

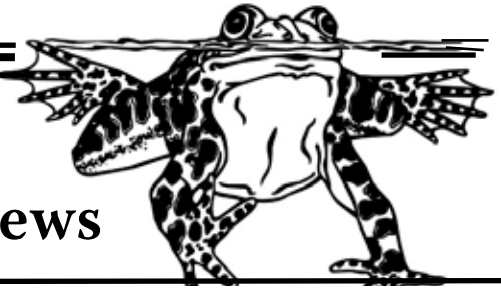
---

---

# Water's Edge

## Gratiot Lake Conservancy News

---



Volume 23

Fall 2021

---

### *Dear Friends,*

Experiencing the beauty and bounty of nature is a great comfort, restorative for all of us. We are fortunate to spend time in the Keweenaw Peninsula where access to wild nature is abundant. Perhaps you visited the Conservancy's Gratiot Lake Preserve and hiked trails or walked on the shoreline. Maybe you viewed eagles or merganser families flying over the lake, paddled along its pristine shoreline, or went fishing. GLC did not offer in-person walks or workshops this year, but conservancy shoreline and forest remained open, as always, for visitors.

Webinars on the Keweenaw fault re-mapping (Daniel Lizzadro-McPherson), dendrochronology (Zachary Merrill), and small mammal population dynamics (John Yunger) were offered in May. Thanks to these generous researchers we now have an even deeper appreciation for this special place. In August, Gina Marie Jarvi offered an informative webinar "Native Flora for Native Fauna" on plantings to enhance the ecological value of your yard, farm, or woodlot. The recorded webinars are available to view on YouTube, so tune in if you missed them or need a refresher.

The GLC Book Club discussed conservation classics: *Silent Spring* and *Sand County Almanac* and newer animal behavior focused books: *Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival* and *The Thing With Feathers*. The book group is held on Zoom and has a casual structure... no pressure to attend every meeting or read every book to participate. Check out our next book, *Finding the Mother Tree* (details inside).

Although no onsite educational programs took place on GLC land this year, there was continuity in Keweenaw Community Forest Company's management of GLC land... opening roads and trails, putting the dock in, and maintaining the Noblet Field Station. The Keweenaw Invasive Species Area (KISMA) weed crew removed invasive thistle from the GLC preserve and access road in late June. KISMA also offered a boat wash demo to remove invasive aquatic species at the Gratiot Lake public access in late July. Gratiot Lake residents pitched in during the annual Alliance for the Great Lakes shoreline clean-up and continued monitoring lake water quality and checking for aquatic invasive species.

To meet the needs of her growing family and their farm, Gina Marie Jarvi regrettably stepped down from her role as program director in early Autumn. We wish her good luck with future endeavors. We have interviewed a number of new candidates for the program director role and will have a new staffer in place soon.

For two years GLC has been unable to hold an in-person members meeting due to COVID concerns. We continue to offer virtual content. I hope you will attend the upcoming virtual program which will highlight over 100 wildlife camera "selfies" taken by animals out-and-about during all seasons at the GLC preserve. Biologist John Yunger will narrate this program on a Wednesday evening in late January or February. Please email GLC to get the Zoom link.

Thank you for helping GLC achieve the goals of protecting these wild forests, wetlands, and shoreline in the Gratiot Lake watershed, and promoting education and research related to these natural treasures.

Wishing you a happy holiday season,

**Bonnie**

Bonnie Hay, GLC President and Water's Edge editor  
[bonnie@gratiotlakeconservancy.org](mailto:bonnie@gratiotlakeconservancy.org)

**It's time to renew for 2022!**  
**Click here to download a form.**

*Birds have been working on this apple tree trunk for over a century. Find out who made these holes and what they were after on page 5.*



# GLC gratefully acknowledges

Donors from Nov. 1 2020 - Oct. 31 2021



## Major Donors

Janice and Charles E. Anderson  
William Bingham and Laura Cison  
Robertine Freshwater  
Bonnie and Jim Hay  
Ruth Lessard  
Carol and Joseph Lizzadro  
Carmen Sandretto

