

*"Turkeys know their names, come when you call, and are totally affectionate. They're better than teenagers." — Elayne Boosler*

## CALENDAR

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

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

### EARTH DAY - ISLAND CLEANUP STEWARDSHIP EVENT

Saturday, April 22  
10:00-Noon  
(April 29 – Rain date)  
Resource Center  
8801 Macomb St.

### MIGRATORY BIRD WALK

Sunday, May 7  
8-9:30am  
Airport Natural Area

### WOODS WALK

Sunday, June 11  
1-2:30pm  
Meridian Woods

### BUTTERFLIES OF GROSSE ILE WALK

Sunday, July 9  
1-2:30pm  
ANA

### LOVELY LOTUS WALK

Saturday, August 12  
1-2:30pm  
ANA

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TYLER DONAGHY / UNSPLASH

NATIVE SPECIES  
OF GROSSE ILE

# Wild Turkey

*(Meleagris gallopavo)*

BY PAT SELBY

You might think a discussion of turkeys would be most timely in our fall newsletter, as turkey images are everywhere leading up to the U.S. and Canadian Thanksgiving holidays. But since wild turkeys have a presence on Grosse Ile year-round, we thought it worth reminding folks to keep an eye out for these intelligent creatures who may be crossing the road in front of you, along with their young.

**HISTORY:** The wild turkey is a ground-dwelling species native to North America. At the time Europeans began settling on the east coast, wild turkeys lived in what is now most of the continental U.S. and Ontario, Canada. As the colonists' population grew, pioneers hunted turkeys year-round and cleared woodlands for agriculture, which combined to significantly diminish the turkey population. By 1813, the wild turkey had disappeared from Connecticut; other states reported the same over the course of that century, including Michigan.

Small populations remained in isolated areas, however, and conservation efforts carried out in the twentieth century were very successful. Michigan's restoration projects brought in turkeys from Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Missouri, and distributed the birds within the state. The turkey population is now estimated at 7,000,000 nationally, and approximately 200,000 in Michigan.

**HABITAT AND RANGE:** The wild turkey's habitat still ranges through most of the United States, and from parts of Ontario, Canada, down to northern Mexico. Different subspecies are found in the different regions. The sub-species *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris* is found in Michigan and in most of the eastern U.S. It prefers open fields and woods, but can be seen in both grasslands and more densely-covered forest areas.

**CHARACTERISTICS:** Wild turkeys are the largest game bird in the United States. Adult males

— continued on Page 5



*Thank You*  
**TO OUR  
SPECIAL DONORS**

**JOHN & KAREN COZZI**  
IN HONOR OF  
***Penny Mittlestat Velis***

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**SUSAN ELDREDGE**  
IN HONOR OF  
***Dr. Bruce & Joan Jones and  
Richard & Rosalind Meyer***

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**KIMBERLY MEYER**  
IN HONOR OF  
***Richard & Rosalind Meyer***

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**MELVIN CZECHOWSKI**  
IN HONOR OF  
***Mary Ann Czechowski***

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**JONES FAMILY**  
IN HONOR OF  
***Dr. Bruce & Joan Jones***

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**MARCY TARZIERS**  
***Lifetime Membership***

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**VICTORIA & DAN MURPHY**  
***Lifetime Membership***

# Reflections From the President

BY PAUL GLOOR



This is my first “Reflections From the President” article. I am honored to announce that I have been elected by the 2023 Board of Directors as the new president of Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy. I am incredibly excited to take on this new role and work with the talented and dedicated team of individuals who comprise our organization. Thanks to Peter Kantz, who has served as GINLC president for the past several years.

Maybe I should introduce myself. I was raised on a dairy farm in Ontario, Canada, where I learned to love the outdoors by tramping, skiing, or bicycling around the farm. I am an avid kayaker, cyclist, skier, hiker, golfer, and amateur musician.

