

NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION

NAP's mission is to protect and restore Ann Arbor's natural areas and foster an environmental ethic within the community.

Expanding Environmental Education at NAP

Remy Long, Deputy Director

This year marks NAP's 30th anniversary, and each year we've worked hard to better understand our responsibility, our charge, and our community – human and natural. Year by year, NAP has developed effective systems for knowing and caring for the City's natural communities: inventorying the flora and fauna across the park system, prioritizing and leveraging resources to protect and restore remnant ecosystems, and creating opportunities for the public to take part in the active stewardship of our parks.

Each element of NAP's duties become increasingly sophisticated and dire as the decade progress. This trifecta of NAP's stewardship mandate – species inventory, stewardship, and volunteerism – has created an immeasurably positive impact on the human and natural communities in Ann

Arbor. Each new volunteer experience, each acre burned, each new species observed has deepened our understanding of our responsibility and heightened our awareness of NAP's importance within the community.

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NAP ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR, ELEVA POTTER



Hello!

I am originally from Bemidji, MN, where I spent my childhood exploring the swamp around my house, building forts, and getting swarmed by mosquitoes. I went to college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I majored in Environmental Studies. After a time

with the Northwest Conservation Corps in Oregon and the Minnesota Conservation Corps, I pursued a Masters of Environmental Education at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center on the north shore of Lake Superior.

I found my dream job as the Environmental Stewardship teacher at Conserve School, an environmentally-focused semester school for high school students in northern Wisconsin. While there, I got to explore hands-on sustainability topics with students, such as gardening, bee-keeping, wild ricing, maple syruping, [*editor's note: we Michiganders know this as maple sugaring, Minnesotans call it syruping*], composting, and Indigenous Knowledge.

My husband recently got a job at General Motors, so we moved to Michigan last fall and I became a Naturalist at the Johnson Nature Center where I taught K-5 students about geology, maple syruping, birding, fire ecology, watersheds and much more!

When not helping others explore their connection to the outdoors, I love exploring natural places with my husband and two dogs through hiking, kayaking, X-C skiing, and mountain, road, and snow biking. I also teach art on occasion and love being crafty with natural materials.



Fostering an Environmental Ethic

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And the thread connecting this trifecta – the underpinning of NAP's purpose and culture – is our drive to build a bridge between our human and natural worlds by showcasing their interconnectedness and the purpose of NAP's stewardship mandate. On that bridge, NAP creates opportunities for deepening human connections to the natural world.

NAP looks forward to more earnestly participating in educational efforts that build context, familiarity, and appreciation for the natural world.

Thirty years on, NAP's ability to harness and foster the Ann Arbor community's environmental ethic has proven incredibly strong. Yet, as with every facet of NAP's work, we know that there is always more we could be doing, and we know that community-wide appreciation for our natural world could be broadened and strengthened further. That is why NAP has created a new position and is welcoming our first Environmental Education & Engagement Coordinator.

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PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

Snapshots from our conservation crew and other NAP staff while working in Ann Arbor nature areas.



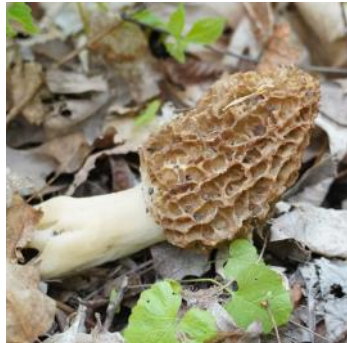
Unknown moth species
(send us your ID guesses!)



Bolete mushroom



Big Brown Bat
(*Eptesicus fuscus*)



Morel
(*Morchella sp.*)



Jewelweed
(*Impatiens capensis*)



Beaver sign at Furstenberg



Conservation Crew member Gabby DeMott using a chainsaw to clear a tree blocking a trail.

Environmental Education

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This position will be responsible for engaging with all of our community, and will more consistently bring NAP's mission to new spaces: classrooms, community centers, day camps, and more.

With this new position, NAP continues to reach toward earnestly participating in educational efforts that build context, familiarity, and appreciation for the natural world and all the work NAP and our partners do for conservation across the community. We have no doubt that this position will be the spark, the seed, the beginning of some great story of cultivating a next generation of ardent and diligent stewards – much like the ones that supported the creation of NAP thirty years ago.

NAPPENINGS

Oak wilt

As most of our readers know, this work is a constant source of bad news/good news scenarios.

The bad news: oak wilt has been found within the City of Ann Arbor – at Bird Hills Nature Area. Like many other threats to our native ecosystem, it was only a matter of time before oak wilt reached Ann Arbor's oak trees.

Oak wilt is a disease affecting oak trees, caused by the fungus, *Bretziella fagecaerum*. Members of the red oak family tend to be highly susceptible, while members of the white oak family vary in susceptibility but tend to be more tolerant or resistant.



The good news: the City quickly responded to the Steward's concerns, and within a week an interdepartmental group started drafting a plan for addressing the occurrence of oak wilt at Bird Hills.

The backstory: a NAP Park Steward noticed something off about some red oaks at Bird Hills, and alerted us to their concerns. We met the volunteer at the park to assess the affected trees and indeed found signs of suspected oak wilt. Because oak wilt can't be confirmed by eye, we reached out for diagnostic expertise to arborist Julie Stachecki, a Michigan Oak Wilt Qualified specialist. Stachecki inspected the trees and gathered samples for testing, which were sent to The MSU Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory. Once tested, the lab reported that the oak branch samples were positive for the oak wilt fungus.

