SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN LAND CONSERVANCY

Protecting Nature

CELEBRATING 1991 30 2021 YEARS

improving habitat • ensuring water quality • supporting biodiversity
connecting people and nature • helping families conserve the land they love

There's been a whole lot of habitat restoration goin' on at Portman this spring!

Read the full story on pages 10-11

Photo, Amelia Hansen

Summer 2021 – Vol. 30, No. 2
Includes 2020 Annual Report & Highlights

If we, the people of southwest Michigan, don't protect our land and water – *who will?*

Getting to Know You

Peter Ter Louw, President and Executive Director

Amelia Hansen

One of the best parts of my job is meeting the people who use SWMLC's public nature preserves. Right off the bat, we have something in common – we all like being outdoors. I enjoy hearing people's stories and appreciate the range and variety of their questions, from the fine points of Michigan ecology to "what is a Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy?"

We noticed a big uptick in preserve use when people turned to nature during the COVID pandemic. We were curious about this but social distancing reduced our encounters to mere 'waves and hellos' so we weren't able to talk to people about their preserve experiences. It made us realize that we really need to understand you, our supporters and preserve users, better – and we're very interested in hearing your thoughts on a variety of topics related to our conservation work.

So we've started a fresh "getting to know you" outreach effort. We began with the last issue of *Protecting Nature* (and also on social media), when we directed users to an online survey that asked questions regarding the usefulness of items bearing the SWMLC logo as an outreach tool. The response was better than expected and your answers were extremely helpful to our decision-making process. Thank you to everyone who participated! We've posed a new question for you in this issue and look forward to your feedback (see opposite page).

We've also recently received a small grant from the Land Trust Alliance in support of a related project, a series of listening sessions at several of our most popular preserves. The process is straightforward: working with Conservation Impact, a company that helps non-profits improve their outreach strategies, SWMLC's Board and staff will spend time at several preserves engaging visitors in casual conversations. We feel that we will learn far more about preserve users by ***listening*** to them than we will by ***telling*** them all about ourselves. This simple process has effectively helped other land trusts to better understand their preserve users, so we're looking forward to some fun sessions and interesting outcomes.

> We feel that we will learn far more about preserve users by ***listening*** to them than we will by ***telling*** them all about ourselves.

We will use this same conversational approach toward information-gathering as part of our upcoming fund-raising campaign for the future Armintrout-Milbocker property in Allegan. Later this fall, we plan to host a Public Day on the property so that you can personally tour it, learn more about it, and then offer your thoughts on proposed public use and habitat improvements. Please stay tuned for more details!

Our organizational strength has always been improving and managing the ecology of the special places that we have protected – and it always will be. But we also know that nature needs more people to feel personally connected to it in order to protect it – and we're still learning the best ways that we can help make that happen. We welcome your thoughts and ideas.

Thank you for all of your support.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN LAND CONSERVANCY'S

Annual Members' Meeting

Saturday, August 28 • 10:00 am

Pilgrim Haven Natural Area, South Haven

Breakfast Snacks
Live Music by The Birdseed Salesmen
Annual Business Meeting
Sneak Peek of Nearby Porter Legacy Dunes

Help SWMLC celebrate its 30th anniversary while catching up with friends and tapping your toes to the guitar/violin swing of jazz trio The Birdseed Salesmen at Pilgrim Haven Natural Area on Lake Michigan. Enjoy light breakfast snacks while learning about SWMLC's last 12 months and our future plans, then cross the street for self-guided Sneak Peek walks at the not-yet-open Porter Legacy Dunes.

RSVP: please respond by August 17

Please send an email to conserveland@swmlc.org or give us a call at 269-324-1600 to let us know you're coming. For directions, check our website by scanning this QR code or by typing:
www.swmlc.org/2021-annual-members-meeting

Help us celebrate 30 years of protecting nature in southwest Michigan!

Bruce Howe

We need your feedback!

Please take a short survey that will not only help us get to know you better, but will also help make SWMLC a more effective conservation organization.

We would like to get your thoughts on a variety of topics related to SWMLC's conservation work in southwest Michigan, so we're placing a link to very short online surveys in each of our 2021 newsletters.

We hope you will participate and look forward to your candid responses and new ideas!

Survey #2: SWMLC Preserve Use

How often do you visit one of SWMLC's public nature preserves? Do you have a favorite? We would love to get your feedback on these and a few more related questions! The survey will take about two minutes to complete.

To reach the survey, please use this QR code or type this link into your browser: https://bit.ly/3x2NTFY

Welcome, Justin!

We're excited to announce the addition of our newest full-time staff member, Land Protection Specialist Justin Gish!

Originally from the Hoosier State, Justin grew up near Indiana Dunes Natural Lakeshore and has always enjoyed being outdoors. Like so many people, he moved to Kalamazoo to attend Western Michigan University, earning a Master's degree in Science Education, and currently working toward a PhD in Science Education with a focus on Geography.

Along with gardening, hunting, and reading (what kind of books? "Everything."), Justin is really into composting – so much so that he began the campus composting initiative in his previous position as Project Manager at Western Michigan University's Office for Sustainability. He also oversaw the Gibbs House on Parkview Avenue, the student community garden, and managed a student bike rental program.

Justin's knack for finding creative solutions will be valuable at SWMLC . . . as will his people skills. Justin worked with folks with disabilities at Housing Resources Inc. for ten years, a local non-profit that provides assistance to people facing housing crises. There, he learned how to communicate and connect with a wide variety of people, skills that are crucial when meeting land owners, applying for grants, and completing land deals.

Justin now lives in Portage with his wife Tara, two young sons Max and Henry, and two old dogs (one of which is a "100-pound beagle"). Said Hilary Hunt, Director of Land Protection, "He's got the same weird sense of humor as the rest of us. I think he will fit right in." We agree!

Hike Our Preserves (HOP) is back!

nature, fitness & reading for the whole family

Get healthy while exploring the outdoors with your kids!

1. **REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE.** Registrations cost $7 per person and include a handmade hiking stick.
2. **GET A STICK.** Hiking sticks may be picked up at any one of 20 participating libraries in our area.
3. **TAKE A HIKE!** Find maps and other info on our website. While you're there take a selfie and send it to us!
4. **GET A MEDALLION.** We will send you a special medallion for each preserve that you finish.
5. **EARN A PRIZE**. The first 50 participants to complete walks at all ten preserves will receive a prize from Jr. Rangerland Educational Publishing. Choices include books, puzzles, games, water bottles, and more.
6. **GET STRONGER AND HEALTHIER WHILE HAVING FUN OUTDOORS!**

Hop on over to our website for details! www.swmlc.org/hop

Mitch Lettow

A Nature Retreat Near Downtown Allegan

The Future Armintrout-Milbocker Nature Preserve

With its 'good bones', this property could easily have been turned into luxury homesites. Instead, the Armintrouts and Milbockers recognized its greater conservation value.

It's exciting to discover a hidden pocket of nature where you didn't know one existed. Or having a familiar route enriched by finally learning what's "back there." It's almost like finding a secret garden! That's the feeling we have at Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy about the future Armintrout-Milbocker Nature Preserve, a 'mysterious' property that is so close to downtown Allegan that you can see it from the M-89 bridge and wonder, "what's over there?"

Maps reveal the Kalamazoo River's ancient bearhug that has shaped this land into a large peninsula. The 140-acre property is shaded by cathedral-esque white pines and hearty oaks, and is biologically rich, with over 150 species of plants found so far. Its nearly three miles of trails have provided a peaceful retreat to the adjacent neighborhood for years. The land offers unparalleled views of the river from unusually high, wooded banks – but it also fosters shallow, quiet backwaters. Though the Kalamazoo River has had its troubles, it also has many friends who have been working hard to improve its health – and we're excited to protect a property that's so intimately connected with this river that's so important to our region.

The Armintrout and Milbocker Families bought the property together back in the day as a place to grow trees for economic opportunities, such as the Armintrouts' tree nursery business. With its 'good bones', this property could easily have been turned into luxury homesites. Instead, the Armintrouts and Milbockers recognized its greater conservation value in its connection to the river, as prime wildlife habitat, and as an outstanding outdoor space for people – and decided that conserving the land was more important.

SWMLC has applied for and been awarded the funding to purchase this property through several sources, including a grant award from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and funding from the USDA's Forest Service Community Forest Program (CFP) in support of the potential recreational, environmental, economic, and educational benefits the future preserve will provide to the Allegan area. Portman Nature Preserve also received the CFP grant back in 2015, and has since become a true community forest, providing rich outdoor classroom experiences for local school kids, as well as a much-needed and well-loved nearby natural area for residents and visitors to enjoy nature's many benefits.

SWMLC is also grateful to have received a $100,000 grant from Consumers Energy Foundation's Planet Award in support of creating community access for the Armintrout-Milbocker Nature Preserve. We will put this gift toward building a trailhead and parking area, and toward future habitat stewardship – but those costs are high and, later this fall, we will seek support from the public to raise the rest of the money we will need to turn this property into a preserve for the entire community to enjoy.

Meanwhile, SWMLC is working with a diverse cross-section of people from the community to provide guidance in creating a natural area that's safe and accessible for local residents and that supports the City of Allegan's efforts to promote outdoor recreation and tourism. We're also strategizing with Allegan Public Schools about ways to fit the future preserve into their K-12 curriculum – and we are pleased to learn that summer session teachers have already used it as an outdoor classroom. Seeing teenage faces break into smiles after spending a morning outdoors only confirms what we already know: experiencing a place is the best way to understand and appreciate it. We want you to fall in love with it, too, and we are looking forward to offering limited sneak peek tours this coming fall.

Please stay tuned for future developments around this exciting project, and for more details about how you can help to make the Armintrout-Milbocker Nature Preserve a reality!

2020 LAND PROTECTION SUMMARY

Cindy Mills,
Conservation Easement Specialist

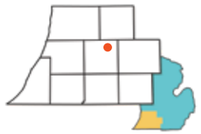
2020 was a productive year for conservation in Southwest Michigan, with five total land deals completed! With one preserve expansion, a conservation easement expansion, two new conservation easements and an assist, **we conserved a total of 421.27 newly protected acres this year, which brings the total amount of land protected to 17,399.99 acres across our nine-county service area.**

Can we just call it 17,400?!

