

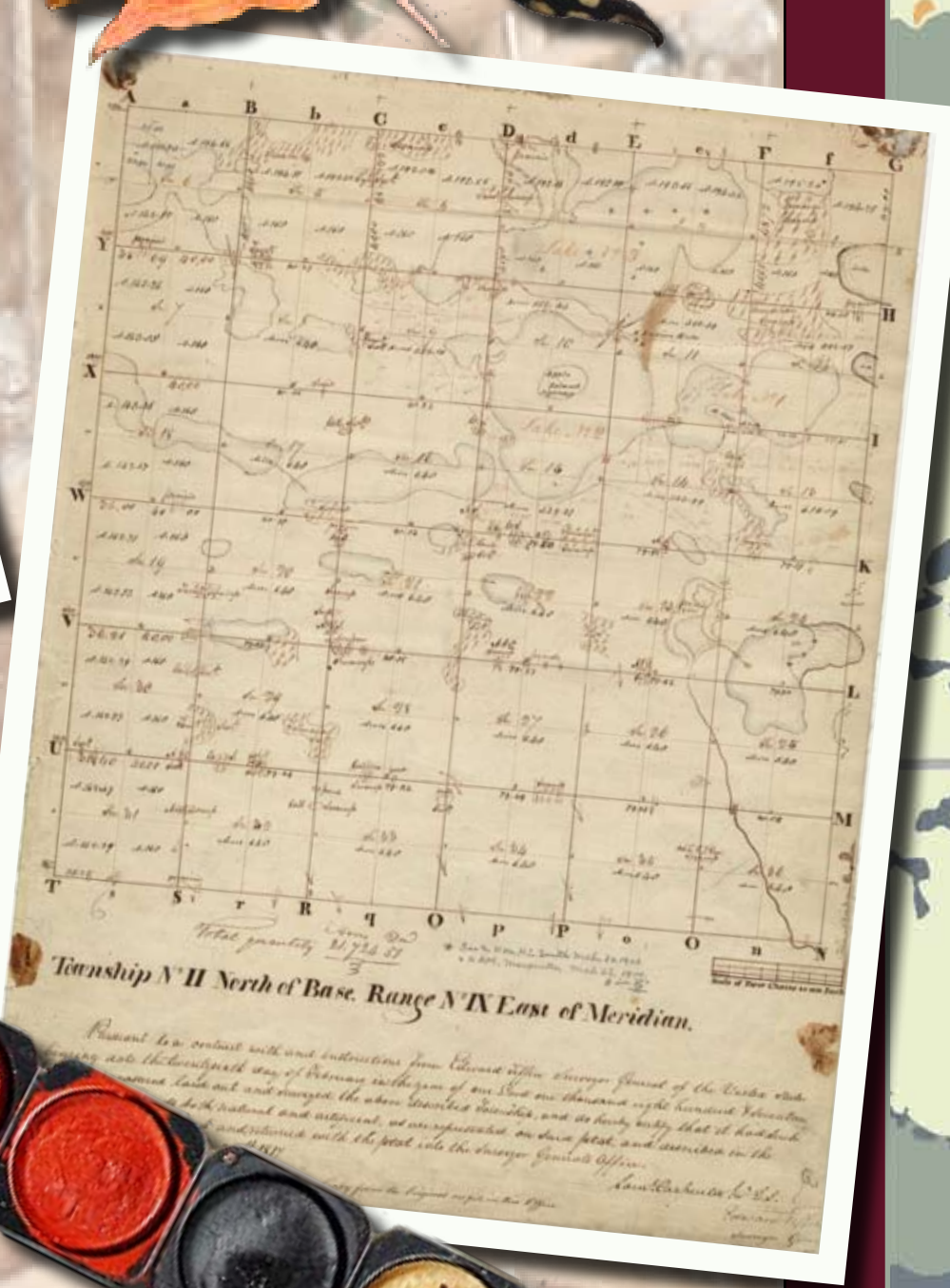
Native Landscape

As interpreted from the General Land Office Surveys from 1816-1856

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. - Ralph Waldo Emerson



Michigan's principal meridian was established in 1815 heading south from Sault Ste. Marie on longitude 84 degrees, 22 minutes, and 24 seconds. Michigan's baseline was established east and west along what became the southern boundary of Oakland County (S. Mile Road). All land surveyed in Michigan starts from these points of reference, with the townships numbered east or west and north or south of these lines. Thus "T2N, R9E" means the second township north of the baseline and the ninth township east of the meridian.



