

Protecting History: 411-Acre Property Conserved



This past March marked the largest easement donation in Little Forks' 22-year history! The 411-acre Herkner property stretches along the Tittabawassee River and features large areas of mature forestland and significant areas still in agricultural production.

Mary Herkner had heard about The Little Forks Conservancy and with some uncertainty of the property's future after her ownership, she decided to donate a conservation easement to Little Forks.

"My in-laws never wanted to develop it, Bob (Herkner) never did - so the only way was to donate (a conservation easement) to Little Forks to preserve it," explained Mrs. Herkner. "Most of the people around here are thrilled that it's being preserved, especially the river stretch."

With a rich history dating back to the mid-1800s when it was first purchased by the Swanton family. Young Swanton, who owned a portion of the land, was part of the original group

of residents that founded Edenville Township. The property was bought by the Herkner family in 1956 and Mary started farming it in 1979.

Having farmed the land for years, parts of the farmland are being restored to native habitat while other portions will remain in production. The conservation easement also protects a mile of the Tittabawassee River.

"This property highlights the flexibility of a conservation easement which allows

for future farming, habitat restoration for both native grasses and wildlife and the protection of mature forestland. Working with Mary, we were able to meet her objectives in protecting a significant property in our region" commented Elan Lipschitz, Little Forks' Director of Land Conservation.

To learn more about conservation easements, always feel free to contact The Little Forks Conservancy.

The Little Forks Conservancy permanently protects and improves natural environments in Mid-Michigan by leading and inspiring actions that conserve vital habitats and waterways for the benefit of our entire community

Director's Note

by Greg Yankee,
Executive Director

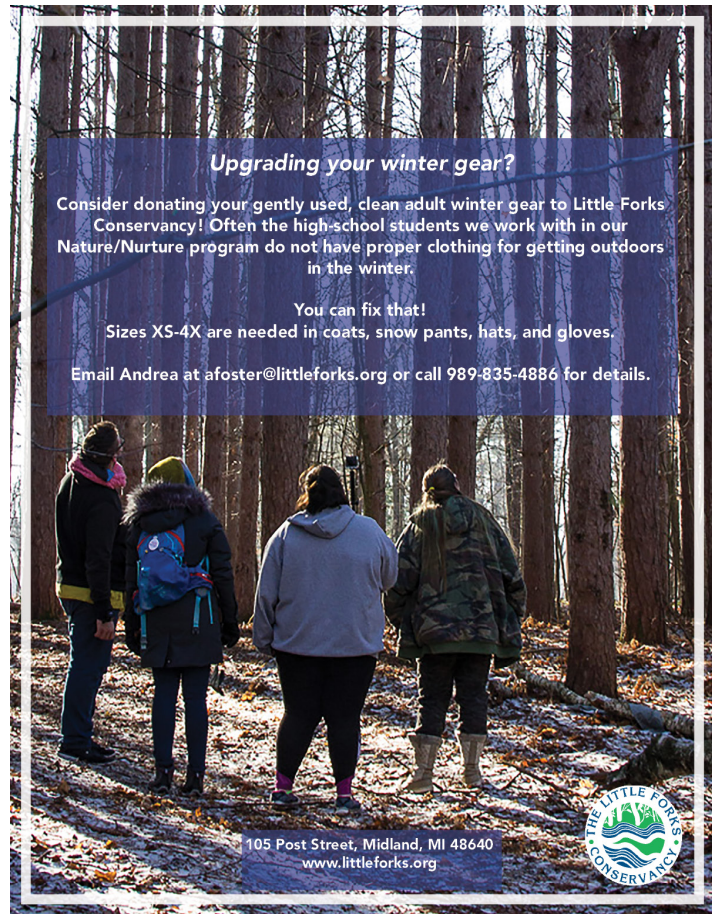
Nothing quite says autumn like time spent in the woods. Whether you have visited our Averill Preserve, Riverview Natural Area, Forestview Natural Area, or the Szok Preserve inside Pine Haven, we love being able to offer miles of trails with a variety of types of mature forestland.

The first three of those preserves have significant frontage along the Tittabawassee River and the Szok Preserve runs along the banks of the Salt River. A major portion of the summer for the staff at Little Forks was spent adding another preserve with mature forestland and

river frontage to our offerings: the George & Sue Lane Preserve along the Cedar River in Gladwin County. Our informal motto in the office is "protect land, connect people to it" and we are so thrilled to be able to start connecting all of you to this property that you first heard about in the last newsletter!

Autumn also means that school is in full swing and we are very excited for continued growth and success with our Nature/Nurture programming in local schools and the Juvenile Care Center. Please enjoy catching up on what we've been up to this summer and what we have planned for the fall!

Winter Gear Drive




Upgrading your winter gear?

Consider donating your gently used, clean adult winter gear to Little Forks Conservancy! Often the high-school students we work with in our Nature/Nurture program do not have proper clothing for getting outdoors in the winter.

