



Sisters Conserve Scenic Gladwin Family Farm

Driving on M-61 just outside the City of Gladwin, you can't help noticing the beautiful red Michigan barn owned by Darlene Wolohan and Bonnie Shaw.

This iconic 72-acre farm with a gently rolling field leading to a mature forest has been in the sisters' family for nearly 100 years.

The property was purchased in 1919, Bonnie explained, "because Grandpa felt the family needed to be closer to school." Otherwise, their father, the oldest child, would have had to board in town and wouldn't have been able to help with the farm work.

To preserve the rich agricultural tradition of the land, the sisters signed a conservation easement to protect their family property. Now, the Bailey Farm will forever remain an oasis of farmland and forest along 225 feet of the Cedar River.

Bonnie said, "I thought about dad, grandpa and the aunts - the ones who cared deeply for the land. That, to me, was how they would want it."

Elan Lipschitz, the Conservancy's director of land conservation, explained, "Our conservation easement projects are a partnership with the landowners. They own and manage the land,



From left: AmeriCorps member Erin Quetell, Director of Land Conservation Elan Lipschitz, James Shaw, Bonnie Shaw, Charles Wolohan, Darlene Wolohan, and Executive Director Doug Koop. The Shaws and Wolohans protected their 72 acre farm along the Cedar River in Gladwin.

but choose to limit activities that could damage its natural resources." The Conservancy then visits the property once a year to meet with the landowner and ensure the terms of the agreement are being met.

Darlene and Bonnie first started thinking about conserving their land after reading an article in the Detroit Free Press in 1998.

Bonnie said, "It was always in the back of my mind, even before we knew of the Conservancy."

Placing a conservation easement on their land, Darlene said, "felt right and we had the support of our families."

In fact, when the sisters told their children, Darlene added, "They said finally and great. They have a lot of happy memories here. We do, too."

The property was protected through a grant from the State of Michigan to protect the water quality of the Cedar River watershed. The grant, awarded in 2009, was completed in the middle of October.

"With its proximity to the City of Gladwin," Elan said, "the protection of Bailey Farm will provide a positive impact on the Gladwin community for many generations to come."

OUR MISSION:
The Little Forks Conservancy permanently protects and preserves natural lands that add to the quality of life in our mid-Michigan community.

From the Director: In Praise of Our Rivers

For 17 years, the volunteers, board members and staff have worked to protect the rivers that flow across our landscape. It is the primary reason that the Conservancy exists.

I was reminded of this while attending the 40th year celebration of the Midland Area Community Foundation. Mary Neely was part of the dedication ceremony for a new fund to honor Hugh and Eileen Starks for their long time commitment to the Riverdays festival. As Mary was going through a short list of the Starks accomplishments (excerpted from a rather large list) she highlighted their involvement in founding The Little Forks Conservancy. The name "Little Forks" itself represents the confluence of the major rivers in Midland.

Hugh had a special love for the rivers that flow through Midland. Their power during floods, their quiet peacefulness after the spring rainstorms have passed and every stage in between kept Hugh's attention.

Hugh's knowledge of Midland's history meant that he knew how the rivers played a pivotal role in our community. Historically they were the economic lifeblood that created fortunes and launched a couple of fairly significant local companies. Rivers, once they were dammed, created Sanford and Wixom Lakes. Our rivers provide opportunities for recreation activities of all sorts from birding to kayaking to fishing



to simply sitting along the shore watching them flow by. That also reminds me of the saying that you can never step into the same river twice. They are always different, always changing.

Over the years our rivers have been used for trapping, trading, and transport. Today they provide more of a backdrop to our daily lives. But our rivers can bring so much more to our lives if we take the time to learn about them and explore them.

Rivers give us a chance to canoe on a warm summer afternoon or fish as the flies hatch near sunset. They are places to watch blue herons leap from the banks where they were hunting for frogs and gracefully soar downstream and then do it all again as they seek food to survive. They let us discover what critters may be on the underside of a log or watch turtles bask in

the sunlight on top.

We are blessed with many healthy, accessible rivers in our area. Many miles of our rivers are lined with forests that help protect the shoreline and water. Eagles, deer, otter and so many more animals rely on the interactions between land and water for survival, and they can be found, right here, today.

The Conservancy was formed 17 years ago to make sure that 100 years from now all these wonderful, positive things are enjoyed by generations to come. For 17 years, you, your neighbors and friends, and total strangers have supported us in this work. Because of the vision and passion of people like Hugh and Eileen Starks, we have protected more than 3,000 acres of land and 18 miles of river shoreline. I think Hugh would call that a great start!

Are You Up to the Challenge?

The J.A. Woollam Foundation has offered the Conservancy a matching challenge grant for year-end membership gifts.

