

LEGACY

Land Conservancy Journal

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Photograph by Barbara Michniewicz

“It Had Water”

By Charity Steere, Legacy Trustee

Recently Dr. Rudolph Reichert, at the recommendation of his beloved wife Sue, donated a nearly 100-acre nature preserve to Legacy Land Conservancy. The property encompasses woods, two kettle lakes, frontage on the Portage River, extensive wetlands and sensitive habitats. When asked why he originally acquired this land, Dr. Reichert replied, somewhat offhandedly, “It had water.” And indeed, many of the Reichert family activities there centered on water—swimming, gardening, skating, ice hockey, sledding, cross-country skiing, kayaking. All perhaps inspired by Dr. Reichert’s childhood summers at Whitmore Lake or his cowboy days in the arid West.

Still, it’s easy to say, “100 acres with wetlands.” But imagine a family waterfront



Dr. Reichert in front of cabins on Farm

property that elicits sentiments like the following from your children, and then, think about giving this property away, forever.

From son Jim, “I have fond memories of swimming in the summer and sledding in the winter. As I got older, we included cross-country skiing and horseback riding... And recently it has been a place to share with my father as he looks back on his life.”

From daughter Kathy, “This property, bought as a way to connect with the farming roots of the Reichert family, was central to our extended family life. Shifting winter snow over the frozen lake, the rushing spring creek, along with the scent of the lake in the summer, all evoke ‘the Farm.’”

“The Farm, while never in Reichert days a working farm, was a gathering point for all of the Reichert relations. We had

picnics throughout the year. We would settle in for hamburgers on the grill after a summer swim, a keenly contested volleyball match or game of hockey on the lake. In later years, we would play bocce ball or golf on an elaborate course Dad designed.

“Through her work as a volunteer at the Matthaei Botanical Garden, Mom became

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Little Pond on Farm

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Far Country

By Susan Lackey
Executive Director



When I was in college, an aunt embroidered a work shirt for me with the phrase, "tempus fugit" - time flies. Or, maybe, time marches on. At 18, it was most emphatically a 'meh' moment. Today, I wish desperately I still owned the shirt to remind me of that unforgiving fact.

Time...it has funny implications for our work. On the one hand, it is work that lasts forever, and time is meaningless. On the other hand, time is of the essence, and it moves faster than we can imagine.

A few years ago, we could look across our landscapes and observe the brief flash of time between a farm field and a subdivision full of houses. Land that we thought would be the same for us forever was, in a fleeting moment, something else entirely. Today, we don't see those flashes, and so we think change has been halted. We forget that, for all of us, time flies.

The families that have cared for the farms, forests, prairies, wetlands and other special places that define us are experiencing that march of time. In the next 20 years, more family land will change ownership than at any other time in our history. It is a shift we may not see again for another 50 years.

These families are asking themselves hard questions about the future of their land. Do they want it to remain in its current state, and be nurtured by a new generation? Are their children in a position to do that? If they choose to sell the land, do they have strong feelings about how that future caretaker will tend it?

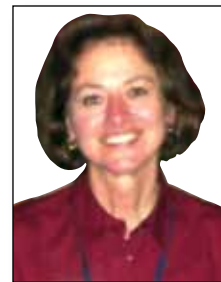
These questions and others are facing your friends and neighbors - perhaps even your own family - with increasing urgency. Changing land use patterns may not be challenging our perception of our community right now. But this does not mean that change is not taking place, it's just happening in a quieter, less noticeable, and maybe more worrisome way. Time marches on, and, whatever the current threats of development, decisions that permanently affect our landscape will be made.

Over 500,000 acres of land in Washtenaw and Jackson counties remain undeveloped. The story is not yet written for those acres. If we are able to work with the current owners to protect the most important pieces, if a new generation of landowners is committed to conservation, then the passing of time may leave us with, in the best possible way, the kind of landscape we care about today. If we fail to meet the challenge time presents us, we may find that it has passed much too rapidly, and with it a sense of place we have long relied on to define us.

Time marches on; and time is of the essence.

Across the Board

By Rosanne Bloomer, Trustee



This will be my final few months of serving on the board of the Legacy Land Conservancy as well as my last few months of working for GreenStone Farm Credit Services. Both have brought a treasure of wonderful acquaintances and memories, and I will miss many aspects of each going forward.

