

# Grand Rapids Public Museum recruiting students for 'Classroom with a Current' watershed project

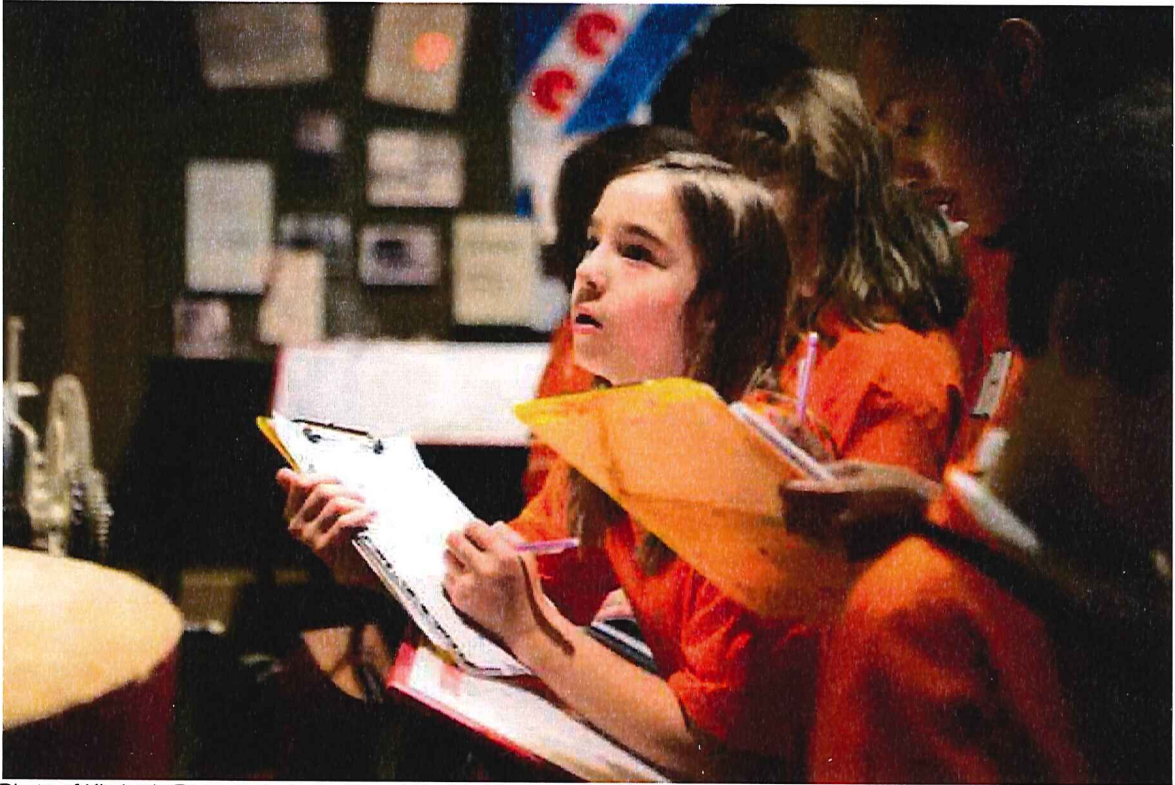


Photo of Kimberly Rose, a student at Grand Rapids Montessori, taking notes during an exercise with her class as part of an immersion program at the Grand Rapids Public Museum on November 14, 2013. The museum is currently recruiting Kent County high school students for a Youth Watershed Design Team for a project called "Classroom with a Current." The museum received a \$49,200 grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust to create the team that will develop concepts for educational programs plus an exhibition experience focused on watersheds. *(Lauren Petracca MLive.com)*

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By [Monica Scott | mscott2@mlive.com](#)

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GRAND RAPIDS, MI - The [Grand Rapids Public Museum](#) is recruiting Kent County high school students for a team that will develop concepts for educational programs and an exhibit focused on watersheds.

The museum received a \$49,200 planning grant from the [Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Great Lakes Stewardship Program](#) to create a Youth Watershed Design Team (YWDT), for the project, "Classroom with a Current." The team will be composed of no more than 24 students. There is no cost to participate.

“Students, a core audience, will have the primary voice in the initial design concepts for these new experiences and programs here at the Grand Rapids Public Museum,” said Dale Robertson, president and CEO of the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

“We will be giving them the freedom to inform our design efforts from the very large to very small scale. This all fits in nicely with what is happening in the community with the river restoration efforts.”

A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

**Applications are due Thursday, April 3**, for the project that will engage and support students as they participate in immersive field work and research throughout this spring and summer. Students will get to visit other water-focused interpretive centers and study the concepts of watershed, design, public trust, civic engagement and environmental education.

“The most exciting part is that the project will result in programs at the museum that will engage visitors of all ages in learning about the river, the watershed and the Great Lakes,” said Robertson, who said the museum is thankful to Great Lakes Fishery Trust for the funding.

Museum partners in the project include: the Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division, Grand Valley State University's Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative Hub, Groundswell, and the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW).

The Great Lakes Fishery Trust was created in May 1996 as a means of compensating the residents of Michigan for the lost use and enjoyment of the fishery resources of Lake Michigan caused by the operation of the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant (LPSP), according to the website.

Students will be admitted onto the team on a rolling basis until the team reaches 24 students. Additional details including dates and times of meetings can be found on the **[museum's website](#)**.

Field research and work sessions will take place on Thursdays and Saturdays through the spring and summer, beginning Thursday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Monica Scott is the Grand Rapids K-12 education writer. Email her at [msscott2@mlive.com](mailto:msscott2@mlive.com) and follow her on Twitter [@MScottGR](#) or Facebook*

# G.R.E.A.T.

Grand River Environmental Action Team

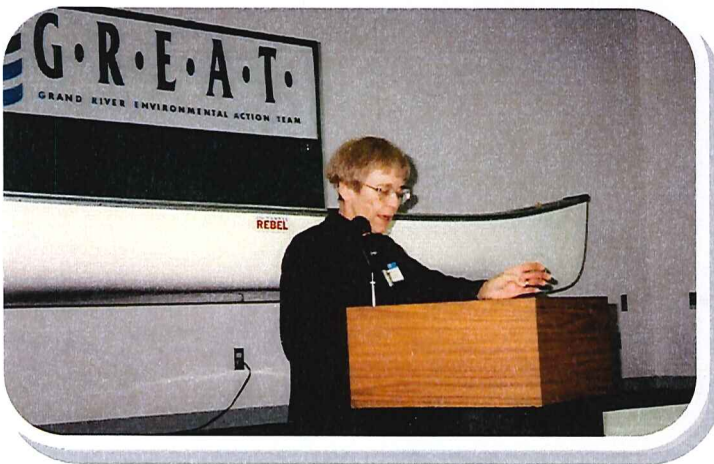


Website: [www.great-mi.org](http://www.great-mi.org)

517.416.4234

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## In Memory of Nancy Lapinski



It is easy to write about Nancy Lapinski because she accomplished so much in her life, however, I'll leave the list of her accomplishments to others and would rather like to share some memories.

Nancy was a gentle soul who, quoting a mutual friend, "would go out of her way to avoid stepping on an ant," but in her low-key way she made it clear where her passions lay. She was fierce in her defense of the environment and as a result, every environmental group in Jackson has benefited from her proactive involvement. The depth of her concerns caused her emotional pain and sometimes she despaired of the direction the world was taking, but she soldiered on and made progress in spite of both opposition and indifference. Nancy's history with GREAT started at the group's very beginning as one of its founders. She was a vigorous "outdoor girl" and certainly no "tomboy", but she loved nature and being outdoors.

