



Landmarks

Newsletter of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

Fall 2016

The Superior Greenway: A Conservation Success Story

By Jill A. Lewis, Executive Director

All year Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy has been celebrating *25 Years of Land Conservation in Superior Township*.

As the celebratory activities begin to draw to a close, culminating with SMLC’s Red Barn Bash on November 11th that is being held in Superior Township, it is time to reflect on what those 25 years have accomplished, the formation of the Superior Greenway.



Wetlands at LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve

Photo by Charles Scott

The Superior Greenway is a conservation success story. It began with 30 acres (SMLC’s Springhill Nature Preserve) – a surprise donation 25 years ago that was born out of a desire to protect natural areas and preserve the Township’s rural legacy. Today, more than 2,400 acres later, the Greenway is a testament to the power of collaboration, hard work, and faith. Faith that the vision as proposed by SMLC’s founder, Jack R. Smiley, years ago: to create a greenbelt between the growing metropolitan areas of Detroit and Ann Arbor, would come about and therefore be a lasting green place for wildlife and southeast Michigan residents. This has now happened but as Jack says, “it’s a good start”.

Three key partners are the reason the Superior Greenway exists: the City of Ann Arbor, Superior Township and Washtenaw County. They and SMLC did the “heavy lifting” that was comprised of property and conservation easement purchases. These partners

also provided the high-level funding that some of the acquisitions needed at times. Finally, acquiring land is a time-intensive endeavor that also requires technical knowledge and skills, these partners donated countless professional hours towards preserving the Greenway lands into perpetuity – THANK YOU!

However, many individuals and additional partners also helped bring all this about, too many to name here. People who contributed their time, talents, and money and helped get the word out about the importance of this project. To all of you reading this today, THANK YOU!

To me what is the most exciting aspect of the Superior Greenway, besides all of the conserved lands and the improved wildlife habitats, are the acres and acres of publically-accessible lands that millions of southeast Michigan residents can easily access from within an hour’s or less drive. For example, there are 8 nature preserves located in the Greenway that are open from dawn to dusk and most of them have a nature trail with onsite or nearby parking.

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in our Nature.*

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Our Mission

*The Southeast Michigan
Land Conservancy conserves
natural land and open space
- including forests, wetlands,
meadows, agricultural lands,
and places of scenic beauty - to
provide habitat for wildlife and to
enrich the lives of people.*



Message from the Executive Director

By Jill A. Lewis

Thank you to everyone who has helped in the formation of the *Superior Greenway* – a *Conservation Success* story and the theme of this issue (see pages 1, 3, 4, and 11).

All year long SMLC has been Celebrating 25 Years of Land Conservation in Superior Township, the result of which is the Greenway, more than 2,400 acres of protected woods, streams, wetlands, meadows, and farmlands.



As we have taken a look back and acknowledged the help of our partners, funders, and local communities this year, SMLC has also been preparing for the future. This year we have continued our focus on completing public accessibility efforts at the Lost Lake and Sibley Prairie-West Prairie nature preserves (see page 7 for more on the opening of the West Prairie nature trail including the completed parking area). In addition, the public parking lot at Lost Lake is slated to begin construction this fall or next spring.

We also have continued our efforts to improve wildlife habitat at the Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve, located in the Superior Greenway. This fall construction of a new forested wetland mitigation project will begin there and will add to the two other completed wetland projects already there. Finally, we are working with Ducks Unlimited on an exciting possible land restoration venture at Lost Lake that would begin in 2017 – stay tuned for more on that later.

In 2016 the office experienced a significant staffing transition too. Please help me welcome Taylor Myatt, Stewardship and Outreach Specialist, and Julia Goode, Office Specialist, to our team!

Finally, last fall, SMLC rolled out the new Eco-Logical Leadership Club (ELLC). The ELLC is a way for SMLC donors to give generously in support of building organizational capacity that will advance our mission-driven work. If this is of interest to you, please let me know. ELLC members are invited to participate in unique experiences such as this past August's first-ever Campout at the Conservancy Farm and this November's Mixology event (taking place before the Red Barn Bash on November 11th – see page 3).

