



2nd Annual Art from Our Parks

The second annual Art from our Parks benefit for the CWC was held on Saturday, September 26th at Deerfield Nature Park. Sponsored by the Isabella County Parks & Recreation Department and Art Reach of Mid-Michigan, the event featured singers, dancers, poets, musicians, painters and others performing throughout the afternoon, blending art and nature in an enchanting outdoors experience that was enjoyed by more than 200 visitors. A special feature of this year's event was a nature walk that included several stops along the route to watch and listen to entertainers performing at their selected locations along the interpretive trail. Kids who participated in the nature walk were excited by the opportunity to touch a live Ribbon Snake, (eewh!), encountered along the path. Congratulations to raffle basket winners, Rex Tower, (S'mores and CWC bundle), and Eric Vinciguerra, (chocolate and rose bundle). We send out a special thank you to Jeanne Fisher, who donated all of the proceeds from her delightful caricatures to the CWC. We are very grateful to all of the artists and entertainers from Art Reach of Mid Michigan and Central Michigan University, as well as Molly Kampf's dance group from Visions Studio Dance Co., who showcased their talents to an appreciative audience. Thanks also to Sue Ann Kopmeyer and her Isabella County Parks & Recreation Department staff and volunteers, for their hard work both before and after the event, and for the assistance provided by Keith Miller of the CMU Wildlife Society and the CWC volunteers to make this another very successful event.



Local artist Rick Stevens "becomes the art," during his crazy painting finale



CWC President John Mitchell and Katrina Stock from the Isabella County Parks & Recreation Department welcome visitors to the 2nd Annual Art from Our Parks benefit



Artist Rex Tower paints a landscape on location

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Executive Director's Corner



Random Notes

Don't wait until it's too late. I can't tell you how many times we've worked with landowners who have the sincerest of intentions to donate a conservation easement only to have time slip away before anything got done. Procrastination can have catastrophic impacts on heirs. In some cases the "pop up" taxes on land transferring to heirs can be so high that the only alternative is to sell all or part of the land that may have been in the family for generations to cover the costs. In other cases, siblings or other heirs may have differing understandings of what mom and dad wanted done with the land and the result can be hurt feelings, long-lasting squabbles or worse. If you are serious about donating an easement or land or other assets, the best thing you can do for your loved ones is to make your intentions clear. If you can do it, do it now. Michigan Public Act 446 provides that land under permanent conservation easement (land, not buildings) is protected from the pop up tax, so you may be saving your loved ones substantial costs by donating an easement now. If you want to leave land to the CWC, talk to your tax advisor about whether it might be advantageous to donate it while you are alive, retaining a life estate and taking advantage of the charitable contribution benefits that are available. If you can't do it now, document your intentions clearly in your will and other estate planning documents so that heirs know exactly what you want. And by all means, if you intend the CWC as the beneficiary of land, cash or other assets, let us know. We currently own one property via probate court action because the landowner never coordinated with the organization to which she wanted it to pass. After her death the trustee learned that organization would not accept it because it was not within their priority area. I strongly urge you to talk to your attorney and tax advisor now to discuss your options and ensure the outcome you expect.

It's not all or nothing. If you are interested in donating a conservation easement, it doesn't have to cover all of your property. Call us for details.

Thank you for the outstanding progress we are making on the **Dow Challenge**. As you know, this is a three-year pledge from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation to provide a dollar-for-dollar match for all contributions received to support the operations of the CWC up to \$97,500 by the end of the three year period. We have already passed the challenge amount for the first year and additional contributions are rolling over to count toward the second year of the challenge.

Are you looking for a speaker for your civic group or social organization? I am available to speak on a number of topics. Just call the office at 989-644-5045 or email us at info@chippewawatershedconservancy.org.

The CWC Annual Meeting and election of officers is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., January 12, 2010, at Isabella County Commission on Aging building, 2200 S. Lincoln Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Call or email the office if you plan to attend.

Get Your Newsletter by Email and Get Rewarded

Would you like to help us get greener and be rewarded at the same time? Sign up to receive your newsletter by e-mail. What's the reward? You'll receive your newsletter in color!

