

Thumb Land Conservancy NEWS

November 2, 2020

Ojibwe Word of the Day: Biinjwebinige - “S/he votes”.
Thanks to the Native Circle of Newaygo County.

Indigenous Naming Ceremony **Ode Zibi, Burtchville**

The Blue Water Indigenous Alliance (bwiaph.org) and Thumb Land Conservancy held a public indigenous naming ceremony for our TLC preserves on October 3 at Ode Zibi in Burtchville. Members of the BWIA chose indigenous names for each of the TLC preserves in the languages of their native First Nations members, including Anishinaabemowin, Huron-Wendat, Lenape, and Lakota. The event was very well attended with about 40 people participating.



A few of the participants congregated around the campfire on this cool but sunny late morning before the naming ceremony started.

The indigenous names and meanings for each preserve are as follow:

Bidwell Sanctuary - Chëkhònèsink hìtkwike schind lèkuwake - *Place among hemlock trees on sandy ground where there is sound of waves breaking* – Lenape. A very fitting name for those who have walked the beginnings of the coastal trail. This name was chosen by TLC Director Bill Collins in consultation with BWIA leader Josh Whiting, and dedicated to the work of the Stonefish family who reside on the Sarnia First Nations Reserve in Ontario. Their family traces part of their ancestry to the Lenape of Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

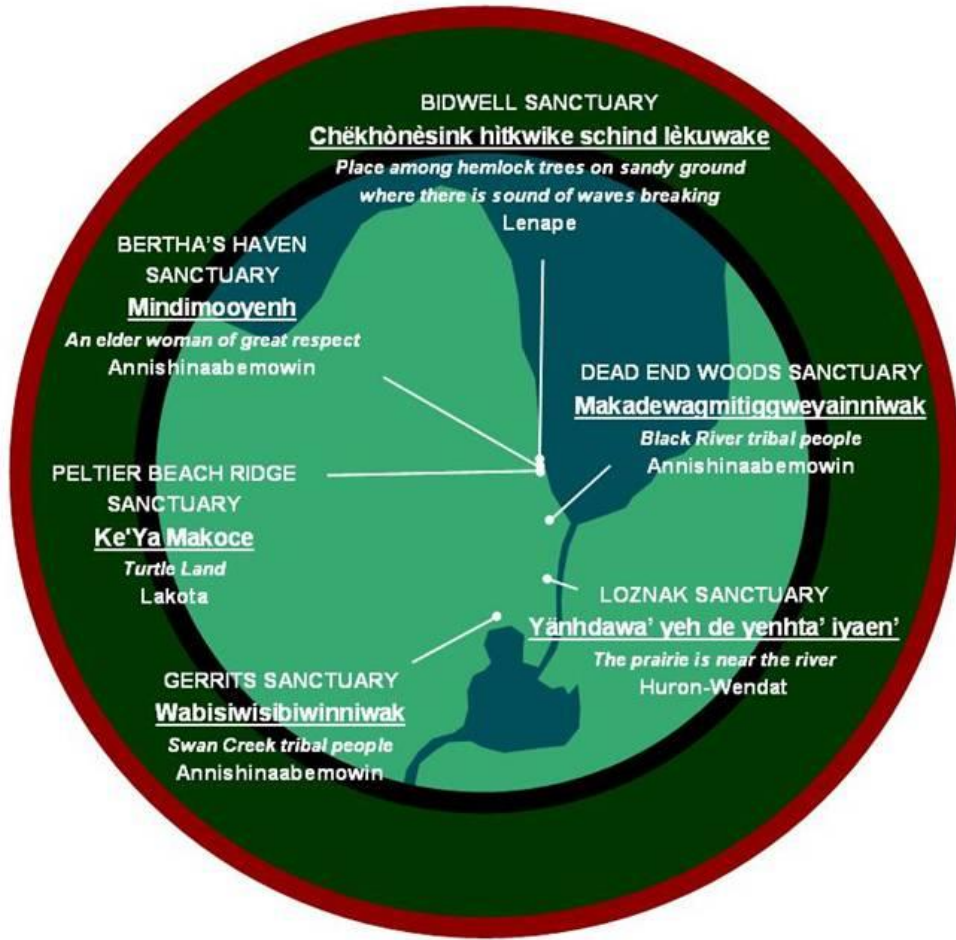
Bertha's Haven Sanctuary – Mindimooyenh - *An elder woman of great respect* – Anishinaabemowin. This name was chosen by BWIA leader Josh Whiting after he read about Bertha Daubendiek, founder of the Michigan Nature Association. Bertha may be smiling somewhere, or busy saving other worlds.

