

Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy Annual Report



Heart of the Lakes Summit 2009

An address from the Lieutenant Governor, a keynote address by G. Tracy Mehan III, former director of Michigan’s Office of the Great Lakes, and presentations by over 20 speakers drew a record number of participants to Lansing for Heart of the Lakes’ Fifth Annual Summit on November 10.

In This Issue

- Letters from the Executive Director and President 2
- Land Conservation Policy 3
- Advancing Conservancy Excellence 4
- Conservation and Policy Research 5
- Communications 6
- Financial Position 6
- Friends of Heart of the Lakes ... 7
- About Us 7
- HOL Members 8

One hundred and thirty attended Heart of the Lakes Fifth Annual Summit, our once-a-year opportunity for leaders and conservancy members to learn from each other, showcase innovative conservation practices, connect with colleagues and partners from around the state, and celebrate successes.



Lieutenant Governor, John Cherry and Rachel Kuntzsch



Keynote Speaker, G. Tracy Mehan III and Tom Bailey

Much of the Summit was devoted to exploring a variety of conservation issues in breakout learning sessions, from best practices in strategic conservation planning to wind energy issues as it expands throughout the state. Conservation legal defense and partnerships in water quality and farmland preservation were other issue highlights. Participants also had a chance to explore best technical practices as many of the state’s conservancies are preparing to apply for national accreditation in the coming years. Conservation easement negotiation, recordkeeping, and even a chance to talk with representatives from accredited conservancies were also featured.

In his address to a packed audience, Lieutenant Governor John Cherry suggested that despite Michigan’s dismal economy, conservation can reshape Michigan’s future, noting the merging of the Departments of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources and the \$475 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as two opportunities to do so. G. Tracy Mehan III, our keynote speaker known to many

in Michigan from his eight years as Director of the Office of the Great Lakes, connected the work of land conservancies to water quality protection in the Great Lakes.

The 2009 Summit was an exciting success and already plans are in motion for the **Sixth Annual Summit to be held on November 9, 2010**. Heart of the Lakes is extremely grateful to all of our sponsors and presenters for their outstanding contributions of time, talent and expertise. For those unable to attend, many of the materials presented at the Summit can be found on Heart of the Lakes’ website in the *Event Archives* at www.heartofthelakes.org.

Special thanks to our Summit Sponsors: *The Nature Conservancy, MSU Land Policy Institute, Consumers Energy Foundation, Public Sector Consultants, Center for Applied Environmental Research (UM- Flint), Meijer Inc., Public Policy Associates, Williams & Associates Inc., Yankee Appraisal Associates, Treemore Ecology and Land Services.* ♻️



As I reflect on 2009 and celebrate Heart of the Lakes' fifth anniversary, I am humbled by the great work of our staff, board members, supporters, and member land conservancies that have shared the success of our organization, despite an especially difficult year.

At its inception in 2004, Heart of the Lakes was created to do what no land conservancy could do on its own – unite their voices and actions under the common goal of protecting Michigan land. Today, we support 26 member land conservancies - protecting land in every Michigan county and sharing a dedication to the land base so important to us all.

Within five years, Heart of the Lakes has positioned itself as a respected policy voice for Michigan land conservancies and land conservation issues. We educate and inform state leaders on the environmental and economic importance of land conservation and work to advance public policies that support our members. In 2009, we addressed both state and federal conservation policy issues – from farmland preservation funding to tax incentives for conservation.

Supported by conservancy services like our Advancing Conservancy Excellence program, we anticipate Michigan land conservancies will reach half a million acres of protected land in 2010!

However, our work is still cut out for us. A consequence of our state's term-limited legislature is a lack of institutional knowledge of the importance that Michigan's resource base brings to the state's future, resulting in a string of bad policy decisions and de-funding of natural resource programs. These

While the “who-what-when-where-and-how” of our work remains important, we would do ourselves and our cause a great disservice if we did not also address the “why.” With all the talk about doom and gloom these days, it's easy to get discouraged. Newscasts paint a dark picture of the world, with little hope.

However, there is a cure for all this distress. It's a cure as old as humanity, extolled by some of the most remarkable people in history. It's a simple cure: spend time outdoors. Like Thomas Jefferson in the garden, Annie Dillard in the back yard, Walt Whitman hearing nature's song, Terry Tempest Williams seeing life in a marsh, or John Muir on a crusade for wilderness, we can “come into the peace of wild things,” as Wendell Berry so aptly wrote.

