

# WATER'S EDGE

## Gratiot Lake Conservancy News

Volume 5

Spring/Summer 2003

### CONSERVANCY CALENDAR

#### 5th Annual Open House at Noblet Field Station

Come by land or by lake!\*

*Refreshments will be served!*

**Saturday, August 16, 12PM-4PM**  
(raindate: Sunday, August 17)

- ★ Walk the Bear Paw Path
- ★ See videos
- ★ Learn about your watershed
- ★ Visit with neighbors and friends
- ★ Look into Lake research

\* If you come by boat, please beach your boat rather than attempt to use the old dock. The cabin is accessible by logging road. A map will be available near mailboxes. If the weather looks questionable, call Bonnie at 337-5476.



Marge Gibson of Raptor Education Group holds a Great Horned Owl. See her and some of her birds on July 22. Details on page 7.

<i>Reading the Landscape</i>	Saturdays in July and August see pages 3-4
<i>Water's Edge</i> at Gratiot Lake reservations	Saturday, July 12 see pages 3-4
<i>Conservation Consultation</i> At Gratiot Lake	Friday, July 18 Thursday, August 14 see page 2
<i>Eagles, Hawks, and Owls</i> Raptor Education Group	Tuesday, July 22 see page 7 7:30 PM
<i>Aquatic Ecology Exploration</i> at Gratiot Lake In cooperation with MTU Summer Youth Program	Sunday July 27- Friday August 1 see page 2
<i>Astronomy on Brockway Mountain</i>	Saturday August 2 9 PM see page 2
<i>Annual Members Meeting</i>	Thursday, August 7 10 AM
Members look for invitation in the mail.	
<i>Reading the Landscape Reception</i> All are invited.	Saturday, August 9 5-7 PM see pages 3-4

The **Gratiot Lake Conservancy** is a Michigan Not-For-Profit Corporation formed in 1998 to preserve and protect Gratiot Lake and land within the Gratiot Lake watershed. Through educational programs and materials, the Conservancy encourages good stewardship of the watershed and an understanding of its history and ecology. We promote research to further understand the Lake and its watershed. The Noblet Field Station located in the SE corner of the Lake is the staging area for many of the Conservancy's educational and research activities.

## ***Aquatic Ecology: Field Study at Gratiot Lake***

High school students are invited to attend "Aquatic Ecology: Field Study at Gratiot Lake". This Exploration in Michigan Tech's Summer Youth Program will be held at the Gratiot Lake Conservancy Preserve on July 27- August 1.

Two partial or one full scholarship to this Exploration, with preference given to students from the area, will be awarded with funds provided by the Jack Sandretto Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship was established through a generous donation to the Conservancy by Rita Sandretto in memory of her husband, Jack Sandretto.

MTU Youth Programs: (906) 487-2219  
website: <http://www.edopp.mtu.edu/sap/yp/fall/syp/default.htm>

## ***See Stars on Brockway***

Robert Nemiroff and his Michigan Tech students will again set up the Conservancy's telescope on the top of the Brockway Mountain Drive. Join us after 9:00 PM on Saturday, August 2 to watch the sunset and then look at heavenly sights. Bring lawn chairs and binoculars. Heavy clouds will mean that we'll have to reschedule. If in doubt, give us a call at 337-5476 or check for a posting on the Conservancy board near the Gratiot Lake mailboxes. Astronomy information and wonderful photos are available on Nemiroff's "Astronomy Picture of the Day" at : <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

Hopefully, this year's "star party" on Brockway Mountain won't be cut short by an approaching storm as last years was!

## ***Donation in Memory of Helen Hay***

A special thanks goes to Jim Hay for the donation of an Epson Multimedia Projector to the Conservancy. The donation was made in memory of Jim's Mother, Helen Hay. She enjoyed visiting her grandchildren, picking thimbleberries and making Gratiot Lake mint tea during her annual visit to Gratiot Lake.

Helen appreciated nature and loved children. This donation will enhance the Conservancy's educational and community outreach programs.

