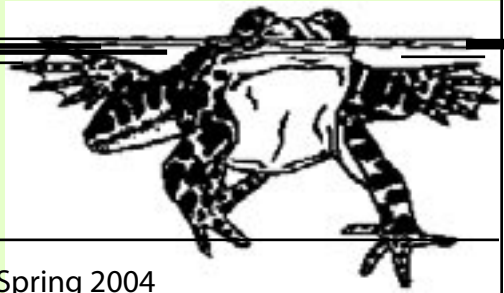


WATER'S EDGE

Gratiot Lake Conservancy News



Volume 6

Spring 2004

CONSERVANCY CALENDAR

Reading the Landscape of the Keweenaw

Art and Natural History Field Trips for Adults
Saturdays, June 26 through August 7

Brochure enclosed or call 906-289-4514 for information.

Gratiot Lake Conservancy Annual Members Meeting

Tuesday, July 20, 7:00 PM

Sixth Annual Conservancy Open House At the Noblet Field Station

Sunday, August 8, Noon to 3 PM

☒

ee page 3.

Astronomy Gathering On Brockway Mountain with Robert Nemiroff

and MTU Astronomy Students
Thursday, August 12, 9:30 PM - ?

☒

ee page 5.

Reading the Landscape Open House

Saturday, August 14 from 2 PM to 5 PM
Eagle Harbor Community Center

Refreshments, Art Exhibit, opportunity to meet with
reps of sponsoring organizations. Drop by after seeing the Harbor Art Show!

Wildflowers in Watercolor Class with Marilynn Brandenburger,

Artist in Residence at Gratiot Lake

Sundays, August 15th and 22nd, 10:30AM- 2PM
Noblet Field Station, Gratiot Lake

☒

ee page 6.

Wildflowers in Watercolor

Sundays, August 15 and August 22,
2004 from 10:30 AM - 2 PM



*"THIMBLEBERRY" watercolor by
Marilynn Brandenburger*

What could be finer than discovering and
painting the wildflowers of Gratiot Lake?
Come join GLC Artist in Residence,
Marilynn Brandenburger at the Noblet
Field Station for an introductory workshop
in botanical illustration.

More details on page 6.

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.

Donations in Memory of Barbara Sibbald

Gratiot Lake friends and neighbors of Barbara Sibbald have made a generous donation to the Gratiot Lake Conservancy in her memory. Along with her husband, Ron, Barb had spent many happy summers at their Gratiot Lake camp. She especially enjoyed gardening and berry picking. The Conservancy is grateful for this memorial gift in Barbara's name. The funds will further Conservancy education and research programs.

The Sibbald family would like to express their deep appreciation to all the Gratiot Lake friends who contributed to the Conservancy in memory of Barbara.

Sandretto Scholarship and Aquatic Ecology at Gratiot Lake

Thanks to a generous donation by Rebecca (Rita) Sandretto, the Jack Sandretto Scholarship Endowment will award a full scholarship to a deserving student in our community. This year a student from Calumet will receive the award to attend Michigan Tech SYP: Aquatic Ecology Exploration scheduled for the Noblet Field Station July 25th -July 30.

Membership dues help to support GLC activities and this newsletter. Thanks for your help! If your Membership is due for renewal it will be indicated by a sticker on the membership form on page 8. If you are not sure if you are a member just check the newsletter envelope, your membership renewal date is next to your name. New memberships are always welcome.



Photo courtesy of Bonnie Hay

Round-Lobed Hepatica (on page 4 see more plants from the Botany Workshop in May.)

Lake news from Al Hochstein "Ice was completely off the lake by 4/29/04."
"...Osprey at Sandy Beach (5/29/04)."

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 environs, and to suggest ways to improve stewardship of the Lake and its watershed.

**Please send questions, comments, or articles to
Bonnie Hay, Editor Water's Edge
P.O. Box 310
Mohawk, MI 49950**

**e-mail: belh@verizon.net phone: (July/August) 906-337-5476
Visit our web site: <http://www.MLSWA.org/Gratiot-Lake-1508/>**

Keweenaw Trail Running Festival to Benefit Conservancy...

Gratiot Lake Conservancy will receive some of the proceeds from the Keweenaw Trail Running Festival scheduled for July 10th and 11th. Jeff Crumbaugh, the race's Director, has offered to purchase a digital microscope for the Conservancy's education and research programs. Jeff co-taught the Aquatic Ecology class that Tech's Summer Youth Program held at the Conservancy preserve last summer, and he appreciates the need for this type of equipment at the Noblet Field Station.



and Volunteers are needed...