For SMLC to achieve our mission, our work relies on time, expertise, and money. It is important that SMLC has the capacity to continue stewarding our lands and conservation easements, and engaging communities, donors and volunteers in what we do. Your donations make all the difference – please give generously this year in support of local land conservation. We thank you! and we hope to see you soon at the Red Barn Bash. :)



Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy's Red Barn Bash



Please Join Us

at a generous benefactor's historic renovated barn for a memorable evening filled with:

- Delicious Small Plate Dishes courtesy of Food Art Catering
- Collector Wines and Craft Beers courtesy of a private donor, All Seasons Market and O&W, Inc.
- Piano entertainment by Stefan Kukurugya
- Conservation stories about the Superior Greenway's formation

additionally:

- The Red Barn Bash Autumnal Cocktail specially mixed for SMLC (cash only)
- A Silent Auction including items for fun and meaningful outdoor experiences (cash and credit card accepted)

Event Tickets are \$75 each; register online at www.smlcland.org via Paypal

Questions? Please contact us at 734-484-6565 or info@smlcland.org

Thank You!


**RED BARN BASH
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Thank You Meaghan Brownlee

Many thanks goes to volunteer graphic designer and former Event Planning Committee member Meaghan Brownlee. She designed the beautiful logos you'll find on pages 2, 3 & 7 for the Eco-Logical Leadership Club, the 2016 Red Barn Bash and the Sibley Prairie. **Thank You!**

Cherry Hill Nature Preserve: A Collaboration Success Story

By Jack R. Smiley, SMLC Founder

The Cherry Hill Nature Preserve is perhaps the most scenic preserve in Superior Township--with dramatic glacial moraines, open fields and abundant wetlands. The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy acquired this key landscape on December 30, 1995. We were fortunate to do so.

In December 1995, SMLC mailed letters to all owners of 10 acres or more in Superior Township. We informed them about conservation easements and also offered that we might be interested in receiving land donations or in purchasing select parcels. We soon received a response from a landowner from Massachusetts who owned 160 acres along Cherry Hill Road. He indicated that he was not in a position to donate the property, but that he might be able to sell it as a bargain sale, with any amount below market value qualifying as a tax deduction.

This land had been identified in *Environmentally Significant Areas of Superior Township* (Ellen Weatherbee, 1992) as a high priority for protection so we were very interested. The owner had recently received an offer from a developer so we quickly negotiated a purchase price of \$347,000; it appraised at \$1.2 million. SMLC purchased the property on December 30th on a zero-interest, 2-year Land Contract.

We then worked with Superior Township--especially Township Clerk Colleen O'Neal--to apply for a Michigan Natural Areas Trust Fund grant so that the Township could buy the property from SMLC. SMLC donated over \$500,000 in equity in the property to cover the local match requirement so the Township was able to acquire the property at essentially no cost.

If you've never been to the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve, you owe it to yourself to walk the many trails and experience its wonderful vistas. This preserve is here for all to enjoy--thanks to a wonderful partnership with Superior Township...and also thanks to remarkable timing and a bit of good luck.

Kosch Headwaters Preserve: Headwaters of the Rouge River

By Ginny Trocchio, Superintendent, and Faye Stoner, Stewardship Coordinator, Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission

Anchoring the Superior Greenway at the north end is the Kosch Headwaters Nature Preserve, owned by Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation (WCPARC). The site hosts a mature maple-beech woodland, shared with the border of Springhill Nature Preserve (SMLC) in the southeastern corner of the property. Wetlands, seasonal streams, and a spring flowing out of the maple-beech woodland all contribute to the headwaters of Fowler Creek which ultimately flows into the Rouge River, hence the name "headwaters." This makes Kosch an important land protection story.



In the southwest corner of the preserve is a second woodland, remarkable for the botanical diversity found there. Over 150 native plant species have been documented in these woods, including many spring wildflowers, over 20 different species of sedges and woody plants that include spicebush and the not so commonly found tree, blue ash.

