



Fall 2009
Volume 31, No. 3

Glen Lake

640 ACRES & 4,000 FEET SHORELINE

THE CONSERVATION IMPACT IN THE CHEBOYGAN River Watershed has been greatly expanded with the protection of 640 acres of land that include the 30-acre Glen Lake. For seven years, the Conservancy worked with the landowners and the State of Michigan to acquire the land so that it could be added to Pigeon River Country State Forest, and last fall the acquisition was completed.

This land, formerly known by some locals as Hackett Lake, was a priority for protection not only because of its size. It is also located directly south of nearly 1,400 privately-owned acres that are protected for perpetuity with a conservation easement. "Thanks to these generous conservation-minded landowners, more than 2,000 acres within the Pigeon River Country State Forest boundaries will remain open and wild," said Kieran Fleming, director of land protection for Little Traverse Conservancy.

The parcel's previous owners were good stewards of the land, enjoying it for family getaways from downstate. A trail system was created and maintained on the property, and the forest was managed wisely. The lake offers good fishing and canoeing and the family enjoyed watching wildlife that include osprey, eagles, and elk.

In 2002, the Conservancy began talking with the landowners about various conservation options for their property. As discussions progressed, it became apparent that selling the land to the state would be the most logical option, adding to the existing state forest.

Preferring to remain anonymous, the previous land-

owners commended the Conservancy for their diligence during the countless hours spent over the past seven years on the project.

"The resulting conveyance to the state protected for posterity this magnificent wonderland from the inevitable damage that development would bring to the pristine ecosystem of this area. We are pleased and proud to have made sure that this 640-acre piece of land and Glen Lake within it are protected and available forever for the outdoor recreational pleasure of Michigan citizens and visitors alike," the donors said.

"The DNR staff deemed the property important enough to the Pigeon River Country State Forest that the boundaries of the Forest were modified to include it," Fleming said. "The benefits of additional elk habitat, a lake, and the increased opportunities for the public were obvious."

"This tract was an extremely important piece of land to acquire and place in permanent protection under state ownership," said Scott Whitcomb, unit manager for the Pigeon River Country Management Unit. "The property is impressive because of its large size adjacent to the Pigeon River Country State Forest and good wildlife habitat in the heart of the elk range. Now the state has the opportunity to manage the forest for a variety of recreational and resource uses."





photos courtesy Jania Taylor

20th Annual Save the Trees

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER BRINGS NEARLY \$40,000

Almost 300 people attended Little Traverse Conservancy's 20th annual Save the Trees fundraiser on July 10 at The Irish Boat Shop in Harbor Springs. With an "all art" raffle made possible by many community artists, a total of \$39,000 was raised, the second largest amount in the event's history! This year's format was family friendly, with magician Jania Taylor providing entertainment throughout the evening, as shown in the photos at left. Face painter Steve Seebohm was also a big hit with the younger crew. A huge thank you to outgoing co-chairs Audie Otto Whitman, Kathie Driggs, and Sarah Ziegler for all of their leadership, creativity, and generosity as well as Irish Boat Shop, Island Bean, Kevin Barton, The Keelhaulers, and all those who attended. Special thanks also to all those listed below:

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Raffle Item Donors

Kevin Barton
Peg Demmer and Brad Breuer
Tedd Greenwald
Mary Hramiec Hoffman
Carl Nichols
Ruth Petzold
Bill Tribble
Edwin van den Berg

Event Partners

Irish Boat Shop
Island Bean
Litzenburger Landscaping
Graphic Printing
Gurney's Bottle Shop

Protecting the “Deep Dark Woods”

DUNCAN DOBSON WAS THE FOURTH GENERATION of his family to summer in their cottage on Harbor Point in Harbor Springs. His great grandfather, William Duncan of St. Louis, Missouri, purchased Cottage 21 in 1905. Every summer of Duncan's life he spent happy times on the Point. As a young child, Duncan had a fascination with “the deep, dark woods” around Harbor Springs and, according to his family, he often wondered what lived in those rather scary woods. This endearing memory was passed on to his family as Duncan continued to explore and enjoy the woods with them. Upon retiring in 2007, Duncan and his wife, Lucy, moved from northern California to be full-time residents in their cabin north of Good Hart. But shortly after their move, Duncan was diagnosed with a terminal illness that took his life on July 17, 2008.

