

## \*YOUR NEWSLETTER TITLE HERE\*

*We need you! Help us name this newsletter. Suggestions are The Bay Buzz, The Land Line, Wetlands Call....but maybe you have a new idea.*

*Please call, FAX, mail or email your suggestions!*

*Vote for one of those listed or come up with something new!*

www.sblc-mi.org

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Celebrate Earth Day  
April 22, 2007



"Treat the Earth well. It was not given to you by your parents.

It was loaned to you by your children."

- Kenyan Proverb

## Conservancy WINS Grant

### Matching funds needed by May 31st



Did you know that the Saginaw Bay Land Conservancy has four preserves in Bay and Arenac Counties?

If you didn't, you are not the only one! But you can help us fix that problem. In 2006, the Conservancy applied for and received a grant through the Watershed Initiative Network (WIN). The grant from WIN is a matching grant; the Conservancy will receive \$6,500 if it can raise the additional \$10,705 to fund the entire project. We have raised \$4,208 to date and need to raise the balance by **May 31, 2007**.

The project is intended to maximize visibility and the accessibility for the public to use the preserves for recreation, exercise and education on the natural environment. The Conservancy plans to provide the following enhancements:

- ◆ Sizeable, attractive signs at a strategic location that will draw public attention and let the public know the preserves are there for the public's enjoyment.
- ◆ Benches along the existing non-motorized pathways and lake shore areas. The benches will be constructed by volunteers and placed in ideal locations for observing key areas and the natural scenic beauty at each preserve. The benches will also facilitate use by those with restricted physical abilities by providing a rest stop along the pathways.

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## Wishes DO Come True!

Thanks to **Brian Macaulay** and **The Bay City Times** Wish List, the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy has a new boat! Responding to the annual Wish List printed in the Times in November, Brian Macaulay donated a 2004, 9 ft. Walker Bay boat, with all the extras, including a launching dolly. The boat will enable staff and volunteers of the Conservancy to access waterfront areas of the preserves for management and invasive plant control.

Thank you, Brian, and The Bay City Times!



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- ◆ Mark the preserve boundaries/state preserve restrictions. Boundary signs will explain permitted and restricted activities on the preserves and will help prevent trespassing on adjacent private lands or misuse of the preserves.
- ◆ Actively promote the preserves' existence and ecologically significant features through the SBLC web site with maps with directions to the preserves.

You can help us meet our match challenge by donating to the Preserve Access Project. Just use the envelope enclosed with this newsletter and make a note to designate your contribution to this project.



## SBLC Wish List

- Lopping shears (6)
- Hand pruners (6)
- Printer cartridges for HP LaserJet2550L and Dell printers
- Printing services
- General office supplies

*Thanks to these early contributors in helping us meet our match:*

*Bay Area Community Foundation  
Whitefeather Landfill  
Bay City Morning Rotary Club  
Larry Frisch*

*Morley Foundation  
Consumers Energy  
Dave Morley  
Anonymous*

## New Laws Mean Tax Savings for Land Easement Donors

*The changes allow landowners to deduct much more than they could under the old rules.*

Be sure to check out the savings from Public Act 446, elimination of the "pop up tax," which became law in December with Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's signature. This law prevents the taxable value of land enrolled in a conservation easement from "popping up" to the state equalized value when it is transferred. The law pertains to land, not buildings, and can mean a potential direct tax savings of hundreds or thousand of dollars per year. If you have had land in your family for many years, this law may mean the difference between younger generations assuming ownership or having to sell it.

In addition, new federal tax law, signed by President George W. Bush and set to

expire at the end of 2007, included several provisions to give landowners significantly more financial incentive if they donate conservation easements that permanently protect their land to nonprofit land conservancies. The changes allow landowners to deduct much more than they could under the old rules. A landowner receives a tax deduction worth up to half of his or her adjusted gross income. In addition, the deduction can be taken for up to 15 years. Prior to the new tax law, the maximum deduction a landowner could take was 30 percent for just five years. Landowners who earn 51% or more of their income from farming can deduct up to 100% of adjusted gross income.

# You're in Good Company!

Thanks to all of the people who donated to the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy during our 2006 fundraising efforts. We truly couldn't do it without you!