After receiving a PhD in Chemical Engineering at McMaster University in Canada, my family and I moved to Racine, Wisconsin to begin a career in a division of SC Johnson Wax. I held several technical and customer-facing roles at Johnson Wax. This division was acquired by BASF in 2006 and moved to Wyandotte. We relocated to Grosse Ile. Once again, I held a variety of management roles at BASF until my retirement in 2021. Retirement means that I can devote more time to my hobbies, traveling, and conservation activities.

I have been a GINLC member for many years, serving on the Board of Directors since 2011 in various capacities including Secretary and Communications Chair. Many of those GINLC emails, social media posts, announcements, and website updates came from me.

Julie and I have two grown daughters: Megan and Keira. Megan, Josh, Etta, Piper, and Zachary live in Milwaukee, WI. Keira and Matt live in San Diego, CA.

As I mentioned, I am very excited to work with our talented board of directors. Welcome to our new board members Isabella, Vicki, Eric, Kathy, and Mickey. You have already made significant contributions to GINLC.

This past year has been a time of exciting change for GINLC and we expect big things in 2023. We have many of the resources and talents to truly make a difference. In addition to our normal educational events ([ginlc.org/upcoming-events](http://ginlc.org/upcoming-events)) and stewardship activities, our plans for 2023 include:

- Opening of the Resource Center at 8801 Macomb: We are currently renovating our space on Macomb with the anticipated opening this fall. The property will accommodate inside and outside conservancy and environmental skill development and exemplify best practices for environmental stewardship. The building is being renovated to accommodate the Conservancy’s need for office, meeting, and training space as well as areas for document and equipment storage and repair.
- Beginning work on our usage plan for the Bruce Jones Preserve: In 2022, we were fortunate to acquire the property at the corner of Meridian and Bridge Road. We have named it in honor of Dr. Bruce Jones, one of GINLC’s visionary founders. We are developing a usage plan to protect natural beauty, facilitate self-directed nature education, and provide a venue for Environmental Educational Events.

- Controlling invasive species at our preserves, especially Hennepin Marsh Gateway: We are taking advantage of the lower water levels to cut and treat phragmites and other invasive species at some of our preserves.
- Continuing work to shore up our internal processes and capabilities to ensure that GINLC remains a vibrant organization well into the future: As we continue to mature as an organization we are better defining and documenting our internal procedures, developing succession plans for key GINLC roles, and upgrading our software capabilities.

Let us know if you are interested in being part of our efforts this year. As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on the support and dedication of volunteers to fulfill our vision of protecting natural water and land areas of Grosse Ile forever. We welcome volunteers of all backgrounds and skill sets, whether you are a seasoned pro or just starting out. Volunteering with us is not only a great way to give back to your community, but also a chance to gain valuable experience, build new connections, and make a difference in the world. We are grateful for any amount of time and effort you can contribute, and we look forward to working with you to create a brighter tomorrow. Reach out to us at [ginlc.org/ways-you-can-help](http://ginlc.org/ways-you-can-help) if you are interested.

As the new president, I am committed to building on the successes of our past and to leading our team towards new heights of achievement. Together, we will continue to work tirelessly to achieve our mission of making a positive impact in our community, and I am confident that we can do great things together. I look forward to the work ahead.

CHRIS ZAWISTOWICZ



## Spring 2023 Stewardship

BY PETER KANTZ

Due to the exceptionally warm and dry winter, the Monday Morning Stewardship Crew has been able to work most Mondays for the past 5 months. They have made great progress on the restoration work at Hennepin Marsh Gateway Preserve. Most of the dead trees and invasive plants, mainly phragmites and honeysuckle, have been removed. It will be interesting to see how the preserve comes alive in the Spring when the trees leaf out and the marsh grasses return. It will be several years, however, before the restoration work at the preserve is completed.

