



Keeping Nature Nearby  
Fall 2008



View from the "Crows Nest" at Tallmadge Woods in Saugatuck. Tallmadge Woods was recently protected with a conservation easement. Photo: April Scholtz

## Tallmadge Woods Protected With a Conservation Easement



In a unique partnership, the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, the City of Saugatuck, and the Ox-Bow School of Art and Artist Residency signed a conservation easement that permanently protects more than 70 acres of forested and open dunes, a large emergent marsh wetland, and undeveloped frontage on both the Kalamazoo River and a small private lake known as the Oxbow Lagoon.

This was the first time the City of Saugatuck used a conservation easement to permanently preserve City property, and it is the only known example of a residential school of art choosing to forever limit the development of its natural land.

The protected land borders the campus of the Ox-Bow School of Art and Artist Residency and includes most of "Tallmadge Woods." The Woods was willed to Ox-Bow in 1936 by one of the school's early supporters, Thomas E. Tallmadge. The deed was transferred to the City

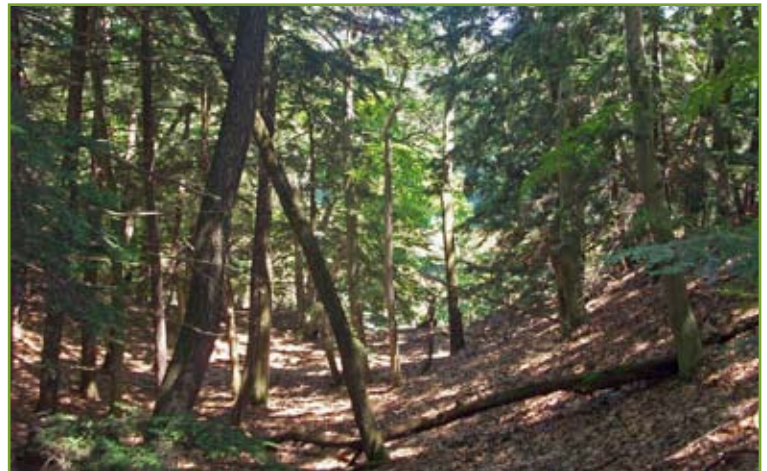
of Saugatuck in 1941 with the provision that the School could continue to use the property as long as it existed. The natural beauty of Tallmadge Woods has long been a source of inspiration for local and visiting artists.

As with the other 46 conservation easements held by the Land Conservancy in

West Michigan, this legal agreement will forever limit the property's development by current and future landowners and will allow the independent, non-profit Land Conservancy to monitor and protect the conservation values of the property.

Tallmadge Woods is part of the larger ecosystem around the mouth of the Kalamazoo River that includes Oval Beach Park, Saugatuck Dunes State Park, and the property formerly owned by the Denison family. The scenic view of Tallmadge Woods from the Lake Michigan shoreline and the City of Saugatuck is a major feature for the community. In addition, the dune ecosystem, emergent marsh, and shorelines are of high natural quality. Many rare plant and wildlife species call Tallmadge Woods home, including Blanchard's cricket frogs, pileated woodpeckers and eastern box turtles.

Tallmadge Woods Photo: April Scholtz



### Lost Lake Protected Forever!

The Campaign to Save Lost Lake successfully raised more than \$230,000 to permanently protect 68 natural acres and expand Muskegon State Park.

Details on page 4.



**Mission**

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

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The Land Conservancy of West Michigan is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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**Farewell From the Director - by Julie Stoneman**



Julie Stoneman is stepping down as Executive Director for the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. Photo: Jim Reminga

I can still hardly believe it myself as I sit before the computer to try and write these words. So here goes:

The toughest decision I have had to make is the one to step down as Executive Director of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan after more than eight years. I do so for very personal reasons, and for those who know me and where I live, the change means that the box that contains all of my shoes can be finally unpacked from the back of my car.

This has been an amazing job with incredible people doing work that I am and will always be passionate about. We have accomplished much together, adding thousands of acres of protected land and over a thousand new members, expanding our service area, creating a Land Acquisition Fund, and doing great conservation work. Happily, my new job at the Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy, a nonprofit organization serving Michigan's land trusts, will keep me connected to the Land Conservancy. In many respects, I am stepping aside from the Director's position at the Land Conservancy, but definitely not stepping away.

There's no doubt about it, change can be a challenge. But I am truly excited about the future of the Land Conservancy and honestly believe the best is yet to come. Momentum has been building over the past few years and the next Executive Director, with your continued support, will have the opportunity to take the organization to a whole new level. We have an outstanding Board of Directors, led by Rick Chapla, who will lead the search for just that right person. In the meanwhile, an extremely capable interim Director, Peter Homeyer, will keep things on track. Finally, there is absolutely no better staff than my Land Conservancy colleagues who will stop at nothing in their every day mission to *keep nature nearby*.

