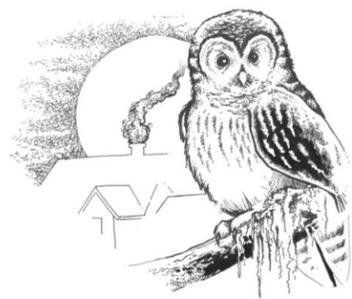


Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve
PO Box 421
Roscommon, MI 48653



Spring CLEAN UP!
Saturday, April 22, 2023
Join us!

Don't miss this!

*Gahagan offers July 8
Kirtland's Warbler Tour*

Come out to Gahagan Nature Preserve on Saturday July 8, from 7-10 a.m. for a tour to see Kirtland's warblers and their jack pine ecosystem home.

We will start out with a short video, then car-pool 12 miles to the tour site where a guide with more than 30 years of experience in Kirtland's warbler recovery will help you see and hear Kirtland's warblers and other species in the jack pine ecosystem.

Participants will park along a hard-packed sandy road, then walk the road looking and listening for Kirtland's and other species, such as hermit thrush, common flicker, brown thrasher and vesper sparrow.

Out of respect for the bird and its well-being, our guide will not provide special accommodations for professional photographers.

To sign up, go to

<https://www.gahagannature.org/calendar>.

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Newsletter of Gahagan Nature Preserve, Inc.

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Issue #44 • Spring 2023

Gahagan-Dashner legacy continues with gift

We recently reported that long-time Gahagan Preserve volunteer Larry Dashner passed away in 2019. Larry was an important figure in the start-up and development of the legacy that Marguerite Gahagan created by willing her cabin, property and much of her estate to us.

Now the estate of Larry Dashner has left the Preserve a large contribution toward its operations and infrastructure.

A Kalamazoo native, Larry served in the US Army after high school, then

worked as a sheriff deputy in that area.

Later, he spent most of his career in Roscommon working for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Outside of work, his passions included motorcycling, boating, bicycling, running, camping and especially volunteering.

Larry laid out and built much of the MGNP trail system. He was part of the group that transformed Marguerite's garage into a classroom that has served as an

environmental learning center for hundreds of students in our 25 years of existence.

He provided the funds to construct the maintenance building which houses a workshop and our large collection of classroom study materials. Larry checked in on the preserve regularly, tidying up and maintaining buildings and trails.

Larry never served in an official position at the Gahagan Preserve. That was

Continued on back page

Gahagan-Dashner legacy - continued from Page 1

not his style. He lived a very modest life in all ways, never seeking the spotlight and spending very little on himself. He generously shared his time and skills as a volunteer for Gahagan and also several other organizations.

For his last act, he left his estate to Gahagan Nature Preserve, the Roscommon County Animal Shelter and the Roscommon County Community Foundation which, per Larry's wish, supplies scholarships for local students to continue their educations.

Some might remember that Larry held yard sales at his M-18 home every summer holiday weekend. He would find and collect useful things that others had discarded and recycle them at these events. Little did we know that the money he made was invested and became part of the estate he left to the Roscommon entities above.

He quietly turned "other people's junk" into future income for

Gahagan and our community.

What does this substantial gift mean for Gahagan Nature Preserve? For one, it has allowed us to essentially establish an endowment to hire a full-time environmental educator and to re-establish our community and school education programs after the Covid disruption.

Secondly, Larry specifically set aside part of his estate to go toward the construction of a new classroom facility. Progress on this building has been delayed because of Covid-related kinks but, as these have started to ease, we expect to get on with it.

Gahagan Nature Preserve has been a volunteer-driven effort from the start. It is important to recognize Larry Dashner's volunteer role here during his lifetime.

Now we also celebrate his continuing legacy with his gift that will further Gahagan's goals and provide the community with an enduring resource.

Preserve grows with addition of 34 wild, wet acres

When the "taxsale.com" sign went up on the wetland along the north side of Co Rd 100 just west of M-18, members of the Gahagan board were immediately interested. The parcel is nearly all forested wetland and an integral part of the Tank Creek watershed.

Tank Creek is a prominent feature of the Gahagan Nature Preserve. The creek flows north through the Preserve, into the surrounding wetland area, threads through the Village of Roscommon where it then joins the South Branch of the AuSable.

