



# LIVINGSTON LAND CONSERVANCY

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Brian C. Hartmann  
Oceola Township

Bob Henshaw  
Oceola Township

Sara Thomas, *Land Acquisition*  
& *Stewardship Chair*  
Genoa Township

## Meeting Dates & Times

We meet the second Monday of every month at 6:15 p.m. at the Livingston Land Conservancy field office located at 10315 E. Grand River Avenue, Suite 202 at Fonda Place in Brighton.

March 10, 2014  
April 14, 2014  
May 12, 2014  
June 9, 2014

Livingston Land Conservancy  
P.O. Box 236  
Brighton, MI 48116-0236  
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info@livingstonlandconservancy.org  
www.livingstonlandconservancy.org

# LIVINGSTON LAND CONSERVANCY

Spring, 2014

Volume 15 Number 1

## 2013 – Year in Review

### Land Acquisition

The Conservancy currently has 640 acres under protection in the greater Livingston County and the value of these properties now exceeds \$1 million dollars! This is a real landmark for the Livingston Land Conservancy and is something we can really hang our hat on. This mark was reached as a result of the addition of a 30-acre parcel on the southeast shore of Bullard Lake, Hartland Township, in December. Now known as the “Bullard Lake Nature Preserve”, the land was generously donated to the LLC by Mr. Arnold Becker. Located within the Shiawassee River watershed and containing a portion of Ore Creek, the land contains a southern hardwood swamp, vernal pools, a wet meadow ecosystem, and is a habitat consistent with mesic southern forests. This is a very nice addition to our holdings and we will have a dedication at the property some time in the spring.

### Land Stewardship

Stewardship is an important duty that the Conservancy performs on all existing properties on a yearly basis. We document the overall condition of the property, check for use violations, and document various plant and animal species. Monitoring also involves: walking boundaries, fixing or replacing signs, clearing paths, cutting brush and fallen trees, or removing invasive plant species. There are many opportunities for members and local citizens to be actively involved in our stewardship activities. Please let us know if you would be interested in volunteering and join us out on the land. The following is a list of our properties with a few highlights from our stewardship reports:

- **Arthur M. Pasinski Memorial Nature Preserve** (40 acres in Oceola Township). A prescribed burn was performed March, 2012. Since that time, observations have shown that the burn worked as planned. Various native plants, such as Lady Slippers and ferns, were observed in greater abundance than in the past.
- **Bullard Lake Nature Preserve** (30 acres in Hartland Township). This preserve was obtained in December 2013 and plans are being formulated for monitoring activities in the coming year.
- **Charles & Albert Parker Families Nature Preserve** (5 acres in Brighton). The annual meeting was held at the Brighton District Library and tours of the Parker Preserve were taken by people attending the meeting. The trail was cleaned up prior to this event.
- **H. Clare & Harold Salmon Centennial Farm Conservation Easement** (72 acres in Oceola Township). Seven trees were cut down along the edge of the wood lot which resulted in legal proceedings being initiated against the current landowners. Proceedings were ultimately dismissed due to an incomplete survey line in that area. This line will be re-surveyed to correct that issue.
- **Cranberry Creek Meadows Conservation Easement** (90 acres in Deerfield Township). Farming continues as permitted.
- **Kernie King Memorial Fen Nature Preserve** (9-acres in Genoa Township). The fen continues to be an interest to biologists as these areas are becoming rarer.
- **Kovacs Family Conservation Easement** (109 acres in Handy Township). Farming remains active there; some minor violations noted from activities of an adjoining property owner. LLC continues to resolve any outstanding issues.
- **Logan Lakes Nature Preserve** (7 acres in Oceola Township). Minor trail trimming and invasive plant removal occurred.
- **Northumberland Nature Preserve** (89 acres in Handy Township). Boundaries were monitored with special emphasis on the various tree stands outside the perimeter. Meadow areas are slowly restoring themselves back to an oak/hickory forest as had occurred during pre-settlement times.
- **Reichert Nature Preserve** (100 acres in Putman and Dexter Townships). Dr. Reichert has passed ownership of the preserve to the Legacy Land Conservancy with Livingston continuing to hold a conservation easement. No problems noted during monitoring.
- **Strawberry Point Nature Preserve** (30 acres in Hamburg Township). Boundary signs and two large preserve signs were previously put up. However, additional signage needs to be installed as well as removal

of yard waste near home sites that back up to it.

