



Photo by Barbara Michniewicz

Farmland Protection

By Susan Lackey, Executive Director

This is the third in a series of articles outlining Legacy Land Conservancy's land protection priorities. By identifying the most important lands for protection, we can achieve our goal of protecting 25,000 of the most important acres of land in our community - forever.

From nearly its beginning, Legacy Land Conservancy has been a leader in protecting the productive farms of our community. In 1999, we worked with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to purchase the development rights on the farm of Kelvin and Howard Braun in Saline—one of the first PDR's completed by the state. In 2001, we helped Ann Arbor Township become the first local government in Michigan to purchase a conservation easement, with the easement



on the David Braun farm. In 2003, we began using Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program funds to purchase conservation easements, beginning with the Carolyn Streiter property in Freedom Township. Today, we are helping Washtenaw County implement their Purchase of Development Rights program, and are working with Jackson County to qualify their farmers to receive State PDR funds.

Not all conservancies protect farmland, of course; it is certainly different than protecting woodland or a wetland. For one thing, it's a business...and a big one in our area, at over \$129,000,000 annually. For another, farmland is very much 'working

land' - land that is shaped by human intervention.

Why do we protect farmland?

So, why protect farmland? The reasons sound familiar: hedgerows and croplands

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Chickadee - photo 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

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Far Country

By Susan Lackey
Executive Director



In February, we held our annual ‘Landowner Gathering’ to bring together the community of people who have chosen to protect their land. I love this event... it’s casual, it’s warm, and it’s full of folks with whom I’d gladly spend a Saturday morning. The hallmark is always stories, laughter and good noise—all much needed in the dead of winter.

In this space, I’ve often talked about the beautiful places this job brings me in contact with. This event reminds me, however, that the people are equally special.

For instance, landowners who fall in love with a piece of land and find themselves ‘collecting’ the surrounding properties, the way some folks collect china; or the people whose love for the land comes from a deep understanding of the ecology of a particular place. Not to mention farmers, who know the loss of the land equals a loss of both community character and economic vitality; or the self-described ‘city folks,’ who have discovered the peace of a rural landscape. And let’s not forget the young families who want to give their children a taste of the independence that comes from living with the land; or the families with roots in the community that date back to the Northwest Territory.

This work is as much about the people as it is about the land. People—you and your neighbors—make a decision to protect places that matter to them for any number of reasons, and people make a decision to support the work that makes that land protection possible. In turn, the land provides food, water, peace and recreation to the people. That seems to me like a nice bargain we’ve all struck.

Since February is now long gone, I leave all the people who care about the land with this quote from author Margaret Atwood, “In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.”

Across the Board

Jackson County Farmland Preservation

By Charity Steere, Board Member

Over 1100 farms cover more than 40% of the land in Jackson County, so clearly agriculture remains a significant portion of Jackson County’s economy. Recognizing this, about five years ago the Jackson County Board of Commissioners passed their first Farmland Preservation ordinance. Since Jackson County forms the western edge of Legacy’s projected ‘arc of protection,’ Legacy Land Conservancy (then Washtenaw Land Trust) had informally worked in Jackson County for several years, holding a couple of easements and working in the Waterloo area. The combination of the new county ordinance and the unanticipated crowd at a joint WLT/Upper Grand River Implementation Project “Ask the Experts” land preservation event pushed the WLT board to extend our work to formally serve Jackson County landowners.

Michigan’s Farmland Preservation Program requires local governments to establish their own criteria for applications for state funding of Purchase of Development Rights. As a result, Legacy Land Conservancy, in partnership with Jackson County MSU Extension, stepped up to a key role in the development of the protection, application and evaluation criteria for Jackson County’s new Farmland Preservation Program. With Legacy’s expertise and experience, the preservation committee’s program was approved by the state on the first try. This fall, a second full-house meeting with county farmers confirmed grass-roots interest in the program. Now, Legacy is assisting interested townships with the necessary planning and mapping requirements to prepare their applications for state matching funding. It appears that several townships will be ready, so for the first time Jackson County farmers will be able to apply for purchase of development rights funding to protect their land and keep it available for agriculture forever. We expect the local committee will have many good applications to consider and hope the state will approve funds for this new program to assist Jackson County farmers.



