

Dear Friend:

April 2015

Later this year, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC) will celebrate the grand opening of three new nature preserves and the Superior Greenway Nature Trail, thanks to **YOU!** These preserves not only protect wildlife habitat and open space, but they will soon provide special places for residents and visitors to enjoy southeast Michigan's natural heritage. This is a significant achievement that we can all be proud of.

However, before we can start the party, much work is still needed to finish preparing SMLC's Jack R. Smiley, Lost Lake, and West Prairie preserves for public access. This is rarely talked about since the results are what matter in the long run. Planning, assessing, posting signs, cleaning up trash, and clearing trails are all part of preparing a preserve for long-term stewardship management and public uses.

Last year, the staff worked with project partners and contractors as we removed historic trash including more than 10 abandoned vehicles at Lost Lake and an old truck and boat (!) from the back of West Prairie. Other actions included posting nature preserve boundary signs, building two bridges, and building the public entranceway for the Superior Greenway Nature Trail.

Jon says, *"I am especially impressed with the work that went into making the Superior Greenway Nature Trail entrance so user-friendly. Washtenaw County put forth extraordinary efforts to make the pedestrian cross-walk and entrance overlook area accessible and visually pleasing. SMLC is deeply appreciative for all their help with this project."*

In 2014, Jill and staff took a number of site visits to review on-the-ground progress and to perform needed actions. In the fall, as part of the site planning for the ET Rover Pipeline project that is no longer slated to cross Lost Lake, Jill helped discover a beautiful glacial moraine area. *"When I broke free from the tangled web of fallow field invasive species, I was not expecting the glorious view and incredible beauty that lay in front of me. I stood on a tall ridge that overlooked a wooded valley and in the distance, Slack Lake. I was momentarily awestruck and cannot wait to show people this special part of Lost Lake."*

This year, we will continue this work and determine where public trails should go. This will include trail creation and delineation as well as posting way-finding signs. We will also begin management planning and continue invasive species removal efforts at all three sites.

All of this requires knowledge, manpower and funds. **You can help!** Your dollars will fund SMLC's annual operations and help us continue the preparedness efforts outlined above. John Muir once said, *"Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world."* With your help, we can open a few more doors to southeast Michigan's natural world this year. Thank YOU!

Sincerely,

Jon Trevathan

Jill A. Lewis





Photo by Charles Scott

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.

Our Board of Directors...

Jonathan Trevathan - President /
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Contact Us...

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What YOU Can Do

- 1. Make a generous donation today.** Use the enclosed envelope to mail your gift to SMLC or make a secure credit card donation at www.smlcland.org.
- 2. Make a generous pledge today.** Pledges can be payable over the next 2 years starting with a payment on the pledge before 12-31-15. All pledges should be paid in full no later than 12-31-16.
- 3. Tell your family and friends.** Spread the word about SMLC's good work and invite others to join you in participating in the "We Care" Campaign.

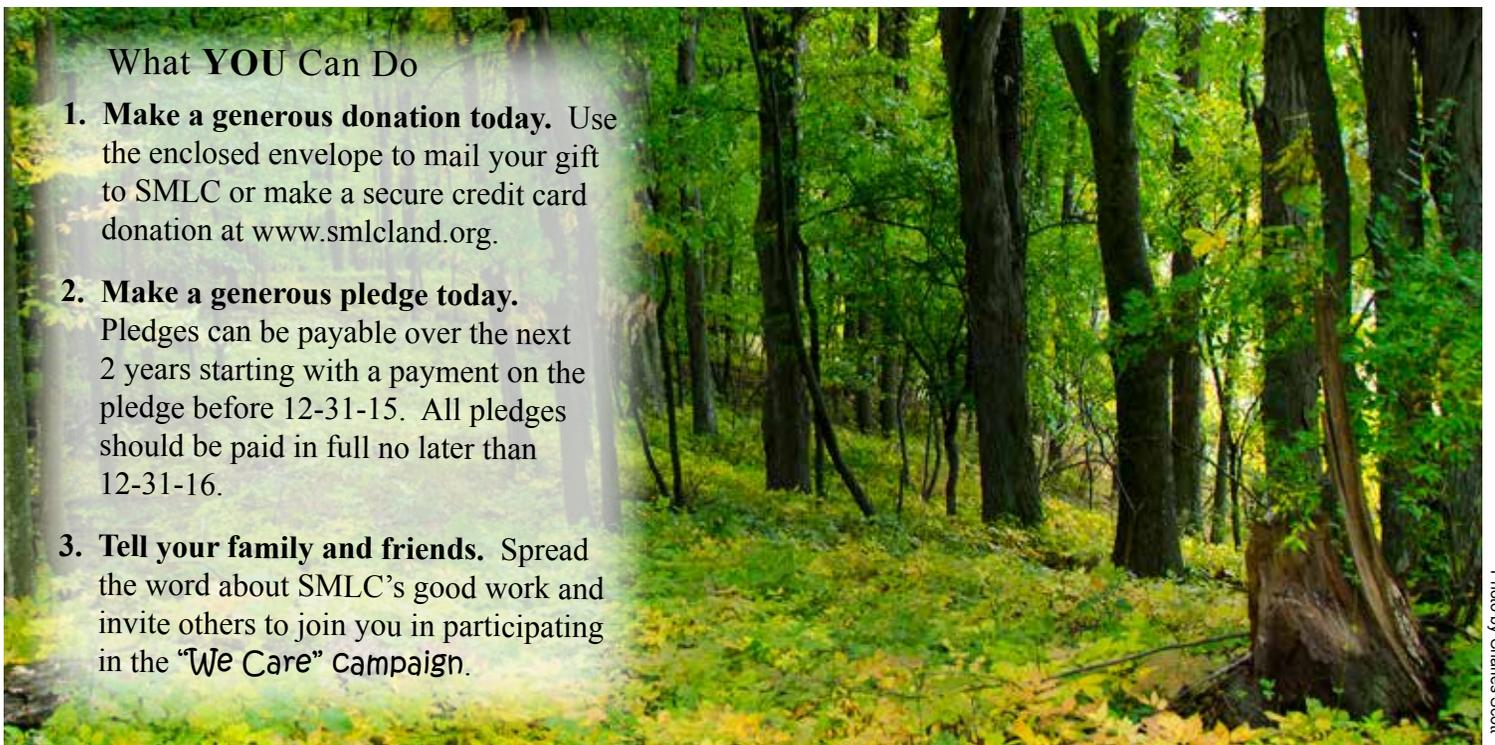


Photo by Charles Scott