

Natural Area Preservation News

Protecting and restoring Ann Arbor's natural areas and fostering an environmental ethic among its citizens

Volume 13, Number 2

Summer 2008

Park Focus: Mary Beth Doyle Park

by Dana Novak

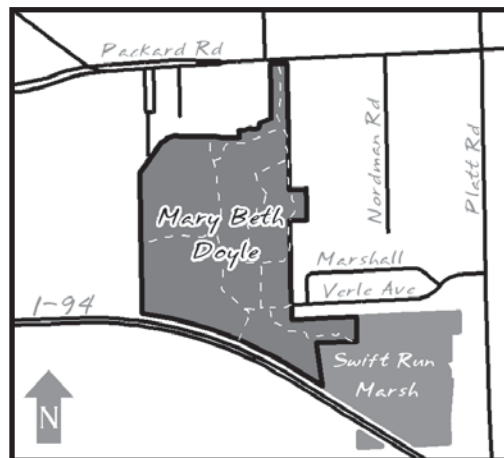
Major changes have been occurring at southeast Ann Arbor's largest park: a name change, a 2-year closure, and a major construction project. First, what's up with the name of this park and how do you find it? In April 2006, Ann Arbor City Council passed a resolution to rename this park in memory of leading environmentalist Mary Beth Doyle. Prior to this, the park was never formally named or dedicated, but had been known as "Brown Park" after the original landowner, a Detroit resident, from whom the land was condemned in 1971. If you look up this park on a city map, you are still likely to see it listed as "Brown", but soon there will be new park signs to reflect the official park name. An official dedication ceremony will take place Sunday, June 1, at 2:00 pm to celebrate changes at the park.

The new name for this park helps to commemorate and celebrate the life of Mary Beth Doyle, widely recognized as one of Michigan's most prominent environmental advocates who tragically passed away in November 2004. Her professional career included positions with the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, and Ann Arbor's Ecology Center, where she worked for 12 years.

Mary Beth's efforts spanned the local, state, and national environmental movements. She worked with professionals, policymakers, health-impacted groups, and others to increase awareness of endocrine disrupting chemicals, and the links between public and environmental health. She persuaded the first major retailer in the country to agree to stop selling children's chew toys made from toxic poly vinyl chloride. Mary Beth worked with dozens of local communities throughout Michigan to help them address toxic pollution problems. Among the most notable examples of her work in Michigan, she led a successful campaign

to shut down a polluting incinerator at a hospital in Detroit. In Romulus, she helped local residents fight development of a toxic waste injection well. She was instrumental in the successful and high-profile "Don't Trash Michigan" campaign, which resulted in passage of legislation to regulate out-of-state waste. In her adopted hometown of Ann Arbor, she coordinated the grassroots portion of the successful People for Parks campaign to pass a citizen-initiated millage proposal for parkland

acquisition – the program which was later expanded into several City's Parks and Greenbelt Programs. She helped pass a ban on mercury thermometers in Ann Arbor – at the time, the third in the country – and then the successful statewide ban. Mary Beth also served on the Ann Arbor Environmental Commission. Through this outstanding work, Mary Beth was widely known and respected by policy makers and regulators in Michigan, as well as activists and community leaders throughout the country.



Other changes at Mary Beth Doyle Park include a major storm water project that has kept portions of the park closed for the last two years. The Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner administered this project in conjunction with the City of Ann Arbor to improve water quality in Mallets Creek. Overall, the project will increase habitat diversity in Mary Beth Doyle Park and the downstream reaches of the creek. The western portion of the park now contains a 12-acre wetland designed to collect storm water runoff and let it drain slowly instead of sending it racing down the creek. The goal is a 25 percent reduction in phosphorus. The Mallets Creek Drainage Board has named this facility the Mary Beth Doyle Wetland Preserve. Plantings last fall included 31,263 plugs of 25 species of grasses and forbs, primarily along the water's edge, and seeding of eight

In This Issue

Continued on page 6

Park Focus: Mary Beth Doyle Park.....	1
Coordinator's Corner.....	2
Big Trees of Washtenaw County.....	3
Volunteer Calendar.....	4 & 5

