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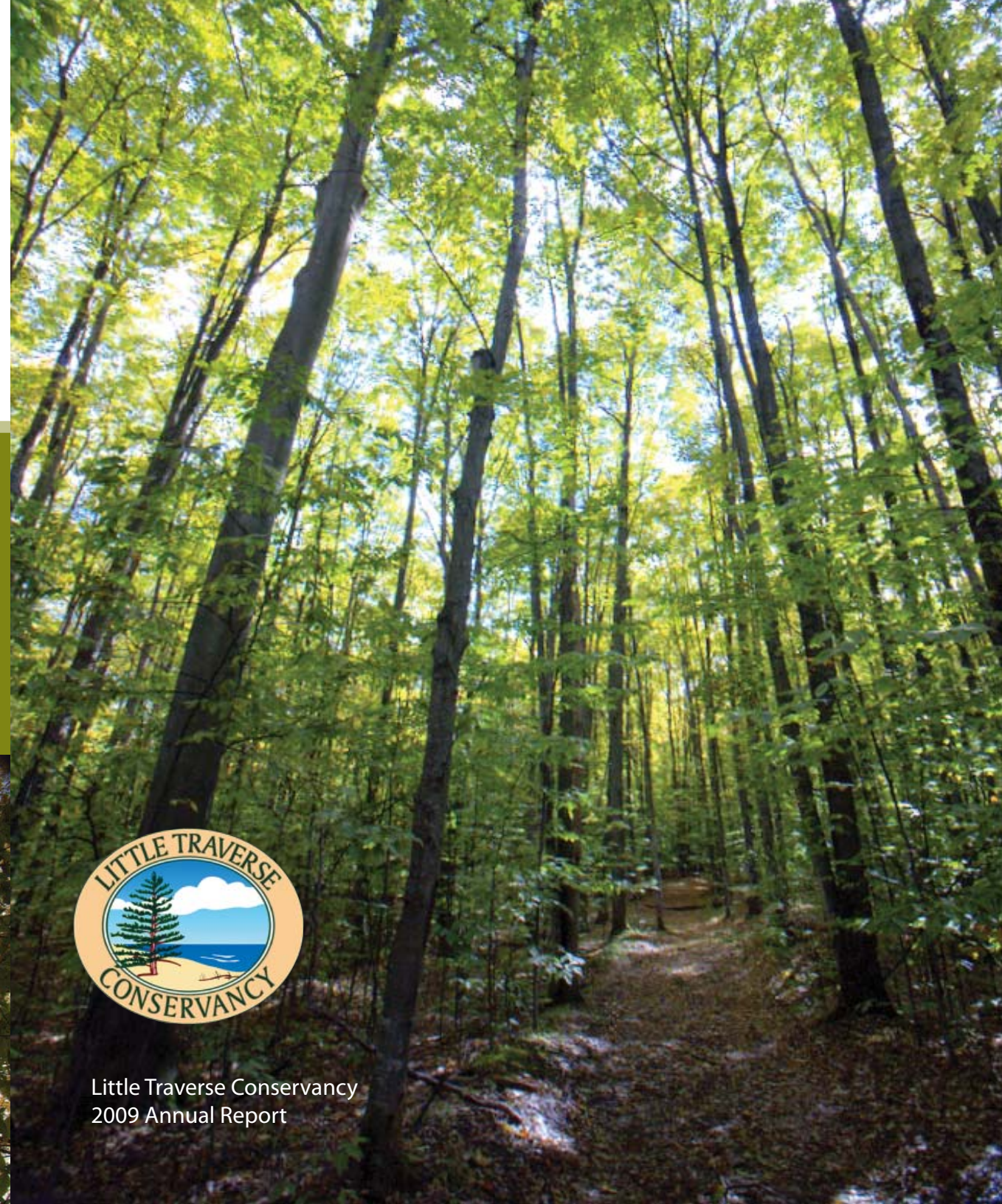
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