



NAP

# NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION

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

Volume 22, Number 3  
Autumn 2017

## Park Focus: Brokaw Property

Amy Wells, NAP Crew

The City of Ann Arbor will be opening a new park soon. The park has not yet been named but is temporarily called the Brokaw Property. City Council voted to accept the donation of this 24.45-acre piece of land in October of 2013, but an old house on the property had to be demolished before the site could be deemed safe. That wasn't able to get underway in earnest until this past spring. Demolition is now complete, and NAP will begin ecological restoration efforts and work to convert this old homestead into a public park. Funding for the maintenance, demolition, and restoration efforts are provided by an endowment that was received along with the land.

NAP has some big plans for the Brokaw Property. Our stewardship team will design a system of trails in a way that will minimize erosion, protect sensitive areas, and take visitors to see the interesting features and variety of ecosystems the park has to offer. NAP also plans to enhance wildlife habitat on the site. The demolition contractor worked with NAP to establish a snake hibernaculum in the rubble of an out building's old foundation. Buried tubes with holes cut in them along with various sized stone will



provide safe places below the frost line for snakes to hibernate over the winter.

The oak-hickory forest found here is already an important home for avian wildlife. Our ornithologist, Juliet Berger, visited last summer and saw scarlet tanagers; rose-breasted grosbeaks; indigo buntings; and red-bellied, hairy, and downy woodpeckers.

Due to the variety of habitats it provides, the Brokaw Property has a great diversity of plant life. Botanist Bev Walters did a survey of the plants at Brokaw and identified three types of plant communities: a wet mesic forest, a mesic forest, and an old field.

In the wet mesic forest, along the intermittent stream, you'll find plants that thrive in saturated soils

*This lovely but unnamed stream flows though the Brokaw Property.*

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A unit of the City of Ann Arbor  
Community Services Area,  
Parks and Recreation Services.

*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.*

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*Natural Area Preservation is  
funded by the voter-approved  
2013-2018 Park Maintenance &  
Capital Improvements Millage.*

# COORDINATOR'S CORNER

## Timelessness

This past summer, Kate and I honeymooned in Alaska. In fact, we were there during the solstice, so we had more daylight than any other time of the year. Officially the sun set about 11:30, but its low angle kept it just barely below the horizon. So the sunset would last for hours, and move across the northern sky from west to east until it slowly changed into an equally long sunrise only four hours later.

The outcome for us was that we completely lost track of time. It wasn't that we just ignored our watches and relied on the rhythms of nature. No, the normal rhythms of nature didn't exist! I remember the first night we stayed up to watch the sunset. I happened to glance at my watch and realized it was 2:30 in the morning, which was really 6:30 A.M. back on Eastern time. Our schedule was completely off!

Because we couldn't rely on the sun to tell us what time it was, and we didn't want our clocks to dictate our schedule, we dropped our schedule all together. Sleeping and waking periods merged effortlessly into each other, and back again. If we were sleepy, we took a nap. If we weren't, we stayed up, regardless of the actual clock time. I have a hard time now remembering what "day" we did specific activities because the term "day" lost its meaning. It was really quite a wonderful experience, and it created a sense of delicious timelessness that I'd never before experienced.

I've tried to bring as much of that timelessness as possible back here to my "real life." It's obviously much harder to do when the sun (or the work alarm) so loudly screams "MORNING!" But I'm not yet ready to give up my quest for a less-structured schedule in my everyday life. I try to eat when I'm hungry, even if it's not mealtime. I nap when I'm tired, if there's any way to make that happen during the work week, or at least on the weekends. And I get outside to enjoy nature whenever the mood strikes me.

Granted, my job makes it relatively easy for me to access nature frequently. But I bet creative readers could find new ways to incorporate more nature into their everyday lives too. Walk to work, or take a quick stroll outside during lunch, or whenever you need a short refreshing break. Have your next staff meeting outside. Make that phone call to your mother from a park bench, rather than from your couch.

