

Thumb Land Conservancy NEWS

January 22, 2017

TLC 2016 Christmas Gathering

We had a very nice little Christmas gathering and executive board meeting on December 17. Thanks so much to board member Dorothy Craig for once again opening her home to us. In attendance were special guests Janet Kruger of the Clyde Historical Society, botanist John Fody, and my father Bob Collins, in addition to TLC board members Kay Cumbow, Dan Rhein, and Cheryl Collins. Points of discussion included our North Street property, our 2017 Saint Clair County Earth Fair exhibit, and a 2017 stewardship initiative for the Port Huron State Game Area.

North Street Post Office, General Store, and Railroad Station Clyde Township, Saint Clair County

The North Street property was featured in a Times Herald article on 2017 January 02 by reporter Bob Gross. He largely followed our press release with additional quotes from our phone discussion. Unfortunately, there was no response from anyone to the article. We are still pursuing possible grant money, but it goes very slowly.

2017 Port Huron State Game Area Initiative

TLC member John Fody has been pulling invasive Garlic Mustard by himself in the Port Huron State Game Area for a number of years. We decided to make this a group effort through the TLC. We don't have many details yet, but are planning at least one Garlic Mustard pull near the end of Ford Road in late May. There are also plenty of opportunities to remove invasive shrubs like Tartarian Honeysuckle and Autumn-olive. In addition, we want to host a few nature walks to bring attention to the high quality forest community, rare plant and animal species, and impressive aquatic community of the Black River. We hope to work with other groups in the area, including the Friends of Beard's Hills and the Blue Water Audubon Society.

2017 Saint Clair County Earth Fair

The TLC will participate in the 2017 Saint Clair County Earth Fair on Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29, 9AM to 4PM at Goodells County Park. For more information, see the Earth Fair web site at: <http://www.earthdayfair.com/>

The TLC and the Clyde Historical Society are hoping to have adjacent exhibit tables, and both groups plan to feature the history of the Port Huron State Game Area. As part of our presentation, we would like to have an actor play the part of Charles K. Dodge, a botanist from

Port Huron who advocated for protection of the area in the early 1900's. The actor would dress in period clothing, circa 1900, greet people at or near our tables, and would speak some parts from a script. We are still looking for someone to play the part, so if you are interested or know any thespians, please contact us as soon as possible.

Here's a link to an article I wrote about Charles Dodge back in 2004 for The Lakeshore Guardian paper:

http://www.huronecologic.com/thumb_habitats062004.htm

TLC Needs Help

The TLC needs many things, but we could sure improve our fundraising with the help of an accountant. Most grant applications request an annual budget and certified financial statement. The TLC has such a small budget, it's hardly worth the expense of paying a certified public accountant for an audit, and would be nice if we could get some volunteer help until we grow larger. We can also use the help of a real estate agent in some possible land transactions in the future. Contact the TLC if you are interested in helping or know of anyone that might.

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