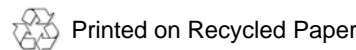




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Volunteer Opportunities

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
- Education and publicity outreach
- Stewardship Committee
- New membership appeal mailing list development
- Spring Banquet Committee

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

Board of Directors

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CWC Land Protection Successes

24 Easements- 2,938 acres
 14 Preserves - 305 acres
 Total - 3,243 acres

County	Acres
Clare	1,966
Gratiot	147
Isabella	438
Mecosta	181
Montcalm	511

Heron Tracks



The Official Newsletter of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy

Winter 2010

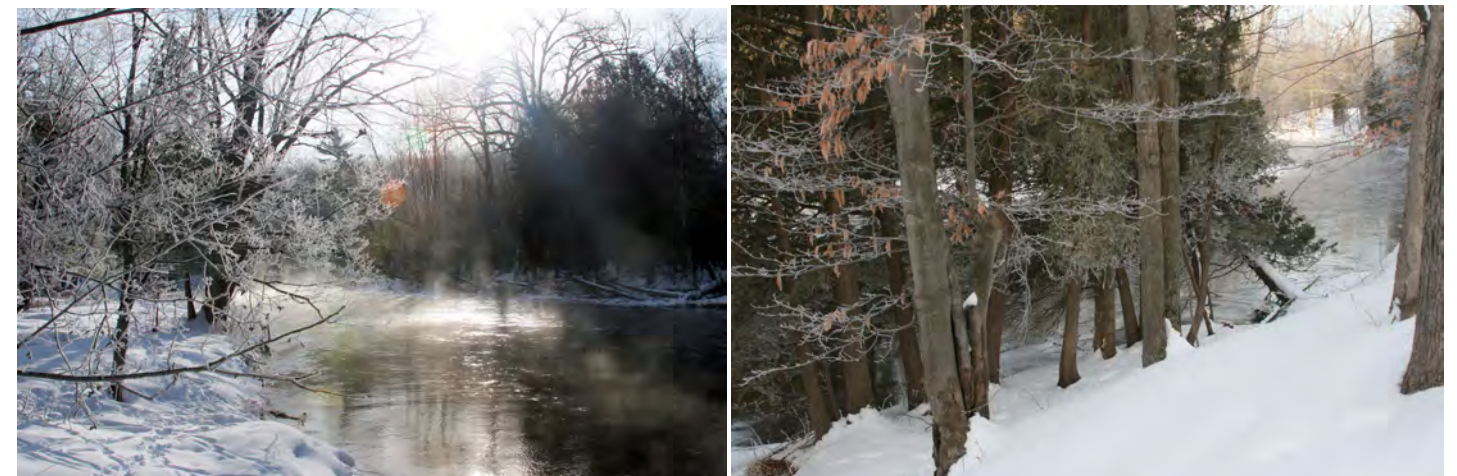
Volume 17, No.1

Norcross Awards Grant

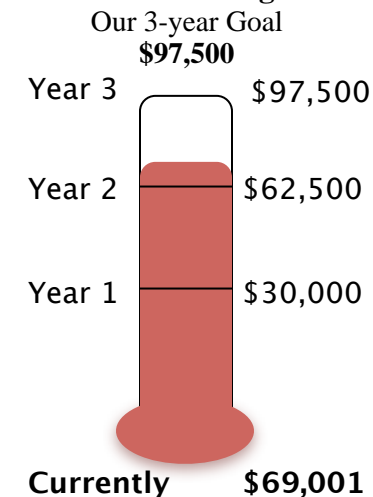
The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, of Wales, MA, has awarded the CWC a \$3,000 technology grant. Thanks to that grant we now have a Hewlett-Packard Pavilion Elite desktop computer that is capable of handling memory-hungry graphics and Geographic Information System (GIS) programs, an Epson EX90 digital projector that will show our presentations and special programs in dazzling XGA resolution, and a Garmin Colorado 400T handheld GPS unit that will help us pinpoint the locations of sensitive areas and special plants and animals and transfer that information into our programs and stewardship planning documents. The Norcross Wildlife Foundation provides grants to small grassroots organizations in the environmental conservation community whose needs are usually modest, specific, and difficult to address through other funders. Most of their grants have a practical, immediate uses, such as computer and office technology and software. This is our second Norcross grant, and we are delighted and grateful to have their support.

