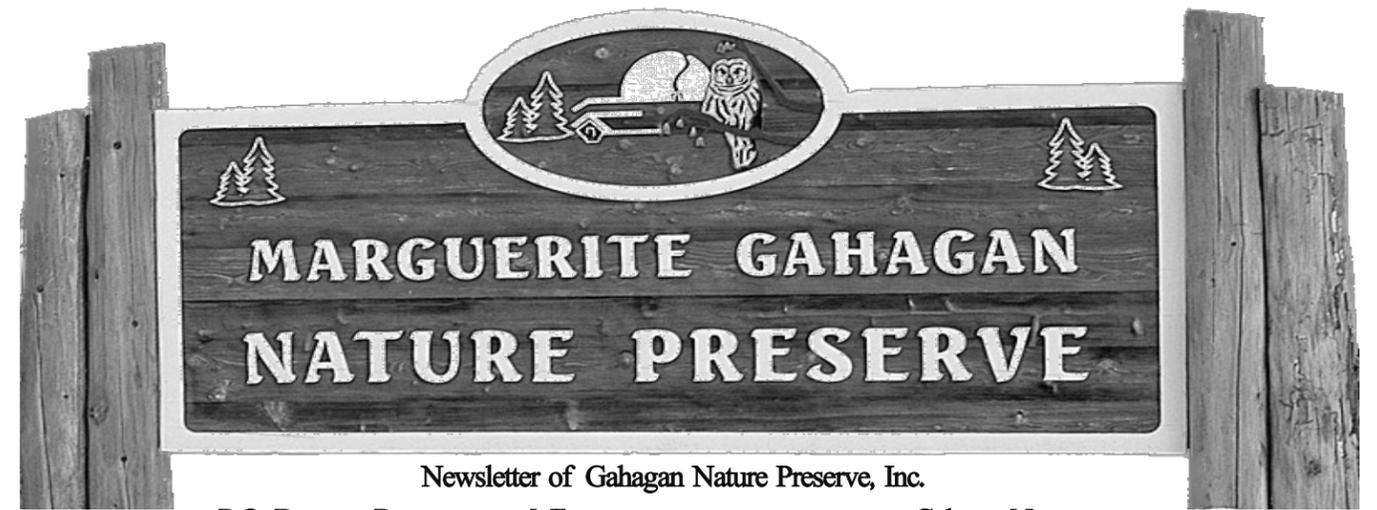
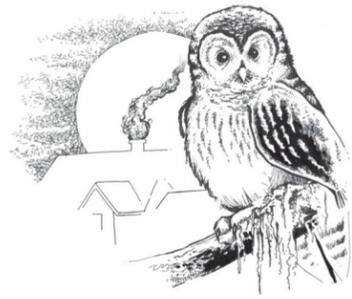


Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve

P.O. Box 421

Roscommon, MI 48653



Newsletter of Gahagan Nature Preserve, Inc.
P.O. Box 421, Roscommon, MI 48653 ~ 989-275-3217 ~ www.GahaganNature.org

Issue #36 ~ Spring 2019

SPRING CLEAN UP AT GAHAGAN!

Saturday, April 27, 2019 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

New at MGNP: Kids Moon Club



Most of us can tell an oak from the maple or a Jay from the woodpecker even though we don't see woodpeckers often, but the moon and the stars, which we see any clear night, remain a mystery to many of us. Simple shepherds 5,000 years ago were familiar with the skies; they knew the moon phases, stars and constellations and they could not even read or write – so why don't you?

For many cultures, the first new moon after the winter solstice marked the beginning of the year. The wolf moon got its name from the sounds of wolves turning their heads to the sky and howling. Wolves are especially vocal in January as it approaches their breeding season.

The snow moon got its name from the excess of snow that falls in the north this time of year the moon is also sometimes referred to as storm moon. March is known as the worm moon. The ice is cracking, the wind is shifting and the earth is stirring from within. This is the first full moon of spring! New growth trying to break through the surface of the earth leads to a chain of events. The birds coming back home after their winter migration, the maple trees can be tapped, daffodils push up, as the snow begins its descent...what will we learn and what will come with the Moon of April...?

