



Workshops Planned to Help Landowners

Navigating all the options for managing and conserving land can be overwhelming. It's even more challenging when considering that the decisions made on the land today can have a lasting impact on the health of our region's important natural resources.

To help, the Conservancy is hosting workshops throughout the year to help guide landowners through the complex choices they face to ensure the long-term health of their lands.

Conserving Your Land

On March 19, Elan Lipschitz, director of land conservation, will be joined by conservation easement donor Glenn Sanford to discuss "Conserving Your Land in the Kawkawlin Watershed."

Find out how you can help conserve and protect the natural resources of the Kawkawlin River.

Glenn will share his experience protecting his land in Mecosta County and will explain how he customized his agreement to meet his goals for conserving his land.

Though a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant received by the Bay County Drain Commission, the Conservancy received a small amount of funds to pay landowners in the



SAVE THE DATE

Conserving Your Land in the Kawkawlin Watershed

Wednesday, March 19
6 - 7:30 p.m.
North Midland
Family Center
Open to the public

What To Do With Your Woods: Sustainable Forest Management

Friday, April 25
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Homer Township Hall
Cost: \$20 per person

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

watershed for a portion of the value of the conservation easement. Join us to learn more and see if your property qualifies!

What To Do With Your Woods

This day-long workshop on Friday, April 25, will provide information to help you discover and explore the range of choices available as you manage your forest.

The workshop will help you identify your goals and develop a sustainable management plan. The program will help you

understand what forest management means not just for your land but for the overall landscape.

During the workshop, you will visit the Conservancy's 419-acre Riverview Natural Area for a field exercise.

To register, send your name(s), mailing address, phone number or e-mail along with payment to: Michigan Forest Association, c/o Debra Huff, 7200 Doyle Rd., Laingsburg, MI 48848.

For more information about these workshops, contact our office at 989.835.4886.

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 Hehnlin, 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

From the Director: Policy Update

The Little Forks Conservancy does not venture into the policy and advocacy arena on a regular basis. Dealing with pending legislation at the local, state and federal level is a role reserved for a special group of individuals who really relish the finer points of regulations and rule writing.

There are times, however, when it is critical to engage elected leaders to pass on our perspective of how proposals will affect our ability to work directly with landowners within our communities or impact the

overall health of the natural resources of the land that we are seeking to protect.

Currently we are tracking a federal proposal that includes "enhanced tax incentives" for landowners who donate conservation easements on their property. This often is a strong motivational financial tool that can be a pivotal decision maker for many landowners. The proposal is modified slightly from the enhanced incentives that expired at the end of last year. Stand-alone legislation has been floating around Washington for a

few months. Previous similar legislation has garnered strong bi-partisan support over the years.

We are also watching what is happening with the State of Michigan's Land Cap and Public Land Strategy bills. In 2013 the legislators put limits on new state land acquisitions until the Governor approved and the legislature adopted a new long-term land strategy. We hope the pending legislation moves through quickly to allow our professional managers to make decisions in the best interest of the public.

A Big Night at the ADDY Awards

It was an exciting evening for the Conservancy at the American Advertising Federation - Great Lakes Bay Region's annual ADDY Awards.

Local design company AMPM took home a Gold ADDY for their design of our Hoot-n-Howl logo.

Also that evening, the members of AAF - Great Lakes Bay Region chose the Conservancy as the recipient of free marketing



and advertising support in 2014!

We're looking forward to working with their members this year!

Give Local!

Mark your calendars for May 6th! That day, from 12 a.m. to 11:59:59 p.m., the Conservancy is taking part in Give Local Midland.

The Midland Area Community Foundation is sponsoring this event as part of a nation-wide program called Give Local America.

If you give online on May 6th at givelocalmidland.org, the Conservancy will receive a portion of bonus funds - making your dollar go further!

Your donation will support the Conservancy's Endowment Fund. Donations to this fund help keep our promise to the land forever.

For more information, visit midlandfoundation.org.



See how your gift helped protect and preserve our rivers and natural lands in 2013!

Now online at www.littleforks.org



AmeriCorps Member Tori: "Volunteer With Us!"

Hi everyone! My name is Tori Guerrini and I will be serving as the Watershed Steward for both the local chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) and Little Forks Conservancy.

I am very excited to get a chance to meet all of the wonderful people who are involved with both of these great organizations.

I spent last summer working for The Nature Conservancy near

Traverse City on invasive species removal and am looking forward to applying my knowledge of coastal treatments to the Saginaw Bay area.

During the 2014 season, I will be hosting volunteer events for invasive species identification and management, stream monitoring, and natural area restoration.

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering with me, I invite you to



join us for our Volunteer Open House! Stop by the Conservancy's office Wednesday, April 16 between 4 and 7 p.m. I hope to see you there!

Nature Inventory to Help Preserve Management

With over 600 acres now held as nature preserves, the Conservancy faces a challenge: How do we balance providing quality recreational access while maintaining the high quality natural habitat?

Thanks to grants from the Midland Area Community Foundation and the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation we will soon find out! The Conservancy is working with Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) to survey our preserves.

The information will be used to ensure the habitats



We know that Riverview Natural Area is home to Blanding's Turtle, a Michigan species of special concern.

are healthy enough to sustain a diversity of plants and animals.

"Because our preserves are open to the public, this study will help guide our management of the resources," said Doug Koop,

executive director. "We will then know how to make the best choices for providing access and maintaining our preserves' important natural resources."

Like our Facebook page to see what MNFI discovers!

Three Rivers Corporation Donates Stair Design

Of the 419-acres of Riverview Natural Area, only 200 acres are easily accessible to visitors.

A steep ravine (pictured on left) currently divides the property and prevents safe pedestrian crossing to the northern 200 acres.

Three Rivers Corporation has donated a stairway design to help us provide a safe access.



The terrace steps (pictured on right) will be built into the slope on both sides of the ravine.

The Conservancy will be seeking grants to help build the new crossing. We hope to install them this year.

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



The Little Forks Conservancy
105 Post Street
Midland, MI 48640

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Phone: 989-835-4886

www.littleforks.org
info@littleforks.org

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