The Conservancy hopes that some members and friends will be available to help out during the Festival. Jeff needs volunteers July 10 in the evening (race starts at 7PM) to monitor runner safety between the Eagle Harbor beach and the point where the runners turn up the two track to Mt. Baldy. He also needs volunteers for three hour shifts between Noon and 9 PM on Friday, July 9 to check runners in at registration at the Ramada Inn in Hancock.

Visit the Keweenaw Trail Running Festival web site:

www.keweenawtrails.com

To volunteer contact Jeff Crumbaugh at runskikayak@hotmail.com or call him at 715-823-9138. Please tell him that Bonnie of Gratiot Lake Conservancy sent you!



Photo courtesy of Bonnie Hay

The Golden flowers of Marsh Marigold are often seen in wet areas in the Spring.

News from Dorothy Jamison this winter "I'm sure you have heard about the 2 ice fishers who fell through the ice on Gratiot early last week...luckily Mitch (Dave Mitchell) was there and Bryan Wagner used his rowboat to go out and get them, 125 feet off the access. Bruce Wagner, Ed Stoneman, and David called EMS, etc. while Bryan struggled(breaking the ice as he moved the boat out on the lake.) Both Fishermen were O.K. (There is a)new campaign to get water rescue equipment (including dry suits) for the Gratiot fire truck." (Editors note: Subsequently both Dave Mitchell and Bryan Wagner were commended for their rescue effort.)

6th Annual Open House at Noblet Field Station

*Come by land or by Lake. **

Refreshments will be served.

Save this date!

Sunday, August 8, Noon to 3 PM

- * Visit with friends and neighbors.
- * Meet Marilyn Brandenburger, GLC Artist in Residence.
- * Walk the Bear Paw Path
- * Learn about GLC and its programs.
- * View slides/ videos

* 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.



Are you... A cookie baker, a litter picker-upper, a wildlife watcher, a weed puller? Have you always wanted to... write for a newsletter, see a photo you took in print, listen to frogs, or help to clear a trail? The Conservancy is seeking volunteers to share their talents and interests. There are opportunities to help with everything from trail opening to cookie baking. Just e-mail or call Bonnie at belh@verizon.net or 337-5476.

Keweenaw Botany Explored

In search of 100+ plants, twelve lucky participants outfitted with notebooks, boots, and mosquito netting followed Janet Marr through fen, Superior shoreline, wet swale, woodland streamside, and sandy lakeside over Memorial Day Weekend. The weather cooperated, too—mostly sunny skies and just a few thirsty black flies.

At the Michigan Nature Association preserve at Cat Harbor we observed fen vegetation having special adaptations to survive in a low nutrient, acidic environment. These include the pitcher plant which digests its insect prey in juices held in its modified leaves.



Susan Martin gets a bee's eye view of a trout lily.

After lunch at Esrey Park, we visited the Michigan Nature Association's preserve there to find round-lobed hepatica topped with lavender flowers.

On Sunday, we visited the northwest side of Gratiot Lake to find lush bloodroot and maidenhair fern in the rich streambank environment, and jack-in-the-pulpit in a lakeside swale. Virginia Jamison graciously opened her home for a perfect lunch stop (with her daughter Dorothy's cookies for dessert and a bonus circa 1938 log cabin tour!)

At Eagle Harbor's Eliza Lake we spied a patch of fushia gay-wings. Or as Janet would say—*Polygala paucifolia*. We also learned that "glabrous" means "smooth" and "dioecious" means "having separate male and female flowers!" In fact everyone learned more Latin and Greek names and botanical terminology than we imagined possible in two days. In our "classroom" at the Eagle Harbor Community Center we used microscopes to closely examine the plant structures botanists use to categorize and describe plants.



Clockwise from top: Doug Sherk, Nancy Sherk, Virginia Jamison, and Julie Asselin examine an Esrey Park shrub.

Participants had a good time, came away with knowledge they can use, and expressed a greater appreciation of the joys of looking closely at nature. Janet hopes to offer similar workshops in the future.



Photo courtesy of Dennis Moore

Trout Lily

Scholarships to GLC's classes are available for Gratiot Lake Residents and Gratiot Lake Conservancy Members. To apply, contact GLC at e-mail [_belh@verizon.net](mailto:belh@verizon.net) 906-337-5476

William S. Justice @ USDA-NRCS



To see the brilliant fushia of this gay-wings flower view a color copy of Water' Edge on the GLC web site at <http://www.MLSWA.org/Gratiot-Lake-1508/>

Tip of the Keweenaw

The State of Michigan recently acquired 6,275 acres at the Tip of the Keweenaw. A citizens' committee has been working with the Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) since February on management planning for the Tip of the Keweenaw. The next meeting of the planning group will be Tuesday, July 6 at 6:30 PM in the Allouez Township Community Building, 2 Bumbletown Road, Allouez. Another meeting is scheduled for August 3 (location to be announced.) All meetings are open to the public, with a public comment period near the beginning of each meeting. If you would like to submit a written comment, forms are available from Ron Yesney, MDNR West U.P. Recreation Specialist phone: 906-228-6561

e-mail: yesneyr@michigan.gov

It's Twins!

