

Create a Natural Legacy

Make a Planned Gift to
Seven Ponds Nature Center

Seven Ponds Nature Center

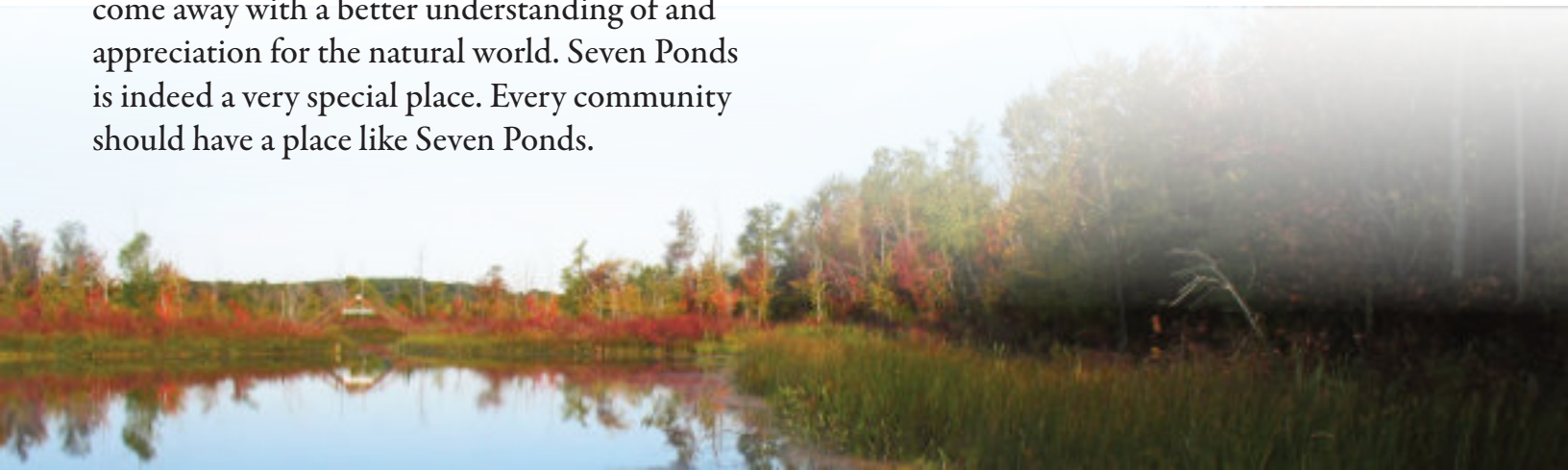
~: A very special place ~:

Some places are so special that people find themselves returning over and over again. Seven Ponds Nature Center is one of those places. People are drawn to the extraordinary natural beauty provided by deep, glacial lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, fields, prairie, and woodlands. They are amazed and enchanted by the many types of native plants and animals found in the nature center's diverse habitats.

People also return to Seven Ponds for the wonderful variety of programs offered by the nature center's knowledgeable staff and visiting professionals. Seven Ponds places a special emphasis on environmental education for young people. Children take part in school field trips, in-classroom programs, scout programs, and summer programs. These activities help create a love of natural things which last a lifetime.

Over its first 50 years, more than a million people, representing four generations, have participated in the nature center's programs. Hundreds of thousands of school children have walked the trails. All of their lives have been touched by the nature center, and they have come away with a better understanding of and appreciation for the natural world. Seven Ponds is indeed a very special place. Every community should have a place like Seven Ponds.

The mission of Seven Ponds Nature Center is to conserve the natural environment of Seven Ponds as a sanctuary for native plants and animals, as a living classroom for environmental education, and as a peaceful retreat for its visitors. The nature center fosters an understanding and appreciation of our natural world and the development of an environmental ethic in the people and communities of Southeast Michigan through education, service as a community resource, and responsible stewardship of Seven Ponds and adjacent lands.



Consider a Planned Gift to Seven Ponds



Seven Ponds has become the special place that it is today through the hard work and support of thousands of individuals. People believe in the nature center's mission, and wish to help perpetuate and enhance this treasured community asset. They have provided generous support through memberships, memorials, annual gifts, and a variety of other types of contributions. Some individuals have coordinated their charitable gifts to the nature center with their financial and estate planning activities. Such "planned gifts" have been extraordinarily important to the success of Seven Ponds and we encourage you to contribute to the nature center's future with such a gift.

Planned gifts can provide you with the following advantages:

- ☛ Provide a current year income tax deduction
- ☛ Reduce estate taxes
- ☛ Reduce or avoid capital gains tax
- ☛ Provide a life income stream
- ☛ Provide a way to honor or remember a loved one
- ☛ Allow a larger gift than otherwise possible
- ☛ Support Seven Ponds Nature Center's mission

If you would like to discuss making a planned gift to Seven Ponds with a representative of the nature center, please contact the Executive Director at 810-796-3200.