Ashley Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Learman
Joy A. Baker	Jim Lewis
Keith & Ethel Birchler	Mr. & Mrs. Bret Lewless
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bloenk	Mr. & Mrs. John Lore
Edward Brosowski	Mr. & Mrs. Al McFadyen
Oza Brown	Mr. & Mrs. Harlon McMillian
Al & Katy Bryant	Robert & Debra Monroe
Dr. & Mrs. John Buday	David Morley
Lois Cinco	Mr. & Mrs. Guy Moulthrop
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Collier	Thomas & Evelyn Mudd
Dale Confer	Nancy Musinski
Charles & Mary Ann Coryell	Mark & Ann Neumeier
Mr. & Mrs. David Cozad	Katie Parker & Bert Ebbers
Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Curtiss	Mr. & Mrs. William Peters
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Cusick	Brian M. Redmond
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Darby	Paul Revard D.D.S.
Mr. & Mrs. David DeShon	Gary & Lyn Riedlinger
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Dykema	Mark Rieffel
Wanda Dziwura & Jerry Somalski	Mr. & Mrs. George Roe
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Eickholt	Robert Sarow
Walter I. Foss	Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Sattelberg
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Frisch	Roy & Bev Schairer
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Gettel	Brian Schrope
Roger Gobrogge	Warren & Faye Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Goyings	Richard Somalski
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hartwick	Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Spence
Tiffany Hedrich	Michael Stoner
George Heron	K. Tighe & T. Bock
Amy Ignash	Jim Thews
Dr. & Mrs. Martin D. Jaffe	Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Trahan
Roy & Barbara Jeffery	Cathy & Tom Washabaugh
Mr. & Mrs. David Jensen	John & Imelda Way
Mr. & Mrs. Oren Johnson	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wright
Gary Johnson	Jerome & Dianne Yantz

We have made every effort to include all who donated. If we have omitted a name, please accept our sincere apologies. Please let us know if corrections are needed.

*Haven't had a chance to donate? Just use the enclosed envelope to make a donation today! Your contribution will help sustain the Conservancy as we seek to steward our protected land.*

# It's All About the Water

17,284 tons of sediment, 22,203 pounds of phosphorous, and 44,991 pounds of nitrogen and still climbing. That's the load reduction on our water resources since the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy began working with USDA, DEQ, DNR, MDA, and others in implementing a Permanent Conservation Easement Program here in the Saginaw Basin. Started in 2004, the program is funded by a Clean Michigan Initiative Nonpoint Source Pollution grant.

It started with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, a state-federal partnership that is the largest voluntary environmental improvement program in Michigan's history. Farmers in the Saginaw Bay watershed voluntarily decide to stop actively using parts of their land for agricultural purposes and reserve it for environmental protection for 15 years.

Landowners with certain practices in the program (filter strips, vegetated riparian buffers, wetlands restorations and shallow water wildlife habitat areas) were invited to participate in a conservation easement program to extinguish all development and agricultural uses on the land, but now permanently. The SBLC implements this program and holds the permanent conservation agreements on approximately 2,000 acres with more planned over the next two years.

The land that has been preserved acts much like wetlands to help remove pollutants from surface runoff and small streams. Special grasses are planted rather than agricultural crops. They remove pollutants by retaining sediment (over 17,000 tons so far!) – that material that settles to the bottom of a liquid.

*The SBLC...  
holds the  
permanent  
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## Interested in Volunteering? We could use help with the following...

- ◆ Providing tax advice
- ◆ Preparing newsletters for mailing
- ◆ Education and publicity outreach
- ◆ WIN Matching Grant appeal
- ◆ Annual fund solicitation
- ◆ Maintenance of preserves
- ◆ Land Stewardship Committee
- ◆ 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Special thanks to our Land Stewardship Committee:

Larry Frisch, chair  
Charley Curtiss  
Amy Ignash  
George Shaw  
Pat Trahan  
Melissa Trahan  
Bill Wright

And our Board Development Committee:

Dave Morley, chair  
Charley Curtiss  
Rob Monroe



Volunteers monitor our Saginaw (above) and Pressprich (below) Preserves.



# Staff Update

From left to right:  
 Greg Eagle,  
 Land Protection Specialist  
 Valerie Roof, Executive Director  
 Kendra Clark,  
 Financial Administrator  
 Not pictured: Gina Latour,  
 Staff Assistant



Meet the staff at the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy! Valerie Roof assumed the position of executive director on November 1, 2006. She brings over 20 years of nonprofit experience to the organization. She currently resides in Kawkawlin Township.

Greg Eagle, land protection specialist, is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a degree in biology/conservation. Greg has been involved at the state level in land protection and efforts to protect wetlands and reduce illegal dredge and fills.

