

December, 2008
Annual End of Year Issue

*Helping Preserve The
Places You Cherish*

LandChoices
PO Box 181
Milford, MI 48381
248-685-0483

LandChoices is a 501c3
national non-profit
organization. **Your
contributions are tax-
deductible to the full
extent of the law.**

Board of Directors

Kirt Manecke MI
President

Dave Csatari MI
Treasurer

Peter Wottowa CO
Secretary

Advisory Group

Kurt Andrae WI

Randall Arendt RI

Sue Choma MI

Larry Collins NC

Jon Kohler FL

Ken LaRoe FL

Steve Manz MI

Karen McDiarmid MI

Tim Mistry MI

Tom Montgomery MI

Colleen Murphy MI

Ed and Eve Noonan IL

Cheryl O'Brien FL

Bonnie Snively MT

Edna Stephens MI

Cyndi Voza MI

LandChoices' Newsletter



Because of you, "Supersize My Backyard" is helping planners and landowners preserve clean water, wildlife, working farms and natural areas nationwide.

**Your support helps us reach
over 34 million rural households!**
Your gifts make it all possible

Thanks to you,
LandChoices'
"Supersize My
Backyard"
campaign **reached over 34
million rural households
nationwide!**

The segment broadcast
on *Michigan Magazine
Television* and aired on
RFD-TV this year. Rural
landowners, farmers and
ranchers learned how to
preserve clean water, wild-
life and working farms.

The myth "conservation
subdivisions encourage
development" and other
myths were dispelled.
Conservation subdivisions

are usually considered only
when landowners or devel-

**"...85% to
90% of land-
owners end up
selling their
land to
conventional
developers..."**

opers are **already planning
to subdivide property.**

**Why is "Supersize My
Backyard" needed?**

Noted planner and
LandChoices' Advisory
Group member **Randall
Arendt**, considered the

nation's foremost authority
on conservation design for
subdivisions, says,
"Approximately **85% to
90% of landowners** end
up selling their land to
conventional developers,
because **they see no other
viable option** when they
need the money."

To **efficiently halt the
loss of natural areas** and
preserve the rural lifestyle
you cherish, landowners
need innovative ways to
preserve land and receive
full equity. **Your support
is making a difference!**

Learn More:
www.landchoices.org

Planner Profile

Preserving the Birthplace of Jimmy Stewart



Your support is helping Anthony Pologruto preserve rural America.



Your funds are helping protect clean water, wildlife and working farms in the "Christmas Tree Capitol of the World".

Thanks to you, LandChoices is helping people like **Anthony Pologruto**, Associate Planner at the Indiana County Office of Planning and Development in Pennsylvania, preserve land.

Indiana County proclaims itself the "Christmas Tree Capital of the World", shipping over one million trees annually. The City of Indiana, Pennsylvania in Indiana County is the **birthplace of Jimmy Stewart**.



"Indiana County is a rural county situated in the foothills of the **Allegheny Mountains** on the Appalachian Plateau of southwestern Pennsylvania. Our landscape consists of **farm fields, covered bridges, horse-drawn buggies**, and an urban landscape with historic downtowns and the largest university in the Commonwealth.

Jimmy Stewart starred in "It's A Wonderful Life".

Nearly 60% of residents surveyed feel Indiana County's **best feature is its small town atmosphere**. LandChoices' philosophy of smart conservation design has been an invaluable resource, providing excellent diagrams, information, and tools to help strengthen our new Comprehensive Plan, which encourages growth that balances economic development with protection of natural resources.

LandChoices' assistance will foster the County's vision of having a prosperous economy while **maintaining its rural character and small town quality of life**," says Pologruto.

Photo of Indiana County countryside courtesy Indiana County Tourist Bureau

Thank You Volunteers!

John Bongort
Don and Sue Choma
Joe Conrad
Circle K Volunteers -
University of Michigan
Lindsay Cotter
Ilyse Denike
Kimberly Edwards
Jen and Tim Mistry
Tom, Jessica Montgomery
Barb Moorehead
Colleen Murphy
Cheryl O'Brien
Nicole Ostrowski
Rhett Reader
Christine Torosian
Leslie Watson
Cyndi Vozza
Alexandra Yarost



Flying Squirrels still have a home... thanks to you!

As LandChoices' member Steve Manz hiked the 564 acres in **Proud Lake State Recreation**, he heard a "squeak". Steve shone his red flashlight on a tree. A **flying squirrel** was staring back at him!

Thanks to you, wildlife here still have a home. Your membership support helped save this wilderness from being sold for development by the State of Michigan.

Image courtesy Michigan DNR



"Our \$30 monthly donation is helping make positive change and that feels good!" says Sue Choma. From front L-R: Chris, Alex, Sue and Don Choma.

Monthly Donor Profile

"**Monthly giving is affordable, secure and easy.** I can change the amount or frequency of my donation any time. I'm in total control," says LandChoices Advisory Group member Sue Choma.

