



THE VIEW FROM ABOVE *By Chris Bunch, Executive Director*

Climbing up from the path to get perspective is hard, especially when you're head down in the trenches trying to keep up. Even more so when circumstances have created a swirl of new challenges just to maintaining balance and progress.

2021 was better than 2020, though many of the previous years' challenges carried on throughout much of 2021. Early in the year, we remained hopeful about being able to return to in-person events and other regular activities, but by late spring we gave up on most of that. It wasn't until late in the summer that we began to see the potential to return to some sort of in-person interaction, which then meant we accelerated planning and execution for events in extraordinarily short time frames—all while still unsure they would be able to take place.

Those challenges notwithstanding, we had some wonderful successes and wonderful times with the events we were able to hold. Star hikes, our conservation celebration, and then finally being able to hold our annual (interrupted) Conservation Leadership Luncheon at the Detroit Athletic Club were all great successes and greatly appreciated—by all of our staff, volunteers and board members, and all of those who attended.

While interruptions to in-person activities were happening, we were able to continue with some of our regular stewardship volunteer work, since those were outdoor activities. And Ian and other staff members did a great job increasing our virtual engagement efforts. Ian did some great online talks about various natural features, and we increased the scope and frequency of our online communication. One thing we did not do, however, was shift to online events. While many other organizations did a great job with those shifts, we chose to stay hopeful that we would be able to get back together soon, and so held off.

Our land protection work continued apace, carrying on with ongoing projects and picking up some new ones. We were able to complete and close out several projects by year-end, and got others started for the upcoming season.

Our stewardship work also continued largely uninterrupted in 2021. In fact, it picked up significantly with contract work we secured when trying to fill voids that arose in the early stages of the lock-downs in 2020. This has become a welcome addition to both our ability to accomplish mission driven outcomes and to generate revenue from work that supports our mission.

On the administrative side, we welcomed a new administrative manager who has done a marvelous job streamlining and handling the multitude of obligations we face as a non-profit. Many of our staff were able to take advantage of remote opportunities to advance their skills. The board took the opportunity to revisit and update our strategic plan, largely driven by changes to our efforts that were brought about by adjustments made because of the pandemic.

This last is perhaps the single most important development for Six Rivers, perhaps since its founding. Our board boldly adopted a goal of seeking to double the amount of conservation and recreation land in our region. There are 8 million acres of public land in Michigan, but only 200,000 of that is down here in southeastern Michigan, where the majority of the State's population lives and works, and where the majority of the environmental impacts have taken place. Six Rivers committed to trying to protect 75,000 acres ourselves over the next several years, and working with partners at all levels to ensure that collectively we add an additional 200,000 acres of conservation and recreation land in the region.

As 2021 came to a close, we were all extraordinarily grateful to see conditions in our lives improve from the low stages of the pandemic. While the road ahead will undoubtedly have more bumps in it, we are most grateful for our supporters, our volunteers, and all of you who share in our vision and values for preserving the *Nature Near You*.





2021: FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

ASSETS

	2021	2020
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$72,677	\$158,249
Grants and Contributions		
Receivable	\$159,375	\$206,916
Other Current Assets	\$6,853	\$16,694
Land Preserves	\$5,884,162	\$9,219,030
Conservation Easements	28	26
Property and Equipment - Net	\$11,646	177
Total Assets	\$6,134,741	\$9,601,092

LIABILITIES

	2021	2020
Accounts Payable and		
Accrued Expenses	\$14,868	\$70,245
Payroll Liabilities Payable	—	—
Loans Payable	\$4,233,771	\$7,739,889
Total Liabilities	\$4,248,639	\$7,810,134

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$1,886,100	\$1,790,958
Temporarily Restricted	—	—
Total Net Assets	\$1,886,100	\$1,790,958

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND

NET ASSETS	\$6,134,739	\$9,601,092
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FINANCIAL POSITION