Winter Solace

CWC member Mike LeValley spent some time at the Sylvan Solace Preserve and shared some of his pictures. Far fewer visitors take advantage of the beauty of the preserve in winter, but the breathtaking scenery and solitude are there for those who venture out.



Dow Challenge



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; \$35,000 in Year 3.

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

Please help us to take full advantage of this generous challenge. In these tough economic times we need your help more than ever. Send your check today to CWC, P.O. Box 896, Mount Pleasant, MI 48804-0896.



Random Notes

The good things we've done. It's nearing the middle of winter, and my time again to reflect on where we've been in the past year. As an organization, we truly hit the ground running in January and never stopped. I'd like to mention just a few of the highlights. We began the year with a guided organizational assessment of all aspects of our business, facilitated by experts from the Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy and the Land Trust Alliance. We identified several areas where we intend to strengthen our practices and reached consensus on timelines to meet our goals. Shortly thereafter we celebrated two new conservation easements, the 30-acre Britten North Easement in Gratiot County and the adjoining 40-acre Britten South Easement in Montcalm County. We dedicated the 22-acre Neely Preserve at Hall's Lake in Isabella County, and later had a great cleanup of the new preserve. It is an inspiration to see how the Hall's Lake community has embraced the preserve and our plans to continue to acquire nearby land to permanently protect the undeveloped east half of the lake. They have joined the CWC and made both cash and in-kind contributions to support our efforts there. We conducted tire pickups in Coldwater and Broomfield Townships of Isabella County, creating a healthier watershed and increasing our local visibility. Other preserve activities included a bird walk at the Audubon Woods Preserve and our 8th annual butterfly walk at the Sylvan Solace Preserve. We had another successful spring banquet and were participants in and beneficiaries of the second annual Art from Our Parks - CWC benefit conducted by Art Reach of Mid-Michigan and the Isabella County Parks and Recreation Department. We completed asbestos removal and demolition of the remaining structures at the Peterson Natural Area and established a parking area and memorial signage. Thanks to the generosity of long-time members and easement donors, Don and Karen Stearns, we concluded a swap of land with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), whereby a parcel of land purchased by the Stearns adjacent to State land in the Upper Peninsula was transferred to the DNR in exchange for 13 acres of land in Gratiot County and 3 acres in Isabella County that were transferred to the CWC. We shifted to a July 1 to June 30 membership basis and secured some special discounts for our members with help from our business sponsors. And thanks to our many supporters, we not only exceeded the first year amount of the Herbert and Grace Dow Foundation dollar for dollar matching challenge, we exceeded the second year amount! As I sit here in the beginning of a January thaw, watching the snow pack recede, I am reminded that the amount of remaining natural space and wildlife habitat is also receding, perhaps a little more slowly lately because of the economy, but receding nonetheless. It's a race against time and the CWC is still running. By the time you read this we should have closed on our first two easements of 2010.



We don't do politics. From time to time, usually during or immediately after a particularly contentious political issue, we are asked why we don't get involved in politics. The answer is we can't. First, it's not in our mission statement, "to protect natural habitat and open space as a qualified nonprofit under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code," and the Internal Revenue Service takes a dim view of nonprofits working outside their stated purpose. Our Bylaws specifically say that no substantial part of our activities "shall be carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation," and prohibit us from "participating in or intervening in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office." It is also important to remember that the major part of our activities involves working with willing landowners to place voluntary conservation easements on their land to permanently protect it. This means that we speak to and work with landowners who have a wide range of political views, aspirations and affiliations. Our job is to work in a non-confrontational manner to protect the land and its conservation values for the public benefit. This is not to say that members and supporters of the CWC don't take stands and become actively involved politically. They may and very often do. But don't expect the organization to do that. **It's not our purpose.**



Join Us

11th Annual Spring Banquet and Silent Auction Thursday, April 22, 2010

Buck's Run, 1559 S. Chippewa Rd., Mount Pleasant, MI

Dinner features Autumn Berry Chicken (4 oz. boneless skinless breast with an Autumn Berry sauce from CWC member and local producer Paul Siers) and Filet of Norwegian Salmon with a Lemon Dill Sauce (4 oz portion). Your dinner includes a Wild Rice Blend, Fresh Medley of Vegetables (summer squash, zucchini, carrots, cauliflower & Broccoli), a garden salad with red currant vinaigrette, French bread & butter, and strawberry shortcake.