Staff Updates.....	6
NAPpenings.....	7
Huron River Drive Construction Update.....	7
NAP Puzzler.....	8

Coordinator's Corner

Garlid Mustard Weed-Out Day

This past May I had the opportunity to again participate in our tenth annual Garlic Mustard Weed-Out Day (GMWOD). Rather than being assigned just one site to work at, I got to “float” to as many of the 10 workday sites as I could get to over the course of the 3-hour workday. What fun that was, and how wonderful to see so many of you out there happily pulling garlic mustard! Of all the “weeds” that NAP staff and volunteers control, garlic mustard is certainly one of the easiest to pull, and kids and adults of all ages can enjoy the satisfaction of pulling up this woodland invader by the roots. So we had lots of families out on GMWOD, and my two girls also came along to join in the fun.

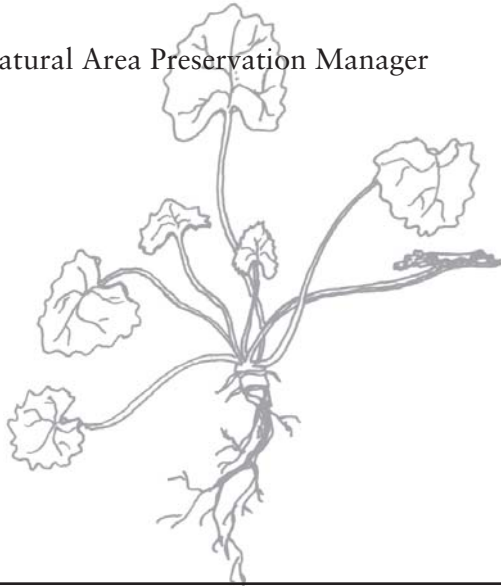
We hear a lot these days about “nature-deficit disorder” and kids that spend too little time outside. I can’t imagine a better way to introduce kids to nature than to bring them along to pull garlic mustard at a local nature area. My girls loved filling up their trash bags with garlic mustard. And they really understood that they were contributing to the overall effort.

They loved our end-of-workday potluck picnic too, and watching us give awards for things like “longest garlic mustard root” from entries saved and submitted by GMWOD participants.

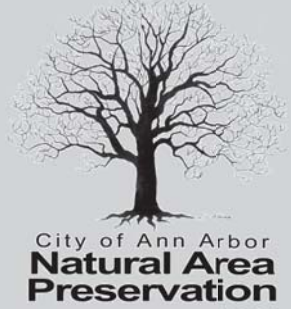
Overall, it was a fun day, and a great effort to help remove garlic mustard from 10 of our city natural areas. All told, we had 74 volunteers participate and help pull 154 bags of garlic mustard! If you were one of those volunteers, thank you so much for helping us make this day a success.

And if you missed it this year, don’t worry – there’s always next year. But you don’t even have to wait that long to get the kids outside and let them join in the fun of pulling weeds with the family. We’ve got lots of family-friendly workdays coming up this summer, when the kids are out of school. I encourage you to come join us. It will be a lot of fun for everyone!

-David Borneman, Natural Area Preservation Manager



“In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.”
- Baba Dioum



A unit of the City of Ann Arbor
Public Services, Field Operations

The mission of Natural Area Preservation is to protect and restore Ann Arbor's natural areas and to foster an environmental ethic among its citizens.

Address: 1831 Traver Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Phone: 734.996.3266
Fax: 734.997.1072
E-mail: nap@a2gov.org
Web site: www.a2gov.org/nap
Blog: www.a2nap.blogspot.com

Manager

David Borneman

Technicians

Jason Tallant
Lara Treemore Spears

Conservation Workers

Matt Demmon
Suzanne Ewing
Sara Jackson
Billy Kirst
Molly Murphy
Steven Parrish

Inventory Staff

Dea Armstrong, *Ornithologist*
David Mifsud, *Herpetologist*

Work-Study

Bonnie Wessler

Intern

Courtney Warba

Volunteer & Outreach Coordinators

Jason Frenzel-Wright
Evelyn (Dana) Frenzel-Wright
Dana Novak
Anna Shipley
Nancy Stoll

If you would prefer to receive your next newsletter via e-mail please call NAP

Big Trees of Washtenaw County

by Nancy T. L. Stoll

“Big Tree” could be defined as a tree that has grown to the approximate maximum size for its species. It takes four hundred years or more for some types of oaks in Michigan to attain their full size. Few trees sprouting so long ago have survived Michigan’s history of widespread logging, farming, and development.

