

History of Loda Lake

The modern-day story of the Loda Lake area begins with a vast virgin pine forest "where trees 54 inches in diameter at the base towered to a height of sixty feet." This timber was harvested just before the turn of the century by the Pere Marquette Railroad. Shortly thereafter, the land came into the hands of the Hanson family, railroad stockholders. The Hanson's felt the land, now stripped of timber and strewn with decaying pine logs, was worthless. However, a family friend, Thomas E. Hunt felt otherwise and made an offer to farm the land. The challenge was accepted, and thus Bass Lake Farm came to be.

Mr. Hunt was a pioneer in scientific farming. From 1909 to 1916, he farmed the land using methods to continually replace soil nutrients lost during farming. The farm thrived under his care. Unfortunately, health concerns forced his family to relocate and the farm fell into "disrepair and neglect" under new tenants. Finally, the land was declared "sub-marginal" by the Department of Agriculture who purchased the land for \$3 per acre and made part of the Manistee National Forest.

In 1937, the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan and the local Newaygo County Chapter suggested the need for a wildflower refuge. It was finally designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a Wildflower Sanctuary on Dec. 15, 1949. A cooperative agreement was signed between the Forest and the Garden Clubs to maintain the Sanctuary. Efforts sponsored by the Garden Clubs include the initial development of trails and trail guides; hiring botanist Clayton Bazuin who identified 238 plant species; placement of picnic tables, grills, and benches; replanting dwindling species; and maintenance of a visitors log. Modern use of the area includes expansion of native plant restoration.

Thus goes the story of the establishment of the only wildflower sanctuary in a National Forest, a project supported both financially and botanically by the Federated Garden Clubs for now over sixty years.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Eastern Region

HURON-MANISTEE NATIONAL FORESTS

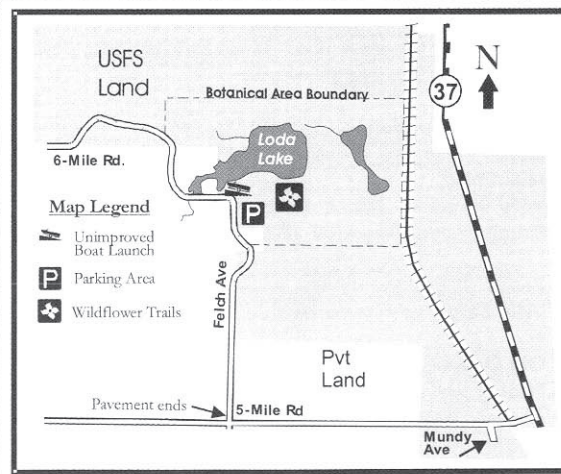
www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/hmindex.htm

Baldwin Ranger Station

650 N. Michigan Ave.
Baldwin, MI 49304
Phone: (231) 745-4631
TTY: (231) 745-8297

Help Loda Lake plants flourish; please do not pick, dig, or remove any plants from this area. If you are interested in volunteering with the care, operation, or native plant rescue programs at Loda Lake, please call the Baldwin Office at 231-745-4631.

For additional historical and cultural information about Loda Lake, visit our website!



Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary is located on the west side of Michigan, north of Grand Rapids. Follow Hwy M-37 approx 6.8 miles north of White Cloud. Turn west onto 5-Mile Road and travel west to the intersection with Felch Ave. Turn north on Felch (gravel) to the parking lot entrance road.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Eastern Region

Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary

"Witness the Wonder of Wildflowers"

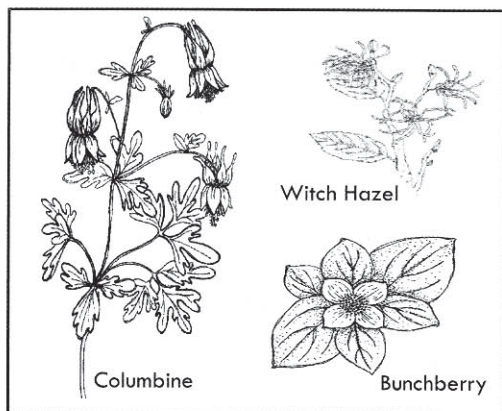
*"Caring for the Land,
Serving People"*



"A sample of wildflower plants, their composition and natural habitats that once covered much of the area of Michigan should be restored and perpetuated for future generations. It is therefore proposed to set aside a 72 acre tract of land surrounding Loda Lake in the northern part of Newaygo County for this purpose. This area should be preserved and be allowed to exist without human interference or artificial development, except for very minimum essentials..." US Forest Service, 1949.

