

HERON TRACKS

The Official Newsletter of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy
Volume 27 Number 1 Winter 2020



Executive Director's Corner

Twenty twenty. Like many Americans, when I hear those words my thoughts automatically turn to the word *vision* – thanks to an eye chart that was developed in 1862 by Dutch ophthalmologist Herman Snellen. With that word association in mind and with the calendar recently turning to the year 2020, I want to talk about a different type of vision, the vision of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy.

First, how does one define vision? It's a word that has multiple meanings. In the simplest sense it means "the act or power of seeing". A second definition of vision is that of "something seen in a dream, trance, or ecstasy". A third interpretation of the word, and the one most appropriate in this context, is that vision is "an idea or a picture in your imagination".

So what does the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy picture in our collective imagination? In our vision: "We see a world where communities are enriched by being connected to land, water, and wildlife resources". This is powerful statement of purpose that deserves further explanation. From that sentence there are three words in particular that stand out: *communities*, *enriched*, and *connected*.

Communities. Community is so important to what we do as an organization. Our actions as an organization impact and are impacted by the communities of Central Michigan and beyond. Ultimately the CWC exists because of and for the benefit of people. We want our communities to have a future where people experience the same benefits from a vibrant natural world that we experience today.



Mike LeValley, Executive Director

Enriched. In his landmark 2006 book *Last Child in the Woods*, author Richard Louv warned that "Now, more than ever, we need nature as a balancing agent." Scientists are only beginning to quantify the effect of nature on stress levels, heart rate, mood, academic performance, and more. These impacts are why we allow public access to our nature preserves and why we host regular hikes, both educational hikes and those of a more social nature.

Connected. I truly believe a child that grows up visiting our preserves (or any natural space) on a regular basis will develop connections to the natural world in ways that a child lacking early exposure to nature will never experience. Those connected children will be the future guardians of our natural legacy. Although I speak of the impact on children, exposure to nature can ignite the same spark in adults.

We have the opportunity and means to give everyone in our communities, young or old, a place to build natural connections and nurture that spark until it becomes a flame. A final thought from Richard Louv, "Though we often see ourselves as separate from nature, humans are also part of that wildness."

Caught On Camera

We know our preserves provide valuable habitat and travel corridors for many wildlife species, but many animals are secretive and rarely seen. So how do we know what wildlife is using our preserves if any? It can be a real challenge.

Fortunately animals leave clues; we just need the resources to spot the clues. Two of our best resources are natural. Mud and snow offer convenient surfaces for animals to leave tracks. Snow also makes it easier to identify travel corridors and spot scat. Every good naturalist has a bunch of scat photos!

Finding tracks in mud and snow is how we know otter use preserves like Hall's Lake and Quigley Creek. It's also how we figured out that water shrews can be found at Sylvan Solace Preserve, and that mice and voles are practically everywhere.

Another resource that we have at our disposal is electronic – trail cameras! Motion-triggered digital cameras allow us to have a presence in the woods twenty-four hours a day for weeks at a time. Unless their batteries run out, they never need sleep so they are able to capture images and video around the clock. They also allow us to see behaviors that can only be guessed at by looking at tracks.

With our trail cameras we've recorded deer, coyote, bobcat, beaver, otter, red and grey fox, mink, weasels, mice, squirrels, muskrats, raccoons, skunk, herons, owls, turkey, and the list goes on. They have opened up a world to us that is really limited only by our camera placement. We hope you enjoy the images that we share here on these pages and online! Even more importantly, we hope that these images inspire you get out on our preserves and do some exploring – let us know if you find any interesting tracks or scat.



Thank You To Our 2019 Supporters

Great Lakes

John & Ann Jensen
John & Jean Mitchell
Gary Fuller
Anne Messinger
Marilyn & Gordon
Fosburg
E. Diane Tope
Donald & Karen
Stearns
Mark & Shelly Smith
Ann Brockman
Dykstra & Phyllis
Heinze
Doug Schuette
Dianne & Michael
Morey
Bruce & JoAnne
Godfrey
Mark & Terrie
Zitzelsberger
John & Carol Grossa
Mike and Rhea Dow
Linda & Bill Browne

