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Autumn drapes its colors along Grass River

FALL FUN DAY AT GRNA

Saturday, October 10 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm



In past Octobers we offered a full day of family fun at Autumn Fest, and while we knew we couldn't offer the trick or treat trail and the indoor activities this year, we still wanted to provide some activities for families to do while enjoying the beauty of fall at Grass River.

GRNA is, therefore, offering a Fall Fun Day on Saturday, October 10th from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Anne Drake, one of our naturalists, will have fun fall crafts to make outdoors under the Center Pavilion, and there will be nature programs conducted by a Roving Naturalist stationed at the cabin by Finch Creek. The Grass River Center will also be open from 10 am to 4 pm with a naturalist available to answer your latest nature questions all day. Come any time and enjoy what is sure to be a beautiful day at Grass River.

COVID 19 PROTOCOL REMINDER

Please be aware that the safety protocols put in place by Grass River Natural Area to protect visitors and staff against the spread of COVID-19 will remain in place for the foreseeable future, namely that face masks and social distancing will be required to enter the Grass River Center. Face masks for adults and children are available as you enter the Grass River Center if you forget yours.

As always, our trails remain open from dawn to dusk. Masks are not required on the trails although they are encouraged. We ask that you work to maintain distance from non-family members, and if possible, turn away from passing groups, especially if you or they are not wearing masks.

Thank you for your continued adherence to these protocols.

MORE FUN FOR FALL AT GRNA

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS NOW GRNA 2020 PHOTO CONTEST



We know for a fact that more people hiked our trails in 2020 than ever before, and that makes us very happy! By extension, that should mean that more photographs than ever were taken, right? We certainly hope so. Each year Grass River Natural Area conducts a photo contest to choose the

best photographs taken at the Natural Area during the past year and features the winners in their promotional materials.

You have seen several of the winning photographs featured this year and additional 2019 entrants are featured in this article.

A panel of judges chosen by GRNA awards a prize for a photo taken by a person

aged 18+ and a People's Choice award is given to the photo selected by viewers on our Facebook page. The winner in each category will have their photo displayed on the website home page banner, printed for display at the Grass River Center, and will receive a Grass River gift basket. Each photographer may submit up to three images taken at GRNA or on the Grass River.



If you have a photograph(s) you took at GRNA or on the river during December 2019 or any time in 2020, you have until November 23 to submit your image(s). The registration form for this year's contest is online now. [Click here](#) to get all the details.

DOCKSIDE FALL FLING

Thanks to all who made it a great success!



On Tuesday, September 22nd, the Dockside Torch Lake hosted a "Fall Fling" fundraiser for GRNA in place of the Spring Fling they have hosted for more than 15 years. It was a beautiful night and many loyal supporters came out to dine outside on the deck or stopped by for a to go order. Just two weeks later Ruben (left) and Brandon (right) met with GRNA's Executive Director

on a windy fall day to present GRNA with a check for \$2,000. We are so grateful to Ruben and Brandon for continuing this long tradition and to those who participated for coming out to show their support.

WH-O-O-O-O-O-O WANTS TO PROWL FOR OWLS

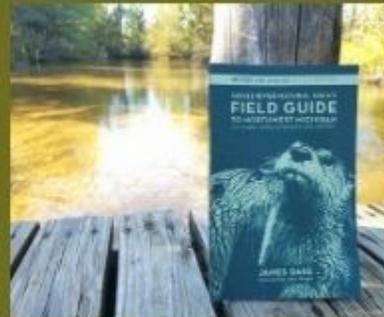


Evening owl prowls from 7:00 - 8:30 pm
October 16, 17, 23, 24, & 30

Reservations for these small group events is required
grassriver.org or 231.533.8576

THIS JUST IN!

The 2nd Edition of
Grass River Natural Area's
FIELD GUIDE
to Northwest Michigan
is now available.



This guide is written and compiled by GRNA Education Director James Dake. It features several new and expanded sections and a new Foreword by Executive Director Jenn Wright.