Peltier Beach Ridge Sanctuary - Ke'Ya Makoce - *Turtle Land* – Lakota. The name seems to reference “Turtle Island”, the ancient indigenous name for North America. BWIA member Freda Tabor, who chose this name, said she prayed and this is what came back to her. The land donor, Ray Peltier, might prefer “deer land”, or “apple land” now that he and his wife own McCallum's Orchard and Cider Mill near Jeddo (mccallumsorchard.com), but apparently a higher power has spoken.

Dead End Woods Sanctuary – Makadewagmitiggweyainniwak - *Black River tribal people* – Anishinaabemowin. This name honors the Black River Tribe that lived along the Black River, which is only about a quarter mile south of the Dead End Woods. This name was chosen by BWIA member David Moore of the Native Circle of Newaygo County in west Michigan. David and his brother attended the ceremony at Ode Zibi, along trip for them.

Loznak Sanctuary - Yänhdawa' yeh de yenhta' iyaen' - *The prairie is near the river* - Huron-Wendat. This name was chosen by BWIA member Arakwa Sioui who lives in Quebec but participates remotely with the BWIA. The pronunciation of the name would highly challenge a non-native speaker, but her rendition via smart phone matches the beauty of this little patch of lakeplain prairie.

Gerrits Sanctuary – Wabisiwisibiwinniwak - *Swan Creek tribal people* – Anishinaabemowin. This name honors the Swan Creek Tribe that lived along the Swan Creek, about 3 miles to the east along Anchor Bay at the north end of Lake Saint Clair. This name was chosen by BWIA members Sue Wrobel and Ed Taylor, local Anishinaabemowin language instructors. Sue was featured in our September news article about wild-rice, or Manoomin, on Harsens Island.



Moe of Moe's Corner Deli of Port Huron (moesonline.com) prepared a tasty lunch.



BWIA member John Kennedy, opened the ceremony with a prayer.



Joshua Whiting of the BWIA served as the MC.



Participants stood in a large half-circle for the naming ceremony.



TLC Board Member Dan Rhein, created and presented totems for each preserve and also the preserve map behind him. For the Dead End Woods, Dan painted on a large piece of dead drift wood he found on the beach at Bay City State Park along the Saginaw Bay.



Here Dan Rhein holds a painting he completed just the night before to represent the Bidwell Sanctuary, complete with sand ridges, Hemlock trees, and waves. It was presented to the Stonefish family who is of Lenape ancestry and resides on the Sarnia First Nations Reserve in Ontario.

After the naming ceremony, we visited the Bidwell Sanctuary in Burtchville to walk part of the new Lake Huron coastal trail, now under construction. Visitors learned about some of the natural features that make the beach ridge and swale complex such a unique place.



About half of the gang that joined us for a walk on the new Bidwell Sanctuary. This photo was taken after, at the southeast corner of Bertha's Haven Sanctuary.

By late afternoon, new TLC members Peggy Thorp and Jerry Orlowski wanted to see our Loznak Sanctuary in Marysville while the lakeplain prairie flowers were still in-bloom. The preserve did not disappoint. Being adventurous, they opted for the deluxe hidden history tour which they found equally fascinating.



One of the hundreds of Fringed Gentian still in-flower on the preserve that day.

Thank you and Miigwech to all who participated and made this event a success.

Our thanks especially to TLC Board Member Dan Rhein who saved the day by producing all of the art work he so generously gave away.

Thanks to Theresa Winters of the Cultural Collection of Port Huron for promoting the event.

Thanks to Jeremy Ervin of the Times Herald for covering the event and a good article:
<https://www.thetimesherald.com/story/news/2020/10/01/nature-preserves-named-languages-first-nations-people/3560670001/>

Restoring Local History in Clyde Township

North Street Station, 5200 North Road, North Street

We are gradually making progress on the North Street Station. The TLC was out working on the property on October 10. The structure will soon be ready for a long-overdue paint job. After we finish working on a small part of the roof, we are considering the possibility of exposing the original siding on the main rail station structure which dates back to around 1900. In the meantime, we will start painting the newer structural additions and we still have a lot of clean-up remaining. Look for a new message announcing the date of our next work day. Thank you to all of those who are helping on this property.

