Landscapes

Autumn 2018 • Vol. 27, No.3

65th Street Farm Conservation Easement, Van Buren Co. | Amelia Hansen

65th Street Farm
Conservation Easement

story on page 8

Corey Lake Preserve, Fabius Township, St. Joseph County
Allyson Wentela

Playing in the Orchestra

Peter Ter Louw, President and Executive Director

Hearing from a broad spectrum of voices is one of the keys to successful land conservation. Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC) has had this collaborative experience several times in the past and it seems that the Jones Area Conservation Plan is proving the point once again.

Bruce Howe (SWMLC Land Protection Specialist), Geoff Cripe (former SWMLC Director of Land Protection), and I helped develop the Plan, along with an all-star committee of volunteers who represent a wide variety of views – but share a common interest in conserving the ecologically rich Jones area while managing its recreational use in a sustainable way *(for details, see article on page 4)*.

"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it."

— H. E. Luccock

A crucial focus of the Plan is to find ways to connect the two State Game Areas and a county park by protecting privately owned, high-quality habitat in between. Conserving these connections, called "conservation corridors," would link populations of animals and plants that have been isolated by human activity, and create larger contiguous areas of healthy wildlife habitat.

Consideration is also given to the people that live in the Jones area and value the rural lifestyle that this beautiful, wild area provides. Protecting these natural places is as important for them as it is for the wildlife.

The Jones Area also attracts a diversity of active outdoor recreational uses that go far beyond its historic hunting and fishing roots. Fun, interesting opportunities include the Melting Mann bicycle race, which covers 60 miles of gravel road through Crane Pond State Game Area, and the Dark Sky Park designation that Cass County's 800-acre Dr. TK Lawless Park is seeking to add to its current mix of active recreation and natural areas. Most exciting of all is the Plan's proposed hiking trail that would link TK Lawless Park with the Three Rivers and Crane Pond State Game Areas.

Through it all, SWMLC continues to focus on its strengths of protecting and stewarding land. By working with partners who share our vision – including all of you, our members – we're also helping to create places where ***everyone*** can enjoy nature. **Thank you.**

Rewarding Partnerships

Few of SWMLC's conservation projects have involved as many partners as did the creation of Portman Nature Preserve. It is a true "community forest" – protected thoughtfully after years of research, community outreach, and collaboration with federal, state, and local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and neighbors. The U.S. Forest Service International Programs and Environment for the Americas has recognized this outstanding collaboration by awarding Portman Nature Preserve with the Wings Across the Americas award in the Habitat Conservation Partnership division. The award recognizes Forest Service projects that improve the conservation status of bird, bat, butterfly, and dragonfly species, and rewards the most important partnerships. Congratulations to our partners for their exceptional work on this project and thank you for your dedication and commitment to conservation!

Tyler Bassett
Conservation Botanist

Thom Coder
Mattawan Public Schools

Geoffrey Cripe
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy

David Cuthrell
Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Nate Fuller
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy

Christine Hanaburgh
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Daria Hyde
Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Dan Kennedy
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Peg Kohring
The Conservation Fund

Bill McNulty
Mattawan Public Schools

Russell Schipper
Audubon Society of Kalamazoo

Nate Strong
Audubon Society of Kalamazoo

Raising Money for UNdevelopment

With amazing community support, the Cherry Beach Project raised $1.1 million in just one summer to save 3 acres of Lake Michigan shoreline property near Warren Dunes State Park from development. Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy supported the project by securing a $250,000 dollar-for-dollar challenge grant from The Carls Foundation. The money raised qualifies the project for a state trust fund grant (still pending approval) which would enable Chikaming Township to add the parcel, which includes more than 400 feet of shoreline, to Cherry Beach Park, forever protecting it from development. Nicely done, folks.

Courtesy of Cherry Beach Project

From Bee Bane to Bee Balm

Farmed fields are usually planted with one species, typically corn or soybeans, and are often treated with insecticides that kill pollinating insects. Native prairies and grasslands provide higher quality wildlife habitat, containing hundreds of plant species that provide nectar to insects throughout the growing season. The USDA's Conservation Reserve Program offers incentives that encourage landowners to plant pollinator-friendly native seed mixes in former farm fields. Through this program, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy is delighted to be able to now plant prairies in the upland parts of Emmons Augusta Floodplain Forest Preserve and Tamarack Swamp Preserve. We're looking forward to many fluttering butterflies and buzzing bees in the years to come.

Chipman Preserve | Jeanne Church

“I like the way you operate.”

Jones State Game Area Conservation Plan Gains Traction

Tom Springer

It was a chilly April evening, maybe too chilly for a sit-down meeting in an unheated Boy Scout camp cabin with a cement floor. But the dozen guests who came to discuss a conservation plan for 6,300 wild acres in southwest Michigan had warmed the heart of George Burgoyne, Jr.

“In the 1970s, we couldn’t get half this many people together to talk about Jones State Game Area (SGA),” said Burgoyne, a retired deputy director with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). “And if we did, probably all but one would be a hunter. People hadn’t begun to realize what a wonderful resource we have here.”