During the Kids Moon Club, we take an appreciation for the moon and the stars lighting our way to new endeavors and new adventures. With each month we take a look at the life that is all around us, some things we notice and graciously admire, some things we may not even see. We learn from each full moon cycle as it affects us, changes us, and perhaps guides us. We have made small projects, such as a lantern to light our way outside to see the sky's story. Getting back to Nature is part of watching the moon and stars, and what better way to do that is to be at Gahagan!

The Kids Moon Club is created for 6-12 year olds and their families with the intention of helping families connect with each other and to the natural rhythm that humans have tuned into for thousands of years. Contact Kate at info@GahaganNature.org or check the website. It is good to know the phases of the moon and stars, if only to enjoy better the wonderful site of a moonlit, starry sky. ~ Kate

The Kirtland's Warbler Home Opener Celebration

By Tom Dale

Gahagan Nature Preserve has been an integral part of the Kirtland's Warbler Festival since 2001. That was the very first year of our Visiting Naturalist Program which was initially completely funded by Kirtland Community College and the Festival. The visiting Naturalist program high-lighted the recovery of that soon-to-be-famous bird by advocating for the Young Artists Calendar Contest, while telling the stories of wolves, wild cats, bears, and finally weasels. The Visiting Naturalist program continues today in the very capable hands of Kate Gammichia. The Festival, however, has changed considerably. No longer a Kirtland Community College project, it is now in the hands of the Kirtland's Warbler Festival Planning Committee and it happens at the CRAF Center in downtown Roscommon. Our Preserve is one of many sponsoring organizations. MGNP helps to help make it happen! This year the committee is adding a new event: The Kirtland's Warbler Home Opener. The bird begins arriving on or about Mother's Day to its favored habitat, young jack pine stands and proceeds to produce the next generation of that very rare and special warbler. The Home Opener is staged to welcome that growing population of Kirtland's warblers back to their home range which just happens to be right next door to our homes. With that in mind:

You are cordially invited to attend our Kirtland's Warbler Home Opener Celebration

5:00-8:00 PM May 31, 2019

Gahagan Nature Preserve Cabin

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Guided Hikes on Gahagan's many trails

Hospitality Hour featuring spirits from 5th Street Market
& snacks compliments of Family Fare Food Store

7:00 PM Key Note: "What Would Marguerite Gahagan Do?"

Donations Welcome!

The 5th Annual Kirtland's Warbler Festival
Happens Saturday June 1st 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**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) 275-3217 ~ info@GahaganNature.org
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 Events**

April 27: Spring Clean– Up at MGNP
April 29: Spring field Trips begin
May 15: Business Expo at the CRAF Center
May 31: Nature Hike/Wine & Cheese at MGNP
June 1: Kirtland’s Warbler Festival in Roscommon
July 16-18: Nature Camp
July 22-25: 4-H Forestry Camp at MGNP

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

Check our website for current information 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. 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? 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

Friends

With this newsletter, we are altering the way we acknowledge our friends. In the past, we have noted donors and memorial contributions in the in the spring publication. We have 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 lead to a bit confusion over the years. To rectify this, we are adopting a new method of thanking our “Friends.” We are combining the two lists into one and noting contributions in the spring publication only.

The following gifts were received between March 16, 2018 and March 15, 2019.

Thank you for answering “The Northwoods Call” by supporting Gahagan Nature Preserve.

Patrons

(\$1,000 and up)
Cliff & Carolyn Colwell
Matt & Jill Colwell

Stewards

(\$500-\$999)
Duncan & Kathy Lawrence

Partners

(\$250-\$499)
Ken Elmore
Baerlocher Family
John & Jeanie Bennick
Irene Borak
Sherwood & Sharon Boudeman
Gary & Sharon Boushelle
William Burrows
Pat & Karen Casady
Karen Demers
Troy Fairbanks
& Nancy Martindale
Roger & Mary Fechner
Don & Elaine Granzine
Susan Huffman
Brian & Mary Hutchins
Sue & Carl Jock
Lois Jones
Art & Kathryn Kettlehut
Kirtland Garden Club

Rich & Cathy Koupal
Roscommon Auto Recyclers
Mrs. Robert Morley
Liz & Bernie Milnes
Richard Seton
Betty Thomas
Bob & Dawn Tupper
JoAnn VanderMollen
Jack & Liz Wade
Jerry & Bobbie Werle
Calla Werle & Doug Turrill

