



K. Saylor

## The Joys of Being a Steward

Stewards get to cherish the serenity of nature while nurturing the native wonders. Additionally, enjoying the flora and fauna will help you brush up on your plant and animal identification skills. By visiting a place regularly you get to experience the amazing changes that occur each season.

## Field Trips and Work Days

Field trips are scheduled by the MNA office to introduce our members and their friends to the interesting features present within the sanctuaries. Many field trips are planned when certain plants are expected to be at their showiest. Work days are held to aid in the maintenance of sanctuaries and help us repair trails, remove invasive species, mark boundaries and install signs.

## Monitor Reports

A monitor report is a one page form that allows stewards to document the condition of a sanctuary. Most stewards will send these in the mail to the MNA office twice a year, however, they may use the toll free number (866) 223-2231 if he or she would rather call the office directly with this information. Sending an e-mail or a fax are options as well.

## If You Would Like To Become a Steward...

Contact the MNA office. If you are selected, we will send you an informational packet containing maps, monitor reports, and a history of the sanctuary.

Please keep in mind that MNA employees and volunteers are only a phone call away if you ever need anything. We look forward to working with you to make the natural world a better place.



C. Eshbach

Hikers relax at Lake Superior N.S.

# Stewardship Opportunities



J. Chadde

Boardwalk construction at the Robert T. Brown Nature Sanctuary



michigan nature association

326 E. GRAND RIVER AVENUE  
WILLIAMSTON, MI 48895

Phone: (517) 655-5655 Fax: (517) 655-5506  
General email: [michigannature@michigannature.org](mailto:michigannature@michigannature.org)  
Website: [www.michigannature.org](http://www.michigannature.org)  
Toll Free Phone: (866) 223-2231

*Sherri Laier, Stewardship Director*  
e-mail: [slaier@michigannature.org](mailto:slaier@michigannature.org)

*Natalie Kent, Lower Peninsula Stewardship Coordinator*  
e-mail: [nkent@michigannature.org](mailto:nkent@michigannature.org)



For over fifty years, the Michigan Nature Association (MNA) has worked to protect Michigan's most unique lands. Our sanctuaries support habitat for rare and endangered species. From the cobbled beaches of Michigan's Upper Peninsula to the prairies of the Lower Peninsula, there is a place for everyone.

Responsibility for the stewardship of these natural treasures is largely dependent on volunteers who monitor each sanctuary. Today more than ever, this is a challenging task. Threats from overuse, ORV's, and other human activities continue to be a problem. Maintaining the character of MNA's sanctuaries requires constant vigilance.

For each MNA nature sanctuary or plant preserve, we designate one or two individual volunteers or a volunteer group to steward the land. The stewards are then the lead volunteers, under the direction of the MNA Stewardship staff, for the care of that particular sanctuary or plant preserve. As a steward, you are the eyes and ears of MNA. You inform us of the condition of the sanctuary and of any abnormal activities or encroachments. The level of involvement is up to you. The minimum requirement is that you visit the property at least twice a year. Maintenance needs vary and are often dependent on the size of the sanctuary and its location.



S. Laier

*Monitoring ferns at Michigan Meridian Plant Preserve*



J. Emmi

*This happy couple, seen here at Fred Dye Nature Sanctuary, met at an MNA event*

Our sanctuaries range from one acre to over 500 acres, so you can decide what size would be the best fit for you. If you are not able to do physical work, we can pair you up with someone who can. Lasting friendships have been made between MNA members while working on the sanctuaries.

# Stewardship Duties



S. Laier

*Taking GPS coordinates at Palmer Memorial N.S.*

## Spring & Fall

**The following activities should be done twice per year:**

- Clear damaged or blocked trails
- Assess the condition and/or presence of signs
- Report trespass and hunting issues
- Identify invasive species
- Complete a monitor report and send it to the MNA office



**Other opportunities include:**

- Lead field trips or workdays
- Survey plants and animals
- Take photos for publications
- Mark trails and boundaries



S. Laier

*Removing invasive shrubs at Sarah Jane's N.S.*



S. Laier

*Creating burn breaks at Goose Creek Grasslands N.S.*