

scenicVISTAS

November 2011



Conserving the woods, fields, streams, wetlands and other natural resources in the headwaters of the Clinton, Flint, Shiawassee, & Huron Rivers.

Halls Donate 7th Property Easement to NOHLC



Tom and Loraine Hall

Tom and Loraine Hall put land conservation easements on their property in 7 different installments. There is a reason for that ...

Tom and Loraine Hall found a way for a middle class family to establish a land legacy for the future without present day financial hardship. What was their secret? Careful planning and good legal and tax advice. There was one other important ingredient - a commitment to the cause of land preservation.

Tom and Loraine moved to their beautiful hilltop north of Clarkston in 1965. Deer and other wildlife abounded and neighbors were far away. Soon after, development surrounded their home and they began to think of a way to save its natural character.

A Lasting Legacy for the Hall Family



Loraine Hall and grandson David checkout a local reptile.

Starting in 1990 Tom had the land surveyed and divided into parcels. The parcels, with conservation easements, were then donated to NOHLC a few acres at a time. The Halls have been able to claim a federal tax donation on the property which has

been appraised at considerable value. The township may reduce the property taxes consistent with the remainder value after the easement.

The Halls still maintain control over their land and, by choice, invite the neighborhood to stroll the pathways they built. A lookout bench was established at the summit, the highest point in Oakland County where, on a clear day, you can see 60 miles to Detroit.

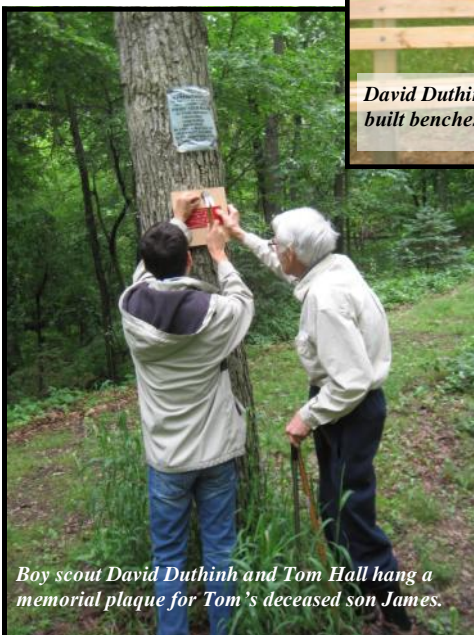
The Halls latest donation is just over five acres and it connects the prior easements and assures public access from the wetlands at the bottom of the hill to the crest some 112' above. NOHLC applauds their long-range vision which will become their legacy far into the future.



Jim Hall looks over his parents property with his son, David.



David Duthinh and his boy scout group built benches for the Hall's Property.



Boy scout David Duthinh and Tom Hall hang a memorial plaque for Tom's deceased son James.

Boy Scouts Help Out at the Hall Preserve

In November 2010 **Boy Scout Troop #185** completed their Eagle Scout service project at the Hall Preserve. Two wooden benches were installed at scenic overlooks, including the highest elevation in Oakland County which is part of the Hall property. They also delineated trails by lining them with logs, removed an obsolete silt fence that had been abandoned for decades, cut down and removed invasive shrubs and installed signs indicating that the property is protected by NOHLC. Signs were also hung memorializing James Hall, the son of Tom & Loraine Hall. The service project was organized and led by Eagle Scout David Duthinh. The Halls had been very involved in scouting when their sons were young.

Got Spare Time?

Volunteering. You already know what *that* is. So I won't get into how NOHLC needs you to step up, get involved and start helping with its mission to preserve our beautiful, and very special natural places here in our own community.

I **will**, however, tell you what NOHLC has done for me and for other supporters who use their time to help this organization function and grow. It affords opportunities to meet likeminded, down-to-earth, interesting people who give a darn and actually try to make this earth better. It gives us the chance to find our niche and use our talents and life experiences on tasks and projects that we can take ownership of and manage for ourselves. It lets us value new friendships, and perhaps enables us to better value ourselves. It's a good place to listen and learn; a good place to be appreciated. The way I see it, it's a mutually beneficial deal. And you really can't beat that!

So, if you find yourself at loose ends for whatever reasons and have some time to spare, NOHLC would welcome your involvement. We need committed people to do office work, to become land stewards, to help fundraise and to assist with many other varied tasks. You probably have a skill or talent that could be useful and you can be as involved as you'd care to be. Just give me a call, email me, or come down to the office and we'll have a little chat. (Tuesday and Wednesdays are best.) Thanks! Susan Jones *NOHLC Volunteer Coordinator* 248.922.5606 / voco@nohlc.org

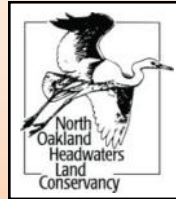


Photography Volunteer

NOHLC volunteer John Meyland won 3rd place for Hummingbird Moth photo at Clarkston's Center For Performing Arts Photo Contest! Some of Meyland's prints sold at NOHLC's recent Wild Night Out Boo Ball.

Carl's Foundation Award Matches \$100,000 for Camp Wathana

The Carls Foundation supports preservation of natural areas and activities that benefit children. NOHLC is working to purchase a conservation easement on 250 acres of a local camp for children. The Foundation's directors thought it was a perfect match and awarded NOHLC \$100,000 *if NOHLC can raise the same amount dollar for dollar*. The campaign will begin in 2012 but already \$21,000 has been contributed!



Since 1972 40 Years of Land Preservation

**Your Legacy with Your Local Conservancy.
Thank-you!**

Celebrations begin at our January 2012 Annual Meeting



National Accreditation

We are excited to announce that NOHLC has just applied for national accreditation as a land conservancy by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

Accreditation affirms that NOHLC meets national quality standards for protecting natural resources and complies with standards for ethical and technical operation of a land trust.

Photo (L-R): Jackie Douglas, Paul Rabaut, Celeste Rabaut



Please Save the Date:

1) **Eating Wild Membership Meeting**

Speaker Mark Angelini - Interesting, useful & delicious plants you'll be glad you met!
Saturday, Dec 3, 2011
10:30am
at the Springfield Civic Center

2) **Annual Meeting**

Saturday, Jan 28, 2012 - 10:00 a.m.
Waterford Oaks Park Lookout Lodge.
Our 40th Year!!!
More information to come
www.NOHLC.org
Public Welcome to all !



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Michigan's First True Natural Burial Cemetery

The Preserve at All Saints Cemetery introduces true natural burial to Michigan.

The land is left in its natural state, with mowed paths to invite visitors in. Only biodegradable materials are allowed and fieldstones from the prairie mark loved ones' graves.

North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy supports the concepts and principles of preservation in this endeavor including the use of native plants, natural grave markers, biodegradable containers and other eco-friendly procedures.

Members of the Conservancy who choose to support natural burial at The Preserve, will be given \$100 off the cost of a grave when pre-arranging before January 31.

For more information on natural burial or to schedule a tour, please call (800) 989-9633 or visit www.michigannaturalburial.com.

The Preserve
AT ALL SAINTS CEMETERY

(800) 989-9633 www.michigannaturalburial.com

Thanks to All Saints Cemetery Association for the generous underwriting of production costs for this newsletter.

