HeadWaters is so thankful once again for the opportunity to double your dollars and double the impact! The J.A. Woollam Foundation has generously pledged to match every dollar raised up to $40,000—that’s $10,000 more than in 2016!

In order for your gift to be doubled, it must meet one of the following requirements:
- Donation must be larger than your last gift, if even by one dollar!
- Any gift of $500 or more
- Any new member donations (ask a friend to join HWLC!)
- Any lapsed donations (if a donation was not made in 2016 but was made in years prior)

Your DOUBLED donation will help us:
- Connect the very young and very old to nature with our wildlife exhibit
- Steward our 83 Conservation Easements and 4 Nature Preserves
- Identify the most significant lands in our 11 county service area
- Protect natural landscapes and working farms and forests
Have you ever gotten a song or an artist stuck in your head? It’s not always a good thing, especially if it’s a song you hate, lingering in your mind after a trip to the store where you heard the muzak version. Yuck!

I’ve had a very different experience in rediscovering an artist I never cared for in the past but have grown to love. I’m talking about John Denver. With streaming music services, I’ve listened to his entire career’s work, and find myself revisiting the same core set of his songs, over and over again. My husband can attest to this as an every-weekend occurrence, blaring from the surround sound speakers.

So why this recent obsession? I finally had to ask myself the same question and there is more than one reason for this affinity. First, the message of conservation and love for the earth goes to the core of my beliefs. Songs like The Eagle & The Hawk, Calypso, Take Me Home Country Roads and Wild Montana Skies strike my heart just like I’m out in nature experiencing those very things while I’m listening! Denver had a keen sense of how finite our resources really are and even his own mortality of a life that ended far too soon. His ability to marry the natural world so intimately with his personal relationships made for some beautiful lyrics.

Second, he spoke to all people in their own voice; hippies, farmers, ranchers, ski bums, sportsmen, lovers, parents, conservationists and naturalists. His joyous expression of living on this earth, even with environmental crisis coming to the forefront, give the listener a warm feeling of hope.

Just THIS week my mind has been filled with worries about Michigan ground water extraction, the safety of Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac, the seemingly imminent defunding of the EPA and programs like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and developments along the Au Sable River that could lead to contamination of the Holy Waters. I don’t suspect any of these issues will resolve in a positive way without our collective voices, consistently and insistently demanding changes that protect this earth and the little blue speck that represents Michigan.

In this pursuit, let’s do our best to be like John Denver. Find the right words, weave them together beautifully, fill your heart with passion and compassion, and sing loudly so even those who are far away can hear your voice. And thank you for being a part of the good that is happening every day.

**An Excerpt from Calypso by John Denver:**

*To sail on a dream on a crystal clear ocean*

*To ride on the crest of a wild raging storm*

*To work in the service of life and living*

*In search of the answers to the questions unknown*

*To be part of the movement and part of the growing*

*Part of beginning to understand*
Hess PRESERVE

Thank You:

- George and Ursula Hess for donating the land
- Twyman Family for the $7,500 match grant
- HWLC supporters

Located on the Lake Huron shoreline less than 10 miles northwest of Rogers City, the 13-acre Hess Preserve is a gem. With over 600 feet on Lake Huron, the property includes four natural community elements and is representative of the significant biodiversity present in this northern Lake Huron coastal region.

This unique ecosystem is home to rare plants such as Lake Huron tansy, butterwort, and English sundew. The property has a documented population of the federally and state threatened Houghton’s goldenrod, and there is potential for endangered Hines emerald dragonfly, state special concern eastern massasauga rattlesnake, and others to be present as well.

The Hess Preserve is located on Evergreen Highway and is open daily to the public for low-impact recreation such as hiking or bird watching, although it is very wet during spring thaw and after heavy rains.

“The richness of this area of northern Michigan shoreline is important, and I would urge strong consideration be given to this opportunity to protect a representative and diverse set of Great Lakes features in perpetuity.”

Michael R. Penskar, former Lead Botanist for Michigan Natural Features Inventory
TREETOPS Trifecta

Great Lakes Endurance hosted the inaugural Treetops Trifecta in November at Treetops Resort. The weekend of trail running included a 5K, Hill Climb, and Half Marathon. The trail at Sturgeon River Preserve was included in the half marathon course, and Great Lakes Endurance donated $5 per entry to HWLC!

CHRISTMAS is for the Birds

A “birding” event held at the Otsego County Library in December 2016 included a short presentation on birds that stay in Michigan during the winter months. Then it was on to making many different bird feeders to hang in our yards for the birds during the cold, snowy winter in northern Michigan.

OWL Prowl

HeadWaters Land Conservancy partnered with the Pigeon River Discovery Center for an Owl Prowl on Saturday, March 11. Over 40 people came to this wonderful event where we dissected owl pellets, made an owl craft and listened to speaker, Ed Pike from Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch.
HeadWaters Land Conservancy
2017 SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 22 - 10:00am-3:00pm
Earth Day Recycling Fair at Jay’s Sporting Goods Headwaters Room

May TBD
Bird & Wildlife Hike at Wakeley Lake-Grayling

May 31 - 6:30pm
Conservation Easement Presentation at Otsego County Library

June 24
Art in the Garden-Otsego Conservation District

July 8 - 10:00am
Nature Scavenger Hunt at Sturgeon River Preserve

July 22
Otsego County BioBlitz at Aspen Park

August 5
HeadWaters Appreciation Picnic-location TBD

August 26
5TH Annual Hotshots for HeadWaters Fundraiser at Lewiston Sportsmen’s League