To honor Duncan and his love of this region, Dun-

can's wife, Lucy, decided to donate eight acres adjacent to their Good Hart property to the Conservancy to become a nature preserve. The property includes 450 feet of frontage along the Michigan designated Scenic Corridor M-119, one of the most beautiful drives in northern Michigan.

“It was a real privilege to work with the Dobson family,” said Kieran Fleming, the Conservancy's director of land protection. “The new Duncan C. Dobson, Jr. Nature Preserve fits in perfectly with Conservancy efforts to protect the scenic quality of M-119. In 100 years, thanks to people like the Dobsons, this drive will look much the same as it does today.”

“It is a fitting honor that these ‘deep, dark woods’ of Duncan's will be preserved in his name,” Lucy said. “It was our dream to live out our lives here, and this property represents that dream.”



...in the moment

On July 5, members of the Hildner and Bearce families along with their friends gathered to dedicate the new Hildner-Bearce Nature Preserve looking over Burt Lake. Several of those who attended were dressed in period costumes (shown left) for the living history play that was held along with a luncheon later that day.



Inset photo, left to right: Lucy Dobson, Duncan's sister, Sally Danforth, Lucy and Duncan's daughter Lindsey Madden, granddaughter Clare, and son-in-law Brendan Madden.

photos by Todd Parker

Brothers Donate Easements Protecting Burt Lake Watershed



Ham and Michael Schirmer



BROTHERS ROBERT ("HAM") AND MICHAEL SCHIRMER, THIRD GENERATION BURT Lake landowners, completed the donation of conservation easements that protect 21 acres of upland hardwood forest in close proximity to Burt Lake. The land is near another 50-acre conservation easement completed last year by neighboring landowners. It is also found within three miles of two nature preserves, land protected through the University of Michigan Biological Station, and state land. "For us, this was just the natural thing to do," said Michael. Ham agreed adding, "It is a relief to know that even if the land can't stay within the family in the future, it will never be developed down the road."



Easement Expands Protection of Inwood Creek

A SCENIC CONSERVATION EASEMENT ALONG US-31 in Charlevoix County was recently donated by Kim Kolb and Tom Jaenicke. The small easement also protects frontage along Inwood Creek, a tributary that flows into Lake Michigan. The property lies adjacent to an existing 98-acre private property also protected with a conservation easement. "Tom and I have chosen Charlevoix to be our permanent home when the time comes for us not to be elsewhere to make a living. We are not quite there yet!" said Kim. "We own some property across US-31 from the conservation easement property where Tom is creating a vineyard (back to his farming roots), and when this piece came up for sale as a residential lot, we knew that we wanted to have it stay in its unspoiled form — especially with a section of Inwood Creek running through it. So we decided that we were the ones to do the 'right thing' and protect it. We were fortunate enough to have the resources to take this step, and we did it! We are thrilled and we hope that the Conservancy is thrilled too."



Kim Kolb, Tom Jaenicke, and Sandy on their newly-protected private property.



RECENTLY THE CONSERVANCY helped the state acquire the parcel outlined in yellow, at left. The land lies adjacent to other state land and includes 1,000 feet of frontage on the Bear River which connects Walloon Lake to Little Traverse Bay. "With the river frontage and proximity to Walloon Lake, this parcel has very high ecological significance," said Jay Neff, Conservancy land protection specialist. "It is another good example of how the Conservancy's ability to act quickly and partner with the state allows for high priority parcels to be protected," Neff added.



Giving Back - Taking it Forward

BLOSSOM FAMILY CAMP'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP TREK

In 2001, Jeannine Palms coordinated a fundraising effort (with herself as the primary donor) in order to protect the 360-acre Jinny Palms Wildlife Preserve in Chippewa County. Jeannine named the preserve after her mother, and since that time has visited this remote preserve every year, right around Mother's Day. She and her husband, Dale Petty, have explored and inventoried the property and the surrounding area, adding greatly to the Conservancy's wealth of information about this rugged land that provides habitat for wolf, moose, and black bear.

