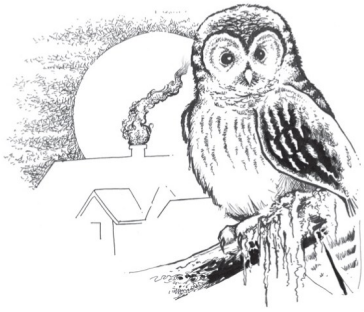


Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve
P.O. Box 421
Roscommon, MI 48653



Gahagan Open House/General Membership Meeting

Sunday, October 9, 2016 1-4 PM
Beverages and finger food — Program begins at 1:30

Any time you wish, you can stroll along our trails to spot century old pines, hemlocks and cedars, wander out to the gazebo to discover the start of Tank Creek, or hang by the pond listening to chirps, caws and croaks. On Sunday, October 9th, we welcome you to do just that. We also invite you to join us for an enlightening presentation and our recognition of an organization that has made significant contributions to the preserve.

Dr. Thomas Gehring, a Biology Professor from Central Michigan University, will be presenting a program on the **Ecology of Wolves in Michigan**. Dr. Gehring received his B.S. and M.S. from the University of Wisconsin and his Ph.D. from Purdue University in 2000. He teaches courses in Wildlife Ecology & Management, Landscape Ecology and Mammalogy. His current research projects are concentrated toward developing and testing conservation strategies for wildlife species at different organizational levels. Other areas of focus include the impacts of highways on wildlife, spatial ecology of carnivores and birds, tools for non-lethal management of carnivores in agricultural landscapes, and the transmission of avian influenza virus at migratory stopover sites.

The Roscommon Area Youth Booster Club (RAYBC) is a non-profit voluntary organization whose main purpose is to support activities that promote a healthy environment and positive attitudes for our youth. RAYBC does not receive money from the school district or through taxes. With support from area businesses, fundraising activities and club memberships, the Booster Club supports youth within the Roscommon Area School District. In the past few years RAYBC has contributed funds to both the Visiting Naturalist and ELF Programs at Gahagan. We appreciate their support and are pleased to officially add them to the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve Honor Roll at this year's open house.

We hope to see you there!



You are cordially invited to our Annual Open House and Membership Meeting
on Sunday, October 9, 2016 from 1:00 to 4:00PM

At A Crossroads

From time to time, every organization reaches a major crossroads. Gahagan Nature Preserve finds itself at one now. This situation did not come as a surprise to our board of directors, but it forces a major decision about Gahagan's future and the programs that we provide.

With the encouragement of the Board, naturalist Tom Dale developed Gahagan's education program and created the position of Education Director to oversee its continued development. During his 15-year tenure he produced a professional environmental science education program utilized by schools in a 5-county area. He taught thousands of school children and introduced a parent-led science curriculum to the classrooms as well. The Preserve initially provided these services with funds left by Marguerite Gahagan's estate, grants from the local intermediate school district and funding from Kirtland Community College. Unfortunately, budget constraints have forced contributing school entities to suspend their funding in recent years.

About two years ago, Tom Dale informed the board that he would retire as our education director by the end of the 2014-15 school year. As a retired college instructor, Tom was both well qualified and benevolent regarding his time and compensation. Our contract with him paid little compared to the hours he poured into the task. Clearly, hiring a qualified replacement meant that our costs were going to rise during a time when grant sources from local schools were drying up.

We chose to move forward with a trial period and sought out a qualified environmental educator to fill a full-time position as our new education director. We were fortunate to hire a brand new University of Michigan graduate who was very excited to have the opportunity to "try -out" at our preserve. Jalen Williams had a very successful first year and has committed to the coming year as well.

Donations and memberships are extremely important to us, and we wish to thank every one of you who supported Gahagan these past 20 years. You have kept us afloat. The income from donations and the small endowment that Marguerite Gahagan left behind are more than enough to administer and maintain the preserve itself. However, these sources of income are not enough to continue a sustained, long-term education program. During Jalen's two -year trial, we decided to run our programs at a deficit while we focused on securing a long-term funding solution.

The Board used the past year to analyze costs and develop a financial structure that will support and maintain our programs in the future. We then formed a fundraising committee and reached out to community leaders who we hoped would help us establish a way forward. Some of the best advice we got was to identify our educational program assets, determine exactly how much it costs to sustain each program and then seek a patron or patrons to sponsor them. The consensus of the board was to base the future educator's rate on a 35-hour work week at \$15/hour.