When I came to the Ann Arbor GreenStone office 36 years ago there was an assumption, on the part of most people, that agricultural land was being held only until development came. People, including most farmers, were convinced that there was no future for this industry in Washtenaw County. Today that attitude is very different, with our farms expanding and investing in land and equipment, and a vibrant agricultural economy. That change has come about for several reasons, but some of the most prevalent are:

- There is a much better economic outlook for agriculture.
- People have a strong appreciation for local food production and the importance of its quality.
- There has been a change in how people think about land, largely brought about by organizations such as Legacy Land Conservancy, the Ann Arbor Greenbelt, and other conservation organizations.

The result of this change is an economy which encourages and rewards investment, draws young people to choose this career, and preserves land and businesses for future generations. Although there has been a divergence in land operators, there are more farmers with a professional outlook who operate successful enterprises that will be here for generations to come. Our work to further the goals for land preservation will never be done; there will always be challenges around the corner. But we have a very solid foundation to move our goals forward into the future.

So, widespread stabilization of the land base that provides for agriculture has, perhaps, just begun, but it has been extremely gratifying for me to witness it, and to participate in it over the course of my career.



LEGACY
Land Conservancy

Legacy Land Conservancy

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



"It Had Water"

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an avid observer of nature. She taught us to see and appreciate the beauty of the many intricate natural systems at the Farm. We came to see the relatively untouched forests and wetlands of the Farm as a treasure as the surrounding area fell victim to development."



Dr. Reichert

From son Monty, "Like my sister and brothers, the Farm played a big role in my life.

"Having the Farm just 30 minutes from home was a significant part of Dad's brilliance in purchasing it. While I was a grad student at Michigan my interest in the Farm was rekindled and I again spent quite a bit of time out there. The Farm was my sanity check. There were many times you thought you were in the middle of nowhere -- just you and the outdoors. What a gift!

"One of my most recent memories occurred two summers ago when Dad and I rode the tandem kayak down Hell Creek across Little and Big Portage, down a section of the Huron River to Bass Lake. It was one of those magnificent Michigan days and we had a great time. We saw all sorts of large and small birds, fish, lovely vegetation, wildflowers, sparkling lakes, a blue sky with puffy clouds, and had a good work-out to boot (always an important element of hanging with Dad). Then after we paddled back we braved the brush going as far upstream past the Farm as the creek would let us until it got

too tight and we had to turn back. This was the last time that Dad and I had the opportunity to do anything like this. I cherish this experience and many, many moments like this are the ones I will remember always."

What would inspire the generosity needed to give away such a family treasure? According to Dr. Reichert, it was his wife who convinced him to protect the Farm forever. Sue Reichert's work as a docent at Matthaei Botanical Gardens turned the Farm into the place where she taught her family about wildflowers, birds, and insects and instilled in them her love of nature. She understood that this place was unique and should remain so. Dr. Reichert obviously valued an active outdoor life for his children. Now he has acted on her desire to protect the Farm. The Reichert Nature Preserve and the opportunities it offers for connecting with nature and providing children with active interaction with the outdoors will be open by permission. As a result of this wonderful gift, many others, perhaps including the Reichert grandchildren and you, will have the opportunity to create memories of the Farm and its waters. We thank Dr. Reichert and his family for this gift to our community.

All photos in this article are courtesy of the Reichert family albums.



Sue Reichert taking a dive in the pond



Jim Reichert & Jamie O'Neal



Southwestern Washtenaw Family Protects Historic Farm

By Susan Lackey, Executive Director

Look at the county plat book (a register of land ownership), and you'll see the legacy of the Weidmayer family throughout southwestern Washtenaw County. The family name appears on multiple agricultural parcels. The Weidmayers have long been interested in maintaining Freedom Township's rural lifestyle and economy. As a former member of the township planning commission, Neil Weidmayer helped draft land use ordinances to support agriculture in the township. His farm, Weidmayer Family Farm LLC, has also participated in the State of Michigan's program for temporary conservation easements, PA 116, which encourages landowners to continue to farm their land rather than develop it.

In December, Neil took steps to ensure that his agricultural legacy endures forever,

by protecting 90 acres of the family's farm holding.

