



Landmarks

Newsletter of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

Fall 2014

Preserve Forests, Protect Life

By Jack R. Smiley, SMLC Founder & Land Protection Committee Member

Forests are vital to the air we breathe, the water we drink, the medicines we take, the products we build and many of the foods we eat. But, looking beyond our narrow human interests, forests are simply vital to life on this planet.

Forests have been characterized as the lungs of planet Earth, churning out oxygen as they sequester carbon dioxide. Forests harbor a great diversity and abundance of species--from lowly fungi to the great apes and even *homo sapiens*.

Here in Michigan, we are fortunate to live in a temperate region where forests thrive. Our soils nurture a diversity of tree species which

formed the canopied landscape which once blessed this state. It was often said that Michigan's forests were so extensive that a squirrel could travel from one end of the state to the other without need of setting foot on the ground. Whether or not a squirrel could truly avoid the barrens and prairies to make such an imagined journey, it made a nice story to exemplify how grand the forests were.

Today, we live in an era when forest habitats are still struggling to recover. The lumber barons of the late 1800s decimated the great pine forests of northern Michigan, laying waste to majestic cathedrals. In the Lower Peninsula, only a 40-acre tract of ancient pines remains at Hartwick Pines State Park. If you haven't experienced these magnificent trees, you owe it to

yourself to make a visit. You will leave with some remorse, but greatly inspired.

Here in southeast Michigan, forests suffered a similar fate. Most of the landscape was cleared to provide for agricultural fields, but some areas were left unscathed, sometimes for firewood and sometimes because the

land was not suitable to till. In a few cases, it was out of reverence for wildflowers and nature. For these and other reasons, we can now find oak-hickory and beech-maple forests scattered throughout southeast Michigan.

These remnant forests provide watershed protection on a par with wetlands. They reduce

the amount of rain reaching the forest floor and their moist soils absorb considerably more water than a barren field, replenishing aquifers and reducing runoff and flooding.

The habitat provided by these wooded remnants supports numerous species of mammals, insects and reptiles and the vernal ponds within host salamanders



Photo of an Ash understory in the forest at Lost Lake Nature Preserve
Photo by Charles Scott

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Landmarks

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Message from the Executive Director

By Jill A. Lewis

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Our Mission

The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy conserves natural land and open space - including forests, wetlands, meadows, agricultural lands, and places of scenic beauty - to provide habitat for wildlife and to enrich the lives of people.

In 2014, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy has been hard at work achieving our mission of conserving natural lands and open spaces. We acquired our new West Prairie site, part of our Sibley Prairie Nature Preserve, in Brownstown Township (see Page 3), continued work on property-readiness at our beautiful Lost Lake Nature Preserve, and continued to oversee the construction of the new Superior Greenway Nature Trail located in the Superior Greenway, Superior Township (see Page 7).

Although a lot of other work has also been accomplished including much-needed improvements at our Conservancy Farm: a repainting of the big red barn and woodshed by the Southeast Michigan Student Conservation Corps (see Page 7) and a new farmhouse roof!, much of our project work is leading up to three public preserve and trail dedications in 2015. We hope to open the two preserves noted above to the public and celebrate the public opening of the Trail as well. Achieving our mission of providing habitat for wildlife and enriching the lives of people is all the more special when we can engage others in experiencing the wonder of nature at a preserve.

The engagement that occurs when SMLC hosts one of our Signature

Hikes and participants experience the majesty and beauty of a forest remnant is one example. They are able to connect with something larger than themselves for a few moments and can appreciate the value of conserving these places. Please see pages 4-6 for more on the Conservation Value of Forests.

As we transition from this year to the next, SMLC will be exploring more of these conservation connections through our work in specific areas where SMLC has been protecting land on a landscape-level. Places such as the Lost Lake area, the Sibley Prairie and the Superior Greenway. As part of that engagement, we will also be looking to deepen connections with the local communities as well as connecting these places with southeast Michigan residents and visitors.

We would not be here today without your ongoing support of SMLC's mission and our land protection efforts. As our year closes, we reflect on the sustenance you have given us and what has been able to be accomplished because of you. Please continue your generosity this year and make a year-end contribution. Your donation will count towards our "We Care" Campaign and fund our annual operations.

Thank you!



Swamp Milkweed,
Asclepias incarnata
Photo by Jill A. Lewis



Sibley Prairie News

SMLC's Sibley Prairie Nature Preserve – West Prairie

By Jill A. Lewis, Executive Director

In July Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy acquired a 39-acre property located off of West Road in Brownstown Township, Wayne County. This property wholly contains the historic Beech-Daly prairie remnant as noted in *A Survey of Lakeplain Prairie in Michigan*, Patrick J. Comer, et al. The property also contains wooded wetlands and is beloved by the surrounding neighbors.