When standing before a mature oak that has lived for centuries, it is apparent just how different the landscape appeared before European settlers arrived. The forests were filled with such enormous trees. Today we can only seek out the few giants that remain to give us a hint of the past. We can also protect the “pretty big” trees in our parks and woodlands, so that in generations hence, the Big Trees of Michigan might once more flourish.

How it all started...

Michigan started The Big Tree Project soon after the organization of the Michigan Botanical Club in 1941. Paul Thomson, an employee of Dow Chemical and affiliate of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, became the state’s first Big Tree Coordinator. He served in that capacity for over forty years! Michigan Botanical Club members and other volunteers traveled the state discovering, measuring, and recording Michigan’s biggest trees and shrubs. The size of a Big Tree was determined by three measurements: the girth 4.5 feet above ground level, the height, and the maximum spread of the branches. State champion trees by species were determined, and Michigan’s biggest trees were also reported to the American Forestry Association in Washington D.C., which maintains the National Big Tree Registry.

Why care about big trees?

There is no need to ask this question of people who love nature. Big trees are beautiful, inspire a sense of awe and wonder, and are living history among us. There is a certain something about being in the silent presence of a really big and ancient tree. There are also other reasons to seek out these giants.

Botanists study big trees to get information about maximum age and size of a species. The core samples of an old tree provide a historical record of climate, including rainfall and temperature. Occurrence of wildfire in the area may also be determined from the rings of a tree. The search for big trees is a way to encourage people to be aware of, appreciate, and protect nature. In an age

of growing urbanization, with accompanying threats to natural areas, this is increasingly important.

So where are they?

The Michigan Botanical Club maintains a listing of big trees in the state. Some of the biggest in Washtenaw County are listed below. Note that several of the trees listed are growing on private property. Visitors should always check with homeowners before approaching the trees. This being said, to fully appreciate these trees, it is important to stand right beside them. Driving by or viewing them from the car will not give the same appreciation for the enormous size of the trees.



Photo of Bur Oak by Nancy T. L. Stoll

Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*). At about six feet in diameter, this is perhaps the biggest tree in Washtenaw County. Visit it at 5399 Ellis Road in Ypsilanti. There are lots of other beautiful oaks in the neighborhood too.

Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*). This venerable tree, located in Wurster Park, off Madison Street in Ann Arbor, is estimated to be 350 years old. The tree was National Champion until recently when it was surpassed by a

Chinkapin in Ohio. It is still State Champ.

Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*). This enormous oak is located on Pleasant Lake Road, half a mile east of Parker Road in Lodi Township. Surrounded by fields, it has plenty of room to spread its substantial limbs. There is also another giant Bur Oak among us. This multi-stemmed tree is tucked into the back yard at 804 Gott Street. One must see it up close to believe it!

Black Willow (*Salix nigra*) It is easy to drive right by this tree on Zeeb Road, just southwest of North Territorial Road in Webster Township. But a close up view reveals one of the biggest willows around.

Copper Beech (*Fagus cuprea*) This non-native tree makes a commanding presence in front of a lovely historic home at 1310 Hill Street in Ann Arbor. The bark is remarkably unscarred, unlike many urban beeches.

Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*). A State Champion, this much-loved tree has grown on the family property at 227 Barton Shores Drive in Ann Arbor for many years. In late spring it is covered with lovely white clusters of blossoms.

Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) You never see a Redbud with a trunk this big! Somehow this one has grown to a good two feet in diameter. It is located at 1605 Morton Avenue in Ann Arbor.

Continued on page 6

Summer 2008 Natural Area Preservation Volunteer Stewardship Calendar

NAP is located at the Leslie Science & Nature Center (LSNC, 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor, 48105), 734.996.3266. Workday orientations start promptly at listed times. NAP provides all tools, snacks and water. Please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. Minors must either be accompanied by a guardian or contact NAP in advance to obtain a release form. Contact NAP if a group you are involved with is interested in planning a volunteer stewardship event. Our website is www.a2gov.org/nap and features a new html calendar with links to Google Maps for our event locations.