As a single paddler, I needed a paddling partner and Nancy often joined me in my canoe on GREAT trips. She sat in the bow but was forgetful of her responsibilities as "power paddler". Her distractions were birds and down would go the paddle and up would come the

binoculars and paddling was forgotten until a reminder came from the stern. Her paddling skills were minor but her observations were appreciated and shared with me on many trips.

Her battles with garlic mustard at Kate Palmer Reserve were heroic and earned her a special award from Audubon of a hand-painted t-shirt with a circle/cross over the plant. It's a battle she almost won but others will have to carry on.

Nancy and I rambled around Jackson County checking out "Big Tree" nominations for Audubon for several years. We shared the satisfaction of discovering champions and bestowing the award on the property owners. I'm grateful for her companionship and knowledge.

Married to Jack, they parented two daughters who follow in their parents' footsteps - a wonderful legacy from a woman who really cared and dedicated her life to make a better and healthier world for us all.

Barbara Anderson

### August Paddle Route Changed

While the August 17<sup>th</sup> paddle event is still on the Kalamazoo River, the put-in and take-out locations have been moved upriver because this section contains the recently removed Ceresco Dam which has not been reopened to paddling. The new put-in location is B-Drive North bridge (near the 23 Mile cross road) and the take-out is 15 Mile Rd. (Saylor's Landing Park). There is a 250 yard portage at Marshall Dam, but for those who wish, boats will be loaded and moved on GREAT's trailers. Check GREAT's web site ([www.great-mi.org](http://www.great-mi.org)) for maps and trip attributes.

# Grand River Oil Spill May 2014

There was an oil spill into the Grand River sometime between May 18 and May 22 that is a fact. The rest of the facts got a little cloudy as multiple sources were used, some of which were accurate and some not. Hopefully, this article will bring some clarity on the issue.



On the evening of Sunday May 18 a citizen reported seeing an oil sheen on the Grand River at Lions Park. The Jackson Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) and the Jackson Fire Dept. responded to the scene. They investigated the sheen and deployed sorbent booms at the city storm drain outfall to the river. On Monday the DPW vacuumed out the storm water manhole at Lions Park, and again on Tuesday. This vacuuming generated several estimates of oil captured from the drain. The initial estimate reported to the Citizens Patriot Newspaper was 800 gallons. The number of gallons in the E.P.A. file is listed as 400 of oil, and now I have heard it may have only been 200 gallons of oil collected. Everything was going well at this point.

Some time Tuesday night or Wednesday morning the Jackson area got 1.5 to 2 inches of rain and everything went wrong in a hurry. An unknown amount of the oil that was still left in the drain started heading to the river. While the DPW was mopping oil scum out of the river Wednesday morning, I got a call about the oil spill. I called Kandice Karll from the Jackson Conservation District to have her look at the river and she got to the scene before I did and started looking around and talking to people. When I got there we both starting talking and looking at the mopping scene and looking at the oil sheen on the river.

After we arrived the DEQ, EPA, DPW and others started coming to look at the event.

I informed Paul Rentschler from the Upper Grand River Watershed and Jackson County Drain Commissioner Geoff Snyder about the sheen and they came to the river, along with many others from the City of Jackson.

Teremergency Response of Kalamazoo was brought in by the city of Jackson to help contain the oil sheen in the river. I took one of the Teremergency's employees on a tour of the river bridges to check how far the sheen extended down river. We determined that the sheen extended downriver to Maple Grove road. Booms were placed on the river at or near Lions Park, the Wastewater Treatment Plant, under I-94 Bridge, and Parnall Bridge. The Jackson County Health Dept. issued a Public Health Advisory for the Grand River between Lions Park and Maple Grove Bridge and Kandice went and posted the signs. Two days later Teremergency went downstream of Lions Park to Parnall in boats washing the sides of the banks and deadfalls with low flow water pressure from the river to wash the remaining oil. By May 28 only the booms at Lions Park and the Wastewater Plant were still in place. They were to stay in place till the next big rain came just to make sure no more oil was leaking out.

At this time the authorities know who is responsible for the oil spill into the storm drain, but the investigation is still ongoing. Hopefully in the next issue we will have closure.

The main points to remember from this story is that no large amounts of oil entered in the Grand River and the City of Jackson acted reasonably well to the accident and has learned some lessons for another spill if it happens.

Kenny Price

## ANNUAL GRAND RIVER CLEAN UP

Our annual Grand River Clean Up is fast approaching. Please save Saturday, September 13, 2014 as the date for this year's event.

We will meet at the CMS Energy Band Shell in downtown Jackson at 9:00 in the morning. Lunch will also be provided at the Band Shell thanks to the generous donations of many of our local restaurants.

In case of questionable weather, check for cancellation at [www.great-mi.org](http://www.great-mi.org) or call (517) 416-4234.

Please direct any questions on this year's Grand River Clean Up to Jack L. Ripstra at (515) 740-5680 or [jlripstra@aol.com](mailto:jlripstra@aol.com).

# Summer Paddle Reviews

## GREAT Finally Completes Jefferson to US 127 Route

After three failed attempts, two in 2013 and one the week prior, GREAT finally succeeded in completing the paddle from US 127/Jefferson to the next bridge north also on US 127. The previous attempts had been called off because the water level was too high to get under some of the bridges. The weather and the river level of the re-scheduled day was perfect for the 54 paddlers who navigated the windy 3.4 mile route which goes through pristine wood and wet lands. Often referred to as the "Founder's Route", this part of the river is where GREAT's founder, Marge Hansleman, lived with her husband, Dave near the Reed Road bridge when the organization was formed. Upon leaving the area in the late 1990's, the Hanselmans donated their orange Coleman (3 seats) canoe to GREAT, which is still in use.

A special attraction on this route is the covered bridge built by Jack Raby and his father in the 1960's. During our paddle, Jack was present at the bridge with his dog to answer any questions and give a brief history. Jack also gave us access to the river to do some chain saw work and helped in the effort. GREAT is also grateful to Anne ("Stevie") Dauter who gave us permission to raise a foot bridge on her land that has been difficult for paddlers to get under. However, near the Jefferson US 127 put-in, GREAT board members had to help paddlers portage around an old dilapidated bridge, of which GREAT has tried unsuccessfully to have the owner give permission for its removal by GREAT member, Tom Weaver who has the expertise and equipment.

After the paddle, several participants gathered at the In Good Company Restaurant down the road.

Jim Seitz

## One Mile Lake

The June paddle was enjoyed by 50 paddlers who explored the headwaters of the River Raisin in the Onsted State Game Area.



Rod Monasmith led the paddlers through a chain of lakes, starting at the launch on One Mile Lake, down the beginnings of the River Raisin to a small rock dam.

After returning back upstream paddlers explored the remaining shorelines of One Mile Lake and a connecting channel to another small lake.

The challenges of locating these lakes are rewarded by paddling in near solitude with natural shorelines. This, is in spite of being within a mile of the Michigan International Speedway. However, if one listens carefully, the traffic on US-12 can occasionally be heard.

The weather for our paddle turned out to be beautiful sunny day with just a cloud or two in the sky. A couple of people took advantage of the coincidental DNR free fishing weekend, using some of their time fishing the lakes, though it appeared the fish may have won the day.

After the completion of the paddle, some of the participants headed to the JR's Hometown Grill to enjoy a late lunch and friendly banter.



