

# HERON TRACKS



The Official Newsletter of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy  
Volume 29 Number 1 Winter 2022



**Mill Pond Natural Area  
Walter & Frances  
Bolle Preserve**

# Executive Director's Corner

We never know what effect our actions will have on those around us now and on those who will come along in the future. It's entirely appropriate that the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy logo consists of a leaf dimpling the water's surface, creating an expanding ripple. The decisions we make (or fail to make), the work that we do (or do not), it all creates ripples, influencing the present and the future alike. Who knows what impact those ripples will have? Our mission as an organization is not just to protect and restore Central Michigan's land, water, and wildlife resources; we do this work because it improves the quality of life for everyone in our community.



That's why I'm excited to share this issue of Heron Tracks with you. In the following pages, we thank everyone who contributed to the work of the CWC this past year – giving their time and money to support our mission. We also catch up with two former CWC interns who are out there in the world creating their own ripples.

In this issue, we also celebrate the acquisition of our newest preserve, Mill Pond Natural Area – Walter & Frances Bolle Preserve! Over the next several years, we'll be working hard to improve and restore habitat on the property, work that will include the removal of thousands of invasive plants and the reintroduction of hundreds of native trees and wildflowers. The location of this preserve within the city of Mt Pleasant allows us to spread the CWC's mission to an entirely new audience.

Throughout the year, we will be asking for your help on projects at Mill Pond Natural Area and at our other preserves. I hope you will answer our call. Together we can send more and larger ripples throughout our community.

*Mike LeMay*

## CWC Chair Notes

One of our members retired from the CWC board after many years of dedicated service. In his parting remarks he remembered attending the first meeting of the CWC in 1985, which was held in John Mitchell's back yard eating hot dogs and drinking beer around a campfire. At his final meeting the entire board met electronically via ZOOM. He was travelling to New Jersey and realized he was stuck in traffic and late for the 6:00 meeting so he got in the back seat of his car and joined the board meeting using his cell phone. What a change from that first meeting.

CWC has changed too. Our goals are still the same but we are living in a different world. We used to go out into the community and talk to people. We spread the word of our goals and aims by attending service club meetings, meeting with large and small groups, and socializing with peers and like minded people. Even before the lock downs we had changed from a large monthly meeting to having much of the work of the organization done in strong committees. Their recommendations and work were reported to the CWC Board of Directors where action was taken. The committees were envisioned as places to work for the CWC and as a grooming platform for new CWC Board members.

The three committees are governance, lands, and relationships. The main function of governance is just what it says. They work on the by-laws, rules of the CWC and guide our functioning. The Lands committee works with the preserves and easements. The relationship committee works with fund raising and the educational events we host all year. Each committee meets once a month for an hour or two, now on zoom, maybe someday in person. We need new people and new ideas to add to the capable people we now have. HELP! It is a very rewarding process to know that you have a hand in saving land and in providing outdoor recreational opportunities for our area. Will you join us by serving on one of the committees? Call Mike at 989-772-5777 to volunteer.



Thanks,  
Marilyn Fosburg -CWC President

## CWC ACQUIRES NEW PRESERVE

We're excited to be able to finally announce that we've completed purchase of CWC's first urban natural area, Mill Pond Natural Area - Walter and Frances Bolle Preserve! The property, located on W. High Street in Mount Pleasant, is bordered to the west by Chipp-A-Waters Park, to the north by High Street (M-20), and to the south and east by the Chippewa River.



The property was purchased from Frances Bolle of Clare and her daughters Jeannine Mishler of Clare and Darlene Sergent of Okemos. Mrs. Bolle's late husband, Walter H. Bolle, operated the Honegger and Company Mill (formerly Harris' Mill) at 411 W. Broadway Street, Mt. Pleasant until his death in 1982. The Bolle family retained whole or partial ownership of the property for the next 40 years.