The National Park Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment's Artist-in-Residence programs offer writers, composers, and all visual and natural beauty of a State or National Park and to express artists are selected for residences. Visit www.michigan.gov/dnre for more information.

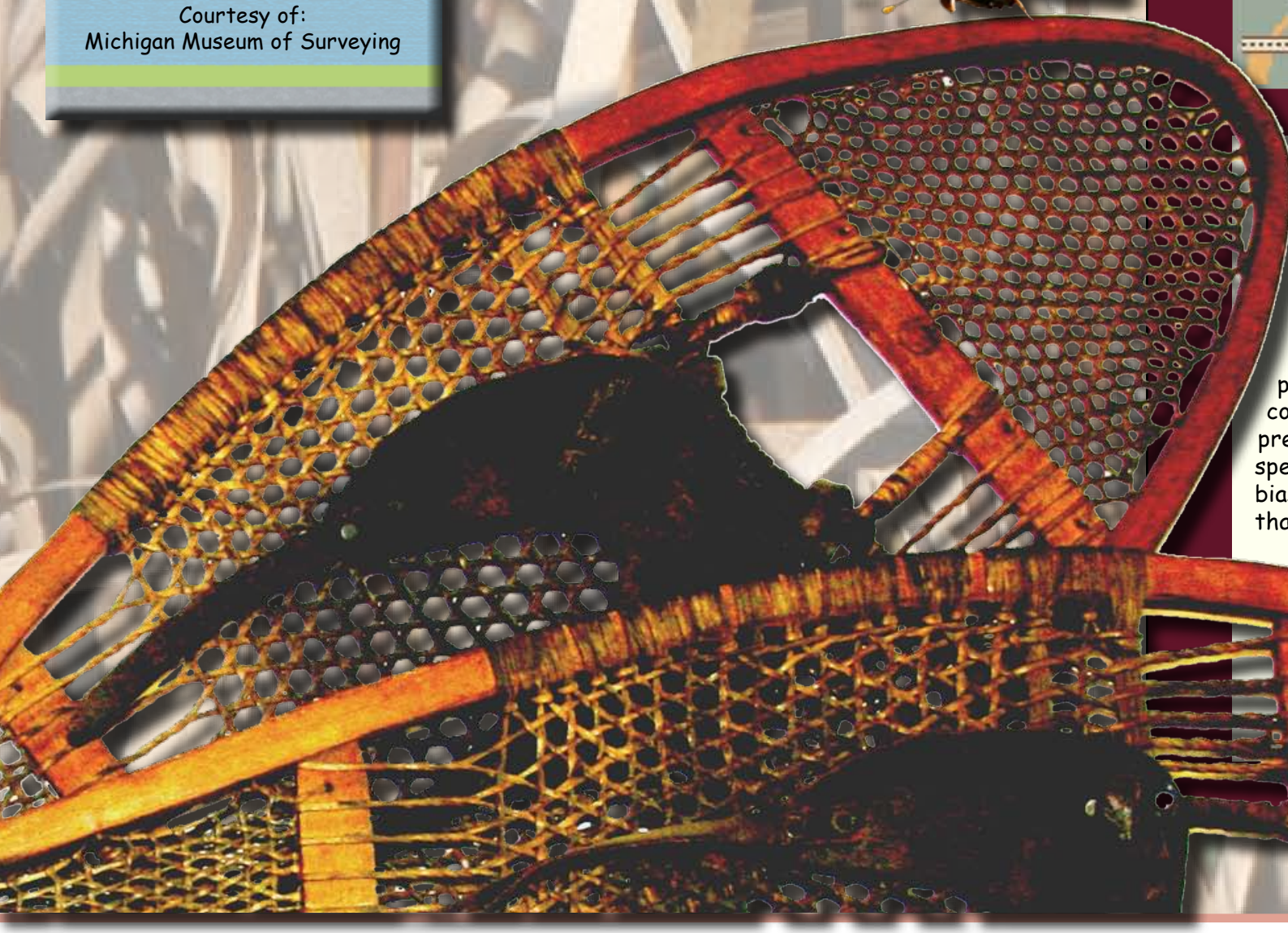
The Public Land Survey System (PLSS) is the method used in Michigan to survey and identify land parcels, particularly for titles and deeds of rural, wild, or undeveloped land. Its basic units of area are the township and section. It is sometimes referred to as the rectangular survey system. Oakland County is 25 townships wide by 5 townships high. PLSS townships (5 townships wide by 5 townships high).