As I move from proud Executive Director to proud Land Conservancy member at the end of September, there are so many people to thank. What pains me most is that I won't be able to directly thank all of you and our land and conservation easement donors whose commitment to the Land Conservancy makes up the heart and soul of our land protection success. I will do my best in the weeks ahead to connect with many of you, but in the meanwhile, I do want to use this space to acknowledge thank those whose daily work was inextricably linked with mine. April, Nora, Christine, Danielle, Doug, Rhoda, Peter, Melanie, Diane, Chris and Pete: to you I owe much and learned much. Thanks for all your incredibly hard work and all those wonderful victories we share.



## Bigford Family Preserve Pere Marquette River Frontage



Paul Bigford knows every bend and curve of the Pere Marquette River as it meanders through his family's 150 acres. Ever since he was a young boy he has been exploring the banks and enjoying the natural beauty and rich history of the area. In December, the Bigford family worked with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan to permanently protect their land with a conservation easement.

In 1958 Paul's grandfather, Harold Bigford, purchased 200 acres on the Pere Marquette for \$20,000. As the eldest grandchild, Paul helped his grandfather with numerous projects including restoring the 1916 house on the property, building fences, and picking up trash on the south side of the river where Harold had created a camping area for the public to use, free of charge.

"Working and protecting the land got into my blood during the summers that I was grandpa's go-fer," Paul explains.

Harold passed away in the fall of 1964. Paul's father inherited the land, but unfortunately not before 50 acres on the south side of the river was sold off. The next summer 14-year-old Paul was in Baldwin with his family for the "Troutarama" festival. He spotted

a flyer in the window of a realty office advertising riverfront land for sale and instantly recognized the map - he had traced the path of the river through his grandfather's property many times and entertained himself by creating maps. The 50 acres (including the camping area) sold when Harold passed away were split up into 21 lots that were for sale for approximately \$2500 each. Paul knew then that he would do everything he could to ensure the remaining 150 acres were protected forever.



Paul Bigford and his family used a conservation easement to protect their family's land. Paul has been an advocate for conservation easements and has encouraged several other Pere Marquette River landowners to protect their land. *Photo: Danielle Fogel*

Paul and his brother Doug inherited the property when their parents died. Together with Paul's son Kyle they formed a limited liability corporation and worked with the Land Conservancy to create a conservation easement that will forever protect their 150 acres and ensure that the land will not be fragmented into small shoreline lots.

"Having seen our old 50 acres subdivided and seeing the current pressures on nearby property when it changes hands, my brother, son and I know that terrible pressures will come to bear on this crown jewel of a Wild and Scenic River," explains Paul Bigford. "We also know the taxation nightmare ahead for property that is not protected by a conservation easement."

Five generations of the Bigford family have enjoyed hiking the steep bluffs and fishing in the rushing Pere Marquette River for more than 50 years, but humans have been using this land much longer than that. Paul and his family have found numerous arrowheads and spearheads along the trails and in the fields. As a science teacher in Baldwin, Paul brought his class to the property to study archeology. He also invited a US Forest Service archeologist who confirmed that the oldest arrowheads found on the property are 6,000 years old – about 300 generations ago.

"As I look at the framed arrowheads on my wall I pray that the river will still flow, free and undammed and wild, for another 300 generations. I feel good that we have done our part," says Paul.

The Bigford Family Conservation Easement protects 150 acres along the Pere Marquette River in Lake County. *Photo: Danielle Fogel*





## Lost Lake Campaign is a Success!



68 acres of forest, wetlands, and Lost Lake frontage will forever be protected as part of Muskegon State Park thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Alcoa Foundation made possible by the support of Howmet Alcoa plant in Whitehall. The grant put the Campaign to Save Lost Lake over the top of the \$230,000 fundraising goal.

“We believe this addition to Muskegon State Park will benefit the community for generations to come,” said Amy Heisser, Director of Human Resources for Howmet Alcoa. “We are so pleased that we could make this happen for the greater Muskegon area, West Michigan, and all the visitors to the State Park.”

The entire project cost exceeded \$420,000. The State of Michigan had funds for less than half the acquisition costs, so in May 2007 the Land Conservancy of West Michigan embarked on a campaign to raise the balance of approximately \$230,000 and help the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) acquire one of the last, large natural properties adjacent to Muskegon State Park.

