



Keeping Nature Nearby
Winter 2009/2010

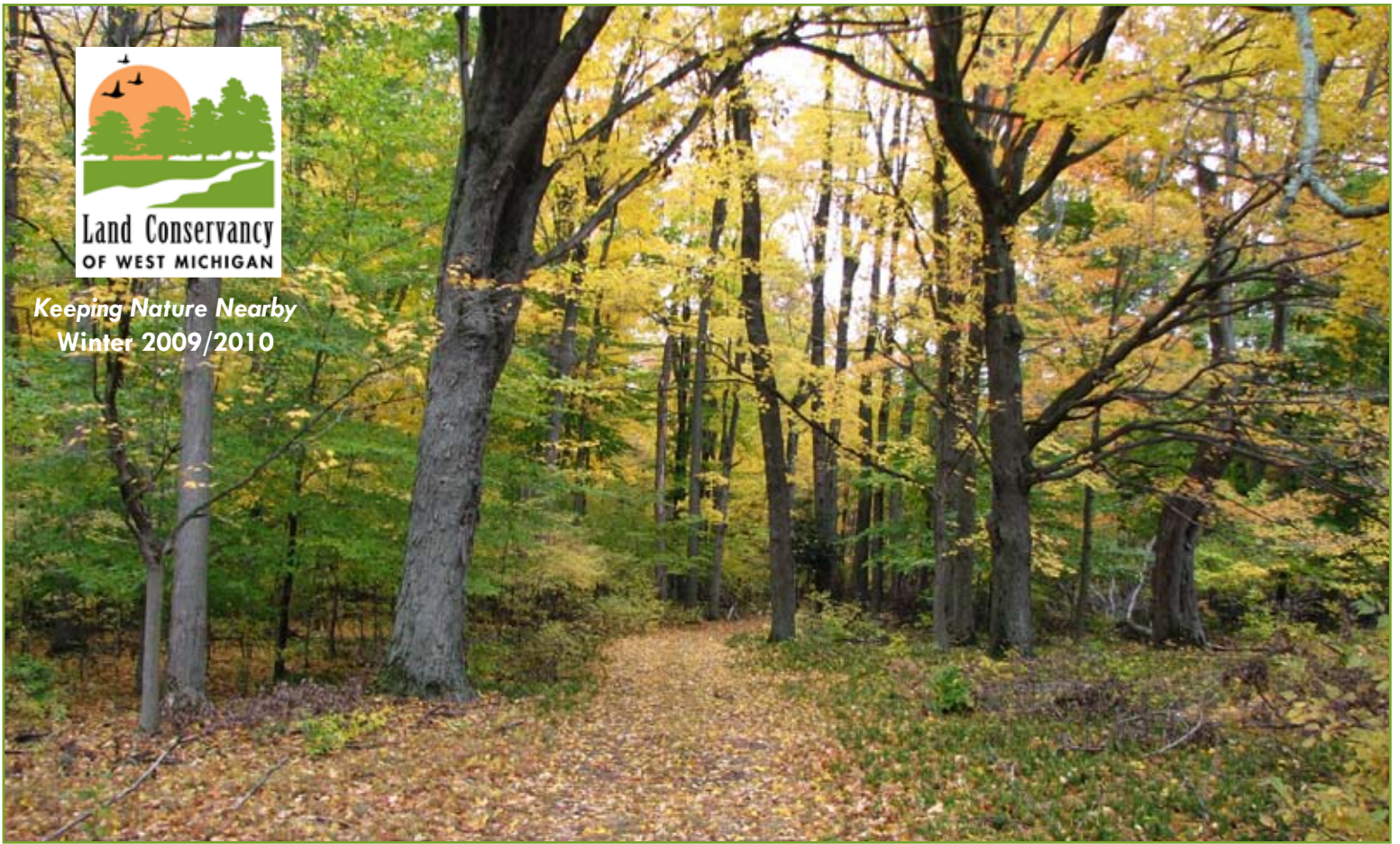


Photo: Pete De Boer

DeWys family protects their “utopia”

This fall, the DeWys family worked with the Land Conservancy to protect 126 acres in Ravenna Township, Muskegon County, between the towns of Ravenna and Coopersville.



A conservation easement now preserves a diversity of habitats including forested wetlands surrounding Crockery Creek, a mature beech-sugar maple-hemlock forest, and the confluence of Wolf Creek with Crockery Creek.

Denise DeWys-Gilbert, the donor of the conservation easement and owner of the property, shares her reasons why protection of the land through a conservation easement was important to her and her family:

Crockery Creek meanders through the peaceful meadows and woods where wildlife abound throughout the seasons. A vixen and her kits playing, a doe and her triplet fawns grazing,

beavers feeding on willows as they make their way up the creek, bucks battling during rut, a cougar quietly moving through the underbrush, salmon spanning on the rocky beds, and a mink swimming with the gentle current. These are some of the happenings that our family has enjoyed for the past 25 years on the property. My late husband, Mark DeWys, and I had two objectives when we purchased the land: to protect and conserve a little piece of this earth and to raise our family in a quiet haven surrounded by nature's beauty.

Together with my children, Paul, Ben and Lauren, 126 acres of our property will be forever protected in its natural state in memory of Mark. Being an avid angler and hunter, Mark loved being the steward of this beautiful and diverse piece of property. Our family is privileged to honor him in the forever protection of his utopia.

Denise DeWys-Gilbert recently protected her family's 126-acre property in Muskegon County in memory of her late husband, Mark DeWys.
Photo: Pete DeBoer

The Land Conservancy will have an increased presence along Crockery Creek thanks to a recent grant from the Department of Environmental Quality. See page 5 for details.