We are going from three newsletters per year to two. Our publications will be Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter. We will be keeping in touch with our supporters monthly via our email communications. Please give us a call or email if you would like the monthly updates.



LEGACY
Land Conservancy

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Washtenaw County Natural Areas Program Launches Farmland Protection Effort

By Susan Lackey, Executive Director

With last year’s renewal of the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Protection Program millage, approximately \$800,000 is available annually for the next 10 years to support farmland protection in Washtenaw County. Legacy Land Conservancy is proud to have been chosen to assist in implementing this program.

The program launched in October 2011 with 62 applications, totaling nearly

6,000 acres—proof that farmers are committed to the concept of protecting both working farms and the natural areas that frequently accompany them.

The success of this program is dependent on building strong relationships with other partners. In addition to Legacy, the program will work with State and Federal Purchase of Development Rights programs and other local township and non-profit partners.



Recently Protected Properties

By Emily Grubman, U of M Work-Study Intern



Botero property

This year we have been off to a great start with the conservation of three properties. **Charles Botero** protected his 32-acre property in the Huron River Watershed, saying, “When I stopped farming, I began planting trees. Now I know those trees will be here forever.” Botero’s protected parcel of land is home to various fish, wildlife and plants, including: Great Horned Owls, white-tailed deer, other common birds and mammals, and native flora such as mature oak hickory, pine trees, native grasses and forbs. Botero’s protected property is also conveniently in close proximity to other protected areas and helps create a vital natural corridor for wildlife movement running north parallel to US-23.

Sherri Munson also protected her 7.8 acres of land in Webster Township. The protection of this parcel is truly important to the well-being of the

surrounding ecosystem, as it houses an unusually broad range of habitats and natural life for a property of its size. The preservation of this area within the watershed of Arms Creek and the Huron River also helps ensure the quality and quantity of water resources for the Ann Arbor area. In fact, Arms Creek is one of the cleanest creeks in the Huron River Watershed and is a designated Scenic River. Munson’s protection of her land ensures the health and longevity of this community’s ecosystem and wildlife. “This is wonderful as the land remains in its natural habitat for generations to come,” said Sherri Munson. This property joins more than ten conserved properties in the Arms Creek Watershed, making it also one of the most conserved in the area.



Munson property



South Lake

In March, a group of long-time friends protected their shared 69-acre “South Lake Community” in White Oak Township of Ingham County. The property includes all of South Burden Lake and the equally beautiful surrounding woods and wetlands. During the 1960s and ‘70s, this land was considered a Sandhill Crane sanctuary. Originally acquired in the 1991 by like-minded friends, this area was protected by the current owners—a group of families, including: **Michael Andes, Catherine Lilly and Ray Mattatal, Gail and John Einhaus, Susan Ericksen and John Cardwell, Alison Hine and Morrey Kramer, Mary and Percy Lilly, Kenneth Winter and Suzanne Eastman, and James Wilton.** Over the years, owners in this group have come and gone, but the conservation of this land will ensure that the beauty of the area will never leave. “It just shows that a bunch of granola-heads can form a business partnership and make it work for all these years,” said John Einhaus.

The Butterflies of Washtenaw County

By John Swales with photographs by Michael Gay

After twenty years of amateur effort, we now know quite a lot about butterflies in Washtenaw County. Over these years, close to 100 different species have been identified, with around 85 species present in any given year. Typically, the first butterflies emerge on warm sunny days in March—these are the



Mourning Cloak

species that mature into adults over winter, such as the **Mourning Cloak**. The last to be seen are the **Monarchs** and **Sulphurs**, often found sipping up the last drops of nectar in fields of flowers at the end of October.

Some of the best public places to spot butterflies include the Matthaei Botanical Gardens in eastern Ann Arbor, the Leonard Preserve near Manchester, and Park Lyndon North off North Territorial Road. On a good day, between late June and mid-August, up to forty different species can be found at one of these sites. Our current record was established during the 2004 Chelsea area



Striped Hairstreak

North American Butterfly Association Butterfly Count, where we observed 56 species in one day.

Of the various privately owned properties protected with Legacy Land Conservancy, the one I know best is the Smith-Badgley property in Sylvan Township.