Weekend stewardship projects are difficult to plan in advance. They depend on the weather, volunteer availability and prioritization of projects. We will be participating in the Island Wide Clean Up, which is scheduled for Saturday April 22, 2023. Other weekend events will likely take place at Hennepin Marsh Gateway Preserve, Kobiljak Preserve, Airport Nature Area and the GINLC Resource Center located at 8801 Macomb. Announcements for these events will be communicated through GINLC's normal communication channels as well as direct email to those who have specifically expressed an interest in helping with stewardship activities. If you would like to be part of this email list please send me an email at [info@ginlc.org](mailto:info@ginlc.org). If you are available Monday mornings and would like to become a member of our Monday Morning Stewardship Crew, let me know. We currently have about 8 members who show up on a fairly regular basis. The work is very rewarding and good exercise.

The US Geological Survey recently contacted us regarding a research project investigating management practices for phragmites. They reviewed several of our preserves as possible experimental field sites for a non-toxic bioherbicide as part of an effective phragmite control strategy. Since several of our preserves are heavily populated with this invasive plant, we are eager to be part of this study. Phragmites rapidly take over wetlands, crowding out beneficial native plants that support a healthy ecosystem. An effective control strategy is essential to maintaining our nature preserves.

# 2022 Annual Membership Meeting

BY PAUL GLOOR

*November brings our GINLC annual membership meeting. This is the time of year where we update the membership and public of the accomplishments of the conservancy in 2022, discuss some plans for 2023, recognize some significant contributors, elect new board members, and hear a special guest speaker.*

## THE STATE OF THE CONSERVANCY

GINLC President Peter Kantz presented the State of the Conservancy. We are pleased to report that we continue to have stable membership numbers, have reached over 175 acres of protected land, and have significant financial resources. Due to a significant bequest from John C. Jackson, a past Conservationist of the Year, GINLC has been able to set up an endowment fund and make some significant acquisitions. They include:

- The 1.18-acre William Heinrich Preserve, located at the corner of Parke Lane and Wendell Court, a short distance north of Church Road.
- The 15.8-acre Dr. Bruce Jones Preserve, located at the intersection of Meridian and Bridge roads
- The building at 8801 Macomb Street, which is being renovated to become the GINLC John C. Jackson Resource Center.

## SOME OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022 WERE:

- Conducted more than a dozen Environmental Educational programs.
- Conducted High School Photography Contest.
- Awarded Dr. Bruce Jones Student Scholarship.
- Held Earth Day event in collaboration with St. James Green Team.
- Sponsored 2 completed Eagle Scout Projects.
- Planted a tree at the Resource Center in honor of founder Mary Ann Czechowski.
- Updated preserve signage.
- Completed significant strengthening of our Finance Committee policies and procedures while establishing an endowment fund and selecting a financial advisor.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The GINLC created the Conservationist of the Year award to recognize those individuals whose actions go beyond expectations to fulfill our mission to educate the public and protect and preserve the natural resources of Grosse Ile and the surrounding area. This year we recognized our Naturalist and Education Committee Chairperson, Erin Parker, as the 2022 Conservationist of the Year.

Peter Kantz has served as GINLC president for the past

seven years. He is stepping down at the end of 2022. Peter continued to serve as GINLC president in 2022 even though he was required by our bylaws to rotate off our board of directors for one year. Paul Gloor presented Peter with a plaque to recognize Peter's vision, leadership, and dedication while serving as GINLC President from 2016-2022.



LYN EL-ZEIN

## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

This year we were pleased to have the Detroit Riverkeeper, Robert Burns, describe the Detroit River Area of Concern Habitat Restoration Projects that have been completed, or are underway, by Friends of Detroit River.

Bob presented some of the history and human impact on our Detroit River over the years resulting in several areas of contamination and lost habitat. The Detroit River was designated as a Great Lakes Area of Concern. Friends of the Detroit River (FDR) in collaboration with its many partners has developed and implemented projects to restore the Detroit River, with primarily Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has performed a significant role in administering the award of grants to FDR and providing technical expertise on their most recent projects.