Even better, get out to your favorite natural area at a different time than you usually do. Take an early morning walk – really early, before the sun comes up. Or go for a night hike and enjoy animal sounds you never get to hear on other park visits. Stop by that park you drive past on your way home from work and let a hike there help you unwind from your day. Read a book or study while sitting in the woods. Our natural areas have many different faces throughout a 24-hour period, and most people only see one or two of them on their regularly scheduled visits. Change things up a little and I bet you'll discover something new about your favorite parks. In doing so, you'll be bringing a little more timelessness into your own life.

-David Borneman, Natural Area Preservation Manager

# Gypsy Moths: They're back, but not for long!

*Tina Stephens*  
Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Perhaps you recall that hot dry summer in the early 1990s when our trees were covered in leaf-eating caterpillars. Many trees were defoliated, droppings littered the ground, and munching could be heard in the forest. The strife that summer was due to the gypsy moth caterpillar, *Lymantria dispar*, which was inadvertently introduced to the United States by an amateur entomologist in 1868. The bad news is they're back; the good news is we now have a biological control on our side.

The gypsy moth caterpillar is pretty neat looking and not too hard to identify. The caterpillar has a yellow head with black eye spots that are reminiscent of raccoon eyes, five pairs of blue spots down its back followed by six pairs of red spots, and spiky clusters of hair protruding from its sides. There are a few similar-looking caterpillars, but the gypsy moth caterpillar does not build a tent or a web like their look-alikes. The gypsy moth itself is unremarkable in appearance. The female is a light cream color, the male is tan, and they both have brown wavy patterns on their wings. Notably, the females do not fly (despite having wings) and are slightly bigger than the males. The females lay their eggs in fluffy, tan masses on the bark of trees. Gypsy moth caterpillars, female moths, and eggs are most often found on oaks but they will use a wide variety of trees.



*Gypsy moth caterpillar*

There are several choices for combating these destructive insects including cultural practices like removing woody debris, mechanical controls such as scraping off eggs, and several insecticide options. Perhaps the best option that was added to our arsenal since the outbreak of the early 90s is a biological control. Researchers had been aware of a fungus, *Entomophaga maimaiga*, that caused a gruesome death for the gypsy moth caterpillar in their native range in Japan. Attempts were made to introduce the fungus to North America several times throughout the 1900s but it wasn't until 1989 when its effectiveness was first noticed. After a bit more research, the fungus was released here in Michigan and most years it does a good job of controlling gypsy moth infestations.



*Female gypsy moth laying eggs*

*Photo credit: Leslie J. Merhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org*

Despite the presence of the *Entomophaga maimaiga* fungus, we have seen a larger than usual population of gypsy moth caterpillars and moths this summer. Unfortunately, the fungus needs moisture to reproduce. Since the spring and summer of 2016 were quite dry the fungus hasn't been able to keep up with the population. Hopefully the wet weather this spring have caused a fungus resurgence that should slow the gypsy moth population growth this year as well as next.

You can also keep the gypsy moth population from growing by removing any egg masses you find on your property. These masses are tan (but may bleach white) and have a felt-like texture. They can be found on anything outdoors, living or not. To remove, scrape the egg masses into a paper bag and burn the bag, or scrape them into a can and soak them in soapy water for a few days. This can be done anytime before they hatch in April or May.

So, while gypsy moths are back for now, they won't be back for long.



NAP

# VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP CALENDAR AUTUMN 2017

Volunteers assist NAP in all aspects of our work. Community involvement is vital to the success of NAP's conservation and education efforts. Please join us for one of these events!

For all of our **Stewardship Workdays**, please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. Workdays are **free** and suitable for all ages. Minors must be accompanied by a guardian or have a signed release form. Contact NAP for release forms. Tools, snacks, and know-how provided.