## Grants

Steven C. Leuthold Family Foundation  
Joseph F. Lizzadro Family Foundation



## Donors to General Operations

Judy Albee  
Katherine Alvord  
Dorothy and Don Asher  
Joanne Bollinger  
Marilyn and Allen Brandenburger  
Glen Brunner  
Ella and Garri Budynsky  
Marie and Salvatore Celona  
Marilyn Cooper  
Deborah Cunningham  
Lt. Col. Stephen Danis  
Valerie and William DePriest  
Christine Edenfield  
Beth Flynn  
Sandra Folzer  
Jo Foley  
Karen and Bill Gibson  
Diane and David Gothard  
Eloise Haller  
Sue Haralson  
Junia Gratiot Hedberg  
Penny and Don Hon  
Connie Julien  
Robert Kahl  
Ted Kearly  
Sue Ellen Kingsley and Terry Kinzel  
Kathy and Paul LaVanway  
Laura Lee Lienk

John and Caron Lizzadro  
Marsha and David Low  
Patti and Ralph Lund  
Peter Negro  
Janet and Bob Marr  
John Marta  
Ellen and Donald Marpe  
Mary Merrill  
Susan and Owen Mills  
Larry and Nancy Molloy  
Gina Nicholas  
Linda Rehorst  
Beverly and Robert Rice  
Dana Richter  
Maryjean and William Ryan  
Horst Schmidt  
Darrell and Terese Schummer  
Constance Sherry  
Pamela Shaughnessy  
Wendell Smith  
Mary and Tom Strohl  
Sue and Dan Teare  
Peter VanPelt  
Christa Walck  
Amy and Paul Wheeler  
Barbara Witucki  
Ron Woywood  
John Yunger

## Donors to GLC Fund at Keweenaw Community Foundation

Mary and Michael Bingham  
Chevron Foundation (matching)

**Memorial Gifts**

*in Memory of Charles S. Anderson*  
Dorothy Jamison

*in Memory of Janice Anderson*  
Charles E. Anderson  
Bonnie and Jim Hay  
Dorothy Jamison  
Herb Marutz  
Gina Nicholas

*in Memory of John F. Flynn (to all funds)*  
Beth Flynn

*in Memory of Virginia Jamison*  
Judy Albee  
Amy and Derek Beiderwieden  
Christine Edenfield  
Darlene Comfort and Darrell Guitar  
Sue and Bob Haralson  
Rose and Paul Hermanson  
Bonnie and Jim Hay  
Susan and Mike LaMielle  
Carol and Joseph Lizzadro  
Reva and John Lizzadro  
Terry Leonard  
Ruth and Ron Lessard  
Miriam Lytle  
Herb Marutz  
Gina Nicholas  
Rebecca and Marc Pomroy  
Diane and Ronald Reding  
Gail and Randy Roberts  
Maureen Schick  
Barbara and Mark Summersett

*in Memory of Margaret Lamorand*  
Jason Lamorand

*in Memory of Elmo Negro*  
Peter Negro

*in Memory of Al Petermann*  
Anne Petermann

*in Memory of Ann Noblet Smith*  
Wendell Smith

*in Memory of Andrea Sandretto Lane*  
Glen Brunner  
Miriam Lytle and Family (to Land Fund)  
Pam Shaughnessy  
Barbara Witucki

*in Memory of Mary T. Woywood*  
Ron Woywood

**Gifts in Honor**

*In Honor of John Gratiot Hedberg*  
Junia Gratiot Hedberg

*in Honor of Bonnie Hay*  
Joanne Bollinger  
Laura Lee Lienk



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker feather

**Donors to Education Fund**

Angela Anderson  
Carmen Sandretto  
Beth Flynn  
Diane and David Gothard  
Bunny and John Hosking  
Herbert Marutz  
Pauline and Dennis Moore  
Linda Rehorst  
Elaine Rysiewicz

**Donors to Land Acquisition Fund**

Beth Flynn  
Diane and David Gothard  
Bonnie Hay  
Pam and Jim Hertel  
Miriam Lytle and Family  
Linda Rehorst



Wild Turkey trot taken on wildlife camera near Sucker Creek.