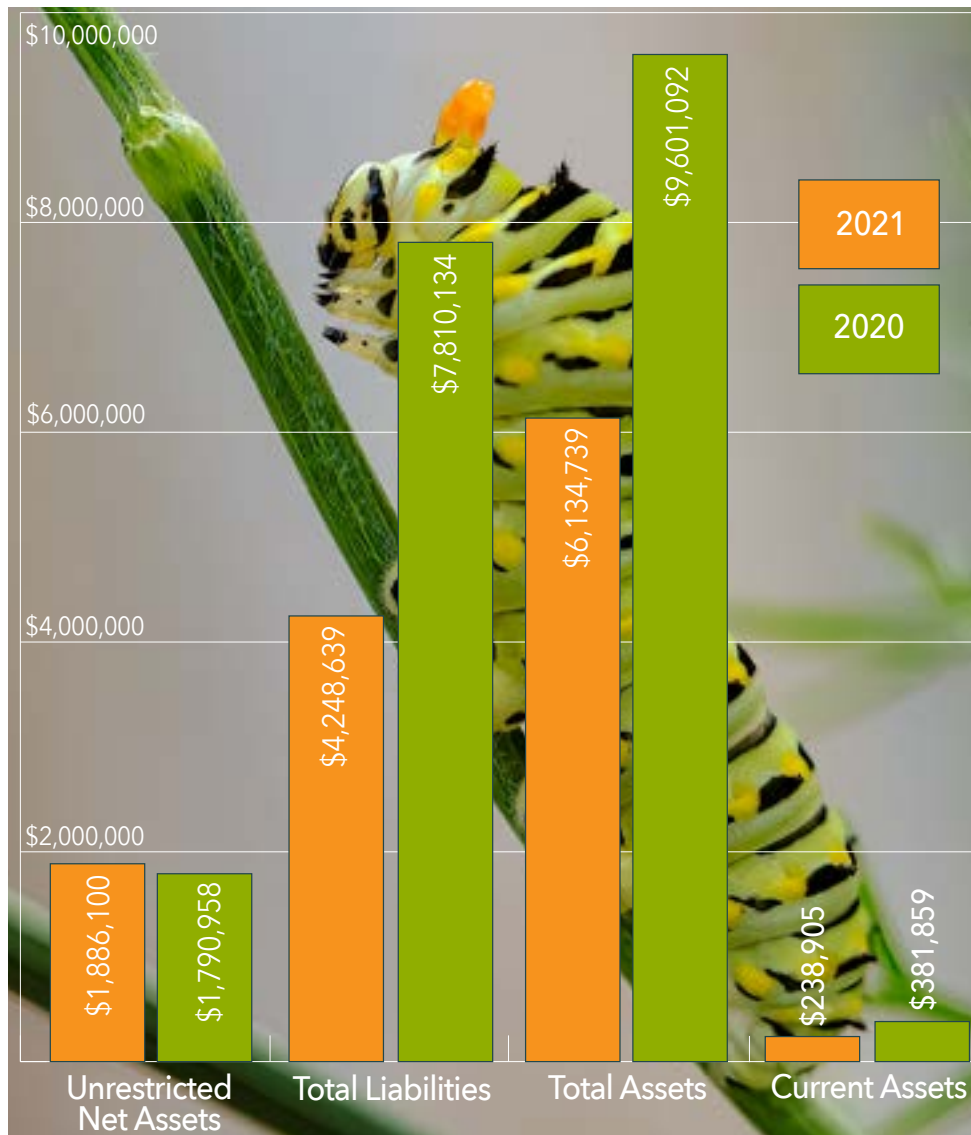
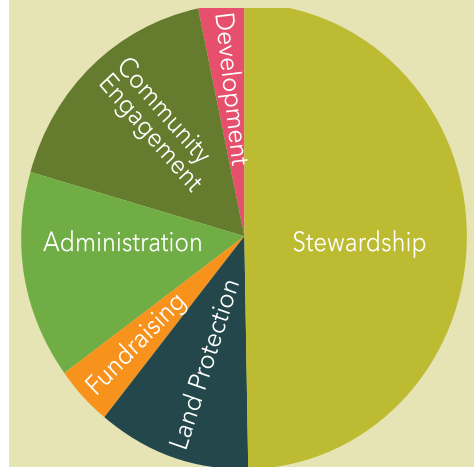