Additional funds for the project were donated by more than 350 local individuals and organizations (see page 5). Special thanks to the following foundations and individuals for matching the first \$90,000 in gifts to the campaign: Jerry & Linda Bakke, Carls Foundation, Community Foundation for Muskegon County,

Crane Foundation, and the J.A. Woollam Foundation. The Frey Foundation in Grand Rapids also provided a critical lead gift.

Campaign organizers praised the Mierendorf family for their patience and willingness to sell the property so it could become part of the state park. The Scenic Drive Preservation Group and the Muskegon Conservation District also provided substantial help to the campaign.

“We are fortunate to have such a generous community that recognizes the importance of protecting lands that provide both recreational opportunities and the conservation of important habitat and ecosystems,” said Julie Stoneman, Executive Director of the Land Conservancy. “This is an incredible gift.”

At the western edge of the property is a beautiful small lake known as “Lost Lake.” The southern half of the lake is within the State Park, but the northern half was privately owned by the Mierendorf family. In the past, cross-country skiers and hikers created a trail that circles Lost Lake, including the portion owned by the Mierendorfs, to enjoy the scenic view and connect with other park trails. Now, thanks to the generosity of the Alcoa Foundation and other local donors, this ecological and recreational treasure will be protected forever and can be used and enjoyed by the public for generations to come.

A dedication ceremony for the property will be held in the spring. Please watch [www.naturenearby.org](http://www.naturenearby.org) and your newsletter for details.



The Campaign to Save Lost Lake successfully raised more than \$230,000 to forever protect the 68-acre Lost Lake property and add the land on to Muskegon State Park. *Photos: Danielle Fogel (above), Nancy Tassin (right)*



## Thank You Lost Lake Donors!

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*Our sincere apologies for any omissions.*

## Fundraiser Thank You

A special thanks to the volunteers and companies who donated their time, goods, and services for the June 28th Lost Lake Fundraiser at the Winter Sports Complex at Muskegon State Park.

### Companies making contributions:

Bernie O's Pizza  
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## Stewardship: Caring for the Lands Entrusted to Our Care West Michigan Wins the Garlic Mustard Challenge!

In an effort to protect our natural lands from the destructive effects of garlic mustard, the Stewardship Network held a state-wide competition to see which of its five “clusters” (chapters) could pull the most garlic mustard. The goal was to pull 100,000 pounds of garlic mustard and increase public awareness of the plant’s destructiveness.

Not only did the West Michigan Cluster pull 128,470 pounds, well over our original goal, but we won the competition! This was largely

through the increased efforts of Ottawa & Kent County Parks and Ada Township Parks. Ottawa County Parks led the state for the most pounds pulled with 17,430 lbs, with Kent County Parks pulling in at 10th place.

If you participated in this year’s garlic mustard pull, either at a park/preserve or at your own backyard, congratulations on helping West Michigan become the top garlic mustard eradicators!



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation’s stewardship crew shows off the Garlic Mustard Challenge trophy awarded to the West Michigan Cluster of the Michigan Stewardship Network for pulling 128,470 pounds of garlic mustard.

### Thoughts From a Preserve Steward...

“The best thing about being a Preserve Steward is the personal ownership that you feel. Watching the different wildlife, watching plants grow, flower and then die, only to start the process over the next year. Trees being blown over and then watching them process themselves back to mother earth. To me it’s just a gentle reminder that one of the duties of everyone is to be caretakers of this beautiful earth.”

*Clark Elenbaas, LCWM Preserve Steward*



Clark Elenbaas is one of many individuals who volunteers his time and talents to be a Land Conservancy Preserve Steward. These individuals regularly monitor our nature preserves and assist with the long-term management plans. For more information on stewardship volunteer opportunities, please contact Melanie Good, Stewardship Coordinator, at [melanie@naturenearby.org](mailto:melanie@naturenearby.org). Or, join us for a volunteer workday. A schedule of upcoming workdays can be found on page 7.



## Stewardship: Caring for the Lands Entrusted to Our Care

### A Year of Accomplishment!

Through the tremendous support of LCWM stewardship volunteers, stewardship committee, board of directors, and members, 2008 has been a fantastic year for stewardship. Our accomplishments include:

- Held the first prescribed burns on LCWM preserves.
- Increased stewardship volunteers 55% from the previous year.
- Held 24 workdays at 8 of our 13 preserves.
- Received assistance from 12 different community organizations.
- Saw a significant increase in the populations of rare plant species on several preserves and discovered a state-threatened spotted turtle on one of the preserves!
- Recorded four times more Karner blue butterflies at the Maas Preserve during surveys.
- Prepared and planted one acre of prairie at Saul Lake Bog.
- Built 130' of boardwalk/bridges at the Minnie Skwarek Preserve.