Thus we have reached a crossroads. Either we secure funding to support an education director, or we become purely a land conservancy without educational programs for our community or youth. The preserve itself will continue to act as a public resource, but its exceptional environmental education programming will soon disintegrate.

Starting on page 3, this newsletter features summaries of our four education programs and explains the funding needs for each. We are looking for sponsors and patrons to secure our programs for the future. Our complete fundraising document is available on our website www.GahaganNature.org

Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve
Board of Directors ~ 2016-2017

Chairperson: Jeff Mellgren
Vice Chair: Troy Fairbanks
Secretary: Bobbie Werle
Brian Hutchins
Tom Dale
Sue Huffman
Gabe Williams
Julie Crick

Jalen Williams, Education Director
(989) 281-1211 jalen@umich.edu

Tracy Bosworth, Executive Director
(989) 390-0903 tracyboz@yahoo.com
adm@GahaganNature.org

www.GahaganNature.org
(989) 275-3217

Gahagan Calendar

2016 Events

Sept.-May: ELF program in local schools
Sept. 12: Fall field trips begin
Sept. 10: AuSable River Water Quality Collec-
tion (10 AM, Gates Lodge)
Oct. 9: Open house at Gahagan
Oct. 31: Cabin closing

2017 Events

Jan-April: The “Visiting Naturalist” program
April 22: Spring clean-up (9 AM-Noon)
April 24-June 16: Spring field trips begin
July 18-20: Nature Camp

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

For up-to-date schedule changes and event de-
tails, visit www.GahaganNature.org

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, snowshoe-
ing, birding and many other uses? Did you know we have an asphalt and boardwalk trail that is wheelchair friendly? It trav-
els 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

WE NEED YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER!

September is when we request that you renew your individual or family memberships. Individual memberships are set at \$20 per year. Family memberships are \$30 per year. You can easily log on to www.GahaganNature.org to take care of your dues or make a donation through the secure PayPal link. Membership dues are a major source of revenue for our organization. As you read about Gahagan’s educational programs and our struggle to continue making these available to the community, know that your dues are supporting this endeavor. They also directly contribute to improvements to the preserve’s grounds. We ask that join us and help to ensure that our community and schools will always have access to this wonderful natural place. From all of us at Gahagan, “Thank you!”

Membership from August 1,
2015 to July 31, 2016

Bob Andrus
Hazel Babcock
Theresa Blamer
Bob & Julie Borak
Mark & Tracy Bosworth
Jack & Joanne Bouck
Sherwood & Sharon Boudeman
Gary & Sharon Boushelle
Julie Boushelle
Bob & Norma Boyle
Mark Burger
Brian & Janet Carson
Pat & Karen Casady
Carole Chilton
Martha Clapp
John & Betty Colwell
Cliff & Carolyn Colwell
Julie Crick
Tom & Phyllis Dale
Larry Dashner
Kenda & Kevin Denlinger
Dave & Penny Diltz
Stan & Patti Dombrowski
Lynn Donaldson
Tamara Duggar

Dale & Theresa Ekdorn
Troy Fairbanks
Roger & Mary Fechner
Caryl & Ed Fischer
Carol & Denis Fitzgerald
Anne Gahagan & Rick Dennis
Mike & Sue Glover
Don & Elaine Granzine
DR. Robert & Donna House
Susan Huffman
Nadyne Hunt
Brian & Mary Hutchins
Tom & Mary Lou Jennette
Jerry & Joyce Johnston
Mike Kent
Art & Kathryn Ketelhut
Anne & Russell Kidd
Rich & Cathy Koupal
Nathan Krupp Family
Stephane LaFortune
Duncan & Kathy Lawrence
Diane Lippert
Nancy Martindale
Jeff & Millie Mellgren
June Mellgren
Frank & Nancy Michelson
Pam & Steve Miller
Tom & Patti Moreau
Bill & Kim Morley

Susan Moy
JoAnn & Mike Muston
Doug & Ginny Nagel
Susan & Jack Nanry
Terry Nanry
Don & Suzanne Pennell
Carl & Beverly Peters
Bruce & Betty Phillips
Stewart Powerie
Ralph & Nancy Rucinski
Bill & Patti Sarkella
Mark & Peggy Scott
Richard Seton
Richard & Carol Silverman
Jay & Lorrene Spaulding
Pat & Vicki Springstead
Dan & Lisa Sutton
Don & Anna Sylvester
Bob & Dawn Tupper
Kathy Vandermollen& Gary Harms
Jack & Liz Wade
Mike & Kathy Wahl
Eleanor Washburn
Jerry & Darlene Weinrich
Roberta & Jerry Werle
Jalen Williams
Robert Williams
Sue Worden
Tom & Joyce Zeneberg

After last year’s wind storms reshaped much of the preserve, we worked hard to update our maps and add new trail markers. We now stock the entrance kiosk with handheld trail maps for visitors. A big thank you to Jaime Borchers of Roscommon Glass for donating the materials to create our new trail markers.