## ***Private Conservation Consultations***

Jim Sweeting, a wildlife biologist and forester, will come to Gratiot Lake on July 18 and August 14 to meet with interested landowners on their property. Sweeting's consultations are funded by Keweenaw County through the Houghton/Keweenaw Conservation District, so the two to three hour meetings are free of charge. Sweeting's provides advice on:

- Sustainable forestry and woodlot management
- Wildlife ecology and wildlife habitat
- Wetland restoration
- Construction of environmentally sensitive paths

Other residents of Keweenaw County are also welcome to schedule an appointment. To schedule a conservation consultation on one of these days, call Bonnie at 337-5476.

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## ***About Water's Edge***

*Water's Edge* is the newsletter of the Gratiot Lake Conservancy. Its purpose is to report Conservancy news, to share information about the ecology and history of Gratiot Lake and its watershed, and to suggest ways to improve stewardship of the Lake and its watershed.

Please send questions, comments, or offerings for *Water's Edge* to:

Bonnie Hay, Editor *Water's Edge*, P.O. Box 310, Mohawk, MI 49950

e-mail: [belh@bellatlantic.net](mailto:belh@bellatlantic.net)

phone: (July/August) 906-337-5476

**Visit our updated website at <http://www.mlswa.org/gratiot-lake-1508>**

## READING THE LANDSCAPE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Have you ever been for a walk in the woods and wondered, "What happened here?"

*Reading the Landscape* will help you explore this question by creating your own reading of the landscape through hiking, learning, and art.

Working with artists and educators, program participants will use nature journals to record their reflections on five natural history field trips.

## ATTENDANCE AND FEES

**WHEN:** All programs meet on **Saturdays, 10:00 AM -3:00 PM**  
Rain or shine. Session length may vary.

**WHERE:** All sessions start at the **Eagle Harbor Community Center.**

**COST:** **\$10.00 per session**  
If you sign up for four or more sessions, the fee is \$8.00 per session.

**REGISTRATION:** Registration and advanced payment are required. Sessions are limited to 15 adults age 16 or older. Registration form is behind the front cover.

**QUESTIONS:** Please call 906-289-4514 with questions.

## SUGGESTED READING

These may add to your enjoyment of the program:

*Reading the Landscape of America*, May Thiellaard Watts, Collier Books, NY, 1975.

*Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England*, Tom Wesels, The Countryman Press, Woodstock, VT, 1997.

*Keeping a Nature Journal*, Clare Leslie and Charles Roth, Storey Books, North Adams, MA, 2000.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Copper Country Audubon

Gratiot Lake Conservancy

Keweenaw County Historical Society

Keweenaw Land Trust

North Woods Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy

"This activity is supported by the Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies in conjunction with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs And the Ruth Mott Foundation"

## READING THE LANDSCAPE OF THE KEWEENAW

SUMMER 2003

EAGLE HARBOR, MICHIGAN

*Art and natural history field  
trips for adults*



## REGISTRATION FORM

FOR

### READING THE LANDSCAPE

1. Please indicate your choice of session(s) with a

July 5 Nature journals

July 12 Water's edge

July 19 Plant community

July 26 Geology walk

August 2 Animal signs

August 9 Forest ecology

Enclosed is my payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$10 per session**

(For each person signing up for four or more sessions, the fee is \$8 per session.)  
*Journals and pencils will be provided.*

2. Please provide contact information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

3. Make check payable to:

Keweenaw County Historical Society

4. Mail registration form and check to:

READING THE LANDSCAPE

HC -1 BOX 265-i

Eagle Harbor, MI 49950

Please call 906-289-4514 with questions

Confirmations will be sent to you

### JULY 5 \* NATURE JOURNALS

Explore the living world by starting your own nature journal. Capture your impressions in sketches and words using skills demonstrated by environmental artist Linden W. Dahlstrom. Nicole Pearce, stewardship specialist will give an introduction to the program.

### JULY 12 \* WATER'S EDGE

Investigate the water's edge wetland and watershed of Gratiot Lake with environmental educator Bonnie Hay, botanist Janet Marr, and pastel artist Jennifer Slack.

### JULY 19 \* PLANT COMMUNITY

Discover pattern and structure in forest vegetation during a visit to the woods surrounding Eagle Harbor with plant biologist Marcia Raley and outdoor artist Jennifer Slack.

