

LEGACY

Land Conservancy Journal

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Aphrodite Fritillary - photo by Gary Siegrist, Dahlem Conservancy

Introducing the Upper Grand River Implementation Project - Phase 2

By Susan Lackey, Executive Director

If you stand on top of a (fairly small) hill in Lyndon Township and dump a bucket of water, that portion that runs to the east will flow to the Huron River, and ultimately to Lake Erie. That which goes to the west will flow to the Upper Grand River, on to the Grand, and finally to Lake Michigan, making this our own smaller-scale version of the continental divide.

While Legacy has worked on both sides of this divide for many years, much of our focus has been on the rivers that run to Lake Erie. Our work in the Grand River has been more focused on assisting



Paddle on the Grand River - photo by Gary Siegrist, Dahlem Conservancy

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the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in its efforts to connect the Waterloo Recreation Area.

That is changing.

Thanks to grants from the James A. and Faith Knight Foundation and Michigan Air Compressor, Inc. (MACI), Legacy Land Conservancy and Dahlem Conservancy are developing a set of land protection strategies and priorities for Michigan's longest river. Goals for the project include: providing public access and protecting views along popular Jackson County trails, connecting lands

to provide wildlife corridors, as well as the woodlands and wetlands that help ensure water quality. The work began in the Jackson County Conservation District in 2006, and helps to implement the conservation strategies of the Upper Grand River Watershed Management Plan.

This headwaters area includes unique wetlands, called fens, fed by mineral-rich groundwater and surface water. These fens are host to diverse plant species and the animals that depend on them.

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Across the Board

By Jerry Nordblom
Legacy Trustee



I have been asked by friends why my wife Barbara and I have become involved with Legacy Land Conservancy. I keep thinking that some things are meant to be. We were meant to retire in 2001, and shortly thereafter move to 7 acres of woods, yard and wetlands in Webster Township. We were meant to experience the arrival of Sandhill Cranes in the adjacent wetlands the first spring and their return each year to raise a family. We were meant to be in awe of the fox and rare Long Eared Owl families that took up residence on our property. And, we were meant to notice the development on the other end of our wetlands, and to make the decision to purchase as much of the wetlands in order to set aside 25 acres as a conservation easement with Legacy. Our home has become a home for us and our many rescued pets including three registered therapy dogs. We became intrigued with the meaning of forever. Land that we protect now will be here for all to enjoy in future generations. It's real. We love our home, the land, and the wildlife.

I was then honored to be asked to join the Board of Trustees of Legacy. As a new Board member I wanted the ability to contribute to the continuing vitality of this important organization and its goal to protect the essential natural and agricultural assets we have in our community. We decided to financially support the mission of Legacy with an immediate donation. We also realized that we could further the cause by setting aside a bequest in our wills. We, like so many of the compassionate community members that support Legacy, are simple folks. We have worked hard our whole lives and have been amazed at how our estates have grown. We are not the types that squander our wealth on trivial things, but instead, we tend to support the needs of our community.

When the opportunity was given to me to be the spokesman for the **Legacy Society**, a group of individuals that have also chosen to place Legacy in their wills, I immediately agreed. I want to meet these folks and share their stories of why they chose to support our cause. To this end, we intend to have special events for the Legacy Society so that we can celebrate our common goals. Please feel free to join us, and take a moment to consider including Legacy in your wills. Know that your support will be forever.

For more information, contact Susan Cooley at cooley@legacylandconservancy.org.



Crane - photo by Paul Morrison

The Upper Grand River Implementation Project Phase 2 *continued from page 1*

The Upper Grand headwaters area also contains geologic formations known as eskers. These sand and gravel deposits form steep, narrow ridges throughout the area. These features are the result of glacial activity 10,000 - 16,000 years ago, and make up part of the Jackson Interlobate, a 150-mile long geologic formation that provides southern Michigan with the rivers, lakes, wetlands and hills that characterize it for so many nature lovers.



