



## Help Give a Name to Our Newest Preserve

We need your help! In 2012, we purchased a new 70-acre preserve directly across the Tittabawassee River from our 419-acre Riverview Natural Area. This spectacular property is still nameless. You can help us name this preserve!

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 pools.

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.

You can explore the preserve at one of our

### Meet the Property:

Join us for a hike to explore our newest preserve!

- Saturday, August 3 • 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, August 7 • 7 p.m.
- Monday, August 12 • 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, August 21 • 7 p.m.

Space is limited. Reserve your spot today at 989.835.4886 or [info@littleforks.org](mailto:info@littleforks.org).

upcoming Meet the Property hikes, see above for details.

To submit a name for this preserve, send your preserve name along with your name, address, and phone number.

Names may be sent via mail, e-mail, or Facebook private message.

The winner will receive two tickets to Hoot & Howl on September 14 to hear the announcement of

the name and a private, guided hike at the preserve for up to 8 guests.

Entries must be received by September 2, 2013. One entry per person.

The Conservancy's Stewardship Committee will choose a winner and recommend to the Board of Directors the winning name.

For more details and full contest rules, visit our website at [littleforks.org](http://littleforks.org).

## Get to Know Our New Preserve



*Left: Cinnamon fern is among the abundant fern species found on the preserve. Center: Jack-in-the-pulpit is one of the many wild plants that grow throughout the property. Right: The view of the new preserve from Riverview Natural Area.*

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

# President's Annual Report

I am pleased to report that the Little Forks Conservancy had a great year in 2012. It was an exceptional year for our land protection program – completing 6 land projects that added 260 acres of land to our portfolio of protected properties.

These land projects were varied and ranged from the 3 acre addition to the Shellenbarger conservation easement lands, up to the protection of one mile of blue ribbon trout stream that forms the southern lot line of the Wallace Family property in Gladwin County. Funding for these projects was a part of the State of Michigan Section 319 water quality grant for the Cedar River watershed. \$75,000 was also granted by the Carls Foundation for the Wallace project.

In June, the Conservancy took its checkbook to a land auction and was able to acquire 70 acres with 3,000 feet of frontage on the Tittabawassee River. That purchase increased the amount of land under our ownership and management to 565 acres and the length of frontage protected along that section of river to almost 3.5 miles.

The year ended with a race to finish a project with the Laur family as they chose to protect over 2,500 feet of the Tobacco River before putting the land up for sale. We recorded the conservation easement just days before the end of the year.

In 2012, the Conservancy was awarded part of a

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2012

### UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

#### *Support and Revenue*

Grants and contributions	\$ 244,281
Investment income	610
Change in value of beneficial interest	19,248
Net assets released from restrictions	
-For specific purposes	410,581
-Time restrictions expired	<u>33,000</u>
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b><u>707,720</u></b>

#### *Expenses*

Conservation program	416,588
Administration	93,338
Fundraising	<u>44,373</u>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b><u>554,299</u></b>

### Change in unrestricted net assets

**153,421**

### TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

#### *Support and revenue (grants and contributions)*

Restricted for programs in future years	53,000
Restricted for specific purposes	422,992
Change in value of beneficial interest	35,019
<i>Net assets released from restrictions</i>	<u>(443,581)</u>

### Change in temporarily restricted net assets

**67,430**

### Change in net assets

**220,851**

Net assets at beginning of year

2,296,243

### Net assets at end of year

**\$ 2,517,094**

\$1,000,000 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant to improve water quality in the Kawkawlin River watershed. The Conservancy will have access to \$100,000 to permanently protecting land with conservation easements. This grant runs through 2015.

With 30 conservation easements and 3 main preserves, stewardship continued to play an increasingly larger role

in our annual activity. To help with monitoring our conservation easements and manage invasive species on our preserves, we increased the number of our volunteer opportunities. As in prior years, we were able to work with a couple of Eagle Scout candidates to complete task on our properties. We also had assistance from Midland County employees who

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## Grant Helps Stewardship and Operations

A \$10,000 grant from The Lubrizol Foundation, based in Cleveland, OH, was recently awarded to the Conservancy. A portion of the grant will be used to purchase an enclosed trailer for storing and hauling field equipment while the balance will be used for general operation support for 2013.

With three nature preserves that are open to the community year-round now under our management, the Conservancy's stewardship and operations needs have naturally increased. A 2012 grant awarded

by the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network provided new equipment for maintaining the Conservancy's properties.