Wildlife EXHIBIT

HeadWaters Land Conservancy has a wonderful "travelling wildlife exhibit." The animal pelts and antlers were enjoyed by residents at Tendercare and The Brook, both located in Gaylord, Michigan.
STEWARDSHIP AND OUTREACH ASSISTANT
Internship Opportunity:

HeadWaters Land Conservancy is seeking a full-time intern to help our organization with land stewardship and outreach events during the busy summer season. The Stewardship and Outreach Assistant will monitor conservation easements and help manage HWLC’s nature preserves by maintaining trails, installing signs, marking boundaries, and other stewardship tasks both in and out of the office. The intern will also participate in the planning and implementation of volunteer and outreach events at HWLC nature preserves and elsewhere in our service area. This internship is an opportunity to acquire hands-on experience in all aspects of a nonprofit land trust, especially stewardship and community engagement. This is a 14-week position from mid-May to mid-August, actual start and end dates are negotiable. Intern will receive a biweekly stipend. This internship may be used for college credit as permitted by the school. Please send resume and cover letter to Libby Gunderson, LGunderson@headwatersconservancy.org.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Completed or working towards a bachelor’s degree in natural resources management, environmental science, or related field
- Basic navigation skills (Map, compass, GPS unit)
- Outgoing and self-motivated with the ability to work independently or as a team
- Communicate effectively with a wide variety of people, including kids and seniors
- Computer efficiency (email, MS Office, online research)
- Comfortable working alone in remote wooded areas
- Reliable transportation and valid driver’s license preferred

1ST ANNUAL Earth Day Recycling Fair
SATURDAY, APRIL 22
10:00AM-3:00PM
JAY’S SPORTING GOODS
HEADWATERS ROOM & LOBBY - GAYLORD -

- Exhibits by local youth using RECYCLED items—bring your pennies and vote for your favorite!
- Habitat for Humanity, Goodwill, and Salvation Army will have tables of items to show what they collect!
- Workshops by local crafters showing what you can make with RECYCLED goods. FREE!
- Silent Auction of REPURPOSED items!
- This is not a recycling collection event.

SPONSORED BY:
HEADWATERS LAND CONSERVANCY,
OTSEGO COUNTY AND
JAY’S SPORTING GOODS
A LASTING LEGACY
The Life of Roger Rasmussen

When I was interviewed for my position with HeadWaters, I was asked one of the toughest questions I'd ever had to consider: "At the end of your career with HeadWaters, what will your legacy be?" I answered honestly and said that I wasn't sure I would ever be able to accomplish enough to deserve a "legacy" but I would strive for that noble goal. I went home that evening thinking, these people are VERY serious about what they do! Fortunately I was hired by HeadWaters and soon had the chance to meet Roger Rasmussen, the man who truly did leave a legacy.

Roger was a founding Board Member of HeadWaters Land Conservancy. He was part of our organization until only a few months before he passed away on December 4th at the age of 97. Roger served HeadWaters in countless ways including as a board member, generous financial donor, in conservation easement procurement, field work, and as a teacher. It still amazes me that Roger was actively field monitoring conservation easements at the age of 93! And I don't mean land inspection from behind the dashboard! He was out walking through fields and forests, having the occasional lunch meeting with the CE donors who loved speaking with him about their land. He was enthralled with the natural world.

Roger served as the Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, chaired the Timber Bridge Initiative overseeing 30 bridge projects, was an advisor in the development of the Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve, and responsible for most of the mature red and jack pine plantings in Otsego, Antrim and Charlevoix Counties. Roger also dedicated much of his time to Huron Pines, playing an integral role in preserving the Beal Plantation in Grayling. Planted in 1888 by Professor W. J. Beal of the Michigan Agricultural College, the Plantation is the oldest documented plantation in the Midwest.

I spoke to Roger's son Jim shortly after he passed away. Jim told me about the love Roger always had for HeadWaters and the enormous pride it gave him to be a member of this organization. When the two of them would drive around northeast Michigan, Roger would point out each conservation easement he worked on and explain all the unique and wonderful things about the property, and the owners.

Per Roger’s end of life request, Jim has asked that all donations in his honor be directed to HeadWaters. A gift to have bestowed upon us! What an honor! Many people have given in Roger’s name already and it’s humbling to see such an outpouring of appreciation for a life well-lived, full of purpose, generosity, dedication and preservation. A true legacy.
HeadWaters Land Conservancy

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Recycle your newsletter
~ Pass it on!

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NEW COMPUTER SOFTWARE AT Headwaters Land Conservancy!

Our new donor management system is up and running! As with all new software, there is a learning curve, but we’re excited to have some great new tools at our fingertips.

We will continue to mail Currents, but our new software makes it easy to stay in touch via email between issues. To add your email address or update your phone number or mailing address, please contact Judy Koronka, Development & Outreach Coordinator at 989-731-0573 or jkoronka@headwatersconservancy.org.

HeadWaters Land Conservancy is LOOKING for dependable, passionate people to join our committees!

Do you have a little spare time?
Do you love working with like-minded people?
Do you have a passion for the outdoors?
We are looking for you!

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:
• Hotshots for Headwaters in August
• Wine/Art Fundraiser in September
• Brainstorm new fundraising ideas.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:
• Organizing and working at existing outreach events in Otsego County
• Brainstorm and organize new outreach events for the other 10 counties we serve.

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