Also present in the Upper Grand are naturally occurring oak savannas. These sparsely wooded grasslands are some of the rarest natural areas on the planet, yet they were commonplace to the first European settlers, and the

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Female swallowtail on butterfly bush (above left) and wetland - photos by Gary Siegrist, Dahlem Conservancy



LEGACY
Land Conservancy

Legacy Land Conservancy

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Eastern Garter snake - photo by Gary Siegrist, Dahlem Conservancy

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native peoples who preceded them. Oak savannas provide particularly good habitat for a variety of songbirds.

Watch for more information on this project, as we identify priorities and strategies and begin to talk with landowners throughout the area.

THE UPPER GRAND RIVER IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS Phase 2

Legacy Land Conservancy
Dahlem Conservancy
Upper Grand River Watershed Council
Jackson County Conservation District
Grand River Environmental Action Team
Jackson Audubon Society
The Nature Conservancy
Jackson County MSU-E
And others

Fringed Gentian (right) and fawn (below) - photos by Gary Siegrist, Dahlem Conservancy



Far Country

By Susan Lackey
Executive Director



The Land Trust Alliance tells us there are 1,699 active conservancies in the United States; 43 are in Michigan. There are two ways to look at those numbers. Either we have a lot of competition, or we have a lot of friends. We prefer the latter interpretation.

No place does that idea of 'friendship' appear more closely than with our recently announced partnership with Dahlem Conservancy, in Jackson. Long respected for environmental education for all ages, Dahlem has a less well-known mission to protect the beautiful lands in their community. In January, Legacy and Dahlem formalized what had been an evolving relationship to work together in achieving this goal. With the River Raisin, the Grand River and the Kalamazoo River all figuring prominently in the Jackson County landscape, there's more than enough work for all of us.



This partnership, which begins with an effort to identify and protect some of the most important lands in the Upper Grand River, harnesses the mutual strengths of our two organizations. Dahlem is well-known and respected in the area, and will be the 'front door' for land protection, helping educate and inform landowners about their options. Legacy will do the work it does best: crafting land protection options that meet the needs of both landowners and land.

Dahlem isn't our only new partner.



If you receive our e-blast, or are connected to our social media outlets, you may have noticed a new brand: SEMIWILD. SEMIWILD is the common identifier for a marketing and land protection effort supported by the nine conservancies that serve Southeast Michigan. The goal of this partnership is to remind the people who live here that, yes, Southeast Michigan has beautiful places that give us fresh water, provide recreational opportunities and support a healthy farming economy. And those places are here, in our own backyards.

In addition to that subtle reminder, we are collectively expanding our efforts to do more of what we've always done. Water defines Michigan, and our watersheds are critical to the continued health of that water. Beginning with a focus on the Huron River Watershed (a Legacy priority), the members of SEMIWILD will be working together to jointly educate landowners about their options, and develop the capacity necessary to enhance conservation in this increasingly visible area. As with our Dahlem partnership, SEMIWILD will help us each do what we do best, share resources where it makes sense, and achieve more as a result.

For years you have listened to us preach the importance of partnerships—with landowners, donors, local government, business, non-profits and others. These two initiatives showcase our very real commitment to that way of doing business.

Rand Wentworth, LTA President, is fond of quoting an African proverb: "If you would go fast, go alone. If you would go far, go together." As we work to get ahead of all the forces that work against land protection, I'm increasingly convinced we will go further and faster if we go together.

For more information about SEMIWILD go to semiwild.org.

Mighty Good's Legacy Blend Coffee

Mighty Good Coffee Roasting Co. is now featuring a coffee roasted exclusively for Legacy. This coffee comes from Central and South American coffee farms and cooperatives known for their stewardship of the land, organic and low impact farming practices, and fair treatment of workers.