Two Gratiot Lake eaglets that hatched in the second week of May were banded by Joe Papp on June 17. The two male birds weighing in at 8 lbs. 4 oz and 6 lbs. 8 oz. looked well fed and should be ready to fly around the third week in July.

Thomas G. Barnes @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



The Pitcher Plant digests insects in specially modified leaves.

Water Reflections

On July 24, Reading the Landscape's session will be held at Gratiot Lake. Biologist Sandra Harting and artist Amy E. Arntson will join GLC's Bonnie Hay in leading an exploration of water quality. The field trip will include both watercolor painting and aquatic testing. This is one of six art and natural history field trips for adults sponsored by GLC along with six other conservation groups in the Keweenaw. Call 906-289-4514 to obtain further information or to register.

Reading the Landscape

Open House August 14 from 2PM -5PM

After taking in the Eagle Harbor Art Show, drop by the Eagle Harbor Community Center. Everyone is invited to this free event which includes refreshments and an art exhibit. It is also an opportunity to meet with representatives from Gratiot Lake Conservancy and other sponsoring organizations, Copper Country Audubon, Keweenaw County Historical Society, Keweenaw Land Trust, Michigan Nature Association, North Woods Conservancy, and The Nature Conservancy.

Visit the Gratiot Lake Conservancy web site to view this issue of Water's Edge News in full color, past newsletters archive, informative articles, photos, video clips, and links to more information.

<http://www.MLSWA.org/Gratiot-Lake-1508/>

Joseph and Mary Lizzadro Lake Shore Preserve Dedication on August 7, 2004

The Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District and the Keweenaw Land Trust will be hosting the dedication of this newly conserved piece of Lake Superior shoreline. The 24 acres preserve includes 643 feet of bedrock beach and is located between Eagle Harbor and Copper Harbor not far from Hebard Park. The ceremony will begin at 1 PM. For more information, contact Evan McDonald phone: 906-296-9720 e-mail:

evanmcdonald@keweenawlandtrust

Stars on Brockway August 12, 9:30 PM-?

Bring your bug dope, blankets, beach chairs, binoculars, and telescopes to the Brockway star gathering around sunset. The Perseid meteor showers should peak on this date, and since the waning crescent moon will rise late, it shouldn't interfere as it has done in the last couple of years. MTU's Robert Nemiroff and some of his astronomy students will be on hand with GLC's telescope. We may cancel without notice if it's very cloudy or raining!



Fantastic Fishers (page 7) answers: 1-F, 2-D, 3-E, 4-G, 5-B, 6-I, 7-A, 8-H, 9-C



*"Wild Iris" watercolor
by Marilyn Brandenburger*

Wildflowers in Watercolor

Sundays, August 15 and August 22, 2004 from 10:30 AM-2 PM

In August GLC is pleased to welcome Marilyn Brandenburger as the Artist in Residence at the Conservancy's Gratiot Lake Preserve. She is an accomplished botanical illustrator and landscape painter with many years of teaching experience.

In Marilyn's two day class, you'll learn about paint, paper, and brushes; how to draw flowers; basic watercolor techniques and color mixing. You'll also take home your own botanical paintings! Beginners as well as experienced painters are welcome.

Advance registration is required and space is limited. A list will be available for those who want to bring their own supplies to the class or the instructor will furnish all supplies for a \$12 materials fee (Payable to the instructor.) The class will take place at the GLC Preserve and Noblet Field Station.

Marilynn is eager to meet community residents at the Conservancy Open House on August 8 and plans to demonstrate her painting techniques at that event.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

ENROLLMENT is on a first come basis. Advance registration is required. Please send a note indicating your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and a check for \$30 (\$20 for members ♣) made out to

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

We will send you a confirmation and directions. For further information contact Bonnie Hay at 906-337-5476 or **belh@verizon.net**

♣Gratiot Lake residents and GLC members-a scholarship is available for this class.



Marilynn Brandenburger has been painting and exhibiting professionally for more than twenty-five years. Awards and recognitions include grants from private and public foundations, appointments as Artist in Residence in national and state parks including Isle Royale National Park. Her work is in collections throughout the U.S.

Marilynn's work has been featured in national newspaper and magazine articles and in two books: *The Best of Colored Pencil 5* and *The Island Within Us*. She has also illustrated three books.

