

CALENDAR

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

Remains open dawn to
dusk year round

GINLC EVENTS

GINLC ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, Nov 11
GIGCC @ 10 am

OWL PROWL

Friday, Nov 17
Centennial Farm @ 7 pm
Register: GINLC.education
@gmail.com

REFUGE EVENTS

USFWS FREE MOVIE

"Plastic Paradise"
Tuesday, Nov 14
Trenton Village Theatre
7 pm

REFUGE NATURE STORE HOLIDAY SHOP

Thursday, Nov 16
TV's Grand Event
Trenton, 4 – 8 pm

USFWS OWL PROWL

Friday, Nov 18
at the GBU, 7 – 9 pm



ANDREA REIMAN

NATIVE SPECIES OF GROSSE ILE

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

BY BERT URBANI

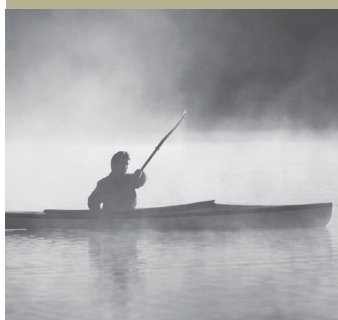
Most Americans' first encounters with turkeys are at the Thanksgiving dinner table, and in grade school, when we trace our handprint to make Thanksgiving decorations. But we on Grosse Ile are fortunate to have living Wild Turkeys gobbling right in our backyards as well as frozen domestic turkeys at Kroger.

The native people of Mexico and Central America began domesticating the wild turkey as early as 25 A.D. In the early 1500s, Spanish explorers took some of those turkeys back to Europe where they became popular and were bred extensively. Fast forward 100 years and the English colonists

brought them to the New World, where they were surprised to encounter Native Americans hunting Wild Turkeys. Domestic turkeys have been bred to have such large breasts that they are no longer able to fly. By contrast, Wild Turkeys are excellent flyers, able to fly for a mile at a time, up to speeds of 55 mph over short distances.

CHARACTERISTICS: Wild Turkeys are one of the largest birds in North America. Males can reach 4 feet in length from beak to tail. Males in courtship fan out their tails and inflate their chests. Their bald heads and necks have skin that

— Continued on Page 5



DONATIONS

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPECIAL DONORS:

Grosse Ile Bridge Company

Grosse Ile Rotary Club

Peter Kantz

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

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS IN-KIND DONOR:

*GI Golf & Country Club
(annual meeting location)*

*Thank You
for your
contributions!*

Reflections From the President

BY PETER KANTZ

It's that time of year, the leaves are falling from the trees and the outdoor furniture is being put away, time to reflect on what's been accomplished this year and prepare for next year.

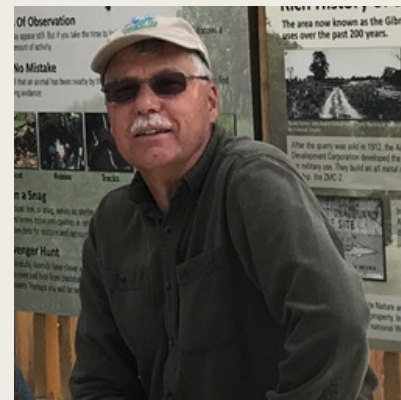
GINLC has been busy, often times partnering with the school district and the Boy Scouts on a number of projects and activities. The list is long:

1 High School Nature Study Area. **2** Salmon in the Classroom. **3** Bench installation at the Wildlife Refuge and Hennepin Marsh Gateway.

4 Trail and deck refurbishment at the Wildlife Refuge and Hennepin Marsh Gateway. **5** Tree planting at Intrepid Pond. **6** Kayak and canoe ramp construction at Sunrise Park **7** Earth Day Celebration.

This is in addition to our regular activities at the Wildlife Refuge that include; stewardship, educational programs and meet and greets. These projects and activities benefit the entire community and are only possible through the active participation of our members.

