

THE JOURNEY

An E-Newsletter Brought To You By The Sporting Lands Alliance
Family • Fun • Outdoors

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WWW.SPORTINGLANDSALLIANCE.ORG

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SLA: FAMILY/FUN/OUTDOORS

By: Bill Vandercook

The Sporting Lands Alliance is about family/fun/outdoors. By getting families together to participate in outdoor recreational activities, they have fun while enjoying the great outdoors.

These fun outdoor experiences not only bring families closer together, but also closer to nature. It helps us to realize that the open spaces (camps, parks, public and private lands) we use and enjoy are important to maintain and preserve forever. Why? Because if we don't, our children and grandchildren will not have any open space in the future.

Preserving land also benefits our natural resources (air, water, and soil), economy (timber, tourism), and recreational use. Open space is also conducive to healthier communities. Can you imagine no parks, campgrounds, trails, or places to hunt, fish, or hike?

As a federally recognized non-profit



organization, the SLA can preserve property forever by holding conservation easements on land and by accepting donations of land for the public. We are also working to maintain public access to over 4 million acres of state and federally-owned property throughout Michigan.

With your support, the SLA will continue to promote family/fun/outdoor activities and preserve land and public access to land - forever!

We would like your help and participation for our various activities. If you are interested in helping out with or coming to any of our activities, or maybe you'd just like to become a member, please visit our website www.sportinglandsalliance.org or contact Bill Vandercook at info@sportinglandsalliance.org. Our upcoming events are listed on Page 2 and on our website.

Research shows that in a year the average child spends 900 hours in school and nearly 1,023 hours in front of a TV, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

How can you help to change this pattern? Take you children and grandchildren outside to focus on exercise, fun, and good health.

JOIN NOW!

If you are not a SLA member yet, there's more reason to join than ever before!

Memberships start at \$25/year so sign up your whole family today!

GREAT WEBSITES

Michigan United Conservation Clubs
www.mucc.org

MUCC Camp For Kids
www.mucc.org/campforkids.html

Ted Nugent Kamp For Kids
www.tnkfk.com

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
www.michigan.gov/dnr

Michigan Travel
www.michigan.org/travel

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Cross-country skiing at Independence Oaks Park in Clarkston, MI.

IN THE NEWS

Thank you for working with us during our growing pains. We've had steady membership growth, and with that have come increased administrative needs. Cheryl Davison joined us mid-November 2005, as a permanent part-time administrative assistant. She will be handling the office organization and assisting Bill Vandercook.

SLA's 2005 Recognized Land Preservation Projects

Bill Vandercook provided assistance (under contract with the Scott's Co.) to Flynn Township of Sanilac County in preparing a MDNR recreational plan. The plan was approved and now the township is moving forward to apply for a MDNR trust fund grant to acquire a 520-acre tract of land for a community recreational center/nature educational facility. The township is proposing camping, hunting, fishing, and multiple outdoor uses besides natural resource education for this unique property.

Headwaters Trails Inc. Partner with SLA

The Sporting Lands Alliance is working with Headwaters Trails, a non-profit organization based in Holly, MI., to make the river more accessible by providing a landing point on Fish Lake Road, midway along the new "Top of the Shiawassee" canoe trail. Thanks to the work of SLA's Bill Vandercook, property owner Susan Gill has signed an option to buy one acre along the river. Headwaters Trails structures and other amenities will open up the underdeveloped seven miles of river from Holly to Fenton.

Thank You For Your Support!

Recently, the Headwaters Trails (www.headwaterstrailsinc.org), North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (www.nohlc.org) and the Macomb Land Conservancy (www.savingplaces.org) have made donations to SLA. The SLA is committed to partnering with these organizations to leave a land legacy for our children.

GETTING INVOLVED

Are You a Landowner?

Would you like to know more about how you can preserve your land, or methods for additional property income, tax savings, or enable you to pass your farm intact on to your children or grandchildren?

Are You a Concerned Citizen?

Would you like to help us preserve public land and maintain access to over 4 million acres of state lands?

Would You Like To Help With Special Events And Activities?

Call the SLA office today to find out how you can get involved in SLA's mission.

UPCOMING SLA EVENTS

- Arctic Adventure - Saturday, February 18, 2006
Independence Oaks Park - Clarkston, MI
- Family Fun Day - Saturday, March 11, 2006
Hunters Creek Club - Metamora, MI
- Spring Fishing - Saturday, June 3, 2006
- Summer Shoot and Picnic - Saturday, July 15, 2006
- 2nd Annual Fundraiser - Monday, September 18, 2006
Royal Park Hotel - Rochester, MI
- Watch for: Special Horseback Riding Events, Canoe Outings, and Nature Hikes - 2006

Call Bill Vandercook or check the website for information on these events.

COME VISIT OUR BOOTH AT:

- MUCC Outdoorama Show - February 22nd- 26th
Rock Financial Showplace - Novi, MI
- Midwest Fly Fishing Expo - March 18th- 19th
Macomb Community College - Warren, MI

WHY I JOINED THE SPORTING LANDS ALLIANCE

I joined SLA to provide an opportunity for my grandchildren to experience the freedom I had as a child...picking wild berries, fishing in the creek, long bike rides, spotting a fox in the woods, acres of freedom, and plenty of time to get dirty.

SLA activities focus on the family and the outdoors – cross-country skiing, horseback riding, fishing, etc. All of the activities are well organized and affordable.

The organization is also working to promote a balance between open space preservation and development, which I feel is very important for our grandchildren's future.

Nancy Koss
Member, SLA



SPREAD THE WORD! • WE NEED MEMBERS! • GET INVOLVED!

Questions, comments, or to
become a member...

e-mail us at:

info@sportinglandsalliance.org



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