

FALL RIVER TRIPS PLANNED

Join us to explore and experience the Tittabawassee River from the Village of Sanford to the City of Midland! Short canoe/kayak trips (1.5-2hrs) are being planned for Tuesday, September 13 (4-6pm) and Wednesday, September 21 (10am-noon). We will use the Averill Preserve as a starting/stopping point to split the trip over the two days. Join us for one or both journeys and see this fantastic stretch of mostly undeveloped riverfront. Mark your calendar and look for trip details and sign-up information in our next newsletter.

One Teen Makes a Difference

Do you need your lawn mowed this summer? Laura Ohle, a local high school senior, is seeking summertime clients who would like to see 10% of her fee donated to the charity of the client's choice.

Last year one of Laura's clients choose LFC and that is how we learned of her unique business she calls "Lawn Mowing for Charity". Laura can use her own or your equipment, bag or mulch, and will do "vacation" mowing or regular service.

For details, contact Laura directly at 835-8924 (and make sure you select LFC as the charity of choice!).

THE LITTLE FORKS CONSERVANCY

414 Townsend Street
Midland, MI 48640-5266

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THE LITTLE FORKS CONSERVANCY

Protecting the places we love for future generations

Spring 2005

Issue 32

Serving the Tittabawassee, Chippewa and Pine River Watersheds

An LFC Partnership Yields Results Worth Saving

Two years after donating a conservation easement on 236 acres of land in southeastern Montcalm County, Ceo Bauer has returned to The Little Forks Conservancy to complete the protection of the rest of his farm. At the Conservancy's May meeting, the Board accepted the donation of a conservation easement over a 78-acre parcel adjacent to his original project.

Mr. Bauer has seen many changes to the landscape and it is his hope to keep a little bit of the Michigan that he grew up with ever present in this currently rural part of the state.

Mr. Bauer has been, and will continue to be, actively involved in the management of the natural resources found on his property. As the subdivision of good hunting and forest lands continues across Michigan, the future of hunting and fishing on private lands across the state declines, and as an avid hunter and fisherman, Ceo's primary goal for this land is to keep it available to future sportsmen.

Through his actions, Ceo is doing what he can to try and

guarantee that at least some large tracts of undeveloped private land will be available for the future generations to enjoy. Mr. Bauer has seen many changes to the landscape and it is his hope to keep a little bit of the Michigan that he grew up with ever present in this currently rural part of the state.

Mr. Bauer intended to make the donation over this portion of his land with his original gift in 2003. However, the Conservancy also needed to work with the previous owner, who had retained her mineral interests in the property at the time of sale.

Under IRS guidelines, Mr. Bauer and the Conservancy needed the mineral interest holder to subordinate her interests to make the conservation easement a fully deductible gift. The agreement worked out, not

prohibiting the mineral interest holder from extracting oil or gas, but stating that any such exploration and extraction will occur in an isolated portion of the property, and that the site will be restored to its pre-existing condition following any activity.

We are pleased to team up with Ceo Bauer again. We also wish he owned a lot of property throughout our watershed so that we could do more projects with such a dedicated conservationist!



Mr. Ceo Bauer stands on the edge of his conserved field. This new conservation agreement ensures the presence of a place to farm, hunt and fish for generations that follow.



From the Director....

You hear it all the time. Spring is a time for transition. The cold grey skies of March and April give way to the warm blue skies of May and June. Well at least it works that way in theory.

And, as has been the case in recent years, there is again transition in the leadership at the Conservancy. Before you all jump to conclusions and think that I am calling the past year's leadership cold and grey, I want to assure you that this past year was wonderful. President Cline's annual summary on page 3 provides several highlights from 2004.

For the first time in a couple of years we do not have a large turnover among our board of directors. We are sad to report, however, that director Jim Luginbill, who just joined us last year, took a new job in Kalamazoo which necessitated his resignation from the board. We are grateful to the year Jim gave us and will begin the search for his replacement soon.

We did change officers in May. After three years at the helm, Dan Cline has finished his run as board president. Under our By-Laws, the president is limited to three one-year terms and Dan took full advantage by serving all three. During his tenure the Conservancy continued to make tremendous strides forward.

Let's see how we've progressed under Dan's leadership. The number of contributors has increased from 281 to around 350. The amount contributed by individual donors increased from \$39,000 in 2001 to more than \$175,000 in 2004. This is primarily due to the capital campaign launched last year. We were able to raise \$325,000 for that purpose in 2004 alone.

The amount of acreage we have been able to conserve in perpetuity increased from 453 to more than 1,085! To accomplish much of this work we had to raise additional operating dollars and our budget grew from \$156,000 in 2002 to \$263,000 in 2005.

