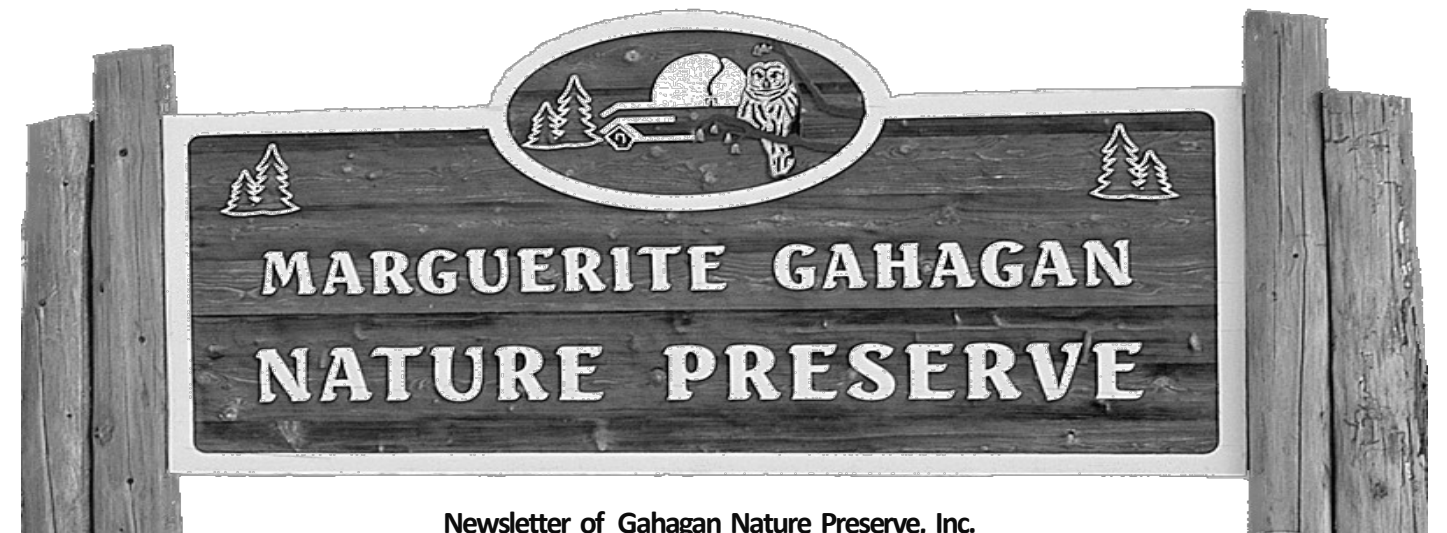
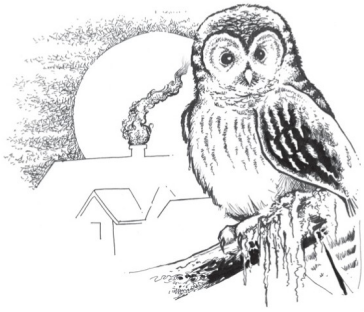


Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve
P.O. Box 421
Roscommon, MI 48653



Newsletter of Gahagan Nature Preserve, Inc.
P.O. Box 421, Roscommon, MI 48653 ~ 989-275-3217 ~ www.GahaganNature.org
Issue #38 ~ Spring 2020

SPRING CLEAN UP AT GAHAGAN!
Saturday, May 2, 2019 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Our Own One Hundred Acre Wood?

In 1969, Roscommon formed the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority. RMRA is a governmental entity formed under the auspices of Higgins Township and the Village of Roscommon. Its initial holding was an eight acre parcel two blocks from the county court house. The property soon became Metro Park, adding ice rinks, basketball courts and ball diamonds. Over time, additional property holdings were added to RMRA's responsibility. The CRAF (Community Recreation and Fitness) Center was created and added in 1993. Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve was established in 1997 and the original 10 acre parcel, which included Marguerite's home, was then deeded to RMRA. The AuSable River Center was included in 1998.

Recently RMRA went through a nearly two year restructuring process. It has been renamed Roscommon Area Recreation Authority or RARA to better fit its multiple townships, two counties, and Village demographic. This restructuring is critical to Gahagan on two fronts.