There are a thousand ways to enjoy the serenity of the outdoors. While most of us have parks, gardens, farms or natural areas close at hand to enjoy, there are also many who are not so blessed and whose access to the solace of nature is limited. That's where land conservancies are making a difference. Providing places for people to experience nature nearby in troubled times seems at least as important as this economic plan or that political proposal. It won't do us much good to repair our economy and politics if we fail to mend our souls.

challenges underscore the need, not only for conservation policy leadership, but also for a coordinated effort to strategically protect and invest in the diversity of land-based resources people are drawn to so that Michigan is attractive to its current citizens as well as to new entrepreneurial growth.

Now more than ever, Michigan needs thoughtful leadership, innovative ideas, and sound public policy to advance the conservation of our environmentally and economically significant natural resources. Now, more than ever, Michigan needs effective land conservancies to ensure the permanent protection of our land assets. And now, more than ever, Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy is positioned to meet those needs, ensuring a prosperous future for Michigan.

As we begin a new year, we invite you to join our efforts to protect the land so important to us all.

From the Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Kuntzsch".

Rachel Kuntzsch,
Executive Director

While the “who-what-when-where-and-how” of our work remains important, we would do ourselves and our cause a great disservice if we did not also address the “why.” With all the talk about doom and gloom these days, it's easy to get discouraged. Newscasts paint a dark picture of the world, with little hope.

However, there is a cure for all this distress. It's a cure as old as humanity, extolled by some of the most remarkable people in history. It's a simple cure: spend time outdoors. Like Thomas Jefferson in the garden, Annie Dillard in the back yard, Walt Whitman hearing nature's song, Terry Tempest Williams seeing life in a marsh, or John Muir on a crusade for wilderness, we can “come into the peace of wild things,” as Wendell Berry so aptly wrote.

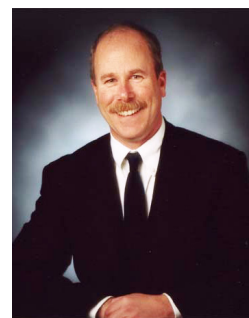
There are a thousand ways to enjoy the serenity of the outdoors. While most of us have parks, gardens, farms or natural areas close at hand to enjoy, there are also many who are not so blessed and whose access to the solace of nature is limited. That's where land conservancies are making a difference. Providing places for people to experience nature nearby in troubled times seems at least as important as this economic plan or that political proposal. It won't do us much good to repair our economy and politics if we fail to mend our souls.

Thus, my dedication to Heart of the Lakes remains strong. I am proud to be associated with people and groups working to ensure that no one suffers for lack of nature nearby. I am glad to serve a cause that promotes balance, sanity, health and wholeness.

And so I am grateful to all those kindred spirits who support our cause. Thank you board, staff, and member conservancies who carry the torch for conservation. Thank you generous institutions, foundations and individuals who provide funds to keep us going. Thank you all who care.

To those whose longing for kinship with nature is unfulfilled, your needs are not forgotten. Caring souls are working to see that all in Michigan will be able to rest for a time where sky, water, trees, and wild creatures can quench our souls' thirst for wildness, for nature, for balance and for solace.

From the President



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Bailey".

Tom Bailey,
President

Land Conservation Policy

Hearth of the Lakes is the policy voice for Michigan's land conservancies. Core to our mission, Heart of the Lakes works to educate state and federal policymakers on issues critical to land conservancies. In 2009, through research and outreach, Heart of the Lakes helped to shape and advocate for sound policies that advance land conservation in Michigan.

Farmland Preservation Funding

Heart of the Lakes urged the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to improve administration and increase funding for Michigan through the Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program (FRPP). A Farm Bill program, FRPP's purpose is to limit non-agricultural uses of critical agricultural land. Heart of the Lakes supported routing FRPP funds through the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program to streamline preservation efforts. Now, local governments and conservancies have the convenient option to work through the state to apply for FRPP dollars.

Heart of the Lakes, along with American Farmland Trust and Land Trust Alliance, strongly advocated for FRPP rules clarification on the federal government's role as a facilitator, funder, and enforcer of conservation easements and the reevaluation of the FRPP certification process. The USDA is expected to finalize the amended FRPP rules at the end of January 2010.

