

Chippewa Watershed Conservancy  
P.O. Box 896  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48804-0896  
(989) 644-5045



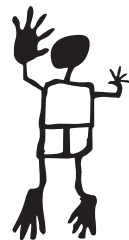
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## Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have some time to help out with Conservancy activities? We can regularly use help with mailing newsletters, conducting membership drives and fund appeals. If you have computer skills and familiarity with MS Word or MS Excel, we are developing new mailing lists that can be compiled from home. Following are several opportunities available now:

- Capital campaign fund appeal
- Williams property purchase fund appeal
- New membership appeal mailing list development
- Sylvan Solace Butterfly Garden maintenance
- Coldwater Preserve Steward
- Education and publicity outreach
- Spring Banquet Committee
- Stewardship Committee



Call the office at (989) 644-5045 to volunteer or to get more details on these opportunities.

### 2005 Board of Directors

John Mitchell: President  
Tim Odykirk: Vice-President  
Ralph Hahnenberg: Secretary  
Keith Frame: Treasurer, Investments  
Donna Buckley: Sylvan Solace Monitor  
John Buckley  
Ted Kjolhede  
Sue Ann Kopmeyer,  
Don Nagler  
Lori Rogers  
Tom Stewart

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John Caldwell  
Brian Doughty  
Norm Dzingle  
Jim Hill  
Jerry Jaloszynski  
Kathy Ann Randall  
Greg Schmidt  
William Shirley  
Paul Siers  
Catherine Weber  
Thomas Woiwode

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Nancy Atwood  
John Grossa  
Gilbert Starks  
Richard Moreau  
Doug Valek

# HERON TRACKS



Heron Tracks

The Official Newsletter of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy

Volume 12, No. 3

## Golden Moments

We exist in that Golden Moment – that final burst of splendor we call Fall. It is beautiful as much for the fact that it is ephemeral as for the unparalleled display of beauty. Sometimes it feels as though all nature cries out in thanks for another year and for the promise of a season yet to come. It feels as though each leaf, uncaring whether it is even seen, makes its own statement as it sheds the conformity of green and casts itself into one last Autumn breeze.

*The CWC exists in such a moment.*

We will seldom, if ever, see the chance to protect as long a stretch of Chippewa River frontage so natural and so close to Mt. Pleasant as we have at this very moment.

Many have already stepped up to contribute to the Williams-Blackburn Memorial Preserve acquisition fund. Now we need your help to make it happen.

We hope you will choose to make your statement by contributing to the acquisition of a very special 25 acres. Help make this the moment when we find, together, the way to ensure ourselves and future generations a small island of tranquility in a sea of change.

John Mitchell, President

## Annual Meeting and Call for Candidates

The Conservancy Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2005, at the New Harmony Community Center, 1517, E. Gaylord, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858, at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in being a candidate for the Board of Directors is asked to contact the President, John Mitchell, at (989) 426-0515, or [Mitch1jb@cmich.edu](mailto:Mitch1jb@cmich.edu), by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Conservancy Joins Heart of the Lakes

The CWC has joined many other conservancies and land trusts across the state in a new organization called Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy (HOL). The goals of HOL include educating policy makers and the public about issues of importance to the land trust community through seminars, conferences, dissemination of materials and publications. HOL will serve as a communication and partnership bridge between local conservation efforts and state policy makers and agencies. More information is available on the Web at [www.heartofthelakes.org](http://www.heartofthelakes.org).

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## Executive Director's Corner



Stan Lilley,  
CWC Executive Director

### Investing in Tomorrow

It feels good contributing to a cause when we passionately believe in it. Charitable giving is something many of us do because we feel it is morally responsible and ethically right. We feel justifiably proud to be part of a cause. And protecting open space and wildlife habitat is a great cause, one we are so glad that you support. But let's think about land protection from a business perspective for a moment. Contributing to land protection is not just a charitable activity; it's also an investment in tomorrow. It's a commitment to shaping the way our landscape will look to future generations. It's an investment in a future that will include scenery and plants and animals that we all know and love and that we want the citizens of tomorrow to know and love. Like any good business investment it requires a long-term commitment, careful consideration of how you will invest, an understanding of the risks (part of our consideration of risk is to ask ourselves what will our world look like if we don't make this investment), and a certain level of trust in the due diligence of those you trust with your investment. But the rewards are so noble; a future that allows for growth while providing for open space and recreation and wildlife.