First, the four parcels of land that now make up the 60 acre preserve will need to be re-deeded to RARA. Second, and foremost, Roscommon Area Recreation Authority's new articles of incorporation and bylaws will now allow RARA to compete for Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Grants. This is a huge benefit for our community and for Gahagan.

MDNR funding provides for a multitude of outdoor recreation projects that directly coordinate with our Five Year Plan. The acquisition and development of lands, the renovation of old recreation facilities and the development of trails are specific areas that the preserve is intent on pursuing. Gahagan is extremely grateful to the collective boards of RARA, the Village of Roscommon and Higgins Township for their focus on the new direction of the Roscommon Area Recreation Authority.

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart,
it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude."

~A.A. Milne



Kirtland's Warbler Weekend **Healthy Habitats Healthy Communities**

Friday June 5, 2020 5:00-8:00 PM

The Home Opener Celebration

At Gahagan Nature Preserve

Food, Spirits, Guided Hikes & Fellowship

Keynote: "Forestry for Song Bird Habitats"

Saturday June 6, 2020 7:00 AM until 4:00 PM

The Kirtland's Warbler Festival

At the CRAF Center in Downtown Roscommon

Guided Hikes to see and hear Kirtland's Warblers

Kirtland's Warbler Geo Trail Launch

Kid's Tent, Vendors and Music

Presentations: Kirtland's Warbler Past Present & Future,
Michigan Frogs and Toads by Sight & Sound by Jim McGrath,
and Michigan Raptors by Joe Rogers



Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve Board of Directors

Chairperson: Tom Dale
Vice Chair: Brian Hutchins
Secretary: Julie Crick

Irene Borak
Alecia Catrell
Dale Ekdom
Ken Elmore
Sue Huffman
Mike Petrucha

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

Board meets 2nd Monday of the month, 7 PM. Please join in!

Gahagan 2020 Events

May 2: Spring Clean– Up at MGNP
May 4: Spring field Trips begin
May 14: Business to Business Breakfast (B2B) at MGNP
May 16: Vernal Pool Training At MGNP
May 20: Business Expo at the CRAF Center 3-6 PM
June 2: Bird Count 7:00 am at MGNP
June 5-6: Kirtland's Warbler Festival in Roscommon
July 7-10: 4H Forestry Camp @ MGNP ages 11-15
July 14-16: Nature Camp @ MGNP ages 6-11
August 3-5: 4H Camp @ MGNP ages 8-10
August 10-12: 4H Camp @ MGNP: ages 11-15
October 11: MGNP Open House 1-4 PM

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.

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 of Gahagan

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

The following gifts were received between March 16, 2019 and March 15, 2020.

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

Patrons (\$1,000 and up)

Cliff & Carolyn Colwell
Sherwood Boudeman
Matt & Jill Colwell
Bill & Patti Sarkella
Wade Family Fund
Weyerhaeuser Company

Stewards (\$500-\$999)

Partners (\$250-\$499)

AuSable Watershed Committee
John & Liz Wade
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In memory of Bill Blamer

Denis & Carol Fitzgerald
Theresa Blamer

In memory of Julia Borak

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Al Schultz

In memory of Jack Bouck

Karen Demers
Joanne Bouck

In memory of Larry Dashner

Karen Demers

In memory of John Gahagan

Anne Gahagan

In memory of Veryl Gulick

Marilyn Boyd
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Dave & Joann Myer
Jere & Catherine Spencer
Jim & Pam Tucker
Bill & Shirley Waterman
Bob & Alice Waterman

In memory of Verna Mae

Chissus LaBarre

Don & Suzanne Pennell

In memory of Peggy Madore

Joe Madore

In memory of Rob Morley

Sue Morley

In memory of Terry Nanry

Mark & Tracy Bosworth
Carole Ostling
Marilyn Sexton

In memory of Helen Proctor

Mary Alice McKindles

In memory of Tony Seton

Richard Seton

In honor of RJ Bolzman

Anne Bolzman

"Draw your chair up close to the edge of the precipice and I'll tell you a story."

