

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 17, 2015

For more information, contact:

Audrey Branam

Communications Associate

1100 N. Main St. #203, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

audrey@legacylandconservancy.org

(734) 302-5263



Heart of the Lakes Announces New Board Chair



Ann Arbor Michigan- Susan Lackey has been appointed Chair of the Board of Directors at **Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy**. Lackey is the Executive Director of **Legacy Land Conservancy**.

Heart of the Lakes is the collective voice for Michigan's land conservancies. **Heart of the Lakes** supports land conservation by supporting conservation policy and practice, advocating sound public policies, and providing tools to strengthen conservancy effectiveness. Their efforts help to conserve forests, farmland, coastline and other extraordinary places for the benefit of generations to come. In addition, they believe that Michigan's land and its natural resource base are critically tied to the economy, health, and quality of life of this state.

Land conservancies, also known as land trusts, are community-based, nonprofit organizations dedicated to the permanent protection and stewardship of natural and working lands for the public good.

By the end of 2013, Heart of the Lakes' members had protected 588,703 acres across Michigan.

Susan Lackey brings a significant amount of land trust expertise to her new position as Heart of the Lakes Board Chair.

In addition to her position as Executive Director of Legacy, she was President of the **Washtenaw Development Council** and first president of the Ann Arbor IT Zone. In those positions, she was twice recognized by the **Michigan Economic Development Corporation** as their economic development partner of the year. She is one of just two people to win both of the Michigan Economic Developers Association awards in lifetime achievement and for further professional education.

During her tenure with **Legacy Land Conservancy**, the organization became one of the first in the nation to receive accreditation from the **Land Trust Alliance** Accreditation Commission, a third party organization that evaluates professional and technical best practice in the conservation community. Over the past 10 years, Legacy has increased its conservation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 17, 2015

For more information, contact:

Audrey Branam

Communications Associate

1100 N. Main St. #203, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

audrey@legacylandconservancy.org

(734) 302-5263



holdings by 230%, through creative partnerships with the **Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, Dahlem Conservancy, Raisin Valley Land Trust, Huron River Watershed Council** and others.

She resides in Chelsea, on the edge of the Waterloo Recreation Area, with her husband, Steve Daut, and dog, Chili.

To learn more about Heart of Lakes, please visit their website at: www.heartofthelakes.org

About Legacy Land Conservancy:

Legacy Land Conservancy's mission is to serve Southern Michigan by protecting its forests, prairies, farms and waters, today and forever. Since 1971, Legacy has protected over 6,000 acres of land.