland habitats. Working together with the Shusters and their attorney and appraiser, the parties created a conservation easement which protects these areas while allowing continued residential use of a portion of the property and limited future development for the family.

We are very grateful to the Shuster family for these generous gifts, our first projects in Barry County.

The Acquisition Process

MNA staff and the volunteer Land Acquisition Committee continually evaluate new project opportunities, assessing habitat quality, needed restoration costs if any, and likely long term stewardship needs and related issues. Priorities are established, as

we routinely are offered more property than we believe we can responsibly steward in perpetuity. Your support as donors and on volunteer days defines the level of work that MNA can accomplish.

When opportunities come up for us to expand or buffer an existing sanctuary, we seriously consider that property. While small areas may contain very special habitats, as a general proposition larger areas provide more complete natural systems, connectivity between natural systems, and wildlife corridors. Fewer invasives per acre also are likely, as they are more typically found at the margins of properties.

In 2010, MNA will receive a 10 acre addition to our 19.5 Lyle Rizer sanctuary in Livingston County, southeast Michigan, a gift in process for eight years. In 2009, MNA added an additional 28 acres to our Roach Point sanctuary on Munuscong Bay along the St. Mary's River in Chippewa County. In 2008, MNA added 149 acres to our beloved Dowagiac Woods sanctuary in Cass County in Southwest Michigan. The Roach Point addition created our largest sanctuary in the UP (506 acres), while the Dowagiac Woods additions created our largest sanctuary in the Lower Peninsula (384 acres).

Volunteers and staff are currently working together on potential further additions to existing sanctuaries in the southern Lower Peninsula, the northern Lower Peninsula, and the Upper Peninsula, and completely new projects in each of these areas.

Sometimes we are offered property which is perceived for one reason or another to be a better fit for another conservancy. In the last few months we have referred prospective land donors to the Thumb Land Conservancy and the Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy. We gladly make these referrals to promote protection while conserving our own resources.

Continuing Stewardship

MNA's predominantly "fee ownership" model for protected land both allows for and requires far more stewardship than conservation-easement conservancy models. Under most conservation easements, the landowner, not the conservancy, is responsible for stewardship of the easement property.

Thirty years ago, MNA probably spent \$19 on land acquisition for every \$1 spent on stewardship. With a much better understanding now of the need to

steward protected properties, even with our incredible volunteers we now spend about \$2 on stewardship for every \$1 spent to acquire more land (thankfully, many special heritage properties continue to be donated to MNA).

Organizationally we continue a strong stewardship program consisting of our many volunteer stewards, Stewardship Coordinator Andy Bacon, Regional Stewardship Organizers Matt Schultz (WLP) and Katherine Hollins (ELP), Contract Regional Stewardship Organizer Keith Saylor (EUP), Land Protection Specialist Barry Horney, Land Protection Technician Natalie Kent-Norkowski and many interns. With your help, we plan to visit and report on every MNA property in 2010 as we continue to eradicate non-native species from many of our sanctuaries. We appreciate and look forward to your continued support of our stewardship initiatives.

I hope to see many of you on this year's Fall Adventure to the western UP. If you have been thinking about joining us, this is the year to do it, as next year we are considering a Spring Adventure instead of a Fall Adventure.

Thank you for your continued support of MNA!

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

Charlie Eshbach

Many of you know Charlie Eshbach, our long-time Western UP field representative. Many more of you know his work, including his memorable photographs such as the cover of our new Walking Paths book, regular contributions to our publications, and his years-long work on many a sanctuary in the Keweenaw including Estivant Pines. Charlie has retired from his role with MNA. We thank Charlie for his many, many contributions to MNA over many, many years, and wish him only the best in the years to come. We have hired two new contractors for the western UP.

Because of You: Carolyn and Don Reed



Photo by: Tina Patterson

Don and Carolyn Reed have dedicated their post-retirement lives to volunteer work with the Michigan Nature Association and other organizations.

By Tina Patterson MNA Volunteer

Don and Carolyn Reed have found true happiness both in their marriage and their love of service to others, not something they could have anticipated when they met in 1974 while they were both working for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the state of Michigan. Over the past 35 years, they have been each other's best friend and cheerleader. Don is the more outgoing and dynamic of this duo, while Carolyn is content to be in the background encouraging and supporting her husband.