The land, a mixture of prime farmland and woodlot, anchors 315 acres that make up this farm business. Historically the farm was a dairy operation. While Neil, the current farm operator, no longer milks cows, the land remains an important and productive part of the southwest Washtenaw agricultural landscape, and is cropped annually.

By donating a conservation easement, the Weidmayers are able to take advantage of the 50% tax deduction available to those who

donate an easement in 2012 and 2013.

"There is no reason to not protect my land. The tax benefit and my desire to never develop my land are reasons enough. I hope it will be here long after me," said Neil Weidmayer.

With Legacy's help, Neil's hope has become a reality that will provide Washtenaw County with a choice farmland resource forever.



Juniper Hill: Getting By with the Help of our Friends

By Susan Lackey, Executive Director

Lifelong Chelsea resident Flora Burt had a dream...that other people would enjoy the wetlands, rolling hills and kettle lake of her "Juniper Hills" home as much as she did. In her estate, she charged her foundation, The Flora M. Burt Foundation, with making that dream come true.

Risa Richards, Foundation trustee, contacted Legacy for help in achieving the dream.

According to Legacy Land Conservancy Land Protection Committee Chair, Charity Steere, "We all fell in love with the property. It's beautiful. It's special, and we very much

wanted to make it a Legacy preserve. But, we also realized that it was surrounded by the Pinckney Recreation Area, and it made little sense for us to own and manage it under those circumstances. It's as important that land is protected by the right organization as it is that it be protected in the first place."

With that in mind, Legacy went to work, contacting the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and shepherding a process for the Flora Burt Foundation. In 2012, Mrs. Burt's dream was realized when MDNR accepted the deeds for this 62-acre Lyndon Township property.

Chuck Dennison, Pinckney Recreation Area manager, is pleased with this new acquisition. "The property will provide a critical connection between the North and South units of the Recreation Area, and allow for a future connection to the Potawatomi Trail."

The Flora M. Burt Foundation is equally happy, issuing this statement:

"Flora Burt enjoyed over forty years of enhancing and caring for her beloved property, Juniper Hills. Her appreciation for the lands, wildlife and natural beauty along with her concern for our disappearing countryside led to her decision to donate the property for the pleasure of all. With the help of Legacy Land Conservancy and the DNR, Flora's wishes for her property's preservation have come to fruition."

The Juniper Hills story is one that ends well for all involved, but mostly for the land. Flora Burt's desire to share her land with others was met; the public will benefit from the future trail connection and from the opportunity to enjoy this land.

Like many of Legacy's projects, this one demonstrates the importance of building conservation friendships over the years. With the help of our friends, we can protect more land, and do it in a better, more sustainable manner. We're proud to have made this possible for Juniper Hills, and like to think that Mrs. Burt would be proud as well.



Threatened Indiana Bats Protected in Norvell Township, Jackson County

By Susan Lackey, Executive Director

Can you protect the quality of the River Raisin, help save endangered species, create an off-the-grid retreat for yourself, and make sure the beauty of a special landscape remains intact for generations to come? Sure you can, if you are patient and determined. Just ask Ron and Susan Trachet of Ann Arbor, the owners of 168 acres in Jackson's Norvell Township.

Since 2008, Ron has worked closely with Legacy Land Conservancy to develop a conservation easement protecting this private spot. When Ron contacted Legacy, he told us that the property had been extensively studied by Eastern Michigan University scientists as nesting habitat for federally endangered Indiana bats. Over the next several years, he and Susan learned that other threatened animals also share their property – Blanding's Turtles and Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes take a starring role, while whitetail deer, coyotes, fox and varied birds add to the list of fauna on the property. Giant pitcher plants and buttonbush nestle in the tamarack swamps and mixed hardwood forests. The Trachets have even seen a visiting bobcat!

In 2010, Legacy's River Raisin Riparian Protection Project concluded something else about the Trachet property: its location in the headwaters of the River Raisin make it important to the continued quality of this beautiful river. Armed with that knowledge, Legacy worked with the



Trachet Views

Trachet family to purchase a conservation easement four long years after the discussion began.

Summing up his experience with the protection process, Mr. Trachet said, "All I can say is the Conservancy worked very hard to get the land preserved; it was my wish as well. To know what God created is going to go on for perpetuity is a pretty cool thing."

