



Board of Directors

Sara Thomas, *President*
Genoa Township

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.

March 14, 2006*

April 10, 2006
May 8, 2006
June 12, 2006
July 10, 2006

* This is a Tuesday and will be held at the First National Bank on Challis Road in Brighton.

Livingston Land Conservancy
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Brighton, MI 48116-0236
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LIVINGSTON LAND CONSERVANCY

Spring, 2006

Volume 7 Number 1

Year in Review

This past year has been especially busy but very rewarding. The Board of Directors wants to thank Eric Olson, our Land Protection Specialist, as well as the many dedicated volunteers and donors who have helped with all facets of the organization and deserve credit for the many accomplishments over the past year:

Land Acquisition

We continued working on the 100-acre farmland conservation easement in Handy Township; the 9-acre fen purchase in Genoa Township; and a possible conservation easement over a historic property located in Green Oak Township. Have made extensive progress on these projects. Several other sites were researched but not pursued over the past year. Approximately 800 landowner solicitation letters were mailed out to large landowners in Livingston County informing them about the Conservancy and the benefits of land preservation. A Preservation Plan and Map is being developed by Eric to guide the Board on priority areas for protection.

Land Stewardship

- **Northumberland Nature Preserve** (Sharpe Road, Handy Township): Dedication held in the Spring; boundary lines confirmed by B. F. Thompson and boundary signs posted; bird survey conducted; Management Plan drafted by Eric and approved by the Board; currently working on serious violation by neighbor involving some wetland dredging and placement of structure.



Kernie King

Survey Work by B.F. Thompson

- **Cranberry Creek Meadows Conservation Easement** (Faussett and Green Roads, Deerfield Township): B. F. Thompson surveyors located the property boundaries between the homesites and the conservation easement. Several violations were noted, mostly minor. The more extensive ones are being rectified with the homeowners involved.

- **Charles & Albert Parker Families Nature Preserve** (Orndorf Drive, City of Brighton): Ongoing prairie restoration and invasive plant removal. Continue to monitor the northern boundary due to the building of the hotel on adjoining property.

- **Arthur M. Pasinski Memorial Preserve** (Bigelow Road, Oceola Township): Continue to work with MSU Extension on Purple Loosestrife eradication with beetles as well as the

(Continued on Page 2)

Challenge Grant a Big Success!

By Sara Thomas

The challenge grant that I sponsored in late 2005 was a success beyond what I had even imagined. My appeal for donations in late November, that I would match 1 to 1, was well received. Due to dedicated donations by individuals and companies, the Conservancy raised \$8,050 for our stewardship, land acquisition, education, and membership activities. The original appeal was for a total match up to \$2,005, but when I saw the generosity of the donors, I felt compelled to dig deeper in to my own pocket. I was determined to match the renewals and donations for this challenge. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I sincerely thank the following generous donors:

Lorne Beatty
Dr. Louis & Becky Eaton
Jim & Rhonda Fackert
Terry & Carole Gannon
Emily & Frank Gobright
Michael & Judy Horan
Dr. Verne Hoshal
Kernie King
Barb & Dick Krueger
Piet & Jane Lindhout

Ralph Mezel
Vaughn & Jenny Oswalt
Joe & Barb Parker
Mike Penskar & Maureen Martin
Karen & Bill Pierce
Carolyn & Mike Richards
Becky Simpson
Jeri Stiles
Willowbrook Rehabilitation Services

(Continued from Page 1)

removal of Autumn Olive and Glossy Buckthorn; ongoing amphibian research by MSU graduate students; Management Plan drafted by Eric and approved by the Board; confirmation of property boundaries were made by B. F. Thompson surveyors; continue to monitor surrounding developments for possible impacts.

- **H. Clare & Harold Salmon Centennial Farm Conservation Easement** (Latson, Curdy, and Listerman Roads, Oceola Township): Southern boundary confirmed by B. F. Thompson with notation of minor fence violation by neighbor. Agreement is being worked out.

Education

Presentations given to the Howell Rotary, MSU Extension Water Quality program, Three Fires Middle School, and Brighton area Cub Scout Den. We also participated in the Waterfest event held in Howell sponsored by the Livingston County Drain Commission as well as other groups. Training events attended by either Board member or Eric: Michigan Land Trust annual meeting; Stewardship Workshop in Kalamazoo; and a Conservation Easement Tax Implication seminar.

Fundraising

Held the second annual *Land on the Horizon* fundraiser in July. Over \$7,000 was raised for our Land Acquisition and Stewardship Funds. The note cards with photos from local photographers continue to be popular. Challenge grant conducted by Board president at the end of 2005 raised over \$8,000 for program expenses.

Membership

Membership Plan drafted by Eric to guide the Board on increasing membership. Coffee gathering held at the Colorado Coffee in Howell and was well-received. Annual meeting held in June with Beth Duman presenting her interactive Snakes Alive! Program. Continue to inform members and the general public with our excellent website and quarterly newsletters (Lori Kassuba, webmaster and newsletter editor).

Other

Hired our first part-time staff – Eric Olson, who is overseeing stewardship, acquisition and membership functions. Received the use of a small office by Ore Creek Development for Eric to work from. The Conservancy is still working with other groups in the Livingston Natural Features Coalition (LNFC) pursuing a natural features inventory for Livingston County. Board member serves on the Livingston County Parks Committee which oversees the Owen Lutz farm donation.

