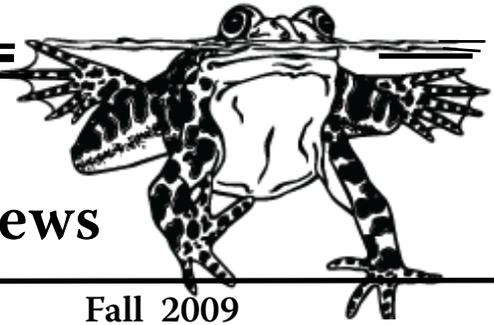


Water's Edge

Gratiot Lake Conservancy News



Volume 11

Fall 2009

P.E.A.K. - Promoting Environment and Academics in the Keweenaw

Hancock High School P.E.A.K. partners with GLC to study ecology and wilderness survival skills and to volunteer service that benefits GLC such as trail improvement and cabin maintenance. This interdisciplinary program was designed by teacher, Brian Rajdl, who also guides the MTU Summer Youth Program Exploration at the GLC Preserve in the summer. Brian recently received an award for his work from the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education.



Photo by Brian Rajdl

Last February, thirteen 11th and 12th grade students and two teachers braved the winter to snowshoe across Gratiot Lake to the Noblet Field Station (pictured above). Under the guidance of teachers Brian Rajdl and Steve Smith the P.E.A.K. group came to the Gratiot Lake Preserve for a winter camping and environmental education experience. In November, a group of P.E.A.K. students assisted in closing up the cabin for the season and posting signs on the Bear Paw Path. P.E.A.K. plans another winter stay at Noblet Field Station.

GLC is pleased to be a partner of the P.E.A.K. group which is funded with a grant from the [Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative \(LSSI\)](#). This initiative is administered by the [Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Math and Environmental Education](#). The LSSI is part of a statewide Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative launched by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust with financial support from the Wege Foundation and several community foundations. The LSSI seeks to prepare K-12 students to become knowledgeable citizens engaged in activities that enhance their school, community, and the Lake Superior watershed. In the Keweenaw 11 schools and many community partners are involved.

A New Way to Support GLC

Gratiot Lake Conservancy is pleased to announce that it has established a Keweenaw Community Foundation (KCF) donor advised fund. A generous gift from the Joseph G. Nicholas Foundation allowed GLC to establish this fund. The *Gratiot Lake Conservancy Fund* will be managed by KCF to further the mission of GLC. GLC is honored to be included in the group of over 50 non-profit, charitable organizations which have funds managed by the Keweenaw Community Foundation.

Established in 1994, the Keweenaw Community Foundation is one of more than 600 community foundations in the United States. The mission of the KCF is to promote philanthropy, develop and manage permanent endowments from a broad range of donors, and award charitable grants that enhance quality of life in the Keweenaw. The *Gratiot Lake Conservancy Fund* was established to support land conservation, environmental education, and ecological research in Keweenaw County especially in the Gratiot Lake area and within its watershed.

The Michigan Tax Credit allows individuals to give up to \$200 (for couples it is \$400) to a community foundation, and have half of that gift amount credited against Michigan income taxes. So, Michigan residents immediately save \$100 on their Michigan taxable income by giving a \$200 gift through the Keweenaw Community Foundation.

To learn more about the Keweenaw Community Foundation and how to contribute to the *Gratiot Lake Conservancy Fund*, contact Barbara Rose, Executive Director KCF at P.O. Box 101, 326 Sheldon Ave., Houghton, MI 49931. (phone) 906-482-9673 (email) mail@k-c-f.org (website:) www.k-c-f.org

When mailing in donations to KCF be sure to earmark the donation for the *Gratiot Lake Conservancy Fund*.