We knew we wanted to preserve and protect the piece.

Upon investigation, we discovered the property was being sold by the Michigan DNR via the public auction website. The DNR's real estate division determines an "internal market value" for each parcel

recommended to leave state ownership.

Those parcels are first offered to local units of government. The local units have the option to purchase at the internal market value price or have the property appraised and purchase at assessed value. If municipalities decline to purchase, parcels then proceed to public auction at a price set intentionally below the DNR's set market value.

However, state property that is recommended to leave can also be offered for "Alternate Conservation Ownership." After numerous discussions with various DNR officials, it was agreed that Gahagan was overlooked as an Alternate Conservation Owner.

The Michigan DNR pulled the 34 acres of wetland from the public auction and agreed to sell directly to Gahagan. The support we received from

the DNR to accomplish this endeavor was wonderful.

This acquisition is a real gem and made possible entirely through the generosity of six independent conservation-minded family donors. It was their commitment that made this a reality.

The 34-acre wetland will soon be placed into a Conservation Easement with HeadWaters Land Conservancy, joining the rest of the Preserve's maintained property. Our commitment to dreaming big and looking for other nearby pieces to conserve continues.

We are proud to be supported by a community of friends who value our natural resources and support Marguerite's mission to protect and educate.

Heartfelt thanks to our incredibly generous anonymous donor families.

2023 Gahagan Events Calendar

April 4: **Owl Prowl**, 8:30-9:30 p.m. Tour the Preserve in the evening in search of some of our favorite nighttime critters - owls! Join birding expert and Gahagan volunteer Mike Petrucha to learn all about these captivating birds. Open to all ages.

April 14: **Little Gnats: Program for "Little Gnat-uralists!"** 10:30-11:30 a.m. Visit the Preserve on the second Friday of the month for a nature-themed story and related activity for kids aged 3-6. Young people must be accompanied by an adult.

April 18: **Composting 101**, 6-7:30 p.m. Learn to set up your composting system at home! Get a second use out of your kitchen scraps and yard waste. We will cover composting best practices, a variety of methods and easy ways to get started.

April 22: **Spring Clean Up**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lend a hand at the Preserve on this volunteer work day! We will be removing excess brush, performing general trail maintenance and other projects. Lunch is provided for all volunteers.

May 12: **Little Gnats: Program for "Little Gnat-uralists!"** 10:30-11:30 a.m. Visit the Preserve for a nature-themed story and related activity for kids aged 3-6. Young people must be accompanied by an adult.

May 13: **Bird Banding** demonstration, 7-9 a.m. See article on Page 4 for details!

May 16: **Gahagan Gals—Women in the Woods!**, 6-7:30 p.m. Discover the history of the Gahagan Nature Preserve on foot during this hiking tour. This program is intended for women who are interested in getting outside. Become more comfortable and knowledgeable about the natural world, as you unwind and have fun. Cost is \$15.

May 23: **Ferns, Clubmoss and Horsetails**, 6-8 p.m. Join long-time Gahagan educator Tom Dale as we study this interesting group of non-flowering plants in their native habitat!

June 2: **Bird Banding** demonstration, 7-9 a.m. See article on Page 4 for details!

June 2: **Kirtland's Warbler Festival Home Opener** at MGNP, 5 p.m. See Page 5 for details!

June 3: **2023 Kirtland's Warbler Festival**, CRAF Center, Roscommon, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. See Page 5 for details!

June 9: **Little Gnats: Program for "Little Gnat-uralists!"** 10:30-11:30 a.m. Visit the Preserve for a nature-themed story and related activity for kids aged 3-6. Young people must be accompanied by an adult.

June 10: **Annual June Bird Count**, at the Preserve, 8 a.m. See article on Page 4 for details!

July 8: **Kirtland's Warbler Tour**, 7-10 a.m. Meet at MGNP. See back page for details!

July 18-20: **4-H Forestry Camp**. See Page 4 for details!

For event updates, check our website or Facebook.



Gahagan volunteer Jackie Bertsch leads a demonstration using worms during the Forest Floor lesson with kindergartners at Roscommon Elementary. Want to see kids get excited about nature in the classroom? Bring in some worms! Special thanks to Jackie for volunteering with our ELF program!

ELF returns to local classrooms!

