



Thanks to Kay and Jim Charter for hosting the 2012 Conservation Easement Landowner Gathering at the Charter Sanctuary. Please visit our website to download the presentations and take a short survey so we can plan the next gathering. <http://leelanauconservancy.org/2012-conservation-easement-landowner-gathering/>

If you haven't yet visited the Charter Sanctuary, please call Kay for a tour. (Saving Birds 231-271-3738) You will get a feel for what a prairie and prime bobolink habitat will look like after many years of restoration.

Please call us if....

.....you would like to set up a specific time for us to monitor your property

.....you are selling your property. This will ensure the new owners understand the terms of the conservation easement.

.....you plan to exercise one of your reserved rights in your conservation easement

.....you have a question about your conservation easement or would like a copy of your conservation easement mailed to you

As always, please feel free to contact the Conservancy staff for advice or information about your resource protection and management needs.

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IS FOREST MANAGEMENT PART OF YOUR EASEMENT?

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to submit a forest management plan and notify Yarrow at the Conservancy if required to do so by your conservation easement agreement. Also, some of your conservation easements also require a Timber Harvest Plan with review and approval by Conservancy staff.

Even if no notification is required, Stewardship staff always appreciate being notified of planned timber harvest activities. We have a list of foresters we have worked with on approved forest management plans and can help as you plan your next timber harvest.

If you would like to talk to a conservation easement landowner with a forest management plan who is actively engaged in forest management activities in collaboration with The Conservancy's Stewardship staff, please let us know.



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Leelanau Conservancy

Conservation Easement Landowner Newsletter

Fall 2012

This is the very first issue of the Leelanau Conservation Easement Landowner Newsletter. We hope to have a newsletter at least twice a year, possibly more, to provide you with a variety of important topics related to conservation easement stewardship and land matters. Inside, you will find information of concern to every conservation easement landowner. If you'd like more information on any of these topics, or other related topics, please contact Conservation Easement Program Manager, Yarrow Wolfe, at 231-256-9665, or by email: ywolfe@leelanauconservancy.org

Greetings Conservancy Easement Landowners

Thank you for taking the time to read our first Conservation Easement Landowner Newsletter. We hope this will provide information and resources to you as you continue to manage and protect your private protected property.

I am an owner of property protected by a conservation easement. The land I own has special meaning for me because it is where I played, hiked and camped while growing up. My parents and their



President and Conservation Easement Landowner Warren Watkins with granddaughter, Violette



Hendryx pond- 90% of the shoreline is protected with a conservation easement.

neighbors permanently preserved the land almost twenty years ago and I am proud to be its current steward. However, the significance of what we, as conservation easement owners, have brought home to me this month when my ten-month-old granddaughter came to visit. She was fascinated by the trees and the pine needles, the bugs and the birds and I thought about how cool it will be when she is my age and this land will be largely the same as it has been since the early part of the last century with trees, bugs and birds for her grandchildren to marvel at.

Donating, selling or owning a conservation easement isn't about us and today, it is all about future generations being able to see and experience what we have felt. I want to extend a personal invitation to each of you to call or email me anytime you have questions or feedback on how we can better serve you as a conservation easement landowner. I also encourage you to call our staff with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for protecting your land for future generations,

Warren Watkins, President
watkinswh@gmail.com

How To Build A Wildlife Brush Pile and Other Tips For Wildlife

By Daniel Schillinger, Owner of Schillinger Forestry, LLC

Helping to improve wildlife habitat, even on a very small piece of property is easier than one would think. Here a couple of ideas for you to use this fall.

Invasive plants: With the exception of development, nothing sets wildlife back like vibrant invasive plants communities. These plants are alien invaders to native wildlife and they do not know how to use them for food or cover. Invasive plants choke out native plants further reducing food and cover opportunities for wildlife. Since insects, who are the bottom of the food chain, do not use these plants the rest of food chain suffers exponentially as a result. There are many invasive plants to look for. Thankfully, there are many qualified invasive plant examiners in our area. Contact the Conservancy for a referral list. If you were to do only one thing in your yard to help wildlife, controlling invasive plants would be the most effective at helping the most species.



Brush Piles: Do you have a large amount of pruning to do? Or some pesky invasive autumn olive shrubs to remove? Once these items are cut, pile them into as large a pile as you can in an out-of-the-way place around your home. Then wildlife, who are partial to out-of-the-way places, will take care of the occupancy on their own. For brush piles, the larger the better. The bottom course should be the larger pieces of woody material placed 4-8" apart roughly. This spacing allows spots for woodland animals places to hide and be protected in. The next courses should use the next largest pieces with the top of the woody debris being a network of twigs. Lastly, and most important, leaves and/or grasses should cover the top and the more of these the better. The leaves and grasses help keep the weather out allowing for a nice place to hide and maybe even hibernate in. Be mindful of placement of these piles as placing them on the edge of a field and forest will get the most small mammal interest but there may be predator birds showing interest in piles if there are large trees with easy sight over the pile. You can decide how much you would like to further the workings of the food web!