During this time we also saw a tremendous increase in our endowment thanks to a challenge from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation. In 2002 The Endowment Fund balance was around \$600,000. Today it stands at about \$1.8 million and by the end of 2006 it will be about \$3 million.

Dan would be the first to tell you that he can not take credit for all this activity himself. There were many others involved in these successes. He can take credit for keeping track of the 10 or 15 different directions that I have tried to take LFC during the last three years and helping to pick those that worked best.

We are thankful to Dan for his leadership over the last three years.

We welcome Wendy Baker as our new Board president and Steve Kin as our new vice-president. Wendy is an assistant professor in Biology at Delta University. Because of an increased teaching load, Wendy will be serving a one-year term as president before passing the torch to Steve who will also bring extensive stewardship experience and a true passion for protecting nature.

All of our directors did an outstanding job this year. The capital campaign challenge offered by the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation took a tremendous amount of time and energy. I am extremely pleased at the level of commitment and passion that everyone brought to the table. It is essential in completing the campaign.

We would also like to officially welcome Fran Ferguson to the staff of LFC. Fran is our part time Office Professional. She had an immediate impact on our office dynamics. When I returned from a training session in Philadelphia, I could see my floor and desktop again as many items were finally filed (some in a drawer, some in the recycling bin).

With summer upon us, we hope you all get a chance to get out and explore some of the natural areas that mid-Michigan has to offer and be sure that we are working hard to conserve them.

Project Partners:

-1999-

- Don Blades, 274 acres

-2000-

- Hugh & Eileen Starks, 40 acres
- Borys & Lubo Zura, 44 acres

-2001-

- William H. Meek, 75 acres
- Glenn & Carol Sanford, 20 acres

-2003-

- Ceo Bauer, 236 acres
- The Midland Area Community Foundation, 41.5 acres
- Nancy Steiner, 9.8 acres

-2004-

- Phil & Janet Hehnl, 5 acres
- Dr. Kyung-Sik Ahn, 31 acres
- Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, 39 acres
- George & Sue Lane, 191 acres

-2005-

- Ceo Bauer, 78 acres

Notes on Giving

AUTOMATED MONTHLY GIVING

Would you take advantage of a monthly giving program? As electronic fund transfers become more popular, the Conservancy would like to explore this option of giving. Under an Electronic Fund Transfer program, a donor signs up to have a set amount of funds transferred from their account to the Conservancy on a regular schedule. The transaction is completed by LFC staff on a set date each month.

For donors, you can spread your contribution out over the year. For the Conservancy, this can help even out our cash flow from month-to-month. Because the Conservancy would pay a monthly service fee to conduct online banking, we would need enough participants to make this program work.

If you are interested in this giving option, please call our office and speak with Fran or Doug about the details. We will begin by gathering names (not account information) of those interested to see if this will work.

ANNUAL RENEWALS & SPECIAL CAMPAIGNS

The Little Forks Conservancy sends out annual renewal letters approximately one year following a donor's previous gift. We group donors by quarter, so if you last gave in June of 2004, you should have recently received a letter or two asking for you to give again. If you gave in the July-September time period, you can expect a letter in the third quarter. The renewal letters are asking for annual general support ("membership dues"). Special solicitations for capital campaigns may be sent as projects arise. A gift to a capital campaign does count as an annual gift but we always encourage you to consider supporting our general program also.



PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONTRIBUTION TO HELP PROTECT SIGNIFICANT NATURAL RESOURCES IN MY COMMUNITY.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

\$5,000

\$1,000

\$500

\$250

\$100

\$50

\$25

Other: _____

I would like to make an additional contribution of \$_____ to the Land Fund.

Please send me information on protecting my land.

Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



CHEMICAL BANKSM

We think you'll like the chemistry.

www.chemicalbankmi.com

We wish to thank Chemical Bank and Trust Company for their sponsorship which helped cover a portion of the cost to prepare this newsletter.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2004

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

<i>Support and Revenue</i>	
Grants and contributions	\$ 35,030
Membership fees and other	32,048
Investment income	4,590
Appreciation (depreciation) of investments	23,448
Net assets released from restrictions for specific purposes	
-For specific purposes	109,363
-Time restrictions expired	110,000
Total support and revenue	314,479
<i>Expenses</i>	
Programs	150,769
Administration	21,815
Fundraising	35,904
Total expenses	208,488
Change in unrestricted net assets	105,991
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	
<i>Support and revenue (grants and contributions)</i>	
Restricted for programs for future years	127,428
Restricted for specific purposes	245,827
<i>Net assets released from restrictions</i>	(219,363)
Change in temporarily restricted net assets	153,892
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	
<i>Contributions</i>	
	56,500
Change in permanently restricted net assets	2,000
Change in net assets	316,383
Net assets at beginning of year	729,136
Net assets at end of year	\$ 1,045,519

Grant for Averill Preserve Approved by MACF

The Conservancy is excited to announce the award of a grant from the Midland Area Community Foundation to help implement elements of the Averill Preserve master plan. Several low impact elements will be completed over the summer and fall to add amenities and improve access to the site.

