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GRNA Volunteers,

Fall is winding down here in the natural area, and winter is fast approaching. Out on the boardwalks, the tamaracks have shed their golden needles, the snowshoe hares have completed their molt from summer brown to winter white, and early snowfalls have left the cedars frosted and sparkling on more than a few days. During this transitional season, there are several ways to get involved at GRNA, from event planning to general office help. Check out the upcoming volunteer opportunities below, and please reach out if you have any ideas of other ways you'd like to help.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season filled with joy, peace, and lots of outdoor time!

Emily Burke
Conservation & Education Specialist
emily@grassriver.org

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HOLIDAY CRAFTS FOR FAMILIES

Sat, December 11 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm and during the weeks leading up to the event

GRNA is bringing back its beloved Holiday Crafts event, and we're looking for volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up, and/or assisting with logistics and craft tables on the day of the event. There will be kid-friendly nature-themed crafts, wreath-making for adults, and refreshments. This event is planned

by our Events Committee, and we also welcome new volunteers to join the planning process for the event if they desire. Please email Emily at emily@grassriver.org if you want to lend a hand.

FRONT DESK DOCENT



Ongoing

GRNA is in need of a few volunteer docents to help us cover the front desk of the Grass River

Center. This position involves opening and closing the Center, greeting visitors and answering questions, performing simple point of sale transactions from our gift shop, and light housekeeping duties to keep the Center looking tidy. If you have excellent customer service skills, are knowledgeable about Grass River or are willing to learn, and want to give

back to GRNA in a meaningful way, contact James at james@grassriver.org. Training will be provided. In November and December, the Center is open Thursday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and from January through April, it's open on Saturdays and Sundays only.



MAPLE SUGARING VOLUNTEERS

February - March

Early spring will be here before we know it, along with the running of the sap, so we're putting out a call now for volunteers to participate in our maple sugaring program! Volunteers will prep equipment, tap trees, collect sap, split wood, and run the maple syrup evaporator to make maple syrup. Volunteers may also provide demonstrations to the public during events and may assist in clean-up and storage of equipment at the end of the season. A training will be provided in mid-February. Email James at james@grassriver.org to be kept in the loop!



HUNTING SEASON REMINDER

While hunting is never allowed at GRNA inside the Education Zone, it is allowed year-round in some form outside the Education Zone, and fall marks the season when the most hunters are likely to be out in the natural area. We want to remind everyone to stay safe when hiking on trails outside the Education Zone this fall - including the Rail Trail and Algonquin Loop - and when volunteering in off-trail areas. Wear orange, avoid dawn and dusk outings, and review the

following chart to see which types of hunting are permitted when at GRNA. Please use extra caution during deer rifle season during the second half of November.

APPROXIMATE HUNTING SEASONS IN ANTRIM COUNTY/NORTHERN MICHIGAN												
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug
Coyote, Red squirrel...	[Orange bar]											
Black Bear	[Orange]	[Orange]										
Grouse				[Orange]								
Woodcock	[Orange]	[Orange]										
Small Game												
Wild Turkey	[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]						[Orange]			
Waterfowl	[Orange]											
Deer (Bow)		[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]								
Beaver trapping												
Deer (Rifle)			[Orange]	[Orange]								
Deer (Muzzle)				[Orange]								
Bobcat					[Orange]	[Orange]						

