EXPANDING

KNOWLEDGE THROUGH SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION

One of the reasons we work so hard to conserve land in this area is to protect and restore habitat for all the creatures that call this corner of Southwest Michigan home-particularly ones that are threatened.

One such critter is the massasauga rattlesnake, the only venomous snake found in Michigan. This notoriously timid snake is currently listed by the state as a "species of special concern"— Michigan is its last stronghold. It is also a candidate for a federal listing as "threatened".

There were reports that massasauga were present on one of the preserves we own, but we wanted to collect scientific data on whether a population was indeed present. Andrews University was interested too, so we partnered with a professor and students in the biology department to do a field study in the spring and summer of 2015. The data collected could help us secure



Biology at Andrews University

funding for restoration activities and to acquire neighboring land for preservation, particularly if the US Fish & Wildlife Service categorizes the snake as "threatened".



In early May, an adult male massasauga, whom we have named Marvin (pictured above), did in fact make his way into one of our traps. Marvin's existence means that there were at least two other massasaugas present here at the same time (to conceive Marvin). This tells us that there is at least a small population present on the preserve. We plan to continue and expand the study in 2016 to include a population study and habitat analysis, which will help guide our management of the preserve.

This is the first scientific field study we have conducted in partnership with a research University, and a great example of how we have been able to deepen our expertise and grow our partnerships.

Your support makes wonderful things possible!



inventory of plants and trees ound in our new 34-acre Flynn **Woods Preserve** We found 340 different amount of biodiversity













14 new species native prai ame up at Buri Prairie Preserv n 2015. Just tw years prior, th 12-acre tract land was a gricultural fie gone fallo



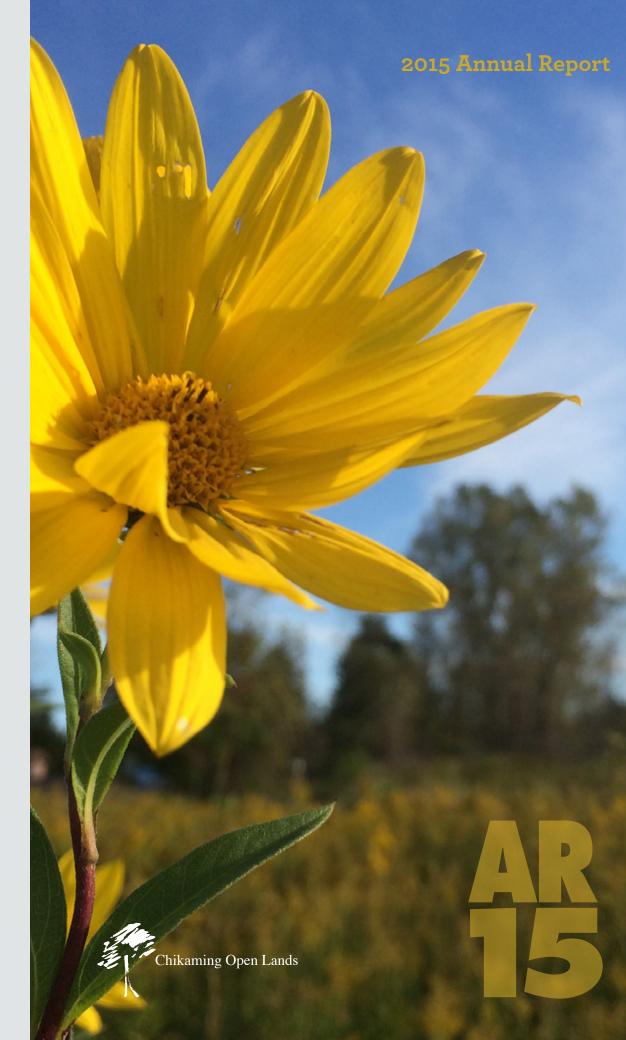
2015 marked 15 years since Chikaming Open Lands began protecting open space.

Over the duration of those 15 years, we've been able to protect more than 1,605 acres of wetland, prairie, farmland, and woodland; more than 200 acres of which is land that can never be developed located



All of it is possible because of you—members of the Chikaming Open Lands family that is now more than 500 households strong!





A COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER



voodland situated west of Red Arrow lighway in Sawyer went on the market n 2015, the neighbors were understandably concerned. Γ he property's ocation near he lakefront and adjacent

of high-quality

nature area made it highly desirable, and there was a real threat that a developer would

Some of those neighbors came to Chikaming Open Lands with an idea. What if we could bring the surrounding community together in a grassroots effort to protect that property in its natural state?

A plan came together: the conservancy would put up half the funds to acquire the property,

derived from a Pokagon Fund grant and individual supporters, and we would work with neighbors and community members to raise the other half. We had 120 days.

We put together an ambitious fundraising plan, and recruited ambassadors from each of the surrounding neighborhoods to help us mobilize their friends and neighbors. And it worked! In an extraordinary example of an engaged community rallying to action, nearly 160 individuals and businesses came together and raised the necessary funds to protect this important woodland. The Jens Jensen Preserve officially became Chikaming Open Lands' 10th nature preserve in March of 2015. Since then, we've conducted a natural features inventory, built trails, and installed informational signage and trail markers in the preserve.

But while Chikaming Open Lands owns and manages this preserve, it's not just ours. It's yours. Jens Jensen is open to the public for hiking, birdwatching, cross country skiing, or simply stopping to enjoy the sights, sounds and restorative tranquility of nature—a wonderful open space, preserved forever, by the community, for the community!



Dear Members and Friends of Chikaming Open Lands,

by the occasional call of a bird questioning my presence there

s I navigated the trails, I marveled at two things. First, how amazing it is that

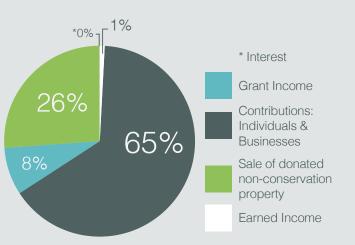
he second thing that struck me was how exciting it is that Jens Jensen, along with some of our other eserves in the area, will soon be used as a place of environmental science exploration and hands-or learning for some of our local schoolchildren. In partnership with local schools, Chikaming Open Lands is embarking on a new program in which third, fourth and fifth graders will be visiting our nature preserves as part of their science lessons three times a year. We view this program as a win-win opportunity for all involved—but especially the kids, as they develop a life-long love of nature.

An annual report is primarily about the past year. It is an opportunity for us to remind you of all that you gifts and hard work made possible – and most importantly, to offer our heart-felt thanks. It is also our pance to highlight special plans for the upcoming year. I hope you're as excited as we are by the work

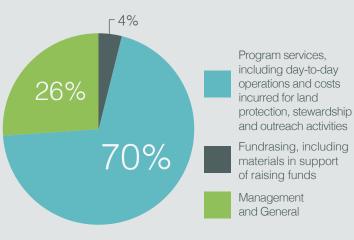
As we launch our new education program, maintain our existing preserves and seek to protect more open space, I ask you to renew your support. I also encourage you to share this report with friends and eighbors who might not know about Chikaming Open Lands' work. Together we will continue to protec he natural resources that surround us and to add value to this special corner of Michigan:

Linda Puvoge Board President

Chikaming Open Lands 2015 Income



Chikaming Open Lands 2015 Expenses



Figures are under audit at time of press, 2015 financial statements will be available for review upon request once complete.

2015 Income

Contributions: Individuals & Businesses	\$395,574
Grant Income	\$47,531
Earned Income	\$7,817
Sale of donated non-conservation property	\$161,814
Interest	\$1,210
TOTAL	\$613,946

2015 Expenses*

ı	Program services	\$344,131
	Management and General	\$130,093
ı	Fundraising	\$18,139
ı	TOTAL	\$492,363
	* Salaries are distrib	

Richard & Nancy Baur Larry Bergman

Nature Preserves	\$1,955,1
Unrestricted Funds	\$233,09
Depreciable Fixed Assets	\$311,61
Restricted to land protection, stewardship, and outreach activities	\$701,05
Board Designated Endowment Fund	\$1,037,0

Change In Net Assets Dec. 31, 2014 \$4.258.672

Net Assets \$4,238,020 Dec. 31, 2015

2015 Donor Listings

Chikaming Open Lands wishes to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their generous support and assistance. Gifts listed were received January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Note that in the event of multiple gifts, they have been totaled within the unrestricted or restricted sections. Please accept our sincere apologies for any unintentional errors or omissions and let us know by calling (269) 405-1006 or emailing us at COL@chikamingopenlands.org so that we may correct future listings.