Bruce Howe

Boudeman C Ave. CE Amendment, Richland Twp., Kalamazoo Co. 55.27 acres

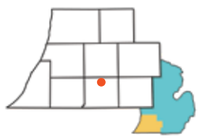
Emily worked with Woody Boudeman to add 55.27 acres of adjacent property to this conservation easement. The addition includes prime ag soils that are farmed, a pond, and prairie planting. Gull Lake Sewer Authority manages and retains liability for a pumping station on the property, which is on M-43. Most of the road frontage has been left out of the CE, and can be sold for future development. The amendment also removes the building envelope from the former 80-acre CE, and renames it the C Ave. Old Vineyard Conservation Easement.



Peter Ter Louw

Butler CE, Park Twp., St. Joseph Co., 175 acres

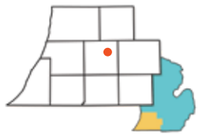
Bruce worked with Ron and Sharron Butler to close on this 175-acre donated conservation easement on October 22, 2020. The property is located in St. Joseph County in the Portage River watershed, about 4 miles south of the village of Vicksburg. It is a mix of oak forest, wetlands, and prime agriculture, and includes a donation of funds from the landowners to support monitoring.



Mitch Lettow

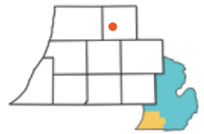
Donald and Hilda Myers Nature Preserve, Comstock Twp., Kalamazoo Co., 27 acres

Although SWMLC has owned this property since 2014, this year we purchased 27 additional acres of wetland, including 800 feet of frontage on Campbell Lake. With this new addition, the preserve has been expanded to 120 acres. Myers Nature Preserve is an important place for biodiversity in the area, and is also critical to ensuring the safe drinking water supply of the City of Kalamazoo, with the city wellfields located less than a mile downstream. This acquisition protects the headwaters of Comstock Creek and all who depend on its water staying clean and pure.



George and Doris Leonard Shadeland CE, Hope Twp., Barry Co., 116 acres

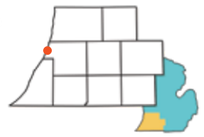
After many years of working with George "Bud" Leonard, we were thrilled to close on this 116-acre conservation easement. Although Bud and Doris both passed before the deal was complete, we know that they would be very satisfied to see their legacy live on with their land protected in perpetuity. With 3,500 feet of frontage on two beautiful lakes, this property protects several wetlands including a unique tamarack bog, acres of upland oak-hickory forests, and fertile farm fields.



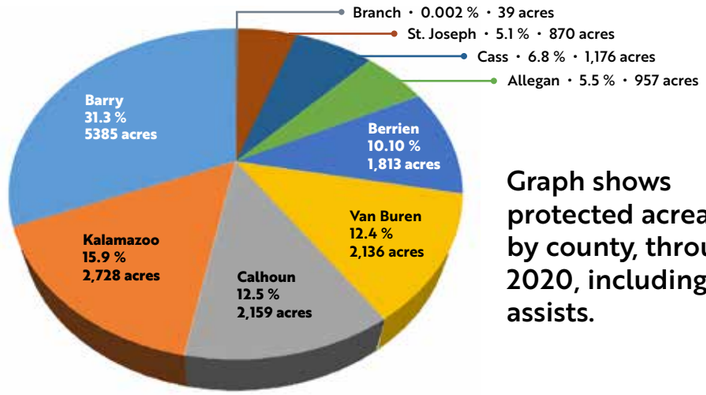
Hilary Hunt

Porter Legacy Dunes (Pilgrim Haven Expansion), South Haven Twp., Van Buren Co., 48 acres

SWMLC assisted the South Haven Area Recreation Authority (SHARA) in purchasing this 48-acre property through a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant. It is directly south of Pilgrim Haven Natural Area, protecting an additional 1,000 feet of Lake Michigan frontage, 2 acres of critical dune, imperiled backdune forest habitat, and another ¼-mile of Dyckman Creek which also flows across Pilgrim Haven out to Lake Michigan. SHARA officially acquired the property on November 3, 2020, with SWMLC in charge of ecological management and trail maintenance and development.



Amelia Hansen



Graph shows protected acreage by county, through 2020, including assists.

Thank you all for your giving spirit and commitment to protecting nature in southwest Michigan!

PROTECTING A *Fluid* SYSTEM

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy is pleased to announce that we have been awarded $455,493 in grant funding from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)! These conservation dollars will enable us to permanently protect 269 acres and 10,000 feet of river and creek frontage in the Paw Paw River Watershed, one of southwest Michigan's largest and most important natural drainage systems.

The Paw Paw River Watershed begins in the northeast corner of Van Buren County and flows more than 60 miles before joining the St. Joseph River near Benton Harbor, and ultimately emptying into Lake Michigan. It's big, covering nearly 445 square miles, and supplies drinking water to thousands of residents, provides important wildlife habitat, and irrigates prime farmland.

But where to focus our conservation work? You could chuck darts at a map, blindfolded, and hit waterways in need of protection! We turned to the data . . .

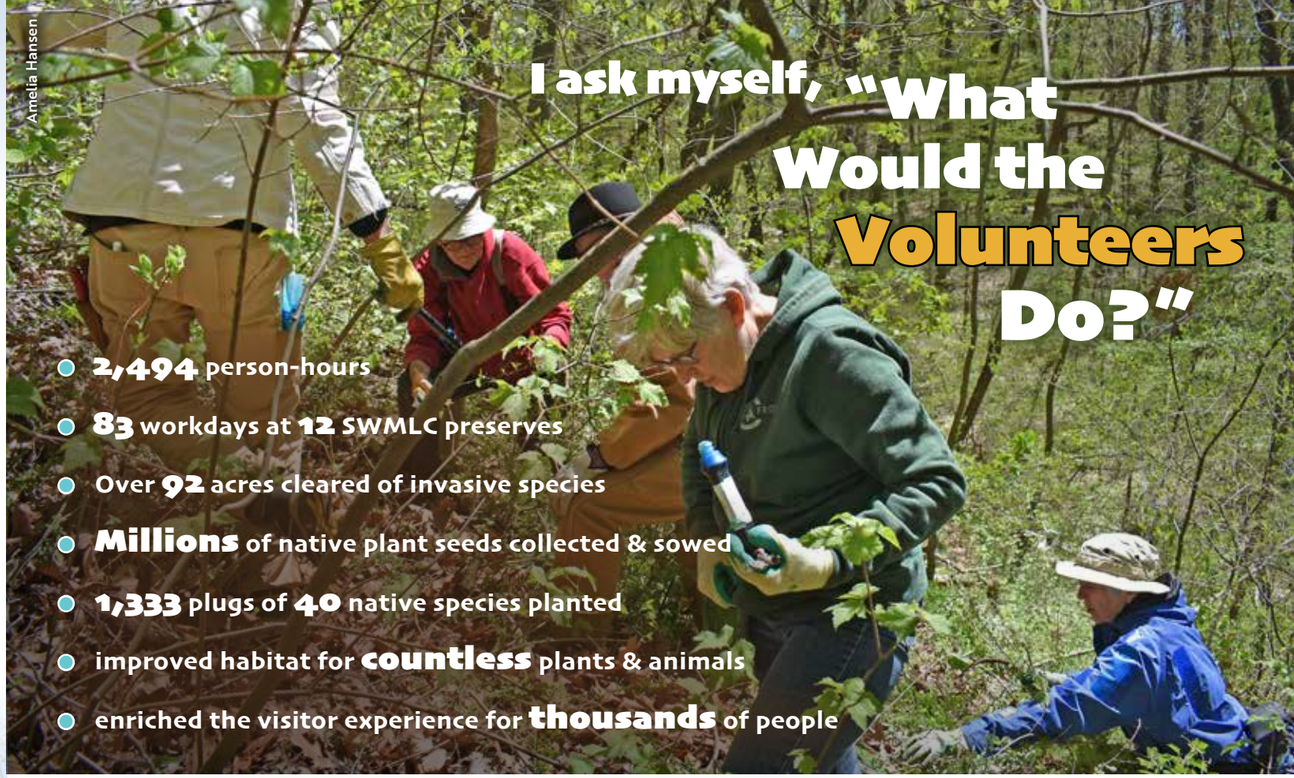
Back in 2019, SWMLC collaborated with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission to create a new water management plan for the Paw Paw River Watershed, updating the previous one from 2008. Using publicly available data, Hilary Hunt, SWMLC's Director of Land Protection, worked with geographers from Western Michigan University's W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change to create maps that show the areas where conserving land would make the biggest impact.

The resulting color-coded maps (see *Protecting Nature,* page 12, Vol. 29, No. 1) ranked the areas according to wetland quality and functionality, existing surface water, potential for groundwater recharge, and healthy eco-systems. Pairing this information with our 2020 Strategic Land Conservation Plan, which focuses on land's resilience to climate change, SWMLC was able to prioritize our work and reach out to landowners within the watershed.

Fast forward to the present, and SWMLC has been working with five families to protect their properties with conservation easements. The properties include frontage on the East Branch, the North Branch, and the main stem of the Paw Paw River: wild floodplain forests, towering hickory woods atop high banks, and an enormous former farm field that could easily have been filled with houses. If these areas were developed, it would have had disastrous consequences for wildlife and water quality in the Paw Paw River Watershed.

SWMLC is extremely grateful to these five families for acting upon their personal conservation ethics and working with us to protect their land forever – and to Michigan EGLE for providing us with the funding to make it happen.

Hilary Hunt



Wednesday Warriors removing invasive plants at Porter Legacy Dunes: Stan Rajnak, Terry O'Connor, Linda Bowman, Kristi Chapman

At the beginning of COVID, many of us had good intentions to use the forced time at home to get in shape, make more home-cooked meals, finish house projects, and more. I don't know about you, but 16 months later, I'm still not ready for swimsuit season, I still use the microwave more than my stove, and I still have several home projects left undone! But one group of people who used their time wisely and can now proudly look back at what they accomplished during COVID are SWMLC's friends, the stewardship volunteers.

The Wednesday Warriors started out as a group of enthusiastic volunteers who got together every week from spring through fall to help remove invasive species, clear trails, and basically help the SWMLC stewardship staff with anything that needed to be done on the preserves. The Winter Warriors emerged from this group a few years ago to continue the Wednesday Warriors' work through the coldest months of our Michigan winters. Even after SWMLC had to put an official halt to gatherings of any kind during COVID, yet another volunteer group, "the Privateers," blossomed from the original Wednesday Warrior seed to meet weekly on their own. And finally, the Pluggers/Seed Collectors volunteers have been working diligently over the last few years to collect native plant seeds from SWMLC preserves, plant them wherever biodiversity needs a hand, and even growing native plants from seed in greenhouses over the winter to give them a good head start come springtime.