This year's raffle is a 50/50 with a guaranteed \$500 to the winner.

See a presentation from CMU Biology Professor, Dr. Daelyn Woolnough about mussels found in the watershed, why their health is an important indicator of the health of the watershed, and some of the research Daelyn and others are conducting.



**Silent Auction opens and Social Hour begins at 5:30 p.m.
Food will be served at 6:30 p.m.**

Please send your reservations in early. If you are unable to attend the banquet but would like raffle tickets you can still use the form below.

2010 Spring Banquet Reservation Form

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

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail (optional) _____

Raffle Tickets (1/\$10) _____ (3/\$20) _____ More \$ _____

Yes! I want to help meet the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation's dollar-for-dollar matching challenge! 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 # R00168. **Advance reservations preferred.** Call 989-644-5045 if you plan to attend but can't pay in advance.



Benefactor (\$1,000 & above)

Mike & Rhea Dow
John & Tom Mitchell
Dianne & Michael Morey
Don & Karen Stearns
E. Diane Tope

Defender (\$100)

Al & Cindy Bryan
John & Karen Caldwell
Annette Clark
Hal & Bev Crawley
Diane Current
Richard & Brenda Donley
Jim & Angie Felton
Marilyn & Gordon Fosburg
Keith & Mary Frame
John & Carol Grossa
Dianne Haas
Connie & Jack Harkins
Ginger Judge
Cil & John Lorand
Ed & Erna Marquardt
Ellen Moss
Jean Murray
Polanco Family
David Shepherd
Rick Stevens & Caroline Kramer
Brenda J. Upton
Charles Walmsley & Melinda Prout

Sustainer (\$500)

Scott & Lori Bellinger
Joyce & Gerry Carter

Supporter (\$50)

Pat Block & Paul Snyder
Kathleen Bracken
Mike & Sue Wendrow Carey
Jim & Sheila Carroll
Ruth Chapman
Robert & Joan Clute
Jim & Liz Dealing
Betty Dickey
Ronald & Julie Frame
Mike & Belinda Hetzman
Ronald K. Hodgson
Carl Johnson & Sharon Bradley-
Johnson
Gary & Sue Knight
Ron & Deb Marmarelli
Dan & Sharon Milan
Bob & Marge Mills
Julie Murphy
Peter & Mary Obuchowski
Ross & Shelly Rapaport
Ara & Barbara Sheperdigian
David & Joy Smith
Winifred Sponseller
Alan & Sheila Weber
Daniel & Mildred Wujek

Guardian (\$250)

Bud & MaryAnn Fisher
David Mattern
Don & Nancy Nagler
Blaine & Sharon Stevenson
Douglas & Barbara Valek

Regular (\$25)

Anonymous (4)
Norma Bailey
Barbara Emery Braendle
Arlin & Helen Briley
W. Larry Collins
Jim & Sheila Carroll
Janet Chiesa
W. Larry Collins
Mary Ann Crawford
Doris Dale
John & Loretta Davidson
Tom & Sarah Delia
Paul Gross
Dolores Lawrence
Michael & Shara LeValley
Joan Loveland
Ruth Magnell
Dan & Sharon Milan
Jack & Ann Miller
Joe Myslivec
Linda Gail Neely
Bruce & Judy Pape
Ronald & Paula Smith
Betty Stephenson
Maynard & Gladys Strong
Robert Svegell
Larry Sych
Herman & Tina Theeke
George & Vicki Wilding
Tom & Marje Williams
Marilyn Zorn

Donations received in memory of

Alan Emery from Barbara Emery Braendle

Leland "Bud" Hines from Brenda & Richard Donley

Richard J. Kirchner from

Dick & Sharon Bolton, Bob & Elaine Connell, Jim & Joan Hornack, John & Ann Jensen,
Robert Kabbe, Sue & Richard Kirchner, Ginger Kjolhede, Dolores Lawrence,
Edward & Erne Marquardt, Maria & Tony Miele, Dolores Lawrence, Thomas & Marjorie Williams

Thank You For Your Time

Pat Block for graphics support, Mike Brockman for production of Heron Tracks, Loretta Davidson for data entry support,
Pat Lilley for help with mailings, John Mitchell for easement monitoring support, Amy Motz for graphics support
Larry & Judy Schaftenaar for Neely Preserve stewardship, Tom Stewart for easement monitoring support

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

Our Wish List

If you would like to make a donation to support a specific item or project, here are some things we ask you to consider:

Funding for preserve signage

Funding for loaner binoculars for bird and butterfly watching events

A 25-foot extension cord and power strip



What's in Your Wallet?