## SEPTEMBER

### Bird Walk

**Saturday, September 9, 5 to 6:30 p.m.**

**Mary Beth Doyle Park**

On this walk with Juliet Berger, NAP Ornithologist, we hope to view migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet us in the parking lot at the end of Birch Hollow Drive.

### National Day of Service and Remembrance

#### Stewardship Workday

**Sunday, September 10, 1 to 4 p.m.**

**Mary Beth Doyle Park**

Unite in service and help us improve wildlife habitat during this national event that honors the lives and service of those impacted by the 9/11 attacks. We'll be meeting at the parking lot off Packard Road, across from Easy Street.

### Stewardship Workday

**Saturday, September 16, 9 a.m. to noon**

**Onder Nature Area**

Help restore Onder's small oak savanna by removing invasive shrubs like honeysuckle and buckthorn. Meet at the park entrances on Brookside Drive, just west of Hilldale Drive.

### Stewardship Workday

**Sunday, September 17, 1 to 4 p.m.**

**Redbud Nature Area**

Help us remove invasive species like honeysuckle in this small yet diverse neighborhood nature area so more native plants can thrive. Please join us at the park entrance at the intersection of Parkwood Avenue and Jeanne Street.

### Stewardship Workday

**Saturday, September 23, 9 a.m. to noon**

**Furstenberg Nature Area**

Help us remove invasive plants so the various native ecosystems can thrive in this diverse park. Please meet in the parking lot off of Fuller Road across from Huron High School.

### Stewardship Workday

**Saturday, September 23, 1 to 4 p.m.**

**Ruthven Nature Area**

Join us in cutting invasive shrubs that threaten to overwhelm the native plants on and around the glacial kame. Meet us at the Gallup Park boat dock parking lot, southeast of the Huron Parkway and Geddes Road intersection.

### Nature Walk with the AADL

**Thursday, September 28, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

**Argo Nature Area**

Come learn more about the various habitats and the fascinating creatures found in Argo at this family-friendly nature walk! Meet in the parking lot north of the Argo Canoe Livery, off Longshore Drive.

### National Public Lands Day

#### Stewardship Workday

**Saturday, September 30, 1 to 4 p.m.**

**Argo Nature Area**

Learn how to identify and cut invasive species such as buckthorn and honeysuckle. Meet in the parking lot north of the Argo Canoe Livery, off Longshore Drive.

## OCTOBER

### Stewardship Workday

**Sunday, October 1, 1 to 4 p.m.**

**Miller Nature Area**

Help us maintain the unique landscape that Miller has to offer by removing invasive shrubs such as buckthorn and honeysuckle. Meet us at the Arborview Boulevard entrance, just east of Wildwood Avenue.

### Stewardship Workday

**Sunday, October 8, 9 a.m. to noon**

**Huron Parkway Nature Area**

Join us to enjoy the autumn colors while removing invasive plants, allowing more native plant species to become established. Meet at the Park Steward's house—3470 Woodland Road, off East Huron River Drive.

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Controlled Ecological Burn Program

**Wednesday, October 11, 7 to 8:30 p.m.**

**NAP Office, 3875 E. Huron River Drive**

This meeting provides information and time for discussion about NAP's Burn Program. All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Accommodations, including sign language, may be arranged with the Clerk's office 734.794.6140; [cityclerk@a2gov.org](mailto:cityclerk@a2gov.org); or by written request mailed or delivered to: City Clerk's Office, 301 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Requests should be made at least two days in advance.

## STEWARDSHIP NETWORK STEWARDS' CIRCLE

7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Second Tuesday of every month

Bruegger's Bagels

709 N. University Avenue

Are you interested in learning more about how to care for natural areas? Then join the Stewardship

Network's Huron Arbor cluster for an informal discussion on a monthly topic with volunteer and professional land stewards, plus others interested in nature. Free and open to anyone interested.

[www.stewardshipnetwork.org](http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org).