This large area consists of grazing fields for horses, an old-field habitat with many flowers, a small conifer plantation near a stream, and several easily-accessible areas of extensive fen. Fens are a very important habitat in Washtenaw County because they contain a number of butterfly species that are only found there.



Giant Swallowtail

Though this property is not open to the public, I have had the opportunity to survey it three times during the last two years—first in early August 2010, and then in early and mid July 2011. I was accompanied on the first and third surveys by **Roger Wykes** and on the second by **Michael Gay**, whose photographs adorn this piece. The second visit was incorporated for the first time into the Chelsea area NABA Butterfly Count, and the third was part of a butterfly and bird walk organized by Legacy Land Conservancy.

The combined list of butterflies from the Smith-Badgley property presently stands at an impressive 46 species, including a number of uncommon or rare species. The fen area produced both **Black Dash** and **Dion Skippers**—always good finds in Washtenaw County. On our first visit, we counted ten



Monarch



Orange Sulphur

Meadow Fritillaries—the largest number of this locally-very-hard-to-find butterfly that I have ever seen! Uncommon immigrants from further south on subsequent visits included **Gray Hairstreak**, **Variegated Fritillary**, **Checkered Skipper** and **Fieri Skipper**. Another excellent sighting was a **Striped Hairstreak** near the stream. I am very much hoping to re-visit this site at least once in 2012!

Butterflies are very variable. They vary in size, from the tiny **Eastern Tailed-Blue** to the very impressive **Giant Swallowtail**; they vary in the timing and length of their flight seasons; and they vary in the habitats in which they are found. They also vary in the range of host-plants for their caterpillars; some species can lay eggs on quite a number of these, while others are highly restricted. For example, the rare, fen-obligate **Dorcas Copper** is only found near **Shrubby Cinquefoil**. (There is a small area of this attractive little bush in the Smith-Badgley fen, but it is probably not extensive enough to support a colony.)



Checkered Skipper

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Farmland Protection

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provide wildlife habitat for birds, mammals, and important insects; open fields help control flooding, provide groundwater recharge, and filter water—all of which improve the quality of our rivers and streams. In our area, farms frequently include valuable wetlands and woodlots that contribute to water and air quality.

For many of us, the rural character provided by working farms helps define the place where we live and differentiates it from suburban communities to the east. And, of course, we all rely on farms for food. The soils that produce that food are as rare and important as the natural communities that we protect.

In 2002, the American Farmland Trust identified the places in the United States where the best farmland was the most threatened. Both Washtenaw and

Jackson Counties figured prominently on that map. Lands along either side of the I-94 corridor represented some of the most productive in the nation, and also those most vulnerable to development pressure.

In 2012, we think a lot less about development pressure than we did in 2002, but now a new threat faces our farms. In 2008, the average farmer was 58 years old. Unlike development pressure, age is inexorable. Farmers must find a new generation to pass the land on to, or the land will grow fallow. Selling development rights to farmland can help make land affordable to a new generation of farmers, while ensuring that the incumbent farmer receives full value for the land he has worked so hard all his life.

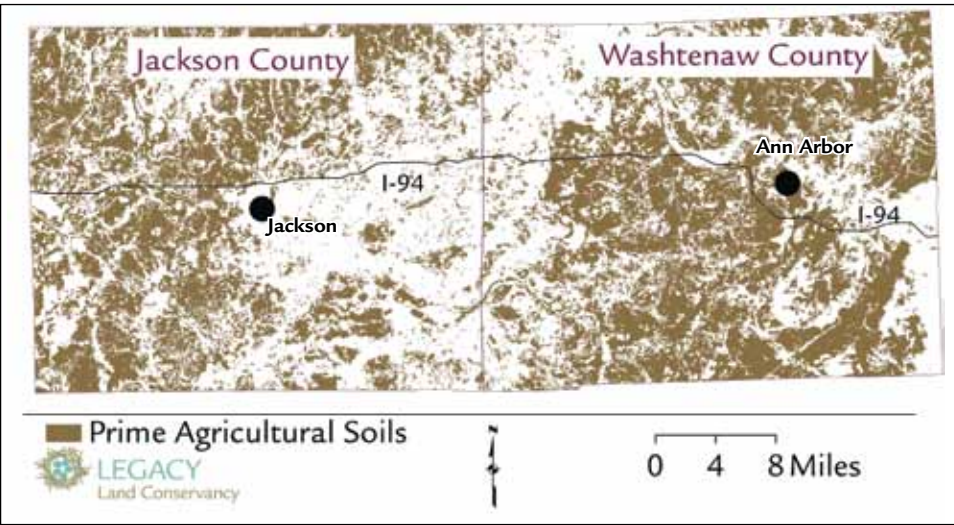
While farmland protection can help make a transition to a new ownership, it can also be a way of recognizing our rural heritage. Our community has many centennial farms—farms that have been



