



Fall 2016  
Vol. 38 No. 3  
[www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)

# Keeping it in the Family

PARSONS FAMILY FARM PROTECTED WITH CONSERVATION EASEMENT

More than half of a 200-acre farm along the US-31 scenic corridor south of Charlevoix was recently protected through LTC's purchase of development rights program.

THE PARSONS CENTENNIAL FARM has been owned by the Parsons family for more than 118 years. The family has always been committed to being good stewards of the land. Dave, fourth generation of the Parsons family, and his wife Terri are still working their land and are in the process of transitioning it to the fifth generation. Now much of it has been protected with a conservation easement that will keep it undeveloped for all time.

Dave's great grandfather, John Parsons, came from England through Canada and Wisconsin, eventually homesteading the neighboring farm around 1865. "My grandfather George ran a sawmill and worked in the woods with horses," Dave says. It was Dave's father, Bill Parsons, who began to more seriously farm the land, focusing on a small dairy and crops. Bill always looked to the future employing better farming techniques such as strip farming, which focused on farming with the contours of the land to prevent erosion. It also promoted crop rotation, which focused on maintaining healthy soil. The family has always made maple syrup.

The original sugar bush was located near Harwood Lake. Bill had a real sweet tooth and started every morning with homemade pancakes sweetened with his own syrup. When Dave graduated from high school, he served four years in the U.S. Air Force with one year in Vietnam. Upon returning to the family farm, he grew the dairy operation in addition to taking the maple syrup business to the next level. He converted the gathering process from buckets to tubing. He also converted syrup processing from a flat pan in the woods to a wood-fired evaporator in a building closer to the barns.

In 1985 Dave retired from the dairy operation. In 2005, Dave and Terri



Three generations of the Parsons family L-R: Dave, Terry, Phill, Amber, Harrison, and Katie.



George Parsons (center) gathering sap with his children Jane and Bill, circa 1925.

upgraded the syrup process once more, putting new tubing in the woods, purchasing new processing equipment and converting the milking parlor into a syrup production facility.

Both Terri and Dave have always held jobs off the farm in order to keep the farm going. They have four children: Maria lives with her husband and son in Providence Rhode Island; Katie lives in Dexter Michigan with her husband, daughter and son; Bradley and his partner Colleen live in Denver, Colorado; and Amber and Phill and their

*story continued page 7*

*The mission of the Little Traverse Conservancy is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of northern Michigan by preserving significant land and scenic areas, and fostering appreciation and understanding of the environment.*





Amy Joseph (left) was the lucky winner of Trisha Witty's painting "Spring Awakening" at this year's Save the Trees.

## 27th Annual Save the Trees Fundraiser Breaks Records

A total of \$57,000 was raised at the 27th annual Save the Trees fundraiser held on July 27. Of this, a record \$13,500 was raised in the silent auction and treasure tree alone! The kindness of donors to the Christmas Mountain land protection project helped raise \$3,800. Over the years, this event has raised more than \$700,000!

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Special thanks to volunteer photographer: Alyson Williams of Glass Lakes Photography

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Flowers were donated by A.R. Pontius (left) and flowers and plants were donated by Drost Landscaping (below).





# Where Family Gathers

## CONSERVATION EASEMENT ADDS TO LAKE CHARLEVOIX PROTECTION

*Winnie Boal is the second in her extended family to protect a piece of the land that her grandparents first purchased more than 100 years ago. Through her conservation easement, she has ensured that 16 acres with 865 feet along Lake Charlevoix will stay beautiful for many more years and generations.*



Members of the Boal Family,  
Lake Charlevoix, circa 1918.

SINCE 1913, the Boal family has summered on Lake Charlevoix, starting when Ayres Boal and Lesley Johnson Boal first came from Winnetka, Illinois to establish their family vacation home. The couple purchased roughly 100 acres along the north shore of Lake Charlevoix, as well as Windmill Farm, known today as Dunmaglas Golf Course.

Two generations later, Winnie now owns the land inherited by her father, Thomas, one of Ayres and Lesley's four children. A home that easily blends into the woods was built by Winnie and her two brothers in 1980 - the lone structure on the Thomas Boal property. East of the house lies the remains of a clay tennis court. Lesley Boal planted roses next to the court, which are still there, and Winnie likes to imagine the women playing tennis on the court in the long, white dresses they wore in the early 1900s. The heart of the extended family's property is a large, natural, bubbling spring that forms a stunning cedar-rimmed pool that empties by a cheerful burbling brook into the lake. To the west, the "Beach Path" meanders along the shoreline connecting Winnie's land to that owned by other family members, and to the newer tennis court where family tournaments are held. The land has witnessed the making of decades of family memories, both wonderful and heartbreaking. It is the place where everyone comes together.

"My reason for donating a conservation easement is that I couldn't live with myself if the gorgeous natural landscape were replaced by a lawn and one or more McMansions. Mother Nature has already done an exquisite job, especially along the shoreline," Winnie says.

"The Boal easement lies within one of LTC's focal areas for protection, the Boyne City Road Corridor," explains Caitlin Donnelly, LTC land protection specialist. "It amplifies the protection currently offered by the conservation easement her cousin has completed to the west and Camp Sea-Gull and the Driggers Preserve to the east," Donnelly added. "This is another wonderful gift to the greater protection of the Lake Charlevoix watershed."



Winnie Boal and the "granddaddy"  
of several giant hemlocks found on  
her land.