SMLC intends to provide public access in 2015 in keeping with the sensitive nature of the natural features while also providing an opportunity for the public to learn about Michigan's lakeplain prairie.

SMLC extends our appreciation to our project partners, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, who holds the conservation easement on the property for the purpose of protecting the existing wetlands, and Redwood Acquisitions.

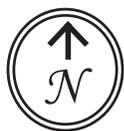
YOU Can Help - Save the Sibley Prairie!

Thousands of acres of rolling prairie once covered southeast Michigan. Now, the largest prairie remnant in Michigan is less than 400 acres. Located in Brownstown Township, the Sibley Prairie has a high threat from development but you can help save what's left.

SMLC's **Sibley Prairie Land Protection Project** has successfully raised \$43,000 towards our \$75,000 project goal to-date. You can help us meet our goal! If we can raise another \$18,000 before year-end, the *John A. Woollam Foundation* will fund the remaining \$10,000. *The Carls Foundation* will also match every local contribution, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$75,000 that SMLC receives by 12-31-14. Help SMLC receive **\$150,000** for the preservation of Sibley Prairie (see clip-out coupon on back page of the newsletter).

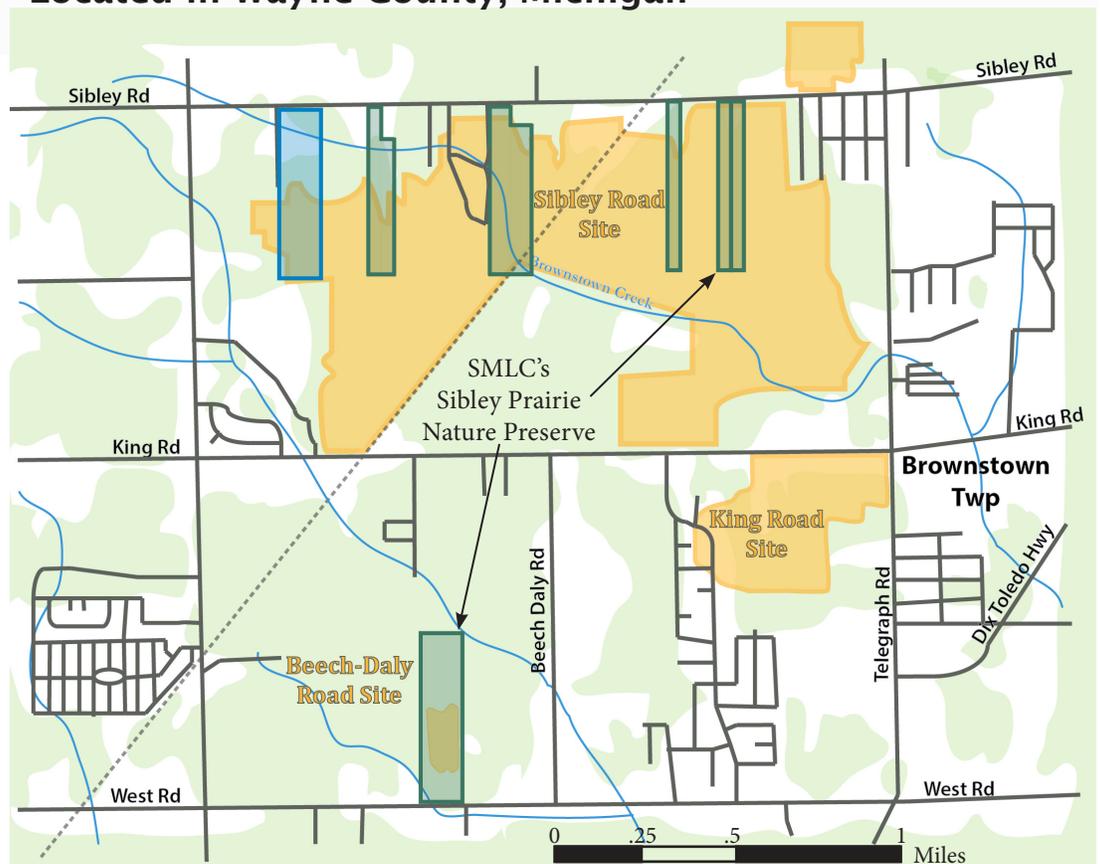
Thank You!

