

Thumb Land Conservancy

2015 Annual Report and Organizational Summary



Michigan Road Preserve burn 2015 May 01. Left to right, TLC President Cheryl Collins, TLC Stewardship Intern Alex Roland, and her friend Brook.



Thumb Land Conservancy

4975 Maple Valley Road, Marlette, Michigan 48453
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2016 January 25

2015 was focused on stewardship and education .Among our many educational efforts, we participated in development of a watershed plan for the upper Black River in Sanilac County, made presentations to the Blue Water Audubon Society, City of New Baltimore, and Saint Clair County Community College (SC4) STEM Conference, conducted public outreach through the Port Huron Times Herald, Saint Clair County Earth Fair, Port Huron Museum, and TLC Blog, and produced a TLC natural areas guide and map.

2015 was the first year that the TLC enlisted the help of four interns from SC4..With their help, we conducted stewardship and monitoring of our preserves and stewardship sites, including the Dead End Woods Sanctuary, Michigan Road Preserve, and SC4 rain gardens.

We even got out and did some exploring in Tuscola County, getting to know the area better, photographing natural and historical features, and searching out potential preserve sites.

We are grateful to our members, donors, and everyone who has participated.

William Collins
Executive Director

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Black River Watershed Plan

In early 2015, the TLC participated in planning and public input meetings for the upper Black River watershed plan for Sanilac County.

Public Outreach and Assistance

In early 2015, the TLC recruited new members, including Saint Clair County youth and a Tuscola County resident interested in nature, and a Huron County resident interested in wetland protection. Two of the new members attended our Executive Board meetings.

Port Huron Times Herald Article Conservancies Preserve Special Areas in County

Thanks to writer Bob Gross, the TLC was featured in a Port Huron Times Herald article on March 23. The article described the work of several organizations or agencies in Saint Clair County. The TLC is connected with just about every other group and person named in the article, including The Nature Conservancy, Bertha Daubendiek and the Michigan Nature Association, Six Rivers Land Conservancy through the former Macomb Land Conservancy and Oakland Land Conservancy, the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy through Jack Smiley, and Mark Brochu of the Saint Clair County Parks and Recreation Department. Here's a link to the article:

<http://www.thetimesherald.com/.../conservancies-pre.../25145367/>

New TLC Board Member Chris Walker

In our first quarter meeting, the TLC welcomed new Executive Board Member Chris Walker. Chris is a Thumb native from the Croswell - Lexington area. A member of Croswell Boy Scout Troop 332 in the 1970s and 80s, Chris taught nature courses at Silver Trails Scout Reservation near Jeddo in 1978 and 1979 where he was a mentor to TLC Executive Director Bill Collins who worked as his assistant. Chris later worked as a guide at Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, New Mexico. Chris is thoroughly knowledgeable of nature and especially birds, and is an excellent photographer and videographer.

Among many other qualifications, Chris earned a Bachelor of Applied Arts degree from the Journalism Department at Central Michigan University, and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Department of Cinema and Photography at Southern Illinois University. He has worked as a Neotropical Migratory Research Technician at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory in Oak Harbor, Ohio, was a General Assignment Photographer for *The Blade* newspaper in Toledo, Ohio, and was a photographer and columnist for numerous national publications. Chris has worked as a professor of photography at Auburn University, Southern Indiana University, and Loyola University, and is currently Assistant Professor for the School of Communications and Journalism at Minnesota State University, Moorhead. For more information, see: www.ChrisWalkerPhoto.com

Blue Water Audubon Society Meeting

On April 6, at the invitation of Laurie Dennis, TLC Executive Director Bill Collins gave a presentation about Thumb natural areas and the work of the TLC at their membership meeting. Laurie and Tom Dennis unofficially watch over our Peltier Sanctuary because they live right near it. Soon, we hope there will be a 21-acre addition to the south side as mitigation for the Stocks Creek Drain project.

2015 Saint Clair County Earth Fair

On April 24 and 25, the TLC participated in the 2015 Saint Clair County Earth Fair. Thanks to TLC President Cheryl Collins and TLC Member Traci Brown for passing out our information.

TLC Web Site Update

This spring, TLC web host Jeff Ronan updated our web site. The focus was on basic layout changes. Thank you Jeff.

New TLC Intern

New TLC intern, Alex Roland, started working for the TLC in the spring. Alex will serve as our Stewardship Coordinator through the end of summer before she leaves for Michigan State University. She was referred to us by Professor Dave Webb of Saint Clair County Community College (SC4). A few professors at SC4 have offered to post our flyers and other information, including Dr. Carrie Dollar. Thanks to TLC Board Member Kay Cumbow for delivering our flyers to Dr. Dollar.



TLC Intern Alex Roland on the left, and her mother Ann Roland on the right pulling Garlic Mustard in the Dead End Woods Sanctuary in 2015.

Alex is interested in protecting mammals. She grew up in Saint Clair. She will be graduating from SC4 with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts in May of 2015 and then attending Michigan State University in the fall. Alex hope to become a Wildlife Biologist and dedicate her life to protect, save, and help wild animals and their habitats.

New Tuscola County Volunteer

Terri Eden from Unionville, near Sebewaing, is helping the TLC in Tuscola County and the northern Thumb in general. She saw our Facebook page and shared everything posted. Terri has distributed TLC brochures and flyers at the Tuscola Conservation District / USDA Office in Caro and other places. Terri is involved in all kinds of nature, gardening, farming activities, and loves animals.

Michigan Road Preserve Stewardship

With the help of our new intern Alex Roland, the TLC accomplished more stewardship on the Michigan Road preserve this spring. The TLC is in its final year of monitoring and managing the preserve on behalf of the Saint Clair County Road Commission and Pro-Tel Development. The big issue in wetland across the preserve is invasive Glossy Buckthorn. There are two preferred control methods, including pulling or cutting, and burning. If cutting, treatment of cut stems with herbicide is necessary to kill it. Burning certainly helps.

The TLC conducted a substantial burn across the west side of the Road Commission preserve on May 1. We were given permission by Port Huron Township Fire Chief Craig Miller to conduct the burn ourselves, without the fire department needing to be present.



Michigan Road Preserve burn 2015 May 01. Left to right, TLC President Cheryl Collins, TLC Stewardship Intern Alex Roland, and her friend Brook.

Since 2011, the Thumb Land Conservancy has been under contract with the Saint Clair County Drain Commissioner, Saint Clair County Road Commission, and Pro-Tel Development to monitor and steward a 51-acre preserve along the east side of Michigan Road, north of Dove Road and south of the Canadian National Railway tracks in Port Huron Township. The preserve includes two parcels; the 13-acre north parcel placed under a State conservation easement by the Road Commission, and the 38.4-acre south parcel placed under a State conservation easement by Pro-Tel Development.

The preserve is just a small part of a large remnant of northern forest complex characteristic of the Port Huron area, an extensive lakeplain wetland crossed by upland sand ridges left by higher waters of the early Great Lakes. The land was preserved as wetland mitigation for two separate projects permitted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Ownership of the land was then transferred to the SCCDC. As a condition of the two permits, the MDEQ required monitoring and stewardship of both parcels for 5 years by a third-party conservation organization.



The Michigan Road preserve is a valuable piece of the Port Huron area's natural history. It's a fascinating complex of forested swamp and upland sand ridges bordering an almost impenetrable shrub swamp. The forest is largely a second-growth northern community composed of northern species like Red Maple, Paper Birch, Black Ash, Blueberry, Wintergreen, Bunchberry, Bracken Fern, Wild Sarsaparilla, Starflower, and Canada Mayflower. Michigan Endangered Painted Trillium is known from nearby locations with similar northern forest habitat and is likely on the preserve. Interior portions of the preserve are covered by northern shrub swamp dominated by dense thickets of Tag Alder, Black Chokeberry, and Nannyberry, mixed with invasive Glossy Buckthorn and Common Reed. Marsh Saint John's-wort, an uncommon northern species, has also been found in the shrub swamp. While these species occur throughout Michigan, their distribution is generally concentrated north of Michigan's Transition Zone, the broad division between northern and southern flora in Michigan running roughly from Muskegon east to the Saginaw Bay and across the Thumb. The northern plant community on the preserve is somewhat disjunct from its usual location north of the Transition Zone, but this is characteristic of the flora in the Port Huron area, influenced by the cooler growing season and extensive sand soils near Lake Huron. Historic fire disturbance may also have been another important factor in maintaining the northern flora.