# Protecting the Black Lake Watershed



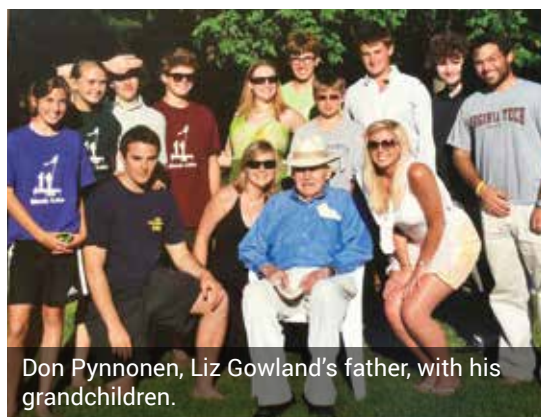
Liz and Rusty Gowland with their dog Piper on the edge of the trail that meanders through the land they recently protected with a conservation easement. The uplands include a mix of balsam fir, red oak, hemlock, and red maple. Stony Creek runs through their property creating an emerging wetland on the south side of the property.



Comfort Lodge as it looks today.



Wooden steering wheels and bicycle rims made by the Lobdell Emery Rim Company.



Don Pynnonen, Liz Gowland's father, with his grandchildren.

ON CALM SUMMER MORNINGS, Rusty and Liz Gowland start their day with a water ski on Black Lake, and this summer has offered up many perfect glassy starts. For the Gowlands, the lake represents so much of what has made their family whole. To give back, they recently donated a conservation easement protecting the nearly 13 acres of Black Lake watershed just a short distance from the water's edge.

The Gowlands' two young adult children are the fifth generation to summer along the south end of the lake near the far eastern border of Cheboygan County. Liz's great grandfather, E.J. Lobdell, Sr., came to Onaway from Ohio during the lumbering era of the late 1900s because of the abundance of high quality maple. There he established the Lobdell Emery Rim Company specializing in wooden automobile steering wheels. The local saying soon became, "Onaway steers the world." Sadly, a fire devastated the business in 1926, and it relocated to another facility in Alma, Michigan, taking with it a large portion of the Onaway population.

Yet the Lobdell summer home and family traditions remained on Black Lake. "E.J.'s granddaughter, my mom, never missed a summer in her 86 years," Liz says. The same is true for Liz and her children. Her grandparents' original cottage known as Comfort Lodge still stands today, and several family members and old family friends own cottages along the familiar stretch of lake shoreline. In 1995, Liz and Rusty had the opportunity to purchase one of the original cabins that was built in 1919.

The Gowland family loves the outdoors, and Rusty has long been supportive of and involved in environmental and conservation causes, both nationally and locally. Professionally, he is involved in the solar energy industry. On Black Lake, he has worked with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to help found the Black Lake Preservation Society, modeled somewhat after similar associations on nearby lakes. "The lake is clean now, so our mission is to ensure it stays that way," Rusty says. "It is much easier to address environmental concerns before serious degradation happens."

The Gowland conservation easement is the first conservation easement on Black Lake and only the second project there that has involved LTC. (The 21-acre Cain's Creek Swamp Preserve is located on the northwest side of the lake.) "We are pleased to have another project on Black Lake and look forward to continued work with the Black Lake Preservation Society," said Caitlin Donnelly, the Conservancy's land protection specialist.



# Welcome New Membership Coordinator

EMILY HUGHES JOINS LTC

WE ARE THRILLED to welcome Emily Hughes to the Little Traverse Conservancy staff in a new position devoted fully to our membership program. Emily comes to us with a diverse set of skills in development, marketing, nonprofit management, and outdoor education. However, what you are most likely to notice about her is an irrepressibly positive attitude and infectious smile. Most recently she lived and worked at Kroka Expeditions, a nonprofit wilderness school in New Hampshire with an educational farm. As outreach director for three years, Emily was able to refine what she learned in college and test her own ideas. Emily's undergraduate studies were in International Business and Marketing at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Before jumping into her graduate studies, she ventured to Lanesboro, Minnesota to work as a naturalist at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center. In following years, she gained a masters in Environmental Studies from SUNY-ESF and a masters in Public Administration at Syracuse University with a focus in nonprofit management.

Emily's love of the outdoors began at a young age during camping, hiking, and canoeing trips. Many of these trips were in the Adirondacks, just a couple hours from her hometown, Fayetteville, NY. She is a National Outdoor Leadership School alumni and certified Wilderness First Responder. Emily loves cycling and would choose a bike over a car any day. She is also an avid basketball player, with lots of height and enthusiasm. She is joined by her partner Joe, and their dog Journey, both natives of northern Michigan. Emily is eager to meet you, our members! Feel free to call her to set up a preserve walk or bike ride. She can be reached at 231.344.1009 or [emily@landtrust.org](mailto:emily@landtrust.org).



Emily Hughes and her partner Joe Graham at this past July's Save the Trees fundraising event in Harbor Springs.



Petoskey Montessori students (grades 3-5 above) and eighth graders from Concord Academy Boyne (right) participated in the BioBlitz.

## LTC Hosts its First Ever BioBlitz

### Susan Creek Preserve, Charlevoix County

Our first ever BioBlitz was a success! All told, 69 participants (including 48 kids) spent a day and a half making observations of 289 species! Volunteers led forays to find salamanders, moths, vascular plants, small mammals, fishes, aquatic invertebrates and more. Collaborating groups included Concord Academy of Boyne (10 eighth grade students), Petoskey Montessori Elementary School (13 third-to-fifth graders), Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Grass River Natural Area, Borealis Consulting, Glen Matthews, Petoskey Regional Audubon Society, Michigan State University, the Organization for Bat Conservation and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Support was given by Great Lakes Energy's People Fund, Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Sturgeon River Pottery, the Outfitter of Harbor Springs, Grain Train of Petoskey, Roast & Toast, MSU Extension and Bridge Street Tap Room.





# SUMMER EDUCATION RECAP

## LOOKING AHEAD!

Our annual environmental education program brochure is available online, at our office, or call us and we can mail you a copy. It summarizes the program offerings for the upcoming school year along with information about funding for bus travel, additional education materials available for loan, and much more. [www.landtrust.org/about-environmental-education](http://www.landtrust.org/about-environmental-education).