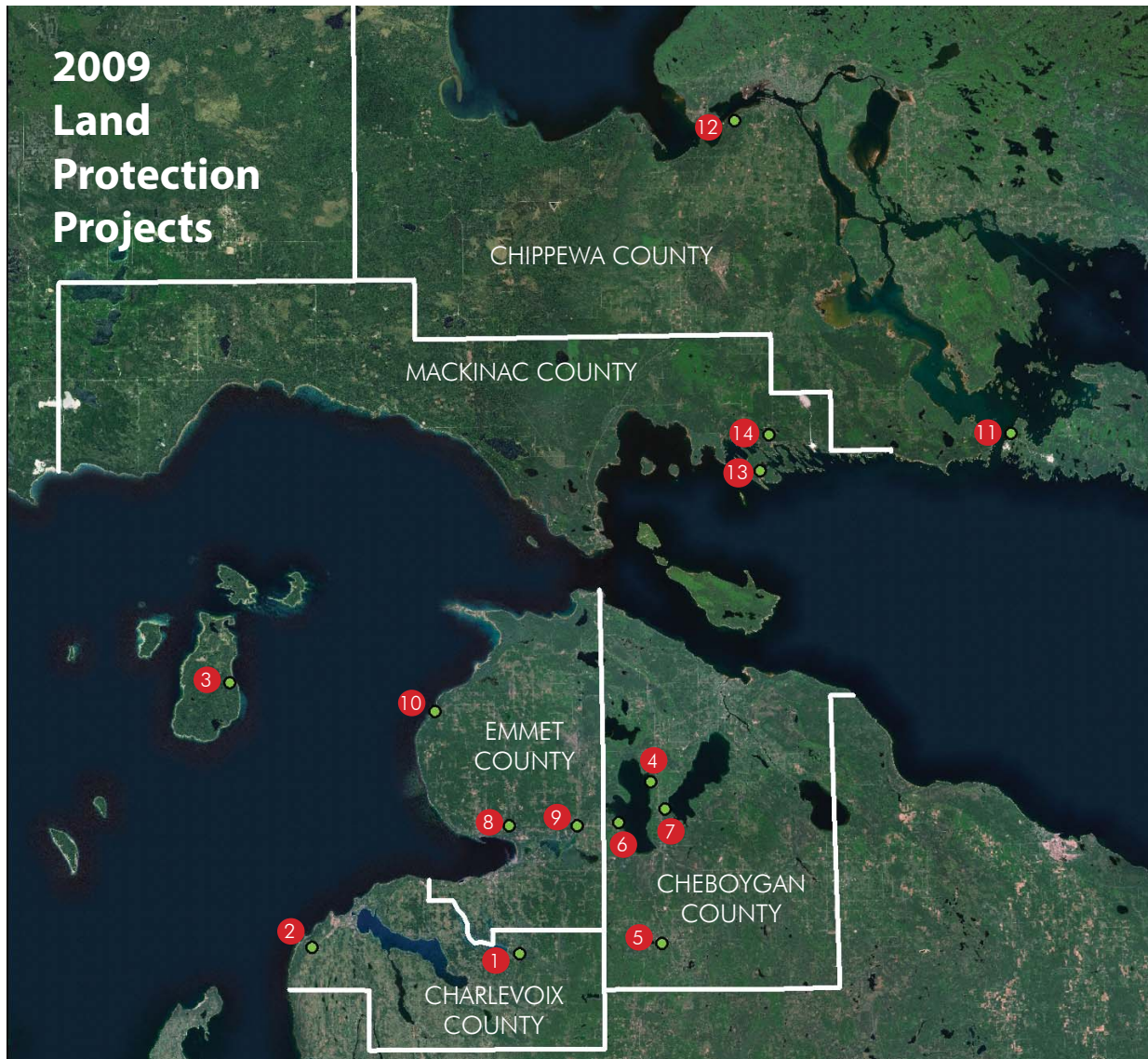
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COMMUNICATIONS