Huron-Manistee National Forests

- 1 Bracken Fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*)
Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) closer to outhouse S
False Solomon's Seal (*Smilacina racemosa*) E,S
Hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*) base of oak E
*Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) invasive E
Maple-leaved Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) S
White Oak (*Quercus alba*)
*White Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*) invasive S
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- 2 Wild Lily of the Valley (*Maianthemum canadense*) S
Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*) E
Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
Juneberry (*Amelanchier* sp.) E



- 3 Black Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia bacata*) E,S
Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) E
Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) E
Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- 4 Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*) S
Pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*) S
Starflower (*Trientalis borealis*) E
Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) young tree
- 5 White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)
Sweetfern (*Comptonia peregrina*) not a true fern S,F
- 6 Pink Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) E
Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) E
Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) E
Bigtooth Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)
Black Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia bacata*) E,S
- 7 Starflower (*Trientalis borealis*) E
Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) E
Wild Lily of the Valley (*Maianthemum canadense*) S
Juneberry (*Amelanchier* sp.) E

Pink Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) opposite post E

- 8 Trailing Arbutus (*Epigaea repens*) left of post E
Blue Bead Lily (*Clintonia borealis*) right of post E,S
Swamp Dewberry (*Rubus hispida*) S
Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*) S
Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) E
- 9 Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)
Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)
Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
Cattails (*Typha latifolia*)
Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*) S
Tufted Loosestrife (*Lysimachia thyrsiflora*) E
- 10 Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) E
Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)
Sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*) S
- 11 Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) E
Indian Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*) S,F
Juneberry (*Amelanchier* sp.) E

12 North side of trail:

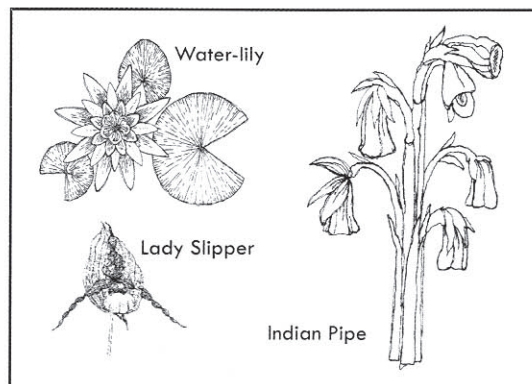
Marsh Bellflower (*Campanula aparinoides*) S
Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*) S
Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) S
Marsh Fern (*Thelypteris palustris*)
Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)
Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)

South side of trail:

Mountain-holly (*Nemopanthus mucronata*)
Tree clubmoss (*Lycopodium dendroideum*)
Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium paniculatum*) S

In water:

Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) S,F
Fragrant Waterlily-white (*Nymphaea odorata*) S,F



12A (At base of post):

Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) by bench S
Swamp Dewberry (*Rubus hispida*) S
Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*) S
Cattails (*Typha latifolia*)
Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)

- 13 White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)
Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

- 14 Swamp Dewberry (*Rubus hispida*) S
Starflower (*Trientalis borealis*) E
Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) E
Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) E
Tree clubmoss (*Lycopodium dendroideum*)

- 15 Sedge (*Carex stricta*)
Cattails (*Typha latifolia*)
Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) E
Mountain-holly (*Nemopanthus mucronata*)

- 16 Grove of White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)
Red Maple seedlings (*Acer rubrum*)
Witch-Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

- 17 Bigtooth Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)
Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) E
Black Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia bacata*) E, S

- 18 Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*) S
Willow (*Salix* sp.) shrubs - North side of boardwalk
Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
Tag Alder (*Alnus rugosa*)

- 19 Poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*)
North side of boardwalk - Do not touch
Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*)
South side of boardwalk on East side of bench
Cattails (*Typha latifolia*)
Tag Alder (*Alnus rugosa*)
Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)
Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)

- 20 Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) E
Grove of Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)
Black Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia bacata*) E,S
Starflower (*Trientalis borealis*) E

- 21 Black Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia bacata*) E,S
Hard-stem Bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*)
Swamp Dewberry (*Rubus hispida*) S
Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) S
*Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) invasive
*Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

In Water:

Bullhead Waterlily-yellow (*Nuphar variegatum*) E,S,F
Fragrant Waterlily-white (*Nymphaea odorata*) S,F

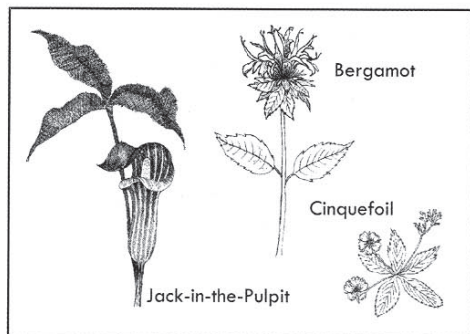
- 22 Observe both sides of trail
Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) S,F
Yellow violet (*Viola pubescens*) E
Northern White Violet (*Viola petatum*) E
Large Leaved Aster (*Aster macrophyllus*) S,F
Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema sp.*) E,S
Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) S,F
Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)
Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*)
Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)

- 23 Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) tree, 100+ years old.