Don Lynd

## Grand River Paddle with Dahlem

The July 2014 joint paddle with the Dahlem Nature Center and GREAT is now a wonderful memory to the 54 men, women, and children who challenged the Grand River. The people were well fed and happy from the hamburgers and hot dogs cooked by Mark Snedeker and Ellen Rathbone of the Dahlem. The 2.85 miles from Consumer Entergy Band Shell to R.A. Green Park brought them through downtown Jackson and the wilderness of Jackson County. Four people thought that the trip needed more excitement and decided to go for a swim. All four received Grand River Swimmer Certificates for their efforts. We had people from Ohio, the Detroit area and lots from the Jackson area attend the paddle. This was the first paddle after the May 18 oil spill on the Grand River, so people got to see the river was back to being a beautiful river to paddle.

Kenny Price

# Visual Assessment of GREAT's Property in Bird Land

On May 28, 2014, a three person team headed out to GREAT's property in northern Jackson to field observations of the floral and potential fauna of the parcel and assess its potential for "development." The team consisted of Jim Seitz from GREAT's board of directors, Gary Siegrist, the stewardship coordinator at the Dahlem Conservancy, and Ellen Rathbone, Dahlem's education director, who also sits on GREAT's board of directors.

The humidity was high and the clouds were low as we battled the mosquitoes, mud and invasive plant species throughout the 24-acre parcel. We were on the lookout for native and non-native plants, the overall condition of the ecosystem, and its potential to be developed into a small park with a launch site for paddlers wanting to access the Grand River. Our inspection took us down to the river, crisscrossing the oxbow two or three times, to the top of the berm, through the woods, and along the township's easement. We did not visit all parts of the property, but felt our sample was sufficient for an overall evaluation.

Two major communities were identified: Mesic Southern Forest and Southern Floodplain Forest. There is also a manmade dike along the Grand River made up of spoils resulting from the dredging and straightening of the riverbed. There are breeches in the dike, including exit/entrance for the oxbow and the exiting stream on north end of property.

Mesic Southern Forest was found on all upland habitats within the property. Some portions of this community type had full tree canopy, but a majority of areas had partial to no tree canopy due to older logging activities and the loss of mature ash trees thanks to the emerald ash borer. The township right-of-way had just been cleared and runs almost the entire length of the property, north to south.

Southern Floodplain Forest was found between the upland and dike areas of the property, including an old oxbow of the Grand River. Most of this area has full tree canopy with a few open areas dominated by herbaceous species. Some of the open area is the result of dying and dead ash trees. There are some old growth trees, including swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), boxelder (*Acer negundo*), and basswood (*Tilia americana*).

Of the 45 plant species identified, 15 are non-native and nine are highly invasive. Management of these plant species should be foremost in GREAT's management plan for the property. Invasive plant species include: garlic mustard, assorted Asian honeysuckles, common buckthorn, Asian/oriental bittersweet, black locust, common privet, dame's rocket, multiflora rose, mullein, burdock, motherwort, slippery elm and myrtle.

While we were there, we observed nine species of native birds, and also white-tail deer tracks. It is safe to presume that raccoons, opossums, fox and/or coyote, cotton-tail rabbits, mice, voles, shrews and assorted squirrels also call this parcel home, or at least a place to come and eat. We saw at least one crayfish castle; the odds are that it was probably made by one of the non-native species. From past visits, it is known that cats also patrol the property.

With careful planning and a lot of hard work, this property can be cleaned up (invasive species removed and brought under control) and made into a nice little sanctuary that the residents of Bird Land and visitors alike can enjoy, either as a means to access the Grand River for a paddle, or to spend some time in the woods taking a nature walk.

Ellen Rathbone and Gary Siegrist

## GREAT LAND CLEAN UP

The first annual GREAT Land Clean Up was held on Saturday, May 31, 2014.

Thanks to the hard work of the volunteers that morning fighting clouds of mosquitoes and dense patches of poison ivy, a large amount of trash was removed from the GREAT Land along the West side of the Grand River in Blackman Township. A 12 foot by 6.5 foot utility trailer was filled to the maximum, with all metal recycled at the Granger Transfer Facility on Lansing Avenue.

The tires removed during the clean up were generously received at no cost to GREAT by Kurpinski Metal Recycling on East Morrell Street in Jackson.

Jack L. Ripstra

# Grand Rapids Public Museum Students Tour Grand River Headwaters

In early May, GREAT board member, Jim Seitz and Great Member, Rod Monasmith gave a three hour tour of the Grand River in Jackson County to thirteen secondary students from the Grand Rapids area and their project manager, David Buth. From various school districts, the students are part of the Youth Watershed Exhibit Design team of the Grand Rapids Public Museum. In this new program students will design new exhibits and interpretive experiences with the goal of connecting the public with the Grand River watershed.

By chance, Jim and Rod met Mr. Buth the day prior while attending the Lower Grand River Organization of Watershed's (LGROW) Annual Grand River Conference at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Mr. Buth explained that the next day his students were going on a field trip to Great Lakes Historical Museum in Toledo and on their return wanted to view the Grand River in Jackson County where it begins before flowing through Lansing and passing their Grand Rapids area on the way to Grand Haven on Lake Michigan.

Meeting the two vans transporting the students at Artesian Wells (US 127 and US 12 intersection), Rod and Jim gave the students quick visits to: the beginning of the Grand River on Grand Lake (arranged by State Representative Mike Shirkey); Liberty Dam (the first



*Grand Rapids students view Grand Lake.*

dam on the river); Toy House parking lot to explain and view where the cap was and the cross of its last victim, Eddie Webb; and a stop at GREAT's land for an environmental lesson to view the old oxbow of the river and the dykes of the present straighten river, unfortunately done in the early 1900's. Also, while traveling in their vans between local destinations, the students also observed the river along the routes of Liberty Township, Vandercook Lake, and Browns Lake and Stone Wall roads.

Many of students remarked how small and clear the water of the Grand River is in Jackson County flowing through many natural areas as compared to their much bigger river in the much larger urban area of Grand Rapids. Mr. Buth commented, "GREAT's tour helped these students know the culture, history, and science of such a unique and valuable area and will pay off a hundred times over when these young people share their ideas and take action in the world." One of the students stated, "we learned how the river in Jackson County was in the past and is now, which makes us think how we should be treating our river today."

Jim Seitz



*Grand Rapids students tour GREAT's land.*

# Dangerous Plants

When you think of dangerous plants, what comes to mind? The giant Audrey from Little Shop of Horrors or something more pernicious and realistic, like poison ivy?

Plants, over the millennia, have developed an impressive array of defenses: toxins, needles/thorns/barbs/hairs, hard cases (think nuts), tough bark...all to keep predators from consuming them, or weather from doing damage.

For people, the dangers we need to be aware of come down to physical (touch it and get an injury), or medical (eat it and get very sick...or worse). I won't address the latter - I'll leave that to your own common sense (if you don't know what it is, 100%, then don't try to find out by eating it). On the other hand, there are a few plants locally that everyone who spends time outdoors should know.

**Poison ivy.** It comes in three varieties - ground cover, shrub, and vine and there are two species (although they will hybridize). About 50-60% of Americans are sensitive to it (and if you aren't...yet...don't take the chance that you could become so, because that can happen). By "sensitive" I mean that one has an allergic reaction to it. And by "it" I mean the oil, *urushiol*, which is present in all parts of the plant at all times of the year. Some people who react to *urushiol* need only brush against a leaf and that is enough. For others, they really have to roll in it, or grind the oil into their flesh to get a reaction and yes, if you burn it, the oil will be in the smoke and can get into your lungs, landing you in the hospital, so learn to identify it so you won't accidentally burn it.

