

May 13, 2006

To Members and Friends of Highland Conservancy:

Happy Spring! Please visit our website at www.HighlandConservancy.org for copies of all previous newsletters and additional information.

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

Free Trees at the Hi-White Parade: Next Saturday, May 20th at 9:30 a.m. the Highland Conservancy will be giving away red pine trees and participating in the Hi-White parade. WE ARE LOOKING FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS TO MARCH WITH US IN THE PARADE. If you would like to join us, please meet us at our booth in front of the Highland Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. Not only will you get a FREE TREE but also it should be a lot of fun to march along in the parade. These are not teeny tiny seedlings but good-sized, bare rooted healthy trees. So, with that enticement, we hope to see you there!

Books Donated to Highland Library: Highland Conservancy recently purchased and donated a number of books on conservation planning and other conservation issues. If you are interested in reading more about the tax savings and benefits of putting a conservation easement on your property or other benefits of conservation, please check out one of these books: Growing Greener by Randall Arendt, Conservation Design for Subdivisions by Randall Arendt, Preserving Family Lands by Stephen Small, and Preserving Family Lands: Book III by Stephen Small. Other books we plan to donate shortly will include Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality by Carrol Henderson.

Highland's Greenway Plan: The greenway plan is well on its way to completion after a few minor revisions. Areas throughout Highland have been photographed and inventoried. We've poured over all the maps and the rough draft is finished. Once changes have been made and it's been finalized, the next step is to decide how to protect the natural areas and wildlife corridors. The Highland Conservancy and Highland Equestrian Conservancy along with key members of our township will work together to determine how to best implement the plan and decide on what tools to use. Currently we are going through a detailed toolkit "checklist" for this purpose. Jim Lloyd keeps stressing that as we move through this process our goal is to use this Greenway plan and not let it end up as a mere wall decoration. It was very exciting to hear from Jim Keglovitz (who is leading us in our efforts) how other townships are also going through this same process and how much is being accomplished throughout Oakland County as well as Livingston and Macomb. As Eugene Beach mentioned, we are grateful to be able tap into the wealth of manpower and resources that Oakland County has freely shared with us.

But why is such a plan needed in the first place? What benefit will it be for Highland? At the follow-up meeting, Larry Falardeau made an interesting observation in this regard. He reported that Oakland County is currently drafting an economic impact study to show

how having parks, trails and green spaces can greatly enhance the value of property in an area. For example, homes that back up to natural areas typically are worth 12% more than those that don't. Furthermore, developments that incorporate natural features like open spaces, mature trees, streams and rolling hills command higher prices and have higher economic (and aesthetic) worth than those that are bulldozed, flattened and clear cut. I know if I had a choice I'd much rather have a view of trees or a meadow than the back of my neighbor's house!

If you are interested, visit www.oakgov.com/es to access the greenway plan, trail and other maps. If you have any concerns or wish to provide input, we encourage you to attend our monthly conservancy meetings **on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the old Highland Library (Huron Valley Council of the Arts building, across from the fire station).**

Stewardship Activities – Recently Ron and Beth Flannery of the Highland Conservancy participated in cleaning up roadways and land around Highland Township. Katheryn Krupa along with her twin boys also helped clean up bags of refuse from the township park near the library. It is beyond me why people insist on dumping and polluting our parks, but it sure feels great to see what a difference a few hours of clean up can make! We welcome students or anyone who wants to join us in maintaining some of the beautiful areas we have in Highland. Contact Katheryn if you are interested: 248-887-4643.

How you can help:

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

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 become a member 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:

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.

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Thank you for your Tax Deductible Contribution!

Sincerely,

Katheryn Krupa

Editor, E-Newsletter

Highland Conservancy

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