Since the beginning of COVID, these hardy folks have volunteered a collective 2,494 person-hours, cleared invasive species from over 92 acres of SWMLC preserves, collected and sowed millions of native plant seeds, planted 1,333 plugs of 40 species of native plants, improved habitat with 83 workdays at 12 SWMLC preserves, and enriched the visitor experience for literally thousands of visitors. Despite the restrictions that COVID imposed, they kept working individually, socially-distanced, driving separately, and doing whatever they had to in order to get the work done. I don't know anyone who has made better use of their time during COVID.

Now, when I find myself lacking motivation or enthusiasm, I just ask myself, "What would the Warriors/Privateers/Pluggers do?" I don't know about you, but when I grow up, I want to be just like these amazing SWMLC volunteers . . . able to look back at a job well-done, no time wasted, no excuses, and nature left way better than they found it. I bet **they** are ready for swimsuit season! 😉 (#Goals)

Thank you, Stewardship Volunteers!

— *C. Miko Dargitz, Development Associate*

Mitchell's satyr butterfly, Geoff Cripe

The Past is Our Lesson

Habitat Management Strategies at Portman Nature Preserve

Wearing soiled yellow jackets and hard hats, heavily laden with equipment, the burn crew slogs down a muddy trail through a dense thicket. Some have 40-pound water packs on their backs, others balance tools on their shoulders, and a few carry fuel cans. The boot-sucking muck throws people off balance and into the hooked thorns of multiflora rose, or flailing for the relative safety of a poison sumac branch. But no one cares; it's a sun-sparkle spring morning and they're here to set Portman Nature Preserve's fen wetland on fire.

Everyone – staff, volunteers, and folks from Plantwise, the habitat-restoration company that SWMLC has hired to help with the burn – is here to help create better habitat for endangered Mitchell's satyr butterflies, for an uncommon plant called American columbo, and for all the other animals and plants that share this place.

The Mitchell's satyrs live in Portman's fens, far away from the popular trails and lakeside views. They spend their entire lives – egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, adult – among the tussock sedges and native shrubs. Sticking close to home was not a problem back when occasional fires, set by lightning or the Potawatomi people, slowly burned the fen and kept the woody vegetation sparse. The fen and its inhabitants were adapted to fire and could handle it.

But conventional farm and forestry practices have put an end to fire, allowing non-native plants like narrowleaf cattail, buckthorn, and multiflora rose to invade the fen. These invaders have shaded out the native plants, hogged the soil nutrients, and even altered the behavior of the water itself – changes that have put the Mitchell's satyr on the road toward extinction. As brush closes in on the formerly open prairie fen, it cuts off pathways for the butterfly to find new mates and territory. Habitat loss like this has reduced the worldwide range of these tiny insects to just ten sites – and the fens of Portman are one of them.

A crew member lights the spout of her fuel can. It looks dangerous, but the spout's curlicue shape traps oxygen, preventing the stinky mix of diesel and gasoline from igniting. She dribbles a line of liquid fire alongside the moist, muddy trail, which will serve as a firebreak in case the wind shifts. But the air barely moves, and the only sounds are the crackle of burning sedges and the occasional squawk of radio communication.

The flames move low and slow enough to step over, except for brief flares around clumps of dried sedge. The winter-moist buckthorn and multi-flora rose don't "burn up" as one might wish, but they do get scorched badly enough to set them back. Spots of bright orange flame peek through drifts of white and blue smoke as the crew slowly wrangles through the thickets, laying fire and dousing wayward flames with water, until the job is finished.

Find lots more photos on our website!
www.swmlc.org/the-past-is-our-lesson
www.swmlc.org/a-shy-smile

Amelia Hansen

American columbo plants sprouting after the burn.

Amelia Hansen

While heading for the next burn unit, we stop at a place in the woods where SWMLC's Stewardship Crew has been thinning trees. Dozens of skinny stumps stand among the tall oaks and hickories, the forest floor littered with felled red maples, their bright flowers still valiantly fresh. It isn't pretty – but it will soon look better – and it's another part of our habitat management plan at Portman Nature Preserve.

Suppressed fire is part of the forest's history, too. The deep roots and thick protective bark of these oaks and hickories are typical of dry, open woodlands that are adapted to occasional fires. But modern fire suppression has allowed species that aren't adapted to fire to crowd in, like the red maples. Their dense leaves create a damp shade that changes the woodland's dynamics. Seedling oaks and hickories can't get a good start in the forest gloom, and distinctive open woods' wildflowers are mostly gone. Like pulling back the drapes, cutting down these young maples lets more sunshine reach the forest floor, allowing acorns and hickory nuts to grow into the next century's big trees.

We reach the next burn unit, the sloping north shore of Mud Lake. It has a rich ecological history. Interesting plants and animals that have been found here (including leadplant, American columbo, and the rare Great Plains spittlebug) suggest that this now-shady slope was once an open, fire-dependent savanna – with sun-loving flowers, grasses, and scattered oaks and white pines. With today's burn, these woods will experience their friend, fire, for the first time in 100 years.

Earlier this morning, a small squad of volunteers combed the frosty woods for any box turtles that might have already awakened from winter hibernation. Box turtles are adapted to fire, enduring small, creeping flames by hunkering under logs and dirt – but we wanted to take extra care with these slow and special creatures. The Turtle Heroes found no early-birds but if they had, the turtles would've been whisked into buckets and returned after the burn was finished.

With the woods safely turtle-free, the crew begins the burn, corraling it within the hard-packed footpaths and monitoring the flames as they crackle through the dry oak litter. The low intensity blaze barely marks the soil and tree trunks. A second fire set on the lake side of the unit burns hotter and faster as it climbs the hill – but water squirts and blows from rubber flappers keep it contained. The thick smoke creates an ethereal effect that is visible from the viewing platform across the lake.

The fire is successfully finished by mid-afternoon. Invasive plants have been set back, burned leaves and twigs will return carbon to the soil, and native plants now have needed air, light, and space.

Fast forward four weeks and the blackened forest floor has popped with young green plants!

Baby cinquefoil, white vervain, rattlesnake fern, sweet cicely, lion's foot, and trout lily dot the scorched woodland. Birdfoot violets grow from spiky beds of singed moss. Tiny Canada mayflower leaves and fresh bear corn sprouts poke up among charred sticks and pinecones. Delicate ferns and lacy columbine leaves quiver in the light breeze. Mayapple patches rise like groves of miniature palm trees. Small white trilliums bloom among the ashes. And in just one month, dozens of uncommon American columbo plants have grown into amazingly large, stout starts.

Some of these plant species have never before been seen in this location by SWMLC staff. Their seeds must have been waiting for the right combination of temperature, chemistry, light, and moisture to break their dormancy, release stored energy, and start growing.

It's as if these habitats have been waiting for fire to set them free.

— *Amelia Hansen, Communications Specialist with Mitch Lettow, Stewardship Director*

PLANTING FOR RESILIENCE

In a field of sweet-smelling wood chips and scraggly grass, the strange puzzle of white posts looks a little like a military cemetery – or a defunct drive-in movie theater. But instead of signaling something's end, these posts mark the hopeful beginning of something remarkable.

Visitors to SWMLC's Wau-Ke-Na, W.E. Smith Preserve - North Tract may recall that work began last summer with the removal of many sickly non-native Douglas firs. Those trees were chipped into giant mounds, then spread evenly to create an almost surreal, 4-inch deep sea of wood chips. This past spring, we began planting trees in this area – but visitors will need to wait a few more years before the transplants look anything like a forest!

The project is part of a grant that SWMLC received in 2020 from the Wildlife Conservation Society's Climate Adaptation Fund (which is generously supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation) that allows us to explore new ways to improve forest habitat in the face of climate change. Along with the important work of removing invasive plants, thinning areas that are vulnerable to disease because they are dominated by a single tree species, and trying new methods of fending off forest pests, SWMLC is experimenting with a new mix of tree species in the places we're reforesting.

Many foresters agree that some of our familiar "northern" tree species may not survive the higher temperatures and heavier rain events that are predicted for southwest Michigan in the coming years. As depressing as this is, it's important to keep in mind when selecting tree species for reforestation. So SWMLC has chosen trees with "southern roots" for this project – species with natural ranges that barely extend northward into southwest Michigan (such as Ohio buckeye, pawpaw, and chinkapin oak), familiar species with more southerly genetics, and even a few true southerners like common persimmon – in hopes that these species will be better able to handle the challenges to come.

So this spring, SWMLC's Stewardship Crew and volunteers planted 1,860 trees in the preserve, with nearly 1,670 more to go in the south tract later in the season. It's a huge undertaking!

With the non-native Douglas firs rendered into perfumey mulch last summer, our friends from Generation III Excavating prepped the site for us by digging the planting holes with a tractor-driven auger, saving hours of back-breaking work.

Meanwhile, the shipment of baby trees and shrubs arrived, mere "whips" swaddled in bundles of wet sphagnum moss and hope. Our friend Jared Foster at Native Connections kindly allowed us to store the young trees in his cooler so the seedlingss didn't start outgrowing their bundles before it was time for them to be planted – and before the essential protective tubing was ready.

These special 6-foot tall tubes are easier and faster to install than the usual tree cages and are made from recycled plastic milk jugs. They're like mini greenhouses, translucent enough to let in light while still keeping the seedlings warm and moist. They're open at the top and have holes in the sides to let water and air in and out, while still protecting the growing trees from wind and hungry deer and rabbits. They're so special, in fact, that Stewardship Specialist Dave Brown had to embark on a mini-roadtrip to central Indiana pick them up.

Planting over 100 trees a day, the Stewardship Crew and valiant volunteers found a rhythm and method to the work. All day long, they walked to and from the truck, staging the 8-acre planting site with equipment, supplies, and baby trees . . .

A crew member strides across the uneven ground, pitching wooden stakes at the planting holes with admirable accuracy. Another one stops to hack at one of the holes with a metal "dibble" tool, loosening and evening out the sandy soil. She rummages around in a rubber satchel and pulls out a 2-foot long whip, then kneels to tuck it into the dirt, mindful of the rampant poison ivy and frequent angry ants.

"To uphold our mission to preserve wild and scenic places for today and keep them healthy for tomorrow, we must be willing to adapt to changing conditions for the health of our natural areas. It's not an easy task, but if we stay optimistic and focus on solutions to ecological problems, we can keep our promise to the next generation."

— Mitch Lettow, Stewardship Director

Stewardship Crew Planters: Anna McClurkan, Dave Brown, Megan Martin

After firming soil around the little roots and standing the shoot upright, she pounds a stake into the ground with a sledge hammer, just in time for another co-worker to slide a tube down the stake, mindfully guiding the tiny plant into its new protective housing. Zip-ties quickly lock the tube into place and the name of the species is written in waterproof marker on the tube. On to the next one.

