

Heron Tracks

CWC

CHIPPewa
WATERSHED
CONSERVANCY



The Official Newsletter of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy

Volume 18, No.1

Good Stewardship

When the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy makes the decision to acquire a parcel of land as a preserve we not only become landowners, but with ownership comes the obligation to be good stewards of the land. Stewardship includes planning to determine appropriate uses of the land, restricting certain activities, removal of exotic species, restoration of native plants, bank stabilization and other erosion control measures, and whether or not to develop the property such as creating parking or trails. But the most basic stewardship step of all is simply monitoring to determine what is and is not occurring on the property.



John Mitchell monitors the riparian corridor of the South Branch, Pine River at the Riverbank Preserve south of Mt. Pleasant



Keith Frame checks out a new survey stake at the McNeel Preserve west of Mt. Pleasant

In accordance with Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices, we monitor our properties periodically for potential management problems such as trespass, misuse or overuse, vandalism or safety hazards. Monitoring is a good stewardship practice that helps to identify and react to changes over time. Our monitoring activities are documented in writing and may result in decisions to change land uses or future activities in response to changing conditions. Because change can happen at any time, there is no one time that is right for monitoring. So you may encounter CWC staff or volunteers making a monitoring visit to a CWC preserve any time of the year. We always encourage visitors to our properties to also act

as our "eyes and ears." Anyone visiting a CWC property is encouraged to report suspicious activity, safety issues or concerns to the office at any time (989-644-5045 or info@ChippewaWatershedConservancy.org).

In this Issue

Winter 2011

Spring Banquet
Planning



BACF Grant



Executive Director's
Corner



President's Statement



Fall Donor List



WIN Grant



Volunteer Opportunities



Accreditation. Over the course of the coming year you will be hearing and reading much about accreditation. The CWC adopted the Standards of Conduct of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) many years before there was a Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The commission, established in 2006 as an independent program of the LTA, conducts an extensive review of a land trust's, or conservancy's policies, programs and capacity to fulfill its promises before making a determination to award accreditation and the right to display the trademarked seal of the commission. The commission awarded the first accreditations in 2008 and there are now a little more than 100 accredited land trusts among the more than 1,700 such organizations across the country. The CWC has registered for the second round of the 2011 accreditation process and will be working throughout the year to demonstrate that we have achieved the necessary levels of excellence, trust and permanence to become accredited.

Conservation Defense. LTA Standards & Practices require that we have sufficient funds (or a plan for acquiring funds) to cover the costs of monitoring, legal defense and enforcement of the terms of our easements. We ask easement donors to consider a contribution to our endowment fund to ensure our capability to defend or enforce our easements. Some donors can afford to contribute and some can't. In cases where they can't, we need to acquire sufficient funds to cover potential costs. We have a Conservation Defense Fund dedicated to this purpose. If you would prefer to designate your contribution for conservation defense, you may do so.

Trail Map Project. We have been very fortunate to receive grants from the Bay Area Community Foundation and the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network to support an ambitious project to develop a water trail map and related signage for the Chippewa River. Details of the grants are reported in articles that follow in this newsletter. I want to express our sincere appreciation to these two organizations based in the Bay City area for their willingness to lend their support to a project out on the far western edge of the greater Saginaw Bay watershed. It has been our belief that what is good for the upstream sections of the watershed is also good for the downstream. We are very happy to partner with these organizations and their funders on a project that will bring greater understanding of and appreciation for the Chippewa River watershed.

Halls Lake. As most of you know, we have two landowners holding 140 acres of land at Halls Lake adjacent to our Neely Preserve with the intent to sell the properties to the CWC for preservation. It appears that we may need to act on these opportunities soon or lose our chance. We will need to raise approximately \$400,000.00. We want to go back to a potential foundation funder to ask for matching support, but we need to have some pledges in place before we do. Here are three things you can do to help: 1) volunteer to serve on a Halls Lake acquisition fundraising committee. We need to identify and contact potential major donors for this effort; 2) if you can't serve on a committee, but can offer suggestions about possible supporters or fundraising events/activities pass your suggestions on to us; 3) make a pledge of your own to the Halls Lake acquisition. Contact the office at 989-644-5045 or by email at info@chippewawatershedconservancy.org to help in any of these three areas. We can't afford to lose an opportunity to preserve the rural and scenic character of the area and we want to build on the nature trails and stewardship activities we have begun at Halls Lake.

