

December 2017

Giving the Gift of Green – *Conservation is in our Nature*

Dear Friends,

Yesterday when I began writing this letter it was a gray winter-is-coming kind of Michigan day. It reminded me strongly of when a few of us first saw SMLC's Lost Lake Nature Preserve. It was in early December and we had no idea what to expect other than the property was large, forested, and had a couple of lakes. It was not the kind of day for experiencing the true colors and beauty of a place.

Yet what I remember most from our visit is the feeling we all had of something extraordinary taking shape, as we looked across Slack Lake - the largest of the property's lakes, from a shoreline bluff that included a 200+ year old tree! From there our excitement grew as our hosts showed us other parts of the property that included peaceful woodlands, a secluded heron rookery, and a complex and beautiful mosaic of lakes and wetlands. We knew that first day that not only was the property special but that SMLC could greatly contribute to our region's conservation value by protecting this natural treasure.

This isn't to say that Lost Lake doesn't have its share of invasive species or isn't in need of restoration – which it will be getting a healthy dose of in 2018 thanks to our restoration project partners: Ducks Unlimited, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Michigan DNR. Rather, that first visit is representative of what SMLC does best: look at the potential of individual lands with a goal to preserve what is left of southeast Michigan's fragmented natural landscape and connect people with those lands in the future.

That is why I am writing to you today – for SMLC to be ready to take advantage of the next Lost Lake opportunity, we need your help. Your year-end gift to Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC) before December 31st supports our capacity to acquire and steward nature preserves and make those people-to-land connections that are so meaningful to all of us. To donate now, [please click here to give online](#) or [please click here for a downloadable form](#).

In addition, you can also give SMLC Gift Memberships for family and friends! You can **share** your love for the natural beauty of southeast Michigan with these special gifts ([please click here for a downloadable form](#)).

Conservation is in your Nature when you give the gift of green this year.

Thanks and **Happy Holidays**.



Jill A. Lewis
Executive Director

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
8383 Vreeland Road
Superior Township, MI 48198

734-484-6565
734-484-0617 (fax)
www.smlcland.org