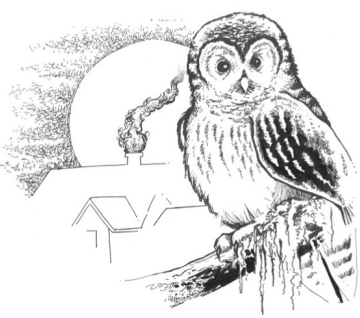


Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve  
P.O. Box 421  
Roscommon, MI 48653



**Gahagan Spring Clean-Up and Earth Day Event**  
**Saturday, April 21 beginning at 9am**  
**See page 3 for details**

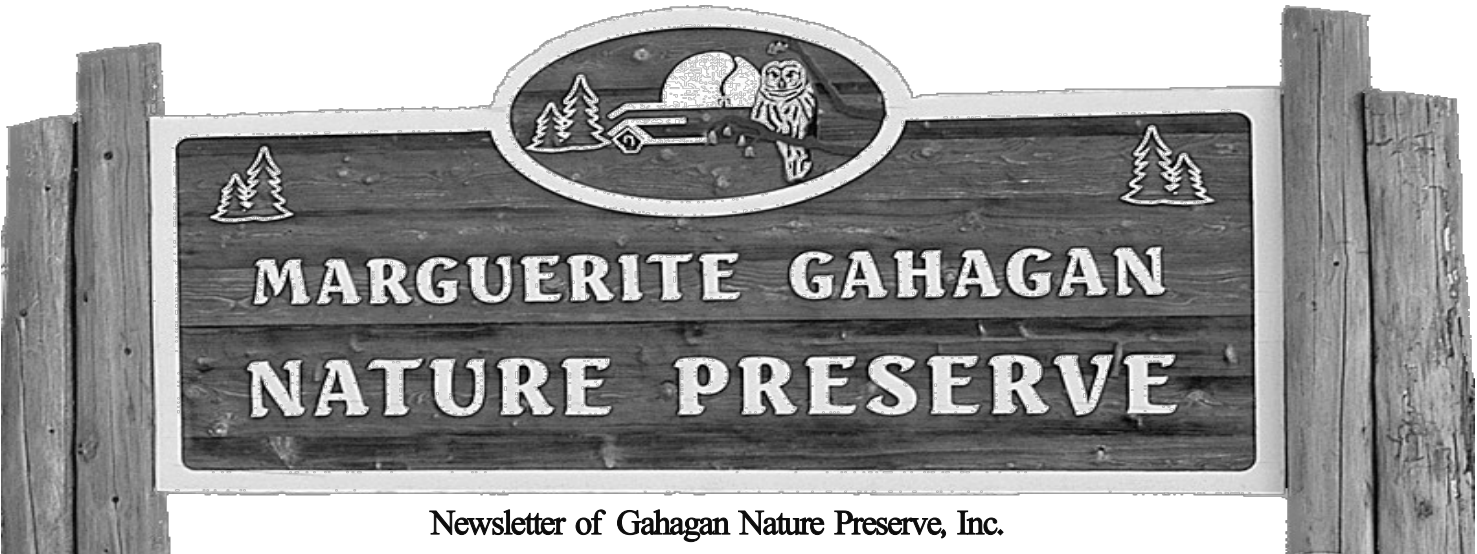
**Vernal Pools**

Have you ever looked into the small pool located in the woods and out the front door of Marguerite Gahagan’s cabin? It was created by Marguerite, to provide water for the animals. It continues to serve as a watering hole today, and is also home to many of the same creatures that inhabit a naturally formed vernal pool. Vernal means spring, and vernal pools are temporary wetlands that typically occur during the spring months in Michigan forests. The pools do not support fish due to their temporary nature, and as a result are successful breeding habitat for spotted and blue spotted salamanders as well as wood frogs and spring peepers. The pools are also home to a variety of larval invertebrates, which is a fancy name for insects that have an aquatic stage of life early on in their development.