"As I think about walks I've taken, from Bird Hills in Ann Arbor, to Holcomb Farm in Connecticut, to small family coffee farms in Central and South America, it's easy to see how interconnected we all are and how important the protection of natural preserves, heritage farms and green space is to the global community. We're excited and proud to be affiliated with Legacy Land Conservancy and hope you'll take some time to consider and enjoy the land around us," says David Myers of Mighty Good.

Legacy Blend is available for purchase online at www.mightygoodcoffee.com for \$18/lb or at their 217 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor store for \$15 for a 12 oz. bag. A generous portion from the sale of this coffee goes directly to Legacy.

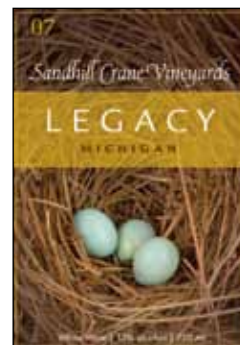


Sandhill Crane Vineyards Relaunches Limited Edition Wine to Benefit Legacy

For the third time, Sandhill Crane Vineyards has created their Legacy wine, in honor of Legacy Land Conservancy. The wine is a slightly dry white blend of locally-grown chardonnay and vignole grapes. Family owned and operated, Sandhill Crane Vineyards uses local produce to create handcrafted wines, made right on the premises of their Jackson, Michigan location.

Each purchase of Legacy wine will help benefit Legacy Land Conservancy and contribute to the protection of local nature and farmland, today and forever.

Heather Price, Legacy Trustee and Sandhill Crane Vineyards owner, says, "We think that this is the best vintage we have ever had, mostly because the wine is made with grapes from our 2012 harvest, which was an extraordinary year." Please visit Sandhill Crane Vineyards at 4724 Walz Rd in Jackson, MI to pick up a bottle and help support Legacy's mission.





Thompson view toward Iron Creek (above) and Thompson canopy (right) - photos by Robin Burke



Manchester Township Land to Support Fresh Waters Forever

By Susan Lackey, Executive Director

Several years ago, **Debbie Thompson** attended a dinner party with **Dr. Rudy Reichert**, where he told her about protecting his farm with Legacy Land Conservancy. This dinner sowed a seed with Debbie, and in December, 2013, she, too, protected her land, entering into a conservation agreement with Legacy. Debbie's 54 acres contains steep slopes, mature trees, and valuable wetlands that support the health of the **River Raisin**.

As an artist, Debbie looks to this land for inspiration. "I feel peaceful and tranquil when I walk in the woods. It's undisturbed, mighty and dazzling. No

matter what season or time of day, the experience is priceless."

Eric and Franci van der Schalie also find inspiration in their River Raisin property. In December they, too, acted to protect their 17 acres, located at the confluence of the **River Raisin** and **Marsh Creek**. This property adjoins 23 acres protected by Eric's mother, Annette, in 2005. The van der Schalie family has a long history of conservation. Eric's late father, Henry was a well-respected expert in freshwater mussels, and the Manchester Township property was originally acquired by him and Annette

because of the abundance of mussels in the stream bed.

These properties, as well as the 500 additional acres Legacy has protected in the area, help maintain the high water quality of the **Upper River Raisin**. They support rare birds, such as the yellow throated warbler, as well as bobcats, Indiana bats, and a host of butterflies, amphibians and reptiles.

Eric van der Schalie summed up his family commitment this way: "It's just a beautiful place. It deserves to stay wild."

We could not agree more.

Legacy's work in the River Raisin watershed is supported by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Great Lakes Commission.



The van der Schalies enjoying the Levy property



Thompson fungi & fern - photo by Robin Burke

The Outdoorsman

By Bill Steere

I'm an outdoorsman in general. A hiker, camper, canoeist, and birdwatcher. A cross country skier. An amateur botanist of sorts. But mostly, I'm a fisherman and a bird hunter. And I'm also an advocate for land preservation.

My fishing season is long and I travel some long distances, so there is plenty of budgetary evidence how important that is. But it's a perspective on the bird hunting that our annual expense for winter song bird feed is many major multiples of what I spend on

shotgun shells.

