

# Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy

Conserving Mid-Michigan's  
natural, agricultural, scenic,  
and recreational lands



midmilandcons.org

2023

Vol. 11

## From the President

*Paul K. Kindel*

Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy (MMLC) made good progress this past year.

Our Executive Director, Jared A. Harmon, has been very active in making people aware of MMLC's mission of protecting natural land, farmland, scenic land, and recreational land in mid-Michigan. He will report his activities in his separate article in this newsletter. Jared started at MMLC on February 14, 2022.

We completed three (3) conservation easement so far this past year. Articles about these protected lands, written by the landowners, are in this Newsletter. We, and I particularly, thank these landowners for protecting their land by placing a conservation easement on their property. They have given a very significant gift to their families, the people of mid-Michigan, and society in general. I know it is something they feel extremely good about and rightly so. We admire their generosity and their understanding of the importance of protecting natural land and farmland and then taking action to protect such lands. Strong protection of natural land and farmland is necessary for the well-being of our environment and our country, since without a properly functioning environment our society is at risk.

We are currently working with five (5) landowners on the protection of their lands with conservation easements. All of these properties have a variety of attractive natural features, among them are river riparian areas, lake frontage, wetlands, prairies, wildlife habitat and farmland.

We are also working with three (3) landowner who wants to transfer their land outright to MMLC by donation. This land will be held by MMLC as natural areas and would be open to the public at no charge.

The three (3) conservation easements completed so far this year protect 296.2 acres. MMLC now has 2,508 acres under protection through 21 conservation easements (2,079 acres) and 7 fee simple properties (429 acres). The properties that MMLC owns outright (fee simple) are

protected as natural areas with native plant and animal diversity being encouraged. The public is invited to use the three (3) natural areas that have developed trail systems.

These areas are Bunker Nature Preserve, near Mason, Iosco Natural Area, near Dansville, and Atherton Natural Area near Perry. More information about these properties is on our website, [www.midmilandcons.org](http://www.midmilandcons.org).

Enjoy the beautiful pictures of wildlife throughout the newsletter that were taken by artist Gijbert (Nick) van Frankenhuyzen.

The members of the MMLC Board of Directors, and I particularly, thank our MMLC members and other supporters for your generous financial support. Your financial support is greatly important for this work to be successful. Our land protection work is only possible because of the support of committed people like you. Encourage others to join and support Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy. Working together we can protect important natural lands and farmlands of mid-Michigan into the future.



*Male Baltimore Oriole. Photo courtesy of  
Gijbert van Frankenhuyzen.*



*Red-shouldered Hawk. Photo courtesy of  
Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.*

## Greetings from the Executive Director

*Jared Harmon*

Michigan is special and it is a sincere honor to be part of the Conservancy that protects the heart of the Great Lakes State. Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy (MMLC) has been working diligently to ensure that the region's waters, forests, lakes, farms, and prairies will be there for the generations to come. MMLC has permanently protected 296.2 additional acres of land in 2023 and is working to protect another 400 acres within the next year. MMLC now protects more than 2,500 acres of natural lands and farmland with the expectation of reaching 3,000 acres in 2024. The Conservancy has been strengthening partnerships within communities, as these partners are essential in achieving the mission of permanent open space protection. It is through partnerships and collaborative efforts that permanent land conservation can be achieved.

MMLC was the recipient of a grant to promote the responsible stewardship of our forests and protecting drinking water with partners in Michigan. MMLC will be using these funds to connect with landowners throughout the Grand River Watershed to manage their forests to protect our drinking water sources. MMLC will also be working with partners to plant 5,000 trees in the watershed.

These trees will hold the soil in place and filter water before it reaches streams, rivers, and groundwater.

Through the generous work of our Board and volunteers, MMLC has expanded and enhanced the trail system on the public-accessible natural areas that we own. Iosco Natural Area in Ingham County now has a complete trail through an attractive beech-maple forest along Doan Creek. The Conservancy is also planning to add a trail to the Ionia Natural Area and also to remove invasive species that have a foothold in the Atherton Natural Area. These efforts provide more access for visitors to experience these natural places and quality habitats for plants and animals that call mid-Michigan home.

MMLC is excited about our trajectory, and we want to make all who live in and enjoy mid-Michigan proud of our work and efforts to protect our disappearing open space.

Your support allows us to protect the landscape in your community and we are deeply appreciative of each dollar of your donations and every minute of your time that allows us to do this work. The land and wildlife depend on all of us to be responsible stewards and advocates for their protection. Thank you for your support in permanently protecting open space in mid-Michigan.



