



the VOYAGEUR

SPRING 2016

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GROSSE ILE NATURE & LAND CONSERVANCY

VOLUME 24 • NUMBER 1

"Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest." – Psalm 55:6

UPCOMING EVENTS

**FROG & TOAD SURVEY
INTRO & TRAINING**
Sat., April 2 @ 7:30pm
GBU

HEALTHY LAWNS
Thursday, April 7 @ 6:30pm
St. James Episcopal Church

**ANNUAL GINLC
PROPERTY CLEAN-UP**
Sat., April 9 @ 9am
Meet at Centennial Farm

**GBU/Refuge
STEWARDSHIP MONDAYS**
Starting April 11
9am – 12pm

BIRDING 101
Sat., April 16 @ 10:00am
Hickory Island Pavilion
29820 E. River Rd.

**EARTH DAY
ALL ABOUT BEAVERS**
Sunday, April 24, 1-5pm
Centennial Farm & GBU

**GIBRALTAR BAY UNIT
(GBU) DETROIT RIVER
INT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE**
28820 E. River Rd., Grosse Ile
Open 1-4 Sundays, May-Oct
(Coming Soon! Dawn to Dusk)



JERRY JOURDAN

NATIVE SPECIES OF GROSSE ILE

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)

BY BARBARA THAYER

CHARACTERISTICS: Mourning doves are one of our most common and easily recognized birds. They are plump with long tails, short legs, small bill, and a head that looks particularly small in comparison to the body. Mourning doves are delicate brown to buffy-tan overall, with black spots on the wings and black-bordered white tips to the tail feathers. They are called "Mourning" doves because some people think their call sounds sad.

RANGE: They are found year-round in most of the contiguous US states, although some summer in Canada and winter in Central America. They are widespread and abundant and, at this time,

not endangered. Mourning doves are to be found everywhere except in deep woods.

NESTING: Mourning doves make a flimsy nest. They have the longest breeding season of any North American bird, from February through October, and will nest every 30 days or more often if weather permits. They are a monogamous pair for at least one breeding season, maybe two. The male picks the nesting site, which will be a ledge somewhere: a tree, large shrub, maybe the ground, a window or deck ledge. The male and female "work together" to make the nest. (Check out this division of labor!) The male brings branches

– Continued on page 4



MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In memory of Dr. Bruce Jones

*Jennifer & Scott Brown
Blair & Gordon Jones
Hugel-Egerer Family
Meyer Family Foundation*

In memory of Frank Le Feuvre

*Barbara & Nick Chupac
Pamela & Bruce Gluski
Sandra & Albert Heifetz
Deanna Olsen
Barbara & Jack Parker
Vincent Pinto
Patricia Schooley
Diane & Gary Siemers*

In memory of Richard & Rosalind Meyer *The Meyer Family Foundation*

In memory of Douglas Yardley *Anne Schiebner*

**Thank you
for your
contributions!**

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

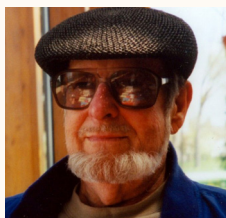
Reflections From the President

BY PETER KANTZ

Spring is the most interesting time of year in Michigan. Plants that have been dormant during the winter once again begin to grow and bloom. Animals come out of hibernation and birds and waterfowl that went south for the winter return to the north where they breed and raise their young. Although we enjoyed an unusually mild winter, spring is when GINLC springs into action. Plans that were developed during the winter are put into action.

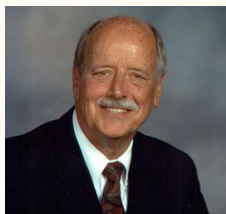
This year, thanks to a very generous donation by John Jackson, GINLC will be building a photography blind at the Gibraltar Bay Unit (GBU) of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Numerous stewardship events are scheduled from April through November including the weekly Monday morning stewardship at the GBU. Educational programs, held throughout the year, get a big boost in April with our annual Earth Day celebration, this year at Centennial Farm on April 24th. Join us as we march in the Islandfest parade and visit our Islandfest booth where we'll feature the winners of our high school nature photography contest. GINLC offers a wide range of events for all ages. You are never too old or too young to enjoy the natural beauty that Grosse Ile and the Downriver area have to offer.