The acquisition of the site is another example of collaboration between the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC) and WCPARC. Given its adjacency to SMLC's Springhill Nature Preserve (30 acres) and the fact that it contains high quality plant communities, SMLC committed to assisting with maintenance, restoration and trail development for the past 10 years.

A portion of the property is still cultivated. The open land presents opportunities for wildlife conservation plantings and habitat restoration that will further protect the existing high quality natural areas.



Springhill Nature Preserve: Catalyst for a Greenway

By Bill Secrest, SMLC Board Director and Superior Township Chapter Co-Chair

Jack Smiley was the Executive Director of the Detroit Audubon Society when I met him in 1990. The Henry Ford College Student Environmental Association had invited him to give a talk. Instead of talking about birds, he spoke of the local land conservancy he was launching.

That December night I was jogging past what is now the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve when I paused to listen to the haunting “HOO ... HOO ... HOO” of a Great Horned Owl. It was as if he were asking, “Who’s with US?” I phoned Jack the next morning asking how to work with his conservancy. He said, “Write a letter



Photo by Charles Scott

to the paper.” I did, and the morning after it was published, a neighboring friend, Nancy Perkins, phoned to offer 30 acres of her Springhill Farm to get our work started. That sacred earth is now surrounded by more than 2,400 additional protected acres in the Superior Greenway.

The Perkins donation became the SMLC’s Springhill Nature Preserve. It lies adjacent to the County’s Kosch Preserve and shares the picturesque beech-maple woods with that property. You can visit this beautiful place every spring when SMLC’s Superior Township Chapter hosts our Spring has Sprung at Springhill Nature Walk. With the help of a naturalist guide we enjoy the emergence of spring wildflowers there.

Springhill launched the local conservation movement that is preserving Superior Township’s rural legacy. We applaud this as we culminate our Celebration of 25 Years of Land Conservation!

LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve: Popular Conservation Hotspot

By Richard L. Kent, SMLC Land Protection Committee Chair

LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve (LeFurge Woods) is the largest publically accessible property in the Superior Greenway’s conservation corridor. Located on Prospect Road, the 325 acre preserve was acquired by SMLC through a succession of purchases from 1993 to 2003. I had the distinct, personal pleasure to be involved in the final purchase as a Washtenaw County Parks staff member and SMLC Board Director. In the spring of 2003, SMLC acquired 64 acres in cooperation with the County’s Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP). Today, SMLC has fee title to the entire property while Washtenaw County maintains its conservation easement on the 64 acres. Thus they are “doubly insured” or protected, in perpetuity.

Although known to local botanists for many years, the exceptional biological value of this property was detailed in Ellen Weatherbee’s 1992 report, *Environmentally Significant Areas of Superior Township*. She described the woods

as “excellent” containing both wet and dry sections with a variety of plants; on a single visit in the spring of 1987 she observed 46 different species of trees, shrubs and herbs.

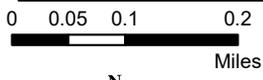
Clearly, LeFurge Woods provides a home for many native plants and therefore habitat for animals too. But equally important it is a great place for people. The preserve has a parking lot on Prospect Road and trails throughout. A short one up the hill near the parking area provides a wonderful view of the rural landscape. LeFurge Woods hosts SMLC’s full moon campfires and other guided nature experiences. These free events provide a special opportunity to meet like-minded folks, share stories, and appreciate the bounty of nature in southeast Michigan.

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Check it out and “like” us

The Superior Greenway Nature Trail



Superior Greenway Nature Trail Map



Map created 10/03/2016 by Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy. Parcel lines and units are estimates for general reference only. SMLC does not make claim to the accuracy of this information.

Legend	
	Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve
	Washtenaw County Meyer East Preserve
	SG Nature Trail ADA Accessible
	SG Nature Trail Proposed
	Superior Greenway Nature Trail OPEN
	Bridge Crossings

What is the Superior Greenway?

