

HERON TRACKS



Heron Tracks

The Official Newsletter of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy

Volume 15, No. 1

Gluczek Easement Completed

We began 2008 with a bang when Steve and Carrie Gluczek of Garden City, MI, donated a permanent conservation easement on their 42.45 acre property in Mecosta County, with their signatures on January 7, 2008.

This parcel has been owned by the Gluczek family since 1958, when Steve's parents, Louis and Helen Gluczek, purchased it from Arthur and Rachel Helmer. The stone foundation of a barn and an old lilac patch are testament to the property's homestead and farming past in the mid to late 1800's.

The property is situated on hilly terrain about 2 miles south of Barryton and includes some remnant beech, maple and hemlock characteristic of pre-settlement vegetation in the area. Approximately 40 percent of the land consists of wetlands and wetland soils supporting a cattail marsh and a mixed conifer swamp and flooded hardwoods. Two unnamed creeks traverse the property. "I've enjoyed watching the land transition over the years," said Steve Gluczek. "I've watched fields turn to forest and pond turn to wetland."



Young White Pines at Gluczek Easement

The Gluczeks have planted a hundred or so native trees on the property and plan to continue. "Our son, Andrew, who is an entomologist studying emerald ash borer, encouraged us to consider a conservation easement," advised Steve. "We primarily use the property for deer hunting now. We are glad to know it will always be preserved for wildlife."

With this easement the Gluczeks not only protected their land in perpetuity, but also earned the distinction of taking the CWC past the 3,000 acre mark for protected land in our service area. Thank you, Steve and Carrie for your generous donation.



Gluczek Easement Swampland

Forever is a Long Time

Over the past ten years we have helped 22 families in central Michigan to permanently preserve 2,868 acres of land through voluntary conservation easements. When we became the easement holders for these families, we made three promises. First, we made a promise that we will monitor the land at least once a year, in perpetuity, to ensure that the terms of the easement are being met. Second, we promised that we will defend, in court if necessary, against violations of the terms of the easement forever. Third, we promised that, should the CWC ever cease to exist, we will entrust our easements to another qualified conservation organization that can monitor and defend them. These are important promises to any easement donor and they are at the very heart of what we are about. If you are ready to consider a conservation easement, or if you know someone who may be interested in an easement, call the office and let us know. Our promises have no expiration date. (989) 644-5045

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Executive Director's Corner



Stan Lilley,
CWC Executive Director

A Sense of Place

A leaf bobs gently down the river, twisting and turning with the current and responding to capricious puffs of wind, headed nowhere in particular, but moving steadily, quietly until it comes to rest against the shoreline. Overhead, a soaring red-tailed hawk cuts a similar path through the sky, broad wings spread against an azure backdrop and dipping almost imperceptibly to the shifting thermals before it drops swiftly and alights atop an ancient white pine. Above a curve in the river and over a bank laden with the first flowers of a new spring, bloodroot and trillium and hepatica, the red maples are just beginning to tentatively offer new flowers from the protective cover of buds that shielded them from the bite of winter. The scarlet and yellow of the small flowers offer a sharp contrast to gray bark and limbs that wait a little longer to extend new leaves to the awakening season. This is not a quiet time, oh, no. Spring peepers and chorus frogs argue loudly, even in daylight, over the vernal wetlands on the other side of the bank and dozens of species of songbirds advertise their return or merely their temporary passage as they continue on to northern nesting grounds. Yet, a cacophony of competing sounds and sights and colors somehow add up to an overwhelming feeling of peace and harmony and the sure knowledge that this is the way it has always been, year after year, at this special time.

Psychologists and scholars say that sense of place is a fuzzy concept, difficult to define. We, as individuals, are emotionally attached to multiple places, from the neighborhoods of our childhood to our alma maters, from favorite vacation spots to past homes. They say a sense of place results gradually and unconsciously from inhabiting a landscape over time, becoming familiar with its physical properties, accruing history within its confines. Sense of place helps to protect a region's heritage and history and promote cultural awareness and strong kinship ties. We take delight in physically distinctive, recognizable locales and attach our feelings and meanings to them. Feelings of place are often tied to our association with the environment and the good feelings we have interacting with it, whether we have the ability to physically get outdoors or just pass through the open spaces and "feel" the rural character of our region as we go from home to work and back. It is this feel for the way it has always been that gives us a collective identity and an inner tranquility that ties us to this particular place in the world.