If you get into some poison ivy, what should you do? The important thing is to wash the impacted area ASAP, as in within half an hour! The sooner you can remove the oil from your skin the better. Jewelweed, which often grows in the same area, is a traditional treatment for poison ivy (and stinging nettles) - just crush the stems and rub it on. But if you cannot find jewelweed, a good non-oil-based soap is your best bet...and don't use hot water. Rinse with cold water - lots of it. Alcohol can be used within the first six hours to remove the oil, so they say, but most sources say that after just half an hour your skin will have already absorbed the oil. Time is of the essence and no, poison ivy doesn't "spread" - well, the plants spread, but the rash on your skin doesn't. If it appears to be spreading, what is happening is that either a) some areas had less exposure and took longer to react, or b) other areas are continuing to come into contact with the oil (eg: from your clothes, furniture or pets).

The oil can stay on fabrics for years (as in hundreds of). You can wash them, at least twice and preferably with bleach or, if they aren't your favorite duds, toss them out.

What other plants should you know?

**Poison Sumac.** Really only a problem if you are hanging out in swamps or bogs, or along wetland edges where the water is acidic. If you get into a tangle with poison sumac, and you are sensitive, you will get a blistering rash just like with poison ivy and it is treated the exact same way.



*Poison Sumac*

**Stinging Nettles.** Now here's a plant we are all likely to encounter at some point in life. There are many subspecies of nettles, and not all sting. Those that do are covered with hairs that when touched, the tips break off and the skin is injected with a chemical soup of irritants. The party in question will feel a burning sensation and swelling, both usually short-lived, but really aggravating when in full action. Jewelweed to the rescue! Or hydrocortisone creams and, of course, thoroughly wash the area.



*Stinging Nettles*

Two plants that are often overlooked, but problematic, follow.

**Wild Parsnip.** It's not a native plant and you will often find it growing along roadsides or in old fields. It looks like yellow Queen Anne's lace. As long as you don't get the juice of the plant on you, you will be fine. If you touch the juice, however, you will get *phyto-photo-dermatitis*, which means that the active chemicals in the juice, when exposed to UV light (on sunny or cloudy days), will bind to your

*Continued on page 7*



*Continued from page 6*

nuclear DNA and cell membranes, destroying the cells and skin tissue. This process takes time, so you won't notice it right away. Your skin will discolor (can last up to two years), you will get blisters, and for the first couple days the area will burn like crazy. Unlike poison ivy, there is no grace period during which you might not be sensitive. If you touch the juice, this will happen.

If you do tangle with wild parsnip, wash area ASAP. Cover with cool, wet cloth and don't break the blisters. Keep area clean and apply antibiotic cream and see your doctor.

**Cow Parsnip.** A tall plant (up to eight feet) with broad, flat white flower heads. Grows in floodplains, along river banks, in wet meadows and thickets, open hardwoods and clearings, along forest edges. It blooms in July. It has the same chemical (*furanocoumarin*) as the wild parsnip, and if you get the juice on you, you'll get the same reaction. It will itch like mad for over a week. See a doctor.

And finally, the biggie: **Giant Hogweed.** Another non-native, like the last two, this plant cannot be confused with anything else (except possibly cow parsnip). It is huge. How huge? It can grow to 14 feet tall, the compound leaves are up to five feet across, and the hollow stems are two to four inches across. The flat, white flower heads are up to 2.5 feet across. It's listed as a Federally noxious weed. The sap + moisture + sunlight = severe skin and eye irritation, painful blistering, permanent scarring and blindness. All you have to do is brush against the bristles on the stem or break the stem or leaves. It is a serious health threat, and it is in Jackson County. Seek medical attention immediately and report location of the plant to the DNR.



Giant Hogweed should always be avoided.

As you can see, there are some seriously dangerous plants out there. We can pooh-pooh people who whine when they have a patch of poison ivy rash, or laugh at their discomfort, but in truth, anyone who has encountered any of these plants knows (after the fact) that it is best to learn to identify and avoid them than to learn firsthand just how much we can suffer from their very effective defense systems.

Ellen Rathbone

## Mud Puppies



Not far from the put in site of the June GREAT paddle I discovered what I thought was a rare species. It appeared to be a small catfish with red whiskers. I pulled out my flashlight and discovered a "mud puppy". Something I had only seen once in an exotic pet store. While not a rare animal, they are rarely seen since they hide under rocks, wood, and weeds during the day and hunt at night.

While rarely seen, these odd looking creatures are quite common aquatic salamanders and are found from southern Canada, to the southern United States, where they are referred to as waterdogs. Mud puppies do not bark as was once, erroneously, believed, nor do they necessarily live in mud, or muddy waters. Their habitat can range from sandy bottom clear water such as Clark Lake to the muddy Mississippi.

They are unusual looking for a salamander as they never 'outgrow' their external gills, and also have lungs as all salamanders. However it is believed they do not use their lungs. Some species grow to 16" in length; others are dwarf growing no more than 7 inches. All are carnivorous, feeding on just about anything that will fit into their mouth, insects, small fish, earthworms, tadpoles, small frogs, mollusks, snails, crayfish, spiders, etcetera.

*Continued on page 8*





*Continued from page 7*

While live mud puppies/water dogs can be purchased online for fish bait, some people keep these as pets. Although still quite common, their habitat is shrinking in some areas due to the usual suspects, pollution and development, with the loss of ponds and lakes. In Iowa mud puppies are listed as an endangered species. Take heart however as these widely dispersed creatures are unlikely to be endangered by development alone, and the Clean Water Act of 1972 has improved water quality thorough the entire country helping the little “water dogs”.

John Minar

### **GREAT Newsletter**

Published quarterly by the  
Grand River Environmental Action Team

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### **Welcome New Members!**

Dave Barkley	Marilyn Chick
Jan Corwin	Karen Drushal
James & Joyce Grace	Charles Falahee
David Lapinski	David Peck
Elody Samuelson	Ron Thomas
Liane Smith	Regina Weiss
Gary Williams	

### **Board Meetings**

The GREAT board meets on the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of December, at 7:00 PM at the Summit Township Hall, 2121 Ferguson Road (across from Knights Restaurant, near the Intersection of South Jackson and Horton Roads).

Meetings are open and visitors are welcome. To be on the agenda, please contact us prior to the meeting.

### **GREAT Board**

Kenny Price, President  
 Don Lynd, Vice President  
 Jim Seitz, Secretary  
 Jack Ripstra, Treasurer  
 Don Nelson, Rivermaster  
 Helen Burnett, Director  
 Kurt LaFrance, Director  
 Mary Lenardson, Director  
 John Minar, Director  
 Ellen Rathbone, Director

#### **Special Assignments:**

Louise Hefka, Publicity  
 Jeff Grund, Tax Statements  
 Barb Anderson, Historian

Search

# Cool Places / Spaces

This board is secret



Invite

69 Pins

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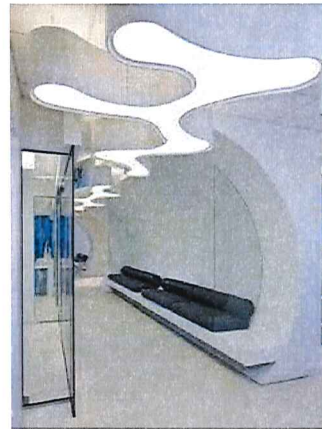
Along the waterfront, there could be a wading pool. It could allow current to pass through it so it didn't become filled with sediment. There could be several levels; levels would fill and empty with the seasonal hydrology, illustrating the seasonal hydrology in a concrete and multisensory way.