Send an e-mail to cwc@cmsinter.net with the words "sign up" in the subject block and we'll add you to the list. (We will never share your e-mail address with an outside organization.)

9 President's Column

Our Legacy

We all care about our legacy. Perhaps we think of it in terms of children, or the fruits of our labor, and the land we love. Our legacy is why many of us came to the CWC. We care about this earth and want to leave it in the best condition we can for those who follow.

I am blessed to be spending this fall doing research on retirement planning models; on how people can better manage what they have in retirement to reduce the chance of running out of money. I will share one relevant fact. Most people who choose not to annuitize will, if they have managed so as to not run out of money during their lifetime, end their life with much, if not most, of what they had at the time they retire. That is how we guard against the financial risk of being lucky to stay around longer than most.

So what does that have to do with the CWC?

You and I are part of this organization because we care about this earth. Few of us have the opportunity to give land or a conservation easement; but working together, we, the members of the CWC have protected more than 5 square miles. We have also experienced one of the worst financial market downturns in 80 years. We have seen the collapse of once dominant industries such as automotives, steel, and need I go on? And we have seen the rise of all things digital. The world changes faster than any of us wish. The future is less than certain.

Are we acting responsibly if we simply pile up protected acres without also ensuring the financial resources to protect that land for all time?

There is a simple solution. If each of us who can will leave a legacy to the CWC, we can build an endowment that will ensure future generations will have the resources to protect these precious gifts of land we hand down to them. Even if as individuals we leave but a small part of what we have, the collective effect is monumental. Ted Kjolhede used to say that if each of us left but 2%, the problem would be solved. Most of us can afford such a gift.

Your legacy gift to the CWC can be made by will or by designating the CWC as beneficiary of a life insurance policy. It can be a gift with a reserved life estate. Members of the CWC have done all of these. We know because they've told us.

I take personal pleasure in knowing that even in my passing I can be of some help to this, our common cause; and I hope you will join me in giving a legacy gift. If you need help, contact Stan Lilley at the CWC office 989 644 5045.

John Mitchell



Kjolhede's Kove is the New Name

We have renamed our 25-acre preserve located on the north end of Coldwater Lake. Remember Bob Kjolhede won the naming rights, subject to approval of the CWC Board of Directors, as the winner of last year's spring banquet raffle. The family chose Kjolhede's Kove and the directors approved the name on September 8, 2009. For more information about this property, go to our Web site at www.ChippewaWatershedConservancy.org, then click on "preserves," near the bottom of the home page, and then click on "Kjolhede's Kove Preserve." The late Ted Kjolhede was well known in the area for many achievements in athletics and administration at Central Michigan University and in support of worthy causes in the Mount Pleasant area. He was a long serving member of the CWC Board of Directors. We are happy to have a property that memorializes the Kjolhede family name.

4 Director Profile



Lori Rogers

Lori Rogers has served on the Board of Directors since 1994. She is on her second “tour of duty” as the CWC Secretary, having assumed the reins most recently in August 2006.

When asked why she has been a long-time supporter, she says, “Growing up, my folks would pack us and a ton of camping gear into the station wagon and head to a National Park. Those trips helped shape my belief that setting aside lands for protection is extremely important at the local level as well.”

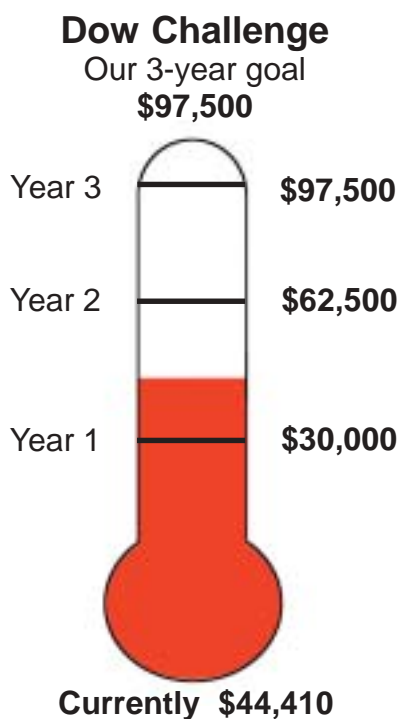
She sees her role as part of a larger picture. “I’m a big fan of the idea ‘Think Globally; Act Locally.’ Being a part of the CWC gives me an opportunity to put that phrase into practice. For me, the CWC benefits not only the quality of life and environment in our local area, but also the long-term health of our planet. It’s important to me to know that the much needed habitats we protect today—the wetlands, the open spaces, the woodlands—will continue to be protected in perpetuity.”



