



Pat Demers	2000 to 2005	Martha Clapp	2002 to 2004	Jeff Mellgren	2011 to 2016
Tom Dale	2000 to present	Dale Losee	2004 to 2005	Troy Fairbanks	2012 to present
Tom Zeneberg	2000 to 2010	Julie Boushelle	2004 to 2008	Paul Bertrand	2013 to 2014
Karen Demers	2000 to 2007	Rich Silverman	2005 to 2015	Craig Jacobs	2014 to 2015
Joanne Bouck	2000 to 2014	Keith Gave	2005 to 2007	Theresa Bradley	2014 to 2016
Jane Glidden	2000 to 2004	Brian Hutchins	2005 to present	Susan Huffman	2014 to present
Julie Borak	2000 to 2014	Jeremy Jones	2005 to 2014	Gabe Williams	2015 to 2017
Ruth Ferguson	2000 to 2004	George Maroney	2007 to 2014	Julie Crick	2016 to present
John Rosczyk	2000 to 2003	Elaine Granzine	2008 to 2011	Ken Elmore	2017 to present
Roberta Werle	2002 to 2017	Jim Enger	2008 to 2010	Jalen Williams	2017 to present
Michelle Milne	2002 to 2010	Tracy Bosworth	2010 to present	Dale Ekdom	2018 to present

While we wait for all the contenders, you can hear about our new goals, reacquaint yourself with the trails, and enjoy the natural beauty of Marguerite's legacy.

Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve
Board of Directors

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

Kate Gammicchia, Education Director
(989) 390-390-7933 ~ Hoffmanshands@gmail.com
Tracy Bosworth, Executive Director
(989) 390-0903 ~ adm@GahaganNature.org

www.GahaganNature.org

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

Gahagan Calendar
2019/2020 Events

Sept-Oct: Fall Field Trips at MGNP

October 13: Open House 1-4 PM at MGNP

December 7: Christmas in the Village

Jan–April 2020: Visiting Naturalist-Area Schools

April 25, 2020: Spring Clean-up 9-noon

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

Check our website or facebook for current info and events.
If you prefer to go paperless, go to the "Contact Us" tab and sign
up for an electronic copy of our newsletter.

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. MGNP provides environmental education for many of the schools in the surrounding counties. The 60-acre preserve is open to the public for hiking, snowshoeing, birding and many other uses year round. We have an asphalt and boardwalk trail that is wheelchair friendly, travelling through the woods and wetlands 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

I am making a donation of \$ _____

I wish my donation to be ___ in memory of ___ in honor of _____

Name: _____ Ph: (____) _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ @ _____

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 online at www.GahaganNature.org

Looking for the "Friends of Gahagan" List?

With the Spring 2019 newsletter, we have altered the way we acknowledge our friends. In the past, we had noted donors and memorial contributions in the spring publication. We had then listed our members in the fall newsletter, as that is the time of year we remind our friends to renew their membership contributions. This has led to a bit confusion over the years, as some contributions were not noted in the very next issue of the newsletter. To rectify this, we are noting all contributions taken in throughout the entire current calendar year in the next year's spring publication.

We have also updated the way we report the contributions you give to the Preserve. Our "Friends of Gahagan" page will reflect contributions in the following fashion:

Members	Supporters	Partners	Stewards	Patrons
(up to \$30)	(\$31-\$249)	(\$250-\$499)	(\$500-\$999)	(\$1,000 and up)

The Gahagan Board of Directors are incredibly thankful for each and every contribution that you make. We spend much time and endeavor to make wise, long lasting, conservative decisions regarding where your dollars are spent here at your preserve. It is through the preserve that Marguerite Gahagan continues to share the north country she loved with others.

Help us Grow

Please don't forget to take care of your MGNP membership. These dues are one of the biggest sources of revenue for our organization. We need to not only hang on to every membership we currently have, we need to grow as well. So spread the word by sharing this newsletter!

Individual memberships are just \$20 per year and family membership dues are \$30. If you are an internet user, you can log on to www.GahaganNature.org and quickly take care of your dues through the secure PayPal link. You can process your payment through your PayPal account or by entering your debit or credit information as a stand-alone purchase.

You can also make a personal donation or a memorial contribution through a link on the website. So please, don't forget to join us by updating your membership today. If you are receiving our newsletter and prefer to be removed from the mailing list, just let us know. You can email us at adm@GahaganNature.org or call 989-275-3217. Thank You!