Pinned by David Buth



cantilever over the river?

Pinned by Tim Priest



I like the lighting here

Pinned by Tim Priest



from Home D  
HOK's new office

outdoors indoor

Pinned by Tim Priest



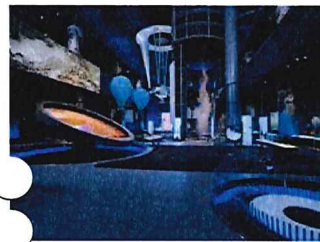
Love this

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Interactive wall

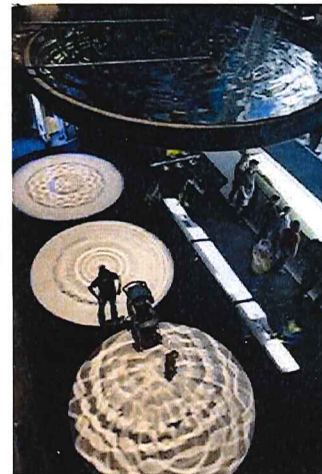
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from BuzzFeed Community  
**Community Post: 22 Destinations Science Nerds Need To See Before They Die**

The Museum of Science and Industry's weather exhibit

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Awesome focus designed lighting

Pinned by Brooke Bacigal



The Ultimate Rooftop Garden in Brooklyn

Pinned by



rooftop garden via Gardenista this is more relaxed

Pinned by Camron Nelson



steps leading into river?

Pinned by Tim Priest



Panorama of the Grand River?

Pinned by Tim Priest



Jungle trek ext

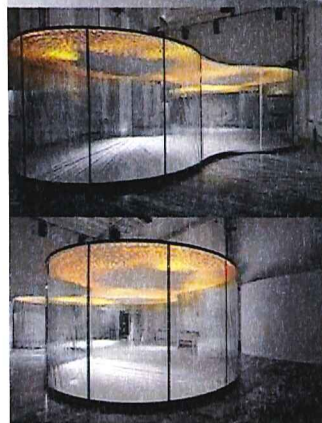
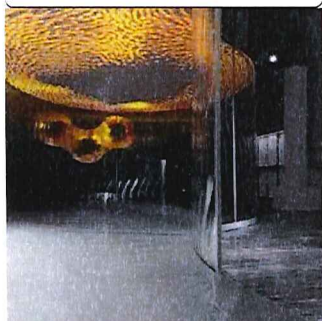
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30 Rooftop Gardens Adding Freshness to Home

Pinned by Camron Nelson

Camron Nelson



project video of the river real time and have stock footage it cycles through from various seasons with touch screen elements for guests to learn more?

Pinned by Brooke Bacigal



from TreeHugger Build a \$300 underground greenhouse for year-round gardening (Video)

Pinned by Hannah Creasey



That ceiling though



Pitt Rivers Oxford by astropop

Pinned by Tim Priest



Make something similar leading the building into the river?

Pinned by Brooke Bacigal



from TreeHugger Farmer hand-builds charming cob house for \$250 (Video)

Farmer hand-builds charming cob house for \$250 awesome little house

Pinned by Hannah Creasey



from TrendHunter.com Submerged Public Spaces

Immersive, surrounded by water, drop your hand in the water if you



An interactive floor using full-body interaction (but with schools of fish or logging elements.

Pinned by Tim Priest



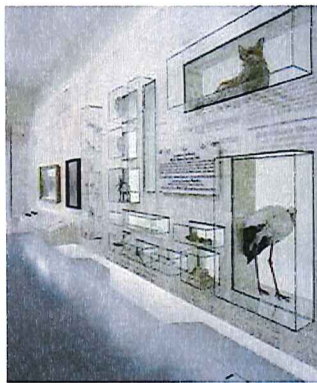
Get your feet wet

Pinned by Brooke Bacigal



windmills= sustainability!

Pinned by Hannah Creasey



clean lined open storage for taxidermy specimens or other artifacts

Pinned by Tim Priest



Another cool way to bring the river inside the exhibit

Pinned by Brooke Bacigal



I love the idea of bringing water and outdoor elements inside. There could be rooms for individual areas in the great lakes representing different parts of the watershed similar to this:

Pinned by Brooke Bacigal



A glass-bottomed cantilever that arches far over the river and would be accessible year-round



from Gizmodo See an Entire Transplanted Museum

Pinned by Tim Priest



from Inhabitat Sunken Pedestals the Netherlands Waters Like It

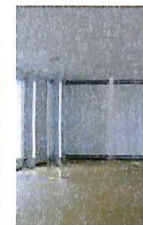
Getting people

Pinned by Brooke Bacigal



Awesome exte

Pinned by Makenzie F



Each column h different glacie water from diff different Great changes in the

Pinned by Hannah Creasey



Just to have the sound and motion of water winding through the whole place. Could be water diverted from the Grand River, but would have to be diverted far upstream or pumped above its normal level

by col&tasha

Pinned by David Buth

want. Or stay 100% dry.

Pinned by David Buth



It'd be cool to have water running through the exhibit on the sides.

Pinned by Hannah Creasey



Skyscraping #Hotel Pods Suspended in Mid-Air. What better way to experience a city with skyscraping towers than to live in between them?

Pinned by David Buth



Design connected to place - tree roots on floor, salvaged-material art hanging from ceiling

Pinned by David Buth



Pods suspended above the river? Rent them out like hotel rooms?

Pinned by David Buth



More aquatic pods.

Pinned by David Buth

Pinned by David Buth



waterwall

Pinned by Hannah Creasey



Building design that flows from land-based structures to floating structures

Pinned by David Buth

are magnified v columns

Pinned by David Buth



Neat spot for a break!

Pinned by Maria McKr



Cool way to m

by Skot Nels

Pinned by Maria McKr



## Articles

# Grand Rapids Public Museum Receives Planning Grant from Great Lakes Fishery Trust and Develops Youth Watershed Design Team

< BACK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2014

**CONTACT:**

Kate Moore, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations  
(616) 929-1713; [kmoore@grmuseum.org](mailto:kmoore@grmuseum.org)

**Grand Rapids Public Museum Receives Planning Grant from Great Lakes Fishery Trust and Develops Youth Watershed Design Team**

Grand Rapids, MI - Dale Robertson, President and CEO of the Grand Rapids Public Museum (GRPM) announced today that the Grand Rapids Public Museum has received a planning grant in the amount of \$49,200 from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Great Lakes Stewardship Program. The grant will be used to create a Youth Watershed Design Team (YWDT), composed of local high school students that will develop concepts for educational programs and an exhibition experience focused on watersheds for the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

The project, named "Classroom with a Current," will engage and support this local team of students as they participate in immersive field work and research throughout the Spring and Summer, visiting other water-focused interpretive centers, speaking to experts and more. The Grand Rapids Public Museum has broader strategic goals of redeveloping the programming it offers around the Grand River and Lake Michigan watersheds and sustainability education and research. These include updating the current program offerings, creating teachable moments through programs and exhibitions, and integrating interpretation through indoor/outdoor experiences at the Van Andel Museum Center. The YWDT will provide a way for youth, especially urban youth, to engage in stewardship education in conjunction with community partners and stakeholders.

