



Chikaming Open Lands  
14913 Lakeside Road  
P.O. Box 291  
Lakeside, MI 49116  
*"Preserving the Land, Protecting Our Heritage"*

[www.chikamingopenlands.org](http://www.chikamingopenlands.org)  
269.469.2330

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Chikaming Open Lands  
2007-2008 Annual Report





**Our Mission:**

The mission of Chikaming Open Lands is to preserve open space and the diverse, natural character of southwest Berrien County in Michigan.

# Chikaming Open Lands Annual Report 2008

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- |  |  |                                       |                                     |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| Rose Parisi & Donald Meckley           | Mr. & Mrs. Cyrus Young                 | Mr. & Mrs. Rick Hollatz               | Mrs. Jo Anne Reid                   |
| Mr. James D. Parsons                   | Ms. Carol Zmuda                        | Mr. & Mrs. Charles James              | Mr. & Mrs. Robert Render            |
| Dottie D. Mashek Pattishall            | <b>Members, \$25-99</b>                | Mr. Mike J. Jasper                    | Mr. & Mrs. Rex Rose                 |
| Ms. Francine Petro                     | Ms. Margaret Anderson                  | Mr. & Mrs. Mel Johnson                | Phillip Schatz & William Storey     |
| Mr. & Mrs. Werner Petterson            | Dave & Paula Ansel                     | Mr. & Mrs. Jason Johnson              | Mr. & Mrs. Charles Schwartz, Jr.    |
| Gunner Piotter & Alana Johnston        | Martin Balogh                          | Mr. & Mrs. David Johnson              | Ms. Jean W. Sharp                   |
| Mr. & Mrs. George Platz III            | William Bielby                         | Andrew Johnston & Julie Bernstein     | Mr. & Mrs. Albin J. Sikora          |
| Mr. & Mrs. James Polzin                | Mr. & Mrs. Frank Blatchford            | Candice & Eugene Johnston             | Ms. Nancy Sheila Simonian           |
| Mr. & Mrs. Louis Price                 | Ellen Block                            | Mr. & Mrs. Joel Kagann                | Mr. & Mrs. Paul Singer              |
| Dr. & Mrs. William K. Purdy            | Debra & William Bork                   | Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Kallberg         | Mr. & Mrs. Dean Skaggs              |
| Mr. & Mrs. John Quinn                  | Ms. Diane Bosse                        | Lucy Kamau                            | Ms. Joan K. Slotnick                |
| Mr. & Mrs. David Ray                   | Jean Brokish & Bernard Schmidt         | Ms. Francine Foler Kepler             | Dan & Pat Smith                     |
| Michael Revord & Margaret Gibson       | Kathryn Brostrom                       | Mr. Kregg Kiel                        | Dr. & Mrs. Lewis Smith              |
| Mr. & Mrs. Frank Richter               | Rev. W. Noel & Dr. Judith Brown        | Mr. Frederick King                    | Mrs. Anne Stevens                   |
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| Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Rode                  | Debra Callahan                         | Margit Kir-Stimon & Warren Sherman    | Mr. & Mrs. Blair Stewart            |
| Mrs. Nancy Sanders                     | Walter Stanley Carr                    | Mr. & Mrs. Al Kissman                 | Mr. & Mrs. Tom Stillman             |
| Mr. & Mrs. Colin Sanford               | Mr. & Mrs. Carl Christ                 | Mr. & Mrs. Joel Klass                 | Mr. & Mrs. Houston Stokes           |
| Ms. Nancy Schamu                       | Thomas & Connie Christ                 | Ms. Susan Kostiwa                     | Ms. Linda K. Strohl                 |
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| Mr. & Mrs. David Sims                  | Mr. & Mrs. Charles Deuser II           | Mr. & Mrs. David Maidenber            | Charles & Sarah Vest                |
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| Paul Somers                            | Joanne Dupree                          | James McComb                          | Duane Waugh                         |
| Bill Stegeman                          | Major & Mrs. Robert Edinger            |                                       | Ms. Ellen Werner                    |
| Dr. & Mrs. Kingman Strohl              | Mr. & Mrs. William Ellis               |                                       | Tim Wixted & Ana Celia Vincenti     |
| Mr. & Mrs. James F. Sullivan           | Elizabeth Elsaesser & Brad Reeg        |                                       | Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Wolkowitz          |
| Mr. & Mrs. Arthur M. Sussman           | Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Falconio            |                                       | Mr. & Mrs. Harold Zeiger            |
| Mr. & Mrs. Max Thelen, Jr.             | Muriel Flanders & Beth Yas             |                                       | Marjorie Zibbel & Charlie Olszewski |
|  |  |                                       | Mr. Robert Zugel                    |