Unless rain is predicted, someone trudges through the site with 5 gallons (40 pounds!) of water strapped to their back, getting the new plantings off to a good start with a healthy squirt.

Hopes are high that these babies will grow into vigorous specimens. Other native tree species will fill in around them, a diverse understory of plants and wildflowers will grow at their feet, nutritious fungal-rich soil will build, insects will be plentiful, the songs of birds will fill the air, and people will visit this healthy, resilient forest to find peace in its shade.

That's the dream, anyway.

— Amelia Hansen, Communications Specialist

Photos, Amelia Hansen

Who says tree planting has to be serious?
Not volunteers Steve and Kristi Chapman!

Find lots more photos on our website!
www.swmlc.org/planting-for-resilience

Learn more about this huge, on-going SWMLC project:

SWMLC and Partners Receive National Grant, Keeping forests healthy in the face of climate change
www.swmlc.org/swmlc-receives-national-grant

Making Omelettes, Removing non-native Douglas fir trees at Wau-Ke-Na, WE Smith Preserve
www.swmlc.org/making-omelettes

Hemlocks for the Holidays, Highlighting the work that SWMLC and our project partners are doing locally to stop hemlock woolly adelgid, a devastating forest pest • www.swmlc.org/hemlocks-for-the-holidays

Volunteer Power, With the help of SWMLC staff, a quartet of volunteers recently planted more than 200 trees in just one day!
www.swmlc.org/volunteer-power

"Tree Planting with a Twist", page 6, ***SWMLC's Protecting Nature***, Autumn 2020, Vol. 29, No. 3

Photo courtesy of Jack and Nanette Keiser

Amelia Hansen

'In Perpetuity' is a Very Long Time

Jack and Nanette Keiser are among the many who plan to leave property to Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy in their estate plans.

Jack is a retired attorney and first got involved with Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy through representing John and Patti Chipman, who have also supported SWMLC through their estate plan. Nanette is the retired president of a community foundation.

When asked why they feel it is important to leave property to SWMLC upon their deaths, Jack said, "I realized that SWMLC is bound by its governing documents and by the Internal Revenue Service to protect land and water 'in perpetuity'. That's a long time," Jack joked. "But seriously, what we are able to do in our lifetimes is simply not enough." Nanette added, "I couldn't agree more. In my work in community foundations the slogan was 'For Good, Forever'. That background made it just natural for me to believe we needed to do something to assist this organization when we are no longer around."

Jack and Nanette added that it gives them great peace of mind to know that their passion for the purposes and work of SWMLC will be furthered after they are gone.

Planned giving can help Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy continue its work protecting nature **forever.**

Planned giving can help SWMLC continue its work forever. It's as easy as adding SWMLC as a beneficiary to an IRA or other retirement vehicle, to a life insurance policy, or by providing for SWMLC in a will or trust. The members of the Oak Legacy Circle are determined that SWMLC will continue its work in perpetuity.

Catbird photographed at Portman Nature Preserve
Jeanne Church

Show Your Love

by giving the gift of nature as part of your estate plan

Join Jack and Nanette Keiser and the growing number of other people who are ensuring the future of clean water and high quality habitat in southwest Michigan. They share the peace of knowing that their passion for nature will live on, improving the lives of many generations of people and wildlife to come.

By making a commitment to Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy as part of your estate plan, you will become a member of the Oak Legacy Society, joining other thoughtful supporters who have made a gift to our future and to the permanence of land conservation in southwest Michigan.

Feel free to contact us

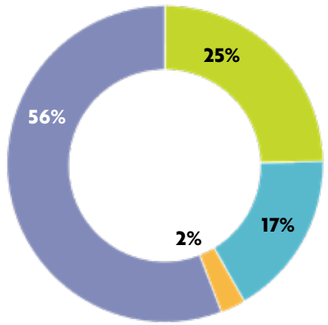
If you're interested in discussing how you can accomplish your goals to leave a lasting gift, please call Peter Ter Louw for a confidential conversation at 269-324-1600, or send an email to conserveland@swmlc.org.

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
Oak Legacy Society

CONSERVATION SNAPSHOT: Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy Financials, Fiscal 2020

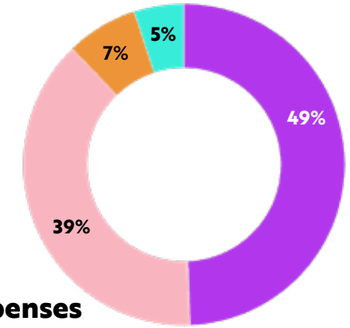
It's because of you and many other individuals, businesses, and foundations that we are able to conserve wild and scenic places in southwest Michigan – and to do so as a fiscally efficient and healthy organization.

For all that you have done to make this region a better place in which to live, work, and play, we thank you.



revenue

Contributions and Earnings with donor restrictions	$898,824
Contributions from Individuals (includes donated assets)	$398,393
Grant Funded Conservation Projects & Foundation Gifts	$272,342
Investments	$40,506
Total: $1,610,065	



expenses

Program Funds (includes land acquisition and grant spending)	$559,626
Stewardship	$435,710
Management & General	$81,086
Fundraising	$56,880
Total: $1,133,302	

Includes funds raised for Porter Legacy Dunes improvements and other Stewardship projects scheduled to occur in subsequent fiscal years.

Net change in assets: $ 476,763

Thank you to our 2020 Donors

To everyone who cared, volunteered, donated, conserved their land, and partnered with us in 2020, take pride in knowing that you belong to a community of passionate nature-lovers that are working to save the places we all love and connect people from all walks of life to the outdoors.

Working together, we are protecting nature in southwest Michigan, now and forever.

Blue Green Society

To save the blue water, we must protect the green land.

Thank you to those who have joined the Blue Green Society and made an annual commitment of $1000 or more.

Anonymous (4)
The Arctica and Abbey Foundation
Richard Atwell and Elizabeth King
Catherine and Dan Augenstein
Donald Ayer
Frank D. Ballo
Chuck and Jan Benner
Carole Birch
Jim and Patti Birkes
Peter R. Boerma
Brian and Lori Bosgraaf
Sharon Boudeman
George and Pat Burgoyne
Bob and Pat Burr
Dan and Stacy Burton
Larry and Barbara Case
Amy and Jason Cherry
John and Lynne Chipman
Patti Chipman
Thom Coder
Dave Coleman
Maggie Coleman
Kalman and Becky Csia
Erwin H. and Debra Doerschler
Larry and Sherry Edris
Elisabeth R. French
Jim Galligan
John and Sharon Garside
Alfred and Jean Gemrich
Dana and Teresa Getman
Florence F. Goodyear
David and Sharon Groendyk
Fred and Jeane Groos
Nick and Hanna Groos
Tom and Lisa Groos
Bruce and Jeanne Grubb
Keto and Kathryn Gyekis
Henry B. Hawk
Larry and Noel Hayward
Mal and Pat Hickok
Larry and Jerrilyn Holcomb
Susan Houseman and Curtis E. Hall
Mary and Daniel Houser
Joel and Barbara Huber
Robert and Patricia Huiskamp
Alice Jones
W. Jack and Nanette M. Keiser
Rob and Donna Keller
Kenneth and Marlena Kirton
Phyllis LaVene
Dave and Bridget Lemberg
Robert and Joyce Leppard
John and Maureen Lewandowski
Bill and Kathy Main
Tom and Pam Mansager
Jerry and Betty Mason
Hugh and Connie Mehaffie
Philip Micklin
Verne and Cindy Mills
Charlotte Mittler
Mike and Susan Nave
Bob and Kay O'Boyle
Betty Lee Ongley
Joel and Florence Orosz
Michael and Cindy Ortega
Karen and Tim Pederson
Melanie Perry
Stan and Connie Rajnak
Todd and Amy Sanford
Carol and Robert Scallan
Lawrence J. Sehy
Richard Shaw and Shirley Sutton
Joel and Jennalie Shepherd
Bruce and Kathy Shurtz
Mark and Carolyn Speese
Lynn and Mike Steil
Peter D. Ter Louw
Steve Tomashefsky and Rebecca Sive
Roger and Jeanne Turner
Maren and Christopher Uggen
Christine Valentine
Bo and Mel Van Peenan
Erik and Michele VanAllen
Dave and Janice Varney
Gail Walter and Tom Nehil
Bradley and Cheri Weller
Dave and Joan Wendling
Earl Werner
TJ and Julia Wilkinson
Philip Willson
Jack N. Wykoff
Arno and Pam Yurk

Oak Legacy

Show your love by giving the gift of nature as part of your estate plan.

By arranging to make a planned gift, you will join these amazing people who know that today is the time to ensure conservation for tomorow.

Anonymous (4)
Paula M. Allred
Susan Bond
Sherwood and Sharon Boudeman
Kristi and Stephen Chapman
Amy and Jason Cherry
Thom Coder
Susan Gray
Barbara and John Guinness
Jack O. Haeger
Mary and Daniel Houser
Joel and Barbara Huber
Alice Jones
W. Jack and Nanette M. Keiser
Sandra Kuhn
Bill and Jeannette Maxey
Judy Mayo and Sid Aaron
Alan G. Mueller
Diane Murphy
Joan Orman and Eric Bekker
Stan and Connie Rajnak
Todd and Amy Sanford
Jennifer Schwab and Tom Miller
Lawrence J. Sehy
Thomas H. Seiler
Patricia Smetana and Thomas Krol
Roger Taylor
Peter D. Ter Louw
Philip Willson

"What a treat it was to find Jeptha Lake Fen Preserve right down the road from our farm way back in the day. I've been a fan ever since of SWMLC's work conserving and sharing our beautiful Southwest Michigan countryside with the world. Here's to 30 more years of this extraordinary commitment . . ."

— Rebecca Sive

Thank you to our Oak Legacy members. **If you have already included Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy in your will and/or estate plans, please let us know – we would love to thank you, too.**

2020 Membership Donations

"We're happy to support SWMLC, as it preserves and repairs the natural landscape here at home."