Serving on the Board of Directors and helping to shape the direction of the organization is just one facet of the experience for her. “I also enjoy the people of the CWC. I have made some good friends and learned a good deal from some knowledgeable people. While meetings are important, I do much prefer a walk on one of our preserves with a pair of binoculars and John Mitchell or Stan Lilley as my guide.”

In her work outside of the CWC Lori is the Associate Director of the Central Michigan University Writing Center as well as an Instructor at the Department of English.

(Note: This is the seventh 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).



The Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow Foundation

has pledged to match dollar-for-dollar all contributions up to \$30,000 in Year 1, \$32,500 in Year 2, and \$35,000 in Year 3.

Amounts in excess of the match amount in the first year may be counted toward the second year, and in the second year may be counted toward the third year.

Please help us take full advantage of this generous challenge grant. In these tough economic times, we need your help more than ever.

Send in your check today to:
CWC PO box 896 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0896

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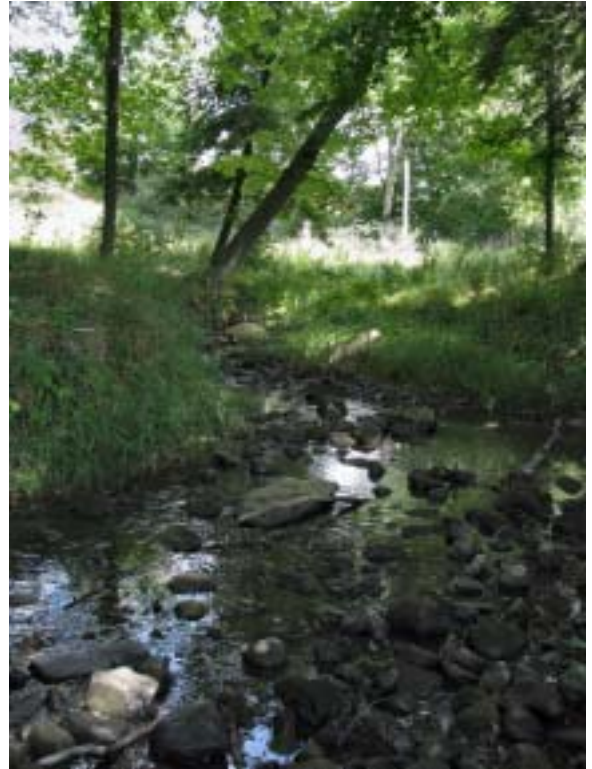
Grant Work at Alyce J. Peterson Natural Area Completed

Work funded under multiple grants to assist in cleanup and restoration efforts at the Alyce J. Peterson Natural Area near Stanwood has been completed. The goal of the project was to clean up an environmental hazard and create a wildlife sanctuary on the property as the previous owner wanted. The Conservancy received the 79-acre parcel in June 2008 from the estate of Alyce Peterson, a long-time Stanwood resident, who died on August 31, 2007, at the age of 91. Included were an old farmhouse and several outbuildings that needed to be demolished. An inspection indicated the presence of asbestos in the siding of the outbuildings and farmhouse as well as in the window caulking of the farmhouse.

We were very pleased to be able to put together a broad base of support for the project. Substantial funding came from the Fremont Area Community Foundation/Ice Mountain Environmental Stewardship Fund, Mecosta County Community Foundation, Nestle Waters, N.A., Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, Symon Excavating and Medler Trucking.

CWC Executive Director Stan Lilley said, "This was a great collaborative effort to clean up the property, enhance water quality in the watershed, and provide a sanctuary for wildlife as Alyce Peterson wanted. We are grateful to all of the partners who helped with this project."

We are in the process of developing a long-range preserve management plan and, while there are currently no established trails, the property is open to the public. A downloadable map is available on the CWC Web site.