**Major Gifts, \$10,000+**

Mr. & Mrs. Macdonald Flinn  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Hughes  
Chauncey & Marion D.  
McCormick Family Foundation-  
(Carroll Joynes & Abby O'Neil)  
Mrs. Russell J. Parsons  
Robert Parsons & Victoria  
Herget  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Miller  
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Russell  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Sims  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Van Nice

**Major Gifts, \$1,000-9,999**

Linda Anderson  
Eugene Goldwasser &  
Deone Jackman  
Jonathan Janott & Don Hermann  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Kaiser  
Mr. George Lucas  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen L. Smith

**Stewardship**

Candice Broecker  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Clapp  
Jonathan Janott & Don Hermann  
Mr. & Mrs. Werner Petterson  
Christopher Pfaufer & Rob Gow  
Mark Pfleger & James Kershner  
Preserve Home Owners Assn.  
Riviera Home Owners Assn.  
Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Wong

**Members, \$2,000+**

Mr. & Mrs. Macdonald Flinn  
Mr. Christopher Hehmeyer  
Carroll Joynes & Abby O'Neil  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Keiser  
Mr. & Mrs. John McKeague  
Mrs. Russell J. Parsons  
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Russell  
**Members, \$1,000-1,999**  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Coolidge  
Robert & Jeanie Casey  
Mr. Daniel DuBay  
Andrea & George Gaines  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Glowniak, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Kern  
Gregory S. Kerrigan  
Robert D. LoPrete  
Mr. Andrew McGhee

Linda Puvogel & Michael  
O'Halloran  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Osnos  
Eugene Pavalon  
Mr. & Mrs. George Peapples  
Mr. & Mrs. William Racine  
Matthew Shapiro  
Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Reid Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen L. Smith  
Mrs. Elaine Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Spain  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Van Nice  
Mr. & Mrs. Terrence Walsh  
Mr. Thomas Wilson

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Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Bogert  
Mr. James Butler  
Mr. Gregory Cameron  
Gregg Coccaro, MD &  
Douglas Tuold  
Mr. Paul Cromheecke  
William Daniels &  
Ellen Carnahan  
James Fitzmaurice &  
Doug GeBraad  
Ms. Susan Flinn  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Foster  
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Front  
Ms. Jayne Gibson  
Mr. & Mrs. John Gibson  
Stanford & Ann Goldblatt  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Gray  
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Douglas Hoerr & Tracy Taylor  
Gerald & Beverly Kohn  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Koldyke  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Lindeman  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Malkin  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McDermott  
Mr. & Mrs. Ulrich Meyer  
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Randy Mitchell & Lisa Gregg  
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Dr. & Mrs. Philip Radtke  
Clay & Barb Robinson, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Rydholm  
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Ms. Eileen Willenborg  
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Dr. John Woollam  
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**Members, \$100-499**

Mr. & Mrs. Ansel Aberly  
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Anderson  
Mrs. James Address  
Nancy & Walter Aque  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Arnold  
Dr. & Mrs. Larry Bailey  
Ed Bancroft & Patricia Collins  
Mr. & Mrs. John Banks  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Barrett  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Beach  
Mr. Otto Becker  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Bell  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Bjorkman  
Ms. Aileen Blackwell  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Bloom  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Braun  
Mr. & Mrs. Kirkwood Brodie  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Brotherton  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Brumfield  
Mr. & Mrs. Amedo Cappola  
Mr. & Mrs. Vytautas J. Cernius  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Chapman  
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Cherney  
Dr. & Mrs. William A. Clemens  
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Comer  
Andy Cooper  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Cornblath  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Cunningham  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Davies  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. James Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph DeCamp  
Mr. Adrian DeMooy  
Diane DeWitt  
Richard & Vicki DuFour  
Carter & Susan Emerson  
Denise Fedewa & Angelo Varias  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Forker  
Mr. & Mrs. James Fox  
Mary L. Fox