But now, this hilly, fabled region in St. Joseph and Cass County stands on the verge of rediscovery and renewal. At least that’s the long-term plan of the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC) and its private and public sector partners.

“We’re interested in conservation, protecting wildlife and expanding the amount of protected land,” said Peter Ter Louw, executive director of SWMLC. “Within the next 50-100 years, I think this will be an incredible outdoor recreation area.”

Most people who grew up near Three Rivers know the region as Purgatory. The misty tangle of woods and wetlands south of Jones was rumored to be the Prohibition-era hideout of Al Capone. More accurately, it was a vacation spot for heavyweight boxing champ Joe Louis. He visited the Double J Ranch, a luxury resort with horses, tennis courts and a trout stream that welcomed African Americans at a time when hotels routinely denied entry to black citizens.

The back-of-beyond appeal that drew people to Purgatory stills holds sway today. It remains a remote, t-shaped hunk of government green space threaded by clear streams and tree-lined dirt roads. The two halves of the Jones SGA consist of Three Rivers State Game Area to the south (2,103 acres) and Crane Pond State Game Area to the north (4,237 acres). Since the April meeting at Camp Tamarack, SWMLC staff have met with government bodies, business owners and civic groups. Their intent, Ter Louw said, is to raise awareness and support for preservation that will fill the gaps of unprotected land to make a more cohesive whole.

“It’s not a government intervention thing. It’s you (SWMLC) working with individual landowners to create nice things like this.”

— John Kroggel, Fabius Township Supervisor

A color-coded map shows what the future may hold. The region, roughly shaped like a human heart, encompasses a wealth of natural areas, such as Swiss Valley, T.K. Lawless County Park, Fred Russ Forest County Park and four SWMLC preserves. But as with any heart, it’s the arteries – in this case, wild corridors formed by streams and creeks – that bring it life *(see the lavender areas on the map on the opposite page)*. “When we show people the map, it’s the corridors that get the biggest response,” Ter Louw said. “They’re what link the larger parcels of protected land.”

While the corridors provide safe passage ways for wild life, they also act as giant sponges to hold and purify groundwater. That’s vital in St. Joseph County, whose high-value seed corn crop has made it the most irrigated county east of the Mississippi. Water for crop irrigation gets pumped from underground aquifers, which makes protection of “recharge” areas such as Purgatory essential for agriculture and residential well use.

(continued on page 6)

Mill Creek, Three Rivers State Game Area | Peter Ter Louw

Playing well together.

United by their interest in conserving the rural, wild character of the region, the Jones Area Conservation Plan has brought together a diverse alliance of community stakeholders, local and state governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and non-profits.

- Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division
- Friends of the St. Joseph River Watershed
- Ducks Unlimited
- St. Joseph County Drain Commissioner
- Cass County Parks & Recreation
- Cass County Conservation District
- St. Joseph County Conservation District
- USDA Farm Services Agency
- Edward Lowe Foundation
- Swiss Valley Ski Area & Heart Smart Events
- Michigan Nature Association

Still, DNR officials are quick to point out that the Jones SGA is still that: a public hunting area, bought and maintained by the federal taxes levied on firearms and ammunition. What's changed, though, is how it's maintained. "We're now introducing fire (controlled burns) as a forest management tool, something that's long been suppressed," said Mark Sargent, DNR regional director. The burns are meant to replace maple, black cherry and sassafras with savanna, an oak/prairie landscape that provides more food to fatten deer, squirrels and turkeys.

But here's the rub: the number of hunters in Michigan has dropped 36 percent since 2000, part of a nationwide decline in hunting. While game areas must legally make hunting a priority, the DNR also sees an opportunity to foster other uses. Already, the number of mountain bikers, birders, hikers and mushroom gatherers outpaces hunters in some game areas. As non-hunters continue to discover the Jones SGA, the pressure for multi-use land will likely grow.

Fabius Township abuts the Jones SGA, and on October 10, the Fabius Board of Trustees approved a resolution to support the Jones SGA plan. John Kroggel, township supervisor, described himself as "a big fan" of SWMLC. "I like the way you operate," he said, in a Three Rivers Commercial News article. "It's not a government intervention thing. It's you working with individual landowners to create nice things like this."

(Tom Springer is a former Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy board member who has spent many afternoons happily lost in the Three Rivers State Game Area.)

Purgatory Road, Three Rivers State Game Area | Peter Ter Louw

Conservation Strategies for the Jones Area

The following strategies will expand, restore, and protect the core natural areas – and the conservation corridors that link them – which are critical to water quality, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and agricultural land use. They recognize the diversity of land users that have an interest in – and can benefit from – high-quality natural areas and resources.

What are "Conservation Corridors"?

These are habitats that allow plants and animals to expand their territory by linking with other fragmented patches of habitat that have been separated by human activity.

