

September 18, 2006
Press Contact: Sara Thomas
810.229.3290 or 586.914.0611
info@livingstonlandconservancy.org

For Immediate Release

Local Land Conservancies Partner to Protect 100 Acres in Livingston & Washtenaw Counties

Brighton, MI (September 2006) – Dr. Rudy Reichert, Jr. has lived in the local area his entire life. Now, thanks to him, a part of the landscape will remain protected forever. Dr. Reichert has donated permanent conservation agreements to the Livingston Land Conservancy (LLC) and the Washtenaw Land Trust (WLT) on 100 acres of land near Portage Lake in north Washtenaw and south Livingston Counties. The lovely parcel protects a large contiguous block of natural land, including creek and lake frontage, dry oak forests, and wetlands such as tamarack swamps, fens, and wet meadows.

Under the terms of the agreement, the land remains in private hands but can never be developed. An additional land protection agreement specifies that this land will be donated in fee (ownership) to the Washtenaw Land Trust at Dr. Reichert's passing. When the land comes under Washtenaw Land Trust ownership, the Livingston Land Conservancy will be the one to monitor and enforce the conservation easement. At that time, scheduled nature walks will allow for opportunities to visit the protected nature area. Until then, it remains privately owned by the Reichert family, and it is subject to the conservation agreements that protect the land's natural features. This project is significant not only for the natural features that it protects, but also because it represents a partnership between the Livingston Land Conservancy and the Washtenaw Land.

Dr. Reichert has long recognized the value of preserving the quality of nature and water, especially flowing water, for the health of the environment and for the health of humans. "It's in the genes to appreciate flowing water, because it's necessary for primitive people. Flowing water always has a soothing effect. People in a position to do this should consider protecting property, even purchasing property to protect, and giving it to the land trust," Dr. Reichert encouraged. "Save it and don't pave it." Now, with the permanent conservation agreement in place, Dr. Reichert can be assured that the land will never be developed.

Landowners who are interested in learning more about protecting their land, including the potential tax benefits, may contact their local land trust:

Livingston County: Livingston Land Conservancy, (810) 229-3290;

Washtenaw, Jackson, & Ingham Counties: Washtenaw Land Trust, (734) 302-LAND (5263)

For More Information:

To learn more about protecting land and the potential tax benefits, as well as for general information about the land trusts, contact:

Livingston County: Livingston Land Conservancy, (810) 229-3290, info@livingstonlandconservancy.org, www.livingstonlandconservancy.org.

Washtenaw, Jackson, & Ingham Counties: Washtenaw Land Trust, (734) 302-LAND (5263), info@washtenawlandtrust.org, www.washtenawlandtrust.org.

About the Livingston Land Conservancy:

Founded in 1991, the Conservancy began as a standing committee of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy. The Livingston Land Conservancy is now a private, non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization working to protect the natural heritage and rural character of the Greater Livingston County Area. Over 500 acres of land have been protected to date.

In recent years, the fastest growing means of protecting land has been through the use of conservation easements, a legal agreement between a private landowner and a land trust that permanently limits the scope and type of development while leaving the land in private ownership. LLC funds their land protection activities through private donations, gifts from corporations and foundations, and memberships. For more information, visit www.livingstonlandconservancy.org, or contact info@livingstonlandconservancy.org or (810) 229-3290.

About the Washtenaw Land Trust:

The first land trust in Michigan, Washtenaw Land Trust is a group of over 1,000 individuals, families, and organizations working together to protect the natural areas and rural landscapes that make our community a great place to live.

To date, the growing organization has protected 44 properties totaling more than 2,200 acres throughout Washtenaw, Jackson, and Ingham counties, through voluntary land conservation. The Washtenaw Land Trust is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, visit www.washtenawlandtrust.org, or contact info@washtenawlandtrust.org or (734) 302-LAND(5263).