

Haehnle Sanctuary News



Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary

Owned By Michigan Audubon

Maintained and Operated by The Jackson Audubon Society

Preserving and Protecting our Natural World

Spring 2016



The Changing Face of Haehnle Sanctuary



Haehnle Sanctuary is getting a new look. Removal of the invasive glossy buckthorn in Bogus Lake Fen continues this winter with seven more acres attacked as of this writing. The result is dramatic and quite visible from the kiosk area.



The eventual outcome will be a wide expanse of open wetland most of which should be a fen. Native grasses, sedges, and wildflowers will prevail, i.e. the natural state. Associated animal life such as native bees, butterflies, other insects, marshland birds, and maybe a massasauga rattlesnake or two will appear.

In another vein, this spring we will plant a few hundred common, whorled, swamp, and butterfly milkweed at the Sanctuary. Rachelle Roake, the Conservation Science Coordinator for Michigan Audubon, has been offered, free of charge, small plants or plugs of milkweed as part of the Milkweed for Restoration program.



Obviously, this is directed toward saving the Monarch butterfly from extinction. Monarch populations are declining at an alarming rate (more than 90% over the last two decades), thanks to a deadly combination of factors that include illegal logging in Mexico, wildfires, droughts, and a drastic loss of their crucial milkweed habitat in the United States.

Continued on Page 2

The Changing Face of Haehnle (cont'd)

The grant is part of a multipronged, national effort to locate appropriate habitat and then ensure they have milkweed plants.



On still another front, Michigan Audubon and Haehnle Sanctuary will be applying for a government grant this year to dramatically increase the density of native wildflowers in two of our native grasslands. This grant will pay for site preparation and planting of a mixture of native wildflowers that will cover the blooming seasons from spring to fall. The purpose of this grant, part of a national effort initiated by President Obama in June 2014, is to increase foraging habitat for pollinators, the so-called Pollinator Initiative.



Pollinators are declining rapidly nationwide because of a loss of habitat generally and near agricultural settings specifically, and due to the heavy use of insecticides.

In addition, honey bees are suffering from colony collapse disease. Honey bees, native bees, and other insects are responsible for “\$3 billion worth of crop pollination annually in the U.S.”



So will Haehnle look different in the future? We sure hope so. But has our mission changed? Not at all! Haehnle is a wildlife preserve, with emphasis on Sandhill Cranes and other birds. Haehnle is about improving and protecting habitat for wildlife. Through selective restoration and planting we can expand the existing base of native plants which will then help recruit more native insects and eventually more native birds and other wildlife. At the same time we provide foraging habitat for critical insect species that we, as humans, need to survive. A bonus will be the spectacle of flowers and gorgeous views of Mud Lake Marsh and our fen.

Lathe Claflin, Sanctuary Chairman



Sanctuary Selected as Site For Goldfinch Study

By Steve Jerant

Corrie Navis, a masters student at EMU, is using Haehnle Sanctuary for her research on the stress of urban living on the American Goldfinch (AMGO). In her experiment she gathered samples of the hormone corticosterone (CORT) from AMGO individuals in urban and rural areas. Then she compared these levels between the city and country cousins. The Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary has been selected as a rural environment for her to gather specimens.

From January 1 to March 19 2016 she set Niger feeder traps to capture the finches. Each bird was collected from the trap and a blood drawn done within three minutes of capture and then 30 minutes later. The levels of CORT were measured and compared. While captured, she also measured and photographed each specimen. Finally, she banded each finch before release.



Corrie Navis with captured goldinch



*Taking measurements (above)
Ready for Release (below)*



In addition, age and sex class was determined based on plumage and body size. Molt status and morphometric measures will also be recorded, including wing chord, tarsus length, keel length, and length of the cloacal protuberance in males or brood patch stage in females.

Research is one of the management goals of the Phyllis Haehnle Sanctuary so we are pleased to provide a venue for Corrie to do her study.



Niger Trap

Eagle Lake Viewing Platform Constructed in Memory of Robert Whiting



Memories came flooding back of the man I called teacher, mentor, and dear friend when I was asked to write something on the new platform at Eagle Lake honoring “Mr. Audubon in Michigan” Bob Whiting.

This construction was made possible with funds from money received in Bob’s name after he had passed away and was built by volunteers Jim Rossman and Paul Rice. Jim and Paul did a remarkable job including all design, cost estimate, and construction labor.