Here are a few common units of measurement used in surveying:

- 1 rod = 16.5 feet
- 1 chain = 66 feet
- 1 chain = 100 links
- 1 link = 7.92 inches
- 1 township = 36 mi²
- 1 mi² = 1 section or 640 acres
- 1 acre = 43,560 ft²

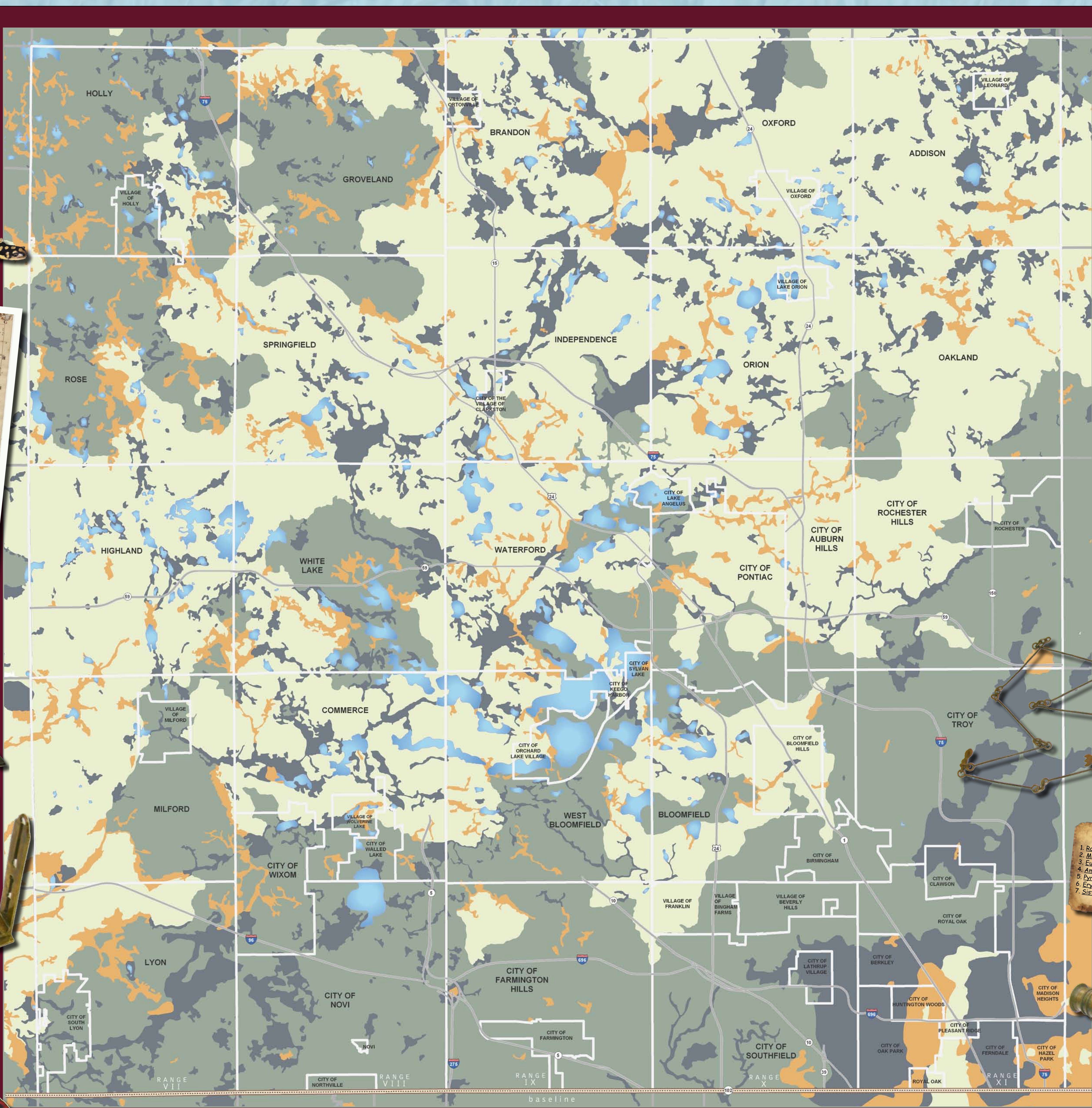


Compass
E. & G.W. Blunt New York, NY
1823-1866
Courtesy of:
Michigan Museum of Surveying



