

"Like the air-invested heron, great persons should conduct themselves; and the higher they be, the less they should show." ~ Philip Sidney

CALENDAR

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

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

**NATURE OF
HALLOWEEN**

Sun, Oct 29
1:00-2:30 pm
ANA

**GINLC ANNUAL GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Sat, Nov 4
10:30 am-12:00
Grosse Ile Golf Country Club
9339 Bellevue, Grosse Ile

OWL PROWL

Sat, Nov 11
6:00-7:30 pm
Centennial Farm
25797 Third St., Grosse Ile

**WINTER SOWING FOR
NATIVE PLANTS**

Sun, Dec 10
1:00-2:30 pm
Resource Center
8801 Macomb St.



BOB WALKER / UNSPLASH

NATIVE SPECIES OF GROSSE ILE

Great Blue Heron

(Ardea herodias)

BY ERIN PARKER

If you have spent any time on, in, or near the waters of Grosse Ile, you've likely encountered a tall, blueish-gray bird silently searching for prey or flapping away while croaking with a loud, disgruntled squawk. Perhaps you've seen the slow, heavy beats of their distinctive flight with their long neck tucked into an 'S'- shape and long legs trailing behind. Congratulations, you've observed a Great Blue Heron!

CHARACTERISTICS: These lanky birds typically stand between 3.5 to nearly 5 feet tall and are nearly always found in or near water. They have a dark stripe above their eye. Great blue herons, despite their large size and the way they spend most of their time wading, do not have webbed feet like a duck or goose. Instead, they have long toes that allow them to walk in soft wetland sediments and not sink! They also use their toes to preen their feathers, removing fish slime and other debris, as well as keeping their feathers neatly oiled and waterproof. Great Blue Herons are sometimes confused with another southeastern Michigan species

that has made a successful comeback over the last few decades: Sandhill Cranes. Cranes are much larger and bulkier birds that can appear gray, though they often appear brownish-red from the mud they apply to their feathers, perhaps to provide camouflage during their nesting season.

HABITAT AND RANGE: Great Blue Herons are found throughout North America along both fresh and saltwater habitats. Some of the population is migratory, especially in the northernmost parts of the United States and Canada. If open water remains throughout the winter, Great Blue Herons will remain and feed, and it is not unusual to see them along the Detroit River even in the coldest months.

DIET: The majority of a Great Blue Heron's meals are fish, though they are known to eat everything from frogs, toads, snakes, turtles, a variety of invertebrates, and even small mammals or birds on occasion. Extra vertebrae in their long necks help them stab prey with a large, sharp bill. Like

– continued on Page 4



Thank You
TO OUR SPECIAL DONORS

GIHS CLASS OF 1963

Melvin Czechowski

Jonathan Hodge

Curt and Nancy Chrysler

Arlene Rebeschini

**GIHS Class of
1963 Reunion**

BY CAROL WOODRING,
Founding GINLC Board Member

The GIHS class of '63 spent much of their youth in the great outdoors. During our class reunion, there were wonderful stories being told in the Bruce Jones Preserve by classmates on our walk there under the knowledgeable guidance of Doug Thiel. Most classmates had noticed the vast changes in population and homes we grew up with being torn down and replaced. One thing that made everyone smile was the work that GINLC has done to keep some of our childhood intact. For that, you all deserve a warm and grateful thank you!

Being one of the founding members with my husband, Doug Woodring, we reminisced about the days spent in the homes of Ingo Hasserodt, Bill Heinrich, and Bruce Jones, where we started and were joined by the rest of the founding board in short order. Mandy Phillips kept

— Continued on page 7

Reflections From the President

BY PAUL GLOOR

I continue to be consistently impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by our board of directors and volunteers. Being part of GINLC during this vibrant period is truly exciting. Further details can be found in other articles within this newsletter.

Progress is well underway on the GINLC John C. Jackson Resource Center. We have high hopes of being able to utilize this resource center in the upcoming fall, with a grand opening planned in the coming months. Work is ongoing, encompassing the installation of cabinetry, procurement and assembly of furniture, integration of conference room technology, and the essential inspections. Moreover, we are pleased to announce that the new GINLC sign has been erected at the property's front, making our location on Macomb Street easily identifiable. We are looking forward to participating in Macomb Street events, so be sure to keep an eye out for us!