A further unique aspect of the vegetation on the preserve is the occurrence of southern species, especially on the sand ridges, that enhance the vegetative diversity and create a blend of northern and southern flora unique to Saint Clair County. Distinctly southern species on the preserve include Black Oak and Pin Oak hybrids, Black Gum, Sassafras, Juneberry, and Smooth Highbush Blueberry. This north-south quality of the area's vegetation was described about 100 years ago by noted Port Huron botanist Charles K. Dodge.



Swamp forest wetland with tip-up mounds on the Pro-Tel Development parcel. This is very good habitat for Michigan Endangered Painted Trillium.

In 2015, the TLC completed its fifth year of monitoring and stewardship. Monitoring includes inspection of the preserve over the course of a few days in July and August to observe the general condition, photographically document the site, collect specific vegetative data to be used as a baseline for management, determine whether there are any new impacts that need to be addressed, and to help ensure that the conditions of the conservation easements are not violated. The TLC typically visits the preserve at least 4 to 5 days each year to conduct monitoring and stewardship activities. The annual monitoring and stewardship reports produced for each of the two parcels in the preserve, are fairly extensive documents that usually require at least a week to complete. These must be submitted to the MDEQ by January 31 of the following year.

Since taking over stewardship of the Michigan Road preserve in 2011, it was clear that the primary management issue is control of invasive Glossy Buckthorn – *Frangula alnus*, is native to Eurasia and North Africa. The best control for Glossy Buckthorn is pulling the smaller plants and cutting the larger, usually combined with herbicide applications. Some land managers have had tremendous success in controlling Glossy Buckthorn in shrub swamps by burning. The northern plant community on the Michigan Road preserve is probably fire-dependent and should benefit from burning in terms of restoring natural structure, density, and species composition, among other benefits.

Annual Garlic Mustard Pull Dead End Woods Sanctuary Fort Gratiot Township, Saint Clair County

On May 16, the TLC conducted another Garlic Mustard pull at the Dead End Woods Sanctuary in Fort Gratiot on Saturday. We have made a lot of progress since 2010. Not only did we improve the forest, but volunteers learned several native forest plants, and we had a nice cook-out. Thank you to TLC Board Member Dottie Craig for making her home available.

Garlic Mustard – *Alliaria petiolata* was brought to North America as a culinary herb in the late 1800's. It's native to Eurasia and North Africa, and like so many introduced species, became an invasive weed here. It seems like we didn't see much of it in the area until the 1990's, but since then it's invaded a lot of our forests.



Left to right: TLC Intern Alex Roland, SC4 student Cole Meyers, Mike Kabacki from Huron County, and TLC Board Member Dr. Scott Ferguson. Piled and bagged in front is most of the Garlic Mustard we pulled, but there was more.

2015 Michigan Botanical Club Spring Foray Saginaw Bay and Minden Bog

The Michigan Botanical Club held its annual Spring Foray on May 23 and 24 in the Saginaw Bay area. At the suggestion of TLC Executive Director Bill Collins, the group dropped down for a visit to the Minden Bog. They also explored Port Crescent State Park where the last recorded colony of federally and State Threatened Pitcher's Thistle in the Thumb was last observed by Bill and Cheryl Collins. There was some suggestion after the foray that perhaps another colony was found.



US and Michigan Threatened Pitcher's Thistle – *Cirsium pitcheri*.

Sanctuary Monitoring Reports

In 2015, the TLC completed its fifth of five years of monitoring the Peltier Beach Ridge Sanctuary, required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality as a condition of preserving this site as mitigation for permitted wetland impacts. Monitoring includes inspection of the preserve over the course of a few days in July or August to observe the general condition, photographic documentation of the site, identification of new impacts that need to be addressed, and work to ensure that the conditions of the conservation easements are not violated. The TLC typically visits each preserve at least 2 to 3 days each year to conduct monitoring and stewardship activities. The annual monitoring and stewardship reports produced for this preserve must be submitted to the MDEQ by January 31 of the following year.



TLC Peltier Beach Ridge Sanctuary.

The required monitoring and management of the Peltier Beach Ridge Sanctuary are a little less stringent than the requirements for the Michigan Road preserve in Port Huron Township that the TLC provides monitoring and stewardship for. This is because, in 2008 and 2010 when the permits were issued for new projects, the MDEQ and MDNRE (now the MDEQ again) were just beginning to require management plans and long-term stewardship, but were not so specific about those requirements as they are now.



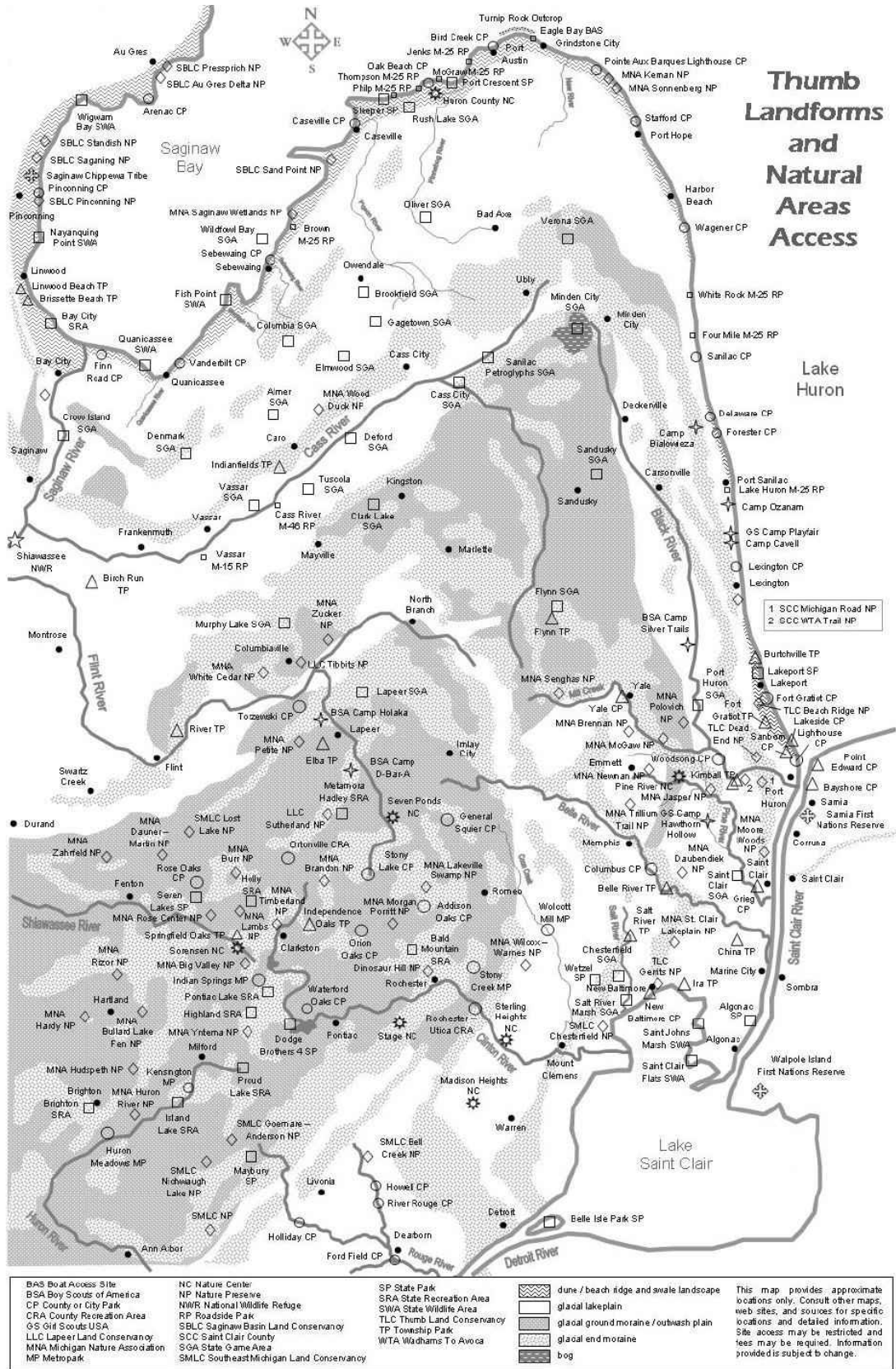
Peltier Beach Ridge Sanctuary on 2016 January 9. Photograph by Bill Collins.