Artist Amelia Hansen created the artwork for a new interpretive sign at Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve. The sign will be unveiled during the Volunteer Potluck on September 25th (details on page 10).

## Please Join Us This Fall: Guided Hikes & Volunteer Workdays

Please join us this fall for a guided hike or volunteer workday. All events happen rain or shine unless the weather is potentially dangerous. *Advanced registration is not required but is appreciated. Please call 616-451-9476 or email melanie@naturenearby.org.*



Photo: Melanie Good

**Minnie Skwarek Preserve  
Guided Hike & Workday**  
(Spring Lake Twp, Ottawa County)  
**Saturday, September 20, 2008**  
**Hike:** 10 am - 11:30 am  
**Workday:** 1 pm - 3 pm  
**Location:** 15050 Leonard Rd.,  
Spring Lake, MI 49456

Enjoy a beautiful fall hike and watch for birds as they rest during their migration south. Following the hike volunteers are needed to help clean up the preserve's creek. This workday will be strenuous. We will remove heavy logs that were put in the creek without permission and break down wood palettes.

**Seed Collection for Saul Lake Bog**  
(Private Residence, Lowell)  
**Sunday, September 21, 2008**  
**2 pm - 4 pm**  
**Location:** 271 Country View,  
Lowell, MI 49331 (private residence)  
Help collect local seeds for the prairie at Saul Lake Bog. This workday is appropriate for volunteers of all ages. Please bring work gloves.

**Wege Natural Area  
Autumn Olive Removal**  
(Lowell, Kent County)  
**Saturday, October 4, 2008**  
**12 pm - 3 pm**  
**Location:** 11715 Vergennes Rd,  
Lowell MI 49331

Help protect the beautiful mixed oak forests of Wege Natural Area from the invasion of autumn olive. We will use loppers and herbicide to remove the small autumn olive. Loppers and gloves will be provided, but you may bring your own. Come early with a lunch and blanket to picnic.

**Maas Preserve Workday**  
(Rockford, Kent County)  
**Saturday, November 1, 2008**  
**10 am - 12 pm**

**Location:** White Pine Trail north of Rockford (Please park at White Pine Trail 12 Mile Rd. staging area and walk north on the trail to the preserve entrance)  
Help prepare for next year's prescribed burn. This workday is appropriate for volunteers 7 and older.

**Spring 2008 Newsletter Correction:** The photo of the pink lady slipper showcased on page 12 was taken by Jim Benson, the Brower Lake Nature Preserve Steward.



### Land Protection & Project Support

Alcoa Foundation  
 Anonymous  
 Carls Foundation  
 Community Fnd for Muskegon Co.  
 Crane Foundation  
 Driesenga & Associates  
 Dyer Ives Foundation  
 Fremont Area Community Fnd  
 Frey Foundation  
 Grand Haven Area Community Fnd  
 Grand Rapids Community Fnd  
 Grand Rapids Label Fnd  
 Hansen Charitable Foundation  
 J.A. Woollam Foundation  
 Korth Family Foundation  
 Marion A. & Ruth K. Sherwood Fnd  
 McShane & Bowie, P.L.C.  
 Michigan DEQ  
 Nonprofit Tech. Assistance Program  
 North Bank Communities Fund  
 Progressive AE  
 Ruth & August Homeyer Trust  
 Steelcase Foundation  
 Varnum, Riddering,  
 Schmidt & Howlett  
 Wege Foundation  
 Wolverine World Wide Foundation  
 Zondervan

### Business Members

*Annual contributions of \$500 or more*

Alcoa Howmet  
 Aquinas College  
 Center for Sustainability  
 Baker Book House  
 Cirrus Environmental  
 Fairly Painless  
 Foremost Insurance Group  
 Forest Hills Foods  
 Founders Bank & Trust  
 Grand Rapids Convention &  
 Visitors Bureau  
 Grand Rapids Label Foundation  
 GVSU Annis Water Resources  
 Institute  
 Jack Dykstra Excavating  
 Magna Donnelly  
 McShane & Bowie, PLC.  
 Progressive AE  
 Reusch Design Services  
 Rooks Landscaping  
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 Trace Analytical Laboratories  
 Universal Forest Products  
 URS Corporation  
 Valley City Environmental  
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 Warner Norcross & Judd  
 Webtecs, Inc.  
 Williams & Works  
 Wolverine World Wide, Inc.  
 Zondervan