*Male Red-bellied Woodpecker. Photo  
courtesy of Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.*



*Male belted kingfisher. Photo courtesy of  
Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.*

## Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy and Me

*John Schoepke*

My wife Betty (now deceased) and I placed a conservation easement with Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy (MMLC) on our 100-acre farm in Bath (Ingham County) because we do not want to see the looks of this place change in the future. It very likely would have happened. In the 45 years we have lived here, all the farms within several miles have at least sold off some of the land for houses. Our place is the only one that is as it was in the past. MMLC will help maintain what is here and help keep it in the form it is in now.

Some history. The glaciers had fun here by providing very uneven ground, which is attractive but difficult to farm in the modern way. The original purchase of this land occurred in 1878 and 100 years later we purchased it from the second family to own it. The man from whom we purchased it was born in the old farmhouse on the property in 1900. The location is approximately 10 miles from downtown Lansing.

As one person (my father) said, “this was a good farm when farming was done with horses”. Farming is not done with horses anymore and in fact no one in the area will farm it. There are 10 fields covering about 55 acres and the largest is only 8 acres. Modern farmers want fields of many more acres. Modern equipment is so large that it is difficult getting it on the property and it will not go down any of the old farm lanes. Modern farmers feel this place is not worth the effort to farm and I agree with them.

On the 100 acres there is a small stream crossing the property, 6 ponds including 4 vernal ponds plus two woods and a woody/marshy area. Assorted hills are here including a small one that is a gravel deposit. What we have, is lots of nature everywhere including large quantities of deer, turkeys, fish, birds of many types, coyotes, muskrats and last summer a bobcat was heard. Since the land is no longer farmed, four of the largest fields were planted with several grasses and wildflowers two years ago to provide cover for the soil and habitat for wildlife. These get brush hogged every fall to hopefully keep brush and thistles from taking over and allowing the grasses and forbs to become dominant.

Since this originally was a farm, there are five (5) farm buildings including a large 40 x 80-foot bank barn which has been kept in good repair. The old house of 120 years was replaced 20 years ago with a new custom house that an architect designed. Extensive landscaping was then completed around the house including keeping the foundation from the original house to provide some stone walls in the gardens.

One really special quality here is that the new house is on the corner of the property and on a hill, which gives long views, up to 1/3 mile long, over the ponds and fields. The house has many large windows, so the views are readily available from inside the house. Within ½ mile of the perimeter of the property, there are over 80 houses and yet none are seen from our property and no lights are seen at night.



*Pond and barn on the Schoepke Farm.  
Photo courtesy of John Schoepke.*

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## MMLC and Me, con't

There are many special building sites on this property, but if that were to happen it would damage the beauty that is now here, so that is another reason to put this special property under the protection of MMLC.

MMLC will protect this property in perpetuity and hopefully we have created something that future owners will want to protect, maintain, and enjoy. Thank goodness for MMLC to help keep this place pristine. Our location otherwise makes this place a prime location for future houses and development. But not anymore. **NOT EVERY PLACE NEEDS TO BE BUILT ON.** The birds, the deer, and the bunnies and all the other animals and plants also need a place.

One more important feature of our protected land is that it adjoins another property that is also under the protection of a conservation easement held by MMLC. This makes for a wonderful combination of protected land in our area. Another is that the protection is in perpetuity.

## Welty Farm

### Joy Welty

My husband, Alan, and I were raised in the farming area of northwest Ohio. Each of us had farming grandparents so we spent fun time and working time on farms in our youth. We moved to Owosso when Alan established his orthodontic practice there. But our big desire was to have a farm of our own on which to raise our children. So after 4 years in Owosso we were able to purchase a 118 acre farm south of Corunna. There we raised our four children. We also raised a few pigs, sheep, geese and chickens for food and fun. Our youngest child, Kye, showed chickens through 4-H and FFA. Alan had a draft horse.



*Blue Jay. Photo courtesy of Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.*

Fifty-six acres of the land is in woods, much of which borders the Maple River. We feel that it is very important to keep the woods intact to sustain the animal life, the plant life and the environment of our world. And this year especially, as we have a pair of bald eagles nesting in our woods.

I am pleased to have protected our land in perpetuity with a conservation easement held by Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy.