Photo by Brian Rajdl

GLC gratefully acknowledges Donors from Nov. 2008 - Nov. 2009:

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Joseph G. Nicholas Foundation

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**Give friends or family
the Gift of a Membership to GLC!**

Donation in Memory of Marilyn and Don Hon

Diane and David Gothard

Donations in Memory of Dan Jamison

Angela and Charles Anderson

Calumet Figure Skating Club

Bonnie and Jim Hay

Carol and Joseph Lizzadro

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Donation in Memory of Charlie and Gracie Kroon

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Donation in Memory of Albert Petermann, Sr.

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Virginia Jamison

Janet Avery Scholarship

Janet Avery Scholarships were awarded in August to three *Aquatic Plants Workshop* attendees, Adrienne Bozic, Michelle Freeman, and Patricia Toczydlowski. This Scholarship was established in memory of Janet Avery, a Gratiot Lake resident who was founder of A.W.A.K.E., a grassroots group which fought for environmental protection in the Keweenaw. The Scholarship is awarded to participants in some of GLC's programs which focus on the environment and environmental stewardship, such as Janet Marr's *Aquatic Plants Workshop*.

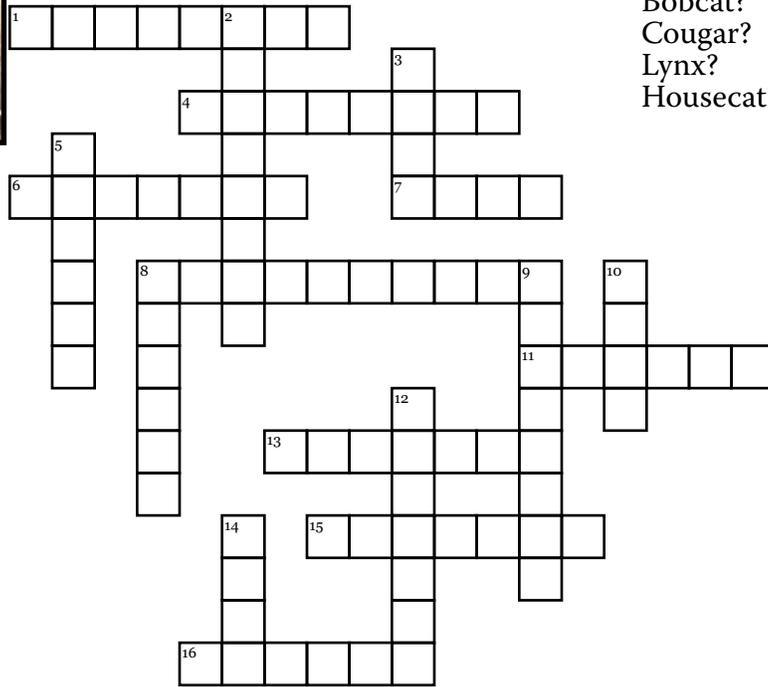
Keweenaw Kitties?



Photo by Trisha Shears



Photo by Wayne Dumbleton



Bobcat?
Cougar?
Lynx?
Housecat?

Across

- 1 Bobcats eat _____ hare, rodents, and deer (mostly deer carrion). (type of hare)
- 4 An adult male cougar may roam _____ of miles.
- 6 Bobcats have pointed tufted ears while cougars have _____ ears.
- 7 The cougar, which is a Michigan endangered species, is also called mountain lion or _____.
- 8 Paw prints of wolves differ from cougars in two main ways. Cougar prints rarely show any _____ while wolves prints almost always do, and cougar have three lobes on the back edge of their pad print and wolves have two lobes. (two words with a space between)
- 11 Cougars are the fourth largest cat species in the world. Adult males are _____ than females and are 6-8 feet long from nose tip to the base of the tail.
- 13 Due to _____ loss, decline in prey species, and predator control programs cougars are no longer found in most of the U.S. East of the Mississippi.
- 15 Young cougars have lost their spots by eighteen months of age when they typically leave their _____.
- 16 Bobcat _____ are only two inches wide while adult cougar's are three to five inches wide.