The Superior Greenway is a major conservation effort that has protected more than 2,400 acres of farmland, scenic views, and natural areas in Superior Township, Washtenaw County. Eight nature preserves are located in the Greenway and all are open to the public. Following the addition of the Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve in 2012, SMLC and the County began planning for the Superior Greenway Nature Trail in 2013 and trail construction was completed in 2015.

SMLC’s Superior Greenway Land Protection Efforts

The Superior Greenway is SMLC’s oldest and most significant conservation initiative. SMLC owns the Conservancy Farm (home to SMLC’s office), the Jack R. Smiley, LeFurge Woods and Springhill nature preserves. SMLC also holds seven conservation easements on privately-owned properties located in Salem and Superior Townships.

The Trail System

When complete, the Superior Greenway Nature Trail will be three miles in length and will connect trailheads at Cherry Hill Road, Prospect Road, and Geddes Road. It will showcase the rural diversity of Superior Township including woods, wetlands and agricultural fields.

Fun Trail Facts

The Trail meanders through three nature preserves while crossing the Huron River and Rouge River watershed boundary! Sandhill cranes, coyotes, great-horned owls, deer, wild turkeys, and many other species of wildlife can be seen from the trail!

Public Access Info

The preserve is open from dawn to dusk daily. Park at Superior Township Hall to access the trailhead at Cherry Hill Road. The scenic overlook is ADA - accessible.





Sibley Prairie Nature Preserve— West Prairie Now Open

By Taylor Myatt, Stewardship and Outreach Specialist

The natural world hosts a wide variety of habitat types and ecosystems, all of which are important to preserve... but some are just uniquely special. SMLC focuses its acquisitions efforts on key areas of conservation value within southeast Michigan, one of which is the northeast corner of the Oak Openings region known as Sibley Prairie. If you have followed SMLC in recent years, you will know that we have directed efforts toward our Sibley Prairie Nature Preserve – West Prairie in Wayne County. Driving by this long and narrow 39 acre preserve may not render a second glance from passersby on West Road, but those who stop for a short hike enter a natural ecosystem of glacial origins now considered to be globally rare. This ecosystem is known as lakeplain prairie, or oak openings.

savanna habitat. The property currently displays the aftermath of TNC's herbicidal treatments of invasive woody plant species, one of several phases in their efforts to restore this property to a natural oak savanna habitat. This will eventually lead to improved diversity and the abundance of flora native to lakeplain prairie.

TNC is currently in the midst of its final restoration phase, and SMLC will soon begin to build on the work that's been done.

While these critical restoration projects have kept this preserve closed to public access, SMLC is happy to announce that Sibley Prairie Nature Preserve – West Prairie is now open for you to enjoy. A small parking lot is available in the southwest corner of the property off West Road. Signs point to the trailhead along the road, which eventually leads into the heart of this beautiful preserve. The effects of human development are apparent in the surrounding area, but SMLC is dedicated to see this prairie remnant survive, leaving us a sneak peek into the area's natural heritage.



Sign greeting visitors at the preserve.

In recent years, SMLC has been collaborating with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to restore this lakeplain prairie remnant defined by its sandy soils and oak

If you find yourself meandering through Wayne County, make a stop at West Prairie to take a pleasing stroll and maybe some pictures of this natural gem.

EMU Students Join SMLC's Volunteer Engagement Efforts

SMLC is always looking for new volunteers, especially those who can help with our preserves located in our priority conservation areas such as the Superior Greenway. Fortunately, a group of students from Dr. Katy Greenwald's Conservation Biology course at Eastern Michigan University have taken on a semester-long project to engage the student body of EMU and surrounding Ypsilanti on SMLC's behalf. They are helping inform local businesses and community service groups about SMLC's mission and value to local land conservation. With their energetic help, SMLC hopes to gain new relationships with student groups and university departments on the campus of EMU as well as with Ypsilanti companies and organizations, which will hopefully boost volunteer support in the areas of land stewardship, property maintenance, office work, and community outreach. These students are actively learning the important lesson that outreach and volunteer support are critical components of successful land conservation.