Flooded as part of the Mt. Pleasant millpond during the latter part of the 19th Century and the early 20th Century, the property is currently covered with a mature floodplain forest. The property provides an important link in a protected river corridor through Mt. Pleasant that stretches from Central Michigan University's Veit's Woods to Pickens Field. The property provides habitat for a variety of mammals, resident and migratory birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. Wood turtles and Blanding's turtles, both Michigan Species of Special Concern, have been spotted on the preserve.

The preserve was purchased with funds received from a \$70,000 grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation in December 2021. In addition to the purchase of the property, the grant will fund five years of planned restoration efforts that include debris removal, control of invasive species, the reintroduction of hundreds of native trees and other plants, sign installation, and the construction of a natural-surfaced trail along the Chippewa River.



### **Giving Outside the Box: Alternative Ways to Support CWC**

Here are a few easy ways to give to CWC without reaching deeper into your pocketbook:

- 1)** When you have items to donate consider taking them to the ICDC Thrift Shop on High St. in Mt. Pleasant. The Thrift Shop supports the Isabella Child Development Center and all money stays within our community. Give them our code "C62" when making a donation of goods and a percentage of sales will come to CWC as a cash donation. Find them on Facebook at [facebook.com/ICDCThriftShop/](https://www.facebook.com/ICDCThriftShop/) or give them a call at 989-773-9544 to find out more.
- 2)** When shopping online, make your purchase through Amazon Smile and select CWC as your charity of choice. Amazon sends us a check based on a percentage of sales and those funds go straight into our operating budget. There is no extra cost to you to use this service. If you have an Amazon Prime account, all Prime benefits are still available through Amazon Smile with your existing account. You can even use Amazon Smile through the Amazon Shopping App. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to learn more.
- 3)** Bring your own bag when shopping at GreenTree Coop on Broadway St. in Downtown Mt. Pleasant and make your Wooden Nickel contribution to CWC. Each reusable bag contributes 5 cents to one of three local non-profits. Just let them know you'd like your donation to support Chippewa Watershed Conservancy when you check out with your reusable bags.

## Past Interns Launch Natural Resources Careers

Interning with CWC was a great opportunity to build my career goals and develop exceptional experience. I had the chance to work alongside outstanding advocates for preservation while learning how to develop marketing content, plan fundraising events, create newsletters, and build relationships with donors & community members. These experiences were building blocks to where I am today.

I now work as a Park Ranger II with the City of Phoenix Natural Resource Division. As a Park Ranger II we are leaders in the preservation of 41,000 acres of desert parks and mountain preserves within the City of Phoenix. Our Ranger team provides a wide range of volunteer opportunities for the public that provide education on invasive species, trail maintenance, Take a Hike & Do it Right Principles, and revitalization. In addition, we create our own marketing materials to promote Ranger Lead Programs that range from fireside chats to guided hikes, and even landscape painting. On a daily basis we interact with the public and build relationships while providing education on park rules and preservation.

I am currently working on creating a more streamlined experience for tourists who visit our mountain parks such as Camelback Mountain and Piestewa Peak Trail. These trails are rated extremely difficult within the City of Phoenix guidelines. We encounter many hikers who are not properly prepared to complete these hikes or who are unaware of the challenges they may face. This leads to multiple mountain rescues, especially within the summer months. My goal is to create visitor guides, clear informational signage, and develop more face to face interaction with visitors of Phoenix Mountain Parks.

I value the experience I built with CWC that has provided me with the confidence to create marketing materials, interact with the public in a professional manner, and build a passion for the preservation of public land.

