

michigan nature association



Preserving Michigan's Natural Heritage Since 1952

January - March 2009

Volume 58 Issue 1

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Winter at the Keweenaw Shores Nature Sanctuary
taken by MNA Western Upper Peninsula
Representative Charlie Eshbach

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From the Director



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

The current economic turmoil has many, especially those in Michigan, anxious about the future. However, the Michigan Nature Association has weathered over five decades of economic ups and downs because we have always had a policy of carrying very little debt and keeping expenses under control.

We have protected and maintained 165 nature sanctuaries and plant preserves (including our current acquisition project, Mystery Valley) as efficiently as possible. With your support, MNA has grown into a solid, effective organization that will last well into the future. You recognize this and through word of mouth, you have brought new supporters to MNA.

Sometimes people or foundations that aren't familiar with MNA look for an outside endorsement before deciding to contribute. They often turn to entities that provide objective evidence of permanence, excellence in operations and sound governance. The Land Trust Alliance has recently started to accredit groups like MNA to give people this additional peace of mind.

MNA has taken the first steps in preparation to apply for accreditation through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTAC), an entity related to the Land Trust Alliance, a national umbrella group to which MNA belongs.

We have also been accepted into the "ACE" (Advancing Conservancy Excellence) program, a partnership between the Land Trust Alliance and the Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy that will provide direct assistance to MNA to prepare for accreditation.

What is accreditation? It is a process that provides public recognition of land preservation organizations (like MNA) that are engaged in the long-term protection of lands in the public trust. After an extensive and thorough review of specific indicator practices, such as record-keeping, stewardship, and board governance, the LTAC grants accreditation (and the right to use the accreditation seal) to land trusts that meet their standards. You can think of it as a nationally-recognized seal-of-approval for land preservation organizations.

The MNA Board of Trustees has decided to apply for accreditation by 2012, and possibly sooner. The application process is very involved and MNA will be preparing for this over the next three years.

We expect that the accreditation application process will assist MNA in strengthening its operating procedures where applicable, strengthening its efforts to preserve Michigan's best natural areas and strengthening the commitment of our supporters, present and future.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated. An investment in the Michigan Nature Association may be one of the best investments you can make. Please know that even in these tough economic times, MNA is working as hard as ever to protect Michigan's special natural places in a sustainable, efficient and permanent manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeremy Emmi".

Jeremy Emmi
Executive Director

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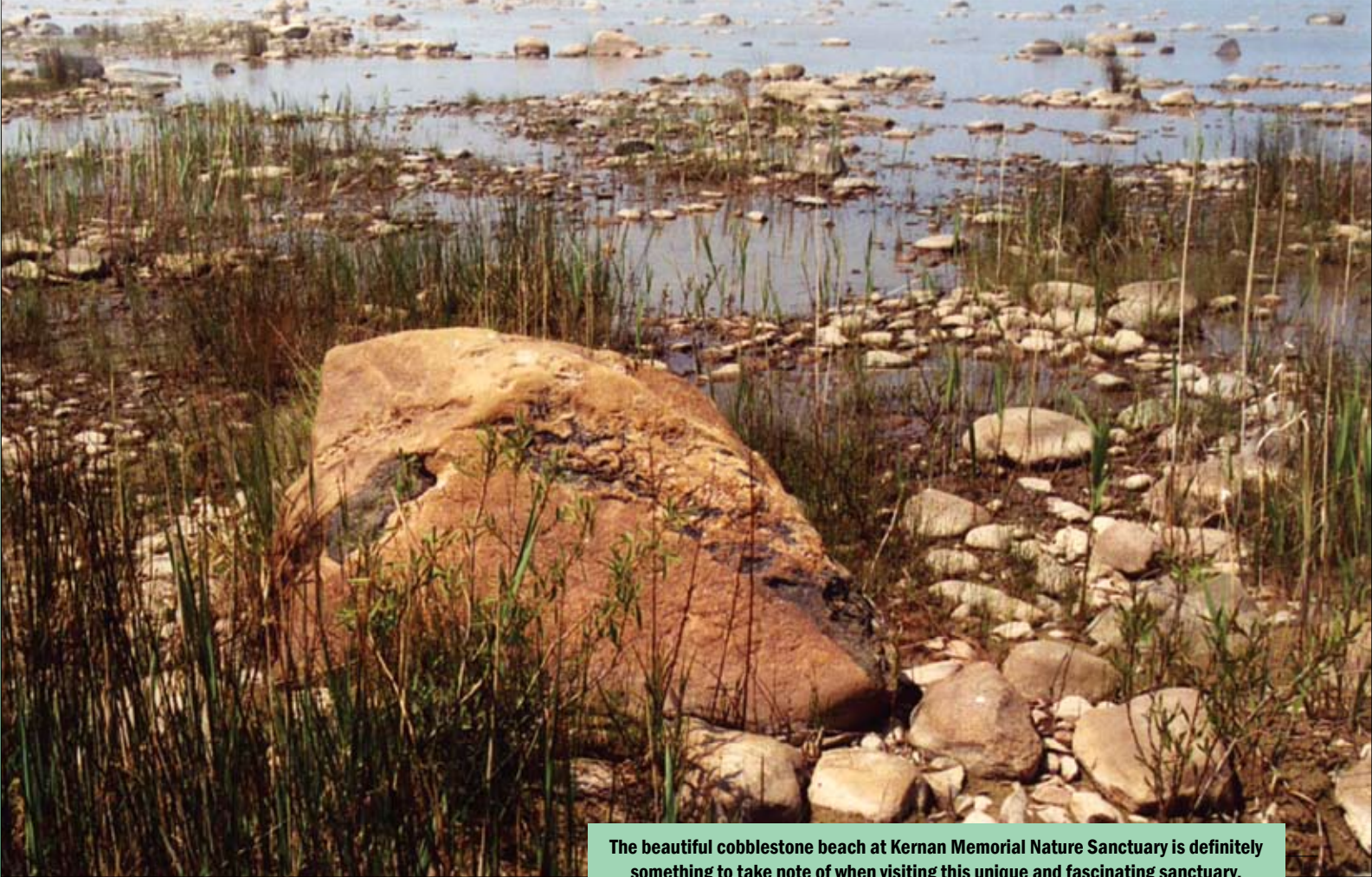
Michigan Nature Association's Mission

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...

Kernan Memorial Nature Sanctuary



The beautiful cobblestone beach at Kernan Memorial Nature Sanctuary is definitely something to take note of when visiting this unique and fascinating sanctuary.

By Jeff Ganley, MNA Steward

“Are we there yet?” That classic child-uttered inquisition strained my dust-coated throat, my head peering out the window as we neared the end of graveled Pochert Road. My Dad helped Grandma out of the old Chevy as I ran toward the mighty lake. “Is this it? Is this Whiskey Harbor?”

After many years of Grandma’s stories, childhood memories and recollections, I had finally arrived for my first visit to Whiskey Harbor, the place of her youth.

I was no stranger to Lake Huron, but this place, I felt, was special and seemed to be at the edge of the world in the middle of nowhere, and I liked that. There were no houses, no McDonalds, not even any people, just woods, grasses, rocks and water...lots of water.

I loved listening to Grandma talk

of her days playing on the rocky beach or riding her horse up to the little one-room school at the top of the hill (which still stands today).

The area surrounding Whiskey Harbor also has many tales to tell, even beyond my family, the Wagners (many of whom still live in Huron County).

If the multi-colored beach cobbles could truly speak, they would talk of the ebb and flow of the Great Lake, the nearby shipwrecks, discarded like broken toys, by the great storm of 1913.