The monitoring and stewardship of the Peltier Beach Ridge Sanctuary by the TLC will certainly not end, but the requirement to provide detailed reports to the MDEQ does end on the fifth year. The TLC will be monitoring and caring for all of its preserves for as long as the TLC owns them or otherwise has an interest in them. As with most preserves, it appears that invasive weeds, minor encroaching uses, removal of dead or otherwise dangerous trees along the boundaries, and the effects of habitat fragmentation will be the primary ongoing stewardship issues.

TLC Nature Guide and Map

Throughout late May, June, and early July, the TLC continued work on the Thumb Nature Guide and the Thumb Landforms Map. Both are now in final form, but we hope to eventually expand on the nature guide and create a GIS version of the map for our web site.

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TLC Intern Meeting

On July 20, the TLC met with our four new interns at the home of TLC Board Member Dottie Craig, next to our Dead End Woods Sanctuary in Fort Gratiot. All four were referred by SC4.

Our first intern was Alex Roland. She was with us from May through August and is now at Michigan State University pursuing a degree in wildlife biology. Alex's first activity was our May 01 burn on the Michigan Road Preserve that we manage for Saint Clair County. On May 15 we surveyed potential habitat on the Michigan Road Preserve for Michigan Endangered Painted Trillium. We didn't find any, but we saw it on the nearby Michigan Nature Association Jasper Woods Sanctuary and Alex was introduced to several other native woodland plants. On May 16, Alex and her mother helped us pull Garlic Mustard at the Dead End Woods Sanctuary.



Left to right: TLC Interns Nicole Barth, Alex Roland, Jeff Hansen, and Sarah Mensinger.

By June, we gained three additional interns; Jeff Hansen, Nicole Barth, and Sarah Mensinger. Jeff is studying environmental science at Oakland University. Nicole is studying biomedical science at SC4. Sarah is now at Western Michigan University studying freshwater ecology. Alex, Jeff, and Nicole assisted us in collecting vegetation data at the Michigan Road Preserve as part of our annual monitoring for Saint Clair County. In August, we worked together on a special project, weeding the parking lot rain gardens at SC4 in preparation for additional native wetland seeding. On August 27, Sarah represented the TLC at the Back to School Bash, a gathering of school kids at White Park in Port Huron, sponsored by Diverse Unity Outreach Center.



TLC Intern Jeff Hansen recording vegetation data on the Michigan Road Preserve in Port Huron Township, Saint Clair County.

Tuscola County Photo Trip

On July 16, new TLC Board Member, Chris Walker and TLC Executive Director Bill Collins journeyed through Tuscola County for the day with the aim of photographing natural features and points of interest for future TLC guides and presentations. Home for the summer with his mother near Lexington, Chris and Bill agreed to meet up for an excursion before he headed back to Minnesota State University, Moorhead, where he teaches photography as an Assistant Professor in the School of Communications and Journalism.



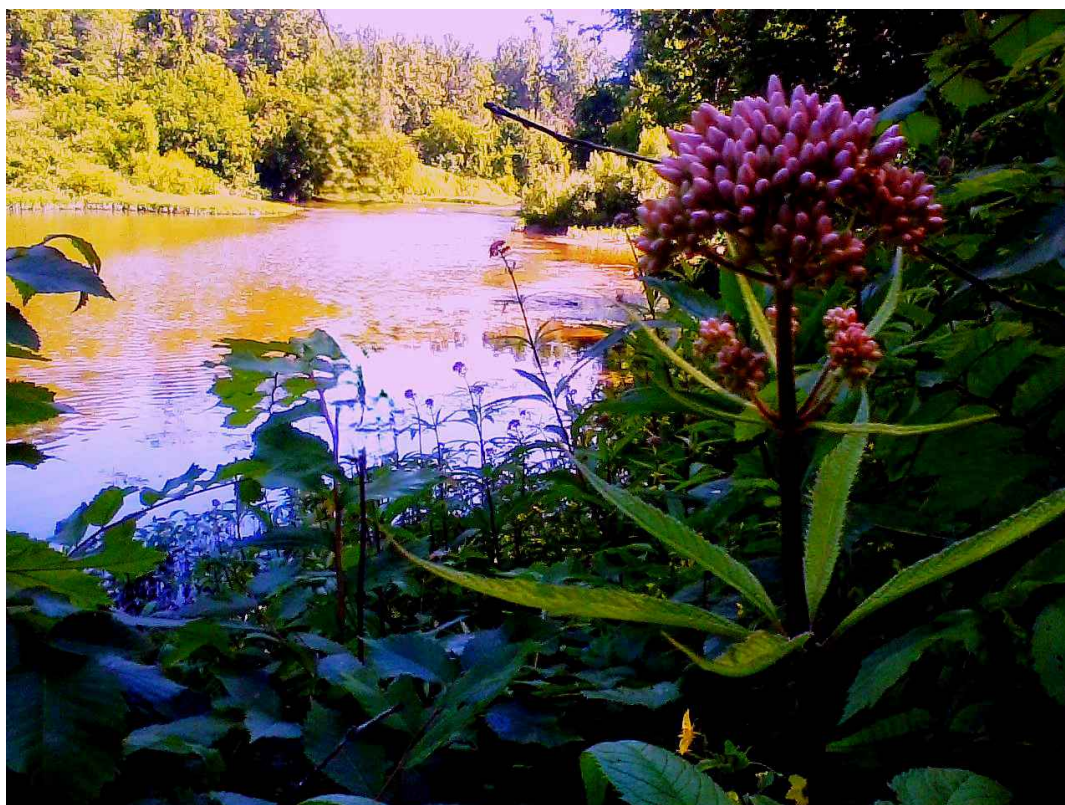
Chris Walker at the Saginaw Bay at Bay Park.

Without a specific plan, other than a few spots I wanted Chris to photograph, we basically covered northwestern Tuscola County, looping from the Caro area, north to Saginaw Bay at Bay Park, and back down. We decided on Tuscola County because we don't get up there as much as we'd like, and with impressive features like the Cass River, glacial moraines, extensive forest, and the Saginaw Bay, I hadn't given Tuscola County due attention. I've often passed through on M-46 on my way to and from northern Michigan. Occasionally, I've worked near Caro, Vassar, and up on the Saginaw Bay, and have done some exploring, but there's never enough time. Since moving to the Brown City - Marlette area in 2004, I've discovered the Vassar and Tuscola State Game Areas, Juniata, Wahjamega, Indianfields, Cork Pine, and lakeplain prairie remnants near Quanicassee, just to name a few.



Tuscola trip itinerary.

In the off-season, Chris and Bill often wandered southern Sanilac and northern Saint Clair Counties. Chris always had an itinerary with somewhere, something, or someone to visit and photograph. Usually, it was birds. Sometimes a particular wildflower in full bloom, or special tree, a mushroom, an old barn, an old Chickadee lady, and so on.



Cass River at the M-46 MDOT Roadside Park.

Chris and Bill hadn't cut loose like this since the early 1980s. Both have kept extremely busy, but this day was set aside for a Walker and Collins Ride Again reunion. Not much has changed. Chris still has an expensive camera and Bill still has a cheap one. You can view some of Chris's photos on his web site. See: www.ChrisWalkerPhoto.com

SC4 Rain Gardens Port Huron

In July and August, the TLC coordinated with the SC4 grounds department to assist with weeding their new parking lot rain gardens. TLC Executive Director Bill Collins had designed a planting plan for the swales in 2011. Most of the swales were planted by 2012, but soon after, had a weed problem. SC4 had not followed the plant list entirely, had not eliminated a nearby patch of invasive Phragmites Reed as recommended, and did not plant all of the swales due to opposition from the adjoining neighborhood who thought they looked "messy". Not long after, invasive trees like White Mulberry, Siberian Elm, Catalpa, and other weeds seeded into the swales from the adjoining neighborhood followed by Phragmites. On top of this SC4 administration directed that many of the native wetland plants in the swales be removed and that everything be cut to no higher than a few feet. It was quite a fiasco, but the TLC tried to help. Unfortunately, the weed control needed in the swales is quite intensive as long as the neighbors have weeds and SC4 was not conducive to alternatives.

