

LEGACY

Land Conservancy Journal

ANNUAL REPORT



Photo by Paul Morrison

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Legacy Land Conservancy - Year in Review

By Susan Lackey, Executive Director

How do you measure the achievements of a year? When your mission includes words like 'forever', and your goals are lofty (25,000 acres), a year seems like a very short time. But we achieve success when we string together those short, year-long blocks with Legacy's mission and goals in mind. In that light, every year is a milestone, and 2011-12 is definitely no exception:

- **Five conservation projects were completed in 2011-12, totaling over 200 acres.** Three of those projects added to already protected blocks of land and expanded the value of all the lands under protection in those areas. Four were completed in partnership with other organizations - **MDNR, Webster Township,** and the **Ann Arbor**

Greenbelt, expanding our resources and theirs. *All five projects were completed because your neighbors believed the land they love should remain open and natural - forever.*

- Legacy continues to make solid progress toward our 25,000 acre goal. On June 30, we hovered just under 5000 acres. That's a **195% increase in the past decade.** New projects scheduled to close yet this calendar year and early next year will keep that line marching upward.
- In cooperation with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, Legacy initiated the first

round of the long-awaited Washtenaw County Natural Areas Protection Program **farmland protection project.** With a truncated initial application period, we expected 25 - 30 applications. **Over 60 were received, and we continue to work with the highest priority projects, representing 800 acres.** Along with our partners, we received **\$643,000 from the Federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program** to make the county dollars go further.

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Pumpkin barn - photo by Paul Morrison

Protecting and Preserving Southern Michigan Since 1971

Far Country

By Susan Lackey
Executive Director



On the next page you'll see an Across the Board column by our new Trustee President, Adam Smith. Adam reflects something that is increasingly important to me...our next generation of conservation leadership.

Adam's love of the out-of-doors came from his parents, Harlie and Marguerite. Together with Adam's brother, they camped, paddled, and built memories that Adam has been gracious enough to share with us. Today, he and his wife Theresa are passing that love on to their daughter, Lindsay.

While this story is played out around the world, I think of it as being an especially Michigan one, perhaps because we are so fortunate to have nature around us in so many forms.

I believe that my generation has before it one final challenge; to ensure that the bounty of nature we were blessed with is still there for the benefit of future generations. But that work is only meaningful if, in fact, future generations value it. In Adam, and indeed, in Lindsay, we see that future. I take heart in it, and hope you do as well.

This newsletter is a report about the work you've enabled over the past year, work that will endure for generations to come. Please read it closely, and be heartened by the fact that you ARE leaving a legacy that will endure for years to come.



Adam & Lindsay Smith

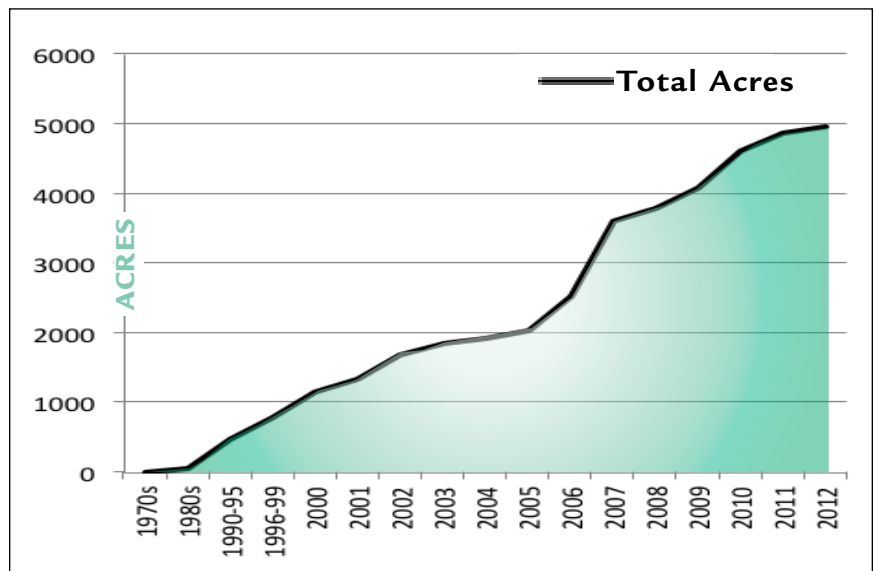
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- Legacy and its partners conducted **six landowner outreach workshops** in our Upper River Raisin priority area. We also held three for farmers - two in Washtenaw and one in Jackson, and one specifically for landowners in the Arms Creek Watershed. This is usually the first exposure to land protection options for landowners. Without this preliminary work, the voluntary land protection we rely on would not happen.
- With you, our volunteers, we built **400 feet of boardwalk in Legacy's Johnson Preserve**. The **Harlie Smith Boardwalk**, dedicated this fall, will allow year-round enjoyment of this near-town preserve.
- We planted **4000 native shrubs** in Legacy's Beckwith Preserve to stabilize