## *We miss GLC neighbors and friends who recently passed away...*

*Life member, Jan Anderson relished the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Gratiot Lake at all times of year with her husband Chuck, children, and grandchildren. A nurse, Jan assembled and donated a well-stocked first aid kit for the Noblet Field Station when onsite educational programs began there. She saw the need and took action. This was emblematic of her caring support of GLC's work over two decades.*

*Eagle Harbor resident, Frank Carlton was active in conservation efforts in Keweenaw County and served on the boards of Keweenaw Land Trust, Keweenaw County Historical Society, and Keweenaw Community Forest Company. Along with his wife, Cornelia, Frank was a long-time supporter of GLC's work.*

*After 50 years living and working in lower Michigan, Michigan Tech grad Dante Iacovoni returned with his wife Joyce to the place he fell in love with in his youth...the Keweenaw. Dante loved outdoor sports and animals both wild and tame (especially his Great Pyrenees). He supported GLC and the Stewards the Bete Grise Preserve.*

*Virginia Jamison's love of the Copper Country inspired her efforts to preserve the human and natural history of the area. Virginia's deep roots at Gratiot Lake went back to many childhood days spent at her family home there. She was a life member of GLC and gave her time generously as a volunteer in GLC projects such as shoreline clean-up, water testing, and recording the human history of Gratiot Lake.*

*Leonard Miller spent happy times at his Gratiot Lake camp. He was active in many community organizations and was member of GLC. Leonard was an outdoorsman and enjoyed relaxing with his children and grandchildren at the lake.*

*Historian Philip Mason was a longtime member of GLC along with his wife Marcia. After retirement, they spent summers in Eagle Harbor where Phil was known for snappy bow ties, wit, KCHS volunteerism, and writings about Copper County history.*

*Elaine Wildman, who grew up in the Copper Country, loved revisiting the area and staying at Gratiot Lake for a time each summer. She was an avid wild blueberry picker (and blueberry pie maker) well into her 90's. As a GLC member, Elaine participated in many programs.*



***Ruffled Feathers***

This year's Gratiot Lake eaglet looks a bit disheveled in the above photo taken by Jim Hay. No doubt it was in its eaglet "bad hair" stage as flight feathers took the place of cozy chick down. Molt and replacement with more grown-up plumage must be an uncomfortable time for young eagles. This youngster fledged and flew successfully. Another successful season for the Gratiot Lake pair.

## ***Lichen Surprise***

Back home after a walk on the Bear Paw Path at GLC Preserve, I plunked down in my chair. Plop! A clump of lichen fell from my head to the surface in front of me. The "lichen" had legs... eight of them. The spider's banded legs were tucked tightly in to its body. It was the more startled of the two of us.

With the help of an inverted glass and a heavy piece of paper, I captured and released the spider outdoors. It turned out this unwitting hitchhiker was a Giant Lichen Orb Weaver spider. This beautifully patterned forest-dwelling species is no doubt the source of many of the pesky spider webs we walk through in the bush. Its not surprising that I had never noticed this web spinner before. Its brown and pale green lichen coloration is ideal camouflage in its woodland home.



## Sap Sustenance



Maple syrup is my favorite sweetener. I've even tried my hand at tapping trees. Tree sap is a natural "sports drink" offering hydration, a carb boost, and minerals. It isn't surprising that many other animals are as drawn to sap as I am.

Perhaps you have seen old Keweenaw apple tree trunks riddled with rows of tiny holes. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers (photo at left by Jim Hay) have been at work. Unlike most other woodpeckers, sapsuckers eat not only insects but also sap, as their name suggests. They don't turn their beaks up at ripe apples either. The 100+

year old trees which are remnants of the old Bammert farm orchard are covered with rows of sapsucker holes. To this day those centenarians serve as sapsucker magnets and produce healthy crops of apples to boot!