*Path and pond on the Welty Farm. Photo courtesy of Joy Welty.*



*Green Frog. Photo courtesy of Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.*

## Conservation Easement Protects Camp Shiawassee

*Jared Harmon*

### Partners Work Together to Preserve Shiawassee River

Shiawassee Family YMCA and Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy with support from The Cook Family Foundation have worked together to permanently protect nearly 138 acres of land along the Shiawassee River. This protected land includes both upland and floodplain forests, wetlands, vernal pools, and other ecologically important habitat for plants and wildlife. The conservation easement will guarantee the protection of more than 2.5 miles of river frontage with 1.5 miles encompassing both sides of the Shiawassee River. Camp Shiawassee has served residents of Shiawassee County since 1948 and this gift to the community ensures that the camp can operate while ensuring the protection of the Shiawassee River and Camp YMCA property in perpetuity.

The Cook Family Foundation supported the protection of this land with a generous gift to Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy, providing funding to place the conservation easement on the property. Cook Family Foundation Executive Director Tom Cook and his family have special ties to both the river and Camp Shiawassee. Tom spoke of his appreciation for land protection and his family connection to the property: "This place on the Shiawassee River has been of tremendous importance to youth, local residents, and a number of families, including the Cook Family. We are proud to help preserve this property for future generations."

Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy was eager to work with the YMCA to protect this special resource to the community. "Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy is appreciative of the Shiawassee Family YMCA Board of Directors to be forward thinking in their decision to protect this property for the benefit of future generations," Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy Executive Director said. "I am thankful for the efforts of all the partners who worked tirelessly to protect the conservation features of Camp Shiawassee."

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements that permanently limit development of open-space including natural lands and farms to protect the conservation values of the property. Land protected by a conservation easement remains in private ownership with limitations placed on the property in consultation with the landowner.



*Shiawassee YMCA along the Shiawassee River. Photo courtesy of Ken Algozin.*

## The Prairie Fen at Swains Lake

*Jim Hewitt*

A fen is a type of wetland. Other types of wetlands include swamps, marshes, bogs, and wet prairies. There are also different types of fens, five in Michigan according to Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI), but only one type, prairie fen, occurs in the southern Lower Peninsula, mainly in the southern two tiers of counties west of Wayne and Monroe.

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Prairie fens were once a common feature in the landscapes of these counties. How many remain today is not known but they are state-listed as S3 (Vulnerable). They can usually be visually identified by a particular assemblage of sedges, grasses, forbs, and shrubs. But these are variable and each fen will have its own subset of flora based on the level, seepage, and flow of groundwater as well as other factors. Groundwater beneath a prairie fen is influenced by the absorption of calcium carbonate, a chemical compound found in sedimentary rocks, mainly limestone and dolomite. What these plants share in common is a tolerance of or preference for saturated organic, marly soils. Marl itself is also rich in carbonate minerals which gives fen soils a high pH. Both a technical classification and an observable condition of these soils is “muck.”

Historically, according to MNFI, the uplands surrounding prairie fens typically supported oak barrens and oak openings. The fens themselves are usually part of large wetland complexes that include wet prairies and they are frequently found along small lakes. This fits a description of the land forms comprising MMLC’s Swains Lake property in southwest Jackson County.

This preserve of nearly 8 acres is located just south of Concord in Pulaski Township and was acquired through donation in 2019. It is situated between two lakes, Swains Lake on the east and the smaller Gregory Lake on the west. Most of the acreage is fen habitat but there is a ridge of higher ground on the south side, between the fen and the road, on which grow mature white and red oaks. A shallow channel of water, the Swains Lake Drain, winds through the fen in a serpentine fashion connecting the two lakes. A drainage ditch has also been cut through from Gregory Lake east through the preserve and then south to



*Swamp Valerian. Photo courtesy of Jim Hewitt.*

and under the road where it connects to a shrub wetland. Access to the fen is gained by following a narrow path along the short north/south section of this ditch.

Before the first settlers of European descent arrived in Concord in 1831-32 and began cutting trees and turning the soil, the landscape was one dominated mainly by oaks – oak forests, oak savannas, oak barrens, oak-hickory forests. There were corridors of wetlands consisting of fens, wet prairies, wooded swamps, and small lakes. One such wetland complex which included Swains Lake stretched southwest from the village of Concord. Much of this was wet prairie (survey notes from Robert Clark Jr., 1825) which was eventually converted to agriculture when the Swains Lake Drain was constructed, channeling the water to the South Branch of the Kalamazoo River. Little wet prairie remains in southern Michigan today, classified as S1 (Critically imperiled).

