



Livingston Land Conservancy

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

It's Been a Busy Spring!

Board of Directors

Sara Thomas, *President/Land Protection, Howell*

Rob Stanford, *Vice President, Williamston*

Gary Edwards, *Treasurer, Fenton*

Marcee Wardell, *Secretary, Howell*

Paul Stavros, *Director, Brighton*

Bob Pawlowski, *Newsletter Editor*

Rick Thomas, *Acting Stewardship Coordinator*

Meeting Dates & Times

We meet the second Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

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

- July 13, 2026**
- August 10, 2026**
- September 14, 2026**
- October 12, 2026**
- November 9, 2026**
- December 14, 2026**

**Livingston Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 236**

**Brighton, MI 48116-0236
810-229-3290 (voice mail)**

livingstonlandconservancy@gmail.com

Geology & Wildflower Walk

Many thanks to geoscientist Diane Krueger, PhD, and Sara Thomas, naturalist and Conservancy president, who took folks on an exploration of the natural features on our Unadilla Nature Preserve on April 11th. We had a great turnout of interested people and we found lots of spring wildflowers coming up but not quite blooming – Round-lobed Hepatica, Rue-anemone, and Drummond’s aster – to name a few. We enjoyed Diane’s explanation of how the glaciers shaped the landscape – the preserve is part of an end moraine – and how it left piles of gravel and boulders for us to find in MI thousands of years later.



Wildflower walk through the Unadilla Nature Preserve.

Invasive Shrub Removal & Trash Pickup

We are really grateful to the students, staff, and parents from Kensington Woods Schools that helped us remove invasive shrubs and pick up trash at the Round Lake of Hartland Nature Preserve in Hartland on April 24th. We got rid of some seriously big shrubs that were impacting the native vegetation from thriving along Blaine Road. Making progress! Thank you Kensington Woods!



**What a great group of young folks from Kensington Woods!
Keep up the great work.**

Trail Maintenance

We really appreciate the hard work of Troop 362 of Howell and their leader, Barry Williams, and parents, for performing some spring cleaning by mulching our birding trail at the Red Cedar Run Nature Preserve in Fowlerville on April 28th. They have been instrumental in not only helping to build the trail last year but installing the initial mulch layer as well. This trail is in great shape and available for anyone to head out to do a little birding from dawn to dusk. The trailhead, as well as parking, is along Nicholson Road, south of Chase Lake Road. Enjoy!



Another great group of young folks! Many thanks to all who are interested in preserving the natural environment.

Stiltgrass, an Invasive Species - Molly Wozniak - GiLLS CISMA Coordinator

Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) is an invasive annual grass species native to Asia. This species was first detected in Michigan in 2017 in Washtenaw County and populations have now been confirmed in 10 counties. The Genesee Lapeer Livingston and Shiawassee Counties Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (GiLLS CISMA) received grant funding this year to map and monitor populations in Livingston County. We will be doing outreach, roadside and trail surveys, and surveying Livingston Land Conservancy protected lands.

Stiltgrass can be identified by short, lance shaped leaves with a silvery line down the middle. This species is considered invasive because it quickly overtakes forest understory habitat, reducing space and resources for native species. Each plant produces between 100 to 1,000 seeds and is easily spread by water, wildlife, hiking equipment, and vehicle traffic. If you think you have this grass on your property or are interested in having an invasive species survey done, please contact Molly Wozniak, GiLLS CISMA Coordinator, at molly.wozniak@macd.org. To report stiltgrass or other invasive species, please use the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network at www.misin.msu.edu.



**Stiltgrass at Pinckney Recreation Area. Note the light, silvery line down the middle of the leaves.
Photo from July 31, 2025.**

President's Corner: Sara Thomas

Members – at the time of this newsletter printing, our board election will be underway. We ask that you take the few minutes to vote. We will send out notices and ballots either electronically or by paper ballot, depending on what you've requested. Our Election Coordinator, Lori Kassuba, is responsible for receiving the ballots back and counting the votes. We appreciate her helping us each year with this important effort. There are 3 new candidates running this year – Abby Carrigan, Shari Pollesch, and Molly Wozniak – and 2 current members running again – Gary Edwards and Marcee Wardell. Paul Stavros is not running for another term and we want to thank him for his service to the organization. His business insight has been really appreciated. (We will highlight our board for 2026-27 in our Fall newsletter as well as have a more formal "thank you" to Paul). **Reminder!** Our annual fundraiser, Land on the Horizon, is coming up on October 16, 2026 at a new venue – Lakelands Golf & Country Club in Brighton. This is our 25th anniversary so join us for food, fun, auctions and other activities, plus cake! All proceeds go to the heart of our mission – land acquisition and stewardship. More info will be coming out soon. We're always looking for sponsors and auction items. It'll be fun!

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 many 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 CFSEM at 313-961-6675. Thank you!!

Livingston Land Conservancy 2026 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	_____	_____

Members are:

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

Member # 1

Name (please print)

Address

_____ City _____ State _____ Zip

Phone

Email

Member #2

Name (Please Print)

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.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



“The purpose of conservation: The greatest good to the greatest number of people for the longest time.” Gifford Pinchot

Upcoming Events

Farmers Market booths for 2026

Dates: June 27 – Brighton; August 2 – Howell; August 15 – Fowlerville; September 19 – Fowlerville

Annual Meeting – Celebrating 25 Years!

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Time: 6:30pm

Where: Brighton District Library, 100 Library Drive, Brighton

Land on the Horizon Annual Fundraiser!

Date: Friday, October 16, 2026

Time: 7pm to 10pm

Where: Lakelands Golf & Country Club, 8760 Chilson Road, Brighton

Stay tuned for more details!

We are Members of:



Abby and Cara manning the SELCRA Earth Day booth. It was a busy day helping kids make 65 bug hotels!