## Business Member Spotlight: Saint Mary's Health Care

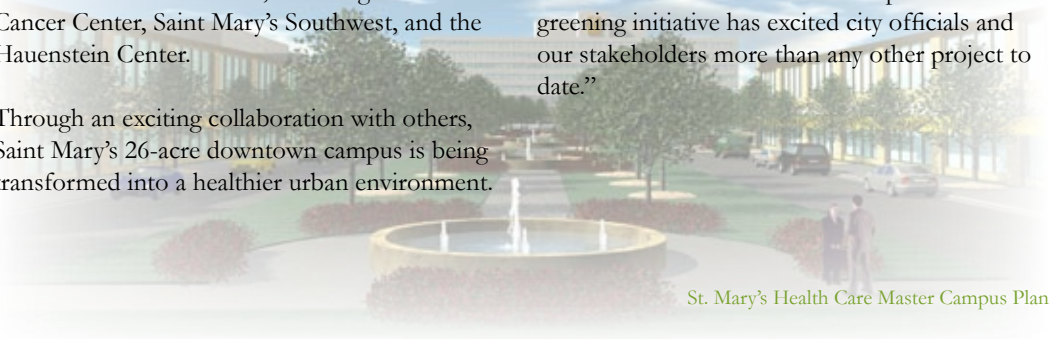
Guided by their mission of responsible stewardship of the environment, St. Mary's Health Care has instituted a wide variety of green practices. As a part of this vision they have supported the Land Conservancy as a business member for the past five years.

At Saint Mary's Southwest they have integrated native landscaping into the building site. These types of plantings help reduce watering and pesticide use while increasing biodiversity. Saint Mary's has also pledged to build only LEED certified structures, including the Lacks Cancer Center, Saint Mary's Southwest, and the Hauenstein Center.

Through an exciting collaboration with others, Saint Mary's 26-acre downtown campus is being transformed into a healthier urban environment.

Sight lines and traffic flow will be improved by boulevards and roundabouts replacing existing streets and intersections. Old parking lots are being removed. Finally, trees will be planted along all the sidewalks and both the Hauenstein Center and the main hospital will have green roofs.

"We support the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, as their efforts align with those we embody: a healthy environment for healthy people," said Saint Mary's President and CEO, Phil McCorkle. "Our Master Campus Plan's greening initiative has excited city officials and our stakeholders more than any other project to date."



St. Mary's Health Care Master Campus Plan

## Conservation Easements Tax Incentives Renewed

Earlier this spring, the new Federal Farm Bill was passed and part of the bill renewed increased tax incentives for conservation easements. Proponents of the incentives were hoping to pass the incentives on a permanent basis; however, the incentives were extended for donations made only in the next two years, 2008 and 2009. The incentives previously covered donations of conservation easements made in 2006 and 2007.

The expanded incentives:

- Increase the amount of the deduction that can be taken in any one year from 30% to 50% of the donor's annual gross income;
- Allow donors who make more than 50% of their income from farming or ranching to deduct up to 100% of their annual gross income;
- Increase the number of years that the unused portion of the deduction can be carried forward from a total of 6 years to a total of 16 years.

While these incentives are once again temporary, more than 200 members of the Congress have already co-sponsored legislation to make these incentives permanent.

For information about protecting your land with a conservation easement, please visit [www.naturenearby.org](http://www.naturenearby.org) or contact the Land Conservancy of West Michigan's land protection staff at 616-451-9476 or [lcwm@naturenearby.org](mailto:lcwm@naturenearby.org).

Hoary puccoon Photo: Danielle Fogel





# Welcome New Members April 2008 - July 2008

Pamala Abbey  
Kenneth Achterhof  
Robert & Mary Ackerman  
Lin Ahlstedt  
Brad & Allyson Ahrens  
Christopher Albertson & Sally Gajda  
Susan Anacker  
James & Priscilla Anderson  
Anonymous  
Merritt Archer  
Kim Arter  
Bruce & Paula Baker  
Jim & Betsy Barton  
Sherry Batzer  
Ryan & Ellen Berends  
Bernie & Cathy Berntson  
Thomas Bigford  
Mark & Cathy Bissell  
Eric & Kathi Boeschstein  
Troy & Karen Brandel  
Scott Brew  
John Brocci  
Bob & Carolyn Bulboltz  
Fred Bulford  
Ken & Kevin Burchfield  
Tom & Sue Burmeister  
Sterling Bushnell  
Jerry & Linda Chambers  
Charles & Jane Clover  
Dr. & Mrs. John Cook  
Dave & Sharon Cooke  
Darlene Ann DeHudy  
Carol & Norman Devendorf  
Daniel & Patsy DeVol  
Mr. & Mrs. Roland DeWitt