Swains Lake today is mostly ringed by residential development. The smaller Gregory Lake has some remaining natural habitat. All of the land on the north side of the fen is undeveloped, at least for now.

Prairie fens are in large part dominated by graminoids – grasses, sedges, and rushes. These are classified as monocots. The other class of flowering plants (angiosperms) is dicots which include both herbaceous plants (forbs) and woody plants (trees and shrubs). Other classifications of plants found in fens are gymnosperms (conifers), bryophytes (mosses and liverworts), and plants in the fern family.



*Fen habitat in July. Photo courtesy of Jim Hewitt.*

So what plants can be found growing in the Swains Lake Fen? The following are some of the observed species. There are many more.

**Monocots** – hardstem bulrush, cordgrass, southern blue flag, twig-rush, *Carex stricta*, *Carex buxbaumii*.

**Forbs** – small fringed gentian, prairie loosestrife, marsh bellflower, swamp valerian, golden alexanders, swamp thistle, pitcher-plant, star-grass, yellow pond-lily, pickerel-weed, joe-pye weed.

**Shrubs** – bog birch, shrubby cinquefoil, alder-leaved buckthorn, poison sumac, red-osier dogwood, gray dogwood, nannyberry

**Trees** – red maple, tamarack, American elm

**Ferns** – marsh fern, sensitive fern

Prairie fens and the adjacent oak-dominated landscapes are fire adapted habitats and historically periodic fire was a presence. The absence of fire allows for shrubs like dogwoods to spread too much into the open habitat and shade out the sedges and forbs.



*Alder Flycatcher on Tamarack. Photo courtesy of Jim Hewitt.*

In addition to the absence of fire and disturbances caused by human activities these fen communities are also troubled by invasive plants. Purple loosestrife can sometimes be a problem. But more worrisome are two buckthorns, shrubs native to Eurasia: common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*). The latter has a particular fondness for fens and is capable of completely taking over the habitat. At Swains Lake a thicket of buckthorn lies between the road and the fen. It is a tall, long-term task to remove this threat but work to do so has begun. This, along with the possible introduction of prescribed fire, can help preserve the special plants that occupy this important rare habitat.



*Bald Eagle. Photo courtesy of Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.*

## Bunker Nature Preserve Continues to Thrive

*Eckhart Dersch*

About 5 miles west of Mason, is the entrance and parking area for Bunker Nature Preserve. It is located on the south side of Bunker Road, midway between Edgar and Aurelius Roads. Here, visitors can enjoy 130 acres of picturesque prairie, woodland, upland, wetland and open water. There are about 2 miles of well-maintained walking trails, complete with strategically located benches, allowing visitors to explore, relax, rejuvenate, and get healthy exercise. It is one of 7 natural areas owned, cherished and cared for by Mid-Michigan Nature Conservancy (MMLC).



*Monarch Butterfly on a coneflower. Photo courtesy of Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.*

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## Bunker Nature Preserve, con't

2023 marks the 10th anniversary of MMLC's ownership and stewardship of this Preserve. Donated to the Conservancy by a generous and forward-looking previous owner, for the enjoyment and education of all visitors, the Preserve continues to be an increasingly rare island and refuge in the midst of an ever-expanding urban population. It will be here in perpetuity for the benefit of all.

The loop-trails are designed to offer visitors enjoyable vistas, insight and inspiration from nature and about the natural world. A place where we can be at one with nature. Here, every season will provide a different and enlightening experience. The waterbirds alone are a continuing fascination. Included are snowy egrets, heron, many varieties of ducks, geese and swans, and even an occasional pelican and bufflehead. Birders also love to visit this site for the wide variety of nesting and visiting upland birds including grouse, pheasants, owls, sandhill crane as well as the rare Indiana bat and long-eared bat. MMLC is also involved in doing what it can to help counter the falling population of bluebirds, by maintaining 12 bluebird houses on this site. One of our volunteers, Mary Dove, has helped us for many years to monitor and record activity in our bluebird houses. In her words:

*"My husband and I have volunteered at Bunker Nature Preserve for a number of years doing a number of tasks including mowing, nest box monitoring and garlic mustard*



*Bluebird in nest. Photo courtesy of Mary Dove.*



*Butterfly on coneflower. Photo courtesy of Mary Dove.*

*removal. We appreciate having such a lovely area in our vicinity and enjoy visiting year-round. There are numerous birds in the meadows, woods and ponds. And wildflowers and butterflies are plentiful in the summer."*

Mary's husband Don, has more recently and generously worked to ensure that our trails are mowed and in good condition, AND he removed several fallen trees from our wooded trails.

