A Fall Harvest of Opportunity

BY LAURA JUSTIN
Executive Director

Although the very beginning of autumn often gives me the blues, by the 3rd week of September, I’ve embraced the season and realize I may actually love it most of all. Walking through the woods takes on an almost spiritual quality with the unbelievable colors and earthy smells that make you smile from ear to ear. Sweaters, weekend naps, baking, harvesting, canning and having more time to spend with friends and family, are all gifts of this season.

HeadWaters is often busiest in the fall. Monitoring each conservation easement property is now complete but the paperwork is just beginning. Each conservation easement donation or preserve acquisition takes months or sometimes years to complete. The work we did on the land now has to be refined into legal documents and reviewed many times by staff and donors. Fall is also a time for planning for the year ahead and reaching out to donors for their support. It is all part of the flow of work through the seasons, ensuring we are always moving forward in a positive direction.

We are very fortunate to have a bounty of projects nearing completion. You will hear all the details once the work is finalized but I can give you a sneak peek into the future:

• HeadWaters will soon be adding a very rare piece of Lake Huron shoreline as a Preserve once funding is acquired to complete the project. The land has been studied by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory and is considered a critically important example of biodiversity in the Great Lakes.

• A family trust is working toward final plans for their 150 acres of farmland and forests in the southern reaches of our 11 county service area. This conservation easement will add 2,300 feet of protected shoreline to the existing 31 miles already conserved by HeadWaters and our many dedicated landowners, in perpetuity.

• Densely forested and wild property along the North Branch of the Au Sable will soon be protected. This is some truly beautiful land but the amount of river frontage it includes is staggering at more than 3,600 feet!

• The Michi-Lu-Ca Preserve continues to evolve and excitement is building for future plans and activities on this stunning piece of property. There is an update on page 5.

Please enjoy this season of opportunity, beauty, and abundance with the people you love doing exactly what makes you happiest! As always, we are grateful for each and every one of you! We give thanks for everything that you do for HeadWaters and northeast Michigan!
HOTSHOTS for HEADWATERS
Sporting Clays FUNDRAISER

Over 50 shooters joined HWLC on the sporting clays course at the picturesque Lewiston Sportsmen’s League to raise money for land conservation in northeast Michigan. With the help of our shooters and sponsors, we brought in $12,000! This support will help HWLC continue to preserve land for wildlife, sportsmen, and outdoor enthusiasts for generations to come.

Michigan Out-of-Doors TV joined us at this year’s Hotshots for HeadWaters to capture the action. The footage will air next summer to help HWLC promote our 4th Annual Sporting Clays Fundraiser. Tune in to Michigan Out-of-Doors on PBS for this and other great segments!

HWLC is very grateful for the generous support of our station sponsors and those who donated goods for our silent auction and prize packages.

Thank you…

- Jeffress-Dyer, Inc.
- Chemical Bank
- Feeny Chrysler Jeep Dodge of Gaylord
- Deep Woods Lodge
- Badrock Woodworking
- Nolan’s Tobacco
- Grandpa Mittens Workshop
- Jay’s Sporting Goods
- Bensigner, Cotant & Menkes, P.C.
- Monarch Welding & Engineering
- G&H Custom Rods
- Gaylord Eye Care Center
- Sheridan Valley Homes
- Big Creek Lodge
- Huron Veterinary Clinic
- Sunrise Gardens & Grains
- Ryguelski’s IGA
- Prou’s Auto
- Adrian’s Sport Shop
- The Supina Family
- Jerry Smith
- Rich Wimmer
- Fred Heine
- John Dallas
- Robb Smith
Thank You to all of our Sponsors!