While I may not be that lethal, I'm serious about bird hunting. I travel long distances each year, and spend considerable time at it. It's something I've done most of my life, something I hope I can always do, and something that I hope others who discover the joy of a close working partnership with a bird dog can always do. My dogs are spaniels and they are year round buddies, so I don't count the dog food under hunting. Don't tell them though, since in a pheasant field it's clear they aren't operating as "pets." They're bird dogs. Boy are they bird dogs.

I explain this because it explains why I'm also an advocate for land preservation. You need land to hike and canoe and birdwatch, and land to cross country ski, and land to botanize and to fish. Here in Michigan half the state is available to me for those outdoor times. Here in Michigan, in the fifty years I've hunted pheasants, what I've seen is less and less land available to hunt.

Every old hunting buddy has had the same experience. What used to be a good field for rousting out a few birds is now a

subdivision and you and your dogs and your shotgun are going to have to go somewhere else. Somewhere else is a square mile of corn stubble complete with a few pathetic looking crows. That's happened in the Vestaburg area where I started tagging along behind my dad, and in the Saginaw Valley where I first hunted. That's happened around Mt. Pleasant where I first went away to college, and it's happened around Ann Arbor where I finished college and grad school. And it's happened around here in Grass Lake and the Waterloo Recreation Area where Charity, (my wife) and I have lived for the last forty five years. What are we doing to our farmland that the masses of gorgeous birds we used to have, have disappeared? For that matter, what are we doing to our farmland that it is disappearing?

It's not just the birds we are losing. Vestaburg, where I started out, was still deep rural countryside. Farmland. Rolling, lovely farmland with woodlots and hedges and widely mixed crops. The farm I wandered as a little tiny



Photo of Bill & Charity Steere



Toby



Toby (front) & Tucker (back in the weeds)

kid (with the family spaniel who was supposed to keep me out of trouble I suppose – hah!) is still a farm. And that's the kind of land pheasants need. They are most successful on well managed and diverse farmland; crops, drains and ditches, brushy edges, woodlots, and some land left fallow.



Left to right the hunters are Joe Jarecki, Jack Leddick and Bill Steere, the dog is Bill's Rupert.

Beautiful, fruitful, productive land. Multi-purpose, multi-use, and absolutely necessary land. Not just necessary for pheasants, but completely necessary for people, if we want to eat.

And the beauty of that farmland is absolutely necessary if we want to continue to understand who, as people, we all are. Whether we know it or not, we are of the land. All of us are of the land. And we will not be, can't be, and won't be, without it.

You bet I'm for land preservation. You bet I'm behind Legacy here in southeast Michigan, and you bet I'm behind national efforts like Nature Conservancy and yes, resource focused hunting groups like Pheasants Forever. They're



Tucker

in our will. Whatever's left after the dog food and the bird seed, anyway.



Bill Steere paddling Hell Creek by Reichert Preserve



Dr. Rudy Reichert on the "farm"

Celebrating Dr. Reichert

By Del Dunbar & Paul Dimond

On December 11, 2013, Del, myself, and eighty of **Dr. Rudy Reichert's** closest friends braved the wintery weather to personally thank him for his long friendship and continuing foresight, including the donation of his beloved one hundred acre "farm" next to Little Portage Lake to Legacy. It was a wonderful evening full of life, renewal, education and



Reichert Preserve birdhouse and pond

commitment.

Today, the "farm" now formerly referred to as the **Reichert Preserve** is comprised of a diversity of habitats, including a large marsh complex that contributes to the Portage Creek's reputation as the cleanest sub-watershed flowing into the Huron River. There are also diverse native forests and a series of ponds that welcome a wide variety of plants and animals.

As we look to the future, we are committed to building on the legacy Rudy and his family have given us.

We will:

- (1) Add adjoining lands to protect the natural environment;
- (2) Work cooperatively with already interested neighbors, groups and schools to implement education and environmental programs for children and

adults to learn first-hand on the Preserve; and

(3) Steward the natural habitat to make sure the Preserve provides a home for the plants and animals that have always made southern Michigan special.