This Spring, with the help of MMLC Board member Jim Hewitt, we conducted a prescribed burn in the mid-section of our preserve on April 3, and one week later, as part of our continuing effort to maintain viable prairie. Jim tells us:

*"Dave Borneman, LLC of Ann Arbor and his crew of 4 arrive on a mostly cloudy day, with temperatures in the mid-50's. One purpose of fire as a management tool is to maintain open grassland (or prairie). Some areas of Bunker have been planted with native grasses and flowers. Fire can stimulate these species, remove built-up thatch, and kill or at least set back invading woody plants. These two photos show this year's burn on April 3, and the same site one month later.*

*To many human eyes Bunker appears as a wonderful natural area. And it is. But if you were a meadowlark, flying in looking for a nesting site, and saw dozens of autumn olive shrubs sticking up out of the grassland, you would have to keep flying. Your bare minimum*





*April 3 Bunker Nature Preserve burn. Photo courtesy of Jim Hewitt.*



*Bunker Nature Preserve one month after burn. Photo courtesy of Jim Hewitt.*

*requirements for a clean 25-acre field have not been met. Meadowlark populations are in steep decline due to habitat loss. And typical farming practices do not help much. IT IS UP TO LAND CONSERVANCIES TO CREATE THE GRASSLAND HABITAT BIRDS NEED TO SURVIVE.”*

Our work at Bunker Nature Preserve recognizes that today, nature needs a helping hand. MMLC welcomes anyone interested in helping us maintain our natural areas or who might have an interest in serving on the MMLC Board of Directors. An immediate need is for help with reducing the number of invasive autumn olive growing throughout this Preserve. Contact information can be found at the end of this newsletter. Or contact Eckhart Dersch, steward of this property.

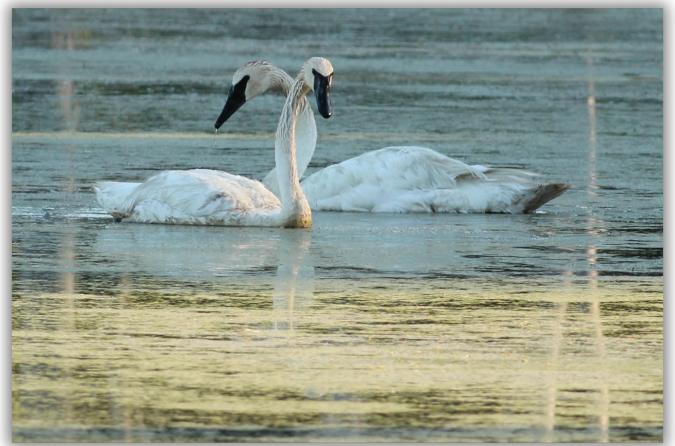
## Supporting Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy into the Future

*Paul K. Kindel*

Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy (MMLC) is able to do its work of protecting our natural lands and farmlands in Mid-Michigan because of the financial support of its members and other supporters. Being a private, non-profit organization, we depend heavily on donations from members and other supporters to operate. Donations are essential for us to do our work. Your support is particularly important now that MMLC has full-time staff.

Following are ways you can provide financial support to MMLC:

1. *Donate using PayPal.* To make a donation through PayPal go to our website, [www.midmilandcons.org](http://www.midmilandcons.org).
2. *Donate by check.* (i) If your donation is \$250 or more, we will acknowledge the donation in writing and will state the amount given and the date it was given. Donations can be used as deductions for federal income tax purposes, if you itemized your deductions.
3. *Donate appreciated assets directly to MMLC without converting them to cash.* Appreciated assets commonly donated are stocks, bonds, and property. If you have owned the asset for a year or more, you may generally deduct the full market value of the asset, and if the asset is stocks and you donate them directly, you do not need to pay capital gains taxes. Clearly, for tax purposes it is more advantageous for you to donate the asset directly to MMLC and not first convert it to cash. If you donate property, specific documentation must be obtained. Consult with your tax advisor for tax advice on donations.



