



Winter 2011

Conserving the woods, fields, streams, wetlands and other natural resources in the headwaters of the Clinton, Flint, Shiawassee, & Huron Rivers.

2010 Annual Report

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What Every New Michigan Legislator Needs to Know

March 2nd is Michigan Land Conservancy Day in Lansing. It follows National Peanut Butter Lovers Day and precedes National Anthem Day. (*The Star Spangled Banner* was adopted by Congress as the national anthem in 1931.) Lest our conservancy day get lost in all the other reasons for celebrating, I thought it worth highlighting. So here are five fast facts our Lansing legislators should know about land protection in Michigan:

Five Fast Facts for Lansing

1. **Michiganders want scenic vistas and recreational access-** land trusts like NOHLC deliver both.
2. **Workers want jobs** – Michigan’s great natural beauty (if it remains) attracts tourism which means jobs- all over the state. Land Protection = Pure Michigan = Jobs.
3. Citizens want **local food and fiber sources** as a matter of health. Land conservancies protect local food-producing farms.
4. **Willing private landowners want help** to protect their cherished lands- legislators can insure that continued property, estate and income tax

breaks make that possible.

5. **Families and communities want clean water** for drinking and playing. When land is protected, it often protects the 38,000 miles of rivers and streams that flow into the Great Lakes. **Michigan people care deeply about the health of our Great Lakes**

To see how NOHLC protects land and water take your snow shoes to our Kimball Preserve, the Suzanne G. Knorr Preserve or to the Davis Lake Overlook. Directions at www.nohlc.org. Better yet, take your legislator with you. (Find out your legislator’s contact info at: Michiganlegislature.org and click on “Contact your Representative” or “Contact your Senator” and simply input your zip code.

Katie Anderson
Executive Director

Fact: 70% of state senators and representatives in Lansing are new. Make your conservation voice heard.

State of The Conservancy

What a year! Your Conservancy has taken significant steps forward involving organization and accreditation while externally concentrating on stewardship of the fifty-two properties it owns or protects through easements. As space is limited, I'll summarize here and refer you to our website www.nohlc.org for a more complete description of all that has occurred in 2010.

Collaboration has been one path we've pursued to accomplish improvements. When Independence Township built a safety path along Clintonville Road, we negotiated a connection to our internal paths in the Voorheis-Beardsley Preserve. When Deer Lake residents were alarmed by the spread of the invasive plant phragmites, we provided manpower and technical assistance to remove it from the public beach. As Oakland County Parks and Recreation completed acquisition of the 186 acres of Upper Bushman Lake, NOHLC added \$16,000 from its Independence Land Fund. When SE Michigan meetings identified the need for outreach for land preservation, NOHLC joined eight other conservancies to make it happen.

Other collaborations were begun in 2010. NOHLC partnered with the Headwaters Cluster of the Stewardship Network to obtain grant funds to halt the spread of swallow-wort, a vine that chokes out other vegetation and tricks monarch butterflies into laying their eggs where they cannot survive. Your Conservancy has agreed to work with the US Geological Survey to study sedimentation in a pristine section of the Clinton River at Kimball Preserve as a model for high quality preservation. Our Springfield Endowment Fund committed \$30,000 to endow stewardship by Springfield Township Parks and Recreation at "Wilderness Estates."

Stewardship volunteers worked 1000+ hours at other properties. A pathway of wood pavers was installed at Holly Lakeview, benches were added to Oakland Crest, bluebird houses were placed at Knorr Preserve, a neglected portion of wetland at Bridge Valley was cleared of four layers of invasives, land disturbed by the Consumers Energy pipeline was reseeded with natives, and nearly 50 people from local Albion College Alumni and area NOHLC members constructed a boardwalk to the Clinton River in Kimball.

Board members and volunteers spent hours on projects leading to national **accreditation** by the Land Trust Alliance. This is equivalent to the stamp of approval



sought by businesses, and will make NOHLC more attractive to funders. Stewardship volunteers worked on Baseline Documents and started on Management Plans for each, a requirement for accreditation. Photo monitoring procedures were established and the volunteers discovered special environments in the recesses of some sites—a button bush swamp (butterfly attractor!), a turtle haven, and a beautiful bog.

