

the legacy land conservancy A publication of the Legacy Land Conservancy • Volume 8 • Number 2 • Autumn 2009

Annual Report 2008-2009

Today and Forever

Since 1971, Legacy Land Conservancy has worked with local landowners, volunteers, and community members – like you! – to protect natural areas and farmland here in southern Michigan. You have helped protect 3,756 acres right in your own backyard, particularly in Washtenaw and Jackson counties. In 2008-2009, with your support the Land Conservancy:

- **Protected an additional 108 acres.** (See pages 6-7 for profiles of these newly protected lands.)
- Strengthened the Conservancy's Forever Fund for long-term stewardship and defense of protected lands, so that lands protected today will remain protected forever. (To learn how you can help, see page 2.)
- Fortified our partnerships with like-minded organizations to insure the best use of every resource for this essential conservation work.
- Linked people to the out-of-doors through a series of nature walks, workshops, and volunteer stewardship workdays at the Conservancy's nature preserves. (Remember, they are open to the public for you to enjoy!)
- **Refreshed our name** by moving from 'Washtenaw Land Trust' to our new name, '**Legacy Land Conservancy**.' With an invigorating new name and nifty logo our commitment to protecting local lands is stronger than ever.

With your help, in 2009-2010, the Conservancy will continue to identify and protect important lands in your community.

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Our priorities are:

- Nature The Waterloo-Pinckney-Sharonville natural corridor is southern Michigan's largest block of publicly protected land—more than 30,000 acres!
- Food Working farms thrive on the fertile soils of rural Washtenaw and Jackson counties. Farming remains vital to Michigan's economy. Agriculture (along with automotive and travel/tourism) is one of Michigan's top three industries.
- Water River corridors, lakes, wetlands and streams provide drinking water, flood control, wildlife habitat, and recreation.

Thank you for doing your part to protect the most significant local lands, here where you live.

OUR MISSION: The Legacy Land Conservancy protects natural areas and farmland, here where you live.

Far Country

By Susan Lackey Executive Director



Author Barbara Kingsolver asks these questions: "Who will love the imperfect lands, the fragments of backyard [desert] paradise, the creek that runs between farms? In our passion to protect the last remnants of virgin wilderness, shall we surrender everything else in exchange?"

As supporters of the Legacy Land Conservancy's mission to protect local natural areas and fertile farmlands, you have answered Kingsolver's questions: "We will protect them."

Throughout this Annual Report, you will see the stories and numbers demonstrating your commitment to our backyards. Without your support, these things would not have happened. You are protecting lands for another generation in Washtenaw County; providing land conservation services to landowners in the special lands of Jackson County. You helped open the new Johnson Preserve which will connect people with the land and create strong partnerships with other organizations.. You are guaranteeing the promise of permanent land protection through the Forever Fund (see article page 3).

Like all non-profits, Legacy Land Conservancy has taken a hard look this year at how we do business. We've made changes and recommitted ourselves to making sure we focus as much on what we have as on what we will do. We also recommitted ourselves to the future, and to continuing to protect the 25,000 most important acres of land in your community.

Kingsolver finishes with this: "I am holding constant vigil over my daughter's memory place... And someone, I hope, will be keeping downy woods and creeks safe for me."

With your help, the Legacy Land Conservancy will keep those places safe for you – here, where you live.

Notes From The Land

A Private-Public Partnership for Conservation

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund has awarded the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) \$2,500,000 for acquisitions to the Waterloo Recreation Area. To stretch limited trust fund dollars, the Conservancy has stepped up to pay necessary appraisal costs. The work is underway now. We expect some of these appraisals will result in new acquisitions. We'll keep you posted!

You can help!

We were delighted to get an excellent price on the appraisal contract, so once again, we're making your gifts go as far as possible! But good deal or no, these land appraisals are depleting the Conservancy's Waterloo Fund. Please think of us when you are writing checks: simply "Waterloo Fund" in the memo line; it's tax deductible.

Stay connected!