— Joyce and Bob Leppard

Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly ($1000+)

Kristi and Stephen Chapman
John R. and Barbara A. Chenault
Mike and Carol Klug
Robin and Nancy Nott
Jim and Terry Novaria
Anne and Paul Pancella
Jon and Stephanie Rambow
Tom and Ruth Small
Dennis Stelzer

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake ($500+)

Phil Albain
Mr. Tom Glen Chelew
Alica N. Cummings
Gregory A. DiGennaro
George Dunn
Nate and Lisa Eimer
Randal K. Eshuis and Maria J. Romero Eshuis
Christopher M. Flynn
Jim and Shirley Freeman
Jerry and Becky Gray
Bill and Kathy Hanley
Phillip and Lynne Heasley
James R. Hewitt
Brian Hoff
Allan Hunt and Rochelle Habeck
Daniel Leep
Candace Cole Leonard
Bill and Jeannette Maxey
Bill and Karen McNulty
Charles and Mary Moore
Wayne and Karen Moss
Kerry Mulholland
Mark and LaRae Odland
Rodger Parzyck
Ralph Pernice and Nancy Englander
Michael Gene Plum
Brian Priest
Sam and Tina Qualls
George and Louise Robeck
Lynn Sagar
Eric and Georgina Shafer
Craig L. Shumaker
Tim and Julie Winslow
Richard and Julie Wyrwa

Cerulean Warbler ($250+)

Paula M. Allred
Phyllis J. Barents
Jill Berglund
Alex and Kathy Bozymowski
William and Victoria Brander
Dick and Lois Brunvand
Dennis and Janice Burke
Ruth Caputo
Nick and Kathy Carter
John and Sally Carton
Lee and Pat Casebere
Tracy Cobb
Terry Coleman
Harry and Mary Ellen Cotterill
Robert and Nancy Cretsinger
Tamara Crupi
Brian and Maureen Dobbie
Marilyn Doolittle
Marilyn H. Dopp
Monica Ann Evans
Sarah Ferguson
Rachel Gerrits
Edith Gilmore
Harold Gleaves
Nancy Goodrich
Jack O. Haeger
Linda and Charles M. Hall
Karen Halsted and Patrick Cronin
Nate Hartmann
Ed and Ginnie Hessler
Cynthia Hingtgen and Grant Nicol
Jocelyn and Richard Hodgman
Mark Jenness and Cheryl Lyon-Jenness
Steve and Sue Jessup
Andrew and Patricia Johnson
Judy Johnson and Mark Loehrke
Frank and Joan Lamb
Charles and Mary Ann Landefeld
Jurate M. and Carl Landwehr
Alicia Ann Luft
Jim and Julie Luginbill
Jan and Vaughn Maatman
George and Linda Macleod
Randy Mark
Denny and Eileen Mead
Jamie and Phil Michael
Joe and Shirley Mitchell
Mr. Donald C. Nitz
Dr. Mark A. Noffsinger
Ken Peregon
Greg Petty
Lori and Floyd Phalen
Douglas R. Ray
Philip and Ellen Robertson
Cindy Roman
Harold Ronk
Kathy Roschek
Randall and Joyce Schau
John and Raeanne Soule
Margie and Ed Stinson
Susan and Phillip Stott
Gerald Tilmann
Michael A. Travis
Kathleen and Edward VanDam
Nils and Zena Vos
Fred and Cam Weber
Louise Wepfer and Ed Withey
Bonnie L. White
Judith R. Willson
Amanda and Peter Ziemkowski

Spotted Turtle ($100+)

Anonymous (2)
Jordan and Michelle Allen
Melody Allen and Bruce Caple
Jill Allread
Tom and Molly Andrews
Ed Appleyard
Todd Barkman
Alan Baudler
Stuart Baum
David K. Baute
Brandon and Chaney Bear
Beatrice H. Beech
Gerald and Mickey Benson
Harry and Mary Kaye Bird
Sandra Bliesener
Norman Bober
Barbara Boven
Cheri Branch
Bob and Gail Brickman
Rudy and Diane Broekhuis
Donald J. and Mary C. Brown
William C. and Leslie Buhl
Robin K. Byrn
Joe and Nancy E. Calme
Mary Ann Carey
Jon and Patricia Carlson
Phillip and Carol Carra
Marilyn Case
Mike and Gayle Champagne
Rose Mary Ciraulo
Matthew Clysdale
Casey Cole
Penelope Cole
Frank Conklin
Doug Coulter and Pam Hoppe
Geoffrey and Sarah Cripe
Eduardo Crotte
Pam Dalitz
Jim and Jennifer Daniels
Maurice Decoster and Sonia Hill
Alaine Depner
Mr. Matt Diana
Liane Early
Mrs. Laura Eklov
Trey and Becky Eldridge
Mr. Brian D. Elliott
Roland and Lisa Emanuel
T. P. and H. J. Emerson
Hans Engelke
Nancy Engemann
Joan and Hub Erickson
Molly Fairbanks and Richard Pulaski
John and Carie Faul
Miguel Fernandez
Joyce Fink
Dr. Joshua David Fisher
Karen and Robert Fix
Elaine Fluck
Chris and Laura Fluke
Dave Foerster and Sheila Birdsall
Ryan and Laura Fouty
Dennis and Mary Frailing
Karl and Gloria Frankena
Hether and Matt Frayer
Mr. Ralph L. Freed
Artis Freye and Kevin Ulrich
Todd and Deborah Fritz
Harrison Fry
Mike and Kathy Gallagher
Fran Galow
Dan and Linda Garrett
Nathan Geisler and Carrie Berger
Jack and Martha Gesmundo
Paul and Janet Gilbert
Susan and John Gillett
Anthony and Grace Gilmore
Jeff and Bette Glindmeyer
Michael and Jomie Goerge
Jim and Carol Gonzalez
Robert and Paula Gorman
Jason Gourley
Elmer R. Graber, DVM
Michael Graham
Katherine Gross and Gary Mittelbach
Thomas Hagadone and Pamela Miller
Dean and Cynthia Halderson
Gerald and Lelane Hardie
Ms. Sassafras Havilar
Robert and Mara Hayes
Jennifer and Matt Haywood
Ed Henby
Jerry M. Herst and Julie Dorfman
Erin Heskett
Heather Hill
Donna Hippensteel
Susie and Gerry Hoar
Charles and Pamela Hodgman
Phyllis J. Hoger
Allen Holcomb
Katherine Howe
Patricia A. Huberty
Pam and Mark Jackson
David Jamieson
Rhoda Johnson
Matthew Johnston
Judy Jolliffe
Sarah Jordan and Patricia Lutsky
Raelyn and Richard Joyce
Linda and Joseph Kanamueller
Richard and Brenda Keith
Susan and Robert Kinde
Paul and Judith Kindel
Mr. John Kleb
Kimberlee Lynne Klocke
Karen E. Knapp
Margaret Kohring
Kenneth M. Kornheiser
Pat and Cheryl Krause
Sandra L. Kuentzel
Bob and Margaret Laatsch
Stephen Langeland
Pamela and Lee Larson
Laura and Dale Latulippe
Carol LeFevre
Lucas and Amelia DeLuca Leibold

2020 Membership Donations CONTINUED

Jamie Leigh
Brian, Bridget and Felix Leppard
Kent and Lauri Lindquist
Paul and Linda Locey
Erika Loeffler
Joanne Lowery
Diana K. Lubic
Joseph E. Ludy
Karen Maas
Karen Macklom
Matthew Malicki
Mrs. Jacqueline V. Mallinson
Bobbi Martindale and Jon Towne
David C. Maturen
Anne May
Judy Mayo and Sid Aaron
John and Margaret McCann
Matt and Danielle Meersman
Penny Meints
John and Debbie Mellein
James and Amy Melvin
Susan Mesch and Justin Carinci
Bettina Meyer
John Meyer
Donald Miller
Joanne Miller and Paul Rehkopf
Julia Miller
Lynn E. Miller
Linda and W. Joseph Mills
Bethany Moody
Al Mussman
Louis Paul Nasir
Douglas Nickerson
Dr. Sandra E. Nordmark
Jane Norton
Noel Ocen-Gorgone
Sandra Olsen
Donald and Suzanna Paarlberg
Sally Padgitt
Kim and Lula Palmer
Walter and Shirley Pascal
Bill and Gerrie Peet
Lynda Pelkey
Will Platz
Tom and Raye Polasek
Franklin and Paula Presler
Alison Pruitt
Alice Puchalsky
Jeffrey Rappin and Penny Brown
Robert and Margo Rebar
Eric and Martha Reid
Bob and Janice Rensch
Patsy Richardson and Bill Gingas
Robyn Richardson
Rosamond Robbert
Eleanor Roberts
Margaret and Dwyer Roche
Cheryl Rodbard
Thomas and Holly Rosenhagen
Pamela Rups
Debbie Russell
Sarah Rydecki
Michael and Judy Salada
Dean Sanford
Robert and Georgette Schirmer
Tonya Schuitmaker
Thomas H. Seiler
Rebecca J. Shank
Kim Shook
Neil Sikora
Ms. Georgia P. Sizemore
Dan Smith and Jeannette Greselin
Lawrence and Babbette Smith
Stephen and Jean Smith
Mr. James H. Smolinski
Susan Sobeck
Ferris and Teri Standiford
Ms. Victoria Staniszewski
Jean Stevens and Jeff Bernstein
Jane Steward
Judi Stimson and Bill Myers
Michael Stoline
Ursula Storb
Ronald Strauss
Richard and Mary Sutton
Sara Syswerda
Jane Ter Louw
Gordon and Carol Terry
John and Karen Thornton
Lynwood and Joan Topp
Michelle and Chris Tracy
Nick and Nancy Tuit
Mr. and Mrs. Jason and Ahni Turner
Roger and Carole Ulrich
Jeff and Donna Upchurch
Henry Valkema
Mr. and Mrs. Peter E. Van Nice
Carol R. VandenBerg
William and Carol Venema
Lawrence and Susan Vihtelic
Louis A. Villaire
John P. Vrbancic
Holly Wait
Joseph M. and Holly Duffy Walls
Warren Washington
Bruce Wechsler
Pamela West
Chris Wheeler
Diane D. Worden
Betsy York and Demetrhea Terrien
Steve Youngs
Robert and Beverly Zalewski
Ruth Zwald

Little Brown Bat ($50+)