Watershed

Kathy & Alan Johns
Keith & Mary Frame
Todd Trucks
Bud & Virginia Fisher
Eunice Burgess
Brian & Toni Pastotnik
Doug & Barbara Valek
Paul & Gloria Siers
Neil & Linda Hopp
Muriel Straight
G. Thomas & Cynthia
Mitchell
Michael J. Libbee &
Kristin M. Sheridan
Jack & Cora Neyer
Scott & Sharon Parks
F. Wesley Greene
Jerome & Deb
Schwind

Bay

Michael & Shara
LeValley
Roger & Louise
Hammer
Richard & Dianna
Moreau
Robert & Connie
Kabbe
John & Petra Krull
Steve & Tammy
Holder
Stan & Pat Lilley
Mark Freed & Brooke
Harrison
Edwin & Ruth Helwig

J. Hudson & Ann
Keenan
Bill & Liisa Low
Roger N. & C. Joanne
Grabinski
Robert & Cordelia
Kohrman
Steve & Carrie
Tluczek
Virginia Vanderkelen
Jean & Michael Claus
Jan Strickler
Jan Strickler
Linda Walterreit
Dan & Sue
Rademacher
Jae & Trina Evans
Michael Brockman &
Marcia Taylor
Francis Molson
James & Mary
Hageman
Myles McNally
Brenda Upton
Manish Bondale
Jane Wilsher
Ray Davies & Susan
Griffith

River

Claudia Roth
David & Dawn
McGrath
Cathy & Alex Murray
Barb & Dan McGuire
Ross Howell
Richard & Joyce
Nisbet
James & Joan Hornak
Neelima Shrikhande
Kevin Love
Ken & Carol Baker
Robert & Maurine
Weisenburger
Charlie Walmsley &
Melinda Prout
Steve & Sue Kennedy
Basil & Theresa
Zimmer
Ruth Chapman
George & Fran
Rouman
Kimber & Judy
DeWitt
Jennifer & Jim Tilton
Roy & Joan Klopocic
Linda Morey
Sister Marie Kopin
Patricia Podoll
Tom & Gisela Moffit
Leonora Forist &

KarenGreen
Mike Bishop
Jaime & Marc Griffis
Virginia Haight &
Gary Kramer
John & Priscilla
Lorand
Marilyn Zorn
Jim & Carol Wojcik
Dan & Millie Wujek
David C. & Mary
Weisenburger
Sally Van Cise
Debra & Timothy
McGilsky
Steven & Susan Pung
Betty & Bruce
Chaffee
Ellen Moss
Patty Esch
Randy & Marita
Schiffman
David Shepherd
David & Caroline
DeGraaf
George & Dawn
Polanco
Sue Bergeson
John & Karen
Caldwell
Amie McNeel
Ronald & Deborah
Marmarelli
Joan Loveland
Pete & Sheri Loubert
Edward & Donna Lick
Albert & Nancy Lewis
Dolores Lawrence
Carol Lauffer
Jill LaChance
Alinde Moore
Tom & Lois Kromer
Sue Knight
Kelley Moss
Dan & Marla Kennedy
Russell Jones
Curtis & Anne Jensen
Jean Murray
Chuck & Pam Bunting
Mary Ann & Tim
O'Neil
Michael & Belinda
Hetzman
Mary C. & Peter
Obuchowski
Greg Bodker
Jim & Mary
Gillingham
Roger & Sarah
Gilbery

Peter Fries
Alan Quick
Jim & Angie Felton
Eric Torgersen & Ann
Kowaleski
Herb & Marilyn
Deromedi
Bill Sowle
Steve & Elizabeth
Schaftenaar
Samuel & Trudy
Staples
Gilbert Starks
Alan & Mary Lou
Schilling
Marian & Walt
Schneider
Mark & Angela
Schofield
Dave & Linda Coyne
John & Sandy
Warriner
Barbara Sheperdigian
Robert & Nancy
Wheeler
Shawn & Lisa Zimmer

Stream

Ann Rise
Ross & Shelley
Rapaport
Harold & Beverly
Crawley
Jonathon Beeton
Ward & Joanne
Dowell
Eric & Ruth Lindstrom
Megan Moreno
Kathy Kolhoff
Sue & John Bradac
Charlie & Jane Kiel
Jane Keon
Dave & Kennedy
Lalita
Kristin Kenausis
John Dinse & Laura
Gonzales
Charles W. Bowden
Jeff Scofield & Nancy
Seefelt
Gerald & Kathleen
Jalozynski
Nancy Priestap & Kirk
Sponseller
Frank & Kay Hufnagel
Charles & Linda
Howard
Carole Howard
Sharon Bolton
Theo Smalley