When the Reeds retired together, Don decided he wanted to turn their Dimondale lawn beside the Grand River into a nature area. He began researching native plants, buying and collecting seeds and started the process of restoring their 3/4 acre lawn to a natural habitat for plants and animals. Today they share their home with a variety of birds such as Carolina wrens, bluebirds (that winter with them), screech owls, wood ducks, woodpeckers, and goldfinches that color their lives. A butterfly garden attracts these welcome visitors and chipmunks frolic on the lawn. Birds follow Don as he leads them through the garden with his orange pitchfork, a seed cup attached to the top. The more daring birds have been known to pull

the hair from his head to line their nests and the chipmunks take a break from their busy day by resting in his lap.

Don's initial interest in native plants led him to seek work for a nature organization where he could learn more about what should, and should not, be in a southwestern Michigan garden. Not a man to sit around and waste hours in front of the television, he turned to The Nature Conservancy Website and discovered the need for someone to plant a native garden at Conservancy Headquarters in Old Town, Lansing. Don's initial plan was to help someone else in the project, however he soon found himself the lead person. It was not the ideal spot for a garden. The 8 by 40 foot city plot was full of pigweed, lambs

quarters and a broken chimney foundation. Don hauled away two pickup trucks full of unwanted vegetation and rubble and then brought in dirt for his plants. Don created a plan using his own native plants which he had started to propagate as well as native plants donated from a nursery.

While working on The Nature Conservancy's restoration project, Don met Sherri Laier at an awards dinner for volunteers. Sherri introduced him to the MNA and land stewardship. Don was intrigued by land stewardship (the protection and reintroduction of plants and animals native to an area) and felt he had found his calling. Since 2003 he has worked on over 30 sanctuaries, finding his passion in restoring land and saving the diverse and special habitats of Michigan. Don traces this passion back to the 1970s. After serving as a Marine in Vietnam he returned to the fields of his youth only to find the woods gone, the land paved over and houses where he used to play and catch crawdads. In 10 years the idyllic setting of his childhood was lost, the wood and box turtles long displaced by "progress."

Working with the MNA, Don learned about prescribed burning and became certified to conduct burns. He was amazed to see, after his first controlled burn at Goose Creek, that lady slippers had been restored within a month where once only buckthorn thrived. Don said he "got it." This is what the MNA is all about, the transition back to original states. The MNA had established its credibility with Don. It was especially thrilling for Don to see seven box turtles in one day on land under MNA guardianship.

Don says MNA "changed my life." He has learned much by working with the MNA staff, botanists and other "kindred spirits." He continues to grow his 40 varieties of native plants, donating them to the "Dimondale Discovery Center" a hands on learning center he created in 2009 with his own hard work on school property that was once a dumping ground for concrete, metal, litter and overgrown with grapevines and garlic mustard. This ambitious undertaking involved the entire community and has given Don a high level of recognition and a host of new friends and community support he never could have imagined. His greatest joy is seeing children from the school working in the garden touching nature. In March of 2010, he was honored by the Holt Education Foundation as the "Outstanding Community



Photo by: Carolyn Reed

A tufted tit mouse gathers Don Reed's hair to use as nesting material in the Reed's backyard.



Photo by: Tina Patterson

Carolyn Reed and her friend Ruth Vail work at MNA to prepare sanctuary files for LTAC accreditation.

Member,” a title he modestly revealed to the MNA.

When first asked to run for an MNA Trustee position Don declined, preferring to spend his time in the field restoring sanctuaries. However, after thoughtful consideration he changed his mind, believing he wanted to help set the course of the MNA as it moves into the future. Don sees the goal of the MNA as responsible stewardship. Land cannot be allowed to just sit, it must be managed wisely with credibility. He believes accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance is necessary to insure that ethical standards are maintained within the organization. Don thinks the MNA staff, along with volunteers, is working hard to achieve the goals of the organization and supports their commitment

to bringing the MNA to the next level of professionalism. Don says the MNA has given him more than he has given it. He remains committed, enthusiastic and says that he is “one happy man.”