Protected Lakeplain Prairie in Brownstown Township Located in Wayne County, Michigan



KEY

- Lakeplain Prairie Remnants
- Possible Protected Parcel
- Already Protected Property



Map Data current as of July 7, 2014 and is for general reference only. Data provided by USGS, "A Survey of Lakeplain Prairie in Michigan", Co-authored by Patrick J. Comer and others. Protected land data updated July 7, 2014. Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy or their partners do not make any claim as to the accuracy of this information.

The Conservation Value of Forests

Southeast Michigan Forests: Remnants to Refuges

By Richard Kent, SMLC Board Director & Land Protection Committee Chair

The land surface of North America is home to seven biomes: desert, grassland, tundra, taiga, chaparral, alpine and, arguably the most important, forest. Prior to European settlement, most of the eastern U.S., including southeast Michigan, was covered by an enormous deciduous forest. Due to agricultural practices and urbanization a small fraction of this landscape is forested today. Nonetheless important remnants of the

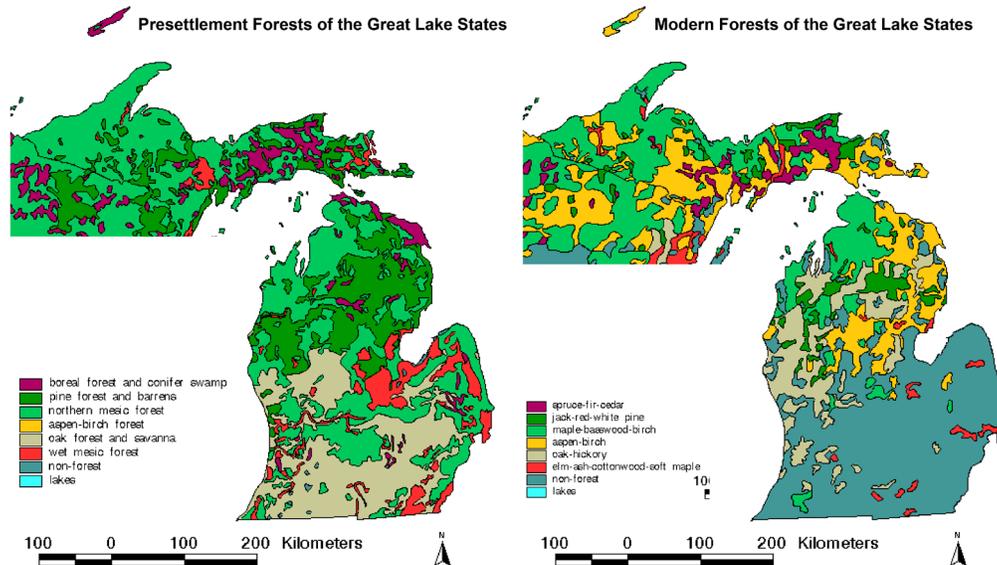
original forests remain in the south of Michigan, and northern Michigan has six state forests, the largest state forest system in the U.S. Locally the main types of forest communities based on the predominant tree species are: oak-hickory, beech-sugar maple, and hardwood swamp. The differences in soil type and moisture are the main variables that determine the tree species that make up the forests today. Oak-hickory communities occur on drier sites than beech-maple. Oak-hickory communities contain other important trees than these two species, for example cherry, dogwood and black walnut but the majority of the trees are oaks or hickories. Our beech maple communities contain walnut, bitternut hickory and tulip tree but no hemlock or white pine found in more northern woods.

The values of forests are well documented: habitat for wildlife, protection of water quality, reduction of erosion, moderation of climatic extremes and, of course, as lumber barons were well aware, economic value – production of building materials. Although these uses are important in the present day, as residents

of a large metropolitan area, other less tangible values may be at least as important. Prior to settlement this area was mostly forested whereas today it is either built up or in cultivation. Today southeast Michigan is predominantly an open landscape with wooded areas largely absent. Where they do exist, these woodlands, even as limited as hedgerows, provide welcome relief or contrast to the buildings or cultivated fields.

Where do you like to go for a walk if you have more time than strolling through your neighborhood? If you are an SMLC supporter a park or preserve or other environment with natural quality is probably your answer. And because of our climate and geography nothing is more natural around here than a forest or a wood, a wood being a portion of what was once a larger forest. A walk in the woods has long been known to have restorative qualities on humans from poets to pugilists, IT wired teens to old foggies like myself. Is there anyone who doesn't enjoy a campfire, especially if its by the banks of a wooded stream?