Sara Thomas

Thanks to Our Donors for 2005

Thanks very much to the generous contributions of the following individuals, families, and corporations for their support for land preservation in Livingston County. Through their support, our mission of protecting the natural heritage and rural character continues to be fulfilled.

Individuals and Families

Chris & Patty Allmand*	Melissa Nagel
Lorne Beatty*	Vaughn & Jenny Oswalt*
Bill Bryant	Joe & Barb Parker*
Ken Burchfield, Esq.*	Mike Penskar & Maureen Martin*
Lee Burton & Roberta Shaw-Reeves*	Bill & Karen Pierce*
Bruce & Sally Campbell	David Purdy
Joe & Kathy Carney	William & Lilia Ray
Dr. John Champa	Janae Renaud
Eleanor Conaway	Carolyn & Mike Richards*
Bill & Lori Cowan*	Becky Simpson
Dan Delmerico	Phil & Jeanne Smith
Dr. Bill Earl	Jeff Smith
Dr. Louis & Becky Eaton*	Jeri Stiles**
Rhonda & Jim Fackert**	Les Stiner
Terry & Carole Gannon*	Sara & Rick Thomas***
Frank & Emily Gobright***	Eric & Monica Van Acker*
Fred & Sandy Hanert	Ron Van Houten
Michael & Judy Horan*	George & Lois Winegar
Dr. Verne Hoshal*	Businesses
David & Gail Huck*	Frederic Bonine, D.D.S., M.S., P.C.*
Brad & Lori Kassuba*	Fausone, Taylor & Bohn**
Robert Vix Kennedy*	Thrivent Financial
Kernie King*	Willowbrook Rehabilitation Services
Barb & Dick Krueger*	Adobe Systems, Inc.**
M. Jean Ligon, Esq.	Merrill Lynch, Inc.***
Piet & Jane Lindhout*	Memorials
Helen MacGregor	Brad & Lori Kassuba* – memory of
Ralph Mezel	Tom Payne

David Pettigrew – memory of Walter Pettigrew
Des & Pat Rowan* – memory of Sara Dunlop

Livingston Land Conservancy Endowment Fund for the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan

Bill & Karen Pierce*
Jim & Joanne Swonk*
Des & Pat Rowan***
Sara & Rick Thomas*

Inkind Support

Alex Allen, M.B.A. – human resource support
Nancy & Bill Baker – use of driveway
Beth Duman – program presentation
Fausone, Taylor & Bohn – legal services
Landmark Title Services – title work
Helen MacGregor – brochure updates
Dan Minock – bird surveys
Ore Creek Development – office space & support
Pfeffer, Hanniford & Palka – accounting services
B. F. Thompson, Inc. – surveyors
Jan Thurston – ad donation

Wilderness – distributor for our note cards
Mike Gaden, MSU Extension – partner on Purple Loosestrife control
Colorado Coffee – coffee gathering
Sara & Rick Thomas – new computer for office
Lori & Brad Kassuba – software

Land on the Horizon

Special thanks to the following individuals and corporations that provided financial support for our fundraiser:

Richard & Claire Malvin
Amy Schulz
Charlotte Swann & Peter Bowen
Corporate Table Sponsors
Law Offices of Andrea Banfield CAE, Inc.
First National Bank
Kizer Law Firm
Sierra Club – Crossroads Group

Thanks again to all our food vendors, auction donors, inkind corporate donations, attendees, and volunteers that helped make the 2005 fundraiser a big success.

*\$100 and up **\$500 and up ***\$1000 and up

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

Call for LLC Board of Directors Nominations

Date: May 15, 2006

The Conservancy is actively looking for conservation-minded individuals to serve on our Board of Directors. A wide variety of backgrounds are welcome such as marketing and fundraising, to education and legal. Elections will be held in June of this year and each position runs for a two-year term.

If you are interested in participating on the LLC Board please feel free to contact Sara Thomas at (810) 229-3290 or email at info@livingstonlandconservancy.org. Please provide a short summary of your background and interests no later than May 15th.

Recent Board Changes

We wanted to extend our sincere thanks to Brad Kassuba who recently resigned his Board position to focus on graduate studies and fatherhood. Congratulations to both Lori and Brad on the birth of their daughter, Ella! We appreciate the contributions by these two individuals over the past several years and we hope to keep them involved with the Conservancy well in to the future.

Upcoming Activities

Work Outing at Pasinski Preserve

Date: Sat., March 18 from 10:00 - 1:30

Arthur M. Pasinski Memorial Preserve

Park at the driveway for the Hutchings School at 3503 Bigelow Road, Howell, and meet at the Detroit Edison Station to the west of the driveway. Please bring your own gloves, water, sturdy work boots, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and snacks.

Work Outing at Parker Preserve

Dates: Sat., March 4 and April 1 from 10:00 - 1:30

Brighton District Library

Park at the southern-most parking lot at the Brighton Library (closest to Orndorf Road) at 100 Library Drive, Brighton. Please bring your own gloves, water, sturdy work boots, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and snacks.

Migratory Songbird Walk

Date: Saturday, May 6 at 8:00 a.m.

Arthur M. Pasinski Memorial Preserve

Pre-Mother's Day Spring Wildflower Walk

Date: Saturday, May 13 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Arthur M. Pasinski Memorial Preserve