



Livingston Land Conservancy

*Protecting the Natural Heritage and Rural Character of
the Greater Livingston County Area Since 1991*

Year in Review—2024

Board of Directors

**Sara Thomas, President/Land
Protection, Howell**

**Rob Stanford, Vice President,
Williamston**

**Gary Edwards, Treasurer,
Fenton**

**Bill Fountain, Secretary,
Hartland**

Paul Stavros, Director, Brighton

Marcee Wardell, Director, Howell

**Bob Pawlowski, Newsletter
Editor**

**Rick Thomas, Land on the Horizon
Fundraising Event Coordinator**

Meeting Dates & Times

**We meet the second
Monday of every month
at 6:30 p.m.**

**Meetings are at the HERO
Building (Old Hartland
Twp. Hall) 3191 Hartland Rd.
Hartland, MI.**

March 10, 2025

April 14, 2025

May 12, 2025

June 9, 2025

July 14, 2025

August 11, 2025

September 8, 2025

Livingston Land Conservancy

P.O. Box 236

Brighton, MI 48116-0236

810-229-3290 (voice mail)

livingstonlandconservancy@gmail.com

Funding – Besides donations from our dedicated members & supporters, we applied for and received two grants: one from the Community Foundation for Livingston County for \$8,430 (with additional funds from the Conservancy and the Brighton District Library) for the *Restoration & Public Access Project* at the Charles & Albert Parker Families Nature Preserve in Brighton; and the other was from the Land Trust Alliance for \$2,500, the *Midwest Organizational Impact Grant*, to support a stewardship contractor as well as additional board training & education. Our annual fundraiser, *Land on the Horizon*, was a success with over \$13,000 in net profit after expenses, all of which went to our land acquisition & stewardship funds.

Land stewardship – Our stewardship technician, Cara Green, left us in April for a full-time job with Legacy Land Conservancy, and we are very happy for the opportunity for her! We were lucky to sign on Tessa Kodrack as a stewardship contractor in the fall so we are attempting to keep her busy in between her college studies. Besides monitoring all of our properties annually and holding many workdays to remove invasive plants, here are a few additional highlights:

- Charles & Albert Parker Families NP – Spent over 400 hours of human time between volunteers and our restoration contractor, PlantWise, LLC, removing invasive plants, making a new loop trail & mulching both the loop and our original trail, as well as adding educational signage, and a bench by the interior wetland. We are continuing the solarization activity in the Pollinator Project and adding more native plants.
- Round Lake of Hartland NP – Held a workday to remove invasive shrubs with 20+ students and parents from Kensington Woods Schools.
- Arthur M Pasinski Memorial Preserve – We are continually monitoring our eastern boundary next to the Highland Knolls development off of M-59. We have struggled with their detention pond run-off and silt issues.

Land acquisition – We have been steadily working on 3 conservation easements in various stages of completion and spoke to an additional 8 interested landowners to provide them information and review their properties. One conversation is with a Michigan legacy family who own property in the north part of Livingston County about the potential to purchase 100 acres.

Training & education – Participated in several online training & educational webinars.

Outreach – Held our annual *Land on the Horizon* fundraiser at the Chemung Hills Golf Course & Banquet Center; participated in several Farmers Markets to educate folks about the Conservancy; sent out quarterly newsletters; had active engagement on social media; and gave a presentation to the Howell Garden Club. We hosted our annual meeting by Zoom due to uncooperative weather, where we highlighted the Parker Preserve *Restoration & Public Access Project*. We are now part of the Genesee, Lapeer, Livingston, and Shiawassee Counties Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (GiLLS CISMA) to access resources on invasive species. We would love to have you join us on workdays and other activities for 2025. Contact us at: livingstonlandconservancy@gmail.com!

Dedication of Two Trails this Spring!