- $\bullet \ Signup for the monthly \ e Update$ at legacylandconservancy.org
- Become a Fan on Facebook
- Get the latest news on our blog, landconservancy.wordpress.com

Your Conservancy Leadership

The Conservancy's Board of Trustees has seen some changes in the last few months. We now have in offices: Robert Tetens (President), Phil Surratt (Vice President), Janet Crone (Treasurer), James W. Govert (Secretary). Our newest board members are Margaret Engle, Paul Glendon, Heather Price, and Adam C. Smith, as well as board fellows Lara Rogers and Ben Johnson. We extend our thanks to board members whose terms ended this year: Gavin Clabaugh, Peter H. DeLoof, Robert R. Helber, Sr., and Guy O. Williams.

In the office, the folks you may meet are: Susan Lackey, Executive Director; Suzie Heiney, Development & Communications Director; Wright, Stewardship Taylor. Coordinator; Erika Operations Manager; and Kyra VandeBunte, Communications We've said a fond Intern. farewell to Mark Patrick, who has moved with his family to St. Louis, Missouri, and to Jackie Bilello, our 2008 Summer Stewardship Intern.

If you're in the area, please visit us!

The Legacy Land Conservancy

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and Erika Taylor Land Trust Alliance

Editor: Suzie Heiney

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Keeping Lands Protected

When you make a gift to the Conservancy's Forever Fund, you help ensure that protected lands will stay protected forever. The Forever Fund provides the funds necessary for stewardship and conservation defense.

Excellent news: The Conservancy has been selected to receive up to \$250,000 in matching funds for all gifts to the Forever Fund received by December 31, 2009. Better news: we are nearly to the goal, with only \$43,000 left to go. Best news: will come on the day we finally earn the full match!

We need your help to earn that full match and reach our goal of \$500,000 for the Forever Fund. When you renew your support this year, please add a gift to the Forever Fund. Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling your contribution. Gifts of \$500, \$1,000 or more are especially helpful in this final stretch, but even the smallest gift is welcome—two \$25 gifts equal \$100! Help us make sure the matching dollars are not left on the table.

Make your gift today.

You can help!

To make a gift:

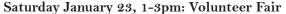
- Visit legacylandconservancy.org
- Call (734) 302-5263
- Email info@legacylandconservancy.org
- Return the enclosed envelope with a check payable to "Legacy Land Conservancy" to 1100 N. Main Street, Suite 203, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 Please specify "Forever Fund" on your payment. Thank you for your help in this great cause of land conservation!

Upcoming Events

Friday January 2, 10am-noon: New Year's Nature Walk

Beckwith Conservancy in Stockbridge

Start the New Year off right!



NEW Center Conference Room, 1100 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor Come learn the many ways you can help, meet new people, and make a

Tuesday February 2, 7pm: Groundhog Day Hike location TBD



Will we see any groundhogs? Any shadows? Enjoy the out-of-doors in the early spring.

Saturday February 13, 1-4pm: Photo-monitoring Squad Training

NEW Center Conference Room, 1100 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor

The Photo-monitoring Squad volunteers are a group of dedicated and hardy individuals interested in bush-whacking, compass use, and digital photo-taking. Together with staff, these individuals are in charge of annual monitoring of protected properties. Come join the squad!

Wednesday February 24, 7-9pm: Volunteer Ambassador Training

NEW Center Conference Room, 1100 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor

The more people who hear about the Conservancy, the more land can be saved - and you can help! Learn how to spread the word about land protection at local community events.

Across the Board

By Robert Tetons Board Member



In a local online newspaper, a recent commenter asked, "Do you remember when the future used to be better?" From an economic context, times are tough, especially in Michigan, and the future might look bleak in the short term.

But considering the future more broadly, I have no doubt that our community will be

Why? In part because of strong public support for local land preservation efforts and organizations like the Legacy Land Conservancy. Because of this coordinated and deliberate ongoing effort, some of our most scenic, sensitive and productive land -our natural world -- is being preserved and protected. As a result of the work being done today, much of the beauty that surrounds us will remain and, as efforts continue, more will be protected.

This annual report highlights some of the farmland, streams, fields, wetlands, and forests protected by the Conservancy. These highly visible results of our work, however, wouldn't be possible without two things: your help; and the solid, professional, organizational groundwork that goes on behind the scenes.