Islanders will recognize several of these projects from the resulting shoals that have been constructed at Hennepin Marsh, Stoney Island, Celeron Island, and Sugar Island. These projects involved reconstructing breakwaters to reduce erosion, protect the valuable coastal wetlands from further degradation, and to provide fish nursery areas and habitat for birds, mammals, and amphibious creatures. More details on these projects can be found on the FDR website, [detroitriver.org/glri-projects](http://detroitriver.org/glri-projects).

## WILD TURKEY, continued from cover

weigh on average 15 to 25 pounds; females, 8 to 11 pounds. Females are usually no more than three feet tall; males may reach four feet. Their wingspans may exceed four and a half feet. Males' heads and necks are more colorful, generally combinations of red, white, and blue, while those of females generally a lighter blue.

**DIET AND LIFESTYLE:** Turkeys are omnivores, and their diet includes insects, nuts, berries, grasses, and small reptiles and amphibians. Michigan's chapter of the NWTf suggests planting fruiting bushes such as cranberry, winterberry, and Michigan holly for the winter benefit of turkeys and other birds which are resident year-round. However, the Michigan DNR generally discourages directly feeding wild turkeys as they may become aggressive and territorial and have been recently found to carry avian influenza. The DNR encourages scaring the birds away with loud noises and hand-waving.

**BEHAVIOR:** Male and female turkeys flock separately outside of breeding season. But during breeding season, male turkeys start fanning their tail feathers, strutting, and inflating their crop to attract females. Male turkeys are generally territorial during this time, but have been observed teaming up with brothers to cooperatively court females, maximizing the chances of passing on the family genes.

Turkey ground nests are in shallow ground depressions under dense cover. Although the light-colored speckled eggs are well camouflaged, they are vulnerable to predators, which include raccoons, possums, skunks, and snakes. The nests typically contain four to seventeen eggs. However, females are known to "dump" their eggs, laying them in other turkeys' nests, and as many as 26 eggs have been found in a single nest. The additional eggs are not rejected, but are incubated and treated as that hen's own.

Turkeys roost in trees at night, supposedly because of their poor night vision. When my family lived in a patch of woods in mid-Michigan, we regularly watched at dusk as the resident turkeys flew up into the branches of trees behind our house. They flattened the grass as they first took off, as their wings are powerful.

**VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES:** Turkeys have been seen all over the island, but especially near wooded open space areas. In the last year, posts and photos in Facebook have revealed groups of turkeys on West River and Meridian. Although a turkey-vehicle encounter is not as destructive as those with deer, do watch for them crossing our roads. One turkey was rescued by Grosse Ile Animal Control in December after being hit by a vehicle near the Wayne County bridge. And sadly, in 2017, "Tessie the Trenton



**Above:** Trail camera photo of a wild turkey from Gl's Gibraltar Bay Unit. **Below:** Wild Turkey nest with eggs.



DREW HEATH

Turkey," who hung out near the corner of Van Horn and Fort St. in Trenton for weeks, and who was so popular she had her own Facebook page, was struck by a motorist who witnesses said did not even slow down.

**FUN FACTS:** Wild turkeys can reach speeds up to 55 mph in flight and 20 to 25 mph on the ground. A group of turkeys is called a "rafter," and young turkeys are called "poults," "jakes" (juvenile males), and "jennies" (juvenile females). A male turkey's gobble may be heard up to a mile away. The National Wild Turkey Federation reports numerous other sounds turkeys make, including a "cluck and purr"; the latter described as a "rolling, almost staccato call" and as a sign of contentment.

# WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Get to know our five new Board Members with some short bios about them.



**Eric Michael:** Eric and his wife, Jean have been residents of Grosse Ile since 2012. They were drawn to Grosse Ile because of the natural areas, proximity to water and abundant wildlife. He currently works at Demmer Ford, and has previously served on the GINLC Board for a total of nine years, where his mechanical expertise was put to good use as a member of the Stewardship Committee. Eric and Jean's property has received the prestigious National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat designation. Eric looks forward to serving, once again, as a board member in the "Conservancy" to assist in protecting and improving natural habitats on Grosse Ile and help in our environmental education efforts.



