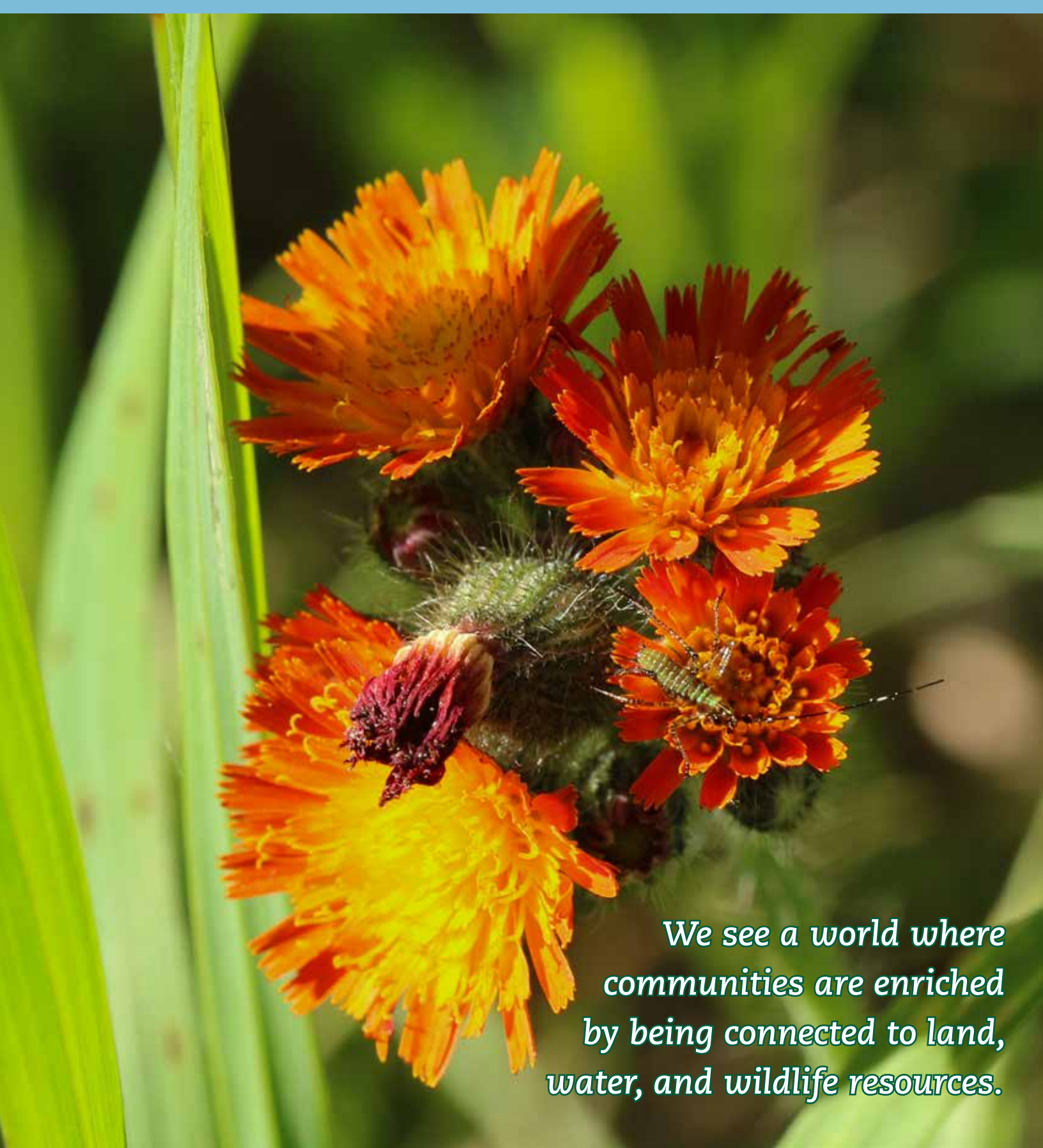


HERON TRACKS

The Official Newsletter of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy
Volume 27 Number 2 Summer 2020



*We see a world where
communities are enriched
by being connected to land,
water, and wildlife resources.*

Executive Director's Corner



Our Supporters

Long before I was hired as executive director of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy, my wife and I were supporters of the organization. We gave our time and money to the CWC because we cared deeply about local wildlife conservation and access to nature.

