

Highland Conservancy E-Newsletter June 6, 2010

Summer Picnic, Hike, Kayaking, Swimming, and more

This Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 12:30pm, the Highland Conservancy is hosting a special event at Dunham Lake. We invite you to bring your family to a barbeque, swimming, kayaking, canoeing and/or hike with us. Bring a picnic (yes, there are some barbeque grills), swimsuits and towels, canoes or kayaks, beverages, and enjoy a fun family afternoon. We'll eat at around 1:00 and then at 2:00 there will be a guided hike through Dunham Lake's unique greenbelt. Please contact Katheryn Krupa for directions and parking info: 248-887-4643. We will gather at the main park (just north of Murray Hill and Plover). There will be no rain date so let's hope for sunny weather. For more info on Dunham Lake, visit this website: [www.dunhamlake.org](http://www.dunhamlake.org) Click on the greenbelt link for specific information and photos of the work done to preserve this unique habitat.



Photo by Doug McCall

Frog and Toad Survey Part Three

The final phase of Highland's first frog and toad survey will be completed shortly. It has been a fascinating experience for the conservancy members who have driven on rainy, misty evenings to listen to the distant choruses of these amazing creatures as they call back and forth across the bogs, ponds, fens and wetlands. Once you learn their unusual calls, it seems they are everywhere. For the full article, visit our blog at:

[http://highlandconservancy.typepad.com/my\\_weblog/2010/03/frog-and-toad-survey-jumps-off-in-highland-by-katheryn-krupa.html](http://highlandconservancy.typepad.com/my_weblog/2010/03/frog-and-toad-survey-jumps-off-in-highland-by-katheryn-krupa.html)

#### Final Call for Garlic Mustard Removal at Highland State Rec. Park

There will be an important final garlic mustard pull before it goes to seed taking place at Highland Oaks on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 1 pm. Please meet at the bike trailhead parking lot on the north side of Livingston Road between Duck Lake and Waterbury Roads. Please arrive on time as we may share rides and caravan to a different area. Bring gloves, sturdy shoes/boots and drinking water. To learn more and to register please visit [www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers) and click on the Calendar of Volunteer Stewardship Workdays link. Contact Laurel Malvitz-Draper at [malvitzl@michigan.gov](mailto:malvitzl@michigan.gov) or 248-359-9057 with any questions.

#### Unwanted Visitors Take up Residence in State Parks

Visitors to Michigan state parks or recreation areas are invited to participate in a new Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) initiative to find the first outbreaks of unwanted invasive plants. Early detection will aid in rapid response control measures aimed at eliminating the invasive plants before they become widely established.

This summer, three invasive plants -- Japanese knotweed, black swallow-wort and garlic mustard -- are being targeted for EDRR by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Japanese knotweed and black swallow-wort are not widely established in the state, and while garlic mustard is widespread in southern Michigan, it is still uncommon in the Northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula state parks.

Invasive plants crowd out native species and change the ecology of natural areas. Complex food webs are simplified as areas are taken over by a single plant species. Forest regeneration is often negatively impacted and recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing, may also be lost or compromised. For the full article, please visit our blog at: [www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com](http://www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com)

#### Cross Country 5K Nature Challenge

Mark your calendar to join us in our 5K race on Sat. September 25<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Highland Township has many natural areas, parks, and other beautiful natural features that make it a unique place to live. The Highland Conservancy 5K Nature Challenge is designed to introduce Highland residents and visitors to some of the great aspects of Highland including the Highland Recreation area and the Dodge 10 Park. For more race info, click on: [http://www.highlandconservancy.org/pages/5k\\_nature\\_challenge/](http://www.highlandconservancy.org/pages/5k_nature_challenge/)

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