You invest in tomorrow every time you make a contribution to the Conservancy, whether through an annual giving plan, donation to a specific project such as the Williams-Blackburn Preserve, volunteering time by installing nest boxes or working in the butterfly garden at Sylvan Solace, participating in the spring banquet, or donating land or a conservation easement. Because everything you do to support the Conservancy helps in its own special way to preserve a legacy for future generations to enjoy. This is an investment to feel good about.

### Science Facts

We are beginning a new feature with this issue of *Heron Tracks*, **Science Facts**. Each issue we plan to bring you some interesting information about a plant or animal found on our preserves or easements. I hope you enjoy the initial article about the fascinating carnivorous Pitcher Plant.

### Spread the Word

We continue to spread the CWC message whenever the opportunity arises. In recent weeks we had a booth at the Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce Business Expo 2005 and had speaking engagements with the Clare Rotary and Weidman Lion's Club. If you belong to other organizations that might be interested in hearing about the CWC, have them contact us at 989-644-5045.

### Conservancy Contributes to County Agricultural Preservation

On behalf of our membership, the CWC has contributed \$500 to the Isabella County Agricultural Preservation Program. As we reported in the previous issue of *Heron Tracks*, the county has laid the groundwork to purchase the development rights on selected prime farmland in exchange for placing a conservation easement on the land to permanently preserve it for farming. We believe this program is a good complement to our mission of protecting open space. The Isabella County Agricultural Preservation Board has begun a fundraising effort to raise the \$44,500 in local matching funds necessary to receive a Federal Farm and Ranchland Grant of \$89,000, as well as to raise additional money needed to seek a long-term funding mechanism for the program. Other major contributions to the program thus far include \$5,000 from the Nottawa Township Board of Supervisors and \$2,000 from the Farm Bureau. The county has established a fund and tax deductible contributions may be sent directly to the Isabella County Agricultural Preservation Board, 200 N. Main St., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Your Conservancy Executive Director represents conservation interests on the nine-member Board.



## CWC Volunteers in Action - Thanks for the Time !

- Doris Dale, Lori Rogers, Donna Buckley and Pat Lilley** for watering and weeding at the new Sylvan Solace butterfly garden
- Julie Spencer** for GIS mapping support to our Williams-Blackburn Memorial Preserve acquisition project
- Jacob Wilkes and Buckley's Mountainside Canoe Livery** for over \$700 in can and bottle return deposits contributed this year
- Tim Odykirk, Sue Ann Koppmeyer, Isabella County Parks & Recreation Department, John & Carol Grossa, and Marty and Sheila Murphy** for support to Williams-Blackburn Preserve fundraising
- Doug Valek** for vegetative surveys
- Katie Randall** for Web site management and editing and production of *Heron Tracks*
- Keith Frame and Robert F. Murray and Company, CPA PC**, for office space and high speed Internet access during a recent training opportunity
- Michael and Diane Morey** for stewardship at Sylvan Solace
- John and Donna Buckley** for trail maintenance at Sylvan Solace
- John Mitchell, Tim Odykirk and Keith Frame** for help manning the CWC booth at Business Expo 2005
- Adam Hammer and all the members of his Boy Scout and church groups** who helped with the erosion control project and bench replacement/additions at Sylvan Solace

*Many thanks to all the volunteers who have so generously given of their time and resources to keep the Conservancy moving forward.*

### CWC Land Protection Scorecard

**12 Easements - 2,676 acres**

**5 Preserves - 106 acres**

**Total - 2,782 acres**

<u>County</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Clare	1,966
Gratiot	103
Isabella	198
Mecosta	60
Montcalm	455

### Conservation-minded Buyers Sought

The Wakelin McNeel Family is offering property for sale in Isabella, Mecosta, Kalkaska and Iron Counties to those that appreciate conservation and a wise management philosophy. Please contact [RossMcNeel@Yahoo.com](mailto:RossMcNeel@Yahoo.com). (Ed. Note: This is a paid advertisement).



