



*Myrna I. Berlet*



Lt to Rt: Monica Moser, JCF President & CEO, Mark Snedeker, longtime friend and representative of the Berlet Estate, and Ben Dandrow, President & CEO of the Dahlem Conservancy

## **\$5,180,000.00 Bequest to the Jackson Community Foundation from Conservationist, Myrna Berlet, to Support the Dahlem Conservancy**

JACKSON, Michigan, January 24, 2022 - The Jackson Community Foundation has received a \$5.1M bequest, its largest to date, to support the Dahlem Conservancy in perpetuity through the Berlet Fund for Nature. The bequest came from Myrna I. Berlet, a longtime resident of Jackson and lifelong conversationist. Myrna was an accomplished teacher, photographer, filmmaker, and wood carver whose love of nature, faith, and community was evident in everything she did. After receiving degrees in Biology and Zoology, she and first husband, Walter Berlet, went on to build an internationally renowned nature film business. Myrna taught also taught h at Jackson College for 32 years, receiving many awards during her tenure.

“We are honored that Myrna trusted the Jackson Community Foundation as the vehicle to support an organization that was very important to her,” said Monica Moser, President & CEO. “By establishing The Berlet Fund for Nature, Myrna’s legacy as a conservationist will continue to impact Jackson County for generations to come. This Fund will provide a permanent endowment that will grow from investment, serve as a tool for others to contribute to, and provide annual, sustainable income to the Dahlem Conservancy.”

“The Dahlem Conservancy is incredibly thankful for the memory and contributions of Myrna Berlet. Myrna had a deep abiding love for Dahlem. She was a guiding visionary force for over 50 years in our mission of providing environmental education and outdoor experiences to the residents of South-central Michigan,” said Ben Dandrow, Executive Director. “Through her steadfast support, Myrna expressed her confidence in Dahlem’s important role in nurturing the love of nature in people of all ages. She not only gave her time, services, and talents but was a generous financial contributor during her lifetime, donating nearly a quarter of a million dollars. Her support of Dahlem did not end with her life but will continue into posterity. Myrna Berlet’s endowment will ensure the continued sustainability and growth of the Dahlem Conservancy.”

If you would like to DONATE to the Myrna Berlet Fund for Nature, or any other of our charitable funds, go to [www.jacksoncf.org](http://www.jacksoncf.org). If you would like to learn more about Myrna and the Dahlem Conservancy, go to [The Berlet Fund for Nature](#).

If you would like to make a donation to this fund or learn about our other charitable funds, go to [www.jacksoncf.org](http://www.jacksoncf.org) or call today to learn how to set up your own Donor Advised Fund.

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**Our Mission:** *To Connect People and Resources to Causes that Build and Strengthen our Community. For Jackson. For good. For ever.*

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**Our Mission:** *To provide Environmental Education and Outdoor Experiences to the Resident of South Central Michigan.*

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