Mission

To keep nature nearby, the Land Conservancy of West Michigan permanently protects natural and scenic lands.

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Land Conservancy of West Michigan
1345 Monroe Ave. NW, Ste. 324
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
Phone: (616) 451-9476
Fax: (616) 451-1874
email: lcwm@naturenearby.org
web: www.naturenearby.org

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From the Director by Peter Homeyer

A few winters ago on our property out near Lake Michigan, a large black cherry fell across the two-track – a long narrow rise along a forested back dune ridge – that leads to our camper, picnic table and outhouse. Needless to say, our priorities quickly changed for that first spring weekend. Instead of unpacking and settling into the camper, it was back to town to rent a chain saw. It took us awhile to clear the tree away, return the chain saw, and get the wood carefully stacked. However, after a little added time and expense, an adjustment to our plans took care of the problem and left us with excellent firewood for our evenings under the stars. Unanticipated events can also offer unanticipated rewards.

This year the Land Conservancy has had to be flexible as well. During these challenging times our emphasis on using multiple conservation methods has kept us as busy as ever. The fallen economy has not slowed down our work at all; rather it has opened previously blocked projects. Because of this we will finish at least 10 new projects this year, and are celebrating the third time we pass the 1,000-acre mark in a year.

These accomplishments in challenging times begin with you. As a membership-based organization, we have relied for over 30 years on your generosity. You provide the tools we need to adjust to the ongoing changes in our region. You provide the support which allows us to respond to the opportunities around us for natural and open space preservation. You have joined us, in still increasing numbers, as members and volunteers.

Recently we mailed you a year-end appeal which emphasized your personal role in making preservation possible. Our land protection program, stewardship projects, and partnership work are the product of your ongoing commitment. I believe they create a compelling reason for making a special year-end gift and place the Land Conservancy in a position where 2010 will be just as successful.

The future will always hold surprises, but we can prepare for them. I hope you will consider making a donation to the Land Conservancy this year. Together we can be ready to respond to the unexpected events which lie ahead. No matter whatever else might change, the forests, fields, wetlands, and dunes of West Michigan must remain for all our evenings under the stars.

Happy Holidays,



Peter Homeyer, LCWM Executive Director
Photo: Lynne Homeyer

Underwriting for this newsletter generously provided by:



With more than 180 attorneys in Grand Rapids, Metro Detroit, Holland, and Muskegon, Warner Norcross is one of Michigan's leading providers of legal services.



A stitch in time

Anyone who has looked out the window of a plane flying over West Michigan knows that the majority of our land is a patchwork quilt of properties owned by a diversity of landowners. This can make it challenging for the Land Conservancy to carry out our mission of keeping nature nearby and protecting important natural habitats near urbanized areas.



This year we are getting help in stitching together a swath

of protected land in Laketown Township, Allegan County. Sam and Jean Martin have generously donated a conservation easement on MapleBrook Farm, 27 acres of land adjacent to our Dune Pines Nature Preserve.



Sam and Jean Martin have generously donated a conservation easement on MapleBrook Farm, their 27 acres adjacent to the Land Conservancy's Dune Pines Nature Preserve. *Photo: April Scholtz*

Their commitment to preserving the natural and rural character of this area south of Holland means that the Land Conservancy and area landowners together have permanently protected more than 55 acres of open and forested dunes and adjacent rural lands.

Birds that can be seen on the Dune Pines Preserve, especially those that migrate up along the Lake Michigan shoreline every year, will especially benefit from the additional mature forest cover, aquatic shoreline, and the grassy fields that are protected through the Martin's easement.

What makes the Martin's donation even more exciting is that their conservation easement property is adjacent to 60 acres of natural land owned and used by Hope College as a biological field station. The easement's protection of the natural shoreline on Kelly Lake will help protect the field station. The Martins are already working with Hope College to help their professors and students access this wonderful resource.

We thank the Martins for their leadership in preserving this mixture of forest, shoreline, and rural land that is so characteristic of the West Michigan region.





Meinert County Park expansion: Preserving history while creating a path for the future



M Collins

1837

A 35-inch diameter cedar, 20-inch hemlock, and 60-inch pine are found on the property and documented by surveyors

1890

Charles and Mary Huston obtain a “timber” deed to log pine and hemlock. They use Lake Michigan to haul the timber elsewhere to be sold, and raise 10 children on the property (in a home that once stood where a private campground is today).

Early 1900s

The area becomes known as “Huston’s Landing” and is a well known picnic spot for schools, families, and the Grange, an organization of farmers.

1925

As a widow, Mary Huston sold 186 acres to three businessmen who envisioned making the area into a subdivision. Perhaps because of the Great Depression this plan never came to fruition.

1936

The lakefront property is sold to Muskegon County for \$3500 and a county park is established. The park is named Meinert County Park after Ed Meinert, the supervisor of White River Township at the time.



1957

Meinert Park grew to its current size of 88 acres with the addition of the “Sugar Bowl” dune to the park. Hikers and beachgoers today continue to enjoy this “Sugar Bowl.”

Lumberman harvest pine trees from Muskegon County in the 1890s. A similar operation harvested the pines at what is now Meinert County Park. *Photo courtesy of Michigan Historical Center Library and Lakeshore Museum Center.*

TODAY



Hikers traverse the “Sugar Bowl” during a LCWM outing. *Photo: Danielle Fogel*

Today the Land Conservancy of West Michigan continues to work with Muskegon County to guarantee the success of our Meinert County Park Expansion project.

Upon completion of the project, 95 acres of forested duneland and unique wetland will be added to the park, doubling its size and protecting the natural habitat for various plants, birds, and other wildlife. We expect to obtain the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund contributions and complete our fundraising campaign by the end of this year.