Marilynn's images come from 20 years of hiking, sketching, and photographing the beauty of nature throughout the U.S. Her work generally takes two forms: medium to large-scale landscape paintings and small, more

intimate studies of nature's detail. She also paints still life, using objects from her personal collections, or, most recently, objects in artists' studios.

A native of the Midwest, Marilyn has lived in the South for more than thirty years. She holds a Bachelors degree in anthropology from Tulane University and a Masters degree in art education from Florida Atlantic University, and she is a graduate of Harvard's Institute for the Management of Lifelong Education.

Marilynn also teaches drawing and painting to adults in Atlanta and the Southeast. A schedule of her classes can be found at www.spruillarts.org and www.folkschool.org.

To learn more about Marilyn's art, visit her web site www.brandenburgerstudios.com.

Fantastic Fishers, Magnificent Martens & Otter Things You Should Know



Fisher

Members of the *Mustelidae* family, or mustelids, such as the fisher pictured at left, have several features in common. They are primarily carnivorous. In fact *Mustelidae* comes from the Latin word, “mus” or “mouse” which refers to their skill as mousers. They all have anal scent glands that are used in social situations, and in some cases, as an effective defensive weapon. Also, when many mustelids walk, the tracks of the hind feet are superimposed over those of the front, and the tracks resemble those of a two-legged creature.

Now that you know the traits that they have in common, can you match the descriptions to the names below? Answers are on page 5.

Information on this page compiled from the following sources:

Animal Diversity Web <http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/>

Wild Resource Conservation Fund <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/wrcf/>

Michigan Department of Natural Resources <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/>

<p>1. This 2-foot long creature with yellow-brown fur and a fox-like face easily scampers among high tree branches, where it often hunts for red squirrels. It prefers a mixed age woods with conifers and deciduous trees including hemlock, white pine, yellow birch, maple, fir and spruce. These forests provide prey, protection and den sites. Due to trapping for its pelt this animal was gone from Michigan by 1930, but reintroduced in the 1970's and 80's.</p>	A. ERMINE
<p>2. At 6 to 8 inches in length and weighing only a bit more than an ounce, this critter is North America's smallest carnivore. It has a voracious appetite and can eat 40% of its body weight in a day. The meadow mouse makes up most of its diet in the wild.</p>	B. WOLVERINE
<p>3. This mustelid is found throughout most of the continental U.S. It attacks prey several times its size including rabbits and birds. The scent of blood is thought to spur an occasional killing frenzy-- they can wipe out an entire burrow system of rats. They kill prey by a quick bite to the back of the skull. Surplus prey is cached for leaner times. Despite this creature's reputation as a killer, winter starvation is thought to be the leading cause of its mortality.</p>	C. FISHER
<p>4. The anal scent glands' discharge from this critter are as "fragrant" as its skunk cousins, but with a smaller range. Its den is usually in a protected site near water, close to its preferred prey, muskrats. It also eats frogs, young snapping turtles, snakes, and birds. It is eaten by bobcats, foxes, and great horned owls.</p>	D. LEAST WEASEL
<p>5. This rare 3 foot long animal was believed to be gone from Michigan since 1910, probably due to habitat loss and trapping. It was observed in the thumb area of Lower Michigan in February of 2004. This animal's name is also a nickname used for Michigan.</p>	E. LONG-TAILED WEASEL
<p>6. "Mephitis" is the Latin for obnoxious stench. This creature's Latin name is <i>Mephitis mephitis</i>. Little squirts are fully equipped at the age of 25 days. They are extremely tolerant of humans and usually will only raise a stink if greatly provoked. Most predators leave them alone, with the exception of great horned owls which lack the sense of smell.</p>	F. MARTEN
<p>7. This animal's winter, white pelt with its accompanying black-tipped tail is the trim of choice for the robes of royalty. Its winter and summer coloring closely resemble another slightly larger cousin.</p>	G. MINK
<p>8. This critter's webbed toes and rudder like tail make it well-suited to water, where it spends most of its time. It eats fish and is often unfairly accused of depleting game fish. While not above treating itself to a trout or two, this mustelid usually kills slower prey such as suckers or dace.</p>	H. RIVER OTTER
<p>9. Despite its name, aquatic creatures are not a regular part of this animal's diet. In fact, it is known for devouring porcupines. It also eats rodents, grouse, hares, carrion, and a variety of fruits and nuts. Active day and night, it uses ground and snow burrows and has its young in tree dens.</p>	I. SKUNK



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 receive invitations to special events and an invitation to the Annual Members Meeting.

Membership Application

Please complete this form and mail with your check to

The Gratiot Lake Conservancy

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

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: _____

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

 Printed on recycled paper.