Local Chapter News

25 Years in Superior Township: A Preservation Celebration

By Brenda Baker, Superior Township Chapter Co-Chair

The Steering Committee of SMLC's Superior Township Chapter sought to acknowledge the 25th anniversary of our existence with a "big" celebration this year.

We quickly realized that while the Chapter's efforts had been a major impetus at the outset, it had taken numerous partners, associates, friends, government agencies, and private individuals -- along with SMLC members -- to achieve 25 years of success culminating in the Superior Greenway. That was what we needed to recognize...and celebrate.

We thought about our friends at the Superior Land Preservation Society, who had played a pivotal role in our first seventeen years before forming an independent organization; and about the Superior Township government, which has been steadfast in its support of our vision, despite occasional tradeoffs between a parcel's taxable value and its intrinsic value to the community as open land.

Together with these two partners, we determined to make our special day a "Preservation Celebration: 25 Years of Land Conservation in Superior Township."

This unique event was held on July 9, 2016 on the Township Hall grounds. It featured a free light lunch, live music with dancing, shuttles to Cherry Hill Nature Preserve for short, docent-led tours, farm animals and stable horses, and information booths by Washtenaw County Parks, Ann Arbor Greenbelt, Friends of the Rouge, and others. Debbie Dingell's office recognized us with a Congressional Resolution (see photo above).

The weather was favorable, attendance was good, and we did our supporters proud for what we have achieved together.



25 Year Land Preservation Celebration on July 9, 2016
Photo by Bob Bisaro

Full Moon Campfires – Bringing People Together

*By Michelle McIntyre, Superior Township Chapter
Committee Member*

As Fall settles in, SMLC wraps up another year of Full Moon Campfires. Held at LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve, located in the heart of the Superior Greenway, these gatherings have been bringing people together for 18 years. People from across southeast Michigan come together in appreciation of all that Mother Nature has to offer, but also to connect with others; catching up with old friends and making new ones at the same time.

This summer the Superior Township Chapter was asked to host a Full Moon Campfire. For many of us, it was our first, but after such a wonderful evening, it certainly will not be our last. We shared s'mores and discussed the finer points of roasting the perfect marshmallow. We shared recipes for campfire dinners. We shared stories about how we came to know LeFurge Woods and just what makes it special for each of us. We shared a hike to the top of the hill overlooking the wetland where first time guests were able to take in one of the preserve's best views. But most of all we shared a love of nature and a feeling of connectedness to the land and to our fellow human beings. At the end of the night we all agreed that bringing people together in such a wonderful way is a true success story.



Superior Township Land Conservation Advocates

Brenda Baker

This introduction to Brenda, our first chapter secretary, appeared in our very first Superior Township Chapter newsletter in 1992:



Brenda Baker and Bill Secrest at SMLC's Annual Picnic

Photo by Jack R. Smiley

“Brenda hails from Santa Clara (‘Silicon’) Valley, California, where she watched the orchards, creeks, vineyards and open fields of her youth vanish beneath concrete. Currently, a Superior Township subdivision dweller, she believes that all residents have a stake in preserving open space and maintaining the semi-rural character of the Township.”

Now, a quarter century later, Brenda’s life has followed the trajectory of her dreams. Alongside her professional career as an industrial engineer, and her ongoing leadership positions in our Chapter, Brenda has simultaneously served multiple terms on both the Township’s Wetlands Advisory Board and our Planning Commission. She also personally founded the “Committee to Promote Superior Township” which educates all of us, particularly new residents, about the unique and delicate balance between “country” and suburbia that we strive to preserve here.

Brenda loves knowing and working personally with our membership. This past August she directed 25 volunteers who staffed our SMLC booths at two local festivals. To quote one of our key volunteers, “Brenda is the specific reason that I’m a member of the Superior Township Chapter. I am always amazed at the depth of her knowledge and experience. She gives totally of herself into whatever task is at hand. Her reliability is one of the greatest assets of our Chapter.”