You can fix that!
Sizes XS-4X are needed in coats, snow pants, hats, and gloves.

Email Andrea at afoster@littleforks.org or call 989-835-4886 for details.

105 Post Street, Midland, MI 48640
www.littleforks.org



Want to help support our Nature/Nurture program?
Drop your winter gear off at the office!

Averill Ribbon Cutting



Averill Preserve's wheelchair accessible overlook of the Tittabawassee River.

It's been a busy summer out at our Averill Preserve with installing interpretative signage, a wheelchair accessible portajohn, native plantings and invasive removals. We are excited to see Averill live up to its purpose in providing access to all!

Just in the last few months, through a variety of hosted events and volunteer opportunities, individuals from the Arc of Midland, Senior Services of Midland County,

MYPros, and students from the Midland County Juvenile Care Center have hiked along the accessible trail at Averill to experience nature.

In celebration of the completed project, we will be holding an official ribbon cutting ceremony for Averill on September 26th, 2018, from 4PM - 6PM.

We hope to see you there and that you find that the Averill Preserve is a true experience accessible to all.

wild about nature

Little Forks Joins in Cedar River Cleanup



Staff and volunteers collected 10 bags of trash along with a few larger pieces from the Cedar River.

The Little Forks' staff were up bright and early in mid-August, loading kayaks into the trailer and making sure to pack snacks, water bottles, and trash bags to make our way up to Gladwin City Park for the 4th annual Cedar River Cleanup.

Since 2015, the Boardman River Clean

Sweep (BRCS) has been making the trek from Traverse City to Gladwin to pull cans, plastic bags, and any other trash from the Cedar River. This year, Little Forks Conservancy and Gladwin Conservation District teamed up with the BRCS for the cleanup.

We had 14 volunteers

and staff from the three participating organizations for this year's cleanup. We paddled about 4 miles from Chappel Dam to the Gladwin City Park in canoes and kayaks, using trash grabbers and improvised spears to collect debris from the banks and the riverbed. At the end, we had collected 10 bags of trash and some larger pieces of junk from the river.

Little Forks is committed to the health of the Cedar River and Tittabawassee River watersheds, and events like this are a fun way to make a noticeable difference. We hope to see you at next year's cleanup!



Memorials and Honoraria

The following donors have made gifts to The Little Forks Conservancy on behalf of friends and family.

In Memory of Don Blades
Tom & Elsie Misner

In Honor of George & Sue Lane
George & Judy Vogel

In Memory of Jack & Jo Boyle
Michael & Diana Dalton

In Memory of Loren Arthur
Dorothy & Joy Arthur

Lane Opens to the Public!

We are excited to announce the opening of the George and Sue Lane Preserve in Gladwin County! Our newest preserve is 270 acres with riparian habitat along the North Branch of the Cedar River, mature upland and lowland forestland and vast open meadows of grasses and wildflowers. In addition, the North Branch of the Cedar River is a cold-water fishery with brook and brown trout.

We have been working

hard the past few months to get the property ready for public use including prepping trails, installing boundary markers, removal of an old house and installing a parking area. The property can be accessed from a parking area located on Shearer Road approximately 1/3 mile south of M-18. "The George and Sue Lane Preserve has a lot of potential; we are starting with a mile of trail but hope to expand in the years to come"

said Sara Huetteman, Little Forks' Stewardship Coordinator.

In addition to being our newest preserve, the property will also be open for bow hunting this fall to provide both recreation opportunities and assist with long term management of the land. If you are interested in this opportunity contact Sara at shuetteman@littleforks.org to get more information as hunting will be done through special permits

from the Conservancy. During this time, the property will still be open for public use to enjoy the preserve, but we recommend that people wear orange and stay on the trails. To learn more about the George and Sue Lane Preserve please either contact our office or visit our website at www.littleforks.org. We look forward to seeing you out there!





The Little Forks Conservancy
105 Post Street
Midland, MI 48640

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989.835.4886

www.littleforks.org
info@littleforks.org

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Your Summer/Fall Newsletter



Join Us for Our Fall Stream Sampling

It's time for our biannual stream sampling at the Cedar River! We will meet up at Northern Espresso in Gladwin Saturday morning before dividing into four teams!

Teams will consist of a stream leader, a collector, a runner and 2-3 pickers! If you've attended one of Little Forks' Stream Leader training or another MiCorps Training, you can be a collector or stream leader.

Saturday, October 13 • 9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
meet at Northern Espresso in Gladwin, MI.

To register, call 989.835.4886 or email shuettelman@littleforks.org.

LFC Color Hike!



The nights are getting cooler and leaves are starting to turn! Join us for a fall color hike at Forestview Natural Area on October 19 from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Forestview Natural Area is off of Saginaw Road outside of Midland on Tittabawassee River Road with a parking area on the west side of the street.