in a single family for over 100 years. As those farms are sold outside the family, farmland protection can ensure that their history as agricultural lands is not lost to future generations.

What farmland should be protected?

There are many criteria for protecting farmland. Legacy Land Conservancy looks at: whether the property is large enough to sustain a farming operation; if there are other protected farms nearby; and if the soils are appropriate for farming. Many of our state, federal and local partners have similar criteria, but also consider: proximity to utilities, road frontage, and presence of natural habitat. The goal of these programs is to utilize limited protection resources in places where farming is likely to be successful for years to come.



The Butterflies of Washtenaw County

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It is increasingly recognized that butterflies are an important source of information about environmental changes because, as fragile insects with complicated life cycles, they face many threats. These threats include extreme weather conditions, chemical applications (this is why there are few butterflies on golf courses!), unhelpful invasive species such as Buckthorn or Autumn Olive, and succession—the natural progression from meadow to old field, to scrub, and on to woodland.

Butterflies are much easier to record and/or identify these days with the advent

of close-focusing binoculars and close-focusing small cameras. Field-guides are much better than they used to be and many excellent photos of butterflies are available on the web. If landowners associated with Legacy Land Conservancy would like butterfly surveys of their property, Roger Wykes and I would be happy to help out. I can be reached at 734-995-1139 or at jmswales@umich.edu.

I can also make the current Smith-Badgley list available, or provide other information about local butterflies.



Dion Skipper



Eastern Tailed-Blue

Legacy Stewardship - Caring for Our Protected Lands

By Dana Wright, Stewardship Coordinator



Hikers learn about Woodland Preserve during 5 Hikes in 5 Days last fall.

As Legacy works to protect important lands in Washtenaw and Jackson Counties, we also make plans and work towards responsible stewarding of that land to preserve it. What do these words mean, “protect” and “preserve?” What are we protecting the land from? Development? Is preserving land like preserving food? Like making

watershed jam, or prairie jerky?

Protecting land is more about prioritizing the best use for lands than it is about preventing development. We accept development as a part of our ever-growing population, but development can happen in a way that takes into consideration many ideologies, priorities and goals. Prioritizing protection of the lands that will best protect water quality, diversity of habitats, high farming potential, and accessibility for people means that these lands will be optimized for their best use. If we reduce our relationship with nature outside of ourselves to a cost-benefit analysis, or an “ecosystem services” model, it becomes very apparent that we need our natural world to survive. Protecting highest priority lands provides an appropriately-sized container for development and prevents what I call the “refrigerator effect:” it makes very little difference what size refrigerator you have—you will fill it up. If

we see all land as our “refrigerator,” we will fill it up with development and leave no room in the kitchen for cooking and gathering for meals—the activities that feed our bodies and souls. If we buy a smaller refrigerator, we are forced to be creative with our food storage, but will have plenty of space to have friends in to share a meal and a story.

Preserving land IS a lot like making jam...we preserve the qualities that are most important to be retained for future use. And similar to strawberries, if we leave land alone or just “let it go natural,” we may be letting our red, ripe strawberries turn to smelly, moldy mush—which is natural, but not useable for spreading on toast. In the case of natural areas, when we do not actively manage them, they march towards invasive monocultures. Systems that are dominated by invasive plants do not offer the same ecosystem services of water filtration, biodiversity support, erosion control, water cycling and habitat that native forests, wetlands, and prairies do.



Hepatica: one of the rewards of stewardship!