We are excited to update you that we are back in classrooms with our hands-on environmental education program: Environmental Learning for the Future (ELF).

For the 2022-2023 school year, our education director, Kalsa, is presenting the program each month in 19 classrooms between Roscommon Elementary, Roscommon Middle and Grayling Elementary schools. **That means each month we are reaching over 400 students with our nature-focused, hands-on science activities!**

This year our theme is Habitats – students learn about a variety of habitats, from fields and forests, to ponds and streams – even small-scale habitats like all the wonderous activity happening inside one rotting log! Students learn to recognize the components of a habitat; food, water, shelter and space, that are present within these various examples, and learn to recognize our needs as humans in our own habitat.

Classroom programs are a key component to reaching students, and getting kids excited about the great outdoors and the wildlife and other wonders found within. Through generous community sponsors we were able to provide these programs free for classrooms this school year, but we could use your help for upcoming years.

Are you interested in sponsoring our ELF classroom program in area schools for the 2023/24 school year? If so, reach out to us! Email info@gahagannature.org for additional information. By becoming a classroom sponsor, you help ensure we can make our education programs accessible to all audiences, and bring nature-education to local youth regardless of their resources.

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 96-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. It is through the Preserve that Marguerite Gahagan continues to share the north country she loved with others. Please contribute to keep the Preserve and its programs moving forward.

Yes, I/we want to support the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve.

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

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____

Please accept this donation ___in memory / ___in honor of _____

Name: _____ Ph:(_____) _____

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

E-Mail: _____@_____

Please write checks to Gahagan Nature Preserve, Inc. and mail to PO Box 421, Roscommon, MI 48653 • Thanks!
You can also donate, join or renew your membership online at www.GahaganNature.org

Celebrating the season with the joy of wreaths

By Julie Crick

Last December, Gahagan added to the Christmas in the Village festivities by hosting our Make-and-Take Wreath Workshop at the Preserve; an additional session was hosted at the Houghton Lake Senior Center the following Monday.

Each session began with conifer identification and a quick demonstration of options for attaching the boughs to the wreath frame for construction.

Then the fun began! Holiday music filled our ears, and the scent of fresh pine, spruce and fir filled our noses as we worked on our masterpieces.

The finished products were beautiful! The longer-lasting benefits were less conspicuous. Conifer trees release phytoncides, or natural oils, that help protect the trees from pests and disease. When we breathe them in, these chemicals stimulate our immune systems and brighten our moods. Benefits that are much needed during holidays, which occur during the darkest time of the year.

Come join us in December! The 2023 Wreath-Making Workshop will once again be offered as part of Christmas in the Village, which occurs the first Saturday of December. Watch our Facebook page for registration details next fall.



Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve Board of Directors

Chairperson: Tom Dale

Vice Chair: Ken Elmore

Secretary: Julie Crick

Irene Borak

Alecia Catrell

Patrick Demers

Dale Ekdorn

Sue Huffman

Kerensa Huffman

Don James

Mike Petrucha

Kalsa Parker Browning, Education Director

(989) 275-3217 ~ info@GahaganNature.org

Tracy Bosworth, Executive Director

(989) 390-0903 ~ adm@GahaganNature.org

www.GahaganNature.org

Directors meet the 2nd Monday of the month, 6 p.m.

All are welcome to attend.

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."

We have parking - please use it!

By Tom Dale

Years ago, when our Preserve was first established, a parking lot was marked off and a berm and fencing were installed. The parking lot was usually sufficient, except when an event was hosted.

Right next door was the municipal recycling facility. The recycling area, which included an area for residents to drop off brush and yard debris, was a problem right away. It seems we were close enough so that when their gate was closed, Gahagan ended being the recipient of dropped off brush. We would load it up and haul it next door.

The brush pile itself became a problem as well. Right next to our fence was a huge brush pile that accumulated through the years. At one time, it caught fire and the fire spread into our woods. We would have lost the whole thing had DNR firefighters not been on duty.

A fire-barrier trench was quickly dug and we were saved. The trench remains and the danger of another fire was always

a real threat. Finally, after much begging, the Village became the sole owner of the recycling center and the huge brush pile was dealt with.