the stream bank, and we connected the preserve to the Village of Stockbridge's new trail system.

• Volunteers fueled other critical efforts as well. **Twenty five photo monitors helped us meet our commitment to annually monitor the 75 properties** for which we retain perpetual responsibility. This will ensure that their use is in accordance with the wishes of the original conservation donors. These easement donors look to us to make sure their wishes are met today and into the future.

• Rest assured your financial commitment to Legacy was as well stewarded as the land. **89% of your donor dollars went to support direct land protection last year!**



LEGACY
Land Conservancy

Legacy Land Conservancy

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Staff: Susan Lackey, Susan Cooley, Dana Wright, Erika Taylor, Robin Burke.



Exceptional Volunteers

By Dana Wright, Stewardship Coordinator

We are so fortunate to have wonderful volunteers at Legacy! I'd like to say a special thank you to Allegra Wrocklage, Devin Rothman and Emee Ta who devoted large parts of their college summer breaks to working with Legacy's Stewardship Program. Emee also volunteered countless hours and creative spirit to filming two new short videos featuring Legacy protected properties, earning her our **David Attenborough Award**. Peter and Anita Sandretto, Photo-monitors, Preserve Adopters, and generally up-for-anything outdoors people earned our **Diego and Dora the Explorers Award**. **Volunteer of the Year 2012** goes to Paul Glendon who has been an amazing leader of our organization as Board Member, Endowment Committee Chair, advisor to the Emerald Arc Campaign, and irreplaceable Chair of our Development Committee.

Our big stewardship project of 2012 restored the creek banks in the Beckwith Preserve with native shrubs and wildflowers to provide erosion control. This project could not have been completed without the help of dedicated neighbors of the Beckwith Preserve, REI grants, many volunteers and Chelsea Girl Scout Troop 537. Girl Scouts, Molly and Taylor, are documenting the success of this project by gathering before and after data from the planting area.



Volunteers plant into erosion blanket on the banks at Beckwith.

"Our names are Molly Olk and Taylor Freyre. We are from Girl Scout Troop 537 in Chelsea, and we will be in 8th grade this fall. We decided to work with Legacy Land Conservancy to earn our Girl Scout Silver Award. We both like being outside so we picked a project dealing with nature."



Ruthie, Olivia, Molly, and Taylor of Girl Scout Troop 537

We contacted Dana Wright, Stewardship Coordinator of Legacy Land Conservancy to design a project. The Conservancy is trying to get rid of invasive plants, plant native species, and control erosion in the Beckwith Preserve. After we spoke with Dana, we went out in early April and evaluated the growth of plants already at the preserve. On Earth Day, we returned and helped many volunteers pull out invasive species: garlic mustard and dame's rocket. We also helped spread 80 pounds of native grass and flower seeds. On our final visit, we laid erosion barriers and planted native species: buttonbush, silky dogwood, red-osier dogwood, wild black currant, and red-berried elder. Thanks to the help of many volunteers and REI, we planted over 1000 native plants that day!

