

March 2007 Highland Conservancy E-Newsletter:

Renew your Membership

Thank you to those who sent in their membership renewal or donations. We value your generous support! To continue your membership, mail your check for \$25.00 made payable to: Highland Conservancy, 205 W. Livingston Road, Highland, MI 48357 or visit our website at www.HighlandConservancy.org.

Tree Give Away

Once again we will be giving away tree seedlings at the Hi-White Parade coming up in May. We will need VOLUNTEERS to join us in marching in the parade, pass out trees, and set up or run the booth. If you can help, please call Jim Lloyd at 248-887-3952.

Tree Preservation Ordinance

Beth Corwin at the township is currently finalizing the Tree Preservation Ordinance. If you have any input, please send your positive suggestions, support or ideas. It is important that this be finalized to help protect Highland's natural beauty.

Greenway Plan Rollout

The Highland Township Green Infrastructure Plan has been finalized. The official rollout will include key stakeholders, township officials, and the public. We are very pleased to have an ecologically friendly blueprint for Highland. The next step is to USE this plan to protect land and natural open spaces. We welcome your input at our monthly meetings where we will work on ideas such as millage, stewardship days, and creating conservation easements.

New Tax Information for 2007:

Please consider donating a conservation easement on your land in 2007! Land donations as conservation easements or outright gifts can qualify a property owner for substantial federal income tax deductions, depending on each owner's tax situation. This new law:

- Raises the deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;
- Allows qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and
- Extends the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for a voluntary conservation agreement from 5 to 15 years.

Currently this only applies to easements **donated in 2007 (and 2006)**. If you are considering either protecting your land, or donating a conservation easement (but keeping your property) please call Katheryn Krupa 248-887-4643 or go to <http://www.lta.org>

Katheryn Krupa, Editor – www.HighlandConservancy.org

[include Dave's article in a separate mailing? – any other articles, info?]