Cost is \$18.87 plus tax

Order online by clicking on this box or available at the
Grass River Center Gift Shop

NEW LOGO WEAR

Purchase a shirt for yourself or as a gift and GRNA benefits



Choose from any of the logos featured above printed on a variety of styles, colors, & sizes from youth to adult. Order online by clicking on this box. A portion of the sale comes back to GRNA as a donation.

RIVERFEST 2020 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

We want to thank everyone for making Riverfest 2020 a wonderfully successful event. Our committee of volunteers did an amazing job of pivoting from a traditional live event to a virtual Happy Hour and online auction. They worked tirelessly to gather interesting auction items and brainstorm with the staff on what they thought would make the event enjoyable for all.

Happy Hour attendees who purchased picnic baskets of food and drinks reported that the contents were thoroughly enjoyable. We want to thank Shanty Creek Resorts for preparing the food, Short's Brewing Company for providing a wonderful selection of beverages and for making delivery possible, Northwoods Soda for soft drinks, and Ruthann's Gourmet Bakery for the delicious cookies.

Bidding for online auction items was fierce and both the virtual paddle raise and the auction brought new donors to GRNA. When all of the proceeds from our generous sponsors are factored in, the net proceeds for the event totaled \$57,665 which exceeded our pre-COVID budget for the event.

A wrap up meeting was held and we are already working on Riverfest 2021. Stay tuned for

an even bigger and better event. But before we close out Riverfest 2020, we just want to say it again,

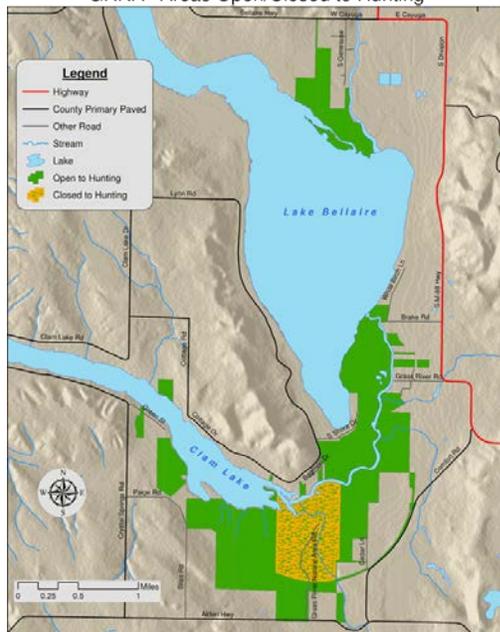
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS
GROUNDBREAKING EVENT!!

Thank you to all our 2020 Riverfest Sponsors



HUNTING SEASON IS HERE TAKE CARE AND PLEASE OBSERVE THE RULES

GRNA - Areas Open/Closed to Hunting



Many people enjoy hunting in the undisturbed areas in the Grass River Natural Area, and we welcome hunters as long as they observe the regulations set out by Antrim County.

Antrim County Ordinance Section 13, #1 of 1988 allows hunting on Grass River Natural Area property outside of the “Education Zone” during appropriate hunting seasons.

The Education Zone is shown in yellow on the map. An enlarged version can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

Please be considerate of the boundaries, as we educate the public in the Education Zone year-round. If these guidelines are not followed, hunting poses a

risk to the public and our staff.

Also, please take care to stay off neighboring properties and observe a safe distance from permanent structures along GRNA's boundary.

If you are hiking at GRNA this fall, we ask that you consider wearing hunter orange, even when walking in the Education Zone, to make yourself highly visible.

CONSIDER A DONATION

Our financial well being is dependent on programming dollars and donations, and with the former sidelined for the most part at the moment, donations are of paramount importance. Your generous support is always greatly appreciated, but in these difficult days, your willingness to help us continue our mission with a personal donation promotes you to Nature Warrior status at GRNA.

Grass River Natural Area is a nonprofit organization that has flourished for fifty-one years because of the generous support of people who value our mission "to manage the Grass River Natural Area, conserve and protect its watershed, and provide opportunities that increase knowledge, appreciation and community-wide stewardship of the natural environment".

If you believe in our mission and want to help us fulfill it for many years to come, please click on the Donate button below. Your support is greatly appreciated.

DONATE



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