←LOST?



Nature Camp 2016

Both of our summer camps went off without a hitch this year, and the kids had lots of fun interacting with the outdoors and exploring the preserve. The theme this year was “Life in the Forest”. On the first day, students learned to navigate safely in the forest and prevent emergency situations (like getting lost!). The second day was all about galls and the invertebrates that help keep nutrients flowing in a typical forest ecosystem. Students finished the day by building a habitat for their very own earthworm.

Everyone looks forward to the last day of camp, when we make t-shirts and jump in the muck to participate in the annual frog-hunt. The kids had a very successful catch this year, and we piled an aquarium full of amphibians before it was all said and done. A special thanks goes out to Ellie Harms for returning to camp as a volunteer this year and to Tom Dale, Karen Demers, Sue Huffman, and Tracy Bosworth for making camp a blast!



PINE WHISPERS

The Biography & Writings of Marguerite Gahagan
founder and publisher of the *North Woods Call*

During a news reporting career spanning from 1930 to 1980, Marguerite became Michigan’s preeminent voice for conservation issues. Activist, humanist, novelist and national award-winning reporter, learn of her incredible life and a legacy that continues to shape our outdoors today.

Great reading for the cabin
Wonderful gift for the nature lover

For more information and to order visit
www.GahaganNature.org

Sales benefit the environmental education programs of the
Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve

The Visiting Naturalist

Annual Sponsorship: \$10,150

During the winter months, Gahagan's educator travels to schools in a six -county area to deliver a single-topic wildlife program called "The Visiting Naturalist". The theme of this program rotates each year through one of four topics that each showcases a different group of predatory mammals: *Wolf Songs*, *Cat Tales*, *Bear Tracks* and *WOW - the Wonder of Weasels*. The program provides a rich learning experience to elementary-aged students and uses puppet shows, displays and hands-on activities to impress upon children the need for responsible stewardship of wild places and wild animals. Students are also able to touch and handle pelts, skulls and other natural props from the collection of educational materials that Gahagan developed with assistance from conservation groups like the National Wildlife Federation.

For the first 15 years of the program, the Visiting Naturalist was financed through generous funding from Kirtland Community College. In 2015, Kirtland suspended their financial support for the Visiting Naturalist Program, but continues to sponsor it by providing pencils and stickers for each participating student.

Numbers Served

The Visiting Naturalist started in 2001 and was first shared with 2,700 K-8 students. Since that time, Gahagan has been delivering the program to schools across an area that includes Crawford, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Roscommon, Otsego, Kalkaska and Iosco counties. Over the past 16 years we have cycled through these four programs several times and each time, local schools eagerly rushed to get on our winter schedule. The 2010 program was presented to over 5,600 students and adults. In 2016, we shared the program with more than 3,500 students.

Funding Needs

The program is typically presented from January through April. It requires about one-quarter of the Gahagan educator's time, travel expenses (mileage) to the schools and yearly updates to the educational kits used during the presentations.

- ⇒ Education Director - \$9,100
- ⇒ Travel expenses - \$750
- ⇒ Instructional Supplies & Aides - \$200
- ⇒ Professional Development - \$100

WOLF SONGS

The Visiting Naturalist program began when we were first able to borrow the National Wildlife Federation's "Wolf Trunk". It was filled with skulls, furs and great educational materials and inspired the creation of our entire Visiting Naturalist series. This year, local schools and libraries in a six-county area will see the "Wolf Songs" program and learn all about the canines that call North America home, including wolves, coyotes, foxes and domestic dogs.

The gray wolf is a true Michigan native, but had been completely eliminated from the Lower Peninsula by 1935. Thanks to conservation efforts, wolves have made a comeback in Michigan, but their future remains threatened. If you would like to learn more, plan on attending Gahagan's open house on October 9th to hear guest speaker Dr. Thomas Gehring explain his research on the ecology of Michigan wolves. Otherwise, you can plan on seeing the 2017 Visiting Naturalist program in school or at your nearest participating library!