We plan to return to the Beckwith Preserve to measure the growth of the plants we put in this past spring. We hope that our efforts will help improve the land for visitors today and in the future." - Molly and Taylor

Thanks is not enough for all the people who voluntarily contribute their time, expertise, and enthusiasm to make Legacy what it is today. We are so grateful!!

Across the Board



By Adam Smith
Legacy Board Chair

Legacy Land Conservancy is now in its fifth decade of ensuring that the most important agricultural, riparian, and natural areas in Southeast Michigan remain protected forever. In that time Legacy has transitioned step by step from its beginnings as a small group of volunteers to today's mostly full-time staff, supported by countless volunteers and donors who devote time and revenue to the cause.

Just as our predecessors did, we are embarking on implementation of ambitious priorities that will once again transform the conservancy. In particular, we are taking bold steps to achieve our vision of preserving 25,000 acres of land, right here where we all live.

One such focus will be to leverage our considerable strengths through the partnerships we have developed with various funding sources and governmental agencies. Perhaps the most visible of these partnerships is our current work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on the acquisition of the 2,000-acre Trolz property proposed to become the new River Raisin Recreation Area.

Even more critical than these partnerships however, is the continued support of you, the dedicated community members who share the organization's mission. In the coming weeks and months we will be unveiling our plans for a landmark capital campaign to accomplish the next stages of this vision. We are grateful for your past support and look forward to engaging with you and the rest of our community on this important work in the near future. Stay tuned!

SAVE THE DATE - Thursday, June 20th, 2013 at Misty Farms!

When Michigan's spring drifts into summer, when her days are long and nights are breezy, when berries ripen and fields begin to yield the best of their bounty, that's the time of the Strawberry Moon.

It's time to shake off winter, to kick off the season of lakes, laughter, and languor. Join with us as we put aside the serious work of land protection for one evening and celebrate together the fruits of our efforts.

Brines Farm

Shannon Brines as told to Erin Mittendorf

Shannon's farm was protected in 2012 by the Farrell/Lawson family, with help from Legacy Land Conservancy, Webster Township, and the Federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program.

I started farming in 2004 out of my increasing concern for the sustainability of our community here in Southeast Michigan. I saw a growing disconnect between people and their food – knowing how it is grown and where it comes from. I told people, “Farming is how I am going to save the world.” I began on a two acre clearing on family property in Dexter and built four hoop houses that let me harvest year round, providing the community with local, fresh greens even in the coldest months of the year.

In November 2011, a fellow farmer mentioned that 80 acres were for sale in northern Webster Township. The property had been in the same family since the founding of the township and was used historically for dairy and livestock

production. The family had decided to put an easement on the land to preserve its agricultural character, before putting it up for sale. I needed more space to expand my farm, and on March 30, 2012, we signed the final paper work to purchase the property.

I'm honored to continue the stewardship of this historical land. Because of the easement, which reduced the price of the land, we were able to double the amount of space that I ever dreamed of farming. It allows for all the things I wanted to try, from fruits and nuts to a few pastured animals, and still leaves room to expand our successful year-round veggies.

Area farmers' market patrons will be able to enjoy Brines Farm apples, blueberries, cherries, chestnuts, cranberries, currants, paw paws, peaches, persimmons and more

- in two to fifteen years! We've also planted a fall harvest of sweet potatoes, potatoes, heirloom squash, and, of course, cold-hardy greens on the new site.

By preserving the agricultural potential of prime farmland for the next generation of farmers, we can more readily access it as a critical part of strengthening our local food system. The people in Southeast Michigan will reap the benefits of land conservation and be able to rely on locally grown food and enjoy the culture of our regional foodshed in the years to come.

For more information on Brines Farm visit brines.org.



Shannon Brines



Flora Burt Property



Crane - photo by Paul Morrison

Treasurer's Report 2011-12 Financial Review

by Robert Aldrich, Treasurer

Legacy Land Conservancy is proud to announce that, once again, it has received an unqualified audit opinion from its independent auditor, Markowski and Company, CPA's, of Jackson.

In 2011-12, Legacy continued its policy of putting donor dollars into the land, with 89% of our expenditures going directly to program services, including purchase and donation of development rights.