Our Stewardship, Education, Communications, Healthy Lawns and Gardens, Membership, and Fundraising Committees are always in need of volunteers. Become involved, meet people who share your love of nature. Contact me or any of the other Board Members listed in this newsletter if you would like to volunteer and help with the many GINLC activities. Our events are free to the public, and your donations ensure that we are able to continue to offer these high quality programs.



Frank Le Feuvre 1929-2016

We were saddened to hear of the recent loss of Frank LeFeuvre, husband of long time Board of Director Barbara Leeper, who hosted and organized our Open House events at the "NATURE AREA" for many years. Frank was always there with her to do various small jobs; he always had his toolbox with him, ready to assist with whatever was needed. We will miss seeing him visit this summer.



Doug Yardley 1940-2015

With great sadness we learned of the passing of Doug Yardley, a long time GINLC member and Board of Director for nine years. As editor of our newsletter he provided a vital service to the Conservancy. He is also remembered as a beloved teacher and principal by a generation of Grosse Ile students and he will be greatly missed.



Still Time to ID Heritage Trees to be Protected

BY PAMELA A. FRUCCI

Our Heritage Tree committee has extended the deadline to May 1st for residents to look for historic, endangered, big, and memorial trees to protect. Several applications have been submitted but we hope additional residents will enter trees on their property. Also, our committee has sent out letters asking six local tree companies to be on the lookout for trees that fall in the historic, endangered, big, and memorial tree category when servicing homeowners or working in wooded areas on the Island. The G.I. Historic Society has not yet submitted their listing of historic trees and asked for the extension. The plan is to compile a list of trees to be protected and submit this list to the Township board in late May so that historical and heritage trees may be officially protected when they are listed in the township tree ordinance.

Our Eagle Scout candidate Wayne Sawka is working on a project to take a section of the 350-year-old oak tree that was cut down on Fifth Street. He ran

Submit applications to protect historic, endangered & memorial trees by May 1st

into difficulty sawing the top off the stump but plans now that the weather is better to finish the cutting. He will then record dates in Grosse Ile history on the section and mount it where the public can appreciate this historic tree.

Forms to fill out are available on line at the GINLC website, at the township hall, or at the G.I. Historical Society museum open Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Visit the GINLC website for information or call Pamela A. Frucci at 734-671-0170 or Eric Michael at 313-995-6580.



Rare Plants on Grosse Ile

BY BERT URBANI

A recent article by Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge manager John Hartig reported on the results of a 2015 plant survey in the forests of the downriver area, including on Grosse Ile. The survey set out to identify what is most unique and critical for protection. The researchers consulted documents dating back to 1817 to compare currently existing plants with the vegetation observed at the time that European settlers arrived and began clearing the land for agriculture.

Two rare species were identified – a sedge (*Carex squarrosa*), which had not been recorded since 1932, and the Shumard Oak, a Michigan State-listed special concern species. The Shumard Oak had never been recorded on Grosse Ile before, but the survey revealed it is a dominant species in our forests.

We would like to know more about these rare plants. Would any of our readers like to research these plants and write a Native Species of Grosse Ile article for an upcoming newsletter? Contact Bert Urbani at 734-671-0125 or bertdetroitriver@gmail.com.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS...

ANNUAL DETROIT RIVER SHORELINE CLEAN-UP

Friends of the Detroit River
Sat., April 23, 9am-2pm
Trenton Rotary Park
734-676-4626

BIRDS OF THE BAY

Sat., May 7 @ 9:00am
GBU/Airport Nature Area

GARLIC MUSTARD PULL

Sat., May 28 @ 10:00am
Meet @ Meridian Elem
School parking lot

NATURE OF THE BAY

Sun., June 26 @ 2:00pm
GBU/Refuge



– Continued from cover

and dried grasses to the female and passes them to her while standing on her back. She takes the branch in her beak, creates a small indentation with her body and weaves the offerings around her into an 8” nest. The female will lay 2 plain, white eggs. The chicks fledge 15 days after they hatch. Mourning doves are skittish and will abandon a nest with eggs or fledglings if they feel threatened, so bird watchers should exercise caution around a nest.