Protecting and preserving—or stewarding—the land go hand in hand. We cannot do one and expect the other to follow, but must do both to keep what is dear to us about Michigan and necessary for our health available for future generations.

Legacy’s Stewardship Program is aimed at achieving just that. In the three years since we started a formal Stewardship Program, we have created a volunteer photo-

monitoring team to monitor our conservation agreement properties and make sure the terms of the agreements are being upheld. We have written management plans that prioritize and spell out management tasks over the next five years for all of our preserves. These management plans help us do stewardship on a daily basis in a way that makes sense, working towards the overarching goal for each preserve. In recognition that this type of planning is such an important part of the process, we also hope to implement a stewardship tracking system to be able to document our work by geographic area and specific inputs so we have measures of success to be used in future planning. We have conducted 10-12 workdays each year to help implement our management plans. In those workdays, we have installed a trail system at the Johnson Preserve including a boardwalk (new last fall!), cleared 25 acres of invasive shrubs and plants, maintained 5.5 miles of trails, moved a half-mile of trails, removed a huge truckload of garbage from the Beckwith Preserve, planted hundreds of native shrubs, and seeded 2-3 acres of land with native seeds. These projects engaged hundreds of volunteers for approximately 3,000 hours.

Other stewardship projects have included installing new signs at all of the preserves, creating a parking lot at the Johnson Preserve, a stream bank stabilization project, and a small prescribed burn.

On the ground, stewardship has to be supported by knowledge, good planning, tracking and follow-up. Legacy is part of the Heart of the Lakes Peer to Peer mentoring program designed to provide networking and education among stewardship peers in the region. We participate in the Stewardship



A group of volunteers from UM removes invasive shrubs from the Johnson Preserve.

Network Huron Arbor Cluster and Raisin Cluster as cluster planners and in the Stewardship Network Annual Conference as presenters and volunteers. Legacy also now has GIS capabilities to increase our ability to communicate visually what we do and help us accurately assess projects and priorities. We are looking at creating a database to track stewardship activities over time, help us with successful grant applications, and update management plans.

Currently, our Stewardship Program is one half of a person, which means many of the things we would like to get done are difficult to achieve. We need to expand the outreach and educational component of our Stewardship Program by developing maps, brochures, leading regular hikes, and engaging the public through our website. We also need to increase the amount of work we can do by engaging more volunteers. As we are more successful at protecting land, we are driven to be better stewards of the land – thereby preserving it!

If you would like to help, there are many ways to **be a stewardship volunteer**: our **Photo-Monitoring Squad** is a great way to see protected lands and help keep them that way; we need a volunteer **Volunteer Coordinator** to help buoy our Volunteer Program; each of our preserves need **Preserve Adopters** to help us have a regular presence in the preserves, note change, and help with maintenance; we would like a stewardship **web master** to make regular updates to the stewardship pages on our website and get our information out to other websites; our **workdays** can always use more volunteers and this year we are looking for volunteers to help us **lead workdays**; our **Stewardship Committee** could use a few more people; and we can always use **botanists** or people with **GIS** experience. Legacy relies on volunteers for a large portion of the work we achieve and we give a heart-



Dana packing up after a day in the field.

felt thank you to all of you who have contributed to our Stewardship Program. May we, together, **leave a legacy of good stewardship!**



Volunteers assemble a simple boardwalk at the Johnson Preserve.



Volunteer, Jason Frenzel, lights the banks of the creek at Beckwith to prep for seeding.

There’s Something About John & Barbara

By Susan Cooley, Development Director



Dragonfly -- photo by John Lloyd



Manchester wetlands -- photo by John Lloyd

John

On a recent visit to the “Stand in the Place Where You Live” exhibit at the Chelsea Center for the Arts, I kept returning to the work of photographer **John Lloyd**. I was particularly drawn to his dragonflies, since I spent a great deal of my childhood chasing them. I was always fascinated by the way dragonflies appear to be smiling.

John was one of the founders of the Potawatomi Land Trust, and has continued to support Legacy Land Conservancy’s work. When I approached him about donating some photographs to refresh our print materials, he offered us some of his most beautiful work.

