

May 2013

Dear Friend:

“I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.”
~ John Burroughs

From Jill -

Lately, I've been stopping for a few minutes between the car and the farmhouse to notice my surroundings. That may sound strange since I work in a beautiful rural environment but I also have a very busy job. Taking a few moments to watch a heron in flight or to notice that the winter wheat is coming in has not been my daily habit. Why now?

It's SMLC's 25th Anniversary this year. A quarter century of successful land protection efforts. Therefore nature and what it means to all of us has been on my mind for some time now.

To me, nature is a value proposition of the highest order! Not only is there a promise of values to be delivered – the promise is made good upon every day. From cleaner drinking water to soul rejuvenation, nature replenishes on every level.

I understand this intuitively. I always have. I grew up in Muskegon and regularly my family would trek from our house located one block from the sand dunes, through those magnificent dunes all the way to Lake Michigan. When you have these experiences as a child, they stay with you.

Today, as part of my job, I love talking to the really knowledgeable folks within SMLC about the benefits of a slow-moving stream for wildlife or why a healthy forest ecosystem is important for all of us. These conversations excite me because they are the underpinning of “why” we do what we do. They explain that relationship between nature and humans that is so fundamentally important.

Now the challenge is to get that word out to everyone we know. As part of our 25th Anniversary we want to involve a lot more people, and we need your help. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to engage in your own personal “friend-raising” campaign for SMLC. Invite your friends to our events, sign up loved ones for gift memberships, and share our successes with your coworkers.

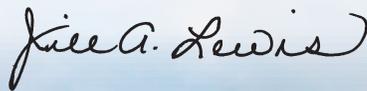
This is a great year for SMLC. There are so many reasons to celebrate our history and how far we have come. And, this is a year to continue to do more. From acquisitions in the works to stewardship goals that are being realized to reaching our highest level of annual donor contributions – there are so many ways that SMLC can continue to achieve and thus fulfill what we are here to do – conserve land in southeast Michigan.

Most importantly, it is all of you who have made SMLC what we are today. We could not have done this work without you. We thank you, we rely on you, and we greatly appreciate your ongoing support. Please give generously during this special year – we promise to put those donations to work in ways that will not only make you proud, but that will also replenish all of us.

Sincerely,



James T. Weiner



Jill A. Lewis

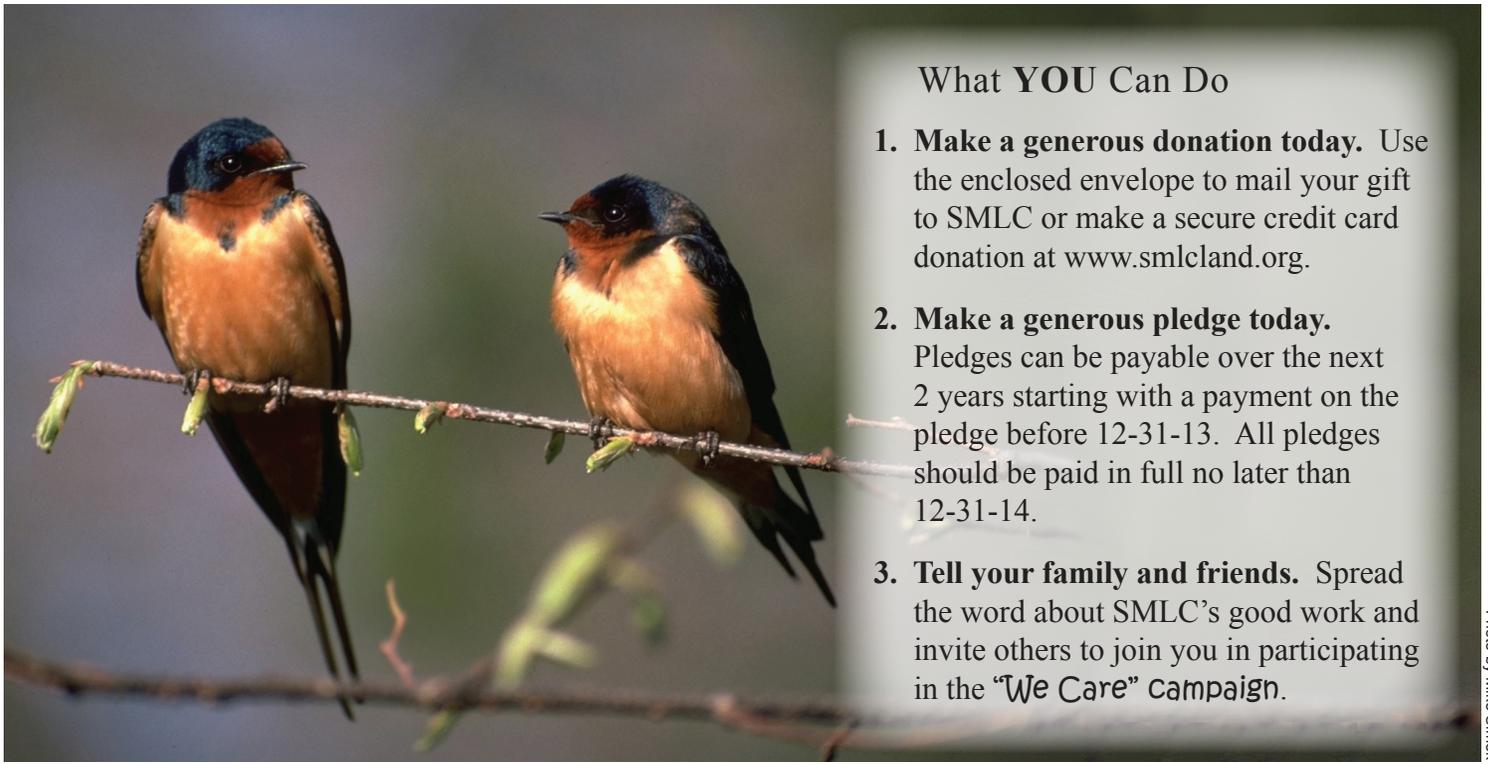


Photo by Mike Simek

What **YOU** Can Do

- 1. Make a generous donation today.** Use the enclosed envelope to mail your gift to SMLC or make a secure credit card donation at www.smlcland.org.
- 2. Make a generous pledge today.** Pledges can be payable over the next 2 years starting with a payment on the pledge before 12-31-13. All pledges should be paid in full no later than 12-31-14.
- 3. Tell your family and friends.** Spread the word about SMLC's good work and invite others to join you in participating in the "We Care" campaign.



Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
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Superior Township, MI 48198

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Photo by Charles Scott

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.

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Contact Us...

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