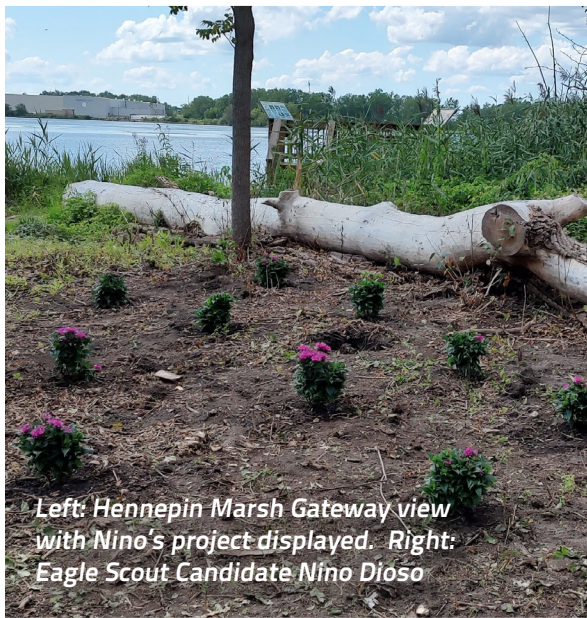


Our various committees are diligently crafting plans for 2024 and updating our five-year plan. As GINLC evolves and matures as an organization, we find that taking a more strategic approach to our plans is beneficial. We developed a five-year plan a couple of years ago, and we will revisit it in 2023. However, our mission remains unwavering. Strategic planning serves as our compass in achieving our mission and vision.

Mark your calendars for our Annual General Membership Meeting, set for Saturday, November 4, 2023, at the Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club, 9339 Bellevue, Grosse Ile, MI. Doors will open at 10:00 am, and the meeting will commence at 10:30 am and conclude at noon. The agenda includes discussions on the state of the conservancy, recent achievements, and plans for 2024, as well as details on the resource center, presentation of awards, and the election of new board members. We are thrilled to have Dr. John Hartig as our guest speaker, who will enlighten us on the topic of Saving the Conservation Crescent. Much of the natural beauty we cherish, including the islands around Grosse Ile, owes its existence to the passion and hard work of various organizations and individuals, with GINLC playing a pivotal role.

If you are interested in contributing to our efforts this year, please don't hesitate to reach out. As a non-profit organization, we heavily rely on the dedication and support of volunteers to realize our vision of safeguarding the natural water and land areas of Grosse Ile for generations to come. We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds and skill levels, whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out. Volunteering with us not only allows you to give back to your community but also offers an opportunity to gain valuable experience, forge new connections, and make a positive impact on the world. We deeply appreciate any amount of time and effort you can offer and eagerly anticipate working together to create a brighter future.

Contact us at ginlc.org/ways-you-can-help



Left: Hennepin Marsh Gateway view with Nino's project displayed. Right: Eagle Scout Candidate Nino Dioso

Fall 2022 Stewardship

BY PETER KANTZ

Stewardship is a year-round activity. During the summer months, we spend most of our time maintaining our nature preserves by cutting the grass and keeping the trails clear of encroaching vegetation. In fall and winter when the grass stops growing, we are able to concentrate on specific projects, like planting trees, repairing structures, maintaining equipment, installing signs, and working on long term projects such as restoring the upland and wetlands areas of Hennepin Marsh.

Eagle Scout projects have always been an important supplement to our stewardship activities. This past summer, Nino Dioso's Eagle Scout project involved clearing about 5,000 square feet of upland area at Hennepin Marsh Gateway Preserve and planting dozens of flowers and bushes to help with the restoration work being done there.

Jeremy and Poppy Reyna recently purchased the house immediately south of Hennepin Marsh Gateway Preserve. They are extremely interested in helping with the restoration work at the preserve, have offered the use of equipment, and have agreed to donate a number of trees for planting at Hennepin Marsh and other preserves. They are working with the Conservancy to coordinate the eradication of phragmites at the preserve and on their property.