- 24 Lady Fern (*Anhyrium filix-femina*)
Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) S,F
Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) E

- 25 Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
White Oak (*Quercus alba*)
Starflower (*Trientalis borealis*) E
Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) E

- 26 Blackberries (*Rubus allegheniensis*) S
Common Cinquefoil (*Potentilla simplex*) E,S
Sweetfern (*Comptonia peregrina*) not a true fern S,F

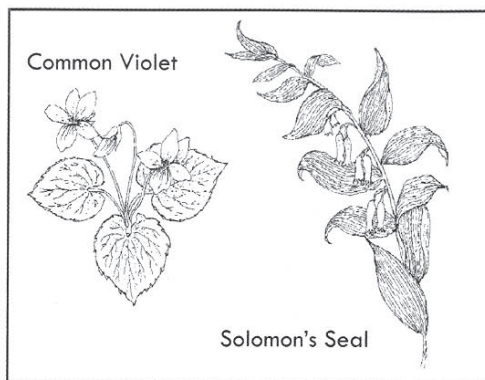


- 27 Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*) plantation
Wild Lily of the Valley (*Maianthemum canadense*) S
Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*) S

- 28 Wild Lily of the Valley (*Maianthemum canadense*) S
Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*)
Spinulose Wood Fern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*)
Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) saplings

- 29 Swamp Dewberry (*Rubus hispidus*) S
Cow Vetch (*Vicia cracca*) E, S
Bladder Campion (*Silene cucubalus*) E,S
Evening Lychnis (*Lychnis alba*) S,F
Wild Basil (*Satureja vulgaris*) S,F
Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*) S,F
Bedstraw (*Galium sp.*) S

- 30 Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) young trees
Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*) S
Raspberry (*Rubus ideaus*) S
Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) S



- 31 Lilacs (*Syring vulgaris*) shrub introduced
in background between 31 and 32. E
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
White Oak (*Quercus alba*) large tree opposite post
White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)

- 32 Old barn foundation
Sumac (*Rhus sp.*) growing in Southeast corner of
foundation
Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) S,F
Rough-fruited Cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*)

- 33 Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) large trees
Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) S,F

- 34 Old Orchard - Large area
*Hoary Alyssum (*Berteroa incana*) invasive S,F
Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) S
Apple (*Malus pumila*)
Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*) S
Sweet everlasting (*Gnaphalium obtusifolium*) S,F
British Soldiers Lichen E,S,F
Sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) S,F
Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*) S

35 Turn Right Here.

(Backtrack to here after viewing post 36)
Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) seedlings
*Common St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*) invasive S,F

- 36 Birdsfoot Violets (*Viola pedata*) in open glade E
Turn back to post 35 and continue on main trail

- 37 Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*) grove
This species established thickly in many areas following
widespread clearcutting and slash burning early in the 1900's.
Many of these birch stands are now nearing the end of their
natural life span and the trees are dying and falling to the
ground.

- 38 Ground Pine, Tree Clubmoss (*Lycopodium obscurum*) F
White Lettuce (*Prenanthes alba*) S,F
Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*) E
Downy Yellow Violet (*Viola pubescens*) E
Twisted-stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*) E

- 39 Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium paniculatum*) S
Trailing Arbutus (*Epigaea repens*) E
Common Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) E,S
*White Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*) invasive S
Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*) S

- 40 Common Clubmoss (*Lycopodium clavatum*)
Groundcedar (*Diphasiastrum complanatum*)
Sweetfern (*Comptonia peregrina*) not a true fern