Supporters

(\$31-\$249)
Hazel Babcock
Robert Borak
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Larry Dashner
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Stuart & Sandi Hamill
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Higgins Lake Foundation
Frank & Nancy Michelson
Mires Family
Doug & Ginny Nagel
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Tom & Jane Kozlowski
Debra Beehler
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Jack & Joanne Bouck
Lisa Burmester
Brian & Janet Carson
Larry Cherven
Carol Chidester
Tom & Phyllis Dale
Troy Daniel
Jennifer & Dominic Dale
Stan & Patti Dombrowski
Herman Donovan
Dale & Theresa Ekdom
Caryl & Ed Fischer
Amy Fuller
Carol & Jim Garlo
Katy & Josh Greenburg
Jack Hipchen
Kathleen Kaufman
& Rich Jaskowski
Tom & Mary Lou Jennette
Jerry & Joyce Johnston
Anne & Russ Kidd
Tom & Elisabeth Kish
Diane Lippert
Leona & Jim Martin
Nilah & Jim Mason

We try hard to thank everyone, if we missed you please tell us and know that we appreciate you.

AuSable River Watershed Monitoring Saturday June 8, 2019

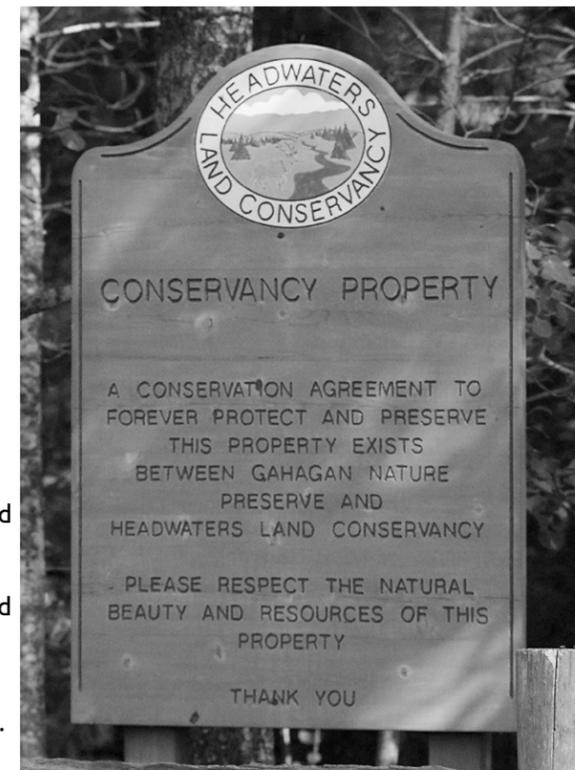
Contact Tom Dale at thdale@core.com for details about volunteering for this important project.

HeadWaters Land Conservancy is a Michigan based 501c3 non-profit land trust comprised of a Staff, Board of Directors, Volunteers and Members who all share in the mission of protecting and preserving the remaining undisturbed natural resources of northeast Michigan.

“The purpose of HeadWaters Land Conservancy is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of northeast Michigan by preserving significant land and scenic areas and fostering appreciation and understanding of the environment.”

On July 27, 2004, the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve conveyed to HeadWaters a conservation easement on the preserve. This Conservation Easement assures that the property will be perpetually preserved in its predominately natural, scenic, forested condition. The purpose of the easement is to protect the property’s natural resource and watershed values; to maintain and enhance its biodiversity; to retain quality habitat for native plants and animals; and to maintain and enhance the natural features of the property.

HeadWaters Land Conservancy and Gahagan Nature Preserve are committed to upholding the terms of the easement. HeadWaters performs an annual visit and prepares a monitoring report to assure the property and the easement are both in good standing. We at Gahagan are thankful for this alliance.



Snowshoeing at the Preserve

At our 4-H / GNP Snowshoe SPIN (Special Interest) Club, we shared great experiences with our small Gahagan family. Whether it was 20 below or 20 above zero, we shod our great woods!

Most locations at Gahagan are accessible in spring, summer and fall but not through the winter months, unless you are on a pair of snowshoes. Snowshoeing is an excellent means of getting off the beaten path to see aspects of winter that few experience. This can be a truly solitary experience allowing time for reflection and to witness first-hand winter's effect on the landscape. Or it can be a shared experience with a family member or friend. We had fun with both.