If you are looking for place to enjoy a walk in the woods in your area, check out the SMLC website www.smlcland.org or the website of your local county parks department. Oakland County and Washtenaw County in particular offer multiple opportunities to hug a tree, sit in the shade of one, ponder how long that great oak has been standing, collect a beautiful fall-colored leaf, or just to feel good immersed in the sounds and sights of nature. Remember nature is what we've got!



Maps of Michigan forest cover obtained online from landcover.usgs.gov.

Discover SMLC's Forests

By Greg Norwood, Stewardship Committee Member

Visitors will experience forests at every SMLC preserve. These publicly accessible lands reconnect people to southern Michigan's natural environments where visitors can detach from our urban landscape and find mud, un-raked leaves, quiet (or loud natural sounds), and the freedom to reconnect to the natural world in one's own way. Oaks exceeding 200 years old are a relatively common site at SMLC's and other preserves like LeFurge, Lost Lake, Cherry Hill, Kosch Headwaters, Bell Creek, and Holliday Nature Preserve.

SMLC's forests generally fall into those that are dominated by sugar maple and beech on loamy, well-drained sites, and those dominated by oaks and hickories, which appear on very well-drained sites often on slopes and/or more sandy soils where fire was frequent in the past. Floodplains and swamps such as at Bell Creek Nature Preserve have trees like sycamore, silver maple, elm, and ash that are adapted to frequent flooding and prolonged inundation. Each place is special and a completely "natural" result of unique conditions on the land, and of course stressors like drainage, former agriculture and grazing, or suppression of fire. On your next walk at an SMLC preserve, consider how priceless it is to be in a place where natural processes go unfettered by people. These events always result in new habitats, nursing young trees of the next generation as the branch decomposes, all while un-raked leaves and mud are underfoot.

Thank You Kevin O'Connor

Many thanks to SMLC's summer volunteer, Kevin O'Connor. He is a local area resident pursuing a natural resources degree at The State University of New York at Potsdam. Kevin performed a variety of tasks including mowing the Conservancy Farm's lawn, posting nature preserve signs, and helping with trail maintenance and building upkeep. SMLC received close to 150 hours! from his efforts. Thank You Kevin!

Many Thanks...



University of Michigan student volunteers with the Deloitte Group after the big clean out of SMLC's pole barn. Photo by Jill A. Lewis

To the **Red Barn Bash Event Planning Committee** members for all of their help in planning, organizing and implementing a wonderful evening. To all of the **volunteers** and **Board Directors** who assisted with the setup and take-down of the event – *thank you!*

To all of the **mailing party volunteers** who helped SMLC with our Red Barn Bash invitations and spring *Landmarks* newsletters.

To all of the **stewardship volunteers** who assisted with invasives-species removal and Conservancy Farm maintenance.

To the **DTE employees**, and especially **Craig Tylenda**, for your help removing buckthorn from SMLC's LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve.

To the **Deloitte Group** and the University of Michigan student volunteers for your help with the big cleanup of SMLC's Pole Barn giving us a lot more room for our stewardship equipment, tools and supplies.

To **Jack Smiley, Scott Tyrrell, Greg Norwood, Chris Fielding** and **Rochelle Breitenbach** for all your help with this year's *Sunrise Serenade* sponsored by Detroit Audubon Society and SMLC.

SMLC is always looking for enthusiastic people who want to help us achieve our mission. For more information about how to volunteer with SMLC, contact the office at info@smlcland.org or call 734.484.6565.

Considering Climate Change in Southeastern Michigan Forests

By Daniel Mark Kashian, Associate Professor at Wayne State University

Despite what you might hear on politically-charged radio or TV talk shows, scientists across the world have known for decades that climate change is occurring at unprecedented rates. Eleven of the last 13 years rank among the warmest on record, and even the most conservative climate models predict an increase of 2°C in global temperatures by 2100. In Michigan, you might not notice this average increase in temperature, but you may indeed notice predicted changes in extreme weather – longer periods of very hot weather in the summer or bitter cold in the winter. The average amount of precipitation is likely to remain the same, but it is expected to move more into the winter and spring, making summer and fall more prone to drought (including wetlands drying out) and spring more prone to flooding.

Overall, forest composition is expected to markedly change with these basic drivers of tree and shrub growth.