An additional \$179,840, shown as a 2010-11 contribution, was released from restriction and used to complete conservation agreements on two properties. In 2010-11, Legacy was the recipient of a donated residential lot to be sold to support future land protection efforts. In 2011-12, that lot was sold. Because of the continued slide in the real estate market, the property netted less than it was valued at the time of the gift, resulting in a net loss. In practice, however, this gift added over \$63,000 to Legacy's Land Protection fund. These two items (funds released

from restriction and loss on land sale) result in a reduction in assets from 2010-11 to 2011-12.

In 2011-12, Legacy added new programs in the River Raisin Watershed and with Washtenaw County Farmland Protection. In order to accommodate this growth, expanded office space was necessary, resulting in an increase in our management and general expenses.

2011-12 marked a milestone in Legacy's finance. For the first year, significant funds were available from Legacy's Forever Fund endowment to support the annual property visits needed to guarantee our promise of forever. This revenue source is an important step in Legacy's long term sustainability.



Robert Aldrich

Financial Report

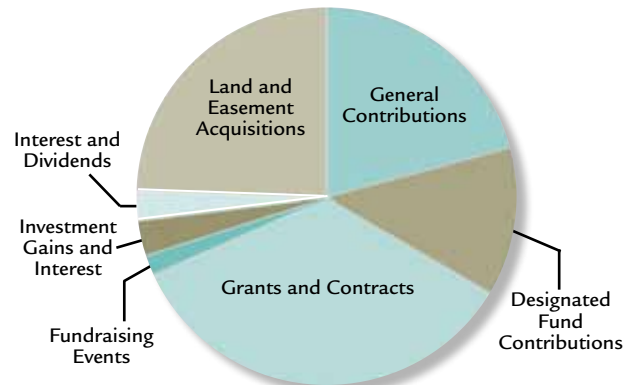
Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2012 and 2011

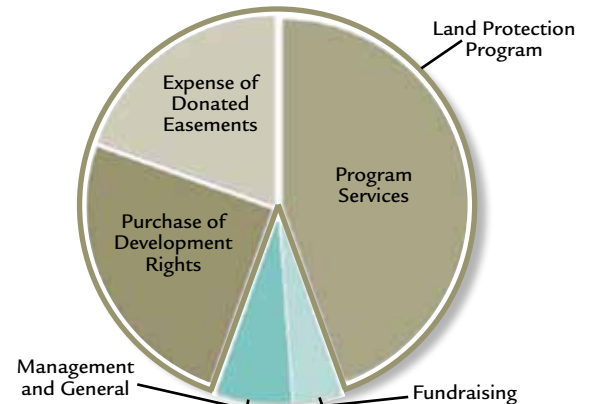


LEGACY
Land Conservancy

SOURCE OF FUNDS



USE OF FUNDS



| ASSETS | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Current Assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$488,523 | \$615,700 |
| Investments | 593,306 | 620,471 |
| Pledges receivable | 25,000 | 500 |
| Grants receivable | 22,012 | 1,045 |
| Accrued interest receivable | 1,784 | 2,235 |
| Prepaid and deferred expenses | 4,604 | 8,496 |
| | 1,135,229 | 1,248,447 |
| Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation | 823 | 1,235 |
| Other Assets | | |
| Preserves- Encumbered | \$1,295,150 | \$1,295,150 |
| Preserves- Unencumbered | \$2,379,853 | \$2,379,853 |
| Lands (held for sale for operations) | - | 150,000 |
| Easements | 64 | 61 |
| | 3,675,067 | 3,825,064 |
| Total Assets | 4,811,119 | 5,074,746 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable | \$6,135 | \$10,554 |
| Accrued expenses | 14,259 | 16,657 |
| | 20,394 | 27,211 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Unrestricted | 2,660,496 | 2,837,631 |
| Temporarily restricted | 209,189 | 266,076 |
| Permanently restricted | 1,921,040 | 1,943,828 |
| | 4,790,725 | 5,047,535 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | \$4,811,119 | \$5,074,746 |