"This grant provides the Conservancy with the means to store and transport the equipment for our preserve work days with volunteers," said Douglas Koop, executive director of the Conservancy. "We are truly grateful for The Lubrizol Foundation's support."

Dave Enzerra, president of The Lubrizol Foundation, added, "While this is our first grant to The Little Forks Conservancy, The Lubrizol

### **The Lubrizol Foundation**

Foundation has a long history of support for similar organizations in other communities where we have a presence."

He continued "CPI Engineering Services, a division of the Lubrizol Corporation, is proud to be part of the Midland community where our business is growing. And, as part of Lubrizol's commitment to responsible corporate citizenship, we are honored to support the important work of the Conservancy."

## Grant Supports Operating Fund

The Alden and Vada Dow Family Foundations have awarded a \$20,000 grant for our annual operations.

"The support of the Alden and Vada Dow Family Foundations has been a tremendous part of the Conservancy's success,"

said Doug Koop, executive director of The Little Forks Conservancy.

With the help of this grant, the Conservancy can continue our efforts to protect our natural lands, keeping our community a healthy place to live, work

and play for generations.

"The Alden and Vada Dow Family Foundations have been a generous partner in our work of maintaining the natural resources that help define our area," said Koop. "We are truly grateful for their continuing support."

**Fun • Free • Family-Friendly**



**Riverview Discovery Day**  
Saturday, July 27 • 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Explore and Enjoy:

- Hands-on Activities for Kids
- Self-Guided Scavenger Hunt
- And More!

More details  
at  
[littleforks.org](http://littleforks.org)

### Riverview Natural Area

Take N. Homer Rd. 2 miles north of M-20. Turn left on Wheeler Rd. Parking area is 1/4 mile on right.

## Get Involved - Volunteer With Us!

Our volunteer crews are critical to making our preserves a safe and enjoyable place to visit.

The Conservancy is always looking for extra hands to help with our stewardship activities. Check out some of our current volunteer opportunities.

Our **Wednesday Warriors** crew is a fun group of volunteers who meet every Wednesday evening. They focus on invasive species control and removal, but also do a variety of other maintenance and preserve tasks.

Our **Trail Crew** clears brush and debris from our established trails at Riverview Natural Area and Averill Preserve. This year, our Trail Crew is blazing trails at our newest preserve.

If you have a natural resource or education background, you may



### Sign Up to Help

It's easy. Just:

- Download a volunteer form at [www.littleforks.org](http://www.littleforks.org)
- Call us at 989.835.4886.
- E-mail us at [info@littleforks.org](mailto:info@littleforks.org).

enjoy leading hikes at our preserves! As a **Hike Leader** you share your knowledge of our outdoor world with a variety of groups of all ages.

The **Hike Assistant** helps greet guests and manages our sign-in sheet. Handy with a camera? Let us know and you can help us photograph the hike to use in promoting our work!

For more information about volunteering with us, visit our website.

### Upcoming Events

#### Tunes by the Tridge

Downtown Midland  
August 1 • 7 p.m.  
Enjoy the music of Empty Pockets at Tunes by the Tridge sponsored by The Little Forks Conservancy! Free Admission.

#### Exploring the North Trails

Riverview Natural Area  
August 28 • 9:30 a.m.  
A Chippewa Nature Center naturalist will be the guide as we hike Riverview's north trails exploring this amazing property. We will meet at the Riverview parking lot. Free Admission.

#### Wildlife, Woods & Water: Michigan Forest

#### Association Workshop

Homer Township Hall  
Sept. 27 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Discover and explore the range of choices for managing forests. Admission: \$25.

### 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 Hehlin, 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

### Eagle Scout Projects Improve Riverview Natural Area



The Conservancy's preserves have been very fortunate to receive the support of local Boy Scout groups. Above are two of the projects that were recently completed. Look for more projects by local Boy Scout groups soon!

At left, Jake Straub led this crew of volunteers for a clean-up project at Riverview Natural Area. The clean-up was part of Jake's efforts to achieve the Hornaday Award. The purpose of the Hornaday Awards program is to encourage learning by the participants and to increase public awareness about natural resource conservation.

At right, Eagle Scout candidate Brandon Ryan led a project to renovate the storage shed at Riverview Natural Area.