- F. Scott Fitzgerald

During the spring and fall field trips at the preserve, school children enter the preserve at the head of our paved trail and stop at the kiosk for an introductory presentation. We lacked a safe, appropriate seating in the area adjacent to the kiosk. We have always used upended logs to provide seating. With assistance from The Wade Family Donor Advised General Fund, we have six custom made aluminum bench seats to seat roughly 30 students. The area around the kiosk has been cleared and will soon be leveled so the benches can be installed.

Additionally, the seating in the cabin was down to less than 30 folding chairs of nine different varieties, all donated, all in terrible condition and all needing replacement. As we host a variety of events, meetings, camps and field trips, seating needs fluctuate. At times we have theater seating set for a group presentation, small group work around tables or we need all chairs removed from the room to allow children to sit on the floor for activities. It is optimal to have folding chairs that will nest closely together and fit in our limited storage space. Again, the Wade Family Donor Advised General Fund came to the rescue and provided the needed funds to purchase 32 new folding chairs.

**Thanks to the Wade Family Donor Advised General Fund of the Roscommon County
Community Foundation for providing us the seating to tell a story or two.**

Weyerhaeuser Employees Make Waves

Making Waves is a program created by the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund that fosters volunteerism and supports Weyerhaeuser employees' good works in the community. In August 2019, several employees from the Weyerhaeuser mill in Grayling spearheaded a river clean-up on the South Branch of the AuSable River. As a result of their actions, they were awarded a \$750.00 grant from the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund. It was their decision to donate that grant to the MGNP. We are very grateful to the Grayling OSB employees and the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund for their generosity over many years.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Weyerhaeuser employees John & Michelle Zupko, Alex Walsh and Kathi Moss. Joining them in their efforts were Roscommon students Zoe Tomes, Skye Richings, Karlee Erickson and Logan Zupko and retiree, Cynthia Eskilsen.

Spring Cabin Clean-Up

Every spring, Gahagan calls on members and volunteers to help ready the preserve for school field trips. On Saturday, May 2nd, 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!

As the popular game show Jeopardy! teaches, the appropriate answer depends upon the precise phrasing of the question. It is probably the most important question of our time. Here is the question: **What shall we do about climate change?** What shall we do to save ours and the next generation of humans, animals, and plants from the ravages of floods, fires, and increasing temperatures that wreak havoc with our planet?

The answer is ... **we must reduce man-made emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.** We must stop wanton polluting of the thing we need most for life to continue as we know it, and as our parents and theirs knew it in their lifetimes. Reducing carbon dioxide emissions sounds easy, but how can we reduce using fossil fuels without sacrificing our low-cost energy for power, heat, and transportation? These important energy sources for us have formed the bedrock of our energy supply for the past 150 years. Can we suddenly change to new forms of energy without crippling our society?

Most nations around the world have come to the same answer. Governments must tax fossil fuels in a manner that will discourage their use and encourage the use of alternative, renewable, non-polluting energy sources. Fortunately, we **already** have alternative forms of energy that are available virtually everywhere in the world.

Don't feel sorry for the existing fossil fuel suppliers, they are culpable for our current problem. They have known of the problem of polluting our atmosphere for a long time. You might be surprised by an advertisement in Life Magazine in 1962 when a leading oil company paid for a two full-page ad with an attractive picture of a glacier. Below the picture was their boast: "Each day Humble [Oil] supplies enough energy to melt 7 million tons of glacier." They did and it did.

Discussions about taxing fossil fuels have been ongoing among industrialized nations for years. The tax is generally known as a carbon tax and it has been discussed since the Kyoto Accords of 1997. As of January 2018, 42 national and 25 sub-national governments have instituted some form of carbon tax pricing. These include both carbon taxes and emissions trading schemes and cover about 22 percent of worldwide emissions. The US government is noteworthy by its absence of action on this issue despite the warnings that began in 1978.