So what does this have to do with the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy? I think it has everything to do with our mission to protect open space and wildlife habitat. Most of us are here for one of two reasons. We either have deep roots in the region and our families have always been here, or something about the area pulled us strongly enough to keep us here. Either way, the CWC offers two ways to ensure that future generations also will have a sense a place through a connection to nature; one, by helping families preserve their heritage while at the same time allowing all of us to vicariously enjoy the viewscapes and open space those families guarantee through conservation easements and, two, by the purchase of land for preserves that can be accessed by the public to get out and quietly enjoy the land and the seasons.

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. Let's all resolve to reconnect with our special places and continue working hard to preserve them for the future.

Save the Date! It's spring banquet time again. I hope you will join us on Thursday evening, April 17th, for another great meal, good company and opportunities to bid on exciting silent auction items at Buck's Run east of Mount Pleasant. A reservation form and details can be found in this issue of *Heron Tracks*.

Silent Auction Items Sought

Are you looking for a way to give something other than cash to the CWC? We are looking for new and gently used items for our silent to be held at the annual spring banquet on April 17, 2008. Suggested items include: artwork, photographs, bird feeders and houses, nature books, gardening items, educational materials, optics, gift items, jewelry, ceramics, regional items such as maple syrup, soaps, candles, honey etc. If you have something that you think might generate spirited bidding, mail it to the CWC office at 6801 W. Airline Rd., Weidman, MI 48893, or call 989-644-5045 for pickup by April 9.

Here's Another Way to Help

Do you have a knack for selling? Can you motivate your business, social or church group to buy raffle tickets to support a great cause? This year's spring banquet raffle features a 50/50 raffle with a guaranteed minimum \$500 prize. The more tickets we sell the bigger the prize to the winner. If you would like to help us sell tickets call the office at 989-644-5045. Whoever sells the most tickets will receive a special prize to be announced at the banquet.



We've Come a Long Way Baby

If you had told any of the people who founded the CWC that we would protect 3,000 acres you would have elicited a fair bit of skepticism. It all seemed a bit audacious; a group of people without much more going for them than the fact we all cared about protecting habitat actually starting an organization and planning to run it in our spare time as volunteers. I suspect that most of you had similar expectations of what we could accomplish. Frankly, I was prepared to be happy with one or two projects every 5 years. Less than 14 years later 3,000 acres is no longer a dream, it is a reality.

The CWC has accomplished this milestone with very few resources other than the support of our membership, the dedication of our volunteers, and one lonely staff person in the name of Stan Lilley. Few other conservancies in the state have protected so much; none have done so much with so little.

But what does 3,000 acres represent? It is a scattering of gemstones across the countryside, oases for wildlife, and places of peace for those who care to wander there. The five counties we serve total just over 1.9 million acres. The 3,000 we have protected are less than 1/6 of 1 percent of that total.

I don't know what is 'enough'. I do know we are not there yet. Nor will we be anytime soon. When we started I dreamt of 5,000 acres protected during my lifetime. Now I anticipate 5,000 and dream of 10,000.

This community deserves to have bogs and swamps, meadows filled with butterflies, forests where a person can get lost in a sea of wildflowers, streams flowing gently between untouched shores, and hilltops where children can see their future. We owe it to ourselves, and to those who follow.

I hope you have big dreams for the CWC too. Together we can make them happen. Together we are making it happen; right here, right now.

Call me at 989 588 4919. The fact that you read this column means you care. Now let's do something about it – together.

CWC Reaches a Conservation Milestone

With the addition of the 42-acre Tluczek conservation easement in Mecosta County, on January 7, 2008, the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy surpassed the long-awaited 3,000 acre mark for protected land.

Our march to 3,000 began with the donation of land for the Wakelin McNeel Preserve, adjacent to Isabella County's Deerfield Nature Park, on April 5, 1995. The donation of the Winawa Preserve in Isabella County on December 19, 2006, brought our total preserves to eight, protecting 135 acres.

Our first conservation easement, the 1,648-acre Hamlin Easement in Clare County, was donated on December 4, 1998 by Fred and Millie Hamlin. For a number of years this was the largest conservation easement in the State. In the nine years since the first one we have added another 1,355 acres to help 22 families protect their heritage for future generations while retaining private ownership of their land. CWC Executive Director Stan Lilley observed, "We are protecting more than 4.7 square miles of land in our five-county area in perpetuity. We would not have reached this milestone without the foresight of our land and easement donors and the financial and volunteer support of our members. This is a proud achievement that leaves a lasting legacy for the future. Now on to 4,000 acres!"