June

June 1, Sunday
Bird Hills Nature Area
Coalition Group
1:00 to 4:00 pm



Last chance this year to participate in a workday in one of Ann Arbor's most loved parks! Bring a friend and join us as we finish up our erosion control at the Newport entrance. Meet at the Newport Road Entrance. We'll be there with tools and snacks.

June 7, Saturday
Wheeler Service Center (Landfill Site)
Morning Bird Watching Walk
7:30 to 9:30 am



Free and fun for all ages. Join City Ornithologist Dea Armstrong as she leads a walk to look for birds at the old Landfill Site. Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet in the small parking lot on the right off the main entrance to the Material Recovery Facility off of Platt Road, just south of Ellsworth.

June 10, Tuesday
Huron Arbor Stewards Circle
Brueggers Bagels on N University Ave
7:30 to 8:30 am



Wetland invasives have many unique control constraints. How do we best remove wetland invaders? What are these invasives and how do we ID them? What successes or stumbling blocks have you had?

June 13, Friday
Mayor's Green Fair
Main Street Ann Arbor
6:00 to 9:00 pm



The Green Fair is an opportunity to learn about local environmental groups and activities. Four blocks downtown around the intersection of Main and Washington are closed for the event, with one block devoted to alternate fuel vehicles and another block showcasing the exciting world of bicycles.

June 14, Saturday
Gallup Park Morning Bird
Watching Walk
7:30 to 9:30 am



Join City Ornithologist Dea Armstrong as she leads a walk to look for birds in Gallup Park and Furstenberg Nature Area. Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet at the paddleboat dock in Gallup, near the canoe livery.

June 14, Saturday
Stapp Nature Area
Stewardship Workday
10:00 am to 1:00 pm



Time to hack away at the invasive shrubs and work on trails too. Meet us in the parking lot at the intersection of Lancashire Drive and Tuebingen Parkway. We provide tools and snacks.

June 19, Thursday
Huron Arbor Stewards Circle
NEW Center, 1100 N Main
12:00 noon to 1:00 pm
See June 10 Stewards Circle for topic.



June 21, Saturday
Furstenberg Native Plant
Garden Stewardship Workday
9:00 am to 12:00 noon



Join Park Steward and Master Gardener Aunita Erskine, to help weed the native plantings, check on the new plants, and go for a botanical walk. Meet in the Furstenberg parking lot off Fuller Road, across from Huron High School. Workday orientation starts promptly at 9:00 am.

June 21, Saturday
Redbud Nature Area
Stewardship Workday
10:00 am to 1:00 pm



Help us continue to rid the area of invasive plants. We'll meet at the park entrance at the intersection of Parkwood Avenue and Jeanne Street. We'll provide tools and yummy snacks.

June 21, Saturday
Buhr Park Children's Wet
Meadow Potluck Workday
4:00 to 6:00 pm



Come out for a fun evening of socializing, seed collection, and weeding. There will also be a tour of the park's features to learn about native plants and different ecosystems. Please bring a dish to pass, a place setting for the potluck, and gloves to do some weeding. Meet in the playground parking lot next to the tennis court at Cobblestone Farm.

June 21, Saturday
Jason & Evelyn's Wedding Reception
Leslie Science & Nature Center
5:00pm and on into the night!

Join Evelyn and Jason in celebrating their recent marriage on summer solstice! Bring a dish to share. There will be live bands, dancing, and lots of friends!

June 29, Sunday
Wurster Park Stewardship Workday
1:00 to 4:00 pm

Help us eradicate buckthorn and honeysuckle so the native woodland plants can grow. Meet at the cul-de-sac of N. Edgewood off of W Davis Ave.

July

July 8, Tuesday
Huron Arbor Stewards Circle
Brueggers Bagels on N University Ave
7:30 to 8:30am



Poisonous plants are one of the potential hazards in our natural areas. What are these poisonous plants? What types of safety precautions do we need to take?

July 12, Saturday
Cranbrook Park
Stewardship Workday
9:00 am to 12:00 noon



Help us continue to rid the area of invasive shrubs. Meet in the Church of Christ parking lot at 2500 South Main. Snacks and tools provided.