**Vicki Desjardins:** Vicki is a lifelong Downriver resident and a 26-year resident of Grosse Ile. She has fond memories of fishing with her father and appreciates the improved environment and water quality surrounding Grosse Ile now. She is an avid conservationist and along with her husband Kent, can be found birding, hiking, biking, researching, and planting native plants and trees, and kayaking. Their two daughters are working in areas of conservation. She has volunteered in GI schools, at Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church, planted trees with the Kirtland Warbler's Alliance, and done volunteer trail building. Vicki looks forward to carrying out the mission of GINLC.



**Isabella Rista:** Isabella grew up on Grosse Ile with a strong fascination of the wildlife surrounding us while still being in a town. In 2014, she graduated from GIHS and made her way to the Upper Peninsula where she attended Northern Michigan University in Marquette. While at NMU, she studied biology with an interest in Boreal Flora, Conservation, and Ecology. She also volunteers for the Huron River Watershed Council, collecting water samples, measuring water flow, and recording water chemistry measurements. She can often be seen on Grosse Ile to spend time outdoors; kayaking, biking, and walking, during which she sets a goal to be found at the end carrying pockets full of litter she finds along her way. Her goal is to help keep Grosse Ile beautiful for our generation, and so many more to come.



**Kathy Levillier:** Kathy has lived on Grosse Ile since 1982, and was always attracted by the natural beauty of the island. She finds it wonderful that some properties are left in their natural state and others have trails, boardwalks, signage, and observation platforms. Kathy loves to walk on the airport property and on other areas the GINLC stewards. They have such an other world feeling, even though we can see the smokestacks of DTE and the cooling towers of the Monroe plant. She enjoys telling her friends that she lives in the heart of industrial Detroit but still enjoys the pleasure of nature right in our own area without having to drive for hours or rent a hotel room to be in the midst of so much natural beauty. Kathy has also served on the Board of Directors of Islanders, The Grosse Ile Garden Club, and The Hickory Island Company. She is pleased to be asked to join the GINLC Board.



**Mickey Bartlett:** Mickey has lived on Grosse Ile for 18 years. Mickey has always had a great appreciation for the natural environment. She grew up on twenty-two acres in Newport, Michigan with horses, deer, chickens, roosters, turkeys, and a pot-belly pig. There were fish in the creek and wild animals in the woods. Mickey is an attorney with Clark Hill PLC and has considerable legal experience, leading large teams and dealing with multiple cultures. Mickey received her Juris Doctor from Wayne State University, a Bachelor of Arts Degree from University of Michigan and is a member of the State Bar of Michigan. A former member of GINLC’s Board of Directors, Mickey understands the Conservancy’s Mission and will bring important skills to the Conservancy’s Board.



LYN EL-ZEIN



## Conservationist of the Year: Erin Parker

This year, our Conservationist of the Year award was given to Erin Parker. Erin is our Naturalist and Education Committee Chairperson, and works tirelessly throughout the year to organize, prepare, and run our educational events — sometimes all by herself! Her dedication to helping others learn about the wonders of nature is what allows the GINLC to continue to do what we do, and without her, the success of our programs over the past year would not have been the same. Thank you and congratulations to Erin!

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

*GINLC invites the next generation to get involved in caring for our island and the environment. Getting outdoors and doing what you can to help nature reaps a lifetime of benefits. Students, look out for these opportunities in the upcoming school year!*

**Dr. Bruce Jones Scholarship**  
Grosse Ile High School seniors can apply for this scholarship by writing about their experiences working to protect our natural environment. The GHS Counseling Office will provide info to seniors!

**TAKE IT OUTSIDE ► Photo Contest**  
Between October and May, high school students from Wayne, Washtenaw, and Monroe Counties can submit photos that fit into one of the three categories: Dusk to Dawn, Fur & Feathers, or Bark & Blooms.