LOCOMOTION: Mourning doves fly swiftly, and adroitly, changing height and speed easily. On the ground Mourning doves walk or run, but don’t hop. They prefer open spaces and avoid tall weeds or scrub, probably to give them time to escape ground predators such as raccoons, cats and dogs. Mourning doves are known for the “whistling” sound their wings make when they take off and land. Scientists believe that the mourning doves’ wing whistle evolved as a communication device to warn others that danger is near, as they do not have many vocalizations. Their flight feathers at the rear of their wings are contoured and create an audible, high-pitched vibration when the wings flutter rapidly.

“Mourning doves fly swiftly, and adroitly, changing height and speed easily”

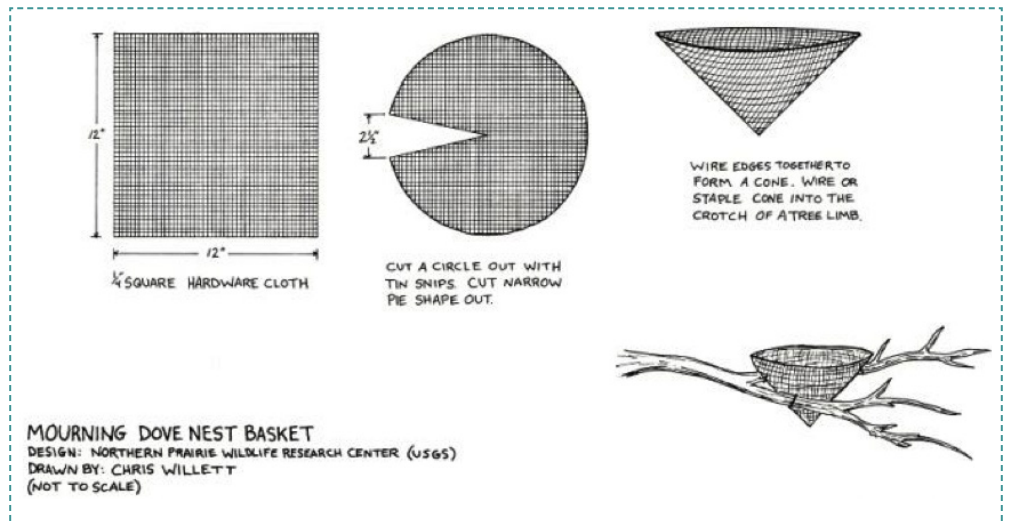
DIET: Seeds are 99% of the Mourning doves’ food: sunflowers, corn, wheat, millet, barley, peanuts. Very occasionally they will ingest an insect. They will use a bird feeder but prefer feeding on the seeds scattered below. Mourning doves, and all birds in the family Columbidae, drink by sucking the water up, rather than scooping it in their beaks and then tilting the head back.

VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES: Mourning doves are easy to find in your backyard and all around Grosse Ile, the midwestern United States and Canada. You can build a nest cone to observe them closer (see below.)

STATUS: Mourning doves are abundant and are the most hunted species in North America. Approximately one million hunters shoot 20 million Mourning doves each year. In 2006 Michigan voters rejected a proposal to allow hunting of Mourning doves in our state.



Mourning doves do not necessarily need artificial nest structures, but it is fun to build a nesting cone and watch a family start and grow up where they can be observed.



JERRY JOURDAN X3



Left: GINLC stewardship volunteers work on enhancing Sunrise Park on E. River Rd. near Grosse Ile Pkwy.



Above: Eagle Scout candidate Aaron Geeting discussed his project at the GINLC Annual Meeting in November. He refurbished a kiosk and installed the bench at the trailhead at the GINLC Finazzo Preserve on Meridian adjacent to the Open Space.