John grew to love the outdoors as a child growing up in New Hampshire. He now lives in Ann Arbor and in addition to taking photographs, he gardens, plays Celtic folk music in the band Nutshell, and bikes to his job as a software engineer. His passion for gardening developed in the 1980s and he became a supporter of the Community Farm of Ann Arbor.

His love of photography also began in the 1980s and he soon became dedicated to creating beautiful photographs of nature. In 2009, he won the prestigious Appalachian Mountain Club’s annual photo contest in the “Kids, Families, and Adult Outdoors” category.

When asked about his work, John states, “I often approach photography like a treasure hunt. I love going outside with my

camera and seeing what amazing patterns and compositions I can find in nature. While I love to photograph scenic landscapes, I also look for intimate views. My garden is another favorite [subject]. Weeding sessions are often suspended in favor of photography when the sun emerges to bathe plants in compelling sunlight.”

Barbara

I was fortunate enough to pay a visit to **Gerald Nordblom** and **Barbara Michniewicz**, who have protected their land in Whitmore Lake with Legacy. I had been telling Barbara about my fascination with John’s photographs only to find out that Barbara is an accomplished photographer herself. She was given a camera by her father as a child and has been snapping photos ever since, capturing her family and her tribe of animals.

What I love so much about Barbara’s story is why they ended up moving to the country—it’s a great cat story. Apparently her cat, **Zoey**, got out one day and wanted to do a bit of ‘birding’ in their neighbors’ backyard. When the neighbor told them they would take Zoey to the Humane Society if she adventured into their yard again, Barbara and Gerald decided to move to the country.

I want to share some of her photos with you as well, as she has the very special eye and patience it takes to capture the birds, bees and other animals on their beautiful 28-acre property. I hope you enjoy them as much as I have.

If you have some great photos you would like to share with Legacy, give me a call.



Spring blooms -- photo by Barbara Michniewicz



Zoey -- photo by Barbara Michniewicz

Pretty Soon, Everyone Will be Talking About It

By Margaret Engle

The Descendants is a terrific movie for a host of reasons—not the least of which is hunky George Clooney. But for supporters of land protection, the film has a particular appeal since (spoiler alert!) hero Clooney ends up saving family land. *The Descendants* is a masterstroke in communication because the language of land conservation does not always lend itself to easy storytelling.

Protecting land is a serious, complicated business. At Legacy board meetings, terms like “fee simple,” “FRPPs,” “PDRs,” and “perpetuity” are tossed about with abandon—not exactly the language of emotional connection. Nevertheless, it’s a story that needs to be told. That’s why Legacy’s board recently committed the organization to a three-



White trillium -- photo by John Lloyd

year marketing plan to reach out to our current members and extend our message to new audiences. The plan was created by Susan Cooley, Legacy’s Development Director, who assembled a diverse team of media specialists, public educators, artists, editors, and writers—nearly all of whom are volunteers (including me, as the obligatory board member).

It’s a challenge, but substance is on our side, and we have more than words. Our story is told by open fields, pristine streams, trails to hike, rivers to kayak, and tables piled high with local produce at farmers’ markets from Ypsilanti to Jackson. If the medium is the message, our medium is the land—its fields plowed and productive or left pristine to shelter flora and fauna. In 100 years, our work will resonate in scenic beauty, lasting wildlife habitat, and enduring rural character.

Our story is reflected in positive numbers too. In these turbulent economic times, it helps to remember that preserved farmlands, parks, and greenbelts can be a boon to home values, and that preserving land can help keep down property taxes. Remember, too, that through the worst of the downturn, the agricultural sector remained a bright spot in southern

Michigan’s economy—with 500 percent job growth from 2001-2009 and \$30 million GDP in 2009 in the Ann Arbor area. And since quality of life is high on the list of corporate attractions, the benefits of preserving land—open space, clean water, recreational opportunities, and local food—are significant draws to companies looking to relocate (or stay) here.

In Legacy’s early years, Michigan enjoyed an entirely different media environment. One story in the daily paper brought news of our projects directly into most area homes. The current fragmented media landscape is vastly more complicated, but it also holds exciting promise. We will work to get out our message to local publications, as well as electronic and broadcast media. We will talk to clubs, schools, social and civic organizations; we will find allies among bloggers and tweeters. Now if we could just get George Clooney to make a movie about the Waterloo-Pinckney Recreation Area.