With help from Stachecki, NAP staff mapped the area that would need to be quarantined and treated, and City Forestry and NAP have since been working to develop a remediation plan.

The plan will need to address the different ways oak wilt can be spread (through wounds and/or root grafts) and will likely include processes above and below ground.

For more information and updates, visit: NAP.a2gov.org/OakWilt

Staff Updates

Farewell...



Brady Friss
Conservation Crew
Leader

After just a few short years, this fan-favorite crew member has relocated to Chicago. We are

sad to see him go but so proud of all the ways he stepped into leadership, kept a cool head, and made everyone feel welcome. Good luck, Brady!

Welcome!



Eleva Potter
Environmental
Education and
Engagement
Coordinator

Welcome Eleva, to this new position at NAP! Learn more about Eleva and

this exciting new direction for NAP in the front page article.

EVENTS

Upcoming Volunteer Workdays

Find full details at a2gov.org/NAPEvents

- Ruthven Nature Area 9/30
- Huron Parkway Nature Area 9/30
- Sylvan Nature Area 10/1
- Mary Beth Doyle Park 10/14
- Folkstone Nature Area 10/15
- Riverwood Nature Area 10/21
- Sunset Brooks Nature Area 10/21
- Miller Nature Area 10/22
- Argo Nature Area 10/28
- Cedar Bend Nature Area 10/28
- Berkshire Creek Nature Area 10/29
- Stapp Nature Area 10/29

Nature Stewardship

VOLUNTEER REWARDS RANKINGS

Attend NAP events to receive points!

1
event

=

1
point



bur oak

prize: exclusive NAP event

30 points

Brooks C.
Craig P.

Dave C.
Jim Y.

Ron E.
Scott L.



buttonbush

prize: NAP hoodie

14 points

Alec A.
Annika M.
Antoni W.
Brad S.
Brian G.

Carol M.
Catherine R.
Chiaki H.
Dan P.
Eileen H.

Jen R.
Jonathan P.
Liz G.
Margot M.
Mark C.

Mark T.
Olivia B.
Peter S.
Richard G.
Shari R.

Tiffany N.
Victor C.
Yvonne B.



big bluestem

prize: NAP shirt

6 points

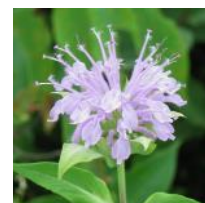
Aidan P.
Alison A.
Ally K.
Angel F.
April G.
Ashley K.
Audra E.
Bill N.
Bowei Z.
Carmela B.
Chris S.

Christine S.
Donald G.
Donald M.
Donna P.
Doug W.
Elizabeth H.
Ellen W.
Elyce R.
Emily B.
Erika N.
Gwyn J.

Hannah S.
Ish H.
Jamie H.
Jeff S.
Jerome P.
Joe R.
Juliet B.
Keith B.
Ken H.
Laura S.
Linda B.

Lisa J.
Lucas C.
Margaret F.
Markus B.
Meghan T.
Molly B.
Muhammad A.
Peggy K.
Rebecca K.
Rob D.
Sepi Y.

Sophia M.
Stephanie H.
Steven G.
Sydney A.
Theo C.
Tricia J.
Walter P.
Zach F.



bee balm

prize: NAP cap

3 points

Abi L.
Allison K.
Amy K.
Ankur H.
Anya K.
Ben G.
Bill R.
Bob M.
Bob Z.
Brandon B.
Caitlin C.
Carol L.
Caroline A.
Carolyn G.
Catherine G.
Catherine L.
Colleen V.
Cooper A.

Daniel H.
David C.
Derek S.
Eliot A.
Elisabeth P.
Elizabeth S.
Ellie A.
Emiko S.
Ethan L.
Gary D.
Gina K.
Guillermo M.
Hajune K.
Henry P.
Izzy S.
Jacob L.
Jacob Z.
Jan G.

Jasmine N.
Jason F.
Jessica A.
Jim O.
Joanne S.
Jocelyn K.
Joe K.
John S.
Johnna M.
Jonathan D.
Jonathan B.
Judy S.
Justin I.
Karin M.
Kayra G.
Kristen G.
Kristin L.
Larissa S.

Leslie B.
Linnea T.
Lizzy C.
Maggie D.
Maggie R.
Marcey C.
Marilyn C.
Marisa M.
Martha H.
Matthew S.
Melissa F.
Meredith M.
Milton P.
Morgan C.
Priscilla D.
Ray H.
Renée H.
Ria L.

Rob R.
Sal C.
Sandy B.
Sarah C.
Sarah S.
Sawako S.
Scott H.
Stacy M.
Steve L.
Ted T.
Tracy B.
Vanya K.
Yuna H.
Zack G.

Nature Stewardship VOLUNTEER REWARDS RANKINGS



bloodroot

prize: NAP 2023 pin

1 point

1,063 volunteers!

Thank you!

Many thanks to the individuals and groups who helped out with volunteer work or other support during the last few months. We could not make such a difference without you!

- **Concordia University**
- **General Motors GPD Track Team**
- **Global CO2 Initiative**
- **Michigan Community Scholars Program**
- **Youth Volunteer Corps**



Once a week for *seven weeks*, participants from the **Ann Arbor YMCA Youth Volunteer Corps** performed trail maintenance at four Ann Arbor nature areas. Kudos to these young folks for making a commitment to serve their community!

NAP is excited to have a relationship with the **Michigan Community Scholars Program** at the University of Michigan. Groups from this program have planned several workdays (some are open to the public!) this semester.

NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION

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