"Students, a core audience, will have the primary voice in the initial design concepts for these new experiences and programs here at the Grand Rapids Public Museum," said Dale Robertson. "We will be giving them the freedom to inform our design efforts from the very large to very small scale. This all fits in nicely with what is happening in the community with the river restoration efforts. We are thankful to the Great Lakes Fishery Trust in providing the funding to kick start this project."

"The most exciting part is that the project will result in programs at the museum that will engage visitors of all ages in learning about the river, the watershed and the Great Lakes," said Robertson.

Partners in the project include: Grand Rapids Public Museum, Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division, GVSU's Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative Hub "Groundswell," and the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW).

**Students Needed**

Participation in the Youth Watershed Exhibit Design Team is open to all secondary students in Kent County, and students may apply at [grpm.org](http://grpm.org). Applications are due by April 3, and students will be admitted onto the team on a rolling basis until the team reaches capacity of 24 students. Additional details including dates and times of meetings can be found at [grpm.org](http://grpm.org).

**Great Lakes Fishery Trust**

The Great Lakes Fishery Trust provides funding to nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies to enhance, protect, and rehabilitate Great Lakes fishery resources. The GLFT manages its resources to compensate for the lost use and enjoyment of the Lake Michigan fishery resulting from the operation of the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant.

The settlement agreement that created the GLFT in 1996 was the result of years of litigation involving the utilities that operated the plant and numerous private organizations, government entities, and Indian tribes. The GLFT is governed by a board of trustees using recommendations from a scientific advisory team.

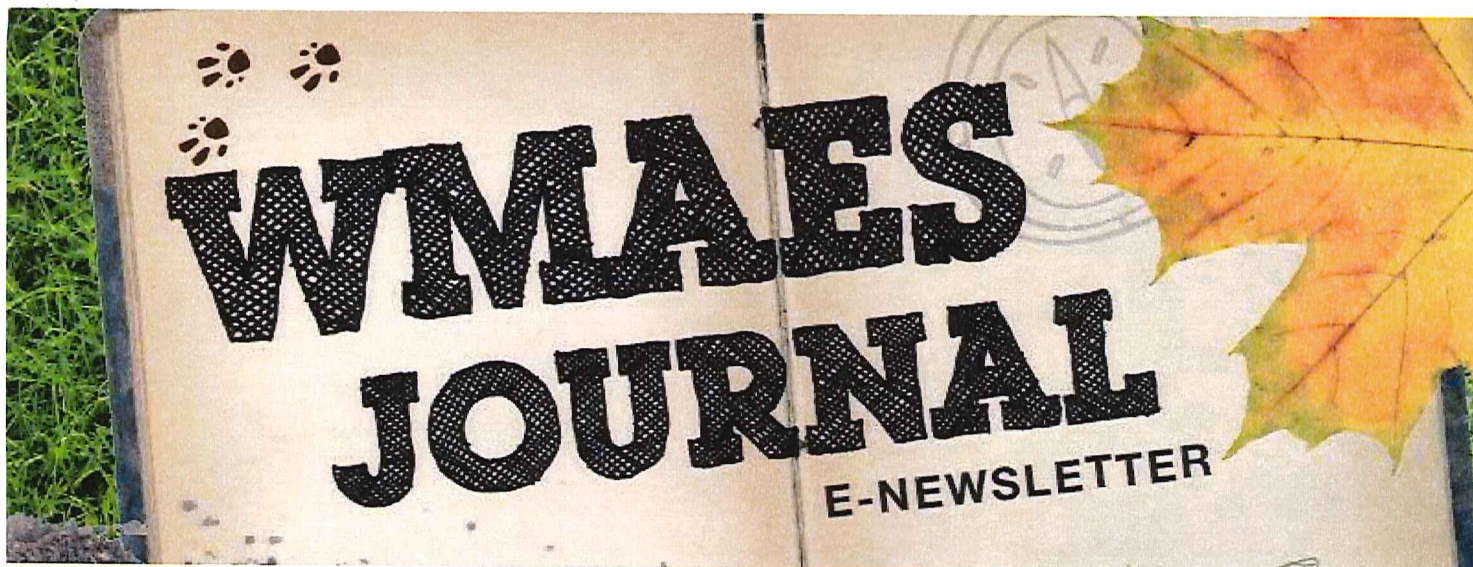
The GLFT pursues its mission and vision through investments in three broad categories: Access to the Great Lakes Fishery, Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Fish Populations, and Great Lakes Stewardship. Learn more at [www.gift.org](http://www.gift.org).

Grand Rapids Public Museum

The Grand Rapids Public Museum, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is located in downtown Grand Rapids, MI at 272 Pearl Street NW. The mission of the museum is to be a living monument of artifacts, ideas and stories told through exhibitions, events and educational programming designed to inspire, motivate and celebrate our human bond. We enrich the life of our community through experiences of the wider world in a uniquely Grand Rapids context. For additional information including hours of operation, admission fees and exhibit/event listings, please visit [www.grpm.org](http://www.grpm.org).

###





MAY 2014

## CAMPUS NEWS

### Congratulations to the Barrett Family

*As many of you may know, Elementary Principal, Mrs. Barrett, is expecting!*

She, as well as her husband Colin and two-year old son Lucas, are extremely excited to meet their newest family member later this month. Mrs. Barrett and family can't wait to bring home their baby girl. Maternity leave for Mrs. Barrett will begin May 23. She will be returning August 11. In her absence, a staff member who is currently familiar with the WMAES elementary students will temporarily resume her position. Mrs. Barrett will be sending home a letter with further details and the announcement of Interim Principal early this month.

### CMU Visits WMAES

*On April 29, the Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools visited the WMAES campus.*

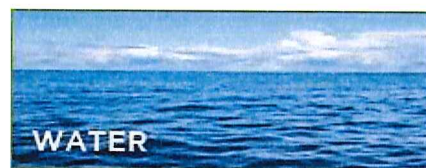
Twice per year, the Center takes time out to engage in team building and professional development activities to ensure they are remaining focused on their mission and vision. The Center seeks out innovative schools to visit to learn what makes those schools special. Principal Morgan and Principal Barrett gave tours to the Center members, as well as shared with them the many accomplishments of the WMAES students and staff.

### #3 Charter School in Michigan

*The US News & World Report has released their Best High School listing for the 2013-14 school year.*

This year, WMAES has received four separate rankings:

#### Theme of the Month



#### Reminder

**Family Night is May 13.** Parent volunteers are still needed – please see your child's teacher if interested in volunteering.

See the calendar for more important dates.

#### Update

Later this month, a **special building communication update** will be released. Be sure to check your email.



- #3 Best Charter High School in Michigan
- #36 Best High School in Michigan
- #139 Best Charter School Nationally
- #1293 Best High School Nationally

Congratulations to the WMAES students, staff and parents who make these incredible rankings possible.

## PreK & Young 5's

### Old McDonald Had a Farm...

May is an exciting month for our little learners. Students will be visiting the Critter Barn and Mame Trail later this month with their fellow Young 5's and Kindergarten buddies. To prepare them for their trip, preschoolers will be learning all about farm life this month!

### Counting the Days!

This past month, students worked as a class to complete their Science Fair project, asking "What Keeps You Warm?" The little ones learned about the scientific method, helped collect data and learned first hand what types of materials hold in the most heat – both inside and outside. Young 5's Friends have also been learning about graphs in math and learning new sight words to get ready for Kindergarten! They have also been taking nature walks to identify signs of Spring... finally!