Last year, after an exhaustive application process, we became one of the first land conservancies in the nation to receive national accreditation. Of the 1700 land trusts in the country, only 39 were accredited in the first year of the accreditation program.

What does this mean to you? It means Legacy Land Conservancy has met the highest standards established by an independent third party. Our policies and procedures are welldocumented and complete; and our practices are considered to be among the nation's best. The accreditation process has made us a stronger, more sustainable organization, which is critical to the success of the local preservation movement. It signals that the Conservancy is successful, well managed, and worthy of your continued support.

This was an incredible year for protecting local lands. We hope you share our excitement with this success, and we look forward to your continued involvement.

Photo-monitoring Squad a Success

The Legacy Conservancy visits each of its conservation agreement properties annually. This is typically a nice excuse for a walk in the woods, but it's also our best opportunity to identify any potential issues with the terms of the agreement before they become problems. It is also an important component of Legacy's accreditation.

With nearly conservation agreements place, monitoring became increasingly time

consuming and difficult for our small staff to accomplish. This spring we started a volunteer program which has helped us get to all our easement properties.

This past June we trained a brave group of volunteers, our "Photomonitoring Squad". The training included both an indoor, informational session and a hands-on training at nearby Bandemer Park. While inside, we brought the volunteers up to speed on the Conservancy, and why we monitor. We talked about the process involved with monitoring properties...the letters sent to land owners, the follow-up phone calls and making appointments, etc. We spent some time on logistics and planning for monitoring visits, what to look for and how to not get lost...and a good few minutes comparing notes on how best to avoid mosquitos!

For the outdoor portion of the training, participants were placed in teams and given all the necessary paperwork, clipboards, and headed into the field with cameras ready. Luckily Bandemer, a very close-by city park, had photo points already set up. We were able to use these points and maps as practice for our group, and Natural Area Preservation (who cares for all the city natural areas) could use our pictures from the training for their 2009 photo monitoring pictures.

Teams. Left: Two of the team pour over notes and maps to find the next photo point. Below: One of the rewards; beautiful flora and fauna! This is Monarda fistulosa, or wild bee balm.

These photos were taken during the monitoring

season this year by one of

Photo-monitoring

While looking for photo points the teams were encouraged to note any changes and/or any invasive plants on the property. We want our Photo-monitors to note changes for staff reference,

but not to have to make any decisions about possible issues. This keeps enforcement responsibility with our staff and allows the volunteers to have fun and develop positive relationships with the landowners. We like to point out invasive plants to landowners and to be a resource for helping them do conservation on their land.

Bandemer had some obvious changes since the last photo point pictures were taken...The rowing team volunteers had removed invasive buckthorn from the park in large quantities, and a cell phone tower had been built. Our volunteers did a great job of documenting these changes without sounding any alarms about the appropriateness of these changes.

We ask our Photo-monitoring Volunteers to make a two year commitment, so each team gets to know one another and the properties they've chosen to visit. Monitors work in teams and typically choose to monitor two or three properties in a season. After two trainings in the early summer we had a group of 17 volunteers, six teams, who subsequently visited many of

our easements over the course of the season, getting to know the land and the landowners, and documenting the current conditions. These dedicated volunteers include landowners, students, skilled amateur birdwatchers and naturalists, nature photographers, and folks who simply enjoy the opportunity to see new, special places.

Our Squad teams collectively monitored 16 out of 50 of our lands with conservation agreements this year. We are absolutely thrilled with this amount of help for the first year of our program. THANK YOU PHOTO-**MONITORS!!**

Next year we are looking to get an earlier start with our training and get folks out in advance of the mosquitos and stinging nettles! Our annual training will be held on February 13th (see the "Upcoming Events" on page 3). The training is optional for returning Monitors, but required for new volunteers. We will have about 30 properties on the list for our volunteers next year, so we hope to get a few more teams!