Little Traverse Conservancy
2009 Annual Report





2009 Land Protection Projects

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

- 1 Bear River State Assist
- 2 Inwood Creek Conservation Easement
- 3 Stoffregen Beaver Island Donation

EMMET COUNTY

- 8 Offield Family Nature Preserve
- 9 Village of Alanson Assist
- 10 Duncan Dobson Nature Preserve

MACKINAC COUNTY

- 13 Leopold Preserve addition
- 14 Pearson Creek Purchase of Development Rights

CHEBOYGAN COUNTY

- 4 Anonymous Easement Donation
- 5 Eva and Vern Hanel Nature Preserve
- 6 Schirmer Conservation Easements
- 7 Mullett Lake State Assist

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

- 11 Curtis Anderson Preserve
- 12 James Donaldson Moore Preserve

Cover photo (front & back): Offield Nature Preserve by Martin McReynolds

	OPERATING	LAND PROTECTION	ENDOWMENT	TOTAL
REVENUES, SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT RESULTS:				
Contributions and grants	\$1,064,249	\$ 2,693,165	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,764,414
Investment income	3,884	26,996	154,456	185,336
Realized net gain (loss)	-	(15,017)	(67,511)	(82,528)
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	695	77,611	904,226	982,532
Change in value of split-interest agreements	-	-	55,393	55,393
Total revenues, support and investment results	1,068,828	2,782,755	1,053,564	4,905,147
EXPENSES:				
Special land projects	-	221,882	-	221,882
Project management and general	1,131,410	-	-	1,131,410
Total expenses	1,131,410	221,882	-	1,353,292
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(62,582)	2,560,873	1,053,564	3,551,855
Transfer from (to) other funds	88,265	(50,000)	(38,265)	-
Transfer to governmental unit	-	(31,072)	-	(31,072)
Change in net assets	25,683	2,479,801	1,015,299	3,520,783
NET ASSETS, January 1, 2009	999,010	59,819,254	5,866,011	66,684,275
NET ASSETS, December 31, 2009	\$1,024,693	\$62,299,055	\$6,881,310	\$70,205,058



Gray Treefrog on Marquette Island

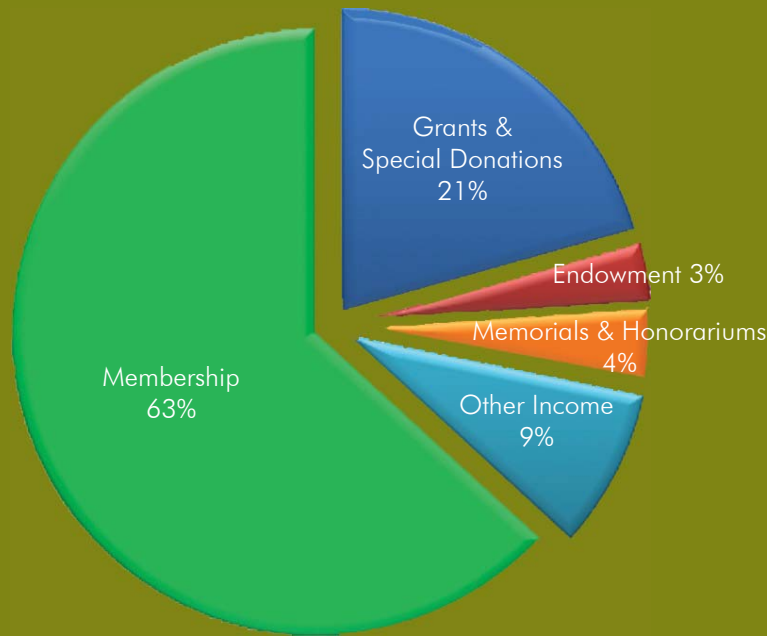
Bill Vander Roest

A huge thank you to the Little Traverse Conservancy's Finance Committee. These individuals work closely with staff to "rally the troops" that make this organization run.

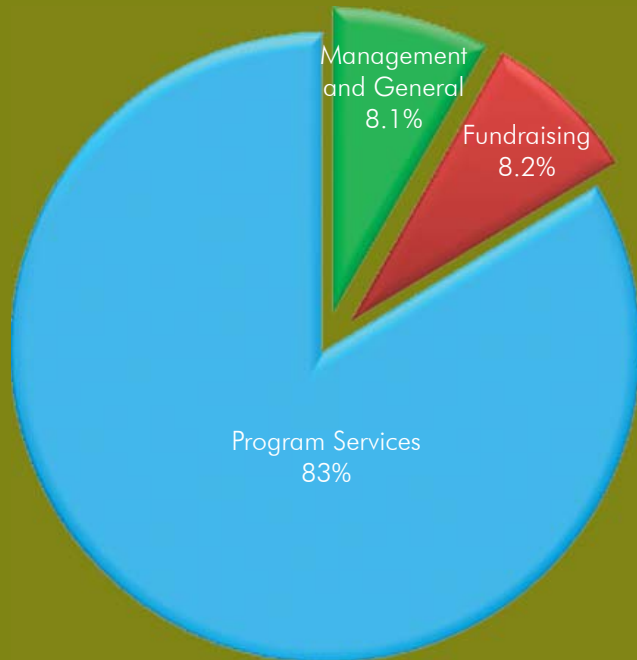
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revenue



expenses



from the chair & executive director

AS WE REFLECT ON 2009, WE LOOK BEYOND THE HEADLINES AND ALL the drama in what passes for "news" these days and note that the people of northern Michigan continued their steadfast support of land conservation. Membership donations, gifts of land and conservation easements, grants from supportive foundations and memorial gifts all supported the Conservancy's efforts to protect land in 2009, along with our efforts to ensure that protected land is used for environmental education and public recreation.