A creek which runs through the Peterson Natural Area

We never had the honor of meeting or speaking with Alyce Peterson, Sadly, she died nearly a year before the CWC became involved with the property. We do know from speaking with the trustee and the attorney for her estate, and with her former neighbors, Rocky and Yvonne Symon, that she lived most of her life on the property, had a deep love for nature, and wanted very much for the land to be protected for wildlife. We know too, that, although she lived a very frugal life, she was amazingly generous to the community. She left more than \$300,000 in cash to several nonprofit organizations in Big Rapids and Mecosta County. This is a property with a scenic and natural quality well worth protecting and we are proud to be able to hold it for the public benefit in her memory.



Neely Preserve Cleanup and Living History Trail

Sunday, September 13th was a glorious day. The weather was wonderful and the turnout was enthusiastic at Hall's Lake in western Isabella County. The day's activities began with a Living History Trail sponsored by the Broomfield Historical Group, and led by CWC member and Neely Preserve Steward Larry Schaftenaar. The trail featured 12 stops along West Broomfield and Old State Roads with speakers celebrating history of the local area. Three of the stops were along the Neely Preserve and described the historic Old State Road running from Ionia to Mackinaw City, built in 1859, a former borrow pit where material for the nearby section of the road was probably extracted, and a portion of the original corduroy road bed that is still visible where it runs into swamp land near the northeast corner of the preserve. The CWC met visitors



Stan Lilley elaborates on the display board.



Nature trail building was a Schaftenaar family contribution – pictured are Larry Schaftenaar, son-in law Fernando, and grandchildren Bennie and Sofie Molina.



Cathy (fore) and Adonna Kennedy (back) helping remove Autumn Olive trees at the Neely Preserve.

at the parking area and offered walks along our recently constructed nature trail. At the conclusion of the event the CWC held a work session to remove autumn olive and tires from the preserve. The cleanup effort was made easier by substantial preparation work done by Christy Mathewson, Tom Reed and Larry Schaftenaar. Their work included using backhoes to mechanically pull autumn olive and pull tires and cover a hole within the former borrow pit. They also built a second parking area on the south end of the nature trail. With that great start, at the Sunday session, a dozen volunteers were able to create a brush pile from the collected autumn olive that will serve as winter cover for wildlife as it begins to biodegrade back into the soil. We collected 27 tires from the preserve and Mike Gingrich of Gingrich Tire Center in Remus accepted them for recycling, while donating half the cost of the recycling fees. Thanks to all of the volunteers, including Frank Hufnagel, Adonna Kennedy, Cathy Kennedy, CMU student volunteers Brittany Mouzourakis, Katherine Browne and Kyle Hool, and regular CWC volunteers John and Loretta Davidson, Lori Rogers, Scott Bellinger, Sue Ann Koppmeyer and John Mitchell. If we missed acknowledging anyone who didn't sign in, your help is appreciated anyway.



Membership Renewals (June 1 – September 15, 2009)

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Thank You for Your Support

Benefactor (\$1,000 & above)

Marilyn & Gordon Fosburg
John & Tom Mitchell
Dennis & Sandra Olson

Sustainer (\$500)

Eunice Burgess
Ginger Kjolhede
Thomas & Cynthia Mitchell
Francis & Mary Molson
Paul B. Murray

Guardian (\$250)

Bob & Elaine Connell
Bud & MaryAnn Fisher
Keith & Mary Frame
Frank & Kay Hufnagel
Michael Libbee & Kristin Sheridan

Don & Nancy Nagler
Dixie L. Neier
Ben & Rose Prasad
Steve & Sue Pung
David Shepherd
Karen & Don Stearns

Defender (\$100)

Anonymous (2)
Mike Brockman & Marcy Taylor
Stephen & Patricia Chase
Hal & Bev Crawley
David H. & Diane E. Current

Kimber & Judy DeWitt
John & Carol Grossa
Dyke & Phyllis Heinze
Adonna Kennedy
Dan & Marla Kennedy

John & Petra Krull
Al & Peg Minert
Tom & Gisela Moffit
Ellen Moss
Jack & Cora Neyer