- **Land Conservation**
  Conserve land through acquisition and conservation easements, using both private and public funding sources; focus conservation efforts in and around identified conservation corridors to link existing conserved parcels, such as Crane Pond and Three Rivers State Game Areas.
- **Public Engagement / Education**
  Host public outreach events and provide landowners with information about cost-sharing programs that benefit both agricultural land and natural areas.
- **Habitat Restoration**
  Promote the creation and protection of large blocks of grassland and oak savanna habitat throughout the region.
- **Ecological Health**
  Raise awareness of invasive species management techniques and help people use them to enhance a variety of habitats.
- **Recreational Opportunities**
  Support active and passive recreational opportunities in the region, such as road and mountain biking, hunting and fishing, downhill and cross-country skiing, hiking, and birding. Promote the shared values of recreation and protection of natural areas.
- **Agricultural Conservation**
  Agriculture's importance to the region will be recognized by protecting both groundwater recharge areas and high-quality farmland.

What Happens Next is Up to You

Once upon a time, there was a small group of rare, endangered butterflies that lived on a farm in southwest Michigan. These Mitchell's satyr butterflies loved this place because the prairie fen wetlands there produced the tender sedges they needed to survive. With human settlement, most of the other prairie fens were filled in for agriculture and development, thus destroying this distinctive habitat type. But here on the farm, the butterflies lived in harmony with the cows – the cows munching away on the shrubs that tried to sneak in, and the butterflies happily feasting on the lush sedges. Then one day, the farmer decided it was time to sell the farm.

Now, what will become of the little Mitchell's satyrs that live on the farm?

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy has received partial funding from the US Fish & Wildlife Service to help purchase the farm to protect this second-largest of the few remaining breeding populations of endangered Mitchell's satyrs in the world. But we still need to raise enough funds to match that grant and provide for long-term stewardship of the satyrs' prairie fen habitat, which also benefits many other species from orchids to sundews, and helps maintain area water quality.

You can help save the Mitchell's satyr butterfly by donating to our 2018 Year-End Special Appeal.

You can help save the Mitchell's satyr butterfly by donating to our 2018 Year-End Special Appeal, which will be dedicated to raising the necessary funds to purchase the farm and care for this special property in perpetuity. Please look for your special appeal in the mail in late November, or you may securely donate today at our website by using this QR code or typing in www.swmlc.org/mitchells-satyr-special-appeal.

We will tell you how the story ends in our spring 2019 newsletter.
We're suckers for happy endings . . . hopefully, you are, too!

A Good Steward Knows No Bounds

Bruce Howe, SWMLC Land Protection Specialist

A good steward knows no bounds. Bob Linderman, owner of the aptly named 65th Street Farm Conservation Easement, fits that mold.

Take one walk with him and the love he has for his land is undeniable – and the slightest change does not escape him. What's more, Bob sees himself as a protector of the dirt road that his property is accessible from, whether that means advocating for it to become a natural beauty road, or dealing with roadside dumping.

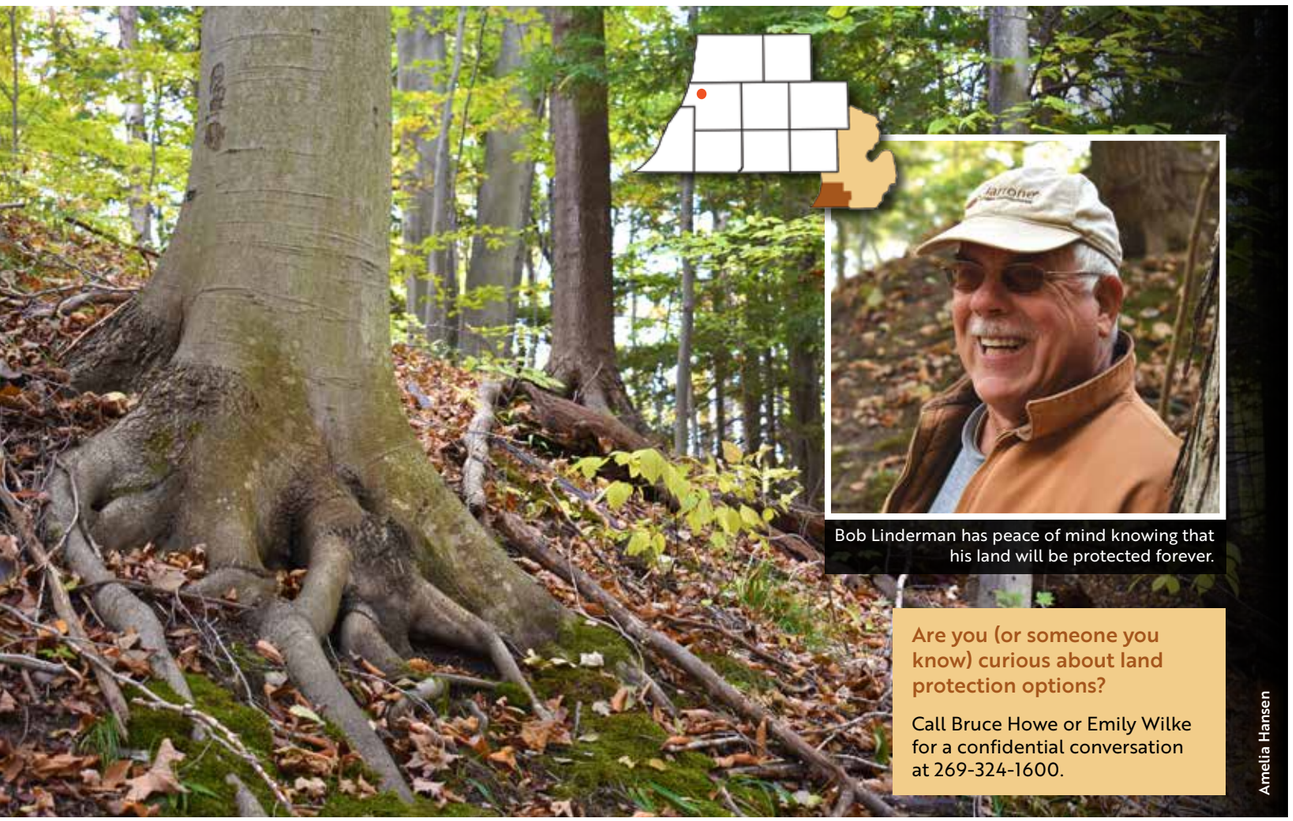
When asked why he cares so much, Bob says simply, "We're not here for very long – so while we are here, we might as well do something for the future."