Pam Collins

Pam (Collins) Kent, sister of TLC Executive Director Bill Collins, passed away on August 27 at the age of 49, taken far too early by cancer. Like the rest of the Collins family, Pam loved being in the outdoors. She cared very much for people.



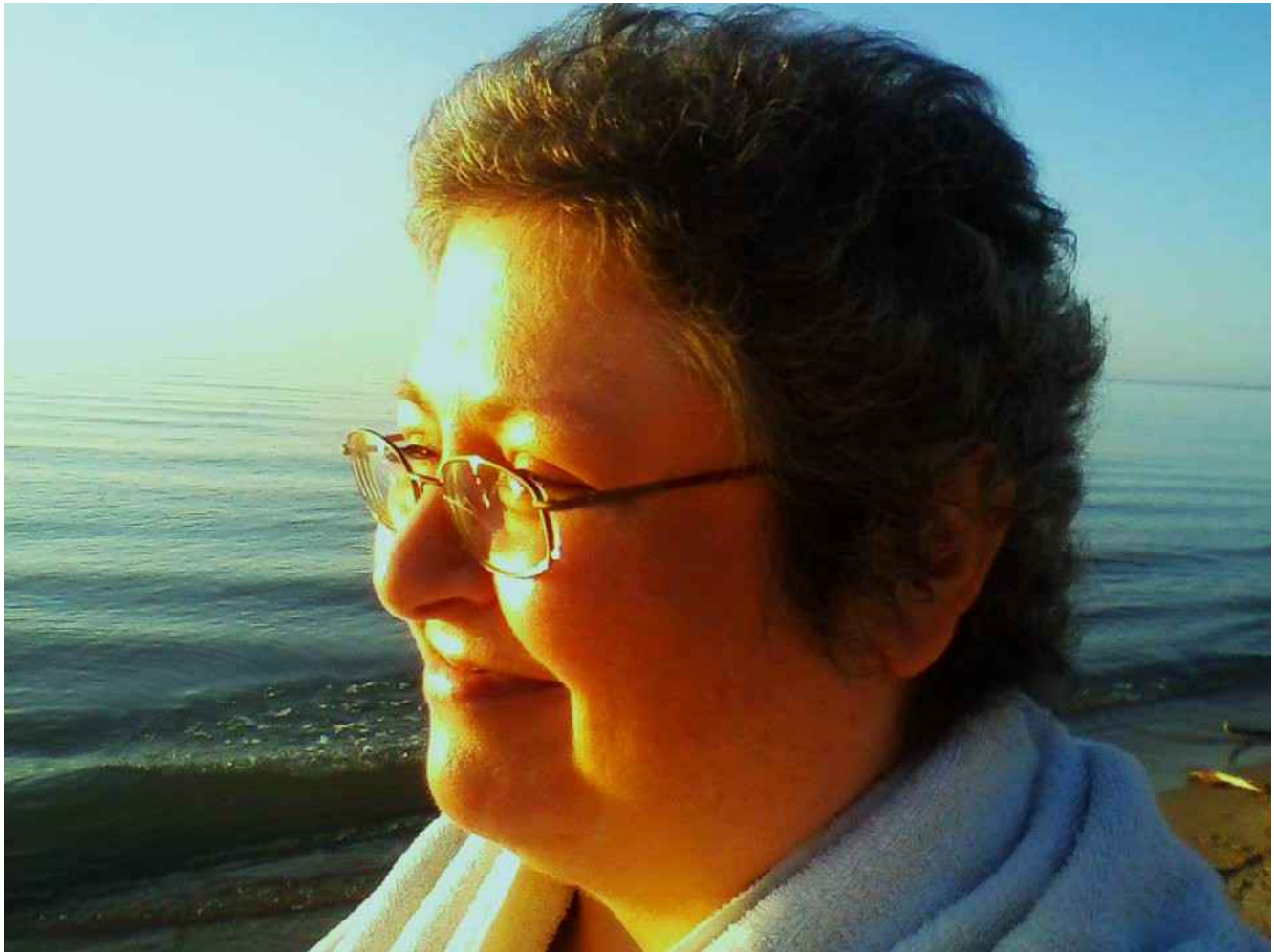
Pam and brothers Dan and Bill (right) in the Port Huron State Game Area. Photo by Chris Walker.

Pam earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Michigan State University and was employed for several years with Saint Clair County Community Mental Health and various care facilities before working as a Department Manager with Barnes and Noble in Fort Gratiot. She read a lot, wrote many poems, and enjoyed beading and going for walks in the woods.

Pam spent a wonderful summer early in her young adult life working in Yellowstone National Park with Youth for Christ. She wrote letters home describing her work, all of the people she met, the new places she experienced, and hopes for the future.



Pam sitting on a log near one of the many water falls at Yellowstone National Park.



Pam at the beach at Pinery Provincial Park in Ontario, her favorite place, a few weeks before she passed.

She is fondly remembered for her cheerful, happy laugh.

The TLC received several donations in Pam's memory, which will be set aside for a future land purchase.

Anchor Bay Woods New Baltimore, Macomb County

In 2000 through 2003, through their land protection efforts and having co-founded the Macomb Land Conservancy, Bill and Cheryl Collins brought attention to what is now called Anchor Bay Woods, the largest and relatively undisturbed mature forest tract near Anchor Bay of Lake Saint Clair, straddling the border of Macomb and Saint Clair counties. By coincidence, 38.5 acres of Anchor Bay Woods on the Saint Clair County side was donated to the TLC by Lois Gerrits in 2009, now our Gerrits Sanctuary. Through this preserve, the TLC had some dealings with the adjacent City of New Baltimore.

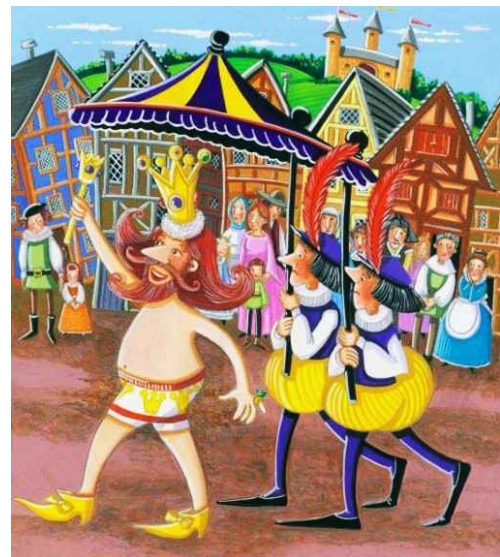


Anchor Bay Woods with green wetland areas as mapped by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

In early September, TLC Executive Director Bill Collins was invited to a meeting with the Mayor, Mayor Pro-tem, and Clerk of New Baltimore to discuss preservation efforts for Anchor Bay Woods on their side of the county line. Bill explained preservation of wetland as mitigation for State-permitted impacts, among other possible methods. The city officials were very receptive.

SC4 STEM Conference Presentation

On October 24, TLC Executive Director Bill Collins gave a presentation at SC4 for their STEM Conference (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). He discussed the limitations of science in determining how best to protect the environment. Topics included the concept of ecological triage, qualitative versus quantitative values, ecological succession, fragmentation, the values of small local natural areas, environmental denial or ignorant bliss, and the need for preservation on a global scale.



Port Huron Museum Exhibit

In October, TLC Executive Director Bill Collins discussed creating a permanent exhibition at the Port Huron Museum about Port Huron botanist Charles K. Dodge and local natural features with the Museum Director. She was excited at the time but there has been no response since.



Charles K. Dodge in 1900.

Thumb Land Conservancy Blog

Throughout 2015, the TLC added several posts to our TLC Blog: <https://thumbland.blogspot.com/>
This blog documents some of the activities of the TLC as well as providing interesting articles focused on nature, ecology, and related topics.

