

**APPLICATION FORM**  
**Return completed form to: [steve.keto@wmich.edu](mailto:steve.keto@wmich.edu)**

The Review Panel established under the Governance Charter will approve, seek clarification and/or modifications, or reject proposals based on its judgement as to whether or not the proposed activities are fully consistent with the above goals and use restrictions. An appeal process is available. If your activity or project is approved, you will be expected to provide a brief report each year on the progress of your educational, research and/or restoration activities and a final report when you complete the research. These reports will be posted on the Asylum Lake website.

This application form has two main purposes. One is educational: to encourage you to consider the various dimensions of your project as they relate to the overall goals and restrictions on the use of the Preserve. The other is to help the Review Panel identify potential problems. If problems are identified, the Panel will seek to work with the proposer to resolve them in an expeditious manner.

Some of the questions included in the form may not apply to your project. Simply indicate N/A (not applicable) if that is the case. In responding to questions that do apply, a brief response with your best estimate of the actions/impacts involved will be fine. If additional information is needed, the Review Panel will ask for it.

Information on management plans/policies adopted by the Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council, other ongoing research and restoration efforts at the Preserve, and the basic documents establishing the Preserve and its governance structure are available on the Asylum Lake Web Page: [www.wmich.edu/asylumlake](http://www.wmich.edu/asylumlake).

**Application to use Asylum Lake Preserve for Research, Restoration, Teaching, and/or other Educational Activities**

**Project Leaders:**

**Principal Investigator(s)/Instructor**

Shaana Way

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**Department or Institutional Affiliation:**

## Environmental and Sustainability Studies

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**Project Summary and Relationship (if any) to Other Projects:**

Title of Course/Project/Activity: WMU Apiary Project

This project is focused primarily on:

☐ Teaching    ☐ Research    ☒ Other (describe)

Student and community education (ongoing hive management, workshops, and education)

**Brief description of project/course:**

In the spring of 2013, two students were awarded a Student Sustainability Grant to purchase the equipment, professional mentorship, and bees necessary to create an apiary and study these imperiled pollinators on Western Michigan University (WMU) property. The apiary consists of eight hives. At the time, the best location for the apiary was at Colony Farm Orchard, which is where the bees currently reside. Pending expansion of the Business, Technology, and Research (BTR) Park into the Colony Farm Orchard, the apiary must be relocated. The students managing the apiary, now called the WMU Apiary Project, propose to relocate the hives (and bees) to a new location that meets the goals and requirements of the apiary.

Asylum Lake is one of several locations on WMU grounds being considered for the relocation. Each of the locations has advantages and disadvantages and we would like to present to the administration the prospect, with your endorsement, for how the WMU Asylum Lake Preserve would make a viable site for the continued programming, research, and activities associated with the Apiary Project.

Admittedly, we are unable to fully address each of the questions posed in this request form. Variables such as budget, type of fencing, who will be responsible for incurred costs, and timing are variables that will require more time in meetings and negotiations to confirm.

We very much appreciate your consideration of this project at the Asylum Lake Preserve and would be delighted to engage in further dialogue and discussion if there is potential for this collaboration and partnership. Please respond to us at your earliest convenience with any thoughts, comments, questions, or concerns. We are saddened to have to move the apiary away from Colony Farm Orchard. As our nearest neighbor, we see many opportunities with Asylum Lake Preserve to continue and advance our goals to provide valuable experiences to our students, faculty, staff, and the community, all while preserving and enhancing the ecosystem services of the local preserve.

**What part of the property do you wish to use? What access/egress will be needed?**

Location to be determined based on recommendations and preferences from Steve Keto and other Asylum Lake Council members. Preferred location would be relatively close to the Gibbs House, where supplies could be stored and students and community members could meet before and after.

**Dates you expect to begin and complete your field work/activity:**

Prefer to move existing apiary located at Colony Farm Orchard to a location in Asylum Lake during the fall of 2016.

**How will your project be funded?**

The project was initially funded through a WMU Student Sustainability Grant. Ongoing support has been self-sufficient through the selling of honey and other byproducts that are sold to the community.

**What percentage of the necessary funding for your project is assured?**

The management of the hives is 100% funded through ongoing programming through the student group that manages the bees. Bob Miller, WMU Associate Vice President for Community Outreach, has claimed that his office would cover the expenses of moving the bees. It is unclear at this time if this would also include the expense of fencing around a footprint to protect the bees and the educational signage that would be installed as well.

**Does your requested activity relate to other projects that have taken or are taking place on the Asylum Lake Preserve? (Refer to [www.wmich.edu/asylumlake/research](http://www.wmich.edu/asylumlake/research)) If so, describe them and how they relate to your project.**

The WMU Apiary Project would make an ideal addition to the Current Events, Research, and Field Courses that are represented at Asylum Lake Preserve. Our resources list provides a nice overview of our project and our past accomplishments and contributions to the students, the community, and WMU.

**Will your project have any potential impacts on nearby habitats, facilities or projects? If so, please describe**

We hope that this project will enhance nearby habitat and projects.