More information is being sought about the vernal pools in Michigan to aid in their future conservation. To help with the effort, the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) created the Vernal Pool Patrol to encourage citizens to collect standardized data about pools throughout the state. Parents, local conservationists and even teachers have pledged to collect annual data from pools around Michigan. The data will document the location of the pools and the change in the collection of species that use the pools as the water warms throughout the spring months.

Each summer, children attending Gahagan’s Nature Camp have the opportunity to see what’s occupying the old watering hole, and they find nearly all of the same species that are found in a natural vernal pool. They find salamander and frog egg masses, tadpoles, caddis fly larva encased in various materials, larval predaceous diving beetles and many, many more. It’s a delight to watch the children get down and dirty as they find, examine and identify what they find.

Would you like to learn more about vernal pools and the annual monitoring program? Contact MSU Extension Forester Julie Crick to learn more. Julie can be reached at 989-275-7179 or via email at [crickjul@msu.edu](mailto:crickjul@msu.edu).



Newsletter of Gahagan Nature Preserve, Inc.  
P.O. Box 421, Roscommon, MI 48653 ~ 989-275-3217 ~ [www.GahaganNature.org](http://www.GahaganNature.org)  
Issue #34 ~ Spring 2018

**The Preserve lost one of our very best friends on August 17, 2017 with the death of Julia Borak at the age of 88.**

Julie was an active supporter of our preserve from its the very start and served as a member of the board of directors for many years. After a while, she felt that she probably should give up her seat on the board, but we continued to treat her as a board member for many years thereafter. In searching minutes of those first organizational meetings, it is noted that both Julie and daughter Irene attended together. Irene related to us that; “My parents were subscribers to the North Woods Call for as long as I can remember, right up to the last issue. I think my mother especially liked Marguerite’s columns that kept us up to date on her raccoons and the other wildlife she kept an eye on around her property - they mirrored my mother’s own upbringing.

There was a lot of respect in our household for Marguerite’s values and the fact that she was willing to put herself out there and get knocked around a bit if the cause was a just one. My mother was especially drawn to people who charted their own path in life, which Marguerite certainly did. Mom’s choice to help out with the Preserve was both out of a sense of duty to preserve those values and also a chance to dig in the dirt, which she could not pass up!”

Julie’s knowledge as a gardener, naturalist and craftsperson always served us well. One thing about a garden, it’s just never done. So Julie worked on the berm and worked and worked and as visitors would drive up, she would add her little bits of wisdom and then send them on down the trail.

Julie was influential in subtle ways. Many a time when our board was discussing a touchy subject, Julie would settle it all with just a shake of her turned down head. That might be her only comment on the matter, but her meaning would be abundantly clear and would often carry the day. Another noteworthy expression was made with her eyebrows. She would raise them slightly, sort of like half of a smile; her way of saying “good idea.” Mostly, however, Julie would be bent over pulling weeds, picking up litter, or planting perennials into the berm or butterfly garden.

She had an on again off again love of the AuSable river. A favorite of her neighborhood was the annual New Year’s Eve day canoe trip from town to Chase Bridge. The very last time she ever did that, she and her partner flipped their canoe just a few bends from the start. Irene relates that it wasn’t one of those warm New Year’s Eves either, so the experience was pretty emphatic; never again! But she was a good sport and when our Preserve began the Upper AuSable River Watershed Monitoring Project in 2008, Julie was a member of one of the first teams to get into the river and do that difficult job.

We are pretty certain that Marguerite’s spirit remains in the forest of the Preserve in the body of the Barred Owl, always keeping watch. And now, chances are that we have Julie’s spirit in the forest as well, perhaps in the body of the Badger, always digging in the dirt.



Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve  
Board of Directors ~ 2018

Chairperson: Tom Dale  
Vice Chair: Troy Fairbanks  
Secretary: Julie Crick  
Ken Elmore  
Sue Huffman  
Brian Hutchins  
Jalen Williams

Beth Zuker, Education Director  
(989) 275-3217 ~ info@GahaganNature.org  
Tracy Bosworth, Executive Director  
(989) 390-0903 ~ adm@GahaganNature.org  
**www.GahaganNature.org**  
(989) 275-3217

Board of Directors meet on the 2nd Monday of the month, 7 PM. All are welcome to attend.

Gahagan Calendar

2018 Events

**April 21:** Spring clean-up / Earth Day Event

**April 23:** Spring field trips begin

**May 16:** Business Expo at CRAF Center

**June 2:** Kirtland's Warbler Festival

**June 14:** Business to Business Breakfast at MGNP

**June 25-28:** Forestry Camp

**July 17-19:** Nature Camp

Roscommon Chapter of Citizen's Climate Lobby meets at Gahagan at 5:30 PM the 4th Wednesday of the month.

The Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve thanks the following organizations and individuals that donated to our mission between April 1, 2017 and March 15, 2018

Bob Andrus  
John & Jeanie Bennick  
Fifth Street Wines  
Theresa Blamer in memory of Bill Blamer  
Greg and Linda Bodker  
Sherwood & Sharon Boudeman in honor of the Colwell Family  
William Burrows  
Pat & Karen Casady  
Martha Clapp  
Connie Colwell Jabari  
Cliff & Caroline Colwell  
Chris & Jane Colwell  
John & Betty Colwell  
Matthew & Jill Colwell  
Larry Dashner  
Karen Demers  
Lynn Donaldson & Cam Avery  
Herman Donovan  
Ken Elmore in memory of Debra Elmore  
Fairbanks/Martindale Family  
Roger & Mary Fechner  
Anne Gahagan & Richard Dennis in memory of John Gahagan  
Josh & Katy Greenberg  
Higgins Lake Foundation  
Robert J. House, MD  
Susan Huffman  
Brian & Mary Hutchins  
Tom & Mary Lou Jennette  
Jim's Collision  
Lois Jones  
Mike Kent  
Art & Kathryn Kettlehut  
Tom & Elisabeth Kish  
Rich & Cathy Koupal  
Tom & Jane Kozlowski  
Nathan & Cynthia Krupps  
Duncan & Kathy Lawrence

Steve & Pam Miller in memory of Cooper  
Doug & Ginny Nagel  
Terry Nanry  
Northern Family Dentistry  
Bruce & Betty Phillips  
Stewart Powrie  
Roscommon Auto Recyclers  
Ralph & Nancy Rucinski  
Bill & Patti Sarkella  
Al Schultz in honor of Audrey Schultz  
Richard Seton  
Richard & Carol Silverman  
Pat & Vicki Springstead  
Betty Thomas in memory of John Thomas  
James & Barbara Thorburn  
Bob & Dawn Tupper  
Mike VanBuren in memory of Dianna L. VanBuren  
Jack & Liz Wade  
Mike & Kathy Wahl  
West Branch Optimists Club  
Robert & Clarice Williams  
Beth Zuker & David Vogel

In memory of Julie Borak:

Julie Boushelle  
Carole Chilton  
John & Caryn Cleland  
Tom & Phyliss Dale  
Keith & JoAnn Gave  
Jerry & Joyce Johnston  
Ranae Klee  
Bruce & Betty Phillips  
Kim & Scott Smith  
Student Services KCC  
Michelle Vykocil

Come Join Us at the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve!

Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve operates as a non-profit organization run by volunteers and funded by its members, generous donors and the endowment left by Marguerite. Did you know that it provides environmental education for many of the schools in the surrounding counties? Did you know that the 60-acre preserve is open to the public for hiking, snowshoeing, birding and many other uses? Did you know we have an asphalt and boardwalk trail that is wheelchair friendly? It travels through woods and wetlands and along the beginnings of Tank Creek. Interested in learning and helping? Please join us!

Yes, I/we want to join Marguerite Gahagan Nature preserve. Enclosed is my/our yearly membership.