Visit [ginlc.org/bruce-jones-scholarship](http://ginlc.org/bruce-jones-scholarship) and [ginlc.org/photo-contest](http://ginlc.org/photo-contest) for info



LYN EL-ZEIN

# Make Every Day Earth Day

BY BERT URBANI

Make Every Day Earth Day is a common slogan, and I hope it is becoming a universal mindset. Billionaires with space ships aside, this planet is our only home, and it is our individual and collective responsibility to protect and preserve it for ourselves and future generations.

This year the GINLC is foregoing its usual Earth Day educational event and is only participating in the Kiwanis Island-Wide Cleanup. We will focus on properties the GINLC owns, as well as those we steward for the Township (such as the Airport Natural Area) and residents (private properties under conservation easements that provide tax breaks). We will work with Girl Scouts and others in a “community science” approach by identifying and weighing the categories of trash we collect to determine possible solutions.

But, the issue of litter and junk is not, and should not, be our main Earth Day message, especially as we come out of the crazy and concerning Winter of 2022-23. We all lived it (except you snowbirds who heard about it), and it should have been a wake-up call for all of us.

Who liked those 50 degrees days in February? Probably a lot of us, but did we like the freezing rain the next day that coated our trees and broke them, causing 4+ days of no electric power and hours/days/weeks of tree and limb removal and cleanup and damage repair? And, as I write this on March 3, the freezing rain and snow are bending the branches that didn't break last week, and who knows what will happen as we “March Forth” tomorrow?

A few stats to set the stage: Michigan's climate

is changing. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s State Climate Summary 2022, “Temperatures in Michigan have risen almost 3°F since the beginning of the 20th century. Temperatures in the 2000s have been higher than in any other historical period. The year 2012 was the hottest on record, with a statewide annual average temperature of 48.4°F, 4.6°F above the long-term (1895–2020) average. Warming has been concentrated in winter and spring, while summers have not warmed substantially, a feature characteristic of much of the Midwest. A lack of summer warming is reflected in a below average number of hot days since 1990 and no overall trend in warm nights. The winter warming trend is reflected in a below average number of very cold nights since 1990 and reduced ice cover in the Great Lakes. The 2000–2021 annual average maximum ice coverage was about 47%, compared to the 1973–1999 average of 58%.”

The report continues, “[I]ncreases in precipitation are projected for Michigan, most likely during the winter and spring. The frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation are also projected to increase, potentially increasing the frequency and intensity of floods. The intensity of future droughts is projected to increase even if precipitation increases. Rising temperatures will increase evaporation rates and the rate of soil moisture loss. Thus, summer droughts, a natural part of Michigan's climate, are likely to be more intense in the future.”



# WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

BY BERT URBANI

- ▶ Educate ourselves and others.
- ▶ That's easy; visit these site [statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/mi/](https://statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/mi/) and [glerl.noaa.gov/data/ice/](https://glerl.noaa.gov/data/ice/) and many others for accurate scientific data and explanations.
- ▶ Share what you learn with friends and family.
- ▶ Let the GINLC know if you would like us to schedule another Climate Change educational event with experts (our 2020 Earth Day zoom event featured Channel 4 meteorologist Paul Gross).
- ▶ Take action. We should all try to seriously shrink our carbon footprint in every way.
- ▶ Check out 10 actions recommended by the United Nations [un.org/en/actnow/ten-actions](https://un.org/en/actnow/ten-actions)
- ▶ Reduce or eliminate fossil fuel use: Walk or bicycle when possible. Combine driving trips to be more efficient. Drive electric or hybrid (we're still waiting for our Chevy Bolt). Conserve energy at home (schedule a DTE Home Energy Check-Up). Use energy wisely - Install a programmable thermostat. Lower the indoor setting during the winter (wear a sweater!). Raise it during the summer. Skip the dryer and hang your clothes up to dry. Replace gasoline-powered lawn mowers and other equipment with rechargeable battery-powered ones. **DON'T HEAT THE OUTDOORS!** (Propane outdoor heaters and fireplaces.) Go renewable at home with solar panels, geothermal heating and cooling, and small wind turbines.
- ▶ Make your landscaping work for you and the planet: Plant evergreens at the northwest corner of your house to block winter winds. Grow your own fruits and veggies (and eat less meat). Replace some of that turf grass with native plants to reduce lawn-cutting emissions and to provide habitat for birds and butterflies.