Dr. & Mrs. Louis Frank  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Frenzel  
Mrs. Betty Gibson  
Scott Gill  
Eugene Goldwasser & Deone  
Jackman  
Mrs. Sara Goodman  
Mrs. Sylvia Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. James Gormley  
Jeff Goulette & Kelly McGrail  
Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Hadelman  
Ms. Kay Hartmann  
Ms. Barbara Hausman  
Mr. & Mrs. James Hausmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Heckathorn  
Mr. William J. Hejna  
Mr. & Mrs. William Hendren  
Robert Herbst & Sally O'Malley  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederic Hickman  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Hillman  
Mary L. & Steven R. Hollander  
Jane Hoyer  
Mr. & Mrs. George Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Kaiser  
Mr. & Mrs. John Keefe  
Beverly & Peter Keseric  
Mr. David Kirby  
Herbert Kirst & Peggy Hillman  
Mr. Robert W. Knickrehm  
Michael Koch-Weser &  
Kristen Vondruska

Ms. Margaret Kohring  
Ms. Suzanne Kramer  
Mark Kroll  
The Kuppe Family  
Ms. Cristy Laier  
Mary Lambert  
Mr. David Lavelle  
Mr. Dan Legault  
Mr. David Legault  
Mr. Douglas Legault  
Mr. & Mrs. John Lesch  
Anita Levin & John Rafkin  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Loess  
Mr. George Lucas  
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Maddox  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Magnuson  
Rev. & Mrs. Ronald Magnuson  
Mr. & Mrs. John McCord  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen McCurdy

*Letter from the President*



We are proud to present Chikaming Open Lands' Annual Report. Later this year we will celebrate our 10th anniversary as a land trust protecting over 800 acres in southwest Berrien

County. Without the generous support of landowners, donors, grantors, and the six townships in which we operate we could not have accomplished this. Our board and staff sincerely thank all of you.

Saving land and habitat is a passion. Passion is what drives people to accomplish the important things in life. However, to sustain itself and grow, a non-profit land trust must be responsible about its financial and business planning in addition to feeding the passion. We are very proud to have been recognized in September 2008 as one of the first 39 land trusts in the country to be accredited by the Accreditation Commission, an independent commission sanctioned by the Land Trust Alliance. The Commission determined that we are complying with their 12 standards and practices which define a well-run land trust. To say the least, we are thrilled to have achieved this distinction.

Front cover: Trees by E. Bruegman; inside cover, view of the Galien River

Last fall the Board of Directors held a strategic planning retreat to determine our priorities for the immediate future. We identified three priority programs:

1. We will continue to foster community outreach and heighten conservation awareness through effective contact and programs with community leaders, landowners, donors, and residents.
2. Recognizing the challenges of all non-profits in these tough economic times, there will be more focus and effort on membership growth, local business and community support, and securing additional grants consistent with our mission.
3. We will continue to grow a professional staff to lead our land trust. The board is now actively recruiting candidates for an Executive Director.

I hope you find this report interesting reading and recognize the importance you play in protecting land and habitat for future generations.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Smith  
President

## Accomplishments



### Accreditation!

Chikaming Open Lands was awarded accredited status in September, 2008, by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. This was a huge undertaking by staff and board members — approximately 700 hours of time went into preparing documents and fine-tuning the organization. Of the nearly 1,700 land trusts operating across the country, just 39 were awarded this status at a special recognition ceremony. Accreditation signifies to the public that COL is operating at the highest standards and will continue to do so into the future.

### Improving the Watershed

In 2005, Chikaming Open Lands took the lead with other partner organizations to improve water quality in the Galien River Watershed, thanks to a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The grant ended this year and the stats are in: 17 conservation easements were completed (exceeding the goal), 3 “Clean the Galien” events undertaken, 39 roads/stream crossings repaired, many educational opportunities extended about the Galien River and the life enriching watershed, and low impact development and best management practice promotion to township planners and agricultural landowners respectively. Having the opportunity to focus so much attention on the watershed is a win-win situation — it improves the lives of all of us and the lives of other living creatures.



*Photos*  
This page: View of Dayton Lake, N. Johnson  
Page opposite, left to right by row: Nature walk on Covenant Farm Easement; kayaking the Louis J. Sima Great Lakes Marsh; Voyageur Canoe; Warren Woods in fall; member appreciation events; kayaking the marsh.

### Conserving is the key

Since its inception 10 years ago, Chikaming Open Lands has protected over 800 acres of land. Much of this was made possible through grants such as the Galien River Grant as well as generous contributions from donors and annual membership revenue. Without the diligent concern of its members and patrons, the work of COL would not be possible. And it is because of you we can continue this vital work in our beautiful communities.

## Our Supporters

Chikaming Open Lands is grateful for the individuals, organizations, foundations, and corporations listed here and on the following pages who contributed so generously to our efforts from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. Please contact our office if you are interested in becoming a member or donating to our cause.