Nancy Acker
David and Wanda Aikens
Fran Alcantara
Kathryn Almy and Robert Kakuk
Amy Anderson
Dale Anderson
Jeanne M. Anderson
Andrews Trust, c/o James and Joy Andrews
Ralph E. Babcock
Delmar and Gayle Bachert
Susan and Kerry Badger
Carol Bale
Vernon Bennett III and Sally Muniz
Laura Bodary
Mr. Brandon Bouwman
Mary Susan Brill
Rebecca Brock
Paula and Joe Buckman
David and Mary Lynn B. Bugge
Mr. Jewell D. Burdette
James Carlson and Christine Hartzell
Mr. Kim Cauchy
Richard and Joanne Chamberlin
Judith Kay M. Chase
Leonard and Patricia Chase
Dallas Chester
Jeanne Church
Mary Colliflower
Robert Cooley
James and Catherine Coury
Justin Davies
Pamela Dehnke
Wayne and Marj Dennis
Dan Denov
Melissa and Craig DeSimone
Kathy Dorr
Mary G. Dorr
Emily Egan
Laurel Eppstein
Thomas Paul Erdmann
Ann S. Evans
Kathy Fenton-Miller
Connie and Steve Ferguson
Jack and Kathleen Ferguson
David Fitzgerald
William and Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Ms. Sarah Fitzpatrick
Ms. Margo Foreman
Ann and John Fraser
Fred and Sandy Frederick
John White and Sue Frederick
Dr. Gabriela Freese
Kent and Jeryl Fuller
Matthew and Tomomi Geisler
Sue and Dave Goldenberg
Matthew Gorentz
Marion Gray
Kris and Marty Green
Ed and Kelly Gregory
Pat Gudlaugsson
Ellen Harrington and John Stodola
Dale P. Harrison
Susan Harrison and Jeff Price
Barbara Hasan
Amy and Kevin Hausman
James and Mary Heaton
Catherine Henze
Bob and Joan Hiddema
Frederick S. Higdon
Carol and Larry Higgins
Deborah Higgins
Sherry L. Higgins
Mark and Mary Sue Hoffman
Connie and Fred Hubbell
Patrick Hudson and Gina Frasson-Hudson
Bruce Hutchinson
Deb Imbrock
David Jackson and Margaret McAllistar
Jerre James
Sarah Jamieson
Craig and Mary Jbara
Patrick and Celeste Chambers Jones
Dorothy A. Kasunic
Evelyn Kirkwood
Robert and Nancy Klesert
Susan Kneeshaw
Peter Kobrak
Victor A. Kordish
Danielle Kuzma
Jacqueline Ladwein
David and Jan Landry
Cheryl A. Larabee
Rita and Allan LaReau
John and Betty Lerg
Steven Leuty
David Littke
Chuck Lund
Victor J. Manzon
Manfred Martin
William and Shirley Martinus
Coral Mason
Mike and Cindy Mazurkiewicz
Kevin and Linda McCall
Jacquelyn V. McShulskis
Sr. Betsy Meagher
Tom Mears
Ms. Jenny Miller
Sheryl and Mark Miller
Diann Morris
Alan G. Mueller
Vi Murphy
Paul D. Olexia
Roger and Susan Olson
Margaret Ortlieb
Joseph and Kathleen Ossmann
David and Carol Overton
Donna Marie Parr
Rebecca Patterson
Mike and Phyllis Petersen
Michael and Lisa Phillips
Bette Pierman
Barbara E. Plampin
Robert and Mary Jo Poel
Cyndy Priest
Mr. and Mrs. Allan S. Puplis
Jim and Cheryl Quebbeman
Chuck and Rose Quoss
Valerie Reed
Janet and Larry Ricco
Barbara Rider and Fred Sammons
Tom Ruesink

"Land is the sculpture we leave behind to illustrate our ethic. Generations from now, everyone will marvel at SWMLC preserves – the few places they know where wildlife still thrives, wetlands remain healthy, and centuries-old trees survive – and ask, 'Why wasn't everyone part of SWMLC?'"

— Gary Stock

Mrs. Jackie Marie Ryan
Jan Ryan
Sean Ryan
Mary Alice and Donald Ryder
Jeffrey and Darci Schimp
Moselle and Steve Schoenfelder
David and Deb Schuette
Dale and Marlene Schultz
Lucinda A. Sebald and Andrew Van Doren
Rachelle Secson
Maxine Sherburn
Beth L. Shirley
Bruce and Wendy Simrod
J. Dan Skean, Jr., PhD
Harriet Slomp
Carole G. Smith
Norman and Mary Smith
Fred Snell
Paul R. and Pamela H. Sotherland
Sylvia Sperry
Ronda Spink
Debra Stamp
Kathryn Steadman
Sue Stejskal and Andy Rosenbaum
Richard and Olga Stieve
Samantha Street
Marcia V. Stucki
Sky Suydam
Christy Tigchelaar
Carolyn and Gary Tolliver
Dale and Emma Turton
Jan van Schaik
Barbara and Joel VanDyken
Joan Verwilst
Ann Videtich
Karen Wagner
William Wagner
George Wallis
John and Amy Walters
Laurel Ward
Virginia Wells
Glenn and Nancy Wengert
William P. Westrate
Susan L. Whitney
Robert and Rebecca Wilcox
Larry and Rose Wile
Jerry and Donna Wilinski
R.J. Williams
Mark Winkel
Tim Wixted and Ana Clelia Vincenti
Foster and Carolyn Woodward
Marie Woolum
Jonathan Wuepper
Laurel Yoder
Nancy and Joseph Young

Business, Club & Group Memberships

BASIC
Berrien Birding Club
Consumers Energy
Geum Services
Great Lakes Adventure Club
Kalamazoo Garden Club
Kalamazoo Garden Council
Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum
Native Connections
Parchment Garden Club
Petal Pushers Garden Club
Schlessman Seed Co.
Secure Start Inspections
South Haven Garden Club

Gifts Beyond Membership

$1000 and Over

Anonymous (4)
David M. Bailey, Jr.
Jane Baker
Charles and Jan Benner
Mr. and Mrs. Rodger V. Bittner
Peter Boerma
Brian and Lori Bosgraaf
Boudeman Farms
Jo Beth Bridleman
Bob and Pat Burr
Greer Candler
Tim Carlson
Kristi and Stephen Chapman
John R. and Barbara A. Chenault
Patricia Chipman
Thomas Coder
Cody Kresta Winery
Dave Coleman
Combined Insurance Agency (Michigan Insurance Company)
Roark Consolatti
Marybeth Pritschet-Davis
Erwin and Debra Doerschler
Eugenia Elliott
Sally Esman
Dennis and Suzie Fitzgibbon
Elisabeth French
Thomas and Barbara Gelehrter
Thomas and Nancy Georgoff
Dana and Teresa Getman
Richard T. Groos
Tom and Lisa Groos
Bruce and Jeanne Grubb
Keto and Kathryn Gyekis
Glen Hastings
Susan Houseman and Curtis Hall
Ed and Kathy Knox
Gail Lauzzana
George Leonard
Robert and Joyce Leppard
John and Maureen Lewandowski
Robert Linderman
William and Kathleen Main
Mr. and Mrs. William Martin
Helen McCauslin
Henry Miller
Charlotte G. Mittler
Jeffrey Mohney
Lou Mule
Mike and Susan Nave
Eileen L. Oehler
Joel and Florence Orosz
Pfizer Annual Giving Campaign
Linda A. Powell
Tom and Linda Powell
Stan and Connie Rajnak
Jon and Stephanie Rambow
Chris Ruppel
Lynn Sagar
Todd and Amy Sanford
Lawrence J. Sehy
Lynn and Mike Steil
Robert G. Stickland
Bradley and Kathy Sullivan
Peter D. Ter Louw
George N. Todd
Tyden Ventures
Robert and Melicent Van Peenan
Jeremy vanEyk
C. Glen Walter and Edite Balks Walter MD
Gail Walter and Tom Nehil
Earl Werner
TJ and Julia Wilkinson
Dr. John A. Woollam
Richard and Julie Wyrwa
Laurie Young
Pamela and Arno Yurk

Up to $1000

Anonymous
Melody Allen and Bruce Caple
Steve Allen
Susan Allen
David and Linda Anderson
David A. Anderson
Jared Arnold
Patrick and Liz Arseneau
Ned and Neva Asplundh
Cinda Axley
Jean L Bailey
William H. and Ann Baker
Bud and Judi Baldwin
Phyllis J. Barents
Joan Bauer
David K. Baute
Beatrice H. Beech
Rebecca Beech
Robert and Janet Beemer
JoAnne Beertema
Lisa Benscoter
Vita Benson
Jim and Patti Birkes
Nancy Bishop
Garrett Blahunka
Sebastian Blanco
Dr. Jack Bley
Melinda J. Bloom
Korine and Jeff Blyveis
Norman Bober
Brett Bonthron
Jeremy and Marleen Bottoms
Sherwood and Kathryn Boudeman
Barbara Boven
Gilbert Bowman
Dennis Bradley
Cheri Branch
Kathy Breyfogle
Rick Brigham
Susan and Tom Brooks
Donald J. and Mary C. Brown
Hugh and Rebecca Brown
Mark and Gail Brown
Dick and Lois Brunvand
Christopher C. Bunch
Rose Bundy
Dana Buoscio and John Szewezyk
Jewell D. Burdette
George and Pat Burgoyne
Bryan and Jordan Burroughs
David and Mary Lou Butkovich
Angela Calvery
Jim Campau
John Campbell
Valerie Campbell
Josh Carlson
Sharon Carlson and Thomas Dietz
Phillip and Carol Carra
Michael Carroll
Philip Carter
Nicole L. Case
Heather Catania
Mike and Gayle Champagne
Dallas Chester
James Chinworth
Tony and Traci Chipman

Gifts Beyond Membership CONTINUED

Rose Mary Ciraulo
Martha and Hurshal Clark
Matthew Clysdale
Henry and Becky Cole
Penelope Cole
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
Frank Conklin
Amos and Kathleen Cook
Jeff Conner and Buffy Silverman
Eileen Coscarelli
Harry and Mary Ellen Cotterill
Jackie Cowing
Mark Cretsinger

"SWMLC makes it possible for everyone to be a difference maker; to heal and replenish the earth for now and the future."