Gordon Risbridger & Amy Shindorf
Ron & Marilyn Rolph
Steve & Carrie Tluczek
Basil & Theresa Zimmer
Marilyn Zorn

Supporter (\$50)

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Betty & Bob Clason
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Hans & Dorothy Fetting
Ronald Frame

Dr. Stephen & Mrs. Teresa Frey
Ed & Ruth Helwig
Jerry & Kathie Jaloszynski
Gary & Sue Knight
Sue Ann Koppmeyer
Michael & Linda Kruscke

Edward & Erna Marquardt
Bob & Marge Mills
Clara Lee R. Moodie
Richard & Diana Moreau
Bill & Wanda Odykirk
Nancy Priestap
& Kirk Sponseller

Regular (\$25)

Anonymous (4)
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W. Larry Collins
Harold B. Cook
Dan & Terri Cowie
Allen E. Demarest
Dick Dietrich
Jim & Carol Erickson
Nancy & Peter Fries
Katherine & Richard Godbold
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Tim & Nancy Hartshorne
Matt Herbert &
Tracy Galarowicz
Harry & Virginia Herman
Gregory Hoff
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Joan Kadler
Dave Kennedy
Larry & Valerie Kerr
Barb & Dick Kirchner
Judy Layfield

Howard Lilley
Christy Mathewson
Dawn Mercer
Carol Miller
Thomas Montgomery
Cathy Murray
Dorothy Nugent
Kathleen O'Connor
Jeanne Pfeiffer
Molly Pittsley
David Prawdzik
Arlene & Alan Quick

Thomas Reed
George Rouman
Don & Gloria Sowle
Gilbert Starks
Betty Stephenson
Mr. & Mrs. Warner Stewart
Tom Tarrence
Bob Tolley
Sally Van Cise
Bob & Maurine Weisenburger
Carol & Jim Wojcik

Donations received in memory of

Matt Boles from Adonna Kennedy
Matt Boles from Dan & Marla Kennedy
Dave Burgess from Eunice Burgess
Ted Kjolhede from Ginger Kjolhede

Thank You for Your Time!

Art Reach of Mid-Michigan for Art from Our Parks benefit to the CWC **Scott Bellinger & Lori Rogers** for Neely Preserve stewardship **Mike Brockman** for production of *Heron Tracks* **Donna & John Buckley** for trail maintenance at Sylvan Solace **John & Loretta Davidson** for Sylvan Solace nest box cleanup **Loretta Davidson, Jim Dealing, Keith Frame, Gary Kramer and Tricia Stokes** for Audubon Woods Preserve trail maintenance **Isabella County Parks & Recreation Department** for Art from Our Parks benefit to the CWC **Sue Ann Koppmeyer** for Neely Preserve stewardship **Pat Lilley** for help with mailings **Christy Mathewson** for Neely Preserve stewardship **John Mitchell** for Neely Preserve stewardship **Diane & Michael Morey** for stewardship at Sylvan Solace **Tom Reed** for Neely Preserve stewardship **Larry & Judy Schaftenaar** for Neely Preserve stewardship **Rick Stevens** for Art from Our Parks benefit to the CWC **Rocky Symon** for stewardship at Peterson Natural Area

We get so much more done because of our volunteers who generously give their time and energy



P.O. Box 896 Mount Pleasant, MI 48804-0896
www.chippewawatershedconservancy.org
(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
- 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.

Board of Directors

John Mitchell: President
Tim Odykirk: Vice-President
Lori Rogers: Secretary
Keith Frame: Treasurer, Investments
Donna Buckley: Sylvan Solace Monitor
Marilyn Fosburg
Sue Ann Koptmeyer
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Amy Shindorf

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Nancy Atwood
John Grossa
Richard Moreau
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Executive Director

Stan Lilley

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Norm Dzingle
Jim Hill
Jerry Jaloszynski
Julie Murphy
Don Nagler
Carrie Paquette-Schalm
Paul Siers

CWC Land Protection Successes

24 Easements- 2,938 acres
13 Preserves - 289 acres
Total - 3,227 acres

<u>County</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Clare	1,966
Gratiot	134
Isabella	435
Mecosta	181
Montcalm	511