



## WELCOME NEW PRESERVE STEWARDS OF 2017

Jim Beaudoin

*Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve, Afton*

Jason Bock and Family

*Gow Litzenburger West Nature Preserve, Petoskey*

Dan and Linda CasaSanta

*Hoogland Family Nature Preserve, Harbor Springs*

Marc Collier and Family

*Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve, Petoskey*

Kristina and Fred Crawford

*Duncan Bay Nature Preserve, Cheboygan*

Scot and Jilanne Egleston

*Nick Adams & Schulz Nature Preserves, Boyne City*

Jean and Clayton Favior & Family

*Sleepy Hollow Nature Preserve, East Jordan*

Dave and Carol Gearhart

*Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve  
Afton*

Jeanne Haberer and Ryan McConnell

*Marion Light Nature Preserve, East Jordan*

Mary and Bill Kunst

*Waubun & Hildner-Bearce Nature Preserves, Indian River*

Beth Lewis

*Curtis Anderson and Clyde & Martha Williams Preserves,  
Drummond Island*

Bradford and Iver Lewis

*Rogers Family Homestead Nature Preserve, East Jordan*

Charles and Barbara Lindsey

*Hoogland Family Nature Preserve, Harbor Springs*

Marty and Patrick Maloney

*McCune and Chaboiganing Nature Preserves*

Linda and Mike McElroy

*Watson & Schott Family Nature Preserves, Harbor Springs*

Tony McLain

*Round Island Point Nature Preserve & Sugar Island Working  
Forest Reserves*

Rick and Janet Moore

*Armistead Family Nature Preserve, Petoskey*

John Norton

*Hoffius Nature Preserve, Cheboygan*

Jeff Peters

*McCune Nature Preserve, Petoskey*

Phil Porter

*Duncan Bay Nature Preserve, Cheboygan*

Claire and Tom Rasmussen

*Marion Light Nature Preserve, East Jordan*

Don Reef

*Sarah A. Martin Nature Preserve, Beaver Island*

John Reimer

*Hathway Family's Regina Caeli Preserve, Mackinac City*

Tom Rowland

*Phelan-Orth & Goodhart Farms Nature Preserves  
Harbor Springs*

Bill Schwab

*Emmet County Working Forest #2, Harbor Springs*

Richard Seibert

*Hoffmann Nature Preserve, Charlevoix*

Carrie Corbin and Dave Stebbins

*Reycraft Meijer North Nature Preserve, Petoskey*

Peggy Swenor

*Goodhart Farms Preserve, Harbor Springs*

Sandra Thompson

*Reed's Pigeon River Nature Preserve, Afton*

Rob Yates

*Offield Family Working Forest Reserve, Harbor Springs*



# Land Steward Volunteer Newsletter

Spring 2018

*A newsletter for Preserve Stewards & EcoStewards Volunteers*

*Photo: Pon-she-wa-ing Nature Preserve*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Charley and Norma McKinley

**Pon-she-wa-ing Preserve Stewards since 1990.  
Annual members since 1975.**



Although beautiful from the lake and good for wetland conservation, the Pon-she-wa-ing Nature Preserve (Pronounced pon-she-wah-ing) is not a place you want to hike. It is a mostly dense wetlands, is small in size, and inhabited by monster mosquitoes that will carry you away. So why did Charley and Norma McKinley get excited to sign on as Preserve Stewards as soon as it became a nature preserve in 1990? They had already been members of LTC for 15 years and as property owners in the neighborhood of Pon-she-wa-ing they had recently pushed back against pressure from a condo development. Charley's family had been part of the Pon-she-wa-ing community on Crooked Lake for over 40 years and felt that protecting nearby acreage from development was a natural and worthy effort. They have since been supportive of the Oden Island Nature Preserve and the Pickerel Channel/Black Hole Preserve.

Charley spent his teenage years visiting Crooked Lake with his parents who, after the WWII, had decided that family time was a priority. Charley describes his father, a country doctor, as a "great healer and a naturalist". Before his father left for the war, he taught Charley to appreciate nature by taking him on hikes in the woods and along nearby creeks around Camden, Ohio, near Cincinnati. While Charley's father was away at war his mother impressed upon him the importance of community service. She was a very active local volunteer and was on the Board of Education.