Statement of Activities

| | 2012 | | | | 2011 |
|--|------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Permanently | Total | Total |
| Revenue: | | | | | |
| Contributions | \$119,936 | \$67,155 | \$5,321 | \$192,412 | \$335,226 |
| Grants & Contracts | 172,891 | 28,500 | | 201,391 | 179,647 |
| Events and Miscellaneous Income | 9,729 | 200 | | 9,929 | 49,607 |
| Interest and dividends | 1,220 | | 13,295 | 14,515 | 12,790 |
| Realized and unrealized investment gains (losses), net of fees | | | (27,035) | (27,035) | 85,007 |
| Acquisition of easements/development rights | 140,500 | | | 140,500 | 612,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 17,363 | - | 3 | 17,366 | 3,039 |
| Net assets released (transferred) from restrictions: | | | | | |
| Endowment distribution | 14,372 | | (14,372) | - | - |
| Proceeds from sale of trade lands | (63,116) | 63,116 | | - | - |
| Net assets released from restrictions | 36,018 | (36,018) | | - | - |
| | 448,913 | 122,953 | (22,788) | 549,078 | 1,277,316 |
| Expenses: | | | | | |
| Program services | 320,614 | | | 320,614 | 252,700 |
| Expense of donated easements/development rights | 140,497 | | | 140,497 | 611,996 |
| Purchase of development rights | | 179,840 | | 179,840 | |
| Loss on sale of donated land | 86,884 | | | 86,884 | |
| Fundraising | 30,495 | | | 30,495 | 68,130 |
| Management & General | 47,558 | | | 47,558 | 38,840 |
| | 626,048 | 179,840 | - | 805,888 | 971,666 |
| Net Increase (decrease) in net assets [Revenue less expenses] | (177,135) | (56,887) | (22,788) | (256,810) | 305,650 |
| Net Assets, beginning of year | 2,837,631 | 266,076 | 1,943,828 | 5,047,535 | 4,741,885 |
| Net Assets, end of year | 2,660,496 | 209,189 | 1,921,040 | 4,790,725 | 5,047,535 |

