



LIVINGSTON LAND CONSERVANCY

Summer, 2006

Volume 7 Number 2

Board of Directors

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Mike Penskar, *Vice-President*
Unadilla Township

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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.

June 12, 2006
July 10, 2006
August 14, 2006
September 11, 2006
October 9, 2006
November 13, 2006
December 11, 2006



Annual Meeting – June 27, 2006

A Special Presentation by Osprey Watch of Southeast Michigan

Please join us on Tuesday, June 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brighton District Library, 100 Library Drive, Brighton, for an excellent program on the recovery effort of the Osprey in Southeast Michigan. Karen Verhey of Osprey Watch of Southeast Michigan (OWSEM) will be our guest speaker and will inform us through a slide presentation about the ongoing recovery effort of this magnificent bird of prey. As stated on their website: "Osprey Watch of Southeast Michigan (OWSEM) is a non-profit volunteer organization based at Kensington Metropark near

Milford, Michigan. Our goals are to help the Michigan DNR in its efforts to restore the Osprey to Southern Michigan and to educate the public about this very special raptor." The program is free and refreshments will be served.

For questions about the annual meeting, contact the Conservancy at 810-229-3290 or email at info@livingstonlandconservancy.org. For more information about Osprey Watch of Southeast Michigan, visit their website at www.owsem.org.

GIS Software

by Eric Olson

The Livingston Land Conservancy recently received a powerful new program to help us map lands within the County more effectively. Last month we obtained Arc View® GIS software for our computer through a grant by ESRI, specifically for non-profit organizations.

We are now in the process of collecting relevant maps and aerial photographs for the entire County. With this information, we can determine which areas of the County have the most threats of losing natural areas and farmland.

Thanks to Mike Penskar, Vice President of the Livingston Land Conservancy, for his help with coordinating training and information for this program. As the year progresses, we intend to compile our information so that we can devise a coordinated plan for land acquisition.

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

Membership Campaign

by Eric Olson

The Livingston Land Conservancy is in the process of a membership campaign. In November 2005, the LLC adopted a strategy to attract new members, and to encourage all members to have an opportunity for hands-on participation.

Also last November, we had a successful outing at the Colorado Coffee House in Howell. We advertised throughout Livingston County and had new faces show up who are interested in the organization. More events like this are planned throughout the County so that we can have casual conversations with members/prospective members about what we are trying to do in land protection, as well as to get ideas from our members.

We recently completed a letter campaign to large land owners throughout Livingston County to encourage people to consider the benefits of protecting their land with the LLC. We have had some response with that, and new members who have joined our organization.

Many of you may not know this, but the LLC has several committees which are understaffed. Anyone with a special interest in the areas of Finance, Publicity, Education, Membership, or Land Stewardship are encouraged to contact us about becoming a committee member. Participation is also needed in other areas such as helping with the annual fundraiser, distributing flyers and newsletters, and removal of invasive plants.

Several field trips and events are being planned for members and non-members alike. We encourage everyone to come out and see our properties. Anyone who has ideas on how to attract new members, please contact me at 810-599-4117, or eric@livingstonlandconservancy.org. For more information regarding the committees, please contact Sara Thomas at 810-229-3290 or info@livingstonlandconservancy.org.



Volunteers at the Parker Preserve



Volunteers at the Pasinski Preserve

Midwest Land Trust Conference

by Sara Thomas

Eric Olson and I attended the Midwest Land Trust Conference in Kalamazoo back on March 24-26. Many land conservancies from the Midwest states were in attendance to participate in a variety of workshops covering diverse topics ranging from land stewardship practices, handling easement violations, conducting an open space millage vote, to current tax reforms.

Eric spent Friday at a day-long session on stewardship, which included going in to the field for some hands-on training. The session also included learning about additional stewardship methods for handling issues such as invasive species removal and land acquisition criteria.

I spent Friday afternoon through Sunday attending workshops covering conservation easement compliance, easement violations, IRS perspective on easements, building and growing a board of directors, the proposed accreditation of land trusts, and preclosing package issues when finalizing an acquisition. One highlight of the weekend was the plenary speaker, Kathleen Dean Moore, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Oregon State University. During her talk she read parts of her book, "The Pine Island Paradox". A gifted writer and speaker, her warm words which reflected on why people work so hard to save special places touched all of us in the land trust community. (I highly recommend her book!)

Eric and I brought back lots of information to share with the Board as well as additional tools to help us in our land protection efforts. It was an event definitely well worth our time.

Bat Program

by Eric Olson

Bats are often over-looked in conservation issues, but are of vital importance to many ecosystems. There are at least nine species of bats found in Michigan, all of which eat insects. Therefore, I recommend you attend "Bats Of All Sizes", a program at the Brighton District Library on Wednesday, June 14, 2006, given by the OBC (Organization for Bat Conservation) at the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Bats are nocturnal. They come out during the evening and feed mainly on insects. For instance, the Little Brown Bat can eat 600 to 1,000 mosquitoes an hour. Attracting bats to your yard may reduce unwanted insects in your yard. The OBC has bat houses for sale, as well as plans for how to build your own.

The Brighton District Library plans to purchase a bat house and place it at the Charles and Albert Parker Families Nature Preserve behind the Library. We plan to install the bat house on June 14th, between the bat programs.

There will be two separate talks on June 14th. The first, "Basically Bats", is from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. for ages 3 and up. The second, "Bats Of All Sizes", is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for youth and adults. Contact Kathy Lane, Teen Services, at the Brighton District Library at (810) 229-6571 for more information, or check out their web site at www.brightonlibrary.info. Information on bats can be obtained from OBC at www.cranbrook.edu, click on "Institute of Science", then under "Science & Research" click on "Organization for Bat Conservation".

If you would like to hear more about the Charles and Albert Parker Families Nature Preserve, please contact me at (810) 599-4117.

".. the Little Brown Bat can eat 600 to 1,000 mosquitoes an hour. Attracting bats to your yard may reduce unwanted insects in your yard."

- Eric Olson

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 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 _____

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual | \$15 – \$29 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Subscriber | \$30 – \$49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporter | \$50 – \$99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Conservator | \$100 – \$249 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Steward | \$250 – \$499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Guardian | \$500 – \$999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Benefactor | \$1000 + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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

SAVE THE DATE!
Land on the Horizon
July 21, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.

Planning for our 3rd annual fundraiser is well underway. We are trying something new this year by changing locations. It will be held at the Lakelands Golf & Country Club in Brighton on Friday, July 21, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. We are still looking for additional auction items such as: restaurant certificates, artwork, land-based items such as certificates for trees or produce, sporting event tickets, new bird houses and feeders, vacation timeshares, unique wine, etc. If you have something you would like to donate to our auction, please call us at 810-229-3290 or email at info@livingstonlandconservancy.org. Hope to see you on July 21st for a fun evening!

Upcoming Activities

Basically Bats

Date: Wednesday, June 14, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Brighton District Library

A program given by the OBC (Organization for Bat Conservation) for ages 3 and up.

Bats of All Sizes

Date: Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Brighton District Library

A program given by the OBC (Organization for Bat Conservation) for youths and adults.

Annual Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 27, 7:00 p.m.

Brighton District Library

Recovery efforts of the Osprey in Southeast Michigan by Karen Verhey of Osprey Watch of Southeast Michigan (OWSEM).

Land on the Horizon

Date: Friday, July 21, 6:30 p.m.

Lakelands Golf & Country Club in Brighton

The event features delicious food and drinks, jazz music, and a silent and live auction. All proceeds directly support our Land Acquisition and Land Stewardship funds.