With the opening of our Resource Center at 8801 Macomb, new opportunities and challenges have been created for stewardship. Maintaining the backyard of the Resource Center involves tasks traditionally handled by our stewardship volunteers. The newly landscaped front yard, however, requires skills associated with gardening and knowledge of native plants. Until the newly planted flowers, bushes, trees, and grasses are well established, they will require close attention. Maintaining the building and parking lot also requires chores not currently handled by our stewardship volunteers, creating opportunities for new volunteers with new skills to help with stewardship activities at the Resource Center. If this type of volunteer work interests you, let us know! We are always looking for new volunteers. If you do not feel qualified, don't worry, training is provided.

Memorial Dedication for Mary Ann Czechowski

BY DOUG THIEL

A very sunny, warm afternoon greeted attendees at Mary Ann Czechowski's Memorial Dedication Ceremony, held on June 11, 2023. A memorial tree and plaque were purchased by Mary Ann's husband, Mel Czechowski, and other family members in honor of her as a founding member of the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy over 30 years ago. Doug Thiel, GINLC Land Acquisition Chairperson, greeted everyone and thanked them for attending the ceremony. In addition to Mel, there were several of Mary Ann's relatives and friends in attendance, as well as fellow founding members Ingo Hasserodt and Kurt Kobiljak. GINLC President Paul Gloor was also in attendance.

Doug Thiel stated: "you couldn't ask for



a better location for Mary Ann's memorial tree and plaque as this is the site of the Conservancy's new Resource Center on Macomb Street. Mary Ann's native Black Gum tree and memorial plaque will be one of the main focal points in the native species garden that will be installed here in a few months. Today we want to honor her efforts in helping to establish the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy 30 years ago. We are so grateful for her early efforts to help establish the Conservancy here on Grosse Ile. Paul Gloor then addressed the group, as did Ingo Hasserodt, Kurt Kobiljak, and Mel Czechowski, who thanked the Conservancy for such a nice tribute for his wife.



From top to bottom: A Great Blue Heron takes flight.
>Two heron chicks scoping out the rookery. >A heron catching a snack.



GREAT BLUE HERON, continued from cover

many birds, they swallow their meals whole.

REPRODUCTION: Great Blue Herons are social nesters, and those nests are in trees! Called a rookery, a group of herons will construct messy stick nests, built primarily by the female birds, in the tops of a group of trees. Pairs work together to raise their young in each individual nest. Herons have a lot of site fidelity, which means that they return to the same nesting area year after year. Female herons lay anywhere from 2-7 eggs in these nests in late April or May, and by early June, the young have hatched. They are incubated and then fed by both parents, and ready to fledge about 65 days after they hatched.

Stony Island has an active heron rookery that is visible from Sunrise Park (with binoculars or spotting scope) on Grosse Ile.

BEHAVIOR: While these birds are gregarious in their nesting habits, they spend much of their time in solitary searches for prey, either stalking slowly in the water or resting and keeping watch in low trees and branches along the water. The majority of Michigan's inland lake-dwelling herons migrate to warmer climates where open water allows them to hunt year-round. Herons get as far south as the Caribbean.

STATUS: Abundant throughout their range, they are considered a species of least concern. Predators such as raccoons and crows will eat their eggs, and young that fall from the nest before they fledge are readily hunted by coyotes and foxes, but few animals can manage a full-grown heron and its large, stabbing bill. Because they commonly return to the same nesting site each spring, disturbances to rookeries are among the largest threats these birds face.

VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES: In the fall, look overhead just before sunset, and you may see their distinctive silhouette heading for a safe place to spend the night. Migration takes place September through October, and many birds may congregate along wetland edges as they prepare to head south. During the spring and summer, head out in a kayak and view them in their busy nesting season from the water (don't disturb the rookery, observe from a safe distance!) or enjoy them in their pursuit of fish and other aquatic treats along the shoreline of any of our local wetlands. If they notice you before you notice them, you may be treated to their noisy, primitive-sounding call as they take flight!

The Bill Heinrich Preserve

BY AMANDA PHILLIPS

Founder Amanda Phillips reflects on her time with Bill Heinrich and the new preserve named for him.