Timber Scribe
1900's
Courtesy of:
Michigan Museum of Surveying

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NOTES:
Users of this map should be aware that it represents an approximation of the native landscape limited by available information. Although a wealth of site-specific information is found within the survey records, they do not allow us to represent much of the small scale variation one normally encounters in natural environments. Cover type boundaries are most accurately located along section lines. It should be assumed that the accuracy of cover type boundary lines decreases in the interior portions of each section, where elevation lines were relied upon. Small cover types not bisected by section lines were not included and should be presumed underrepresented on this map. A small degree of bias in the tree species selected by surveyors was assumed in map production. Surveyors' bias tended toward easily marked, long-lived tree species that were greater than four inches in diameter. Although portions of Michigan's native forests were dominated by one or two tree species, map users should be aware that cover type codes represent dominant tree species rather than the only tree species present. Map users should consult available sources to determine the full range of plants and animals one would likely have found associated with any given landscape.

Forested Upland

Area may include the following species:

- Beech, Sugar, Maple, Basswood (4121)
- White Oak, Black Oak, Hickory (4122)
- Black Oak White Oak (4123)
- Fir, Spruce, Cedar (4223)

Non-Forested Upland

Area may include the following species:

- Lake Plain Oak Opening (331)
- Oak Barrens (332)
- Oak-Pine Barrens (334)
- Oak Opening (336)

Non-Forested Wetland

Area may include the following species:

- Bog (6121)
- Alder, Willow, Bog Birch Thicket (6122)
- Buttonbush, Willow Swamp (6123)
- Emergent Marsh (6221)
- Wet Meadow (6224)
- Lake Plain Prairie (6226)
- Inland Wet Prairie (6227)

Lake or Pond (52)

Forested Wetland

Area may include the following species:

- Hardwood/Conifer- Hardwood Dominant (41)
- Lowland Hardwood (414)
- Ash (4141)
- Elm (4142)
- Silver Maple, Red Maple (4143)
- Aspen (4146)
- Black Willow (4148)
- Conifer/Hardwood- Conifer Dominant (42)
- Lowland Conifer (423)
- Cedar (4231)
- Black Spruce (4232)
- Tamarack (4233)