The property includes woodlands, farm fields, streams, and wetlands, and has been heavily influenced by past glacial activity. Legacy's Executive Director Susan Lackey

said, "This property goes from the deep peace of the woods to these soaring hills that allow you to see nearly to Manchester and Brooklyn. From the first, we knew this was an important place to protect. But as we've come to understand it better, we know it is important for many more reasons than we knew at first."

The Trachet family acquired the land in the 1970s. Since then, they have explored its hills and wetlands in all seasons, although Ron admits there are places he hasn't been in many years. A small cabin provides space for family activities. The cabin and a newly constructed barn are powered exclusively with solar energy devices Mr. Trachet installed. A small vineyard - appropriately named Chateau Mon-Trachet - crowns a hilltop.

While conservation agreements were signed in December 2012, the work to fund the project is not complete. Matched by the Trachets' donation of part of the development rights, a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Water Resources Division has funded half the project costs. Legacy must raise the balance of the costs - \$71,000 - in 2013. If you would like to help protect this property - forever - please, contact Susan Cooley at Legacy Land Conservancy (734-302-5263) for more information.



Skunk cabbage in bloom

Conservation Legislation

By Susan Lackey, Executive Director

This past year reminds us: if we care about the future of Michigan's lands, we must remain vigilant. But, it also reminds us that this vigilance will be rewarded in the democratic process. To those of you who contacted your legislators about land issues: Thank you. To the rest of you: stay tuned. You will no doubt have your chance in the coming year.

Federally, the year-end 'fiscal cliff' negotiations included a long-sought extension of the enhanced conservation benefit, retroactive to 2012, and including 2013. This means that landowners can extend the tax deduction for their donated conservation agreements for up to 16 years, and deduct it at up to 50% of their income. Congressman Dingell and Senators Levin and Stabenow were co-sponsors of this important provision.

Efforts at the state level were more active and results more mixed:

- In the fall, the legislature passed the 2011-12 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriations, which included funding for the proposed River Raisin Recreation Area. For the first time since 1976, legislators moved to fundamentally change the recommendations of the Trust Fund Board, effectively removing regional 'opportunity' funds appropriated for the use of the Department of Natural Resources. With the loss of these funds, private landowners will suffer longer waits when they sell their land for addition to State-owned parks and natural areas.
- Governor Snyder signed PA 240, which limits the amount of land the state can hold. The legislation was passed in response to concerns from northern Michigan legislators, where a great deal of land is held in public trust. Legislative deliberation reinforced their goal of acquiring lands accessible to the majority of Michigan's population.
- PA 619 was also signed amending the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to provide a greater role for the Legislature in determining priorities for the Fund, and requiring that DNR seek local government support for

land acquisition prior to submitting proposals to the Fund. Thanks to the work of Heart of the Lakes and other conservation organizations, provisions that would have limited the ability of Legacy and others to encourage Trust Fund applications from landowners were removed. Also removed was language that seemed to prevent conservancies from temporarily acquiring lands to be later sold to DNR using Trust Fund monies.

- Proposed legislation that would have required conservancies to open 100% of their public access preserves to a 'full range of recreational uses' including motorized recreation and hunting, was headed off. In many instances, this would have forced us to choose between violating the intent of the original donors or facing high property tax bills on lands limited to 'quiet enjoyment.' While not introduced in the last session, the proposed sponsor has indicated he is still considering the possibility of future introduction.

Legacy will continue to follow state and federal efforts to support and inhibit its conservation mission. With your help, we can continue our long national commitment to protecting nature's special places.

Making a Difference

By Charity Steere, Trustee

When I was in first and second grade here in Jackson County, I walked to the one-room country school down the road. My big dream was to ride a two-wheeled bike down that road to school. Then a four lane highway was built between our house and the school. So much for the bike ride... When Bill was little, he ran wild all over the countryside around his home. When his family moved to the suburbs of Saginaw he did some urban forestry, cutting firewood from dying trees in suburban yards, and sold golf balls fetched out of the drainage ditch behind his home... the one that flooded the family basement every spring. So we've both been aware of the unintended consequences of careless development, practically forever.