He lives these words in his local community of South Haven, mentoring youth through his local church and Boy Scout troop, and most recently, by placing a conservation easement on his 49 acres with Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC).

By conserving his property in this way, Bob will be adding his beech-maple woods and hemlock-filled ravines to over 300 acres of high-quality habitat that SWMLC has already protected within a three-mile vicinity.

"We're not here for very long – so while we're here we might as well do something for the future."

So it should come as no surprise that, when asked about *when* he decided to conserve his land, Bob states the obvious, "I wanted to protect it from the start."



Bob Linderman has peace of mind knowing that his land will be protected forever.

Amelia Hansen

Are you (or someone you know) curious about land protection options?

Call Bruce Howe or Emily Wilke for a confidential conversation at 269-324-1600.

Sharing the Lakeshore at Pilgrim Haven

Pilgrim Haven Natural Area (near South Haven) continues to make new friends as people discover and delight in the unique, natural lakeshore experience that it offers. We're grateful to the community for embracing the changes we've made and are excited to announce that more improvements are in store. Working with the South Haven Area Recreational Authority, Rotary Club of South Haven, and Cottage Home, plans include benches, kayak and bike racks, pit toilets, and an informational kiosk. More dune grass will be planted to prevent erosion, the big (unplanned) hill that blocks the view of the lake will be more gently contoured, and we've proposed a new trail to connect the paved walk with the bridge. Thank you – our friends, partners, and donors – for bringing out the best in this beautiful place along the lake.

Pilgrim Haven Natural Area | Julie Collard

Finding Balance at Portman

Portman Nature Preserve has been officially open for just one year and we are thrilled to see how popular it is with hikers and birdwatchers. It has also been an outdoor classroom for the more than 2,500 Mattawan Schools students who visited last year to learn about nature firsthand. We have plans to make it even more user-friendly soon by starting work on a viewing platform on Mud Lake and creating new trails. However, balancing human use with conservation of Portman's high quality habitats – and the vulnerable animals and plants that use them – remains a top priority. Our commitment to protecting Portman's natural communities continued with a recent study of the preserve's reptile and amphibian population *(see story on page 12)*, so that we can better understand, improve, and support the preserve's amazing biodiversity. We are very thankful for the community support that created this gem and now continues to improve its potential for humans and wildlife alike.

Sundews at Portman Nature Preserve | Allyson Wentela

Bow in the Clouds Bulletin

Thank you to everyone who gave to the fund to bring barrier-free access to Bow in the Clouds Preserve in Kalamazoo, and to those who contributed in memory of loved ones. We expected to have the first phase completed in time for an October celebration event, but a shortage of contractors over the summer and other unforeseeable circumstances meant that we couldn't complete the work on time. We're now looking forward to a celebration in the spring, when we expect to have the barrier-free loop trail finished, the benches in place, and the wetland viewing platform completed. This gives us more time to make sure we have the details right and we hope that you will be pleased with the results. *Please stay tuned . . .*

Bow in the Clouds Preserve | SWMLC staff

Big Changes for the Little Fish of Tyden Creek

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy Staff

How did people clean out dairy barns back in the 19th century? One way was to divert a stream through the barn to wash the crud away. An ingenious solution, it also harmed the stream's aquatic life, and the impact could take decades to resolve.

"Tyden Creek" at Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy's (SWMLC) Hidden Pond Preserve in Barry County was used for this purpose. Most healthy, natural creeks have a series of riffles, runs, and pools that create a variety of niches where fish and other aquatic life can find their preferred homes. But the historic ditching of Tyden Creek destroyed that natural stream structure. Straightened and narrowed, it grew faster and deeper over time until it no longer offered good habitat for fish or other aquatic life.

This spring and summer, SWMLC corrected the problem by restoring the stream to a more natural condition. The project was designed and managed by GEI Consultants, constructed by contractor Generation III, and supported by funding from Tyden Ventures and the Barry Community Foundation.

The first step was to sample the numbers and species of fish that were still in the stream, so SWMLC asked the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division to collect baseline data to help us understand any future changes that result from the restoration work.