Down

- 2 Keweenaw's common wild cat, the bobcat, is much smaller than a cougar--about twice the size of a _____.
- 3 Cougars can _____ 25 feet or more.
- 5 The _____ has a short, stubby tail for which it was named. The cougar's tail is long-- about a yard in length.
- 8 Recently reported evidence in Chippewa and Schoolcraft Counties indicates _____ may again be present in parts of the U.P
- 9 Unlike wolves which run in packs, most wild cats tend to be _____.
- 10 The Canadian _____, a close relative and near look-alike to the bobcat, was last officially sighted in the Keweenaw in 1979 and is considered endangered in Michigan.
- 12 Female cougars typically give birth to two to three one pound _____ with spotted fur.
- 14 The most important food of the eastern cougar is _____.

Answers on the bottom of page 7.

**GLC renewals for 2010 are due.
Please Click here for PDF form!**

What to do if you encounter a Cougar...

The odds of encountering a cougar in the wild are very small and attacks are extremely rare. Should you encounter a cougar:

- Face the animal and do not act submissive.
- Stand tall, wave your arms, and talk in a loud voice.
- Never run from a cougar or other large carnivore.
- If children are present, pick them up so they cannot run.
- If attacked, fight back with whatever is available. DO NOT play dead.
- Report the encounter to local authorities and the Michigan DNR as soon as possible.

Wild Cats Web Links:

Michigan DNR

<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>
click on "Wildlife and Habitat"
click on "Wildlife Species"

Mountain Lion Foundation

<http://www.mountainlion.org>

The Cougar Network

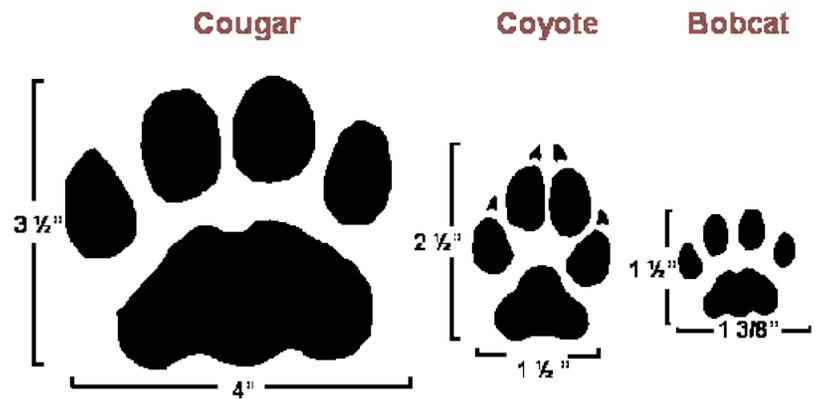
<http://www.easterncougarnet.org/>

Eastern Cougar Foundation

<http://easterncougar.org/>

Search for info on just about any animal here:

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu>



From Michigan DNR Not to Scale

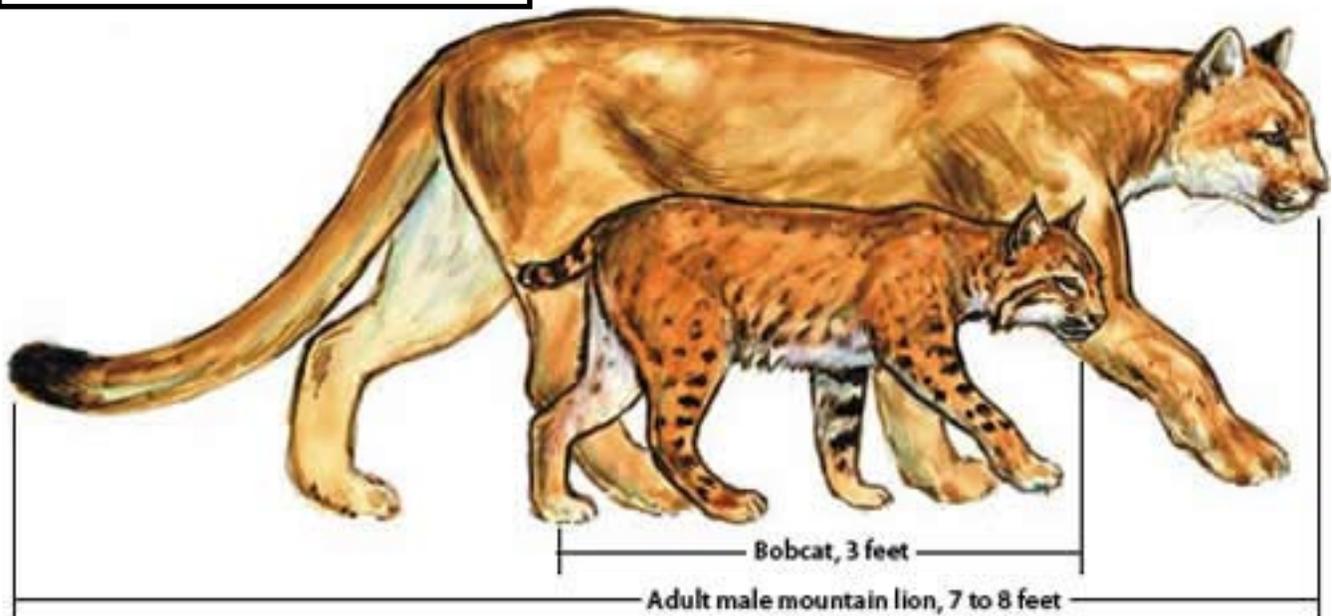


Illustration by Dave Hamilton, Missouri Department of Conservation

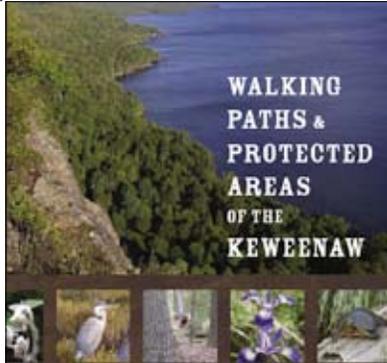
Visit the Gratiot Lake Conservancy web site to view current and archived issues of *Water's Edge Newsletter* (in full color), informative articles, updated calendar, photos, video clips, and links to more information.

<http://www.MLSWA.org/Gratiot-Lake-1508/>

Walking Paths and Protected Areas of the Keweenaw

The GLC Preserve at Gratiot Lake is included in the full color guide, *Walking Paths and Protected Areas of the Keweenaw*, which was recently edited and published by the Michigan Nature Association. The guide is designed to increase awareness of local land conservation efforts, of special habitats in the Keweenaw and their unique features, and of rare plant and animal species found in Houghton and Keweenaw counties.

The 80 page guide, although not comprehensive, includes 22 nature sanctuaries with trails open for hiking and in some cases non-motorized "silent" sports. Each sanctuary description includes driving directions; a trail map; and information on interesting plants, animals, geology, and conservation history of the area.



Eight of the land conservation organizations and governmental units engaged in protecting land in the Keweenaw participated in the guide: Copper Country Audubon, Eagle Harbor Township, Grant Township, Gratiot Lake Conservancy, Keweenaw County, Keweenaw Land Trust, Michigan Nature Association, and The Nature Conservancy. Each organization composed the sections of the guide describing the lands and trails under its stewardship.

Look for *Walking Paths and Protected Areas of the Keweenaw* at stores throughout the U.P. or purchase the guide directly from the Michigan Nature Association.

Trail Work Makes New Sights Accessible at GLC Preserve



This summer and fall much progress was made in expanding the trail system at GLC's Gratiot Lake Preserve. Brett Huntzinger installed boardwalk in many wet and fragile areas of the Bear Paw Path and completed a new Beaver Dam Loop which includes some nice overlooks (complete with benches) of the ponds. A short spur trail off the extended Bear Paw Path leads to a very old yellow birch. A number of new signs have also been installed.