Heart of the Lakes also partnered with the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan Farm Bureau, and the Michigan Legislature in introducing legislation to increase funding for farmland preservation. HB 4158 (Rep. Jeff Mayes, D-Bay City) provides incentive for landowners to pay back liens acquired by dropping out of the state's PA 116 program. The \$12.8 million in revenue potentially captured by HB 4158 would be directed into the state's Farmland Preservation Program, boosting dollars for farmland preservation. Heart of the Lakes will continue to work with the Michigan Legislature to pass this important legislation in 2010.

Federal Conservation Easement Tax Incentive

Heart of the Lakes worked with its member land conservancies and the Land Trust Alliance to encourage Michigan Congressional delegation support for legislation that would make the enhanced federal tax deduction for qualified conservation easements permanent. Thirteen of 15 Michigan members of the House of Representatives signed on as co-sponsors of H.R. 1831 and Senators Levin and Stabenow co-sponsored S. 812.

The incentive expired at the end of 2009, but it is very likely that Congress will renew the incentive for at least another year and make it retroactive to January 1, 2010. Heart of the Lakes will continue to advocate for making the enhanced incentives permanent in 2010 as Congress deliberates tax items – any of which could become vehicles for the extension – early in the year.



Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

Heart of the Lakes was a leading voice for expediting the appropriations process for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) in 2009. Heart of the Lakes successfully urged state appropriations committees to pass the MNRTF appropriations bill quickly, ensuring that land acquisition and public recreation development projects could begin expeditiously throughout the state.

Heart of the Lakes also spoke out against proposals to redirect the MNRTF for other purposes. The MNRTF is constitutionally protected to purchase land or rights in land for public recreation or because of its environmental importance or its scenic beauty. It also assists in the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation. While conservancies are not eligible for MNRTF grants, they often help local units of government and the State of Michigan acquire important lands.

Pop-up Tax Exemptions for Land Donations Made by Will

In 2006, Heart of the Lakes championed the passage of PA 446, exempting transfers of lands with conservation easements and qualified conservation contributions from a "pop-up" in property taxes. What remained unclear, however, was whether a conservation donation or easement created after death would be exempt from a pop-up in property taxes if it transferred to a beneficiary after death.

To answer this question, Heart of the Lakes worked with Senator Michelle McManus (R-Lake Leelanau) to request an Attorney General Opinion. A.G. Opinion #7233 ruled a conservation easement or qualified conservation donation must be donated before death in order to be exempt from a property tax "pop-up."

In light of this ruling, Heart of the Lakes is currently working with Senator McManus on legislation that would allow the creation of a conservation easement or donation by will to be exempted from a pop-up in property tax. 🌿

Advancing Conservancy Excellence

2009 marked the second year for the Advancing Conservancy Excellence (ACE) program, a partnership project between Heart of the Lakes and the Land Trust Alliance to help Michigan conservancies prepare for national accreditation.

Eighteen land conservancies were accepted into the ACE program, which provides technical assistance, advancement grants, training, and mentoring support.

Achieving national standards and accreditation are drivers of the ACE program. To date, four Michigan land conservancies have received accreditation. ACE provides direct support for the detailed and lengthy process of applying for accreditation in addition to training and other organizational needs. "ACE was an important factor in our decision to apply in 2009," said Doug Koop, Executive Director of the Little Forks Conservancy, the most recent conservancy to apply, "With that additional support, we were able to commit personnel and financial resources to the accreditation process."

But ACE also has the goal of transforming the state's land conservancies into a high-performing, sustainable and cohesive conservation community with training, mentoring, and new collaborations previously unavailable to Michigan conservancies. For Heart of the Lakes, ACE expands our role as a statewide conservancy service center, a source of expertise and information on issues of importance to conservancies working in Michigan.

The following are just some of the activities undertaken in the past year by Heart of the Lakes through the ACE program and in our role as a statewide service center.

Trainings

In 2009, Heart of the Lakes launched *Ask An Attorney*, a monthly one-hour conference call for conservancy staff and volunteers, featuring knowledgeable Michigan attorneys to increase legal knowledge and "raise the bar" for conservation practices in Michigan. The popular call series was expanded to include other land transaction experts such as appraisers.

Fundraising in the New Economic Reality was a one-day ACE training presented by a nationally-known fundraising consultant in the spring of 2009. Webinars were added to reach members throughout Michigan, including *Determining Stewardship Costs* (in partnership with the Stewardship Network and the Land Trust Alliance) and *Being a Land Trustee*, a program specifically developed for board members of land conservancies participating in ACE.