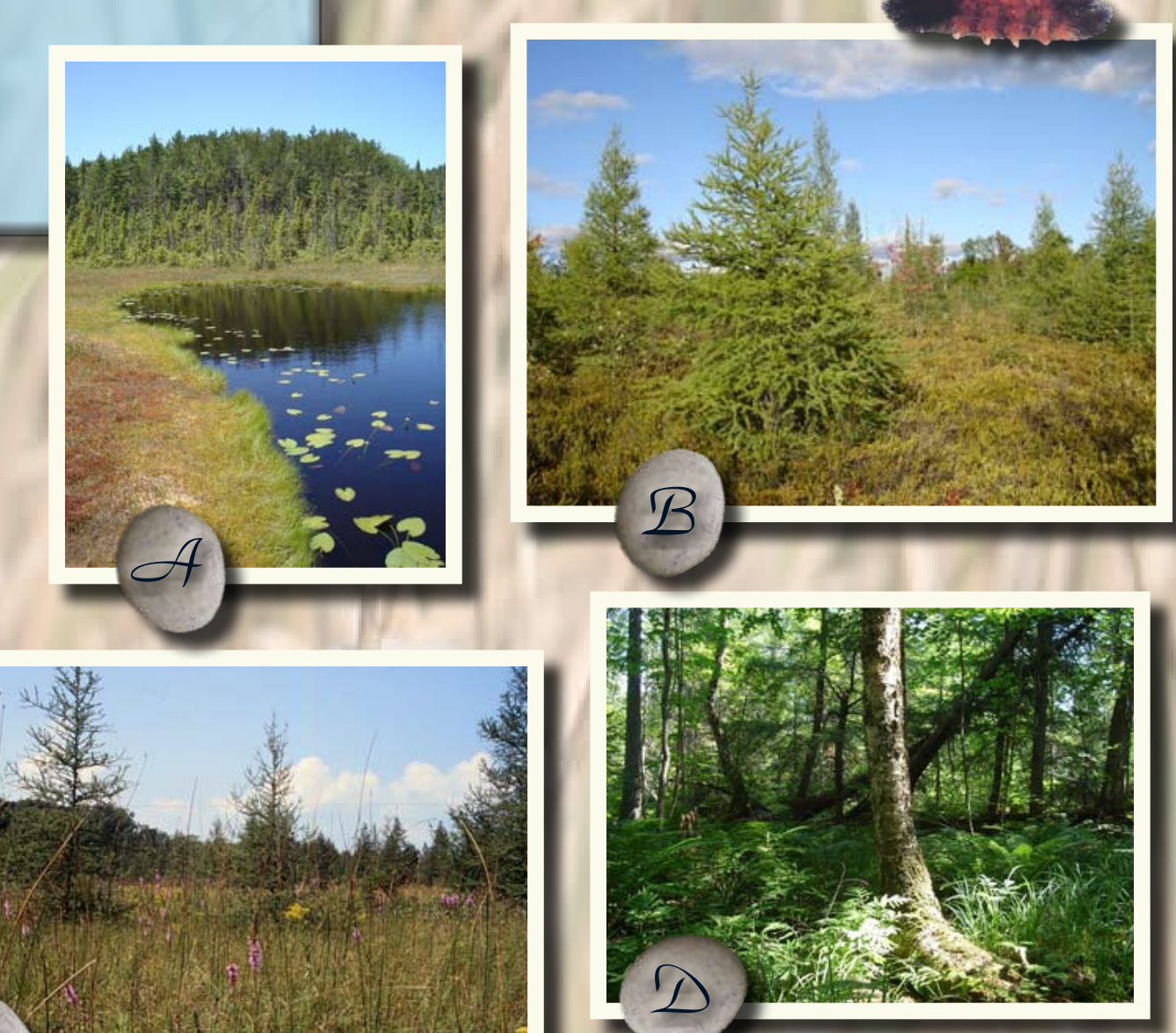
Michigan Baseline

Modern Highway

Modern Municipal Boundary

Map was created on March 12, 2010

Data Sources:
Native Landscape*: Michigan Natural Features Inventory
*Data has been simplified into four categories
Base Map Data: Oakland County
(1234) = Vegetation Codes for Native Landscape Index



Photograph Information

A: Bog- Photo by Joshua G. Cohen; State Rank: S4
B: Bog- Photo by Brad Slaughter; State Rank: S4
C: Prairie Fen- Photo by Michael A. Kost; State Rank: S3
D: Hardwood-Conifer Swamp- Photo by Joshua G. Cohen; State Rank: S3
E: West-Midwest Flatwoods- Photo by Joshua G. Cohen; State Rank: S3
F: Dry-Midwest Southern Forest- Photo by Jacqueline B. Courteau; State Rank: S2
More information can be found at: web4.msu.edu/nmi/communities/index.cfm



Gunter's Chain
W. & L. E. Gurley, Troy, NY
1878 - Mid 20th Century
Courtesy of:
Michigan Museum of Surveying

Gunter's Chain was one of the main measuring devices used for land surveying in Michigan. It was designed and introduced in 1620 by English clergyman and mathematician Edmund Gunter. Gunter divided the chain into 100 links, marked off into groups of 10 by brass rings, which simplified intermediate measurement.

Seek and Find Critters

- 1. *Bombina orientalis* (Green Frog)
- 2. *Desmognathus fuscescens* (Red Headed Woodpecker)
- 3. *Euphydryas phaeton* (Baltimore Butterfly)
- 4. *Ambystoma tigrinum* (Eastern Tiger Salamander)
- 5. *Desmognathus fuscescens* (Red Headed Woodpecker)
- 6. *Ernstia pallasi* (Wild Indigo Duskywing Butterfly)
- 7. *Sistrurus catenatus catenatus* (Massasauga Rattlesnake)



1831 Michigan Map



Surveyor's Transit
W. & L. E. Gurley, Troy, NY 1900-1908
Courtesy of:
Michigan Museum of Surveying