- Lizette Betancourt, CWC Intern 2019



Lizette in uniform on a job site in Phoenix, AZ



Katelyn at Leelanau Conservancy headquarters

2018 CWC Conservation Intern, Katelyn Maylee, has recently joined the Leelanau Conservancy in Leland, Michigan, as a Huron Pines AmeriCorps Easement and Restoration Technician. Upon completing her internship with CWC, she continued to volunteer regularly at stewardship events through the fall of 2021, and joined the CWC Lands Committee as an adjunct member from January-December 2021. In her new role at the Leelanau Conservancy, she will be assisting with the conservation easement monitoring of nearly 200 properties, reviewing and updating baseline documentation, working on GIS projects, and assisting with natural area stewardship and trail creation. She is excited to be working in such a unique and beautiful part of the state, and looks forward to exploring all that the area has to offer. She notes: "I am incredibly grateful for the CWC staff, board, and supporters helping me gain the experience necessary to launch my career in conservation. Without the opportunities afforded to me during my time working and volunteering with the CWC, I may not have discovered my particular passion for land trust work, and would not be where I am now. Thank you!"

- Katelyn Maylee, CWC Intern 2018

***Congratulations to Kurt Titus and his granddaughter Mia Custer, our 2021 Big Tree Challenge winners. They submitted the largest tree in our contest with a circumference of 178 inches! Do you think you know of a bigger tree on a CWC preserve? We're currently making revisions to our big tree program and will be relaunching it later this year.***

# Thank you to our 2021 Supporters



## Great Lakes

Donald & Karen Stearns  
Anne Messinger  
Dennis & Sandra Olson  
John & Jean Mitchell  
Gary Fuller Charitable Fund  
Dianne & Michael Morey  
Marilyn & Gordon Fosburg  
Isabella Bank  
Mt. Pleasant Abstract & Title  
Little Flower Barn  
Mark & Shelly Smith  
Dykstra & Phyllis Heinze  
Keith & Mary Frame  
E. Diane Tope  
Krapohl Ford Lincoln Co.  
Mark & Terrie Zitzelsberger  
Doug Schuette  
Sister Marie Kopin  
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
Rose Prasad  
McLaren Central Michigan  
John & Carol Grossa  
C. Joanne Grabinski  
Bruce & JoAnne Godfrey  
MJ & Liz Conway  
Steve & Debbie Martineau

## Watershed

Steven & Susan Pung  
Michael & Shara LeValley  
Claudia Roth  
Myles McNally  
Ray Davies & Susan Griffith  
Peter Szok  
Brian & Toni Pastotnik  
Edwin & Ruth Helwig  
Neil & Linda Hopp  
Jane Wilsher  
Muriel Straight  
John & Ann Jensen  
G. Thomas & Cynthia Mitchell  
Robert & Connie Kabbe  
RedBloom Yoga LLC  
Todd Trucks  
Mt. Pleasant Agency, Inc.  
David Shirley  
Ballyhoo Books  
Coyne Oil Corporation  
Paul & Gloria Siers  
Leonora Forist & Karen Green

## Bay

Tom Lawrence  
Richard & Diana Moreau  
Kathy & Alan Johns  
Albert & Linda Kaufmann  
Virginia Haight & Gary Kramer  
John & Julie Arnold  
Cathy & Alex Murray  
Larry & Judy Schaftenaar  
Michael Hetzman  
Ken & Carol Baker  
Steve & Sue Kennedy  
Mark Freed & Brooke Harrison  
Manish Bondale  
Stan & Pat Lilley  
Janice Burke & Scott McNaught  
H&S Companies.  
E & S Graphics, Inc.  
Mercantile Bank of MI  
Doug & Barbara Valek  
Brenda Upton  
Michael J. Libbee & Kristin M.  
Sheridan  
Melissa Clayton  
Rowe Professional Services  
Company  
Brendan Flack  
John & Sandy Warriner  
Steve & Carrie Tluczek  
Dolores Lawrence  
Roy & Joan Klopick  
Curtis & Anne Jensen  
Isabella Community Credit Union  
Pasquale Ciccu  
Frank Hufnagel  
F. Wesley Greene  
James & Mary Hageman  
Robert & Cordelia Kohrman

## River

John & Priscilla Lorand  
Randy & Marita Schiffman  
Cinda Eltzroth  
Heather Prout  
Tim & Elizabeth Odykirk  
Pete & Sheri Loubert  
David & Dawn McGrath  
Terry & Marcia Stacy  
Dan & Rose Benjamin  
Dan & Millie Wujek  
Jim & Carol Wojcik  
Barbara Sheperdigian  
Barb & Dan McGuire

