



THE LITTLE FORKS CONSERVANCY

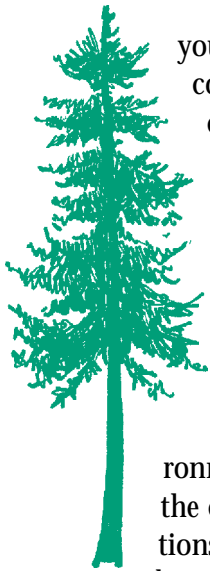
Protecting the places we love for future generations

Winter 2002

Issue 21

Serving the Tittabawassee, Chippewa and Pine River Watersheds

Tittabawassee River Greenway Discovery Day



Several months back we introduced you to a new theory in landscape scale conservation, called “Greenways”. The concept behind Greenways involves connecting significant natural and cultural elements that are found throughout the community.

For example, a community can seek to link major meeting places like museums, college campuses and historic homes through pathways within the built urban envi-

ronment. Or, the connections can be broad stretches

of forests, riverfronts or unbuilt open space that link parks with state forests or other public land. If communities work together, all these features can be integrated into a general Greenways plan for a county, a region, a state or even the entire country.

Greenways can be a combination of both public and private land. When the purpose of a Greenway is ecological, the natural elements are protected to allow for habitat, biodiversity, pollution prevention and an aesthetic landscape. If the goal of the Greenway is to include recreation, then trails or pathways may be incorporated in the design.

Because this concept is often difficult to understand, the Conservancy requested and received a grant from the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network to show our community that elements of a Greenway are present

right here between Midland and Sanford. On Saturday morning, May 4, the Conservancy is inviting the community to use the Pere Marquette Rail Trail to discover historic, cultural, and environmental elements of what we are calling the Tittabawassee River Greenway system.

The trail itself is not a Greenway, but offers the opportunity to connect many features found in the landscape. In just a few short miles, we will introduce users and visitors on the trail to wildlife, wetlands, logging history, rare ecosystems, water quality planning and nature recreation opportunities. These opportunities exist today because of the land use along this corridor.

The Conservancy believes these features are essential to our quality of life, and we will seek agreements with the private landowners along this corridor to maintain these elements in their natural condition.

Bring the family to this new event and discover what may be the most critical area for conservation in our back-

yard. By conserving the resources found along this corridor, we strengthen our community by maintaining—perhaps even improving—the quality of life we enjoy. If you would like to volunteer to help us in this event please call our office (989-835-4886).

What: Greenway Discovery
Day

Date: Saturday, May 4

Time: 9 AM - 1 PM

Place: Pere Marquette Rail

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

- *Endowment Challenge Grant Update* (p. 2)
- *Contributor Recognition* (p. 2-3)
- *2002 LFC Projects* (p. 3)
- *Annual Picnic Date* (p. 4)

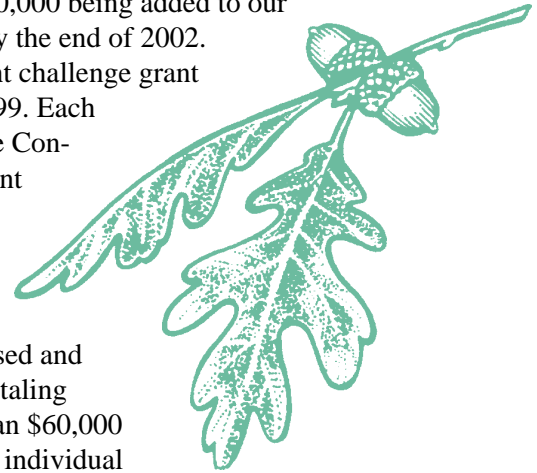
LFC Endowment Grows

At the end of January the Conservancy closed on the sale of our 40-acre property in Mecosta County. The property was originally donated to LFC in 1999 by board members Hugh and Eileen Starks. The Starks wanted to provide income to the Conservancy for our endowment fund. They also knew that their hope to protect the property from subdivision and excessive development of its 3000 feet of Chippewa River frontage, two ponds and 20 acres of flood plain forests would be central in any decision by the Conservancy to sell.

Seeking a balance between income and resource protection, the Conservancy developed a conservation easement that was reserved in the deed at the time of sale. The conservation easement restricts future subdivision of the property while allowing a new home site and continued agricultural uses on the 10-acre field.

Because the sale occurred during our current endowment challenge grant from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, we are able to double the net proceeds of the sale. Once costs of the sale are accounted for, and the net funds are doubled, this sale will result in approximately \$160,000 being added to our endowment fund by the end of 2002.