Thank you to all who made 2010 another successful year. I am honored to serve the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy



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CWC Land Protection Successes

26 Easements- 3,148 acres
 14 Preserves - 308 acres
 Total - 3,456 acres

County	Acres
Clare	1,966
Gratiot	147
Isabella	441
Mecosta	391
Montcalm	511



President's Message

A New Year's Resolution

3

O.K. so the daily exercise thing kind of got forgotten in that real busy first week of January and the diet might get started soon. That means you need ONE resolution you can actually keep. Here it is.

Take a walk. It's that simple, and what could be better? You take care of that exercise thing and you can even take a healthy snack. It's an all-in-one kind of deal.

So, promise yourself. Heck, write it on the calendar. Take a walk at Sylvan Solace, or the Neely Preserve at Hall's Lake, or at Williams-Blackburn Preserve, or how about that Peterson Natural Area near Big Rapids you've never visited. Directions to all of them are on our website at www.chippewawatershedconservancy.org

Every time I walk one of our preserves I fall in love all over again. You will too. Whether it is the peace of the flowing river, the wildflowers, birds, or just the wind playing in the grass; there is something for everyone. You deserve it. You've supported this organization. You helped make it happen. Now get out there and fill yourself up with the beauty of it all.

You'll be glad you did.

John Mitchell



A late Fall view of the Chippewa River from the McNeel Preserve



The Bay Area Community Foundation has awarded a \$12,000 grant from the Watershed Restoration Fund to the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy to help raise public awareness about the Chippewa River Watershed and promote recreational, cultural and historic features from the river's headwaters in Mecosta County, through Isabella County and into Midland County, where it joins the Tittabawassee River.

Stan Lilley, Executive Director of the CWC, said, "We are delighted to receive this grant award and are looking forward to working with our partners to move this project forward."

"The project will create signs to publicize the boundaries of the Chippewa River watershed. Using input to be gathered from the public and from private and public sector colleagues, we will also create a print-ready water trail map depicting important recreational, cultural and historic locations along the Chippewa River. There will be some mile posts installed along the river for reference and to aid in emergency location. The map will include paragraphs promoting wise use of the river, covering topics such as not carrying glass and Styrofoam on the water, carrying out cans and other trash created when visiting the river, etiquette regarding quiet passage by neighborhoods, not trespassing on private property, etc. We'll be looking for separate funding to get the trail map printed for free public distribution."



CWC director Stan Lilley receives \$12,000 grant from Kristin Bovid of the Bay Area Community Foundation

Kristin Bovid, of the Bay Area Community Foundation, said, "We were very impressed with the high level of collaborative involvement. This is a project that appeals on many levels."

Lilley said, "This is the first phase in a long range goal to promote the river as an important recreation, tourism and business resource, and to encourage conservation and clean water. We have been meeting periodically with a number of government, Tribal, and nongovernmental organizations for more than a year to discuss topics of mutual interest regarding watershed issues. We hope there will be many more funding opportunities to benefit projects in the watershed and we are grateful to the Bay Area Community Foundation Watershed Restoration Fund for supporting this effort."



The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) has awarded a \$22,550 grant to the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy to support a project to promote recreation, environmental awareness and wise use of the Chippewa River.

This project will create signage depicting important recreational, business, cultural and historic points along a water trail on the Chippewa River. In addition, it will fund the printing of 2,500 copies of a water resistant tri-fold type map to be distributed to the public. Finally, it will also create a Web-based, inter-active version of the water trail map.

CWC Executive Director, Stan Lilley, said, "It is our intention to take the project that was begun with a BACF grant to the next step in its evolutionary process with this WIN grant. At the end of this WIN project we will have created and installed signage to correspond with the points on the camera-ready map produced from our \$12,000 BACF grant and we will have 2,500 hard copies of that map that can be distributed to the public free of charge to promote the river, generate initial awareness about the existence of a canoe and kayak trail on the river, and point future users to the inter-active Web-based version of the map. The Web-based version created through this grant will contain many more points of interest and much greater detail than we can produce on a hard copy map and will allow users the capability to download and print portions that they choose."