Perhaps the least obvious cost of a project such as this is the cost of something we cannot put the price on: the future. As with all Land Conservancy projects, we are working to set up

an endowment fund for Meinert County Park. An endowment fund will allow for the stewardship and maintenance of the newly-expanded 183 acre park. This includes the initial costs of additional parking spaces, hiking trails, and trail guides for park visitors.

In the future, this Meinert County Park Endowment Fund will continue to provide resources for the stewardship of the land and its natural habitat. This ensures that generations to come will have Meinert County Park to enjoy: a place to hike, swim, explore and appreciate the value of the West Michigan landscape and wildlife.

Historical data from White Lake Beacon article based on the research of Gretchen & Doug Paprocki and written by Tanya Cabala.



Preserving and restoring Crockery Creek's riparian corridor

We are very excited to be turning a focused eye to protecting important natural landscapes along the Crockery Creek thanks to grant funds from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Because of contamination in a neighboring watershed, this DEQ fund was created to address water quality in the Muskegon County area. The Mona Lake Watershed Council and the United States Forest Service were also awarded grant monies from this fund.

Crockery Creek is the first large tributary of the Grand River upstream from Lake Michigan. It originates in southern Newaygo County, passing through both Muskegon and Ottawa County before joining the Grand River near the community of Nunica.

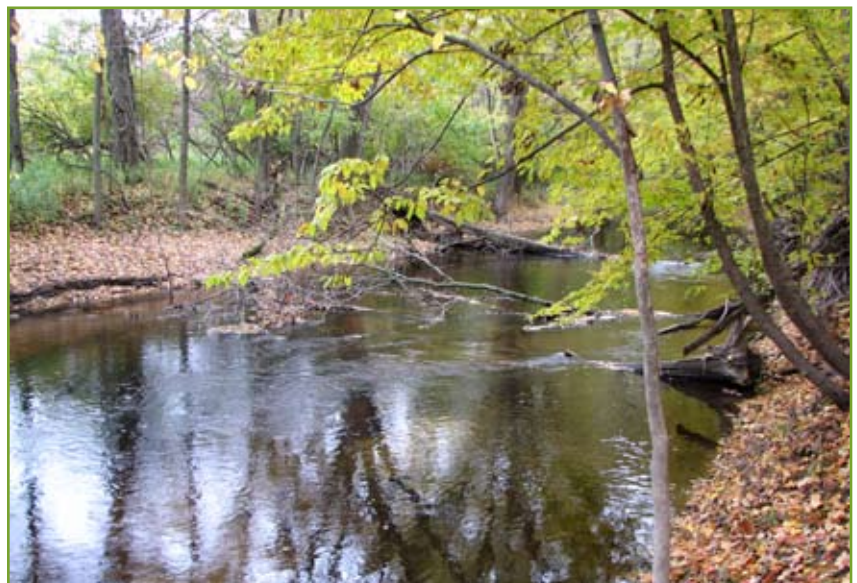
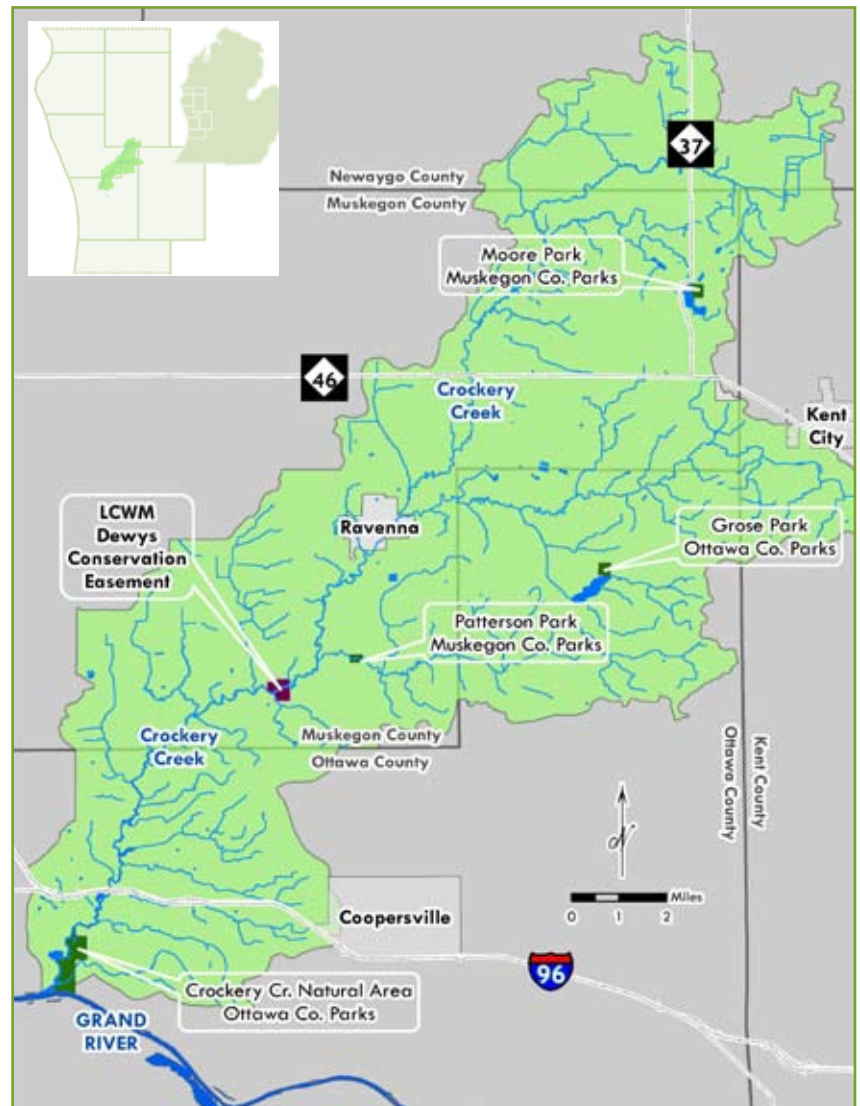
We have three main objectives for protecting the Crockery Creek riparian corridor ("riparian" means the interface between land and a stream): biological surveying, critical mapping, and permanent protection of habitats through conservation easements.