Ways of Giving to Seven Ponds Nature Center



Seven Ponds Nature Center welcomes planned gifts in many forms and of any amount. You may wish to make your gift during your lifetime in order to witness the impact of your generosity. Or, you may prefer to make plans which provide a gift at life's end. In either case, your planned gift will be greatly appreciated and put to good use by the nature center. Below are some of the most popular planned giving methods.

- ☛ A gift by will
- ☛ An unrestricted gift of cash or securities
- ☛ A gift of life insurance
- ☛ A charitable remainder trust or a charitable remainder annuity trust
- ☛ A charitable lead trust
- ☛ A gift of your residence, vacation home, farm, or land; with retained life ownership
- ☛ A gift of retirement assets

We advise you to seek counsel from your attorney or financial advisor who can help you consider the tax consequences and create a plan that will be the most beneficial to you and Seven Ponds Nature Center.

How do I include Seven Ponds in my will?



One of the simplest and most common ways to remember Seven Ponds and help the nature center carry out its mission is to leave a bequest through your will. The following is suggested language for accomplishing this.

General bequest – “I give and bequeath to Seven Ponds Nature Center the sum of \$ _____ (or _____ percent of my estate, or a particular asset), to be used for its general purposes as decided by the Seven Ponds Nature Center Board of Directors.”

Specific bequest – “I give and bequeath to Seven Ponds Nature Center the sum of \$ _____ (or _____ percent of my estate, or a particular asset), and direct that it be used for _____ (endowment, children’s programs, stewardship, or other).”

If you wish to include Seven Ponds and already have a will, you can do so by adding a codicil to your existing will.



You will be in good company when

Rip & Patty Schemm

Rip and Patty exemplify what charitable giving can accomplish. They founded Seven Ponds in 1967 with a gift of 100 acres and funds to build the first building. Additional planned gifts of land, operating funds, and endowment followed, allowing the nature center to steadily grow and develop. After Rip's death in 1988, Patty continued steadfast support for the nature center with planned gifts for operating, endowment, land, and the recent capital campaign. Without the vision of Rip and Patty Schemm, there would be no Seven Ponds.



Don & Bee Naish

Don and Bee first became involved at Seven Ponds through Bee's interest in birdwatching. They soon became good friends with Rip and Patty Schemm and an integral part of the development of the nature center. Their many contributions to Seven Ponds included planned gifts of land, operating funds, endowment, and funds for the capital campaign.

Elizabeth Graham

Elizabeth was an early member of Seven Ponds, and also an active member of the local horseback riding group. She enjoyed riding on the many trails through nearby woods and fields. One of her favorite locations was a 145 acre parcel along Jonathan Road. She liked it so much, she decided to purchase it. In order to ensure the permanent preservation of the property, she arranged a planned gift which resulted in the land being transferred to Seven Ponds. Today, that property is the nature center's Jonathan Woods Nature Preserve.



you make a planned gift to Seven Ponds

Dick Liskow

Dick and his wife Alice were longtime members and volunteers of the nature center. They enjoyed the birds, wildflowers, and other natural features they could find at the nature center and on their own property. Dick's bequest of land to the nature center resulted in a significant addition to the nature center's Endowment Fund.

Margaret Watkins

Margaret became a Seven Ponds member and supporter soon after the nature center was established. She was an active member of Grosse Pointe Audubon Society, was an avid birder, and a longtime friend of Patty Schemm. Margaret left a very generous bequest to Seven Ponds which helped with the capital campaign and allowed the nature center to make a significant addition to the Endowment Fund.

Warren Bickes

Warren worked a large farm for many years on land neighboring the nature center. When he stopped farming, sold his land, and moved from the area, he arranged a planned gift of 66 acres of land continuous with nature center lands. This property included Mud Pond, the smallest of the Seven Ponds, thus ensuring its protection.

Jane Kohring

Jane was a longtime member and supporter of Seven Ponds and another good friend of Patty Schemm. She enjoyed taking wildflower photographs and watching birds. She was very pleased to be able to finally see a Connecticut warbler on one of the nature center's field tours, after many years of trying to find this elusive species. Jane believed in the nature center's mission and made a generous donation of securities to help enlarge the Endowment Fund.



Margaret Haines

Margaret was not a member of the nature center for a long time, but she enjoyed coming in to talk to the staff about birds and she believed in what the nature center was doing for the community. She left a generous bequest to Seven Ponds which was added to the Endowment Fund.

Robert Arrol

Robert was a member of the nature center for many years and was a regular contributor. He frequently talked about leaving his 18 acre on property on Richie Pond to the nature center. When Robert passed away in 2011, his property was transferred to Seven Ponds and became the Richie Pond Nature Preserve, an excellent habitat for bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, and other grassland birds.

Tom & Gaye Butterfield

When the nature center began its capital campaign in 2007, Tom and Gaye approached the nature center with a very generous planned gift which got the campaign off to a great start and helped assure its success.



SEVEN PONDS NATURE CENTER

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*Photographs by Jim Vanderpool, Mike Mercier,
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