— Bill McNulty

Nancy and Ron Crowell
Theodore and Pamela Cummins
Frank Cunningham
Terry Cunningham
Larry and Lin Czapla
Pam Dalitz
C. Miko Dargitz
Nancy and David Daugherty
Randy Day and Betsy Floria
Theresa Debelak
Sally and John DeCardy
Mike and Martha DeGrandchamp
Wayne and Marj Dennis
Martha and Gary Deuel
Laura DeWitt
Gary and Marjory Dietz
Lawrence Dion
Dr. and Mrs. John Dircks
Marilyn Doolittle
Mari Draeger
Tacie and Martin Draznin
David Dvorak and Karol Peterson
Margaret Eaton
Bruce and Martha Edger
Trey and Becky Eldridge
Helen Elkiss
David W. and Nikki J. Elrod
Hans Engelke
Julie and Anthony Estell
Scott Evett

Sam Ewbank
Ann and Greg Feldmeier
Jack and Kathleen Ferguson
Kate Ferraro
Shon and Sam Field
Wendy Field
The First Tuesday Club
David Fitzgerald
Jerry Fitzgerald
Jeff and Mary Fleming
Brandon Flowers and Audrey Antosz-Flowers
Chris and Laura Fluke
Kelly Ford
Lisa Wagner Forrest

Dennis and Mary Frailing
Michael and Sharon Frandsen
Ralph L. Freed
Jim and Shirley Freeman
Kent and Jeryl Fuller
Mike Gaerte
Mike and Kathy Gallagher
John Galler
Kitty and Jeff Gardner
René and Bill Garrity
Deborah Geiger
Timothy and Paula Geiman
Paul and Janet Gilbert
Sharon Gill and Maarten Vonhof
Gayle Girou
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Glover
Loretta Gold
Sue and Dave Goldenberg
Eric Golinvaux
Jay and Cindi Gooch
Nancy Goodrich
Ms. Barbara Goodwin
Michael Graham
Jennifer and Cory Graves
Jerry and Becky Gray
Brandon and Tiffany Greenfield
Neal Grove
Grow and Show Garden Club
James Grunst

Pat Gudlaugsson
Barbara and John Guinness
Kevin Haight and Mindy Russell-Haight
Caroline Hall
Dyrk Hamilton
Nina Maria Hamilton
Gerald and Lelane Hardie
Maren Harkness
Donald Harrell
Barabara Hartgerink
Barbara Hasan
Janelle Haselhuhn
Jennifer and Matt Haywood
Ms. Eileen Hellwege
Gary and Mary Herder
Erin Heskett
Sr. Claver Hickmott
Mal and Pat Hickok
Pam Hjelmquist
Tom and Lois Hoekstra
Drs. April and David Hoffman
Mark and Mary Sue Hoffman
Rick and Mary Hoffman
Mr. Bill Hogan
Katya Hokanson
Linda Holden
Marie Houghton
Wayne and Sally Householder
Mary and Daniel Houser
Tom and Sally Howe
Patricia A. Huberty
Allan Hunt and Rochelle Habeck
James and Jennifer Hurst
Bruce and Kathy Huston
Anna and Carl Ill
Leslie Irish
David Jackson and Margaret McAllistar
Carolyn Jarvis
John C. Jenkins
Mark Jenness and Cheryl Lyon-Jenness
Dr. Amy Johnson
Andrew and Patricia Johnson
Judy Johnson and Mark Loehrke
Rhoda Johnson
Sheila Johnson
William C. Johnson
Doug Jonas

Patrick and Celeste Chambers Jones
Rose Jordan
Carol and Greg Josefowicz
Ina Juretschke
Debra Kadzban
Wilma J. Kahn
Valdis and Laila Kalnins
Laura Kao
Dr. Sona Kalousdian and Dr. Ira Lawrence
David Karowe
Dorothy A. Kasunic
Catherine Kaufman
Susan Kavanaugh
Beth Keller
Stephanie and Robert Kennedy
Judith A. Kepler
Lynn Kirkaldy
Evelyn Kirkwood
Kenneth and Marlena Kirton
Becky Kish
Renee Kivikko
Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Kline
Ann Klobucar
Kimberlee Lynne Klocke
Bruce and Mary Klosner
Leslie Kocher
Jeffrey N. Kowalkowski
Donna Knight
William H. Krasean, Jr.
Matthew and Angela Kuiper
Dr. Laura Lambert
Chris and Mary Lampen-Crowell
Stephen Langeland
Susan Larner
Laura and Dale Latulippe
Dr. and Mrs. A. Gregory Laurell
Dan and Jeanne Lawson
Daniel Leep
Kendra Leep
Amy Lehman
Candace Cole Leonard
David Lerner
Valerie Levan
John and Maureen Lewandowski
Keith and Julie Lewandowski
Jane Lewin
Douglas W. Lombard
Rev. Rachel Lonberg
Girts Lorencis
Joanne Lowery

Richard Luedecking and Yvonne Keener
Chuck Lund
Lutheran Church of the Savior
Dr. Rebecca Lyman
James and Mona MacKimmie
Paul and Gail MacNellis
Nancy Mansberger
Jim and Paula Marcoux
Jennifer Mark
George and Gail Martin
Kris Martin
Roger and Roxanne Martin
Bobbi Martindale and Jon Towne
David C. Maturen
Bill and Jeannette Maxey
Anne May
David J. McCarthy
Emily McDonald
Russell and Connie McFee
Keith and Darlene McKenzie
Phyllis McKenzie
Mrs. Lisa H. McNeel
Tom Mears
Susan Mesch and Justin Carinci
Dennis and Ann Miczulski
Dr. David J. Millard
Donald Miller
Joanne Miller and Paul Rehkopf
Margaret I. Miller
Neville Miller
David S. Mindell
Joe and Shirley Mitchell
John and Roberta Mitchell
Vaughn C. Molnar
Colten Scheurer Monaghan
Ron Morton
Alan G. Mueller
Dr. Amy Mulligan
Andy and Lana Murch
Vi Murphy
Michael Murray
Christopher Nagy and Shannon Thornton
Matthew Nahodil
Larry and Janet Neil
Julie and John Noel
Dr. Mark A. Noffsinger
Dr. Sandra E. Nordmark
Margaret O'Brien
Terry O'Connor

Bert and Jan Ogden
Sandra Olsen
Lisa Oppenheim
Anita and Jamie Orlikoff
David Ostrem and Andrea Stork
Bill and Judith Ott
Dave and Debbie Owens
Dr. Richard M. Oxhandler
Janet Padilla
Manit Pahuja
Donna Marie Parr
Chetas Patel
Rebecca Patterson
Patti and John Pawlak
Jeffrey and Emily Pearson
Bill and Gerrie Peet
Steven and Lisa Peet
Lynda Pelkey
Louis J. Pepoy
Ken Peregon
Kay Perry
David Peterson
Greg Petty
Stephen E. Pew and Kathleen M. Keelan Pew
John and Mary Jane Pickell
Luigi and Anne Marie Pintore
Julie and Michael Pioch
Janene Pirbhai
Zaide Pixley and John Fink
Robert and Susan Pleznac
Jerry and Julie Portman
Carmon Posada
Jasen and Mary Potts
Caitlin Powers
Franklin and Paula Presler
Brian Priest
Alice Puchalsky
Mr. and Mrs. Allan S. Puplis
Gerald D. Purdy, MD
Richard and Carol Purdy
Chuck and Rose Quoss
Kathleen Rabbers
Donn Raseman
John and Carol Rasmussen
Heather and Jim Ratliff
Kelly Raymond
Dennis and Patti Regan
Peter Reimers
Leah Rettig
Jennifer Rice and Jeffrey Spoelstra
Barbara Rider and Fred Sammons

Thomas Riker
Rosamond Robbert
Silvia Roederer and Leslie Tung
Cindy Roman
Harold Ronk
Laurie Rosenberg
Thomas and Holly Rosenhagen
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Rossof
Judy Kraft Rowe
Tom Ruesink
Lisa Rundell
Paul Runnels
Jeremy Ruppel
Pamela Rups
Mary Elaine Rusin
Debbie Russell
Jason Rutgers
Patra Ryder
Michael and Judy Salada
Jim and Rachel Sankofski
David and Janet Scarrow
Elizabeth Schelle
Diane and Eric Schlanser
Ed and Barb Schmitt
Ruth E. Schmitter
Chace Scholten
William P. Schreiber
Jennifer Schwab and Tom Miller
Judy Scott
Rachelle Secson
Thomas H. Seiler
Karen E. Semenuk
Vance Senecal and Lynne Bruehlman
Eric and Georgina Shafer
Cybelle Shattuck
David and Susan Sheldon
Mr. and Mrs. Joel M. Shepherd
Maxine Sherburn
Sarah Shinske
Louise Silberman and Chris Galle
Harriet Slomp
Carolyn Slone
Sally Smith
Patricia Ann Smits
Mr. James H Smolinski
George J. and Sarah A. Sotos
Deborah Sparbel
Ronald Spears
Nicole Speedy
Tom and Nancy Springer

Wes and Dee Stafford
Karla Stanley
Judy Stearns
Cheri and Ross Stein
Howard Steiner
Sue Stejskal and Andy Rosenbaum
Gary Stock
Matthew Strebeck
Laura Strehlow and Walt Oberheu
Patricia and Dennis Stringham
Steve and Sarah Stryd
David Stumbras
Elizabeth Sugas
Brian L. Supplee
Richard and Mary Sutton
David and Susan Taylor
Shannon Taylor
Nelson TenBrink
Caitlin Thomas
Judith Thomas
Mike and Pam Thomas
Thomas Thornburg and Claren Schweitzer
Christy Tigchelaar
Jim Tobin and Gina Heagney
Gerry Tregerman
Stephen and Irene Trivers
Nick and Nancy Tuit
Jason and Ahni Turner
Jeff and Donna Upchurch
Philip Vacco
Virginia Van Andel
Elizabeth Van Ark
Bill and Susan Van Dis
Mark Van Eizenga
Gary Van Horn
Karla VanderRoest
Ann and Greg Veeck
Terri Veldman
William and Carol Venema
Holly Vestal
Amelia G. Waldron
Barbara Walters
Jonathan and Anne Marie Warner
Weavers and Fiber Artists Inc.
Bruce Wechsler
Joshua and Pamela Weiner
Mike Weis
Dave and Joan Wendling
Glenn and Nancy Wengert
Ms. Helene Whalen

Chris Wheeler
Janice Wick
Wild Ones Kalamazoo Area Chapter
Dave and Jan Wilder
Frank Wilhelme
Bruce and Jean Williams
Deloris Ann Williams
R.J. Williams
Genevieve Willson
Philip Willson
Steven Winkler
Tim and Julie Winslow
Kristina Wirtz
Michael and Nancy Wojcik
Nicholas and Claire Wolterstorff
Foster and Carolyn Woodward
Susan and Gerald Wray
Eric Wulf
Betsy York and Demetrhea Terrien
Joel Zemans
Amanda and Peter Ziemkowski
Ben and Kathryn Zimont
Susan Zuiderveen
Erin Zulewski

Matching Gifts

Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Microsoft Corporation
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Thomson Reuters
Pfizer Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Grants

Amazon Smile
The Artica and Abbey Foundation
Audubon Society of Kalamazoo
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Burdick Thorne Foundation
The Carls Foundation
Cornell Lab of Ornithology
The Esther and George Jaruga Charitable Foundation
Evergreen Foundation
The H.P. and Genevieve Connable Fund
Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation
Land Trust Alliance
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy – Highbanks Creek Watershed Restoration Grant
The Nancy Malcomson Connable Fund
The Nazareth Association
Network for Good
South Haven Community Foundation
South Haven/Van Buren County Convention & Visitor's Bureau
Target Giving Circle
USDA NRCS St. Joseph County, Conservation Reserve Program
USDA NRCS, Cass County Conservation Reserve Program
Wildlife Conservation Society's Climate Adaptation Fund, generously supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
The Wong Foundation

In-Kind Donations

Ronald L. Johnson
Mowing charges at Coon Hollow Preserve

William Gregory Myrkle, Jr.
Photographs used in promotional materials

Sanford Financial
Investment donation processing

Tom Stolz
Environmental site anlaysis

"When we moved to SW Michigan from the East Coast about 30 years ago, we were amazed by the area's natural beauty, and we are grateful for all SWMLC has done during this time to protect its special places."