- **Round Lake of Hartland Nature Preserve** (47 acres in Hartland Township). A 2.3-acre island on the southwest end of the lake was donated in 2012 by Chris & Donna Schaidt and Dave Star. Signs were placed on the island this past fall.
- **Unadilla Nature Preserve** (13 acres in Unadilla Township). No violations noted this year. Trail work was performed in January.

#### **Fundraising**

We began the year by sending out membership renewal letters in March. Having a base of dues-paying members is the backbone of the organization and provides us with funds early in the year to support our normal operating costs (mailings, insurance, etc.). Next, the 4th annual LLC golf outing was held at the Majestic Golf Course in May to support efforts associated with land acquisition and stewardship. A big thank you to Bill Fountain and the entire staff at Majestic for hosting the outing; they do a fantastic job! We hope to hold the 5th annual outing in May, 2014; watch for details on our website. The major fundraising event for the Conservancy during the year is Land on the Horizon, which was held at the Lakelands Country Club in Hamburg Township on September 21st. There was music, tasty food, silent and live auctions, as well as a raffle for a flat-screen TV over the course of the evening. Rick Thomas was once again our auctioneer for the live auction and he managed to raise money and make everyone laugh at the same time. Over \$7000 was raised with the proceeds targeted for land acquisition and stewardship. A big thank you, to everyone who made this possible. To conclude fundraising efforts, we sent out End of the Year Appeal letters and were happy to receive over \$3500.00. Your donations are greatly appreciated and it is your loyal support that allows us to work on the mission of preserving land in Livingston County.

One of our long-term goals is to become a nationally accredited land conservancy (accreditation standards are set through the Land Trust Alliance, Washington, DC). As part of this process, it has become necessary to establish a legal defense fund. Such a fund would be used in the defense process against any legal challenges to land owned by the LLC or held in the form of conservation easements established by the Conservancy. Legal challenges are happening across the country and this is an increasing issue for protecting land at both the national and state level. Our target number for such a fund is \$50,000. We have approximately \$12,000 at this time and our intent is to add money on a yearly basis until the goal is reached. Alternatively, we may hold a dedicated fund raising effort in the future to speed up the entire process.

#### **Membership**

The Conservancy would not be able meet our goals without support from members, friends, and businesses/organizations (including those individuals and businesses that provide in-kind services). We thank you for your continued generosity in 2013. Support is especially important for our Land on the Horizon fundraiser held each fall since we rely on table sponsorship to help fund the event as well as for items being donated for the live and silent auctions. We continue efforts to increase general membership, Board members, and the number of active volunteers. If you know of anyone who would like to join us as a member, a volunteer, or as a Board member please contact us directly.

Our annual meeting was held on June 24th at the Brighton District Library. Something new was tried this year, the meeting was held outdoors and food was served under a tent. As people finished eating, guided tours were presented at the Charles & Albert Parker Families Nature Preserve which is located directly next to the library. With the arrival of rain showers, the meeting moved indoors and Roy Schwarz, LLC President, gave a short overview on land protection and preservation efforts within Livingston County.

The LLC officially announced the addition of three new members to the Board of Directors this year: Dennis Dawson, Meredith Bohdan and Brian Hartmann. Welcome aboard and it's great to have all of you on the Board! (For more information on these new Board members, please refer to our website). Long time Board member and former president, Sara Thomas, stepped down from the Board at the end of her term in June. She remains very active within the Conservancy and is currently head of the Land Protection Committee which includes efforts on land acquisition and stewardship. It is Sara's efforts that resulted in the Bullard Lake land acquisition.

#### **Communication and Education**

The LLC set up information tables at the Farmers Markets in Brighton and Howell during the summer and fall seasons and we thank member Jan Thurston for organizing this effort. This is a case of an interested member becoming a true volunteer and supporting the Conservancy by actively giving time, money, and effort. Thank you, Jan! In April, Sara Thomas gave a presentation to the Brighton Garden Club on wetland ecology that was well received.

#### **Grants**

The Conservancy received \$4,200 in 2013 from a grant written collaboratively as part of the SEMIWILD/SE MI Conservancies Collaboration (see below). A grant was written, but unfortunately not funded, for ITC Giving Grants and we continue to look for other grant writing opportunities. If you have experience writing grants and wish to participate in land preservation efforts, please contact us.