Since taking over as executive director, I have

“[T]he reasons why people give to the CWC are as diverse as the people themselves.”

spent a lot of time thinking about how to convince others to support the CWC. I could use this space to tell you about the thousands of acres of habitat that we protect, about the diverse species of native flora and fauna that live on our preserves, or maybe about the miles of recreational trails that are free and open to the public. All of these are great reasons to give your support.

But the reasons why people give to the CWC are as diverse as the people themselves. So instead of



telling you why we think you should support the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy we asked some of our supporters to explain their reasons for donating their money, time, and expertise. Here are their stories.

Thank you to everyone that contributed!

Mike LeVilly

A Word From Our President

“Our Preserves provide a variety of settings for outdoor recreation and a general sense of wellbeing. I appreciate the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy’s mission of conserving habitat and natural spaces for us to quietly enjoy and explore along with ensuring those same experiences are available for future generations.”

- Steve Pung, CWC Board President



Thoughts from a Member

Ginger Judge on Connecting to Nature

"Oddly enough I believe my connection with nature started when I walked to and from school. It wasn't far, north Kinney to Sacred Heart. This offered me a time to sense the seasons, walk in the rain, kick leaves along the way, and definitely breathe the fresh air.

To this day it is a must to get outside. Most mornings when I get up, I start the coffee, then step outside for a few breathes of outdoor goodness. Shadows on the snow, endless stars in the sky, the quiet peace of dawn are the best.

The mission statement of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy contains the determination to preserve and protect land and water for all. The preserves are available for the public. These are gifts in our area that offer an opportunity to embrace, learn, and absorb nature.

Find a preserve AND get out there!!!!"



VOLUNTEER VIDEOGRAPHER

If you have seen a high quality, professionally edited video featuring a CWC program or preserve there is a good chance it was created by freelance videographer Tyler Knowles.

"When I moved from Los Angeles to Lansing three years ago, I was thrilled to discover the CWC. The educational opportunities, the beautiful preserves, and most importantly - the wonderful people - have given me an enjoyable escape from city life and an outlet for continuing my video production and creative endeavors. Each time I visit a CWC preserve or attend a CWC event, I learn something new, and I love that."

Knowles has produced excellent videos of programs led by CWC staff and volunteers. Although he recently left the area to pursue career opportunities, he leaves behind a permanent resource in the high quality videos he created.



CWC Supporter Captures Nature

"I support the CWC because it is important to protect natural areas for all to enjoy. I am encouraged by the increase in CWC sponsored walks and programs that involve families and children, as this is the future of land preservation. As a nature lover who spends a lot of time exploring the preserves, I appreciate the efforts and success of CWC in preserving natural areas for future generations. I encourage others to join in with their support." -Karen Green

Along with supporting the CWC by becoming a member each year and regularly attending events, Karen frequently and passionately photographs the preserves and the life that thrives there. Her photos are often featured in our print materials, on our website and across our various social media platforms. Karen's photography highlights the beauty of the natural environment in Central Michigan. It also does the important job of cataloguing the biodiversity, seasonal changes, and natural history of local habitats managed by CWC. We are thrilled to share a selection of Karen's photos submitted so far this year, seen below and on the cover.



LONG TIME SUPPORTERS RECOUNT CWC SUCCESS THROUGH THE YEARS

"We are among the longest and strongest supporters of CWC because they have relentlessly pursued their mission well into their 3rd decade. We have heard a lot of promises over the years, CWC is one of the few organizations that surpasses their promises year after year.

Twenty five years ago CWC promised to try to keep the east side of our beloved Hall's Lake in its natural state. Twelve years ago a small gift gave them enough to start. Ten years ago they finished the purchase and now continue to maintain/improve signs, trails and educational programs. Six years ago they promised to try to preserve

Bundy Hill 3 miles north of us, it is now a state of the art hiking area, while preserving its marvelous history and natural resources. Both preserves are free to everyone, open every day of the year, with special events year-round.

Both of us grew up in families with businesses that lasted over 100 years. The first component of these thriving businesses was to give folks a great product like CWC has done with Hall's Lake, Bundy Hill and many more areas. The second component of our family businesses was investing money wisely. From this perspective CWC has probably been even more successful. Every dollar we have given them has

been matched many times by local donations, then was matched again and again by various foundations.