Carolyn, besides supporting Don, is also an MNA volunteer working closely with Ruth Vail, another dedicated volunteer, to prepare sanctuary files for accreditation. With over 165 files to organize, and to ensure that each file is complete, they must verify that there is a legal description, warranty deed, title insurance and a survey record for each property under MNA protection. Together, Ruth and Carolyn’s goal is to prepare 10 sanctuary files a month. In some files they might identify missing documents, make lists of questions for staff to research

or highlight what needs attorney review. Sometimes it takes months to get all the paperwork needed to complete a file. The importance of the work they are doing cannot be overestimated, as without complete files the MNA will not achieve accreditation and would put the growth of the organization in jeopardy.

For Carolyn, an unexpected bonus of volunteering at the MNA is finding friendship with Ruth and the satisfaction of knowing they are together working towards an important goal. Carolyn is also a very active volunteer at her church where she assists at funerals and weddings and is on call to come in as needed. In addition, she generously spends hours helping others research their heritage through an organization called “Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness” a volunteer group that assists people from out of state in doing research on family records in Michigan. She donates her time to finding photos and copying documents for people who wish to learn more about their Michigan roots.

Each year since the 1990s the Reed’s have taken a vacation to their favorite Michigan retreat, Bewabic State Park in Crystal Falls. This Upper Peninsula paradise allows them time to travel the chain of lakes on their pontoon boat, fish, watch eagles and enjoy the beauty of trilliums and lady slippers. Together they pursue a quiet, peaceful life dedicated to improving the world around them, bringing nature to children and families, helping others in their time of need and leaving a legacy of good works. Carolyn listened with tears in her eyes as Don wrapped up our interview and said, “I am proud of her, and she is proud of me, she is my inspiration. I could not do what I do without her behind me; we support each other.”

Thanks Don and Carolyn, we could not do it without you either.



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:

Lenawee

Osceola

Huron

Alpena

Baraga

Livingston

Financial Report

The Michigan Nature Association focuses its resources on acquiring, protecting and maintaining exceptional natural areas in Michigan, and educating the public. We hold our own deeds and conservation easements and manage our properties to benefit natural ecosystems. The land acquisition process is stringent in order to ensure that each potential acquisition meets criteria that are in keeping with the mission of the organization.

MNA has an active land acquisition program that seeks to preserve and protect unique Michigan habitats and plant and animal species listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern. Once a sanctuary property is acquired by MNA, it is protected in perpetuity. We have an extraordinary stewardship program that actively works to maintain our sanctuaries and ensures that our properties remain as pristine as possible.



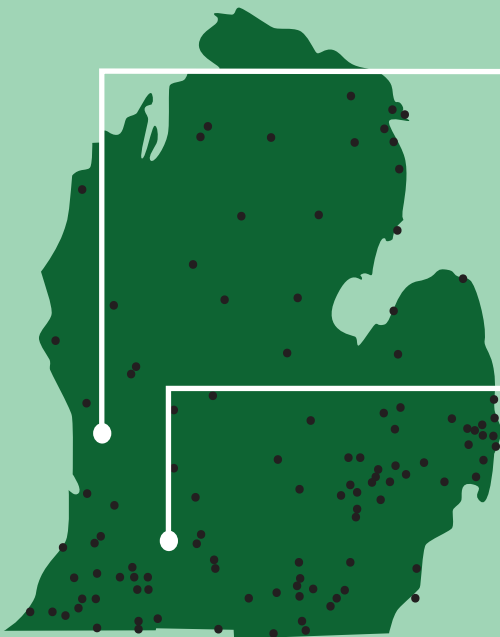
Highlights from FYE 2010:

A few of the many projects across the state...



Manistique Dune and Swale Nature Sanctuary: Multiple family members and friends jointly donated this 29.12 acre parcel in Schoolcraft County. The ancient beach dune ridges and low swales characterize the specific habitat here, found only in the Great Lakes region.

Roach Point: MNA purchased a 30+ acre addition to the Roach Point Nature Sanctuary, again reinstating its status as MNA's largest nature sanctuary at well over 500 acres. The addition protects critical Great Lakes coastal marsh habitat.