These grants are an outcome of dialog among an informal multi-agency (local government, Tribal and non-governmental organizations) Chippewa River Watershed Planning Group that has been meeting quarterly in Isabella County for the past year to discuss issues of mutual interest within the watershed. A Recreation Committee formed from this larger group that includes representatives from the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy, the Isabella County Community Development Office, and the Isabella County Parks and Recreation Department began in November 2010 to look for grant opportunities to support some of the goals of the larger group.

Lilley said, "We will be inviting local businesses, government entities and the public to provide suggestions for feature points to be included as we work to develop the hard copy and web-based versions of the map over the course of the next several months."

Mike Kelly, of The Conservation Fund, who also serves as the WIN grants administrator, said, "We are glad to see this project begin in the Chippewa River Watershed. WIN has supported similar programs on the Shiawassee and Cass rivers, and there has been a high degree of public support."

Lilley said, "These two grants, coupled with more than \$12,000 in cash and in-kind pledges from organizations within the Chippewa River Watershed Planning Group, provide a substantial means to get out the word about the river as an important tourism, recreation, environmental and quality of life resource impacting a large part of our local communities. We want to publicize the river for the gem that it is and at the same time encourage people to use it and protect it as a critical natural resource."

WIN is a volunteer organization that includes more than 90 citizens and organizations and focuses on opportunities to better link the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of Saginaw Bay communities in order to sustain and improve the region's quality of life.

Ten area foundations and corporations work together as a network to support WIN projects. This Funders Network includes: Bay Area Community Foundation, Consumers Energy Foundation, Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation, Midland Area Community Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, Saginaw Community Foundation, The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, the S.C. Johnson Fund, and the Cook Family Foundation. More information about WIN is available on its website at www.saginawbaywin.org.



On Thursday, April 28, 2011, the CWC will hold our 16th Annual Spring Banquet and Fundraiser. Those who have attended the event in past years can attest that it is a great opportunity to get together in a spirit of celebration and giving to support the activities of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy.

If you have not previously participated, plan to experience a fun, fast-paced slate of activities that include a 50/50 raffle, large silent auction, an interesting guest speaker, and a delicious meal at the beautiful Buck's Run Golf Course, east of Mount Pleasant.

The action kicks off at 5:30 pm with a social hour where you can greet old friends and new supporters, cruise the silent auction tables to bid on the items that appeal most to you, and prepare to feast on a delicious dinner featuring Autumnberry Chicken and Norwegian Salmon, with all the trimmings (alternative vegetarian or gluten free options will be available).



CWC Vice President Tim Odykirk and 2010 banquet speaker Daelyn Woolnough visit during the social hour

This year's guest speaker, Dr. John W. Rowe, Biology Professor at Alma College, will talk about his research with several species of Michigan turtles, most of which are present in the Chippewa River Watershed.

There will be a brief update on the upcoming activities of the CWC, presentation of the Bob Ball Award to an individual who has made significant contributions to the success of the CWC, and a drawing for the winner of the 50/50 raffle, with a minimum prize award of \$1,000.00.



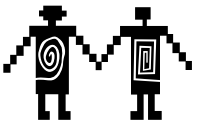
Dick and Diana Moreau peruse the silent auction opportunities

This year will see our first price increase since 2003, with tickets costing \$35 per person in advance, or \$40 per person at the door. Or, for a few dollars extra and a guarantee that you'll be seated with dinner mates of your choice, you can reserve an entire table (8 dinners), and we'll acknowledge your extra generosity. This is a great way for a business to receive special recognition.

So, be sure to mark April 28th on your calendar and prepare to have a good time all in the interest of preserving important open space and wildlife habitat for the benefit of all.

Silent Auction Items Sought

We are looking for new and gently used items for our silent auction to be held at the annual spring banquet on April 28, 2011. 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.**



Contributors, September - December 2010

Thank you for your support.