Our parking problem grew, however, as our Preserve grew until it just wasn't sufficient, even for little events. That problem was addressed when a land swap was negotiated and an acre we owned across the street was swapped for a substantial piece of the recycling center property. It wasn't a parking lot yet, but did provide a basis for planning.

Early in 2022, the opportunity came along. Theresa Ekdom made us aware of the Roscommon County Small Business and Tourism Grant program. The tip was very timely. We were perfectly situated to submit a grant for whatever project we were interested in pursuing and the parking lot expansion was the obvious choice.

We called Wade Hartman of S&J Excavating who helped us measure a suitable space and gave us a cost estimate. We next contacted Home Depot for a fencing estimate. They had just helped us upgrade



Volunteers drilled post holes in the final stages of creating a new parking lot at the Preserve.

our existing fence as a community service.

The final cost was to rent a posthole digger. Those three bids made up our total cost estimate. The grant maximum was \$25,000. Our total cost was set at \$15,913. We requested \$14,145, as our contribution was to be \$1000 plus \$768 of volunteer labor. It all came together during the summer of 2022. And now we have a big new parking lot.

In case you missed it

Great new fall, winter programs happened at Gahagan!

Fall and winter were filled with many new programs designed to get our community out to the Preserve and learn about the outdoors! Here are a few highlights from some of our favorite offerings over the last few months:

What Animals Do in the Night was held in October, with 21 in attendance; a mix of families, couples, as well as a group from the Lion's Den (one of our wonderful area non-profit partners). In the program we learned the difference between nocturnal (active at night), diurnal (active during the day) and crepuscular animals (active during dawn and/or dusk). Attendees also learned specific adaptations that animals have to make them better suited to being active at night. Attendees tested out their night vision and practiced using other senses to guide them in the dark, while learning about some nighttime critters!

Winter Owl Prowl was a popular event indeed, with almost 20 in attendance and more on the waitlist. Volunteer and birding expert Mike Petrucha introduced attendees to two charismatic owl species the group would be on the lookout for; the barred owl and the great horned owl, before setting off on the prowl. Though we didn't hear any

owls that evening, we did get to experience Mike's skills in replicating owl calls, as well as a beautiful nighttime walk around the preserve with some fresh snow.

Winter Tree ID Hike - MSU Extension educator and Gahagan volunteer, Julie Crick, led us around the Preserve for a Saturday morning Winter Tree ID hike in late January. It's easy to rely on leaves to identify tree species - but during this hike, the group learned about how to distinguish species using other

features, such as bark or branching patterns, and environmental clues such as how wet an area is. The diversity at the Preserve provides great examples of several forest community types, which helped provide a rich educational experience for visitors - so much so that when our program went a little longer than scheduled, the group's response was "let's keep going!"

Looking ahead: If you missed out on any of these great fall and winter events at the Preserve, don't fret! We've got lots of spring and summer programs coming up, including another Owl Prowl on April 4th from 8:30-9:30 p.m.! RSVP for events online at www.gahaganature.org/calendar, and be sure to check periodically for new events!



Julie Crick (left) offered great tips during the Winter Tree ID Hike.

Friends of MGNP - thank you donors!

The following gifts were received between March 16, 2022 and March 15, 2023

Patrons (\$1,000 and up)

Cliff & Carolyn Colwell
John & Betty Colwell
Erickson Family
Ken Elmore
Duncan & Kathleen Lawrence
Tony Medina
Bill & Pattie Sarkella
Tom Schupbach
Lanette VanWagenen

Stewards (\$500-\$999)

Sharon Boushelle
Tom Dale
James Gregory
Brian & Mary Hutchins
Liz & Bernie Milnes
Roscommon Auto Recyclers

Partners (\$250-\$499)

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Irene Borak
Anne Gahagan & Rick Dennis
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Kathy & Mike Wahl
Gabe & Karrie Williams
Kathy Wilson
Village of Roscommon

Supporters (\$31-\$249)

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Mary Madore
Mary Alice McKindles
Anne Meeks
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Roberta Werle
Art & Sciences Team, North
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Members

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Memorials and Honoraria:

In memory of Julia Borak
Al Schultz
In memory of Frank Brooks
Roberta Werle
In memory of Toni Seton
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Carol & Jim Garlo

In memory of Gary Boushelle
Sharon Boushelle
In memory of Dale Losee
Christin Bates
Sharon Boushelle
Carole Chilton
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Suzanne & Don Pennell
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Art & Sciences Team of
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Kathy Taylor
Kathy Wilson
Wade & Paul Wittington
In honor of Susan Pavelka
Carolyn Meyer
In honor of Christine Fowler
Carolyn Meyer

Thank you for helping us grow

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

If able, log on to www.GahaganNature.org and quickly take care of your dues through the secure PayPal link, or by entering your debit/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 would like to be removed from the mailing list, just Email us at adm@GahaganNature.org or call 989-275-3217.

