



Workday at the Sanctuary

Spring Clean-up

This is a call to service:

Members and friends of the Conservancy, on May 2, at 9:00 a.m. everyone is encouraged to report to the Sutherland Nature Sanctuary for a day of hands-on work and exploration. Yes, as we work, we will discover things we have not seen before. Even those who walk the trails regularly are often surprised to see that nature is at work even when we are not there. Animals have their own sense of landscaping. Trees grow and sometimes fall. Limbs come crashing down. Ant

hills spring up. Small animals dig new burrows. There's a lot going on in the woods in every season.

Our task will be to restore order to the trails and sites. We want to make them accessible and welcoming to visitors without distressing the animals and plants that call the woods their home.

"Many hands make light work." (The earliest known written use of that statement was in John Heywood's book, *Proverbs*, published in 1546, in case you were wondering.) This is a great opportunity for families and friends to join hands

and accomplish something worthwhile while having a good time with each other and with nature. It's also a good time to introduce others to the Conservancy and its mission. So bring along a friend (or a bunch of friends).

Please mark your calendar and join us May 2 at the Sutherland Nature Sanctuary. We plan to be there from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Please call Mary at 810.664.3941 -ext. 3 to help us plan for food and tools.

Look for more information elsewhere in this newsletter.



BUMPER STICKER CAMPAIGN COMES TO LAPEER AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES

Have you seen these bumper stickers? They are appearing on vehicles

of all descriptions all over the area. The American Farmland Trust has made them available to us for distribution free of charge to anyone who asks. The County Press and the L A View have run a number of articles and notices that the bumper stickers are available by **calling Leo Dorr at 810.664.5647.**

The response has been good; however, we think that we can do better.

Wild Lapeer

Saturday April 25

Volunteer and/or visit GLBLC booth at Wild Lapeer on the lawn of the Lapeer County Historic Courthouse. **Call Peter McCreedy for details 810-614-7594 or e-mail him at: pjmcornlover@yahoo.com**

It's a great educational experience for young and old.

FARMS FEED AMERICA—America loses over one million acres of farmland to sprawling development every year. We can help save our nations farmland for future generations.

• Board of Directors

- Mary Brown, President
- Peter McCreedy, Vice President
- Leo Dorr, Treasurer
- Joe Stock, Secretary

Candace Caveny-Collins

Mike Delling

Peggy Garrigues-Cortelyou

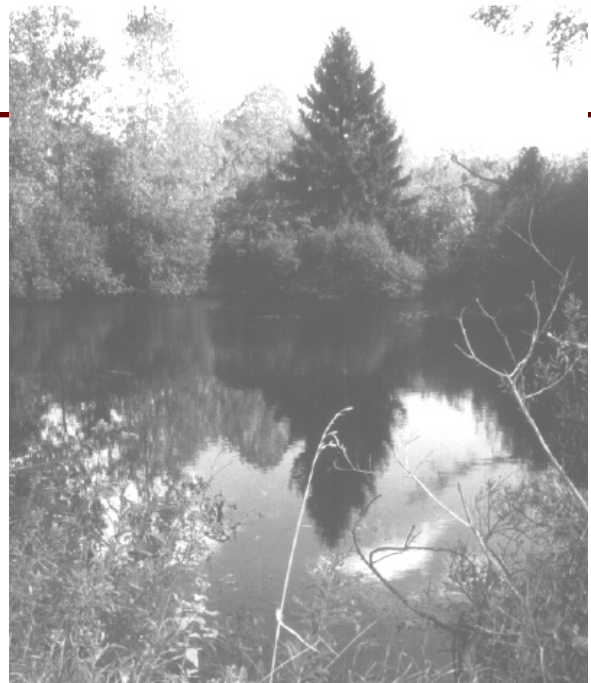
Steve Steffler

Fred Townsend

The Sanctuary reflects the dedication of volunteers like you..

Among the features visitors will find at the Sutherland Nature Sanctuary are rock piles that remind us that this was once farmland. Nature has been given a free hand here to reclaim the property after an initial planting of trees to get things started. Lightning strikes however remind us that while nature takes its time in growing trees and filling in the spaces between, sometimes it acts quickly in rearranging things.

The sanctuary features a hardwood forest, a pine forest and many other familiar and not so familiar trees as well as a meadow, two ponds and a stream. (Oh, my!) All of which provide habitat for an abundance of wildlife.



Protecting the natural features while providing access at SNS



Visitors to the Sutherland Nature Sanctuary have access to remote ridges and wetlands and several other ecosystems in this 75 acre natural wonderland because of volunteers who have created trails, bridges, boardwalks and benches along the

way. Trails vary in length and are marked with signs and arrows to assist hikers in choosing a suitable route and in finding the way in and out.

Volunteers continue to maintain and improve the trails. How about joining us on May 2?

Permaculture Education at the Tibbits Land Stewardship Center

LEARNING A BETTER WAY TO DIG IN THE DIRT AND CARE FOR THE LAND

Twenty-five students from around the Midwest will gather at the Tibbits Land Stewardship Center in Columbiaville from August 8th to the 15th to participate in a certificate course in *Permaculture Design*. The word 'permaculture' derives from both permanent agriculture and permanent culture. It strives to integrate human dwellings, microcli-

mate, annual and perennial plants, animals, soils and water into sustainable communities. Students will learn to design ecological human habitats and food production systems in which wastes become resources, work is minimized and the environment is restored.