## Invasive Species & Trail Work at Preserves



*Left: Stewardship season at our preserves kicked off with a chainsaw safety training lead by Chippewa Nature Center's Curt Holsinger and Tom Lenon. Here, Curt leads Conservancy volunteer Dan Cline through proper cutting technique.*  
*Center: Volunteer Ed Elliott helps sight boundary markers on our newest preserve. Ed is one of the many dedicated volunteers helping to get our new preserve ready for visitors.*  
*Right: Volunteer Glenn Sanford reaches for a cutting of autumn olive at our Averill Preserve. Glenn is a leader for our Wednesday Warriors Crew.*

## Conservancy Helps Landowners Fight Invasives

After years of battling invasive species on our preserves, the Conservancy has learned a thing or two about eradicating these undesirable plants. Now we are taking that knowledge and using it to help local landowners.

To treat invasive species on our preserves, the Conservancy uses an herbicide dauber. At the beginning of the season, we held two dauber building workshops. Elan Lipschitz and Erin Quetell walked participants through the creation of a dauber that they were able to take home and use on their own invasive plants.

Our conservation easement landowners are also joining us in the fight against invasives. Though our conservation easement monitoring we noticed that

invasive species especially autumn olive has become more of a concern of our landowners. Elan and Erin have met with several of our conservation easement landowners to examine the invasive plants on their properties. They will provide these landowners with an action plan to manage invasive species.

For more information about treating invasive species, contact our office.



*AmeriCorps service member Erin Quetell and Blanche Stark with daubers.*

### Herbicide Daubers Available

Missed our herbicide dauber building workshops? No worries. You can purchase a complete dauber from the Conservancy for just \$25! Each dauber includes an instruction guide for proper use.

For more information, contact Erin at [equetell@littleforks.org](mailto:equetell@littleforks.org) or 989.835.4886.



## Project Partners

- Norman & Patricia Engel, 190 acres
- 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, 3 acres
- Robin and Ardith Arbury, 70 acres
- Kernerie and Jackie Gilliam, 31.5 acres
- The Guthrie Family, 40 acres
- Daniel Laur and Suzanne Barry-Laur, 26 acres

## Annual Report, continued

constructed two of the boardwalk segments on Riverview. With the assistance of long-time volunteers, Ed Elliott and Glenn Sanford, a Wednesday evening work crew was formed which completed over 100 hours of invasive species removal in only two months.

The Conservancy's operations remain strong. Early in the year, we worked our way through a new strategic plan. We welcomed new board members Jon DeGroot, Kristen Jones, Chuck Martin

and Bill Thomson to the board while thanking Judy Enger, Carol Feider and Elyse Rogers for 9 wonderful years of service to the board. We also thanked Maureen Craig for her service when she resigned due to a job relocation.

We're truly grateful for our strong membership support and the continued support of local foundations. We rose to the \$15,000 challenge when the J.A. Woollam Foundation provided us with a matching grant opportunity in honor of

our 15th anniversary. We held another successful Green Tie Gala, continued managing the Riverview Natural Area for income through the farm lease and successfully raised funds to purchase 70 acres at auction. It is through many sources of funding that we are able to maintain our properties, complete new land deals, monitor all our conservation easements and move near the 3,000 acre benchmark of conserved properties.

- Eric Brubaker, president

## Thank you!

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

### Dauber Workshop

- Dave and Mary Moore of Stone Cottage Gardens for hosting our Gladwin workshop.
- Dave Anderson for helping to prepare the materials.

### Stewardship Crew

- Ed Elliott
- Glenn Sanford
- Denny Brooks
- Dan Cline
- Linda Cline
- Amanda Dragos
- Mic Hamas
- Mark Kuehl
- Randy Kursinsky
- Phil Meister
- Phil Stephens
- Bob Strom

### Hornaday Project Clean-Up Team

- Jake Straub
- Justin Dalke
- Jim Tonge
- Mike Petersen
- Caleb Petersen
- Trent Sloggett
- Aiden Saggars
- Todd Sloggett

## Thanks Jan!

Jan McGuire retired from The Little Forks Conservancy's board after 9 years of dedicated service.

Jan joined our board in May 2004. During her tenure, the Conservancy successfully completed a \$2.25 million endowment fundraising campaign and the \$1.5 million land acquisition campaign for Riverview Natural Area.

"We are so grateful for Jan's leadership," said Executive Director Doug Koop. "Her knowledge of our local business and foundation community has been invaluable as we have grown as an organization."

He continued, "Jan's support has helped the Conservancy flourish as a professional non-profit organization."

Jan's involvement on our board will leave a lasting affect on our community for many years to come.

## Welcome Deana Beckham!

The Little Forks Conservancy is pleased to welcome Deana Beckham to our staff as our new part-time administrative assistant.

Deana has a true passion for our natural lands and brings years of front-office experience to her new role.