I grew up on West River Road, a few houses south of where Bill Heinrich lived. One of the aspects of having lived here for a long time is the memories of the people you remember from your past. Bill was one of those people for me. He had the face of someone who knew and cared about the environment where we lived. He was one of the original Grosse Ile wise men, and I was always glad to see him.

The Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy was founded in 1993. Bill was one of the core group of people that began this initiative. He shared a vision with other like-minded islanders who were more than a little concerned about the future of Grosse Ile. Development had begun in earnest, old trees were being cut down indiscriminately, and there was talk of a trailer park at the south end of the island. Our Township Supervisor at the time, Bruce Sells, was very, very concerned.

The idea for the Conservancy came from one of our local prominent businessmen, as a way to control the ever-expanding housing development. I heard about this group meeting and showed up, hoping to be a part of this effort to protect our natural environment from future development pressure, to educate the Island residents and the Township government, about what was at stake. The mixed group of citizens that began this effort, were intent on preserving the island's semi-rural wooded environment.

Thirty years later, the Conservancy's continued work preserves Bill Heinrich's memory. As a reflection of his dedication to this unique island, a place of old forests and surrounded by water, both of which need protection. This preserve, dedicated in his memory, is about 1.2 acres in size. The Conservancy worked over three years to acquire this parcel. Special thanks to Doug Thiel, as Land Acquisition Chairperson, for all of his efforts. The total price was \$72,000 (\$32,000 for each parcel). The property boasts visually stunning mature woodlands with a diverse array of native trees such as Pignut and Shagbark Hickories, White and Red Oak, and Black Walnut. Additionally, it provides vital wildlife habitat for birds and mammals. This makes the preserve more ecologically valuable. To date, the GINLC has been able to acquire and protect 175 acres on the Island. We owe much to the Founders of the Conservancy, especially to Bill and his natural wonder of this place we call our home. "You can't complete a long journey without taking the first steps." These visionaries had the courage and passion to take the first steps.



Top to bottom: Doug Thiel speaks at the Heinrich Preserve dedication. >Original GINLC Board Members Amanda Phillips, Ingo Hasserodt, and Mike Perry with Patricia Heinrich. >Attendees at the Bill Heinrich Preserve dedication, including the Heinrich family. >Original GINLC Member Mike Perry talks about his time with Bill Heinrich.

Airport Natural Area: Now Open!

BY CHRIS ZAWISTOWICZ

The Airport Natural Area (ANA), adjacent to the Gibraltar Bay Unit at the south end of East River Road, has been maintained in part by GINLC volunteers for many years. In that time, hardy Stewardship volunteers removed tons of metal scrap, tires, and other trash abandoned by the military when the naval air station closed in the mid-60s. Volunteers built a new observation deck and, with the help of a Boy Scout project, created a new trail in the woods. The education team has led many nature activities in this area over the years.

It's a serene part of the island that is home to birds, bats, mink, deer, rabbits, snakes, beavers, coyotes and turtles (and probably many more creatures we have failed to spot), as well as home to a magnificent annual show of American Lotus. It's a hidden gem that seemed to be largely out of the public's view... until now.

Over the years, numerous generous GINLC volunteers have given up their Sunday afternoons between May and October opening the gate to ANA and hosting curious visitors – most of whom would say that “we never knew this was here.”

In May 2022, a small group of GINLC board members got together to examine the possibility of extending public access to ANA beyond the limited weekly three-hour periods between May and October. Veteran GINLC members who had been down this path before were less than optimistic, citing FAA rules, the likely need for a major expense to ensure security, and possible disapproval from the airport. The team of Gloor, Thiel, Kantz, Nachtrab, and Zawistowicz met with Janel MacNee – the new Airport Manager – to introduce GINLC and lay out our proposal. The team found a major ally in John Raithel, who sits on the Airport Commerce Park Commission. The Conservancy was invited to present their proposals to the Commission at their March 2023 meeting and received the go-ahead, subject to several requirements. These included the installation of a personnel gate to allow for pedestrian-only access, appropriate signage, and a barrier to prevent the public from accessing the old seaplane dock which remains in a state of disrepair. The GINLC board approved funding for the project, and the ANA was opened for extended hours (dawn to dusk, every day of the year) starting in mid-July 2023.