Stewardship

BY PETER KANTZ

GINLC addresses stewardship in a number of ways. We steward not only properties owned by the Conservancy, we also help maintain and improve properties owned by the Township and the Federal Government. GINLC’s involvement at Sunrise Park at the eastern end of Grosse Ile Parkway is very apparent with the installation of a spotting scope, patio and park bench, signage and plants. At Intrepid Pond on the corner of Meridian and Intrepid roads, GINLC has planted trees, bushes and flowering plants. GINLC stewards the Gibraltar Bay Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, located east of the Grosse Ile Airport, for the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Some of our stewardship projects are done in conjunction with other organizations. One of the organizations that we have very successfully partnered with in the past is the Boy Scouts. Our most recent sponsorship of an Eagle Scout project was with Aaron Geeting. Aaron’s project consisted of building a trailhead by relocating a sign kiosk (originally built by another Eagle Scout) from the Wildlife Refuge to a location on Meridian north of Rucker Road. The kiosk was refurbished, a bench built and installed and a donated bike rack placed at the trailhead. The trailhead is on GINLC property and serves as the start and end point of a mile long trail through Open Space property.

Partnering with the Township, Federal Government and other community organizations greatly increases the reach of GINLC’s stewardship efforts. If you would like to become involved with our stewardship of the area’s natural resources or have an idea for a future project, please contact us by email at info@ginlc.org or call Peter Kantz at 734-558-2149.

“Partnering with the Township, Federal Government and other community organizations greatly increases the reach of GINLC’s stewardship efforts.”



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 (you have to renew every year). Thanks!

AMAZON SMILE

Don’t forget to smile — Sign up for Amazon Smile! Select Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy as your charitable organization, and then 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products will be donated to GINLC.

More Properties for the Conservancy

BY INGO HASSERODT

The GINLC has obtained three lots in the Grosse Ile Woods subdivision from the Michigan Land Bank. They are located in the area of mature woods north of Horsemill and west of the Thorofare Canal. This purchase supports the effort of the Conservancy and the Township's Open Space program to protect one of the largest remaining woodlands on the island from future development.



Fortunately, the GINLC does not have to fight in the trenches to acquire a few feet of land. We buy it from the Michigan Land Bank or receive donations from residents.

World War I photo from Library of Congress, reprinted in the Encyclopedia Britannica

Annual Meeting Speaker and Conservationist of the Year

BY BERT URBANI

In a brilliant display of efficiency, the GINLC board of directors selected one person to be both the 2015 Annual Meeting speaker and the Conservationist of the Year, thereby saving half the amount of coffee and cookies that two separate people would have consumed. That one person is a familiar face on Grosse Ile, Robert Burns, Jr., or Bob Burns as we all know him.

Bob was awarded the 2015 Conservationist of the Year award for his tireless efforts to protect and restore the Detroit River Watershed as the Detroit Riverkeeper along with his lifelong commitment to preserving Grosse Ile's natural environment.

Growing up on Grosse Ile, Bob had the opportunity to truly experience the Detroit River, by boating, hunting, fishing, camping, and exploring its islands and marshlands. Bob graduated from Kalamazoo College and began a career in marine construction and engineering, working on many projects up and down the river, and throughout

the Great Lakes. From his many years on the water, Bob developed a good understanding and appreciation for not only the natural diversity and beauty found along the river but also an understanding of many of the area's problems that have led to its degradation. That led to his involvement with the Friends of the Detroit River (FDR).

The Detroit Riverkeeper program formally started with its acceptance into the Waterkeeper Alliance in the fall of 2002. The Waterkeeper Alliance, with 240 groups around the world, was established in the 1960's. Bob, who was appointed the Detroit Riverkeeper in 2003 said, "I accepted this position because I felt that I could take my experience and commitment and put it to work to help address some of these problems and, at the same time, work to support those types of actions that would promote sustainable economic growth, promote stewardship of the river and that make environmental and economic sense."

Bob patrols the river in the Detroit Riverkeeper boat, and serves as the "eyes and ears" of the citizens of the river community. He also works closely with various state and federal agencies, as well as local watershed groups, non-profit organizations, elected officials, and citizens. Bob's experience makes him particularly fit to oversee the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects on the Detroit River, which were the subject of his presentation.

