

# Thumb Land Conservancy NEWS

September 22, 2016

## North Street Post Office and General Store Clyde Township, St. Clair County

The TLC officially owns the old post office and general store property in North Street. It was recorded by the Saint Clair County Register of Deeds about 2 weeks ago. We have been working almost every weekend cleaning the place up and it's looking better. The news of our purchase has spread throughout the County and gotten a fair amount of attention on Facebook. T.J. Gaffney, a local railroad historian, has offered to help, and a building contractor stopped in while we were cleaning a few weekends ago and also offered help.

The TLC board held its 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter meeting at the North Street property this past Monday. Three board members of the Clyde Historical Society also attended, Janet Kruger, Connie Bates, and Jim Bearss. The TLC and CHS are now working cooperatively to promote the North Street property and other historical sites in Clyde Township. We are grateful they made time to meet with us.



**Algonquin Power Wetland Mitigation Preserve  
Deerfield Wind Energy Project  
Huron Township, Huron County**

Algonquin Power of Oakville, Ontario, Canada has hired the TLC as the steward of their 12.35-acre wetland preserve in Huron County, located about 4 miles west of Port Hope, Michigan. We will be installing signs, conducting invasive weed control, monitoring, and other stewardship activities as required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. This work will be basically the same as what the TLC did on the 51-acre Michigan Road preserve for the Saint Clair County Road Commission and Pro-Tel Development, and what we do on our TLC preserves.

The 12.35 acres was preserved by Algonquin Power as mitigation for permanently converting 1.23 acre of forested wetland to open wetland for an electrical transmission line serving the Deerfield Wind Energy Project near Pigeon, Michigan. Just in the past year, MDEQ has started requiring mitigation for permanent conversion of forested wetland to open wetland like meadow or shrub thicket. Before, if the wetland ground was undisturbed, no mitigation was required. The mitigation ratio for preservation remains at 10:1.





**Bob Putz Property  
7-Acre Conservation Easement  
Clyde Township, Saint Clair County**

Bob Putz attended our board meeting this past Monday. He wants to put a conservation easement on his approximately 7 acres in Clyde Township, on Abbotsford Road. Most of it is covered by young northern forest. Bob has lived on the property since 1964 and wants to ensure that it remains natural after he is gone. The TLC board voted to accept an easement pending a final draft and Bob's approval. Bob and I walked his property back in June and here's a photo below showing some of the native vegetation, including Ground-cedar lycopodium (narrow leaves) and Canada Mayflower (wide leaves). Bob's land is in the heart of Michigan Endangered Painted Trillium territory. The TLC would like to thank Janet Kruger of the Clyde Historical Society for referring Bob to us.



**Peltier Beach Ridge Sanctuary Addition  
Fort Gratiot Township, Saint Clair County**

The TLC plans to soon acquire the 0.23-acre addition at the southeast corner of the Peltier Beach Ridge Sanctuary in Fort Gratiot. The Saint Clair County Drain Commissioner currently owns the small parcel that was split off shortly before the former owner donated the preserve to the TLC. The owner of the 0.23 acre began clearing vegetation and dumping grass clippings to fill the wetland.



Then, they lost the property by tax foreclosure. The Drain Commissioner paid the back taxes of \$1,795 to acquire the parcel from the County and protect wetland in the Galbraith Drain district, which has experienced intense flooding downstream. He is willing to give the land to the TLC for what the drain district paid. Under TLC ownership, we will have much better control of the land in the future. We are still about \$500 short of the total needed, so please consider a donation and ask anyone you think might be interested. We would like to finalize this in October.



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