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Patricia Craig

Paula Flanagan

Louisa Gehlmann

Geraldine Hletko

Christine Hoskinso

Janice Johnson

Frances Kent

John & Joanne Keefe

The Mueller Family

Joanne Nadelhoffe

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Bernie & Beth Dah

David & Susan Ebler

Douglas & Ellen Elrick

Nancy Felton-Elkins

Robert & Jeanne Ganchiff

Grand Beach Marsl

Village of Grand Beach

Grants Received Fron

Heart of Cook Foundation

Southwestern Michigan

Association of REALTORS

Annual Unrestricted Gifts*

Received January 1 through

Chauncev & Marion D

McCormick Family

Land Trust Alliance

December 31, 2015

STS Foundation

Restoration and

Improvements

Ellen Frankle

\$1,000-1,999

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Terrence & Janice Wals

Jo Anne Rydholm

Ms. Jessica Tampas

Stephen & Cindy Mitche

Carol & Steve Mullins

Chris & Jessica Hehmeyer

David & Susan Eblen

Gifts Restricted to Land Protection Projects Special thanks to the follow made the named projects

Jens Jensen Preserve* (Save the Trails Campaign) \$10.000+

Melvin & Randy Berlin Earl & Brenda Shapiro

\$1,000-2,500

Tom & Julie Belka Terri & William Breach Maureen & Vaughn Culp Paul Dumke Greg & Vickie Kaiser Leo & Susan Krusack Mina Kuppe Janis Kanter & Tom McCormick Michigan Nature Associ Marilyn & Leo Nelson The Prairie Club Southwestern Michigan Association of REALTORS

Hilary Critchfield Tom Hackley & Fmily Bettencourt Harbert Business Association Bob & Michelle Ingersoll Francis Kelly Tom & Susan McDonough Dr. Scott McKee Bill & Donna Neill John & Marlene Shales Chip & Janada Steffey

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Knack Lane Ruth Knack, in memory o

Amy Leadstrom The Conservation Circle Eric & Audrey Lester Conservation Circle member Sarah Mansberge make annual, unrestricted **Bachel Maranto**

aifts of \$1,000 or more to \$10,000+ Alan & Cynthia Berkshire Earl & Brenda Shapiro Barbara R. Parsons Richard & Nancy Spa

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\$2,000-4,999

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Jim & Martha Stevens

*Save the Trails aifts received before January 2015 were listed in last year's

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Don White

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Eugine & Lois Pavalon

Kurt Philipps-Zabel

Gunner Piotter & Alana

Bonnie & Kenneth Pletcher

Gabriella Meredit

**Please note that Barn Benefit purchases are not included in the Honor Roll

Cyrus & Lucia Young

Harold & LaVerne Zeige

Jeanne & Errol Zimmerma

Honoraria and Memorials The following honoraria and memorial gifts were received

in 2015.

Julia, Noah & Wyatt Axelrod, from David & Jessica Axelro William & Madge Cloud, from Maureen & Vaughn Culp Judy Cottel, from Elaine David & Susan Eblen, from Charlene Ebler Don & Rosemary Flin from Nancy & Walte Harold Gibson, from Francis Irene Scholer Leah & Maurice Glase from Margo & Raoul David Bill Hurst, from Judy & **Bob Fogarty** Anna & Finn James from John MacManus

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/irginia White from Barbara R

Steven Whitman, from Nanc

Dean Zeiger, from Harold &

Bob Wrenn, from Pamela

Wrenn Anderson

Regina McCord

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Ravi Ricker & Cheryl Noel

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