

UPCOMING EVENTS

GIBRALTAR BAY UNIT (GBU) DETROIT RIVER INT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE

28820 E. River Rd.
Open to the Public
Daily, Dawn to Dusk

AIRPORT NATURE AREA

Open, hosted by GINLC
Sundays, May 1 - Oct 30
1:00 - 4:00 pm

EVENING EXPLORATION

Sat., July 22 @ 7:00 pm
Join us for a relaxing
evening hike around the
GBU, a great time to
observe wildlife before
night sets in. Family friendly
— all ages are welcome!

THE LOVELY LOTUS

Sunday, Aug 13 @ 2:00 pm
Join us at the GBU for a
hike to learn about the
American Lotus and its
rich natural and cultural
history, as well as the
many other coastal
wetland plants we see
along the way.

EVENTS

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GARETH RASBERRY, CC BY-SA 3.0

NATIVE SPECIES OF GROSSE ILE Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)

BY BERT URBANI

Last year on Mother's Day we observed a pair of Wood Ducks selecting the nest box in our shoreline Silver Maple tree. On June 8, nine fuzzy ducklings bounced out of the box, followed their mother to the seawall, and jumped in, swimming towards Lake Erie and parts unknown. This year we were not so fortunate, but we hope for better luck next year.

CHARACTERISTICS: The Wood Duck is a spectacular duck. In its Latin name, *sponsa* means "promised bride," suggesting that the male appears formally dressed for a wedding. The male Wood Duck's beauty is rivalled only by its Asian relative, the Mandarin Duck, *Aix galericulata*. In breeding plumage, the male "is one of the most colorful, intricately patterned ducks in the world, a rich blend of reds, glossy iridescent greens and purples, and burgundy-brown." (John Eastman, *Birds of Lake, Pond*

and Marsh.) The male also has two U-shaped "straps" on chin and throat, orange-red eyes, and a bill that is predominantly red. The female is a dull gray-brown, with white eye patches, chin and throat. Both males and females are about 20 inches long, with a distinctive swept-back head crest. Wood Ducks have sharp toenails, which enable them to be the only ducks that perch in trees. They are also among the few bird species that can turn their heads while flying. Woodies have good vision in low light conditions, having the largest eyes of any waterfowl. They also have larger odor-sensing organs than most birds.

RANGE & HABITAT: Wood Ducks live in swamps, ponds, marshes and lake shores with wooded edges. They are found throughout Michigan during breeding season, from mid-March —

— Continued on page 11



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

SPECIAL DONORS

*In memory of
Dr. Bruce Jones
Blair Gordon Jones*

*In honor of
Barabara Thayer
for her years of work on
the Take It Outside
GINLC Nature & Wildlife
Photo Contest
Friends*

*Thank you
for your
contributions!*

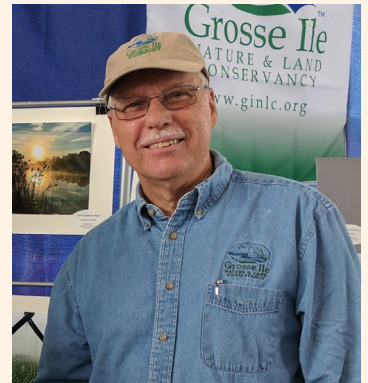
Reflections From the President

BY PETER KANTZ

It is summer, time to get outdoors and enjoy our natural environment. School is out, the days are long and nature is calling. So take a hike, ride your bike or paddle your kayak. You are blessed to live in an area that offers such a wide variety of outdoor activities. No need to head up north or down south or out west, just step outside.

A walk in the woods is a great way to relieve stress. You can stay on the roads, sidewalks and bike paths or you can venture off onto one of the many trails. Between the Township's Open Space property, GINLC's nature preserves and the Gibraltar Bay Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, you have many options. A great place to start a hike is at the Meridian Trailhead located just off the Meridian bike path, a few hundred yards north of Rucker. The trail is well defined and about 1 mile long. It takes you through woods and wetlands where you'll see all types of wildlife. Relax and enjoy the sounds of nature.