Pat & Julie Donahue  
Nancy Dykehouse  
Theresa Dykhuis  
Dennis & Sue Emmons  
Kathy Evans  
Chris & Mary Eyke  
Thomas & Maxine Fox  
Jean Freye  
Mrs. Tilio Giacobassi  
Terri Glenn  
Wayne Golomb  
John & Nancy Grant  
Jared Green  
Jean Haase  
Carol Hall  
Dona & Laura Hansen  
Dennis Hayes  
Rod & Lidia Hayhurst  
Donald & Judy Hegedus  
Mr. & Mrs. Boyd Henderson  
Wendell & Sandra Hill  
Brenda & Dick Hilt  
Catherine Hintz  
Steve & Joy Hohmeyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Hoopes  
Hugh & Barbara Hornstein  
Dan & Jane Horton  
Joe & Marcy Hunter  
Mark Ivey  
Dan & Barbara Joldersma  
Christina Keller  
Robert & Wendy Kersman  
Ms. Majorie Kibbey  
Paul & Barbara Kidd  
Kevin & Jan Klco  
Susan & Andrew Kleaveland

Jean & Harry Knudsen  
David & Lee Kurzhal  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ladas  
Benjamin Lane  
Robert Lascko  
Edward & Alyce Lemke  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lievensen  
John & Barbara Lloyd  
Rosalie Mancier  
Gudrun Marcotty  
Phillip & Deborah Margules  
Michael McCrimmon  
Don McDaniel  
Jim McHugh  
Dale & Connie Mead  
Andrew & Jackie Meyers  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Micka  
Vickie & Matt Miller  
Stephen Monsma  
Lureen Mullally  
Richard A. Nelson  
Lea Norbotten  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Obenaus  
Ken & Jan Oosterhouse  
Kay Ostrom  
Dr. & Mrs. Vicente Pacheco  
Jean Parker  
Brian & Karla Parkhurst  
Mr. & Mrs. John Pastoor  
Allen Pearson  
Dirk & Sharon Pegman  
Richard & Nancy Peters  
Stuart & Tia Peterson  
Carl Plantinga  
Kathy & Dan Price  
Alan Rapoport

Peter Rhein  
Rudicil Family  
Michael & Elizabeth Schanhals  
Gwen Scheerer  
Jean Schilleman  
Donna Seastrom  
Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Shaw  
Martin Shields  
Steve & Laura Sikkenga  
Janice Simon  
Gerald & Judy Slicker  
Monica Smith  
Roger Spoelman  
Roman Starr  
Joan Stewart  
Marge Stidham  
George & Dottie Strabel  
Rene Sundquist  
Howard & Marilyn Swanson  
John Swirczek  
Mary Switzer  
Bernie & Nancy Tassin  
Steve TenElshof  
Mr. & Mrs. John Terhune  
The Louis & Helen Padnos Fnd  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Thomasma  
Tom Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. John Tierney  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tindall  
James Tobleck  
Mike & Kathy Toczydowski  
Dr. & Mrs. David Tomczak  
Rick & Michelle Topp  
Robert Vaccaro  
Mary & Phillip Valentine  
Chuck Vanderlaan



Join us at the Maas Nature Preserve on November 1st for a volunteer workday (details on page 7). *Photo: D. Fogel*

- Richard & Joy Visser
- Mr. & Mrs. Gary Vrugink
- Ron & Lin Wabel
- Roy & Helen Walters
- Clark & Shirley Weersing
- Ann & Christopher Wilson
- Dorothy Wimmer
- Marguerite Winter
- Robert Wisneski
- Phil & Carolyn Wood
- Ray & Barb Wygant
- Paul & Alicia Yeiter
- Cindy & Terry Zaagman
- Walter A. Zarnoch
- Raimonds-Ziemelis & Paula McClurg-Ziemelis
- Brian Zuber

## Always Up For a Challenge!

How often have you read these or similar words in this newsletter, “Woollam Challenge – Met and Exceeded!”? Are you ready to read them again? Here we go:

### New & Old Members Meet the Woollam Challenge—And Then Some!

In early 2008 the J.A. Woollam Foundation once again announced a generous dollar for dollar challenge grant to help us increase giving support for our land protection programs. We successfully completed the \$25,000 challenge in six short months which added 38 new members, brought 62 lapsed members back into the fold, motivated 34 to increase their gifts, and doubled the gifts of those giving \$500 or more.

The Woollam Foundation Challenge grants—four successful ones to date—have been instrumental in growing our membership which in turn grows our efforts to permanently protect West Michigan’s dunes and shoreline, wetlands, fields, and forests.

We are extremely grateful to Dr. John Woollam and all the trustees of the Woollam Foundation for helping us reach record numbers in land protection and membership giving.