If you'd like to learn more about our projects, past and future, come to the Annual Membership Meeting on November 11th. The Boy Scouts will be there to talk about their projects and you can meet Board members who will be able to fill you in on the other projects and activities. As in past years, there will be a guest speaker making a presentation on a subject of interest to the Grosse Ile community. If you have a friend who is not a GINLC member, bring them along. The Annual Membership Meeting is open to everyone. If they like what they see and hear, maybe they'll become a member and help us fulfill our mission: To promote for the public benefit the preservation, stewardship and understanding of the natural resources in the Township of Grosse Ile and surrounding area. Next year, 2018, marks GINLC's 25th year of fulfilling that mission.



GINLC is turning 25!

As noted above in Peter's reflections, 2018 is GINLC's 25th birthday. Look for articles about our history and photos from the past in next year's newsletters. Share your memories with us for inclusion in the newsletter – email us at info@ginlc.org.





Summer Education Recap

BY NATALIE CYPHER

As always, it was a great summer for our education programs at Gibraltar Bay. In late June we took an afternoon hike focusing on the wildlife that call the Bay and other local wetland areas home. Attendees had the chance to get up close and personal with local species such as the Snapping Turtle, Muskrat, and Mink. We also learned why our wetland plants, including the cattail, are so important for these species. Without the right plants for food and shelter, we'd have no animals!

In late July, with summer in full swing, we escaped the hot daytime temperature for an evening walk. We had a chance to observe some evening wildlife activity and learned that the common Cottontail rabbit is in the unique *Lagomorph* family of animals, not *Rodent*, as often thought. We also enjoyed an abundance of flowering plants which we explored through sight, touch, and smell.

Lastly we held our annual walk to the Lotus bed in mid-August, which is the peak bloom time here for the American Lotus flower. During the walk we were treated to many Monarch butterfly sightings, and we also discovered additional species that rely on that oh-so-important plant, the Milkweed, including the Milkweed Bug and the Milkweed Tussock Moth. Close observations of the vegetation along the trail revealed some recent Beaver activity in the area, and we were also treated to a high percentage of Lotus flowers in bloom that day.

No matter the season, there is always something to explore and enjoy at Gibraltar Bay! Come see for yourself!

Join us for our last education program of the year – our annual Owl Prowl at Centennial Farm – Friday, November 17 at 7pm (registration required).

For more information about GINLC education programs or to register for the Owl Prowl, contact Natalie at GINLC.education@gmail.com



Top Left: Snapping Turtle, Top Right: American Lotus flower, Center Right: Participants at the July evening event at the observation deck soak up the natural surroundings. Bottom Right: In late summer, bumble bees visit New England Asters. Lower Left: Milkweed Tussock Moth caterpillar.



**Come to the
Annual Meeting
for more info
about these and
other Eagle Scout
projects!**



Above: GIHS students join GINLC volunteers at the High School Nature Area project.

Fall 2017 Stewardship

BY PETER KANTZ

Stewardship is a year-round activity. The type of work changes from season to season but there is always something to do. In spring we concentrate on cleaning up our property and planting new trees and bushes. In summer, we spend much of our time cutting grass, doing general maintenance and working on special projects. In fall, we take inventory of our property, remove and cut back invasive plants and do some planting. In winter, most of our stewardship activity is at the Gibraltar Bay Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, which we steward for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the adjacent Airport Nature Area.

This summer we were greatly aided in our stewardship efforts by the Boy Scouts. Two Scouts took on Eagle Scout projects that addressed trail and observation deck maintenance issues. Another built a patio, installed a bench and created a path. Several Scouts took on projects at the High School Nature Study Area. We are always happy to work with the Scouts on projects that benefit the community as a whole.

Since we steward GINLC properties, several Grosse Ile Township properties and U.S. Fish and Wildlife property, we are always looking for more volunteers to help with this very important and rewarding work. Working outdoors, with nature, is good for the body and mind. If you'd like to help, contact us via our website at www.ginlc.org.



Above: GINLC volunteers constructed the kayak ramp at Sunrise Park. This will enable kayakers to get their crafts down the hill without damaging the plants that we have been trying to establish on the slope.

Right: Charlie Plough completed his Eagle Scout Project at the Wildlife Refuge. He cleared the area of trees and brush, and installed patio blocks and a bench dedicated to the Jackson family.

Stewardship is a year-round activity. The type of work changes from season to season but there is always something to do.