We've lost a partner

The Roscommon community and the Dale Family lost a well-loved gentle soul in December. Phyllis Dale was an avid gardener, a master knitter and environmentalist who loved dogs, music, movies and traveling. Phyllis was an ally of the Preserve and graciously supported the ungodly number of hours that Tom spent at Gahagan. She was a truly beautiful lady in every sense. Her contribution has helped to ensure that this beautiful place is accessible for this and future generations to enjoy.



Phyllis Dale

Birds of Gahagan Nature Preserve

Pine warbler

By Mike Petrucha



Pine warbler

The pine warbler, *Setophaga pinus*, is well named as it is not often seen away from pine trees, sticking mainly to open pine forests and pine bar-

rens during the breeding season.

Often difficult to see since they mostly stay in the treetops, the large pines found on the Gahagan Nature Preserve property are a great place to find them.

Pine warblers are yellowish birds with olive backs, whitish bellies, and two prominent white wingbars on gray wings.

More sluggish than most warblers, they forage in a rather leisurely way at all levels in the pines, from the ground to the treetops, often on the sides of trees or hanging from needle clusters.

Pine warblers primarily feed on insects and spiders, but will also feed on seeds, berries and even suet.

In this area, males will begin to sing by early April. Their song is a fast trill of 10-30 notes, usually on one pitch, that lasts a couple of seconds.

Nest sites are located toward the ends of limbs of pines or occasionally other trees, usually 30-50 feet above the ground. Females build a deep, open cup nest of weed stalks, grass stems, strips of bark, pine needles, twigs and spiderwebs, lined with feathers and concealed from below by vegetation.

After laying 3-5 eggs, both parents incubate for about 10 days. After hatching, both parents bring food for nestlings, which leave the nest after another 10 days. Pairs may raise 2-3 broods each year.

Pine warblers breed east of the Mississippi River in the northern United States and southern Ontario. They are a short-distance migrant, and almost the entire population spends the winter within the southeastern United States.

In winter, they also are found in pines, but also use heavily wooded bottomlands, orchards, thickets, and woodland edges.

Calling all birders!

Join us for 2023 Bird Count

Come join us Saturday, June 10, for the 13th Gahagan June Bird Count. We will meet a little before 8 a.m. at the Gahagan parking lot to break into groups, then walk the trails counting all the birds we see and hear. We are usually done by 10 a.m.

If you would like to participate, or just tag along for some outdoors fun, go to <https://www.gahagannature.org/calendar>. In 2022 we counted 121 individuals of 38 species in two hours at the Preserve.

Results of past counts can be seen on eBird by going to www.ebird.org. Click on the "Explore" tab, then click on "Explore Hotspots," then type in "Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve."

4-H Forestry Day Camp is back!

MSU Extension is excited to once again partner with the Gahagan Nature Preserve to offer a three-day camp, which is all about introducing children to forestry basics and the variety of forestry related careers available in the greater Roscommon area.

Field trips to various locations will allow children to meet professionals where-they-work to learn more about their career journey. Foresters, biologists, equipment operators, firefighters, mechanics, engineers and many more are vital to Michigan's forest industry, the third-largest industry in the state.

We will also explore the Gahagan Nature Preserve! The variety of forest community types on the preserve provide an ideal backdrop for activities like tree identification, use of forestry tools, map reading, wildlife habitat identification, and forestry games.

Tank Creek and the forested wetlands also provide great discussion points on local hydrology and the importance of forests for clean water.

The 4-H Forestry Day Camp will take place July 18-20, for children aged 11-15.

Cost is \$25 per child; scholarships are available. For questions or information on how to register, please call MSU Extension at 989-275-5043.