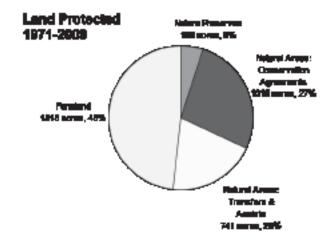
See you in February! -Dana Wright



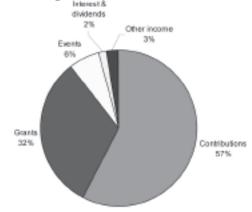
Land projects completed, in acres	FY 08/09	Total
Nature Preserves	(none new)	188
Natural Areas: Conservation Agreements	58	1015
Natural Areas: Transfers & Assists	25	741
Farmland	25	1813
Total land protected	108	3757

Income (non-land)	FY 08/09	FY 07/08
Contributions	285,722	343,985
Grants	158,965	71,299
Events	30,835	
Interest & dividends	8,574	14,994
Other income	12,556	18,258
	496,652	448,536
Expense (non-land)		
Salaries and related expenses	200,314	184,339
Program	62,790	80,029
Fundraising	17,514	6,804
Operating and Administrative	42,525	46,329
Investment gain/loss	18,702	9,435
	341,845	326,936
Net income (non-land)	154,807	121,600
Land value income		
Donated Land*	522,000	4,614,013
Gain (loss) on Land Transactions**	(2,147,337)	0
	(1,625,337)	4,614,013
Land value expense		
Land Transactions		151,250
Donated Land*	521,998	
	521,998	151,250
Net land value income	(2,147,335)	4,462,763

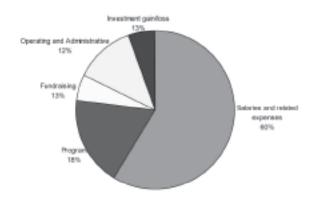
Statement of Financial Position		
Current Assets:	June 30, 2009	June 30, 2008
Cash & Cash Equivalents	408,303	320,963
Investments	125,882	79,638
Pledges Receivable	13,200	21,500
Grants Receivable	133,350	17,120
Accrued Interest	1,755	0
Prepaid and deferred expenses	6,106	5,962
_	688,596	445,183
Other Assets:		
Property and Preserves	3,675,003	5,909,150
Conservation Easements	49	47
_	3,675,052	5.909,197
Total Assets	4,363,648	6,354,380
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	463	943
Accrued Expenses	2,276	0
· -	2,739	943
Net Assets:	_,	
Unrestricted	2.729.984	4.866.116
Temporarily Restricted	201,848	159,780
Permanently Restricted	1,429,077	1,327,541
_	4,360,909	6.353,437
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	4,363,648	6,354,380



Income (non-land) FY 05/09



Expense (non-land) FY 66/59



In FY 0808, the Community changed its accounting policy on valuation of durated communities agreements. Starting with FY 0809, the appraised value of the development rights in recorded as income, while the extinguishment of those development rights (then \$1.00) is recorded as an expense. This acknowledges both the innoverself generality and the permanent nature of the development restriction.

The FY 0708, the Lloyd & Mabel Johnson Foundation donated \$6 come, to the Conservatory with the intentity that the Conservatory share the land with the

non-profit Thompsulic Riding, Inc. (TRI). In FY 08/09, the Conservation transferred 45 asses of the property (subject to a conservation agreement) to TRI, per the denor's intent.

Protecting Nature, Food & \

Protected by Legacy Land Conserv



Mill Creek Fen addition, 13 acres

This globally rare fen habitat, home to threatened and endangered species, is now protected thanks to the teamwork of the landowner, Land Conservancy, Defenders of Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of Natural Resources, and Michigan Natural Features Inventory. This project adds 13 acres to an already-protected 123-acre fen.



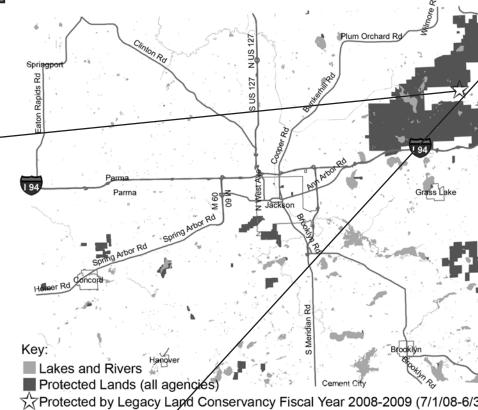
Partnering to save rare habitats



Protecting connected lands.