To ensure that future generations have the same opportunities to enjoy nature, protect the environment. Stay on the trails, do not remove vegetation or animals from these areas and become an advocate for the environment. There is only one earth, it supports all of us. We need to ensure it is around to support future generations.



Stewardship

BY PETER KANTZ

Summer is just beginning and we've already had a number of very successful stewardship events. It's good to see new members

become active in the organization by participating in these activities. If you're new to the organization and new to Grosse Ile, this is a great way to meet people and have a positive impact on the community.

GINLC stewards not only

our own properties but a number of Township owned properties and the Gibraltar Bay Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. With all the work that needs to be done there is always a need for more volunteers. If you can't make it to our weekend stewardship events or the Monday morning stewardship at GBU, you can still help out by ensuring that no trash is left behind when visiting one of the nature areas and reminding others to pick up after themselves and their pets.

Stewardship makes up a large part of our annual budget. The cost of equipment, supplies,

gas and oil and equipment repairs, add up quickly. Although we rely heavily on volunteers to do most of the work, there are times when professional services are required. Therefore, your membership in GINLC and financial support are significant contributors to our stewardship activities.

Stewardship is one activity that all members can participate in, one way or another. Protecting and preserving the environment are essential parts of GINLC's mission. To find out about stewardship events, like us on Facebook or consult the calendar on our website, www.ginlc.org.

Lots of Learning, Lots of Fun at GINLC Earth Day Celebration

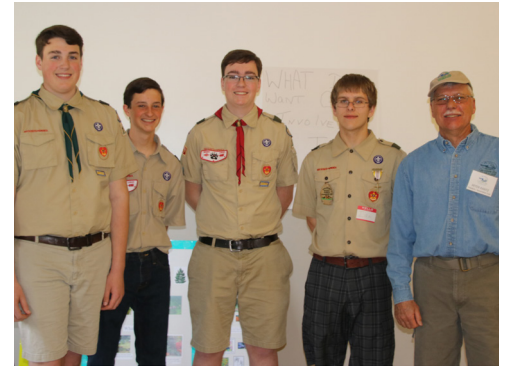
BY BERT URBANI

The Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy (GINLC) held its annual Earth Day celebration on Earth Day, April 22, at Centennial Farm. It was a sunny spring day, jam-packed with fun and educational activities for adults and children.



Many GINLC members and friends volunteered with the children's activities. Kids had fun as they learned these lessons:

- ▶ **There are tiny critters in the pond!** The children participated in a scientific investigation using classroom magnifiers to observe the creatures that live in pond water. They found water boatmen, water striders, snails and many others.
- ▶ **How animals use their sense of smell.** The "Scents Sense" activity gave kids a whiff of a scent such as vanilla or mint, and instructed them to act like an animal and find their "home" on the Centennial Farm lawn by finding the same smell hidden there.
- ▶ **Save Monarch butterflies by planting Milkweed.** Children planted a milkweed seed in a cup to take home and begin their own "Monarch Waystation."
- ▶ **How to make a totem necklace from a "tree cookie"** (slice of a local tree limb) and decorate it with feathers, beads and a symbol of an animal.
- ▶ **Express Earth Day on a Kroger grocery bag**, and use it later to carry your healthy food purchases from our local store.



Four of the six Scouts working on their Eagle Scout projects pose with GINLC President Peter Kantz. L-R, Reyn White, Matt Graver, Alex White, and Ian Stewart. Not shown, Charlie Plough and Dakota Thompson.

Boy Scouts on Grosse Ile care about the environment.