Have you ever ventured to the far end of the preserve? In this area we have a spring, a bit off the beaten path of the original green path. There is a cedar stand near the spring, providing a prime location for deer to bed. Their traces are apparent throughout the area.

We learned a bit of history along the way. The great success of snowshoes for winter travel was first observed by European explorers with Northeastern tribes such as the Huron and Algonquin, which led subsequent trappers, hunters, and surveyors to adopt snowshoes as their own. Some of the earliest snowshoes were over 7 feet long which, though unwieldy, were helpful in navigating through very deep, powdery snow.

Snowshoe crafters looked to the naturally efficient design of animal paws and began modeling their shoes after animal prints they found in nature. The popular "beavertail" style had a round nose with the ends coming together in a long tail. The "bearpaw" was short and wide with a round tail, as its name implies. Both styles have had enormous influence on modern snowshoe design.

While the length and width of snowshoes varied over the years, they were typically large, made with ash timber frames and untanned cowhide webbing. The cultural landscape shifted dramatically approaching the early 1900s, as cities grew and society shifted from farming to industrial culture. People who no longer had to trap or hunt for food began to take to the woods for pure enjoyment and exercise. Born was the recreational sport of snowshoeing.. LOVE IT! **See you on the trails! ~ Kate**



The Visiting Naturalist: Bear Tracks 2019

By Kate Gammicchia

Bear Tracks has been making the rounds in both Roscommon and Crawford County schools. The main focus of the program is the biology and behavior of the bears of North America. One of the principle goals of the visiting naturalist program is to impress upon the children the need for responsible stewardship of wild places and wild animals.

Most of the world's eight bear species live in the northern regions of North America, Europe and Asia. These large mammals are classified as carnivores although most of them eat mainly vegetation. They also have good eyesight, fair hearing and a keen sense of smell. Occasionally bears can be dangerous and while some species have a reputation for being fierce, bears are typically peaceful, solitary creatures that usually roam areas undisturbed by humans. Bears' strength and power have fascinated human cultures for thousands of years inspiring many legends, myths and symbols.

All eight of the world's bear species face serious conservation threats. In fact seven out of eight species are listed as threatened or endangered species. Bear habitat is continually shrinking due to human activity. Forest destruction including timber harvesting, agricultural farming, and oil exploration and extraction are the bears' biggest threats. Of the eight species of bears, three live in North America: the brown bear, black bear and polar bear.

The brown bear population has been severely reduced by illegal hunting and habitat loss. Brown bears need remote, large habitats that allow them to move about to find food and allow them to avoid people, who sometimes shoot bears out of fear. Remote habitats are harder and harder to find and remaining wild areas are increasingly fragmented by roads and trails, such as those built for timber, oil, and gas operations, as well as recreation or construction of houses and office buildings. Roads cutting through habitat increase the chances of bear – human contact and so this increased bear deaths. Habitat loss has eliminated the bears from much of their historic range. With home ranges frequently larger than 500 square miles grizzlies, in particular, require vast areas of habitat to ensure adequate food and to support populations large enough to survive for many years.

The black bear adapts well to changes in its environment. Of all bears, this species seems to have the greatest tolerance of humans. Thus, encounters between black bears and humans are steadily increasing. Construction and development in black bear habitat bring human activities closer to areas where bears live. This often results in black bears visiting areas where humans live, as the bears search for garbage and other sources of food. The black bear historically ranged over the entire state of Michigan. Now it is largely confined to portions of the northern lower peninsula and cross the upper peninsula. Regardless of their tolerance, bears do not fare well in areas of concentrated human activity, as evidence by their extirpation from the southern half of the lower Peninsula.



Polar bears are threatened in their habitat by industrial development, pollution, ozone depletion, and climate change. In the Arctic, ozone depletion high in the atmosphere lets in more solar radiation and raises temperatures. Climate change raises temperatures. Increased temperatures are causing Arctic ice to melt earlier in the spring and form later in the fall – leaving less time to find food. Polar bears depend on polar ice to catch their favorite food, baby ringed seals. Polar bears are predators at the top of the Arctic food chain. Smaller animals ingest foods containing toxic chemicals. Polar bears, in turn, eat these smaller animals who bring the toxins to the bear. Polar bears are also in danger due to oil spills. Oil removes the insulating properties from the bears' fur and contaminates the bear's food source. As more countries look to the Arctic for oil and gas deposits, the risk of harmful oil spills and habitat disturbance will likely increase.