### Corporate, Foundation and Government Grants

#### Kodak American Greenways Award

This grant allowed COL to conduct a survey of those who own property on the Louis J. Sima Marsh which enable us to design appropriate programs for them and for the community at large.

#### Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Formally called the Galien River Implementation Project, this grant allowed us to focus much needed attention on the Galien River Watershed and on improving water quality in the area.

#### The Pokagon Fund

This grant helped us establish the Priority Preservation Project. It helps COL prioritize projects and properties with the highest natural value which are wonderful conservation prospects.

#### Gifts to Berrien Community Foundation /Chikaming Open Lands Fund

Jean Brokish & Bernard Schmidt  
Randi Crum  
Margaret Kohring  
Mr. George Lucas  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Sims  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen L. Smith

*The Chikaming Open Lands Annual Report was printed by Martin Gapshis of Progress Printing Corp. in Chicago. Thank you!*

#### Foundation and Business Members

Butler Development  
Chikaming Country Club  
Womens Golf Association  
The Joyce Foundation  
KPW Family Foundation  
Ann Krsul Architects  
Harbert Business Association  
Lovell & Whyte  
The Mary Martha Circle  
Merrill Lynch  
Michigan Thyme  
New Buffalo Savings Bank  
Pizzo & Associates  
Pomegranate Home  
River Valley Garden Club  
Violas Café

#### Memorials

Chuck Anderson  
Doris Bratcher  
Ken & Geo Burgess  
James R. LeGault  
Maureen Lester  
Ronnie & Phil Loeb  
John Penner  
Elizabeth Sowers  
William K. Stevens  
Herbert Arnold  
Thelen  
Richard Vavra  
Elaine Ward  
Katie & Fran Wilson

#### Honoraria

George Bogert  
Jean Lucas  
Matthew Reck, DDS  
Jean & Steve Smith



Volunteers make it happen! This year's "Clean the Galien" event was a huge success with 2 tons of debris extracted from a hillside in the Galien River Watershed. By using the enclosed envelope, you can contribute to help make a difference in water quality, habitat, and land conservation.

**Directors**

- Stephen L. Smith, *President*
- Greg Kaiser, *Vice President*
- Paul Miller, *Treasurer*
- George Lucas, *Secretary*
- Linda Anderson
- Ron Farina
- Terry Hanover
- Don Hermann
- Mike Jasper
- Jon Janott
- Kip Miller
- George Platz
- Jean Smith

**Staff**

- Elizabeth Nellums, *Land Protection Specialist*
- Beth Denton, *Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator*
- Johanna Humbert, *Account & Database Specialist*

**These generous businesses helped us last year with our Second Saturday Series and other events:**

- City of New Buffalo
- Forest Lawn Landfill
- Jerry Fisher Catering
- JFNew
- Love Creek Nature Center
- Luisa's Café
- Reliable Disposal
- Sarett Nature Center
- Tabor Hill Winery
- Vickers Family & Theatre

*Events and Activities*



Since it began in 1999, Chikaming Open Lands has been conserving land and open space. But just as important is the people. People donate their land for conservation. People dedicate their time and effort to pulling garlic mustard and invasives. People talk with their friends telling them about COL, *their* local land trust, and the good things going on there.



That's why this year, COL decided to thank people who brought it this far by throwing a membership appreciation event. Held in June, 2008, amidst the biggest rain storm seen in years, a whole crowd of people showed up at the comfortable (and dry) Vickers Theatre in Three Oaks to view the movie The Unforeseen. At the movie's conclusion and as if on cue, the clouds cleared just enough to allow people to walk from the theater to the Vickers' house for a bountiful smorgasbord of treats. Despite the rain, it was a wonderful event spiked with lively discussion and raucous belly-filling.



This year's "Second Saturday Series" events were just as lively – and educational – focusing attention on the beautiful and ecologically diverse Louis J. Sima Great Lakes Marsh. To gain full access to its beauty, you must travel it by water in a kayak or canoe. So that's just what we did. We kayaked it and saw great towering reeds and waxy water lilies along with majestic Great Blue Herons and miniscule baby swallows chirping to their hearts' content. We attempted to canoe it in the Voyageur Canoe, a very popular annual event, but threatening clouds and ominous weather reports forbade that. We hiked for an upland view of the marsh from the Galien River County Park Preserve. And in addition to all the focus on the marsh, we managed to tour Covenant Farm, a private nature preserve recently protected forever, and cleaned up an area in the Galien River Watershed during our "Clean the Galien" event. It was an interestingly busy year.



