



Turkey by Theresa Ray

Improving Land for Wildlife in Springfield

The Conservancy has 113 more acres to protect thanks to the generosity of Robert and Anita Ormond. In 1998 the Ormonds made a life estate agreement that allowed them to live on their property and retain control until their passing.

Now that BHHC owns the land, we are creating a management plan for an extensive wildlife preserve—as the Ormonds intended 25 years ago. Mrs. Ormond used the farm as a wildlife rehabilitation facility where released animals have found a home.

Turkeys eat the berries and other food on the property. They find shelter and nesting space in the open fields. Unusual species like the Red Crossbill have been spotted among the pines.

Making the preserve more suitable for wildlife is our goal.

A substantial issue will be correcting the deferred maintenance throughout this extensive parcel. Donated time and money will be put into removing invasives, making the farm buildings useful, planting native species and establishing access.

This opportunity can be a model for other landowners who express an interest in land preservation. The Blue Heron staff opens those conversations every day. Their work is supported by contributions from benefactors who understand how long it takes to achieve the goals planned over many years.

Some of the Projects You Have Supported

- Concluded the “Big Help for a Little Butterfly” Campaign raising \$275,000
- Initiated conservation easement agreements with two municipalities, Village of Ortonville and Holly Township
- Worked with homeowner associations to battle invasive species degrading their natural areas
- Made presentations to a dozen gatherings from libraries to civic groups
- Attended 10 festivals spreading the word about conservation
- Sold a record \$19,000 (before expenses) at 2 native plant sales
- Created a shed for stewardship tools, consolidating off-site storage
- Conducted preserve tours showcasing wildlife—woodcocks to rattlesnakes
- Engaged volunteers in 10 aspects of stewardship from seed collection to seedball making
- Inspected our 60 properties using ArcGIS Survey123
- Moved to a larger office, providing more working and storage space



A tour of one of our properties revealed a state threatened Massasagua Rattlesnake

- Employed contractors to conduct difficult or hazardous work like burning brush
- Embarked on conservation actions with 8 private landowners

Outstanding Volunteer Award x 2



This year’s Tom Bullen Award for Outstanding Volunteer contributions goes to 2 people: Michele & Greg Petrosky. This “dynamic duo” helps us both inside the office and out in the field. They bring positivity, dedication and knowledge to our organization. Activities they are involved in include seed collecting, invasive removal, bulk mailing, repairs, special events and plant sales. The list goes on and on. Thanks, Michele & Greg, for all you do.



Welcome to New Staff Member Kelly Duty

We are thrilled to introduce our new Director of Donor Engagement, Kelly Duty. She joins us after a successful career in the medical field. Kelly is excited to be putting her efforts into two of her passions: supporting non-profits and the outdoors. Her volunteer efforts include Special Olympics, Grace Centers of Hope, Clarkston Community Schools and the Humane Society.

Kelly's professionalism and engaging personality make her a great representative for our organization. Look for Kelly at BHHC events, in the field and out in the community.

Diversify Your Gifts to Save Nature

With each donation to BHHC, you are supporting protected green space for exploration, healthy habitat for wildlife and clean water for all. If you are looking for ways to leave a legacy for future generations, please consider the following:

- Establish a recurring donation
- Support a fundable project
- Donate stock
- Contribute from your donor-advised fund
- Donate an easement or your property in its entirety
- Provide a Legacy Gift in your will

Please look for upcoming programs for more details on ways to give. If you would like more information, email or call Kelly Duty: Kelly@blueheronheadwaters.org. We save nature & You can too.



Baby red-winged blackbird by Chris Hardman



Thank You to our Wonderful Volunteers



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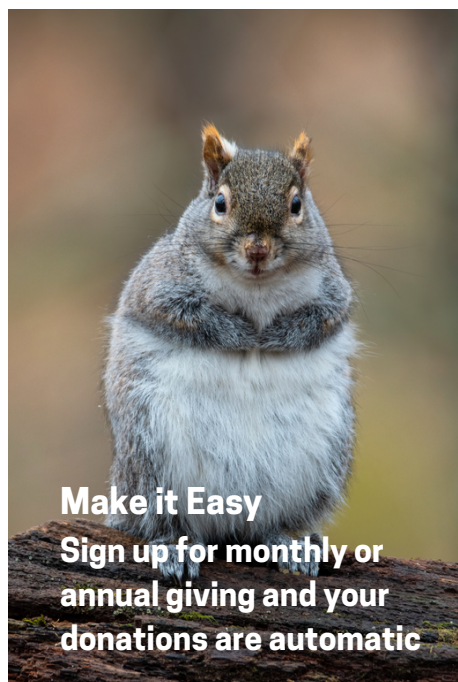
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Andrew Rosolino

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New Partnership with Clarkston Schools

This year we are working on 3 projects with the Clarkston School District. Third graders will create art inspired by nature to display at one of our preserves. Second and fifth graders will join forces to build turtle nesting boxes. This project will link units on Animal



Adventures and the Web of Life back to the classroom.

High school seniors will investigate the negative impact of invasive plant species on native plants and wildlife habitat. We are delighted to be a part of their educational journey in conservation. They are the future leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you to Academic Service Learning Coordinator Christine Rogers for supporting our mission through education.

COMMUNITY IMPACT WEEKEND



Join us for an outdoor volunteer opportunity on Kimball Preserve:

Saturday **Sunday**
April 27 | 10am-1pm April 28 | 1pm-4pm

Register online at
blueheronheadwaters.org/events



Native Plant Sale

[BLUEHERONHEADWATERS.ORG](https://blueheronheadwaters.org)

More than 80 species
for sale!

JUNE 1
10 AM-4 PM

Neiman's Parking Lot
7121 Dixie, Clarkston

Sale benefits the Blue
Heron Headwaters
Conservancy

Thanks to Our Community & Business Partners

