



LIVINGSTON LAND CONSERVANCY

Fall, 2006

Volume 7 Number 3

Board of Directors

Sara Thomas, *President*
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Mike Penskar, *Vice-President*
Unadilla Township

Bill Cowan, *Secretary*
Unadilla Township

Mike Kelly, *Treasurer*
Brighton Township

Lori Cowan
Unadilla Township

Kernie King
City of Howell

Staff

Eric Olson, *Land Protection and Membership Development Specialist*

Meeting Dates & Times

We meet the second Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the LESA building at 1425 Grand River Ave. in Howell.

September 11, 2006
 October 9, 2006
 November 13, 2006
 December 11, 2006

Livingston Land Conservancy
 P.O. Box 236
 Brighton, MI 48116-0236
 (810) 229-3290
 Email: Earth007@aol.com
 www.livingstonlandconservancy.org



Kovacs Family Conservation Easement

by Sara Thomas

The Livingston Land Conservancy recently accepted a conservation easement from a local landowner to permanently preserve 109 acres of farmland in Fowlerville. Rosemary Kovacs Grover, the farm owner, wanted to make sure her land would stay farmed and remain in her family long after she passes away. The easement is known as the "Kovacs Family Conservation Easement" and is located on Potts Road, north of I-96. Since it is privately owned and a working farm, it is not open to the public. However, the community has benefited significantly by keeping a farm intact, preserving open space, and maintaining a wildlife corridor.

The land was first purchased back in the 1920s by Charlie Kovacs' parents who then farmed it. After Charlie and Rosemary were married, they

continued the farming tradition. However, tragedy struck when Charlie was killed by a train in 1976 while driving a dump truck near the train tracks north of the farm in heavy fog. Even though the train company compensated for his death, Rosemary was left a widow with 3 daughters. Rosemary kept the farm going over the years and it is now being worked by a close family acquaintance.

The preservation of this farmland is a real bonus to the Fowlerville community which has a long, historic tradition of agriculture and even today has many families who still

own farms that have been in their family for generations. The preservation of the rural character and open space is at the heart of the Conservancy's mission and we are grateful to Rosemary for her generosity.



Sara Thomas & Rosemary Kovacs Grover

Photos by Kernie King

Land on the Horizon – Another Successful Fundraiser!

by Sara Thomas

The 3rd annual fundraiser was held on July 21, 2006 at Lakelands Golf & Country Club and proved to be another successful event in raising monies for the Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund. Over \$6,000 was raised through our silent and live auctions as well as through individual and corporate support. We also enjoyed excellent jazz music by the *Joe Summers Trio* and delicious food was provided by Lakelands. For the 3rd year, Rick Thomas made the live auction fun and entertaining.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the following corporate table sponsors for the event: *CAE, Inc.; First National Bank; FMG Concrete Cutting, Inc.; Marcom, Inc.; and the Sierra Club – Crossroads Group.* We also appreciate the generous auction donations made by: AHD Vintners, Applebee's, Arbor Beverage, CAE, Inc., Ciao Amici's, Coffee Express, Bill & Lori Cowan, Demorest Wines, Detroit Lions, Detroit Red Wings, Detroit Tigers, Dexter Mill, Estate Wines, The Earle Restaurant, The Earle Uptown, The Firefly Club, The Furniture Store, Jim & Rhonda Fackert, Family Fitness Factory, Karen Feder, General Wines, Steve Goldberg, Gordons Wine, Hell Creek Ranch, Jessica Hill, Mike Kelly, Kerner King, Steve & Katie LaCommare, Lakelands Golf & Country Club, Joe Mike, Screams Ice Cream, Therese Slaby, Sysco Detroit, Taorello's Market Place, Tim's Total Pool Supplies & Services, Rick & Sara Thomas, Thompson Beverage, Todds Services, Tomato Brothers, T.W. & Friends, VanHouten Nursery & Landscaping, Veritas, and Wine World.

Additional inkind support, volunteer time, or financial gifts were provided by: First Impression Printing & Graphics, Clark & Linda Humrich, Sue Kelly (Brighton), Sue Kelly (Howell), Barb & Dick Krueger, Lindhout & Associates, Marcom, Inc., National City Bank, Chris Nilsen, Barb & Joe Parker, QPS Printing, and Stephanie Thomas. Thanks also to Lori Cowan for the auction planning & details. And ultimately, to the entire Board of Directors for continuing the fundraising tradition in to its 3rd year.

Thank you to all who attended and so generously supported our auctions. We appreciate your commitment and look forward to the planning for Land on the Horizon for 2007. Anyone interested in working on the event is encouraged to call the Conservancy at 810-229-3290 or email at info@livingstonlandconservancy.org



Photos by Kernie King

Annual Meeting/Board Election

The annual meeting was held on June 27, 2006 at the Brighton District Library and was attended by approximately 30 people who were treated to an excellent presentation by Karen Verhey of Osprey Watch of Southeast Michigan (OWSEM). She spoke about the progress made in southeast Michigan in the recovery of the Osprey and the successful nesting of pairs in various locations. You can check out their website at: www.owsem.org.