Ed Rhein

TLC Board Member Dan Rhein's father, Ed Rhein, passed away on December 23. Dan's uncle, his dad's brother, passed away only about two weeks prior. Dan and TLC Executive Director Bill Collins have been friends since they met in 1980 while teaching nature at Silver Trails Scout Reservation near Jeddo. Bill met his father Ed a few times while at the Rhein residence in China Township.



Edward Rhein

Ed served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955 during the Korean conflict. He owned and operated Ed's Radiator in China Township for 40 years. He was very proud that he sent all 12 of his children to St. Mary's School and Holy Cross and Cardinal Mooney High Schools. Ed served on committees at both schools, was a member of St. Mary's Parish, and the St. Clair Knights of Columbus.

TLC Executive Director Bill Collins and a few TLC Board Members attended the funeral at St. Mary's Church in St. Clair. Our sympathies go out Dan and his family.

TLC Board of Directors

Cheryl Collins, President

Cheryl Collins of the Brown City - Marlette area formed the Thumb Land Conservancy in 2008. She has been at the forefront of natural area protection efforts in the region for nearly 20 years. Cheryl was on the board of directors of the Michigan Nature Association from 2003 through 2008, and co-founded the Macomb Land Conservancy in 2000 which has since merged with Oakland Land Conservancy to become Six Rivers Land Conservancy. In 2001 and 2002, she conducted a fundraising campaign as a volunteer on behalf of the Michigan Nature Association to purchase the Sharon Rose Leonatti Memorial Nature Sanctuary in Kimball Township, Saint Clair County, a 9-acre preserve with one of Michigan's largest remaining populations of State Endangered Painted Trillium. Through a combination of grants and individual donations, she raised \$57,000 in less than two years in her spare time. While on the board of the Michigan Nature Association, she developed funding sources that resulted in grant awards of nearly \$500,000 for a statewide land acquisition campaign. Cheryl and her husband, Bill Collins, have worked together on many projects for Huron Ecologic, LLC since 1998. Cheryl served as Project Coordinator, providing assistance to several community groups trying to protect local natural areas across Michigan. She prepared, organized, and presented exhibits and testimony for three Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Contested Case Hearings and two Michigan Environmental Protection Act suits involving State and federally regulated wetland and other natural features. She provided information regarding the Michigan wetland regulatory program and wetland violation files to the Michigan Environmental Council and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. From 1996 through 1998, Cheryl was Assistant Drain Commissioner for Saint Clair County, working along side Drain Commissioner Fred Fuller, who promoted natural watershed management and river restoration. In 2006, she was a Project Assistant for the Sanilac County Economic Development Corporation. She obtained a grant to construct a rain garden in Lexington and worked with the Huron County Economic Development Corporation on a Michigan Department of Transportation plan to identify significant heritage highway features along M-25. From 2006 through 2009, she was the Chairperson of the Sanilac County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. She ran for Sanilac County Drain Commissioner in 2008. As a candidate of the Democratic Party, she received 38% of the vote in a solidly Republican county. Cheryl currently works as a drain inspector and assists with drain maintenance projects for the Saint Clair County Drain Commissioner.

Terry Gill - Treasurer and Secretary

Terry Gill of Greenwood has been Supervisor of Greenwood Township in Saint Clair County since 2004. Terry is a strong advocate for land preservation with over 20 years of volunteer experience in non-profit organizations. She is currently a member of the Saint Clair County Water Quality Board, Saint Clair County Farm Land Preservation Board, and Tri-Hospital EMS Board of Directors. For over 10 years, Terry has coordinated the Mill Creek Volunteer Monitoring Project, an aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling program to assess and monitor the water quality of the Mill Creek, a major tributary of the Black River. She obtained multiple grants to produce and submit an annual Mill Creek monitoring report to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Terry served as President of the Blue Water League of Women Voters and was the Natural Resources Chair for the Michigan League of Women Voters based in Lansing. As Natural Resources Chair, she represented the Michigan League of Women Voters on the board of the Michigan Environmental Council and obtained a grant from the Frey Foundation to produce and distribute a brochure entitled, "Keeping This Land Ours", a citizen guide to protecting natural areas.

Kay Cumbow - Director

Kay Cumbow of the Brown City area is a long-time environmental advocate. For several years, she was a board member and Chair for Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination, a statewide organization working to protect the health of our communities and the Great Lakes. She is now a member of their Education Committee. Kay also works with Blue Water Sierra Club in Saint Clair County, a Conservation Committee of the Southeast Michigan Group of the Sierra Club covering Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Saint Clair Counties. Since its inception in 1999, Kay has worked for the Mill Creek Volunteer Monitoring Project, an aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling program to assess and monitor the water quality of the Mill Creek. She volunteers with the Stream Leaders Program of Saint Clair County, which also monitors aquatic macroinvertebrates in streams, including the Black River watershed. Kay has an Associate of Arts degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College and an Associate of Science degree from Mott Community College. She is a certified respiratory technician.

Traci Brown - Director

Traci Brown of Port Huron is a parent and works as a Secretary II for the Department of Exceptional Children in the Port Huron School District. She previously worked as a paralegal for an established legal firm in Port Huron. Traci serves as the Safety Coordinator and Fundraising Chair for Port Huron Little League. She has volunteered with several organizations such as Lakeshore Legal Aid based in Clinton Township, Macomb County, a not-for-profit law firm providing free civil legal services to low income people and seniors in the region. She served as President of the Parent Teacher Association at Crull Elementary School and was active in local educational programs for kindergarten through sixth grade children. She continues to volunteer her time to fundraise for several local programs. Traci and her family have long enjoyed the Thumb shoreline and are concerned about protecting recreational areas and other natural settings.

Daniel Rhein - Director

Dan Rhein of Port Huron grew up in China Township in Saint Clair County. He is a naturalist, wildlife expert, and a self-taught botanist possessing thorough knowledge of many obscure plant species, especially grasses and shrubs. Dan graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife. For years, Dan has volunteered his time to provide nature education programs for the Blue Water Council Boy Scouts of America and local school children. Dan has long worked to promote natural areas in the Thumb, especially lakeplain prairie, wetlands, and aquatic habitats. He was a member of the Thumb Bioregional Alliance in the early 1990's, which advocated for the protection of land along the Black River near the Port Huron State Game Area, and the Minden Bog in Sanilac County. He has led several tours through the Minden Bog, being quite familiar with the unique bog vegetation. Dan teaches an edible plants course for Willow Winds school of traditional skills and crafts near Mikado, Michigan. He has been active with the Saint Clair County Parks and Recreation Committee, advising them on park development plans. Dan works for the Saint Clair County Drain Commissioner as a drain inspector and project supervisor.

Dorothy Craig - Director

Dorothy Craig lives near the TLC Dead End Woods Sanctuary in Fort Gratiot Township and joined the TLC board in 2013. Dorothy has cared for animals her whole life and loves nature. Dorothy has encouraged and supported the work of the TLC since its formation in 2008.

Dr. Scott Ferguson - Director

Doctor Scott Ferguson grew up near the TLC Dead End Woods Sanctuary in Fort Gratiot Township and joined the TLC board in 2010. Doctor Ferguson has been in full-time dental practice since 1988, the year he earned his Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the University of Detroit. He is a member of the Thumb District Dental Society, the Michigan Dental Association, the American Dental Association, and the Port Huron Study Club, part of a nationwide network of affiliates under the Seattle Study Club. Doctor Ferguson has completed advanced training through the Misch Institute for Implant Training and is a Fellow in the International Congress of Oral Implantology. A Port Huron native and active supporter of many local associations, Scott lives in North Street with his wife Syeda and their son, Gabriel and daughter, Maya.