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Over 145 Knee High Naturalists participated in an LTC program this summer to learn about reptiles, birds, trees, bugs and ducks with many activities and crafts including making fairy houses and gnome homes in the forest and racing ducks in a stream.



For the second year in a row, LTC joined the Boyne City Library's Outdoor Adventure Club with programs held at The Hill Nature Preserve and Boyne River Nature Area. This program starts out with the children's librarian, Alexa Wright, reading a few books to participants in the woods followed by an outdoor activity led by LTC staff. It's a fun way to combine reading/stories and spending time outdoors. Themes included healthy habitats, orienteering, nature games and a scavenger hunt with nature crafts. Four sessions involved 66 participants.



North Point / Todd Parker

New this year, LTC conducted programs at the North Point Natural Area, a 28-acre LTC assist project on Lake Michigan in Charlevoix. This property is adjacent to the McSaubia Recreational Area where the city summer camp is held. On Thursdays for six weeks, campers and counselors met with LTC to explore the natural area while participating in hands-on activities about several nature topics including birds, forest animals, bugs, nature games and art. Camp Director Jane Milan said, "It was a nice addition to our camp and we hope to continue next year." This partnership was established in part to extend beyond our regular summer program areas of Petoskey and Harbor Springs. This program reached 264 children.

## 2016/2017 SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM DATES

FALL: SEPTEMBER 20-OCTOBER 28  
WINTER: JANUARY 10-FEBRUARY 24  
SPRING: MAY 2-JUNE 9

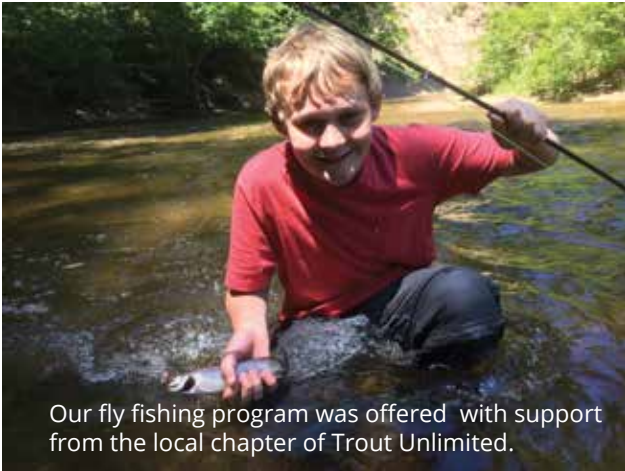
CALL OUR OFFICE AT 231.347.0991 TO SIGN UP FOR A SEASON OR FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL YEAR!



## NEW LAND AND WATER EDUCATION FUND

On the heels of the successful Watershed Academy collaboration, and in response to increased education needs and requests, the Conservancy is teaming up with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation. The new Land and Water Education Fund is an endowment that will help the three groups and their partners teach young people about our area's natural resources. Streamlining three organizations' education endowment efforts into one will save on administrative costs and avoid fund raising duplication. The groundwork for the new fund has been established, and a campaign will be launched in 2017.

Thorne Swift/TMPetersen



## Teen Outdoor Skills Series to continue next summer!

This past summer saw our first series of programs aimed towards teens. Our Teen Outdoor Skills Series (TOSS) was held the third week of June on a trial basis. Each day featured a different theme designed to expose teens to various skills and activities that can be done outdoors for a lifetime. Skills included a variety of wilderness survival basics and a fly fishing lesson. Due to the success and interest, we have decided to include these teen programs as part of our regular summer schedule for 2017. We will add one day during our summer program schedule designed specifically for teens. Spread the word and be sure to check us out next summer!

Our fly fishing program was offered with support from the local chapter of Trout Unlimited.

*"Keeping it in the Family" continued from cover*

son live on the family farm. Four years ago Dave and Terri asked their four grown children if any of them would be interested in taking over the farm. "We never wanted them to feel pressured in any way, but we always let them know there was opportunity here, Terri says. A few years ago, through a series of remarkable events, Amber fell in love with Phillip, an Australian chef, and they expressed an interest in taking over the family farm. Amber has a degree in advertising and event planning. Their daughter Katie, who is a graphic designer, was also interested. Together they formed a team to promote the farm.

Earlier this summer, Amber, Phillip and Katie opened up the Harwood Gold store in downtown Charlevoix. There they sell specialty products that have as their base the pure maple syrup they harvest from the Parsons Farm.

"With a mile of US-31 frontage, the Parsons Farm has long been a high priority for conservation," said the Conservancy's Ty Ratliff, who has been working with the Parsons family for many years. "It is wonderful to know that these multi-generational farms established on those beautiful glacial drumlins will remain scenic and protected forever."



Amber, Phill, and Katie recently opened a storefront in downtown Charlevoix called Harwood Gold. They have created many specialty products using maple syrup as their sweetener.

The yellow highlighted regions on the map to right are lands around the Parsons Farm (in red) that have been protected through either a donated conservation easement or the purchase of development rights program. All told, these privately-owned but permanently protected lands total just under 500 acres and two miles of frontage along US-31.





## STEWARDSHIP



Replacing erosion control material along the Pigeon River at the Agnes A. Andreae Preserve.



Girl scouts from the BSA Venture Crew pull garlic mustard at the Ransom Preserve.



The ever exuberant Richard Jenkins along with Ellen Waller removed invasive spotted knapweed at the Kalman Preserve along Little Traverse Bay.

## Stewarding Snapshots



Trail repairs and clearing are done throughout the summer on LTC's 106 miles of trail.



Roughly two miles were added to the trail system at the Darnton Family Preserve this summer.