Charley and Norma met at Miami University where he was studying political science and she was studying education. They were married in 1958 (their 60th anniversary is this year!) and had two children who naturally developed a love of Pon-she-wa-ing and Northern Michigan. Charley retired from the property/casualty insurance business after a long, happy career in 1997, and Norma retired in 1988 from teaching pre-school and grade school. Their dedication to volunteering has been long-standing. When their children were young, Norma volunteered as a chamber ambassador, was a hospital volunteer, and helped adult women get their degrees so they could find meaningful work. For Norma, volunteering is something she does to keep happy. "Service to the community and helping others just makes you feel good inside," she reflected.

Sharing their conservation and community ethic with their family came naturally. They have seven grandchildren who visit the family cottage in the summer. They know that children absorb information like sponges, and so they led by example and by being conscientious parents. Their family has inherited the same interest in conserving and protecting land from development. One of their grandchildren recently received a degree in environmental studies and is chairman of a Dark Sky project in Wisconsin which he founded while in college.

Charley and Norma are easy going, have a wonderful sense of humor, enjoy life and family, and feel that the community of Pon-she-wa-ing is tight-knit partly because it is insulated by nature preserves and the lake. They are committed to doing their part to help conserve northern Michigan and are going on their 28th year of volunteering and 43rd year of membership with LTC! Charley's favorite part of volunteering is the satisfaction of doing his part to help beautiful nature remain natural and protected from development. In summer, three generations of their family can be found canoeing from Pon-she-wa-ing across Crooked Lake to the Oden Island Nature Preserve where they swim, hike, and picnic on the Island, bringing to mind the image of a perfect summer up north.

Stew Crew 2018



Derek Shiels  
Director of  
Stewardship



Mike Lynch  
Stewardship  
Specialist



Cacia Lesh  
Volunteer  
Coordinator



Charles Dawley  
Technology &  
GIS  
Coordinator



Melissa Hansen  
Conservation  
Easement  
Coordinator

**CHAINSAW SAFETY**  
Please adopt our new safety  
standards by wearing a helmet,  
chaps, eye & ear protection.  
Also, please work in pairs when  
clearing trails on LTC properties.

## FOR THE BATS & THE BIRDS



*Little Brown Bat (Myotis lucifugus) with the fungus leading to White Nose Syndrome.*

There are nine species of bats in Michigan. As they disperse from their winter hibernation caves or mines to their summer foraging and roosting sites, they depend on Michigan's forests. In the summer, they sleep under the loose or shaggy bark of trees or in tree cavities, in piles of wood, or in the eaves, siding or attics of buildings and other structures. Bats are extremely beneficial, and many people welcome them as the major predators of night flying insects. One bat may consume 3,000 insects in a single night, serving a vital role in insect pest management. Many bat species are struggling to persist due to a devastating disease called White Nose Syndrome.



*Northern Harrier, Waldron Fen Nature Preserve  
Todd Anderson*

In addition, there are many bird species of special concern in Michigan that live in or travel through LTC's service area, such as the Northern Harrier, Common Loon, Least Bittern, and King Rail whose grassland and forest habitats are decreasing. Conservation of these species requires active management, and active management requires first knowing where the critters are. It requires being able to evaluate the impact of our management activities. The hardest part of measuring the health of a forest is capturing signs of wildlife constantly on the move. To help us do that on our properties, LTC recently applied for \$9,000 in grant funds to acquire special bioacoustic monitoring equipment that can detect sounds inaudible to the human ear. The use of this equipment (if we receive the funding) will substantially add to our volunteer EcoStewards program and our ability to communicate about our commitment to wise and adaptive stewardship. It will help us evaluate management impacts and identify potential habitat creation or restoration areas for bird species of special concern, and roost sites for bats utilizing LTC owned forests and grasslands. By sharing the bioacoustic equipment with other conservation organizations, we hope to maximize the conservation of birds and bats in northern Michigan. We will deepen our relationships with local nature clubs and Audubon chapters to help LTC and other non-profits gather valuable biological data.