Peer-to-Peer Mentoring and Consultation

Through ACE, we initiated a *Peer-to-Peer Mentoring* program in 2009. In 2010, 24 staff and board members of Michigan conservancies will receive travel and other expense reimbursements as they visit and learn from peers at other conservancies who share similar job or leadership responsibilities.

Michigan Land Conservancies Participating in ACE

Cadillac Area Land Conservancy
Chippewa Watershed Conservancy
Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy**
HeadWaters Land Conservancy
Keweenaw Land Trust
Land Conservancy of West Michigan
Leelanau Conservancy**
Legacy Land Conservancy**
Little Forks Conservancy*
Little Traverse Conservancy
Livingston Land Conservancy
Michigan Nature Association
Mid Michigan Land Conservancy
North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy
Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy
Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy
Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy

** Accredited land conservancy

* Accreditation application has been submitted to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

Informally, mentoring and consultation services occur on a daily basis, as ACE program staff is recognized as a knowledgeable and credible source of information on a wide variety of conservancy topics.

Collaboration and Partnerships

Through regional meetings, we fostered collaboration and partnerships among Michigan land conservancies to advance and strengthen the land conservation community as a whole and explore specific topics of interest. For example, conservancies serving southeast Michigan convened with Detroit conservation groups to explore development of a shared regional vision to guide strategic conservation efforts in that part of the state. That work will continue in 2010.

Organizational Assessments/Advancement Grants

Tailored resources and assistance are provided to all conservancies accepted into the ACE program. We conducted extremely thorough organizational assessments to measure individual conservancy's practices against Land Trust Standards and Practices. *Continued on next page*

Conservation and Policy Research

Hearth of the Lakes researches policy and land conservation issues, offering credible resources that inform public policy and guide model conservation practices for the benefit of our members, our partners, and their land protection goals. We connect the environmental importance of land conservation to the economic significance of ensuring the sustainability of our state's thriving land-based industries – agriculture, tourism, and forestry.

Farmland Preservation Initiative

Heart of the Lakes completed the first phase of our Farmland Preservation Initiative and released a report entitled *Protecting Michigan's Agriculture Future*. Through this project, Heart of the Lakes made the case for farmland protection, assessed the land-based assets that farmland provides the state, documented case studies on local funding strategies, and outlined farmland preservation programs available to practitioners. Recommended policy action concluded the report, which can be downloaded at www.heartofthelakes.org.

As part of the Farmland Preservation Initiative, a GIS mapping tool was developed for conservancies to view agricultural land use throughout the state and to use as a decision-making aide for strategic land protection.

The Farmland Preservation Initiative also provided Heart of the Lakes with a fundamental understanding of the spatial and statistical data needs that exist for land conservancies and our conservation partners. We will be working with our members as well as state, federal, and nonprofit partners in 2010 to provide additional data resources and advocate for land use policy that will further protection of Michigan's farmland.

Strategic Conservation Visioning and Planning Initiative

Heart of the Lakes, on a daily basis, continues to play a leadership role in researching key conservation and policy issues and assessing their impact on land conservation and importance to our members.



Photo: Leelanau Conservancy

As we look to the future, we recognize that understanding where the most important lands for protection are located and on what criteria we base land protection "importance" and prioritization is essential to conservation practitioners. Given limited resources, now, more than ever, we must make land protection decisions that provide the biggest long-term bang for our conservation dollars. We must protect the lands that will have the greatest, lasting conservation impacts on Michigan's ecological, social, and economic health.

In 2009, Heart of the Lakes began developing a new Strategic Conservation Visioning and Planning Initiative. Knowledge gained through past and existing programs and through a convening with partners has provided the foundation for this new initiative that will support the conservation of Michigan's vital land resources.

Understanding how state, federal, local government, and nonprofit entities around the state prioritize and target conservation efforts could provide the needed foundation for collective, strategic conservation planning and a unified conservation vision that we can all work toward in 2010 and beyond. For more information, visit www.heartofthelakes.org 🌿

Advancing Conservancy Excellence *(Continued from previous page)*

ACE Implementation Plans were developed for each conservancy to determine implementation steps and needed resources, including advancement grants, to fully comply with the standards. Twelve out of 18 conservancies participating in the ACE program reached the advancement grants stage in 2009.

Other Support Services

In addition to launching tools such as the *Conservancy Clearinghouse* and *Service Providers Directory* on our new website this year (www.heartofthelakes.org), Heart of the Lakes conducted a benefits survey to help organizations

compare their staff's medical and other benefits packages against other conservancies throughout the state.