Tom O'Halleran and his wife Teresa Woodruff are the trail stewards at the Cedarville Bay Preserve. Here Tom posts a sign at the preserve.



Mike Lynch and Graham Peters heading out to the Aldo Leopold Preserve on Marquette Island, Les Cheneaux.



Graham Peters sits on the bench built by Sean Stewart and his family at the Raunecker Preserve. This preserve, located walking distance from downtown Harbor Springs, is one of LTC's most popular community preserves.



## How Birding Opens up the World

*Jacob Van Patten is a 14-year-old Petoskey native who volunteers for Little Traverse Conservancy's Kestrel Box Monitoring Program. Here he shares how his love for the natural world has evolved.*

I have an ever-growing interest in birds and in the natural world. While birds have remained the focus of my studies, I have found that getting into birding has gone deeper than just counting and watching different species of birds. It has given me an awareness of the natural world around me. I now pay more attention to the different types of trees and plants present and what species of birds will benefit from them for food or nesting purposes. I now pay more attention to the chipmunks and deer and the vital role they play in the environment. Also by learning about various alarm calls of different species, I have been able to locate birds of prey and more.

My appreciation for nature began in the spring of 2014. My sister and I were homeschooled at the time, and our mom had us do a unit on ornithology. We mainly studied backyard birds and their adaptations and behavior, and it opened up the natural world which had previously gone unnoticed by me. One afternoon, as part of the class, we took a short hike near our home through a small wood lot that continued out over a shallow cattail marsh. What I saw on this walk were Downy Woodpeckers and Red-winged Blackbirds, which are just common birds, but they were birds I hadn't ever seen in our urban backyard. Since then, my dad has also been very supportive by taking me on birding trips and teaching me the tracks and signs of other wildlife. I suddenly began hanging bird feeders and getting my hands on every field guide I could with a huge desire to learn about what else was out there.

I always enjoy going to any place where I can observe in different habitats. Whenever we're planning a trip somewhere, I quickly look up all the birds I may find in that location, but the local nature preserves have trails that course through a variety of habitats where wildlife is very diverse. A couple that stand out to me are the Waldron Fen and Round Lake Nature Preserves. On a trip to the Waldron Fen Nature Preserve this past spring, I found 46 different species of birds across the extensive fields, densely vegetated fen, and coniferous forest habitats. I have taken many hikes at the Round Lake Nature Preserve and whether or not I was a birder yet, I have enjoyed a variety of wildlife on each visit. I am so grateful that these places are protected for everyone to enjoy—wildlife and humanity.

Anyone can learn a lot about the natural world by just spending time outside and taking it all in. Also, in this day and age, conservation is a much needed act by all of us as many species worldwide face steep declines. While whatever we do individually may not seem significant — whether it be picking up trash, or planting a tree, or contributing to restoring an endangered habitat — it is very useful in the grand scheme of things.



Jacob Van Patten

## Eagle Scout Makes Kestrel Boxes

Eagle Scout candidate Noah Gosciak of Troop 7 built 10 kestrel boxes to make homes for new kestrel families as his service project. Currently, 66 boxes have been installed and are being monitored through LTC's Kestrel Box Monitoring Program.



