



Red Spotted Purple/John Flannery



Black Swallowtail/Ano Lobb



Pearl Crescent/Jen Goellnitz

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Little Traverse Conservancy Community Field Trips

Explore a preserve, learn something new, or just enjoy an outing with other folks who love the outdoors! Visit www.landtrust.org/events for more information.

Little Traverse Conservancy Volunteer Stewardship Projects and Activities

With more than 21,000 acres of preserve and reserve lands to care for, there's always something to be done! From clearing trees to building boardwalk, your skills can help us with our growing list of stewardship projects and maintenance. Visit www.landtrust.org/GetInvolved or call Cacia Lesh: 231.344.1002.

Week of April 13 - Earth Week Plus – Northern Michigan

A free, family-friendly event held at the Cheboygan High School, to increase education and awareness about environmental issues and celebrate Earth Day. Visit www.earthweekplus.org for more information.

Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch

Visit the MSRW Hawk and Waterbird Count Sites in Mackinaw City to observe birds in migration during spring! Counters/birders are available to help with identification of birds and share information. Visit www.mackinacraptorwatch.org for more information.

Aldo Leopold Festival - May 30-June 2, 2019

An event to celebrate the legacy of Aldo Leopold, one of America's most influential naturalists. Held in Les Cheneaux, in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Paddling excursions, orchid and wildflower tours, birding trips and many more nature based activities are offered. For more information, visit www.aldoleopoldfestival.com.

Little Traverse Conservancy Annual Meeting

Tuesday, August 6, 2019
Harbor Springs Performing Arts Center

We would love for you to join us!

Through ownership of conservation easement land, you are already a powerful ambassador for LTC. You quietly or loudly proclaim the value of conserving land through your actions and words. We would be proud to have you as a member as well. Joining requires a gift of \$1 or more each year. In return you are helping protect what makes northern Michigan a special place to live, steward all the land in our care, and get thousands of school children outside to explore the natural world.

Planning for the Future

If the work of the Little Traverse Conservancy speaks to you, consider making a bequest through a Will or Trust. A bequest to the Conservancy demonstrates a profound commitment to our mission and permanence. There are many ways to give to the Conservancy through planned giving with one that is just right for you. For more information or to share that you have included the Conservancy in your estate planning, please contact Ty Ratliff, Associate Director, at 231.344.1005 or tyratliff@landtrust.org.

Is your conservation easement land for sale?

Please notify the Conservancy if your land changes ownership so we can communicate with the new owners. This is the best way to help prevent misunderstandings, to answer any questions, and inform them of the stewardship process.

Exercising Rights that require Notification or Approval?

For those rights in your conservation easement that require pre-approval or notification, it is prudent to contact LTC. This gives an opportunity for review and discussion and helps prevent unnecessary problems from occurring.



Conservation Easement Landowner Newsletter

Parsons Farm Conservation Easement

Dave and Terri Parsons protected much of their farm land with a conservation easement in 2016. In the family for more than 120 years, this centennial farm protects scenic views and wildlife habitat while permitting a variety of agricultural practices. Timber harvesting, dairy and crop farming, and maple syrup processing are all activities that have occurred here. The maple syrup operation has expanded and developed into a successful business, with a store in downtown Charlevoix, spearheaded by Terri and Dave's daughters, Amber Munday and Katie Untalen. Looks like the farm will be staying in the family for some time! Little Traverse Conservancy spoke with Amber and Katie to get an idea about future plans for this active farm easement property.

Who is involved with management and what activities are occurring on the property?

"Our dad currently still owns the land," remarked Amber, who resides on the farm. "Being mostly retired now, he rents out the land to another farmer who has grown corn and soy beans the past few years. He's in charge of the maple syrup operation, and I help out with that as much as possible. Katie and I are business partners, owning and operating Harwood Gold. Katie and her family live downstate during the school year and near the farm in Charlevoix during the summer.

Are there any future plans/dreams for the farm that you can share with us?

"Amber and I are working on plans for owning the farm property in the future," said Katie. "I am looking into cover cropping the easement protected land in order to fix the soil, in preparation for fruit and nut tree planting. I'd also like us to establish large areas of pollinator habitat and am checking into restoring the wetlands in the valley of the easement land." Katie also mentioned that future plans include growing more things that will be used in Harwood Gold products and possibly offering working farm tours/stay experiences.

As future owners of the land, how do you feel about the land being encumbered with a conservation easement?

"I think it is awesome!" remarked Katie. I am glad that the property won't become a housing development and that farming is a focus for what is allowed. We'll be able to carry out our future plans within the parameters of the easement, yet be assured of the land's protection into the future.

Are there any particularly interesting events occurring?

"We have farm tours in March where you can learn about the maple syrup operation, and third Thursday dinner events at the café March through June," commented Amber. Visit www.harwoodgold.com for more information.

It's exciting to witness the transition happening on this working farm easement land. For a variety of reasons, future generations don't always want to continue the tradition of farming. Through ambition, hard work, and innovation, Katie and Amber are carrying their family history into the future, while placing their own stamp on it. With their dedication and tasty products, we predict a successful outcome!



