



# Nature's Observer

## Stewardship of Conservation Easements

As Great Lakes Bioregional Land Conservancy protects land through conservation easements, we always look to the future of the property. The next step of an effective land preservation strategy is stewardship of the land. Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of the land that has been entrusted to our care.

Preparation for stewardship starts before the donation of the conservation easement is completed. We make a careful inventory of both natural and man-made features of the conservation easement property and create a detailed Baseline Documentation Report that is recorded with the conservation easement.

The most important component of conservation easement stewardship is monitoring. It is very important that we are out on the land at least once a year and carefully document its condition, comparing it to the Baseline Documentation Report and

making sure that the restrictions are being followed. We look forward to our monitoring visit every year because it is an opportunity to visit with the landowner of the conservation easement property and help them to have the information they need to be good stewards.

As resources allow, we also help conservation easement landowners with on-the-ground management activities, such as removal of invasive plants. Active management of important natural areas is preferable to a "hands-off" approach. Human interactions on or near the land, such as conversion to agriculture, grazing, housing and industry, have frequently disrupted the natural cycles that maintain the character of particular ecosystems. Many native ecosystems are unable to adapt quickly enough to remain viable. Most protected areas will continue to have compatible uses by private

landowners, such as farming or recreation. Thoughtful management is needed to minimize the impact of these uses.

Stewardship is a long term endeavor. It takes vigilance, persistence and patience to restore or maintain the ecological integrity of our natural areas. Good stewardship practices, not only by owners and neighbors of natural areas, but by all who live within the watershed, is our best chance to guarantee that our natural areas remain a functioning part of our natural landscape for generations to come.

*Submitted by Donna Foland, Executive Director, Oakland Land Conservancy as part of the GLBLC/OLC Joint Venture Project.*

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## Have you found the Sutherland Geocache? From the web site [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

When the GPS signal degradation called Select Availability (SA) was removed by the Clinton Administration May 1st, 2000 ([statement](#)), it opened up the possibility of games like this Geocaching.

On May 3rd, a container of goodies was hidden by a someone outside of Portland, Oregon - in celebration of the removing of Selective Availability. By May 6th the cache was visited twice, and logged in the logbook once.

Mike Teague was the first to find the container, and built his personal web page to document these containers and their locations that were posted to the sci.geo.satellite-nav news-group.

In July of 2000, Jeremy Irish found Mike Teague's web site and found his first cache outside of Seattle, Washington. Recognizing the potential of the game (but never expected the growth), Jeremy approached Mike Teague with a new site design, used the name Geocaching, and developed a new web site adding virtual logs, maps, and a way to make it easier to maintain caches as the sport grew. The site was alive for a while, but the official torch was passed to Jeremy on September 6.

Since the launch of the web site, the Geocaching sport has grown to caches in all 50 states and over 100 countries. There are now many variations

of the game, including virtual caches, offset caches, puzzle caches, and multi-stage caches. New ideas and new great games crop up every day.

From its inception, Geocaching.com has been developed and maintained by Jeremy,



*A view from the GLBLC Annual Meeting at the Sutherland Pavilion*

with the assistance of Geocachers around the world. Many thanks to the Geocaching community for making the game it is today. The official web site for Geocaching is [Geocaching.com](http://Geocaching.com).

Who knows where it'll go next!

The Sutherland cache is located in Sutherland Nature Sanctuary which is at 3960 Diehl Road, South of Pratt Rd, East of Hadley, West of M-24. The coordinates for the parking lot are N42 56.504' W083 22.760'.

*"In the 1960's Doris Sutherland had a vision. She purchased a working farm and had trees planted to help nature heal the land after a century of logging and farming. She gave 75 acres to the Great Lakes Bioregional Land Conservancy and*

*on Earth Day in 1999 it was dedicated as a nature sanctuary and land stewardship center.*

*"Today the Sutherland Nature Sanctuary provides a pavilion with picnic tables and nearly three miles of wood chipped trails. Hikers can visit wetlands, ponds, meadows and streams. Bridges span streams and there are benches along the trails for resting and observing wildlife. Visitors may see birds, deer, ducks, turtles, fish, and many other plants and animals.*

*"VOLUNTEERS are always needed to help with improvements, maintenance, and programs. If you would like to help with projects at the Sutherland Nature Sanctuary or would like to arrange a . . . special event, call the stewards, Ed & Sharon Dunsmore at (810) 797-4643."*

The container is a small (8x6x3), clear tupperstuff container with a blue lid.

