



**SUPERIOR  
LAND  
CONSERVANCY**

Preserving the rural character and  
natural habitats of Superior Township



A local division of Southeast  
Michigan Land Conservancy

April 25, 2009

A letter from Bill Secret and Brenda Baker

Greetings!

On behalf of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC), we are pleased to announce our appointments as Steering Committee Co-Chairs of the Superior Land Conservancy (SLC), a Division of SMLC. Both of us served on the original "SLC Board" beginning in 1991 as Chair and Secretary, respectively, and we have been active in the organization in various roles ever since.

SLC has evolved as a mature and effective force for land preservation in Superior Township. Over the years SLC has engaged in public outreach, networked with our neighbors and government officials, and assisted with the proper care and stewardship of protected land.

SLC has also directly raised fully 10% of the funds that were needed to acquire some of the properties that SMLC has purchased in the Township. You have probably heard the numbers before, but they bear repeating (and they keep going up!):

In Superior Township alone, SMLC has protected 614 acres through acquisition (160 acres later transferred to the Township) and 193 acres through conservation easements; partnered with Washtenaw County to acquire an additional 299 acres; and worked with the State of Michigan and the Ann Arbor Greenbelt to protect 490 more acres with conservation easements. Total acreage protected in Superior Township to date is 1,596 acres! The strength of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, enhanced by local input from the Superior Land Conservancy Division, has made this possible.

With all of this protected property, it is especially important to be good stewards of the land. Although the land is "protected," it still needs attention due to problems from human overuse and misuse (dumping, trampling, poaching, etc.) and due to the threats posed by invasive species. Proper stewardship is also vital in order to help SMLC achieve accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance.

Toward this end, SLC is now recruiting volunteers to assist with essential stewardship activities at these preserves in Superior Township:

- LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve
- Springhill Nature Preserve
- Conservancy Farm Preserve
- Kosch Headwaters Preserve
- Meyer Preserve

The last two of these are owned by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. The Superior Land Conservancy Division and the SMLC have agreed to assist the County with stewardship in the spirit of good will and cooperation, and to encourage the County to continue preserving land in Superior Township as opportunities arise. Besides, it will be fun!

Our initial need is for help with tasks like invasive species management, trail clearing, farm workdays, trash cleanup, and tending bluebird nest boxes. These are activities almost anyone can help with—adults and/or youth, individuals or groups, one time or on a recurring basis. Group leaders are also needed to help guide these activities. To volunteer for any of these opportunities, please contact Bill Secrest (734-482-5957 / wsecrest@hfcc.net) or Brenda Baker (734-482-8084 / BakerPartin@aol.com).

The Superior Land Conservancy also plans to participate in other events this year, including the Dixboro Fair and the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, in addition to the full roster of ongoing SMLC events and activities. Please let us know if you would be willing to volunteer at one of these events.

Finally, we are making a personal appeal for those who would like to volunteer to serve with us on the SLC Division Steering Committee. We need to develop plans for the remainder of the year and beyond, so please consider getting involved. Contact either of us at the numbers listed above for consideration. This is a great opportunity for the right people. We'd love to talk with you and see if it sounds mutually beneficial.

Please be assured that the Superior Land Conservancy remains an active and effective presence in the Township, working independently and collaboratively to preserve and protect the special places we all cherish.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Bill Secrest

[Signature]

Brenda Baker

Steering Committee Co-Chairs  
Superior Land Conservancy

**P.S.** We hope to see you at Springhill Nature Preserve — our original preserve in Superior Township — on May 9 at 1:15 p.m. for our 18<sup>th</sup> annual *Spring has Sprung at Springhill* nature walk. The wildflowers should be spectacular!