Coldwater River Garlic Mustard Pull: Coldwater River boasts an impressive population of Virginia Bluebells, which are near their northernmost geographic extent at the preserve in southeast Kent County. Over the last two years, MNA members, in partnership with Trout Unlimited, have been active in preserving this rare population by removing garlic mustard, a widespread invasive species in the southern Lower Peninsula. This is one of the many garlic pulls organized by the MNA across the state.

Campbell Memorial Burn: Over the past four years, MNA has conducted four prescribed burns at Campbell Memorial to restore the prairie fen and mesic prairie plant communities, which had been suffering from encroachment by invasive glossy buckthorn. Glossy buckthorn has a persistent seedbank, and prescribed burns are an effective way to kill off young seedlings and rejuvenate native plant communities. Rare plants such as queen-of-the-prairie have responded very positively to the introduced fire regime.

Financial Overview

Operating Fund Statement of Activities

Support and Revenue

	Year End 2/28/2010 Before Audit	Year End 2/28/2009 Audited
Member Dues	67,918	43,355
Other Contributions	167,289	133,225
Investment Income and Draws	216,207	278,313
Member Events	6,935	23,310
Stewardship Grants	83,365	84,744
In-kind	0 ^A	23,916
General Grants	7,653	0
Miscellaneous	23,946	38,611

Total Support and Revenue Expenses

Program Services		
Stewardship	83,564	100,449
Land Acquisition Expenses	24,460	15,202
Education	62,491	58,506
Membership	251,266	286,948
<i>Total Program Services</i>	<i>421,824</i>	<i>461,105</i>
Supporting Services		
Management and General	49,705	87,289
Fundraising	72,854	79,850
<i>Total Support Services</i>	<i>122,559</i>	<i>167,139</i>
Total Expenses	544,340	628,244
Excess of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	27,147	(2,770)

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

	Audited Balance 2/28/2009	Investment Appreciation	Support & Revenue	Transfers	Pre-Audit Balance 2/28/2010
Michigan Nature Association Year End February 28, 1010					
Unrestricted Funds					
Operating Fund	274,140		27,147 ^B		301,287
Board Designated: Endowment	0	341,826	89,647 ^C (216,207) ^D		215,266
Revolving Fund	562,810	672,839	31,907	(27,500)	1,240,056
Legal Defense	20,000	30,000			50,000
Temporary Restricted Funds					
Stewardship Grants	7,105		92,236 (89,978) ^D		9,363
Other Funds	203,773		171,392 (6,503) ^D (1,929)	(14,908)	353,742
Capital Campaign	164,497			(162,568)	
Permanent Restricted Funds					
Endowment	1,691,076		25,075	14,908	1,893,627
Sanctuary Land	8,396,671		168,070 ^E 7,200	162,568 27,500	8,599,441
Total Net Assets	11,320,072	1,044,665	290,857	0	12,655,594

Notes:

A: Value of In-kind services has not been determined yet for FYE 2010

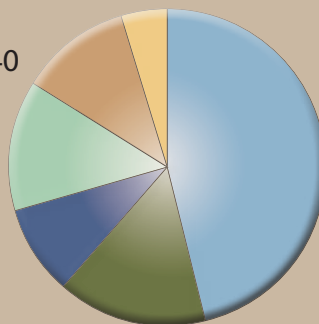
B: Net gain from operations

C: Unrestricted bequests are placed in Board Designated Endowment

D: Transfers to Operating Fund included in its revenues

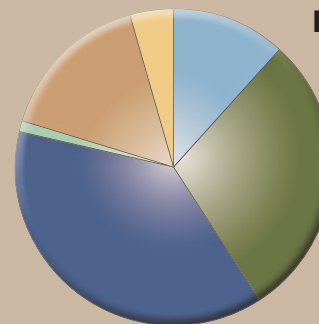
E: Value of land acquired during Fiscal Year