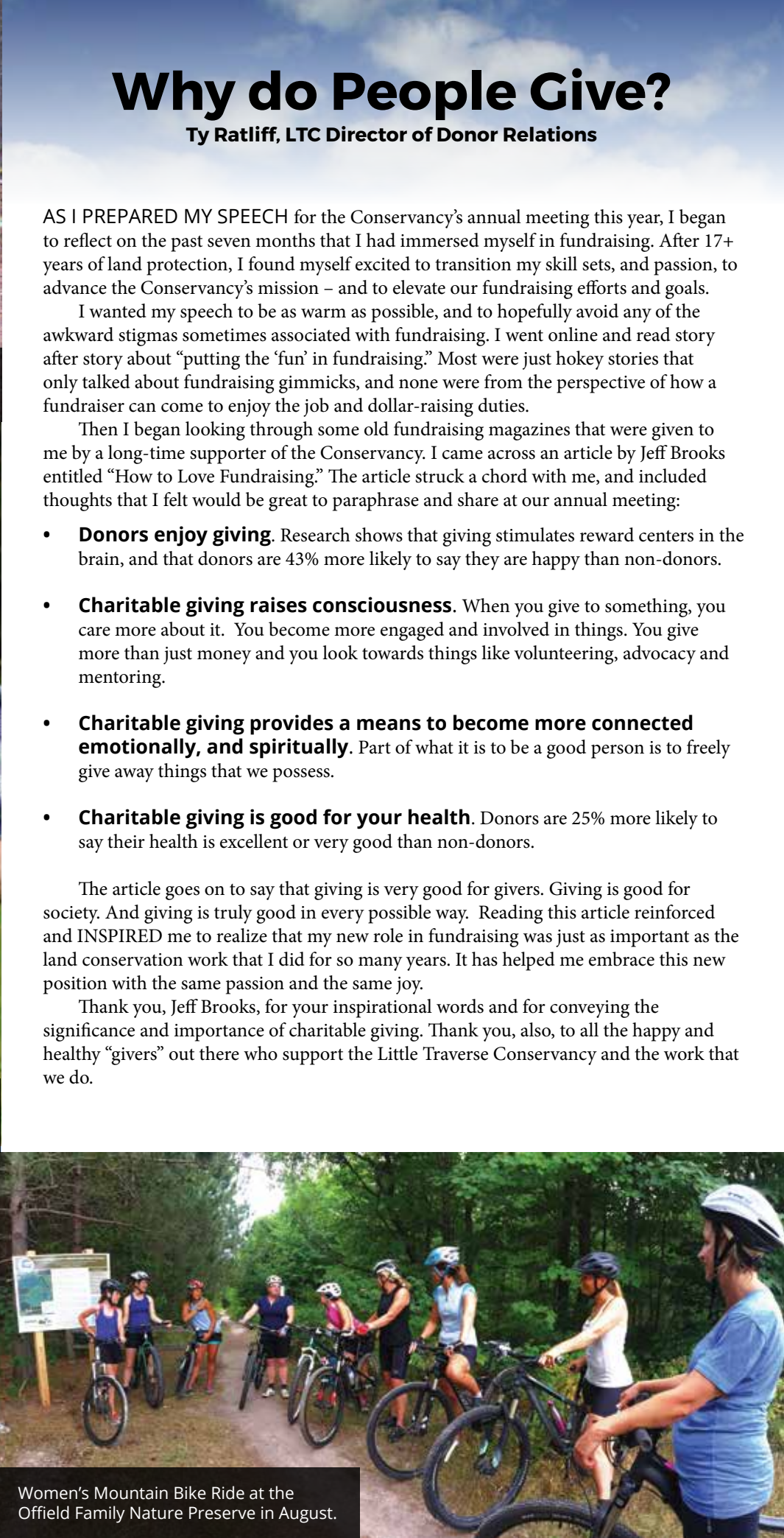




Ty Ratliff leading a fall hike at the conservation easement restricted Greenwood Foundation property.



Ed Pike banding American Kestrels at the Wisser-Saworski Nature Preserve in July.



# Why do People Give?

Ty Ratliff, LTC Director of Donor Relations

AS I PREPARED MY SPEECH for the Conservancy's annual meeting this year, I began to reflect on the past seven months that I had immersed myself in fundraising. After 17+ years of land protection, I found myself excited to transition my skill sets, and passion, to advance the Conservancy's mission – and to elevate our fundraising efforts and goals.

I wanted my speech to be as warm as possible, and to hopefully avoid any of the awkward stigmas sometimes associated with fundraising. I went online and read story after story about “putting the ‘fun’ in fundraising.” Most were just hokey stories that only talked about fundraising gimmicks, and none were from the perspective of how a fundraiser can come to enjoy the job and dollar-raising duties.

Then I began looking through some old fundraising magazines that were given to me by a long-time supporter of the Conservancy. I came across an article by Jeff Brooks entitled “How to Love Fundraising.” The article struck a chord with me, and included thoughts that I felt would be great to paraphrase and share at our annual meeting:

- **Donors enjoy giving.** Research shows that giving stimulates reward centers in the brain, and that donors are 43% more likely to say they are happy than non-donors.
- **Charitable giving raises consciousness.** When you give to something, you care more about it. You become more engaged and involved in things. You give more than just money and you look towards things like volunteering, advocacy and mentoring.
- **Charitable giving provides a means to become more connected emotionally, and spiritually.** Part of what it is to be a good person is to freely give away things that we possess.
- **Charitable giving is good for your health.** Donors are 25% more likely to say their health is excellent or very good than non-donors.

The article goes on to say that giving is very good for givers. Giving is good for society. And giving is truly good in every possible way. Reading this article reinforced and INSPIRED me to realize that my new role in fundraising was just as important as the land conservation work that I did for so many years. It has helped me embrace this new position with the same passion and the same joy.

Thank you, Jeff Brooks, for your inspirational words and for conveying the significance and importance of charitable giving. Thank you, also, to all the happy and healthy “givers” out there who support the Little Traverse Conservancy and the work that we do.





Charlevoix Garden Club at the Susan Creek Preserve.

*The Conservancy would like to thank the following new members and Friends or Benefactors who are new donors or increased their giving within that level from May 23 to August 22, 2016.*

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Citizens National Bank, Cheboygan  
Traverse Bay Canvas

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Carter's Imagewear & Awards  
Charlevoix Ace Hardware  
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May Plumbing & Heating  
Mountain Top Tree Company  
Mustang Wendy's

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John and Kathy Woodrow  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zakar



## SPECIAL GIFTS



Les Cheneaux Kayak 2016 happened in July with generous support once again from Woods and Water Ecotours of Hessel.

## Memorials

### **Robert Aikens**

Mr. and Mrs. Michael L. Turnbull

### **E. Jean Bailey**

Ms. Lori Hull

### **Bruce Bjornseth**

East Burt Lake Association

### **Mary Ellen Carraway**

Carol and Julian Magnus

### **Jack Clear**

Mrs. Sharon M. Schleif

### **Justin Conklin**

Michael and Lynn Smith

### **Michael J. Costello**

Ms. Missy Burlew

### **Jorgen Dam**

Tom and Kathy Snow

### **Jeane Darnton**

Dr. and Mrs. John A. Woollam

### **Michael Demsey**

Ms. Jamie Walton

### **Janet Roth Dennett**

Ms. Darleen Flaherty

### **Frank Fisher**

Susan Vron dran, Louise Vanderloon, Neil Olstrom and Bill Olstrom

### **Marilyn Gardner**

Mr. and Mrs. John G. Beam, Jr.  
Carl and Jil Brien  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Locke  
Grant Marrow and Cordelia W. Robinson

### **Judy Gordon**

Thomas and Ellen Swengel

### **Edward H. Hennessey**

Mrs. Elaine Dietze

### **Louis "Lou" Hollow**

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hanna  
Mr. Ron Kruse  
Michael and Jean M. Smith, Sr.

### **Victor Johnson**

Ms. Laurie Mayhew

### **William Parlin Lillard**

Tom, Alison and Brian Rink

### **Steve Linck**

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Seguin

### **Don Manley**

Ms. Cynthia Dickstein

### **Betty Miller**

Ms. Darleen Flaherty

### **Isabell Novak**

East Burt Lake Association

### **Max H. Post**

Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Post

### **Jamie Schaefer**

Menonaqua Cottage Owners Association

### **Larry Scharman**

East Burt Lake Association

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Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner W. Garrard, Jr.