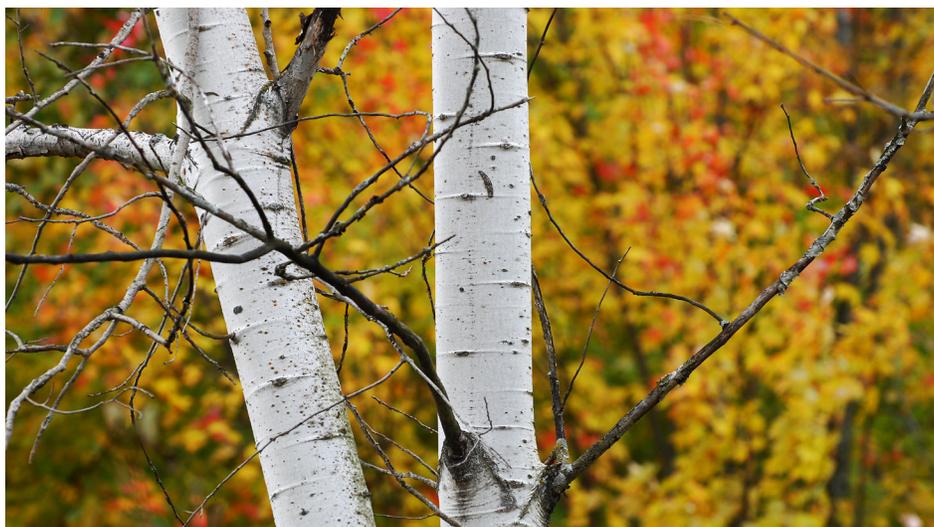
In Michigan, a trend resembling modern “global warming” occurred at the end of the last glaciation 12-16,000 years ago. All of the tree species that we observe today had been pushed into the South by the advancing glacial ice sheets, then migrated northward relatively quickly afterward. Most evidence suggests that species moved independent of the forest types we see today – for example, oaks and hickories did not migrate as an oak-hickory forest, but instead the species migrated independently and ended up on similar sites as we see today. Thus, we expect that even species growing in the same woodlot today may respond very differently to changes in climate. In the short term, that response will be on a site-by-site basis rather than similarly across the entirety of southeast Michigan.

Some modelers have suggested that common tree species in our area – such as sugar maple, white oak, red maple, and other soft maples – are likely to eventually move northward into the far northern extent of the U.S. and into Canada as they are outcompeted on their current sites by more southern species. Many field ecologists, however, agree that tree species – especially their regeneration - are shaped heavily by other important factors on the ground besides climate. White oak and other oak species, for example, are not likely to migrate much because of the lack of periodic fires required to open the canopy and remove competitors.

Silver maple, a tree common on wet sites and near rivers, is likely to be favored by greater spring flooding. Red maple, which calls swamps home but invades upland sites in the absence of fire, is likely to be favored as wetlands begin to dry out, as will other species that prefer moist but not

wet sites, such as sugar maple, basswood, and beech. It may not be accurate to expect that many tree species will soon be leaving southeastern Michigan!

In sum, climate change is likely to cause marked changes in our forests over several centuries as they have in the past, and that change is likely inevitable. In terms of what we can do, threats to our forests and woodlands in southeastern Michigan such as invasive species, altered disturbance regimes, and mismanagement are probably much greater in the time span of our lifetimes than is climate change, and are much easier to counteract. In this era of tremendous ecological change, our stewardship efforts are likely to be most effective and beneficial when focused on issues close at hand.



Birch trees in autumn at Kosch-Headwaters Preserve.

Photo by Charles Scott



Stewardship News

Celebrate Conservation with the Corps!

By Jill A. Lewis, Executive Director

This past summer, SMLC was very fortunate to participate again in the second year of the Southeast Michigan Student Conservation Corps (SEMSCC) program. We had a great crew of 7 high-school students and 2 college crew leaders for 3 weeks this past July.

The kids worked hard removing woody invasive species at SMLC's LeFurge Woods and Lost Lake nature preserves and helping with other stewardship needs in the field. They also spent a week repainting the big red barn and the woodshed at the Conservancy Farm – a big job and a huge help! They learned a lot, laughed a lot! and when the job was done we were truly sad to see them go.

The SEMSCC program goals are to: provide summer work experience for high-school juniors and seniors, provide hands-on stewardship and supervisory learning for college upperclassmen seeking careers in natural resources, enhance and sustain local stewardship capacity for area land conservancies, and provide exposure to the natural environment through place-based learning.

The process begins with interested and motivated Detroit high school students applying through the



SEMSCC students remove buckthorn at SMLC's LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve.