Strategic Conservation Planning using GIS data from Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services resulted in **identifying 300-400 potential preservation parcels** by the end of 2010. Research and field visits are beginning and NOHLC members are needed to scout local sites in 2011.

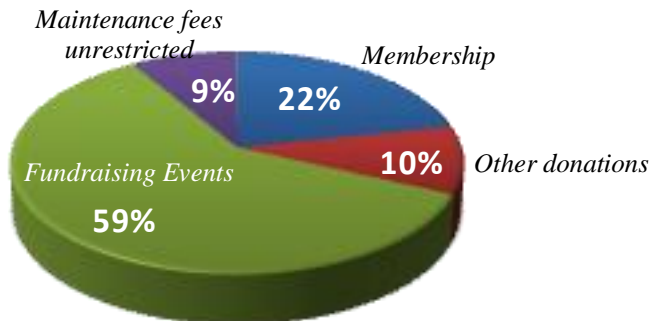
Outreach efforts aimed at young people through internships, a summer work employment program that was grant funded, and field work with students at the Oakland Technical Center. Conservancy representatives met with homeowners' associations to explain joint stewardship. Volunteers conducted property tours and our outreach included newsletters to members at minimal cost. NOHLC is asking members to provide their e-mail addresses in an effort to reduce mailing costs going forward.

Our strongest thanks go to the dedicated volunteers who organized our annual fundraisers—Wild Night Out and The Great Blue Heron Open. In 2010, despite Michigan's downturned economy, these folks established events that kept NOHLC moving forward. Please join us in 2011 as contributor, volunteer or committee member for more fun-filled and purposeful actions all in the name of land conservation.

Susan Julian
President

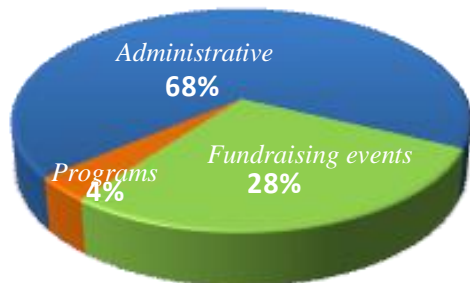
Financial Report 2010*

2010 Operating Income



2010 Operating Income		\$79,403
Membership		17,379
Other Donations non-member, Foundations, Matching Funds, Memorials, Honoraria, Misc		7,831
Fundraising Events		47,270
Maintenance Fees Unrestricted		6,835
Promotional Items		20
Interest Income		68

2010 Operating Expenses



2010 Operating Expenses		\$85,688
Administrative Rent, outreach, Liability Insurance, Office supplies & mailings, Payroll, accounting, legal & professional fees		58,367
Fundraising Events		24,286
Program Expenses		3,035

**More 2010 Program Spending on
Land Conservation And Stewardship**

\$ 332,851

2010 Board/Donor Restricted Funds Income & Expense Report

	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Year-end Balance
Homeowner Assoc. Improvement Funds		5,493	3,159	
Fred Roeser Stewardship Fund	5,105	2,883	1,001	6,987
Springfield Endowment Fund	787,818	29,311	300,080	517,049
Independence Land Fund	14,620	2,795	16,000	1,415
Advancing Conservancy Excellence Funds	11,650	14,400	12,611	13,439

* Unaudited financial results; upon completion of review by Himrod & Associates, CPA, the organization's Financial reports and filings will be available at www.nohlc.org.

Members and Donor Giving

We would like to thank each and every member, donor and partner that has supported NOHLC. Each financial donation helps us to protect the unique character of our surrounding natural resources and quality of life, for the communities and future generations in the headwaters areas of the Clinton, Shiawassee, Huron and Flint rivers.

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(\$1000 and above)

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We make every effort to include all who donated. If we have omitted a name, please accept our sincere apologies and kindly notify the office so we may correct the error.

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 Mr. George White
 Ms. Wanda Doyon

In memory of **Axel Girschner**
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In memory of **William Lorimer**
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In memory of **Virginia McCauley**
 Mr. & Mrs. John Blanchard
 Ms. Theresa Celusta

In memory of **Janet McCord**

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In memory of **Fred Roeser**
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Sarah Olson
Lois Robbins
Sue Topping
Marilyn Zigarac

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Bill Edwards
Kirk Falvay
Michael Kilbarger
Ken Klostermeyer
Dave McCarty
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