JEFFRESS-DYER, INC.
REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL & CONSULTING

FEENY
GAYLORD

CHEMICAL
BANK

JAY’S
SPORTING GOODS
CLARE • GAYLORD

Bensinger, Cotant & Mennes, P.C.
316 W. Main, Gaylord, MI 49735
(989) 734-5196 • Bensinger.com
Every summer, HeadWaters hosts a picnic as a way to thank our volunteers and supporters for their dedication to land protection. This year, HWLC had the opportunity to host the gathering at what will become our new nature preserve, the former site of Camp Michi-Lu-Ca. HWLC grilled burgers and brats and guests brought a dish to pass. While everyone ate, HWLC Chairman John Dallas and Executive Director Laura Justin took a few moments to reflect on the year. John Woollam, Chairman of the J.A. Woollam Foundation, spoke about his love for the area and his desire to protect the property. After lunch, guests accompanied Land Protection Specialist Libby Benjamin on a tour of the land to see the forests, wetlands, and lakes. Everyone agreed Michi-Lu-Ca is a beautiful, diverse property worth protecting. HWLC looks forward to sharing the Michi-Lu-Ca property with the public when restoration is completed in 2016 or 2017.
The J.A. Woollam Foundation is in the process of transforming Michi-Lu-Ca from summer camp to nature preserve. In the past few months, the property has undergone a full environmental assessment and necessary remediation has been completed. Hazardous outdoor structures like docks and boardwalks have been removed and the property has been surveyed for invasive plants, with plans for treatment in 2016. HeadWaters and the J.A. Woollam Foundation are in close contact as this exciting project progresses, and have begun to develop restoration plans for what will be former building sites.

Michi-Lu-Ca contains so much diversity within its 360 acres – 4 lakes, a small stream, and numerous wetland and forest types. As a nature preserve, this biodiversity will be protected, and native flora and fauna will flourish. Michi-Lu-Ca will also function as a living classroom, where HWLC can work with the public to foster an appreciation and understanding of our natural environment. The property offers a wealth of opportunities for activities and events.

A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE IDEAS:

- Spring bird watching hikes
- Trail cameras and nest cameras
- Photography contests
- Tree plantings
- Annual lake surveys and macroinvertebrate counts
- Participate in Michigan’s citizen science programs, including:
  - Vernal Pool mapping and monitoring
  - Michigan Herp Atlas Project
  - Michigan Frog and Toad Survey
  - MI-MAST Wildlife Food Tracker
- WINTER ACTIVITIES – snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, wildlife track ID
- NIGHTTIME ACTIVITIES – owl calling, storytelling, and stargazing
- Northeast Michigan wildlife exhibit
After long careers working to protect Michigan’s natural resources in Lansing, it should come as no surprise that Don Inman and Virginia Pierce chose to retire in rural northern Michigan, where they live with their dog, “Wood,” surrounded by trees, water, and wildlife. The couple purchased the property in 1994 and protected the majority with a Conservation Easement (CE) in 2003. In 2011, they donated a second CE. All told, the Kelsey Lake Conservation Easements protect 495 acres, including 25 acre Kelsey Lake. Don and Virginia live on their Presque Isle County property year-round and make full use of it—they hunt, fish, bird watch, and harvest berries and mushrooms. The 1,000+ acre hunt clubs that were once so common in Presque Isle County are slowly but surely being split up and sold. By placing their land in a CE with HeadWaters, Don and Virginia can be confident their diverse Kelsey Lake parcel will remain intact in perpetuity.

Longtime HeadWaters supporters, Virginia serves as Treasurer on HWLC’s Board of Directors, and Don is a Director Emeritus. Both are always thinking of new ways to support conservation efforts in Michigan, and Don’s idea to host a fishing contest at their property is no exception. By hosting this event, they could share the Kelsey Lake experience with HWLC supporters while raising money for the organization that protects the land they love. The Hooked on HeadWaters Fishing Contest FUNdraiser was born.

Participants were treated to a full day of catch-and-release fishing on Kelsey Lake. Don and Virginia provided lunch and dinner, and HWLC awarded prizes for most fish and biggest fish. Fred Culvahouse reeled in the largest fish, a 16” largemouth bass. Heather Ward won for most fish, she brought in 21 bluegills and 4 bass.

Time spent on Kelsey Lake is always well spent. A perfect July day spent on Kelsey Lake with wonderful people, good food, and fishing, simply can’t be beat.

The Hooked on HeadWaters Fishing Contest FUNdraiser raised $1,700 to help fulfill HWLC’s mission of preserving significant land in northeast Michigan. Thank you, Don and Virginia!
HWLC’s work is completely funded by the generosity of private donors. The following gifts were given between October 16, 2014 and November 1, 2015. Thank you!