We want to thank those of you who stepped up to the Woollam Challenge, the challenge grants for the Campaign to Save Lost Lake, or any one of the many challenges we’ve received in recent years. There has never been a single time when Land Conservancy members have failed to step up to the plate and meet the challenge grants we’ve been so fortunate to receive.

Whether it is for a specific land acquisition project, for a stewardship fund for a nature preserve, or a chance to leverage additional program support, we can proudly say that the Land Conservancy is always up for a challenge. Thank you, everyone, for your generous commitment to keeping nature nearby in West Michigan. There will be more challenges on the way!

### Wish List

- Cordless Drill
- Hand Cart or Dolly
- Leather Gloves (all sizes)
- Paper Shredder
- Pickup Truck

### Join Our Email Listserv

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

Visit Us Online!  
[www.naturenearby.org](http://www.naturenearby.org)





## Focus on a Preserve: Saul Lake Bog

If you haven't been to Saul Lake Bog lately, this fall would be a good time. LCWM members have reported seeing 14 Sandhill cranes coming into the bog each evening and there was a beautiful bloom of rose pogonia this year.

The acre of prairie that was planted this winter has already had emerging native grasses and wildflowers. The previously planted sections were burned by Grattan Township Volunteer Firefighters with excellent response from the native grasses like big bluestem.

We are preparing the next acre that will be planted later this fall thanks in large part to the generosity of Cheryl Tolley of Sandhill Farms native nursery, who is providing our volunteers access again to her native grasses to collect seeds.

Finally, this fall we will unveil a new educational sign that explains a bit of the natural history of the bog. This sign, generously donated in memory of Mary Louise (Mame) Steketee, was illustrated by Amelia Hansen.

### Saul Lake Bog Photos (top to bottom)

- Observation deck (*Danielle Fogel*)
- Grattan Township Volunteer Firefighters assist with a controlled burn (*Melanie Good*)
- Volunteers spread native prairie plant seeds during the 2007 volunteer potluck (*Danielle Fogel*)



## Volunteer Potluck & Farewell to Julie Party

**Date & Time:** Sept. 25, 2008 at 5 pm  
*(rain date Sept. 30, 2008)*

**Location:** Saul Lake Bog Preserve  
10469 Six Mile Rd, Rockford, MI 49341  
*Please RSVP to [lcwm@naturenearby.org](mailto:lcwm@naturenearby.org) or 616-451-9476*

The Land Conservancy invites volunteers, members, and friends to a potluck celebration to honor our volunteers and to say farewell to our wonderful Executive Director, Julie Stoneman. Please bring a dish to share, and a picnic blanket or chairs. Invite your friends and family!

## Thank You Volunteers (April 2008 - July 2008)

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](mailto:diane@naturenearby.org).

Robert & Cindy Ackerman  
Lawrence & Christine Baer  
Robb Bajema  
Dwight Baker  
Jerry Bakke  
Jan Barger  
Jenna Beauchamp  
Alan Bennett  
Nancy Benner  
Jim Benson  
Bonnie Blackledge  
June Bowman  
Jim Bradley  
Diane Brady  
Lynette Brenner  
Dan Broersma  
Ernie & Carol Brumbaugh  
William Byl  
Ray Byle  
Janet Carbonneau-Jones  
Annika Chante  
Sue Clements  
Rick Chapla

Judy Clowney  
Betty Jo Crosby  
Jim Reminga  
Andrea Darling  
Monte Davis  
Jan & Christine Deur  
Linda & Don Dodge  
Pat & Julie Donahue  
Clark Elenbaas  
Amy & Dave Elliott  
Peggy Falk  
Jim Ferro  
Daniel & Penny Folsom  
John Fox  
Chris & Bob Gamble  
Pierre Gerber  
Lynne Goodwin  
Kelly Goward  
Dan Grady  
Richard Granse  
Grattan Fire Department  
Rob Hartman  
Charles Hayden

Michael P. Hayes  
Joe Hill  
Laura Hire  
Mary Hollinrake  
Dawn Holtrop  
Charles Homeyer  
Jodi Hovey  
Jennifer Huizenga  
Tiffany Ireland  
Mark Iverson  
Jon Jellema  
Jane Johnson  
Haig H. Kassouni  
Fred Kraft  
Wendy Kuenzel-Kapolka  
Elizabeth Kurth  
Jamie & Penny Ladd  
Timothy Lundgren  
Neil MacDonald  
Lynn Martin & Tom Dandridge  
Tracy McCassey  
Tom & Dawn McDonald  
Ruth Meinert

