Kellogg Biological Station is Celebrating 90 Years!

90th Objective
In 1927 and 1928 W.K. Kellogg donated the land and properties that now make-up the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary and the Kellogg Farm. Construction and landscaping of the Kellogg Manor House and Estate was completed in 1927. Combined, all three led to what became the Kellogg Biological Station. During this 90th celebration our goal is to celebrate Kellogg’s philanthropy, and his dedication to conservation and education and what MSU has been able to accomplish during that last 90 years because of these gifts.

Talking Points
Introduction: W.K. Kellogg chose Gull Lake as a retreat location to step away from his cereal factories in Battle Creek and spend time with his grandchildren. Construction of the Manor House was completed in 1927. Kellogg’s strong interest in wildlife conservation led him to purchase the waters and land of the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, at the time specifically creating a safe nesting location for the Canada Goose. Since opening its doors to the public in 1927-1928 the Sanctuary has shared Kellogg’s dedication to conservation and education through outreach and programs. Kellogg also valued the importance of agriculture to his business and to the community’s overall well-being. Eroded farmland surrounding the Sanctuary was purchased by Kellogg and became the Kellogg Farm with a mission to operate under the most modern systems and serve as a teaching setting.

Sanctuary

- Kellogg’s vision was that the Sanctuary would serve an educational center for animal care and management and he “hoped that Wintergreen Lake would be used as a training school to qualify people to take up similar work in other places.” Later in December 1928 he deeded the Sanctuary to the Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science (MSC, now Michigan State University).
- Kellogg solidified his commitment to the Sanctuary in November 1927 by establishing a trust for financing the Sanctuary manager position, and the documents even went so far as to insist that the trust administrator ensure that there was always cooperation with the Michigan State Board of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Little did anyone know at the time, but Wintergreen Lake was optimally suited for a sanctuary as it is located along a major migration route now known as the Mississippi Flyway.
- Over the last 90 years the Sanctuary has been integral in increasing populations of Canada Geese and restoring the Trumpeter Swan to Michigan. The Sanctuary has also been educating the community on our natural world since its establishment with having guided school tours and long running programs like Field Ornithology and Wild Wednesdays.
Today, the Sanctuary still protects important habitat for nesting and migrating waterfowl. And the grounds have been opened for visitors to explore in an effort to connect visitors with the beauty of the natural landscape, which provides habitat for over 150 species of birds. The Pollinator Garden and native plantings by the Overlook are in place to help visitors connect the importance of native landscapes with the conservation of species. Sections of Sanctuary property are researched as part of the Long-term Ecological Research program and most recently a prairie restoration project which looks at the pressures of invasive species in a warming climate.

Manor House

- Soon after completion, the Manor House was deeded to the City of Battle Creek to support community benefit. It became apparent through annual public lawn parties and music recitals that it would foster W.K. and his wife's intentions of it being a place “where all of Battle Creek may forever play”.
- During WWII the Manor House was deeded over to the United States government in an effort to support the need for induction and training areas for the Coast Guard. Over 3,000 men passed through the estate in the first 12 months. The military continued use until 1950, one year prior to W.K.'s death.
- After his death the estate was combined with all other previous gifts to Michigan State College creating the Kellogg Biological Station. Over the next several decades the Manor was used as a female dormitory, a place for meetings and finally became office space for MSU extension personnel. In 1998 the Kellogg Foundation granted MSU the funds necessary to restore the Manor to its original appearance and condition.
- Today the Manor House continues to support W.K.'s vision to provide educational opportunities for students interested in research and environmental preservation. Endowment funds are used annually to pay for student internships which provide excellent hands-on professional experience, and preparation for students poised to enter the workforce. Through outreach opportunities and availability for private rental, the Manor House continues to share W.K.’s legacy by providing the community as a place to share stories and make memories.

Kellogg Farm

- In 1928, W.K. Kellogg deeded the Kellogg Farm to Michigan State College, now Michigan State University, with the intention that the College would “…operate this farm under a most modern system of farm management so that it may serve as an object lesson to the people of the region in which it is located.”
- In the 1980's the farm switched from a Guernsey herd to Holsteins and installed what was then a state of the art confinement dairy barn. During this time the farm was also installing an infrastructure for conducting agricultural plot scale research.
Today the Pasture Dairy Center operates within a pasture based robotic milking system and is scaling up research plots to be incorporated into the landscape level. The Kellogg Farm and Dairy continue to provide educational workshops and events to farmers and the public.

When are we celebrating?

We’ll be celebrating during programs and on our media outlets from January 2017-August 2018 (tent. Final celebration during the 2018 Lakeside Concert).

How can you be part of the celebration?

1. Make a donation! $90.00 for 90 years! http://www.kbs.msu.edu/support/  
   (Questions? Ask Sarah Carroll)
2. Interact on social media, share and like posts.
   a. Facebook
      i. KBS: https://www.facebook.com/KelloggBiologicalStation
      ii. Sanctuary: https://www.facebook.com/MSUKelloggBirdSanctuary/
      iii. Farm & Dairy: https://www.facebook.com/kelloggfarmanddairy/
   b. Twitter
      i. @KelloggBioStn
      ii. @KelloggBirdSanc
3. Attend events, make sure you receive the eStation to Station for updates and or check the events calendar.
   a. Sign up for eStation to Station: www.kbs.msu.edu (sign-up form on the footer of the page)
   b. Event calendar: http://www.kbs.msu.edu/events/