Biological surveying will occur throughout 2010 to incorporate all seasons into the study, learning more about species, habitats, and other special areas along and near the creek. We need this comprehensive view to plan for the property needs for years to come.

Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI) will be our partner in critical mapping of the watershed. The mapping will include past and current land uses, elements of water quality, and land ownership to determine our best opportunities for land protection in the watershed. Past mapping information from AWRI has been extremely helpful.

Finally, the Land Conservancy hopes to be able to partially purchase conservation easements from riparian landowners. Such easements assure that the most important habitats are protected permanently. This process is very similar to our ongoing conservation projects within the Pere Marquette River, Muskegon River, and Rogue River watersheds, and we are looking for similar successes.

Crockery Creek Watershed





Conservation Easement Donors

Ada Township
 Charles Anglin Trust
 Ken & Judy Betz
 The Bigford Family
 Jeanine Biese
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 Manuel & Barbara Butzow
 Jeff & Anya Byam
 Christ Community Church
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 Evangeline White



Photo: Ted Swoboda

Purchase agreement signed for Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area

In September, our Board of Directors approved a purchase agreement for the former South Denison property, now known as the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area. We had thought that conversations with the property owner on the potential acquisition of this land had ended, but they were rekindled late last year. This latest piece of good news represents the best opportunity in years to see this magnificent place preserved and eventually added to the City of Saugatuck's park system.

The 171-acre Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area is located where the Kalamazoo River empties into Lake Michigan. It includes an amazing diversity of habitats and resources: over 3,600 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline, populations of at least six rare plant and animal species, Great Lakes marsh, nearly 4,500 feet on an oxbow lake, the historic "Fishtown" site, and 1,650 feet on the Kalamazoo River. The Land Conservancy has been actively involved in searching for a conservation solution for this area since 1994, and Saugatuck city records show their own interest dates back to 1952.

The next critical step is the City of Saugatuck securing a \$12.6 million grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The trustees make their annual funding decisions in early December; a positive, fully funded grant will keep the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area purchase

moving toward closing. If successful, the Land Conservancy expects to lease the land to the City of Saugatuck during the three years it will take to complete the project. At the end of that time the property will be in the city's hands.

This purchase agreement represents real progress toward saving a place loved by many people for many years. Once a Trust Fund grant is approved we look forward to working with the entire community to ensure this is a great success story for West Michigan.

We expect the public fundraising campaign to begin in early 2010. If you would like to learn more about the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area and what you can do to help, please visit our website at www.naturenearby.org or call us at (616) 451-9476.

Project timetable

12/2/09	MNRTF meeting – final decision on \$12.6 million grant request
Late Dec. 2009	LCWM takes ownership of the property
Jan. 2010	Kickoff of public fundraising campaign
Late 2012	City of Saugatuck takes over complete ownership of the property

Did the City of Saugatuck receive the \$12.6 million grant?

Our newsletter went to print before the December 2nd announcement of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant recipients. **To find out if the City of Saugatuck's grant request was approved, please visit www.naturenearby.org.**



Preserving family land in Newaygo County



For many years, members of the Freeland family have gathered in Newaygo County to hunt, fish, and enjoy the natural land on the White River purchased by the two Freeland brothers decades ago. Now they are preserving this family legacy with their donation of a conservation easement that will protect 280 acres of forest, wetland, and river.



Members of the Freeland family gather at their property which they recently protected with a conservation easement. *Photo: April Scholtz*

To hear Max Freeland tell it, it was almost by accident that the family took ownership of this land. The previous landowners let Max fish the small lake on the property for many years. While buying bait in a local store for one of his fishing trips he learned that the property was going to be sold. When Max told the landowner that he would have been interested in buying it, the landowner very gladly cancelled his plans and arranged to sell the property to the Freelands.

