

A report from
your NOHLC
Stewardship
Committee

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Volume 1

Winter / Spring 2011



Did You Know?

Dandelion root can be roasted and ground as a coffee substitute

You Can Help!

There are many ways you can help support NOHLC's stewardship mission:

- Become a Property Inspector
- Volunteer at the office
- Assist with fundraisers and events
- Donate tools or equipment
- Spread the word!
- Keep an eye out for conservation opportunities

Contact the NOHLC office, Volunteer Coordinator Susan Jones, or Stewardship Committee Chair Chris Benedict for more information

North Oakland Headwaters
Land Conservancy

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Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of Stewardship News. This newsletter is intended to provide regular reports on the activities and achievements of NOHLC's Stewardship Committee. As we continue in our mission to preserve and protect the 1100 + acres under our care, we hope you will find these updates both informational and inspirational.

What We've Been Up To

Baselines, Baselines, & More Baselines!!!

For accreditation purposes, the Land Trust Alliance—the national body governing land conservancies—requires that a baseline document be prepared for each property a conservancy owns or holds easements on. An NOHLC Baseline Documentation Report documents the important conservation values protected by the easement and the relevant conditions of the property as necessary to monitor and enforce the easement.

As of this writing, Stewardship Committee volunteers, led by Kathy Rollins and Lora Perkins, have completed baseline reports on over 2/3 of NOHLC's properties and easements. Our goal is to have baseline reports for 100% of NOHLC properties by Spring 2011.

Additionally, Kathy and Lora have been asked to give a presentation on producing baseline reports at this year's Heart of the Lakes Summit in Lansing, March 3. Great job, Super-Stewards!!!

Inspections, Inspections, & More Inspections!!!

We are delighted to report that inspections were performed on 100% of NOHLC properties and easements in 2010. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our many property inspectors who ensure that the land we care for is preserved and protected.

Invasives, Invasives, & More Invasives!!!

This past summer, fall and winter, volunteers removed tremendous amounts of harmful invasive plant species from, among other places, the Bridge Valley Reserve. With the approval of our partners-in-conservation, the Bridge Valley Homeowners Association, volunteers spent nearly two full days burning invasives pulled from this beautiful property—even using two separate burn piles! Work remains to be done in 2011 and beyond, but hats off to our volunteers for helping protect this ecological gem.

Heroes of Stewardship

Each issue of Stewardship News will acknowledge the contributions of one of our Super-Steward volunteers. Choosing just one out of the many outstanding volunteers is no easy task, and each and every stewardship contributor deserves recognition for their efforts. But we have to start somewhere, so today we shine our spotlight on Emily Duthinh. In the stewardship realm, Emily's name has become synonymous with our easement at Parks of Stonewood, where she has spearheaded efforts to remove invasives, install interpretive signage and improve the overall quality of this gorgeous property. Emily has also developed a kit & brochure to help homeowners fight invasive species, and has help training sessions to increase awareness and educate on invasive species issues. Thanks for all that you do Emily!



Bridge Valley Reserve

Featured Forest

Each edition of Stewardship News will introduce a "Featured Forest, highlighting one of NOHLC's beautiful properties or easements.

Today we showcase the Nels Kimball Sanctuary, one of the premier properties owned and protected by NOHLC.

Located just south of I-75 and west of Perry Lake Road, the Kimball Sanctuary covers 41 acres of forest and wetland, including a pristine stretch of the Clinton River. Donated by the Kimball family in 1985, this preserve is

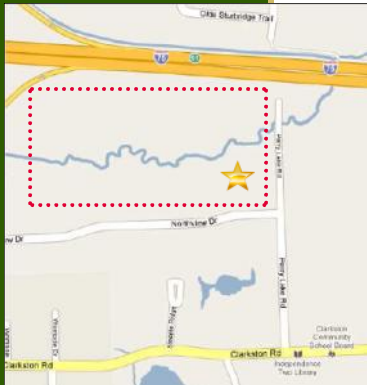
open to the public, and features guided trails for your enjoyment.

In 2010, NOHLC volunteers, along with a group of Albion College students and alumni, constructed a boardwalk trail, allowing visitors to enjoy a previously inaccessible portion of the preserve. In 2011 we hope to complete construction of a bridge over the Clinton River, linking to Kimball's existing trail system.

Come out and visit this gem in the heart of Independence Township!



A volunteer helps clear the new trail at the Nels Kimball Sanctuary



"We all care about our children and grandchildren, so why wouldn't we want to pass on to them clean water and a healthy environment?"

Busy Interns

2010 was a busy and productive year for NOHLC interns. Among the projects completed was the compilation of a database detailing the neighbors of all NOHLC properties and easements, including maps and contact information where possible. Interns also helped create a new folder-documentation system to improve the accuracy and efficiency of NOHLC's record keeping and stewardship activities. As part of this

project, interns also produced a series of maps for each property, starting with the earliest available GIS maps and progressing to the most recent, including hydrology, soil and topographical maps.

Interns also assisted in planting seeds at Voorheis Beardslee, removing invasives at Bridge Valley and with the boardwalk project at Kimball.



Stewardship Folders



Clinton River at Kimball Sanctuary

In 1972, the Independence Township Land Trust was formed as a nonprofit corporation. Its purpose was to acquire land or scenic easements through gifts or purchase so that they could be left in their natural state. Mr. Nelson Kimball was elected as the first president.

The Conservancy was one of the first in the State of Michigan.

The group's purpose was "to pre-

serve the natural and historic resources of Independence Township including water resources, swamps, woodlands, open spaces, plant and animal life...to promote scientific study and to inform the public regarding natural culture and ecological values...to use all property controlled by the Conservancy exclusively for the benefit of all inhabitants of Independence Township."

With the expansion into Springfield Township, in 1998, the Independ-

About NOHLC

ence Land Conservancy needed to find a new name! After much research, the organization agreed to become the **North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC)**.

We currently have interests in 53 properties totaling approximately 1100 acres. Of these 19 are owned by us while the remainder have Conservation Easements which protect the land from any development while keeping it in private ownership.