GFWC Donates Bird Houses

Members of the General Federated Women's Club (GFWC) of Mount Pleasant met at Jo Jennings' home on January 17, 2008 to assemble bluebird houses to donate to the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy. This has been an annual event for the past several years and the CWC has installed the houses on the Sylvan Solace Preserve west of Mt. Pleasant. The houses have been used by eastern bluebirds, tree swallows, house wrens, white-breasted nuthatches and chickadees. Two years ago a family of flying squirrels was found to have been using one of the houses. Jo Jennings said, "This project is a lot of fun for us and we are glad to know the boxes will be put to good use." We say thank you to the hammer-wielding ladies of the GFWC for your hard work.



Jo Jennings with some of the nest boxes



Seasonal Lake Turnover - What is "lake turnover," and how and why do lakes do this in autumn and spring?

The key to this question is how water density varies with water temperature. Water is most dense (heaviest) at 39° F and as temperature increases or decreases from 39° F, it becomes increasingly less dense (lighter). In summer and winter, lakes are maintained by climate in what is called a stratified condition. Less dense water is at the surface and more dense water is near the bottom.

During late summer and autumn, air temperatures cool the surface water causing its density to increase. The heavier water sinks, forcing the lighter, less dense water to the surface. This continues until the water temperature at all depths reaches approximately 39° F. Because there is very little difference in density at this stage, the waters are easily mixed by the wind. The sinking action and mixing of the water by the wind results in the exchange of surface and bottom waters which is called "turnover."

During spring, the process reverses itself. This time ice melts, and surface waters warm and sink until the water temperature at all depths reaches approximately 39° F. The sinking combined with wind mixing causes spring "turnover."

These seasonal turnovers are critical to regulating oxygen supplies in lakes.

Source: **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**



View of the Island Lake Easement (Gratiot County)

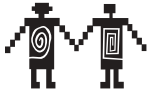
Director Profile – Keith Frame

Keith Frame is a Certified Public Accountant and partner at Robert F. Murray & Company in Mount Pleasant. He has been involved with the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy since shortly after moving to his home on the Chippewa River west of town in 1995. He was elected to the Board of Directors in November 1998 and has served as the CWC Treasurer since January 1999. An avid fisherman, he says, "I bought a house on the river for a reason – I love the outdoors. Getting involved with the CWC was a natural for me." He knows about the effects of sprawl firsthand. "I grew up in Rochester Hills; it bears no resemblance to what it looked like when I was there." He is an energetic leader and, looking ahead, says, "I envision us, a small group of people, preserving lots of open space and habitat into the future."

(Note: This is the second in a series of profiles of the CWC Board of Directors. It is their opportunity to provide background and speak to you about why they are involved. All of our Directors are unpaid volunteers whose work is critical to the success of the CWC).

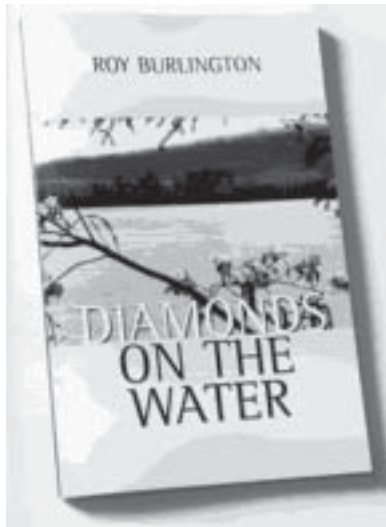


Keith with a Chippewa River Smallmouth Bass



Please Join Us for the Annual Spring Banquet and Silent Auction April 17, 2008

Join us on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at Buck's Run, 1559 S. Chippewa Rd., Mount Pleasant, MI for the Annual CWC Spring Banquet



This year's guest speaker is Central Michigan University professor emeritus and author of *Diamonds on the Water*, Roy Burlington. Many of our supporters will recognize the personalities, and possibly the places when Roy shares his tales of fishing camp in the wilds of Canada.

Our dinner is a buffet style format featuring Cherry Pecan Pork Loin, Fresh Whitefish and Lemon Pepper Chicken.

This year's raffle is a 50/50 opportunity with a \$500 minimum prize. The more tickets we sell the larger the winner's share. You need not be present to be the raffle winner.

Silent Auction opens and Social Hour begins at 5:30 p.m. There will be many new items to bid on this year. Food will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Please send your reservations in early. Raffle tickets will also be available at the door. If you are unable to attend the banquet but would like raffle tickets you can still use the form below.

Would you be willing to help sell raffle tickets? Call the office at (989) 644-5045.

