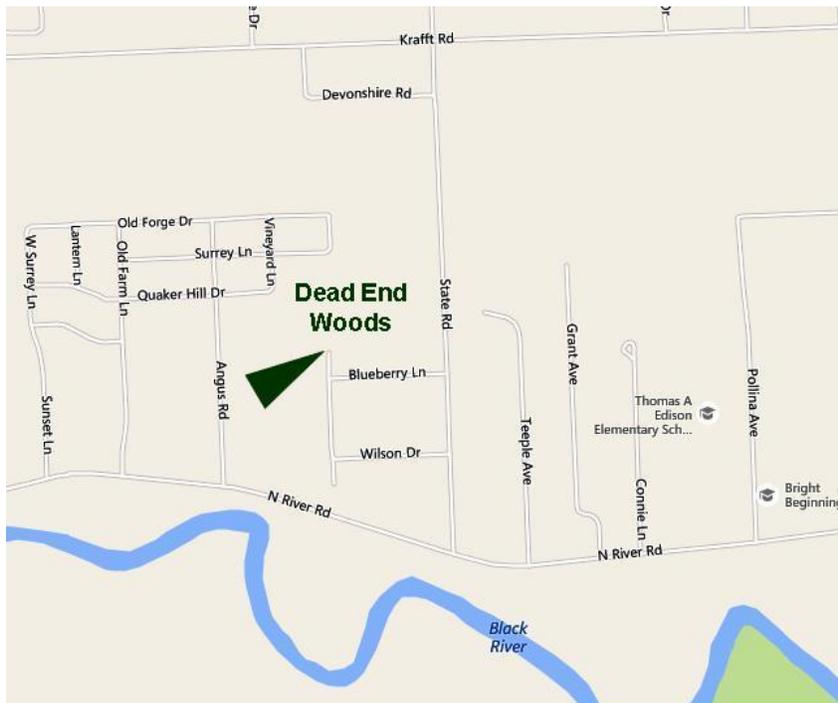


Thumb Land Conservancy NEWS

May 19, 2020

Garlic Mustard Pulls Next Two Weekends - May 23, 24, 30, 31 Dead End Woods Sanctuary Fort Gratiot Township, Saint Clair County

Help us pull invasive Garlic Mustard in the Dead End Woods Sanctuary this coming Saturday and Sunday, May 23 and 24, and the following weekend, May 30 and 31, from 11:00 AM through 4:00 PM. We normally work more than 6 feet apart in the woods, so there should be minimal virus concern. We'll provide a lunch as usual and let everyone self-serve. Jimmy Rankin's Meat Market on Lapeer Road in Port Huron Township (jimrankinmeats.com) is donating hotdogs again. Meet us at the end of Wilson Drive at 3685 Wilson Drive in Fort Gratiot, next to the Dead End Woods Sanctuary. Be prepared for rain and mosquitoes. Garlic Mustard is very nutritious with a nice flavor. You are welcome to take as much as like home as long as you don't spread it in your yard. Please RSVP at 810-346-2584 or e-mail mail@ThumbLand.org.



Garlic Mustard Pulls
Saturday June 6 and Sunday June 7
Port Huron State Game Area
Ruby, Saint Clair County

Help us conduct our fourth annual Garlic Mustard removal in the Port Huron State Game Area on Saturday and Sunday, June 6 and 7, from 11:00 AM through 4:00 PM. We will work in the same location as the past three years. This is a nice opportunity to enjoy the beautiful forest of the Black River valley. We will meet at 11:00 AM at the Ford Road gate, at the intersection of Abbottsford Road, just southeast of Ruby. If you arrive after 11:00 AM, you should be able to drive up the Ford Road trail to a plowed field where other vehicles will be parked. Our work area is east of the field, down in the forest along the Black River. Weather permitting, we will be there until about 4:00 PM. We'll provide a lunch and Jimmy Rankin's Meat Market on Lapeer Road in Port Huron Township (jimrankinmeats.com) is donating hotdogs for lunch again. Be prepared for rain, mosquitoes, midges, and deer flies. Hats are highly recommended although the insects have been minimal every year. You are welcome to take as much Garlic Mustard home as long as you don't spread it in your yard. Please RSVP at 810-346-2584 or e-mail mail@ThumbLand.org.