\$20 ☐ Individual / \$30 ☐ Family / \$50 ☐ Organizational \$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation

I am making a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ in memory of, ☐ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks to Gahagan Nature Preserve, Inc. and mail to P.O. Box 421, Roscommon, MI 48653

You can also donate, join, or renew your membership on-line at [www.GahaganNature.org](http://www.GahaganNature.org)

The following Memberships were received between August 1, 2017 and March 15, 2018

Debra Beehler  
John & Jeanne Bennick  
Theresa Blamer  
Bob Borak  
Mark & Tracy Bosworth  
Sherwood & Sharon Boudeman  
Chuck & Linda Brick  
Brian & Janet Carson  
Carole Chilton  
Martha Clapp  
Julie Crick  
Phyliss & Tom Dale  
Dominic & Jennifer Dale  
Troy Daniel  
Dan Dawson  
Karen Demers  
Dave & Penny Dilts  
Stan & Patti Dombrowski  
Lynn Donaldson & Cameron Avery  
Dale & Theresa Ekdorf  
Ken Elmore  
Troy Fairbanks & Nancy Martindale  
Roxie Fernelius  
Caryl & Ed Fischer  
Jim & Carol Garlo  
Bob & Sandy Gennrich  
Don & Elaine Granzine  
Gary Harms & Kathy VanderMollen  
Jack Hipchen  
Robert House, MD  
Susan Huffman  
Brian & Mary Hutchins  
Rich Jaskowski & Kathleen Kaufman  
Joyce & Jerry Johnston  
Lois Jones

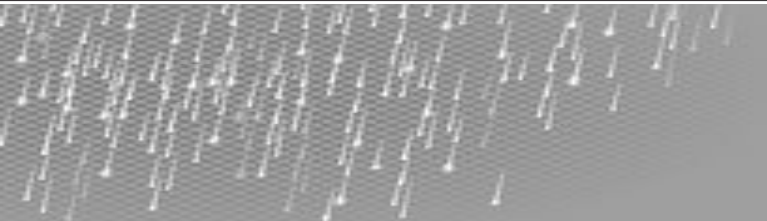
Mike Kent  
Anne & Russell Kidd  
Rich & Cathy Koupal  
Diane Lippert  
Joseph Madore  
Jim & Nilah Mason  
Jeff & Millie Mellgren  
Steve & Pam Miller  
JoAnn & Mike Muston  
Susan & Jack Nanry  
Theresa O'Brien  
Don & Suzanne Pennell  
Bruce & Betty Phillips  
Stewart Powrie  
Deb & John Rosczyk  
Ralph & Nancy Rucinski  
Bill & Patti Sarkella  
Richard Seton  
Roy & Betty Spangler  
Jay & Lorrene Spaulding  
Pat & Vicki Springstead  
Dan & Lisa Sutton  
Anna & Don Sylvester  
John & Amanda Theil  
Jim & Pam Tucker  
Bob & Dawn Tupper  
JoAnn VanderMolle  
Mike & Kathy Wahl  
Eleanor Washburn  
Jerry & Darlene Weinrich  
Bobbie & Jerry Werle  
Karrie & Gabe Williams  
Tom & Joyce Zeneberg  
Beth Zuker & David Vogel

It rained all week.

On some days it came in scattered showers, gray-black clouds breaking before an eye-blinding sun that burned the rain drops on leaves and branches into millions of hanging diamonds. As the sun came out and blue patches appeared, robins flew like red arrows to tree tops and sang their jubilation. Song sparrows shook wet brown fluff to look rounder and rounder, and sang loudly as though trying to drown out all competitors.

Another day the rain came with mist; curling, white and gray ghosts of mist sweeping over the lake from the swale, turning in torturous shapes at the fancy of the wind that played with the pearl-gray wisps. The gray lake would be beneath the ghosts, and then there would be no lake at all; only gray whirling shapes shutting off the horizon, bringing the end of nowhere closer and closer to one staring, trying to pierce the grayness to the beyond.