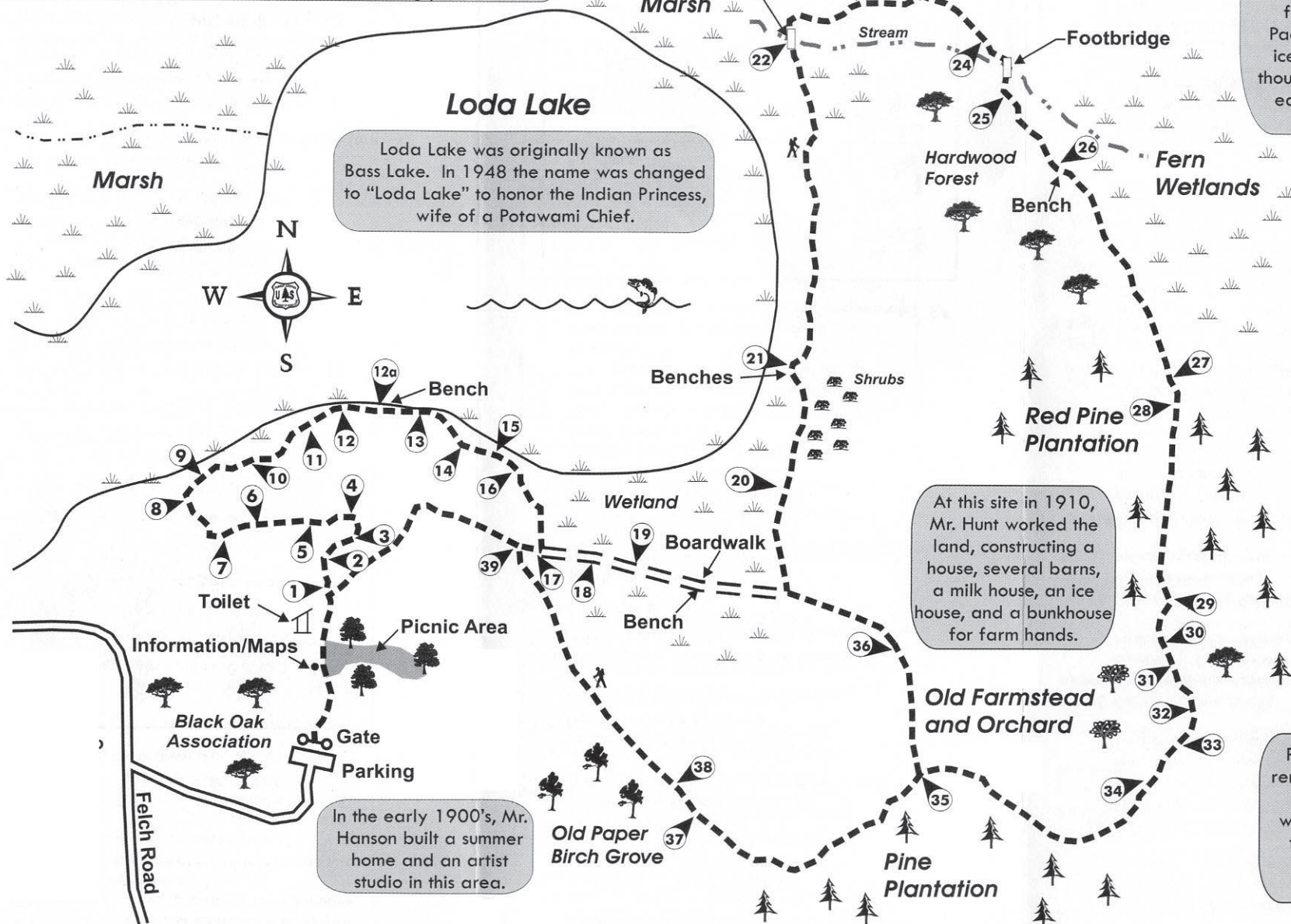
* Denotes invasive plants that will be eradicated over time

Best Viewing Times:

Key: E = Early, Spring (April – May)
S = Summer (June – August)
F = Fall (September – October)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at 202-720-2791. To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

In 1937, an idea was brought forth by the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan to establish a state wildflower preserve. Local garden club members of Newaygo County were concerned that activities in the area were destroying the habitat for species such as orchids and other native flowering plants.



In the early 1900's, Mr. Hanson gathered trailing arbutus by the bushel to ship back to his society friends in Chicago. Packed in ice from the ice house, those were thought to be among the earliest refrigerated floral deliveries.

At this site in 1910, Mr. Hunt worked the land, constructing a house, several barns, a milk house, an ice house, and a bunkhouse for farm hands.

Pine stumps were removed, apple and peach orchards were planted, and farming of corn, beans, and millet began.

Historical "notables".
For additional information
see www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf

Loda Lake is an area that includes a small spring-fed lake, a bog-like wetland area, a creek and riparian marshy areas, oak forest, pine plantations, and an early successional old farm site. Botanist Clayton Bazuin noted, "Loda Lake is ideally suited as a wildflower sanctuary and although near one of Michigan's busy highways, can still be a natural reservoir of wild plants. This is due to the large number of ecological associations it affords in which they may survive."