The Foundation will match every dollar you donate to the general operating fund in 2013 that meets one of the requirements highlighted in the box found on the right.

Gifts to the operating fund help private landowners to protect critical natural lands in our mid-Michigan community. The operating fund is also used for the day-to-day programs

Double Your Money!

The J.A. Woollam Foundation will match every dollar that meets one of the following requirements:

- Contributions from first-time donors
- Donations from individuals who did not give in the past year
- Donations by individuals who increase their giving (the increased portion will count)
- Donations above \$500

and operations of the Conservancy.

"We're very excited for this opportunity from the J.A. Woollam Foundation," said Doug Koop. "We met their challenge goal last year and know that our

members are up to the challenge again this year."

To join the challenge now, use the enclosed envelope to mail your donation. Gifts can also be made online at www.littleforks.org/donate.

Project to Protect Water Quality of Kawkawlin River

The unique and varied Kawkawlin River watershed contains vast acres of forests, wetlands, productive agricultural land, and urban and rural areas.

The headwaters of the Kawkawlin River begin in Gladwin and Midland Counties and eventually flow into the Saginaw Bay.

The Conservancy, in partnership with the Bay County Drain Commission, is spearheading the protection of the northern portion of this important waterway.

To make this happen, we need the help of landowners interested in protecting the waterways of this region.

Conservation easements are permanent agreements between a landowner and the Conservancy which determine the uses of the property to best preserve its natural resources forever.

Over the coming months, we will host a series of

meetings for landowners about conserving their land to benefit the area's water quality.

The University of Michigan Flint will be assisting us in our project by developing maps, brochures and with community engagement.

Funding for this project is made possible by a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

To learn more about the Kawkawlin River Project, contact Elan at 989.835.4886 or elipschitz@littleforks.org.

Get eyeball to eyeball with frogs from around the world!

Frogs!

a chorus of colors

**On Exhibit
January 18
- May 11, 2014**



Midland
CENTER FOR THE
ARTS

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Frogs! A Chorus of Colors was created by Peeling Productions at Clyde Peeling's REPTILAND

Sponsored by



Thanks for a Great Field Season!

An amazing summer stewardship season has come to a close.

"We wouldn't have been able to accomplish so much without the help of Erin Quetell, our AmeriCorps service member," said Elan Lipschitz, director of land conservation.

Erin's involvement helped the Conservancy expand our stewardship activities and receive the support of new volunteers,

With Erin's support, the Conservancy established our Wednesday Warriors volunteer crew.

"The tireless work of our Wednesday Warriors," commented Elan, "made a tremendous impact on our battle against invasive species on our preserves."

Erin has completed her AmeriCorps service at the Conservancy and has accepted a position as community forester and research analyst at the Greening of Detroit.

If you'd like to volunteer with the Conservancy, visit www.littleforks.org/volunteer.



Top: AmeriCorps volunteer Erin Quetell (center) with the Wednesday Warriors Crew. Below: Stewardship Crew Leaders Glenn Sanford and Ed Elliott received a special thank-you from Erin at our recent Volunteer Celebration.

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

-2005-

- Ceo Bauer, 78 acres
- Scott & Kathryn Whalen, 119 acres

-2006-

- Blanche Stark, 79 acres
- Shellenbarger Land Company, 80 acres

-2007-

- David & Anna Spencer, 154.5 acres
- Norman & Patricia Engel, 190 acres

Eagle Scout Candidate Helps With Office Sign



If you drive by our office, you might notice something new. Thanks to the hard work of Eagle Scout candidate Nathan Hull and his volunteers, our office has a new sign.

The sign was manufactured by Midland-based MitchArt. Nathan painstakingly painted our logo, name and border. He also raised money to help defray the costs of the sign.

Watershed Steward Position Available

The Little Forks Conservancy and the Leon P. Martuch Chapter of Trout Unlimited (LPMTU) have been selected again as a host site for a Huron Pines AmeriCorps Volunteer.

Huron Pines is now accepting applications for the position of Watershed Steward.

The Watershed Steward will assist the Conservancy and LPMTU to help private landowners with land management projects including invasive species control.

The AmeriCorps Volunteer will also support the Conservancy's Director of Land Conservation with conducting natural

Serve With AmeriCorps

To apply, visit <http://www.huronpines.org/joinamericorps.asp>. Applications must be postmarked by Monday, Nov. 25.

resource inventories and preserve management.

Some of the responsibilities of the Watershed Steward include: coordinating riparian restoration projects in the Cedar River Watershed; providing technical assistance to landowners; conservation easement monitoring; volunteer coordination and conducting habitat mapping to identify new impairments.

Huron Pines AmeriCorps is designed to provide

northern Michigan conservation organizations with highly qualified individuals for a term of volunteer service. With a living stipend and some attractive benefits, this program provides an opportunity to develop as a resource professional in the conservation community.