Again it rained and the drops turned the lake into a pattern of small circles. A sandpiper flew low near the shoreline riding the wind as he came in to land on thin, stiff legs, crying his troubles. Sun-baked bracken, winter-green, and partridgeberry grew greener before one's eyes. Oaks began dropping long cherished brown leaves of last year, and fat buds grew plumper as the rains came.



The rain hit the cabin roof. Sometimes it was but a whisper, soft as gentle dew, water dripping from the eaves the only really tangible proof that there was rain. And then it came harder, harder, pounding its rhythmic beat, sweeping in gusts as the wind pushed it, as the trees bent and showered down their own leaf-filled drops.

Wet sand drifted into strange, geometric patterns along the paths and mornings bore clear, perfect imprints of woods visitors; bunnies, skunks, porkies, raccoons, deer. Even the delicate, faint marks of the chipmunk were held in the wet, rain-soaked sand, the diary of the woods. Outside it smelled clean, washed, fresh. Green things seem eager to grow, to push their way up and out, to flaunt their beauty, their color, their fragrance.

The rain fell all week. And when it ended a new world welcomed the blue of the sky, the gold of the sun, the seeking eye, the breathless wonderment.

**Marguerite Gahagan**  
**"Rain" June 9, 1954**



## Kirtland's Warbler Festival

Like the little yellow songbird that returns to Michigan from the Bahamas each spring, the Kirtland's Warbler Weekend will return to Roscommon June 1-2. The Home Opener on Friday night is being held at Kirtland Community College's Health Sciences Center on Four Mile. Enjoy a social evening while trying Michigan inspired craft beer and appetizers.

The festival itself takes place on Saturday, June 2 at the CRAF Center in Roscommon, beginning at 7am with the first of two scheduled Jackpine tours. The second tour will leave at 9 am, with both tours stopping in known warbler habitat hoping to see and hear a warbler. A Craft and Vendor show and the Kid's tent will be open from 10am to 4pm.

Tom Dale, chairman of the KWF Planning Committee, is pleased that the festival is continuing here in Roscommon. "Our mission at Gahagan is to provide environmental education and we are excited to be able to bring Naturalist Jim McGrath from Nature Discovery and Biologist Joe Rogers from the Wildlife Recovery Association to the festival. Both of these live wildlife programs are very entertaining and informative." Jim's McGrath's Amphibians presentation is at 2pm, with Joe Rogers' Birds of Prey program following at 3pm.

Check out [www.kirtlandswarblerfestival.org](http://www.kirtlandswarblerfestival.org) for a complete listing of events.

## 4-H Forestry Camp

Those of us living in the Northern Lower Peninsula literally live in the forest, and the 4-H Forestry Camp, to be held at Gahagan in June, is designed to create a deeper understanding of forestry including why trees are cut, and the benefits of having groups of trees that are different ages in the forest. During the camp, children collect data using forestry tools, analyze the data and then make mock-forest management recommendations based on what they learned. Children also explore forestry careers and products through hands on games and activities that add a whole lot of fun to this learning experience. On the last day of camp, participants will visit an active timber harvest as well as a sawmill allowing them to witness first-hand the transformation of logs to products.

The 4-H Forestry Camp is scheduled to run at Gahagan from Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, June 28 and is open to youth aged 11-15 (as of January 1, 2018). The camp is from 9am until 4pm each day; no overnights. The cost of the camp is \$20, plus a \$20 annual 4-H Participation Fee; scholarships are available.

For more information, or to register for the camp, please contact MSU Extension Forester, Julie Crick, at 989-275-7179 or via email at [crickjul@msu.edu](mailto:crickjul@msu.edu).



## "Cat Tales" By Beth Zuker

The feline family is on the prowl around Roscommon and the surrounding counties – at least the "Cat Tales" program is. "Cat Tales" is this year's rotation in the Visiting Naturalist program. This educational program began in 2002 and brings the naturalist and materials right into the students' own environment – a classroom. I take the actual skulls, pelts, tracks and scat to schools as far afield as Fairview, Crawford, Kalkaska and Hale, as well as right here in Roscommon.