Benefactor

Michael & Rhea Dow
John & Tom Mitchell
Dianne & Michael Morey
E. Diane Tope

Sustainer

Paul Murray
Dennis & Sandra Olson

Guardian

Brigitte Bechtold & Don Socha	Gary Collins	Bud Fisher	Donald & Nancy Nagler
John & Donna Buckley	Bob & Elaine Connell	Keith & Mary Frame	Brenda Upton
Eunice Burgess	Dian Current	Francis & Mary Molson	
Stephen & Patricia Chase	Brian & Laura Doughty	Michael & Tamara Moutsatson	

Defender

Anonymous (2)	Fieldstone Foundation	Bob & Pattie Kjolhede	George & Dawn Polanco
Michael & Sandra Albright	Stephen & Teresa Frey	Robert & Cordelia Kohrman	David Shepherd
Al & Cindy Bryan	Roger & C. Joanne Grabinski	Peter & Marie Koper	Don & Karen Stearns
Roy & Alice Burlington	John & Carol Grossa	Sue Ann Koprmeier	Muriel Straight
John & Karen Caldwell	Dianne Haas	John & Petra Krull	Summit Petroleum
Mike & Sue Carey	James & Mary Hageman	Stan & Pat Lilley	Doug & Barbara Valek
Charlie Walmsley	Ralph Hahnenberg	Dan & Sharon Milan	Alan & Sheila Weber
& Melinda Prout	Virginia Haight & Gary Kramer	Tom & Gisela Moffit	Shawn & Lisa Zimmer
Annette Clark	Robert & Catherine Janson	Alinde Moore	
Brian & Laura Doughty	Dan & Marla Kennedy	Mt. Pleasant Water Dept.	

Supporter

Jim & Marilyn Bidwell	Hans & Dorothy Fetting	Bob & Marge Mills	Paul & Gloria Siers
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Arlin & Helen Briley	Paul & Cheryl Geisthardt	Jack & Cora Neyer	Winifred Sponseller
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& Sharon Bradley-Johnson	Michael & Linda Kruscke	Ross & Shelly Rapaport	Robert Weisenberger
Jim & Sheila Carroll	Ed & Erna Marquardt	George & Frances Rouman	Tom & Marje Williams
Jim & Liz Dealing	Fred McCorkle	Ara & Barbara Sheperdigian	Lucille Wysong
			Marilyn Zorn

Regular

Anonymous	Peter & Nancy Fries	Jill LaChance	Stanley & Marilyn Smith
Norma Bailey	Heather & Todd Graham	Dolores Lawrence	Don & Gloria Sowle
John & Sharon Bloodgood	Ted & Barb Griggs	Richard & Diana Moreau	Betty Stephenson
Mary Ann Brown	Delos Hamlin Trust	Joseph Myslivec	Maynard & Gladys Strong
Ruth Chapman	Ronald Hodgson	Nancy Priestap	Roberta Svegel
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Tom & Sarah Delia	Joan Kadler	Alan & Arlene Quick	Jim & Carol Wojcik
Herb & Marilyn Deromedi	Adonna Kennedy	William Roth	Bob & Tammy Smalley
Betty Dickey	Steve Kennedy	Mary Scheuer Senter	Shawn Theisen
Louis & Sue Ecker	George & Sandra Kline	Dorothy Severson	Dan & Millie Wujek
Ed & Nedra Fisher	Harlan & Dolores Knauf	Ronald & Paula Smith	

Donations received in memory of William Farley

Michael & Sandra Albright	John & Ann Jensen	Sue & Gary Knight	Nancy Priestap
Anonymous	Paula & Don Johnson	Ed & Erna Marquardt	& Kirk Sponseller
John & Sharon Bloodgood	Adonna Kennedy	Clara Lee Moodie	William & Eileen Rush
Bob & Elaine Connell	Barbara Kirchner	Dixie Neier	Theodore & Gretchen Tetreault
Connie & Don Holland	Virginia Kjolhede	Richard & Joyce Nisbet	Doug & Barbara Valek

An Anonymous donation was received in memory of **Joan and Bob Clute**.