They’d talk of the brave men at the nearby Pointe aux Barques life-saving station, risking life and limb to save unlucky mariners, caught on the treacherous reefs in any of the other dark November storms.

They would also speak of great

“Lake Huron shimmered, blue as the Indian summer sky, yet warming my heart, like the golden aspen leaves, dancing in the late autumn breeze.”

forest fires, during a time when vast woodlands of pine, hemlock, beech, maple and basswood, would stretch as far as the eye could see. They would talk of man and beasts such as wolves and black bears standing side by side in the frigid October water in an attempt to escape the fiery hell. And finally,

they would see the distant forest transformed into fertile farm fields.

Over the years, the woods around Whiskey Harbor have grown back, mostly due to the rocky soils and bedrock proximity, while the rest of the thumb region has remained productive farmland for over 100 years.

I've always wondered who owned the land around the Whiskey Harbor area. One evening, during a camping trip in the Keweenaw, I found out.

After buying the MNA Guidebook at a tiny Copper Harbor book shop, I met a man by the name of Jim Rooks who talked very fondly of the Michigan Nature Association. Later that night, while thumbing through the book, I discovered that the owner of the property bordering Whiskey Harbor was the Michigan Nature Association and has been since 1990 due to the generosity of William Kernan. I reveled in the fact that the Kernan Memorial Nature Sanctuary would remain forever wild...and this made me smile.

I stopped at Kernan Memorial this past fall. Peacefulness and solitude greeted me, as usual, with the open arms of a long lost friend.

The grasses, sedges and shrubs were quite a bit higher, the forest trees a little taller, and the leopard frogs just as abundant as ever.

Lake Huron shimmered, blue as the Indian summer sky, yet warming my heart, like the golden aspen leaves, dancing in the late autumn breeze.

And just as I arrived back at the car, a Bald Eagle took flight, soaring over the tallest oak tree, and off into the fire-red sunset.

But perhaps no discussion of this prohibition-era hot spot would be complete without the mention of Thelma Sonnenberg, one of the founding members of the MNA. It was her love of Michigan's natural areas that made this and many other sanctuaries possible.

If you enjoyed learning about MNA's Kernan Memorial Nature Sanctuary you might also enjoy reading about the Thelma Sonnenberg Plant Preserve. The Sonnenberg Preserve is located just minutes from Kernan Memorial, forming the eastern ridge of Whiskey Harbor. You can find an article on the rich history and wonderful birding at Sonnenberg Memorial on the Michigan Nature Association blog at www.mymna.org.



Phragmites australis, the common reed grass, is a large perennial grass typically found in wetlands. This invasive species threatens the cobblestone beach at Kernan Memorial Nature Sanctuary. MNA's stewardship program is currently seeking additional funding to help stop the spread of this dangerous and intrusive plant. Please contact MNA if you are interested in helping save this sanctuary's cobblestone beach.

protecting kernan memorial

The Michigan Nature Association has been fortunate to be the recipient of two grants for stewardship at Kernan Memorial Nature Sanctuary.

The first was a \$9,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) which allowed us to begin mechanical and chemical removal of invasive barberry shrubs in the oak openings at this unique site. Japanese barberry chokes out all other plants as it rapidly expands in these rare communities. The oak openings are fire adapted habitats that require fine fuel such as grasses, sedges and flowering plants to carry a fire.

We have just received word that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) has awarded MNA \$5,000 toward the removal of *Phragmites australis* that threaten the limestone cobble shore and Great Lakes marsh at this site. This will help us start the process of removing this species from areas where rare plants are found.

As we seek additional funding through grants to continue our work, please let us know if you have a source of private dollars for match to protect this sanctuary (or any of the other 164 sanctuaries).



Northern leopard frogs, *Rana pipiens*, are plentiful at Kernan Memorial Nature Sanctuary.

stewardship update

Red Cedar River Boardwalk

By Phillip Bergquist, Administrative Assistant

Over the past several months the ambitious boardwalk construction project at the Red Cedar River Plant Preserve in Williamston has come a long way.

The boardwalk begins in the floodplain forest, extends the length of the preserve into the marsh and out to the very edge of the Red Cedar River, giving guests the opportunity to experience several habitats when they visit the area. It is one of the longest boardwalks MNA has ever constructed, and one of very few to include an observation deck in its design.

Through a partnership with the Into the Streets program, a group of 50 students from Michigan State University and Ohio State University participated in a volunteer event in mid-October, completing several large sections of the walkway with impressive speed. The sound of 50 people hammering simultaneously was music to my ears, and the work they did in a matter of hours would have taken us days to complete...we are very grateful for their help.

Keith Saylor led a committed group of volunteers including Jim and Betsy Pifer, Jim Hewitt, Don Reed and Joanne and Megan Falke on a series of workdays before and after the volunteer event to finish the boardwalk and build the observation deck at the river's edge.

Much of the lumber used to build the boardwalk was reclaimed or salvaged. We were also fortunate to have MPC Cash-Way Lumber in Williamston contribute decking materials at a greatly-reduced cost. Home Depot of Howell, True Value Hardware of Williamston and Home Depot of Brighton also donated supplies. (Those 50 hammers had to come from somewhere!)



Volunteers carrying salvaged lumber to help complete the Red Cedar River boardwalk. MNA is very grateful to our volunteers and donors who helped make the project possible.

This project has truly been a partnership building experience for MNA, and I can say for certain that we would not have been able to complete this boardwalk without each and every one of the people who were involved, from the students swinging hammers, to our committed volunteer's problem solving, it was an amazing experience that demonstrates the power of what we can achieve if we work together.

We invite you to come visit this sanctuary and enjoy the natural beauty and wonderful plant and animal life it has to offer...and remember that your visit was made possible through the work of those who contributed to this effort.



(Left) The Red Cedar River boardwalk at sunset. (Right) Ohio State University and Michigan State University students came out before the football game to put aside their rivalry to make a difference. Students worked hard to complete several sections of the Red Cedar River boardwalk.

Recognizing Our Historic Trees

By Phillip Bergquist, Administrative Assistant

As I walk through the many forested lands MNA protects, I see truly unique, beautiful and historic trees all around me. These trees are the “silent witnesses of history”; they spark my imagination and I get lost in the wonders of how our landscape must have looked years ago. Each one of these living pieces of history has a story, and the Michigan Forest Association in conjunction with the Michigan DNR are taking part in a nationwide effort to locate our most historic trees, document them and preserve them for years to come.

These trees have not been catalogued in their entirety since 1976, when the last volume of the book *Michigan's Famous and Historic Trees* was published. Since then, several of the most famous trees in Michigan have been lost to old age, storms and diseases, but many remain...and preserving them has become even more important.

It would be an honor to have many of the spectacular trees MNA protects included in the updated edition of this book, but we need your help to make that happen.

Trees can be nominated for any of the following reasons:

- Trees associated with famous or notable people
- Trees associated with the development of the nation
- Trees associated with early forestry and conservation efforts
- Trees with distinctive scenic and aesthetic values
- Trees with unusual size or age

Many of our 165 nature sanctuaries and plant preserves contain spectacular trees, but tracking them down, and understanding their story, age and size in the context of their locality is a complex challenge for us to undertake alone... with your help, it should be a lot of fun!

If you know of a tree on a Michigan Nature Association sanctuary or plant preserve that you believe would make an excellent addition to this publication, please contact Phillip Bergquist by writing to the MNA office or email pbergquist@michigannature.org with the following information:

- Specific location of the tree
- Species of the tree
- Reason for significance
- Comparison to trees in the area
- Photos of the tree

We hope that our presence in this publication will encourage the preservation of Michigan's forests and serve as an example of the important work the Michigan Nature Association has been doing for over 50 years. For more information please visit www.michiganforests.com or call the MNA Office at (517) 655-5655.