The results proved that Tyden Creek is full of life, even if it does not have large game fish like bass or pike Four species of "minnows" were found (creek chub, blacknose dace, mudminnow, and brook stickleback), with each species preferring different niches in the stream – a healthy fish community with room for improvement.

Next, GEI Consultants surveyed the creek and developed a restoration plan to correct the artificially steep banks that prevented the stream from naturally overflowing to its floodplain. They also addressed the ditched creek's narrow bed that made the water flow too fast to form natural niches.

Using an excavator, Generation III Excavating smoothed the artificially high banks into more gradual contours, moving the huge machine with finesse while making frequent elevation checks. The process doubled the width of the channel and slowed the stream's flow, which will discourage erosion and sediment pollution.

To build riffles, they positioned large stones in shallow sections of the waterway, then placed bands of smaller stones (cobble) across the streambed. These rocky areas agitate the water's surface and add oxygen to the stream, which benefits fish and other animals. To create a variety of aquatic niches, straighter "runs" and deeper pools followed the riffles.

Finally, a new concrete bridge replaced a too-small culvert and an old slab of concrete was pulled from the streambed so that the little fish are no longer trapped and may now swim downstream, making the entire creek healthier.

Why spend so much on one small creek? Clean streams like Tyden Creek are the roots of healthy watersheds, which, in turn, are vital to the health of wildlife and people in our region. Protecting them helps ensure that there will be clean water for generations to come.

1. Before the restoration work, Tyden Creek's steep banks and deep channel no longer provided good habitat for small fish.

2. Among the small fish species that researchers found living in Tyden Creek is the surprisingly beautiful blacknose dace.

3. Work began by carving down the banks to create a more gentle slope.

4. The crew created oxygenating riffles by placing large rocks in the channel, then adding smaller cobblestones.

5. This aerial view shows the finished reconstruction. Landscaping cloth on the sides prevents erosion and the washing away of new-sown seed.

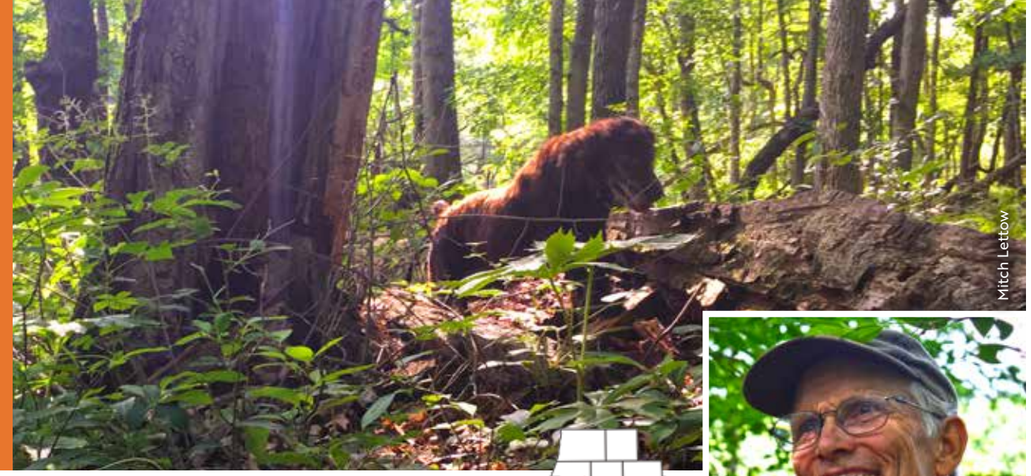
6. This portion of the creek is adjacent to the spot where the culvert was replaced by the new concrete bridge. Stones were added here to slow the current and create micro-habitat for invertebrates.

Healthy watersheds support healthy economies, too.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, protecting watersheds also reduces drinking water treatment costs, avoids expensive restoration activities, sustains recreational and tourism opportunities, minimizes damage from natural disasters, costs far less than engineered services, increases property values, and supports millions of jobs. Read the whole document at https://bit.ly/2yvvepS

You – our members, donors, and friends – make research projects like those conducted at Portman Nature Preserve possible.

Thank you for supporting conservation in our area.



John Rucker, the genius behind Turtle Dogs

Turtle Dogs

It's a perfect June morning at Portman Nature Preserve and the call "Find turtle, find turtle!" rings loud and clear. A group of four small brown dogs charges past and disappears into the dewy vegetation, searching for turtles, their progress marked by swaying plants.

Research* has shown that Portman's woods and wetlands provide excellent habitat for Eastern Box Turtles, a State Special Concern species, but it didn't reveal how many turtles live there and where they spend their time. So we contacted John Rucker, a retired science teacher who travels around the country assisting researchers with his team of specially trained Turtle Dogs, to see if they could help.

As we hike behind the dogs – Rooster, Jaybird, Jenny Wren, and Mink – John explains that he realized he had something special when they began bringing turtles to him at home. He started deliberately training them to retrieve turtles, choosing Boykin spaniels because of their small stature, athleticism, good noses, and soft mouths.

