

Natural Area Advisory Group Meeting Highlights January 30th 10:00 AM

Oakland County Executive Office Building
Room 104

Attendees

Jim Keglovitz	Gisela Lendle King	Ryan Dividock
Donna Folland	Kristen Bennett	Lois Robbins
Lorraine McGoldrick	Brittany Bird	Kristen Wiltfang
Erin Lavender	Melissa Prowse	Connie Boris
John Tatum	Tom Middleton	Doug Pearsall
Merrie Carlock	Katie Anderson	Rebecca Hagerman
Cathy Aety	Lorna McEwen	Heidi Frei
Sue Julian	Joe Sehee	Erin Heskett
Larry Falardeau	Nina Ignaczak	Sue Greenlee

Natural Area Advisory Group – Project Highlights

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN HEADWATERS RESTORATION COLLABORATIVE (Doug Pearsall, East MI Director of Science & Planning, The Nature Conservancy) –

The Nature Conservancy is a national conservation organization working to protect the most ecologically important lands and waters around the world for nature and people. Doug Pearsall presented information about the Southeast Michigan Headwaters Restoration Collaborative through which conservation priority areas have been identified. They are holding workshops to eventually develop plans for the identified major watersheds, conservation priority areas, and priority aquatic systems in the Southeast Michigan Headwaters Region. They are looking to develop local partnerships and may be able to provide support and resources in areas and for initiatives where they are currently short.

For questions or more information, please contact Douglas R. Pearsall – East Michigan Science and Planning Director – dpearsall@tnc.org.

NEW WEB-BASED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DEVELOPED FOR LAND CONSERVANCIES (Donna Folland, Executive Director, Oakland Land Conservancy) –

Donna Folland provided an overview of Oakland Land Conservancy's new web-based information management system that integrates:

- OLC website
- Online donation and charge card processing
- Project Management – Enterprise Reporting System
- Office files, including digital photographs
- Secured offsite storage of file archives

In addition to providing updated information to the organizations members, volunteers and the general public, the site allows offsite access to specific project information and facilitates file sharing among staff.

The site was developed by Enterprise Reporting Systems (ERS). For more information, please contact Donna Folland (dfolland@oaklandlandconservancy.org) or visit ERS online at www.erscorp.com and click on 'Information Specific to Land Conservancies and Land Trusts'.

CONSERVATION BURIAL GROUND (Joe Sehee, Founder/Executive Director, Green Burial Council) –

Joe Sehee presented an overview of The Green Burial Council and how green burial can provide another strategy for conservation. The Green Burial Council is an independent, nonprofit organization founded to encourage ethical and sustainable practices in the deathcare industry, and to use the burial process as a means of facilitating ecological restoration and landscape-level conservation.

The Green Burial Council has developed two levels of standards for green burial. A "Conservation Burial Ground" is a cemetery that encourages sustainable and ethical practices. It also involves an established conservation partner and furthers a landscape-level conservation purpose. A "Natural Burial Ground" is a cemetery that encourages sustainable and ethical practices. It does not involve an established conservation partner and does not necessarily further a conservation purpose. The council plans to finalize parallel standards for cremation facilities in early 2007.

The Green Burial Council Approved Burial Package, which bans the use of formaldehyde-based embalming, vaults, and caskets that are not biodegradable, is now offered by cemetery and funeral providers in eight states, including Michigan.

For more information, visit the Green Burial Council website at <http://greenburialcouncil.org/index.php>.

Additional Highlights

- Detroit Audubon Society Annual Conservation Conference – "Birds, Glass and Towers" – The subject matter this year will be about the billion birds that are killed every year because they crash into man-made structures such as buildings and communication towers. Our two featured speakers will enlighten us about this tragic reality and have some ideas for us which, if put into effect, could reduce the enormous toll of birds.
 - March 31, 2007
 - At the Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Center
 - No cost to attend the conference

2007 Natural Area Advisory Group meeting schedule:

✓ January 30th @ 10:00 AM

April 25th @ 10:00 AM

July 31st @ 10:00 AM

October 30th @ 10:00 AM