

Michigan Nature Association Genevieve Casey Nature Sanctuary



Sanctuary at a Glance:

Location: Oceana County

Size: 53.49 acres

History: 23.49 acres acquired in 2000, 30 acres acquired in 2011

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 170 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: Brad Hyde

The first parcel of this sanctuary was acquired in 2000, when the MNA purchased 23.49 acres from Genevieve Casey. The Casey family had owned the property for nearly 40 years prior to MNA's purchase. The sanctuary was later dedicated to her after she made a large donation to MNA, offsetting part of the original purchase price. An additional 30 acres were acquired in 2011 on the west side of the sanctuary.

The sanctuary was once owned by U.S. Senator and Secretary of State Daniel Webster, who received the land in a deed from former President James Buchanan. The road adjacent to the sanctuary is now named in honor of Buchanan. There are two well-marked trails in the sanctuary, one roughly a mile long, and the other about a half mile.

Much of the sanctuary currently contains an oak-pine barrens community, which contains species associated with both prairie and forest ecosystems, creating a diverse wildlife habitat. Prior to settlement, this sanctuary was likely mesic-northern forest. A pine grove lying to the south of the barrens was planted nearly 150 years ago by Samuel Beam, who settled and farmed in the area. Black and red oak also inhabit the rolling topography of the sanctuary.

With the recent addition that has more than doubled the size of the sanctuary, visitors will enjoy seeing a varying habitat and a clean stream system teeming with life at Genevieve Casey.

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The pink lady's slipper

In the eastern U.S. to northern Canada, the pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) can be found in environments ranging from coastal plains to mountaintops. It requires acidic soil and prefers partial shade and well-drained slopes. The sepals and petals of the pink lady's slipper tend to be yellow-brown or maroon-colored, with a large pouch that is usually pink. The plant shares a special relationship with symbiotic fungi, taking nutrients from them that are essential for growth.



Photo: Jeremy Emmi

New additions to Genevieve Casey in 2011

The 2011 addition to Genevieve Casey Nature Sanctuary added frontage on the meandering Bender Creek and the adjoining floodplain. The acquisition more than doubled the size of the sanctuary and provides an effective buffer to the sensitive stream system. The creek flows into Stony Lake and eventually onto Lake Michigan. Many sensitive freshwater species live within the creek, including trout, sculpin, and stickleback.



Photo: Brad Hyde

Planning Your Visit:

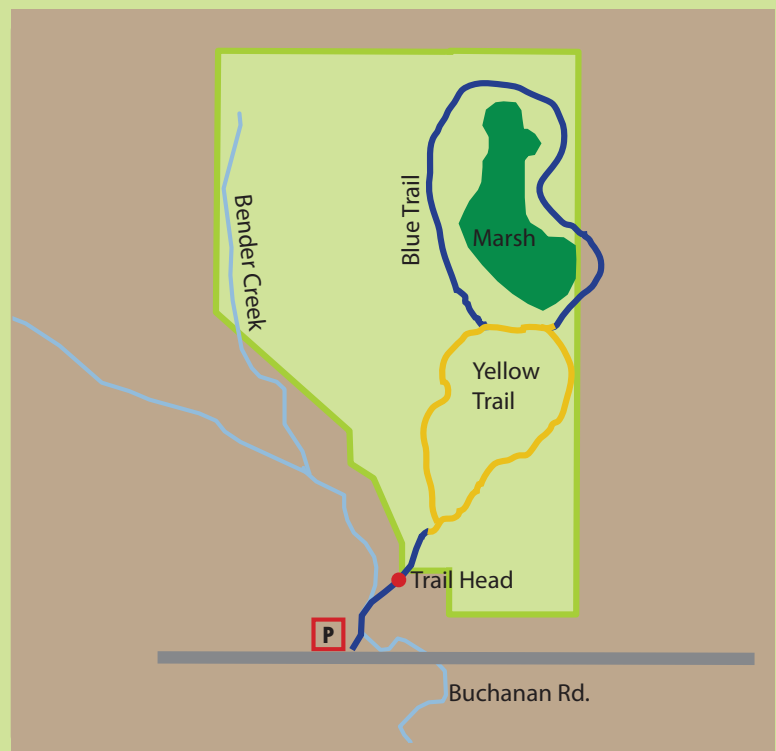
There are two well-marked trails in the sanctuary, one roughly a mile long, and the other about a half-mile long.

Please note that fishing is not permitted within the nature sanctuary.

How To Get There

The sanctuary is located in Oceana County, off Buchanan Rd. in Shelby, MI.

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



Sanctuary Map