Patrick Miller  
Jane Missimer  
Steve Mulder  
Bernie Mulder  
David Myers  
Kathy Neff  
Marva Odren  
Luke Pettinga  
Larry Piatek  
Bonnie Jean Randall  
Richard S. Rasmussen  
Carol Phelps  
Elise Roe  
Marni Rose  
Melinda Rose  
Scott Rush  
Dean & Elaine Salisbury  
Paul Sampson  
Laird Schaefer  
Cicely Schonberg  
Doug Schrank  
Katherine Smalley  
Clay Stauffer

Alan Steinman  
Deb Steketee  
Lisa W. Symons  
Robert & Mischelle Sytsma  
Abby Taylor  
Janice Tompkins  
Virginia VanAndel  
Robert VanderKamp  
Kathy VanderStel  
Randy VanDragt  
Shane & Janice VanOosterhout  
John Vigna  
Kathy WALSON  
Dave Warners  
Chad Wiersma

Special thanks go to Steve TenElshof for all his work at Lamberton Lake and to the Grattan Fire Department.

*Our sincere apologies for any omissions.*



# The Land Conservancy of West Michigan & Korth Family Foundation Present the 8th Annual Korth Conservation Speakers Series



Photo courtesy of Bret Rappaport

## Bret Rappaport

Past President of Wild Ones & A Leader in the Natural Landscape Movement

**Of Axes & Shovels, Boxes & Circles:**  
*Become a Part of the Natural Landscape Movement*

**Thursday, October 16, 2008**

7:30 am registration & continental breakfast  
8:00 am - 10:00 am presentation

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park  
1000 East Beltline Ave. NE s Grand Rapids, MI 49525

**Cost (includes continental breakfast): \$15**

### Advanced Registration Required

Please register by 10/7/08 at [www.naturenearby.org](http://www.naturenearby.org), email [lcwm@naturenearby.org](mailto:lcwm@naturenearby.org), or call 616-451-9476.

## About Bret Rappaport

Bret Rappaport is a leader in the Natural Landscape Movement. He is the past national president of Wild Ones – Natural Landscapers, Ltd., a national, not-for-profit educational organization dedicated to protecting diversity by promoting natural landscaping using native plant species. Wild Ones has more than a 40 chapters with members across North America.

Bret is a partner with the Chicago law firm of Hardt Stern & Kayne, and is a nationally recognized authority on municipal regulations

affecting natural landscapers, and has argued the cause of natural landscaping in state and federal courts. He has consulted with government officials and assisted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with its “Green Landscaping” Internet web page.

He has spoken across the country in support of natural landscaping and gardening with native plants, and has written articles for both popular and academic publications. He has appeared on network television and in newspapers including the New York Times and Wall Street Journal.

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Saint Mary’s Health Care Center for Sustainability at Aquinas College

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## Please Help Protect West Michigan’s Natural Lands

*Last year every \$1 donated protected \$33 worth of forests, fields, wetlands & dunes!*

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Gift enclosed

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please bill my credit card

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Card (please circle): Visa Mastercard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address:  Same as on left

Donate online at [www.naturenearby.org](http://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.

## Attention Shutterbugs: LCWM Fall & Winter Photo Contest

Grab your camera and take a hike! The Land Conservancy of West Michigan (LCWM) is holding an amateur photography contest that showcases the beauty and splendor of autumn and winter at our nature preserves. Many of the photographs will be used in our newsletters, brochures, and website. For additional information, please contact the office at 616-451-9476 or email [danielle@naturenearby.org](mailto:danielle@naturenearby.org).



Photographer Ed Post captured the beauty of a rare white lady slipper orchid at one of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan's nature preserves this spring.  
*Photo: Ed Post*

### Photography Contest Guidelines

- Open to all LCWM members (no entry fee)
- Enter up to 3 pieces in the following categories:
  1. Close-up
  2. Landscape
  3. Animals
  4. People in Nature – LCWM Activities and Events
- Entries can be digital or printed. All work must be clearly marked with your name, address and phone number, along with the category and location of photo.
- **All photographs must be taken on LCWM properties.** See our website's Nature Preserve section for location information ([www.naturenearby.org](http://www.naturenearby.org)).
- All winning photographs may be used for promotional purposes by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. Photographers retain rights to the photograph.
- Winners will be announced at the Land Conservancy of West Michigan's Annual Nature Nearby Celebration and Membership Meeting in early spring.
- **Please submit your photo entries by February 1, 2008 to:**

Email: [danielle@naturenearby.org](mailto:danielle@naturenearby.org)

Mail: Land Conservancy of West Michigan  
1345 Monroe Ave. NW, Ste 324  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

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