Five years ago, Jeannine started a new tradition, this time for the second weekend in August. For "Blossom Family Camp," friends and families whose children have attended Jeannine's Ann Arbor preschool, Blossom Home, have joined Jeannine and Dale on a camping trip to the Paradise area. They spend a long weekend at the Tahquamenon River Mouth campground, coordinate all their meals, swim in the river, hike to Lake Superior, and play games and sing songs by the campfire. They also spend at least one day volunteering at the Palms Preserve. Over the years they have helped restore the preserve (which was heavily logged right before acquisition), creating vehicle barricades, installing signs, gates, and fences, and pulling invasive plants. In June 2005, the Michigan DNR's Landowner Incentive Program planted 24,000 trees in the clearcut areas of the Palms Preserve. The Blossom kids have watched these trees grow and thrive.

Cindy Mom, Stewardship Specialist for the Conservancy, has been able to join the group at Blossom Camp a couple of times, where she helps coordinate the stewardship activities. "It's inspiring to look back at photos from the Palms Preserve dedication in 2004, and to see that these same kids were there, just babies at the time.

They've grown up with this as their annual retreat to a wild place, they're seeing how it changes and recovers and grows, and they're learning how to take care of it."



Don Werthmann

Blossom Family Camp after a work day at the Palms Preserve

Memorials

*The following gifts were received
between June 1 and August 31, 2009*

Evelyn Altenburg

Birchwood Association of
Mullet Lake

Connie Ashman

Birchwood Association of
Mullet Lake

Virginia 'Ginger' Austin

Mr. and Mrs. J. David Cummings
Grant Morrow and Cordelia
W. Robinson
Mrs. William K. Westwater
& Family

Jane Marie Bailey

Rob and Diane Collier
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Fischer
& Family
Mr. and Mrs. Jack H. Heckenberg
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George and Jan Jury
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Koza
Pickerel-Crooked Lakes Assn.
Harbor Springs and Grand
Rapids Shumway Families
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sickinger
Law Office of Stephen J. Small, Esq.
Dr. and Mrs. John A. Woollam

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Mrs. Edie S. Johnson

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Jane Bartley

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Don Bell

Birchwood Association of
Mullet Lake

Eric Bradford

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T. Kemper Brotherton, Jr.

Kappy and Topper Pennington

Virginia 'Ginner' Bryant

Ms. Sara Kehs

'Butch' the cat

Bay Pines Veterinary Clinic

Colene Childs

Jeff, Susan, Lauren and Emily Cutler
Kenneth and Nancy Federspiel
Lucy and Bill Rossen
Ms. Anne Thomas

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Luke, Eric and Emma

Michael Gluck

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Ms. Sarah Ziegler

Lucille Lawrence

Cindy and Michael Pettibone

Jerry Left

Mrs. Kathleen Left

Margaret Baker Leyman

Don and Jane Gardner
Bruce K. Davis and Heidi W. Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Holton
Mr. Nathan P. Laffoon
Grant Morrow and Cordelia W. Robinson
Mrs. William K. Westwater & Family

Philip John Lutz, Jr.

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Mr. and Mrs. George W. James

Eugene Mondry

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Helen Grace Ries

Mari Craft
Ms. Diane Fenske
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Dr. Edward C. Lake, Jr. & Family
Mrs. Robert Medlar
Ms. Katharine Miller
Ms. Jean Wray Stone
Dr. Richard and Sally VanSchoick
Genevieve Yaw