The meeting was also the time to reveal the results of the election of board members. Both Lori Cowan and Mike Penskar were reelected to another 2-year term. The Board subsequently chose its officers for the 2006-07 year. They are as follows:

Sara Thomas – President
Mike Penskar – Vice President
Bill Cowan – Co-Secretary

Lori Cowan – Co-Secretary
Mike Kelly – Treasurer
Kernie King – member-at-large

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Stewardship at the Arthur M. Pasinski Memorial Preserve

by Eric Olson

Over the past year there has been several work days which have been making the Arthur M. Pasinski Memorial Preserve a better habitat for native species. Just a year ago, the wetland had a healthy crop of the exotic Purple Loosestrife, and the upland areas had a very aggressive shrub layer of the exotics: Honeysuckle; Autumn-olive; and Buckthorn.

Several years ago, an insect (Galerucella Beetle) was introduced to the wetland to control the Purple Loosestrife. This year, more were collected, and we are now starting to notice that the leaves of the Purple Loosestrife are being eaten. Over the next couple years, we expect that the plants will be eaten to a point where the Purple Loosestrife will no longer be able to reproduce.



Kernie King

Seneca Snakeroot

Thanks to our volunteers, we have removed large areas of Autumn-olive, Honeysuckle, and Buckthorn. These shrubs are very aggressive and out-compete native shrubs and groundcovers. In the areas where these plants were removed, we have found plant species we did not know were there. These include the Small Yellow Lady's-slipper and Seneca Snakeroot. For the birders out there, we have found for the first time this year Common Yellowthroat, Blue-winged Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, Virginia Rail, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

(Continued from Annual Meeting Page 2)

Thank you to all the Conservancy members who voted and to Therese Slaby for volunteering as our Nominations Chair. We appreciate the participation and encourage people to consider becoming involved at the Board level. It is an important, rewarding role to help guide this organization in its daily and long-term activities.

Fundraising Opportunity

Shop with Tim's Total Pool Supplies & Service and 3% of your purchase will be donated to the Livingston Land Conservancy at your request. They service and sell all types of equipment, and carry a full line of chemicals and accessories for your pool or spa. Tim's Total Pool Supplies & Service is located at 5380 E. Grand River in Howell and their phone number is (517) 548-9314 or (517) 552-6088.

If you share our goals, please clip & mail this form:

YES! I want to help preserve the natural heritage and rural character of the Greater Livingston County area. Please enroll me as a member as marked:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Area Code & Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

- Individual \$15 – \$29
- Subscriber \$30 – \$49
- Supporter \$50 – \$99
- Conservator \$100 – \$249
- Steward \$250 – \$499
- Guardian \$500 – \$999
- Benefactor \$1000 +
- Other \$ _____

Please mail to:
Livingston Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 236
Brighton, MI 48116-0236

Please send information about how to include LLC in my estate plans.

Please send information about how to protect my land.

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



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

website: www.livingstonlandconservancy.org
email: info@livingstonlandconservancy.org

Make a Gift to Our Endowment ... and Earn a Special Tax Credit

State law permits you to reduce your Michigan Income Tax or Michigan Single Business Tax by a credit of 50 percent of the amount you contribute, subject to certain limits, to the Livingston Land Conservancy Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan. So as you think about your year-end gifts, please help ensure our future by contributing to our endowment fund.

All you have to do is write a check payable to the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, indicate Livingston Land Conservancy's Endowment Fund on the subject line, and mail it, postmarked no later than Dec. 31, to:

Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan
333 W. Fort St., Suite 2010
Detroit, MI 48226-3134

*For complete details on the Michigan tax credit, visit
http://www.cfsem.org/giving/making_a_gift/tax_benefits.html
or call (313) 961-6675.*

Upcoming Activities

Natural Features Inventory Workshops

October 10 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

October 23 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

November 1 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Howell Carnegie Library

The Livingston Natural Features Coalition (LNFC) is holding 5 workshops about the need for a natural features inventory in Livingston County. The workshops are free. Please call or email to reserve your spot: Conservancy at 810-229-3290, info@livingstonlandconservancy.org, or Mike Gaden at MSU Extension at 517-546-3950 or gaden@msu.edu.

Owl Walk

Date: Saturday, November 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Northumberland Nature Preserve on Sharpe Road in Fowlerville

Dan Minock will lead us in an evening walk to search for Screech Owls. Call or email ahead of time for directions, parking, and other details at 810-229-3290 or info@livingstonlandconservancy.org.