### JULY 26 \* GEOLOGY WALK

Search out rock layers and faults while hiking the ridge behind Eagle Harbor with geologist Bill Rose. Spend time with nature illustrator Susan Robinson.

### AUG. 2 \* ANIMAL SIGNS

Unravel the secrets held in animal signs and tracks through discussion, walking the beach, and casting tracks with wildlife

ecologist Beth Rogers and nature artist Joyce Koskenmaki.

### AUG. 9 \* FOREST ECOLOGY

Examine sustainable forestry and the biodiversity concerns of a working forest on a walk with forest ecologist Randy Swaty and landscape artist Joyce Koskenmaki.

### AUG. 9 \* RECEPTION

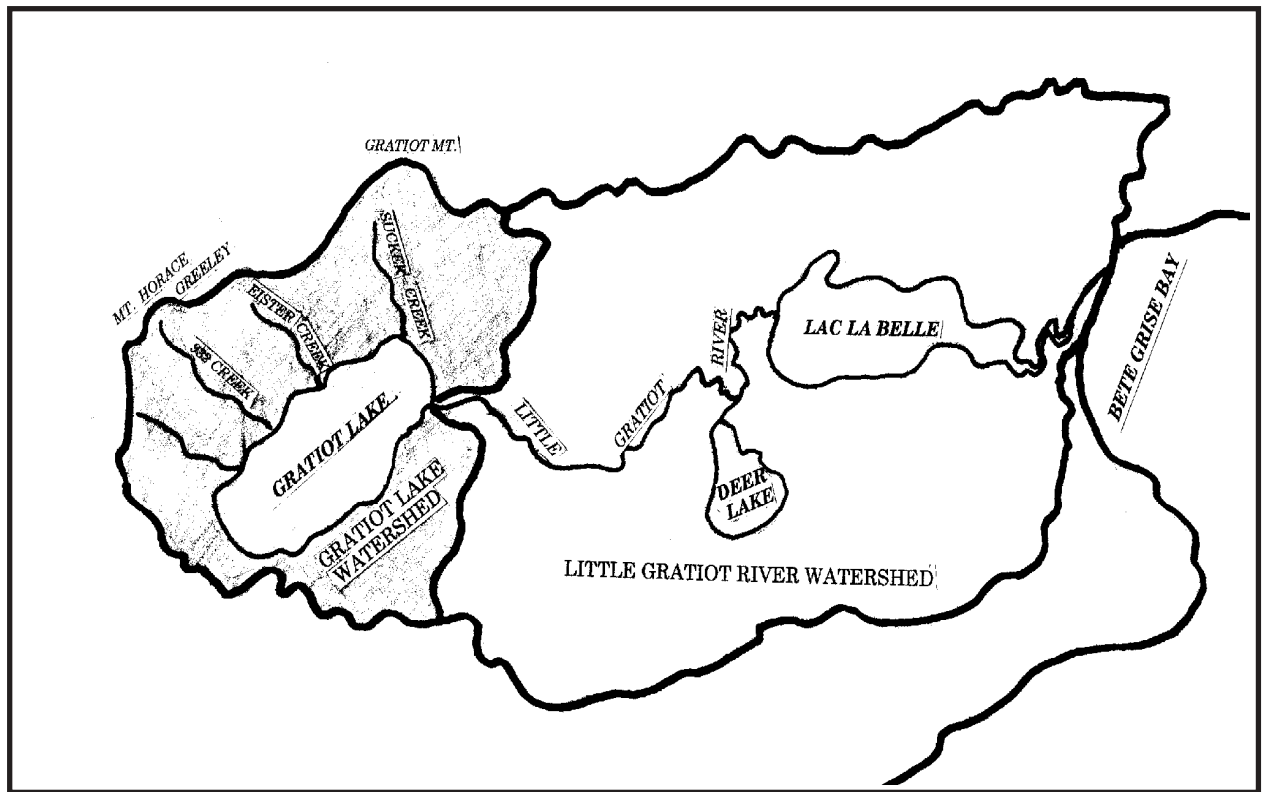
Share your work - please invite your friends and neighbors for refreshments from 5-7 PM at the Eagle Harbor Community Center. View a display of program artists' work and display your journals.