— Sue and Curtis Houseman

Donations • February 1, 2021 – June 15, 2021

"Since I was first invited to join SWMLC's Board of Directors, the organization has been dear to my heart and my love of land and the environment. My years on the board and three times Chair has been memorable."

— Betty Lee Ongley

Honor Gifts

Rick and Mary Hoffman
In honor of Nancy and Dave Clark

William and Deb Hughes
In honor of Betty Lee Ongley's 95th birthday

Raelyn and Richard Joyce
In honor of Anna Z. Ill

Bruce and Kathy Shurtz
In honor of Mary Brill

Memorials

Michael and Charlotte Anton
In memory of Joseph Ferrara

Sherwood Boudeman
In memory of Leigh Melvin

Cheri Branch
In memory of Jack Harrison on his birthday.

Martha and Gary Deuel
In memory of Norm Ferguson

Molly Fairbanks and Richard Pulaski
In memory of James Munson

Ann and Greg Feldmeier
In memory of Thomas Murch

Dennis and Mary Frailing
"In memory of my father Robert Ross. Celebrating his almost 90 years!"

Thomas Hegewald
"In memory of my parents, Cornelius and Shirley Hegewald, who passed away earlier this year - 6 weeks apart. I grew up camping every summer in National Parks, gaining an appreciation for nature from both my parents."

Mark Jenness and Cheryl Lyon-Jenness
In memory of Sara Oliver

Donald Packard
In memory of Ryan Michael Hurlbutt

Probate Judges Emeriti, Inc.
In memory of Hon. John Brundage

Mary Lou and Chris Rohwer
In memory of Robert Ross

Shirley Tucker
In memory of Joe Ferrara

In Memory of Robert (Bob) Andree
Bob and Betsy Bruins
Martha and Hurshal Clark
Paul and Suzanne Jones
Jay Emerson Kellaway, M.D.
Emily Lievense
Jim and Carol Springer
Edward Vander Kooy

The Vander Velde Family
Janice Vanfaasen

In Memory of Robert Stickland
Dave and Joy McBride
David and Danielle Veenstra
Neighbors in Memory of Robert Stickland

In-Kind Donations

Anonymous
Stewardship supplies and tools

Community Homeworks
2015 Coleman ATV

Gift Memberships

Anonymous SWMLC Board Member, to:
James Antoine
Dave Armintrout
Fahimeh Baziari
Becky Burnett
Jeremy and Gerah Dutkiewicz
Cindy Eichbauer
Kevin Harness
Sue Maurer
Don Poppe
Peter Savage
Rick and Laurel Stravers

Welcome to New Members!

Cerulean Warbler ($250+)

Paula Maureen Termuhlen

Spotted Turtle ($100+)

Scott and Mary Aldrich
Tyler Augst
Blair Celano
Denise L. Cook
Jennifer Kron
Joe Meyer and Christine Yun
Rob Servis
Brenda Wentzel

Little Brown Bat ($50+)

Joe L. Dill
Jennifer L. Drake
Paul Ellenbogen
Doug Grimm
Amy Garver Kilbridge
Jessica Kwasny
Rachel Larner
Mona Medow
John Christopher Meyer, IV
Judith Anne Peelle
Laura Huth-Rhoades and Tom Rhoades
Dennis James Weipert
Don White

Grants

Battle Creek Community Foundation, Seeds of Growth
The Carls Foundation
Consumer Energy Foundation, Planet Award
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy – Highbanks Creek Watershed Restoration Grant
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Heath Road Preserve Wetland Restoration

Matching Gifts

IBM International Foundation
Pfizer Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

You make our work possible.

These contributions were made by people who love the forests, beaches, fields, lakes, marshes, prairies, rivers, streams, swamps, and woods of Southwest Michigan.

Thank you.

Double your impact!

Many corporations match their employees' contributions to SWMLC

Are you an employee of (or retired from) a company with a matching gift program? Just include your company form with your gift and we will be happy to follow up. Please call or email Nicole at 269-324-1600 x307 or nmspeedy@swmlc.org.

Make a difference for nature every month

Set up a sustaining membership that will be automatically billed to your credit card and you will provide Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy with a stable source of support. You decide how much you want to contribute and how often: monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.

It's easy: set up your account by typing in: ***www.swmlc.org/membership*** or use this QR code.

Your online shopping dollars can still help nature locally when you use Amazon Smile

SWMLC advocates local shopping whenever possible, but sometimes that hard-to-find item is only available online. When that happens, AmazonSmile has nearly all the same stuff as regular Amazon, but automatically donates 0.5% of the purchase price to your chosen charity.

It's easy to sign up: just go to smile.amazon.com, sign into your regular account (or open one), choose a charity (pick us!), then continue shopping - it even works with Prime and with your Amazon mobile app for Smile.

Half a percent may not sound like much but it adds up: as of mid-December 2020, SWMLC had received nearly $1,317 in AmazonSmile donations!

These local sponsors are helping to bring nature to our community.

Thank you.

Geum Services Inc. Richland Michigan
Birdiversity Audubon Society of Kalamazoo
Berrien Birding Club
SHGC South Haven Garden Club southhavengardenclub.org
Kalamazoo Garden Council, Inc.
Great Lakes Adventure Club
Petal Pushers Garden Club
Consumers Energy Foundation
Entergy Palisades Power Plant
Cottage Home
Secure Start Inspections, Inc.
Little Adventurers' Club
Cody Kresta Vineyard & Winery

* If we have accidently 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.

Would you like to see your business save open space, care for nature, and connect people to the outdoors? Bring purpose and meaning to your organization or business by joining these generous community supporters.

Call Nicole at 269-324-1600 x307 to find out how.

Southwest Michigan Team Birdathon 2021

Dave Brown • Ashley Cole-Wick • Mitch Lettow

Read Mitch's account of the day's twists and turns on our website!
www.swmlc.org/birdathon-wrap-21

SWMLC Land Larks

To everyone who donated or pledged to Birdathon this year . . .

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

- ✓ 3 team members ✓ 14 hours of birding
- ✓ 8 SWMLC preserves visited
- ✓ 103 species observed
- ✓ Over $5,000 raised!

(Note: no dark-eyed juncoes were observed this year. 😉)

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
8395 East Main St.
Galesburg, MI 49053

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Grand Rapids, MI
Permit No. 1

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thom Coder
Chair

Gail Walter
Vice-Chair

Thomas Georgoff
Treasurer

TJ Wilkinson
Secretary

Robert Burr
Erwin H. Doerschler
Sharon Gill
Thomas Groos
Bruce Grubb
Keto Gyekis
Jennifer Haywood
James Hettinger
William Main
Michael Nave
Earl Werner

STAFF

Peter D. Ter Louw
President and Executive Director

Dave Brown
Stewardship Specialist

C. Miko Dargitz
Development Associate

Justin Gish
Land Protection Specialist

Amelia Hansen
Communications Specialist

Hilary Hunt
Director of Land Protection

Will Keller
Stewardship Crew

Mitch Lettow
Stewardship Director

Megan Martin
Stewardship Crew Leader

Anna McClurkan
Stewardship Crew

Cindy Mills
Conservation Easement Specialist

Nicole Speedy
Operations Director

Emily E. Wilke
Conservation Projects Manager

2020 Portman's Legacy Wine Has been Released!

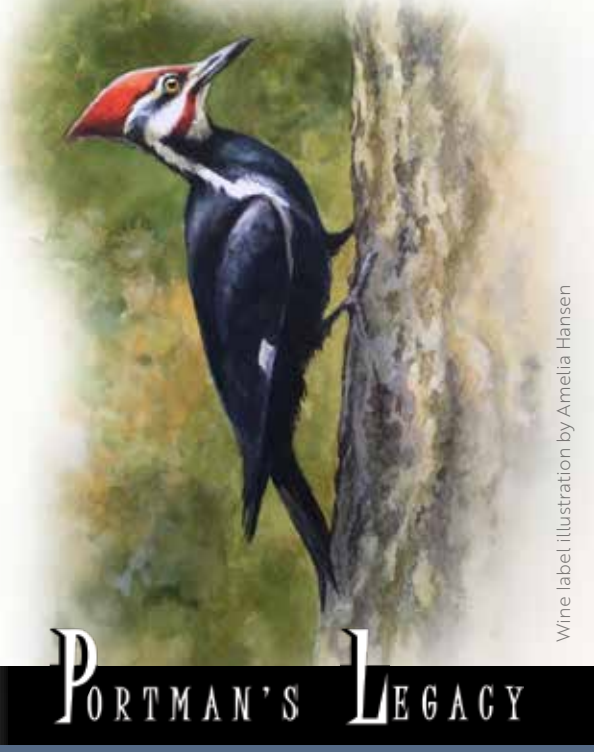
Once again, Cody Kresta Vineyard & Winery has created a delicious wine ***exclusively*** for Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy in support of Portman Nature Preserve, which is located just around the corner from them. We're honored to be associated with this small family winery that specializes in hand-crafted wines, humbled by their ongoing commitment to protecting nature in their neighborhood, and very grateful for their continued support!

Savor a glass of Portman's Legacy on Cody Kresta's peaceful patio or in their Tuscan-inspired tasting room. Or purchase it by the bottle to give as gifts (to others – or yourself!) Either way, you will be supporting local farmers and local land conservation!

Thank you, Cody Kresta!

CODY KRESTA
Vineyard & Winery

45727 27th St, Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-3800
www.codykrestawinery.com



Wine label illustration by Amelia Hansen

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.

All programs and services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis. Federal EIN 38-3038708