The presentation begins with a brief history of the cats, Smilodon fatalis, saber toothed tiger and the Panthera leo atrox, American cave lion. The students' gasps and "wows" are audible when the skull of the cave lion is revealed. Mid-session, the students perform an educational play about the puma, catamount, mountain lion, names also used for the cougar. The play is a favorite of the young-

er crowd in particular. As I present the bobcat, cougar, and lynx, the students are excited to actually touch the pelts and share some of their own stories. Thanks to RAYBC (Roscommon Area Boosters Club), we now have a bobcat pelt so that students can visually compare the difference between a lynx and a bobcat. The sheer size of the cougar pelt is amazing to the children; the tail is as long as some of them are tall! And the "deer victim" of the cougar bite, is a job that all of the students want to volunteer for.



## Spring Clean-Up /Earth Day Event

Co-Hosted by:

HeadWaters Land Conservancy

Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve



## Saturday April 21, 2018 9:00am-3:00pm at Gahagan Nature Preserve

World Earth Day is celebrated by the people all across the world on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April in order to increase the awareness about environmental safety as well as to demonstrate the environmental protection measures. The first Earth Day First was celebrated in the US in 1970, founded by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson in response to a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California in 1969. In 1990, Earth Day became a global event. Two hundred million people around the world staged dramatic displays of environmental support, such as a 500-mile human chain in France. People everywhere began recycling and conserving water and energy. Earth Day 2018 is dedicated to providing the information and inspiration needed to fundamentally change human attitude and behavior about plastics. Gahagan will get an early jump by celebrating Earth Day on Saturday, April 21st.

## 9:00am-12:00pm: MGNP Annual Spring Clean – Up

Every spring, Gahagan calls on members and volunteers to help ready the preserve for school field trips and summer visitors. Please consider joining in for a few minutes or a few hours to clean up the cabin and the trails.

## 12:00pm-1:00pm – Lunch

Hungry? Join in for snacks, refreshments and a hot dog roast. Yum.

## 1:00pm-2:15pm – Earth Day Activities

Choose to join in one or more hands-on activities that focus on plastics and recycling.



## 2:15pm-3:00pm – Forestry Hike With Diane Bomer

Diane Bomer is a Michigan Conservation District Forester serving Otsego and Crawford-Roscommon Conservation Districts. Diane is also available to meet with you and talk about the health of your forest ecosystem.

## SPRING FIELD TRIPS

### ATTENTION TEACHERS!

It is time to start scheduling spring field trips to Gahagan. Slots are available beginning April 23. We prepare different lessons for each grade level, aligning to the Next Generation Science Standards. Lessons can, however, be tailored to meet whatever objectives you are working on in your classroom. As many of our regular attendees know, the students love coming to Gahagan, seeing the unique items in the cabin, participating in activities, and of course, seeing Sammy the snake. Contact Beth at (989) 275-3217 to schedule your trip.

Or email [info@GahaganNature.org](mailto:info@GahaganNature.org)





# Upper AuSable River Watershed Monitoring Project

The Upper AuSable River Watershed Monitoring Project began in 2006 when the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve board of directors decided to pursue a start-up grant from the Michigan Clean Water Corps, also known as MiCorps. The start-up grant was awarded in March 2007. The main focus of the start-up grant was to assemble local support for a comprehensive monitoring project. That grant proposal was submitted in December 2007 and featured four important partners: Kirtland Community College, Anglers of the AuSable, The AuSable River Center in Roscommon and Gahagan Nature Preserve. During our start-up year, our support cadre grew to include nearly every organization with vested interests in the health of the AuSable River: the AuSable River Center in Roscommon, Anglers of the AuSable, Kirtland Community College, Head Waters TU, Mason Griffith TU, Mershon TU, Challenge TU, AuSable River Watershed Restoration Committee, Roscommon County Community Foundation and Kirtland Community College Foundation. Each of these organizations provided funds and/or in-kind support for the monitoring project. The data base of individuals who participate in the project has since grown to 78.