The highest priorities of conservationists are a reduction of bear mortality, habitat protection, reduction of conflicts with people in bear habitat, and location of acceptable habitat areas into which bears can be re-introduced. It is vitally important to increase and preserve the connection between bear habitat and citizen education and involvement to allow bears and people to peacefully co-exist.

Thank you to the Wade Family Donor Advised Fund and Kirtland Community College for their financial support for the 2019 Visiting Naturalist Program.

Wade Family Donor Advised Fund to the rescue



The Visiting Naturalist program began in 2002 by borrowing the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's travelling bear trunk. Based on that trunk, Gahagan developed our own Cat, Weasel and Wolf programs by purchasing the skulls, pelts, track casts, fur samples and other items. As the Wisconsin bear trunk is loaned for only a few weeks, it limits our window for presentations. Thus we applied to the RCCF this fall to purchase the items necessary to create our own bear trunk. The request was granted from the Wade Family Donor Advised Fund. The materials, especially the skull replicas of the Black, Grizzly and Polar bears, are truly marvelous. We are VERY excited and truly thankful.

Thank You Weyerhaeuser

"Being good is commendable, but only when it is combined with doing good is it useful." —Stephen King

This past summer, three Weyerhaeuser company employees, Kathi Moss and John and Michelle Zupko, organized a river clean up on a stretch of the AuSable River. Joining them on the work day were Roscommon High School seniors Logan Zupko, Lindsay Lewandowski, Brenden Coulter, Trey Heliin and Walter Suchin. Their participation in the AuSable River clean-up benefitted not only the river, but the ability to provide environmental education programs at Gahagan. All five students have participated in numerous school field trips to Gahagan while in elementary and middle school at Roscommon. When polled, they unanimously chose MGNP as the recipient of the Making Waves Grant from the Weyerhaeuser Employee Volunteer Program.

Making Waves is a program through the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund that fosters volunteerism and supports Weyco employees' good works in the community. Since 2013, Gahagan has received \$7,500 in grant funding through the Making Waves program.

Learning all about forestry

Last year, the Gahagan Nature Preserve partnered with MSU Extension to host the 4-H Forestry Camp at the preserve. The four-day camp provided participating youth the chance to see the forest through the lens of a professional forester. The 11 children from across the state learned how to use forestry tools and made mock-management decisions about the forest at the preserve. They also had a chance to explore the preserve and were delighted to measure the diameter of the giant white pine trees off the green trail. They also enjoyed experiential learning on field trips to the Hartwick Pines Logging Museum, AJD Sawmill at 4-Mile Road and toured an active Timber Harvest with the help of the DNR and Muma Logging.

We are offering it again in 2019!

This year, the four-day camp is scheduled for July 22nd through July 25th from 9am until 4pm each day. The camp is designed for children aged 11-15 and will feature forestry education and career information, field trips, forestry crafts and of course, plenty of fun and games. For more information please contact MSU Extension's Julie Crick at 989-275-7179 or crickjul@msu.edu.

Rabbit Club

Gahagan and 4-H MSU Extension have joined forces to create a Rabbit & Cavy club for families to come together and participate in learning activities and experiment with new 4-H project areas.



The Rabbit & Cavy club will apply a learning approach by having a hands-on experience with minimal guidance from adults. This allows for discovery by youth that may not take place with exact instructions. Rabbit/Cavy club members will learn how to select a rabbit, guinea pig and/or other small animals and about supplies needed to take care of the chosen animal. Our club is lucky to have a wide variety of small animals, we have a hamster, guinea pig, as well as rabbits. We will continue to discuss daily care, nutrition and record keeping for our animals. As we gain knowledge of proper handling and showmanship, we will prepare for the fair in August.

It is a new club and an open group for families with small animals to join. We meet once a month, please check our website for meetings, at www.GahaganNature.org.