This giant white pine at MNA's Estivant Pines Nature Sanctuary in Keweenaw County is classified as a historic tree.

BECOME a STEWARD

The Michigan Nature Association relies heavily on volunteer stewards to help care for our sanctuaries. The basic requirement for a steward is to visit the sanctuary twice a year and report on its condition. Many stewards go above and beyond by leading field trips and volunteer days but it's 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're interested in becoming a steward, please contact Natalie Kent at

(517) 655-5655 or nkent@michigannature.org

MNA is in particular need of stewards in these counties:

**Genesee
Hillsdale**

**Chippewa
Lenawee**

development update

By Elizabeth A. Szufnar, Development Director

I love Michigan, but it took living in Washington D.C. for almost four years for me to truly appreciate the natural beauty that is my home state. I met a lot of people from across the country while in D.C., and the question of “where are you from” was common. I found myself speaking wistfully of pristine beaches, majestic forests, and quiet lakes. . . (sigh).

Now, I’m back home and working for the Michigan Nature Association to plan, organize, and implement fundraising activities. In 2007, we achieved success with our Statewide Land Protection Campaign – a three-year, \$3 million effort to add ten new, unique properties to the list of nature sanctuaries and plant preserves that we protect. You made it possible for us to complete that campaign because you recognized the value in doing so.

Most “experts” forecast giving levels to decrease in the coming year which will certainly be a challenge in terms of fundraising, but I love challenges and I hope you do, too, because MNA is going to be reaching out to you, asking you to do your part. Right now, today, there are several things you can do:

- **Change your internet search engine to goodsearch.com (see page 15 for details)**
- **When you shop online, shop at iGive.com (see article below)**
- **Ask a family member or friend to join MNA; or if you’re not already a member, please join.**
- **And, I would certainly be remiss if I didn’t mention this...**

**Make a contribution to MNA
for our general support.**



The pristine beaches of Michigan are part of what made Elizabeth move back to her home state and work for MNA, an organization that works hard to protect Michigan’s natural heritage.

General support is absolutely critical to MNA, enabling us to do just about everything we do, including protecting and maintaining our sanctuaries and preserves, as well as responding to new challenges and opportunities. However, general support is routinely the most difficult to fundraise and, for the most part, organizations secure general support from their members.

Pause and think for a minute about why Michigan is so special to you. It’s those unique places, which are home to some of the most extraordinary plants, animals, and habitats that the Michigan Nature Association is dedicated to protecting now and forever but we can’t do it without you. MNA has always relied on its members, and in the coming year, this will not change. I know that your generosity and desire to help, to contribute, remains strong and I look forward to working with you to ensure the future success of the Michigan Nature Association.

iGive.com

By Elizabeth A. Szufnar, Development Director

66% of Americans who use the internet have purchased an item online.

If you could contribute to the Michigan Nature Association simply by shopping online at no extra cost to you, would you? At iGive.com, you can.

And iGive is more than shopping for a cause – it saves you money. As an iGive shopper, you’ll have access to exclusive coupon codes, free shipping deals, and sale alerts.

It’s free, it’s easy, and every purchase you make generates a contribution to MNA. Plus, when you shop within 45 days of registering, iGive will donate an extra \$5 to MNA. So, as many of you turn to your computer to do some online shopping, change online shopping for good. Go to www.iGive.com/MNA to help support the Michigan Nature Association.

How iGive works:

- Go to www.iGive.com/MNA (Michigan Nature Association will be selected as your cause)
- Register with iGive
- Shop at any of the brand name online stores through the iGive mall, which features more than 700 stores, including: eBay, Lands’ End, Cabela’s, Barnes & Noble, Office Depot, Best Buy, REI, Amazon.com, Eddie Bauer, L.L. Bean, and many, many more
- A percentage of each online purchase is contributed to MNA.

Looking Back at This Year's Fall Adventure

By Phillip Bergquist, Administrative Assistant

This year's Fall Adventure was a wonderful journey, and with close to 65 trip participants, volunteers and stewards it was the largest Adventure the Michigan Nature Association has ever embarked on. We visited five wonderfully-unique sanctuaries, learned about the plants and habitats found in each, and got to see some fine examples of the Michigan Nature Association stewardship team's efforts to maintain these precious resources. In addition, we were able to meet new members, build friendships and enjoy the fellowship of spending the weekend together.

One of the things that I enjoyed the most was the opportunity to photograph these beautiful natural areas, so I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the sights we saw.

MNA hopes all the participants had an enjoyable time, and we invite all of you to join us next year, October 9th -11th for the 2009 Fall Adventure.

For more information on Kernan Memorial Nature Sanctuary, one of the five sanctuaries visited this year, see page 4.



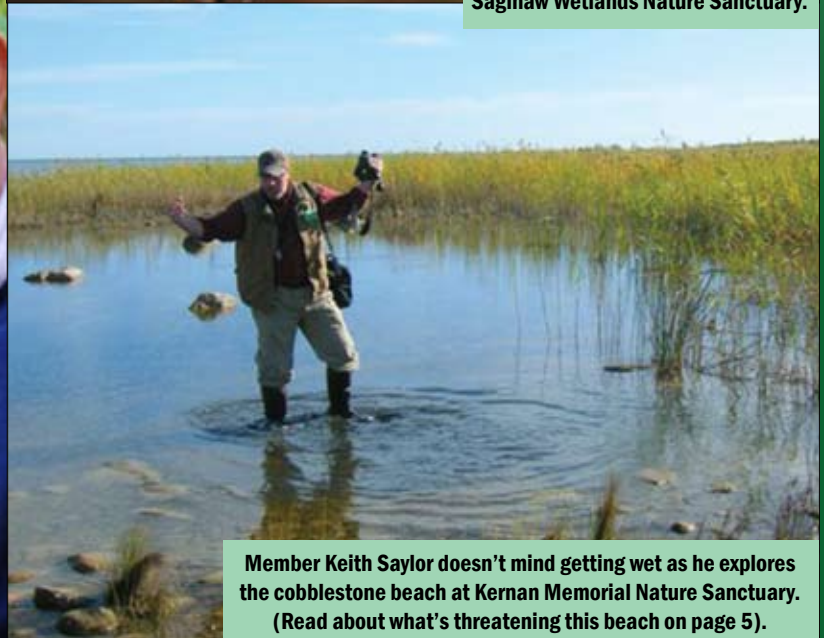
A giant puffball, *Calvatia gigantea*, was found at MNA's Brennan Memorial Nature Sanctuary during the Fall Adventure. The giant puffball mushroom is commonly found in meadows, fields, and deciduous forests in late summer and autumn.



Goldenrod species are plentiful at Saginaw Wetlands Nature Sanctuary.