Kendra Clark, financial administrator, is responsible for all of the accounting functions at the Conservancy, including grant reporting. Kendra has a bachelor's degree in management/accounting from Northwood and began working at the

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Toxic pollutants, such as PCBs, phosphorous, heavy metals and pesticides attach to soil particles which are captured by wetland plants. As runoff water passes through these grasses, they retain or process excess nitrogen and phosphorus, decompose organic pollutants and trap suspended sediments that would otherwise clog waterways and affect fish and amphibian egg development. Nitrogen and phosphorous deplete the dissolved oxygen needed for fish and increase

Conservancy on a part-time basis in July 2006.

Gina Latour began working at the Conservancy as a part-time staff assistant in January 2007. Gina retired from the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce with more than 20 years administrative experience.

Haven't met us yet? Feel free to stop by at 311 Fifth Street (yes, that's The Bay City Times) and tell the folks at the front desk you'd like to visit with Conservancy staff. They'll point you in our direction (we're on the mezzanine).

**How to contact us: Call 989-891-9986, FAX 989-891-9987 or email at [comments@sbcl-mi.org](mailto:comments@sbcl-mi.org).**

algae and plant growth.

Having the land preserved forever means that we'll see continue to see these reductions in the future. It's SBLC's responsibility to ensure that the protected lands are maintained as described in the conservation easements, which requires that we monitor the land by visiting each property at least once a year.

## Board of Directors

Larry Frisch, Dow Corning Corporation; *President*  
 Mike Grabowski, Real Estate Professional Group; *Vice President*  
 Pat Trahan, Sunlyte Films; *Secretary*  
 Charley Curtiss, Retired; *Treasurer*  
 Amy Ignash, Shinnors & Cook  
 Dave Morley, Self Serve Lumber  
 Mark Neumeier, Neighborhood Renewal Services  
 J. Patrick O'Brien, EMCOR, Inc.  
 Adam Ward, Spicer Group

## Staff

Valerie Roof, *Executive Director*  
 Greg Eagle, *Land Protection Specialist*  
 Kendra Clark, *Financial Administrator*  
 Gina Latour, *Staff Assistant*

## Volunteer Designer

Diane Middleton

## Volunteer Editor

Kathy Roberts

**Mission:** To conserve land and water resources to promote sustainable communities and a higher quality of life in the Saginaw Bay Watershed.

Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy is a nonprofit corporation (FEIN 38-3362048). We are a State of Michigan 5040 licensed (MICS: 21214) charity (see: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lic\\_chrtly1\\_40579\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lic_chrtly1_40579_7.pdf)).

You may review our 2002-2005 Federal tax returns (form 990) at: <http://www.guidestar.org/>

Anyone interested in volunteering may contact us for further information.

For more information, please write: Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, P.O. Box 222, 311 Fifth Street, Bay City, MI 48707-0222

Or Call: 989-891-9986  
 FAX: 989-891-9987

Email: [comments@sbcl-mi.org](mailto:comments@sbcl-mi.org)  
 Website: [www.sbcl-mi.org](http://www.sbcl-mi.org)

# Gifts that Give Forever

Annual donations are very important for the financial well-being of the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, but supporters have the opportunity to give a gift that gives forever by donating to an endowment fund established for the benefit of the Conservancy at the Bay Area Community Foundation.

The State of Michigan provides a state **tax credit** for gifts to community foundations. Donors can receive a credit of 50 percent of the amount contributed to the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy Fund at the

*Together, annual donations and endowment gifts help us meet our mission...*



community foundation subject to a maximum credit of:

✦ \$100 for an individual filing single (for a \$200 donation)

- ✦ \$200 for a married couple filing jointly (based on a \$400 donation)
- ✦ \$5,000 or 10% of tax liability before claiming any credits, whichever is less, for a resident estate or trust (based on a \$10,000 gift)
- ✦ \$5,000 or 5% of tax liability before claiming any credits, whichever is less, for taxpayers filing a Michigan Single Business Tax return (based on a \$10,000 gift)

For more information, contact the Bay Area Community Foundation at 989-893-4438 or [www.bayfoundation.org](http://www.bayfoundation.org).



**Save a Tree!**

If you can receive our newsletter electronically, please send Valerie an email at [valerie@sbic-mi.org](mailto:valerie@sbic-mi.org) with "electronic newsletter" in the subject line.

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