- ▶ Be smart about recycling: While statistics vary, the amount of plastic that is genuinely recycled and made into new products is very small. According to an Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development 2022 study, only around nine percent of plastic is recycled globally, and less, around five percent, in the US. Being smart about recycling also means to reduce the use of plastics, especially single use plastics like produce and grocery bags and straws. Every aspect of plastic manufacturing is carbon-intensive and contributes to climate change.
- ▶ Vote. All of our individual actions "don't amount to a hill of beans" (in Humphrey Bogart's immortal words in "Casablanca") unless we elect leaders who believe in science, care about our children and future generations, and enact policies to prevent a temperature rise above 1.5 degrees Celsius while implementing adaptation strategies to save lives and ecosystems and stave off the worsening of effects we are already experiencing.
- ▶ Every day on the news we see how Ukrainians are suffering and fighting for their home - their country. Isn't our entire planet - our collective home - worth some effort? We can do this! Let's really Make Every Day Earth Day!

***Opposite Page, Top Left: GINLC volunteers participating in an island clean-up, Top Right: GINLC's 2021 Earth Day event, Above: Being able to enjoy these views will last longer if we work to protect them.***

## CALENDAR

Continued from cover

### TWILIGHT HIKE

Saturday, September 9  
7-8:30 pm  
ANA

### NATURE OF HALLOWEEN

Sunday, October 29  
1-2:30 pm  
ANA

### GINLC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, November 4  
Location TBD

### OWL PROWL

Saturday, November 11  
6-7:30 pm  
Resource Center

### WINTER SOWING FOR NATIVE PLANTS

Sunday, December 10  
1-2:30 p.m  
Resource Center

## Easy Ways to Give



### KROGER CARD

Enroll your Kroger Plus card to

benefit the Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy! Go to

[kroger.com/](https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards)

[communityrewards](https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards)

to enroll or re-enroll (you have to renew every year).



### 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.



LEFT: CHRIS ZAWISTOWICZ, RIGHT: PAUL GLOOR

# Education Program Updates

BY ERIN PARKER

The Education Committee jumped into new partnerships with our 2023 programs. In January, we collaborated with Detroit Audubon to host 45 participants for our Winter Waterfowl Walk where we hopscotched around the Island, seeking out ducks and other water birds.

February's event, Winter Tree ID, took place in February with 39 people participating. We focused on using bark, buds, and branches to help us identify leafless trees at Meridian Woods.

In March, we hosted our first Girl Scout badge workshop day, with 23 Scouts working on their Thinking Like A Scientist Badge. We also led a Signs of Spring hike through the snowy, wet woods.

*Top Left: March Girl Scout Badge Workshop, Top Right: Signs of Spring hike.*

## Conservancy Acquires New Property

BY DOUG THIEL

In October, the GINLC acquired three new parcels on Grosse Ile. The parcels were donated by the Linville family in honor of Gregory Linville and total 0.43 acres near the intersection of Marlborough and Chicory. They are located very close to the Hathorne parcel which was acquired last December. The property is very heavily vegetated with second growth trees and a few large native tree species. This property provides excellent wildlife habitat for mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. The GINLC has a number of other property parcels in this area with some directly on the Thorofare Canal.

The GINLC now has a total of 175 acres of property protected across Grosse Ile and in the Downriver area. This total includes 159 acres owned by the GINLC and 16 acres of easements. All of the GINLC-owned property is accessible for the public to enjoy.