#### **SEMIWILD**

As described in our Fall 2013 newsletter, SEMIWILD is a collaborative effort among nine land conservancies to actively promote and preserve land in SE MI. By combining marketing and communication efforts, participating conservancies will be able to potentially reach mission goals more quickly and gain a wider reach within the general community. In addition, efforts to protect land along the Huron River watershed will be initiated in the coming year, pending successful funding from submitted grants. This stands to substantially leverage our own efforts along the Huron River previously initiated by our acquisition of land for the Strawberry Point Nature Preserve in Hamburg Township. For more information, go to: [www.semiwild.org](http://www.semiwild.org) or visit SEMIWILD on Facebook.

#### **Other**

The LLC belongs to a variety of civic, conservation, and environment-focused organizations and actively participate with these groups. These are: Heart of the Lakes Center of Conservation Policy, Howell Chamber of Commerce, Huron River Watershed Council, Land Trust Alliance, MI Bird Conservation, and the Stewardship Network. We work directly with the Land Trust Alliance and Heart of the Lakes to build the effectiveness of our organization and to work towards national accreditation as a land conservancy.

## Thanks to our Donors for 2013

The Board of Directors of the Livingston Land Conservancy wish to extend a special ***“Thank You Very Much”*** for the generous contributions of the following individuals, families, and corporations for their support for land preservation in Livingston County. Through their support, our mission in protecting the natural heritage and rural character continues to be fulfilled.

### **\$1,000 to \$4,999**

Rick & Sara Thomas

### **\$500 to \$999**

Lorne & Kathi Beatty  
Dr. Suzanne Bradley  
Gary & Ann Edwards  
Jim & Rhonda Fackert  
Frank & Emily Gobright  
Tim Lewis &  
Debbie Kellogg-Lewis  
Roy Schwarz &  
Joanne Schmidt

### **\$250 to \$499**

Chris & Patty Allmand  
Barrie & Toni Armstrong  
Janet & Jerrold Joseph  
Burchfield, Park &  
Pollesch  
Dennis & Marilynn Dawson  
Dr. Verne & Agnes Hoshal  
Robert Vix Kennedy  
Richard & Barb Krueger  
Patti & Brian Nicholson  
Piper Family Fund  
James and Carol Thiry  
Thrivent Financial for  
Lutherans Foundation

### **Up to \$249**

Emerson &  
Margaret Ball  
Tom & Diane Bauld  
Rose Botorowicz  
Dr. Peter Boxer  
Dr. Suzanne Bradley  
Brighton Garden Club  
Lee Burton &  
Roberta Shaw-Reeves  
Dr. Lou &  
Becky Eaton  
Donna Cain  
Eleanor Conaway  
Bill & Lori Cowan  
Dr. David Dooley  
Jason & Lindsay Feig  
Terry & Carole Gannon  
Fred & Sandy Hanert  
Lowell & Lisa Hanson  
Brian Hartmann &  
Meredith Bohdan  
Bob Henshaw  
Dr. Nancy Johnson  
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Kathy McDonald  
Terry & Barb McKelvey  
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Adele & Mark Muench  
Jerry Musselman

Mary Novrocki  
Chuck & Linda Olson  
Vaughn Oswalt  
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Barb & Joe Parker  
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Don & Karen Petticrew  
Marialice Phillips  
Karen & Bill Pierce  
Bill & Freida Piper  
Armand & Anne del Rosario  
Jean Salmon  
Jeff & Katie Schlueter  
Paul Schroeder  
Greg Shultz & Joan Brieland  
Sharon Shultz  
Philip & Jeanne Smith  
Jim & Joanne Swonk  
Michele Syrylo  
Paul Thielking  
Janet Thurston  
Eric & Monica Van Acker  
Fred Wark  
Gina Wilson

### **Golf Outing 2013**

Donald Brugnone  
Derrick Dickson  
Gary Edwards  
Duane Garner  
Bill Grove  
Lowell & Lisa Hanson  
Mary Hensel  
Mike Kelly  
Jeff & Mary Martin  
Terry McCauley  
Peter Mitchell  
Todd Pancretos  
Bill Pierce  
Eric Piper  
Justin Piper  
Edward & Georgia Randinitis  
Chris Schaidt  
Kevin Schingeck  
Jan Schmidli  
Ryan Schmidli  
Roy Schwarz & Joann Schmidt  
Gregory Shoultz  
Dave Snyder  
Randy Stefanski  
Rick & Sara Thomas  
Dan Touelle  
Douglas & Kelly Wright  
John Yelsik  
Rick Zahler