We have been working on two public access trails that will be formally dedicated this Spring. We want to thank all the hard-working volunteers for helping us with the trail work at the following preserves:

Charles & Albert Parker Families NP, Brighton – Many volunteers and a restoration contractor, PlantWise, LLC, spent over 483 hours working on invasive species removal, trail design, implementation, mulching, and sign installation on the existing Hillside Trail and the new Woodland Loop Trail. A formal dedication will occur on Sat., May 10, 2025 at 1:00pm. Refreshments will be served. For additional details and to RSVP, email: livingstonlandconservancy@gmail.com.

Red Cedar Run NP, Fowlerville – With the help of both Conservancy volunteers and scouts and parents of Boy Scout Troop 362 of Howell, a nice birding trail is in the process of completion. The trail outline has been completed and mulching will occur in April. A formal dedication will take place on Wed., June 11, 2025 at 6:30pm at the time of our annual meeting. Refreshments will be served. For additional details and to RSVP, email: livingstonlandconservancy@gmail.com.



The Charles and Albert Families Nature Preserve, Brighton. (left)

Thanks a bunch to Boy Scout Troop 362 and all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication working at the Red Cedar Run Nature Preserve, Fowlerville. (right)



Annual Meeting: Birding Trail at the Red Cedar Run Nature Preserve

Please join us on Wed., June 11, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Red Cedar Run Nature Preserve, located at Nicholson and Chase Lake Roads in Fowlerville, to learn about the preserve and why it is a great place for the new birding trail. The right combination of native shrub thickets and water helps entice migrating birds as well as encourage others to stick around for the nesting season. Laurel & Mitch Zoet of Wild Birds Unlimited in Brighton will discuss the birds we might see and what makes for good bird habitat. We will also be formally electing our board of directors for the 2025-2026 year and refreshments will be served. To RSVP and to get further information, please contact: livingstonlandconservancy@gmail.com.



The Red Cedar Run NP Birding trail will soon be open for avid nature lovers.

Thanks to our Supporters for 2024

The Board of Directors of the Livingston Land Conservancy wish to extend a special “Thank You Very Much” for the generous contributions of the following individuals, families and corporations for their support for land preservation in Livingston County. Through their support, our mission of protecting the natural heritage and rural character of the County continues to be fulfilled.

\$5,000 & Up

Community Foundation for
Livingston County
Jim & Rhonda Fackert

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Brighton District Library
Lee Burton & Roberta Shaw-
Reeves
Gary & Ann Edwards
FMG Concrete Cutting
Dr. Nancy Johnson
Kelly Family Foundation
Dick & Barb Krueger
Land Trust Alliance
Noreen Owens Photography
Sara & Rick Thomas
Marcee Wardell & John
Barbatano

\$500 to \$999

Dr. Suzanne Bradley
Crystal Mountain Resort
Bill & Kay Fountain
Susan Frazier
Janet & Jerry Joseph
Debra & Ed Miller
Piper Family Fund
Dr. Roy Schwarz & Joann Schmidt
Paul & Jackie Stavros
The Majestic at Lake Walden
Vail Resorts
Wild Birds Unlimited

\$200 to \$499

Collette & Jack Bauman
Cathy Broses
Burchfield & Pollesch
April Campbell & Alex Sciaky
Chemung Hills Golf & Banquet
Center
Bill & Lori Cowan
Dennis & Marilyn Dawson
Judy Kleeves & John McLeod
MSU Federal Credit Union
Joe & Bob Parker
Joe & Bob Parker Farms
Maya Pasini
Darlene & Dennis Paulauski