Standing Dead Trees: These are great for wildlife as they are a miniature condo in itself! Do NOT cut these down for firewood unless they are in danger of falling on a structure or where people congregate. As these stems degrade they provide a host of benefits from shelter and food to eventually nutrient cy-

cling back into the forest floor. Don't have any standing dead trees? Make them in safe areas by girdling poorly shaped trees with decay already started or out of ash tree(s). Girdling is running a saw around the trunk 1-3" deep to purposely kill the tree.



of this as a great project to share with your kids or grandkids!

Bat Houses: Bats are the kings of mosquito control and do not bother people despite popular belief. They are also on the decline nationally. Having a place for them to use near your home, instead of inside your home is a great idea. There are many good bat house plans out there. One good sight is: <http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Gardening-Tips/Build-a-Bat-House.aspx> Think

Wildlife habitat can be enhanced even in the smallest area. Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work!

Contact Daniel Schillinger
at SchillingerForestry
@gmail.com
231-633-8733



Conservation Easements by Township

Township	Number of Easements	Total Acres
Bingham	9	514.3
Centerville	16	1,149.3
Cleveland	7	518.1
Elmwood	8	285.1
Empire	8	590.5
Glen Arbor	8	104.5
Kasson	6	768.3
Leelanau	41	1,418.5
Leland	33	958.5
Solon	5	119.0
Suttons Bay	6	441.3
Total	147	6,867.3

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A Landowners Perspective

Invasive Species Removal and Warm Grass Prairie -

Just south and west of the Happy Hour Tavern, and as you pass Jelinek Road off M22, you will notice the landscape has changed and might wonder what is going on. Paul Fisher and the members of the Whispering Winds Estate Association, owners of a 53-acre private conservation easement, put their heads and pocket-books together and decided to combat about 18 acres of Autumn Olive and Spotted Knapweed. The goal is to convert this field to a Warm Grass Prairie. With the help of Saving Birds Thru Habitat, and the dedication of Mr. Fischer, a plan was made and action taken. The project will take many years and is in the 4th year. The first year (2009) the autumn olive was removed and the ground was worked a bit to remove any trenches from the invasive removal project. In 2012 little blue stem and side oats gramma were planted. In a few years, they will seed the area near the cherry orchard with wildflowers to create a pollinating garden.

Kay Charter used to call this area "Bobolink Corner" before it was taken over with Autumn Olive. It was a very active site for Bobolinks, which prefer tall grasses for nesting. When established, the pollinating garden will bring native bees and other insects to help pollinate adjacent orchards.



Bobolink Corner
before Autumn
Olive Treatment



During
Treatment



After
Treatment

Invasive Species Corner

By Sarah Cook

Management of invasive species on a residential property or in a Conservancy natural area can be challenging. Invasive species are often extremely hearty, well adapted to disturbed locations including a variety of environmental conditions, and are skilled at out competing native species for resources. There are many non-native and invasive species that have become dominant in our communities over the past few decades only. However, many land managers are shifting to focus on species that have been in a community, including the Leelanau Conservancy, for a much shorter period of time.

Early detection species are manageable populations of invasive species that we, as land stewards, can spend reasonable amounts of time and money on while still experiencing encouraging levels of success. It is also incredibly valuable to control these species, such as aggressive kudzu, before they dominate our landscape. This summer the Conservancy had three summer staffers (including myself) who surveyed Conservancy and State Park properties for these early invaders. We found many small populations that were mapped, treated rapidly, and will be monitored next season and re-treated if necessary.

Oriental bittersweet is an excellent early detection species to begin looking for on your own property. Bittersweet is a rapidly spreading vine that can climb up to 60 feet and smother or shade out native trees and shrubs. In the fall the leaves turn yellow making them easy to spot on exposed tree bark as the plant climbs. The leaves are simple, rounded, finely toothed, glossy, and often come to a point at the leaf tip. The bark is light brown with small white spots (lenticils).



To learn more about early detection species stop by the Conservancy for your complimentary copy of "A Field Identification Guide to Invasive Plants in Michigan's Natural Communities." This publication outlines many invasive species found in Leelanau County, including early detection species, and provides management options. Contact Sarah Cook for more information or to participate in one of our many invasive species volunteer opportunities. (scook@leelanauconservancy.org)

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