To apply, visit <http://www.huronpines.org/joinamericorps.asp>. In order for applications to be considered, they must be postmarked by Monday, November 25.

Our Newest Preserve Has a Name

Over the summer, the Conservancy conducted a naming contest for our new 70-acre preserve located along Tittabawassee River Road.

Submitted by long-time Conservancy volunteer Ed Elliott, Forestview Natural Area was selected to reflect the 419-acre Riverview Natural Area directly across the Tittabawassee River.

An awesome wetland area, the property is home to many species of reptiles and other amphibians. Red-back salamander, American toad, spring peepers and more can be found in the wetlands. The forest is notable for a ridge of hemlock and white pine, while the forest floor has an abundance of ferns.

The trees along the river are a known roosting spot for bald eagles. A variety

of birds can be seen and heard within the forest.

This fall, the Conservancy will be working with a local contractor to install a parking area. We are looking forward to opening up access to the public and sharing this beautiful property.



Top Right: Cinnamon fern is among the abundant fern species found on the preserve. Above: The view of the new preserve from Riverview Natural Area.



Project Partners

- George & Sue Lane, 80 acres
- Robert & Susan Piesko, 140 acres
- Richard & Kathy Shellenbarger, 73.4 acres
- Jon & Elizabeth Ringelberg, 70 acres
- Gerald & Pamela Schmiedicke, 80 acres
- Elizabeth Levi, 8.5 acres

—2008—

- Robin & Ardith Arbury, 219 acres
- L. Charles Christensen, 200 acres

—2010—

- Robert & Cheryl Duda, 24 acres
- Michael & Kathy Helmick, 30 acres

—2011—

- The Hubert Family, 40 acres

—2012—

- James & Elizabeth Wallace, 90 acres
- Richard and Kathy Shellenbarger, 4 acres
- Robin and Ardith Arbury, 70 acres
- Kernie and Jackie Gilliam, 31.5 acres
- The Guthrie Family, 40 acres
- Daniel Laur and Suzann Barry-Laur, 26 acres

—2013—

- Bailey Farm, 72.2 acres

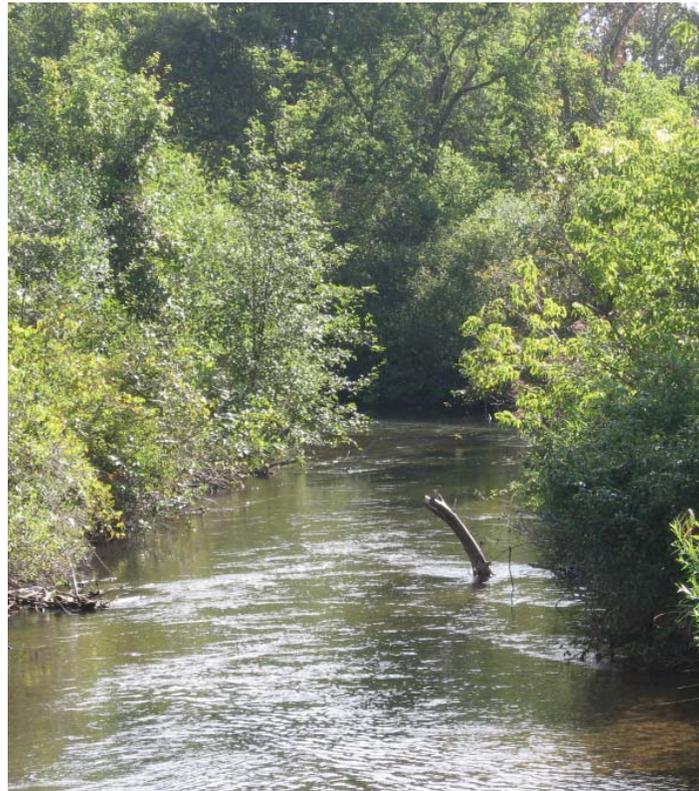
Second Cedar River Watershed Grant Completed

Thank you!

We are extremely grateful to the help and support of these members and friends:

Stewardship Crew

- Dale Anderson
- Dave Anderson
- Bob Bissonnette
- Denny Brooks
- Margaret Clark
- Dan Cline
- Linda Cline
- Kevin Collier
- Justin Dalke
- Jon DeGroot
- Amanda Dragos
- Justin Dullce
- Ed Elliott
- Eldon Enger
- Adrienne Gibson
- Tori Guerrini
- Mic Hamas
- Justin Hoffman
- Nathan Hull
- Dan Keane
- Gary Klecka
- Mark Kuehl
- Randy Kursinsky
- Chris Ludington
- Beth Martin
- Chuck Martin
- Philip Meister
- Kenneth Pederson
- Regina Pederson
- Caleb Petersen
- Mike Petersen
- Dan Rader
- Shelly Rader
- Corey Roebuck
- Aidan Siggers
- Glenn Sanford
- Ellie Schroeder
- Larry Schroeder
- Todd Sloggett
- Trent Sloggett
- Cade Sponseller
- Jake Straub
- Robert Strom
- Neal Swanson
- Paige Taglauer



Robert & Cheryl Duda, 24 acres and 1,600 feet along an intermittent stream that flows into Howland Creek.

