

December 27, 2010

Highland Conservancy E-Newsletter

Greetings! It has been another busy year. Attached at the end of this newsletter is our 2010 Annual Report.

Highland's Zoning Ordinance Enacted

On November 18, 2010, Highland Township adopted its new Zoning Ordinance which is available online. Of particular interest is the Natural Features Ordinance (Article 15).

Click here to Article 15 and other sections of the new ordinance:

<http://www.highlandtwp.com/page/Twp+PlanningZoning-130.html>

Volunteers Needed to Restore Open Grassland

Saturday January 29th from 9 am - 3 pm join other volunteers to help out at Highland Recreation. Meet at the Silo Field Trial Area parking lot on Livingston Road, between Pettibone Lake and Beaumont Roads. Volunteers will be hauling and piling brush and stacking fire wood. Bring gloves, sturdy shoes/boots and drinking water. To learn more and to register please visit www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers and click on the Calendar of Volunteer Stewardship Workdays link. Contact Laurel Malvitz-Draper at malvitzl@michigan.gov or 248-359-9057 with any questions.

Green Team of Huron Valley's Movie Night

Sunday, January 23rd at 2pm at the Milford YMCA, families are invited to view a movie about the impact of using plastic bags vs. eco-friendly cloth shopping bags called "Battle of the Bag". For tickets and more info email: hurongreen@yahoo.com

Upcoming Michigan Conservation Stewards Program

Michigan State University Extension is offering the Michigan Conservation Stewards Program in Oakland County starting in February. This intensive 10-week program consists of nine Monday evening classes (6-9 pm) and three Saturday field sessions (9-4 pm) from February 26 through April 25, 2011. Monday evening sessions are held at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd, Waterford. Saturday sessions will be held at the MSU Tollgate Education Center, Indian Springs Metropark, and Independence Oaks County Park, February 26 - April 25, 2011.

Are you looking for a great opportunity to learn about conservation and natural science and assume leadership roles through volunteering your time, knowledge, and skills in conservation management in your community? Individuals who take part in the Michigan Conservation Stewards Program (CSP) can learn how to effectively take part in informed, scientifically based conservation and resource management and work to sustain healthy ecosystems across Michigan.

Michigan State University Extension and its partners are offering this volunteer training and leadership program designed for individuals who are interested in natural resource conservation and ecosystem management, natural history, outdoor recreation, natural

areas, the region's environmental issues and challenges, and strategies to help restore and conserve ecosystems in Oakland County.

Topics will include Conservation Heritage, Ecological Foundations, Making Choices to Manage Natural Resources, and Managing Forestlands, Grasslands, Wetlands, and Lake and Stream Ecosystems. There will also be a volunteer expo highlighting conservation opportunities available in southeastern Michigan. The series of classes, led by experts in various fields of conservation and natural resources, will include lectures, interactive learning and field experiences. The registration fee is \$275 per participant.

You can obtain a brochure and an application packet online at <http://www.oakgov.com/msu/> or call (248) 858-0887 to request an application by mail. The deadline to submit applications is February 4, 2011. Email bhaktabi@anr.msu.edu for more information.

DONATIONS TO HIGHLAND CONSERVANCY

It is time to renew your membership. Get those tax deductions before the year ends by going to our website: <http://www.highlandconservancy.org> and click on *Make a Donation*. If you prefer, you can print out the form below and mail in your tax deductible contribution today:

Yes, I want to _____join or _____renew my membership to 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: Highland Conservancy
and mail them to: Highland Conservancy, 205 W. Livingston Road, Highland, MI 48357

_____ Call me regarding a gift of property or more info on a conservation easement.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Sincerely,

Katheryn Krupa, Editor

Visit our blog at www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com

Or our website at www.highlandconservancy.org



Highland CONSERVANCY

Highland Conservancy **2010 Annual Report**

The mission of the Highland Conservancy is to encourage and facilitate the conservation of land and natural resources to preserve the rural character of Highland Township.

Major accomplishments for 2010 are as follows:

- Participated in the Huron Valley Earth Day Celebration and the annual Hi-White Parade providing information to concerned citizens.
- Sponsored a poster contest for elementary age children to help raise children's awareness of earth day and the importance of worldwide ecological awareness and habitat preservation.
- Sponsored our third annual 5K Fun Run along scenic East Livingston Road to Dodge 10 Park in downtown Highland.
- Sponsored an educational kayaking and hike of Dunham Lake demonstrating the importance of establishing and maintaining a permanent greenbelt around lakes to preserve water quality and protect wildlife.
- Organized the clean-up of Harvey Lake Road from M59 northward to Highland Oaks throughout the year as part of Oakland County's Adopt-A-Road program. This kept the Highland gateway to the park clean of trash and debris to promote the caring attitude of this community.
- Organized and facilitated Highland's first frog and toad survey as part of a statewide Department of Natural Resources survey.
- Co-sponsored an initiative at Highland Oaks along with Oakland County Parks to remove more than 15 garbage bags full of garlic mustard, a highly invasive plant that quickly overtakes native plants, disrupting the normal food chain.

- Ongoing partnership with Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy (formerly Oakland Land Conservancy). Our president, Jim Lloyd, is seated on their board of trustees to establish a more effective liaison with our sister conservancy. Together we continue to work to create and protect public parks, acquire conservation easements and identify land for various levels of protection in Highland. The Six Rivers partnership provides access to state of the art support in conservation techniques and makes available an expert staff of land preservation professionals.
- Participated in and presented at the Conservation Stewardship Program, through Michigan State University.
- Participated in workshops to establish a new model to fight insidious invasive plants such as swallowwort or asian bittersweet
- Land protected to date through our efforts (along with others) includes Oakland County's newest park Highland Oaks, with 265 beautiful acres.
- Provided ongoing education through our new facebook page and our blog www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com - a venue for debate and dialogue on issues related to conservation and land use, environmental and local news. This is part of a larger educational effort including information disseminated through monthly E-newsletters, flyers, articles, and our website: www.highlandconservancy.org