### WHAT TO BRING

**BRING:** Bring a bag lunch and water. You may need a knapsack to carry your lunch, field guides, sunscreen, insect repellent, binoculars, your journal, pen and other items. Long pants are advised for hiking.

**PROVIDED:** Each participant will be provided with a journal and pencils. If you prefer, please bring your own journal and drawing tools. Every session will include time to work in your journal.



## *What is a Watershed?*

A watershed is a boundary that includes all the land that drains into a body of water such as a lake or stream. A watershed is often composed of sub-watersheds called tributaries.

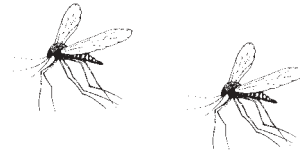
Gratiot Lake's watershed is bound by high ridges of Mt. Horace Greeley and Gratiot Mountain on the North side of the lake and by the slight incline of the topography on the South side. Gratiot Lake's sub-watersheds would include Sucker Creek, 932 Creek, and Eister Creek.

On the map above, the lightly shaded land is the Gratiot Lake watershed. The Gratiot Lake watershed is part of the Little Gratiot River watershed which is the larger watershed boundary seen on the map. Little Gratiot River watershed empties into Lac La Belle and then into Lake Superior. Thus, the Little Gratiot River watershed is a small part of the Lake Superior watershed. The Gratiot Lake watershed is a tributary of the Little Gratiot River watershed which is a tributary of the Lake Superior watershed.

The watershed concept helps us understand how environmental impacts in one place can affect the water resources of a much larger area. Both natural processes such as the amount of rainfall and human influences can greatly impact watersheds. Land and water uses from any part of the watershed—such as runoff from roads and construction sites, erosion from forest clearcuts; pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer use; inadequate, leaky septic systems—eventually affect the health of the whole watershed. Each lake and river serves as an artery collecting toxins, pollution, and silt. This may have an impact on humans and wildlife within the watershed.



Article reprinted with permission from the  
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**The Newsletter of the Great Lakes**  
**Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund**  
Volume 11, Number 21 Spring 2003



## Dispelling Myths about West Nile Virus and Mosquitoes

By: Scott McEwen

Spring is here, and with it comes beautiful wildflowers, birds returning north for summer breeding, and, of course, mosquitoes. Before long the news will inevitably relay stories about the West Nile Virus that is being found in dead crows across the country. Since the virus is relatively new, there are many misconceptions about it.

Many people believe wetlands are the main culprit for West Nile Virus-carrying mosquitoes. However, healthy wetlands do not always provide the ideal habitat for mosquitoes because water conditions, water quality, and natural predators deter mosquito use of the water found in wetlands and minimize larval success if egg laying does occur. Draining wetlands will not eliminate mosquitoes. In fact, mosquito populations could actually increase because draining a wetland may destroy the mosquito's natural predators.

A much more effective method of destroying mosquito habitat is to focus on eliminating human-created habitats found around the home. These areas usually do not have wetland predators, such as aquatic insects, amphibians, fish, bats, and birds, which feed heavily on mosquitoes and their larva. With a little extra care, property owners can eliminate the breeding areas for most mosquitoes by adopting the following control methods.

Old tires, cans, and other water-holding containers are ideal breeding sites.

Store them upside down or get rid of them.

Keep culverts and drains clear of dead leaves and trash so that water will drain properly.

Drain water from tarps or plastic sheeting covering woodpiles, boats, etc.

Keep eaves troughs clean of leaves and debris.

Empty plastic wading pools at least once a week and store them inside when not in use.

Change bird bath water weekly.

Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps with sand or concrete.

Keep boats and canoes covered or upside down.

(Website: <http://www.glahabitat.org/> )



Editor's Note: According to the Michigan Department of Community Health in 2002 there was only one confirmed case of human West Nile Virus in the UP. There were no cases of West Nile Virus confirmed in any animal in Keweenaw County or Baraga County. One horse tested positive for West Nile Virus in Houghton County and a bird and a horse in Ontonagon County.