As adults, we've done what we could to ensure that the land and water around us are carefully used. We've worked with stewardship programs, given a little money, written indignant letters to

legislators. Never enough, never all we wanted to protect. We grew more and more attached to the land around our home—the Waterloo Recreation Area. But we're also concerned about the health of the entire planet. We'd like to make a difference.

Eventually we began to save for our retirement, and finally we have accumulated enough to contemplate that step. Right now it seems like a LOT of money, but it has to last for? A year? 10 years? 20 years? My grandma lived to 102...what to do? So now is the time for us to start talking to a lawyer.

We will leave a percentage of our estate to the good friend who has agreed to take care of our affairs when we're gone. We will leave another portion to an international environmental organization in which we



have confidence. And we will leave another chunk to Legacy Land Conservancy, because their work is right here where we live, in the Waterloo Recreation Area. Hopefully we will be able to help protect the things we love most...riding and walking in the nearby woods, fishing on the local lakes, the peace, the cranes, the ducks on the pond, the foxes in our pasture, exploring the fens, eating food from local farmers, canoeing the Huron and Raisin and Grand. All the wonderful things that make our lives here worthwhile.

We know that we may outlive our money and our planning for Legacy will come to nothing, but it's worth the chance. What are we investing? A few hours pay to an attorney, nothing more. And just maybe, we will leave enough behind to make a difference for the place we love. We trust Legacy Land Conservancy, as an accredited land conservancy with a long track record, to spend whatever we leave carefully and to the benefit of home. Ultimately, this benefits the whole planet too! We're happy with this decision.

Celebrate with Legacy Under the Strawberry Moon

By Susan Cooley, Director of Development & Communications

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 us as we put aside the serious work of land protection for one evening and celebrate the fruits of our efforts.

It will be a night to remember: Chef Brandon Johns of the farm-to-table Grange Restaurant and Bar will craft exquisite appetizers. Award-winning Zingerman's Roadhouse chef-farmer Alex Young will cook regional favorites using fresh-picked produce from southeast Michigan's best farms. Sweet Heather Ann will lay out a table of delectable desserts. Some of

Michigan's finest brewers and vintners will supply locally fashioned libations.

We'll explore Michigan's Native American connection to the land with fascinating talks from Michael Zimmerman Jr., Pokagon Band Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and Margaret Noori, PhD, American Indian Literature Professor at U of M. We'll meet friends, neighbors, colleagues, and co-conspirators, and enjoy live entertainment. We'll celebrate another successful year of working together to protect the beauty and character of this place we love.

Join us for a magical night at Misty Farms, under the Strawberry Moon.

When: Thursday, June 13, 2013

Where: Misty Farm, Scio Township

Time: 6:00-9:00 pm



Photograph by John Morrison

*To purchase tickets, please contact
susancooley@legacylandconservancy.org
or give us a call to reserve your table:
734.302.5263.*

Celebrating the Legacy of the Land

By Susan Cooley, Director of Development & Communications

Weather, food, water... Nature shapes our lives. The land that supports these natural systems is important, whether or not we recognize it. To foster understanding of that connection between land and people is an important part of Legacy's mission. To that end, at events throughout the year, we invite the community to celebrate, learn about, enjoy, and support protected lands. Our Legacy of the Land through Art project, greatly expanded this year, is a special way to celebrate the generosity of local private land owners who have

protected their land.

To share this project with you, Legacy Land Conservancy, collaborating with Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Sandhill Crane Vineyards, will present two Art Exhibits. The first, in October, will be at the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens and the second, in Jackson County, at Sandhill Crane Vineyards.

Over the next several months, Legacy will host a number of events leading up to the Art Exhibitions. These will be special exhibits highlighting the ways we all benefit from our interactions with the land. These preliminary exhibits will be installed at the Ann Arbor Public Library, the University of Michigan Hospitals and locations still to be determined in Jackson County.

This art and land project, the second Legacy has led, brings together 42 artists—from sculptors to painters—to express their vision of the land and share those visions with all of us.

A highly qualified jury chose the artists who will create works about specific local public and private lands with connections to Legacy. Each artist will work at a specifically assigned Legacy conservation property or at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols arboretum. Many of these protected lands are home to rare plants or endangered wildlife; many have unusual natural features and we anticipate they will inspire equally unique artistic expressions. Most of the assigned sites are not open to the public, so this will be an extraordinary opportunity for artists to connect to unique landscapes.

