

Highland Conservancy E-Newsletter May 2, 2010

### Highland Oaks Garlic Mustard Pull May 8<sup>th</sup>

Garlic mustard is an invasive plant native to Europe that threatens our woodland areas. According to the Michigan State University Extension, garlic mustard has no significant natural enemies in North America, though several plant-eating animals in Europe feed on it. It grows rapidly and often dominates the ground layer once it's established. It is important to get out. This will be our second year pulling this invasive at Highland Oaks and unfortunately, there is a bumper crop due to our early spring. To participate pre-register by calling (248) 858-0704 or at [doughertyk@oagov.com](mailto:doughertyk@oagov.com) or bring gloves and join us this Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 10-1 at Highland Oaks (parking is free for volunteers).

### Frog and Toad Survey Part Two



#### Blanchard's Cricket frog

Did you know that Blanchard's Cricket frog is rarely seen and is a "species of concern" in Michigan? Or that last year no calls were heard at all from Fowler's toads? Declining populations of frog, toads, and other amphibians have been documented worldwide since the 1980s. Studies suggest amphibians are disappearing due to habitat loss, pollution, and disease. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year that volunteers have surveyed Michigan's 13 different frog and toad species to help biologists keep tabs on their abundance and distribution.

Highland's survey is being conducted by members of the Highland Conservancy. We have two more surveys to conduct in May and then again in June. It really is a lot of fun! To join us, please call Dave Pollard at 248-889-9558. For an interesting article on these surveys click on this article in the Great Lakes Echo:

<http://greatlakesecho.org/2010/03/22/monday-mashup-finding-amphibians-with-sounds-of-spring/>

### Huron Valley Youth Athletic Parade (Hi-White)

If you enjoy a local, hometown parade then don't miss this fun event on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am! There are bands, floats, antique cars, fire trucks and sometimes even horses and dogs marching. The march goes down Livingston Road through downtown Highland ending at the Senior Center so claim your spot as the parade begins at 10am. Our booth will be set up near the Highland Beautification Committee plant sale next to the Senior Center so stop by for a free tree between 9 and 11:30 am. We'll have lots of new info and posters on invasive plants, frogs and toads of Michigan, etc. See you then.

### Highland's new Zoning Ordinance

This Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, the Planning Commission will take one final look at all the changes made to Highland's Zoning Ordinances. This is a working session for the commissioners to consider any final tweaks, errors or changes that need to be made. We thank the commissioners for all their hard work and diligence on this. There will be one more opportunity for public comment at the public hearing on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Our concerns remain:

- Stop total topsoil removal by requiring it ONLY for construction of roads and public utilities in all new developments.
- Stop total clear cutting of trees by allowing it ONLY for construction of roads and public utilities in all new developments.
- Establish penalties for non-compliance.

To read the full zoning ordinance, go to:

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

For a more detailed discussion, visit this blog article:

[http://highlandconservancy.typepad.com/my\\_weblog/2009/11/wheres-the-beef-by-katheryn-krupa.html](http://highlandconservancy.typepad.com/my_weblog/2009/11/wheres-the-beef-by-katheryn-krupa.html)

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Katheryn Krupa, Editor

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