Two Saturday bird-banding options set - May 13, June 2

Mike Petrucha

Would you like to see live birds up close? Come out to Gahagan on Saturday, May 13, from 7-9 a.m. for a bird-banding demonstration.

Find out why we band birds, what it tells us about their lives and their habitat. See how birds are captured, banded and measured, and what data is recorded.

Discover how bird banding data is useful for scientific research, management and conservation purposes.

Bird banding is weather dependent as it can be harmful for the birds in times of inclement weather or high winds.

There will be a second bird banding event Saturday, June 2, from 7-9 a.m. at Gahagan. To sign up, go to <https://www.gahagannature.org/calendar>.

Welcome home warblers!

2023 Kirtland's Warbler Festival weekend is June 2-3

Mike Petrucha

Kirtland's Warbler Weekend is June 2-3, 2023, in Roscommon, MI! Festivities begin Friday, June 2, with a bird-banding demonstration from 7-9 a.m. at the Gahagan Nature Preserve.

If you are not a morning person, you can kick off the weekend with

the Friday Night Home Opener, also at Gahagan. Enjoy a social evening with wine and beer tasting along with appetizers starting at 5 p.m. At 7 p.m., keynote speaker Greg Bodker will present Birdwatching and Birding using his own photographs to provide a fun experience for bird lovers of all experience levels.

If you would like to stretch your legs before or after the Home Opener, Gahagan has many trails to walk.

The Kirtland's Warbler Festival registration desk opens at 7 a.m. Saturday at the CRAF Center in downtown Roscommon. The first Kirtland's Warbler Tour leaves from the CRAF Center at 7:30 a.m., with a second tour at 10 a.m.

The rest of the festival activities begin at 10 a.m. and go until 4 p.m. There are plenty of children's activities under the Kids' Tent, presented by Gahagan Nature Preserve, Nature Discovery with live animals, Michigan Loon



Above, the Trolley is the easiest way to get to warbler habitat! Board the Trolley for one of two morning tours on the day of the festival for your best chance to see a Kirtland's warbler.

Below, the CRAF Center is festival central, hosting all types of nature-themed displays and activities.

Preservation Association, and Mikenauk Rock and Gem Club.

Featured Author Lori Taylor will have three story times with puppets and Bill Rapai from the Kirtland's Warbler Alliance will offer two sessions of the Kirtland's Warbler Migration Game.

Art will be on display by featured artist Marie Rust, along with the winners of the U.S. Forest Service's Young Artists Contest. You can browse the wares of the vendors and ask questions from the various natural resources agencies and organizations.

This year's presenters include:

Haley Haradon - Deciphering Survival and Habitat Usage Between the Breeding and Post-breeding Periods for Adult and Juvenile Kirtland's Warblers;

Steve Roels - Bird on the Move: Looking to the Past to Secure the Future of the Kirtland's Warbler; and

Jim McGrath - Michigan Snakes Alive.

For more information and the schedule of events, go to the Kirtland's Warbler Festival Facebook page or email us at kirtlandsfestival@gmail.com.



Celebrate SummerFest!

This will be the second year the Kirtland's Warbler Festival will be part of Roscommon's SummerFest.

In addition to the festival, SummerFest 2023 includes a downtown **classic car show** (contact Tracy at 989-275-8760 or info@hlrcc.com), the

Village Cornhole Tournament (contact Beth at 989-275-4855 or beth@whitepineandpetals.com), **food trucks and more.**

Owl Prowl returns

Our first Winter Owl Prowl was a popular event with almost 20 in attendance. So we're doing it again! Join Mike Petrucha on Tuesday, April 4, beginning at 8:30 p.m. as he introduces

us to two charismatic owl species; the **barred owl** and the **great horned owl**. After learning some background information, we'll prowl around the Preserve in order to hear or, with any luck, see them.



Spring Clean Up!

April 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Our annual "Spring-Cleaning" event helps us spruce up the cabin and grounds for the season. All volunteers are welcome and the event gives the public an opportunity to see the inner workings of Gahagan and meet the people who help run the Preserve. No tools are needed, just show up with whatever amount of time you have! Work includes light housekeeping, trail sweeping, picking up twigs, and general maintenance to help us ready the grounds for our spring and summer schedule. **Snacks included!**