SPECIAL THANKS

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to both The Roscommon Area Youth Boosters and the Morley Foundation Fund of the Roscommon County Community Foundation for supporting the 2016 Visiting Naturalist Program. We would also like to thank Kirtland Community College and artist Scott Rice for the pencils and stickers that we distributed to participating students. We are extremely grateful.

Community Education Programs

Annual Sponsorship: \$13,050

Gahagan Nature Preserve offers a variety of environmental education services across the community, primarily during the summer season. While Gahagan's other education programs are necessarily limited to elementary-aged students, many of our Community Education Programs provide informative presentations to adults, families, and students of all ages. Through this collection of diverse programs, the preserve encourages participants to learn about pressing regional environmental issues, observe local plants and animals, and get engaged in the environmental stewardship of our community.

To this end, Gahagan sends representatives and offers presentations to a myriad of local events. Kirtland Warbler Festival, AuSable Riverfest, Higgins Lake Winterfest, Lake Saver's Day at the McMullen Center, Roscommon Business Expo, and Roscommon Conservation Expo are events that are routinely supported by Gahagan. We also invite volunteers to participate in our annual monitoring of the Upper AuSable River Watershed, a program that provides members an opportunity to involve themselves in the work of an ongoing scientific study, collecting river health data on the North, South, East and Main branches of the AuSable River.

From May to October, Gahagan opens up the interpretive center to the public for regularly scheduled open-hours. Our naturalist prepares weekly activities for visitors and offers educational presentations and guided tours for groups and

families. The tours take visitors to some of the most exciting parts of the preserve and teaches them to identify bird calls, animal tracks, and the remains of various organisms that inhabit the property. Activities at the cabin include ever-changing displays, craft projects for younger children, and group presentations.

In addition, Gahagan is committed to providing local libraries with a series of presentations during the summer. One of these programs is a weekly "Nature Time" presentation, cycling through the many major branches of the animal kingdom. Games and activities accompany a slide show to provide educational entertainment for all ages. The preserve also offers informative presentations to libraries and community centers that cover a range of mature topics, such as forest management, wildlife trafficking, and climate change.

One of Gahagan's most successful summer events is the Nature Camp offered in July and August. This day camp runs for three days, and allows campers to explore the farthest reaches of the preserve while investigating various ecosystems, playing games and working on craft projects along the way. Nature Camp ends with a two-hour Family Night Presentation, which is open to the public. These professional presentations have covered a variety of subjects, and attendees are often able to visit with and handle live specimens brought in for the program. Each camp session accommodates around 25 children, aged 7-11.

Numbers Served

Between community events and scheduled library appearances, the Community Education Programs reach out to hundreds of individuals. Library presentation attendance varies between 10-30 people per event, with several presentations scheduled throughout the year. The preserve itself hosts thousands of visitors every year, many of whom take advantage of the free programs offered at our interpretive center. Gahagan's Nature Camp serves about 50 children a year, and their families often participate in the Family Night featured presentation at the end of camp.

Funding Needs

The community education programs take up nearly one-third of the Gahagan educator's time and reach a diverse audience of all age groups.

- ⇒ Education Director - \$11,900
- ⇒ Instructional Supplies & Aides - \$1,050
- ⇒ Professional Development - \$100



School Field Trips

Annual Sponsorship: \$10,200

Seasonal field trips make up Gahagan's oldest and most cherished environmental education program. The preserve offers a 90-minute outdoor experience that is designed to meet age-appropriate grade-level science objectives. Field trips cover a variety of subjects, and a unique presentation is prepared for every grade-level to ensure that participating students get a new educational experience with every visit to the preserve. These trips cover diverse topics ranging from ecosystem studies to plant and animal adaptations, to physical science and geology.

Gahagan possesses a wealth of exceptional education materials, and these are used to illustrate lessons in a natural and comprehensive way to elementary-aged students. Many of the field trips involve projects and hands-on activities across the Preserve's diverse array of natural habitats. Gahagan also possess a 5-foot long black rat snake named Sammy, who is a popular figure at the preserve and in the community at large. Classes often choose to eat lunch at Marguerite's cabin, which provides students additional time to ask questions and interact with Gahagan's naturalist.