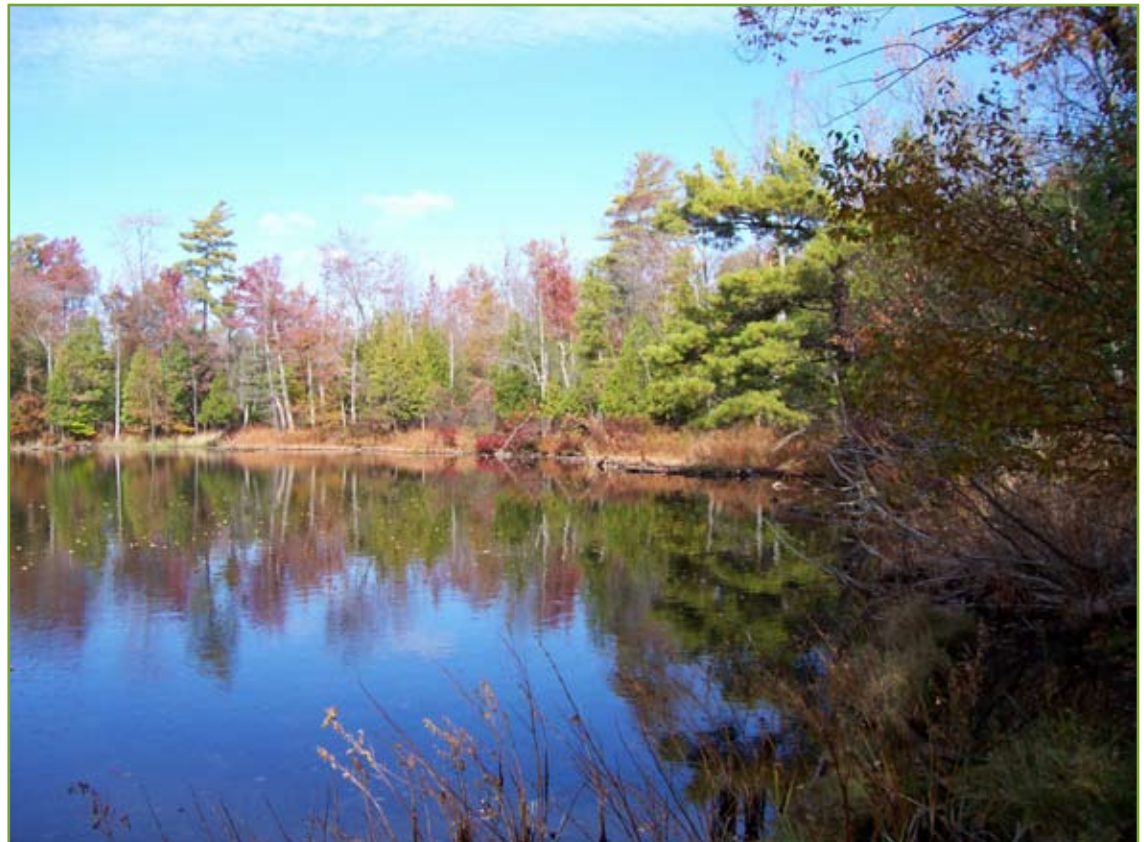
Since then, generations of the family have carefully conserved the property – improving the oak-pine forest, protecting the extensive wetlands, and preserving the natural shorelines along the White River, a small lake, and a small creek.

By preserving their diverse habitats, the Freelands are also protecting wildlife populations found on adjacent U.S. Forest Service land, including game species such as deer and grouse, and non-game species such as bobcat, weasel, otters, pileated woodpeckers, and plenty of turtles, snakes, and frogs.

Thanks to State law passed at the end of 2007, the land preserved by the Freelands conservation easement will be exempt from Michigan's "pop-up" tax. This is the increase in property taxes that occurs when land is given to heirs or is sold to a new owner and is reassessed for property tax purposes. Like active agricultural land, natural land preserved with a qualified

conservation easement is considered a public benefit. Michigan law encourages this kind of private land conservation by capping future property tax increases to the rate of inflation, or no more than 5%, even when the land is transferred to a new owner.

This makes it much easier for conservation-minded families like the Freelands to continue to own and conserve their natural land. We are delighted to partner with this family and to help them continue their conservation legacy.



The Freeland conservation easement protects habitat for loons and other migratory waterfowl. *Photo: April Scholtz*



Land Protection & Project Support

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 Zondervan

Why do they have to be so beautiful?!

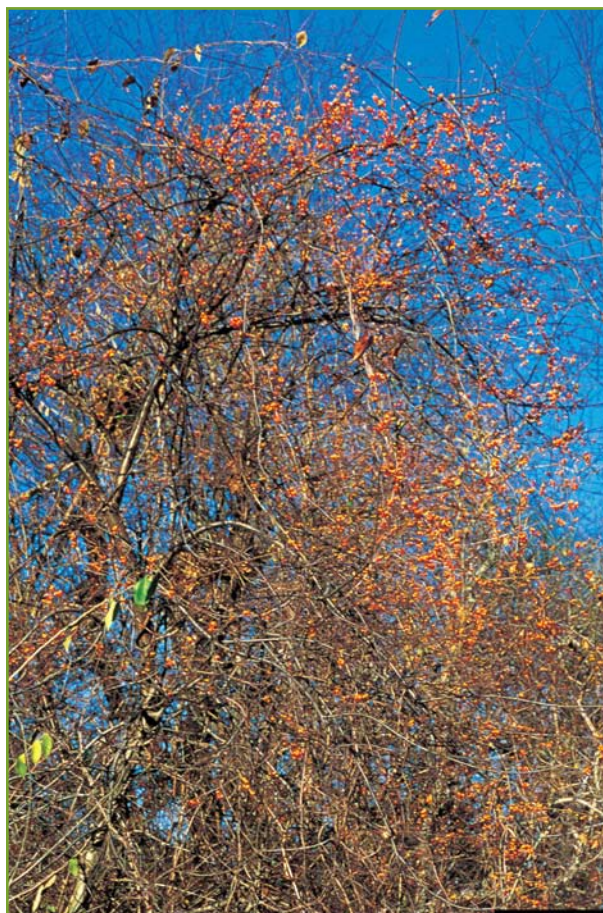
Have you ever noticed how many of our invasive plants are attractive? From purple loosestrife to Japanese knotweed, several of these species are pleasing to the eye. This is not by coincidence. These plants are often propagated and spread by people introducing them into their landscape.



Oriental bittersweet, an invasive plant often used in holiday decorations, is causing problems in West Michigan. Photo: Courtney Janiak

Oriental bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*, was selected by the West Michigan Cluster of the Stewardship Network as one of four plants that are known to be highly invasive that we would like to keep out of West Michigan. Unfortunately, this gorgeous plant is often used in holiday decorations. Once people put up their bittersweet, birds spread the plant to neighboring areas and the invasion begins. If you haven't seen the impact bittersweet has on natural areas, please contact the Land Conservancy and we will direct you to local "war zones".

In closing, we respectfully ask you to please consider how your holiday decorations affect your environment. When you spread holiday cheer you may also spread invasive plant seeds.