But there is reason for optimism. Citizens Climate Lobby, has developed a bill, **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act**, that will mandate action for our nation and stimulate corresponding action by other nations. The idea is to reduce volume use of fossil fuels by taxing the source of pollutants at the well head. When the bill becomes law, fossil fuel energy companies will be required to pay a tax depending upon the type of material extracted (coal, oil or gas), and the amount of carbon dioxide expected from the extraction. The bill provides that 100% of the tax will be returned to Americans in the form of a monthly dividend (hence the name "Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend"). American families will be able to spend their dividend checks however they want.

The dividends that most families will receive will boost their incomes more than their added energy costs because the wealthiest Americans typically use more energy and will therefore pay proportionately more of the added costs. (Think weekend airplane trips and the 'fuelish cost' for travel to winter vacation spots to play golf). Numerous economic studies of this proposal have been conducted. All show the same results of added income for lower- and middle-class families, more jobs for Americans, and fewer health problems due to cleaner air.

The initial impact of the tax will result in a slight increase in the cost of energy derived from fossil fuels. This will stimulate fossil fuel energy consumers to conserve energy and promote the use of renewable energy sources that will become proportionately lower cost. The bill that Citizens Climate Lobby created is known as House Resolution #763 and it was introduced on the floor of the House of Representatives in 2019. As the single most far-reaching piece of climate legislation pending, with 76 congressional co-sponsors, it currently stands the best chance of becoming law after a change in government in 2021. That's particularly true since more than half of Republican voters say they would support a carbon tax.

HR 763 seems the right solution: Tax the polluters, return the tax money to all of us and reap the benefits of cleaner air, more jobs, and helping fix the problem of climate change. All we need do is convince our politicians to do what we think is right by voting yes on House Bill 763. It is imperative that we take action soon.

Want more info or have a question? See the website or contact any of the Roscommon/Crawford Chapter members and we'll seek to find an answer for you.



Visiting Naturalist Program 2020
The Wonders of Weasels

The Visiting Naturalist Program began in 2002 and brings Gahagan's Education Director and resident Naturalist, Kate Gammicchia, to classrooms across a six-county area. The subject matter alternates yearly between four different North American animal species, namely wolves, bears, cats and weasels. This year's program is *The Wonders of Weasels*. The weasel family includes some of the most vicious mammal carnivores, especially given their small size. Weasels have slender bodies and big appetites. They are constantly hunting to keep up their energy, especially during the cold winters. Most species are solitary hunters on the ground, but equally adept at traversing treetops, streams, and underground burrows.



A sampling of Michigan's weasel species



Kate explains to students from Mio Elementary School that weasels were fashionable as shawls in the 1700's.

Students are able to see the pelts and skulls of Michigan's weasel species up close, and learn how to identify these animals in the wild. They also learn about weasel relatives and some of the weasel species that live outside of our state—including the famous wolverine! Children especially love the puppet show, which stars Wally Weasel and friends. The Visiting Naturalist program offers students the chance to interact with nature from the comfort of their own school.

Weasels have a long history in the fur trade, and all of the species discussed in the presentation have been trapped for their fur at various points in history. The students were sad to learn about the weasel species that humans have rooted out and destroyed from Michigan over the years. 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.

4-H and Gahagan Nature Present
Fishing and Watershed Exploration Days

The Great Lake State has endless opportunities for fun in and on the water! Our goal is to promote fishing and aquatic stewardship while helping participants gain confidence, aquatic knowledge, enjoyment of the outdoors, ethical outdoor behavior and angling skills. We will discover and explore our own local watershed while becoming familiar with fishing skills and tackle as well as discover joys of fishing!

Exploration days will also include various games, activities and opportunities to enhance social and communication skills and build leadership aptitude. This three-day camp will be held at Gahagan for the following days and ages:

- August 3-5 for ages 8-10 from 9am to 4pm
- August 10-12 for ages 11-15 from 9am to 4pm



To request more information about this offering, Contact John Wurm at wurmj@msu.edu

Gahagan Nature Camp

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 14-16** from 9 am until noon. It is open to children between the ages of 6 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](mailto:info@GahaganNature.org) or call (989) 275-3217.

Forestry Camp

4-H Forestry Camp is on the schedule and will be held at Gahagan. This fun and interactive four-day camp is open to ages 11-15 and gives youth the opportunity to learn all about forestry in Michigan. Participants will increase their understanding of forest ecosystems and how to manage them. The day camp will be held **July 7-10**, from 9-4 p.m. each day.