Legacy of the Land through Art Exhibitions:

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Oct. 12 - Nov. 10, 2013

Sandhill Crane Vineyards

February 1- Mar. 9, 2014

Additional, complimentary, events are being planned throughout Washtenaw and Jackson Counties in 2013 and 2014.



Janet Kohler painting at Marigold Marsh Farm

Birds and Birding in Washtenaw County

By Roger Wykes

For nearly two decades now, I have focused my borderline-obsessive pursuit of birds (which began in about 1970) primarily in Washtenaw County, as an active Washtenaw Audubon Society member, participant in many Ann Arbor Christmas bird counts, occasional leader of field trips, contributor to the WAS newsletter, county coordinator for our annual spring migration census since 2000, conductor of breeding bird surveys in Ann Arbor parks for the city's Natural Area Preservation program since its inception, for the last dozen years in Marshall Park - and competitive species list-er. Most of my local friends are birders, and we regularly share birding information and activities. In short, Washtenaw birds are my bag.

On average, 250 species of birds occur annually in the county. Of these, roughly a quarter are year-round residents and another quarter are summer residents and breeders here. A few species spend most of their time farther north and appear at this latitude only in winter. But the bulk of our bird life is transient, pouring through from the south enroute to northern breeding grounds, from upstate Michigan to the arctic tundra, in spring (late February through early June, but concentrated mainly in late



Virginia Rail - Photograph by Don Chalfant

April and most of May) and returning in somewhat more leisurely fashion in fall (mid-August through early December) to winter in various venues from Appalachia to South America. Dedicated Michigan birders live in anticipation especially of those magical first three weeks in May, when bird numbers are highest all around us (including 37 kinds of warblers!), plumages are brightest and songs bubble forth profusely. Of course, there are birds to pursue at any time; but they are not always equally easy to find. So what governs where they may be expected to appear?

A full answer is certainly more complex, but clearly the most important factor is habitat. Though not quite so critically dependent as butterflies, say,

on the minutiae of their immediate surroundings, birds do have definite habitat preferences and requirements. Obviously, for example, geese, swans, and ducks are unlikely to occur far

from open bodies of water; but it may not be so immediately obvious that many sorts of birds are associated fairly exclusively with woodlands of considerable size and density, while other types appear only in grasslands or open fields, and still others must be found in marshes and wetland areas. And the larger and less fragmented these environments are, the better for those who occupy them.

Washtenaw is the most intensively birded inland Michigan county. We are favored with a sufficient variety of habitats, from state, county, township, and city preserved woodland areas to active farmlands and numerous lakes, ponds, wetlands, streams, and several rivers, to attract a broad range of avian species. We aren't exactly on the major migratory routes that follow the Great Lakes shorelines; migrants visiting in any numbers here must be finding conditions that satisfy their needs to some degree. And visit they do: at least 313 species, roughly a third of those in the entire country, have been observed in this county at one time or another. This isn't really as remarkable statistically as it may sound, but it's pretty good. And it should provide ample incentive for those of us who care about the nature around us, which should really mean all of us, to preserve the various habitats that allow this annual drama to be repeated, as part of what sustains us all.

I can't tell you exactly why the Short-eared Owl who hunts at twilight in large fallow fields from November through March, or the Hooded Warbler, who sings through May, June and July to defend his breeding territory from competitors of his own kind in the woods of Lyndon Township or Marshall Park, or the southbound



Roger Wykes - Photograph courtesy of Natural Area Preservation



Sparrows in bush - Nordblom Property - Photograph by Barbara Michniewicz

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**Birds and Birding
in Washtenaw County**
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Stilt Sandpiper who pauses to refuel on tiny crustacea at a drying pond edge as our summer warms, is a necessary component of your life and mine in this county, but I know that they are, along with countless other transitory, location-dependent biological phenomena of which I am aware only dimly or more likely not at all. And I hope that you can feel this connection too, and consequently that we recognize and embrace our responsibility to preserve and foster what we can of the life and the life-sustaining circumstances that surround us.