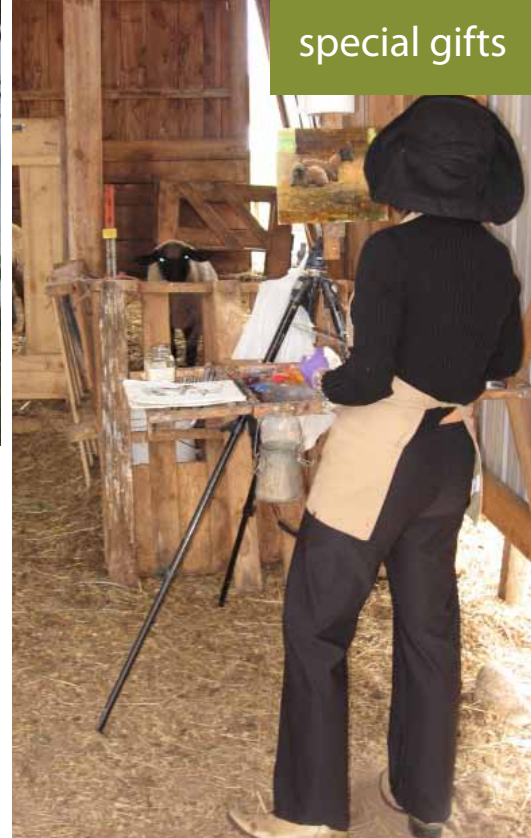
Robert Rousseau

Robert and Janet Swanson





Several artists participated in the August 8 "Wet Paint/Fresh Ink" event hosted by Tvedten Fine Art Gallery in Harbor Springs. Twenty percent of the proceeds from the sale of the art and writing generated on that day and sold throughout August were split and donated to the Conservancy and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Artists from left to right: Bruce Neville of Ohio painting the Round Lake Preserve, Jill Stefani Wagner of Ann Arbor at Angell Farm, and Elizabeth Pollie of Harbor Springs at Pond Hill Farm.



Elizabeth 'Betty' Russell
Nancy Rajala

Robert Seyfarth
Barbara Blackmore
Hans Kellogg Family

Mary Shands
Mrs. William Barnes III

Adam Shepherd
Jim and Cindy Shepherd

Erma Short
Birchwood Association of
Mullet Lake

Ben Smith
Birchwood Association of
Mullet Lake

John S. Speed
Mrs. William Barnes III

Judy Snyder
Roger C. and Anette J. Cyr

Edward Stenger
Robert and Janet Swanson

Barbara Stoetzer
Mr. Michael Cameron

Ralph Teague
Ken and Pat Gitersonke

Jane Thornton
Dick and Veroneze Strader

Robert D. VanCampen
Mr. Robert H. Bellairs

**Elizabeth Carrott
Whitemore**
Philip and Tamara Carrott
Anne and Collyer Smith
Dr. Phil Carrott, Jr.
Dr. Geoff and Molly Carrott Taylor
Lucy and Dylan Mayor
Cam Smith

Carol Wieringa
Mrs. Darlene Dawood

Honorariums

*In honor of their
wedding*

William and Lisa Hicklen
Ms. Winnie Boal

**Richard Hodgson and
Perry Irish**
Larry Cantera and Jen Hill
Fran and Dave Hill

**Barbara Bowman and R.
Hamilton Schirmer**
William and Ann Booth
Mr. and Mrs. David P. Carlin
Mr. and Mrs. Philip E. Carlin
Ms. Linda Hensley
Frank and Becky Hill
Julie and Scott Jenney
Ms. Mary Lou Mabee
Webb and Jan Martin
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Ross and Dede Moody
James and Melinda Morton

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David L. and Mary Stickney
Robert and Janet Swanson
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Teel
Jane and John Thomas
Richard and Judith Ward
Deke Welles
John and Martha Wert
Rich and Karen Williams
Ms. Joan F. Wright

*In honor of the
guests to our wedding*
Brendan and Abby
CasaSanta Egan

Happy Birthday

Kathy Driggs
Sarah, Zoe, Tessa and Ian Ziegler

Mrs. John B. "Peggy" Ford
Mrs. William Barnes, III
Mr. John S. Speed
Mr. and Mrs. Michael L. Turnbull

Jonathan Friendly
Mike and Fran Weissman

Jutta Letts
Genny and David Letts

Charles Murray
Fran and Charles Gano

Sally Mauger Veil
Cindy and Michael Pettibone

Happy Anniversary

Pat and Otto Busard (60th)
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Hartwig

**Jack and Ceejay
Heckenberg (40th)**
Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West

Ann and David Irish (50th)
Michael and Debbie Esposito
Fran and Dave Hill
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Petzold
Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Streett
Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West

**Dick and Carolyn Kelley
(50th)**
Dick and Veroneze Strader

**Ken and Barbara Monroe
(40th)**
Meghan and Shanny Monroe

**Sue Steeby in honor of
your retirement from the
Willard Public Library**
Dick and Veroneze Strader

**Chuck and Joan Winston
in honor of their service
to the Conservancy**
Susan and William Volckens

Inspired in the Field

Sidney Bieser returned as a volunteer intern for the Conservancy's environmental education department this year, earning credit toward her degree in environ-

mental studies from Sweet Briar College in Virginia. "It was a pleasure to have Sidney join education staff this summer," said Conservancy Education Specialist, Melissa Hansen. "She did a wonderful job preparing for and helping conduct programs and completing a

number of other tasks. Her enthusiasm for her work and assisting with Little Traverse Conservancy's Environmental Education Program was contagious."