Marion Morris

Marion Morris has served preservation efforts in the Township with grace, poise and savvy since moving here in 1969. In addition to raising her three children with her handsome husband, Pete, and working in health care and family services for three decades, Marion has been elected to and often chaired the Superior Township Parks and Recreation Commission for a quarter of a century. During this same time, she has, in the words of Jack Smiley, “been one of the most effective advocates of land conservation in the Township”.

Stepping aside from 17 years of leadership in our chapter of the SMLC, Marion has led our sister organization, The Superior Township Land Preservation Society since 2008. This group focuses solely on Superior Township and has been instrumental in securing Township, County and individuals’ cooperation and financial support for our land protection efforts.

Marion wrote in a 1999 conservancy newsletter ... “It has been said that each of us is born with a purpose for being. From my early childhood, I was drawn like a magnet to nature. For many years, I endured city living, but moving to the country -- Superior Township -- has been a gift to my soul. Preserving as much open space as possible so that all can enjoy nature is, indeed, a greater part of my purpose for being. As my father said, ‘We all need nature in order to be’.”



Marion Morris at the Conservancy Farm.

Photo by Pete Morris

Many Thanks.....

To the **Event Planning Committee members: Misty Callies, Della Copp, Michelle McIntyre, and Rebecca Wauldron** for their help planning, organizing, and conducting this year's upcoming Red Barn Bash.

To the *Landmarks* newsletter guest writers: **Richard Kent, Bill Secrest, Rick Simek, Jack R. Smiley, Faye Stoner, and Ginny Trocchio.**

To the volunteers who've helped with our mailings: **Carla Bisaro, Misty Callies, Della Copp, Jeff Gilbert, Marilyn Gilbert, and Emma McIntyre.**

To the **tabling and other event** volunteers: **Brenda Baker, Carla Bisaro, Andrea Dewey, Mary Ericson, Marilyn Gilbert, Richard Kent, Jim McIntyre, Michelle McIntyre, Bill Secrest, Jack R. Smiley, Molly Tamulevich, Jon Trevathan, and Scott Tyrrell.**

To the **stewardship** volunteers: **Liz Berghoff, Carla Bisaro, Chris Fielding, Dick Fortune, Jeffrey Gilbert, Marilyn Gilbert, George Kasdorf, Tim Myatt, Bill Oldham, Samantha Schneider, Ryan Schneider, Tyler Simionds, Jack R. Smiley and Scott Tyrrell** for their work with preserve maintenance, upkeep of the Conservancy Farm, and invasive species removal.

And a special thanks to volunteer **Della Copp** for helping out with **office work** this summer and fall.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered with SMLC this year!

We are always looking for passionate people who want to help SMLC achieve our mission. For more information about volunteering, please contact Taylor Myatt at tmyatt@smlcland.org or call 734-484-6565.

Get Email Updates from SMLC

Dont' miss out on the latest Conservancy news, events, and announcements. If your address has changed, be sure to let us know that too. To sign up, please send an email to Julia: info@smlcland.org

SMLC's Community Organic Garden

By Jack R. Smiley, Garden Coordinator

Do you like to eat fresh vegetables pulled straight from the garden? Do you enjoy seeing Bluebirds, Bobolinks, Song Sparrows, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Sandhill Cranes and lots of other wildlife on a regular basis? Do you enjoy the camaraderie of fellow nature lovers? If so, SMLC's Community Organic Garden may be right for you!



Located at the Conservancy Farm, right behind the big red barn, the Community Organic Garden has been in operation since 2005. Dozens of individuals and families have taken advantage of the generous 20' x 20' garden plots which allow for a wide variety of produce to be grown. With the severe heat and draught of this past summer, gardeners faced challenges just like many of our local farmers. But with proper soil preparation--and a generous layer of mulch--many gardeners also experienced bountiful harvests this year.



We are always looking for new gardeners to add to the "community", so please consider joining us next year! The Garden is open to master gardeners and novices alike--no experience is necessary. For more information about the Community Organic Garden, visit SMLC's web site at www.smlcland.org.