Original Contents:  
Rubber bands (lots!)  
Sticky Spider  
Red Hat! (not the operating system, sorry..)  
Pretty Pink Sewing Kit  
Rubber Ducky  
Pair of Chopsticks ("Genuine Ironwood")  
A Rocket Crayon  
3 Turkey Feathers (found on the way)

Now go find it!

## Letter from the President

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Great things are happening with the GLBRLT this fall. We are working with two property owners on protecting their lands. One is a ten acre parcel adjacent to the Polly Anne Trail in Dryden which will provide a great wildlife observation area for users of the trail. The Property owner is offering to donate the property outright to the Conservancy. A second parcel of 50 acres, owned by Board member Leo Dorr, is farmland in Lapeer Township. An easement protecting the property from development is being developed. The Board

is hoping to act on these two parcels before the end of this calendar year.



The Conservancy has also been able to set up three trust funds through a generous donation of Mr. Ronald Joseph of Grand Blanc Township. His \$30,000 donation will be used to protect the development easements on Mr. Joseph's thirty acre parcel

of property and provides the Conservancy with the start of an easement monitoring fund.

We look forward to the coming year knowing that the Conservancy has made significant progress in providing protecting open space and farmland in our communities

Sincerely

*Joe*

Joseph Stock  
President

## Are You an Energy Star? From the Public Interest Research Group in Michigan

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This October and November, PIRGIM, the Michigan DEQ and the US EPA's ENERGY STAR program are encouraging everyone to help change the world, one light at a time, with the national Change a Light, Change the World campaign. If every Michigan household replaced just one light with an ENERGY STAR light, we would save \$25.8 million and prevent 60,000 metric tones of global warming pollution, the equivalent to taking 38,000 cars off the road.

### How You Can Help

- 1) [Sign a pledge](#) to increase your energy efficiency and get more energy saving information.
- 2) [Get detailed information](#) on ways to save energy
- 3) [Urge your friends and family](#) to sign our energy efficiency pledge.

4) [Write a letter to the editor to your local paper](#) on this issue.

### A Brief Summary

Did you know that the average home is responsible for twice as much air pollution as the average car? The electricity we use in our houses here in Michigan comes primarily from coal-burning power plants, some of the biggest polluters in the state. Michigan homes, through energy use, produce thousands of pounds of pollution each year.

Using energy more efficiently is a great way to protect the environment while saving money. Using energy efficiently means less energy is generated by power plants, decreasing the amount of fossil fuels burned, which results in less air pollution and a cleaner environment.

Established in 1992 to promote energy-efficient computers, the Energy Star program has grown to encompass more than 40 product categories, including lighting, home electronics, heating and cooling equipment, and appliances. Energy Star qualified products meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy.

In 2003, with the help of ENERGY STAR, Americans saved \$9 billion on energy bills, saved enough energy to power 20 million homes and reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 18 million cars off the road.

For more information check out [www.pirgim.org](http://www.pirgim.org)

**GREAT LAKES  
BIOREGIONAL LAND  
CONSERVANCY**

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Sutherland Nature Sanctuary  
810-797-4643

*Conserving nature for the future!*

***TO:***

**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.gblbc.lapeer.org](http://www.gblbc.lapeer.org)**

## Membership Form - Please Join Us!

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2005 it's never too late! (memberships are good January to December)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(for electronic version of our newsletter and other important updates!)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$20)

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual/Student/reduced membership (\$10)

Mail a check along with this form to: GLBLC, PO BOX 303, Lapeer MI 48446. Checks can be made payable to: Great Lakes Bioregional Land Conservancy. Please contact Amy Elwert for more details at [amy@elwert.org](mailto:amy@elwert.org) or 810-245-6653