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Menonaqua Cottage Owners Association

### **Fay Squibb**

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Concordia Theological Seminary  
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Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Hoganson

### **Carol Wierenga**

Ms. Darlene Dawood

## Honorariums

### **Scott Blackhurst's birthday**

Emmett and Mary Miller

### **Alison Brown Ford's birthday**

Asbury, Fitzgerald, and Stavenhagen Family

### **John L. Moore**

Staff of the Resources, Science, and Industry Division of the Congressional Research Service

### **Andrew J. Penniman**

David and Carolyn Penniman

### ***The marriages of...***

### **Paul and Adeline Gargagliano**

James and Marilyn Gualco

### **Leile Greer and Toby Jones**

Mr. and Mrs. David B. Hill

### **Tom Hannah and Vicki Vassalo**

Richner & Richner, LLC

### **Nancy Fuller and Richard Klinkner**

Jeff and Sally Leinicke



## Wish List

We are seeking an *Echo Meter Touch* by Wildlife Acoustics: a bat detector. This equipment would enable stewardship staff and EcoStewards volunteers to monitor bat populations on LTC preserves or conservation easements. Detector - \$400  
iPad- \$600



# Community Field Trips

Unless otherwise noted, community field trips are offered at no charge.  
Pre-registration is appreciated by calling 231.347.0991 or at [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org).

## **Wildlife and Birding Hike at Greenwood Foundation (near Wolverine)** **Saturday, September 24 10am-noon**

During this hike, Conservancy staff will describe wildlife and their habitats as we listen for the sounds of bugling bull elk. Volunteer and birder extraordinaire Mary Trout will open our eyes and ears to the many ways to identify birds and their songs. Fall migration is a wonderful time to visit this wildlife sanctuary. Meet at the Windswept location of Greenwood along Webb Road. Some binoculars provided, but please bring your own if you have them. Registration appreciated.

## **Warblers and Waterfowl on the North Huron Birding Trail (Eastern Upper Peninsula)** **Sunday, September 25 8-11am**

Come join LTC and MI Sea Grant Educator Elliot Nelson for a birding tour of some of the most spectacular sights along the northern shoreline of Lake Huron. Last year LTC partnered with a number of organizations to create a driving trail pointing out important birding habitat to help raise awareness of the importance of this area to migratory birds. On this trip we will target waterfowl such as Redhead, Scaup, Red-Necked Grebe and Scoters in the Saint Ignace area. In addition we will drive east to the town of Hessel and visit the LTC Birge Nature preserve where late migrant warblers and large flocks of Bonaparte's gulls can be expected. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to get some birding in and learn about these incredible shoreline habitats!

## **Offield Family Preserve Forestry Tour (Emmet Co.)** **Wednesday, September 28 6pm**

Have questions about the forest management soon to happen at the Offield Preserve? Join LTC's Forester Bryce Metcalfe and Wildlife Biologist Glen Matthews on this informational hike around the preserve. Bryce and Glen will explain how the management will occur and the ecological reasons for the particular practices that they will be employing. A terrific opportunity to learn more about best practices logging.

## **Cider Making at the Offield Family Preserve** **Saturday, October 1 1-4 pm**

Join LTC staff member Charles Dawley for a cider making extravaganza. We will hike to the orchard within the preserve. There we will collect apples, crush, and press them. Please bring an empty milk jug or jar if you would like to take some cider home! Park along Hedrick Road, near the power line corridor (look for event signs).

## **The Gorge Hike (near Burt Lake)** **Friday, October 7 10am-noon**

LTC board member and University of Michigan Biological Station faculty Karie Slavik will lead a hike along the bluffs and down into a natural gorge. Learn about the importance of protecting land for wildlife and habitat corridors, ecology and natural history. Join us in venturing out into this unique habitat which includes scores of natural springs forming a large cold stream emptying into Burt Lake. Mature red and white pine stands, cedar swamp, and a beaver dam are also featured.

## **Knee High Naturalists: Seeds on the Move** **Saturday, October 8 10-11am** **Resort Township East Park (Emmet County)**

(Ages 3-5) Bring your budding young naturalist to learn all about seeds, their importance to the natural world, and how they get dispersed. A story, hands-on activities, songs, short hike and craft will be included. Siblings are welcome to tag along.

## **Guided Odawa Canoe on Burt/Mullet Lakes** **Saturday, October 15 9am-5pm, Cost \$50**

Join Eric Hemenway, director of the Department of Repatriation, Archives and Records for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and Emily Hughes, LTC Membership Coordinator and wilderness guide, for a day-long epic journey. As those who have traveled these waters for thousands of years before us know, the weather decides the challenge level of a day's paddle. We could be easily paddling across glassy waters or leaning into a powerful headwind. An intimate group of paddlers will experience the river through the eyes of a native story teller and historian. After the morning's paddle, we will ignite sparks from flint and steel or a bow drill in order to cook traditional soup over fire. Enjoy wild rice harvested in the Midwest simply cooked with corn and potatoes. After our bellies are filled we will get back on the water to paddle northward to our final destination. Learn about the history of this region by living in a moment of it. Previous lake canoeing experience required. Canoe, paddle and PFD included. Participation is limited, please call to register. **Cost is \$50.**

## **Birding the Waldron Fen (near Alanson)** **Saturday, October 15 8-10am**

Join Petoskey Audubon President Darrell Lawson and LTC as we bird at the Waldron Fen. This preserve offers a rich diversity of habitat making it ideal for a variety of migrating birds. We will look for late fall migrants while discussing the differences between spring and fall migrations and both the challenges and the potential rewards that those differences present to birders. We will also check out the new wildlife viewing platform being constructed as a joint project between LTC and Petoskey Audubon in late September.