Chris Walker - Director

Chris Walker grew up on a small farm near Croswell, where his parents instilled in him a near-reverent appreciation for the land and its natural inhabitants. Chris is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Communications and Journalism at Minnesota State University, Moorhead. He earned a Master of Fine Arts in Cinema and Photography from Southern Illinois University and a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Journalism from Central Michigan University. As a photography professor, he has fulfilled full-time teaching and research appointments at Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama; Southern Indiana University, Evansville; and Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore. He has worked for several newspapers, including the Toledo Blade, where he and two coworkers earned a finalist spot in the Pulitzers, and has been published worldwide in numerous magazines, books, and journals. For 7 years, he was the Photography Columnist for Camping Life magazine. Chris is a naturalist and has a life-long interest in ecology, particularly through bird biology and stock nature photography. He was a Neotropical Migratory Research Technician for 2 years at Black Swamp Bird Observatory in Oak Harbor, Ohio. Chris is an artist and journalist with deep concerns for social anthropology and our ever-changing environment.

Staff

William Collins - Executive Director

Bill Collins of the Brown City - Marlette area is a naturalist and botanist who grew up in the Port Huron area. He was a nature instructor at Silver Trails Scout Reservation summer camps from 1978 through 1986. He has an Associate of Science degree from Saint Clair County Community College and graduated from Michigan State University in 1987 with a dual Bachelors of Science degree in Botany and Natural Resources Development while also following the engineering program. From 1984 through 1986 he was a Program Assistant with the Michigan Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in East Lansing, and later worked on various contract projects for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division. He is a Life Member of the Michigan Nature Association and explored natural areas for MNA in 1988 through 1990. Bill has worked as a professional wetland consultant and ecologist since 1990, employed 8 years as a botanist and project manager with SSOE, Inc., a large architectural and engineering firm in Troy, Michigan, and since 1998 with his own consulting firm, Huron Ecologic, LLC. In his capacity as a private consultant, he has encouraged and helped local governments and individuals preserve high quality natural areas. Bill and his wife, Cheryl, have been very active in promoting the protection of natural areas and rare species throughout the region, including Michigan Endangered Painted Trillium, a rare woodland wildflower that is now known only from Saint Clair County in all of Michigan.

TLC Legal Counsel

Attorney Timothy J. Lozen
Law Offices of Timothy J. Lozen, P.C.
511 Fort Street, Suite 402
Port Huron, Michigan 48060
810-987-3970
LozenLaw.com

TLC Financial Institution

Eastern Michigan Bank
65 North Howard Avenue
Croswell, Michigan 48422
810-679-2500
EasternMichiganBank.com

TLC Insurance Provider

Conserv-A-Nation Insurance Program
Underwritten by Chubb Group of Insurance Companies
Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.
Franey Muha Commercial Group
4530 Walney Road, Suite 200
Chantilly, Virginia 20151
703-397-0977
AlliantInsurance.com

TLC Accountant

Mark E. Ellis
Brown City Accounting and Tax
4346 Main Street
Brown City, Michigan 48416
810-346-2044

TLC Web Site Host - ThumbLand.org

Jeff Ronan
Webarticulate
2763 West Lake Drive
Kimball, Michigan 48074
810-334-4119
Innovation@WebArticulate.com
WebArticulate.com

TLC Web Site

ThumbLand.org

TLC Contacts

mailing address:

Thumb Land Conservancy
4975 Maple Valley Road
Marlette, Michigan 48453 USA

phone and fax: 810-346-2584

e-mail: mail@ThumbLand.org

TLC Incorporation Documents

IRS Employer Identification Number: 41-2247569

IRS Employer Identification Number Assigned: 2007 August 13

Michigan Corporation Identification Number: 70398K

Michigan Articles Of Incorporation Filed: 2008 October 29

Michigan Articles Of Incorporation Effective Date Of Approval: 2008 October 29

IRS Effective Date Of Tax Exemption: 2008 October 29

IRS 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Status Confirmed: 2009 February 26

Michigan Corporate Entity Documents:

http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/results.asp?ID=70398K&page_name=corp

IRS Search for Charities, Online Version of Publication 78:

<http://www.irs.gov/app/pub-78/>

TLC Properties

1. *Dead End Woods Sanctuary*

17.6 Acres, Fort Gratiot Township, Saint Clair County

Acquisition Date: 2008 December 30

North Parcel 74-20-030-2009-000: Beginning North 660.34 Feet From The East Quarter Corner, Thence N89°37'00"W 229.00 Feet; Thence S00°00'00"E 130.17 Feet; Thence N89°37'00"W 189.00 Feet; Thence S00°00'00"E 200.00 Feet; Thence N89°37'00"W 920.79 Feet; Thence N00°00'00"E 330.18 Feet; Thence S89°37'00"E 691.79 Feet; Thence N00°00'00"E 70.00 Feet; Thence S89°37'00"E 647.00 Feet; Thence S00°00'00"E 70.00 Feet To Beginning. Section 30, Town 7 North, Range 17 East, 8.59 Acres.

South Parcel 74-20-030-2012-000: Part Of The Northeast Quarter Of Section 30, Town 7 North, Range 17 East, Fort Gratiot Township, St. Clair County, Michigan; Described As Commencing At The East Quarter Corner Of Said Section; Thence N00°00'00"E 97.00 Feet Along The East Section Line To The Point Of Beginning; Thence N89°44'42"W 225.00 Feet; Thence S00°00'00"E 97.00 Feet; Thence N89°44'42"W 537.54 Feet Along The North Line Of Spruce Village; Thence N89°47'58"W 575.76 Feet Along The North Line Of Ferguson Heights; Thence N00°02'55"E 320.95 Feet Along The East Line Of Angus Campbell Number One; Thence N00°07'02"E 12.77 Feet Along The East Line Of Plat Number 5 Of The Old Farm Subdivision; Thence S89°37'00"E 1113.04 Feet; Thence S00°00'00"W 130.78 Feet; Thence S89°17'00"E 225.00 Feet; Thence S00°00'00"W 101.08 Feet To The Point Of Beginning. Containing 9.01 Acres.

TLC Properties, continued

2. ***Dr. James F. Gerrits Memorial Sanctuary***
38.5 Acres, Ira Township, Saint Clair County
Acquisition Date: 2009 July 16

Parcel 74-23-007-1003-000: The Northwesterly 38.5 Acres Of The Southwesterly $\frac{1}{2}$ Of The Northeasterly $\frac{1}{2}$ Of Private Claim 627. Section 7, Town 3 North, Range 15 East. 38.5 Acres.

3. ***Peltier Beach Ridge Sanctuary***
11.5 Acres, Fort Gratiot Township, Saint Clair County
Acquisition Date: 2010 June 28

Parcel 74-20-004-1058-000: A parcel of land being a part of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Fractional Section 4 and the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Fractional Section 5, T7N, R17E, Fort Gratiot Township, St. Clair County, Michigan and described as: Commencing at the East $\frac{1}{4}$ corner of said Fractional Section 5; thence N. $89^{\circ} 38' 30''$ W. 656.67 feet along the East and West $\frac{1}{4}$ line of said Fractional Section 5; thence N. $00^{\circ} 12' 07''$ E. 1145.13 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence continuing N. $00^{\circ} 12' 07''$ E. 648.12 feet; thence N. $89^{\circ} 59' 07''$ E. 853.62 feet; thence S. $09^{\circ} 03' 53''$ E. 363.81 feet; thence N. $89^{\circ} 15' 00''$ W. 101.00 feet; thence S. $09^{\circ} 03' 53''$ E. 101.00 feet; thence N. $89^{\circ} 15' 00''$ W. 299.26 feet; thence S. $00^{\circ} 07' 00''$ E. 200.50 feet; thence N. $89^{\circ} 15' 00''$ W. 82.00 feet; thence S. $00^{\circ} 07' 00''$ E. 1.00 feet; thence N. $89^{\circ} 15' 00''$ W. 447.36 feet to the point of beginning of this description. Said parcel contains 11.47 acres, more or less.

TLC Mission Area

TLC is focused on Saint Clair, Sanilac, Huron, Tuscola, Lapeer, and Macomb Counties, but may also work in adjacent counties either alone or cooperatively with other organizations.

TLC History and Purpose

The TLC was formed in the late fall of 2008 to provide an organization dedicated to filling the gap of natural area preservation in Michigan's Thumb. Although much attention has been given to a few areas near Lake Saint Clair, the Thumb has been largely ignored. There is a general misconception that little is worth saving north of Detroit because of urban development and agriculture. While much of the landscape has been drastically altered, many high quality natural areas remain. Some habitats are nearly pristine, resembling conditions prior to European settlement about 200 years ago. Regardless of condition, extensive destruction makes preservation even more critical in the Thumb. Small, degraded habitat fragments often serve as isolated havens for rare plant species and can be restored and expanded. We believe all natural landscapes are important locally because they reflect a unique combination of history and features particular to that location. Many benefits of nature are obtained and enjoyed only locally. We believe it is especially important for children to have natural areas nearby where they can play, grow, and learn.