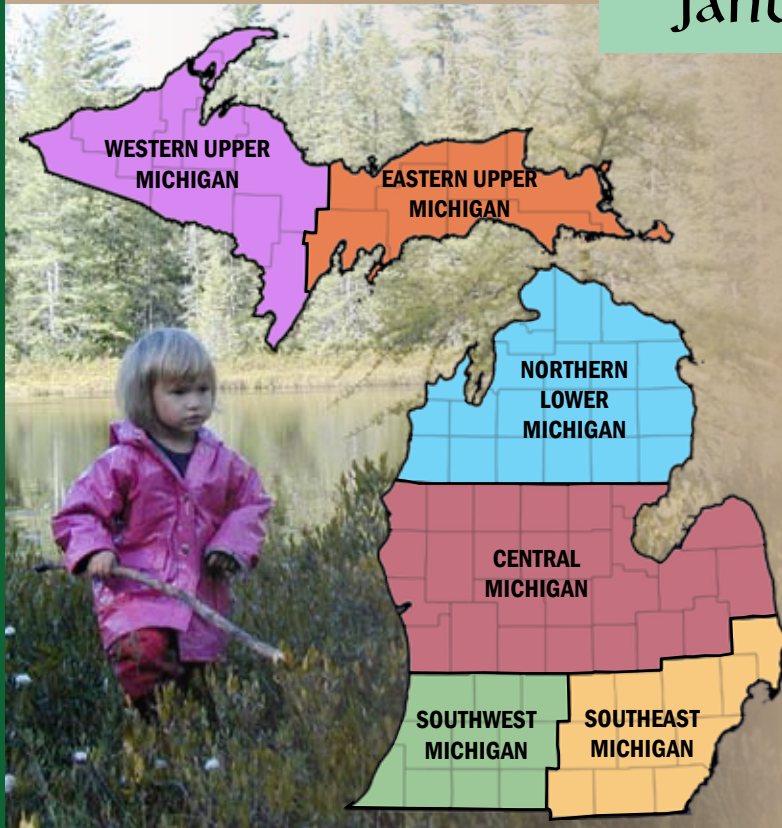
Fall Adventure participants take a rest from exploring MNA sanctuaries at Jasper Woods Nature Sanctuary.



Member Keith Saylor doesn't mind getting wet as he explores the cobblestone beach at Kernan Memorial Nature Sanctuary. (Read about what's threatening this beach on page 5).

mna schedule of activities

january through may 2009



The Schedule of Activities section of this newsletter has been redesigned to be more user-friendly and help our members and volunteers find their favorite activities with ease.

The map to the left will assist you in finding what region of Michigan you are located in. Use the following pages to see activities scheduled in your region from January to May 2009.

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 michigannature@michigannature.org Once you R.S.V.P., we will give you directions to the event. If there is a cancellation of the event we will use your R.S.V.P. information to contact you.

Some directions are also available on our website. Go to www.michigannature.org and click on "How You Can Help" then navigate to our volunteer calendar page and select the event you are interested in.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Saturday, January 24

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A Looking Glass Sanctuary

Clinton County - 13.63 acres

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

Saturday, May 16

Meet at 10 a.m.

Genevieve Casey

Oceana County - 23 acres

Join stewards John Hendrixon and Brad Hyde on a tour of this sanctuary that was once owned by U.S. Senator and Secretary of State Daniel Webster. You will find a large marsh in the north part of the sanctuary, groves of pine and cedar in the south, and a low-shrub and lichen barren area in the center.

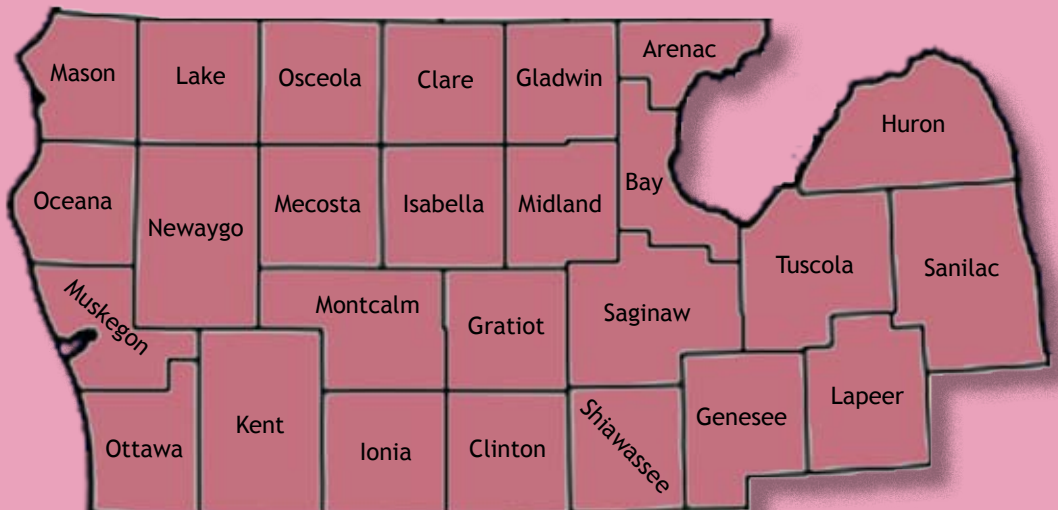
Tuesday, May 19

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Krum Memorial

Montcalm County - 17 acres

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard and young autumn olive from this beautiful sanctuary on Millmine Lake.



You may notice that some areas around the state do not have as many Volunteer Days or Field Trips. If you are interested in coordinating or leading an event please contact our office at (517)655-5655 or email Natalie Kent at nkent@michigannature.org.

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Wednesday, January 21

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeville Swamp

Oakland County - 76.35 acres

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

Tuesday, January 27

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lefglen

Jackson County - 218 acres

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

Saturday, January 31

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MNA Office

Ingham County - City of Williamston

The 56-year history of MNA has been well documented by our members through photos, reports, files, slides, letters and much more. Join MNA staff member Phillip Bergquist in our continuing efforts to organize, streamline, and archive these documents in the MNA office. Perfect for those of you who don't want to be out in the cold this winter, this Volunteer Day will include setting up new storage units, cataloging photos and slides and preserving our organization's history.

Wednesday, February 4

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeville Swamp

Oakland County - 76.35 acres

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

Saturday, February 7

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

McGaw Memorial

St. Clair County - 14.2 acres

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

Tuesday, February 10

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lefglen

Jackson County - 218 acres

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

Wednesday, February 18

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeville

Oakland County - 76.35 acres

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



Saturday, February 21

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MNA Office

Ingham County - City of Williamston

See January 31 Volunteer Day for description.

Saturday, March 28

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MNA Office

Ingham County - City of Williamston

See January 31 Volunteer Day for description.

Saturday, May 9

Meet at 10 a.m.

Wilcox Warnes

Macomb County - 44.8 acres

Travel with steward Margaret Moran through this sanctuary's mature mixed hardwood forest and along the new boardwalk looking for spring wildflowers and listening for migrating birds.



SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN continued

Saturday, May 16

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Razor

Livingston County - 20 acres

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from this sanctuary's beautiful floodplain along Cornell Creek.

Saturday, May 16

10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Polovich Memorial**

12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. **Jasper Woods**

Polovich Memorial and Jasper Woods

St. Clair County - 18.5 and 48.63 acres

Join stewards Bill Atkinson and John Fody for a delightful spring walk in two unique sanctuaries. The tranquility of Polovich Memorial will be a treat as you listen for birds and take in views of the Pine River bordered by an array of blooming wildflowers. Jasper Woods, with its secluded hemlock groves and unique painted trillium, also promises to satisfy your curiosity. The group will meet at Polovich Memorial and then travel over to Jasper Woods.

Saturday, May 16

10 a.m. to Noon

Broehl Memorial #1

Lenawee County - 23.64 acres

Prepare to embark on a journey into this attractive Irish Hills sanctuary with MNA member and botanist Bob Smith. Noteworthy features here include the clear and refreshing upper reach of Wolf Creek that winds through the property, an oak-hickory forest and a variety of spring wildflowers. Be sure to keep your eyes and ears open for birds as well.

Sunday, May 17

Meet at 2 p.m.