July 13, Sunday
Huron River Day, Gallup Park
9:00 am to 4:00 pm



The day will begin with a 5K run and one-mile fun run. From 12:00 noon until 4:00 pm, FREE festivities for the whole family will include children's activities, interesting river exhibits, live animals, grist mill tours and rubber duck races at Parker Mill, walking trips on the border-to-border trail, live music, refreshments, and more! There will also be discounted canoe rentals. Don't miss this wonderful day of fun and celebration! For more information see www.a2gov.org/hrd.

July 17, Thursday
Huron Arbor Stewards Circle
NEW Center, 1100 N Main
12:00 noon to 1:00 pm



See July 8 Stewards Circle for topic.

July 19, Saturday
Hannah Nature Area
Stewardship Workday
9:00 am to 12:00 noon



Clearly defined pathways are important to maintaining the delicate ecosystems of our parks. Help us maintain, and possibly extend the trail. Meet us at the end of Bath Street, west of 7th Street (between Miller and Huron). We'll provide equipment and snacks.

July 19, Saturday
Redbud Nature Area
Stewardship Workday
1:00 to 4:00 pm



This park is looking great! Help us to push it even further towards a native woodland and prairie. Meet at the park entrance at the intersection of Parkwood Ave and Jeanne Street.

July 19, Saturday
Buhr Park Children's Wet Meadow Potluck Workday
4:00 to 6:00 pm

Come out for a fun evening of socializing, seed collection, and weeding. Please bring a dish to pass, a place setting for the potluck, and gloves to do some weeding. Meet in the playground parking lot next to the tennis court at Cobblestone Farm. There will also be a tour of the park's features.

July 20, Sunday
Wildlife by Kayak
10:00 am to 12:00 noon
\$22/boat



Explore the wetlands and waters of the Huron River from the perspective of local wildlife by canoe or kayak. Discover the hiding places of birds, turtles, and amphibians, while you learn about water quality, wetland function, and watershed health. For further information call Gallup Park 734.662.9319

July 26, Saturday
Bluffs Nature Area
Stewardship Workday
9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Come see the results of persistence in the prairie here as we pull invasive herbaceous plants. We'll meet in front of the park steward's house at 236 Sunset Road

July 26, Saturday
Furstenberg Native Plant Garden Stewardship Workday
9:00 am to 12:00 noon



Park Steward and Master Gardener Aunita Erskine will lead volunteers in sprucing up this wonderful native plant garden. Meet in the Furstenberg parking lot off Fuller Road, across from Huron High School. Workday orientation starts promptly at 9:00 am. A short nature walk will be held at the end of the workday.

July 26, Saturday
Mary Beth Doyle Park
Stewardship Series
1:00 to 4:00 pm



Earlier in the season we set out some plantings at the entrance to this park. Come see how they are, and help tend to them with weeding and watering. Meet in the parking lot off Packard Road, across from Easy Street. Equipment provided.

August

August 2, Saturday
Barton Nature Area
Stewardship Workday
9:00 am to 12:00 noon



Join us to see the difference you can make in preserving the native ecosystems of this park by pulling herbaceous invasives. Meet at the Barton Dam parking lot on Huron River Drive. (Note that Huron River Dr is closed between Main St and Bird Rd, use Newport Rd to Bird Rd to Huron River Dr)

August 9, Saturday
Berkshire Nature Area
Stewardship Workday
10:00 am to 1:00 pm



Buckthorn and honeysuckle are two shrubs that are a serious threat to our woodlands. Come help us clear them. Meet at the end of Exmoor Road off of Glenwood North of Washtenaw.

August 12, Tuesday
Huron Arbor Stewards Circle
Brueggers Bagels on N University Ave
7:30 to 8:30 am



Streams run through many of our preserves. How do we work to protect them? What types of erosion control can we implement? And how have you done it?

August 16, Saturday-CANCELLED!
Camp Hilltop Stewardship Workday
9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Unfortunately this workday has been cancelled due to the road work being done on Huron River Dr. Please join us at another event!