Bill & Karen Pierce
Freida & Bill Piper
PlantWise LLC
Jan Thurston

Up to \$199

Lee & Susan Anzicek
Lorne Beatty
Kathy Brace
Brighton Center for the
Performing Arts
Carole Bullion
Joe & Kathy Carney
Ciao Amici's
Dr. Armand & Anne del Rosario
Diamonds Restaurant
The Earle Restaurant
Devin Gill
Mark Glaza & Todd Bazzett
Frank & Emily Gobright
Cara Green
Rosemary Kovacs Grover
Curt Hamilton
Fred & Sandy Hanert
Jim & Tammy Higgins
Historic Howell Theater
Dr. Verne & Agnes Hoshal Jr.
Mike Huntzinger
Kaminski Tax Service
Brad & Lori Kassuba
Debbie & Tim Kellogg-Lewis
Sue & Mike Kelly
Lois Kovacs
Tom & Marie Kizer
Lois Kovacs
Legacy Land Conservancy
Linda Luneack
Ginny Maturen
David & Amber Metz
Mac & Mond Miller
Sue & Steve Monet
Dane & Mary Morris
Murphy's Family Auto
Patti Nicholson
Deb Piper
Timothy Sadowski
Sharon & Paul Shultz

Stephan & Kathy Sieczka
Simply Skin
Jeanne & Phil Smith
Al Smitely
Rob Stanford
Brett & Maryanne Swanson
Stephanie Thomas & Jared Saul
Pam & Donn Todd
Wines for Humanity
**Reduced Fee Services and
In-Kind Donations**
Stephanie Balgaard, CPA—
accounting services
Burchfield & Pollesch—
legal services
Hartland Township - office space
Lori Kassuba—online election
coordinator
Robert Pawlowski—newsletter
Preparation
Roadhouse Signs—protected
property signage
B.F. Thompson Surveyors—land
surveying
The Spirit of Livingston—news
letter & other marketing
materials

Lifetime Members

Arnold Becker
Lee Burton & Roberta
Shaw-Reeves
Gold, Krause, et al
Rosemary Kovacs Grover
Dr. Verne & Agnes Hoshal
Debbie & Tim Kellogg-Lewis
Jo Anne Normile
Elizabeth Parker
Marialice Phillips
Jean Salmon
Chris & Donna Schaidt
Dianne & Ron Winfrey

Livingston Land Conservancy
Statement of Activity (1)
October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024

Income	Land Acquisition	Land Stewardship	Membership & Education	Unrestricted	Legal Defense	Permanently Restricted	Totals
Private Donations	\$2,075	\$2,535		\$14,525			\$19,135
Grants		\$11,730	\$700				\$12,430
Community Foundation Distribution				\$3,017			\$3,017
Interest & Misc.		\$65		\$6,409			\$6,474
Land on the Horizon	\$10,345	\$10,346					\$20,691
Land Donation							
Total Income	\$12,420	\$22,876		\$26,451			\$61,747

Expenses							Totals
Program Expenses	\$2,611	\$12,199	\$2,500				\$17,310
General				\$1,708			\$1,708
LOH Fund Raising	\$2,943	\$2,944					\$5,887
Total Expenses	\$5,554	\$15,143	\$2,500	\$1,708			\$24,905

**Assets & Liabilities as of
September 30, 2024**

Assets

Checking & Savings \$ 47,015
MSU-FCU CD's \$ 184,591
Fixed Assets—Land+Equip. \$1,388,806
Total Assets **\$1,620,412**

Liabilities

Accounts Payable \$ 0
Total Liabilities \$ 0
NET ASSETS **\$1,620,412**

NOTES

(1) Fiscal year 2023/2024 Financials
have not been audited.

Gary Edwards,
Livingston Land Conservancy Treasurer

President's Corner: Sara Thomas

We have a busy spring coming up! We are participating in an Earth Day event, holding trail dedications on two preserves, shifting the solarization tarp at our Pollinator Project at the Parker Preserve and installing more native plants. This is in addition to all the ongoing stewardship work of removing invasive species on some of our protected properties. We're always looking for volunteers so please reach out to us – we'd like to get you involved.