We on Grosse Ile are proud of our neighbor, Bob Burns, the Detroit Riverkeeper. Congratulations, Bob, on being recognized as the 2015 Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy Conservationist of the Year, and many thanks for your efforts.



On behalf of GINLC, Bert Urbani presented the 2015 Conservationist of the Year award to Bob Burns.

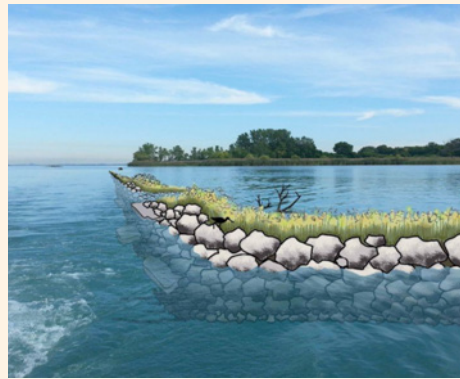
FDR Projects on the Detroit River

BY BERT URBANI

Bob Burns was the featured speaker at the GINLC Annual Meeting in November. He presented information on Friends of the Detroit River (FDR) projects occurring up and down the river, in which they act as fiduciary and project manager. These projects are funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), a federal program launched in 2010 “to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the largest system of fresh surface water in the world – the Great Lakes.”

As part of the GLRI, federal and state agencies work with local organizations to “strategically target the biggest threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem.” The major focus is on cleaning up the Great Lakes Areas of Concern, preventing and controlling invasive species, reducing nutrient runoff that contributes to harmful/nuisance algal blooms, and restoring habitat to protect native species.

Bob’s presentation focused on the habitat restoration projects that



Artist's rendition of man-made shoal to create wildlife habitat by Celeron Island.

FDR has undertaken on Belle Isle in the upper Detroit River, as well as the projects currently underway on Grosse Ile’s Stony and Celeron Islands. Initial work included surveys of the fish, plants, terrestrial wildlife, mussels and sediments around the islands. The Stony and Celeron Habitat Restoration Design Project was funded at nearly \$500K for the development of engineering and design plans to determine the

appropriate techniques to restore wetland and submerged habitat within the degraded and eroded areas adjacent to the islands. Design plans include the creation and protection of at least 10,000 linear feet of coastal shoreline and more than 100 acres of marsh and submerged habitat, including design features like slab stone habitats, basking logs, basking log bundles, and mudpuppy habitat structures. FDR received funding in September 2015 to begin construction on Stony Island; expected cost is \$2.75M.

With the Stony Island work and the construction at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Gateway (see article below), the river will be a busy place this year! And that isn’t even including the construction that the Grosse Ile beavers are doing, including the construction that the beavers are doing! (Come to the Earth Day celebration and see! Page 12)

Thank you, Bob, for bringing us up to date on these fascinating projects. The end result will be more wildlife in and around our island, and better fishing and hunting. Bob’s entire presentation can be viewed on the GINLC website.



Refuge Construction Underway

BY ROBERT PRIMEAU, *Landscape Designer, Detroit River Int'l Wildlife Refuge*

Over the last two months Grosse Ile residents and drivers along West River Road may have noticed a bit of activity and noise coming from across the river at the Refuge Gateway. Under construction at the Refuge Gateway are a school ship dock and fishing pier, and a Visitor Center for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. A grand

opening is planned for spring of 2017.

A 200-foot fishing pier will be connected to shore by a 740-foot boardwalk. This fishing pier will offer free public fishing for walleye and other game fishes. It will also serve as a dock for the school ship run by Michigan Sea Grant under its Great Lakes Education Program. Students from all over

metropolitan Detroit will go out on the school ship and use the river and lake as a living laboratory. The pier will also offer commanding views of the river, Grosse Ile, Calf Island, Celeron Island, western Lake Erie, Humbug Island, and Humbug Marsh, and will be frequented by people interested in birding.