We are putting the finishing touches on a new fundraising program for the CWC – a Capital One Credit Card featuring the CWC logo and a picture of one of our preserves or easements. I hope you'll consider this opportunity to support the CWC because it will raise funds for our habitat protection efforts. But there is something more important about this program, something that may not be evident at first glance.

When you use a CWC credit card in a local business – you become a walking billboard for conservation.

Every time you use your CWC credit card you demonstrate the strength of our membership, you show local merchants that CWC members shop locally, and you reinforce our presence in this community.

A credit card isn't for everyone and you may not want to give up the perks associated with your current credit cards. But we hope you will consider the fact that the CWC not only receives 1% of the value of your purchase, but more importantly you raise awareness of all we do to protect your community while simply going about your daily life.

There's one more thing. The gorgeous pictures on these cards show places we have protected. You'll want to show the card to sales clerks and proudly tell them that you helped protect this place. And when you do, another small piece of your community will be saved for nature. Watch for details on the web site, www.ChippewaWatershedConservancy.org

John Mitchell

Got Stuff?

Do you have things of value that you just don't want to go thru the bother of selling? They're in the way and need to go. Maybe they're heavy. Maybe you're not sure how to get value from them.

Donate salable items to the CWC and you get three benefits:

They're gone. We pick up and find a new home for your items.

You get a tax-deductible donation for the fair market value of the items.

The funds raised by selling the items go into the CWC Endowment Fund.

And best of all, until we meet the Herbert and Grace Dow Challenge Grant, an equal amount also goes into the CWC operating fund! So say goodbye to that old car, boat, antiques, tools, sporting goods and other things that are just too good to throw out. Of course we reserve the right to refuse items, but we'll do our best. So, give us a call. In your way today - wildlife habitat tomorrow.

Call John Mitchell at (989) 588-4919 to arrange pickup.

Silent Auction Items Sought

We are looking for new and gently used items for our silent to be held at the annual spring banquet on April 22, 2010. 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 1.

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.)



Tom Stewart has served on the Board of Directors since 1994. He was elected as the first Secretary in June, 1994, and held the position for nearly ten years.

"For me, it's all about the rivers," he says, when asked why the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy is important to him.

"I've canoed virtually every navigable river in the service area, including the Chippewa, Muskegon, Pine, Tobacco, Clam, Big and Little Salt and Coldwater. I think people will look upon our preserves and easements in the future as islands of time, gene pools for biodiversity, living laboratories, places for recreation and solitude that will always be there for the public benefit."

A strong advocate for protecting riparian buffers, he especially like a James A. Michener quote, "The Earth is something you protect every day of the year. A river is something you defend every inch of its course."

Tom teaches at both Central Michigan University and Mid-Michigan Community College.



(Note: This is the eighth 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).



On December 21, 2009, a complex cooperative land swap involving the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), two land trusts, long-time CWC supporters Don and Karen Stearns, and natural space in three counties was completed.

For the past several years the DNR has been conducting a land consolidation effort designed to divest lands that offer little or no public access (largely by virtue of being landlocked by private parcels) and use proceeds from those sales to purchase private in-holdings (private land parcels surrounded by State land). The program has also permitted the swapping of lands of equal or greater value to eliminate scattered parcels that the DNR cannot effectively manage in exchange for parcels that adjoin existing public land. A detailed review of all the DNR holdings identified parcels across the State that could be disposed of, with priority going to interested local government entities or nonprofit conservation groups in the case of lands with important natural features, or being identified for public auction. Don and Karen Stearns, who are also strong supporters of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail, became aware of a 13-acre parcel of DNR land near Riverdale, in Gratiot County, that straddled the Pine River and the Heartland, while also abutting a 1-acre parcel already owned by the CWC that was protecting 410 feet of the Pine river just to the north.