### Watershed Guardians ($10,000 and up)
- J.A. Woollam Foundation
- Great Lakes Fishery Trust

### River Guardians ($5,000 - $9,999)
- John and Jane Dallas
- James and Carolyn Schenden
- James and Christine Supina

### Stream Guardians ($1,000 - $4,999)
- David and Elaine Billmire
- Thomas Buhr
- Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan
- Bill and Pat Duncanson
- Glen and Martha Eberly
- Doug and Sandra Elser
- Jim Knox and Jo Gallico
- Mary Oakley
- Keith Krause
- Pam and C. Thomas Holbrook
- Christian Kranz
- Richard Kranz
- Gary Neumann
- William and Marcia Otto
- Dan Franks
- Juli Jordan
- Charlie and Janene Lough
- Charles and Yvonne Meehan

### Guardians ($250 - $499)
- Rev. Brian and Elizabeth Chace
- Michael and Sandra Clark
- David Eberly
- Steven Gardner
- Teresa and Kevin Grunzweig
- Heart of the Lakes
- Frederick Heine
- Don Hinkel
- Neil and Mary Hodges
- Clauda Fischer and Roger Holliday
- Joseph and Judith Jarecki
- Jeremy and Lois Jones
- Laura and Curtis Justin
- Robert and Emily Kemmitz
- Ed and Claudia Kulin
- William and Marietta Kusey
- Allen Lavigne
- LPL Financial Foundation
- Gordon and Vernie Nethercut
- James Peterson
- Kip and Wendy Petherick
- David Pottinger and Faye Peterson Pottinger
- Jake Shinnors
- Jerry and Linda Smith
- Lori Beale
- Douglas and Julie Beegick
- Glenn and Maryanne Belyea
- Bennethum's Northern Inn
- Roland and Carol Bernbeck
- Jeffrey Bluhm
- Charles and Nedra Borders
- Jerry Boron
- Brady Borycki
- Robert and Margaret Boshoven
- Fay Bovee
- David and Carol Bricker
- Robert and Dale Burnett
- Paul Bush
- Denise Cameron
- Tom and Elaine Carlson
- Martin Carpenter
- Edward Cavaney
- Jan Chapman
- Dr. John Colwell
- Frank and Elsa Corral
- Dallas Culvahouse and James Vanek
- Rob DePiere
- Jeff and Susan Diehr
- Dolores Drath Trust
- Mike and Darlene Dombrowski
- Carolyn Duncanson
- Patrick Dwyer
- Scot Egleston
- Allen Ehrlich
- Joan Ehrmantraut
- Emmett's Energy
- Kathleen Fay
- Roger and Mary Fechner
- Gary and Gretchen Fedus
- Mark Foucher and Carol Marston-Foucher
- Paul Frost
- Galehouse/Sweeney Family
- Dr. and Mrs. Eduardo Garcia
- Janice Gerson
- Ellen Goff
- Timothy and Sandra Graham
- Lorne and Shirley Greenwood
- Ken and Elizabeth Gribble
- Pete and Ginny Gustafson
- George Haberer
- Carl and Deborah Harlan
- Hayes Insurance Agency
- Andy Hayhoe
- Russell Hehir
- Jay and Peggy-Heilmann
- Amot and Cathy Heller
- Barry Hill
- Robert and June Hill
- Wes Hills
- Michael and Annette Holbrook
- Hudson and Margaret Holland
- Joseph Hudson, Jr.
- Robert Hunt
- Frederick and Karen Kaiser
- Larry Kassuba
- Dr. Richard Kay
- Bill Kogelschatz
- Paul Kogelschatz
- Leigh and Paul Konwinski
- Timothy Kopacka
- Robert Kruch
- James and Barbara Kurbel
- Alger and Janet Lamb
- Jennifer Lasky Russell
- Nancy Lemmen
- Jean Leonard
- Sony and Christian Link
- Robert and Mary Lobo
- Bourke and Shirley Lodewyck
- Robert and Karen Luetje
- Terry Lyons
- Alan and Audrey Maag
- Kathlyn Maldegen
- Keith Martell
- Lisa Masters
- Len Mazer
- Gary McCarbery
- Anne and Rick Meeks
- Stan and Ruth Ann Mersino
- Herman Miller
- Dr. Peter Miller
- Charles and Linda Mires
- Michael and Kristene Mol
- Montmorency Conservation Club
- Robert and Cynthia Morger
- William Nash
- Diane Navarre and Alan Stachowiak
- Douglas and Patrice Neal
- Grover and Pat Niergrath
- Kevin and Cathy O'Neil
- Carol Omilnicher
- Gary Orr
- Raetta Ott
- Bob Paul
- Kenneth Payette
- Donald and Dorothy Peacock
- Jack and Elizabeth Petersen
- Merrill "Pet" Peterskey
- Donald Pitcher
- Robert and Patricia Pizziuto
- Janice Porter
- Frank Proulx
- George and Sabra Qua
- William Randolph
- Barbara Reed
- David Replogle
- Grace Rice
- Barbara Ro
- Patricia Robinson
- Steve Rogge
- Karen Roy
- Jerry and Francine Rucker
- William and Brenda Rustem
- Frank and Diane Ruswick
- Joan Scheel
- Daniel and Susan Schnee
- Connie Schreiber and Eric Bankhead
- JoAnne Simson
- Dave Smethurst
- Vicki Springsteel
- Charity and Bill Steere
- Yvonne and Ronald Steffens
- Debra Stieneker
- Jerry and Sherman Szpondowski
- Clifford Taylor
- Sylvia and Thomas Taylor
- Helen Thiesen
- Ray Thomas
- Susan Thompson
- John and Sandra Thorne
- Robert Tompkins
- Robert and Marge Trapp
- Donald and Jo Ann VanderMolen
- Bill Walker
- David Walker
- John and Sue Walters
- Gary and Mary Walther
- Hal and Alinda Wasner
- Lara Wasner
- Anna Weiser
- James and Marilyn Welser
- Werth Development, LLC
- Rick Wilde
- Neil Williamson
- Robert and Clarice Williams
- Lawrence and Joanne Witte
- Larry Younglove
- Tom and Joyce Zeneberg

