

# Michigan Nature Association Estivant Pines Nature Sanctuary



## Sanctuary at a Glance:

**Location:** Keweenaw County

**Size:** 570.5 acres

**History:** Five parcels acquired from 1973-2019

## About MNA:

The Michigan Nature Association is a nonprofit conservation organization working to protect Michigan's rare, threatened and endangered species by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

Established in 1952, MNA's members, donors, and volunteers have built a remarkable network of more than 180 nature sanctuaries across the state – the largest network of natural areas established and maintained by a nonprofit conservation organization in Michigan.



## Michigan Nature Association

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Photo: Kyle Rokos

One of MNA's most popular sanctuaries, Estivant Pines Nature Sanctuary was originally part of a 2,400-acre tract of land owned by Edward Estivant of Paris, who sold it to Calumet and Hecla Mining Company in 1947. The tract was sold to Universal Oil in 1968, and the area was threatened when Universal Oil cut down 300 acres of forest nearby and began plans for future logging. MNA led a three-year statewide fundraising campaign to purchase 200 acres of Estivant Pines from Universal Oil in 1973. Concerned citizens from the "Save The Pines" committee helped in the fundraising that led to this initial acquisition. Four additional acquisitions occurring between 1989 and 2019 have expanded the 570.5 acre sanctuary, which protects one of the last old-growth white pine stands in Michigan.

Two loop trails bring visitors through the towering pines and forest. The 1 mile Cathedral Grove loop passes some of the largest and oldest giant white pines, growing more than 125 feet tall and dating back 500 years. Named after MNA's founder, the 1.2 mile Bertha Daubendiek trail winds through groves of large pine, maple, and oak. One pine on this loop was determined to have germinated around 1695 after a wildfire swept the ridge. The two trails intersect and can be completed as a 2.5 mile hike.

More than 85 bird species inhabit the old-growth forest, including woodpeckers, hawks, and red crossbills. Despite thin soil and boreal climate, several wildflowers grow, such as asters, clintonia, baneberry, and violets. A wide variety of ferns, like maidenhair, spleenwort, and holly fern, blanket the forest floor.

Thanks to the dedication and perseverance of Michigan's residents, Estivant Pines will be protected and enjoyed forever.

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## The broad-winged hawk

The broad-winged hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) migrates through Estivant Pines in high numbers. These birds spend most of their time under the forest canopy, preying on small animals near the forest floor. Habitat destruction is the biggest threat to the broad-winged hawk, as they prefer to build nests far from human activity, but its population is still abundant and stable throughout the U.S. and Canada. The broad-winged hawks migrate from the north to South America every fall in giant flocks, sometimes containing thousands of birds.



Photo: Michael Shupe

## Helping the environment

Old-growth forests like Estivant Pines are crucial to the health of our environment. Serving as genetic reservoirs, old-growth forests preserve greater species diversity not found in newly-developed forests. They provide a unique habitat, sheltering species such as hawks, owls, and pine marten that prefer mature forest habitat. Old-growth forests also store large amounts of carbon, so the destruction of these habitats releases greenhouse gases that can contribute to global climate change.

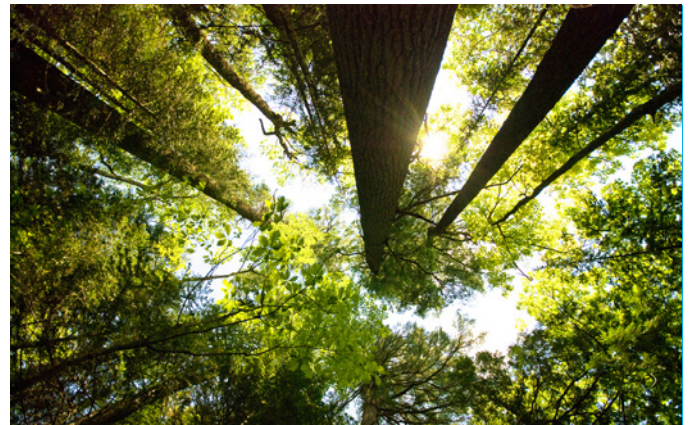


Photo: Kyle Rokos

## Planning Your Visit:

Any time of year is a wonderful time to see the pines! The other trees at the sanctuary turn beautiful colors in the fall, providing a lovely backdrop.

## How To Get There

The sanctuary is located in Keweenaw County. Follow US 41 east through Copper Harbor. From US 41, turn right onto 2nd Street at the Community Center and sign for Manganese Lake. Follow 2nd Street (also called Manganese Road) for 1.2 miles and then turn left onto Clark Mine Road. Travel 1.2 miles and turn right onto Burma Road. Travel another .5 miles on Burma Rd. to the trailhead and parking area.

For additional information, contact the MNA office at (866) 223-2231.



Sanctuary Map