In an effort that took more than two years to complete, the Stearns purchased a 30-acre orchid bog in the Upper Peninsula's Chippewa County that abuts State-owned land. The Little Traverse Conservancy temporarily held the parcel while the Stearns worked with the DNR, on behalf of the CWC, to exchange it for the 13-acre parcel near Riverdale, and a 3-acre parcel consisting of a 100-foot wide buffer along the Pine River east of Blanchard in Isabella County.

Now that the swap has been completed, the parcel near Riverdale will be combined with our other parcel there to become the 14-acre Clayton and MaryLee Stearns Preserve. This parcel is now easily accessible from the Heartland Trail parking lot at the north edge of the Village of Riverdale and will be enjoyed by rail trail users and other public visitors.

The 3-acre parcel in Isabella County will be retained as natural space and a riparian buffer for the public benefit.

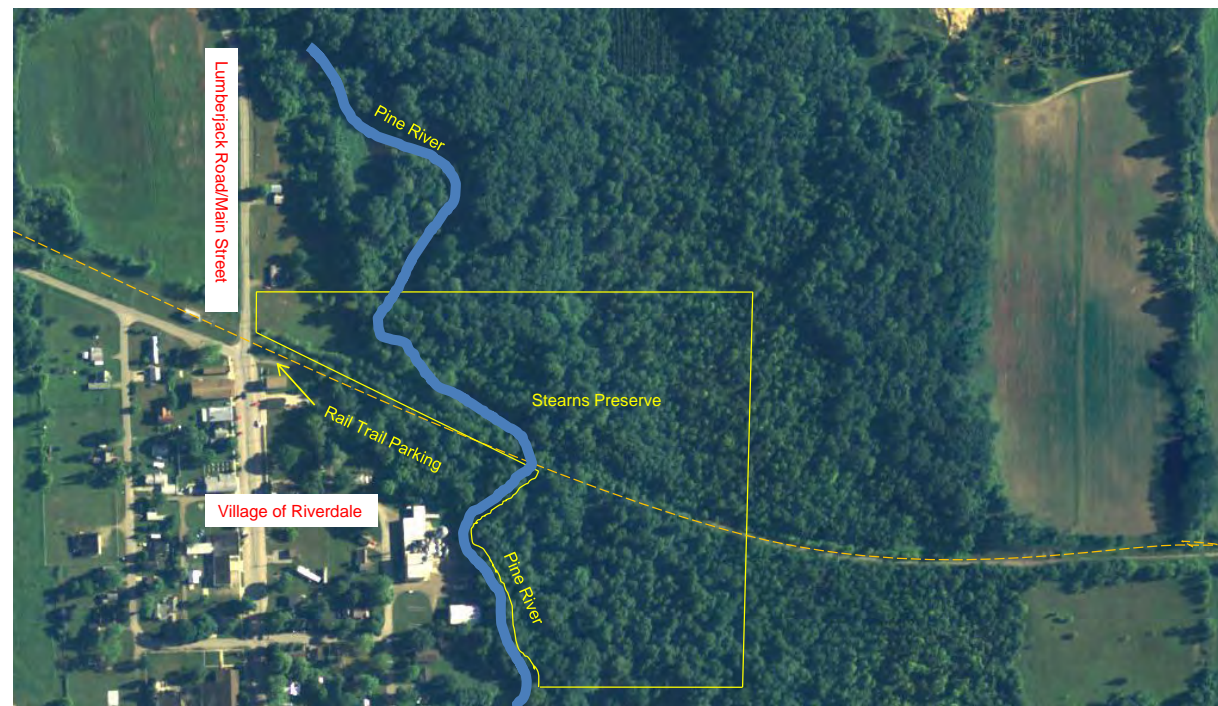
We are deeply indebted to the Stearns for their generosity and their perseverance in making this land acquisition project a reality. We also thank our friends and colleagues at the Little Traverse Conservancy for the assistance they provided. This project resulted in a win-win for the people of Michigan because the DNR gets a gorgeous tract in the U.P. that adjoins other public land while the 16-acres of land in the Lower Peninsula remain protected as well.



Stearns Preserve as seen from the Heartland Trail



Stearns Preserve



Stearns Preserve 14 acres

Fred Meijer Heartland Trail

This map is not a survey and must not be construed as one

2005 USDA Imagery