Many insects come to dripping tree sap, too. Some get stuck in their food. They have been doing that for eons. I own a piece of amber with an ant entombed in it.

However, I wasn't aware that some

butterflies were more dependent on tree sap than on flower nectar until witnessing a fluttering bunch of butterflies vying for the sweetest spots on a tree trunk. Mourning Cloak (photo above by J. Stuart) and Compton



Tortoiseshell butterflies were having a turf battle over the sappiest spots on a wounded tree. Both species winter as adults in

protected locations, under leaves, in decaying trees, and even in unheated outbuildings. They are first to emerge on sunny days in late winter or early spring. They warm up and are ready to mate and lay eggs. I have often wondered where they found nectar to sustain them with no flowers yet in bloom... now I know they aren't after nectar, just sap.

Subscribe to GLC news and programs emails  
contact

[director@gratiotlakeconservancy.org](mailto:director@gratiotlakeconservancy.org)

## GLC Book Club

Our next book will be *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*. Author Suzanne Simard is a forest ecologist who grew up in horse-logging family in the British Columbia's old-growth rainforest. As a child she was immersed in that ancient forest. Simard who has a PhD in Forest Sciences worked in modern forestry before beginning her groundbreaking career in field research.



**FINDING THE  
MOTHER TREE**  
Discovering the  
Wisdom of the Forest  
**SUZANNE SIMARD**

This memoir is an intimate personal story, but also details how Simard went about her research in tree communication. In the past 25+ years her work has revolutionized understanding of the relationships of trees which are connected by the fungal network underground, the "wood wide web." Simard also tells of her early struggle as an "out-of-the-box" thinker in a field which was dominated by the commercial principals of agro-forestry and populated at that time mostly by men.

We hope that you will cozy up with this book this winter, and join us on February 5th at noon for a virtual discussion. Discussions are relaxed with a congenial group...no pressure to read every page. Discussions last about an hour. Please email [director@gratiotlakeconservancy.org](mailto:director@gratiotlakeconservancy.org) if you would like to join the club to discuss this book or others this year. You will receive a Zoom link and details.

### Donations on GLC website:

[www.gratiotlakeconservancy.org/ways-to-contribute](http://www.gratiotlakeconservancy.org/ways-to-contribute)

**Download a membership/donation  
and send with your check to  
Gratiot Lake Conservancy  
P.O. Box 310  
Mohawk, MI 49950**

**Or  
Use your credit card or PayPal Account**

## Report from the KISMA Weed Crew

excerpted from the 2021 KISMA Partner Update



Gratiot Lake beaver pond looking beautiful and flourishing after all of the thistle was removed by the KISMA weed crew! Crew members (l to r) Megan, Michele, Connor, Adam, Lindsey, August, and Tessa after a hot but inspirational thistle removal day.

Another year managing European marsh thistle at Gratiot Lake! This is our fifth year managing at this site and there is clear evidence of our efforts. The thistle was focused far more on the perimeter and we were able to focus more of our efforts on the first-year rosettes, so hopefully, there will be even less next year! This plant spreads wind-blown seeds, so, when we're managing this species, we dig up any plant stalks or rosettes and clip any of their flower clusters into garbage bags. If flowers are left on the stalk they will still develop into seeds... so we make sure to clip and remove every single one. And of course, another reason we love working at this spot is jumping into the lake afterward to cool off! We look forward to coming back next year and continuing to battle thistle at the beaver pond.

Editors Note: This invasive thistle makes inroads along logging roads as well as wetlands. In addition to KISMA's work at the beaver dam wetland, GLC volunteers have removed hundreds of invasive thistle flower heads and spotted knapweed over the past five years along Conservancy Road and Noblet Lane to help stall its spread. GLC is one of many Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area (KISMA) partner organizations. We are grateful for the assistance of KISMA Coordinator, Sigrid Resh and the energetic KISMA weed crew in keeping invasives in check on GLC land and throughout Keweenaw, Houghton, and Baraga counties. Funding for KISMA projects throughout the Keweenaw is provided by the USDA Forest Service, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, National Park Service, Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program, and Michigan Technological University.