The safety of air traffic is of paramount importance. Signs remind visitors to stay on the trails and gates prevent access to the taxiways. Boisterous behavior can scare animals and cause them to run onto the runway creating a major safety hazard (as well as disturbing the natural peace of the area).

So, come and enjoy this island gem, but please behave



responsibly by staying on the trails and taking your trash home with you! We look forward to hearing about and seeing what visitors experience while hiking on the trail.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS ZAWISTOWICZ

Donations Received – October 2022 to September 2023

Marvin & Elaine Aho	Jay Frucci	Eric & Paige Miller	Judith Schroeder
Marcia Aller	Jack & Pam Frucci	Ronald & Gayle Mitchell	Steven Schweickart*
Eugene & Ann Anderson	Virginia Gatchell	Wendy & Michael Moco	A. John Schweickart
Ronald & Cynthia Baird	Kristy George	John & Nancy Morrison*	Patricia Selby
Brian & Michelle Bartlett	Paul & Julie Gloor*	David & Carol Morse	Leslie Davidson
Ginny Batch-Riling	Dr.'s Greg Goyert	William Morse	& James Sharky
Adam & Joyce Bickel	& Marcie Treadwell*	Victoria & Daniel Murphy	Mike & Kathy Shields
Robert & Jodee Boley	Barbara & Richard Groen	Dean & Kat Musgrave*	Joseph & Catherine Sikora
Viktor & Robin Brown*	JoAnne Gronlund	Elizabeth Myrick	Diane & Mark Skarzynski
Jennifer & Scott Brown*	Dr. Brian & Katie Hartwell	Kathy & Bill Nachtrab*	Al & Karen Skrocki
Carol Bryk	Ingo Hasserodt	Carol Nankervis	Patricia Smart
Fred & Lenaya Burchfield	Joan Hemsworth	James Nelson*	Gail Smith
Kathleen Campbell	Jonathan & Jodi Hodge*	Cheri Nelson	Richard & Maria Snyder
& Robert Summers	Collie Hooper-Yan	Paul Nussbaum*	The Sobiechowski Family
Scott Clauss	David & Eve Howell	Matthew & Elizabeth O'Donnell	Cliff & Pat St. Pierre
Patrick & Barbara Coakley, Sr.	Angela Hrabnicky	Gerard Page	Katherine Strain-Benton
Etta, Piper & Zachary Cochrane	Elizabeth Hugel	Kevin & Christine Paholak	Joan Strickler
Harriet & Tom Cole	& Manfred Egerer*	Dominic & Liz Palazzolo	& Marcie Ammerman
John & Nancy Colina	Ed & Hannelore Hughes	Janet Papp	Lynne & Gene Swift
James & Marjory Conley	Frank Hunt	James & Diane Parker	Marcy Tarziers*
Joseph & Janet Connors	Emily & James Jackson	James & Elaine Parker	Doug & Cari Thiel*
Linda & Donald Conroy	Madeleine Jones	Erin Parker & Peter Blank	Mark Thrasher
John & Karin Cozzi	Blair & Gordon Jones*	Doreene Payette	Ken Tilp
Kay Cozzi	Gary Kadau	Mike & Linda Perry	Roberta Urbani & John Leon*
Debra Crocker	Peter Kantz*	Greg & Marcia Pflum	Ted & June Van Os
Curt & Nancy Crysler	Katherine Kerr	David & Carole Poleski*	Samuel C. Warner
Jacquie Cummings	Kurt & Kristen Kobiljak	Michael Polite	Fred Watson*
Natalie Cypher*	Stefan H. Kobiljak	Jeffery & Elizabeth Prough	Johanne Wilson
Cindy & Jay Czarnik*	Krishelle Kohler	Dennis Prunkard	Karen Wisniewski
Melvin & Mary Ann Czechowski	Judy Kohler	Bruce & Tammy Ranck*	Jack & Jo Wood
Martin & Loretta Daly	Karla Krahnke	Bob & Karen Ranka	Douglas & Carol Woodring
Joe & Maria Daly	Tony & Jeanne Krukowski	Barbara Rateick	Scott & Wendy Wright
Catherine Debo	Ray & Sue Kwiecien	Sue Ann Ray*	Phineas Youngs
Bob & Linda Dombrowski	Kim Meyer Landaal*	Arlene Rebeschini	Sheena & Chris Zawistowicz
Phyllis Domine	Kathy Levillier	Elizabeth Richter	Stephen & Susan Zink
Carol Domino*	Patricia Lukasik	Lori Riopelle	Lois Zook
Suzanne Bagozzi	Benjamin & Shannon Luppino	Isabella Rista	Tom Zucchet
& Dennis Dudus	Judy Macy	Linda & Larry Robin	
Bonnie Eichold	Bruce & Dorene Markwardt	Darren & Susan Rockey	BASF Corporation
Susan Meyer Eldredge*	Anthony & Diane Mazurek	Gregory Roginski	Grosse Ile Garden Club
Jane Emmerich	Myra McInerney	James & Ann Sack	LifeLong Family Dentistry
Susan Filkins	Dr. Patrick & Mary Ann Mech	Armando	Ralph's Lawn Equipment
Janice Finazzo	William Meyer*	& Barbara Sardanopoli	
Kaitlin Fischer	Eric & Jean Michael	Ann Schiebner	
Teresa Fritz	Richard & Jeanne Micka	Pat & Richard Schmidt	