Don Choma adds "I'd recommend online monthly giving to anyone thinking of investing in the environment.

It's **affordable as you amortize it** over the year using your credit or debit card. It's allowing our family to invest a larger amount than one lump sum."

Sue Choma says "I'm not sure people realize **we have control and choices** relating to how we live and how it impacts our environment.

I had no idea I had a choice until I knew about LandChoices. Through LandChoices I learned about innovative conservation design for subdivisions.

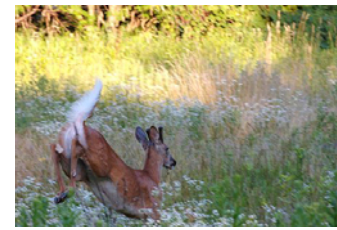
We can make a choice about where and how we want to live. You're not at the mercy of builders. LandChoices offers a **better choice - the conservation subdivision.**

"when my kids go out to play...their choices are limited to the sidewalk or small backyard!"

I see the problem everyday when my kids go out to play — **their choices are limited to the sidewalk or small backyard!** LandChoices' is a hands on grassroots organization that has made great strides getting the word out about a better choice."

You can be a Monthly Donor—Just \$10 a Month!

1. Visit www.landchoices.org.
2. Click on the blue "Donate Now" button.
3. Choose "recurring donation".



Other Ways You Can Help

NEW! Become a Web Page Sponsor

Attract new business!

Your logo with a link to your website can be on our "Home" or "Conservation Subdivisions" Web page.

Learn more at <http://www.landchoices.org/contribute/sponsorship.htm>

Renew Your Membership

Please fill out the enclosed reply envelope and mail it. Donate securely online at www.landchoices.org

Wish List

Visit www.landchoices.org/contribute/wishlist.htm



Gift of Stock

Gifts in the form of stocks, bonds or mutual funds appreciated in value can support LandChoices' work. **This may be attractive to you under current tax laws.** Please visit www.landchoices.org/contribute/otherways.htm

Thank You!

*Deer photo courtesy
Tryon Farm and John Hines*

Your Gifts Make It All Possible. Thank You!

We thank the following friends who contributed between December 10, 2007 and December 10, 2008.

Corporate Sustainers (\$500 to \$999)

Greener Prospects, Randall
Arendt

Sponsors (\$100 to \$499)

Audubon International at
Bundoran Farm
Conservare
Edco
Hiller's Markets
Huron Valley State Bank
Jon Kohler & Associates Real
Estate Consultants
Milford Counseling
North Hill at Staurolite
Bill Morton-Preserving Open
Space with Conservation
Subdivisions DVD
Eric Nichols at
SearchPittsburghHomes.com

Foundation Support

Warren Bicknell, III and
Elizabeth H. Bicknell
Family Charitable Fund,
Community Foundation of
South Georgia, Inc.

In-Kind Donors

Buy Michigan Now
Bill Burpee and Kathy Wright
Carl R. Sams II Photography
Families First Monthly
Google, Inc.
Green Street Fair
Orion Grassroots Network
Plymouth (MI) Family YMCA
The Media Relations Maven
Traverse Magazine
Whole Foods Market

Individual Members

Conservationists

(\$5,000 or more)

Anonymous Matching Grant



Your support
will help end
subdivision
clear-cutting
that pollutes
water and
destroys
working farms,
wildlife and
natural areas.

Patron (\$500 or more)

Annette Allen
Mari Harpur
Hugh Kent

Friend (\$250 or more)

Anonymous (1)
Lindsay Cotter
John H. Erickson
Kevin Kennedy
Kirt Manecke
Steve and Janice Manz
Tom and Colleen Montgomery
Dan and Lisa Poole

Contributor (\$100 or more)

A Milford, MI contributor
Kurt and Cynthia Andrae
David and Paula Bardsley
Don and Sue Choma
Larry Collins
Sandra Daniels
Gale Dettling
Mike and Erin Dougherty
Scott and Kristen Hibbard
Joseph L. Hudson, Jr.
Kevin Kelly
James Kenner in memory
of Bill and Jane Kenner
Ken and Cynthia LaRoe
John and Betsy Manecke
Ed McMahon
Tim and Jen Mistry
Rick Nadeau
Kim Walter

Jan Wirth

Peter Wottowa in honor of
Allison Wottowa

Supporter (\$50 or more)

Leslie Baker
Bill Burpee and Kathy Wright
Annette Henneau
Diana Lutz
Amy Ploof
Stephen and Charlotte Qua
Colleen K. N. Reader
Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick
William and Mary Scott
Dave Smith

Basic Member (\$30 or more)

Karen and Hugh McDiarmid

Other

Joe Conrad
Larry Helvie
Tom Kemper
Mark O'Reilly

Gift Memberships

Tom Montgomery from
Tom and Janice Kennedy

Sign up for our e-newsletter at
www.landchoices.org

www.downloadtheordinance.org

*Recycle your newsletter,
pass it on...*