2008 Spring Banquet Reservation Form

Also available online at chippewawatershedconservancy.org

Reservation Name _____ Number in Party (\$25 per person) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail (optional) _____

Raffle Tickets (1/\$5) _____ (5/\$20) _____

I am including an extra, tax deductible contribution of \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to: The Chippewa Watershed Conservancy, P.O. Box 896, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0896
The Chippewa Watershed Conservancy is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization. Federal Tax ID 38-3181796; MICT # 1818676; Raffle License # R95309. **Advance reservations preferred.** Call 989-644-5045 if you plan to attend but can't pay in advance.



In November 2006, the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation (The Foundation) pledged a \$50,000 dollar for dollar match over two years, for every dollar we raise for endowment. We reported in the last issue of *Heron Tracks* that we successfully met the first year requirement to raise at least \$25,000 and take full advantage of the CWC Now and Forever endowment challenge. In fact, we raised a total of \$26,390.17 by November 1, 2007. We have received and deposited a check from The Foundation in the amount of \$25,000 for the first year match. The Foundation has stated that any funds raised in excess of \$25,000 raised in 2007 may be applied to the \$25,000 challenge for 2008, so we began the new year with a \$1,390.17 head start. We are tremendously pleased and proud of our members and corporate supporters for ensuring our success in meeting the first year challenge. We thanked individual supporters in our newsletters as contributions came in, but now offer another heartfelt thank you to all who so generously responded to the challenge. We are also grateful to The Foundation for doubling your efforts to make sure that the CWC is here to fulfill our promises to protect our preserves and easements forever. But now the challenge is on again. We must raise another \$25,000 in endowment contributions by November 14, 2008.

Contributions to our endowment funds stay there. We will use the interest to help to sustain our operations while your principal remains to generate more interest. There are three endowment funds you can choose. Two are administered on our behalf by the Mount Pleasant Area Community Foundation – the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy Fund or the Bill Brehm/CWC Stewardship Fund. Contributions may be sent c/o the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1283, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-1283, to either fund. Or you may contribute directly to the CWC-maintained Endowment Fund by sending your contribution to CWC, P.O. Box 896, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0896. All of these funds allow tax deductible charitable contributions, preservation of your principal and the knowledge that you are helping us stay in business for the long term. Please help us to meet the \$25,000 challenge again this year.

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Not everyone has cash to give today to support our conservation efforts, but there are many other ways our members can give. Several have already chosen one or more of the following options.

Life Estate

Give a gift of your land today and reserve a life estate. This means that you donate the land but continue to live there for life or for a specified number of years. You would continue to pay all the taxes and upkeep while you live there and the land would pass to the CWC when your life estate ends. You may be entitled to an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of the appraised value of the land. You would have the satisfaction of making a significant gift now that benefits the CWC later.

Bequests

A bequest made through a provision in your will, also known as a deferred gift, can have positive, long-term impacts on the CWC's ability to meet its promises to easement donors and to ensure our ability to continue to preserve new lands. By making a bequest in your will or living trust you can make a generous gift without reducing your current income. There are many types of bequests.

A specific or explicit bequest. You may leave a specific dollar amount to the CWC.

A percentage bequest. You may designate a percentage of your estate to the CWC.

A residual bequest. You may designate a specific or percentage amount after other bequests have been made.

A contingent bequest. You may designate the CWC to be a beneficiary in the event one or more of your other bequests cannot be made (if, for example, someone to whom you make a bequest predeceads you.)

Gifts of Life Insurance Proceeds

You can designate the CWC as beneficiary of a life insurance policy and choose a set dollar amount, or a percentage or all of the proceeds. You can also make a gift of a current life insurance policy with a cash value by transferring the ownership of the policy to the CWC.

Retirement Accounts

You can give all or part of your 401(k) or IRA accounts by designating the CWC as beneficiary. If you are over the age of 70 ½, these distributions may be made without being included in taxable income or subject to withholding. Additional information about this opportunity may be found on-line at http://www.aarp.org/about_aarp/aarp_foundation/donate/tax_free.html.

It is critical to make your desires and any restrictions known. If you plan to use any of these options call the office at (989) 644-5045 to get our Federal Tax Identification Number for use in legal documents designating your wishes.

Consult with an estate planner to determine how these options might best benefit you.

Be a land conservation hero. Contribute to the CWC today.



Donor List (September 15, 2007 – January 17, 2008) Thank You for Your Support!