*Trumpeter Swans. Photo courtesy of Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.*

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*Bee on flower. Photo courtesy of Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.*

## Supporting Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy, con't

4. *Donate funds to MMLC directly from your individual retirement account (IRA; Qualified Charitable Distribution).* If you donate these funds directly to MMLC – which is an eligible, charitable organization – you do not need to count the donation as income. This is one of the few types of donations that benefits donors that do not itemize their deductions for federal income tax purposes. Essentially you receive the equivalent of a charitable deduction from your adjusted gross taxable income even though you do not itemize. To qualify: (i) you must be 70 ½ or older at the time of the donation and (ii) you must have the transfer made directly from your IRA to MMLC, that is, your IRA plan administrator must make the check payable to MMLC and send it directly to MMLC, the funds must not go through any intermediate, including yourself, they must go directly from your IRA to MMLC. The benefits are: (1) you do not need to include the donation in your adjusted gross taxable income for federal income tax purposes, that is, on IRS Form 1040, (2) the donation counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution, and (3) up to a total of \$100,000 can be donated in one year, and (4) it can be donated to more than one charitable organization. Again consult your tax advisor for advice.

5. *Make a Bequest. Designate MMLC in your will or trust as the recipient of a bequest.* Such a bequest allows you to make a significant gift to MMLC but does not require you to give the funds now. The bequest need not be cash. Various types of assets, for example, stocks, bonds,

property, life insurance, etc. can be used as bequests. If you wish to name MMLC in your will or trust as the recipient of a bequest, you must use correct legal language. To include MMLC in your will, trust, or estate plan, we suggest the following language be used when stating the bequest:

*I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy, a charitable, nonprofit corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Michigan, with a business address of Post Office Box 154, Okemos, MI 48805-0154 and an Employer (Federal, Tax) Identification Number of 38-2558197 \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate, or \$\_\_\_\_\_ (specify amount), or \_\_\_\_\_ (state item(s), for example, property, appreciated securities, life insurance, etc.).*

6. *Many employers will give a matching gift when you donate to a charitable organization like MMLC.* To find out if your employer makes such a match, contact your human resources unit and make a request.

**Note:** The above information is general information and is not tax advice. See your tax advisor for tax advice.

### **Donations can be sent by check to:**

Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy  
Post Office Box 154, Okemos, MI 48805-0154.  
Checks payable to: Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy.

**Donations can also be made through PayPal™.** To make a donation through PayPal™ visit our website, [www.midmilandcons.org](http://www.midmilandcons.org).

Feel free to contact MMLC (Paul Kindel) by telephone at 517-332-3091 or by e-mail at [kindel@msu.edu](mailto:kindel@msu.edu) to discuss any of the information presented above.



*Green Heron. Photo courtesy of Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.*



*Black-capped Chickadees. Photo courtesy of  
Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.*

## Thank you to all our Contributors

Thank you to all our members and other supporters for your support of MMLC. The Conservancy needs your strong support in order to be able to protect the important natural lands and farmlands of mid-Michigan. Your support is essential for our operations. Our work on the current conservation easements and fee land donations that are in progress and the other land protection work that we have in progress makes your support more important than ever.

Thank you for your generous support and we hope you will be able to provide even stronger support in the year ahead. Your support is essential.



*Sandhill cranes in flight. Photo courtesy of  
Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen.*

## Renewing your Membership in MMLC for 2024

In November of each year MMLC sends a letter to all members asking them to renew their membership. We will do so again this year. However, you can renew your membership now and it will save us work and funds. [You were terrific in doing this last year. It saved me a lot of work and funds (PK)]. To renew now, use the self-addressed letter enclosed in this newsletter. If we receive your renewal by November 1, 2023, we will not send you a renewal letter in November. However, regardless of when and how you renew your membership, you will receive our *Annual Report–2023*, our next newsletter, and all other communications we will send in 2023-24 concerning MMLC activities. You may also renew online using the secure PayPal™ system at our website.



*Barred Owl. Photo courtesy of Gijsbert van  
Frankenhuyzen.*

## Memorials

Contribution given in memory of Robert Paul Zbiciak by:  
Jim Hudgins  
Sharon Colleen O'Keefe-Safir  
Paul Kindel

Contribution given in honor of Board member James Hewitt for all the work he has done to preserve our local environment by:  
Betty Seagull

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## Get Involved!

We welcome your involvement and support! Join us in our efforts to protect Michigan's natural areas, wildlife habitat, scenic lands, farmlands, and recreational lands so rural landscapes are protected.

Become a member. Volunteer.

Contact us to learn about opportunities to get involved.

Consider protecting your land with MMLC.

Learn about different options for protecting your land.

Additional information is on our website,

[www.midmilandcons.org](http://www.midmilandcons.org).

You may also donate online using the secure PayPal™ system at our website.

Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy is a nonprofit Michigan corporation.



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