Michigan College Association's (MCA) Third 90 program. Those chosen are paired with college crew leaders who go through a similar process with the MCA. The Detroit Student Conservation Association manages the program that this year included Legacy Land Conservancy, Six Rivers Land Conservancy and SMLC.

Many thanks to Jerry Jung who has generously funded the program for the past two years and to Susan Lackey, Legacy Land Conservancy, for taking the lead on the program's creation. Jerry had the vision and Susan helped make it happen. The result has been transformational.

Superior Greenway Nature Trail in Progress



Construction on the new **Superior Greenway Nature Trail** finally began this fall. The first phase of the project is taking place at SMLC's Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve located in Superior Township.

An ADA-accessible trail entrance and lookout area, information kiosks and two bridge crossings are all part of this work. In addition, the first phase now includes a new walkway across Cherry Hill Road from Superior Township Hall. Superior Township has graciously agreed to allow parking at the Hall for trail users.

A big thank you goes out to Washtenaw County for all of their help administering the project.

Local Chapter News

A Rose is a Rose by Any Name

By Bill Secret, Board Director & Chapter Steering Committee Chair

Superior Township, located in eastern Washtenaw County, rests amidst rolling fields and forests squarely athwart the wild and roiling headwaters of both the Rouge and Huron River watersheds. This ancient landscape was buried under a mile of ice a mere 10,000 years ago, but the glaciers melted as our climate relaxed and a fabulous tapestry of living species has since settled in. Mighty oaks, great horned owls, fox, deer, coyotes, frogs, butterflies and so much more remains, but so much is disappearing as natural areas are bought, sold and “developed.”

So, we who still love these local wonders of nature banded together 23 years ago as the Superior Land Conservancy. Almost immediately we tucked ourselves under the umbrella of the recently incorporated Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy. As the parent organization grew, partnering with all levels of government and other environmental organizations, several thousand acres of land were protected, twenty-four hundred acres in Superior Township alone. Now the township hosts the SMLC headquarters in a pioneer farmstead that sits amidst this Superior Greenway.

Our successes to date are well worth the sustained

efforts and sacrifices our volunteers have rendered throughout these many years. From the beginning, SLC members hoped that our homespun efforts would provide a preservation model that might be replicated throughout our region. This remains our hope.

There has been one pesky little problem. An unintended consequence of our project has been that our name, Superior Land Conservancy, has provoked perpetual confusion. People, even our dearest supporters, see us as a separate entity from our parent outfit, the SMLC. This is not the case. We are a chapter of the SMLC, not a stand-alone conservancy. This ongoing confusion will now be brought to rest.

Henceforth, we will be known as the Superior Township Chapter of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy. When you donate to SMLC, you may earmark your membership in support of our chapter and help drive our ongoing preservation work in our township. You will enjoy the special neighborly benefits of our local chapter while also driving the preservation work of the SMLC throughout Southeast Michigan. As always, we are thinking globally while acting locally.

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Conservation Profiles

Greg Norwood

By Rick Simek, Stewardship Committee Chair

Greg Norwood first became acquainted with SMLC, and what makes SMLC preserves special, when he was just 10 years old. He was a participant in the Young Naturalist Program at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and someone suggested to him that he explore a wonderful SMLC nature sanctuary known as LeFurge Woods. That person who nudged Greg toward LeFurge Woods was me. As the Young Naturalist program leader, I had quickly come to recognize Greg as an especially enthusiastic and promising field naturalist.

I'm happy to report that Greg took that first of what would be many trips to LeFurge Woods, with his parents. He remembers enjoying "the rural, wild, unexplored part of it." He now credits that outing with setting the stage for "aligning his already strong conservation values with SMLC."

As Greg continued with his excursions to LeFurge Woods in his teens, he came to see LeFurge Woods as a wonderful space for exploring and appreciating local biodiversity. He has vivid memories of encountering birdlife, such as scarlet tanagers and ovenbirds, that came from faraway places to rest or nest there. Greg's interest in bird diversity at LeFurge Woods also led to what he identifies as his "gateway event" to getting more actively involved in SMLC as an organization: leading the early morning "Sunrise Serenade" program. The program involves listening in on the pre-dawn chorus of nesting bird species. It's evident that Greg also enjoys the camaraderie of that program, too, when he asks "where else are you really going to do that by yourself at 3:30AM?"

Greg also marks an invitation he received to sit in on an SMLC Board meeting "as a student would" as another stepping stone in his SMLC involvement. It was there that he recognized a "real, true commitment to conserving local green spaces."

Fast forward to the present, and Greg is now working as a biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. He is also a member of the SMLC Stewardship Committee.