Six GI scouts are partnering with GINLC on island projects. These include the transformation of a 1-acre site near the high school parking lot into a usable space with picnic tables, a nature path and a rain garden and repairs to the trails and observation decks at the GINLC Hennepin Point preserve and at the Gibraltar Bay Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

Drop your drugs at the Grosse Ile Police Dept. Chief Joe Porcarelli noted that for years, the standard practice for disposing of old, leftover medications was to flush them down the toilet. ***This is no longer the case!*** The wastewater



treatment system is unable to filter them from the water and they end up in the river, and surprisingly, in fish.

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It's Easy Being Green – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. GINLC board member Pamela Frucci provided insight into her "Yankee Frugality" lifestyle, which included starting the original recycling program on Grosse Ile when they would drive collected recyclables to a Wayne County location, before the luxury of curbside pickup. She showed a lace dress she has had remade several times over the decades, from a pantsuit in 1970 to a formal gown to a cocktail dress. Pam truly lives her philosophy of "use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without."



Left: Wood Thrush, Center: Western Chorus Frog, Top Right: Spring Beauty, Bottom Right: Spring birding.

A Look Back at our Spring Education Programs

BY NATALIE CYPHER

We have had another great season for spring programming! We kicked off the spring with our first Frog and Toad survey for the year on March 31. It was the perfect evening to listen for frogs – warm and humid with a slight drizzle. We heard a full chorus of Western Chorus Frogs that night! Later surveys in the season turned up American Toads, Green Frogs, and Bullfrogs as well.

In early May we hosted, “Birds and Blooms” at the Open Space “Wildlife Sanctuary” property near the intersection of Horsemill and Thorofare. The wildflowers along the trail were wonderful – we were treated to many Spring Beauty, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Mayapple, Wild Geranium, and even a

couple of White Trillium – certainly a treat that had not been recently noted on that property. The birding was light, but we had great looks at a Wood Thrush – a relative of the American Robin who spends the winters in South America but nests right here on the large forested areas of Grosse Ile!

Later in May we brought out our binoculars and field guides for some spring birding – Birds of the Bay at Gibraltar Bay. As always, the Bay was a great spot! We had Yellow Warbler, Song Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, Great Blue Heron, Eastern Kingbird, many Red-winged Blackbirds, great looks at the not-so-common Wilson’s Warbler, and much more.

For our first summer program of the season we focused on the Wetland Wildlife of Gibraltar Bay. We learned about Snapping Turtles, Muskrats, Great Blue Herons, Mink, and even became wildlife biologists when we identified some scat left on the trail.

Join us for our upcoming programs this summer and fall – there is always something exciting to see!

For more information contact Natalie Cypher at GINLC. education@gmail.com or 734-624-7993

Say No to Coal Tar! BY BERT URBANI

If you are thinking of having your driveway sealed this summer, SAY NO TO COAL TAR! The ubiquitous black-and-white coal tar sealant signs are popping up, indicating that many of our neighbors are not aware that they are putting a toxic substance on their property. According to scientific studies, coal tar releases toxic emissions, called Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons, or PAHs, which pollute the air, water and solid surfaces. That awful smell? Toxic molecules are entering your family’s lungs. PAH-laden dust contaminates your pets’ bare paws and gets tracked into our homes and washed into the Detroit River.

Asphalt sealants are available and do not pose the same environmental and health risks of coal tar. They are used exclusively in the western U.S. Grosse Ile Township uses asphalt sealants to repair the bike paths. Van Buren Township passed an ordinance in December 2015 banning the use of coal tar sealants in the township, and bills have been proposed in the Michigan legislature for a ban.