One of the key additions will be a hard surface trail that will extend from the Pere Marquette Rail Trail to the banks of the Tittabawassee River. The location of the trail will follow the two-track path within the "Ahn addition" which we acquired last year. Also included in the project will be money to prepare interpretive signs to tell the story of this historic property.

In addition, the grant will fund a topographic survey and preliminary design work for what we hope to be a constructed wetland along the L&B Drain. The wetland will be designed to slow runoff and intercept pollutants before they reach the river. It will also be designed with aesthetics and wildlife habitat considerations. Funds for this second phase of development are being sought.

Annual Report to The Little Forks Conservancy Board of Directors, May 11, 2005

I am pleased to report that 2004 was a very active and fruitful year for The Little Forks Conservancy. When we began the year, we were simply *discussing* a major fundraising campaign that will provide a stable source of funding for land conservation in our community.

By February we were challenged by the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation to raise \$750,000. For each dollar raised, the foundation pledged that two dollars would be placed in The Little Forks Conservancy Endowment Fund. We finished the year with more than \$670,000 raised or pledged. Many of those contributing were first time donors to the Conservancy.

I am convinced that the reason this campaign is succeeding directly reflects the quality of leaders who have stepped up to assist us. Internally, the full board made significant commitments of both time and funds to kick start the campaign. Led by Christian Velasquez, our team of Wendy Baker, Dan Cline, Neil Hawkins, Steve Kin, Jan McGuire, Tom and Elsie Misner, and Elyse Rogers met on a regular basis to frame the campaign.

Realizing the tremendous task in front of us, we very quickly acknowledged that we needed significant participation from our community leaders. With the help of Ranny Riecker we were able to build a leadership team chaired by Bill Stavropoulos. Joining Bill on the leadership team were Ranny Riecker, Ted Doan, Rick Reynolds, Alan Ott, Gary Anderson and Eric Gilbertson.

This has been a tremendously successful campaign and we look forward to finishing it soon.

While many of us were busy raising money, our talented, professional staff expertly and effectively carried on the day to day business of completing land projects. We closed four projects this year that brought our total number of acres protected to just over 1,000.

The largest project was a 191-acre conservation easement donation from George and Sue Lane. Thanks to their generous decision, nearly one mile of the Cedar River in northwest Gladwin County will be protected under the watchful eye of The Little Forks Conservancy.

We are always grateful for the hard work of our dedicated staff. This year they performed amazingly. Doug, Elan and Jennifer Olsen deserve a tremendous amount of thanks for keeping the Conservancy operating smoothly for another year.

As this is the final report I will give as LFC President, I want to thank our new directors who came on board in 2004, Neil Hawkins, Jim Luginbill, and Jan McGuire. I also want to thank all board members past and present that have helped set up such a fine organization. The competence of both board and staff made this a tremendous pleasure to serve as President. I wish Wendy much success in her up-coming year and I pledge to continue to work hard to advance the mission of the Conservancy in whatever manner I can.

—Daniel J. Cline
Board President

Efforts to Reign in Invasive Autumn Olive Prove Daunting But Not Impossible

Our sincere thanks Justin Arnosky and Boy Scout Troop #761 who spent a day cutting down autumn olive found throughout our Averill Preserve. While autumn olive is excellent for wildlife and erosion control, it also invades native habitats and crowds out local species. Special thanks to Bart Heil from Chippewa Nature Center for his assistance on this project.



List of Contributors FY 2004

Individual giving and foundation support is vital to the success of The Little Forks Conservancy. We wish to thank the following donors for their contributions received between January 1 and December 31, 2004.

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¹All or a portion of donor's gift designated to the Land Fund.

²All or a portion of donor's gift designated to the Endowment Fund.

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

The Little Forks Conservancy recognizes the following donors as members of our "River Society." Levels are recognized based on cumulative giving to support the mission of LFC. Donations to the general fund, the LFC Endowment Fund or the LFC Land Fund are added to obtain a donor's total. Project partners (land or conservation easement donors) are recognized separately on page 7. Amounts are from January 1998 through December 2004.

Tittabawassee River (\$50,000+)
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The Alden and Vada Dow Family
The Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow
The Rollin M. Gerstacker
The Midland Area Community
The Charles J. Strosacker
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Dirk B. Waltz
Lynn White

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