Bill & Wanda Odykirk
Marcie M. Otteman
Tim & Nancy
Hartshorne
Ralph Hahnenberg
Paul Snyder & Patricia
Block
Angela Hackett
Jim & Sheila Carroll
Benn Williams
Sally Goodrow
Jim & Marilyn Bidwell
Stephen & Teresa
Frey
Dan & Rose Benjamin
Robert Welsh
Greg Benford
Edwin Renkie
Megan Barber
Jim & Carol Erickson
Marnie Basney
Phyllis Wegner
Norman & Marilyn
Dzingle
Daniel Patterson &
Alison Miller
Tom & Sarah Delia
Ronald & Paul Smith
Everett Schafer
Jeff & Arlene
Cleveland
Margie & Dave
Swayze
Peter Andrew Szok
Herman & Tina
Theeke
Larry Thomas
Elizabeth Vogel
Scott Bellinger & Lori
Rogers
Sue Ann Kopmeyer
Kristin Landau & Chris
Hernandez

Donations In Memory Of

JD Marcus and Frank Marcus by Patty Esch
Nancy Fries by John & Jean Mitchell
Robert Snapp by Mitchell & Mout Architects, Inc.
Robert Snapp by Kristin Kenausis
Herb Rice by John & Jean Mitchell
Adonna Kennedy by Dan & Marla Kennedy
Mary Franzel by Alan & Kathy Johns
Barbara Braendle by Kenneth & Marilyn Peters
Thomas H. Williams by Benn Williams
Barbara Braendle by Anonymous
Barbara Braendle by Mary Lorenza & Esther Worden
Mervin W. Nielson by Alan & Kathy Johns
John M. Sproul by John & Ann Jensen
James E. Basney by Marnie Basney

Randall Kursinsky
Royal & Eleanor Baker
John & Barbara
Leonard
Bruce Allen
Matt Herbert & Tracy
Galarowicz
Bob & Marge Mills

Tributary

Jeanne Reese
Carl & Lavonne
Stamm
Joe Hayes
Lorenza, Mary and
Esther Worden
Jodi Fisher
Kathy & Al Tucker
Brenda Kerr
Eileen DeLorenzo
Angela Roney
Judi Grinzing
Mary Anne & John
Zang
Cheryl Weekley
Scott M. Wager
Kurt Titus
Becky Thornhill
Gladys Strong
Donald Stephen
Mary Slominis
Juanita Shaffer
Mary Senter
Nancy E. Robinson
Nancy Rivard
Jean Richardson
Dorothy Prawdzik
Carey Pauquette
Amy Pauquette
Linda Neely
Carol Miller
Jim & Tami Melton
Sally K. Mayes
Judy Layfield

Donations In Honor Of

Troy Thielen by Edwin & Ruth Helwig
Stan Lilley by Bruce & Joanne Godfrey
Paul Siers by Neelima Shrikhande

2019 Foundation Grant Support

The Herbert H. and Grace A.
Dow Foundation
Saginaw Bay WIN
Mt. Pleasant Area Community
Foundation
Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant
Fremont Area Community
Foundation

Kim Klumpp
Lou & Sandy Jensen
Robert & Julia
Holmes
Ronald Hodgson
Joseph Hammerle
Thomas & Joann
Girvin
Phyllis Gilmore
Michael A. Gealt
Priscilla Garver
Jan & Charlotte
Fokens
Paul Feike
Marilyn Erickson
Louise & Sue Ecker
Dave & Rosie
Ebbinghaus
Allen Demarest
Edwin Chafee
Bob Britz
Arlin & Helen Briley
Daria Blond
Jeffrey Bean
Joseph T. Barberi
Norma Bailey
Frances Lichtman
Nancy Elliot
Kenneth & Marilyn
Peters

Partners

My 104.3/WMMI Radio
Broadway Barber Shop
Buckley's Mountainside
Canoes
Chippewa River Outfitters
Max & Emily's
Kohl's
Motorless Motion
The Pit Stop Quick Lube

Thank you to our
2019 Business
Sponsors



Bandit Industries
Coyne Oil
Corporation
H&S Companies
Morbark
Rowe Professional
Services
Mt Pleasant Agency

Thank You to Our 2019 Volunteers!