Rodman Memorial

Washtenaw County - 18.47 acres

Please help remove invasive garlic mustard and dames rocket from the Saline River floodplain and adjacent beech-maple forest on this sanctuary. Trillium, appendaged waterleaf, Christmas fern, agrimonia, spicebush and many other native species await your visit and assistance.

Sunday, May 17

Meet at 1 p.m.

Alice Moore Woods

St. Clair County - 66.24 acres

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from this sanctuary known for its giant white red and burr oaks.

Wednesday, May 27

Meet at 9 a.m.

Red Cedar River

Ingham County - 9.6 acres

Join MNA member Jim Hewitt for a birding and botany trip into the floodplain of the peaceful Red Cedar River. Experience the sanctuary as you never have before with new stairs and boardwalk made possible with assistance from Keith Saylor, REI, sanctuary donor Doug Price and many exceptional volunteers. (See page 6 for an article about this project)

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Thursday, February 19

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Butternut Creek

Berrien County - 103 acres

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

Saturday, March 14

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Helmer Brook

Calhoun County - 10 acres

Help us clean unnatural debris from the beautiful brook that runs through this sanctuary. Please be sure to bring waterproof kneeboots or waders for this activity.

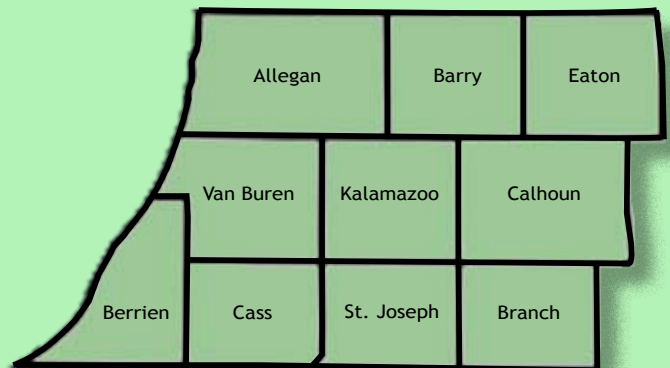
Wednesday, April 22 EARTH DAY

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dowagiac Woods

Cass County - 235 acres

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from this extremely diverse and exceptional sanctuary. The beauty of the many native spring ephemerals will reward you for your efforts.



Saturday, April 25

Annual Membership Meeting

Pokagon Township Office

Cass County - City of Dowagiac

Meeting begins at 1 p.m.

After the meeting, join us for a tour of Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary known for its amazing spring wildflower display. Near the end of the tour, you will have a chance to help the sanctuary by removing invasive garlic mustard on your way out. See the back page of this newsletter for more details on the Annual Membership Meeting.

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 us at michigannature@michigannature.org.

Once you R.S.V.P. , you will be given directions to the event.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN continued

Tuesday, April 28

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dowagiac Woods

Cass County - 235 acres

See April 22 Volunteer Day for description.

Wednesday, April 29

9 a.m. to Noon

Hamilton Township Coastal Plain Marsh

Van Buren County - 79 acres

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from this unique sanctuary that protects a coastal plain marsh.

Saturday, May 2

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dowagiac Woods

Cass County - 235 acres

See April 22 Volunteer Day for description.

Sunday, May 3

Meet at 2 p.m.

Brewer Property

Kalamazoo County - 41 acres

Join biological scientist, author and MNA member Richard Brewer on a journey into one of the best remaining beech-maple (mesic southern) forests in Michigan, complete with an impressive display of more than 20 species of wildflowers in bloom this time of year.

Tuesday, May 5

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dowagiac Woods

Cass County - 235 acres

See April 22 Volunteer Day for description.

Thursday, May 7

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Prairie Ronde Savanna

St. Joseph County - 3 acres

Please help us remove invasive plants that are shading the prairie of this remarkable preserve.

Saturday, May 9

Meet at 11 a.m. Field Trip

Meet at 1 p.m. Volunteer Day

Kope Kon

Branch County - 56 acres

Join MNA member Jeff Ganley and sanctuary stewards Mike Gray and Greg Didier for a walk through the virgin oak, hickory and tulip trees that this sanctuary is known for. Visiting the red maple swamp and the shoreline of Lake George may be an option for those who bring waterproof kneeboots or don't mind getting wet. Please consider staying after the field trip to help remove invasive garlic mustard threatening the diversity and long-term viability of this site.

Saturday, May 9

9 a.m. to Noon

Hamilton Township Coastal Plain Marsh

Van Buren County - 79 acres

See April 29 Volunteer Day for description.

Saturday, May 16

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

White Pigeon

St. Joseph County - 58 acres

Please help us pull invasive garlic mustard from the sanctuary's oak-hickory woods and White Pigeon River floodplain. Be sure to enjoy the views of the river along with some of the unique trees here, including redbud and pawpaw.

Thursday, May 21

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Prairie Ronde Savanna

St. Joseph County - 3 acres

See May 7 Volunteer Day for description.

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 us at michigannature@michigannature.org Once you R.S.V.P. , you will be given directions to the event.

NORTHERN LOWER MICHIGAN

Saturday, January 17 - Sunday, January 18

Meet at 1 p.m. Saturday

Green River

Antrim County - 40 acres

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



EASTERN UPPER MICHIGAN

Saturday, February 7

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

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

Roach Point

Chippewa County – 479 acres

Cost: \$20, includes snowshoe rental if needed

Biologist Jessie Hadley of Woods & Water Ecotours will lead participants through this sanctuary's vast wilderness from serene cedar swamps and Great Lakes marshes to the frozen shore of Munuscong Bay. Participants should be able to snowshoe at least three miles. A traditional U.P. lunch is included with the registration fee. Enrollment is limited to 12 people this year so be sure to register early! For more information or to register, call Jessie at (906) 484-4157 or e-mail info@WoodsWaterEcotours.com



Wednesday, May 20

From Dawn to Dusk

Martin Bay

Delta County – 34 acres

Join us for the Spring 2009 Natural History Assessment of Martin Bay! Such assessments will happen yearly in the Eastern U.P. with a focus on 4 or 5 sanctuaries each year. The goal is to catalog the seasonal natural history of plant, bird, amphibian, reptilian, insect, and mammalian life. Volunteer groups will record observations to gain further insight into the plants and animals this sanctuary supports. Call the MNA office for more details.

Saturday, May 30 - Sunday, May 31

From Dawn to Dusk Both Days

Swamp Lakes Moose Refuge

Luce County – 160 acres

Join us for the Spring 2009 Natural History Assessment of Swamp Lakes Moose Refuge! Such assessments will happen yearly in the Eastern U.P. with a focus on 4 or 5 sanctuaries each year. The goal is to catalog the seasonal natural history of plant, bird, amphibian, reptilian, insect, and mammalian life. Volunteer groups will record observations to gain further insight into the plants and animals this sanctuary supports. Call the MNA office for more details.

WESTERN UPPER MICHIGAN

Saturday, January 24

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Black Creek

Keweenaw County – 241.62 acres

Join sanctuary stewards Jim and Joy Ziemnick on the 2nd annual snowshoe outing here. Enjoy the new wilderness trail with several newly installed foot bridges. Hike will be moderately strenuous. Pack plenty of water and snacks.