### Donor List (June 7 – October 19, 2005) -Thanks for the Support!

- |                          |                            |                              |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Jim & Marilyn Bidwell    | Daniel & Merideth Gall     | Dick & Diane Moreau          |
| Kathleen Bracken         | Prisca & Alan Gamble       | Dixie Neier-Daniel Patterson |
| William Bulger           | Dykstra & Phyllis Heinze   | Betty Ragan-Rosemary Reid    |
| Gerald C. Carter         | Richard & Barbara Kirchner | Joan D. Reynolds             |
| Paul & Susan Dumouchelle | Bob & Pattie Kjolhede      | David Shepherd               |
| Dave & Rosie Ebbinghaus  | Main Street Audio/Video    | Donald & Karen Stearns       |
| Woody Eber               | Jack & Ann Miller          | Gerald & Shirley Taylor      |
| Ruth Felter              | John & Diane Mitchell      | William & Dorothy Theunissen |
| Jim & Angie Felton       | Clara Lee Moodie           | Marilyn Zorn                 |
| Ed & Nedra Fisher        |                            |                              |



## Charitable Gifts of Stock

People give to charity for a variety of reasons. These range from soul soothing, peer pressure, furthering the work of a particular organization, a desire to be remembered after they are gone, to improving the quality of life for others, a desire not to leave property to relatives and finally, tax savings.

When most people think of giving charitably, they usually consider giving of their time or making a cash donation. Rather than cash, some donors may want to consider giving away a growing asset, for example, common stocks. These donors should keep two things in mind. First, the capital gains tax is a voluntary tax – you only pay it if you sell an appreciated asset. The estate tax is involuntary – it’s due nine months after death essentially no matter what. One philanthropic way to avoid both these taxes is to give highly appreciated securities to a charity.

Charities are tax-exempt entities. When someone gives these types of assets to charities there is no tax on their appreciation. They have also removed this asset and all future appreciation from their taxable estate. Finally, they receive a current income tax deduction for the contribution.

Sometimes donors hold a stock position with which they are comfortable and from which they expect continued success in the future. They also plan to make a charitable gift for the year in cash. One variation on charitable giving is to make a gift of the favored stock and replace the position with cash. This effectively removes the past appreciation by giving the replacement stock a kind of “stepped up” cost basis.

Charities are broken down into two types, 50 percent charities and 30 percent charities. The percentage refers to the maximum percentage of adjusted gross income (AGI) that may be claimed as a charitable deduction by a donor in any one given year. Fifty percent charities include churches, schools, hospitals, endowment funds for public universities, and state and local governments. Special rules apply to other types of private charities.

Gifts of capital gain property, such as stocks, are subject to further limitations. To qualify as a donation of capital gain property the item must qualify for the capital gains treatment (e.g., property held for investment) and must have been held for more than one year. Gifts of capital gain property to 50 percent charities are limited to 30 percent of AGI. Donations of capital gains property are generally valued at the fair market value at the time of the donation.

Gifts of appreciated securities can also play important parts in more sophisticated charitable giving techniques, such as charitable remainder trusts. If you are considering such strategies and would like to maximize the benefits of your gift, talk to a financial planner to explore your alternatives.

*Paul Siers, Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., Mt. Pleasant, MI, provided this article. For additional information, he can be reached at (800) 378-2555 or (989) 773-3585.*

## Carter Easement Receives Signage

Mr. Gerry Carter requested and received a sign identifying his property as being protected by a conservation easement. The new sign performs double duty. First, it serves notice that while the property is permanently protected by a conservation easement, this does not grant public access. Second, it allows the Conservancy an element of community visibility and another means to tell interested persons how to contact us. Any conservation easement grantor may request a sign by contacting the Conservancy office.

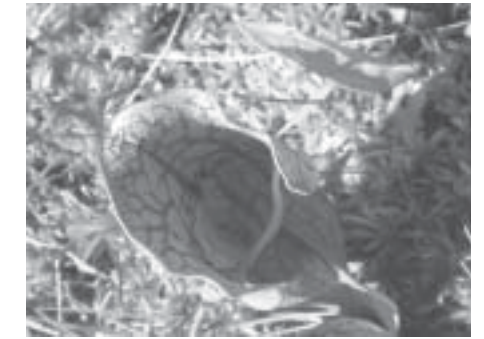


## Science Facts

Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*)

This unusual plant, usually found in bogs, is carnivorous, feeding on insects that are trapped in its bulbous pitcher like leaves. Carnivorous plants usually live in nitrogen poor soils. They have ‘learned’ to augment the inadequate nitrogen available in the soil by capturing and consuming insects. The highly modified leaves are covered with downward pointing hairs on the inside, which keep insects from escaping. Insects that enter the leaf eventually drown, providing the pitcher plants with important nutrients. Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources/Connecticut Botanical Society)

- Height: 8-24 inches
- Flower size: 2 inches across
- Flower color: dark red
- Flowering time: May to July
- Origin: native



## Fifth Annual Butterfly Walk a Success

The Fifth Annual Sylvan Solace Butterfly Walk was held on a sunny Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. This year 18 people walked the fields and visited the new butterfly garden. Despite a dry spring and early summer, the group saw 13 species, a little lower than in past years. It was also a great opportunity to see Monarch Butterfly caterpillars, many varieties of wildflowers and a very cooperative Praying Mantis up close. Thanks to the volunteers who helped carry water bottles out for the garden.