I had the unique opportunity to meet with Roger Wykes and John Swales last summer when I asked them to do a butterfly inventory on one of our protected properties. Little did I know it would be a day to remember. Not only did they identify 35 species, but I knew that one day, I wanted to grow up just like Roger & John. They were so much fun. One of the significant benefits to us all when we protect the properties we do is that it affects the incredible wildlife we are so fortunate to have in this region. We plan to have a series of similar articles. Next issue we will focus on Jackson County.

– Susan Cooley,
Director of Development
& Communications



Scarlet Tanager - Photograph by Don Chalfant



Ducks - Photograph by Barbara Michniewicz



John Swales - Butterfly Hunter

Upcoming Events

Conserving Your Land Coffee Hour Sessions

Friday, April 19, 7-9 pm

Columbia Township Hall, 8500 Jefferson Rd., Brooklyn MI

Sunday, April 21, 10 am -12 pm

*Manchester Village Hall, 912 City Rd., Manchester MI
(meeting will be held in the basement)*

Friday, April 26, 7-9 pm

*Somerset Center Community Building, 12715 East Chicago Rd.,
Somerset Center, MI*

Land Partner Gathering – Trespass Considerations

Saturday, March 2, 9 am - 12 pm

NEW Center, 1100 N. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI

Legacy landowners and others interested in stewardship of their land are invited to this potluck breakfast. Legacy is making pancakes, bring your favorite topping and/or side dish.

Volunteer Photo-Monitoring Kick-off and Training Part I

Saturday, April 6, 12-2 pm (Part II on April 13th)

NEW Center, 1100 N. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI

What better way to see beautiful local places than to volunteer to photograph them? The Photo-Monitoring Squad volunteers are dedicated and hardy individuals interested in bush-whacking, GPS use and digital imagery. Join these volunteers and help Legacy administer our conservation agreements. Part I will be an indoor orientation session. Part II is outdoor field training. Attend both trainings (on April 6th and April 13th) to join the squad!

Volunteer Photo-Monitoring Field Training (Part II)

Saturday, April 13, 12-3 pm

(Sunday, April 14, 12-3 pm Rain Date)

769 Merlin Way, Dexter, MI

(Off Marshall Road between Zeeb Road and Baker Roads)

As a group, volunteers will go through a 'practice run' to monitor an easement property. You will learn what to look for in the field and the how-tos of monitoring forms and photo management. Please bring your camera and GPS unit (if you have one). Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear if the ground is wet. NOTE: This training is part 2 of the Photo-Monitoring Training.

Stewardship Workday - Beckwith Preserve

Sunday, April 21, 1-4 pm

*E. Main St. on north side just east of the Maple intersection,
Stockbridge, MI*

Earth Day at Beckwith Preserve! Garlic mustard and dame's rocket are invasive species that can take over a woodland. Help us remove them from this preserve to give the recently replanted native spring ephemerals a chance to thrive.

Stewardship Workday – Creekshead Preserve

Saturday, April 27, 1-4 pm

*Curtis Road between Brookville and Spring Creek Lane,
Salem Township, MI*

We are lucky to have this beautiful, invasive-free woodland preserve. Join us at this workday to plant native shrubs along the border to fight off invading buckthorn and improve privacy for our neighbors.



Bee Buddies - Photograph by Paul Morrison

Stewardship Workday - Sharon Hills Preserve

Saturday, May 4, 1-4:30 pm

*Sharon Hollow Road between Walker and Washburn Roads,
Sharon Township, MI*

Falconry is the only method of hunting Legacy allows in our preserves and only at the Sharon Hills preserve. Enjoy a short presentation from local falconer, Cynthia Avery and her bird, Forest, to kick off our workday. We'll learn about this ancient practice, then head out to improve wildlife habitat in the preserve by removing invasive garlic mustard and dame's rocket.

An Evening Under the Strawberry Moon Dinner

Thursday, June 13, 6-9 pm

Misty Farm, 8040 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor, MI

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. Join us as we put aside the serious work of land protection for one evening and celebrate together the fruits of our efforts. You will enjoy exquisite locally-sourced foods from the best chefs in town accompanied by wonderful local beer and wine. Tickets will sell out quickly, please contact us to reserve your table. Susan Cooley at cooley@legacylandconservancy.org or 734.302.5263.