Get growing!

Photos by Charles Scott



Wildlife Sightings

Bringing Back the Bobolink

By Rick Simek, SMLC Stewardship Committee Chair

There is an avian comeback story unfolding at the SMLC Conservancy Farm. After being pretty much absent from the LeFurge Woods-Conservancy Farm complex, Bobolinks are bouncing back there.

“Bob-o-what’s?” you might be asking to yourself at this point. That could be because U.S. Bobolink populations have declined 72% since the 1960s, leading to much more infrequent sightings -- especially in southeast Michigan -- of the species. Like many bird species that depend on grassland habitats, Bobolink decline correlates to the conversion of grasslands to human use, and also to unmanaged grasslands giving way to forests over time.



Male Bobolink at the Conservancy Farm Photo by Wendy Pellerito

summer lodging for the species. And, thanks to the delayed harvesting of the SMLC hay until after the Bobolinks are done nesting, the young are able to fledge in time.

Those SMLC Bobolink residents also provide new opportunities for Conservancy Farm visitors to enjoy watching these lively and colorful birds. Sporting contrasting and unusual dark underparts and light upperparts, male Bobolinks also have an enthusiastic melodious song--often sung as part of any equally colorful aerial display -- that brighten the moment for many a human observer.

“SMLC-raised” Bobolinks will also soon be joining their fellows in a long distance flight all the way down to their wintering grounds in the southern part of South America. Next year, the SMLC hayfields will be waiting for their return.

Luckily for the Bobolinks at the Conservancy Farm, hayfields there are providing just the grassland substitute

It’s great to know that SMLC is doing its part to put Bobolinks back on the map in our local area. Enjoy!

The Superior Greenway

A more specific example is the Superior Greenway Nature Trail. This is a bridge to what the next 25 years of conservation in the Greenway will need: deeper and broader community engagement. Getting more people out on the land to experience what local conservation and nature is all about. The Superior Greenway Nature Trail has the potential to help expedite that goal given its location and current land restoration projects.

The Trail currently traverses 2 properties (SMLC’s Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve and Washtenaw County’s Meyer Preserve). Within the next 2 years it should also connect to SMLC’s LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve.

continued from Page 1
By that time, with more than 3 miles of trail covering a varied landscape that includes woods, wetlands, streams and farmland, there will be much to talk about and share with trail users and preserve visitors. In the future, SMLC also looks to include demonstration projects into that mix including information about the wetland restoration work along the Trail.

The Superior Greenway has become a green landmark for Superior Township. It has helped preserve the rural character of the Township and provided needed wildlife habitat for many species including migrating ones. It has also provided a place that you and your family and friends can visit to enjoy the beauty of southeast Michigan nature. As our work continues, stay involved,

YES! I want to help preserve critical natural habitat in southeast Michigan by supporting Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.

\$ _____ Total Gift

Check here to let SMLC use my gift where it is needed most.

Or, direct my donation:

\$ _____ Land Protection Fund

\$ _____ Monroe County Fund

\$ _____ Superior Township Fund

\$ _____ Stewardship Endowment Fund

\$ _____ Superior Greenway Expansion Project

Please make checks payable to Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy and mail to:

**Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
8383 Vreeland Rd.
Superior Township, MI 48198**

Or, make a secure online credit card donation at www.smlcland.org

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All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. The donor received no goods or services in exchange for this donation. E-mail used only for SMLC news/announcements. We will never give or sell your personal information to any other group.

Wish List

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy could use the following items:

- Computer **tablet** for field work (retail cost \$800)
- Backup portable **generator** (retail costs \$300)
- Mapping grade **GPS unit** (retail costs \$300)
- Aluminum Extension **Ladder** (retail cost \$180)
- Long handled **spades and rakes** for the Garden program (retail cost \$25 each)
- Quality **leather gloves** (retail cost \$6 each)
- **Bottled water** for thirsty volunteers.

Please contact Taylor or Julia at the SMLC office if you would like to make our wishes come true!

(734) 484-6565

info@smlcland.org

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