### September 12: Managing Phragmites

Phragmites is an invasive wetland grass that often outcompetes native plants and impedes access to recreation opportunities. Please join us for a discussion on the impacts of phragmites, traditional treatment methods, and new innovative management techniques.

### October 10: Urban Trees, Ecosystem Services and Disservices

Trees are a fundamental component of urban landscapes but their importance is often overlooked. We will discuss the services and disservices they provide; how we both actively and inadvertently manage urban tree composition; and how that will be affected by climate change.

### November 14: Communicating Conservation

One of the challenges facing restoration work is being able to communicate to a variety of audiences about its importance. Join us for a discussion on effectively communicating restoration work to improve engagement and awareness from neighbors, park visitors, and volunteers. Learn about some methods to tell your restoration story ranging from casual conversations with neighbors to field trips and nature walks with community members.

#### Stewardship Workday

Sunday, October 15, 1 to 4 p.m.

Scarlett Mitchell Nature Area

Come help preserve the mature oak hickory woodland in this natural area. Meet in the Scarlett Middle School parking lot off Lorraine Street.

#### Stewardship Workday

Saturday, October 21, 9 a.m. to noon

Bluffs Nature Area

Come out and help us preserve the prairie tucked away in Bluffs Nature Area by removing invasive shrubs which are threatening to encroach. Meet at the entrance on Sunset Road near Wildt Street.

#### Stewardship Workday

Saturday, October 21, 1 to 4 p.m.

Kuebler Langford Nature Area

Come out to collect native seeds and remove harmful species to help this prairie thrive! Meet at the park entrance on Beechwood Drive, north of Sunset Road.

#### Stewardship Workday

Sunday, October 22, 1 to 4 p.m.

Oakwoods Nature Area

This oak-hickory woodland includes a small pond and wetland. We'll be cutting and removing invasive shrubs such as buckthorn and honeysuckle to improve the habitat for birds, frogs, and other animals. Meet at the park entrance off Dunwoodie.

## 2017 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION POTLUCK!

Wednesday, October 25

Cobblestone Farm—2781 Packard Rd  
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to our annual celebration of your volunteerism and stewardship!

RSVP by October 23

[NAP@a2gov.org](mailto:NAP@a2gov.org) or 734.794.6627

#### Make A Difference Day

##### Stewardship Workday

Sunday, October 29, 1 to 4 p.m.

Black Pond Woods Nature Area

Work with us using handsaws and loppers to remove invasive shrubs, and help us collect native seeds to protect this ecosystem for all. This is a great park to bring families out to enjoy a day outdoors. Meet us on Tibbits Court, off of Pontiac Trail.

## NOVEMBER

#### Stewardship Workday

Sunday, November 5, 9 a.m. to noon

Sunset Brooks Nature Area

Park Stewards here need your help! Come learn how to identify and remove the invasive species threatening this park. Meet us at the park entrance on Sunset Road, at the end of Brooks Street.

#### Stewardship Workday

Sunday, November 5, 1 to 4 p.m.

Bird Hills Nature Area

Come out and help us collect native seeds and remove invasive shrubs to provide more natural habitat for the park's wildlife. Join us at the Beechwood entrance off of Sunset Road.

#### Stewardship Workday

Saturday, November 11, 1 to 4 p.m.

Cedar Bend Nature Area

Enjoy scenic views of the Huron River while helping to cut and remove invasive shrubs. Meet at the Island Park parking lot, at the end of Island Drive.

#### Family Volunteer Day

##### Stewardship Workday

Saturday, November 18, 9 a.m. to noon

Dicken Woods Nature Area

Join the effort with the Friends of Dicken Woods and neighbors to improve trails, clean up litter, and collect native seeds in this special woodland. Meet us at the end of Dicken Drive, off of South Maple Road.

#### Stewardship Workday

Sunday, November 19, 1 to 4 p.m.

Marshall Nature Area

We'll be removing invasive shrubs such as buckthorn and honeysuckle, to give native plants a chance to thrive. Meet in the parking lot off Dixboro Road, north of Plymouth Road.