### **Golf Outing Sponsors**

Dr. Nancy Johnson  
Littlite, LLC  
LLC Board of Directors  
McGuire Ravine Site  
Condominiums  
Roy Schwarz Photography

### **LOH Corporate Sponsors**

FMG Concrete Cutting  
Littlite, LLC  
McGuire Ravine Site  
Condominiums  
Roy Schwarz Photography  
Sierra Club -- Crossroads  
Group  
Total Pool Supplies &  
Service

### **LOH Auction Donors And Financial and In-Kind**

Missy Al-Azzawi  
Chris Allmand  
Arbor Beverage  
Barrie Armstrong  
Terri Best  
Meredith Bohdan  
Brighton District Library  
Burchfield, Park & Pollesch  
Lee Burton  
Ciao Amici's  
Crystal Mountain Spa & Resort  
Lori & Bill Cowan  
Dennis & Marilynn Dawson  
The Earle Restaurant  
Gary & Ann Edwards  
Greg Fuller  
Emily Gobright  
Steve Goldberg  
Bob Henshaw  
(Invitation & RSVP Printing)  
Dr. Nancy Johnson  
Jerry & Janet Joseph  
Debbie Kellogg-Lewis  
Sue Kelly  
Aaron Krieger  
(Program Set-up)  
Dick & Barb Krueger  
Bob Ladner &  
Cathy O'Sullivan  
In memory of William &  
Mary Ladner  
Littlite, LLC  
Linda Luneack  
Jeff & Mary Martin  
Massage Works!  
Bradley Meade  
Dr. Dan & Donna Minock  
Michael Glenn Monroe  
Patti Nicholson  
Open Road Productions  
(Program Printing)  
Barb & Joe Parker  
Rick Pearsall  
Jan Sadowski  
Jean Salmon  
Carl Sams & Jean Stoick  
Roy Schwarz Photography  
Joanne Schmidt  
Stone Coop Farm  
Jim & Joanne Swonk  
Rick & Sara Thomas  
(Musical Entertainment  
Donation)

Sara Thomas &  
Brian Hartmann  
(Power Point)  
Thrivent Financial for  
Lutherans Foundation  
Jan Thurston  
Denis Warsinki &  
Trisa Rolston  
Gina & John Wilson  
Bruce Wright

### **Memorials and Honorariums**

Bob Ladner & Cathy O'Sullivan  
- in memory of  
William & Mary Ladner  
(LOH)

### **LLC Endowment Fund**

Des & Pat Rowan

### **Special Thanks** to Arnold

Becker for the donation of 30  
acres to create the Bullard  
Lake Nature Preserve. We  
greatly appreciate his  
generosity.

### **Lifetime Members**

Arnold Becker  
Gold, Krause, et al  
Rosemary Kovacs Grover  
JoAnn & John Normile  
Helen Parker  
Marialice Phillips  
Dr. Rudy Reichert  
Fay Roepcke  
Jean Salmon  
Chris & Donna Schaidt  
Dave Starr  
Dianne & Ron Winfrey

### **Thank You to the following companies for their ongoing support with free or reduced costs of services:**

Fausone Bohn  
(Professional Legal Services)  
Ore Creek Development  
(Office Space)  
B.F. Thompson Surveyors  
(Land Surveying)



Livingston Land Conservancy  
Statement of Activity<sup>(2)</sup>  
October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013

<b>Income</b>	<b>Land Acquisition</b>	<b>Land Stewardship</b>	<b>Membership &amp; Education</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Legal Defense</b>	<b>Permanently Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
Private Donations	\$11,056	\$ 3,925		\$ 5,835	\$ 500		\$21,316
Grants <sup>(3)</sup>				\$ 4,167			\$ 4,167
Comm. Foundation Distribution				\$ 1,643			\$ 1,643
Interest & Misc.				\$ 355			\$ 355
Land On The Horizon		\$ 3,942		\$ 2,847	\$ 3,942		\$10,731
Land Donation <sup>(1)</sup>						\$10,000 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$10,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$11,056</b>	<b>\$7,867</b>		<b>\$14,847</b>	<b>\$4,442</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$48,212</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Program Expenses	\$ 5,621	\$ 3,852	\$ 3,360	\$ 2,293			\$ 15,756
General				\$ 3,638			\$ 3,638
Fund Raising				\$ 74			\$ 74
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,621</b>	<b>\$ 3,852</b>	<b>\$ 3,360</b>	<b>\$ 6,635</b>			<b>\$ 19,468</b>