August 16, Saturday
Buhr Park Children's Wet Meadow Potluck Workday
4:00 to 6:00 pm



Come out for a fun evening in the Children's Wet Meadow. There'll also be a tour of the park's features to learn about native plants and ecosystems. Please bring a dish to pass, a place setting, and gloves to do some weeding. Meet in the playground parking lot next to the tennis court at Cobblestone Farm.

August 22, Thursday
Huron Arbor Stewards Circle
NEW Center, 1100 N Main
12:00 noon to 1:00 pm



See Aug. 12 Stewards Circle for topic.

August 22, Friday
Two weeks until Natural Area Preservation's 3rd Annual Photo Contest pictures are due! See our website for more information. www.a2gov.org/nap

August 23, Saturday
Swift Run Marsh
Stewardship Workday
9:00 am to 12:00 noon



Invasive shrubs are persistent, but so are we! Join us in eradicating buckthorn and honeysuckle so our native plant community can thrive. Meet up on Eddy Street, off of Verle Avenue.

Park Focus: Mary Beth Doyle Park...

continued from page 1

acres. Seeding and planting will continue to establish the native landscape and to replace materials that washed away or were eaten by geese. The temporary chain-link fence will be removed by July after seeds have had time to germinate. It will be fun to watch these plantings grow and to see what species of wildlife are attracted to this new wetland area. Over this past winter waterfowl frequented the area. Swallows were present in spring, and the mudflats surrounding the wetland could serve as a shorebird stopover point.

The eastern portion of this park remains woodland loaded with trillium and trout lilies in the spring. On April 8, NAP conducted a prescribed burn in the northern portion of the woods. Watch for increased vigor in natives in this area as the summer progresses. To keep up with goings on and some reflections on this special place from the perspective of Park Steward Mark Charles, check out his blog on the park at www.ecogypsy.blogspot.com.

To honor Mary Beth Doyle's dedication to making the world a better place, the spirit in which she lived her life, and her exceptional accomplishments, take a moment to reflect on her contributions to the environment and our quality of life in Michigan as you visit this park. Better yet, help continue her work by getting involved in stewardship events at this park. Natural Area Preservation will be hosting volunteer stewardship workdays at Mary Beth Doyle on Saturday, July 26 from 1:00-4:00pm and Saturday, October 18 from 1:00-4:00pm.

Big Trees of Washtenaw County...

continued from page 3

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) Another non-native, and considered by NAP to be very invasive, this specimen is, never-the-less, a very big one. Located at Philip and Dexter Road in Milan, this tree is a survivor and a National Champion.

How to report a big tree...

To stay current, Big Tree listings depend on reports from interested volunteers. If you know of a Big Tree that you would like to bring to the attention of the botanical community, contact Michigan's Big Tree Coordinator, Dr. Elwood Ehrle, at woodyehrl5098@sbcglobal.net, or Department of Biological Sciences, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. You will need to note the species, the location, and the size. Detailed instructions about how to measure trees (and much more related information) is available on the Michigan Botanical Club's website at www.michbotclub.org. Further information about big trees is also available from Global ReLeaf of Michigan in Ann Arbor at www.globalreleaf.org or 1-800-642-7353. Global ReLeaf also sponsors a biennial Big Tree Hunt in which everyone is invited to search for Big Trees. Michigan ranks sixth in the country for number of Big Trees listed in the National Registry. Perhaps you will be the one to locate and help protect Michigan's next champion!

Special thanks to Dr. Elwood Ehrle, Michigan's Big Tree Coordinator; Gail McPherson, Global ReLeaf; and Richard Pomorski, Big Tree enthusiast; for their help in preparing this article, and for introducing me to these wonderful trees! -- NTLS

Staff Updates

hello...

Sara Jackson - After 6 years of working for National Wildlife Federation, I'm very excited to now split my time between there and NAP. Prior to life here, I bounced around the country working environmental and outdoor adventure education jobs. I have a B.S. in Environmental Communications, Education, and Interpretation from Ohio State University.



Steven Parrish - Twelve years ago I took part in a NAP frog survey. During this time my thirst for knowledge and concern for the health of our planet also began to germinate. Hence, I hung up my carpenter's tool belt and



began my endeavor as a naturalist. Earning a Natural Resources degree from U of M, I began to put my rootlets down to taste the rich communities we're all a part of. I am quite happy to be a part of the NAP family.