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 Recognition Program

In November 2010, an Ad Hoc Committee of board members Joanne Bouck and Bobbie Werle developed the MGNP Recognition Program. Approved by the board, the Honor Roll Plaque recognizes those whose aggregate contributions in time, money or services reaches \$1,000. The Recognition Plaque is displayed in Marguerite's cabin. MGNP is truly grateful for the support of the following individuals and entities who assist in fulfilling our mission.

Kirtland Community College
COOR ISD
Huron Pines
Colwell Family Trust
Ray and Kay Fitch
Larry Dashner
Tom Zeneberg
Jack and Joanne Bouck
Julie Borak
Pat Demers
Karen Demers
John Rosczyk
Bobbie Werle
Don and Elaine Granzine

Jane Glidden
Tom and Phyllis Dale
Mary Jane Bailey
David and Penny Dilts
Jeremy and Lois Jones
Brian and Mary Hutchins
Mark Scott
Roy Spangler
Marguerite Wiltse
William and Elizabeth Burrows
Richard and Toni Seton
Duncan and Kathy Lawrence
Richard Silverman
In memory of John Bailey

In memory of Roswell Burrows
KCC Foundation
Roscommon Co Community Foundation
Higgins Lake Foundation
Kirtland Garden Club
Scott Rice
Mark and Tracy Bosworth
Roscommon Area Youth Boosters Club
Clifford and Carolyn Colwell
Boudeman Family
Performance Propane
Weyerhaeuser Company
Gary and Sharon Bouschelle
Bill and Patti Sarkella

Spring Field Trips

From now until the end of the school year, your preserve will be focused on school field trips. The grounds, trails and cabin will soon be cleared and cleaned and primed. The video projector is 'talking' to the compound microscope and stands ready to peer into a sample pond water to observe protozoa and bacteria. The indoor and outdoor classrooms are prepped. 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. Schedule your field trip by contacting Kate at (989) 275-3217 or info@GahaganNature.org. Don't delay, the calendar fills quickly!

GAHAGAN NATURE CAMP 2019

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.

Exploring the far reaches of the preserve and learning to respect the woods is a primal part of nature camp. Not breaking with tradition, camp will feature frogging at Gahagan's own pond.

Camp is scheduled for July 16, 17, and 18th 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 Kate at info@GahaganNature.org or call (989) 275-3217.

Lions Club Of Michigan Trail for Light

The Roscommon-Higgins Lake Lions Club will be holding a raffle. Profits are to help fund a Gahagan Nature Preserve's trail for people with sight impairments at Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve. Please help raise awareness and funds for the future trail system for persons with sight impairment.

1st prize- \$250
2nd prize- \$150
3rd- prize \$100

Meat packages from Bob's Meat Market Roscommon
Tickets available soon for purchase from the Lion's Club.

1 for \$5 3 for \$10 7 for \$20

Drawing at the CRAF Center on July 6th at 3:00 PM

"For many years I have witnessed my mother-in-law, Janet Baerlocher, enjoy the beauty of the Gahagan Nature Preserve. It seemed to be her escape from the stress and chaos of our busy world. Taking regular walks to enjoy nature's splendor, she would always return with a smile. When Jan began to suffer from dementia my daughter would join her on her walks guiding her home when the trails were confusing... but she was still smiling. I have watched Gahagan develop through the years and am very grateful to all who have worked so hard to make it what it is today. I often tell my patients who can no longer enjoy the woods because they can't walk on uneven ground to visit your preserve. Keep up the good work and please accept the donation in memory of Janet."

Sincerely, Trish Baerlocher

Spring Cabin Clean-Up

Every spring, Gahagan calls on members and volunteers to help ready the preserve for school field trips. On Saturday, April 27th, from 9 AM to 1 PM, we will meet to clean up the cabin and trails. Please consider joining in for a few minutes or a few hours. Snacks, lunch, and refreshments are provided!

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



Performance Propane Rocks

For two years now, Performance Propane has graciously supplied the preserve with natural gas. This generous contribution allows us to keep the cabin open throughout the winter. Along with MGNP, the Roscommon chapter of the Citizen's Climate Lobby and the Kirtland's Warbler Festival Planning committee meet at the cabin. But the biggest impact is the availability for our naturalist Kate to add some new programming. The Snowshoe Club meet this past winter and the Kids Moon Club and Rabbit Clubs are able to meet at MGNP year round. Thank you Performance Propane for supporting our mission.