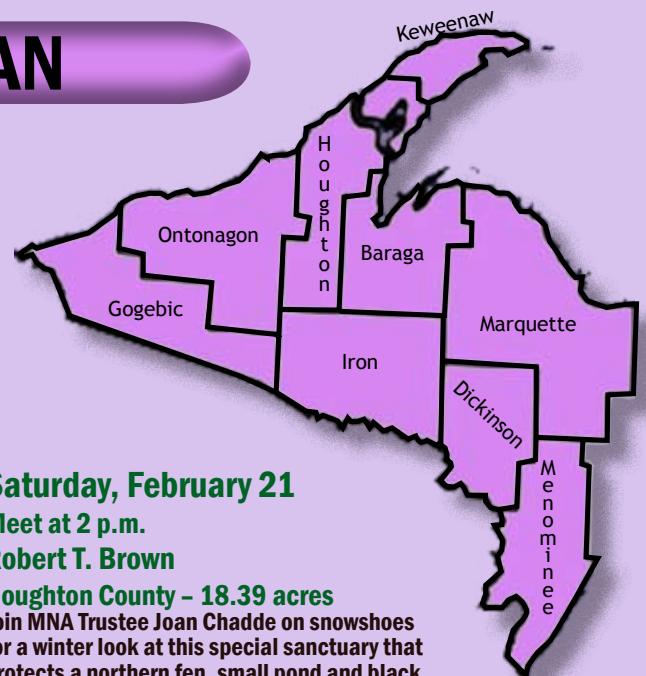
Saturday, February 7

Meet at 2 p.m.

Keweenaw Shore & Upson Lake

Keweenaw County – 36.64 & 99.9 acres

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



Saturday, February 21

Meet at 2 p.m.

Robert T. Brown

Houghton County – 18.39 acres

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

You may notice that some areas around the state do not have as many Volunteer Days or Field Trips. If you are interested in coordinating or leading an event please contact our office at (517)655-5655 or email nkent@michigannature.org.

GoodSearch

By Elizabeth A. Szufnar, Development Director

We all have a cause we care about. So, what if we could raise money for our favorite cause by doing something we do every day - searching the internet.

GoodSearch is a search engine which donates 50% of its revenue to the charities designated by its users. It's a simple and compelling concept. You use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine and because it's powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results. Using GoodSearch costs you nothing, but earns the Michigan Nature Association about one penny per search.



your current internet session or until you close out of your current browser window. When you open a new browser window or start a new internet session, you will have to go back to www.GoodSearch.com. To circumvent this, MNA suggests that you go one step further by either:

To get started:

- Go to www.GoodSearch.com
- Enter "Michigan Nature Association" as your charity in the box titled "Who do you GoodSearch for?" and click "verify"
- You can then use the toolbar to perform your search
- Adding GoodSearch to your Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari or Mac toolbar; or
- Making GoodSearch your homepage

By doing this, you can be assured that each time you search the internet, you're contributing money to MNA.

So, make every internet search a GoodSearch (and please pass this on to your family members and friends. . . every penny helps).

Please note that GoodSearch will only be active for

New MNA Merchandise: cafepress.com

By Phillip Bergquist, Administrative Assistant

The Michigan Nature Association is proud to unveil our new online merchandise store. From t-shirts to tote bags, this new store is your destination for MNA gear and accessories that not only look cool, but help spread our work and build support from members and newcomers alike.

You can find over 40 new merchandise items including apparel for men and women, home décor, stationary items and much more. All items would make wonderful gifts for family, friends or even yourself.

Our partnership with CafePress, one of the largest merchandise distributors in the country, has many advantages including faster processing and shipping times for you, reduced costs for MNA and an easy-to-use online storefront.

All of the proceeds MNA receives from merchandise sales help us continue to protect the natural heritage of our sanctuaries throughout the state. We encourage you to take advantage of this new opportunity to make a contribution. We would not be able to do that very important work without your support!



You can shop our secure online store by visiting:

www.cafepress.com/michigannature

Our store includes everything from mousepads to tote bags and much more. These unique michigan nature items make great gifts for family, friends or even yourself. Help support the Michigan Nature Association today!

trustee profile



Ed Schools

By Mary Ann Czechowski, MNA Trustee

Ed (Edward) Schools, the newest member of the Michigan Nature Association Board of Trustees, was elected to the Board just this past spring 2008. A relatively recent resident of Michigan, Ed explains his philosophy of preserving land in Michigan and the importance of the natural environment of the State. Ed serves on the Board of Trustees Sanctuary Committee and the Land Acquisition Subcommittee.

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

I learned about the Michigan Nature Association from co-workers, not long after to moving to Michigan in 2000.

What kindled your interest in the Michigan Nature Association?

I have a real fondness for land trusts and conservancies. There is a line attributed to Will Rogers that goes something like this: buy land, they ain't making it anymore. That is what the MNA and other organizations are doing, stepping up to the plate to protect important areas that are left.

What Michigan Nature Association activities are you currently participating in?

I am currently serving as a member of the Board of Trustees, and a member of the Board Sanctuary Committee and the Land Acquisition Subcommittee.

Where did you live before coming to Michigan and where do you currently live?

I was born and raised in Pennsylvania, joined the Navy, and then worked for a defense contractor which had me traveling considerably. I spent time on four aircraft carriers, one ship as a member of the Navy, and three for my defense contractor work. I eventually took what I thought would be a three year position in Indiana, which turned into twelve years. While in Indiana, I made a career change and ended up in Michigan. I moved to Michigan in 2000, and have been living in Okemos since.

What is your educational background? What is your occupation and where do you work?

I have a Bachelors Degree in Physics and a Masters Degree in Ecology. I spent 17 years working as an engineer in the defense industry before making my career change to natural resources. Currently, I work for the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, which is a program of the Michigan State University Extension Service. I manage the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) group. Falling into the GIS world is kind of like "hog heaven" for me. I get to be a technical nerd and do environmental science at the same time. It can't get much better than that.

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

My interest in the natural environment dates back to hunting and fishing with my father in Pennsylvania. My interests have morphed into birding and photography, and in the past few years I have become really interested in dragonflies and damselflies.

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

Michigan has some great things going for it. First is the Great Lakes. Not much a person can say there that hasn't already been said. Then, there is a large amount of public land. Something like 20% of Michigan is public land. As a comparison, 4% of Indiana is public land. And, there is a range of natural landscapes, from the Lake Plain in the Southeast to the Balds and Canadian Shield Bedrock systems in the western Upper Peninsula.

What, to you, is special about the Michigan Nature Association, and what have they accomplished and are continuing to accomplish?

The Michigan Nature Association has been leading the way as a non-governmental organization protecting really special places in the state. The Michigan Nature Association is the oldest land conservancy in the state and still going strong. That is something to be proud of.

What goals would you like the Michigan Nature Association to strive for and achieve in the future?

There are other organizations and conservancies in the state that are just as interested as the Michigan Nature Association in preserving special places. I think that the Michigan Nature Association needs to be planning with these other organizations, as well as federal, state, and local governmental agencies. We collectively need to determine where the most important places are and which entity is best suited to protect these places.

MNA Welcomes Our New Development Director: Elizabeth Szufnar

By Jacki Erickson, Journalism Intern

We have a new addition to the staff here at the Michigan Nature Association. Elizabeth Szufnar joins us as our new Development Director.

Elizabeth, although born in Fairfield, California, considers herself a Michigander through and through. She grew up in Washtenaw County and has always been a nature lover and advocate.

She attended Michigan State University where she received Bachelors and Masters degrees in Art History. She later attained a Masters degree in Historic Preservation from Ball State University in Indiana. However, her love of Michigan brought her home where she worked for four years at the State Historic Preservation Office in Lansing. While there, she focused on historic preservation and economic development. She continued her historic preservation career at a non-profit advocacy organization in Washington D.C. where she worked for three and a half years before again returning to her home state of Michigan. Prior to joining the staff at the Michigan Nature Association, she worked in tourism development at MotorCities National Heritage Area in Detroit.