Construction work is being carried out by the E.C. Korneffel Co. of Trenton. Current work has consisted primarily of finishing the foundations for the pier and boardwalk that extend into the Trenton Channel. This work is progressing rapidly so that construction will not impact fish spawning that occurs in the spring. With the grand opening in 2017 visitors will have public access to the Refuge Gateway and Humbug Marsh from dawn to dusk year-round. This project has been transformational for southeast Michigan by restoring an industrial brownfield into high quality wildlife habitat that supports world-class public uses right in our backyard.

TAKE IT OUTSIDE Photo Contest

BY BERT URBANI



TAKE IT OUTSIDE, the 2016 GINLC Nature Photo Contest for high school students is underway. The goal of the contest is just that, to get local high school students outside, observing nature, and doing what comes naturally to them, namely, taking pictures with their phones or cameras.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:
Friday, May 6 at 5:00pm.
(electronic, phone or camera)

The 3 categories for the entries are: **Waterways, Patterns in Nature, and Fragility or Strength in Nature.** There is \$500 in cash prizes; winning photos will be displayed at Islandfest and in various locations in the Downriver area.



For all the details, visit the GINLC website, ginlc.org and click on the PHOTO CONTEST button, or call 734-676-5462.



GINLC at World Wetlands Day

BY BERT URBANI

On February 2 the GINLC participated in the 6th annual celebration of World Wetlands Day (WWD) at Carlson High School in Gibraltar. Hundreds of local middle and high school students attended the event, which featured a wide variety of educational displays and activities about wetlands and other environmental topics. GINLC board members brought the winning photos from our 2015 high school photo contest and urged the high school students who visited our display to enter this year's contest. We also had a poster about lake sturgeon (wetlands provide nursery habitat for young sturgeons) and brought the DTE Energy sturgeon costume for students to wear to promote sturgeon awareness.

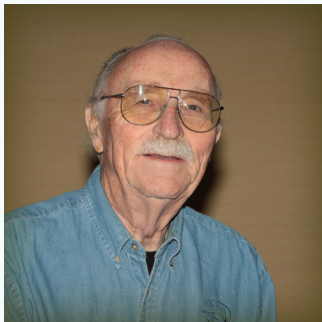
Top: GINLC board member Barbara Thayer staffs the photo contest display at the WWD event. **Left:** Students interact with "Sturgie the Sturgeon." **Right:** The sturgeon display.

February 2, 1971 was the date of the original United Nations Convention on Wetlands in Ramsar, Iran, which then became known as the Ramsar Convention. Downriver's own Humbug Marsh was declared a Wetland of International Importance in 2010 and WWD has been celebrated at Carlson ever since.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



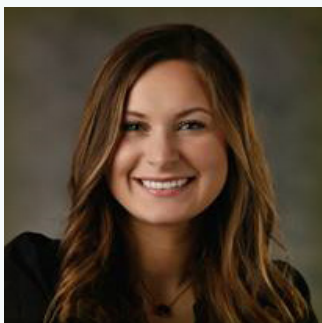
Dawn Dubnicka moved to Grosse Ile last June from Sault Sainte Marie. By August, Dawn and her family were involved with GINLC, restoring the rock gardens at the Gibraltar Bay Unit of the Wildlife Refuge. While working her way through college, Dawn fostered her concern for the environment by working as a gardener for the Archbishop of Milwaukee and as a city forester. She currently works as Tour Director for a Marketing and Rewards Company. She enjoys working outdoors, running, biking and raising her children to appreciate the benefits of volunteering in the community. We are overwhelmed at her many talents and community spirit, and grateful that she has chosen the GINLC as one focus of her energy.



Ingo Hasserodt returns to the GINLC board after a short sabbatical, although he continued to serve as VP for Property Acquisitions. Ingo and his wife, Margarete, have been GI residents since 1978 and Ingo was a founding member of the GINLC in 1993. Born in Hamburg, Germany, Ingo was transferred to the Great Lakes area in 1959 to assist with the large increase of ocean ships calling in the Great Lakes after the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Ingo operated a shipping agency, organizing the port calls of ships in Michigan and Ohio ports till he retired in 2005. Welcome back, Ingo!