Our first monitoring event occurred in the fall of 2008 “piggy-backed” on the Anglers of the AuSable annual river clean up project. Each year since, we have sampled 6 sites on the major branches of the watershed twice each year (June & September), while skipping June 2012 due to unsafe conditions. Beginning in 2015 we reduced sampling events to once each year, alternating spring and fall. Each site is a 300 foot stretch that encompasses a diversity of river habitat types. While noting numerous parameters, the principal focus is the collection of a great diversity of benthic (bottom dwelling) macroinvertebrates.

In the days and weeks following the sampling events, the samples are transported to a laboratory at Kirtland Community College where they are identified and scored according to the widely used MiCorps quality assured protocol. Data is available on the MiCorps data base as well as locally at GahaganNature.org. The complete collections are stored and available for study at the AuSable River Center in Roscommon. We just completed identification and scoring of the May 20, 2017 sampling event and as you might expect, the scores for all six sites were excellent. Our next sampling event is September 8, 2018. This will be our 16<sup>th</sup> survey event and will mark our 11<sup>th</sup> year. We always need more help, so if you want to experience the beautiful AuSable River in a completely unique way, why not join us.

AuSable River Watershed Monitoring    Saturday, September 8, 2018

Contact Tom Dale at [thdale@core.com](mailto:thdale@core.com) for details about volunteering for this important project.



## Tick-literate    By Troy Fairbanks

Over the past ten years ticks have become a bigger problem in the North/Central Lower Peninsula. Theories as to why the tick population has exploded include climate change (milder winters) and an increase in the numbers of small mammals and deer, the primary hosts of ticks.

By far the most common tick found in our area and Michigan in general, is the American Dog tick (may carry Rocky Mountain spotted fever). The Blacklegged tick (deer tick), which can transmit Lyme disease, has become much more prevalent in the southern and western lower peninsula, with population studies indicating it is moving into our area. Ticks are most commonly found in the spring and early summer but must be monitored for in the late summer and fall also.

Ticks do not jump onto their hosts. They find their hosts by questing. Questing is when a tick crawls to the top of a piece of grass, weed or brush and waits for a host. When an animal or human comes by the tick senses an increase in carbon dioxide and vibrations. It then starts waving its front legs around hoping to grab onto hair or clothing to get onto their host. Once on the animal, the tick will find a good area to become attached such as around the waistline, ears or groin. In general ticks need at least a few hours if not a day or two of attachment and feeding before they can transmit any diseases they may be carrying.

Ticks in Michigan are known to carry bacterial diseases such as Lyme disease, erlichiosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. They may also transmit viral encephalitis. Preventing tick exposure, bites and disease transmission is best done by avoiding known areas with high numbers of ticks. Avoid tall grass and brush and walk in the center of trails. Use a Deet product on your skin and a permethrin product on your clothes to prevent the tick from staying on if you pick one up. Wear long pants tucked into socks. If they are light colored it will help you see any ticks that may get on you. Check for ticks immediately after coming in from outside. A quick shower may help wash off any tick that has not yet attached. If you have any dogs or cats that go outside it is important to use a quality flea and tick preventative. This can prevent them from bringing any ticks into your yard or home. If you do happen to find an attached tick on yourself or your pet never try to burn them off. Grasp the head of the tick and use slow steady pressure with a pair of tweezers, your fingers or a tick puller tool to remove the tick. The State of Michigan will identify any ticks you find. Go to [Michigan.gov/lyme](http://Michigan.gov/lyme) for information on how to have a tick identified. If you come down with a fever, muscle/joint pain, or a rash after removing a tick or possible tick exposure you should see your doctor immediately.