Elizabeth lives in Farmington with her three rescue cats: Henry, Louis and Ozzie. Recently engaged, her fiancé, previously a landscape architect, recently returned to

school to pursue a degree in computer science. Elizabeth loves just about any outdoor activity including gardening and a variety of sports, especially tennis and biking. She also enjoys cooking, reading, Do It Yourself home improvements and photography.

Elizabeth's unwavering desire to support the preservation

of nature and the earth's natural resources attracted her to the Michigan Nature Association. She works daily to plan, organize and implement fundraising activities for the Michigan Nature Association. She is excited to be a part of the organization and you can expect to see much more of her in the future.



Elizabeth will be working daily to plan, organize and implement fundraising activities for the Michigan Nature Association.

Live Next to an MNA Sanctuary

By Paul Steiner, Office Manager

Earlier this year, the Michigan Nature Association received ownership of MNA co-founder Bertha Daubendiek's home. The house is adjacent to the MNA's Alton McGaw Memorial Plant Preserve near Avoca in St. Clair County. At some point in the future this home may be used as a nature center or secondary office for the Michigan Nature Association, but any such plans are years away. In the meantime, we are looking for reliable renters of this 1660 sq. ft. home. The house features 1 bedroom, 1 loft with balcony, 1 1/2 bathrooms, and an unfinished basement. Potential renters would be expected to help with the upkeep of the home and property. The rent is negotiable but would be very reasonable. Don't miss your chance to live next to an MNA sanctuary. If you are interested in renting this property, or know someone who may, please contact Paul Steiner at (517) 655-5655.



The home is within walking distance to the beautiful and breathtaking Alton McGaw Memorial Plant Preserve.

featured volunteer



Jacki Erickson

By Meghan Ferguson, Graphic Designer and Jacki Erickson, Journalism Intern

Jacki Erickson is volunteering as a journalism intern, helping the Michigan Nature Association with a variety of duties related to our newsletter, Volunteer Days and new Michigan Nature Association Guidebook.

Jacki has a Bachelors degree in Psychology from Michigan State University and is currently pursuing a second degree in English. As an aspiring writer, with a love of nature, she came to the Michigan Nature Association to enhance her writing experience in a field that she feels closely connected to. Through her work on the guidebook, Jacki has learned about the many sanctuaries owned by the Michigan Nature Association. She is continually surprised by the number of plant and animal species found on each property. Previously unfamiliar with the Michigan Nature Association, she is excited to visit some Michigan

Nature Association sanctuaries and attend the Volunteer Days (see page 10 for a list of activities).

During her time at the Michigan Nature Association, Jacki has written and sent press releases highlighting Volunteer Days and Field Trips. She also researches the MNA sanctuaries to compose descriptions for use in the upcoming Guidebook. Her research includes contacting sanctuary stewards and viewing the lengthy historical files kept on each sanctuary. Finally, she has contributed to the Michigan Nature Association newsletter by writing a small selection of biographies and articles about nature preservation.

Jacki was born and raised in the Lansing area and intended to be a writer from a very young age. She lives in Dimondale with her husband, who works for J.P. Morgan Chase, and her two cats who add to her writer's block by scrambling across her keyboard and chewing on her unpublished manuscript. She currently writes freelance for several online publications and is working on her second novel. After her internship at the MNA, she intends to continue her pursuit as a full time writer and novelist.

Community Foundations

By Elizabeth A. Szufnar, Development Director

Community foundations are non-profit organizations that receive, manage, and distribute funds, including any income from endowed funds, for charitable purposes, typically in a specific geographic area. The Michigan Nature Association 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. These three funds provide support for MNA's sanctuaries and preserves and future land acquisition in the specified counties.

When you make a gift to a community foundation, your dollars go further as a result of the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit. The law permits taxpayers to reduce their tax liability by a credit of 50% of the amount contributed (subject to a maximum credit of \$100 for single filers, \$200 for joint filers, and \$5,000 or 5% for businesses) to a community foundation endowment fund. In addition, your contribution could be deductible as a charitable gift for federal tax purposes.

Consult your tax advisor for full details.



The Community Foundation of Greater Flint serves the common good in Genesee County - building a strong community by engaging people in philanthropy and developing the community's permanent endowment - now and for generations to come. Please make your check payable to the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and write "MNA Fund" in the memo line.

Community Foundation of Greater Flint
Community Foundation Building
500 South Saginaw Street, Suite 200
Flint, MI 48502-1804
www.cfgf.org



Our business is building community in the Keweenaw. We build endowment funds that benefit the community forever and help create personal legacies. Our professional staff has broad expertise regarding community issues and needs. Please make your check payable to the Keweenaw Community Foundation and write "MNA Fund" in the memo line.

Keweenaw Community Foundation
P.O. Box 101
326 Sheldon Avenue
Houghton, MI 49931
www.k-c-f.org



The mission of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County is to build community endowment, effect positive change through grantmaking and provide leadership on key community issues. Please make your check payable to the Community Foundation for Muskegon County and write "MNA Fund" in the memo line.

Community Foundation for Muskegon County
425 W. Western Ave., Suite 200
Muskegon, MI 49440
www.cffmc.org

Green Your Business

By Jacki Erickson, Journalism Intern

As concern mounts about the state of the earth's ecosystem, communities scramble to make much needed changes towards environmental preservation. More families add recycling bins and compost piles, while many companies introduce wind power, solar paneling and even incentives for carpooling. Few people can ignore the heavy emphasis placed on environmental health during these times of global warming, mounting fuel costs and species extinction. Businesses can play an especially important role in eco-friendly tactics due to their large employee base and even larger company waste.

Businesses can reduce their total waste and support healthy environment initiatives in several ways. Recycling is an often overlooked, but extremely important aspect of waste reduction. When considering recycling, step outside of the recycling bin and contemplate how to recycle in other ways. Although recycling paper is very important, setting up boxes for other types of products is equally beneficial. Consider creating a small room designated the recycling room. Place multiple bins for differing products like plastic containers, cardboard, metal, glass and magazines. To take this plan a step further, shift your business's products toward only those that can be recycled.

Beyond recycling, the way that your business allocates paper use can also introduce more eco-friendly practices.



this waste.

One of the new green techniques to hit the market is eco-friendly business cards. Although generally more expensive than standard business cards, they come in a variety of packages aimed at reducing consumer waste and supporting non-toxic materials. Currently these business cards are not produced in Michigan; however, they can be custom created through several online companies. One option to consider is Greenprinter.com. Not only do they create business cards



with recycled paper and vegetable or soy-based inks, but they also operate on 100% wind power through investments in Renewable Energy Credits.

Many businesses have already jumped on board with these new eco-friendly changes, in addition to creating a few of their own. C3, an Austin-based concert promoter, pulled out all the stops at their sixth-annual Austin City Limits Music Festival by banning Styrofoam cups, selling bamboo-based concert t-shirts and using biodiesel power generators. Three more companies supporting the green initiative are Timberland, Google and Bank of America, all of whom provide incentives to employees who purchase

hybrid cars. There are also companies like REI and Symantec which provide support to groups like the Michigan Nature Association through grants or matching gifts. (Don't forget to check to see if your employer is willing to match all or part of your gift to the Michigan Nature Association.)

Regardless of your specific eco-friendly changes, every effort can be hugely beneficial to the environment. By choosing to run your business in a way that is positive for the natural world, you teach your employees the value of protecting the environment and set an excellent example for the community in which you operate.

electronic newsletter available

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

michigannature@michigannature.org.