The endowment challenge grant was awarded in 1999. Each dollar raised for the Conservancy endowment fund through December 2003 will be matched (up to \$500,000). By the end of 2001 we raised and received pledges totaling \$330,000. More than \$60,000 was contributed by individual donors. With the \$80,000 in proceeds from the sale of the Starks property,



We at The Little Forks Conservancy would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following organizations and individuals who contributed to support land conservation in 2001. Those listed made contributions to LFC directly and/or to the LFC Endowment Fund held at the Midland Area Community Foundation. A special thanks to Glenn and Carol Sanford and William Meek for donating conservation easements over their property.

(cont. on p. 4)

Anonymous (1)
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Aerstin
Julie Arbury
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Arnold
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Robert and Marcia Bailey
Mrs. James G. Bandeen
Mr. and Mrs. RW Barker
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Stuart and Ruth Ann Bergstein
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Norm and Maureen Donker
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Mark and Joann Doyle
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Mr. and Mrs. Wally Dyste
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Vernon and Dorothy Fauver
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Charles and Shirley Finch
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Findlay
The Norcross Wildlife Foundation
The Alden and Vada Dow Family Foundation
The Charles J. Strosacker Foundation
The Herbert and Junia Doan Foundation
The Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation
The Dow Chemical Company Foundation
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2002 Work Plans Underway

We are looking forward to a very busy year in 2002. We will continue our primary focus to meet with private landowners who want to protect the special features of their property. We will also involve ourselves in partnerships with other local groups to advance sustainable development initiatives such as Greenways and watershed planning.

We are continuing to work with residents and other interest groups to create a regional Greenways opportunity atlas for Midland, Bay and Saginaw Counties. We are supporting the work of the Midland Conservation District on the Sturgeon Creek Watershed Plan. We also have funds available from The Dow Chemical Company Foundation to complete conservation outreach and projects along the Tittabawassee River from Midland downstream to Freeland.

In January, we began the process to create a development plan for the Midland Area Community Foundation's Averill Property. Funded under a grant

from the MACF, the Conservancy has contracted with the firm of O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock and Associates to gather community input for the development plan. Our target completion date is set for early May, hopefully in time for the Tittabawassee River Greenway Discovery Day (see front page).

The Conservancy has also agreed to hold several conservation easements purchased under the State of Michigan Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). We will provide additional details on that program at a later date.

In order for us to continue with the work we are doing, and to grow into a stronger organization, we will need your continued support. While we have grants and pledges for much of our work, we still need to raise \$60,000 in funds from membership contributions and new grants. If you are willing to help us find new members, please call our office to discuss ways that you might participate in membership outreach.

Frederick and Jean Houghton
Mr. Robert J. House
Norm and Ruth Hozak
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Huntress
Gerald and Kathleen Jaloszynski
Richard and Melissa Jellum
Oliver Juengel
Alice and Jon Kabbe
Donald and Eleanor Kaufman
Robert Keil
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Richard and Ellen Wolfe
Dorothy Yates
Win Zacharias
Jan Zender-Romick
Gerald and Yoshie Ziarno
John and Pat Zimmerman

Little Forks Annual Picnic Set

On Saturday, May 18, beginning at 11:30a.m., The Little Forks Conservancy will hold its annual picnic on Don Blades property near Beaverton.

Mr. Blades donated the first conservation easement acquired by the Conservancy. Come explore this 274 acres of forests, fields and river shoreline to see what great things your contributions have helped protect.

The lunch and program are currently in the planning stages. Mark your calendars now for this unique opportunity and watch for details in the next LFC newsletter.

Endowment cont.

we are only \$90,000 away from reaching our goal!

The Conservancy endowment fund is held at the Midland Area Community Foundation (MACF). Michigan residents who donate to the fund can qualify for the Michigan Tax Credit (up to \$200 for individuals and \$400 for couples).

If you would like to help us finish our fund drive this year, please return the enclosed envelope with

contributions made payable to:

**MACF-LFC Endowment Fund
PO Box 289
Midland, MI 48640**

The Conservancy receives a percentage of the fund's balance to support our general operations. The fund currently provides about 5% of our operating dollars, but should quickly grow to 20-30% over the next three to four years.

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Project Coordinator

Phone: 989-835-4886

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lfcmidland@aol.com

MISSION

The Little Forks Conservancy serves to assist the community to voluntarily protect natural and cultural resources.

**THE LITTLE FORKS
CONSERVANCY**

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