## Statement of Financial Position

Dear Members and other COL Supporters,

As many of you know, our fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30 each year. For our fiscal 2008, which ended September 30, 2008, here are the revenue and expense highlights from the financial review that was performed by Hutter & Associates, P.C.

During the year we had total revenue and support of \$600,376. Our revenue was made up mainly of membership dues, other gifts beyond membership dues, and grants. Of the other gifts over \$200,000 was donor designated for our endowment fund and over \$37,000 was designated for stewardship purposes.

During the year we had expenses of \$355,251. As you might expect, a majority of the expense went to land preservation through conservation easements and to our professional staff for performing the necessary work that accompanies sound land protection transactions. Preserving land is important for us at COL and we are committed as a Board and Staff to do it ethically and in a financially prudent manner. Since our founding in 1999, revenues have always exceeded expenses. Looking forward in these challenging times, we will strive to continue that record through increased membership, gifts and new grants, and continued good expense control.

For those of you interested in getting more detail on our financial status you are welcome to stop by the office on Lakeside Road and pick up a complete copy of Hutter & Associates financial statements for the years ending September 30, 2008 and 2007.

Sincerely,



Paul Miller  
Treasurer

### 2008 SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

#### REVENUES

Membership Dues	83,509
Other Unrestricted Gifts	73,306
Gifts Restricted for Stewardship	37,834
Gifts Restricted for Endowment	215,156
Grants	232,304
Other Income	18,701
Interest Income	3,994
Unrealized Gains (losses) investments	-80,128
Rental Income	15,700
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>600,376</b>

#### EXPENSES

Salaries and Wages	58,677
Consulting Fees	32,003
Payroll Taxes	4,589
CE* Purchases and Expenses	140,035
Grant Related Expenses	33,828
Land Maintenance Projects	5,891
Depreciation	8,484
Professional Services	8,069
Mortgage Interest Expense	6,658
Property Taxes	4,955
Insurance	3,685
Repairs and Maintenance	6,379
Office Supplies and Postage	7,818
Utilities	3,990
Other Expenses	30,190
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>355,251</b>

\* Conservation Easement

## Conservation Easements

We are sincerely grateful to all these landowners who have generously done their parts to protect land and habitat in perpetuity.

Owner	Name of Land	Acres
Chikaming Open Lands	Wilson Woods	5
Chikaming Open Lands	Louis J. Sima Marsh	156
Chikaming Township	Township Park	263
George & Andrea Platz	Drier Grove	10
Diane DeWitt	Galien Meadow	33
Mike Jasper	Jasper Buffer & Weesaw	43
Daniel Whitman	Mt. Zion Prairie	12
Melvin & Nancy Johnson	Johnson's Creek & Flynn	35
Sarett Nature Center	Squaw Creek	77
Dr. Stan Showalter	Blackjack	9.5
Werner & Sue Petterson	Riverside Woodland	31
Robert & Vicki Wagner	Silent Giants	18
James Crimmins	El Topo	3.5
Doug & Valerie Miller	Deer Creek	7.5
Dan Dale & Pat Wilcoxon	Covenant Farm	29
John Byrdak	Three Corners	3
Rob Smith & Rocky Roberts	Happy Tails	7.3
Terry Hanover	Hanover	8.6
Elsie Priest	Priest	8.3
Stan & Martha Detweiler	Maple Haven	4.5
Sanctuary Condo. Assn.	The Sanctuary	30
<b>Total acreage:</b>		<b>832.2</b>



*"I conserved this property because it's productive farmland. I want to make sure it stays this way for generations to come."*  
Mike Jasper, Weesaw Forty and Jasper Buffer



*"I often take walks on my property to look at the animals living here — the setting is peaceful and it brings me peace of mind to know it will always be this way."*  
Dianne DeWitt, Galien Meadow

**The Louis J. Sima Great Lakes Marsh** Chikaming Open Lands is very excited about this great lakes marsh and for good reason. Donated to COL in 2002 by the Sima Family of New Buffalo, COL has obtained grants to restore the marsh by ridding it of invasive plants as well as creating a water trail traversable by kayaks and canoes. Its revitalization is very important to all of us as a cleanser and purifier of water that passes through it into Lake Michigan. It is home to many animals and plants, including threatened or special concern species. In the coming years, look for our work in the marsh in the form of events, education, and restoration!