GRNA 2021 PHOTO CONTEST

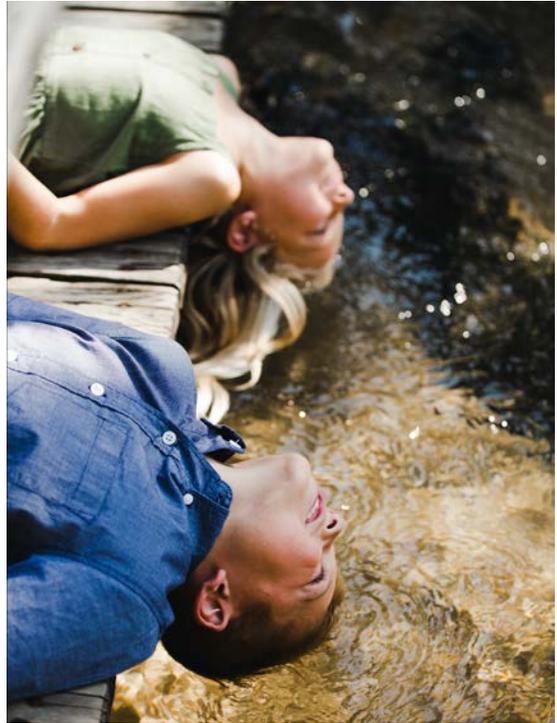


2020 Judges' Choice Award
by Mark Harder

The 2021 photo contest is now taking submissions! Here's what you need to know.

Photo Contest Guidelines:

1. Submit your photos **online** no later than **Sunday, December 19, 2021**.
2. One person may enter up to 3 photographs.
3. Photos must be taken in the Grass River Natural Area or on the Grass River.
4. Photographs may be used by GRNA, Inc. in online and print materials. The staff makes a point of using many of these photos in promotional materials over the coming year.
5. Judging will be done by a panel of judges, as well as a public vote through "likes" on the **GRNA Facebook page**.
6. Winners will be announced at the **Grass River Center** at a later date. Participants do not have to be present to win.



2020 People's Choice Award
by Allison Ferris

The **Winning Photographers** will be awarded:

1. A printed photo on display at the Grass River Center.
2. A Grass River Care Package from the Grass River Gift Shop.

Questions? Contact James at james@grassriver.org. We look forward to receiving your 2021 entries soon!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DAN CLINE

For this month's volunteer spotlight, we're featuring Dan Cline, GRNA's Board Chair. Following a few exposures to GRNA shortly after moving to Traverse City in 2016, including taking an NMC water quality class taught by James Dake, one thing led to another and Dan joined the GRNA board in December 2016. An experienced, steady, and passionate leadership presence for the last five years, we caught up with Dan to hear about his time at GRNA so far:

What inspires you to volunteer for GRNA?

I've been passionate about the outdoors since I was a child, attending Y Camp, Boy Scout Camp, and countless weekends at my family's fishing cabin on the Au Sable River. My volunteer service at GRNA has so far been governance, serving on the board, its committees, and until the end of this year, as Board Chair. I'm inspired by the strong base of support GRNA receives from its long-term volunteers and donors, and I am particularly inspired by the education mission of GRNA. I think it is extremely

important that GRNA exposes young people to the out-of-doors and teaches them about the natural world.

What's the neatest thing you've learned since you started volunteering with GRNA?

GRNA is the result of one of the earliest private/public partnerships devoted to land and water protection in the state. Over 50 years ago, a dedicated group of private citizens collaborated with the Antrim County Board of Commissioners, the Antrim County Soil Conservation District, the State of



Michigan, and The Nature Conservancy to conserve hundreds of acres of wetlands and forests. The project even attracted the Kresge Foundation's first grant for land preservation!

What do you wish other people knew about GRNA?

Its trails traverse an incredible diversity of ecosystems. It's a nature lover's delight! In just an hour or two of hiking, you can see upland forests, cedar groves, wetlands, and much more. The relatively flat terrain makes it ideal for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, especially for beginners.

When you aren't volunteering, what do you spend time doing?

In addition to serving on two other nonprofit boards, in the summer I enjoy sailing on Lake Michigan with my wife, Linda. We're also avid hikers, snowshoers, and cross-country skiers. Since retiring, we've enjoyed travel, and we recently returned from 10 days in Iceland, where we explored waterfalls, volcanic lava fields, and glaciers.

Any fun facts about you that you want to tell us about?

In January of 2017, at the age of 61, I suggested to Linda that we should try figure skating. After many lessons and many falls (mostly mine), we had roles in two ice shows presented by the Traverse City Figure Skating Club. In the first, we played Carl and Ellie Fredrickson from *Up*, and in the second we played the older versions of Han Solo and General Leia. This was great fun, and something we never,

ever expected to do.



Grass River Natural Area is a nonprofit organization that has flourished for fifty-two 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.

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Bellaire, MI 49615

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