**Project Support Needs, Equipment Required, and Numbers of People Involved:**

**Will you require support from Landscape Services, e.g., mowing a path or clearing some underbrush? If so, please describe.**

The answer depends to this questions depends on the ideal location for the apiary. Ideally, the move would not require any clearing of vegetation. If a pathway is deemed to be the preferred way to access the apiary (alternative to dispersed foot traffic) we will request and appreciate assistance from Landscape Services.

**Will you need to bring motorized vehicles onto the property? If so, what kind, for what**

**purpose, and how often? Which entrances will you use? Will you need to go off of existing roads and/or paths?**

Motorized vehicles will not required for programming and education. Initial move and fence install may be supported with a vehicle if possible.

**What are your parking needs, if any?**

Parking needs include seasonal workshops, hive maintenance, and educational opportunities. Asylum Lake parking is sufficient in designated areas. The Gibbs House provides a viable alternative parking and meeting location for activity briefing and reflection.

**Will you need to bring any mobile power sources onto the property? If so, describe them, their noise levels, and when, where, and how long they will be used.**

No

**Will you need to bring any chemicals, solvents, or toxic materials onto the property? If so, describe them and the protective measures planned.**

No

**How many people will be entering the property at once? What time of day? For how long? Which entrance will you use?**

Parkview Entrance by Gibbs House

**Will they be staying on the trails or dispersing?**

All visitors and guests will stay on designated trails. I can imagine a short spur trail that branches off of the main trail to access the apiary. If a dispersed strategy is preferred for foot traffic, we would be happy to oblige and help to reduce compaction and trampling of vegetation.

**Will they be collecting specimens and/or taking samples?**

The only specimens and sampling is limited to the bees and the products they produce (honey, wax, etc.)

**What is the nature of the collection and/or sampling?**

The only specimens and sampling is limited to the bees and the products they produce (honey, wax, etc.)

**Have you defined the minimum and maximum number of specimens/samples necessary? If so, please describe.**

NA

**Will your collection/sampling leave a visible sign? If it is feasible to return specimens/samples**

**will you do so?**

NO

**Project Impacts and Potential Impacts on the Preserve:**

**Does your research necessitate a change or disturbance of the landscape, the construction of any structures, or the installation of posts, well heads or pipes, fences, plastic covers or barriers, or markers? If so, please describe.**

We anticipate the need to construct a chain link or otherwise protective fence that blends into the environment to protect the Apiary from public and vice versa. We anticipate we will require signage that is educational and serves as a caution to anyone who chooses to avoid an area with honey bees.

**What is the size or area and the visibility of the change, disturbance, structure, or other objects?**

The number of hives is anticipated to be 8-10. The number of hives has varied over the last few years due to the severity of the winter influencing the survival rate of the apiaries over winter. This number of hives has been ideal for our annual programming, education, and product marketing that has helped to share the educational message of our activities and product.

The fenced footprint for the hives is estimated to be approximately 8x8 feet square to provide a safe and comfortable buffer zone around the apiary. We are open to adjusting this footprint if desired. Signage will be free standing, and on the fence to provide caution, contact info, and educational information and resources about the Apiary Project.

**Is the change, disturbance, structure, or object relatively permanent? (lasting 5 or more years)**

NO

**If the change or disturbance is temporary, will it be removed, decompose or regrow? Please describe how and by when.**

The Apiary can be easily removed with advanced planning as needed.

**Will there be a cost for the removal of the structure or object and/or restoration of the site?**

There will be a cost for the installation and removal of the protective fencing and signage. We are currently unaware of how much this expense will be. We are currently meeting and negotiating with WMU administrators to determine how much of this cost and responsibility they are going to cover.

**Is that cost included in your proposal?**

NO, not yet. We are also working with the Office for Sustainability to determine if they can support this transition or we may also look into the prospect of a Student Sustainability Grant in fall of 2016.

**Please describe how your research or educational activities help maintain and/or support the enhancement of the preserve as defined in the Protective Agreement and the Management plans adopted for the Preserve. (Refer to: [www.wmich.edu/asylumlake/Asylum Lake Management Council.htm](http://www.wmich.edu/asylumlake/Asylum Lake Management Council.htm))**

II. Statement of Conservation Purposes:

1. Promote Ecosystem Integrity and Natural Aesthetics  
The Apiary supports pollination and ecosystem services on the property.
2. Ensure Passive Recreation  
The Apiary supports pollination and ecosystem services on the property.
3. Support Research and Education  
See resources below for how the Apiary has and will continue to support research and education on the property.

Resources:

**WMU students create apiary, study the imperiled honeybee** -[Link here](#)-

BY PAULA M. DAVIS

DECEMBER 22, 2014 | WMU NEWS

**Western Michigan University group installs hives as part of research into preventing bee deaths** M-Live article -[Link here](#)-

By Erin Gignac | [egignac@mlive.com](mailto:egignac@mlive.com)

Email the author | Follow on Twitter

on May 27, 2013 at 7:30 AM, updated June 11, 2013 at 5:05 PM

**Western Michigan University encourages research with Student Sustainability Grant** Western Herald article -[Link here](#)-