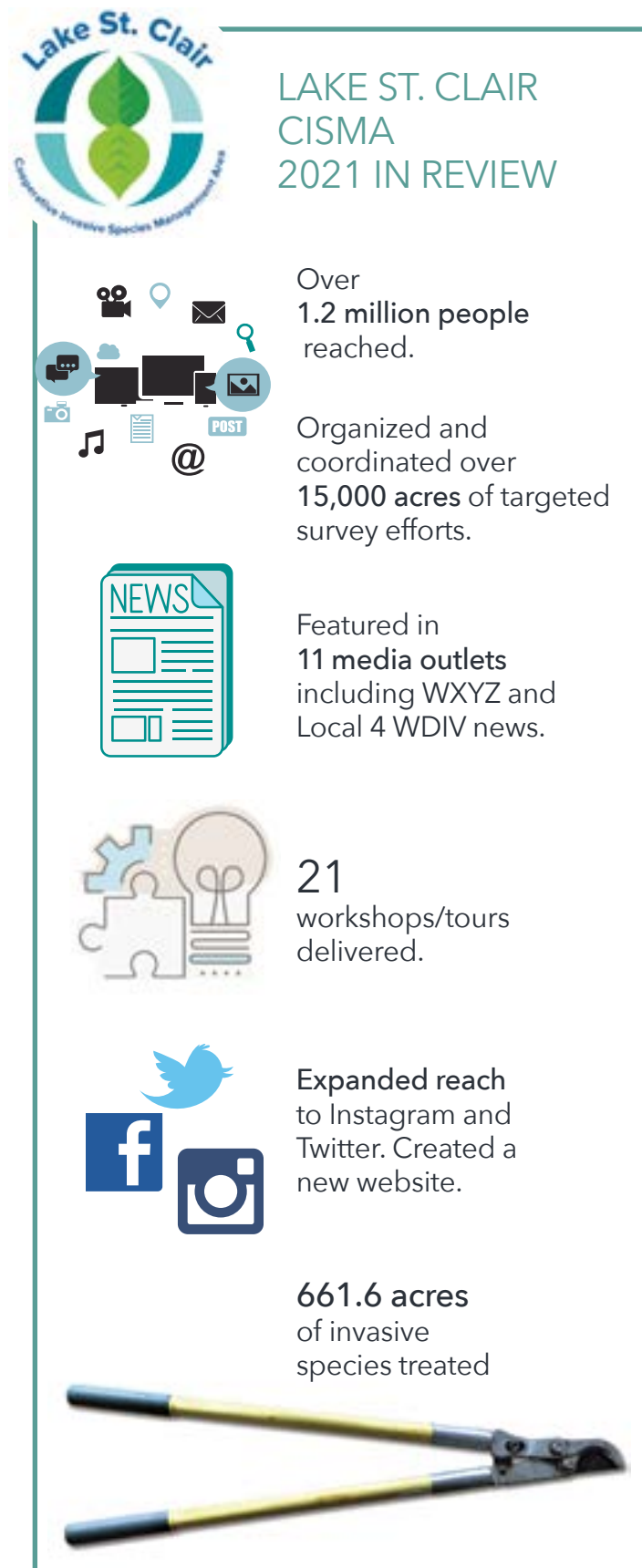