Wild Turkey, continued from Cover

varies from red to pink to blue to gray, while their tails and bodies have iridescent and highly patterned feathers. Females are mostly brown, and both male and female Eastern Wild Turkeys have rufous colored tips on their feathers, while western turkeys have white tips. The “hairy beard” protruding from males’ and some females’ chests are actually feathers. Wild Turkeys have a variety of vocalizations, including gobbles, hisses, purrs and clucks.



Above: Mother Turkey leads her poults, Bottom: This female seems to have made her choice.

about a month, until they are able to fly to a low branch and roost overnight under her wings. In the Poultry Press, Karen Davis, PhD, reports on Wildlife biologist William Healy’s theory that Wild turkey hens communicate with their embryonic poults vocally, and this is critical to their survival. Their bond lasts up to half a year.

VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES: Wild Turkeys are getting more and more common on Grosse Ile. Turkeys can be seen at the Gibraltar Bay Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge on E. River Rd, frequently strolling into the Refuge from E. River Rd. One evening we were startled to see large bird shapes on the utility wires along E. River Rd. south of Groh Rd., and then a family of turkeys flew off. Many residents remember seeing a female turkey basking on E. River Rd. on the warm asphalt during mating season. Of course, there is the sad tale of the female turkey who resided at the intersection of Van Horn and Fort St. for several weeks until she was ultimately run over and killed, despite brave efforts to relocate her to safety. Our speeds on Grosse Ile should be slow enough that we can avoid hitting wildlife most of the time. Please brake for wildlife! And, Happy Thanksgiving!

RANGE, HABITAT & DIET: Wild turkeys are found in every state except Alaska, as well as parts of Ontario. Their year-round abundance today is due to successful reintroduction. They had disappeared from Michigan by 1900 because of unregulated hunting and habitat loss. Hunting in Michigan is legal again, with two seasons, spring and fall. Turkeys prefer grasslands in the summer where they can find high protein insects and snails to feed their young, called poults. In the winter they disappear into mature woods for cover and to find acorns and other nuts and seeds for food.

LIFESTYLE: Wild Turkeys are social animals. They travel in flocks called rafters and roost together at night in trees. In winter a colony can contain as many as 200 turkeys.

NESTING: Hens choose their breeding time and their mates from the courting males. They nest on the ground in areas with enough cover to conceal them and enough openness to spot predators, which are always a danger. The hen deposits 9 – 13 eggs, one per day, and does not incubate until all are laid. Incubation lasts around 28 days and the poults and mother remain on the ground for



Refuge Visitor Center & Fishing Pier Update

Both the visitor center and boat dock/fishing pier are still under construction. It is expected that both will be finished in Spring 2018.

TAKE IT OUTSIDE

2017/2018

Nature & Wildlife Photo Contest

We are searching for photos captured locally that inspire us to appreciate and steward our environment: air, water, land, wildlife, resources and ecosystems. All local high school students are eligible to enter.

Sponsored by the Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy

Enter at www.ginlc.org. Click on "Photo Contest" for entry form.



Like us on 



Photo Credit:
Alexandra Gifford
Beverly

Categories	Prizes	Details
Nature's Architecture Right Place @ the Right Time Nature Up Close	1st - \$100 Cash Prize 2nd - \$50 Cash Prize 3rd - \$25 Cash Prize 4th - \$10 Cash Prize 5th - \$5 Cash Prize	Contest is limited to one entry per category. Total 2 per student. Entry deadline: Oct. 1, 2017 Drawing: Nov. 10, 2017 All digital. Highest resolution (3000) for display and publication.

GINLC Photo Contest

All local high school students are eligible. Cash prizes.
Deadline: May 20, 2018

CATEGORIES: (all digital)

- Nature's Architecture
- Right Place @ the Right Time
- Nature Up Close

Visit www.ginlc.org and click on Photo contest for entry form and details.