At our gathering, the Reichert family announced a new gift: they will provide an area for parking off Tiplady Road and a trail. "We want Legacy to focus on its vital projects for the Preserve rather than worrying about how to get to it," says Monty Reichert.

Thanks to the generosity of the Reichert Family and gifts from an anonymous donor and the two of us, we have put together a **challenge gift of \$200,000** to realize Rudy's legacy: until that total is reached, we will match dollar for dollar your donation or pledge from \$1 to \$10,000!

With your support we can assure that our children and grandchildren – and all future generations – will be able to experience the Reichert Preserve for centuries to come. If you would like to designate your gift for a particular activity on the Preserve or if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us or Susan Cooley at Legacy Land Conservancy. Thanks for your help!

The Reichert Preserve is not yet open to the public. This Preserve will be used for educational purposes. For more information about the Preserve, please call Dana Wright at 734.302.5263, or email dana@legacylandconservancy.org



Reichert Preserve peaceful reflection spot

Stewarding the Land

By Dana Wright, Stewardship and Volunteer Coordinator

Currently Legacy Stewardship is figuring out our next steps: finding a field vehicle, tools and materials, and hiring our first paid stewardship crew. Blessed with the ability to grow to maintain and improve our preserved lands, these are happy times. Looking back on the last couple summers I count my blessings with the volunteers who have helped us build the program over the years. Devin Rothman was one of those people. He was our first summer crew,



Devin Rothman, Legacy volunteer

and a volunteer at that. Not only did he work all summer by himself for no pay, but he came back again and worked with us the following summer as part of a hodgepodge crew of interns and volunteers.

I am continually amazed and impressed with the quality of people who volunteer with Legacy. From the Legacy of the Land Through Art Committee to the Devin Rothmans, we are very fortunate. As the recently official Volunteer Coordinator for Legacy I have been working on a program to appreciate and foster our special volunteers. Look for this program to be rolled out in the next couple of years in conjunction with our partners. In the meantime, we are so appreciative! AND we always need more volunteers! Here's what Devin has to say about his stewardship work with Legacy:

"In the summer of 2012 as I returned home to Ann Arbor from Indiana, where I spend most of the year enrolled at Earlham College, I was looking for opportunities to work in the field of conservation when I discovered Legacy. That summer [I



volunteered] and made it out regularly to the preserves to work on some of the simpler tasks that are required in land stewardship, such as trimming back overgrown trees along the trails, as well as occasionally assisting stewardship staff on larger projects. It was not until I returned in May, 2013, however, that I really became involved with stewardship at Legacy.

This past summer, the other members of the stewardship field crew and I dedicated twenty hours of every week to the different jobs that stewardship entails. With a crew, we were able to go beyond simple trail trimming and work on more difficult trail maintenance tasks such as removing fallen logs and building boardwalks. We also spent many hours tackling a number of different invasive plants that inhibit the success and survival of many native plants. While it certainly has not all been easy work, the rewarding nature of assisting in field work that can actually make a tangible difference shouldn't be understated. I believe, however, that I am the greatest beneficiary of my involvement with Legacy. I will graduate with a degree in Environmental Science in May, 2014, and I have little doubt that my time with Legacy will be one of the most valuable experiences of this part of my life."

2013 Volunteer Awards

By Susan Cooley, Director of Development & Communications

It was one of those incredible years where it really was impossible to identify just one "Volunteer of the Year." We found ourselves working with some amazing volunteers who went above and beyond the call of duty.