Land protection specialists and attorneys from around the state provided their expertise to revise the Michigan Model Conservation Easement, an important template conservancies use when drafting conservation easements. *A Practitioner's Guide to the Michigan Model* is also underway.

In 2010, Heart of the Lakes will continue to work with ACE-participating conservancies to help them meet national standards of excellence. We will also offer expanded training opportunities and implement our new peer mentoring program. 🌿

Communications

In 2009, Heart of the Lakes continued to synthesize and communicate Michigan land conservation issues to our members and the land conservation community.

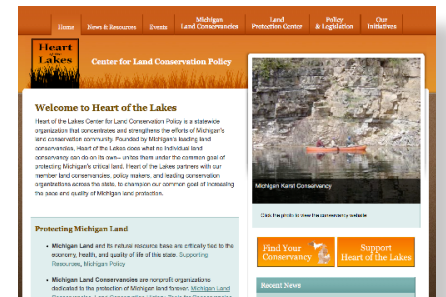
Heart of the Lakes issued monthly e-updates, which regularly recount current policy action, highlight upcoming training opportunities, feature conservancy news updates, and provide guidance and resources to our readers.

We also proudly launched a new website, a key communication tool that solidifies our online presence as a trusted source for information on Michigan land conservation issues. Features such as the *Land Protection Center* offer relevant tools to bolster our member land conservancies' conservation efforts. A *Policy and Legislation* section keeps our members and supporters up to date on Heart of the Lakes efforts in state and federal policy action. Heart of the Lakes research and communications are featured on the site as well, offering credible resources that inform public policy and guide model conservation practices for the benefit of our members, our partners, and their land protection goals. Visit the new site at www.heartofthelakes.org.

Also in 2009, we expanded our *Friends of Heart of the Lakes* fundraising campaign, which appeals to individuals and organizations to join the efforts of Heart of the Lakes as we support our land conservancy members.

Heart of the Lakes continued publication of our quarterly newsletter, which keeps our members, partners, supporters, and policymakers informed about Michigan land conservation issues, and hosted our Fifth Annual Summit, which drew our largest participation level to date.

In 2010, Heart of the Lakes will continue to produce informative and relevant web- and print-based publications and tools to increase land protection awareness, advance public policy, and keep our members up to date on best practices. 🌿



2008 - 2009 Financial Report

Heart of the Lakes entered the fiscal year with an opening balance of \$278,366, the majority of which consisted of restricted funds for specific programs including Advancing Conservancy Excellence, our Farmland Preservation Initiative and our Communications Program. Having spent down the remaining balances of these restricted grant funds, Heart of the Lakes anticipated a negative net income for the fiscal year.

Heart of the Lakes' total income for the year was \$351,129, of which 59% was restricted to programs. Of the \$133,129 in funds available for general purposes, 80% came from large donors or foundations. The remainder includes membership dues, events and other individual donations. In 2009, Heart of the Lakes expanded our *Friends* program to grow and diversify unrestricted support from individuals and businesses.

Financial Position as of September 30, 2009*

Assets		Income		Expenses	
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 129,829	Events	\$ 7,677	Program Related	\$ 429,156
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ (27,209)	Gifts	\$ 10,549	General Operations	\$ 97,719
Total Assets	\$ 102,620	Restricted Grants	\$ 218,000	Total Expenses	\$ 526,875
Liabilities and Equity		Unrestricted Grants	\$ 100,750	Net Income	\$ (175,746)
Retained earnings	\$ 278,366	Interest	\$ 316		
Net Income (loss)	\$ (175,746)	Dues	\$ 13,837		
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 102,620	Total Income	\$ 351,129		

* Heart of the Lakes' fiscal year runs from October 1 – September 30. We use cash based reporting. Accrual based reports would generate significantly different totals specifically affecting restricted vs. unrestricted net assets and net income. The 2008-2009 FY budget anticipated a negative net income.

Friends of Heart of the Lakes

Heart of the Lakes appreciates the foundation, corporate and individual support we received in 2009! This support allows us to continue to concentrate and strengthen the efforts of Michigan's land conservancy community and effectively increase the pace and quality of land conservation in Michigan. Together, we all can permanently protect our Michigan land for the benefit of our communities, and for generations to come.

Please consider supporting Heart of the Lakes, to permanently protect the Michigan land we love.

