

June 19, 2005

To Highland Conservancy E-Folks and Members,

Below is our latest newsletter and information on upcoming events:

Our Mission Statement: "To encourage and facilitate the conservation of land and natural resources to preserve the rural character of Highland Township."

Two Conservancies: Yes, it can be confusing, but there are two conservancy groups in Highland. One is the Highland Conservancy, our group, and the other group is called the Highland Equestrian Conservancy (HEC). Our missions are similar in conserving Highland's natural resources, protecting habitats and ecosystems, connecting open spaces with trails and wildlife corridors, and establishing conservancy easements and parklands in Highland. We differ in that the HEC's focus includes the preservation of the rural character *and equestrian heritage* of Highland Township. We support their efforts and work!

Discovery Hikes/Canoe Trip: The hike this past Sunday was a success and once again, the rain held off! We learned how Dunham Lake preserves their beautiful greenbelt and how this land provides a buffer to keep the water some of the cleanest in Michigan, and is an excellent example of how a subdivision can protect and maintain a conserved area. The highlight for me was being within feet of a huge Blue Heron and seeing large map turtles looking for an afternoon meal. Join us for our next "hike" which will be a canoe trip on the Pettibone, Sunday, July 17th 3pm. (We'll meet at the Highland Station House promptly at 3pm). Alan Heavner of Heavner Canoe Rental has graciously agreed to assist in this trip however, we are asking for a donation to cover the cost of the canoe rentals. Suggested donation is \$35 a canoe. We will be canoeing to rarely seen places and it should be a "not to miss" opportunity to see wildlife and pristine land, wildlife and water. Mark your calendars now! Call Deb Bell for more details on upcoming hikes at 248-887-5399

Sparks in the Park: We will have a booth at Sparks with information available about our conservancy, handouts, and membership/donation envelopes. We're looking for folks to stop by and at least talk with us about your concerns for Highland. So look for us on Sunday, June 26th from 5pm on, before the awesome fireworks!

Kingsland: Dunham Lake Property owners and other concerned citizens are starting a petition drive to ask the township NOT to change their master plan to allow this senior citizen complex with its high rise buildings and high density development. The Planning Commission will allow public comments at its meeting on July 28th, so please attend so your personal opinion can be heard.

Website: Our website has some excellent information for new members and those interested in finding out more about what we are doing. Please visit at www.highlandconservancy.org

HC Blog: The blog is up and running for the Highland Conservancy! We need your articles and interesting stories. If you came to one of our hikes, write about it. Include photographs too, a visual is always more powerful than just print. To read and comment on current articles, go to our blog at <http://highlandconservancy.typepad.com>

Sponsors: We are looking for sponsors. A business or group can be listed on our website or in our newsletters. If you are interested (local gyms, architects, printers, stores, businesses), please contact Ron Flannery for more details: ron@ronflannery.com

"Each of us has a responsibility to be good stewards of our environment. Highland Township's Conservancy is a great way to fulfill that responsibility." Triscia Pilchowski, Highland Township Supervisor

Please join us in doing what we can to protect Highland and its natural beauty! We need your help and support. Whether you like to be outdoors and would enjoy stewardship opportunities, or are more comfortable behind a keyboard creating a Powerpoint presentation, we need your help! We meet the second and fourth Thursday of each month at Highland Station House, 205 W. Livingston Road at 7:00 p.m. Come join us at our meetings or mail in your contribution using the form below. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Please print out the form below to mail in your contribution today:

Yes, I want to join the Highland Conservancy to encourage and facilitate the conservation of land and natural resources to preserve the rural character of Highland Township with my donation.

Please make checks payable to: The Highland Conservancy
Mail to: 205 W. Livingston Road, Highland, MI 48357

_____ Call me regarding a gift of property.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$Other

Thank you for your Tax Deductible Contribution!

Sincerely,

Katheryn Krupa
Editor, ENewsletter
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