The Board of Directors election is coming up in June so if you are a member in good standing, believe in our mission, and are available to attend monthly board meetings, we want to hear from you. Board service is an important role since the board governs the tax-exempt nonprofit corporation that is the underlying structure of the Conservancy. I'm happy to talk privately with anyone considering it to answer any questions.

Mission

The purpose of the Livingston Land Conservancy is to protect the natural heritage and rural character of the greater Livingston County area by preserving quality natural areas and productive farmland as well as to promote an appreciation and understanding of the environment for the long-term benefit of the public.

Consider a Gift to the Endowment Fund

Please consider donating to our endowment fund at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. This fund was started over 15 years ago, provides twice yearly distributions, and can only be used for general purposes. It's a nice, reliable source of income for the Conservancy and we so appreciate the generosity of our donors to help keep the principle balance growing from year to year. To contribute online, visit this link: <https://cfsem.org/ways-to-give/give-online/agency-endowments/>. To send a check or if you have any questions, contact the Philanthropic Services staff at the CFSM at 313-961-6675. Thank you!!

Livingston Land Conservancy 2025 Membership Form — Annual Member

<u>Membership Category</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Joint</u>
Basic Member	___ \$25	___ \$50
Protector	___ \$50	___ \$100
Conservator	___ \$100	___ \$200
Steward	___ \$250	___ \$500
Guardian	___ \$500	___ \$1000
Other	_____	_____

Send my newsletter by: _____ email _____ paper copy

Make Checks Payable To:
Livingston Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 236
Brighton, MI 48116-0236
Or Use PayPal

Please send information about:
_____ Volunteering
_____ How to protect my land
_____ How to include LLC in my estate plans

Livingston Land Conservancy is a private, non-profit organization exempt from taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

Members are:

- Committed to the purpose of the Conservancy
- 18 years of age
- Entitled to one vote per member

Member # 1

Name (please print)

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Member #2

Name (Please Print)

Email



Livingston Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 236
Brighton, MI 48116-0236

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Facebook: @livingstonlandconservancy
Instagram: Livingston_land_conservancy
Email: livingstonlandconservancy@gmail.com
Website: www.livingstonlandconservancy.org



Upcoming Events

Southeast Michigan Native Wildflowers: And Why They Are a Good Choice in Your Landscape!

Date: Thu., April 10, 2025. **Time:** 7:00pm.

Where: Brighton District Library, 100 Library Dr., Brighton. Board President & naturalist, Sara Thomas, will give a presentation on native wildflowers on the Conservancy preserves and how many are good options for home landscapes. She will also share her adventure in restoring a small prairie on her own property and the successes and pitfalls she encountered since nature doesn't always cooperate. To register, visit the Brighton District Library's website at: brightonlibrary.info/events.

Charles & Albert Parker Families Nature Preserve – Trail Dedication

Date: Sat., May 10, 2025. **Time:** 1:00pm

Where: Park at the Brighton District Library, 100 Library Drive, Brighton (see Dedication article page 2).

Earth Day Event

Date: Sat., April 26, 2025. **Time:** 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Where: The AMP – at the Mill Pond in Brighton
A family event with many organizations participating to share environmental information as well as kids' activities. For more information, contact Lee Burton of the Sierra Club – Crossroads Group at: leejburton@charter.net.

We are Members of:



Annual Meeting – Red Cedar Run Nature Preserve Birding Trail

Date: Wed., June 11, 2025. **Time:** 6:30pm

Where: Red Cedar Run Nature Preserve, Fowlerville – Nicholson & Chase Lake Roads

Park along the designated area on Nicholson Road. We will conduct brief business to formally elect our Board of Directors for 2025-2026. Most of the time will be spent discussing the preserve and newly installed birding trail. Laurel & Mitch Zoet of Wild Bird Unlimited in Brighton will share their expertise and give guidance on what birds we might see migrating through or potentially nesting there. We will also recognize the scouts Boy Scout Troop 362 for the hard work they put in working on the trail. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to: livingstonlandconservancy@gmail.com.