* Lifetime Members

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

— Continued from page 2

us enthused and full of good ideas. Kurt Kobiljak kept us focused and tried to keep us in line! It's such a fond memory, and to see the ongoing success makes us so proud of all of the members. It's so worthwhile, and not always easy, but always gratifying. The community has a lasting legacy because of GINLC's care.

I would certainly recommend that all class reunions make this a part of their event in the future— it was a highlight! Again, thank you all!



Enroll your Kroger Plus card to benefit the Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy! Go to [kroger.com/communityrewards](https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) to enroll (our organization number is AW710).

JOIN US FOR OUR NOVEMBER EVENTS!



Annual Membership Meeting
 Saturday, November 4th
 @ Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club 10AM-Noon
 {Doors open at 10AM. Meeting begins at 10:30AM}



Owl Prowl
 Saturday, November 11th
 @ Centennial Farm 6-7:30PM
 Centennial Farm is located at 25797 Third St. Grosse Ile, MI 48138

GINLC proudly invites you to our Annual Membership Meeting!

All members and non-members are welcome to join us in our review of: 2023 Accomplishments & Projects, Awards Presentation, Election of Board of Directors, State of the Conservancy, and our Special Guest Speaker: Dr. John Hartig.

Dr. John Hartig will be speaking on "Saving the Conservation Crescent"



Please contact us at GINLC.gi@gmail.com for more information.
 See you outside!

www.ginlc.org



Dinner Time - John Fortenter, APHS
 2020 Take it Outside Photo Contest

Our most popular program of the year, Owl Prowl, is right around the corner!

At this event you can expect to learn about Michigan's owls, dissect an owl pellet, and take a short hike to listen for their calls.



Please contact us at GINLC.education@gmail.com for more information.
 See you outside!

All GINLC programs are free and open to the public, although your donations make them possible!

www.ginlc.org



TO STAY INFORMED LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, & X (TWITTER)
 Sign up for our email list at ginlc.org/contact-us

FALL 2023

Ways to donate
 Visit: ginlc.org/join-us
 or email: info@ginlc.org
 or send a check to:
 Grosse Ile, MI 48138
 P.O. Box 12
 Conservancy
 Ile Nature and Land
 Treasurer, Grosse
 Ile Nature and Land
 Conservancy
 P.O. Box 12
 Grosse Ile, MI 48138

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT NO. 99
 GROSSE ILE, MI

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 P.O. Box 12
 Grosse Ile, MI 48138
 734-558-2149
www.ginlc.org

Paul Gloor, President
 Bill Nachtrab, Treasurer
 Katie Kobijak,
 Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Mickey Bartlett
 Micki Desjardins
 Pamela A. Frucci
 Madeline Jones
 Peter Kantz
 Eric Michael
 Kathy Levillier
 Erin Parker
 Phil Pellett
 Amanda Phillips
 Isabella Rista
 Greg Roginski
 Pat Selby
 Doug Thiel
 Chris Zawistowicz