# Brokaw Property

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

such as swamp white oak, bog clearweed, skunk cabbage, and swamp goldenrod. There are many attractive woodland wildflowers such as jewelweed, jack-in-the-pulpit, and its less common relative, green dragon.

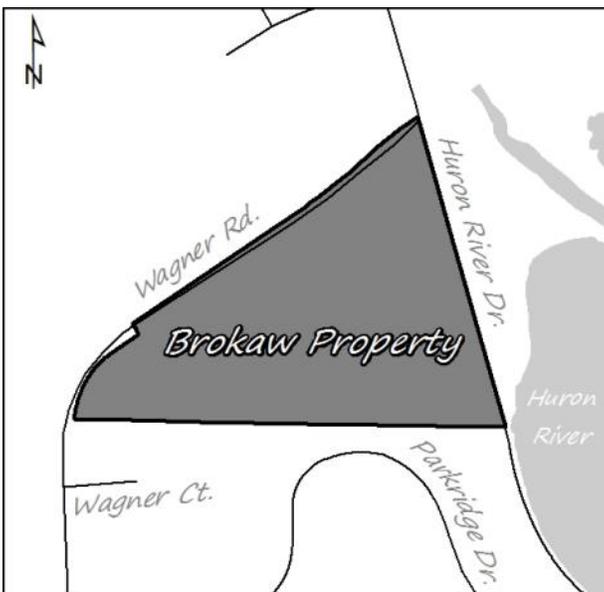
The mesic forest is higher on the hill where the soils are drier. In addition to the gorgeous views of the Huron River, you'll find shingle oak trees. These are particularly noteworthy because they are the only native oak with "entire" leaves, meaning they are not lobed. The leaves are oblong with the bristle-tip characteristic of the red oak family and are dark green and glossy with a paler, fuzzy underside. They are named shingle oaks because early settlers used them for shingles because its wood is easily split into thin sheets. The Brokaw Property is one of only two parks owned by the City of Ann Arbor that has shingle oaks. In total, this nature area has seven different species of oak, so check it out if you're trying to learn all of our native oak trees!

The old field habitat, in a pocket within the wet mesic forest just north of the old house site, is a great place to stop and smell the wildflowers, especially the wild bergamot and common mountain mint. You may also encounter St. John's-wort, common milkweed, and purple meadow rue.

The Brokaw Property hasn't received active land management in recent years, so invasive species are common. However, the buckthorn and honeysuckle don't make a dense hedge or thicket in most areas, so you can see through the forest and easily make your way around. Stewardship Specialist Mike Hahn shared his plan for restoration efforts at the Brokaw Property. As with our other parks, we will use integrated pest management principles to guide a multifaceted approach to reduce invasive species. For example, we will reintroduce fire to suppress the invasive plants and stimulate the germination of native plant seeds; we will specifically target the invasive plants for removal with cutting, pulling, and judicious use of herbicide; and we will collect and spread seeds from native plants that are already on-site. Our priority will be the areas near the

stream and reducing competition for the historically dominant oaks and hickories. Areas with the most disturbance, such as the area where the house stood, will be lower priority since the likelihood of native plants coming back is lower.

NAP is eager to get to work at the Brokaw Property. Personally, one of my favorite elements of conservation work is seeing the dramatic, positive changes our efforts have on landscapes. Being able to recall what a park was like before significant restoration work began gives me added satisfaction when I enjoy the park later. Since NAP depends on volunteers and the support of Ann Arbor citizens, our work is your work too, so keep an eye out for the opening of the Brokaw Property. You'll want to see how the park improves as well.