KISMA crew members Connor and Megan at Gratiot Lake boat launch. They provided information about invasive species and demonstrated how to clean boats to prevent transfer of invasive species between lakes.



### "Thank YOU" to GLC members, donors, and volunteers!

Gina Marie Jarvi and KISMA staff for submitting articles for the *Water's Edge*.

Ben and Jim Hay for proofreading the *Water's Edge*.

All who helped keep shoreline clear of trash.

KISMA weed crew.

Jim Hay, Gina Nicholas, Sigrid Resh, and Mark Salo for providing photos for GLC use.

Zach Merrill, John Yunger, and Dan Lizzadro-McPherson, for presenting informative webinars for GLC.

Dorothy Jamison for measuring Gratiot Lake water transparency weekly during the summer as part of the Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP).

This was the 21st year of CLMP at Gratiot Lake. You can view the most recent CLMP reports and graphs at <https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring/individual-lake-reports/>

Jim Tercha for pro-bono work for GLC.

To officers Bonnie Hay, Gina Nicholas, Louis Lizzadro and the entire GLC Board of Directors for helping to keep GLC on track.

### Cleaner Beach Thanks to Volunteers

Gratiot Lake Conservancy hosted its annual September shoreline clean-up of Gratiot Lake in partnership with the *Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach* program. We invited GLC members and residents to clean up portions of the shoreline solo or in pairs or trios. We are grateful to Mary and Mike Bingham, Sue Dana, Dorothy and Winona Asher, Bonnie and Jim Hay, Dorothy Jamison, and Dan and Amanda Lizzadro-McPherson, and other Gratiot residents for their efforts in cleaning up Gratiot Lake's shoreline!

Volunteers picked up 6 pounds of trash from the shoreline this year, including fireworks, cigarette filters, food wrappers, fishing tackle, and many small pieces of plastic. With lake levels high in September, some areas of the shoreline were not accessible. Thanks for pitching in!

# Gardening with Native Plants is a Win-Win for Gardeners and Wildlife

By Gina Marie Jarvi



When you look out to the landscaping and garden spaces around your home, what kinds of plants do you see? In our quest to maintain highly aesthetic lawn and garden spaces, we often turn to highly cultivated ornamental plants that are usually non-native to the US and are – let’s face it – kind of high maintenance. While they are often beautiful, these plants have little to no benefit for our local ecosystems. You may have even heard the modern lawn referred to as an “ecological desert” before, and non-native landscaping plants may not be much better. Non-native garden plants are often selected for being resistant to damage by insects and other common garden “pests,” usually meaning they do not have palatable foliage. In fact, research by entomologist Doug Tallamy concluded that native oak trees support over 550 native species of caterpillar (which are a staple in 96% of spring avian diets), while the commonly planted ornamental ginkgo tree only supports 5 native species of caterpillar. That’s a difference of two orders of magnitude! Native plants help restore or maintain wildlife habitat and offer support to our local ecosystems. Native plants provide food and shelter for native animals, including insects and birds. Perpetuating their habitat may ensure these animals are better able to adapt to changing climates.

Because exotic plants are such popular choices for our lawns and gardens, and they are probably already well established in those spaces, it can seem daunting to even consider transitioning an existing space to native plants. But it doesn’t have to be! Other than being a little more selective about what goes into the garden, a native plant garden isn’t much different from a “traditional” garden. Actually, once established, a native plant garden typically requires less maintenance than a “traditional” garden. Because these spaces are meant to support local ecosystems, some pest pressure is to be expected and even welcomed. The caterpillars that will munch the leaves of your new native shrubs will, in turn, nourish a nest of tiny hatchlings. Their long, deep root systems will prevent soil erosion, store carbon, and promote good fertility and a strong nutrient profile. Deep root systems also promote less watering, making native landscaping choices the more eco-conscious choice.