Stop the invaders at a natural area near you

You can help stop the introduction of new highly invasive species by reporting sightings of any of the four Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR) species chosen by the West Michigan Cluster of the Stewardship Network. Sightings of these species (and more) can be entered into a statewide database at www.misin.msu.edu. You will need to complete a tutorial to ensure correct identification before reporting.

Species on the EDRR list:

- Oriental bittersweet
Celastrus orbiculatus
- Japanese knotweed
Polygonum cuspidatum
- Swallow-wort species
Vincetoxicum louseae & *rossicum*
- Lyme grass (along the shoreline)
Leymus arenarius

Oriental bittersweet can quickly take over a natural forest. Photo: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



It is official – Michelle Collins becomes permanent staff member



The Land Conservancy welcomes Michelle Collins as its newest staff member. Michelle served as the Development Intern from May until October when she was hired as the full-time Development Coordinator.

“Michelle has been a real asset since she began as an intern earlier this year,” says Peter Homeyer, LCWM Executive Director. “Her professionalism, assistance with the Meinert County Park Expansion, and grant writing skills have already paid dividends for the Land Conservancy. We are very happy she has agreed to join our staff on a more lasting basis.”

Michelle Collins (far right) recently joined the Land Conservancy staff as the Development Coordinator. Staff members pictured left to right: Diane Sampson, Membership Coordinator; April Scholtz, Land Protection Director; Peter Homeyer, Executive Director; Melanie Good, Stewardship Coordinator; Pete deBoer, Land Protection Specialist; Danielle Fogel, Outreach Coordinator; Michelle Collins, Development Coordinator. *Photo: Ruth Meinert*

LCWM accepted into advancement program

For nearly 33 years the Land Conservancy has been committed to protecting important West Michigan natural areas. We pride ourselves on meeting the public’s needs while operating in an ethical and technically sound manner. Now we are ready to take the next step – measuring our work against independent standards.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, bestows national accreditation on land trusts that complete an arduous application process. Accreditation provides measurement of the quality and permanence of a land trust’s land conservation efforts and recognizes a conservancy’s ability to protect important natural places forever.

The Land Conservancy has been accepted into the competitive Advancing Conservancy Excellence (ACE) program, a \$1 million, three-year initiative to transform the state’s land conservancies into a high-performing,

sustainable conservation community. The ACE program is a project of the Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy (www.heartofthelakes.org) and the Land Trust Alliance. It will provide training, organizational assessments, mentoring, consultations, and capacity grants – ultimately helping us meet national accreditation standards.

“The ACE program offers us a wonderful way to measure and improve ourselves,” explains Peter Homeyer, LCWM Executive Director. “Preservation in perpetuity requires nothing less. We look forward to how this program, and eventually national accreditation, will help us meet our long-term vision to protect the best of West Michigan’s natural and open spaces.”

For additional information on the Land Trust Alliance and the Accreditation Commission, please visit www.landtrustalliance.org.

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Be the first to know about Land Conservancy events and land protection projects! To join our email listserv, please email danielle@naturenearby.org.



2009 stewardship highlights: *Caring for the lands entrusted to our care*

GVSU gives back

A partnership with Grand Valley State University is increasing stewardship work on LCWM preserves and getting students involved in West Michigan's natural areas.

One of the many projects completed by the students was a fall seed collection at Lambertton Lake Fen Nature Preserve. The seeds collected will be used to reseed areas within the preserve where invasive buckthorn has been removed.

Photos by Heather Quandt from GVSU's fall Lambertton Lake Fen volunteer workday. Bottom left: Fringed gentian Bottom right: Blazing star Top right: Elvira Rajala Bottom right: Heather Quandt



Oak forest restoration

In August the red pine plantation at the Wege Natural Area was harvested. In October, Dell Computers and Michigan GREEN sponsored a wonderful event for 100 Lowell Elementary students to plant 1000 local-genotype maples and oaks. The planting kick-started the forest restoration.

Left: Red pines are harvested from Wege Natural Area. *Photo: Meggan Johnson*

Right: A high school student helps an elementary student plant a tree. *Photo: Danielle Fogel*



Karner blue butterfly at the Maas Family Nature Preserve.
Photo: Melanie Good

Against the curve

Despite declining populations throughout the state, the number of Karner blue butterflies seen at the Maas Family Nature Preserve increased again! The prescribed burns held at the preserve (see winter 2008 newsletter) have dramatically improved the habitat.



Above: Volunteers Bob Gamble and Rhonda Lubberts help remove autumn olive at Wege Natural Area despite the rain. Below: Fall workday at Lamberton Lake Fen Nature Preserve.
Photos: Melanie Good

Dedicated workforce

In 2009 more than 775 dedicated volunteers donated 1,244 hours of their time to help protect our preserves' important natural features.

**Thank you volunteers
for keeping nature nearby!**





Volunteer of the year Chris Baer is a quiet force

It takes a special person to stand out in the amazing group of volunteers that make the Land Conservancy of West Michigan run. And this year's Volunteer of the Year is remarkable. The Land Conservancy had many reasons to name Chris Baer the 2009 Volunteer of the Year at our Volunteer Recognition Dinner this fall.

Chris has been a quiet force among the conservation-enlightened of West Michigan for many years. She is an experienced biologist who could boast – if she ever boasted – a diversity of much-desired skills. We are thrilled that Chris shares her passion for high quality natural areas and skills with the Land Conservancy.

Her recent contributions to the Land Conservancy have helped us make great strides in the stewardship of our properties. Here is a partial list from this past year: monitoring conservation easements, leading workdays, managing volunteers, helping with LCWM mailings, and working the many facets of the native prairie installation at Saul Lake Bog.