# The Nature Center/Gibraltar Bay Unit Why, How, and When

BY AMANDA PHILLIPS

As one of the founders of the GINLC in the early 1990s, one of the goals I remember best is the restoration of the 40 Acres on Gibraltar Bay as a natural area. The property had become rather an unmanageable site of uncontrolled growth, a dumping ground of old machinery parts, and hosted the NIKE missile silos from the 1950s: an unattractive mess that seemed unusable. The following are the steps taken to remediate the site and what it took to have the ownership change hands.

On Saturday, April 22, 1990, Swords to Plowshares began to celebrate Earth Day. At that time, the island's EPA Station and The Grosse Ile Conservation Club held a ceremonial sledge-hammer bashing of the NIKE Silos.

The Corps of Engineers finished remediating the site in 1994. After this time, the EPA, the Township, and GINLC formed a partnership to convert it to a Township Nature Center. On Saturday, April 20, 1996, the Nature Center was inaugurated. "The next phase of this property—will be an outdoor classroom and Community Nature Center." (Bruce Jones, April 1996).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded a \$1000 grant for the creation of a tall grass and Michigan wildflower prairie in the Nature Center meadow. A \$3000 Grant from the Monsanto Fund was donated to build three observation platforms to overlook the Quarry Lake Marsh and Gibraltar Bay.

After the Nature Center became a usable site for tours, educational events, walkabouts, restoration with native plants, usable paths on the property, the role of the GINLC on

the Township's Open-Space & Greenways committees, was confirmed, after the Open Space mileage passed on March 19, 1996. The Conservancy helped to achieve this milestone, to preserve the nature and character of Grosse Ile.

Stewardship of these properties and others began in earnest. When property is entrusted to a Conservancy, it must be taken care of. Failure to manage and monitor property could damage the conservation values, injure visitors, or losing the property itself.

Obtaining property or easements through donations is one thing, maintaining them is another. The first Stewardship Committee had a big task and big awakening, as to what stewarding the land, really meant. The benefits of good stewardship has many positive results, it also gives members an opportunity to participate in the goals and mission of a Conservancy.

With the successful remediation of the Gibraltar Bay Unit, Dr. Bruce Jones reported in the March 1998 Newsletter, of the developments in the Humbug Area. Hearings in December of 1997, were held by Trenton Planning Commission & The Trenton Environmental Assessment Board and the Made in Detroit development project. Due to the involvement of the GINLC in the protection of Stony Island, Gibraltar Bay and Hennepin Marsh, Dr. Jones discussed the lower river ecosystem at both meetings. He explained that one of the missions of the Conservancy is the "protection of what little remains of the river's natural habitat and coastal wetlands, and why they needed to be protected, before more was lost."



*Left: GBU during shoreline restoration project in 2010, Right: aerial view of GBU detailing locations on the NIKE missile base.*



Join GINLC on  
**Earth Day**

to help clean up some  
of our natural areas on  
Grosse Ile! Gloves and bags  
will be provided.

*While all GINLC programs  
are free to the public,  
your donations make them  
possible. Thank you!*



Earth Day Island Clean Up  
Saturday April 22, 2023  
10:00 AM – Noon  
Resource Center  
8801 Macomb St. Grosse Ile, MI

## Make Every Day Earth Day!

Join GINLC in this annual  
Kiwanis-sponsored event as we  
clean up GINLC preserves for our  
Earth Day Celebration!

Please contact  
[GINLC.gi@gmail.com](mailto:GINLC.gi@gmail.com) for more  
information regarding volunteering  
with us. In the event of inclement  
weather our Earth Day celebration  
will be moved to Saturday April 29,  
2023.



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

SPRING  
2023

Treasurer, Grosse  
Ile Nature and Land  
Conservancy  
P.O. Box 12  
Grosse Ile, MI 48138

or send a check to:

or email:  
[info@ginlc.org](mailto:info@ginlc.org)

Visit:  
[ginlc.org/join-us](http://ginlc.org/join-us)

Ways to donate

734-558-2149

PETER KANTZ

To sign up for a  
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**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

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