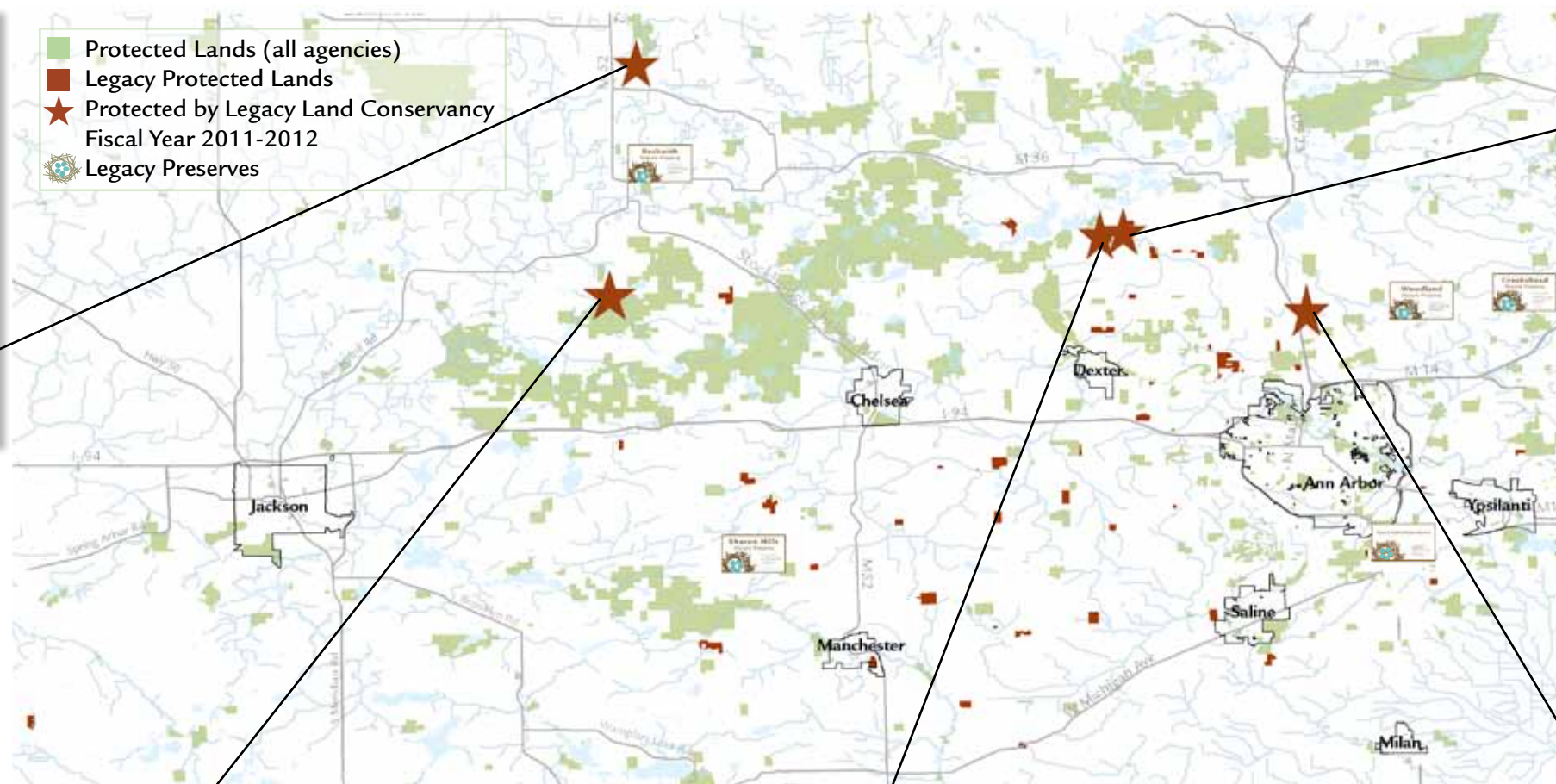
Please visit our website at www.legacylandconservancy.org for complete audited financial statements.

Protecting Nature, Food & Water, Here Where You Live

Serving Southern Michigan by protecting its forests, prairies, farms, wetlands and waters - today and forever.



▲ **South Lake Community, LLC:** This 69 acre natural area has been owned since the 1970s by a group of friends who have come together to protect, steward and enjoy this diverse property. The site, formerly part of a private refuge for Sandhill Cranes, contains numerous wetlands, hardwood forests and a classic Michigan lake, used by the owners for paddling and fishing. A rustic cabin makes the property the perfect get-away for this generation and beyond.



▲ **Farrell/Lawson Family Farm:** This 75 acre former veal farm, bisected by Arms Creek, was protected by Legacy Land Conservancy, Webster Township and the Federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program. Soon after, it was purchased by Shannon Brines (see cover story). Shannon has been busy erecting hoop houses for his greens, planting fruit trees, raising poultry, restoring the barns, and has plans for planting native buffer strips along the creek. The farm is adjacent to land already protected by Legacy.

Waterloo Recreation Area ► **Addition:** This 30 acre parcel in Waterloo Township is bounded on two sides by the Waterloo Recreation Area. Its purchase by DNR, assisted by Legacy Land Conservancy, helps reduce fragmentation within this important recreation area. Retaining consistent blocks of land with minimal development makes it possible to sustain the special habitats for which Waterloo and Pinckney are known.



Sherri Munson Arms Creek Easement: Protecting this 7.4 acres of emergent marsh, adjoining several already protected properties, protects the remaining acres of this wetland complex and brings the total for this block of protected land up to 150 acres. This project was completed with the assistance of Webster Township and a generous private donor.



▲ **Charles Botero Easement:** With 32 acres of frontage on US23, this former sheep farm with an open oak and hickory wetland was identified by the Huron River Watershed Council as important to the overall health of the Watershed, particularly the Horseshoe Lake Area. This project was completed with the assistance of the Ann Arbor Greenbelt.