Greg's knowledge and curiosity about the natural world has proven to be a wonderful asset to SMLC's field explorations of properties that are being considered for protection. His knowledge of prairie grasses, sedges, and wildflowers, for example, were highly instrumental in determining the rare and special ecological character of the lakeplain prairie space that SMLC has recently acquired for permanent protection.



Photo of Greg Norwood on a site visit at Lost Lake Nature Preserve

Photo by Kurt Jung

Greg says that he thinks a lot about how SMLC will move forward. He sees a "huge opportunity for SMLC to cement people to local natural areas so that these places become part of everyday life." He envisions SMLC as having an "open door policy" which infuses a "landscape approach to both habitat management and public use of SMLC preserves." "People want basis access" he says. He feels that for SMLC's land preservation efforts to "stay relevant"..."people need to have

regular opportunities to interact with SMLC preserves." He feels that that could be done while still maintaining "SMLC's important nature protection values."

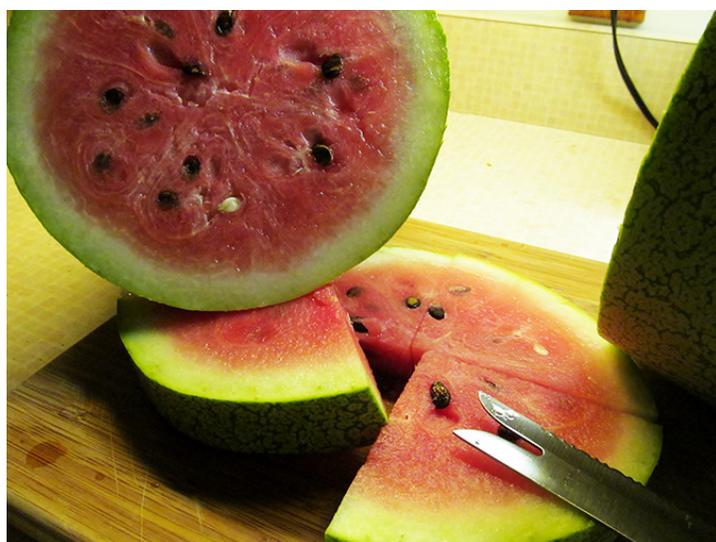
SMLC has certainly maintained its relevance to Greg. Now a father of two, he and his wife Terry regularly frequent LeFurge Woods as a family. A fond recent family memory Greg has from LeFurge Woods is listening to the annual spring courtship display of the American woodcock, a bird species that finds what it needs to live, and thrive, at the preserve. It's an experience he hopes his children will come to value, too.

We at SMLC are fortunate, and grateful, that Greg has chosen to lend his values, expertise, and ideas to help strengthen and sustain SMLC into the future!

The Wonderful Watery Watermelon

By Wendy Pellerito, Office Manager & Garden Coordinator

Moisten your mouth, choose your target, take a deep breath while leaning back and then throw your head and body forward allowing both air and the water to force your seed forward through the tunnel of your tongue. Yep! That's how you spit out a watermelon seed. Gee, I wonder what kind of distance the Pharaoh Tutankhamun of Egypt got when he spit his seeds. Did you know they found watermelon seeds in his tomb? And did you know that watermelons originated in Egypt. Neither did I, but I bet they had some great seed spitting contests in those days.



Wendy grew this whopping 17 lb. watermelon at SMLC's Community Organic Garden. *Photo by Wendy Pellerito*

Now if you grow your own watermelons like I do, you will harvest a delicious fruit that might have only cost you the price of the seed packet. In Hokkaido, Japan, the first harvested melon in 2008 was sold at an auction for \$6,300, making it the most expensive watermelon ever sold. Can you just even imagine getting that kind of dough from something you grew from seed??? Well, I will never get that amount of money from mine, but maybe I should start creating square melons like they do in Japan. They sell for \$83. I'd be happy with that profit margin.

So get out there and enjoy that mouth-watering fruit or have fun taking the slippery seeds and propelling them at your friends. Don't forget to measure the distance to see if you mastered the technique. But you need to beat the record of 68 feet!!!

Scenes from the Annual Picnic

We couldn't have asked for better weather for this year's Annual Picnic at the Farm. Approximately 75 folks showed up in support of SMLC to eat delicious food, talk with friends and family, and view incredible Raptors up close. The Leslie Science and Nature Center showed off three fantastic raptors, including a Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel.



Sarah from Leslie Science and Nature Center shows off a Barred Owl.