In addition to camping there and learning about the Tibbits Land Stewardship Center, the class will visit the Willows Earth Education Center at Chatfield

School in Lapeer and two local organic farms, Three Roods in Columbiaville and Marsh Haven in Davison. For details about the course, visit:

www.midwestpermaculture.com

Pursuing her interest in permaculture, GLBLC board member Peggy Garrigues-Cortelyou worked with Midwest Permaculture to bring this course to the Tibbits Nature Sanctuary and Land Stewardship Center.

Letter from the President

Hello Everyone,

Please welcome a new board member, **Peggy Garrigues-Cortelyou**, to the GLBLC Board. GLBLC is fortunate to add Peggy's dedication and experience to the mix of attributes that make up our board.

Over the years, Peggy has worked on a variety of environmental issues. She has a certificate in *Educating and Counseling with Nature*, and for several years led nature retreats for groups that involved increasing the participants' awareness of their physical and emotional connections to the natural world. As the minister at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Peggy worked with others to develop a site master plan for their 45 acres of land. In addition, Peggy was involved with Michigan Interfaith Power and Light, helping religious congregations reduce their

energy use, while at various times serving as board member, board president and staff. In 2007, she was trained by Al Gore to give presentations on the science of global warming and since then has made about 20 free presentations to churches, schools, and community groups.

Currently, Peggy lives in Otisville with her husband, two teenage sons, and two cats. In the two years she has lived there, Peggy has been volunteering at the Tibbits Nature Sanctuary and Land Stewardship Center and has also been focusing on connecting people with local organic food and farms. (Check out the article in this newsletter regarding the permaculture class Peggy is organizing!) Peggy does part-time ministry with college students at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and also part-time youth ministry at the Davison United Methodist Church. She is excited to serve on the GLBLC board

and is looking forward to helping people connect to, nurture and protect their local land and ecosystems.

Welcome, Peggy, and thanks for your willingness to serve on the GLBLC board!

In the next newsletter I will introduce the newest of our board members, **Steve Steffler**.

Meanwhile, I hope to see many of you at the **Spring Clean Up** at the Sutherland Nature Sanctuary on May 2. Until then, enjoy the change, however gradual, of winter into spring.

Sincerely,

Mary Brown

GLBLC President

Among the tasks we will be undertaking at Spring Clean-up

Directions to the Sutherland Nature Sanctuary:

Take Pratt Road (west from M-24 or east of Hadley) to Diehl Road—South on Diehl Road (Diehl only goes south from Pratt) Less than a mile to the Sanctuary.

See you there!

We will be working on:

Butterfly garden

Stone pile

Bridge repair

Trail maintenance

Fallen limbs and branches

Pavilion clean-up

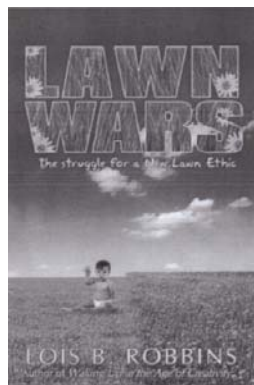
Picnic table maintenance

Native plants gardens



GLBLC member **Lois Robbins'** new book ***Lawn Wars*** subtitled ***The struggle for a new Lawn Ethic*** is now available

Like it or not, we're imbedded in the natural world. We might as well learn to live more harmoniously with it. This, part memoir, part how-to, part problem solving book gives historical context and resources for a new movement that is showing up across the na-



tion. Difficulties encountered by aspiring natural landscapers are explored with wit and factual information. The rich rewards of making such a shift are described in sometimes lyrical prose as Lois

tells her own story of heartache and delight.

Available at Amazon. COM, iuniverse.com and major booksellers websites and at

[Http://www.lawnwars.net](http://www.lawnwars.net)

Lois is also the author of *Waking Up in the Age of Creativity*.

**GREAT LAKES
BIOREGIONAL LAND
CONSERVANCY**

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FAX: 810-664-5862

On the web at: www.glbtc.org

Sutherland Nature Sanctuary
810-797-4643

*Working to preserve farmland and
open spaces through education
and conservation*

Spring clean-up at Sutherland May 2

Everyone has something to give: time—money—ideas..& more

GLBLC needs an abundance of each of those things to achieve its purpose of *Preserving farmland and open spaces!*

Please join in the Spring Clean-up if you are able.

Support GLBLC with donations of money, goods, services.

Share ideas for improving or expanding programs.

Volunteer at events (i.e. Spring Clean-up at SNS or Wild Lapeer).

Talk to friends and neighbors about the conservancy.

Provide encouragement and inspiration to the Board.

Share your expertise.

Send your e-mail address to Leo Dorr at ldorr@usol.com. We hope to cut the cost for newsletters and other correspondence with members by going electronic as much as possible.

Register for Spring Clean-up to help us plan for tools & food:

Call Mary at 810.664.3941

extension 3

or e-mail

maryr.brown@mi.nacdnet.net

If you have any of the following tools, please bring them along:

Hoe, shovel, rake, pruning shears, weed whip, chain saw.

If you have other tools that you think would be useful, bring them along.

You will also need gloves, work shoes and/or boots and insect repellent.

Hats, long sleeves and long pants are recommended.

Membership/donation form

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Membership year is July 1 to June 30

Family dues- \$25.00

Individual/Student/Reduced - \$15.00

Donations of any amount are appreciated and will be used to advance the mission of the conservancy.

Please mail your check along with this form for your dues or donation to:

GLBLC, P O Box 303, Lapeer MI 48446