TLC is carrying on a tradition of independence in the Thumb. In 1952, Macomb and Saint Clair Counties were the birthplace of what became the Michigan Nature Association (MNA), the first statewide land preservation group in Michigan. MNA was led for many years by the late Bertha Daubendiek of Kenosha Township in Saint Clair County, and until recently, is one of only a few organizations that has preserved land in the Thumb.

Although the TLC was just formed in 2008, as individuals, our board members have been involved with environmental issues and natural area protection in the Thumb for over 20 years. Most of our board members personally knew MNA co-founder Bertha Daubendiek. Some are MNA members and did volunteer work for MNA in the 1980's and 90's. Our Executive Director, Cheryl Collins, served on the MNA board from 2003 through 2008. From 1989 through 2006, as members of the Mill Creek Coalition, we helped protect the Mill Creek, a major tributary of the Black River, from an 18-mile dredging and channelization project. Some of our board members continue to monitor the water quality of Mill Creek and other watercourses in Saint Clair County. In the 1990's, as members of the Thumb Bioregional Alliance, we opposed development of the roughly 800-acre Wingford Estate along the Black River in the middle of the Port Huron State Game Area, and supported the State of Michigan in protecting the Minden Bog, the upper headwaters of the Black River in Sanilac County, from an expansion of peat mining. Most of the TLC board members were involved in the Painted Trillium Tours in Saint Clair County from 2001 through 2004 and helped to protect the MNA Sharon Rose Leonatti Memorial Nature Sanctuary in Kimball Township. Working together as Huron Ecologic, Bill and Cheryl Collins co-founded the Macomb Land Conservancy in 2000, monitored Michigan Threatened Pitcher's Thistle in Huron County in the late 1990's, and since 1998, have defended natural areas across the Thumb on behalf of several citizen groups through the enforcement of State and federal environmental regulations.

TLC History and Purpose, continued

In most cases, land that we fought to protect never became available for acquisition. However, we sometimes got to a point where we needed the help of a land conservancy. Lack of a conservancy dedicated to the Thumb proved to be a problem. While a few conservancies based outside the region could acquire land in our area, we find a general lack of interest as they pursue acquisitions elsewhere. The exception to this has been the MNA, but their resources are largely dedicated to a statewide mission focused on acquiring rare species. For some time, a local conservancy claimed to exist but never materialized. Finally in late 2007, with the potential of a land donation approaching, we decided it was time to form the TLC. Articles of Incorporation were filed with Michigan in October 2008 and the IRS confirmed the tax exempt status of the TLC in February 2009. Since late December 2008, the TLC has acquired three sanctuaries in Saint Clair County through donation.

TLC Current Projects

In the summer of 2009, TLC was approached by a landowner wanting to sell 30 acres of ancient beach ridge and swale habitat along Lake Huron in Burtchville Township, Saint Clair County. This is a very unique coastal habitat formed about 4,500 years ago as glacial melt waters rapidly drained from the Great Lakes basin, leaving a series of sand ridges with muck swales between. This acquisition is currently on hold until the owner is able to resolve some complications. Otherwise, our discussions with the owner were very favorable.

TLC is in the process of developing a fundraising plan to acquire an approximately 30-acre addition to the MNA Sharon Rose Leonatti Memorial Nature Sanctuary in Kimball Township, Saint Clair County. With the existing 9-acre sanctuary, this project would result in the preservation of nearly 40 acres of mature northern forest containing high quality wetland and Michigan Endangered Painted Trillium habitat.

In late October of 2009, TLC was awarded a \$4,500 grant from Freshwater Future to plan, design, and promote restoration of the Black River. Freshwater Future of Petosky, Michigan provides assistance to citizens and grassroots watershed groups throughout the Great Lakes basin. Because of the generosity of a local landowner, TLC was able to hold its first meeting in early January of 2010 at a very impressive location on the banks of the Black River in Sanilac County.

On January 6, 2010, TLC was designated by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality as one of only three organizations in the State of Michigan to administer a new Wetland Local Assistance Pilot Program. The pilot program is intended to provide assistance to applicants seeking permits to impact State-regulated wetland. TLC proposed an assistance program in conjunction with other agencies throughout the Thumb, including the Saint Clair County Drain Commissioner. The Thumb Wetland Assistance Pilot Program provides: 1) Educational and outreach information on wetlands; 2) Assistance with completing wetland permit applications; 3) Advice in avoiding and minimizing project impacts; and 4) Assistance with the application and description of best management practices.

While our two donated sanctuaries and potential projects in Saint Clair County are important natural areas and have been very satisfying pursuits, TLC runs the risk of becoming the type of conservancy that motivated us to organize if we do not become more active across the Thumb. Of course, this will depend on promoting the conservancy through various events and media, our ability to fundraise, and chance donations of land. TLC is currently exploring opportunities in Sanilac and Huron Counties.

Thumb Land Conservancy IRS Tax Exempt Confirmation

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **FEB 26 2009**

THUMB LAND CONSERVANCY
4975 MAPLE VALLEY RD
MARLETTE, MI 48453-8348

Employer Identification Number:
41-2247569
DLN:
17053358350038
Contact Person:
DEL TRIMBLE ID# 31309
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
October 29, 2008
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

DESK V007;cmr:

Letter 947 (DO/CG)

THUMB LAND CONSERVANCY

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Choi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Choi" clearly distinguishable.

Robert Choi
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Enclosures: Publication 4221-PC

Letter 947 (DO/CG)

Thumb Land Conservancy Articles of Incorporation

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES**

Date Received

(FOR BUREAU USE ONLY)

OCT 29 2008

Tran Info: 14361429-1 10/24/08

Chk#: 0199 Amt: \$20.00

ID: CHERYL COLLINS

This document is effective on the date filed, unless a subsequent effective date within 90 days after received date is stated in the document.

Administrator

BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Name

Cheryl Collins

Address

4975 Maple Valley road

City

Marlette

State

Michigan

Zip Code

48453

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Document will be returned to the name and address you enter above.
If left blank document will be mailed to the registered office.

70398K

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

For use by Domestic Nonprofit Corporations

(Please read information and instructions on the last page)

Pursuant to the provisions of Act 162, Public Acts of 1982, the undersigned corporation executes the following Articles:

ARTICLE I

The name of the corporation is:

Thumb Land Conservancy

ARTICLE II

The purpose or purposes for which the corporation is organized are:

To implement educational programs of natural history and conservation; Acquire, protect, and maintain natural areas and examples of flora and fauna in the Thumb region of Michigan and adjacent areas; and conduct activities as permitted by the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act

ARTICLE III

1. The corporation is organized upon a Nonstock basis.
(Stock or Nonstock)

2. If organized on a stock basis, the total number of shares which the corporation has authority to issue is

_____. If the shares are, or are to be, divided into classes, the designation of each class, the number of shares in each class, and the relative rights, preferences and limitations of the shares of each class are as follows:

PK

page 1

ARTICLE III (cont.)

3. a. If organized on a nonstock basis, the description and value of its real property assets are: (if none, insert "none")
none
- b. The description and value of its personal property assets are: (if none, insert "none")
none
- c. The corporation is to be financed under the following general plan:
grants, fundraising, donations, contributions, and gifts from the general public
- d. The corporation is organized on a Directorship basis.
(Membership or Directorship)

ARTICLE IV

1. The address of the registered office is:
4975 Maple Valley Road Marlette, Michigan 48453
(Street Address) (City) (ZIP Code)
2. The mailing address of the registered office, if different than above:
_____, Michigan _____
(Street Address or P.O. Box) (City) (ZIP Code)
3. The name of the resident agent at the registered office is:
Cheryl Collins

ARTICLE V

The name(s) and address(es) of the incorporator(s) is (are) as follows:

Name	Residence or Business Address
William Collins	4975 Maple Valley Road, Marlette, MI 48453
Terry Gill	8168 N. Bricker Road, Greenwood, MI 48006
Traci Brown	1707 Whipple Street, Port Huron, MI 48060
Dan Rhein	1327 20th Street, Port Huron, MI 48060

Use space below for additional Articles or for continuation of previous Articles. Please identify any Article being continued or added. Attach additional pages if needed.