Our Board of Trustees enacted a number of austerity measures, including a staff salary freeze and not replacing a retiring staff member. These measures, stretching donors' dollars as far as possible, enabled the Conservancy to weather the economic storm with no reduction in service to our members, the public and schools. Thousands of people still enjoyed the beauty of the North through our preserves and protected properties, and thousands of school children still had opportunities to learn about the outdoors in the outdoors.

Thus, it seems to us that the real "news" in 2009 was that as families tightened their belts and dealt with the economic issues of the day, people continued to place a high priority on protecting natural land for the enjoyment and education of us all.

All of us in the Conservancy organization are grateful for your support. From the Board of Trustees to the staff and our many dedicated volunteers, we thank you for your contributions which make our work possible. We do our best to ensure that you get the greatest possible return for your conservation dollar, and we hope you take great pride in being part of the reason that we were able to protect more than 1,000 acres of land in 2009.

Thank you for your continued support, and for making it a priority to protect the scenic beauty and natural integrity of the North Country for recreation, education, and the simple joy of seeing a beautiful landscape.



Carlin Smith
Board Chair



Tom Bailey
Executive Director



Fringed gentian/Bill Vander Roesl

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land protection

charlevoix county

MELROSE TOWNSHIP - The Conservancy assisted the State of Michigan with acquiring 67 acres with 1,000 feet of frontage on the Bear River. The Bear River comes out of Walloon Lake and drains into Little Traverse Bay, making this riverfront property a high priority.

NORWOOD TOWNSHIP - Kim Kolb and Tom Jaenicke donated a conservation easement on

a key parcel adjacent to an existing privately-protected property and with frontage on Inwood Creek, a tributary to Lake Michigan.

PEAINE TOWNSHIP - In honor of their parents, the Stoffregen siblings donated a 20-acre Beaver Island parcel for protection. For many years, the family enjoyed vacationing on the island and desired for it to stay natural for all time.

“Our parents believed that exposure to the natural world can be profoundly beneficial to the mind, body, and spirit. They believed that these benefits should be readily available to everyone.” — THOMAS STOFFREGEN

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Winter snowshoe fun

Sarah Mayhew

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emmet county

LITTLE TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP - Thanks to a financial gift from the Offield Family Foundation, the Conservancy was able to purchase the “crown jewel” property remaining within the Harbor Springs Greenbelt, a region designated for protection by the Conservancy. At 390 acres, this is one of the Conservancy’s largest nature preserves and is conveniently located just a few miles from Harbor Springs. It has quickly become a popular destination for neighbors and school groups.

VILLAGE OF ALANSON - Little Traverse Conservancy assisted the Village of Alanson with applications to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to create the Island Sanctuary Park within the village limits, along the Crooked

River. Two grants were received from the Trust Fund: one to help purchase the park, with funding received in 2009, and a second Trust Fund grant approved in 2009 to be used toward the development of a trail, boardwalk, fishing dock, and overlook gazebo.

READMOND TOWNSHIP - The family of Duncan Dobson knew how much the “deep dark woods” near Good Hart meant to him after a life spent enjoying that beautiful region. In his memory, the family donated 8 acres to become the Duncan C. Dobson Jr. Nature Preserve. The new preserve lies along the M-119 scenic drive, a corridor that remains a high priority for the Conservancy.



Offield Nature Preserve

Martin McReynold

cheboygan county

CITY OF WOLVERINE - In honor of her late husband, Eva Hanel sold 20 acres of land to the Conservancy at a significant bargain sale to create the Eva and Vern Hanel Preserve. The new preserve lies within walking distance of Wolverine schools and plans are underway to coordinate programs with the schools and the Conservancy's education department.

TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP - Third generation landowners and brothers Robert ("Ham") and Michael Schirmer donated conservation easements that will protect their adjacent Burt Lake watershed property from all future development. The protected land lies within three miles of two nature preserves, land protected



Hanel Nature Preserve



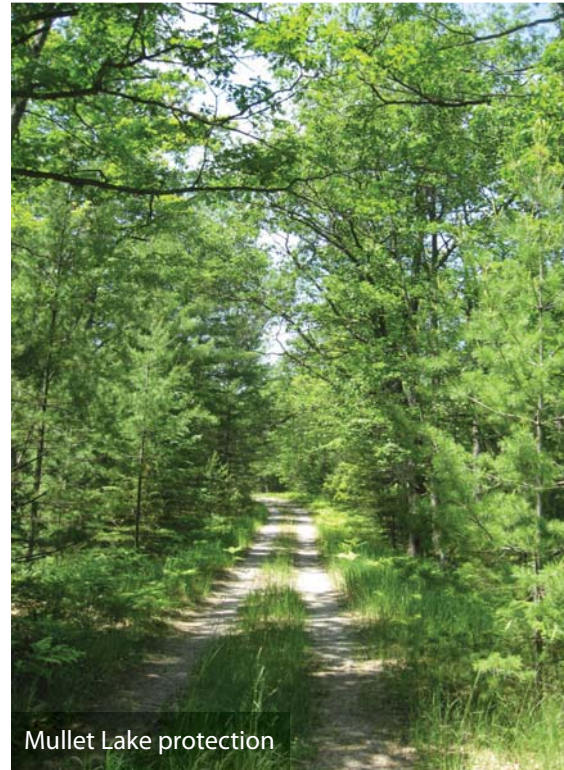
Schirmer Conservation Easements

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through the University of Michigan Biological Station, and state land.

BURT TOWNSHIP - A conservation easement was donated to protect 170 acres and 260 feet of Burt Lake frontage by landowners who wish to remain anonymous.

MULLETT TOWNSHIP - The largest undeveloped shoreline parcel remaining on Mullett Lake was purchased for protection. With 143 acres and 1,100 feet of unspoiled shoreline, the property was extremely high priority for protection. The North Central State Trail travels through the upland portion of the land. Eventually, this property is planned to become part of state holdings.



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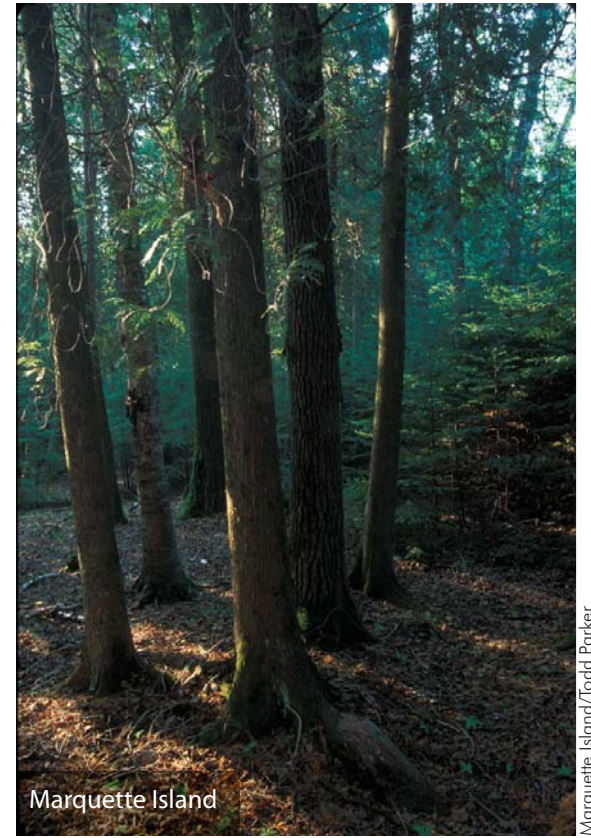
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chippewa county

DRUMMOND TOWNSHIP - A 46-acre property on Drummond Island was donated to the Conservancy by siblings Mary Sue Jack and William Jack. The family has enjoyed summers on Drummond Island for years and the land had been purchased as a buffer to their cottage property. "It feels good to know that the land will stay just the way it is," Mary Sue said.

CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE - More than 18 of the descendents of James Moore participated in gifting a 40-acre nature preserve to the Conservancy in James' honor. The new James Donaldson Moore Preserve lies right next to the 220-acre Hobbins-Meyer Preserve within the city limits of Sault Ste. Marie. The preserve is also adjacent to state land on two sides and the Algonquin Ski Trail runs close by.

"Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you."
 — WENDELL BERRY



Marquette Island

Marquette Island/Todd Parker

mackinac county

CLARK TOWNSHIP - A 50-acre parcel that links major portions of the Aldo Leopold Nature Preserve together was purchased by the Conservancy. The addition brings the Marquette Island (Les Cheneaux) Preserve to 1,273 acres. The preserve includes 3.4 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. Funding for the purchase came from a North American Wetlands Conservation Act Program grant.

CLARK TOWNSHIP - Working in partnership with the Chippewa/Eastern Mackinac Conservation District, the Conservancy purchased the development rights from a 20-acre property along Pearson Creek. The Creek empties into the Les Cheneaux channel/Lake Huron.



Charles Dawley

stewarding



Autumn Olive removal at Chaboiganing Preserve

photos by Cindy Morn

stü-örd-ship

the conducting, supervising, or managing of something especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care <of our natural resources>

There is a lot of excitement when a conservation project is completed and the final titlework is signed and recorded. But then, the stewardship staff know that now, this property has been added to the list of properties that must be cared for and protected forever.

Fortunately, many many others understand this commitment and are willing to give up their own precious time and money to help out.

"I feel as if it is the staff that makes LTC so wonderful. Every time I communicate with a staff member, whether it is a phone call, an email, or an actual visit, I am treated with kindness and respect. Being a volunteer for LTC is very rewarding."

- Sherry Gerlach

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2009 stewardship highlights

Habitat Restoration

- Community volunteers removed autumn olive from the Chaboiganing Preserve.
- Red pine plantations were thinned on thirty acres of the Covert Preserve, improving forest health, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics.
- Volunteers planted fifteen hundred conifer seedlings at the MacDonald Preserve.
- Eagle Scout Ryan Cartwright and his troop helped the Conservancy completed a shoreline erosion control project on the Pigeon River at the Andreae Preserve.
- Petoskey High School students removed Scotch pine saplings from the McCune Preserve as part of the Day of Caring volunteer event.
- Volunteers removed spotted knapweed from the Jinny Palms Preserve, Vermilion Point, and the Birge Preserve.
- Volunteers and staff planted trees and shrubs at Round Island Point, to restore an old road area.

Trails, Buildings, and Infrastructure

- Community volunteers from Drummond Island helped clear a new trail system at the Williams Preserve.
- Volunteers and staff built 100 feet of boardwalk on the new trail at the Birge Preserve.

- Eagle Scout Mike Wilhelm built a bike rack and bench, and improved trails at the Bubbling Springs Preserve.
- Narcotics Anonymous volunteers remodeled the Andreae Cabin's kitchen.
- A large pole building was removed from the Driggers Preserve, and the site was restored.

Preserve Clean Ups

- Harbor Springs National Honor Society members, Lakeview Academy students, and community volunteers cleaned up a 1950s-era dump at the Watson Preserve.
- Emmanuel Episcopal Church volunteers removed wire fencing from the Susan Creek Preserve.
- Community volunteers cleaned up trash at Vermilion Point, some of it dating back to the Life Saving Station days in the early 1900s.
- Lake Superior State University students, faculty, and other volunteers removed old fishing shanties from the remote shoreline of Round Island Point.
- Charlevoix High School students finished the clean-up of an old farm dump at the Driggers Preserve.



Williams Preserve Work Day



Watson Preserve Cleanup

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

following the seasons



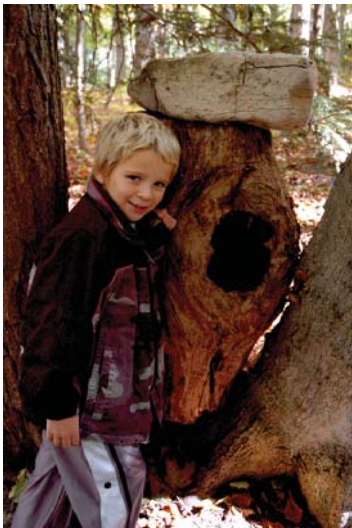
photos by Sarah Mayhew



look



wonder



feel

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Painted turtle at Spring Lake Park

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IT IS DIFFICULT TO MEASURE WHAT IT MEANS to a child when we take them outdoors. Can we possibly plant the seeds for a land ethic within an hour or two in nature? Does a trip here or a trip there really make a lasting impression?

The truth is, we won't ever know exactly what impact the Conservancy's education programs are making. But we do know that often, it only takes a moment for something to form within us: a special sighting, a certain smell, the feeling of wind blowing gently against your face as you sit quietly in the woods. Added up over time, these sensations and experiences will have an impact, even if simply a warm fuzzy memory that is triggered by another experience down the road.