People also enjoyed the Historical Conservancy Farm Tour led by SMLC Founder Jack Smiley. And the kids enjoyed making natural bird feeders out of pine cones and peanut butter. As usual, it would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers. Thank you to those folks that showed up early and stayed late to help make the picnic so enjoyable. See you next year!



Above: Kyra fills her plate. Below: Guests sit and eat under the shade of the canopy.

Photos by Jim Robertson



Wildlife Sightings

Dragonflies – Magical Mosquito Hawks!

By Jill A. Lewis, Executive Director

This week I was eating lunch on the picnic table at the Conservancy Farm and a small but beautiful red dragonfly landed on the table next to me. My companion and I marveled at the sight during mid-fall.

Near the end of September I was visiting SMLC's Lost Lake Nature Preserve when I spotted a large emerald one speeding across the newly cleared patch of land where the old airplane hangar had once stood. In that case, I stopped to watch it in flight, mesmerized.

There is something almost magical about dragonflies. They catch our attention as they zoom into our field of awareness and inspire awe at their aerial displays and fearless approach to life.

There are 114 species of dragonflies in Michigan but they can be found all over the world! They inhabit both freshwater and terrestrial habitats during their life cycle which they begin in a larval stage.



Dragonfly at rest.

Dragonflies are valued because they eat harmful insects including mosquitoes – this has given them the tag of Mosquito Hawks. Since they live around freshwater streams, ponds and wetlands, you can find them at other SMLC nature preserves including LeFurge Woods, Morris-Reichert, and Sibley Prairie.

Adult dragonflies can be similar-looking to damselflies. One way to tell them apart is by watching the insect at rest – if the wings are held perpendicular to their body, it is a dragonfly. One of the most interesting characteristics, however, is their jeweled coloring – dragonflies can be blue, yellow, red and green.

Next time you are visiting a freshwater area, keep your eyes open for dragonflies – you too might be enchanted by this amazing insect.

Photo by Cindy Oleszkowicz

Preserve Forests, Protect Life

Continued from Page 1

and other amphibians. Numerous bird species are also highly dependent upon the patchwork of remaining forests. Wood Thrush, one of the most notable species associated with forests, generally requires forest patches of 150 acres or larger for successful breeding.

Fragmented forests, which have more edge habitat, increase the incidence of predators and nest parasites – reducing nesting success until deeper into the forest. Likewise, as the size of the forest increases, the overall number of breeding bird species increases. Both size and forest configuration are important factors affecting habitat suitability.

As the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy surveys our conservation opportunities, it is apparent that we need to protect not just what remains, but we need to work to restore and connect additional forest habitat.

It is only through landscape-scale preservation strategies that viable ecosystems can be preserved for present and future generations.

Join SMLC in working to protect forest habitat here in southeast Michigan. Along the way, make sure to venture into the woods, breathe deep the fresh air and immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of nature. Truly, a forest is a wonder to behold...and it is much more than trees.

Get Email Updates from SMLC

Don't miss out on the latest Conservancy news, events, and announcements. If your address has changed, be sure to let us know that too. To sign up, please send an email to Wendy: wpellerito@smlcland.org

YES! I want to help preserve critical natural habitat in southeast Michigan by supporting Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.

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\$ _____ Monroe County Fund

\$ _____ Superior Township Fund

\$ _____ Land Protection Fund

\$ _____ Stewardship Endowment Fund

\$ _____ **Superior Greenway Expansion Project**

\$ _____ **Sibley Prairie Land Protection Project**

Please make checks payable to Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy and mail to:

**Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
8383 Vreeland Rd.
Superior Township, MI 48198**

Or, make a secure online credit card donation at www.smlcland.org

Name _____

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E-mail _____

All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. The donor received no goods or services in exchange for this donation. E-mail used only for SMLC news/announcements. We will never give or sell your personal information to any other group.

Wish List

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy could use the following items:

- Mapping grade **GPS unit** (retail costs \$300)
- Backup portable **generator** (retail costs \$300)
- **Brush hog** for tractor (retail cost \$300)
- **Keurig "K-Cup" coffee maker** for SMLC events, newer (retail cost \$150)
- long handled **spades and rakes** for the Garden program (retail cost \$25 each)
- quality **leather gloves** (retail cost \$6 each)
- **bottled water** for thirsty volunteers.

Please contact Wendy at the SMLC office if you would like to make our wishes come true!

(734) 484-6565
wpellerito@smlcland.org

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
8383 Vreeland Rd
Superior Township, MI 48198



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