



Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

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www.SMLCland.org



2010 Fact Sheet

Mission Statement: The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy conserves natural land and open space – including forests, wetlands, meadows, agricultural land, and places of scenic beauty – to provide habitat for wildlife and to enrich the lives of people.

Purpose: To acquire, restore and manage wildlife habitat, farm land and conservation easements in order to foster healthy ecosystems, protect water quality and assure the continuation of productive family farms. To promote appreciation of the natural world; educate the public about land protection options; and engage communities throughout southeast Michigan in land protection and stewardship activities.

History: Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC) was founded in 1988 to protect land in the 7-county southeast Michigan region: Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. To date, SMLC has protected **2,500 acres** in 5 of the counties. SMLC has two local divisions, **Superior Land Conservancy (SLC)** and **Monroe County Land Conservancy**. Both were established to assist SMLC with land protection and community relations in their respective areas.

The Conservancy's first project was the purchase of 40 acres in the City of Westland to add to Wayne County's Holliday Nature Preserve. Since then, SMLC has established 19 nature preserves and 15 conservation easements throughout the region. Among our most notable projects have been the 325-acre LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve (established through 5 purchases from 1993 to 2003) and the \$1.3 million purchase in 2007 of a conservation easement which protected the Schultz Farm, both of which are in Washtenaw County.

Administration: SMLC is certified by the IRS as a charitable 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and is also a "qualified conservation organization" eligible to receive tax-deductible conservation easements and land donations. SMLC is licensed to solicit donations by the State of Michigan and undergoes an annual audit. SMLC is governed by a volunteer board of directors which oversees all governance, fiscal and operational activities of the organization.

2010 Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy Board of Directors:

- James T. Weiner, *President*
- Bill Secrest, *Vice President / SLC Co-chair*
- Richard Kent, *Secretary / Land Protection Committee Chair*
- Jonathan Trevathan, *Treasurer / Finance*
- Maura Jung, *At-Large Officer*
- Roy T. Bell, *Director*
- Valerie Malaney, *Director*
- Jay Schlegel, *Director / Conservancy Farm Committee Chair*
- Peter Scott, *Director*
- Barry Wauldron, *Director*

SMLC's Board of Directors is assisted by **6 Committees of the Board:**

- ❖ Executive ❖ Finance ❖ Land Protection ❖ Conservancy Farm
- ❖ Stewardship ❖ Conservation Easement Enforcement Team

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Programs: SMLC's three main program areas are: **Land Protection, Stewardship, and Outreach and Education.** Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy accomplishes most of our land conservation, community engagement, and public education work through these primary programs.

In addition, SMLC is now based at a historic farm in Superior Township. The Conservancy Farm is unique in that it may have the oldest residential building in the county, the original homestead cabin dating from the 1830's. It is also home to SMLC's **Community Organic Garden** which currently has 36 active gardeners. We also have a working relationship with 7 area farmers, promoting organic and locally-grown food.

Finally, SMLC accomplishes some of our program goals by partnering with area and related organizations such as **Preserve Washtenaw**, a coalition of groups promoting land conservation in Washtenaw County, and the **Land Trust Alliance**, a national association serving over 1,600 land trusts across the country. Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy also works with other area land conservancies, environmental, community and governmental groups.

Operations: SMLC maintains a small office of 2 full-time and 2 part-time staff to keep costs as low as possible. Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy accomplishes a lot of work through volunteers and saves money through in-kind donations.

SMLC has one operating fund, our **General Fund**, and four restricted funds: **Land Protection, Monroe County, Superior Township and Stewardship Endowment.** Donors can give to SMLC and let us direct their gift where it is needed most, or they can direct their gift to any combination of the above five funds. Donors can also restrict their gift to Land Acquisition (program), Stewardship (program) or special land protection projects (as announced). These restricted funds are all part of Land Protection. If you are interested in donating to SMLC, please check out our website for a secure online donation form, or call our office to have a donation envelope sent to your address. You may also discuss in-kind donation needs and other forms of giving including land options with our knowledgeable staff.

List of Preserves: SMLC-protected Nature Preserves are beautiful places to hike and explore the natural world in southeast Michigan. Please feel free to visit one of the preserves listed below. You can also check out our website for a list of preserve rules and other information.

- Allen Woods Nature Preserve (Wayne)
- Bell Creek Nature Preserve (Wayne)
- Brownstown Lakeplain Prairie Habitat Preserve (Wayne)
- Chesterfield Nature Preserve (Macomb)
- Conservancy Farm (Washtenaw)
- Goemaere-Anderson Wetland Preserve (Oakland)
- LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve (Washtenaw)
- Lyon's Point Nature Preserve (Livingston)
- Morris-Reichert Nature Preserve (Livingston)
- Nichwaugh Lake Nature Preserve (Livingston)
- Pittsfield Stream Corridor (Washtenaw)
- Springhill Nature Preserve (Washtenaw)
- Van Buren Township Nature Preserve-**NEW** (Wayne)
- Warren H. Carpenter Nature Preserve (Livingston)