Thank You!

Legacy Land Conservancy expresses our sincere appreciation to our generous supporters in our last fiscal year, July 2011 to June 2012. Thank you for helping us protect Southern Michigan's forests, prairies, farms and waters today and forever.

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Creekshead Five Hikes in Five Days

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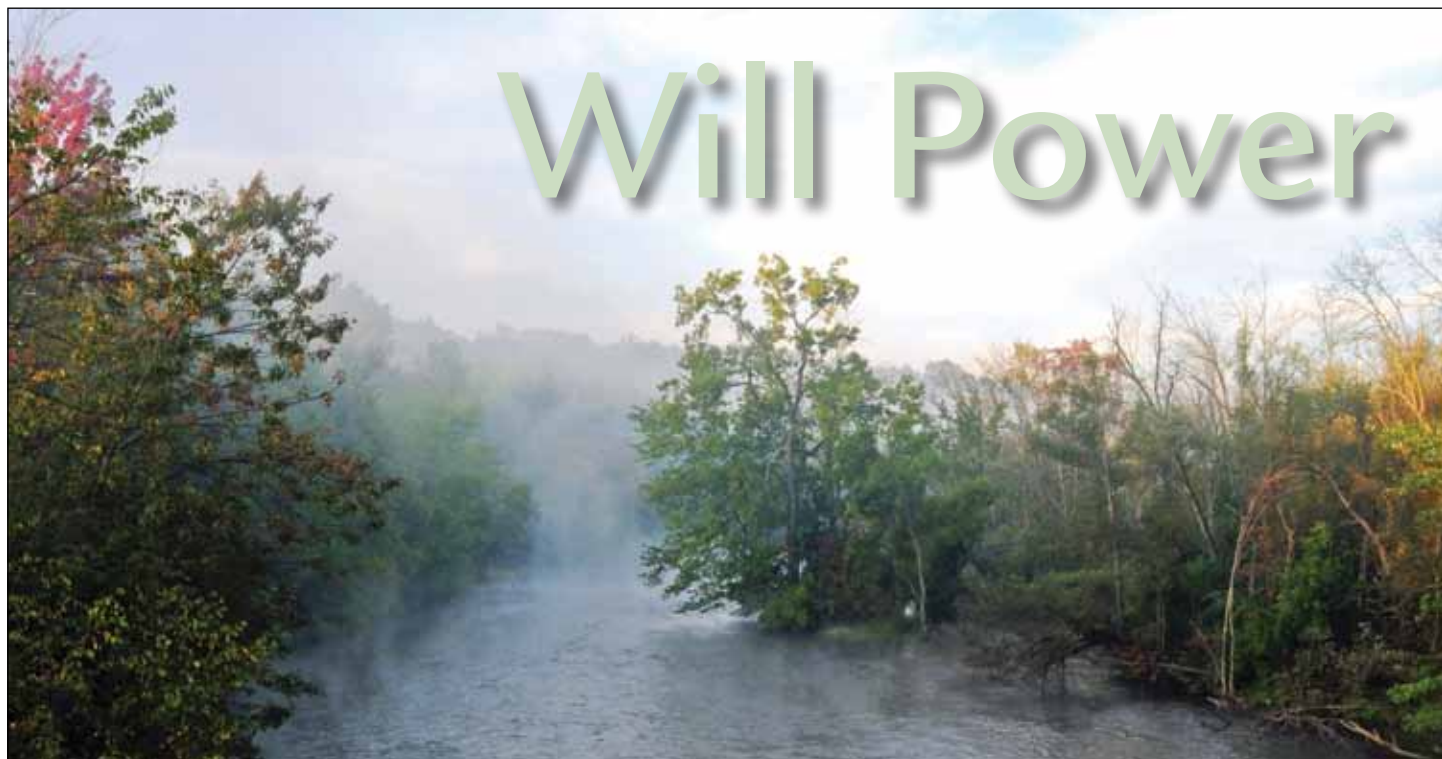


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