Take Dee Overly, for instance. She helped us create the auction website for our two art exhibits at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and at Sandhill Crane Vineyards. No easy task. Edith Maynard took charge of securing and managing all of the art placement at both events. You have never seen anyone with the skill set for detail coupled with such a kind heart. Elaine Pitt took charge of creating ancillary events leading up to the art exhibition. Practically single-handedly, she created a display for the Ann Arbor Public Library and locations at the University of Michigan. Her enthusiasm

was contagious and her ultimate display took my breath away. And then there was Mary Kinley. She created a gala event at Matthaei that made us all so proud to be part of such an elegant gathering. Last, but certainly not least, art exhibition volunteer, beloved Trustee and chair of the event, Marty Mayo jumped in with such passion and skill that she kept us all on our toes! Because of her, the exhibition was magnificent.

Two other great awards center around support of stewardship. Kristen Schotts and Tom Chettleburgh share the prestigious Lewis & Clark Award. Kristen earned the Lewis portion by botanizing through tick season, and braving chiggers, poison ivy, and the threat of wild boars! Tom proved he would have had no problems keeping up with Clark by charting our previously uncharted



Irwin Goldstein and Martha Mayo at Legacy of the Land Through Art exhibit

territories using GPS wizardry.

Legacy is an organization that is volunteer-driven. We maintain a small staff and count on our volunteers for their support and guidance. Every single day that I come to work, I count my blessings with the many volunteers that we have grown to love. Thanks so very much.

Upcoming Events

Land Partner Gathering – Stewardship Programs

March 16, 11am -2 pm

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

Interested in restoration projects on your land? You are invited to this potluck brunch. Legacy is making pancakes, bring your favorite topping and/or side dish. A presentation will focus on programs available to landowners to help fund stewardship. Presentation starts at 12:00 pm.

Volunteer Photo-Monitoring Kick-off and Training Part I

April 5, 12-3 pm (Part II on April 12th)

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

What better way to see beautiful places than to volunteer to photograph them? The Photo-Monitoring Squad volunteers are a group of dedicated and hardy individuals interested in bush-whacking, GPS use and digital imagery to assist Legacy in upholding the terms of their conservation easements. Part I will be an indoor orientation session. Part II is an outdoor field training. **Join the squad by attending both of these trainings (on April 5th and April 12th).**

Volunteer Photo-Monitoring Field Training (Part II)

April 12, 12-3 pm (April 13, 12-3pm Rain Date)

769 Merlin Way, Dexter, MI (off Marshall Road between Zeeb Road and Baker Roads)

Volunteers will be going through a 'practice run' monitoring as a group at an easement property. **NOTE: This training is part 2 of the Photo-Monitoring Training.**

Reichert Preserve Guided Botanical Walks

June 22, 2pm with Huron Valley Botanical Club

September 14, 1:30pm with The Stewardship Network

Reichert Nature Preserve, Pinckney MI

Botanists and those with budding botanical interests are invited to either or both of these walks at our newest preserve.

*** To register for events contact Dana at**

dana@legacylandconservancy.org or 734.302.5263

Our stewardship workdays will be arranged per group this year, please email Dana at dana@legacylandconservancy.org if your group would like to volunteer.

Legacy of the Land Through Art

By Susan Cooley, Director of Development & Communications



*Hot Evening Tree
by Betty Price*

Legacy of the Land Through Art completes its year-long effort on March 9, 2014 with the closing of the display at Sandhill Crane Vineyards. Forty-three artists, selected through a juried competition a year ago, were assigned to properties conserved by Legacy, and had six months to visit the land. Each artist could create up to three artworks, drawing inspiration from the nature they experienced on their properties and from conversations with the landowners.

The resulting 101 works of art were exhibited last October and November at the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens, which partnered with Legacy for this project. Seeing these lands through the artists' eyes was enlightening! After the exhibition at Matthaei closed, the artworks were put to bed until the second exhibition at Sandhill Crane Vineyards opened on February 1, 2014.