# NAPpenings

## Welcome, new Park Steward!

Jason Shellhaas  
*Dolph and Lakewood Nature Areas*

## Thank you!

*Many thanks to the groups who volunteered with NAP recently. We could not make such a difference without you!*

- Ann Arbor Academy
- Ann Arbor Open School 1st graders
- Ann Arbor YMCA YVC
- Community High School
- FedEx, Belleville
- Huron High School
- Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor
- Skyline Environmental Club
- Student Volunteer Union
- Varsity Apartments Staff



## The Science, Practice, and Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems Conference January 12-13, 2018

The Stewardship Network presents this annual conference at the Kellogg Conference Center, Michigan State University in East Lansing. Presenters cover a wide range of topics including environmental justice, traditional ecological knowledge, watershed conservation, and much more! See [www.stewardshipnetwork.org](http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org) to register or for more information.



# STAFF UPDATES

## CONGRATULATIONS...



### DAVE AND KATE

NAP Manager, Dave Borneman was married to Kate Krauss on June 17 at First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor. The couple honeymooned in San Francisco and Alaska immediately following the ceremony. Kate is the Chief Operating Officer at the Fair

Food Network and is a welcome addition to the extended NAP family.

## WELCOME...



### ALEX CHERRY

#### Workday Coordinator

I recently graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Environmental Management and Political Science. I am excited to be part

of an organization that is so involved with the Ann Arbor community. My past occupations have involved teaching people about the value of nature and reaching out to groups to help environmental causes. Being a part of NAP allows me to coalesce these skills by finding new methods to get more people involved with our parks in bigger ways. I hope to meet many of you out in a park this year!

## FAREWELL...



### ALEX SASYK

#### Field Crew

Even though my time at NAP was short, I am still very grateful for all the memories and experiences I gained while working here. I have accepted a

job with The Nature Conservancy as a Dune Restoration Specialist in which I will be working on the removal of invasive Baby's Breath at Sleeping Bear Dunes. While I'm sad to be leaving NAP, I am excited to start a new chapter in my life. However, this is not a good bye, as I plan to return as a volunteer to assist in the work to help protect and restore Ann Arbor's natural areas and to help foster an environmental ethic.



### MADISON ROZE

#### Outreach Assistant

I want to thank everyone at NAP so much for the opportunity to work towards improving the natural areas of Ann Arbor. It was a blast

conducting controlled burns with staff and volunteers, and a great opportunity to learn about leadership with such an awesome team. I look forward to using skills gained at NAP to propel myself towards future ambitions. Thanks for a wonderful season!



### REBECCA SNIDER

#### NAP Communications

I fell in love with the outdoors as a Biology major nearly 20 years ago. Since then I have earned a Masters degree in Parks and Resource Management and

worked as an environmental educator in museums, zoos, and nature centers. In 2008 I moved to Ann Arbor and I've been having fun exploring the city's parks and natural areas with my two boys. I'm delighted to join the staff of NAP and work with volunteers who share my love of nature.



### KAYLA MCGUIRE

#### Field Crew

I have been interested in ecology since high school but found conservation as a passion during graduate school. I am completing a Masters degree from EMU and conducting research on the impacts

of road salt on carbon movement in wetland ecosystems. This research and volunteering at the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy have taught me about the practical applications of conservation. Working with NAP will allow me to show Ann Arbor how conservation practices are done and that the goals of conservation can be pursued by anyone.

Would you like to be part of the NAP Staff team? Follow the city jobs website ([a2gov.org/jobs](http://a2gov.org/jobs)). Positions can open throughout the year. NAP also has unpaid internships that provide valuable experience! For internship information contact NAP directly: [NAP@a2gov.org](mailto:NAP@a2gov.org) or 734.794.6627.

**Natural Area Preservation**

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**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION POTLUCK**  
ALL ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF YOUR HARD  
WORK AND STEWARDSHIP

**COBBLESTONE FARM**

**WEDNESDAY, OCT 25**  
**6:30 – 9:30 PM**  
**2781 PACKARD RD.**

**RSVP BY OCT 23**  
**NAP@A2GOV.ORG**  
**734.794.6627**