Species observed:

- |                           |                   |                      |                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Cabbage White             | Monarch           | Clouded Sulphur      | Common Wood Nymph   |
| Orange Sulphur            | Little Wood Satyr | Aphrodite Fritillary | Northern Pearly Eye |
| Great Spangled Fritillary | Eastern Comma     | Northern Crescent    | Dun Skipper         |
| Pearl Crescent            |                   |                      |                     |



Butterfly Walk Group



Monarch Larva on Butterfly Weed



Monarch on Butterfly Weed





### Eagle Scout Project at Sylvan Solace

Eagle Scout candidate Adam Hammer of Mt. Pleasant has had a busy year at Sylvan Solace. He began in the spring by installing six Wood Duck nest boxes along and near the Chippewa River shoreline. This effort should encourage not only Wood Ducks, but also other cavity dwellers like Hooded Mergansers, Screech Owls and Flying squirrels to remain on the property. Adam and Mt. Pleasant Troop 648, sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ and lead by Scoutmaster John Goggan, recently completed the installation of 4 rustic cedar benches placed alongside the butterfly garden, near the Memorial Grove plaques and at the river overlook near the southwest edge of the property. Adam and troop also installed a terrace of 13 flattened cedar logs at the river overlook to control erosion. He consulted with the DNR on the best way to tackle the project and they helped him design both the benches and the terraces. The legs of the benches are cemented in place and the log terraces are secured with Duck-bill anchors, backfilled and seeded. Adam built the benches and terraces with volunteer help from his fellow scouts and adult leaders but incurred over \$300 of material costs himself. He would like to invite donors to sponsor a bench for \$30 or a log terrace for \$15 each in order to help defray his costs. Those who would like to contribute can make a check payable to Boy Scout Troop 648 c/o Adam Hammer, 5121 S. Meridian Rd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.



Cedar Benches by the Garden



Erosion Control Measures

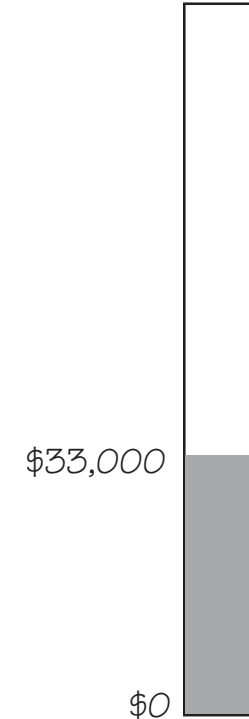


Volunteer Group for Adam Hammer's Eagle Scout Project



### Williams-Blackburn Memorial Preserve

Goal \$127,500



Thank you to the following contributors August 1 to October 19

**Conservator** (Over \$25,000)

Donations in memory of George M. Blackburn

**Benefactor** (\$501 to \$1,000)

Gerald C. Carter  
Donald & Karen Stearns

**Sustaining** (\$101 to \$500)

Jim & Marilyn Bidwell  
John & Diane Mitchell  
Rosemary Reid

**Supporting** (Up to \$100)

Kathleen Bracken  
William Bulger  
Woody Eber  
Ruth Felter  
Prisca & Alan Gamble  
Main Street Audio/Video

Clara Lee Moodie  
Dick & Diana Moreau  
Dixie Neier  
David Shepherd  
Gerald & Shirley Taylor  
Marilyn Zorn

Please send your contribution today; we need to raise \$127,500 by July 6, 2006  
(Any funds collected in excess of the amount needed to create this preserve will go to the CWC land acquisition fund).

**Yes! I want to invest in the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy's mission to protect open space and wildlife habitat by contributing to the Williams-Blackburn Memorial Preserve acquisition project.**

Enclosed is my donation of:  \$25     \$50     \$100     \$Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement in publications     Please keep my donation anonymous  
Please make check payable to Chippewa Watershed Conservancy, P.O. Box 896, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0896.  
Contributions are tax deductible.

My gift is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

I have property I would consider donating or selling for permanent protection.