Photo by Winnie Chrzanowski

2021 EXPENSES BY CLASS



- Stewardship 49.76%
- Land Protection . . . 11.1%
- Development 4.3%
- Administration . . . 14.5%
- Community Engagement . . . 17.0%
- Fundraising 3.3%





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FOR MORE ON HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR MISSION, CONTACT:

Kristen Myers, Deputy Director
Phone: 248-601-2816
Email: kmyers@sixriversrlc.org
www.sixriversrlc.org

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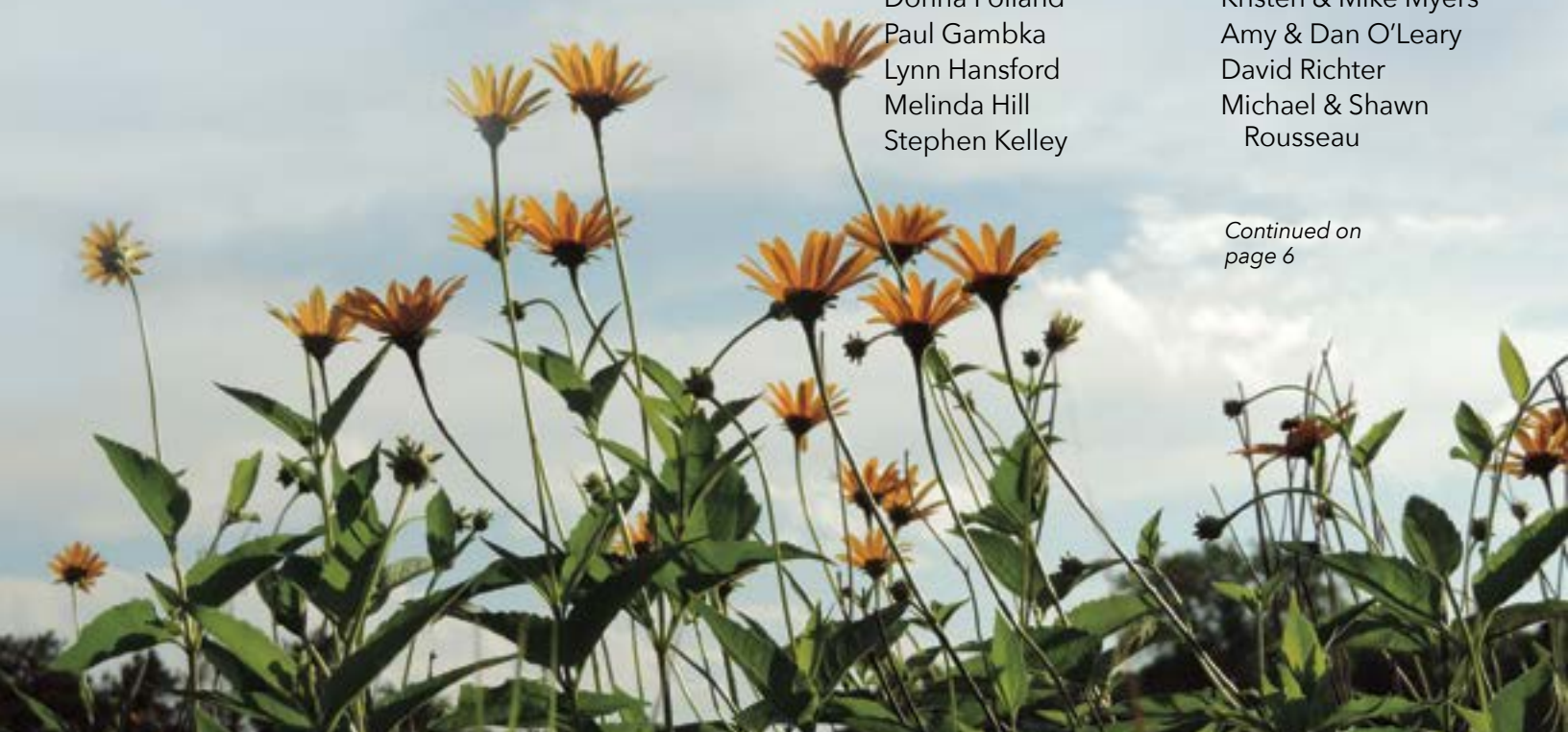
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THANKS TO OUR DONORS!

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Rudy Ziehl



A heartfelt "thank you" goes out to all of the volunteers who attended our abbreviated stewardship workday schedule in 2021. Thank you for all that you do!

Dhruv Acharya
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Samuel Auten
Leo Banuelos
Glenroy Bowe
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Christina
Calcaterra
David Case
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To help us continue to protect more land, please consider becoming a monthly or quarterly donor.

Our monthly giving program, the Six Rivers Stewards Club, is the safest, simplest, and most effective way to support our land conservation and stewardship programs and places you in our inner circle of ambassadors.

Whether it's a \$10, \$25, \$35 or \$100 monthly donation, your investment will directly impact our work and provide us with consistent, sustainable funds so we can continue working with you to protect more land.

There are 8 million acres of public land in Michigan, and only 200,000 acres here in southeast Michigan where the majority of the population lives and works. Let's work together to change that, and become a Six Rivers Stewards Club member! Join by donating online at www.sixriversrlc.org/donate and choose the monthly or quarterly option under "Donation Frequency".

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Phone: 248-601-2816

Email: kmyers@sixriversrlc.org

Photo by Theresa Ray