It may seem out of place to think about your gardens during the dormant season, but I encourage you to start thinking about how you can incorporate more native plants in your garden spaces now! While the snow flies, we can be thinking about what plants will do well in our gardens and where to source them!

If you are eager to get started – and I hope you are – you can watch our Native Flora for Native Fauna Webinar on our website, linked below. This free resource offers more information about native plants, why they are important, and how to get started on your native plant garden.

<https://www.gratiotlakeconservancy.org/glc-news/2021/8/24/glc-webinar-native-flora-for-native-fauna-available-now>

Archive of Water’s Edge Newsletters, articles, program information, photos, and more at [www.GratiotLakeConservancy.org/archives](http://www.GratiotLakeConservancy.org/archives)

## Resources for Native Plant Gardening

### LOCAL RESOURCES

Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District in Hancock has a tree sale each May that includes some native plants. <https://www.hkconserve.com/>

The Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area (KISMA) offers information not only about invasive plants to remove, but also about beneficial native plants to use as alternatives in your yard and garden. Download a free pdf homeowner’s guide, *Landscaping with Native Plants to Ward Off Invasives & Benefit Wildlife*, from their website: <https://www.mtu.edu/kisma/>

Keweenaw Wild Ones is a local support group for native plant gardening. Through this local chapter one can also access the national Wild Ones network. Wild Ones offers plant information, garden design ideas, webinars, and an annual native plant sale. [wildoneskeweenaw@gmail.com](mailto:wildoneskeweenaw@gmail.com) phone 906-231-5521 <https://keweenaw.wildones.org>

Dennis Greenhouse, 28166 Ninth Ave. Lake Linden, offers some native plants.

### REGIONAL RESOURCES

Designs by Nature-Upper Peninsula Native Plants, Marquette. 906-250-9157 <https://www.upnativeplants.com/>

Prairie Moon Nursery, Wisconsin. 866-417-8156 <https://www.prairiemoon.com>

Prairie Nursery, Wisconsin. 800-476-9453 <https://www.prairienursery.com>

## Whom do we spy?



Gray Wolf lopes on frozen Gratiot Lake last January.

Join us for a slide show of the best photos captured on the wildlife cameras which are installed at ten locations on the Gratiot Lake Preserve. You may be surprised by the animals out-and-about at all times of day and night. Wildlife cameras installed and monitored by Mark Salo have yielded some interesting “selfies” of wildlife residents at the lake. Photos have captured some dramas, too. Biologist John Yunger will narrate the show. Enjoy nature from the comfort of your armchair! The virtual program will be on a weekday evening in late January or February. Sign up to receive date when it is set and a Zoom link by emailing [director@gratiotlakeconservancy.org](mailto:director@gratiotlakeconservancy.org).

### Don't lose GLC e-news to a spam folder.

Add GLC emails to your address book.  
[director@gratiotlakeconservancy.org](mailto:director@gratiotlakeconservancy.org)  
[bonnie@gratiotlakeconservancy.org](mailto:bonnie@gratiotlakeconservancy.org)

### *Recorded Webinars Now Available!*

<https://www.gratiotlakeconservancy.org/glc-news>

“Mammalian Predator-Prey Dynamics: Temporal Trends and a Predator Free Island” presented by Dr. John Yunger

“Remapping the Keweenaw Fault & Gratiot Lake Bedrock Geology” presented by Daniel Lizzadro-McPherson

“Native Flora for Native Fauna” presented by Gina M. Jarvi

### Best Wishes for Happy Holidays!

### *It's Time to Renew Your Support!*

Conservancy members/donors receive an annual newsletter and notices of special events, and an invitation to the Annual Members Meeting. GLC programs fees are discounted for members. Family membership is \$15 donation per year. Join at any time. Renewals are due at year end.

<https://www.gratiotlakeconservancy.org/ways-to-contribute>  
*for online donation  
or to download a form to mail to*



Gratiot Lake Conservancy  
P.O.Box 310  
Mohawk, MI 49950

*Donors of \$100 or more  
receive a gift of photo notecards.*

