

March 2, 2006

**To Members and Friends of Highland Conservancy:**

Thanks to all those who contributed in 2005! With a new year well underway, we are short of funds and hoping folks will want to renew their membership (you can use the form below) or click on our website to use Paypal: [www.HighlandConservancy.org](http://www.HighlandConservancy.org)

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

**Highland's Greenway Plan:** The first draft of Highland's portion of Oakland County's Greenway Infrastructure was drafted in 2005 with the help of Jim Lloyd and Mick Bell from the Highland Conservancy, Jim Keglovitch of Oakland County Environmental Planning, Donna Folland of Oakland Land Conservancy, Sharon Greene of the Highland Equestrian Conservancy and others in 2005. Recently, both Highland's Conservancies and key stakeholders for Highland were invited to a presentation of this Greenway plan. At that meeting it was unanimously decided that Jim Lloyd will head up a task force including representatives from the Highland Conservancy, Highland Equestrian Conservancy, Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority, Historical Society and others. During their next planning session, they will pour over maps and continue this important process. Click on [www.oakgov.com/es](http://www.oakgov.com/es) to access the greenway plan and trail maps. If you have any concerns or wish to provide input, we encourage you to attend our next conservancy meeting **on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the old Highland Library.**

**Woodlands Ordinance:** Jim Lloyd presented a draft of a Woodlands Preservation Ordinance for Highland Township at this week's Planning Commission meeting. Tree and forest preservation would enhance land values and protect the natural beauty in all new developments in Highland. The main goal is to prevent clear-cutting in future subdivisions – something that, unfortunately, we have seen all too often in Oakland County and even in Highland. Having strong wetlands, woodlands and steep slope ordinances are important tools our township can use to preserve natural areas and encourage open space development. Key to this is clustering small parcels of trees and woodlands, fields and natural areas in new subdivisions and allowing the new homeowner to determine their own landscape design as opposed to allowing developers to bulldoze down all the trees and strip off and sell the topsoil. Coupled with this should be conservation easements that would protect beautiful swaths of green shade trees to provide a buffer along roadways, allow for common parkland, and help connect wildlife corridors and trails through Highland.

**Highland Invited to Conservation Stewardship Program** - The new Conservation Stewardship Program began February 11<sup>th</sup> and there are about 40 of us taking the eight-week course. Thus far it has been a wonderful way to learn more about Michigan, our history, geology, ecology, and natural resources. During our first session we hiked through Indian Springs learning about it's natural geographic features such as moraines

and outwash and the flora and fauna like the reintroduced short grass prairie. There have been many informative lectures with topnotch PowerPoint presentations on the history, wildlife, geography and ecological features of Michigan. A key component of this program will be the 40 hours of mandatory stewardship service such as: culling invasive species like garlic mustard or loosestrife in a park, putting on an educational event for young students, or surveying frogs and toads with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

### **How you can help:**

If you would like to volunteer to help us in ANY capacity -- even if this is just contributing ideas -- please [contact](#): Katheryn Krupa at 248-887-4643. We could use help with:

- Working on our membership drive
- Placing a conservation easement on your property (for a BIG tax savings)
- Donating cash (TAX-FREE) that will be used to build the group's efforts
- Writing grants
- Culling invasive species in the township
- Volunteering your efforts to help the group develop (publicity, fundraising)
- Coordinating educational events
- Providing feedback to the group (we welcome your ideas)

**We meet the first Tuesday of each month at Highland Station House, 205 W. Livingston Road at 7:00 p.m.** Our meetings are open to the public so please come join us. For more information click on the following link:

<http://www.highlandconservancy.org/needs.htm>

### **Highland-Live Blog**

Highland Live is now narrowing its focus somewhat to cover development, planning commission meetings and environmental issues in Highland. It continues to be an excellent source of information about what is happening in Highland: [Highland-Live](#). Your comments and feedback are always welcome. They are also looking for more reporters and writers: Contact Mick Bell for information or to submit an article at 248-887-4643.

**Website:** Visit our website to read previous newsletters and find some excellent information about what we are doing: [www.HighlandConservancy.org](http://www.HighlandConservancy.org)

### **Current Sponsors and Contributors:**

- [Web Juggler Internet Communications, Highland](#) (248-887-4253): This Web site
- [New Moon Visions, Milford](#) (248-684-8668): Design and graphics for printed materials
- **Allegra Printing, Highland** (248-887-2400): Printing of our fliers

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Please renew your membership and/or make a tax-deductible contribution. With your donation of \$25 you will receive this Enewsletter and a window cling and become a contributing member. With a donation of \$50 you'll also receive a beautiful tote bag. You can mail in your contribution using the form below. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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

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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.

Make checks payable to: Highland Conservancy

Mail to: Highland Conservancy, 205 W. Livingston Road, Highland, MI 48357

\_\_\_\_\_ Call me regarding a gift of property or information on conservation easements.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Thank you for your Tax Deductible Contribution!

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Sincerely,  
Katheryn Krupa  
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