Katie Untalen and Amber Munday

Conservation Easements by County as of March 2019

County	# Easements	Acres
Charlevoix	77	4001
Cheboygan	66	9928
Chippewa & Luce	22	4558
Emmet	122	5277
Mackinaw	18	990
TOTAL	305	24,755



Goldenrod Soldier Beetle/Katja Schulz



Monarch Butterfly/Peter Miller



Ruby throated/Skip Russell



Pearl Crescent/Jen Goellnitz

Pollinators in Peril

In our busy and complicated lives, most of us rarely, if ever, think of the seemingly simple process of pollen grains being transported from one flower's bloom to another as being vital to much of our food sources. Yet, two-thirds of the world's crop species are dependent on pollination of flowers by bees, butterflies, beetles and other insects, birds, bats, and other small mammals*. We have them to thank when eating fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Their endeavors also provide half of the world's oils, fibers and raw materials**. The seeds and fruits that rely on pollination feed many species of wildlife.

The impact pollinators have on our natural ecosystems, as well as our food supply and other resources, is monumental. Concerns have developed over declining pollinator populations. Loss in feeding and nesting habitats, pollution, misuse of chemicals, disease, and changing climate patterns are affecting them. Fortunately there is much we can do to help restore habitat and reduce harmful substances. Home owners can contribute to this restoration by planting native wildflowers.

Every landowner has personal goals for their property and different management approaches, but many options are available to make your land more pollinator friendly. Besides, who's going to complain about having more flowers around?!

Tips for your home garden

- Pollinators need nectar and pollen. Plants that are not sterile or have prominent stamens will benefit pollinators. Modern hybrids or "doubled" flowers are not pollinator friendly.
- Plants that bloom very early or late in the season help pollinators during times of food scarcity.
- Native plant species attract native pollinators. Both are adapted to the local climate and habitats, helping maintain healthy ecosystems.
- Planting blooms with variations in size, shape, color, and blooming times increases the number of species that can be attracted and the duration of time food is available for them.

Natural Habitat

Adding natural habitat areas, including flowering trees and shrubs, into farm systems can benefit pollinators and crops alike.

Managing Pesticide Use

Using only what is necessary, not spraying directly on blooms, and considering alternatives to harsh chemicals or not

using them at all can help our pollinators.

The above are just a small sampling of ideas. There are many resources available to help in planning your pollinator friendly landscape. Here are some to get you started:

RESOURCES:

- **MSU Extension:** https://www.canr.msu.edu/pollinators_and_pollination/resources
- Pollinator Partnership: www.pollinator.org
- U.S. Dept. of Agriculture: <https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml>
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council: www.watershed-council.org. (News & Resources – Watershed Protection Resources – Northern Michigan's Native Plants.)

Native Plant Sources

- The Native Plant Nursery (734) 677-3260 www.nativeplant.com
- The Michigan Wildflower Farm (517) 647-6010 www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com
- Wetlands Nursery (989) 752-3492 www.wetlands-nursery.com
- Wildtype Nursery (517) 244-1140 www.wildtypeplants.com
- Otsego Conservation District <http://www.otsegocd.org/native-plant-nursery--garden.html>
- Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network: <https://www.habitatmatters.org>

**From Gardening for pollinators: Choosing smart plants to support pollinators, October 9, 2015 by Rebecca Finneran, MSU Extension. https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/gardening_for_pollinators_choosing_smart_plants_to_support_pollinators*

***From About Pollinators: Pollinators need you. You need pollinators. Pollinator Partnership.www.pollinator.org*

Pollinators...

- provide pollination services to over 180,000 different plants species and more than 1200 crops.
- add 217 billion dollars to the global economy.
- honeybees alone are responsible for between 1.2 and 5.4 billion dollars in agricultural productivity in the United States.

Your Land is Part of a Growing Impact

"As a conservation easement landowner in northern Michigan, you are part of a growing list of thousands of landowners across the state and country, living on protected land. As time moves on and development continues, protected land will become that much more important for the deer and the hawk, the bee and the otter, the spring beauty and the orchid, the hiker and the hunter. Your conscientious stewardship of the land is helping leave a legacy for which future generations will be grateful!" - Melissa

STEW CREW 2019

& their Favorite Wildflowers



Derek Shiels
Director of Stewardship



Spiderwort



Melissa Hansen
Conservation Easement Coordinator



Fragrant Water-lily



Charles Dawley
Preserve/GIS Specialist



Apple blossom



Cacia Lesh
Volunteer Coordinator



Dutchman's breeches



Mike Lynch
Preserve Specialist



Trout lily

2019 Conservation Easement Monitoring Dates

April 15 – November 1
Mondays through Fridays

We're fine monitoring on our own, but would be happy to have you along! Let us know if you would like to accompany us during the visit. Call Melissa at 231.344.1004.

Conservation Easement Signs are Available

Up to two signs are available at no charge, with additional signs available at \$7.50 each. Just call our office at 231.347.0991.

Private Conservation Property

The Little Traverse Conservancy holds a conservation easement on this property. The Conservancy and the landowner are cooperating to ensure that the scenic, natural, and open space values of this land will remain protected.

This protected area is private property.

Little Traverse Conservancy
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