If you see a crow, raven, or blue jay behaving erratically or dead from an unknown cause, please report it on the MDNR's website at [http://www.michigandnr.com/wildlife/pubs/disease\\_obsreport.asp](http://www.michigandnr.com/wildlife/pubs/disease_obsreport.asp)  
Or call the Health Department in Hancock at 906-482-7385.

## Baby Bird Rescue!

- An injured bird requires IMMEDIATE specialized care. It is illegal to try to keep a native songbird or raptor as a pet.
- Most veterinarians do not have the time, special facilities, or the practical experience to handle injured birds. The MDNR can put you in contact with a wildlife rehabilitator who can help.
- When birds leave the nest for the first time. They often do not have full flight capability, and spend two or three days on or near the ground.
- Be a responsible pet owner and consider keeping your pet indoors during the sensitive nesting and fledging time.



*Liz Hay holds a baby barred owl which is being raised at the Raptor Education Group. The owlet was displaced when its nest tree was felled..*

### IF the bird is NOT injured:

1. Keep cats and dogs away from the nest site.
2. If you find a bird on the ground, carefully return it to the nest. It is a myth that the parents won't care for a baby once it is touched by humans.
3. If the original nest is unsafe or destroyed, place the bird in a small basket or a margarine tub, with drainage holes punched in the bottom to prevent drowning. Nail the basket or margarine tub to the tree near the nest site, out of the direct sunlight.
4. Keep an eye on the baby bird from a discreet distance. If the parents do not return in an hour, call your local DNR or wildlife rehabilitation center for help.

### If the bird IS injured:

1. Prepare a small cardboard box by punching ventilation holes in the sides and the top.
2. Gently, place the bird on the towel and the box in a warm, dry, quiet area.
3. DO NOT GIVE THE BIRD ANY FOOD OR WATER!
4. Call your nearest Department of Natural Resources office or wildlife rehabilitation center.

**Meet Marge Gibson**, a wildlife rehabilitator and founder of the

**Raptor Education Group.**

**Tues. July 22 at 7:30 PM**  
at the

**Eagle Harbor Community Center.**

She will bring along some of her birds and lots of engaging stories about them and her work.

**This material is excerpted from a Raptor Education Group, Inc. fact sheet.**

<http://www.raptoreducationgroup.org/>

### WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTERS

Wildlife rehabilitation centers are volunteer based. Your help with the transportation of injured birds to their facilities is appreciated.

**Antigo WI**, Raptor Education Group, Inc, Marge Gibson.: 715-623-4015

**Houghton MI** Bill Alwin: 906-482-7419 (songbirds only no eagles, hawks or owls)

**Quinnesec MI** Broken Crow Rehabilitation Center, Phyllis Carlson: 906-774-6151

**Gwinn area MI** Lilliput Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Julie Robson: 906-346-7440  
lil1234@aol.com  
(a variety of birds and mammals)

**Gwinn/Sawyer area MI** Jean Wilcox: 906-346-3528 (veterinarian)

**Escanaba MI** Sharel Cantrell Oslund: 906-786-7989 (mammals and birds)

**Arbor Vitae WI**, Feathered Friends, Dave and Jackie DeBauche: 715-356-5490

**Minocqua WI**, Northwoods Wildlife Center, Mike Naniot 715-356-7400 , 715-356-5588

### MICHIGAN DNR

Baraga: Rob Aho 906-353-6651

Photo Courtesy of Dorothy Jamison



***Become a Member of the Gratiot Lake Conservancy!***

One way to show your support for the Gratiot Lake Conservancy is to become a member. In addition to the biannual newsletter mailed to all Gratiot Lake residents, members will receive invitations to special events. As a member of the Conservancy, you will also have the opportunity to obtain discounted subscriptions to magazines of the *Orion Society* and discounted *Michigan Lakes and Streams Association* Membership.

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**Membership Application**

Please complete this form and mail with your check to:

- o 1 year Membership \$10 contribution
- o 3 year Membership \$25 and up
- o Additional Donation -----

The Gratiot Lake Conservancy  
P.O. Box 310  
Mohawk, MI 49950

PLEASE PRINT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street or Box #: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Winter address if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Gratiot Lake Conservancy is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible.*

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