Box Turtle at Portman Nature Preserve
Allyson Wentela

A garbled bark catches our attention. It's Mink, with the first turtle of the day gently crammed inside her mouth. She easily gives it over to John. After photographing its shell, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy staff nestle the female turtle, unharmed but wet with dog drool, back into the oak leaves where Mink had found her.

The Turtle Dogs found 20 box turtles in the eight hours that they worked at Portman, in habitats ranging from sandy oak upland to black swamp muck. Among them was a tiny three-year old – not just cute, but also a sign that these uncommon turtles are actively breeding in this big, beautiful preserve.

* Earlier this spring, SWMLC hired herpetologist David Misfud to document Portman's "herps" (reptiles and amphibians). He found that Portman provides an exceptional resource for herps of the Great Lakes region and offered excellent suggestions on habitat management that best supports them. SWMLC shared the Turtle Dog data – population size, age, gender, and preferred habitat – with the Michigan Herpetological Atlas that is administered by David's company, Herpetological Resource and Management.

Please don't try this yourself . . .

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW *YOUR* DOG OFF-LEASH IN ANY SWMLC PRESERVE!

Please refrain from picking up wildlife or allowing your dog to do so. John Rucker's dogs have received extensive training and they handle turtles with unusual care. In addition, seasonal dates and box turtle behavior cycles were carefully assessed before conducting this study to ensure the turtles' safety.

"What do parents owe their young that is more important than a warm and trusting connection to the Earth?"

— Theodore Roszak, from his book *The Voice of Earth: An Exploration of Ecopsychology*

SWMLC Events & Workdays

Unless indicated, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy events and workdays have no admission fee and are open to the public. Check our website for maps, directions, and details (swmlc.org/swmlc-events-workdays). To register, call Miko at 269-324-1600 x302 or send her an email at cmdargitz@swmlc.org.

SATURDAY • November 17 • 1 - 4 pm

PORTMAN NATURE PRESERVE • FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Saturday Workday: Tucking in for Winter

Meet other like-minded nature-loving volunteers while prepping Portman for winter fun such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

SUNDAY • December 9 • 3:30 pm

CHIPMAN PRESERVE • FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Pine Cone Prowl Tike Hike

Your merry elves will learn about conifers, then do some cool science experiments and crafty stuff with cones.

WITH JULIE COLLARD OF KALAMAZOO LITTLE ADVENTURERS' CLUB and TJ WILKINSON, SWMLC BOARD MEMBER

SATURDAY • January 5 • 1 - 4 pm

MYERS NATURE PRESERVE • FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Saturday Workday: Winter Wetland Work

Feeling stodgy after all the seasonal festivities? We have the cure! Don your longjohns and join us in removing invasive wetland shrubs at this limited access preserve that is not usually open to the public.

SUNDAY • January 13 • 3:30 pm

CHIPMAN PRESERVE • FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Hot Chocolate Tike Hike

Bundle up the little ones for a walk through the wintry landscape, then come inside Chipman House to warm up with hot cocoa.

WITH JULIE COLLARD OF KALAMAZOO LITTLE ADVENTURERS' CLUB and TJ WILKINSON, SWMLC BOARD MEMBER

MONDAY • January 21 • time TBA

BOW IN THE CLOUDS PRESERVE • FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Volunteer Workday in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Continue Dr. King's legacy of community service while benefiting wildlife, the community, and yourself during this winter workday.

SATURDAY • February 2 • 1 - 4 pm

WOLF TREE NATURE TRAILS • FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Saturday Workday: Who Let the Wolves Out!?

Wolf Tree's iconic big oaks (and its namesake) are getting closed in by invasive shrubs. Please join us for loppin' and choppin' as we remove these pesky plants and set the wolves free.

SUNDAY • February 10 • 3:30 pm

WOLF TREE NATURE TRAILS • FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Critter Tracks Tike Hike

What's been going on here? Let's find out! Share the joy of following animals tracks through the snow on this hike designed for young ones.

WITH JULIE COLLARD OF KALAMAZOO LITTLE ADVENTURERS' CLUB and TJ WILKINSON, SWMLC BOARD MEMBER

SATURDAY • February 15 • 6 - 8 pm

CHIPMAN PRESERVE • FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Owl Prowl/Hygge Hike

Stalk the darkened land while listening for romancing owls, then get warm and relaxed with friends old and new around a cozy bonfire.

SATURDAY • March 9 • 9 am - 12 pm

CHIPMAN PRESERVE • FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Saturday Workday: Enhance the Savannah

Chipman Preserve's savannah habitat just keeps getting better, but it doesn't just happen . . . generous volunteers like you are the key. Enjoy the first signs of thaw while working hard outdoors.

SATURDAY • March 9 • 6:30 pm

PORTMAN NATURE PRESERVE

FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Night Tike Hike

It's fun to be outdoors at night, and the woods aren't scary at all when you have a flashlight and older people there to hold your hand.

WITH JULIE COLLARD OF KALAMAZOO LITTLE ADVENTURERS' CLUB and TJ WILKINSON, SWMLC BOARD MEMBER

RIGHT:

Participants in SWMLC's Lost in the Lawn Program, held last August at Hidden Pond Preserve, Barry County.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the Sustain SWMLC Endowment Fund this past spring, and to our board for providing matching funds.