Preserve and Easement Monitors

Larry & Judy Schafternaar
 Charlie Walmsley
 Melinda Prout
 Kelley Moss
 Cathy Murray
 Dave Degraaf
 Dyke Heinze
 Stan Lilley
 Roger & Louise Hammer
 Kay Purtill
 Eric Torgerson
 John Mitchell
 Julie Arnold
 Keith Tollenaere

Education Program Leaders

Sister Marie Kopin
 Stan Lilley
 Michelle Fournier
 Jeanne Henderson
 Dr. Fred Heck
 Cathy Murray
 Katelynn Maylee

Videography

Tyler Knowles

Graphic Design

Pat Block

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
 Megan Moreno
 Carey Pauquette

Preserve Stewardship and Invasive Species Control

Cathy Murray
 Paul Low
 Charlie Walmsley
 Eric Torgerson
 Kay Purtill
 Stan Lilley
 David Stoner
 Brenda Kerr
 Kelley Moss
 Lisa Bierk
 Hunter Torolski
 Ben Zeitler
 Blake Holdwick
 Brennan Bevins
 Brooke Baker
 Sam Snyder
 Molly Meehan
 Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck
 Melissa Hovey
 Katelynn Maylee
 Ann Rise
 and many more!



25th ANNUAL Fundraising Banquet

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020



Time: 5:30 pm
Venue: Buck's Run Golf Club
 1559 S. Chippewa Rd.
 Mount Pleasant, MI
Menu: Ultimate Dinner Buffet,
 including hors d'oeuvres,
 dessert selection and cash bar.
Ticket Price:
 Before event \$60/person
 At the door: \$65/person

Follow us on Facebook for banquet updates

Keynote Speaker:
 Meteorologist Ahmad Bajjey, award winning Evening Meteorologist for NBC 25 and FOX 66, and CMU Alumnus



50/50 Raffle and 1/8 of Grass Fed Wernette Beef Raffle

Tickets can be purchased at cwc-mi.org/banquet

A Word on Volunteers

I was once told that the job of a non-profit isn't its mission, rather the job of a non-profit is to create supporters. Over the last year and a half I have learned this to be all too true. What that means is that while staff are busy building relationships, putting on events and programs, interacting with the digital world on social media, and meeting with foundations and members of the community in order to create support, volunteers are carrying out the mission. Our volunteers are irreplaceable, and no words can summarize their conservation success in this region. While Chippewa Watershed Conservancy may act as the conduit through which our volunteers carry out their work, we cannot claim credit for their accomplishments. In 2019 we worked with over 55 different volunteers lending CWC their skills in at least 6 different specialized areas. The State of Michigan values volunteers at \$24.30 per hour, with our volunteers contributing roughly 650 hours of work in 2019 that creates a monetary value of \$15,795 for the year. That is nearly another salaried employee, and would impossible for CWC to sustain as an organization. Again, we cannot say enough how valuable our volunteers are. I hesitate to even publish that dollar amount, because their value is about so much more than dollars. Our volunteers are a vital community of passionate stewards of the local environment. Our volunteers care, and they care enough to take action. They are the true, passionate, talented, and dedicated stewards of the thousands of acres preserved by CWC. Our preserves belong to them as much as they belong to us.

Thank you to each and every one of you!

-Alexis Hansen, *Development and Outreach Coordinator*

Please follow us on social media, or visit our website to find out how to get involved in 2020!

2020 SPRING BANQUET RESERVATION FORM



Reservation Name _____

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

Banquet Reservation \$ _____
 \$60/person
 (\$65 at door)
 50/50 Raffle Tickets \$ _____
 1 Ticket @ \$10
 3 Tickets @ \$20
 1/8 Beef Raffle \$ _____
 1 ticket @ \$10
 3 tickets @ \$20
 Banquet Sponsor \$ _____
 (\$2,000, \$1,000, \$500, \$250)

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



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 support the
Chippewa Watershed
Conservancy.

Protecting Central Michigan's
Valuable Natural Resources

Here is my contribution to help sustain operations:

- \$25 Tributary
- \$50 Stream
- \$100 River
- I wish to remain anonymous
- I wish to receive the newsletter electronically
- \$250 Bay
- \$500 Watershed
- \$1,000 Great Lakes

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

Win-20



A Gift to Nature . . .

Gives back for generations