## **Birding Around Little Traverse Bay** **Saturday, November 12 8:45am-noon**

Join Petoskey Audubon President Darrell Lawson and LTC staff as we caravan our way around Little Traverse Bay in search of migrating birds! Starting in Harbor Springs and ending at East Park in Bay Harbor, we'll spend about 3 hours looking for geese, ducks, loons, grebes, gulls, and other seasonal and resident birds. We will be visiting 6 or 7 sites with some walking. Please plan on meeting at the Harbor Springs Marina public parking lot. We will then carpool to the Raunecker Nature Preserve trailhead at the base of Bull Moose Hill. The leader will have a scope, but please bring yours, if you have one. Optional lunch afterwards at one of Petoskey's downtown restaurants. Rain-date is Sunday, Nov. 13. For more info contact Darrell at [lawsodw@gmail.com](mailto:lawsodw@gmail.com)



## Reflections...Tom Bailey

*This season's column is an excerpt  
from a speech Bailey gave at the  
LTC annual meeting on August 2.*

What, exactly, is The Conservation Cause? To me, The Cause is dedication to a simple principle that incorporates the best of the early conservation movement established and bolstered by the likes of Theodore Roosevelt and Aldo Leopold, along with the best of the more recent environmental movement. It pays tribute to the culture and spirit of pioneers and adventurers, as well as indigenous peoples everywhere as it reinforces what both poets and professors have been telling us for generations: It's important to keep people connected to Nature.

Nature is the source of all food, all shelter, all wealth, all life. Nature is soothing therapy for the soul, nourishment for the spirit, and relief for a confused and cluttered mind.

In a world gone mad with hatred and partisanship; when we deal daily with terror, horror, death and bigotry that comes in all colors, we need Nature to remind us of who we are and from whence we came. Go back far enough and we were all tribal people, gathered around a fire, looking to the land for sustenance and gazing at the heavens for inspiration. We hunted, we gathered, we learned to cultivate crops, and we lived off the fruits of the land. And whether we recognize it or not, connection to the Earth is important to every one of us, no matter how detached we may have become from Nature as a result of our modern lifestyle.

Walt Whitman, the poet, wrote that "the secret of making the best persons is to grow in the open air, and to eat and sleep with the Earth." Richard Louv is demonstrating through his research that children do better physically, socially, and cognitively if they spend time outdoors. Both poets and professors agree, it seems, that connection to Nature is good for us. And if we consider also the hymns that celebrate the beauty of Creation and stories of people like St. Francis who loved Nature, we might say that poets, professors and pastors all agree.

It's appropriate that all should agree. In loving Nature, we love our children by working to ensure that they inherit a healthy world and that they live healthy lives. In loving Nature, we take care of ourselves. In loving Nature, we can also become more open to loving one another. Nature can help

us to celebrate love not as a cheap slogan or tag line, but as that deep-felt sense of connection that we have to our natural world and, through that, to one another. Loving Nature helps us to see that the same rain falls on us all; the same sun shines on us all and the same starlight has inspired us and our ancestors for thousands and thousands of years. By learning more to love Nature we can better love one another in a manner that is not contrived and artificial, but honest and true.

Nature is the reason why it is no coincidence that at the Save the Trees benefit last week there was great interest in the paintings that were offered at auction. When we hang beautiful paintings in our homes, we bring the beauty of Nature indoors with us, rendered by artists who pour their love of the land into their work. A beautiful painting represents not only scenery, but soul.

Of course, as lofty as is our call to action to enhance our connections to Nature, as sublime as the experience of oneness with the world can be, there is a mundane side to it as well. You're all here because, as members, you donate money to help us serve The Cause. We have a great responsibility to make the most of your donations and to account to you and to government at all levels for what we do as a non-profit organization. There are budgets and forms and payments and accounts. There are audits and checks and balances to ensure that we always, always, always earn your trust as responsible stewards of your generous gifts.

It takes a lot of work to acquire land, to create conservation easements, to facilitate donations, to complete purchase agreements, grants and payments. Conservation easements must be monitored and enforced forever. There are signs to post so that the community will know that they are welcome to explore our Nature Preserves and Working Forest Reserves. There are boardwalks to build and maintain, trails to mow, and rules to be enforced. There are often old dumps or trash piles to be removed from long-occupied or long-abandoned lands. There are invasive plants to attempt to control, there are diseases and pests to be dealt with, and there are challenges, always, in

managing natural land as human activity has more and more impact.

For our new Working Forest Reserves, there are management plans to be completed in consultation with our wildlife biologist as we chart a new and enlightened course in forestry practices across northern Michigan. There will be timber to be harvested in a sustainable manner that sets a positive example for other forest land owners in the North who want to harvest the bounty of the Earth as humans have done for time immemorial, but want to do it in a manner that respects, protects and perpetuates Mother Earth and the life that She sustains.

There are also children to be taught about these lands and about Nature. There are teachers to be contacted about our free programs, classes to be held at our preserves, lessons to be taught, things to be explored and adventures to be had. With young minds to be stimulated into thinking about our relationship with Nature, there are lessons to be planned, objects to be collected, exercises to be prepared and programs to be organized.

All of this, you have entrusted to us to do through your generosity of substance and spirit. We do it in the most efficient way we possibly can, with a staff of 14 people. We do it with more than 300 volunteers, with partners in other organizations, and we do it in cooperation with local, state, and federal park and resource management agencies. We do it because we love the North Country, we love the Earth, and we love the way that our connections to Nature provide us with everything from food and shelter to relaxation, recreation and relief from the stresses of the artificial components of our lives. We do it because it feels right in our minds, in our hearts, and to the very depths of our souls.