*Perseverance Award Winner: Cayden Krueer*

*Author of the Month: Cooper Wielhouwer*

## Elementary News

### Kindergarten Goes Roller Skating

The upcoming month seems to be filled with fun adventures for kindergarteners at WMAES. On May 2nd, kindergarteners went roller-skating for the first time to honor positive student behavior! Other upcoming spring field trips for the little ones include observing nature on the Musketawa Trail in Marne, exploring farm life at Critter Barn and kicking off summer at Tunnel Park Beach!

### Fourth Grade Update

Students have moved on from fractions and are starting lessons on long division, graphing and statistics. In science class, fourth graders will be looking into the wonderful world of light and sound!

### You Are My Sunshine!

The WMAES Earth Day Concert was held Thursday, April 24. Students from grades preschool to fifth grade participated in the various Earth Day presentations. Fifth grade students performed The Lorax as the Earth Day play.



## Spanish

### What are we Learning in Spanish?

PreK	Farms and animals
Kindergarten	Pets and animals around our school
First Grade	Finishing a unit on foods and beginning a unit on animals
Second Grade	Finishing our unit on clothing and beginning a unit on ecosystems. More information to come regarding an upcoming field trip
Third Grade	Finishing a unit on the body and starting a unit on numbers
Fourth Grade	Compass directions and numbers up to 200
Fifth Grade	River ecosystems and learning the names of many organisms within. Students will also be participating in the salmon release on May 15.

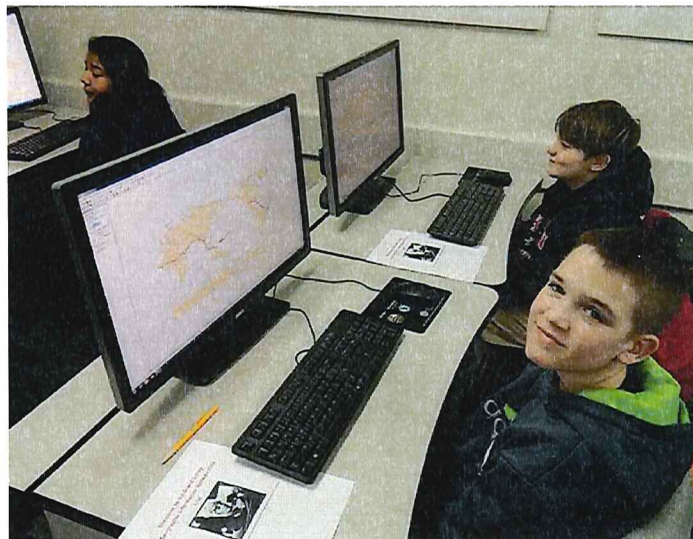
## Middle School News

### Students Find Amelia Earhart

## ***Sixth graders at WMAES participated in Geographic Information Systems Day at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) on March 28.***

The geography department and geography club on the GVSU campus hosted GIS Day. Throughout the day, students engaged in a variety of activities relating to Geographic Information Systems, including an interactive demonstrations using Geographic ArcGIS software to find a lost explorer, Amelia Earhart, and a geocaching activity.

Grand Valley students gained experience leading and teaching groups of middle school students as they shared their enthusiasm with WMAES students. GVSU students also provided lessons on GIS and GPS, skills being used at an increasing rate in everyday businesses across the nation.



## **High School News**

### **A Night In Paris**

***Upperclassman at WMAES enjoyed a night in Paris on Saturday, April 26.***

Many students spent the day getting their hair styled, nails painted and shoes shined as they prepared for Prom 2014. The night was as enchanting as Paris itself. Prom was held at the Kent ISD and was decorated in Parisian style. The 2014 Prom Queen and King, as well as the Princess and Prince were announced.

*(photo below, left)* King and Queen: Keith Hartman and Nicole Smith

*(right)* Prince and Princess: Jordan Leach and Abby Taylor



### **Down River**

Every year, AP Biology students at WMAES work with the DNR to raise salmon. Due to the lowered salmon population in the Great Lakes, the WMAES students help with monitoring and caring for over 300 salmon. On May 15, students will release their raised salmon into the Rogue River. Mr. Barrett, Mrs. Sherman and Mrs. DeYoung's AP Environmental Science classes, as well as Mr. Lynch's 5th grade class will be witnessing the release.

## Student Receives Great Apprenticeship

WMAES high school junior, Sofia Cervantes, was recently accepted as a part of the Youth Watershed Exhibit Design Team at the Grand Rapids Museum. Sofia will be working with twenty other students from the Grand Rapids area to design an experimental watershed exhibit for the Museum. The Great Lakes Fishery Trust is funding the project.

The exhibit will positively impact the community by educating citizens about the importance of protecting the Great Lakes Watersheds. In the design process, Sofia will be learning about the Grand River and the Great Lakes Watershed, civic engagement and environmental education. She has already participated in a Grand River clean up in Grand Haven with the team; an unforgettable experience coordinated by the West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC).

The team meets at the Grand Rapids Public Museum on Thursdays and Saturdays for fieldwork and research sessions throughout the spring and summer. "I'm excited about being able to use my creativity and passion to make a difference in the world," says Sofia. "I'm thrilled to be working with so many other young people that are just as passionate about making the world a better place."

## The GREEN Scene

***WMAES participated in a citywide Earth Day Recycling challenge, collecting plastic grocery bags.***

We are happy to announce that we won 3rd place out of over 30 schools! As a total, we recycled 26,578 plastic bags with the help of our WMAES families. Mrs. Dembinski's kindergarten class recycled the most bags with a total of 6,781! We have won a garden bench made from recycled plastic materials that will be engraved with our school name and the total number of bags we recycled. This bench will be added to our 6 other benches won in the past.

The Science Fair is over for the year and there were some awesome competitors! Prek-2nd grade completed class projects, while grades 3-8 submitted group and individual projects. Students in grades 3-8 received medals, trophies and plaques. The first place winners from each group received a Meijer gift card. Congrats to everyone for a great Science Fair!

## Entrepreneurial News!

### Five Students Win Scholarship

Entrepreneurial students, Asia Nguyen, Hunter Redmond, Jordan Leach, Cristian Perez and Austin Baker won a \$2,500 grand prize scholarship from Prima Civitas. The WMAES students participated in the 5th Annual Young Innovators Competition. In the fifth and final year of the competition, the WMAES team submitted a product idea that they created. TempFlo, a cost-effective product that launches a personal flotation device, helps keep people afloat long enough for rescuers to react. The team found that the TempFlo would help to prevent the 83 drowning deaths that occur yearly in the Great Lakes.

Hunter Redmond created TempFlo and worked with his fellow students to put their submission into the competition. The group brainstormed product ideas that would solve a problem in the marketplace and they identified a need in the Great Lakes region. It was found that boating enthusiasts needed a more effective way to save people who had fallen overboard. The team is working to see if there are any pending or issued patents that could restrict them from moving forward. Further product development will also depend on financial support.



## Alumni Corner

WMAES now has an Alumni Organization! If you were a WMAES student, visit the **WMAES Alumni Organization on Facebook** and invite others from your graduating class to join.

A special registration card will be sent to past graduates inviting them to join the Alumni Organization. Keep in touch with your fellow graduates and share your accomplishments with current WMAES students. The first alumni reunion is being planned and scheduled for August. More information will be included in the June newsletter.