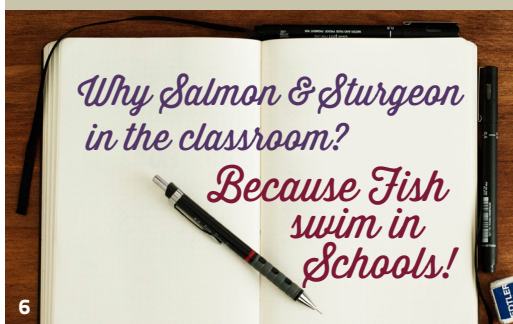
Salmon in the Classroom

BY ERIC FLOOD
GIHS Science Teacher

I would like to begin by thanking the Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy for all of the help and support I have been receiving. This assistance has helped me to get the Salmon in the Classroom Project up and running. I cannot express how happy I am to be piloting this project for Grosse Ile High School and the Conservancy.

We are currently in the process of setting up the aquarium in my classroom at GIHS, and we are only waiting for the aquarium chiller to arrive. My students are very excited for the eggs to arrive in November, and the first and fifth grade teachers have already jumped on board to work with the high school students in order to truly make this project span all levels of interest.

I will be picking up the [Chinook] salmon eggs from the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery in Mattawan on November 8. The following school day will be dedicated to teaching my students everything I learn at the Hatchery. I will be opening my classroom to anybody from the Conservancy that would like to stop in and interact with the students, who are excited to meet the people who have given us this wonderful opportunity.



Sturgeon in the Classroom

BY BERT URBANI

The GINLC recently awarded a GINLC Environmental Project Award in memory of Dr. Bruce Jones to GI resident Jeffrey Bouwman for his Lake Sturgeon Project at Shumate Middle School in Gibraltar. Jeff raised salmon in his classroom in the past and this is his third year with Lake Sturgeon. In his application, Jeff described his project, "The Shumate Lake Sturgeon Project provides sixth



A baby Lake Sturgeon swims in the aquarium in Jeff Bouwman's classroom.

grade students with the opportunity to raise and observe a Lake Sturgeon in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Sturgeon for Tomorrow's Sturgeon in the Classroom program. Students run various hands-on science tests, log aquarium and fish data, and observe and reflect on fish behavior, tank conditions. Most important, this project raises environmental awareness as Lake Sturgeon are classified as a threatened species."

Jeff and his students receive a young (6 -7 inches in length) Lake Sturgeon in October and raise it for 8 months in a 55-gallon aquarium. In May, the fish is released into the Black River near Cheboygan. Approximately 250 students will take part in this STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) project, and the community also gets involved through data sharing on Google Spreadsheet and presentations and by voting on the sturgeon's name.

From 6 inches long, a year-old baby sturgeon can grow to a whopping 8 feet in length and 200 pounds. They can live up to 100 years. Lake Sturgeon are the oldest and largest fish species native to the Great Lakes, and are considered a relic from the age of the dinosaurs, never having evolved scales (they have bony plates instead).

"We consider raising the threatened sturgeon as an excellent way to educate your students and the community about improving sturgeon populations and promoting conservation. Your fun and meaningful programs bring science to life and should be memorable for a lifetime for the students."

— Dr. Liz Hugel, GINLC Education Committee

Donations Received October 2016 – September 2017

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THANK YOU! Please advise if your name was omitted or misspelled so that we may correct our records.



GINLC ANNUAL MEETING is NOVEMBER 11th

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 11th**

**10 am to noon
Grosse Ile Golf &
Country Club**

PRESENTATION

**By Kay McGowan, PhD
EMU Adjunct Professor of
Anthropology and Sociology
2009 Inductee in Michigan
Women's Hall of Fame**



The Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy will hold its annual membership meeting on Saturday, November 11th from 10 – 12 noon at the Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club. Attendees will learn about the GINLC's latest projects and discuss 2018 plans.

Dr. Kay McGowan will be the guest speaker. Kay will speak on the Circle of Life, the interconnectedness of all things and the impacts of climate change. Kay is a long-time resident of Grosse Ile and led the rededication ceremony of the Native Council Ring at the Gibraltar Bay Unit of the Refuge in November 2016.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

A complimentary continental breakfast will be available. This is your chance to learn about and volunteer for the various projects & activities that the Conservancy is working on to improve the quality of all life on Grosse Ile.

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



FALL 2017

734-671-0125

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donation call**

734-558-2149

PETER KANTZ

**To sign up for a
work party call**

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stewardship and understanding of the natural resources in
the Township of Grosse Ile and surrounding area*

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