Anonymous	Ronald & Julie Frame	John Mitchell
Jack & Cora Neyer	Joan Loveland	Sue Ann Kopmeyer
William & Dorothy Theunissen	Tom & Gisela Moffit	Tom & Sara Delia
Charlie Walmsley	Kathleen O'Connor	Ross & Shelly Rapaport
Jacob Wilkes	Doug & Barbara Valek	James & Diane Wilson
Joan Bradshaw Kadler	Bruce & Judy Pape	Robert Severson
Jo Wilson	Clara Lee R. Moodie	Richard & Susan Clemmer
Keith & Mary Frame	William & Patricia Farley	John & Carol Grossa
Dixie Neier	Dykstra & Phyllis Heinze	Fred & Millie Hamlin
Bud & Mary Ann Fisher	Doris Dale	John & Donna Buckley
Peggy Pickler	Mary Scheuer Senter	Jim & Carol Erickson
Betty Stephenson	Cathy Murray	Ellen Moss
Kathleen Bracken	Virginia Haight & Gary Kramer	Kimber & Judy Dewitt
Carol Miller	Larry & Judy Schaaftenar	Norma Bailey
Marilyn & Gordon Fosburg	Dan & Millie Wujek	John & Karen Caldwell
Summit Petroleum Corporation	Herbert Rice	Arlin Briley
Veha Chamichian	Ruth Felter	Richard & Nancy Beckwith
Francis & Mary Molson	John & Petra Krull	David & Diane Current
Harold & Mary Cook	Stanley & Marilyn Smith	Ted & Virginia Kjolhede
Richard & Barbara Kirchner	Robert & Joan Clute	Dennis Skriba
John & Audrey Cumming	Robert & Pat Lichtman	Lee & Phyllis Jeppeson
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Stephen & Teresa Frey	Marilyn Zorn	Tom & Marje Williams
Carl Johnson & Sharon Bradley-Johnson	Herman & Tina Theeke	Scott Bellinger & Lori Rogers
Shawn Zimmer	Sally Van Cise	Jean Murray
Katherine & Richard Godbold	Mary Ann Crawford	Ronald Marmarelli
David L. & Joy D. Smith	Al & Cindy Bryan	Dr. Mary and Dr. Peter Obuchowski
Ara & Barbara Sheperdigian	Bill & Wanda Odykirk	Bill & Peg Sowle
Alan & Sheila Weber	Mike & Sue Carey	Michael & Rhea Dow
Warner Stewart & Betty J. Dickey	Gregory Hoff	Barbara Grewe

Thank You

Scott Bellinger for Sylvan Solace memorial plaque publicity
Donna & John Buckley for trail maintenance at Sylvan Solace
Mike Brockman for Web site management and production of *Heron Tracks*
Todd Diederich for legal assistance
Linda Eyer & Pat Block for new photography at CWC preserves
Pat Lilley, for labeling, mailing newsletters
Diane & Michael Morey for stewardship at Sylvan Solace

General Federated Women's Club of Mt. Pleasant for bluebird houses

Deborah Gray and her CMU Marketing 410 class for help with marketing and funding strategies: Nate Aluia, Barbara Anderson, Erin Burgeson, Megan Cooley, Regina Della-Moretta, Jasmine Dimond, Arron Elkins, Leigh Halterman, Novella Haugabook, Melissa Koglin, Zac Kosztowny, Megan McArthur, Rich McKenzie, Kirsten Meier, Andrew Myczkowiak, Vahty Ngem, David Noble-Jack, Heather Trotz, Jered Tuberville, Daniel Vincent, Katie Wahl, Ashley White

Pat Block and her Mid-Michigan Community College Graphic Arts class for help with designs for a new CWC information booklet: Andrea Acker, Bethan Clement, Jeanette Evitts, Shannon Farr, Kim Fawthrop, Joanna Gargin, Kathleen Kureger, Katie Mack, Lisa McCartney, Allison Morgenstern, Amy Motz, Kendra Robins, Heather Schell

We are grateful to all of the volunteers who have so generously given of their time and resources

Chippewa Watershed Conservancy
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(989) 644-5045



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Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have a helping hand that is itching to help the Conservancy? 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
- New membership appeal mailing list development
- Sylvan Solace Butterfly Garden maintenance
- 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.

2008 Board of Directors

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Lori Rogers: Secretary
Keith Frame: Treasurer, Investments
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Jim Hill
Jerry Jaloszynski
Ted Kjolhede
Greg Schmidt
William Shirley
Paul Siers
Thomas Woiwode

CWC Land Protection

Successes

22 Easements- 2,868 acres
8 Preserves - 135 acres
Total - 3,003 acres

<u>County</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Clare	1,966
Gratiot	103
Isabella	361
Mecosta	102
Montcalm	471