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*A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep
To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)*

The Byrds 1965

These lyrics came to mind as the seasons of the year begin to change at Grass River Natural Area, and as we say goodbye to someone important to GRNA whose season ended too soon.



With a heavy heart, we learned of the passing of our good friend and colleague, Chuck Bauer. Chuck was a naturalist at Grass River for many years, working alongside many of our current staff and volunteers. If you frequented Grass River, you were likely greeted by him at our front desk, enjoyed a hike led by him on the boardwalks, or laughed at the best nature joke he had at the moment. He also served as a substitute teacher in the Elk Rapids school district and would often bring Ruby the snake out for field trips in the community.

According to GRNA Education Director James Dake, "Like a great teacher, he studiously researched topics before he prepared for a program, often creating detailed and hand-written outlines. He genuinely enjoyed working with children and getting them to think in different ways about the outdoors." After he retired as a naturalist, he continued to volunteer. He loved being at Grass River. He had a great smile, a witty sense of humor, and a kind heart.

Chuck's wife, Lynn, said that he always came home from his days at Grass River energized and thankful to be a part of such a beautiful place. He would say, "You know, I have never had a bad day out there" or "It was magical out there today".



Many of our local students fondly knew him as "Bat Man," as he would attire in preparation for a bat or mammal program. Yes, that is a bat on the front of his cap. Chuck and Lynn lived near the Elk Rapids schools, so it was not uncommon for Chuck to be out mowing the lawn and have students walk, bike, or drive by with a wave and a "Hi, Bat Man."

He will be greatly missed at Grass River and throughout the community. You can read more about Chuck's life here:



https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/charles-chuck-bauer-obituary?id=36461048&fbclid=IwAR2mkTXWtUIYNgJjEX0dbyuFB_wOJEUXm8Pce0gRhvWa3UcqHI_xzoV59Zc

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN TO EVERYONE WHO CREATED RIVERFEST MAGIC



All the numbers are in, and Grass River Natural Area will net over \$95,000 from Riverfest '22. On the night of the Riverfest event we promised if we exceeded our operational goal of \$30,000 in the Paddle Raise, we would dedicate the extra funds raised to our upcoming boardwalk reconstruction project. The donations totaled \$60,000 (split 50/50 between operations and the boardwalk), so the total amount raised for the cabin-to-dock portion of the boardwalk is now just \$96,000 short of reaching its \$1.1 million goal. It truly was a magical fundraising event that could only be successful because of generous support from you and the sponsors displayed below.

THANK YOU TO OUR RIVERFEST 2022 SPONSORS

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PROGRAMS ON THE HORIZON



September Sunset Paddle

Friday, September 23

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

***\$40 per person - includes tour, kayak, PFD,
and paddle for each participant – MUST
PRE-REGISTER***

There is no better way to enjoy the sunset than on the Grass River, paddling its calm waters and enjoying its unique wildlife! On these guided tours, visitors explore Grass River by kayak (provided) with a naturalist and find out about Grass River Natural Area's conservation efforts, wetland plants, and wildlife while enjoying sundown. Adults Only. Limited to small groups, must pre-register. Call GRNA to register: 231-492-8793, or email james@grassriver.org. This program meets at the Grass River Center and then walks to the dock to launch kayaks. Kayaks and paddles are provided and ready for you at the dock.



Fall Stream Monitoring
Saturday, September 24
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Free

New and seasoned volunteers of all ages are invited to join us as we collect data for our biannual stream monitoring program. Teams will be collecting macroinvertebrates (creek "bugs") at four sites and then will return to the Grass River Center to sort through their critter samples. Note: New volunteers will be put into groups with more experienced volunteers. Dress for the weather, and bring hip waders if you have them (though we have more than enough pairs to loan out!) Please email emily@grassriver.org to sign up.