Fall Field Trips

Gahagan is hosting fall field trips from now through October. The scheduling times are 9-10:30, 10:30-12, and 12:30-2:00pm. Classes are also free to bring lunches to eat during 12-12:30.

Hands on lessons are planned for each grade level and include energizing games to help retain and reinforce learning. We provide quality environmental education, coordinating with the latest NGSS standards.

Kindergartners, get ready for birds. First grade will learn about trees and how to use their senses in the forest. Second graders focus on "three R's" in a discussion on natural versus unnatural. Our third graders explore patterns in nature and life cycles – just in time for winter! Fourth grade will discover the importance of adaptations. Fifth grade keys in on classification. Middle and High School programs are available on request.

Please contact Kate at Hoffmanshands@gmail.com or log on to www.GahaganNature.org to view dates and schedule your trip.

Book a fall 2019 field trip for your class and you will receive a spring 2020 field trip at no additional cost !

The Harvest Moon rose red, orange and gold over the north woods;
The moon's silver flooded the woods.
Ducks cut a pattern, black wings beating the silver;
Arrows racing the moon.
Owls cried their high, wavering, achingly lonely message.
Leaves drifted in the night's air,
Lisping silver whispers as they danced over resting leaves.
Fall has come with quiet steps.



Marguerite Gahagan
The Harvest Moon
10/12/1955

Invasive Species Search

Early this September, Huron Pines, brought a team of experts to seek out invasive plant species. Surveying the interior 60 acres of the preserve (excluding the parking lot), only one single invasive species, Japanese Barberry, was found. In fact it was just one single shrub. Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) is native to Japan, and was introduced to the United States in the late 1800s. Primarily used as landscape material, it is resistant to deer browsing. It thrives both in full sun and deep shade. Like many non-native shrubs, it leafs out early, keeps its leaves late into fall and forms dense thickets which shade out native plants. It has bright red berries during its' fruit bearing stage. A quick search online will take you to several fact sheets for more information as well as pictures to help identify the plant.

Board member Julie Crick and Education Director Kate Gammicchia later removed the invader. Julie and Kate began by cutting down the thorny shoots to prevent being poked by the spines. To their surprise, they found a bright yellow colored sapwood, or meat inside. They then proceeded to dig up all the root structures. Many roots, also yellow, had begun to spread in a ground-cover fashion. They hoped to have removed all of the barberry plant's roots, but will watch for this in the future, as the bright red berries were no longer on the shrub. This could be due to deer browse or dropping naturally to the ground.



Home Depot Community Build

The cedar split rail fence at the parking lot and entrance drive had met its demise after twenty some years of service. Many cross members and posts were decayed and broken and the entire gate was on the ground. MGNP board member Ken Elmore secured a grant from the Home Depot Foundation to cover cost of the materials needed to rebuild. When the Houghton Lake Store team members got wind of the project, they decided to turn it into a Team Depot Community Build.

On May 16, approximately 120 feet of fencing provided by Home Depot was installed, ringing the parking lot and the entrance drive to the Preserve. The project drew a dozen volunteers, including associates of The Home Depot, Lorraine Carman, Theresa Bassett, Stacy Roberson, John Ording, Marc McGill, Shane Monohan and Jim Herman and MGNP board members Dale Ekdorn, Brian Hutchins, Ken Elmore, Tom Dale and Tracy Bosworth. The project is in memory of Julie Borak, who was an active supporter of the preserve and served on the MGNP board for many years.



A huge thank you to the associates of the Home Depot who helped with this project. We truly would never have been able to do it on our own!



Forestry Camp at MGNP

The Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve was the ideal backdrop for the 4-H Forestry Camp last July because of the variety of unique forest and wetland features found on the property. The camp was created to help children understand the forest ecosystem, how management decisions are made, and to visit with a suite of professionals working in the field of forestry.

During the camp, the children learned that forest management decisions are made to help meet the landowner's goals. On the preserve, the goal was and still is preservation; examples include the lingering white pine giants and the thriving white cedar wetland forests. The children discussed the importance of these habitats to the functionality of the ecosystem and surrounding watershed. The children also discussed how forest management decisions are also based on creating the right conditions for the next generation of trees to grow. They visited the site of the clearcut, discussed its purpose as a firebreak and identified the trees growing back.