Most notable is Chris's work at the Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve's prairie. The success of the expansion of the prairie would not be possible without Chris's willingness to recruit, organize and train volunteers. She also grows native plants at her own home for planting at the prairie.

A heartfelt and admiring "thank you" to you, Chris, for all that you do to help protect and enhance the natural areas of West Michigan.

Chris Baer is the 2009 Volunteer of the Year for her outstanding dedication to the Land Conservancy's efforts to *keep nature nearby*. Pictured left to right: Melanie Good, LCWM Stewardship Coordinator; Chris Baer; Peter Homeyer, LCWM Executive Director. *Photo: Danielle Fogel*



The prairie restoration project at Saul Lake Bog was in full bloom this spring. Volunteer of the year, Chris Baer, has been instrumental to the restoration effort.

Photo: Melanie Good

Wish List

- Blaze Orange Vests
- Fire-Safe File Box
- First Class Postage Stamps
- Hand Cart or Dolly
- Leather Gloves (all sizes)
- Office Supply
- Store Gift Cards
- Photos of LCWM Nature Preserves
- Pickup Truck





Volunteers help keep nature nearby! (August 2009 - October 2009)

We would like to thank all of the individuals and organizations who help us keep nature nearby by volunteering their time. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Diane Sampson at 616-451-9476 or diane@naturenearby.org.

Cindy Ackerman	Kayem Dunn	Barbra & Martin Hoogterp	Ruth Meinert	Robert Vanderkamp
Todd Aschenbach	Margaret Durga	Mark Iverson	Patrick & Sheila Miller	Randy VanDragt
Larry & Chris Baer	Joshua Dykstra	Shanda Jacobi	Steve & Nancy Mulder	Bob Walma
John Bagley	David Eggerding	Jon Jellema	Bernie Mulder	Dave Warners
Dwight Baker	Clark Elenbaas	Ty Adam Johnson	Kathy Neff	Chad Wiersma
Jerry Bakke	Jim Ferro	Doug Jones	Nathan Noll	Peta Yeiter
Jan Barger	Daniel & Penny Folsom	Michael Julien	Steve Petrides	Lynn & Suzanne Zimmerman
Nancy Benner	Dr. John Fox	Haig Kassouni	Larry Piatek	Matthew Zimmerman
Alan Bennett	Bob Gamble	Fred Kraft	River City Wild Ones	George & Gretchen
Jim Benson	Dan Grady	Wendy Kuenzel-Kapolka	Natural Landscapers, LTD	Zuiderveen
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Special Thanks

Thank you Ken McPhail and Hideout Brewing Company for hosting a cookout for volunteers after the fall Lambertson Lake Fen workday.

9th annual Korth Conservation Lecture a success!

A special thanks to our outstanding volunteer event committee:

Dawn Holtrop (*committee chair*)
Gary De Kock
Kayem Dunn
Bob Gamble

Thank you 2009 event sponsors:

Principal Underwriter
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Peter Homeyer, LCWM Executive Director, welcomes attendees to the 9th annual Korth Conservation Lecture at Frederik Meijer Gardens on October 29, 2009. *Photo: Bob Walma (www.walma.com)*

Do you have ideas for the 2010 Korth Conservation Speaker Series?

Please email lcwm@naturenearby.org or call the office at 616-451-9476.



Member profile: Jesse Lincoln

Fremont-native Jesse Lincoln first heard about the Land Conservancy of West Michigan as a student at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) when he volunteered with the Soil & Water Conservation Society. This group, lead by GVSU professor Dr. Neil MacDonald, frequently participates in workdays at our

preserves. When the society helped remove autumn olive at our Wege Natural Area, the Land Conservancy's mission drew Jesse's interest.

"I feel it's important to give back to the community and preserve our local natural areas," says Jesse.

Invasive species are Jesse's specialty. He is pursuing a Master of Science degree in plant biology at GVSU. The focus of his thesis is the invasive "tree of heaven" (*Ailanthus altissima*, a deciduous tree native to China) and its effects on other plants. Due to its rapid growth and prolific seed production, tree of heaven has quickly spread from cultivation in urban areas.



A recent exciting event for Jesse was assisting with the prescribed burn at our Lamberton Lake preserve. The burn was important to him because of the preserve's location in the Grand Rapids city limits.

Jesse supports the Land Conservancy in other ways too. "I also like to give Land Conservancy memberships as presents to my family at Christmas," he explains.

Members like Jesse *keep nature nearby!*

Jesse Lincoln (second from left) participated on the burn crew during the prescribed burn at Lamberton Lake Fen this spring. He also supports the Land Conservancy with annual contributions and gift memberships for family and friends. *Photo: Danielle Fogel*

LCWM memberships make great gifts!

If you are interested in giving Land Conservancy of West Michigan memberships to your friends and family this holiday season, please contact Diane Sampson at the 616-451-9476 or email diane@naturenearby.org.