"We are thrilled to welcome Deana to our staff," said Executive Director Doug Koop. "She will provide critical support for all our programs and events."

## Conservancy Hosts Stewardship Staff



On March 8, the Conservancy welcomed stewardship professionals from conservancies around the state to Chippewa Nature Center. The gathering is an opportunity for staff to share knowledge and ideas. The visit included a tour of Riverview Natural Area.

# Wine in the Woods Event Supports Land Fund



Our Wine in the Woods event was moved to the barn when Mother Nature refused to cooperate.

The event, hosted by Andrew and Paula Liveris and David and Patti Kepler, was an evening of gourmet hors d'oeuvres and high-quality wines to connect business leaders from the Midland community to the Conservancy's cause of land preservation.

Originally planned to take place along the trail at the

Conservancy's 419-acre Riverview Natural Area, the evening was to showcase the Conservancy's successful efforts to protect more than two miles of the Tittabawassee River close to the City of Midland. The event was moved to On Eagles Wings Inn because of inclement weather.

"We are so grateful to our hosts, sponsors and everyone who shared this wonderful evening which will lead to the protection

of more natural land in our community," said Douglas L. Koop, the Conservancy's executive director.

The event was sponsored by Chemical Bank Private Banking, The Dow Chemical Company, Dow Corning Corporation, SSP Associates, Inc., and Three Rivers Corporation.

Proceeds from Wine in the Woods benefit the Conservancy's land acquisition fund. For more details, visit our website.

## Event Highlights Sustainable Lands Partner

Because of the weather, we weren't able to share our preserve with guests of Wine in the Woods. Instead, they were able to enjoy one of our Sustainable Lands Partners properties.

Board Member Bethany Goodman and her husband, Chuck, offered

their barn as the rain location. They are also our newest partner in our Sustainable Lands program.

The voluntary program recognizes landowners who take steps to preserve the natural character of their land. In return, the Conservancy provides our

Sustainable Lands partners with education on invasive species as well as keeping them informed about natural resources workshops in our region.

For more information, contact Elan at [elipschitz@littleforks.org](mailto:elipschitz@littleforks.org) or 989.835.4886.

## Thank you!

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

### Wine in the Woods Bottle Decorating

- Debbie Anderson
- Julie Battle
- Sarah Brandt
- Victoria Brandt
- Eugene Beckham
- Deana Beckham
- Margaret Clark
- Angela Harrington
- Patti LaChance
- Janea Little
- Sara Schittl
- Laura Willard

### Wine in the Woods Event Volunteers

- Mary Baker
- Chuck Goodman
- Berta Gebo
- Shelley Koop
- Randy Kursinsky
- Stephen Lindsly
- Marilynny Marry
- Erin Quetell
- Shelly Rader
- Brandon Ryan
- Will Sears
- Phil Stephens
- Elissa Thomson

### Wine in the Woods Photography

- Rabi Adhikari
- Ron Sim



The Little Forks Conservancy  
105 Post Street  
Midland, MI 48640

## **Food, Fun & Fireworks** Tickets on sale now! Saturday, August 10 Dow Diamond ■ 6 p.m.

Enjoy bottomless snacks and choose your own entree with a \$10 food voucher. Watch the Great Lakes Loons take the field against the Lansing Lugnuts from The Dow Chemical Company suite. After the game, stick around as fireworks fill the sky!

Cost is \$35 per person and includes a \$20 charitable donation to The Little Forks Conservancy Defense Fund. Tickets are available now by calling 989.835.4886.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Brooks	Kristen Jones
Eric Brubaker	George Lane
Greg Dardas	Chuck Martin
Jon DeGroot	Dan Rader
Bill Gebo	Steve Scott
Bethany Goodman	Bill Thomson
Jill Gushow	Jerry Ziarno

### STAFF

Douglas Koop  
*Executive Director*  
Elan Lipschitz  
*Director of Land Conservation*  
Joelle Ferguson  
*Communications Specialist*  
Deana Beckham  
*Administrative Assistant*

Phone: 989-835-4886  
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[info@littleforks.org](mailto:info@littleforks.org)



The Little Forks Conservancy's  
**Hoot & Howl**

**Saturday, Sept. 14 ■ 6 p.m.**  
**Lazy Turtle Ranch, Sanford**

Sample barbeque from three local vendors vying for your vote! Sip local beer from Tri-City Brewery. And savor the sounds of Ike Beehr and the Blues Guise.

**Tickets \$20 per person ■ On Sale August 12**