These field trips offer a guided interaction with nature that is just not possible within school grounds. With developing technology being further integrated in today's classrooms, there are very few opportunities for students to interact with the outdoors. Gahagan offers the chance for students to escape the classroom and experience nature first-hand. Students navigate the Preserve's trails, explore habitats, and encounter wildlife while using their senses to make inferences and first-hand discoveries about the natural world.

Numbers Served

Gahagan Nature Preserve has been bringing elementary-aged students to the preserve on field trips since 2000. The Preserve sits in the center of COOR Intermediate School District, which encompasses ten elementary schools and six local public school districts: Crawford-AuSable, Mio-AuSable, Fairview, Houghton Lake, West Branch-Rose City and Roscommon. In both the spring and fall, Gahagan sees 600-700 students at the Preserve, equivalent to nearly 2,000 student contact-hours a year.

Funding Needs

Field trips are offered twice a year to local schools, in the spring and fall. Our education director prepares and delivers unique seasonal lesson plans for every grade-level. Preparation and execution for field trips accounts for roughly one-quarter of the education director's schedule.

- ⇒ Education Director - \$9,800
- ⇒ Instructional Supplies & Aides - \$300
- ⇒ Professional Development - \$100

Project E.L.F.

(Environmental Learning for the Future)

Annual Sponsorship: \$5,200

Originally developed by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Project ELF is an award-winning environmental education program for elementary-aged children and is used in hundreds of school districts around the country. For nearly 30 years, ELF has been a popular and successful program for getting volunteers into elementary classrooms. Gahagan provides Project ELF to five schools in our area, with the capacity to provide programming to additional schools.

ELF encompasses five ecological concepts: Habitats, Cycles, Adaptations, Designs of Nature, and Earth and Sky. Each cycle has eight kits; one kit for each month of the school year. This structure provides for five years of continuous programming. Each ELF teaching kit contains multiple activities complete with resource materials such as slideshows, mammal and bird skull sets, audio tapes, puppet shows, rock collections, games, etc. ELF utilizes K-5 national science education benchmark referenced lessons.

Volunteer educators gather monthly for a one-hour training workshop at their school. Gahagan provides the training workshop and helps volunteers develop teaching skills and adapt the lessons to various grade levels. The volunteers then go into classrooms for sixty to ninety minutes each month to share the lessons and activities from the current ELF kit.

Numbers Served

ELF is currently utilized by two parochial and three public schools in Roscommon and Ogemaw Counties. The parochial schools use ELF with their entire K-8 student population. Limited only by the number of classroom volunteers, the public schools use ELF in roughly 50% of their classrooms. Participation numbers vary from year to year with roughly 400-600 students benefitting annually from the Environmental Learning for the Future program.

Funding Needs

The fee charged to each school is \$350 for 8 kits and 8 parent workshops. This fee roughly covers the cost of the kits (refurbishing and restocking) and the travel costs to provide workshops. Gahagan has covered the education director's time to administer and deliver the ELF program.

- ⇒ Education Director - \$4,200
- ⇒ Travel expenses - \$500
- ⇒ Instructional Supplies & Aides - \$400
- ⇒ Professional Development - \$100

FIELD TRIPS

Fall 2016

Time to schedule your fall field trips to Gahagan! Slots are available from September 12th until October 28th, and they are already filling up! As always, field trips can be tailored to meet the objectives of each particular classroom or grade level. Please contact naturalist Jalen Williams at jalen@umich.edu to get your class on the schedule.



ELF Schedule (2016-17)

Collins Elementary/Our Lady Schools: "Cycles"

Kits: Insect Lives, Meet a Tree, Fly Away or Stay, Galls, Winter Twigs, Bird Songs, Inside a Flower, Dandelions

St. Joseph Catholic School: "Habitats"

Kits: Life in a Field, Forest Floor, Rotting Logs, Animals in Winter, Snug in the Snow, White-Tailed Deer, Streams, Ponds

Roscommon Elementary/Middle: "Adaptations"

Kits: Amazing Insects, Hunter-Hunted, Teeth and Skulls, Beaks and Feet and Feathers, Owls, Thorns and Threats, Frogs and Pollywogs

VOLUNTEER!

The ELF program depends on its volunteers to succeed. If you are a parent, grandparent, or community member that would like to participate in the (2016-2017) ELF program in Roscommon or Houghton Lake, please do not hesitate to contact us! It is an excellent chance to interact with students in the classroom, and requires a very minimal time commitment (~2 hours/month). Simply contact Education Director Jalen Williams (jalen@umich.edu) and volunteer today!