Take a Look at Tip Top Photos

BY BARBARA THAYER



GRAND PRIZE // Wild Critters
Intermission
Victoria Brayman, Dearborn High School

Every year GINLC sponsors Take It Outside, a digital photo contest to encourage high school students to explore our incredible local environment. The three categories for Take It Outside for 2016-2017 were Waterway Magic, My Park Pic, and Wild Critters. One hundred five students from nine area high schools entered 165 photos. Congratulations to all students who entered and to the teachers from the high schools below, who encouraged their students:

**Dearborn High School ▪ Ecorse High School ▪
Flat Rock Community High School ▪ Grosse Ile High
School ▪ Riverview High School ▪ Southgate
Anderson High School ▪ Trenton High School ▪
Wyandotte Roosevelt High School**

We had two excellent judges: Ryan Donaldson, a former high school teacher at Carlson High School in Gibraltar who now owns and operates Ryan Donaldson Photography in Monroe; and Jeff Thomas, a former photographer for Ford Motor Company. Jeff currently teaches photography through Southgate Adult and Community Education. They were both willing and enthusiastic about participating. We thank you, Ryan and Jeff.

And thank you again to all teachers who help students every single school day. Take It Outside would not have grown like it has without your participation! Our first contest in 2009 had 39 entries. This year we had 165!



Above, GINLC president Peter Kantz congratulates Victoria Brayman of Dearborn High School for her Grand prize winning photograph.

IslandFest!

BY BERT URBANI

The GINLC participated in IslandFest again this year, with our float in the parade and a booth at the hangar featuring the winners of the 2016-17 GINLC High School Nature & Wildlife Photo Contest. Several contest winners stopped by to see their photos on display.



Above, Estelle Feirtag of Grosse Ile High School received an Honorable Mention for her photo.

The photos will also be displayed at the Bacon Memorial Library in Wyandotte in October and the Veterans Memorial Library in Trenton in November. Make sure to stop by and check them out!

And here are the selected WINNERS for 2016-2017
We think they do celebrate our environment!



BELOW: 1st Place // My Park Pic
Soaking Up the Sun
Emily Nestman, Roosevelt High School

PHOTO
CONTEST



ABOVE: 2nd Place //
My Park Pic
Dead or Alive
Luis Sanchez,
Roosevelt High School

RIGHT: 3rd Place //
My Park Pic
Leaves of Fall
Cheyanne Brannon,
Flat Rock High School



TOP CENTER: 2nd Place // Wild Critters
A Lazy Day on a Log
Chelsea Rook,
Southgate Anderson High School

TOP CENTER RIGHT: 3rd Place // Wild Critters
Citrus
Melanie O'Kray,
Flat Rock High School

CENTER: 1st Place // Wild Critters
Just the Tip
Alexandra Geshel,
Riverview High School



TOP RIGHT: 1st Place // Water Way Magic
Watery Sky
 Kate McWilliams, Flat Rock High School



RIGHT: 3rd Place // Water Way Magic
Araneum
 Elena Maria Farmer, Riverview High School



BOTTOM RIGHT:
 2nd Place // Water Way Magic
Mesmerizing Nature
 Noah Hall, Southgate Anderson High School



GINLC Awards Annual Scholarship to Kara Parent

BY BERT URBANI

Every year the GINLC awards a scholarship in honor of Dr. Bruce Jones to the Grosse Ile High School senior who has exhibited academic excellence and passion for protecting our natural resources. This year's winner is Kara Parent. Here is Kara's essay that she submitted in applying for the scholarship. I can think of no better way to inform our readers about this impressive and deserving young conservationist than by sharing her essay.

CONGRATULATIONS, KARA!

Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy Scholarship Application

BY KARA PARENT

Right now, the Earth needs everybody to be heavily involved in ecology and conservation. Deforestation, loss of biodiversity, water pollution, waste disposal, and climate change are a few of the many problems that our Earth is having to deal with due to human's inability to be mindful of our actions. We have caused many of these environmental issues by using fertilizers, removing trees for civilization, and using monoculture among many other actions.

A lot of people simply are not educated in what is happening to our Earth and I think that it is everybody's job to do what they can for the environment, regardless of what career path they choose to pursue. While I have not participated with any organizations, I do what I can to protect the areas around me. Due to working and school, it is hard to be a part of groups because often they have very specific dates and times for meetings or events. Because of this I do what I can on my own time before or after work, often during weird hours of the day.