**You will need Adobe Reader
(available for free at
www.adobe.com)
or Adobe Acrobat to view
the electronic
version. Most computers
already have this
capability.**

**The electronic version of
the newsletter also will be
available on the Michigan
Nature Association
website at
www.michigannature.org.**



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From September 1 to December 31, 2008

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

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and habitats for future
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Nature Notes:

A “Flypaper” Carnivore, Sundew

Michigan is home to several carnivorous, or insectivorous, plants such as bladderwort, pitcher plant, sundews and butterwort. In this article, MNA member Bill Bliss highlights two of the species that trap insects in a flypaper-like fashion: round-leaf sundew and butterwort.

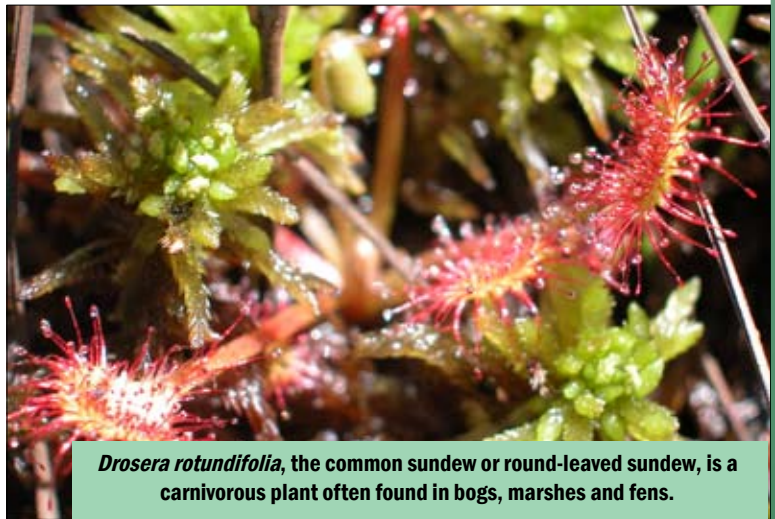
By Bill Bliss, MNA Member

Sundews belong to the genus *Drosera*, which is Latin for “dewey”. They are found growing in mats of sphagnum moss, usually in bogs, low on the ground, often among tamarack (American larch). In cool months, the sphagnum overtops the *Drosera*. In warm months, the *Drosera* overtops the sphagnum.

Round-leaf sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia*, is the most common species of sundew in Michigan and can be found throughout most of the state. The sundew gets its name from the viscid drop of mucilage, clear and glistening, on the glands of the tentacles that ring the leaf-margins. These glands contain a red pigment, so that the shining drops of mucilage give the leaf a brilliant red hue. These colors persist during the sunshine, therefore the name “sundew”. These sticky drops serve to trap small insects, which are soon smothered by secretions.

There are both long and short tentacles, which upon stimulation, bend over toward and upon the insect, further trapping it, the function being to bring the prey into contact with the gland.

The bending is caused by a nastic response (nastic movements are non-directional responses to stimuli) in the elongated, tapered, stalks supporting the gland. That is, the stimulated cellular growth is greater on one side of the axis than the other of the stalk. The sensitivity and quickness of reaction is surprising. At a maximum, the reaction may begin in 10 seconds, and has been seen to make a complete excursion of 180 degrees in 20 seconds. The unbending occurs again by a nastic growth on the concave side.



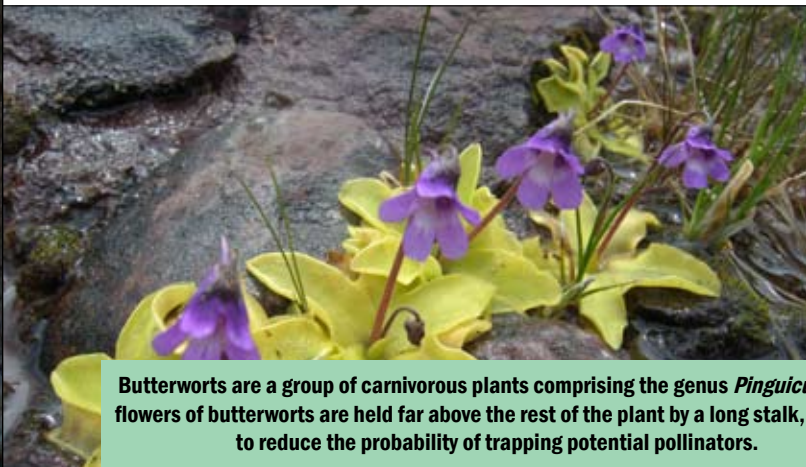
Drosera rotundifolia, the common sundew or round-leaved sundew, is a carnivorous plant often found in bogs, marshes and fens.

How it functions to secure and digest its prey was well described in 1779 Dr. A. W. Roth, a physician of Bremen, who recorded an experiment he performed.

“With a pair of tweezers I placed an ant upon the middle of the leaf of *Drosera rotundifolia* but so as not to disturb the plant. The ant endeavored to escape, but was held fast by the clammy juice at the points of the hairs, which was drawn out by its feet into fine threads. In some minutes the short hairs on the disc of the leaf began to bend, then the long hairs, and laid themselves on the insect. After a while the leaf began to bend, and in some hours the end of the leaf was bent inwards to touch the base. The ant died in fifteen minutes, which was before all the hairs had bent themselves.”

Briefly, Michigan has another “flypaper” carnivore, Butterwort, of the genus *Pinguicula* (which is Latin for fattish or greasy: *vulgaris* for common. The insect is trapped on the greasy leaves of the basal rosette. This carnivore can be found in the far northern part of the lower peninsula and in the upper peninsula.

**SOURCE: *The Carnivorous Plants*
by Frances Ernest Lloyd**



Butterworts are a group of carnivorous plants comprising the genus *Pinguicula*. The flowers of butterworts are held far above the rest of the plant by a long stalk, in order to reduce the probability of trapping potential pollinators.

request for articles

You may notice that some of the articles that appear in the MNA newsletter are written by our members. If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, please contact Paul Steiner at:

(517) 655-5655 or

psteiner@michigannature.org

for more details.



michigan nature association

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The MNA Board is expected to consider proposed amendments to the MNA Bylaws at its January 17 and/or March 21, 2009 Board meetings. These proposed amendments are intended to update the Bylaws consistent with policies adopted by the Board over the past several years and to provide clearer governance for MNA to promote better execution of its Mission.

Spring Membership Meeting

By Phillip Bergquist, Administrative Assistant

It's hard to imagine now, but in just a few short months the snow will melt, flowers will bloom and spring will arrive, which means it's time for the annual Michigan Nature Association Membership Meeting.

This year, the Membership Meeting will be held on April 25, 2009 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Pokagon Township Office in Dowagiac.

We invite all of you to join the MNA Staff and Board of Trustees for a light lunch and a look back on what we achieved this year, and what we hope to accomplish in the future.

Long-time MNA member Brad Slaughter, an ecologist with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, will be highlighting spring wildflowers and the significance of the species at the nearby Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary.

Following the Membership Meeting, Brad Slaughter will be leading an optional field trip to the Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary, which is located just minutes from the Pokagon Township Office. There will also be an opportunity to participate in an invasive species pull for those who would like to perform some stewardship after their visit.

If you plan on attending, please R.S.V.P. to MNA by calling (517) 655-5655 or email michigannature@michigannature.org. Having accurate information on who will be attending is very important and allows us to plan accordingly.

The Membership Meeting is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to get together and we hope to see many of you there. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the MNA office using the information above.

Explore the much-anticipated spring wildflower display at Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary. There will be a field trip after the Membership Meeting led by sanctuary steward David Wendling. You'll also have the opportunity to participate in an invasive plant pull following the field trip.