You met the final $50,000 challenge and far surpassed the total $100,000 goal – ultimately raising over $175,000 for the Sustain SWMLC Fund. These 175,000 "seeds of forever" will grow every year, making sure that Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy will still be here far into the future, taking care of quality habitat for wildlife, protecting our clean waters, and providing places where people can connect with nature.

On behalf of the future generations who will be able to enjoy our beautiful natural areas forever, *thank you.*

Leadership Gifts

Boudeman Farms, LLC
Dave Coleman
Kalman and Becky Csia
Susan Houseman and Curtis Hall
W. Jack and Nanette M. Keiser
Charlotte G. Mittler

Anonymous (2)
Jill Allread
Andrews Trust
Paul Ballard and Colette Lewis
Frank D. Ballo
Phyllis J. Barents
Alan Baudler
David K. Baute
Sandra Beach
Rex and Denise Bell
Charles and Jan Benner
Susan R. Benner
Gerald and Mickey Benson
Harry Bird
Dr. Jack Bley
Sara Bode
Peter Boerma
Karen Bondarchuk and Art Winslow
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The Esther and George Jaruga Charitable Foundation
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Wendy Field
Joyce Fink
Elaine Fluck
Lisa Wagner Forrest
Dennis and Mary Frailing
Dr. Gabriela Freese
Ilse Gebhard and Russ Schipper
Anthony and Grace Gilmore
Alberta Goebel
Charles and Nancy Goodrich
Steven and Diane Goodrich
Christopher and Linda Gosling
Michael and Christine Grant
Brandon and Tiffany Greenfield
Nick and Hanna Groos
Barbara and John Guinness
Jack O. Haeger
Dean and Cynthia Halderson
Ladislav R. Hanka
Donald and Ronnee Harrell
Ms. Sassafras Havilar
Haywood Studios
Phillip and Lynne Heasley
Gary and Mary Herder
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Contributions June 1 – September 30, 2018

The following contributions were received as new memberships, in-kind donations, honorariums, and memorials by people who share our vision for southwest Michigan in which clean water and wildlife habitat are protected for future generations. Look for a complete list of donors in our next Annual Review.

New Memberships

Cerulean Warbler ($250+)

Kathy Roschek
Ben and Kathy Zimont

Spotted Turtle ($100+)

John and Carie Faul
Malcolm Hickok
Susie and Gerry Hoar
Douglas Nickerson
Michael A. Travis

Little Brown Bat ($50+)

Sarah and Tim Bailey
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Sue and Dave Goldenberg
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Business, Club & Group Memberships

Little Adventurers' Club

In-Kind Donations

Bruce Jaksa
Donation of time and talent in helping maintain the Chipman House office.

Pet Supplies Plus of Gull Rd. Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, and Goshen, IN
"Incentives" for our dog walking friends on our preserves.

Bradley Sullivan
Funding for a drone for monitoring preserves and easements

Western Michigan University, Finch Greenhouse
Native plants used in habitat restoration

Birdathon Donations

Frank D. Ballo
Charles and Jan Benner
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Rebecca Sive and Steve Tomashefsky
Gail Walter and Tom Nehil
Rachel L. Woodard
Pat and Sherry Wykstra

Honorariums

Bud and Judi Baldwin
In honor of Woody Boudeman's birthday

Justin Davies
In honor of Tobi Hannah-Davies' birthday

Darnell Day and Catherine Case
In honor of Larry Case on Father's Day, 2018

Roger Harris
In honor of Rebecca Sive and Steve Tomashefsky

Ms. Cindy Janecke
"In honor of my aunt and uncle, Judy and Karl Barons, who are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary August 25, 2018."

Landscaper's Garden Club
In honor of Nate Fuller's guided walk at Portman Nature Preserve, 5/30/2018

Pamela and Lee Larson
"In honor of Mitch Lettow and Emily Petz taking the plunge!!"

Lawrence Garden Club
In honor of Mitch Lettow's guided walk at Portman Nature Preserve, 6/19/18

Linda May
In honor of Larry Burns' 60th birthday

Gift Memberships

Sean McCann
From W. Jack and Nanette M. Keiser

Memorials Contributions

Harley and Lynn Clinard
In memory of Jack Harrison

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In memory of Jack Harrison

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It's people like you that make a lasting difference for the natural environment of our region. *Thank you.*

In Memory of Wendy Dawson

With sincere condolences, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy wishes to express gratitude to the family and friends of Wendy Dawson for including our organization as part of her memorial. The outpouring of support in her memory has been lovely to see – she obviously meant a great deal to many people. According to her husband, Don, Wendy spent time over the past year exploring our preserves, seeing these protected places and experiencing their unique wild features. Wendy's connection to nature was strong and heartfelt, and she shared it with many friends over the years. Even as her health deteriorated and her hikes slowed, she still took time to look around at what beauty the natural world had to offer.

Phil Johnson and Mary Baggerman
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Courtesy of the Dawson Family

If we have accidentally omitted your name, or you find an error, we apologize. Please call Nicole at 269-324-1600 x307 so we can correct the mistake. Thank you.