Reasons to Vote NO on Trust Fund Proposal 1

I've known Jack Smiley for about 30 years, first through his work with the Detroit Audubon Society and later as the Director of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy. Jack has dedicated his life to nature protection and I trust his opinion. He sent the following in late October regarding Michigan Proposal 20-1:

As details about Proposal 1 continue to emerge, more and more groups and individuals are coming out against it. The Detroit Free Press just came out against it, too, but for a different reason than ours.

The Michigan Land Conservancy recommends a "No" vote on Proposal 1. I encourage you to visit www.MichiganProposal1.com to read about the downsides to Proposal 1.

Proposal 1 is a very complicated Constitutional amendment which will change the Constitutional protections now afforded to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The ballot language is very misleading and is designed to elicit a "yes" vote. It doesn't even hint at the primary result of its passage: funding for land conservation will be decreased for decades to come.

While there are valid reasons for some to be in support, the overriding concern is its negative impact on funding for vital land conservation efforts. There are other significant reasons to oppose Proposal 1 as well, as noted by the Detroit Free Press and others.

There has been a lot of highly misleading information provided about Proposal 1, but what they aren't telling you about Proposal 1 is of greatest concern. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund will not see a penny of additional revenue for decades--perhaps for 30 to 50 years. In the interim, each and every year there will be less money available for protecting important forests, wetlands, parks and wildlife habitat throughout Michigan--which is now the primary purpose of the Trust Fund.

Many people are already voting on this complicated and confusing Constitutional amendment with no idea of what they are voting on. I have heard from several people who have already voted and were dismayed to learn that they had been fooled by the ballot language.

In order to help get the word out, please forward this to five friends and ask them to do the same. Please post the website address to your Facebook page or to other social media.

www.MichiganProposal1.com

Thank you for taking the time to care.

Jack Smiley
President,
Michigan Land Conservancy

Ecology News

Michigan

- Passage of Senate Bill 431 would be a disaster for local communities and set the stage for the largely uncontrolled destruction of natural areas and country solitude across Michigan. A bill to eliminate oversight by local governments over sand, gravel, and other mining operations in their communities was reported by the Michigan Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in late September. Senate Bill 431, sponsored by Senator Adam Hollier (Democrat - Detroit), strips away local governments' already-limited authority over sand and gravel mining operations and location, creating a one-size-fits-all statewide process without addressing concerns around groundwater contamination, noise pollution, or whether the remediation plan is sufficient to restore the site after the mining company is done with it. The Michigan Township Association testified again in opposition to the elimination of fair and sensible oversight by local governments over major mining operations that could have significant and lasting impacts for decades to come in their communities. Senate Bill 431 does not provide sufficient safeguards for residents to ensure adequate protections, especially when proposed operations are situated in a residential area, and it precludes a municipality from negotiating important issues regarding haul routes, hours of operation, or the ability to mitigate other negative impacts to the environment that could create health hazards. The bill will next be considered by the full Senate. The Michigan Township Association encourages everyone to contact their State senator to vote no on this unnecessary bill and help keep local communities' voices present on issues impacting Michigan residents. Read Michigan Township Association Executive Director Neil Sheridan's statement on the bill passage at this link.

https://www.michigantownships.org/press_release.asp?tpt=nv&nid=2862

[https://legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(e5p0rr3w2txreexruvdhlog5\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2019-SB-0431](https://legislature.mi.gov/(S(e5p0rr3w2txreexruvdhlog5))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2019-SB-0431)