We live in a glorious corner of the world, and the outdoors beckons to us during every season. The Little Traverse Conservancy's environmental education program simply "sets the table" inviting children and educators to come on out. We'll meet somewhere and introduce the group to a new place. We'll help teach a concept in a hands-on way. Or we'll just walk with the children and allow them to breathe in the fresh air as a break from their classroom studies.

The truth is, we have this suspicion that most kids would learn EVERYTHING better if given a chance — every day — to connect with the natural world around them. To cleanse their lungs with fresh air and stretch their bodies along unpaved ground. To take within themselves the comfort of knowing that they are a part of those woods, those rocks, that hillside...and to approach them without fear.

We know that on one hand, we can look at these experiences as a privilege and unquestionably, we must always feel gratitude for such opportunities. But when you get down to brass tacks...isn't being outdoors simply a necessity?

Education

In 2009, 231 classes totaling nearly 4,800 students participated in a school year environmental education outdoor field trip. Ten classes participated in the year-long journaling program. Sixty pairs of new snowshoes were purchased thanks to several grants. Thirty-six groups checked out one of the Conservancy's Discovery Boxes throughout the year. And 15 community field trips offered around the seasons drew more than 240 individuals.

Spring on Sugar Island by Sarah Sloan, Petoskey Middle School

The water is still. Ripples lap up against the shore silently. The trees and bushes sprout miniscule buds, alerting inhabitants of the change in season. Rain washes away the last traces of Old Man Winter, bringing with it high-pitched bird chirps and a sodden landscape. Spherical droplets of water shower down upon the sprouting ground. A sweet wind so unlike the harsh winter gales stir the branches. The sound is comforting and warm. The air has an earthy smell mixed with the luxurious aromas of the forest. It is pleasant to breathe in and cleanses the mind. Lichen flourishes with new color on rocks that litter the soft forest floor. Geese call out to one another as they glide above the river searching for a place to rest their wings, the tips of pine trees blurred by thick tasting air. What was once prickly and foreboding becomes round and approachable. The low hanging clouds and haze create the illusion of mysterious organisms waiting just through the mist. Spring on Sugar Island returns.

NOTE: Conservancy educators join Petoskey Middle School staff and students each spring on a visit to Sugar Island. Their program includes a journaling component.

Membership & Finance

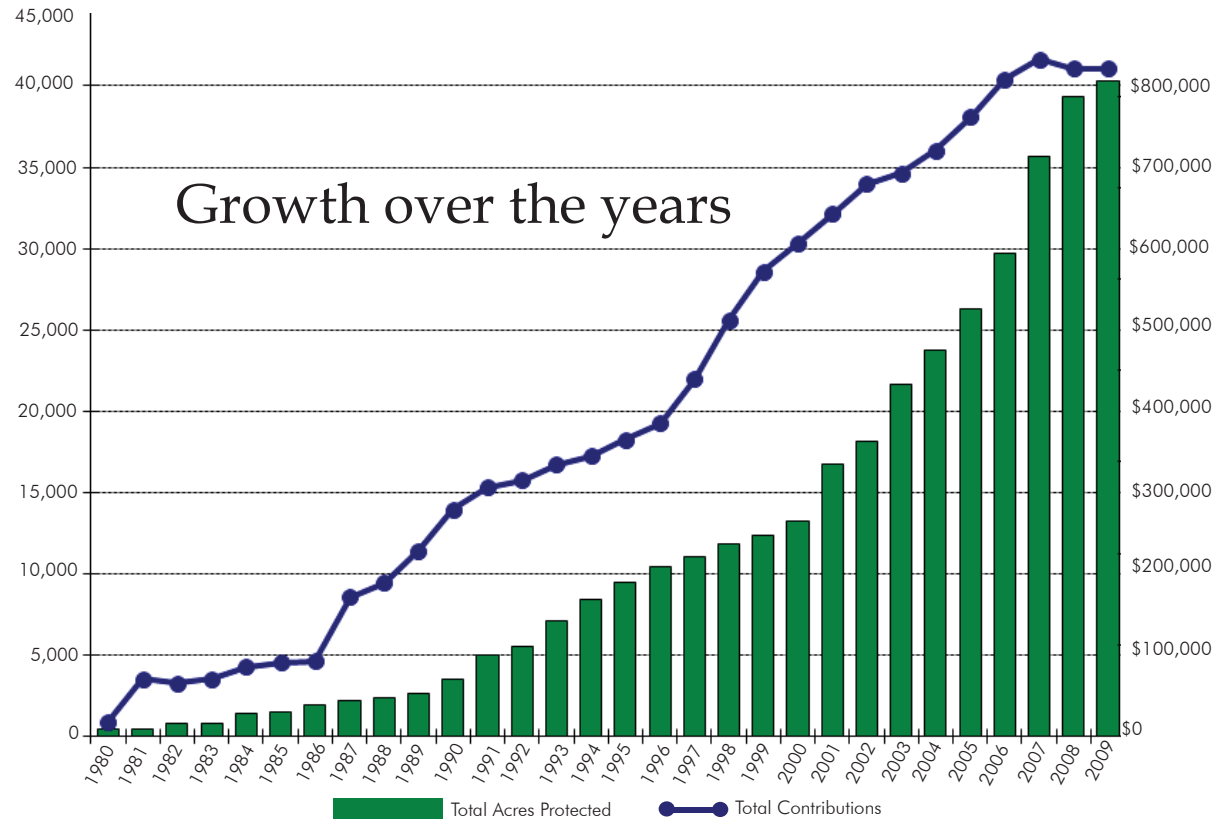
As a result of the national economic situation, the Conservancy adopted a very conservative budget in 2009, with spending cuts, wage freeze, and not replacing a retiring staff member. Fortunately, the overall cuts did not seriously impact the land protection, stewardship and education programs that the Conservancy provides.