Topics including Tree Identification, Forest Measurements and Health, Careers, and Compass Basics will be covered through activities, games and guest presentations. A day of field trips will include a sawmill tour and a timber harvest site.

If you have questions or if you want to reserve your spot contact Julie Crick, Natural Resources Educator at 989.275.7179 or crickjul@msu.edu.

Kirtland's Warbler GeoTrail

By Mike Petrucha

The Kirtland's Warbler Festival is hosting the Kirtland's Warbler GeoTrail (KWGT). The main objectives of the KWGT is to raise awareness and engagement of Kirtland's Warbler to a new audience and increase participation at the Festival. This will also increase tourism to the area. Kirtland's Warbler themed geocaches will be placed in a loop through a portion of the central Northern Michigan Jack Pine ecosystem, home of Kirtland's Warblers, with a geocoin reward. What is a geocoin you ask? Geocoins are usually made of metal and are often used as signature items or as a reward for accomplishing a task. Geocachers will travel all over the country for a geocoin and will do almost anything to earn one. For example, a group of 4 geocachers from Michigan recently traveled to Tennessee to earn a geocoin. One of the cachers broke her ankle looking for the very first geocache. She went to the ER, got a cast, then continued to find the rest of the caches needed to earn the geocoin. Geocachers must find 20 of the 25 total caches and answer the questions about Kirtland's Warblers found inside to earn the Kirtland geocoin. A KWGT passport will be available for download from the Gahagan Nature Preserve web page to be filled out and returned to earn the coin. The KWGT will launch at the June 6, 2020 Kirtland's Warbler Festival.

So, what is geocaching? Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunting game using Global Positioning System (GPS)-enabled devices. Participants go to a set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. A popular t-shirt describes geocaching as "using multi-million-dollar satellites to find Tupperware in the woods". Geocaches can vary in size from a nano the size of a pencil eraser, to a 55-gallon drum, with most ranging in size from a pill bottle to an ammo can. All containers must contain a paper log, and larger containers often contain "swag" which are small trinkets for trading.

There are several different cache types. The most common types encountered are traditional, multi-cache, mystery, virtual, EarthCache, letterbox hybrid, Wherigo, and

events. Traditional caches are the basic type of cache found at the posted coordinates. At the posted coordinates for a multi-cache, you will find a container with only the coordinates for the stage. There may be several stages, with the logbook being found in the final stage. Mystery caches involve solving a puzzle in order to find the cache. Virtuals do not have a container or log to sign. Instead, you must send or email the cache hider answers to questions such as name of the object, or a picture of the site. EarthCaches are a type of virtual cache where you must answer questions about the location to learn an earth science lesson. Letterbox hybrids include a geocache and a letterbox in the same container. The letterbox has a stamp that is meant to be used by the participants to record their visit. It also contains the logbook. A Wherigo uses a Wherigo cartridge that will guide the player. The participant plays the cartridge and finds a physical cache, usually towards the end of the play. Events are a gathering of geocachers. The Event Cache page specifies a time for the event and provides coordinates to its location.

One specific type of event is a Cache In Trash Out (CITO). CITO events are gatherings of geocachers to improve parks and other cache-friendly places. Some examples of CITO-appropriate activities are removing trash, planting trees, building trails, and removing invasive plants. On May 2, 2020 from 9:45 am to 1:00 pm, there will be a CITO event at the Gahagan to help with the annual Spring Clean Up.

At its simplest level, geocaching requires these 8 steps:

1. Register for a free Basic Membership at [geocaching.com](#).
2. Visit the "Hide & Seek a Cache" page at: <https://www.geocaching.com/seek/default.aspx>.
3. Enter your postal code and click "search."
4. Choose any geocache from the list and click on its name.
5. Enter the coordinates of the geocache into your GPS Device.
6. Use your GPS device to assist in finding the hidden geocache.
7. Sign the logbook and return the geocache to its original location.

Share your geocaching stories and photos!