Shafkat Khan - Here for a few months from Dhaka, Bangladesh, Shafkat has moved on to study at the University of Georgia. Good luck Shafkat!



Announcing Dana and Jason Frenzel-Wright!

What happens when two volunteer coordinators get married? You all get invited! See the events calendar for June 21st.



NAPennings

Thank you...

- ♥Keith Miller for your ongoing payroll pledge to NAP (and Pfizer's donation matching program too)!
- ♥The Mary Mirkley Group for your work at Ruthven Nature Area
- ♥Northville High School Rotary for removing shrubs at Black Pond Woods Nature Area
- ♥UM's Psi Upsilon for clearing shrubs at Scarlett Mitchell Nature Area
- ♥YMCA Youth Volunteer Corps for helping out at Scarlett Mitchell Nature Area
- ♥Hands On the Planet for your work at Miller Park
- ♥Circle K for all of your great volunteer work
- ♥Temple Beth Emeth for your work at Scarlett Mitchell Nature Area
- ♥UM North Campus Service Day Group for helping out at Lakewood Nature Area
- ♥Everyone who came out in the rain to participate in the Huron River Cleanup
- ♥A big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this year's prescribed burn season a success!

Conference/Workshop Updates

Green Roofs help to detain and filter rain water. Join The Stewardship Network for a hands-on **Green Roofs Workshop** that will demonstrate the steps and materials needed to complete your very own green roof on **Wednesday, July 23 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm** at the **Matthaei Botanical Gardens**. To register or for more information, please visit www.stewardshipnetwork.org or call 734.996.3190.

Saturday, August 9, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, The Stewardship Network will be hosting a workshop on the **Top 10 Invasives in Michigan**. The morning material will consist of identification skills and control methods, while the second half will be spent walking through Black Pond Woods practicing some hands-on identification. The workshop will be held at the **Leslie Science and Nature Center**. Speakers include: NAP's own Jason Tallant. To register or for more information, please visit www.stewardshipnetwork.org or call 734.996.3190.

NAP Cooperative Agency Update:

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) channels the talents of adults 55 and older to meet community needs. RSVP will help find the right volunteer opportunity to match personal interests-whether it is mentoring kids, strengthening the environment, or cultivating a fascination for the arts. To support our volunteers, RSVP provides accident and liability insurance, training opportunities, newsletters, transportation reimbursement and recognition for service. For more information, please call Bimal Chaudhry at 734.712.3625.

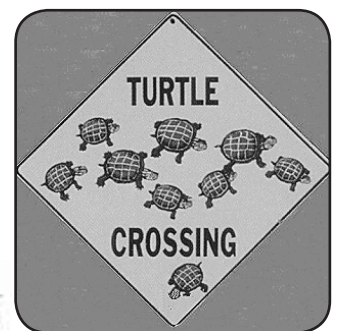
Huron River Drive Construction Update

by Lara Treemore Spears

Huron River Drive (next to Bird Hills Nature Area) is best known as one of the premier scenic drives in the City. Yet, how often does anybody think about what it takes to build and maintain such a narrow, winding pathway through the woods? That's what the City Engineers and NAP were asked to consider over a year ago, when road conditions degraded. After a lengthy public-involvement process in which alternatives were considered, the City decided to re-construct within the existing roadway.

Because the natural area adjacent to the road contains sensitive natural features - including rare plants, steep slopes, and wetlands - additional steps were taken to reduce construction impacts. Minimal grading will occur in natural areas next to the road. The new road will be built in the same location as the current road, and its edges will be stabilized with geogrid materials and native plants. Culverts for road drainage will be set at the same level as existing culverts in order to prevent wetlands from being drained. The culvert design has been modified from conventional drop-structures to prevent trapping small animals. Elliptical pipes will also be used to help in this regard. Stormwater will be directed to a channel vegetated with native wetland plants (it currently runs down a concrete ditch and erodes existing stream banks). Tree removal will be kept to a minimum, and new trees will be planted. There will even be road signs for turtle crossings!