One of the activities that I do every spring is raise American Toads. They are crucial to the Grosse Ile ecosystem for insect management. I noticed a few years ago from spending long hours by the water that the toads were often deformed. I did a small experiment using pond water from where I collected the tadpoles and another group where I used clean, fresh water to raise tadpoles from the same pond. What I found was that from the group raised in the pond water, I got deformed toads. The group with the clean water had no deformities. I've also seen a sharp decline in the amount of toads in my yard, so every spring I raise about 200 of them and release them around the island. It is a simple act that gives back to the ecosystem.

I got accepted for the Spring of 2018 semester at Michigan State University. There I will be going into their Animal Sciences program and plan on using the science based education to its full potential. I want to implement what I learn in college into my everyday life. I do not plan on going into conservation as a profession, but I do plan on using what I learn to make improvements in my future profession. Regardless of what I go into, I can rest assured that with a proper education the bees can have sanctuary at my house, invasive species will not be introduced to my yard, and my future children and those around me will be immersed in ways to give back to the Earth.

*"The bees can have
sanctuary at my house,
invasive species will not
be introduced to my yard,
and my future children...
will be immersed in ways
to give back to the Earth."*

UPCOMING GINLC EVENTS...

INTREPID POND CLEAN-UP & PHRAGMITES CONTROL

Sat., Sept 9 @ 9:00am
Learn about controlling the
invasive reed plant,
Phragmites, while we clean
up the area around
Intrepid Pond

HENNEPIN MARSH GATEWAY CLEAN-UP & PHRAGMITES CONTROL

Sat., Sept 23 @ 9:00am
Enjoy this northern view of
the river on Meridian at An-
nette Ave.

KOBILJAK PRESERVE CLEAN-UP

Sat., Oct 7 @ 9:00am
This inviting preserve is
on the Thorofare Canal at
Thorofare & Byromar Lane

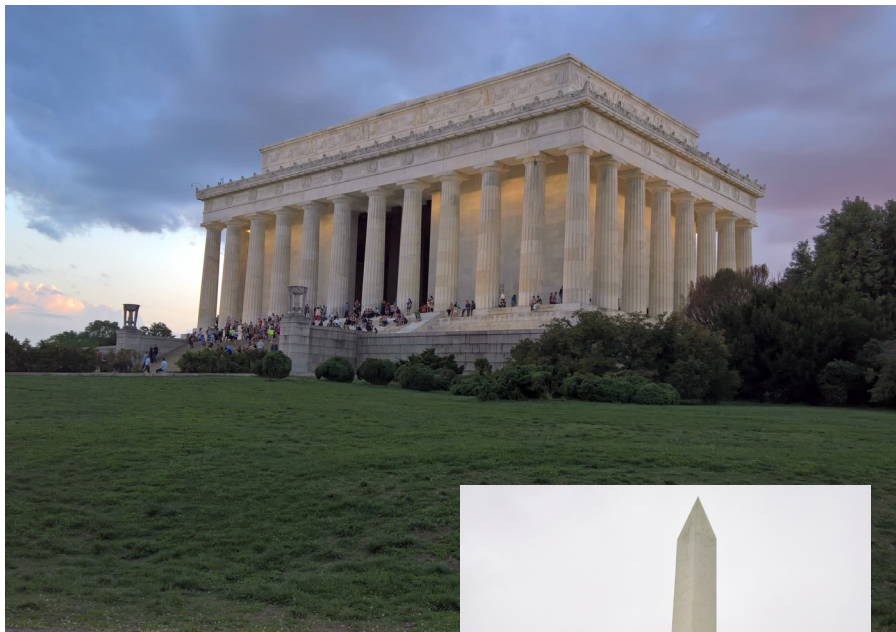
SUNRISE PARK CLEAN-UP

Sat., Oct 21 @ 9:00am
Help steward this lovely
waterfront park at E. River
Rd and Grosse Ile Pkway

GINLC ANNUAL MEETING

Sat., Nov 11 @ 10:00am
GI Golf & Country Club

Below: GINLC Board members Phil Pellett, Paul Gloor and Liz Hugel are joined by member Manfred Egerer during their visit with Grosse Ile's congressional delegation staff prior to the March for Science. Right below: Dr. Paul Gloor shows why good science matters (his baby granddaughter).