Expenses Total \$544,340



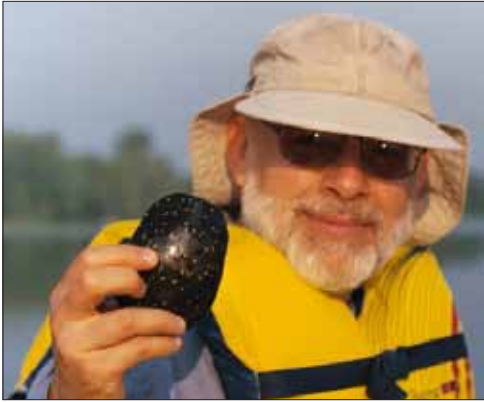
(46%) Sanctuary Maintenance=
(15%) Membership =
(9%) Administration=
(13%) Fundraising=
(12%) Land Acquisition=
(5%) Education =

Income Source Total \$571,487



= Member Dues (12%)
= Contributions (29%)
= Grants (16%)
= Investment Income/Draw (38%)
= Member Events (1%)
= Miscellaneous (4%)

Trustee Profile: Dave Wendling



By Mary Ann Czechowski
MNA Trustee

Dave Wendling has been an MNA member and steward for many years and has joined the board this year. Here is your opportunity to learn more about him.

How did you learn about MNA?

I first learned about MNA when I saw a notice of a field trip to the Hamilton Coastal Plain Marsh in a local newspaper. Charlie Goodrich the local steward was leading the field trip. I believe it was about 2001. After the field trip he gave me his copy of "In Retrospect" to look at. I was very impressed by the many diverse nature sanctuaries and all the plants and animals that were protected and decided to join

What kept your initial interest in MNA?

After joining MNA it was the sanctuaries that kept me interested. My wife, Joan, and I would visit as many of the sanctuaries as we could when traveling in Michigan and we found it very enjoyable. Soon after that I became interested in stewardship and became a steward at two of the sanctuaries in southwest Michigan.

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

I've participated in and continue to participate in many MNA activities. As I said before, Joan and I enjoy visiting as many sanctuaries as we can and I am a steward. I also like to sign up for volunteer days at other sanctuaries when I can and go on guided fieldtrips to the sanctuaries. Joan and I participated in one of the garlic mustard dinners that MNA hosted and we have gone on the Fall Adventure a few times. So we've been quite active in the

organization. We are also donors and try to support MNA as much as possible.

Do you have a favorite sanctuary or plant preserve?

When Joan and I first visited the Twin Waterfalls Memorial Nature Sanctuary in the UP we felt like we were entering an enchanted world like we had never seen before, and it still is my favorite. We visit it every time we get a chance. I'm very interested in ferns, and there are several species that are found there. But I think it's the falls and the feeling you get when you approach them that makes it special.

I am co-steward at Dowagiac Woods in southwest Michigan and that has to be another favorite. Anyone who has not been there in the spring when it is carpeted with wild flowers is missing quite a show. The woods are coming alive during the time when we have the garlic mustard work days making them very special work days.

Where do you live & What do you do?

I was born and raised on a dairy farm in Saginaw County and, except for a few years that I studied outside of Michigan, I have spent my entire life in Michigan. I graduated from the University of Detroit with a BA in Chemistry and got my medical degree at the University of Michigan Medical School. I'm a family physician who is now partially retired and my practice was in a small town in southwest Michigan called Decatur where I practiced rural medicine. Now I am working part time in Paw Paw, Michigan.

When did you become interested in nature?

As long as I can remember I was interested in the natural world. As a child I would wander the farm in search of frogs and turtles. I remember having a butterfly collection at one time and capturing tadpoles and watching them turn into frogs. The wonder of nature has always been with me. Most recently I became more interested in geology and have done quite a bit of reading on the subject especially as it applies to Michigan.

What, to you, is special about Michigan?

There is so much to see in Michigan and if I take a trip I would much rather go somewhere in Michigan and explore than to travel abroad or anywhere else. I never seem to grow tired of many diverse habitats

that we have here and the many interesting plants and animals that can still be found. To me MNA is very important since its goal is to protect much of this diversity. I have a special interest in ferns and hope to find all of the native ferns that grow in Michigan. In fact it was on a vacation to the UP that started my interest in ferns. As we visited some of the MNA sanctuaries I noted the great diversity of ferns that grew there and realized that I could not tell one fern from the other so I got a guide book and the rest is history. Now I see ferns where ever I travel. In fact, when I came home from that trip I found a dozen different ferns growing on my property. It was like seeing them for the first time. I am also very interested in Michigan's turtles and the threats to their continued survival. At least some of them are relatively safe on some of the MNA sanctuaries. I hope that I never stop discovering new things!