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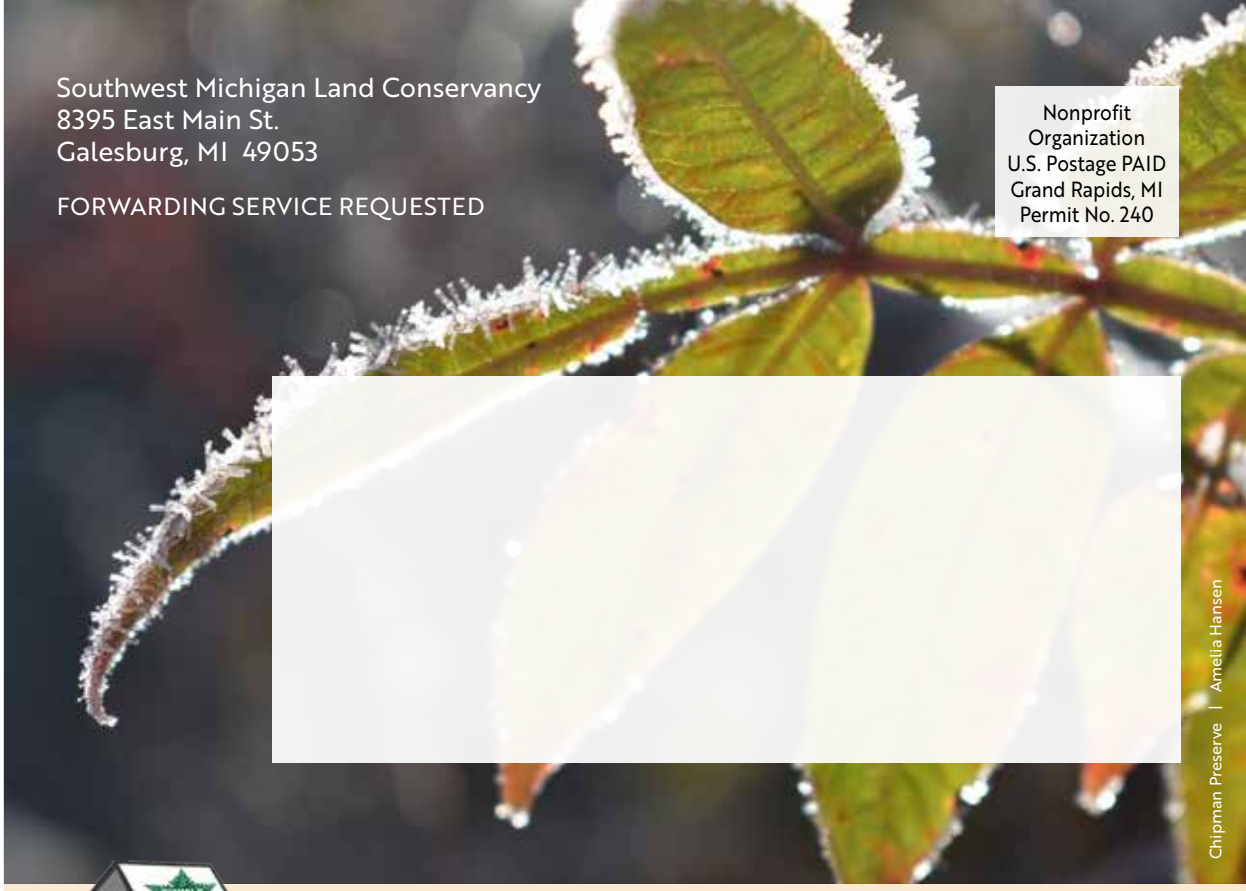

Chipman Preserve | Amelia Hansen

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Help Wanted: reliable, efficient, hard-working vehicle

After more than 13 years, it's almost time for us to say goodbye to our trusty old green Subaru. But she's leaving some big tiretracks to fill! She's taken us to countless meetings, workdays, events, monitoring visits, and even out-of-state conferences. She's been a SWMLC fixture longer than most of the current staff. We're grateful for the thousands of miles she's travelled to get us safely to our destinations, but now it's time for her to retire.

So, we're looking for her replacement, a fuel-efficient wagon or SUV that seats 4-5 people, with some space left to haul gear.

If you have a vehicle like this that you would like to donate, or sell for a reasonable price, we will be very grateful – AND your gift will be fully-tax deductible. Please email us at conserveland@swmlc.org or call 269-324-1600. *Thank you!*

Double Your Impact

Many corporations match contributions made to Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy.

Are you an employee of – or retired from – a company with a matching gift program? Send your company form along with your gift and we'll be happy to follow-up! Call Nicole at 269-324-1600 x307 or email her at nmspeedy@swmlc.org.

You can help nature every time you shop by using Amazon Smile!

Go to amazon.smile.com, designate Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy as your charity of choice, and Amazon will automatically donate 0.5% of the purchase price to us. It can really add up at this time of year!

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. Our mission is to conserve ecologically important and scenic landscapes that give our region its natural character — now and for generations to come.

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