James & Elizabeth Wallace, 90 acres and 4,300 feet of Blue Ribbon Trout Stream along West Branch of the Cedar River.

Richard and Kathy Shellenbarger, 4 acres and 600 feet along the North Branch of the Cedar River.

Kernie and Jackie Gilliam, 31.5 acres and 2,783 feet along the Cedar River and Bendle Drain.

The Guthrie Family, 40 acres and 950 feet of the West Branch of the Cedar River.

Bailey Farm, 72 acres and 225 feet along the Cedar River.

The Little Forks Conservancy has successfully completed a State of Michigan grant for the Cedar River Watershed.

The \$329,300 grant was awarded to the Conservancy to acquire conservation easements in the Cedar River watershed

and to update the Cedar River Watershed Management Plan.

Through this grant, the Conservancy completed six permanent conservation easements in the project area. These conservation easements protect 261.7 acres of land and

approximately 10,458 feet of waterway within the Cedar River watershed.

The Conservancy contracted with University of Michigan-Flint to update the watershed management plan. The updated plan was approved in 2011.

Lubrizol Employees Lend a Hand at Forestview



Employees from CPI Engineering Services, a division of the Lubrizol Corporation, volunteer to help clear and level a new trail at Forestview Natural Area. The Lubrizol Foundation awarded the Conservancy a grant earlier this year to purchase an enclosed trailer for storing and hauling field equipment.

A Night of Beer, Blues & Barbeque for Conservation



It was a howlin' good time at the Conservancy's first Hoot-n-Howl.

On a brisk, early fall night, 250 friends of the Conservancy gathered under the pavilion and tent at Dave and Patti Kepler's Lazy Turtle Ranch.

Guests chatted and laughed while sampling a variety of five distinctive craft beers from Tri-City Brewery from Bay City.

There was no shortage of good barbeque as The Creek Grill, Shier's Artisan Foods and Double L Hauling Smoke BBQ faced off for guests' tips. With \$217 in tips, Double L Hauling Smoke took home the first people's choice award.

As the sun started to set, the music from Ike Beehr and the Blues Guise kicked into high gear. Few guests could resist their

toe-tapping, high energy performance.

Executive Director Doug Koop said, "Dave and Patti Kepler took a chance on this event and did so much to support it. We couldn't have done this without them."

Proceeds from Hoot-n-Howl benefit the Conservancy's general operating fund. For more details, visit our website.

HOOT-N-HOWL SHOUT OUTS!

Thanks for your help on this great event!

Our Hosts

- Dave & Patti Kepler's Lazy Turtle Ranch

Event Planning Team

- Judy Enger
- Carol Feider
- Jill Gushow
- Theresa Guthrie
- Vicky Jezewski
- Kristi Jones
- Shelley Koop
- Shelly Rader
- Robyn Sczepanski
- Wendy Warner

Event Volunteers

- Debbie Anderson
- Emily Bagwell
- Eric Brubaker
- Troy Guthrie
- Thom Goodall
- Josh Jones
- Brandon Lucius
- Rose Mosure
- Erin Quetell
- Alysia Rollins
- Ellie Schroeder
- Larry Schroeder

Suppliers

- The Creek Grill
- Bruce Magurno and Double L Hauling Smoke BBQ
- Shier's Artisan Foods
- Area Tent & Canvas
- Jim Malek and Tri-City Brewery

Music

- Ike Beehr and the Blues Guise

Promotional Support

- AMPM
- QRP





The Little Forks Conservancy
105 Post Street
Midland, MI 48640

Matching Challenge to Replace Brush Mower



After 35 years of rugged work and several attempted repairs, our brush mower has cleared its last trail.

A long-time Conservancy supporter is offering to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$2,000 to purchase a new brush mower. Please give now at <http://www.littleforks.org/donate/>.

We need your help today in order to clear our trails one last time this year!

Any extra funds will be used for other stewardship needs.

THE LITTLE FORKS CONSERVANCY'S Holiday Open House

It's been a great year - join us to celebrate!

When: Thursday, December 12
5 to 7 p.m.

Where: 105 Post Street • Midland

Info: 989.835.4886

Appetizers & beverages will be served.

Parking available in lot behind 205 Post Street.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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