GINLC: Advocating for Nature

BY PHIL PELLETT & PAUL GLOOR

Some of you might remember the state of the Detroit River and the quality of the air in the Downriver region in the years before the Environmental Protection Agency was established. Some of us participated in the first Earth Day in 1970. Several weeks ago, four members of our conservancy who work professionally as engineers and scientists (Manfred Egerer MSE, Paul Gloor PhD, Liz Hugel PhD, and Phil Pellett PhD), travelled to Washington DC to participate in the 47th Earth Day and the first national March for Science.

An important part of the journey was a visit to Capitol Hill on behalf of the Conservancy to remind our US Representative (the Honorable Debbie Dingell) and our Senators (the Honorable Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow) of the many ways in which their constituents benefit from high-quality science performed in the public interest.

In preparation for our visit, letters were sent from the Conservancy to Ms. Dingell, Mr. Peters, and Ms. Stabenow. As stated in our letters, the Detroit River is a microcosm that represents many of the fundamental issues we are concerned about. The Detroit River is part of an international waterway that has already been a conduit for importation of harmful invasive species of aquatic flora (e.g., phragmites), fauna (e.g., zebra mussels), and microbes (algae blooms in western Lake Erie). Timely and effective responses to problems associated with the challenges presented by human activity are dependent on a robust and honest scientific enterprise

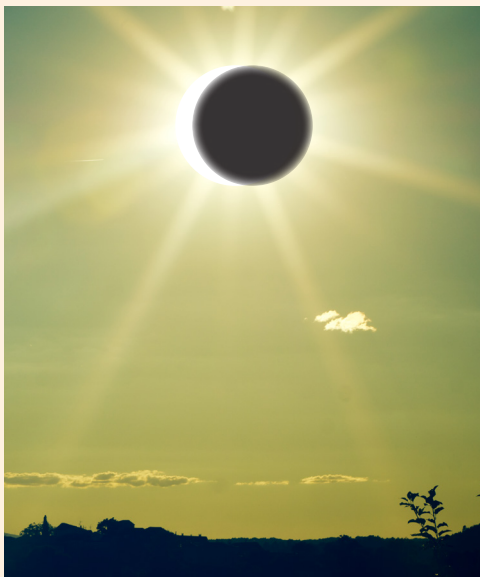
that includes public access to data generated via governmental support. Scientists, particularly those who work for, or whose work is supported by the federal government, must be able to be full participants in the arena of peer-reviewed science.

On Friday April 21, the delegation met on Capitol Hill for a series of meetings with staffers in the offices of all three of our legislators. Everyone we met with was well-informed about issues that pertain to our areas of concern. In each office, we asked how we can be more effective advocates. It was no surprise to learn that the influence of opinions increases along the gradient from general citizen, to individuals with specific expertise, to single organizations such as GINLC, and then to groups of aligned organizations.

On Earth Day, we joined the estimated 100,000 marchers in the rain. We attended teach-ins, listened to the famous, and not so famous speakers at the rally, beside the Washington Monument, and then marched up Constitution Avenue towards the Capitol building. The march was attended by scientists and engineers of all disciplines, and by lay persons who understand the need to fund and use science to make evidence-based decisions.



“The march was attended by scientists and engineers of all disciplines, and by lay persons who understand the need to fund and use science to make evidence-based decisions.”