Margaret Engle

Video Legacies

Over the past two years, our University of Michigan work-study students, **Emily Grubman** and **Megan Biner**, have helped Legacy capture some memorable visits with a few of Legacy’s founding members and landowners in four YouTube videos.



Anne Elder and Paul Bantle

The first video takes us on a visit to the Community Farm of Ann Arbor—one of Legacy’s first protected properties—to



Campbell and Frances Laird

talk with farmers, Anne Elder and Paul Bantle, about Community Supported Agriculture.

The second video invites us into the warm home of Campbell and Frances Laird to learn more about their journey to protect their land and create the Beckwith Preserve.

The final two videos—“Legacy Stories”—introduce us to Karl Frankena, Bill Martin, and Mary and John Hathaway, some of the early voices of land protection in Washtenaw County.

If you haven’t watched these videos yet, please take a moment to visit our website at www.legacylandconservancy.org to learn more about Legacy and the friendly faces that have supported Legacy and its mission.



Karl Frankena and Bill Martin



Mary and John Hathaway

Upcoming Events

Conserving Your Land Coffee Hour Sessions
April 19, 7-9 pm
Columbia Township Hall, 8500 Jefferson Rd, Brooklyn MI
April 21, 10 am -12 pm
Manchester Village Hall, 912 City Rd, Manchester MI (meeting will be held in the basement)
April 26, 7-9 pm
Somerset Center Community Building, 12715 East Chicago Rd, Somerset Center MI
Legacy Land Conservancy, Raisin Valley Land Trust, River Raisin Watershed Council, and the Stewardship Network are hosting a series of informal coffee hours geared toward answering additional questions about land preservation, and how current programs apply to your specific property. For more info, contact Anna Wadhams at anna@legacylandconservancy.org or 734.302.5263.
NOTE: These sessions are follow-ups to the ‘Conserving Your Land’ Workshops.

Volunteer Photo-Monitoring Field Training (Part II)
April 21, 12-2 pm
769 Merlin Way, Dexter, MI (off Marshall Road between Zeeb Road and Baker Road)
Volunteers will be going through a ‘practice run,’ monitoring as a group at an easement property. Learn what things to look for in the field and the how-to’s 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. **NOTE: This training is part 2 of the Photo-Monitoring Training.** RSVP to Dana at dana@legacylandconservancy.org.

Stewardship Workday – Beckwith Preserve
April 22, 1-4 pm
E. Main St. on north side just after Maple intersection, Stockbridge
Celebrate Earth Day by joining Legacy and REI volunteers in restoring some of the stream banks along one of the Huron’s cleanest tributaries. Volunteers will install erosion control blankets and plant native seeds and shrubs.

Stewardship Workday – Beckwith Preserve
April 29th, 1-4 pm
E. Main St. on north side just after Maple intersection, Stockbridge
Help finish our stream bank stabilization project!

Earth Day – Ann Arbor
April 22, 12-4 pm
Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver Rd, Ann Arbor
This community event is free and open to the public. Nearly 60 local, nonprofit environmental exhibitors will provide information and hands-on activities for all ages. Contact www.LeslieSNC.org for more information.

Earth Day – Jackson
April 22, 1-4 pm
Sparks Foundation Park, Jackson
This community event is free and open to the public. It includes hands-on activities and interactive educational displays to increase awareness of outdoor activities available. See www.jacksonareaoutdoorcoalition.com for more information.

Green Fair – Ann Arbor
June 8, 6-9 pm
Main Street, Ann Arbor
Downtown Main Street will be open to pedestrians for free entertainment, food, and over 120 exhibits with environmental information, hands-on activities for youth, and more. For more information, visit a2gov.org/green. WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE

Stewardship Workday – Johnson Preserve
June 21, 9 am -3 pm
South of intersection of Platt and Ellsworth, just south of Lillie Park on Platt Road, Ann Arbor
Help us open up the trails, maintain the new boardwalk, and scout for invasive species. Volunteers can participate in the morning session (9 am-12 pm) or afternoon session (1-3 pm), or both.