**Assets & Liabilities as of  
September 30, 2013**

**Assets**

Checking & Savings	\$ 93,699
Accounts Receivable	\$ 120
Fixed Assets - Land	\$858,500
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$952,319</b>

**Liabilities**

Accounts Payable	\$ 2,030
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 2,030</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$950,289</b>

**NOTES**

- (1) The Round Lake Woods Island was donated to the Livingston Land Conservancy by Chris and Donna Schaidt and Dave Starr.
- (2) Fiscal year 2012/2013 financials have not been audited.
- (3) The \$4,167 Grant was from SEMIWILD.

Gary Edwards  
LLC Treasurer

## Newest Preserve Helps Conservancy Top \$1 Million in Assets

by Sara Thomas

We are pleased to announce that over 30 additional acres were added to the Livingston Land Conservancy's protected properties in December 2013. It is a beautiful mixture of southern hardwood swamp that includes vernal pools interspersed with a beech/oak forest and also has 950 feet of Bullard Lake frontage. The new Bullard Lake Nature Preserve is located on the south side of Bullard Lake in Hartland Township and includes a portion of North Ore Creek winding through the property.



We are very grateful to Arnold Becker for his generous donation to the Livingston Land Conservancy as well as the collaboration with Bullard Lake, Inc. who were also recipients of some acreage that includes the lake's embankment and spillway. We appreciate the donation of an easement from Bullard Lake, Inc.,



Roy Schwarz, President of LLC and JohnAnn Owen of Bullard Lake, Inc.

which allows a more convenient access to our preserve. A dedication of the property is being planned for this spring.

The addition of this newest preserve has pushed the Conservancy to a new milestone of protecting 640 acres of land with a combined value of over \$1 million.

### Livingston Land Conservancy Membership Form -- Annual Member Dues

Membership Category	Individual	Joint Membership
Basic Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50
Protector	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Conservator	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200
Steward	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500
Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____

**Make Checks payable to and mail to:**  
Livingston Land Conservancy  
P.O. Box 236  
Brighton, MI 48116-0236

Use PayPal on our website



Please send information about:

- Volunteering  
 How to protect my land  
 How to include LLC in my estate plans

- Members are:
- Committed to the purpose of the conservancy
  - 18 years of age
  - Entitled to one vote per member
  - Assessed annual dues

Member #1

Name (Please Print)

Address

City

State

ZIP

Phone

Email

Member #2

Name (Please Print)

Email

Livingston Land Conservancy is a private, non-profit organization exempt from taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

website: [www.livingstonlandconservancy.org](http://www.livingstonlandconservancy.org)

email: [info@livingstonlandconservancy.org](mailto:info@livingstonlandconservancy.org)



**Livingston Land Conservancy**  
**P.O. Box 236**  
**Brighton, MI 48116-0236**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!**

**website:** [www.livingstonlandconservancy.org](http://www.livingstonlandconservancy.org)

**email:** [info@livingstonlandconservancy.org](mailto:info@livingstonlandconservancy.org)

**Activities**

**Hike and Bird Walk**

**Date:** Saturday, March 29, 2014 - 7:30 am - free

**Location:** Round Lake of Hartland Nature Preserve

The Livingston Land Conservancy is partnering with the Huron Valley Audubon Society for the first ever co-sponsored hike/bird walk at the Round Lake of Hartland Nature Preserve. The site is a 47-acre property acquired in four phases from 2010-2013. Mixed hardwoods, marshland and an island at Round Lake allow for viewing of migratory waterfowl and woodland birds. Meet near the Red Olive Restaurant in the parking lot of Hartland Plaza Shopping Center at the SE corner of M-59 and US 23.

Severe weather reschedule date is Saturday, April 5 at 7:30 am. For more information call 734-417-0913, email [joan-njschmidt@yahoo.com](mailto:joan-njschmidt@yahoo.com), or see website at [livingstonlandconservancy.org](http://livingstonlandconservancy.org).

**Fundraising Opportunities**

**W**e participate in the VG's "Cash for Class". By logging in at [www.vgs.spartanstores.com](http://www.vgs.spartanstores.com) and clicking on "Manage Account" the Livingston Land Conservancy can be designated in the "Cash for Class" area. Thank you for helping us!

**We are members of:**