Waterloo Recreation Area addition, 25 acres

The Conservancy and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources partnered to add 25 acres in Jackson County to the Waterloo Recreation Area. This acquisition is part of an effort to consolidate the Recreation Area's holdings at Waterloo, the largest state park in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Tens of thousands of acres of this natural area are open to the public to enjoy in all seasons.



Oaks and open spaces.

Hastings Conservation Agreement, 20 acres

Greg Hastings has decided to follow in the footsteps of his father Steve. He has protected his 20-acre property, which is adjacent to his father's 116-acre protected property and to the Waterloo Recreation Area. The property is a mix of woods and open meadows.

Nater, Here Where You Live

ancy July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009



Nordblom-Michniewiecz

Conservation Agreement, 25 acres

Jerry Nordblom and Barbara Michniewicz purchased their property to save the wetlands and woods from development. It is now permanently protected with a conservation agreement, adding to the 334 acres in Webster Township already protected by the Conservancy.

"It's a whole new perspective. I'm thinking more of what it will look like in 100 years." -Jerry Nordblom

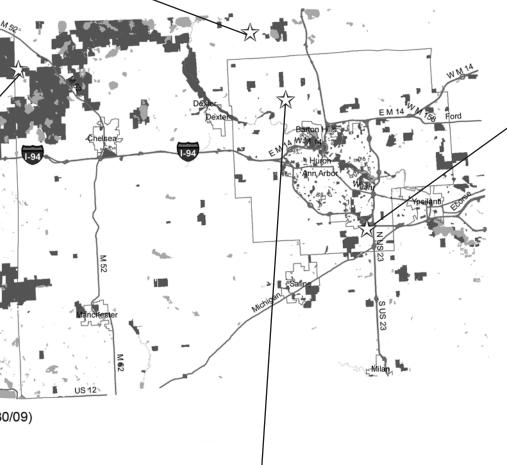


Clearing the new trail!

Lloyd & Mabel Johnson Preserve, 49 acres

Adjacent to Lillie Park south of Ann Arbor, the Johnson Preserve exemplifies "nature nearby" for the Ann Arbor area. It also represents a cooperative project between the Conservancy, the Lloyd & Mabel Johnson Foundation, and the nonprofit Therapeutic Riding Inc. (TRI). The Foundation generously donated 95 acres of land to the Conservancy, with the intent that the two non-profits share the land. Today, the Conservancy manages 49 acres as a nature preserve, and TRI will operate 46 acres (subject to conservation agreement) as their farm & riding facility for the disabled. The Preserve is open to the public for quiet recreation & enjoyment.

You're invited! Saturday June 5, 2010, Volunteer Workday 10am-1pm, followed by a Trail Opening Celebration 1-2pm.



Scio Township Conservation Agreement, 25 acres

This 25-acre property of active farmland and mature woods connects to a network of already-protected lands in Scio Township. landowner, who wishes to remain anonymous, has ensured that the land will be available for agriculture in the future.



Farmfields and hedgerows.

Thank YOU!

The Legacy Land Conservancy expresses its sincere thanks to its generous supporters. The following is a list of gifts made between July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. Thank you for protecting local lands! Please accept our sincere apologies if there are unintentional errors. For corrections, please notify us at info@legacylandconservancy.org or (734) 302-5263.

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Gerry Nordblom & Barbara Michniewicz Therapeutic Riding, Inc. 2 anonymous landowners

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Thank you to everyone who chips in to protect nature and farmland, here where you live. There are many ways you may be able to help:

- Spread the word as a volunteer Ambassador at community events
- Join the Photo-Monitoring Squad
- Care for natural areas on the Stewardship Crew
- Become a Preserve Adopter of a Conservancy nature preserve
- Protect your land with the Conservancy
- Join or renew your membership by making a financial gift
- Include the Conservancy in your will
- Make a gift to the Forever Fund
- Donate tools (especially loppers and handsaws)
- Assist with photography, mailings, boardwalk construction, graphic design, and more!



Your gifts of time, energy, and dollars keep the Conservancy running! (Shown here: The Miller Canfield volunteer crew finishes up a stewardship workday at Creekshead Nature Preserve.)

Think you could lend a hand? Contact us! (734) 302-5263, info@legacylandconservancy.org