Boardwalk Dedication – Johnson Preserve
August TBD time TBD
South of intersection of Platt and Ellsworth, just south of Lillie Park on Platt Road, Ann Arbor
Join us for a hike through our newest preserve as we dedicate the boardwalks built by volunteers last fall in memory of Harley Smith. Contact Susan Cooley susancooley@legacylandconservancy.org or 734.302.5263 for more information.

Wildflower Walk - Reichert Preserve
September 9, 1-3 pm
11950 Dexter-Pinckney Road, Pinckney
Join Legacy Land Conservancy and the Stewardship Network as we explore this preserved property to identify Michigan native fall wildflowers. Naturalist, Catherine Marquardt, will guide us through the plants in a wet meadow at this special by-permission-only preserve. Participants will learn how to use a dichotomous key to identify plants and be able to take home an identification book. Please dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a water bottle. To register for the walk, or for more information see www.StewardshipNetwork.org/HuronArbor.

Land Protection Bus Tour!
September 22, 1-5 pm
REI, 970 W. Eisenhower Parkway, Ann Arbor
Join us in celebrating protected lands and local foods, during Legacy Land Conservancy’s Fall Bus Tour. This year we will be visiting Legacy’s local protected farms and get an insiders view of what the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Protected Farmland program is all about. Space is limited, so contact Susan Cooley if you are interested at susancooley@legacylandconservancy.org or 734.302.5263.

Stewardship Workday – Creekshead Preserve
October 14, 1-4 pm
Curtis Road between Brookville and Spring Creek Lane, Ann Arbor
Help us build and install boardwalks in this environmentally sensitive preserve to make this beautiful place more accessible and minimize pedestrian impact. Volunteers need strong backs, but do not need building experience to participate.

Stewardship Workday – Creekshead Preserve
October 21, 1-4 pm
Curtis Road between Brookville and Spring Creek Lane, Ann Arbor

For ALL workdays and hikes: please dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, bring a water bottle and register with Dana at dana@legacylandconservancy.org or 734.302.5263.

Into The Woods

By Lucia and George Brewer

After many years as Ann Arbor townies, in the mid-1970s we decided that it was time to satisfy our unrequited desire to live closer to and as part of nature. We both, though from very different backgrounds, love being immersed in the woods, constantly surrounded by birds, animals, plants and peace. So, after 2-3 years of searching, we finally found our 45-acre parcel of woods, pond and meadow on Gensley Road in Lodi Township.

We purchased the property, but could not afford to build a home right away. Instead, we would often walk through the woods to a hill above a one-acre pond, where we would sit quietly on an old stump, imagining that stump to someday be the location of our living room.

And it came to pass! By about 1980, we had found the resources to build our home on that same hill where our special stump had been, overlooking that beautiful little pond. Over the years, we have loved observing the changes in the seasons from our woodsy perspective. In summer, we are engulfed in lush foliage, woodland wild flowers and birds of all types, including waterfowl, owls (especially Barred and Great Horned), hawks and songbirds. Autumn brings the beautiful changing colors of the leaves and that wonderful crispness in the air; we search for mushrooms, harvest our vegetables, and watch and take note as flocks of birds gather to begin



Lucia and George Brewer

their migrations. When winter comes, the look of our surroundings changes completely, and we can see for great distances through the woods, enabling us to observe the gentle roll of the land and countless deer, fox, coyotes, raccoons, and even an occasional mink. Finally, spring comes, fresh and exciting, as we watch a progression of budding leaves, spring flowers and waterfowl passing through.

We and our collection of Labrador Retrievers have come to love this special, peaceful place with its upland oak/hickory and lowland beech/maple woods, its areas of wetland, and its seven acres of meadow where bottled gentians and cardinal flowers grow. The dogs make sure that we get out for tramps through the woods at least twice a day, every day!



George Brewer with their Labrador Retrievers

Thank You!

Due to our recent switch to a new database, some people fell through the cracks and were not properly thanked in our last newsletter for their support in our last fiscal year. We are so sorry! We sincerely appreciate each and every one of you and your generosity in helping us protect Southern Michigan.

Martha Mayo & Irwin Goldstein	Janet & Charlie Crone	Debbie & Mike Weber	Virginia Maturen
State of Michigan	Back Forty Acres	Richard & Linda Ridley	Joan & Michael Martin
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