ARTICLE VI - EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS

At all times the following shall operate as conditions restricting the operations and activities of the corporation:

1. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in the purpose clause hereof.
2. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall constitute the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, or any initiative or referendum before the public, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including by publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.
3. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future tax code, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue code, or corresponding section of any future tax code.

ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The management of the affairs of the corporation shall be vested in a board of directors, as defined by the corporation's bylaws. No director shall have any right, title, or interest in or to any property of the corporation. the number of directors constituting the initial board of directors is four (4); their names and addresses are as follow:

William Collins, 4975 Maple Valley Road, Marlette, MI 48453
Terry Gill, 8168 N. Bricker road, Greenwood, MI 48006
Traci Brown, 1707 Whipple Street, Port Huron, MI 48060
Daniel Rhein, 1327 20th Street, Port Huron, MI 48060

I, (We), the incorporator(s) sign my (our) name(s) this 18th day of September, 2008.

Traci Brown

Terry A. Gill

William C. Collins

Daniel G Rhein

CONTINUATION SHEET

ARTICLE VII — BOARD OF DIRECTORS, continued

Members of the initial board of directors shall serve until the first annual meeting, at which their successors will be duly elected and qualified, or removed as provided in the bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII — PERSONAL LIABILITY

No member, officer, or director of this corporation shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of this corporation of any nature whatsoever, nor shall any of the property of the members, officers, or directors be subject to the payment of the debts or obligations of this corporation.

ARTICLE IX - DURATION/DISSOLUTION

The duration of the corporate existence shall be perpetual until dissolution. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets of the corporation shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

ARTICLE X - INCORPORATORS In witness whereof, we, the undersigned, have hereunto subscribed our names for the purpose of forming the corporation under the laws of the State of Michigan and certify we executed these Articles of Incorporation this September 18 of 2008.

Trace Brown

Signature (Incorporator 1)

1707 Whipple Port Huron, MI 48060

Address, City, State, Zipcode

Terry A. Dill

Signature (Incorporator 2)

8168 Bricker Rd. Greenwood, MI 48006

Address, City, State, Zipcode

William C. Collins

Signature (Incorporator 3)

4975 Maple Valley Road, Marlette, Michigan 48453

Address, City, State, Zipcode

Daniel & Rhein 1327 20th St Port Huron, MI 48060

Signature (Incorporator 4)

Address, City, State, Zipcode

Thumb Land Conservancy Bylaws

BYLAWS OF THUMB LAND CONSERVANCY

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be Thumb Land Conservancy. It shall be a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan.

ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE

Section 1: Thumb Land Conservancy is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific and education purposes that will benefit the citizens of the State of Michigan. These purposes include:
To preserve natural areas through negotiation, acquisition, obtaining conservation easements and/or securing development rights;
To educate the public on the importance of maintaining natural areas for environmental protection, wildlife habitat, and for enhancing the quality of life of area residents;
And, overall, to promote, preserve, and maintain our resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership shall consist of the Board of Directors

Section 2: The Board shall have the authority to establish and define nonvoting categories of membership.

ARTICLE 4 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: The Board is responsible for the overall policy, direction of the association property and business of this non-profit charitable corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors. The Board may have up to seven members but not fewer than four. The Board receives no compensation other than reasonable expenses.

Section 2: Two founding members shall serve a one-year term and two founding members shall serve two-year terms. Thereafter, terms of office shall be for two-years.

Section 3: If for any reason the position of any Director becomes vacant, nominations for new members may be received from present Board members by the Secretary two weeks in advance of a Board meeting. These nominations shall be sent out to Board members with the regular Board meeting announcement, to be voted upon at the next Board meeting. These vacancies will be filled only to the end of the particular Board member's term.

Section 4: During the last quarter of each fiscal year of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall elect Directors to replace those whose terms will expire at the end of the fiscal year. This election shall take place during an annual meeting of the Board of Directors, called in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws.

Section 5: **Election Procedures**

New directors shall be elected by a majority of directors present at such meeting, provided there is a quorum. Directors so elected shall serve a term beginning on the first day of the next fiscal year.

Section 6: **Quorum**

For the purpose of doing business, a quorum shall constitute a majority of Board members.

Section 7: **Meetings, Special Meetings and Notice**

The Board shall meet at least quarterly, at an agreed upon time and place. An official Board meeting requires that each Board member have either written notice at least 10 days in advance unless it is a Special Meeting. Directors may participate in an official meeting by conference call if they are not able to attend in person.

Special Meetings may be called by either the President or three Board members.

Any action by the Directors may be taken without a meeting if all directors thereto give consent and filed by the Secretary in the permanent record of the Board. Verbal consent or electronic mail shall be considered a valid form of written consent for this purpose. Such consent must be reaffirmed at the next meeting of the Board.

The Annual meeting shall be held in the second quarter of the fiscal year at a time and place determined by the Board.

Section 8: **Resignation, Termination, and Absences of Director**

Resignation from the Board must be in writing and received by the secretary. A Director may be dismissed from office by the Board of Directors if three consecutive Board meetings are missed without due cause. The removal of a Director requires a three-fourths vote of the remaining Directors.

ARTICLE 5 - DUTIES OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: **Officers and Duties**

Officers shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors and shall include President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All officers shall have a vote on the Board of Directors.

Section 2: **President**

The President shall preside at meetings, work with committees, coordinate strategies of action for the Board to consider, set the agenda for the next board meeting, and represent the Conservancy at public functions, land negotiations, etcetera unless otherwise delegated.

Section 3: **Vice President**

The Vice-President shall assist in the duties of the President and preside in his/her absence.

Section 4: **Secretary**

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping of records of Board actions, including overseeing the taking of minutes at all Board meetings, sending out meeting announcements, distributing copies of minutes and the agenda to each Board member, and assuring that corporate records are maintained. The Secretary may sign in the name of the corporation for those instances required by law or by position.

Section 5: **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall make a report at each Board meeting. The Treasurer shall chair the finance committee, assist in the preparation of the budget, help develop fundraising plans, keep track of all assets of the Conservancy, keep a record of all receipts and expenditures and make financial information available to Board members and the public.

Section 6: **Other Positions**

The Board of Directors may establish other officer positions as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE 6 - FISCAL YEAR

Section 1: **Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE 7 - COMMITTEES

Section 1: **Committee Formation**

The Board may establish committees as needed. Volunteers for committees shall be sought from the general public. Committees shall elect Chairpersons and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Section 2: **Executive Committee**

The four officers serve as the members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may meet periodically and discuss recommendations that will be presented to the full Board at either the next regular meeting or special meeting.

Section 3: **Finance Committee**

The treasurer is the chair of the Finance Committee which includes three other Board members. The Finance Committee is responsible for developing and reviewing fiscal procedures, fundraising plan, and annual budget with other Board members. The Board must approve the budget and all expenditures must be within budget. Any major change in the budget must be approved by the Board. Annual reports are required to be submitted to the Board showing income, expenditures, and pending income. The financial records of the organization are public information and shall be made available to Board members and the public.

ARTICLE 8 - BENEFIT

Section 1: **Benefit**

No part of the earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 2 hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation.

ARTICLE 9 - AMENDMENTS

Section 1: **Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended when necessary by two-thirds of the board of directors.

ARTICLE 10 - PROPERTY HOLDINGS

Section 1: **Holdings**

It will be the policy of the Thumb Land Conservancy not to sell their land once it has been acquired.

ARTICLE 11 - DISSOLUTION

Section 1: **Dissolution**

In the event of dissolution, all debts and liabilities shall first be paid according to their respective priorities. Any remaining assets shall be contributed to a similar non-profit charitable organization which is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

CERTIFICATION

These bylaws were approved at a meeting of the board of directors by a two-thirds majority vote on

Secretary: 

Date: 11-15-08