Fall Stewardship Day
Saturday, October 1
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Free

Summer is ushering in autumn, which means cooler weather and some good ol' fall season work! Come on out to Grass River Natural Area and join the many stewardship activities as we prepare the buildings, trails, and grounds for winter. No experience is necessary, just a pair of work gloves and an open spirit. Pre-registration is encouraged - email Brian at stewardship@grassriver.org.



Cross Stitch Embroidery for Beginners
Saturday, October 8
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
\$15 per person, PRE-REGISTRATION is strongly encouraged

Cross stitch embroidery was all the rage more than a thousand years ago, and it is making a comeback! More and more people are discovering the enjoyment and meditative benefits of this beginner-friendly craft. In this workshop at Grass River Natural Area, you will learn the basics of cross stitch embroidery, including materials and techniques. You will follow a pattern to start an oak-inspired project and leave with all the materials and knowledge needed to finish the project - and plan new ones! This workshop is targeted toward adult beginners, although young adults with some hand sewing experience may also participate. Limited space, please register in advance. [Click here to register.](#)

Allergens: Please inform the instructor in advance if you have a nickel allergy or sensitivity.

Geology Discovery Program: Exploring the Geology of the Grass River Natural Area



Sunday, October 9

10:00 am – 12:00 pm – optional lunch at noon

\$5 per person

Join author and earth scientist Steven Veatch for a morning to kick off Earth Science Week

and connect with nature and geology at the Grass River Natural Area. First, meet at the visitor center for a presentation on the geologic processes that created the GRNA's landscape. Next, we will hike the Sedge Meadow Trail (less than one mile), where we will discuss the geology and natural history of the area at selected stops. For an additional hour (optional) extend the morning's event by gathering for lunch at picnic tables under a pavilion (bring your own and something to drink). We will eat together and continue our discussions. [Click here to register.](#)



Owl Prowl

Fridays, October 14 and 21

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

\$10 per person – MUST PRE-REGISTER

Join a Grass River Natural Area educator to learn about our local owls and their conservation with an introductory presentation, and then head out for a night hike in search of these amazing birds. Participants should be comfortable walking outdoors at night for about 1 mile on uneven trails. Bring a light. Must pre-register. **No walk-in spaces available.**

[Click here to register.](#)



Make Your Own Walking Stick

Sunday, October 16

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

\$10 per person

Walking sticks come in handy for walkers and hikers. They provide support on a rocky trail and help you maintain good posture as you walk along.

This class at Grass River Natural Area will guide you in stick selection and preparation. We will furnish materials and give you some ideas on customizing your own special walking stick. [Click here to register.](#)



Autumnfest

Saturday, October 22

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Free to all families

Come out to Grass River Natural Area to have some autumn fun. Your time will be filled with activities for all ages including a trick-or-treat trail

on our boardwalk with "animal" encounters along the way, pumpkin pounding, fall arts and crafts, and games. There will be snacks and apple cider to enjoy as well.



Introduction to Herbaria: The Science and History of Plant-Pressing

Sunday, October 23

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

\$15 per person – PLEASE PRE-REGISTER

From the 1800s to the 1950s, collections of preserved natural organisms were ubiquitous in schools, universities, and households. Cultivating “nature literacy” was a primary educational goal, and examining real examples was the best way to familiarize oneself with the local flora and fauna. Antique and contemporary specimens still are used in teaching and research today, with additional applications in art projects and personal hobbies. In this class you will learn the history of herbaria (collections of pressed plant specimens), including how they have been created and utilized over time. You will learn how to create your own plant-pressing kit and how to compose a useful specimen, and you will have hands-on time to practice pressing a variety of plants or flowers. This class is designed for adults. Limited space, please register in advance.

[Click here to register.](#)

GRASS RIVER CENTER HOURS

through October

10:00 am - 4:00 pm, 7 days per week

Trails open dawn to dusk

COZY HOODIES AND SWEATSHIRTS FOR FALL HIKES

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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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Our mailing address is:

PO Box 231
Bellaire, MI 49615

Natural area address:

6500 Alden Highway, Bellaire MI 49615

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