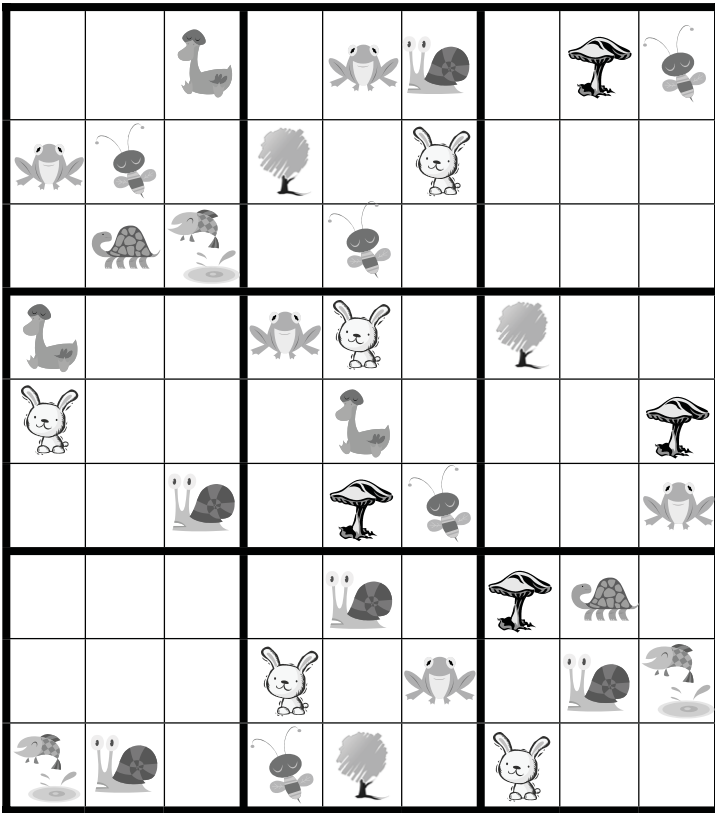
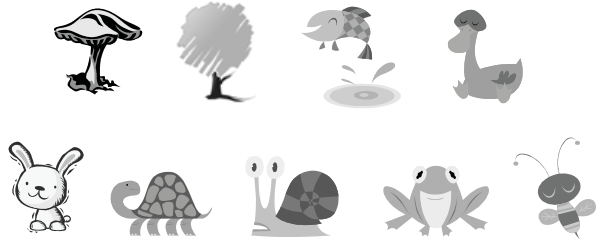
Although construction zones may not be pretty, and some minor changes to the adjacent area can be expected, the new design is the most protective example we've seen lately of road construction in a sensitive area. During the construction, scheduled to take place from May to September 2008, Huron River Drive from Main St. to Bird Rd. will be closed to traffic. (The detour route for eastbound traffic will be Maple-Dexter-Huron-Main. For westbound traffic, the detour route will be Main-Miller-Maple.) 2008 construction will consist of rebuilding the easterly 3,200 feet and pipe bursting the entire length of the sanitary sewer. Once this phase is complete, the road will be reopened to traffic until late May to September 2009, when the remaining 2,500 feet will be rebuilt. As a result of the road closure, please note the **Camp Hilltop Workday** scheduled for August 16 has been cancelled.



THE NAI PUZZLER!

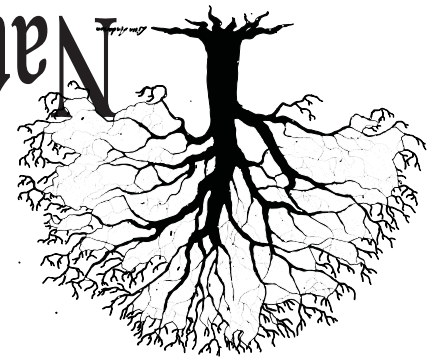
Classification Sudoku Puzzle

To complete the puzzle, you must have one representative of each classification in every row, column, and 3X3 box.



Natural Area Preservation News

Summer 2008



Printed on Recycled Paper with Soy-Based Ink

Natural Area Preservation
 City of Ann Arbor
 1831 Traver Rd.
 Ann Arbor, MI 48105
 Return Service Requested

PRSRT STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 ANN ARBOR, MI
 PERMIT NO. 178