Thanks to the following supporters of Keith Frame in the Paddle for the Watershed Canoe Challenge:

Mary Frame - Heather Graham - Mike & Laura Harter - Bob & Laurie Peters - Tammy Smalley - Shawn Theisen

Thank You Volunteers

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

Mike Brockman for production of Heron Tracks **Keith Frame** for stewardship at the McNeel and Meridian Road Preserves
Kathy Johns for stewardship at the Neely Preserve **Dave Shepherd** for stewardship at the Ball Preserve
John Mitchell & Jean Staffin for easement monitoring **Tom Stewart** for easement monitoring

Thanks also to the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge and Michelle Vanderhaar for a donation of native plant plugs.



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Volunteer Opportunities

We need help from interested volunteers in the following areas:

- **Education and outreach.** Would you like to lead a field trip or find a field trip leader for an activity on one of our preserves? Want to lead a workshop about river ecology or invasive species control? Have a new idea?
- **Fundraising.** Do you have experience raising funds for deserving nonprofits? Would you like to help raise operating, endowment or acquisition funds for the CWC? Do you have an idea for a new event or do you know an individual, business or foundation that might be willing to support the CWC?

Call the office at (989) 644-5045 to volunteer or discuss details.

Yes! I want to support the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy.



Here is my tax deductible contribution to help sustain operations:

\$25 (Regular) \$50(Supporter) \$100(Defender) \$250(Guardian) \$500(Sustainer) \$1,000(Benefactor) \$_____ Other

Donations of \$250 or more will receive a CWC Mug Don't send the mug I wish to remain anonymous I wish to receive the newsletter electronically

Member Name(s) _____ Phone _____
As you want it to appear in our newsletter

Street, City, State, Zip _____ E-mail _____

Check enclosed or Bill my charge card: Visa MasterCard # _____ Exp. _____

Name on card _____



Protecting Central Michigan's
Valuable Natural Resources

Make Check to: Chippewa Watershed Conservancy
Mail Check to: P.O. Box 896
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0896

CHIPPEWA WATERSHED CONSERVANCY

16TH ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET

Thursday, April 28, 2011

Buck's Run

1559 So. Chippewa Road ~ Mt. Pleasant

Social & Silent Auction ~ 5:30 p.m.

Dinner ~ 6:30 p.m.



SILENT AUCTION & SOCIAL HOUR 5:30 PM

Great Variety of Items

DINNER 6:30 PM

Autumn Berry Chicken and Filet of Norwegian Salmon

Wild Rice, Fresh Vegetables, Salad, French Bread & Dessert

(Check box on reservation form for a vegetarian or gluten free alternative)

\$35 Advanced/\$40 At The Door

or

\$330 Table Sponsor (8)

Includes Recognition & Marketing Benefits

RAFFLE 50/50 TICKETS

\$1,000 Minimum Award

\$10 per Ticket or 3 for \$20

PRESENTATION BY ALMA BIOLOGY PROFESSOR DR. JOHN ROWE TURTLES

Our guest speaker for the evening is John W. Rowe, Biology Professor at Alma College. Having obtained both a Master of Science in Zoology and Doctorate of Philosophy in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Dr. Rowe will share his expertise on the study of the diversity of Blanding's Turtles, Stinkpot Turtles, Spotted Turtles, and Painted Turtles. Primarily he will discuss his work done on Painted Turtles, including nesting ecology, thermoregulation and substrate-induced color variation.

A Tradition of Land Preservation

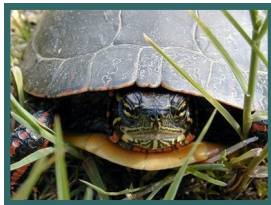
2011 SPRING BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Reservation Name _____ Number in Party _____



Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Vegetarian Dish or Gluten Free



CHECK OUT Banquet Ticket (s) \$35 per person _____

(\$40 at the door)

Table sponsor (8 dinners plus acknowledgement) @ \$ 330 _____

Raffle Tickets 50/50 1 ticket @ \$ 10 _____

3 tickets @ \$ 20 _____

I am including an additional tax deductible contribution of \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed

\$

Send Form to

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 # R09804. Advance reservations preferred. Call 989.644.5045 if you plan to attend but cannot pay in advance.