US

- Under the Trump administration, the US Forest Service just opened over half of southeast Alaska to road construction and logging throughout most of the Tongass National Forest, which had previously protected one of the world's largest temperate rainforests.
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/10/29/2020-23984/special-areas-roadless-area-conservation-national-forest-system-lands-in-alaska>
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2020/10/28/trump-tongass-national-forest-alaska/>
- Featured in our last news, the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska is far from dead. This article details the history and describes how tenuous and political the whole thing is.
<https://www.outsideonline.com/2418304/pebble-mine-tapes-election-explainer>
- Under the Trump administration, the US Fish and Wildlife Service just expanded hunting and fishing on 2.3 million acres in 147 wildlife refuges and national fish hatcheries across the United States. The rule authorizes damaging practices like the use of lead ammunition, just as eagles and other wildlife at the top of the food chain have made a come-back.
<https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/lawsuit-launched-stop-damaging-hunting-practices-killing-endangered-wildlife-refuges-2020-10-27/>
- Under the Trump administration, the US Fish and Wildlife Service just removed Gray wolves, from the Endangered Species list across the lower 48 states. But to be fair, the Obama

administration proposed this also. The devil is always in the details as to how this will play-out left to only the states, but the outlook is not good.

<https://www.npr.org/2020/10/29/929095979/gray-wolves-to-be-removed-from-endangered-species-list>

- A regulatory rush by the Trump administration to deregulate. Cabinet departments are scrambling to finish dozens of new rules affecting millions of Americans, including allowing “bomb trains” to pass through our communities.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/16/us/politics/regulatory-rush-federal-agencies-trump.html>
- Experts to Western States: It’s time to finally fight wildfires with more fire. Yes. Even Metallica said this back in the 90’s.
<https://www.npr.org/2020/10/27/927901189/experts-to-western-states-time-to-finally-fight-wildfires-with-more-fire>
- The patchwork of burnt lands, or pyro-diversity, that once characterized fire-prone forests of the West is disappearing and taking wildlife with it.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2020/09/wests-wildfires-are-killing-off-its-wildlife/616549/>
- A California study reveals the staggering scale of plastic microfiber pollution from synthetic clothing in our environment. The more we look, this issue just keeps getting worse.
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/groundbreaking-study-finds-13-3-quadrillion-plastic-fibers-in-california-s-environment/ar-BB1a5IMv>
- The DTE Demille Solar Farm south of Lapeer, Michigan covers over 250 acres with solar panels. That’s good for the approximately 9,000 homes served, but you might wonder how the loss of so much farm land can be justified. It can’t really, and they at least ought to try growing some crop suited to the shade. Here’s an article about a woman who is raising sheep on just such a solar farm and it’s working great for all involved.
<https://www.npr.org/2020/10/09/919225272/how-to-have-your-solar-farm-and-keep-your-regular-farm-too>
- At least seven charged in a million-dollar flying squirrel trafficking scheme. What is the world coming to? We really need to get a handle on wildlife trade.
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/at-least-seven-charged-in-dollar1-million-flying-squirrel-trafficking-scheme/ar-BB1adoJQ?ocid=BingNews>

Across The Pond

- Wolves should be reintroduced to Britain as deer are destroying the woodlands, just like here in Michigan. The rest of this article may be debated.
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/17/monty-don-says-wolves-should-reintroduced-britain-deer-destroying/>
- Boris Johnson and his siblings gave their father beavers for his birthday. They will help re-wild his Exmoor Estate, a growing trend in Britain.
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/16/boris-johnsons-birthday-present-father-stanley-revealed-beavers/>

- An urban birdwatching group is breaking down stereotypes. For many of us, our time spent in nature is a luxury that we should never take for granted.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/urban-birdwatching-group-breaking-stereotypes/>

World

- The growing use of nitrogen fertilizers in the production of food worldwide is increasing atmospheric concentrations of nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide that remains in the atmosphere for more than 100 years.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/10/201007123131.htm>

- A coronavirus vaccine could kill half a million sharks. You might want to check the ingredients of your cosmetics and other products also.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/10/10/922398246/a-coronavirus-vaccine-could-kill-half-a-million-sharks-conservationists-warn>

TLC Membership

With your membership, the TLC is better enabled to protect important natural areas in our region. We offer three membership levels as shown below: Individual \$25, Family \$30, and Business \$100. Members will receive our e-mail news. Some of you are members based on your previous donations, volunteer efforts, or other help. You can also make donations in honor or memory of someone or something. For donations of \$100 or more, your name will be listed on our web site. For larger donations, please contact us for details. You may print and complete the form below. Make checks payable to "Thumb Land Conservancy". Mail checks and forms to: Thumb Land Conservancy, 4975 Maple Valley Road, Marlette, Michigan 48453

To download and print the membership form, click [HERE](#).

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