80 Percent Solar Eclipse to be Viewable in the Detroit Area

BY PAMELA A. FRUCCI

It's not often that Americans can view a solar eclipse but mark your calendar for Mon., Aug. 21 from 1-4 p.m. It may not be a total eclipse but we in this area can see 80 percent of the sun covered at 2:27pm. The last time America experienced a solar eclipse was 38 years ago. If you have the means and the time, you could travel to key areas across the country to see a total eclipse: Madras, OR, Casper, WY, St. Joseph, MO, Carbondale, IL, or Columbia, SC.

I brought up at the June meeting of the GINLC board that we should sponsor a solar eclipse event. It was suggested to team up with the International Wildlife Refuge. That didn't work out since their center won't be open in August. I tried the schools and got no response. So if you want to experience the solar eclipse, contact the website: greatamericaneclipse.com. They'll give you a lot of information including ordering the glasses to prevent damage to the eyes while viewing the eclipse. The glasses cost \$8 and can be bought online.

In Our Own Backyard

BY ALISA ERICKSON

On July 9th 2017, I explored into the depths of the Gibraltar Bay Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and the Airport Nature Area for the very first time. I had passed by the gates leading up to the refuge, but I never really invested my time in exploring through the gates until that day. As a member of the GINLC, my mom offered me the opportunity to volunteer to greet incomers and educate them about the wildlife. As soon as I drove in, I was already amazed at the beautiful paths leading further into the trees and grassland. Dr. Liz Hugel, was fortunately there to give us a special tour through the Airport Nature Area which is only open on Sundays from 1-4pm. She was very kind and explained many interesting facts, about not only the plants and animals living there, but the history of how a shallow, marshy river channel became a missile base and later, a nature and land conservancy site. Off of



the main road of the Airport Nature Area, there was a path that led to a beaver habitat. As you walked down the narrow trail, you could clearly see humongous trees that were overtaken by beavers by obvious beaver carvings. It was amazing to see how these lumberjacks of the rodent world used their teeth to create their home.

After I returned from the enlightening tour, I received a trail map and explored the refuge, Gibraltar Bay Unit with my

mom. This area had so many charming spots that I plan on taking my senior pictures there next summer. We then met back at the parking lot where I became a member of the GINLC for \$10 as a student. I already cannot wait to go back to volunteer next Sunday so that others can experience the beauty that exists on this amazing island.



KROGER CARDS

Enroll your Kroger Plus card to benefit the Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy! Go to www.kroger.com/communityrewards to enroll or re-enroll. Thanks!

WOOD DUCK, Continued from Cover

mid-March through October when fall migration begins. Northeastern Wood ducks join year-round residents in southeastern states, west to Texas.

LIFESTYLE: Most hens have paired with drakes in their winter grounds. The pair bond rarely lasts beyond one season. In July, molting begins, and the drakes lose their beautiful plumage for a drab brown, keeping only their eyes and chins distinctive. During the time of molting, both sexes are flightless for up to a month, and conceal themselves in dense cover for safety. In late summer, they regain the ability to fly and the males are once again decked out in their “wedding” attire. Courtship resumes in the fall.



In July 2016, our Mother Wood Duck gathered her babies by calling to them beneath the nest box. Two jumps, first to the ground and then to the water, and the day-old ducklings were off to Lake Erie wetlands.

30, as much as 60 feet, softly bounce, then hop up and follow their mother as she walks back and forth, calling the others. She leads them to the closest water, and if it is a distance, some of the ducklings may fall prey to waiting predators.

For a wonderful PBS video of a duckling leaving the nest, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3vCUyENpmM>

DIET: Wood Ducks are dabbling ducks, meaning they feed on aquatic plants and insects, primarily by tipping up to submerge their heads and necks, showing their bottoms. Also, since they spend time in forested areas, they frequently eat fruits and nuts.

VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES: Wood Ducks are easy to recognize if you're in the right spot at the right time, particularly when they are nest hunting or incubating eggs. But they conceal themselves well at other times. Help them move in near you by putting up a nest box if you have a suitable tree with water nearby.

VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES: Wood Ducks are easy to recognize if you're in the right spot at the right time, particularly when they are nest hunting or incubating eggs. But they conceal themselves well at other times. Help them move in near you by putting up a nest box if you have a suitable tree with water nearby.

NESTING: Wood Ducks nest in tree cavities or other hollow spaces, including nest boxes, high above the ground. The female incubates 9-14 white-buff colored eggs for 25-35 days. In areas with inadequate nest sites, Wood Duck females may “dump” their eggs into an occupied nest, resulting in as many as 30-40 eggs, which oftentimes do not hatch. Eggs are laid in May and hatching occurs in June. Females brood their ducklings for 24 hours, then coax them out of the nest. The departure of the ducklings from the nest is a fantastic sight.

The hen walks around on the ground beneath the nest, calling them with soft sounds. The tiny fluff balls climb to the opening, and with fluttering flightless wings, spring out and fall, 20,

EARTH DAY, Continued from page 3

The law enforcement reason for the collection, of course, is to prevent drugs from getting into the wrong hands for illegal purposes, as well as to protect children from accidental poisoning. However, it also protects the environment from these dangerous chemicals. The GIPD is open 24/7, so medicine drop-offs can occur any time, no questions asked. The department accepts prescription, over-the-counter and other drugs (no liquids, inhalers or needles).

Flushable wipes aren't flushable.

Joe Keefe of the DPS presented slides of the wastewater treatment plant and answered questions. He stated that, contrary to manufacturers' claims, flushable wipes can clog up the homeowners' pipes and they combine to create plugs in the wastewater treatment system. Nothing should be flushed except human waste and toilet paper.



Lawn Order

BY BERT URBANI

It's summer and your lawn is slowing down its growth. Now is NOT the time to fertilize. Keep cutting your lawn high (3 inches); keep the clips on the lawn to be a natural fertilizer; and water sensibly as needed (1/2 – 1 inch per week). Hand pull or spot treat any unacceptable weeds. Relax and enjoy your summer without being a servant to your lawn!



Grosse Ile has its first Michigan Green School!

At the Earth Day celebration, retired kindergarten teacher Colleen Gimpel announced the good news that Parke Lane Elementary is Grosse Ile's first Michigan Green School. Colleen worked with Parke Lane principal Audrie Kalisz and first grade teacher Lydia Zerki to complete enough projects to earn Michigan Green School certification. The class planted a butterfly garden in the courtyard with plants by Grosse Ile Pet and Garden Center on Macomb St. Colleen led the class in a solar oven project to make S'mores using solar energy. Mrs. Zerki's students formed an Ecology Club and utilized a classroom worm composting bin. Other projects included participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count and reporting the results to the National Audubon Society, expanding recycling to include ink cartridges and making art projects using recycled materials in honor of Earth Day. Michigan Green Schools is a state-wide program that started in 2007. GINLC is thrilled that Parke Lane is a Green School and hopes that the other Grosse Ile schools will follow suit. We are happy to help.

TO RECEIVE EVENT NOTICES & NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL, CONTACT US AT INFO@GINLC.ORG



DIRECTORS and OFFICERS
 P.O. Box 12
 Grosse Ile, MI 48138
 734-588-2149
www.ginlc.org
Peter Kantz, President
Doug Thiel, Vice-President
John Leon, Treasurer
Denise Zielinski, Secretary
Alan Cavrell
Pamela A. Frucci
Paul Gloor
Susie Harrison
Ingo Hasserodt, VP Acquisitions
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Barbara Thayer
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To Promote for the public benefit the preservation, stewardship and understanding of the natural resources in the Township of Grosse Ile and surrounding area

To sign up for a work party call,
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 734-558-2149

To make a donation call,
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 734-671-0125

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