To further our mission of learning about critters on the ground, we asked a group of graduate students from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment to develop a volunteer ecological monitoring protocol. This will help us measure changes in forest health on our working forests and grasslands, and is called a "Forest Health Inventory". The monitoring protocol includes measuring coarse woody debris, tree canopy, and plant life as well as other metrics. Perhaps the most exciting part of the Forest Health Inventory is that we get to spend more time outside and work with volunteers like you who are interested in learning new skills and can bring new skills to us, who are engaged and committed to conservation goals. If you are interested in being a part of this monitoring project (we will need a handful of skilled and dedicated volunteers) please contact Cacia at 231-344-1002 or [cacia@landtrust.org](mailto:cacia@landtrust.org).



*Stephanie Facchine*



*Maya Kilgore*



*Joshua Swmarich*



*Tyler Wood*



## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please register with Cacia for specific work projects. If we know ahead of time that you are interested we can plan according to volunteer schedules. [cacia@landtrust.org](mailto:cacia@landtrust.org) 231-344-1002

### Duncan Bay Preserve

*Cheboygan*

Trail and boardwalks will connect to the bike path and include an overlook platform on the bay. Starting in May, we expect this project to happen in phases throughout the summer. We look forward to seeing you out there! See map to right.



### Sleepy Hollow Preserve

*East Jordan*

Are you a preserve neighbor? Live in Charlevoix or East Jordan? We will be giving this preserve trail some much needed love in August. It needs a few boardwalk segments where a wetland seeps across the trail. We can use your help!

### Seven Springs Preserve

*Indian River*

If you have been to this preserve in spring, you know how badly the overlook platform needs to be re-built. We will be using volunteer help to make this project happen, and re-build the boardwalk sections that lead to the water. We plan to start the work in May. This is a big project and we could use some skilled labor.

### Little Sand Bay Preserve

*Beaver Island*

Similar to the Sleepy Hollow trail, this preserve trail is in much need of some TLC. New boardwalk sections will protect the sensitive wetland habitat from degradation. Join us for a chance to visit the island in July.



*Little Sand Bay  
Frank Solle*



### Consuelo Diane & Charles Wilson Jr. Working Forest Reserve

*Harbor Springs*

#### Earth Day Tree Planting

Saturday, April 21 10am - 2pm

A great family activity for all ages. We hope to plant 1000 trees!

#### Trail Building

Friday, June 1 9am - 4pm

Using existing logging trails we will create a loop trail to invite the community to hike this preserve. You can help make this happen.

### Forest Health Inventory on Working Forest Reserves

*Emmet & Charlevoix Counties*

Join LTC staff throughout the growing season to inventory animal and plant life on our working forests pre- and post- timber harvest to determine forest health and changes over time. This is a chance to learn field study methods, brush up on identification skills, and get outside with friends. We will be conducting these inventories with your help throughout the summer at various Reserves. See article facing page.

## ECOLOGICAL TRAINING & VOLUNTEER LUNCH CELEBRATION

### THANK YOU!

Let's celebrate your service, meet new friends, and adventure together. Before and after the thank you lunch you can join us for classroom sessions and field hikes to learn more about the ecology of northern Michigan. Formal invitations to come.

#### SPECIAL TOPICS:

Navigation \* Wildlife Tracking \* Plant/Tree

Identification \* Trail Maintenance

\* Birds & Butterflies \*

U of M Biostation  
Douglas Lake  
Saturday, May 19th  
10am - 3pm

Mark Kreider



AGNES S. ANDREA  
NATURE PRESERVE  
SATURDAY JUNE 30, ALL DAY

GET OUTSIDE. FEEL FULFILLED.  
SPEND TIME WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE.  
REGISTER AT [WWW.LANDTRUST.ORG](http://WWW.LANDTRUST.ORG)

Credited photos at top, and bottom photo on facing page were taken by students in the UM BioStation photo competition.