As always we are thankful for the wonderful support our members are able to provide. In a difficult year, our members once again stepped forward and helped us to match and slightly surpass the total received in 2008. The Conservancy ended 2009 with \$730,504 in donations from 3,932 family, individual and business members. This was just \$122 more than

the \$730,382 received from 4,117 members in 2008, but with the economic uncertainty we were thrilled with the results.

The Conservancy was pleased to welcome 285 new members to our organization last year, representing 7.2 percent of our total membership. In addition the Conservancy received increased donations from 14 percent of all renewing members, a net increase of \$58,306 from these donors. We also welcomed back 487 previous members that rejoined the Conservancy last year.

Membership support provides 66 percent of the revenues needed to fund our \$1,116,500 operational budget. In addition, we received \$230,000 from operational grants, \$45,500 from



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Community field trip in Les Cheneaux



memorials and honorariums, and \$36,000 from the annual Save the Trees benefit.

In land acquisition, the Conservancy was able to protect land valued at more than \$3,640,000 last year, including land purchases of more than \$2,540,000. The purchases included the Offield Family Nature Preserve, the Hanel Preserve, and an addition to the Aldo Leopold Preserve on Marquette Island.

As always, we are greatly indebted to all of our members and project donors for helping the Conservancy reach these new highs. We continue to be the largest membership supported organization in Northern Michigan and

Planned Giving

One of the most critical components of the Conservancy's work is the long-term care and management of our 222 nature preserves and 210 conservation easements. Our Planned Giving Program was established in 1982 to create an Endowment Fund that provides part of the funding for three full time and two seasonal stewardship employees and their expenses related to management and protection of the land.

In 2009, the Endowment Fund had a partial recovery from the economic and market collapses of the previous year. At the end of 2009 the Fund had a fair market value of \$5,526,000, an increase of \$850,000 from the beginning of the year, or a 22.00 percent return on investment. The Conservancy received \$7,000 in new

we have been able to translate this support into some spectacular projects that will be protected for generations to enjoy. Thank you for your vision and thank you for helping to protect the natural areas that define the North.

We'd also like to thank the 45 members of the Conservancy's Finance Committee for helping to make our membership program such a success. Chaired by Carol Jackson, the Finance Committee is the key to this success helping us to reach new members throughout our five county service area. A complete listing of the committee members is found on page 34. We are very grateful to them for their efforts.

donations during the year for the Endowment Fund, earned \$159,800 in interest or dividend income and realized gains, and had unrealized gains of \$909,000. There were no earnings from 2008, and as a result, no income transfer out of the fund in 2009.

The Little Traverse Conservancy's Endowment Fund is a critical component to the long-term success of the organization, designed to provide a solid base of funding for our stewardship activities. If you are interested in making a gift to the Endowment Fund, we would more than happy to discuss the many options available. These include direct contributions, gifts to the Conservancy's Pooled Income Fund, the Charitable Gift Annuity program, or a Charitable Remainder Trust account.

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