As your executive director, I thank you once again for the honor and privilege of doing this work for you. I thank you for your encouragement, your financial support, and the trust you have placed in me to do the best job possible of renewing and reinforcing our connections in northern Michigan with Nature. I thank you for the opportunity to live my dream and, as one of our founders, Dave Irish, put it: maybe not save the world, but brighten up our little corner of it.

Thank you, everyone.



# Thank You...

- C.T. Martin for donating a welding machine.
- Dale Ziembo for cleaning up barbed wire at Goodhart Farms Preserve.
- Josh Kooiker for cleaning up a trash dump at McCune Nature Preserve.
- Sue Stewart and her family for monitoring preserves, cleaning up trash, and helping with special work bees on their preserve visits all around our service area.
- Dale Landes for helping keep the Andreae Preserve looking well-maintained and for help at the July work bee there.
- Fred Clinton as our Tuesday Warrior completing many stewardship tasks and having a "go anywhere, do anything" attitude.
- BioBlitz foray Leaders: Glen Matthews for leading a small mammals foray; Darrell Lawson for lending his bird and other ID books and for leading a birding foray; Caroline Keson, Lauren Dey and Noah Jansen from the LTBB Tribe for leading forays for students; Jason Gibbs and students from MSU for studying bees; James Dake for leading a salamander foray; and Liana May for leading a vascular plant foray.
- The following for donating to the June BioBlitz: Charlevoix County Community Foundation for funding for the event; Great Lakes Energy for EcoStewards materials and supplies; North Perk Coffee for donating coffee; The Outfitter for donating a gift certificate; Sturgeon River Pottery for donating a gift certificate; Lexalite Corporation for letting us use their parking lot for overflow; Bridge Street Tap Room for discounting our lunch; and Grain Train of Petoskey for donating muffins and juice for volunteers.
- BioBlitz Event volunteers: Kathy and Al Lawson, Ginny Cole, Sheila Malleis, Richard Jenkins, Tim LeQuier, John Baker, Ralph Rucinski and his wife, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council for lending equipment, Liz Doornbos for aquatic invertebrate study.
- Little Traverse Bay Bands Youth Conservation Corps volunteers for helping create a new trail at the Susan Creek Preserve. Also Richard Jenkins, Kathy Lawson, and Fred Clinton for helping with this work bee.
- BSA Venture Crew of Girl Scouts led by Tamara Whitley for pulling invasive garlic mustard at the Charles A. Ransom Nature Preserve in June.
- Alyson Williams, Todd Petersen, and Todd Parker for donating their photography skills.
- Walstrom Marine for donating the use of their Sales Showroom for the Save the Trees Fundraiser.
- Margie Reh for helping with GIS habitat mapping.
- Mary Trout for help with educational programs.
- Eric Hemenway for leading a field trip about Native American Stories in Cross Village.
- Woods and Water EcoTours and Jessie Hadley for co-leading the wildlife kayak tour in Les Cheneaux.
- Jennifer Eis and Don Ward for opening up their property to the community for the annual Legends, Labyrinths, and Lore event.
- Debbie Hindle and Ken Ross for opening up their property to the community and for leading a hike on their trails.
- Richard Jenkins for helping with trail improvements at the Darnton Nature Preserve and invasive plant removal at Vermilion Point.
- Kenyon Stebbins and Lynn Walters Frazee for cleaning up a large trash dump at the Sally Stebbins Nature Preserve.
- Glen Matthews for management plan review and wildlife research on various preserves.
- Noah Gosciak and his family for building 10 kestrel nest boxes for his Eagle Scout Project.
- Mary Jane Clayton for helping with trail camera data analysis.
- Marissa Wilkinson for interning with us this summer from Austin College in Texas.
- Ed Pike for leading kestrel banding sessions and for sharing his knowledge of kestrels with our volunteers.
- Ellen Waller, Elizabeth Asbury, Andrew Fitzgerald, Richard Jenkins, and Bruce Dunn for pulling spotted knapweed at the Kalman Preserve.
- Sean Stewart and his family for creating a new trail loop at the Raunecker Preserve in Harbor Springs, building a bench, and cleaning up loads of trash at the Sally Stebbins Preserve.
- Carl Linhart for helping at the Vermilion Invasive Knapweed pull event.
- Beards' Brewery for choosing LTC as the recipient of donations from their 4th anniversary party, and for supporting our first ever Concert for Conservation.
- Grain Train for donating food to the potluck at the Concert for Conservation.
- Bill and Maxine Aten of Aten Place for graciously hosting our Concert for Conservation at their beautiful farm.
- Dan Reelitz for donating the work to construct a kiosk for the North Huron Birding Trail which is now housed at the Avery Art & Nature Schoolhouse in Hessel.
- Katie Brines for donating materials and artistic knowledge for the Junior Naturalist Art in Nature day.
- Steve Radecki and Glen Young for donating fly fishing materials and knowledge for the Teen Outdoor Skills Series.

Elmer Johnston Preserve/Todd Parker

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## Why do you support LTC?

Graduate student Kathryn Braddock is looking for help with her research on factors that motivates conservation. Her results will help LTC's outreach efforts.

Please take a few minutes to fill out her easy survey at:

**<http://bit.ly/LTCSurvey>**

At the end, there is chance to enter your name and email into a raffle for a gift certificate to American Spoon Foods!



*presents*

# CONCERT FOR CONSERVATION

THE  
MUTEFLUTES



**5-8pm | Sunday, Sept. 18 | Aten Place | Potluck**  
**indie folk rock | yard games | bonfire | boyne falls**

*All members receive an LTC mason jar and two Beards' brews!*  
*Membership available at the door.*

**Register: [landtrust.org](http://landtrust.org) or 231-347-0991**

**Grain Train**  
NATURAL FOODS MARKETS

*photo credit: Todd Parker*