What, to you, is special about MNA?

Some of the things that are special about MNA are all of the diverse sanctuaries that it protects, it is a Michigan-only group that is dedicated to the entire state and it is not a government funded group. It survives by a grassroots desire by many dedicated people that want to protect what is special about Michigan. I want to be part of that and to see MNA succeed and become stronger.

Do you have any goals as a Trustee?

MNA, like many other organizations, is finding that it has to adapt to many new developments and challenges if it is to succeed in its mission. While we are already challenged to care for what we have, we also have to plan for our future. The best way to do this is to become a board member and help make these decisions. We need to increase our capacity, modernize our board, create a vision for the future and make MNA more visible to the citizens of the state and the country as a whole. I want to be part of that.

Notice of Bylaw Changes to MNA Members

At the September or November board meetings, the Board of Trustees expects to vote on an amendment to update the by-laws. For more info contact Paul at (517) 655-5655.

Memorials and Honorariums

March 1 - May 31, 2010

In Memory of

Anne Marie Debene

Arden Bruckner

Barbara Rochlin

Donald Barris

Evelyn Fraser

Fern Prag

Geraldine Shacket

Gloria Clark

Harry Meisner M.D.

John Moran

Juanita Kershaw

Leon Dobson

Mary Anne Soma

Robert Finkleman

Suzanne Martin

By Dr. Lewis Rosenbaum

Bill Bliss

By Elizabeth Kinney

By Jeremy Emmi and Karen Meagher

Ed Darr

Kernie King

Marianna Wells

By Jeremy Emmi and Karen Meagher

Joseph Deveroux

Lena Martin

Rose Martin

By Carol Sue Martin and Patricia Lince

Margie Watkins

By Peggy Maycock

Mary Ann Deuparo

By Jeremy Emmi and Karen Meagher

By Mac Deuparo

Maxine Averill

By James and Barbara Woolworth

By Janice Baugh

By Karen Jones

By Marion Heider

By Richard and Marilyn Stoops

By Ronald and Ethel Anderson

By Wesley and Betty Rise

Nancy Meyer

By Sue Welch

Richard Meloche

R.P. Lambeck

By Margaret Flower

Stanley Cislo

By James Gusfa

In Honor of

Ellen Canterbury

By Anonymous

Ruth Vail

By Elizabeth Lacey

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Weaver Tile

Mason, MI.

Wildtype Design, Native Plants & Seeds LTD.

Newaygo, MI.

Sergent Logging

Perry, MI.

Avatar Arabians

Royal Oak, MI.

Academic Internal Medicine Associates

Sturgis, MI.

Valley View Farms

Traverse City, MI.

Hazelnut Kids LLC

Troy, MI.

REI

Whitmore Lake, MI

Todd's Service

Hazelhurst, WI

McConnell's Woodshop

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

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!

1. A lightly used truck (covered or pick up, but preferably with an 8 foot bed and 4WD)

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

14. Post hole digger

15. Screwdrivers

16. T-posts

17. Hand saws

18. Adjustable wrenches

19. Posthole drivers

Volunteering: Fun and Rewarding!

Your Time is Needed

Field Volunteers

Trail Maintenance

Removing debris, trimming limbs, posting and maintaining trail markers

Invasive Plant Control

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

Erosion Control

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

Boardwalk and Bridge Construction

Creating bridges to cross rivers and boardwalks to traverse wetlands

Boundary Identification

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

Photography

Taking pictures of species and landscapes to help us monitor sanctuaries

Trash Removal

Helping clean sanctuaries of debris

Inventory and Monitoring

Recording plants and animals observed at different times of year

Global Positioning System Data Collection

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

Native Seed Collection and Planting

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

Field Trip Leadership

Showing people a sanctuary and all it has to offer

Sign Installation

Installing entrance or general rules signs at MNA's sanctuaries

Office Volunteers & Internships

General Office

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

Cartography

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

Graphic Design

Designing and developing graphics and ideas for a variety of publications

PR / Communication

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

Journalism

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

Accounting

Analyzing and preparing financial information, and utilizing accounting control procedures

GIS (Geographic Information Systems)

Utilizing geographic information systems to generate maps for management plans

Legal

Resolving discrepancies in the property files for nature sanctuaries.