Throughout the exhibition period the artworks have been on display on the Legacy auction website, where visitors can go to purchase art. Buyers can choose from art with a fixed price, or take their chances and bid on one of the 36 pieces that are in the auction. Already, 20 works have been sold. **Note: The opportunity to purchase or bid on a piece of art ends on March 9 at 6:00 pm.** If you were inspired by a piece of art at the exhibition, be sure to get to the auction website before it closes. Go to: **www.auction.legacylandconservancy.org.**

Through the leadership of many volunteers as well as the commitment of our artists and property owners, the exhibitions were first class. Legacy received many kudos for the high quality of this art project. We appreciate our

volunteers, sponsors and supporters who helped make the event successful. And, a big thank you to all the artists. The exhibition wouldn't have been possible without them!



Legacy Art Exhibit Gallery



Legacy Art Exhibit at Matthaei Botanical Gardens

A Mosaic of Land

By Peter Heydon

When Rita and I began to acquire agricultural acreage adjacent to our Scio Township residence in the 1970's, it was never our goal to hold it and resell it to developers for profit. Quite the contrary: we enlarged our farming operations over the nearly 440 A-1 zoned acres. It became an easy matter for us, subsequently, once learning of the Pottawatomie Land Trust (thanks to co-founders **Karl Frankena** and **Bill Martin**) to commit portions of our farm's acreage to agricultural purposes forever. Over the intervening years we have given as many as a half-dozen easements on as many tracts of ground so as to protect them forever for agricultural uses only. We have insisted on not permitting public access to our private lands, but whoever ultimately ends up with the acres with the preservation easements on them at the end of our lives must abide by Legacy's

conservation easements, which protect their agricultural uses into the indefinite future.

We are proud that our **Mosaic Acres Farm** can exist as a small swath of the green belt in the Scio, Ann Arbor and Webster Township communities where we live and carry on our farming operations. We would like to believe that our dedication may have given some additional wind to other initiatives in our area also; to carry on sensible development, cluster housing and other such planning to preserve the rural and agricultural feel of these three sections of Washtenaw county. So, we are proud to be associated with the similar efforts of other citizens acting on the



View on Peter & Rita Heydon's Mosaic Acres Farm

persistent advice of the land conservancy in our own backyard – all learning to be motivated by the instinct to sustain rural and agricultural living conditions, forever. We similarly encourage others to support the financial needs of **Legacy Land Conservancy** by providing dollars for the operational success of the office staff and the business side of the equation.

Geocaching in our Preserves

By Pete Sandretto

There are over 1,635,000 geocaches in the world and there are currently nine in preserves owned by Legacy Land Conservancy. What are they and where are they?

Quoting from the geocaching.com website, "Geocaching is a real-world outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) at the location". There are over 5,000,000 geocachers in the world.

Geocaches vary considerably in appearance and size. Some examples that one might see in the field include a large clear plastic container, a 35 mm film canister, or a fake rock with a secret compartment. Contents may be trinkets of little value or only a log sheet. All caches must contain a log sheet to be signed by the finder. The trinkets found in a cache may be exchanged for similar items brought by the finder.

Three of Legacy's five publicly accessible preserves contain geocaches. These include Creekshead Preserve (4 caches), Beckwith Preserve (4 caches), and Sharon Hills Preserve (1 cache). Members of the geocaching community hide and maintain all of the geocaches listed on geocaching.com. Geocaches are found all over the world and are often placed by geocachers in locations that

mean a lot to them. These often reflect an interest or skill of the cache owner. Locations are very diverse and they may include local parks, the end of a long hike, the side of a city street, or a preserve like those owned by Legacy Land Conservancy.

The following are some guidelines for placing a geocache from the geocaching.com website.

- **Geocache placements do not deface or destroy public or private property.** Geocaches are placed so that the surrounding environment is safe from both intentional or unintentional harm. Keep both natural and human-made objects safe. No object or property may be altered to provide a hiding place, clue, or means of logging a find.

- **Wildlife is not harmed in the pursuit of geocaching.** Geocaches are placed so that plant and animal life are safe from both intentional and unintentional harm.

To become involved in this sport one needs access to the Internet to identify available caches, a GPS device or a GPS enabled mobile phone, and a free membership to geocaching.com.