Many assisted with trail work and sign installation including Kirsten Anderson, Jenna Budynski, Ben Hay, Tony Lizzadro, Joe Lytle, Zach Muller, Kyle Small, MTU Summer Youth Program Aquatic Ecology students, and Hancock High School P.E.A.K. students.

Plan to explore the trails next year (or with snowshoes this winter). [Click here to download a pdf trail map](#) on the GLC website or look in the box at the trail head next spring.

About Water's Edge

Water's Edge is the newsletter of the Gratiot Lake Conservancy. Its purpose is to report Conservancy news, to share information about the ecology and history of Gratiot Lake and its environs, and to suggest ways to improve stewardship of the Lake and its watershed. View *Water's Edge* in color on the GLC website.

**Please send questions, comments, or articles to
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**e-mail: belh@verizon.net phone: 906-337-5476
Visit our web site: www.mlswa.org/gratiot-lake-1508/**

Reading the Landscape

Photo by Sue Haralson



From left to right in the photo above, Bill Deephouse, Pat Toczydowski, and Bernice Smith (Paul Freshwater in the background), press apples during the *Reading the Landscape: Living in the Landscape* field trip *Heritage Apples* held on September 19th at Central. This field trip was one of four outings in the art and natural history series sponsored by a number of Keweenaw Conservation organizations: Copper Country Audubon, Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Gratiot Lake Conservancy, Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, Keweenaw County Historical Society, Keweenaw Land Trust, and Michigan Nature Association. Photos from the August trip, *Living with Our Wildlife*, which was held at the GLC Preserve and from the July trip, *Sustainable Farming*, can be viewed [HERE](#).

Brockway Raptor Survey

Brockway Mountain has long been a springtime birding “hot spot,” a place to see migrating hawks, falcons, eagles, and vultures often thrillingly soaring through at eye level. During spring migration, on peak days, hundreds of raptors, representing 17 species, can be observed. Broad winged hawks, sharp shinned hawks, red-tailed hawks, rough-legged hawks, American kestrels, and turkey vultures are most commonly observed.

Although this northern tip of the spine of the Keweenaw is an important spot on the raptor migration route, a formal, scientific survey of the raptors passing over Brockway for the whole three month migration season has never been undertaken. Copper Country Audubon Club and the Laughing Whitefish Audubon Club are organizing such a survey which will involve hiring a skilled paid observer to document all raptor sightings from April through June for three years. Data gathered will contribute to knowledge of raptor migration in the Lake Superior region including the effects of possible climate change and the influence of lake weather patterns on raptors.

To find out more about the survey or to learn how to donate to this effort, contact Joe Youngman (phone) 906-523-4416, (email) murphnj@up.net, or visit the website at <http://Keweenawraptorsurvey.org>.



SYP Aquatic Ecology at Gratiot Lake

Kyle Salmons was the recipient of the 2009 Sandretto Scholarship to attend the Michigan Tech Summer Youth Program Exploration: *Aquatic Ecology at Gratiot Lake* held at the Noblet Field Station in July. Kyle, a high school sophomore from Iron River, Michigan, is the eighth student to be awarded this scholarship since 2003. Rita Sandretto, who has since passed away, established the scholarship fund in memory of her husband Jack in 2003. The scholarship is intended to encourage environmental literacy and environmental stewardship.

The MTU Summer Youth Program Exploration: Aquatic Ecology at Gratiot Lake has been offered for seven years at the GLC Preserve. Students are housed in the Noblet Field Station for a five days as they study Gratiot Lake, the Little Gratiot River, Sucker Creek, and the beaver dam complexes on the GLC Preserve. GLC also pays the stipend for one program teacher. In recent years this has been Brian Rajdl.

Photo by Jim Hay



Answers to Crossword:

1. snowshoe, 2. housecat, 3. leap, 4. hundreds, 5. bobcat, 6. rounded, 7. puma 8. (across) paw prints
8. (down) cougar, 9. solitary, 10. lynx, 11. longer,
12. kittens, 13. habitat, 14. deer, 15. mothers 16. tracks