Ralph & Katherine Crew  
John & Nancy Davis  
Paul Snyder & Patricia Block  
Richard & Brenda Donley  
Kelley Moss  
Peter Fries  
David Macleod  
Joanne & Ward Dowell  
Alan & Mary Lou Schilling  
Sue Ann Kopmeyer  
Deborah Dunbar  
Bob & Marge Mills  
Nancy Priestap & Kirk Sponseller  
Mary Pat Lichtman  
Emmy Rehm  
John & Barbara Leonard  
Buckley's Mountainside Canoes  
Sally Van Cise  
Royal & Eleanor Baker  
Joseph Borders  
Michele Shafer  
Daniel Patterson & Alison Miller  
Greg Bodker  
Roger & Louise Hammer  
Donald Stephen  
Megan Moreno  
State Farm Companies  
Amanda Schafer  
George & Dawn Polanco  
Austin Krause  
Tammy Holder  
Jane Ashby  
Kimberly Hinmon  
Gerald & Kathleen Jaloszynski  
Tina McConnell  
Heather & Todd Graham  
Elizabeth & Scott Vogel  
Mike Bishop  
Gilbert Starks  
Jim & Marilyn Bidwell  
Bill & Wanda Odykirk  
Tom & Lois Kromer  
Herb & Marilyn Deromedi  
David & Caroline DeGraaf  
Mary Ann & Tim O'Neil  
Diane Saltarelli  
James & Elizabeth Dealing  
Albert & Nancy Lewis  
Tom & Gisela Moffit  
Alan & Sheila Weber  
Scott M. Wager

Patricia Podoll  
Jean Murray  
Barbara Wells  
Chuck & Pam Bunting  
Shawn & Lisa Zimmer  
Charles & Peggy Burke  
Virginia Vanderkelen  
Jim & Mary Gillingham  
Betty & Bruce Chaffee  
Charlie Walmsley &  
Melinda Prout  
Cheryl Meyer  
Mary Anne & John Zang  
Basil & Theresa Zimmer  
Jeanne Reese  
Kimber & Judy DeWitt  
Scott & Sharon Parks  
Jonathan Beeton  
Janet Rice  
Ann Rise  
Matthew & Ann Roberge  
Dave & Linda Coyne  
Kevin Love  
John & Joyce Petro  
Jack & Cora Neyer  
Jerome & Deb Schwind  
Eric Torgersen & Ann  
Kowaleski  
Mark & Angela Schofield  
Marian Schneider  
Jennifer & Jim Tilton  
Rick Lewis  
Linus Frevel

### **Stream**

James & Debra Simmons  
John & Barbara Lang  
Kurt Titus  
J. Hudson & Ann Keenan  
Edwin Renkie  
Wesley Klein  
OmBodies Yoga  
Amy Powell  
Tim & Nancy Hartshorne  
Jaime & Marc Griffis  
Harry West  
Kristin Landau & Chris Hernandez  
Keith Tollenaere  
Lisa Phelps  
Jay Batzner  
Marnie Basney  
Amber Elias  
Robert Welsh  
Mary & Dave Alsager

Phyllis Wegner  
Norman & Marilyn Dzingle  
Jean Richardson  
Charles W. Bowden  
Brad Bellinger  
Ruth Magnell  
John & Karen Caldwell  
Ruth Chapman  
Norma Bailey  
Ellen Moss  
George & Fran Rouman  
Megan Barber  
Eric & Ruth Lindstrom  
Peggy Brisbane & Robert Barclay  
Frances Lichtman  
Kathy & Al Tucker  
Randall Kursinsky  
Charles & Nancy Grant  
Alan & Peggy Minert  
Tom & Sarah Delia  
Dawn Tanner  
Sharon Bolton  
Jenelle Bartlett  
Dan & Sue Rademacher  
Marilyn Zorn  
Greg Benford  
Marcie M. Otteman  
Carol Miller  
Dave & Rosie Ebbinghaus  
James & Sara Thering  
Mary C. & Peter Obuchowski  
Jan & Charlotte Fokens  
Ronald & Paula Smith  
Gregory Hoff  
Carl & Lavonne Stamm  
Ronald Hodgson  
Ralph Hahnenberg  
Joseph Hammerle  
Ronald Miller