Geocaching is just one of the many ways that visitors can enjoy our preserves and when you are on a geocaching adventure you may also have an opportunity to hike the trails, watch the birds, spot a deer, or enjoy the wildflowers.



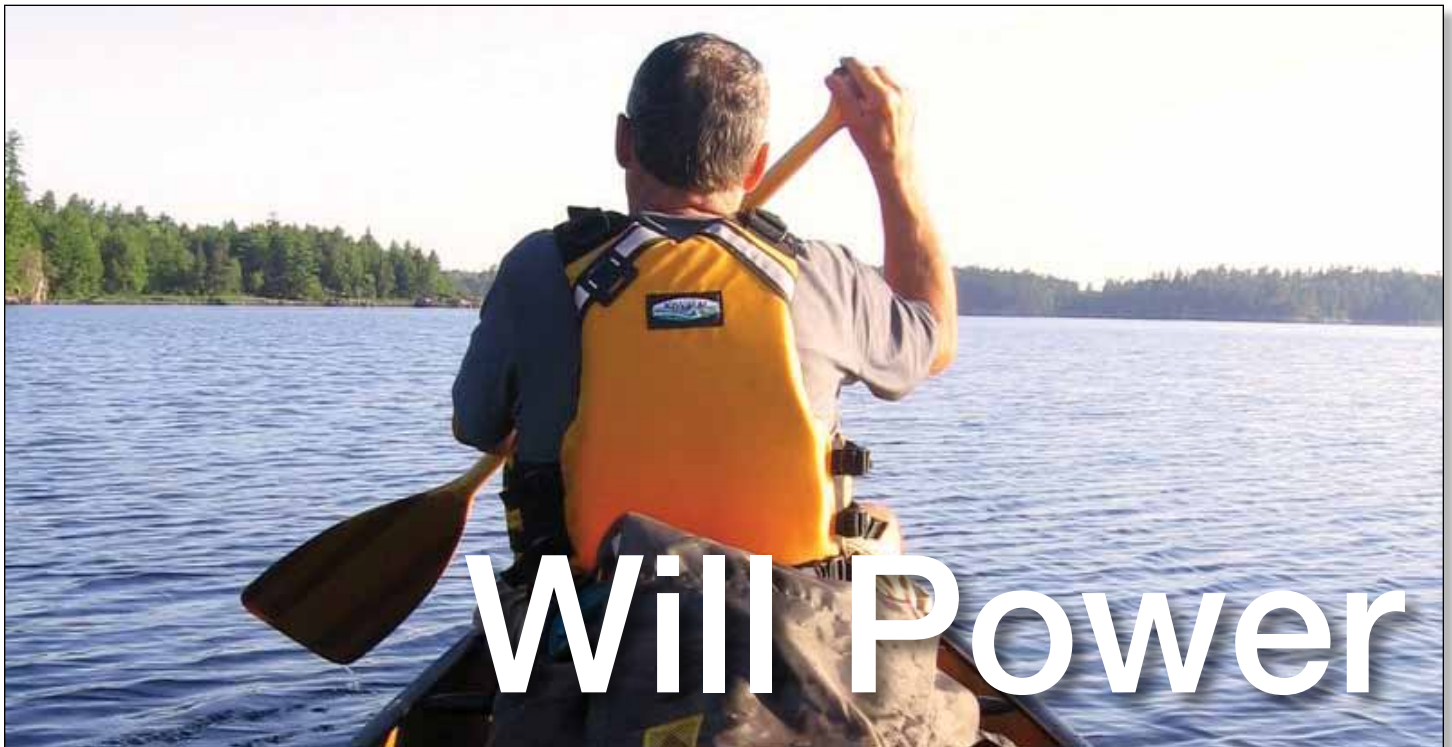


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Land Conservancy
*Protecting and Preserving
Southern Michigan Since 1971*



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Harlie Smith in canoe - photo by Adam Smith

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 cooley@legacylandconservancy.org