Bob had a great life reaching the century mark, but it was his dedication to MAS and the natural world that most exemplifies what made him such a special person. He held many different positions at MAS including field representative and long time board member, all the while holding down a professorship at Jackson Community College (Jackson College now) teaching ornithology, earth science, and geology.

The Mr. Audubon nickname came from the many years of service as the field representative and it was Bob that started the gift shop and he also sold binoculars and birdseed out of his home for many years. He gave nature programs all over the state and was responsible for raising well over five hundred thousand dollars for Michigan Audubon’s endowment fund.

When Bob won the prestigious Dutcher Award given by National Audubon amazingly he produced a “scrubie” (one of the many such items Bob got from volunteers that helped raise the before mentioned money) from his sport coat pocket to show everyone attending the regional convention how he raised the money one small item at a time.

Always the showman, he got a big laugh from all including the then president of National Audubon, John Flicker. (I always thought, what a great name for the president of National Audubon).

Bob continued to teach long after his career was over. Even when his eyesight had deteriorated to the point of blindness his ears did not disappoint. One of the last times I spent with Bob we took a golf cart ride around Dahlem where he expertly told me every bird we encountered by song or call alone, what fun we had that day. Again Bob thank you very much for all the memories.

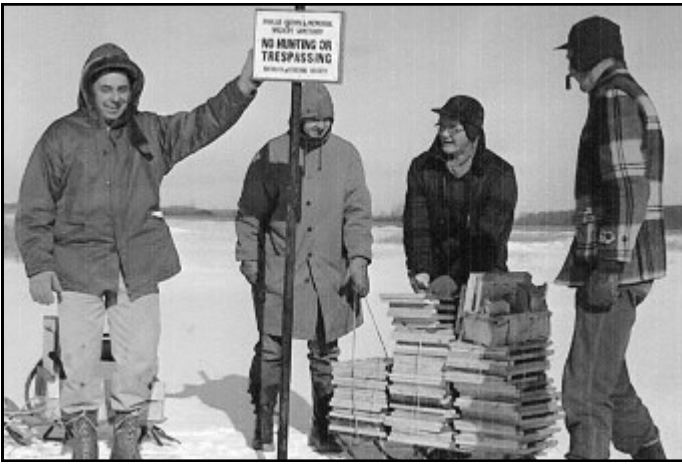
Gary Siegrist



***Bob Whiting - Mr. Audubon
Gone But Not Forgotten***

Long Forgotten Pile of Pipes Is A Blast From the Past

Recently a contractor, Dennis Marshall, uncovered a pile of pipes while working on a habitat restoration project below the Wing Observation Site. He found more than a dozen badly rusted pipes, some more than 15 feet long, that were left from a by-gone era. Where did they come from, what were they used for and why were they left there? Could they have been used to supply water from the nearby stream to a barn that once stood on the hill, or to irrigate melons that were grown in the upland, or were they just dumped there?



In 1955 Harold Wing and three other volunteers install the sanctuary's first boundary signs using pipes from the old greenhouse. (Above)

Much of the new sanctuary was a marsh, so long posts were needed to reach firm ground buried below several feet of soft muck and water. A photo taken in 1955 shows a smiling Harold Wing and three other men posting the south boundary of the sanctuary using pipes from the greenhouse. Any leftover pipes were probably stockpiled for later use, but then forgotten until being discovered this spring -- 61 years later.

A few of those original boundary posts are still standing today. They remind us of a previous generation's generosity and dedication to the Haehnle Sanctuary.

Ron Hoffman

It appears they came from the Wing Greenhouse that was located four miles to the west of the sanctuary. Harold and Ruth Wing used a complex of pipes to carry water heated in a boiler the length of their greenhouse. After years of use, deposits of lime and rust would buildup on the inside of the pipes so they had to be replaced. Those discarded, long pipes were ideal for marking the boundary of the 497 acres of wetland donated by Casper Haehnle in 1955.



One of the few remaining original boundary posts (above) reminds us of those who were dedicated to the Sanctuary in the past. They live on in good deeds well done.

We wish to thank the following people who have generously supported the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary during recent months.

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***Thank You,
Your Support is Greatly Appreciated!***



*Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary
c/o Jackson Audubon Society
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*Official News Letter
For The
Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary*