Legacy of the Land Bus Tour

Saturday, June 22, 11am-4pm

Bus will board in the parking lot of Cranbrook Village Shopping Center - 970 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor, MI

Hop on our chartered coach and enjoy a scenic drive while learning more about local efforts to protect the natural areas and farmland that make our community a great place to live, work, and play. This year's tour will focus on lands that highlight the River Raisin. Space is limited and advance registration is required. Lunch is provided. COST: \$20. To Register: please call 734-302-5263 or email cooley@legacylandconservancy.org.

Scratch-N-Sniff Hike - Sharon Hills Preserve

Saturday, August 10, 1-3 pm

*Sharon Hollow Road between Walker and Washburn Roads,
Sharon Township, MI*

Join us on this plant identification hike designed for beginners. We'll use all our senses to identify trees, shrubs, and herbs growing in the preserve. Did you know some plants' leaves and even some trees' bark have distinctive smells? We welcome all ages to participate in this exploratory hike, but please understand that our trails are unimproved and hilly.

Wildflower Walk - Reichert Preserve

Sunday, September 8, 1-3 pm

Near 11748 Dexter-Pinckney Road, Pinckney, MI - look for our 'Legacy event' signs

Join Legacy Land Conservancy and the Stewardship Network to explore this protected property and identify Michigan native fall wildflowers. Naturalist Catherine Marquardt will guide us through the plants in a wet meadow and fen at this special entry-by-permission-only preserve. Participants will learn how to use a dichotomous key to identify plants and will take home an identification book. To register for the walk, or for more information see www.StewardshipNetwork.org/HuronArbor.

Bird Hike at Thorne Lake

Saturday, November 2, 9-11am

Meet at Coffee Mill Cafe, 146 E Main St., Manchester, MI

All Legacy volunteers are invited to join us for this staff and volunteer appreciation event. Ornithologist, Dea Armstrong, will lead a hike at future River Raisin Recreation Area including a stopover at local birders' hotspot, Thorne Lake. Bring your binoculars and bird books. Legacy will have coffee and snacks waiting for you! Please let us know if you can make it: dana@legacylandconservancy.org, or 734.302.5263.

Legacy of the Land through Art

Exhibitions Daily October 12 - November 10, 5:30-7:30pm

Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI

An important part of Legacy's mission is to foster the connection between land and people. At events throughout the year we invite the community to celebrate, learn about, enjoy, and support protected lands. Legacy of the Land through Art presents a special way to celebrate the generosity of the private land owners who have protected their land and the talented local artists who have been inspired by that land. See the original artwork created by these artists. The event is free and open to the public. Artwork will be for sale online.

For more information see our events online:

www.legacylandconservancy.org

If you plan to come to one of our workdays or hikes please wear long pants, full shoes, and bring a water bottle. Register for these events and the photo-monitoring training with Dana at dana@legacylandconservancy.org

Legacy Stories

Over the course of the past few years, a young and enthusiastic group of work study students and interns have been busy capturing the personal stories of Legacy's founders and landowners. Check out our website to view some of the great videos we have published. We have so many more we want to share with you. No one really tells the Legacy story as well as our volunteers and supporters. So please, take the time to listen to what they have to say.

Our most recent production is about the River Raisin. It features Reno and Nancy Feldkamp, Eric van der Schalie, along with the Levy family, who purchased the van der Schalie land. Hear them talk about the different ways they became involved with Legacy.

Feel free to share your thoughts and give us a call if you have any ideas for future videos that might interest you.

We are also producing a video about our newest preserve, The Reichert Nature Preserve. Be on the lookout, visit our website @ www.legacylandconservancy.org.



Nancy & Reno Feldkamp Farm



Alisande & David Read's Prairie



The van der Schalies enjoying the Levy property



LEGACY
Land Conservancy
*Protecting and Preserving
Southern Michigan Since 1971*



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Hummingbird on the Nordblom-Michniewicz protected property - Photograph by Barbara Michniewicz

Could there be a more lasting way to make a difference than a legacy of permanently protected farmland, fields, streams, prairies and waters? By including Legacy Land Conservancy in your will or estate plan, you are helping to leave a legacy for future generations.

If you would like more information on making a bequest, please contact your attorney. Please give us a call and let us know if you are planning on including us in your estate plan. Susan Cooley, 734. 302.5263 or susancooley@legacylandconservancy.org