Madeleine Jones traveled from the dry foothills of Denver to the green and damp of Michigan's Downriver in 1964. She earned her BS and M of Ed from Wayne State University and loved teaching science and environmental education in Southgate for 34 years. Madeleine attends St. James Episcopal Church, is a member of many local organizations and tutors students in Southwest Detroit. Madeleine practices sustainable gardening with an emphasis on native plantings. She enjoys wildlife and like most islanders, has on-going experiments with "deer resistant" plantings. Madeleine is excited to be working with island people who advocate for the environment!



Emily Frucci is the High School representative to the GINLC Board. A senior, Emily has excelled as a scholar with a 4.0 grade point average. She has been involved in many activities & organizations including volleyball, basketball, soccer, swimming, the National Honor Society, S.T.A.N.D. (an anti-bullying organization), Spanish Club, and Science Club. She works as a tutor as well as a lifeguard at Waters Edge during the summer. She plans to major in biology in college, with her goal of becoming a medical doctor. Emily will engage her fellow students in assisting GINLC in stewardship and educational programs. GINLC is thrilled to welcome Emily and to benefit from her organizing students to serve the community.

A BIG Thank You TO NATALIE CYPHER, who served a three year term on the GINLC board. Although she is very busy, Natalie will continue to support the Conservancy and the preservation of Grosse Ile's natural treasures through participation on the Education Committee and her GINLC-sponsored interpretive programs. Natalie, thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for GINLC and the island we all love!



WALTER SIEGMUND



Winter Wildlife Wonderland

BY NATALIE CYPHER

This past winter season GINLC offered some wonderful program events, highlighting some of the Island's most fascinating wildlife and landscapes! In November we had a great group of folks join us for our annual Owl Prowl program at Centennial Farm. We learned all about how an owl is able to catch a mouse in complete darkness, and also got up-close and personal with some owl pellets to investigate their eating habits. But the best part of all was seeing a local Eastern Screech Owl watching us from the woods wondering, "Whooo are all those faces looking at me?"

Winter arrived just in time for our January program, "Winter Ways of the Bay." While most of the snow had melted, there was just enough left for some excellent tracking opportunities. We discovered that some of the wildlife wandering the

Gibraltar Bay Unit included Raccoon, Eastern Cottontail Rabbit, Fox Squirrel, Coyote, White-tailed Deer, and Wild Turkey. We talked about how each of these species survives the winter, including the special way that rabbits are able to get the most out of their main winter food – tree bark. Here's a hint: tree bark can be tough to digest, so the rabbit might need to eat it twice....We also found some evidence of hibernating insects, and discussed some of the hazards those insects face while they wait for spring to arrive.

This February we put on our binoculars and identified some local bird species spending the winter at Gibraltar Bay. Our list totaled 15 species, including Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, and an exciting early spring arrival – a male Red-winged Blackbird. While the temperature was cold, the sun was shining, and the birds knew that spring is arriving! We were happy to hear some additional bird signs of spring, such as a singing Black-capped Chickadee and a territorial "drumming" Downy Woodpecker.

Join us this spring and summer for more fun exploring the wildlife and habitats of Gibraltar Bay!

Dump YOUR Junk

Thanks to your Grosse Ile Open Space Committee, all Grosse Ile residents will once again be able to dispose of difficult unwanted stuff. The spring **DUMP THE JUNK/ FIND A TREASURE** event will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1, from 9:00am - 4:00 pm at the DPS yard at 8555 Groh Rd. There will be dumpsters available for disposal of items that cannot be picked up through the normal curbside program. For example: large furniture, large logs, shrubs, and used tires. There will be a dumpster for metal items that can be melted down.

There will also be an area for items that can be reused. If you have a gently used piece of furniture, bike or other item, bring it along; someone else might be able to find a good use for it!

Unacceptable items include hazardous waste materials such as: Chemicals or Oils, Concrete, Building Materials, Light Bulbs, Liquid Paints, Batteries, Gas Cylinders, Engine or Car Parts, Propane Gas Tanks or any item containing Freon Gas. These items can be taken to the Wayne County Hazardous Waste Disposal collection event the Saturday before (April 23) at Huron High School in New Boston.