Peninsula Society of Heart of the Lakes

(Gifts of \$10,000 or more)

Jim Offield (Offield Family Foundation)

John Woollam (J.A. Woollam Foundation)

Corporate Friends of Heart of the Lakes

Center for Applied Environmental Research at UM-Flint

Consumers Energy Meijer, Inc.

MSU Land Policy Institute
Public Policy Associates
Public Sector Consultants

The Nature Conservancy in Michigan
Treemore Ecology & Land Service
Williams & Associates, Inc.
Yankee Appraisal Associates

Foundation Supporters

Americana Foundation
Consumers Energy Foundation
C.S. Mott Foundation
H.H. and G.A. Dow Foundation
The Kresge Foundation
The Frey Foundation
Wege Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Friends of Heart of the Lakes

Frank Aiello
Katie Anderson
Tom Bailey
Donald & Mary Brown
Glen Chown
Dave & Maggie Coleman
Michael Dow
Jeremy Emmi
John Erb
James Fitzpatrick
Ellen Fred
Jim & Linda Gregart
Robert Grover
Erin Heskett
Scott Howard
Heather Huffstutler
Debbie Igleheart

Bruce Jones
Stephen Kelley
Barry Lonik
G. Tracy Mehan
Mark Paddock
Todd Parker
Virginia Pierce
Brian Price
Dick & Posie Shuster
Charity Steere
Paul Steiner
John & Constance Tatum
Helen Taylor
Pete Ter Louw
Diane Vander Veen
Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy
Brad Whaley
Mark Williams
John & Marylou Zaloudek

Heart of the Lakes Friends List updated as of January 13, 2010
We sincerely apologize for any omissions

About Us



Heart of the Lakes Staff

(Top row, left to right)

Meredith Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Julie Stoneman, Director of Conservancy Services

Katherine Kahl, Ph. D., Director of Conservation and Policy Research

(Bottom row, left to right)

Abby Brengle, Communications Coordinator

Rachel Kuntzsch, Executive Director

David Kuntzsch, Director of Finance and Operations

Heart of the Lakes Board of Directors

Tom Bailey, President
Executive Director,
Little Traverse Conservancy

Glen Chown, Vice President

Executive Director,
Grand Traverse Regional
Land Conservancy

**Jeremy Emmi, Secretary/
Treasurer**
Executive Director,
Michigan Nature Association

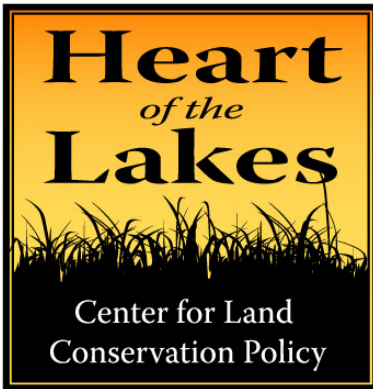
Erin Heskett
Midwest Director,
Land Trust Alliance

Susan Lackey
Executive Director,
Legacy Land Conservancy

Brian Price
Executive Director,
Leelanau Conservancy

Helen Taylor
State Director, The Nature
Conservancy in Michigan

Peter Ter Louw
Executive Director,
Southwest Michigan Land
Conservancy



300 N. Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

517.925.8649
info@heartofthelakes.org
www.heartofthelakes.org

Member Land Conservancies

Cadillac Area Land Conservancy
Chikaming Open Lands
Chippewa Watershed Conservancy
Grand Traverse Regional Land
Conservancy
Great Lakes Bioregional Land Conservancy
Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy
HeadWaters Land Conservancy
Keweenaw Land Trust
Land Conservancy of West Michigan
Leelanau Conservancy
Legacy Land Conservancy
Little Forks Conservancy
Little Traverse Conservancy
Livingston Land Conservancy
Michigan Karst Conservancy
Michigan Nature Association
Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy
North Oakland Headwaters Land
Conservancy
Raisin Valley Land Trust
Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy
Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy
Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
The Conservation Fund
The Dahlem Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy in Michigan

Associate Members

Land Trust Alliance - Midwest
LandChoices
Michigan Natural Areas Council

Heart of the Lakes Mission

Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy supports the work of Michigan land conservancies by researching conservation policy and practice, advocating sound public policies, and providing tools to strengthen conservancy effectiveness. Our efforts help to conserve and protect the most valuable natural, scenic, recreational, and agricultural lands that have been and continue to be vital to Michigan's economic and environmental prosperity.



Printed on recycled content