MAY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12 Field Trip: Critter Barn	13 Family Night Field Trip:	14 Field Trip: Musketawa Trail	15 Field Trip: Salmon Release	16 Field Trip: Outdoor	17

	(Kindergarten)	Musketawa Trail (Young 5 & PreK)	(Kindergarten)		Discovery Center (11th grade)	
18 Field Trip: Midway Airport Chicago (Entrepreneurial Class)	19	20 Senior Project Presentations  Field Trip: Palmer Park (Student Council)	21 Senior Project Presentations  Field Trip: 5/3 Ballpark (Novak)	22 Senior Project Presentations  Field Trip: 5/3 Ballpark (Girls on the Run)	23 Field Trip: Library (Willinger)	24
25	26 NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day	27 Field Trip: PJ Hoffmaster (2nd grade)	28 Field Trip: Grand Haven (HS Environ. Sci.)	29 Field Trip: JB Zoo (PreK, Young 5, Kindergarten)	30 Field Trip: Michigan's Adventure (7th grade)	31



[Home](#)

# Change Ups: Bowling to lead firm's consulting division

April 11, 2014

Bill Bowling has joined the one-year-old commercial real estate firm X Ventures after serving in a consulting role in 2013. He will lead the company's consulting division. Bowling is most well known for his 18 years at Colliers International and Paramount Properties, where he was a founding member. At X Ventures, Bowling will offer clients consulting services specific to commercial real estate portfolio planning and management, as well as landlord and tenant consulting services.

## ADVERTISING & MARKETING

The **American Advertising Federation District 6** has announced its 2014 award winners. Gold Professional Addys: Founders Brewed For Us, submitted by Eskimo; Haworth Collection Portfolio Book, submitted by Plenty; and Closer Than You Think, submitted by Meijer. Silver: Icon Magazine, submitted by Plenty; Eat Dirt Mud Run, submitted by Gravity Six Alliance; The B.O.B.'s Brewer Responsive Webpage, submitted by The Gilmore Collection; and Founders Stacks Up, submitted by Mitch Ranger Photography. Three Kendall College of Art & Design students received Student Gold Addys and one earned a Student Silver Addy.

## AGRICULTURE

**ZFS Ithaca LLC** of Zeeland has purchased a partially developed 435-acre site in Ithaca to serve the agricultural community, including soybean processing, grain, feed ingredients, agronomy products and service, and corn processing.

## ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING

**Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber Inc.** announced the following additions to its Grand Rapids team: **Timothy R. Smith**, staff engineer, structural department; **Timothy J. Swainston**, chemical engineer, environmental services department; **Mark C. Bottorff**, occupational safety and health services technician, environmental services division; **Joshua J. Schroedter**, occupational safety and health services technician; **Robert W. Skipper**, mechanical engineering specialist. Also, the board of directors announced the promotions of the following senior associates: **Michael Berrevoets**, **Adam Meeker** and **Chris Kretovic**. Promoted to associates are **Jason Early**, **Bruce Gillett**, **Juliet Jakobowski Maes**, **Stephanie Jarrett**, **Robert Pomeroy**, **Greg Tkacz** and **Karen Van Drie**.

## AWARDS

**Kent District Library** director **Lance Werner** has been selected as the 2014 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Wayne State University's School of Library and Information



Science.

## BANKING

**Macatawa Bank** of Holland has named **Catherine Dugan** private banking relationship manager in Grand Rapids. Dugan is responsible for managing a portfolio of private banking clients, developing new private banking relationships both inside the bank and within the community and expanding client relationships.

## CONSTRUCTION

**C.D. Barnes Construction** announced it has been selected general contractor for construction of **Fresenius Medical Care** in Grand Rapids. The construction firm will renovate about 9,300 square feet of space at the corner of Callander Drive and 43rd Street. It will consist of 16 dialysis stations, three private treatment rooms, office space, nurse's station, staff lounge, locker area and conference room. The project will take about three months to complete.

**Miller-Davis Co.** announced the addition of **Josh Seiler**, safety coordinator.

**Triangle Associates Inc.** has named **James D. Conner** vice president of business development.

## FOUNDATIONS

**Danielle Mason Anderson**, a principal in the Kalamazoo office of Miller Canfield, has been elected chair of the board of directors of the **Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home Foundation**, a nonprofit that supports the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home, which provides juvenile offenders safety, care and training to help reduce recidivism through positive enforcement.

## GRANTS

**Grand Rapids Public Museum** announced it has received a \$49,200 planning grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Great Lakes Stewardship Program. The grant will be used to create a Youth Watershed Design Team composed of high school students who will develop concepts for educational programs and a museum exhibition focused on watersheds.

**Guiding Light Mission** has received a \$5,000 grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation for its shelter and meal programs.

## HEALTH

**Seth W. Wolk**, M.D., MHSA, has been named president of **Spectrum Health Medical Group**.

## LEGAL

**Cooley Law School** of Lansing associate dean **Joan P. Vestrand** was honored as a Leader in the Law by Michigan Lawyers Weekly. The 2014 Leaders in the Law class included five Cooley graduates or board members, including board member **Thomas Crammer**, who was selected Lawyer of the Year.

**James L. Scott**, a partner at **Warner Norcross & Judd LLP**, has been chosen by Client Choice as winner of its Intellectual Property – Trademarks category in Michigan. Scott was recognized for his excellence in client service by Client Choice, which gathered reviews and conducted independent research from general counsels to compile the ranking.

## LOGISTICS

**Classic Transportation & Warehousing** announced the promotion of **Rod Cooper** to president.

## NONPROFITS

**First Tee of West Michigan** announced **Kelly Leamon-McLaughlin** has been added to its board of directors. McLaughlin will work with directors to ensure First Tee provides young people with the highest degree of life skills instruction through its educational programs.

**Mary Sumners** has joined **Parrish Consulting** as senior project manager.

The **United Methodist Community House** board of directors has appointed **Terry McCarthy**, **Peggy Helsel** and **Kelechi Adibe** to three-year terms.

**West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology** has appointed **Nathan Salazar** adult career training program director.

## REAL ESTATE

**Signature Associates** announced former intern **Cameron Timmer** has become a sales associate specializing in industrial brokerage for the West Michigan team. Timmer focuses on representing clients in acquisitions and disposition of industrial properties throughout West Michigan.

## RESTAURANTS

**RedWater Restaurant Group** will open the first of two new restaurants at the Cascade Watermark location April 15. The restaurant, **Cork**, will have a public grand opening June 13 featuring a Patio Party with live music, outdoor bars and access to new dining areas. The second restaurant, **Vintage**, will open June 14. It will feature an expansive wine list, prime steaks and seafood under the direction of Chef **Glenn Forgie**.

## RETAIL

**Cabela's Grandville** recently kicked off its Wildlife Land Management Program with tractor test drives and free land management seminars. The store also offered free professional walleye seminars and boat safety exams using the Holland and Grand Valley flotillas of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Clothing retailer **Gordmans** has opened a store in Norton Shores at Lakeshore Marketplace, 5159 Harvey St. At the grand opening festivities March 28, **Tracie Wickenhauser**, senior vice president of stores, presented a check for \$2,500 to the Mona Shores Public Schools to launch the retailer's Partners in Education fundraising events.

## TECHNOLOGY

The **Geek Group**, a membership organization that provides resources for those working to take their idea from design to prototype to full production in one facility, announced it has received a donation from Autodesk Inc. of more than \$200,000 in 3D design software. Geek Group members now will have access to Autodesk's Building Design and Product Design CAD Suites.