Welcome new members (August 2009 - October 2009)

Lawrence & Mary Austin
Sarah Bacon
Linda Bacon
Jill Bannink-Albrecht
Doug & Jackie Beland
BISSELL Inc.
Roberta Borgonovo
Robert & Daphne Bransten
Sandra Brown
Michael Bruggink
Barry & Vicki Burstein
Gerald & Karen Buttleman
Courtney Cheers
Nancy Clark
Dr. Bruce Cohan
W. John & Judy Cole
Michelle Collins
David Cutter
Donald & Ardis Dahlquist
John & Stephanie Dains
Paul & Margaret Denning

Robert & Joanne DeWit
Denise Dewys-Gilbert
Ann Dey
Patricia Dinner
Jean & Greg Farrington
Anadel Fox
Susan Gantner
Mary & Daniel Gregory
Jessica Hartley
Dan & Gloria Hefferan
Nelson & Karen Heinrichs
Helen M. Heller
Gwen Howey
Robert & Connie Johnson
Barbara Jones
Mary & Jack Kimmell
George & Prudy Kohler
Ernest & Nancy Kosch
Jack & Nancy Kropf
Dana Lee
Anna Loke

Horace Lothmann, Jr.
Mary Lowrey
Marc & Nancy Lumer
Jane & Douglas Lybrook
Michael & Rosemary Malbin
Julie Mansour
Richard & Anne Marblestone
Constance & Haig Mardikian
R. Marean
Jack & Peggy McGlynn
Carilee Moran
Patrick Morand
Thomas & Susan Munn
Dan & Mary Murphy
Muskegon County Garden Club
Joseph O'Connor
Open Prairie Ventures, Inc.
Linda & Edward Plant
Carol Prince
Paul Pringle
Jeannette & Bill Reeves

Carolyn Scott Ahlem
Zakaria Shaikh
Sikich LLP
Paula Smith
Southwest Michigan
Innovation Center
Stark Investments
Deborah & Michael Sullivan
Barbara Tevebaugh
Mark Thompson
Laura & Steve Triesenberg
Elaine VanKley
Vestaron Corp
Ginny Wanty
Richard & Faye Wetzel
Marcia Wiersma
Mr. & Mrs. William Wilson, III



Land Conservancy
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- Landmark Leader \$2500
- Patron \$1000
- Business Member \$500
- Sponsor \$500
- Benefactor \$250
- Sustainer \$100
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- Contributor \$30
- Other \$_____

Please help the Land Conservancy Protect West Michigan's forests, fields, wetlands, & dunes!

Yes! I want to help *keep nature nearby* with a gift of \$_____.

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Gift enclosed

Address _____

Please bill my credit card

Card (please circle): Visa Mastercard

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Phone _____

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Email _____

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Donate online at www.naturenearby.org or make check payable to the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and mail to: 1345 Monroe Ave. NW, Ste. 324, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

After one successful challenge grant, we're gearing up for another!

This past year the Land Conservancy of West Michigan was fortunate to receive matching grants from several supporters which allowed us to offer the largest "challenge grant" to date to our members. This grant matched, dollar-for-dollar, new member gifts, lapsed member gifts, increased member donations, and all gifts of \$1,000 or more. Thank you to challenge grant donors J.A. Woollam Foundation, Betty Jo Crosby, Dick & Sandy Hansen, Ken & Judy Betz and two Anonymous donors.

How do you follow a largest ever challenge grant? With another! We're happy to tell you that the Land Conservancy has recently received resources for another matching grant. These generous donors are offering \$20,000 to match your year-end gift, as long as it is an increased donation, a new or lapsed member contribution, or a gift of \$1,000 or more. Such an easy way to make your donation today go twice as far into the future!



Be sure you visit our nature preserves this winter and look for cedar waxwings and other winter residents. Photo: Terry Spivey, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Memorials & Honorariums (August 2009 - October 2009)

Gifts were made in memory of:

Kevin Keeney
by Bob & Jerahyn Keeney

James Kropf
by Linda Bacon
Sarah Bacon
Roberta Borgonovo
Sandra Brown
Barry & Vicki Burstein
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Ernest & Nancy Kosch
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Dana Lee
Anna Loke
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Marc & Nancy Lybrook
Michael & Rosemary Malbin

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Constance & Haig Mardikian
Jack & Peggi McGlynn
Thomas & Susan Munn
Linda & Edward Plant
Carol Prince
Paul Pringle
Carolyn Scott Ahlem
Stark Investments
Debroah & Michael Sullivan
Richard & Faye Wetzel
Mr. & Mrs. William Wilson, III

Josh McIntyre
by Jill Bannink-Albrecht
Courtney Cheers
Robert & Joanne DeWit
Jessica Hartley
Patrick Morand

Open Prairie Ventures, Inc.
Zakaria Shaikh
Sikich LLP
Southwest Michigan
Innovation Center
Vestaron Corporation
Ginny Wanty

Her brother, George
by Marge Stidham

Gifts were made in honor of:

Their grandchildren
by Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Micka

April Scholtz
by Nelson & Karen Heinrichs

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Land Conservancy of West Michigan
1345 Monroe Ave. NW, Ste. 324
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Land Conservancy
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web site: www.naturenearby.org
email: lcwm@naturenearby.org

Slide shows & snowshoes

Enjoy the beauty of the outdoors without braving the cold! Join the Land Conservancy of West Michigan for a pictorial tour of our most recent land protection successes, as well as new conservation projects that are currently in the works. All shows are free and are open to the public.

Please note, there will be a moonlight snowshoe hike following the slideshow in Lowell.

January 27, 2010 (Wednesday)

Grand Haven: Loutit Library, 407 Columbus Ave., Grand Haven, MI

Slideshow: 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

January 28, 2010 (Thursday)

Fremont: Fremont Library, 104 E Main St., Fremont, MI

Slideshow: 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

February 2, 2010 (Tuesday)

Saugatuck/Douglas: Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society

Old School House, 90 Center St., Douglas, MI

Slideshow: 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

January 30, 2010 (Saturday)

Lowell: Wittenbach Science Center & Wege
Natural Area, 11715 Vergennes Rd., Lowell, MI
(across the street from Lowell High School)

Slideshow: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Brave the cold! Snowshoe hike: 7 p.m.

Join us for a moonlight snowshoe hike through the Wege Natural Area. Explore the forest and watch and listen for owls and other nocturnal winter residents. Snowshoes available to rent (\$5 adults, \$3 children).