### **Tributary**

Jim & Carol Erickson  
Merlyn Mowrey & Miklos Ferber  
Cone Furnishings  
Mark & Patricia Cwiek  
Michael Simon  
Roger Rehm  
Lynette Bellinger  
Lisa Flannery  
Sally Rose  
Katelyn Maylee  
Pamela Helfer  
Ingmar Pack  
Kate Worster  
Mike Piatek-Jimenez  
John Kollar

Charlene Block-MacDonald  
Nancy E. Robinson  
Robert & Kay Blackman  
Joseph T. Barberi  
Bob Britz  
Gladys Strong  
Nancy Rivard  
Marjorie Evans  
Michelle Bott  
Marty Siuda  
Mary Jo Doyle  
Melissa Hovey  
Nancy Jo Westbrook  
Benn Williams  
Kay Purtill  
Becky Pontious  
Jeffrey Bean  
Judy Anderson  
Karen Wood Lee  
Ryan Johns  
Mary Senter  
Bobby Tolley  
Allen Demarest  
Juanita Shaffer  
Ashley Jarrett  
Emily Wolfe  
John & Mary Louise Haas  
Thomas & Joann Girvin  
Alinde Moore  
Linda Neely  
Kim Klumpp

*...and thanks to our  
anonymous donors!*

### **Donations In Memory Of**

Joan Yehl  
Rob Yuill  
Herb Rice  
Kay Hufnagel  
Lester Sponseller  
James E. Basney  
Thomas, Devin, Forrest  
& Berniece Williams  
Paul Siers  
Ann Keenan

### **Donations In Honor Of**

Hudson & Ann Keenan  
Steve Pung  
Doug Valek

## Our 2021 Foundation Grant Support

The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation

Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation

Saginaw Bay WIN

Midland Area Community Foundation

Fremont Area Community Foundation

The Towsley Foundation

The Carls Foundation

The W.E. Martin Foundation

The Consumers Energy Foundation

## 2021 Estate Gifts

R.H. Rolph & M.F. Rolph Trust

Gary Fuller Charitable Fund

## Board of Directors

Marilyn Fosburg, President

Steve Pung, Vice President

John Mitchell, Treasurer

Keith Tollenaere, Secretary

Stan Lilley

Keith Frame

Dyke Heinze

Liz Conway

## Staff

Mike LeValley

Executive Director

Alexis Hansen

Development &

Outreach Coordinator

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Karen Green

Sister Marie Kopin

Pat Block

Hunter Torolski

Ben Zeitler

Liz LaScala

Caitlin Maloney

Caroline Roberts

Karly Steinberg

Sam Snyder

Ingmar Pack

Jane Ashby

Forrest Fennell

Bill Bloomfield

Jack Bloomfield

Katelyn Maylee

Hannah Warners

Lauren Anderson

Cathy Murray

Charlie Walmsley

Melinda Prout

Dyke Heinze

Roger Hammer

Louise Hammer

Dave Degraaf

Kay Purtill

Stan Lilley

Julie Arnold

Keith Tollenaere

and many more!

## Thank you to our 2021 Business Sponsors



"Dedicated to serving your title and escrow needs"



bank local. bank *anywhere*

Krapohl



LINCOLN



CENTRAL MICHIGAN



redbloom yoga



H&S Companies E&S Graphics

Rowe Professional Services Company



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



# 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 a paper newsletter
- \$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-22



**A Gift to Nature . . .**

*Gives back for generations*