Field trips that allow the children to interact with professionals were also an important part of the 4-H Forestry Camp, and we did a lot of traveling! After discussing the clearcut as a firebreak, we visited the DNR Forest Fire Experiment Station to learn about the importance of fighting forest fires, and how the equipment to do so is manufactured locally. Engineers, draftsmen and wildland firefighters interacted with the children during the visit. We also visited the CCC Museum and Hartwick Pines to learn about the history of logging and forest recovery, A.J.D. Forest Products to see how logs are processed into products and a timber harvest to learn how trees are cut into logs. The thirteen children that participated in the camp enjoyed meeting the forestry professionals, and learned a lot about how and why they came to work in the field.

Overall, the children attending the camp reported enjoying the experience, and wish we had spent more time exploring the forests at Gahagan. There is always next year!

The 4-H Forestry Camp is a program hosted by MSU Extension Educator, Julie Crick, and Roscommon 4-H Coordinator, John Wurm. The camp is supported by the Gahagan Nature Preserve, Conservation District Foresters and volunteers that help make it possible.

MGNP Five Year Plan 2019-2024

In September the MGNP board of directors approved the following plan to guide the programs and projects at the preserve.

Habitat Protection: Since habitat protection is the principle focus of the Preserve's mission statement, it is clear that we need to keep this as one of our primary focuses.

1. Invasive species is a serious problem, both at the preserve and generally. In collaboration with Huron Pines, Headwaters Land Conservancy, and our local Soil Conservation District, we will work on removing invasive species that threaten our preserve and feature programming that educates the public about this issue. The Preserve is a participating member of the AuSable River Watershed Restoration Initiative.
2. MGNP will continue Au Sable River Watershed Monitoring Project by providing the resources to continue to monitor the Chase Bridge site.
3. Acquisition of new land that is adjacent of our current boundary, particularly the wetland area containing the mature Cedar swamp and the western portion of the current township compost site is a priority.
4. We must continue to put forth effort to remove spotted knapweed from our parking area.
5. The township compost pile fire during spring 2013 brought to light the need to reduce the brush fuel adjacent to the cabin to a minimum. We will to continue the efforts undertaken since 2015 to reduce brush and downed dead trees adjacent to the cabin as well as work with the township to chip brush on a regular basis.

Education: Education has and will continue to be a very important focus of our preserve.

1. Continue to provide Field Trips, The Visiting Naturalist and Project ELF to our local school districts and home schooled families.
2. Two interpretive signs need to be completed. Topics for the signs are the deer exclosures and the woodlot cuttings/clear-cuts.
3. We need to continue to provide community programming on topics that are consistent with our mission.
4. Expand services/program opportunities at the preserve during summer and/or winter by hiring a Full time Education Director.
5. Enhance Trail system interaction by creating stations that focus on habitat and environment.
6. Market the book, Pine Whispers.
7. Keep Cabin open throughout the winter and explore staffing on a regular basis for posted open hours.

The Physical Plant: Our property and buildings.

1. Re-roof and insulate.
2. Replace all our windows.
3. Replace the front door.
4. We need to upgrade our indoor and outdoor lighting, utilizing LED technology.
5. Furnace will need to be upgraded including a programmable thermostat.
6. We need to regularly treat our blacktopped handicapped friendly trails.
7. The bridge by Brookside needs to be rebuilt and fencing replaced.
8. Replace split rail fencing surrounding the cabin.
9. Construct a seating area for 30 surrounding our Kiosk.
10. Create a guided trail for the Visually Impaired in conjunction with the Lions Club.

Human Resources: Memberships, partners, sponsors, donors, and board members.

1. Increase memberships by sending a reminder card in November.
2. Develop new board members by working at recruiting from general membership and community.
3. Continue networking with other community organizations (RMRA, 4H MSU Extension, Roscommon Citizen's Climate Lobby, etc.) and participate in hosting Chamber of Commerce events at the preserve.
4. Encourage board participation in Nonprofit Leadership opportunities.

Financial Resources: Memberships, Fees, Donations, Grants, Investments, & Misc. Income.

1. Develop a brochure that informs potential donors about charitable giving and estate planning.
2. Focus articles in our newsletters on the value of memberships, fees, and charitable giving.
3. Continue to seek grant funding through local and national organizations.

Nature Camp 2019

Nature camp is always a great time. This year we were blessed with sunny skies and (thankfully) a less than normal amount of mosquitoes. Twenty-three campers enjoyed three mornings jam packed with activities.



Owl Pellets
Owls usually swallow their small prey whole, coughing up the indigestible parts in a form of a pellet. Working in small groups the children dissected owl pellets. As the children separated bones, teeth and fur, they tried to identify and label any parts they had found.



Animal Tracks
The kids had fun as they learned how to walk or 'stride' like an animal and identify tracks of Michigan animals. Quite humorous as the children were on all fours striding like various Michigan mammals.