Stewardship

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



4 Steps to Start in Volunteering

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



10 Ways to Contribute

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

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

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

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

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

Contribution Levels

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

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

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

6 Make a memorial contribution or an honorarium. You can pay tribute to the memory of a friend or loved one, or honor them, by donating to MNA in their name. Contributions are put toward MNA's General Endowment so that your gift will produce a lasting legacy in memory or honor of those close to you unless otherwise specified.

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

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

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

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

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

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

To double your contribution to MNA

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



michigan nature association

Preserving Michigan's Natural Heritage Since 1952

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Make Your Reservation: Fall Adventure!

By Kimberly Hirai
Journalism Intern

The Keweenaw Peninsula—the northernmost part of the western Upper Peninsula, plays home to more than 900 native plant species supported by the one billion-year-old area's stands of white pine, balsam fir, white cedar, spruce, birch, wetlands and waterfalls.

The beautiful landscapes of Keweenaw flora and picturesque landscapes form a unique part of Michigan and an opportunity to experience nature as it may have once been many years ago.

This year, the Michigan Nature Association plans to "fall up" to the western Upper Peninsula for a Fall Adventure weekend of crisp air, a little fall color and a walk through what MNA has conserved.

On Friday September 10, participants will visit Twin Waterfalls Plant Preserve. The preserve holds a special place in MNA hearts as the Association's 100th sanctuary.

Participants can view the waterfalls flowing over a sandstone escarpment.

On Saturday, participants will join one of two groups—each designed to give participants a look at the natural beauty of two sanctuaries in the peninsula.

The first group will walk through the wildflowers in James Dorian Rooks Memorial Nature Sanctuary. Trillium, blue bead lily in addition to plants like bearberry and wild strawberry can be found here. Keweenaw Shores Nature Sanctuary will be the group's final destination. Pink, orange, yellow and green lichens decorate rocks and participants can experience four different plant communities while hiking.

The Keweenaw giants of Michigan's largest section of old growth eastern white pine will be hard to miss when a second group visits Estivant Pines Wilderness Nature Sanctuary. Some of the trees here are more than 600 years old! The group will explore the only sand dunes in the Keweenaw at Redwyn's Dunes Nature Sanctuary next. The dunes were created by Lake Superior's strong winds, which carried sand deposits to this area. Dune ponds support a variety of amphibians, from wood frogs to several salamander species.

Participants will glimpse amazing views of the entire Keweenaw Peninsula from a perch on Brockway Mountain—the spot where both groups will end their sanctuary treks. The group will move on to Copper Harbor for an opportunity to meet and dine with contributors to *Walking Paths & Protected Areas of the Keweenaw*, MNA's newest guidebook. The restaurant offers scenic views of Copper Harbor and Lake Superior.



Photo by: Charlie Eshbach
A view from Keweenaw Shores Nature Sanctuary, one of the Western UP sanctuaries.

Quick Facts

When: Friday, September 10 through Sunday, September 12

Where: Western Upper Peninsula

Highlighted field trips: Twin Waterfalls Plant Preserve, Redwyn's Dunes Nature Sanctuary, Keweenaw Shores Nature Sanctuary, Estivant Pines Nature Sanctuary, and more!

Please R.S.V.P. by August 15th

Phone: (517) 655-5655

Email: michigannature@michigannature.org



On Sunday, participants will dash for home, but participants will eat lunch and get a peek at one of MNA's most recent preservation projects.

For \$300, participants can enjoy a three day weekend filled with outdoor experiences and scenic views of the Keweenaw in the company of MNA staff, trustees, new participants and old friends. Transportation, hotels and meals are included. A chartered bus will pick passengers up in Southfield and Lansing.

Please reserve your spot by August 15th to join us in the Keweenaw Peninsula!