Getting over 100 times value in our community for our financial investment, for something that will be there for our great-great grandkids 100 years from now, is the best investment we have ever made."

-Larry and Judy Schaftenaar



HIKING CWC PRESERVES: A FAMILY AFFAIR

"WE SUPPORT THE CWC BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN ITS MISSION TO CONSERVE MICHIGAN'S NATURAL HERITAGE. OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE ENJOYED ACCESS TO MANY LOCAL PRESERVES, HIKING TRAILS, AND EDUCATIONAL TOURS. WE ADMIRE THE ORGANIZATION'S SUSTAINABLE PROTECTION OF OUR LAND, WATER, AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, WHICH WILL PROVIDE LASTING IMPACT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME."



KRISTIN LANDAU, CHRISTOPHER HERNANDEZ AND BABY LEO HERNANDEZ PICTURED AT BUNDY HILL PRESERVE

In their own words...



David Stoner on volunteering:

"I enjoy hiking the trails at the various preserves. Doing my part to create and maintain them is deeply satisfying. Good physical labor outdoors instead of a gym; I'm in."



Board Member Keith Frame on the mission of the CWC:

"I think the best thing about what we are doing is [the] new mantra.....connecting people to nature. I wasn't so concerned about this in the past, but now I see it as imperative to continue to protect what we have protected."



Ben Zeitler, CMU Class of '22, on volunteering:

"The work of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy is critical because in order to keep our local nature preserves healthy and beautiful, there has to be a lot of initiative behind the scenes that goes toward maintaining species richness and diversity. Thank you again for the opportunity to do my part!!"



Sister Marie Kopin:

"I love the CWC here in Isabella County... We really need agencies like our CWC for the very important job of preserving our native species as well as offering educational and recreational opportunities for us, and especially our children. It has been great to see the wonderful expansion of sites and easements."

Donations In Memory Of

Steve Holder by

Peter & Marie Koper

Jean & Michael Claus

Richard Dietrich by

John & Jean Mitchell

Roger Grabinski by

C. Joanne Grabinski

& Family

Alison Barberi

Florence Schermerhorn

L & W Nierman

Ed & Ruth Helwig

Marilyn Duke &

Family

Robert & Linda Sellers

David Whale

Linda Morey

Peggy Brisbane &

Robert Barclay

Dr. Michael Gilbert

Craig Douglas

John & Jean Mitchell

Donations In Honor Of

Ann & Hudson Keenan by

an anonymous donor



Our 2020 Foundation Grant Support

The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation

Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation

Saginaw Bay WIN

United Way of Gratiot and

We are sad to announce that unfortunately due to circumstances outside of our control *CWC has made the hard decision to cancel our annual banquet for 2020.* We are extremely grateful to all those on our planning committee who worked so hard to organize the event, those who made donations and sponsorships, and those who had already registered. We look forward to hosting the event in the spring of 2021 and hope to see you there!

Thank you to our 2020 Business Sponsors



"Dedicated to serving your title and escrow needs"



Kraphol Ford Lincoln Co.

H&S Companies

Malley Construction

Mount Pleasant Agency

Coyne Oil Corporation

Thank you to each and every one of our volunteers and supporters!

Board of Directors

Steve Pung, *President*

Marnie Basney, *Vice President*

Marilyn Fosburg, *Secretary*

John Mitchell, *Treasurer*

Keith Frame

Jaime Griffis

Dyke Heinze

Sue Ann Kopmeyer

Stan Lilley

Tim Odykirk

Carey Pauquette

Staff

Mike LeValley

Executive Director

Alexis Hansen

Development and

Outreach Coordinator



Stay connected with CWC
www.cwc-mi.org





Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Mt. Pleasant, MI
48859
Permit No. ++++++

PO Box 896
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0896
(989) 772-5777
www.cwc-mi.org



Printed on Recycled Paper

YES!

I want to be a member of
the Chippewa Watershed
Conservancy.

Protecting Central Michigan's
Valuable Natural Resources

Here is my contribution to help sustain operations:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Tributary | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Bay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Stream | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Watershed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 River | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Great Lakes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to remain anonymous | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive a paper newsletter | |

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Bill My Card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Number _____ Exp. _____ CVV# _____

Name on Card _____

Make Check To: Chippewa Watershed Conservancy

Mail Check To: PO Box 896

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0896

SUM-20