Water Studies
We went to the pond to observe any insects and/or animals swimming. This opened a discussion drinking this pond water. We looked at a sample through the projecting microscope and discovered microscopic organisms. These unseen insects and bacteria can cause serious illnesses. Filtering water can help purify by removing these impurities and making it safe to drink, often improving its taste as well. The children then created and collected the natural items to make a water-filtering container.



Thanks.....Thanks.....Thanks.....Thanks.....Thanks!

Thanks again to Performance Propane for providing us with fuel. You keep our hearts and the rest of us warm all winter.



Thank you Brian Hutchins for all the time you spent the past two summers ridding the parking lot of Spotted Knapweed. Your tremendous effort has been noticed and hugely appreciated.

Thanks to the Kirtland Garden Club for the continued support. We were very excited to see Monarch caterpillars on our milkweed plants this summer.

Thanks to Wade Hartman at S & J Excavating for assisting with our driveway repair project and for grading our parking lot.

Coordinated Effort

This summer, Crawford County 4-H and Roscommon County 4-H held two events at Hanson Hills in Grayling for children ages 8 to 10 and 11 to 14. Gahagan Nature Preserve partnered with the 4-H organizations to provide an Outdoor survival camp. The theme of camp was inspired by the rescue of Caroline, age 5, and Leia Carrico, age 8, who were lost in a Northern California forest in March of this year. The girls survived in for nearly 48 hours all by themselves. They said they had used skills they learned through 4-H to help them survive.

This story inspired the planning of this year's camp. Campers learned basic outdoor survival skills like seeking shelter, orienteering, fire building, and predator/prey interactions, and other issues critical to surviving in the woods. At the end of each three day camp, the youth then put their newly learned skills to the test with an outdoor survival scavenger hunt.

These two camps were a great success with 24 children each week. Next summer , Gahagan will host both camps at our preserve. Be sure to check out our website in the spring for the current schedule of all camp offerings at Gahagan in 2020.

Spring Field Trip Review

We had a very successful Spring Field Trip Season with students from four counties visiting our Preserve. We hosted over 500 students ranging from kindergarten through seventh grade. We created an atmosphere of scientific thinking with fabulous games like Quick Frozen Critters. We dove into hands-on field activities through collecting and observing water fleas during pond studies, discovering food chains and manipulating groundwater flow models to see contamination in a controlled environment.

Great kids with great participation and listening skills!

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.”

MGNP Honor Roll

Since 1999, many individuals and organizations have been instrumental in assisting with this mission. By way of thanking those who have made significant contributions to the preserve, Gahagan has an Honor Roll plaque on permanent display in the cabin. The contributions to the preserve and continuing support has helped our efforts to provide quality environmental education for many years.

We are pleased to add Tony Medina to the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve Honor Roll Plaque at our Annual Open House on Sunday, October 13th. Tony has dedicated many hours to the preserve grounds helping annually at the Gahagan Spring Clean Up. He also keeps an eye out on the trails as he rides. Thanks Tony.

In Memorium

Following the publication of our last newsletter, Gahagan Preserve lost three people who made a difference here, Jack Bouck, Larry Dashner and George Maroney. Many of their contributions will last for a long time. We would like to note some special things about their lives.

Jack Bouck

A retired Michigan State Police trooper, Jack’s wife Joanne was Gahagan’s treasurer for many years. Jack never had a formal role at Gahagan and that makes his contributions all the more special. He and Joanne met with visitors along the trails - passing their knowledge gained from their retirement passion for birding. They hosted special birding events and conducted the annual Christmas bird count at the preserve. Jack helped maintain the buildings and grounds and volunteered in any number of ways. On our best days, we would could not hope to list his contributions without leaving something out, so thanks Jack for all of it.



Jack and Joanne Bouck

Larry Dashner

Larry devoted much time especially during the early development of the Preserve. He laid out, mowed and maintained the trails. He helped with the asphalt, wheel-chair friendly trail and the building of the classroom. Larry donated funds for the garage and the garage expansion. He built the table next to the pond. He donated the posts and rails for the fence around the cabin and built it (with a little help.) Larry’s volunteer work and generosity at Gahagan will be felt for a long time.

George Maroney

George served on the Gahagan Board of Directors for several years. Those who knew him probably think of two things. George always had a smile and enjoyed the moment - and he loved flying and the airplanes that allowed him to fly. It's not hard to imagine him up in the sky now enjoying himself. George gave up his time to volunteer at Gahagan and we will always be grateful.