DUMP THE JUNK is limited to island residents only and excludes any commercial contractors. Check out the flyer on the Township's website: www.grosseile.com

Tree First Aid for Rabbit Damage

BY BERT URBANI and DEAN HAY



As Natalie noted in her article, rabbits' winter food is tree bark, including your beloved tree's bark. After finding our special Serviceberry tree chomped on, I emailed an SOT (Save Our Tree!) to my friend, Dean Hay, director of Green Infrastructure at The Greening of Detroit.

Here is Dean's response for rabbit damage to any tree or shrub:

"Sorry to see this kind of damage. Serviceberry are remarkably resilient from this kind of damage although the cambium appears to be destroyed. The only recommendation I would have is to pack the wound with peat moss to keep it moist.



You'll need to wrap the moss with a long bandage or tree wrap. This technique sometimes works to preserve any cambium that may still be contiguous from roots to unaffected stems. If you see bud break and flowers in spring you will know it worked. You may notice that only a portion of the tree goes through bud break though. The aesthetics of the tree will dictate whether it should be removed."

Frog and Toad Survey: Looking back at 2015 and hopping forward to 2016

BY NATALIE CYPHER

Last spring a great group of volunteers helped survey the Gibraltar Bay Unit for breeding frog species. Frog surveys are conducted during the breeding season (April – June) when frogs congregate to breed for the year and communicate with each other by sound. Surveys are conducted just after sunset, when frogs begin to call loudly for the night. Species are recorded based on the intensity of their calls. Last season we surveyed at two separate locations in the Gibraltar Bay Unit and recorded five species, including Western Chorus Frog, Gray Treefrog, American Toad, Green Frog, and Bullfrog.

We will be continuing surveys again this season, using the FrogWatch USA protocols. All data are submitted to Frog Watch USA and the Michigan Herp Atlas Project. The introduction and training for this year's volunteers is scheduled for Saturday, April 2 at 7:30 pm at the Gibraltar Bay Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Surveys will be conducted approximately once per week, April-June, according to appropriate weather conditions. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about our local frog species, contact Natalie Cypher at ginlc.education@gmail.com or 734-624-7993.

Is Your Lawn Safe for Your Family? GINLC 2nd Annual Healthy Lawn program

DATE/TIME: Thursday, April 7 @ 6:30pm
LOCATION: St. James Episcopal Church, 25150 E. River Rd
COST: Free, but please RSVP
RSVP: info@ginlc.org or 734-671-0125
SPEAKER: Rick Lazzell



Rick Lazzell is the Sustainable Landscape Design instructor at Macomb CCC and owner of Green Industry Services, with more than 25 years experience in environmental horticulture, landscape design and natural shoreline restoration. He helped develop the Healthy Lawn Care Program for Watershed Protection with the Michigan Green Industry Association.

Whether you hire a lawn service, or do-it-yourself, this presentation is for you! Learn how you should test your soil to determine what, if any, fertilizer it needs, what fertilizers are safe for your family, your pets and the Detroit River, when to apply it, how long to cut your lawn, all about thatch, and what you should never ever apply to your lawn.

**Special Feature:
Rain Gardens
for your home!**

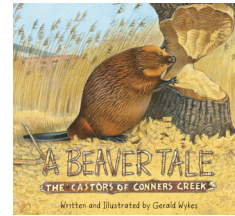
Celebrate Earth Day with the GINLC!

FAMILY FUN EVENT – Learn about the amazing beaver, what you can do to live a greener, healthier life and how the GINLC can help!



DATE: Sunday, April 24
LOCATION: Centennial Farm & Refuge/Airport
COST: Free
INFO: info@ginlc.org or 734-671-0125
SPEAKER: Gerry Wykes
SCHEDULE: **1-2pm** – Earth Day activities, GINLC projects, refreshments, book signing
2-3pm – All About Beavers program
3-3:30pm – More activities, book signing
4-5pm – Walk where the beavers walk (and munch!) at the GBU

Gerry's book is hot off the presses! Get your very own autographed copy!



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



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

To make a donation call, JOHN LEON 734-671-0125

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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

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