Free Field Trips Courtesy of Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund Grant

Over the years, thousands of students have visited Gahagan. Feedback from teachers attests that Gahagan provides a powerful learning experience for their students. Years later, when we have reached out to kids in our community, they still recall the times they have spent and the lessons they have learned. Throughout the 20 plus years of our existence, we have never experienced an instance of vandalism at the preserve. We'd like to think that this is a sign that children are taking the message of respect for our natural world into their hearts.

Field trips are offered twice a year to local schools, in the spring and fall. Our education director prepares unique seasonal lesson plans for every grade-level, aligning to the Next Generation Science Standards. Lessons can also be tailored to meet whatever objectives are being working on in the classroom. Traditionally the preserve has charged a flat rate per class fee of \$75 for up to 30 students for the 90 minute trip. Thanks to a generous Grant From the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund, we are able to offer 50 field trips in 2020 to our area schools free from charge. That's right, FREE. The schools have been notified and we expect to be busy.

Thank You Weyerhaeuser for making this possible!

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."

Remembering Joanne Bouck

Gahagan Preserve lost one of our earliest pioneers with the passing of Joanne Bouck on January 26 2020. Joanne served as our first treasurer using her penchant for detail to keep us in the black and investing in financials that fit the organization. It was never more apparent than when the 2008 recession hit. Gahagan funds were safe and invested in funds that continued to produce for the first years of the downturn. Less than ten years old at that time, the Preserve would have struggled otherwise.

But Joanne added so much more to Gahagan. She and late husband Jack were avid birders and travelled near and far adding to their "life list." They organized bird counts at Gahagan and hosted tours for us to Tawas Point during the spring bird migrations. When visitors came across them and their binoculars at the Preserve, they surely saw Joanne pointing towards a tree, got a quick lesson and a kind smile. We'll miss her.



Birding at MGNP

From the very beginning of Gahagan Nature Preserve (1996), avid birders Joanne and Jack Bouck began keeping detailed records of bird sighting on the Preserve property. On June 9, 2001 we began conducting an annual early June bird count event. Several of us joined in to complete the day-long event, but it is safe to say that our success each year depended upon Joanne's participation. It was her trained ear that allowed us each year on one day in June to complete the counts. Our last count was conducted on May 27, 2010. Thereafter, since Joanne was losing her mobility and she could no longer cover the entire preserve in a day of hard walking and since no body else could identify all of these birds, just by ear, we discontinued the event. Over that 10 year period, we averaged 33 species per year with a grand total of 67 species.

Just recently, we have gained a few new avid birders and so, this spring, early in June, we will be at it again. If you have an ear for birds or just want to tag along, we have selected **June 2nd at 7:00 am** to be our next June bird count day. Join us at the cabin and pitch in. It will take all morning, so come prepared to spend some time.

The 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."

Whirring Wings

Wings a blur,
He hovered, darted, sped among the flowers,
Tiny body iridescent green, among red blooms.
Carefully he tipped his sword-like bill into each flower's heart,
Methodically making the rounds.
Stopping a split second,
Remembered he had already emptied that one of its sweetness,
Then on to the next.
The sound of whirring wings, a tiny roar...
Hummingbird dining.

~Marguerite Gahagan July 3, 1957



A note from your Gahagan Board

Since its inception, the Gahagan Nature Preserve's mission has been the preservation of wildlife habitat. That was over twenty years ago and during that time there has been a continued change in our climate. We have seen the devastating wildfires, increases in the force and number of storms, rising of oceans and the lakes near us and the destruction of ice caps and glaciers. The science is clear. The change is measurable. The cause - an increase in carbon dioxide resulting from man's steady increase in fossil fuel use—is no longer something we can ignore. At Gahagan, we have a small amount of the earth to preserve as a part of our mission but we cannot hope to be successful if the world around us continues to change in the current manner. There is a group of our country's citizens that are proposing legislation aimed at making an impact towards a solution to climate change. The Citizen's Climate Lobby has a local chapter in Roscommon and Crawford counties and the local chapter **has provided us their viewpoint on the legislation**, which we have shared on page 6. We think it is worth listening to their thoughts. Every day we don't act makes the solution more difficult.