If you want more information on ticks in Michigan go to [Michigan.gov/emerging\\_diseases](http://Michigan.gov/emerging_diseases) and download the “Ticks and your health Brochure”

# MGNP Mission

“The Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve was established to perpetuate Marguerite’s lifelong appreciation of the north woods. It is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to protect and maintain the diverse habitats of the preserve, and to provide environmental education for our communities.”

## Citizens’ Climate Lobby

During the February 12, 2018 MGNP board meeting, a motion was made and unanimously approved to support the mission of the newly formed Roscommon chapter of the Citizen’s Climate Lobby. The CCL is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that empowers people from all walks of life to become effective advocates for a livable world.

Our thousands of volunteers across the country speak powerfully to their elected officials, the news media, and their local communities to urge support for climate protection.

The CCL meet sregularly with members of Congress and their staffs, collaborate with groups that share our concerns, host public outreach events, conduct letter-writing campaigns, submit letters to the editor and op-ed pieces for local newspapers, and seek endorsements from editorial boards and community leaders in support of climate protection legislation.

Citizens' Climate Lobby staff members provide group support via an annual conference and lobby day in Washington, monthly telephone conference calls featuring guest speakers, weekly calls with group leaders, online tutorials, and a variety of free background materials. The Roscommon Chapter of the CCL will hold monthly meetings at MGNP the 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM.

**For more information visit: [Citizensclimatelobby.org](http://Citizensclimatelobby.org) or contact: [clroscommonchapter@gmail.com](mailto:clroscommonchapter@gmail.com) or call: Sue Shoemaker 517-775-5215 or call: Carey Thomas 989-302-0315**

## ELF Update

Environmental Learning for the Future, ELF, is an educational program offered to area schools. This year Roscommon Elementary and Roscommon Middle Schools have been learning all about habitats. Houghton Lake Middle and Collins Elementary Schools have been learning about the amazing designs in nature. Gahagan provides eight science kits based upon an overarching theme, to participating schools at a nominal cost of \$300 per year per school. Kits and lesson plans are presented to volunteers during a monthly, one hour, optional training session. These volunteers go into the classrooms and tailor the lesson to meet the needs of the age group. Students absolutely look forward to the day of the ELF presentation in their classroom. They love it! Thanks to all of the many volunteers that participate in this program. ELF could not happen without you.

## GAHAGAN NATURE CAMP 2018

Spring newsletter means that summer is just around the corner. So parents, mark your calendar for the summer Nature Camp. Kids get to explore the great outdoors, play games, create some cool crafts, and expand their knowledge of all things natural. Sammy the snake will be on the schedule, along with a puppet show put on by the campers, and they’ll create their own nature inspired t-shirt. Not breaking with tradition, the end of camp will feature frogging at Gahagan’s own pond.

Camp is scheduled for July 17, 18, and 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am until noon. It is open to children between the ages of 7 and 11, and is limited to the first 25 children who register. The fee for non-members is \$20 per child; the fee for Gahagan members is \$10 per child.

To register your child, contact Tracy at [adm@GahaganNature.org](mailto:adm@GahaganNature.org) or call at 989-390-0903.

## Weyerhaeuser Employees are Making Waves

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 was a lovely sunny day to tackle a messy, very necessary project at the preserve. Faith Dandois, Kathy Moss, Kerry Murphy and Mark Bosworth from Grayling Weyerhaeuser joined forces with the Gahagan Board members to reseal the majority of the paved trail. It was a labor intensive, exhausting, but eminently rewarding job. As a result, these Weyerhaeuser employees were awarded a \$1000.00 grant from the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund. It was decided that the grant money be donated to Gahagan.

Over the last 10 years, Weyerehaeuser employees have participated in several AuSable River clean-up projects. Gahagan has been fortunate to have been the recipient of grants awarded for several of those river projects. The fall 2017 black top resurfacing was a one-two bonus, as the employee’s good work was performed on right on our preserve. We are very grateful to the Weyerhaeuser Company and the Weyco employees for their hard work at the preserve.

***Making Waves is a program through the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund that fosters volunteerism and supports Weyerhaeuser employees’ good works in the community.***