**Southern Lake Huron Coastal Park
42-Acre Bidwell Preserve
Burtchville Township, Saint Clair County**

As you could guess, our fundraising for April and May has been minimal because of the COVID-19 virus pandemic. After spending considerable time completing and submitting applications, a few foundations have informed us that they have decided to shift all of their grants to virus relief efforts. At least two of our grant applications were denied for this reason.

There has been some good news however. On March 26, Cargill Salt in Saint Clair made a donation of \$10,000. They really like the project and their grant coordinator, Rene Ofeno, was quite happy to let us know. They helped us apply to their corporate foundation for an additional \$10,000 grant which is still pending. Our sincere thanks to Cargill Salt for their support.

We are awaiting decisions from other potential funders, including the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and Cabela's / Bass Pro Shops. We have received great help from Ducks Unlimited on an application to the US Fish and Wildlife Service through their Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program. Kali Rush, Regional Biologist with Ducks Unlimited understands how tough fundraising can be and is genuinely interested in our region.

At this point, we still need to raise another approximately \$70,000 to make this project happen. With only 2 months and a few weeks before our closing deadline, your help now is critical. Please consider making a donation and/or becoming an angel lender. We've come too far to let this one go. For more information, see our Project page at:

<http://www.thumbland.org/projects.html>

Project summary at:

<http://www.thumbland.org/SouthernLakeHuronCoastalParkSummary02152020.pdf>

Major project funders page at:

<http://www.thumbland.org/ProjectFundersDetailedDescription.pdf>

Loznak Sanctuary
11.5 Acres
City of Marysville

Do you weld? We are looking for a volunteer to make a steel sign for the new Loznak Sanctuary. The site was formerly owned by the Loznak family, founders and owners of Eugene Welding which was recently acquired by Heartland Steel. We think it would be fitting to have a welded steel sign for this sanctuary. Please contact us if you know of anyone who could help.

Koester Conservation Easement
79.4 Acres
Fort Gratiot Township, Saint Clair County

The new Koester Conservation Easement was finalized in the depths of the virus pandemic. It has been signed and recorded with the Saint Clair County Register of Deeds. Now on to the next one.

A conservation easement is one of the few ways that you can legally protect your land in perpetuity, basically as long as our legal system supports such easements. With a good land conservancy holding the easement, you can be assured that your property will remain protected no matter the future ownership. Conservation easements, despite being called “easements” do not allow public access. A conservation easement is simply a legal agreement between a landowner and a conservancy or similar conservation group or agency. Most easements can be customized to allow uses that you and the conservancy agree upon. While most conservation easements are written to preserve natural areas and allow for passive uses and minor impacts such as trails, firewood cutting, and hunting, many easements also allow for farming, selective logging, or limited expansion of new buildings and other structures. Assessors are often not agreeable to reducing property taxes, so if you consider a conservation easement, you should consult with your local assessor if you are anticipating any tax abatement.

Beyond a conservation easement, the best way to protect nature on your land is to donate it to a conservancy. This can be done by will, or you can donate it now with a lifetime use provision. The TLC owns one preserve where the previous owner was granted a lifetime right to deer hunt on the property. If you have a natural area that you want to protect, please contact us.

2020 TLC Membership

With your membership, the TLC is better enabled to protect important natural areas in our region. We offer three membership levels as shown below: Individual \$25, Family \$30, and Business \$100. Members will receive our e-mail news. Some of you are members based on your previous donations, volunteer efforts, or other help. You can

also make donations in honor or memory of someone or something. For donations of \$100 or more, your name will be listed on our web site. For larger donations, please contact us for details. You may print and complete the form located on the Thumb Land Conservancy website at <http://www.thumbland.org/MembershipForm.pdf> Make checks payable to "Thumb Land Conservancy". Mail checks and forms to: Thumb Land Conservancy, 4975 Maple Valley Road, Marlette, Michigan 48453

William Collins
Executive Director
Thumb Land Conservancy
4975 Maple Valley Road
Marlette, Michigan USA 48453
810-346-2584
mail@ThumbLand.org
ThumbLand.org