### The following individuals chose to support Headwaters in memory or honor a loved one:
- Carolyn Duncanson in honor of Bill Duncanson
- William R. Adams in memory of Charlotte Adams
- JoAnne Baron in memory of Julian Len Baron
- Jennifer Lasky Russell in memory of John R. Scheel
- Joanne Schuel in memory of John R. Scheel, Marie M. Scheel, and Roberta H. Scheel

Notice an error or omission? Please let us know!
Thank you…

**VOLUNTEER LAND STEWARDS**
Elaine Carlson, John Dallas, Glen Eberly, Joe Jarecki, Jim and Barbara Kurbel, Mike Mang, Dave Nadolsky, Gary Neumann, Jerry Smith, and Jim Supina.

**LAND AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**
John Arevalo, Elaine Carlson, Joe Jarecki, Mike Mang, Jerry Smith, and Jim Supina.

Jo Gallico, Martha Eberly and their dedicated assistants for hand painting wine glasses for the Appreciation Gathering.

Jane Dallas, Chris Supina, and Emily Grunzweig for their help making the Appreciation Gathering a success.

Lewiston Sportsmen’s League for hosting the 3rd Annual Hotshots for HeadWaters Sporting Clays Fundraiser.

Curtis Justin, Kaitlyn Justin, and Paul Kogelschatz for your help at the 3rd Annual Hotshots for HeadWaters Sporting Clays Fundraiser.

John Arevalo, Elaine Carlson, Sam Cornelius and Jane Crandall, John Dallas, Don Inman and Virginia Pierce, Joe Jarecki, and Robb Smith for donating items to our Wildlife Exhibit.

Paul Kogelschatz for contributing photos to this newsletter.

Sam Benjamin and Luke Nathan for painting the office exterior.

We do our very best to thank every one of our supporters and volunteers, but sometimes we make mistakes. Please let us know if we missed you so we can include you in our next newsletter.

**BOARD of Trustees**
John Dallas, Chairman
Jim Supina, Vice Chairman
Virginia Pierce, Treasurer
Martha Eberly, Secretary
Mike Mang
Robb Smith
Dr. Don Inman, Director Emeritus
Stephen Qua, Director Emeritus
Roger Rasmussen, Director Emeritus