"More than ever, I hope to make a career in environmental education or something related," Sidney said. "My experiences at LTC only solidified that."



Fall Class Outings



This year's fall school programs run from **September 22-October 29.**

Registration is already underway, so please call 231.347.0991 to set up your outing. If you would like a copy of the fall environmental education newsletter, please call for a copy or visit www.landtrust.org and link on the education page for more information.



Unique Conference Upcoming in Northern Michigan - September 25-27

Are you seeking to take your nature drawing, photography, or journaling to new levels? Or perhaps you'd like to take one of these art forms on for the first time? Join SEE-NORTH's Bird's Eye View for a gathering of artists, photographers, birders and writers for a special conference at the Boyne Highlands Resort, located just northeast of Harbor Springs. For more information, please call 231.348.9700. A sample of workshops is found below or visit www.seenorth.org.

Outdoor Sketchbook 101
Bird Photography: The Set-Up
Photography: Don't Let the Tail Wag the Dog
Kayaking and Photography with the "Outfitter" of Harbor Springs
Birding Field Trip
State of the Art: Drawing With Prismacolor Pencils





Beat-a-Leaf Journal Making



Get Outside & Play!



Bear River Boat Float



Water Wonders Duck Race



Knee-High Naturalists

New Members

The Conservancy would like to thank the following new members, new Friends or Benefactors, or members who have increased their level of giving within the Friends or Benefactors level from June 1 - August 31, 2009.

Business Friends or Benefactors

First Community Bank
Northwestern Bank
Waldvogel Insurance Agency
Zoo-de-Mackinac, Inc.

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Mr. and Mrs. Dale S. Hanson
Jeff and Shellie Herman
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Ms. Donna Kieselbach
Murray and Jeanie Kilgour
Wendy Hoyt and Thomas L. Kurowski
Dr. and Mrs. Hal C. Lawrence
Thomas F. and Judith G. Mich
Tom and Gayle Mroczkowski
Ms. Audrey Wallace Otto
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pendery Jr.
Fred and Kristan Rice
Mrs. Edward A. Schirmer
Ham and Barbara Schirmer
Jim and Cathy Schroeder
Kenyon and Sally Stebbins
Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Wehrle Jr.

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Derrer Oil and Propane Company
Hitz Design, Inc.
Kilwin's Quality Confections, Inc.
Personal Graphics

New Contributing Members

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Ms. Colleen Barkham
Lowell and Jean Beethem
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Ms. Joan F. Bernardin
James and Mary Lou Bigelow
Todd and Amy Bloch

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Chris and Geertrui Bowyer
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard W. Boyle
Ms. Nancy Breithart
Mr. Robert L. Bytwerk
Richard and Bonnie Calvin
Steve and Amanda Carcone
Bill and Linda Chase
Ms. Mary Jo Clark
Susan and Hugh Conklin
Michael and Sue Conti
Dale and Anne Covy
Greg Czarnecki and Sue Dempsey
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Jay and Carla Dennis
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William and Deborah Loeffler
Ms. Susan Lyons
Bob and Cele Malpass
John and Barbara Marshall
Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Masucci
Joseph and Della Matievich
Mrs. Edna McDonough
Mr. Robert D. Meek



Hans and Jutta Milobinski
Dave and Anne Munger
John and Sharon Neighbours
Kenneth B. Nelson
Hamlet and Dianne Newsom
Mrs. Shirley Ottmer
John and Gloria Palmer
Robert and Alice Pattengale
Mr. Matt Pierle
Ms. Lindsey Reh
Ellen and Michael Rosewall
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Ms. Henrietta M. Seavitt
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Lawrence and Ina Stevens
Tom and Kathy Sweet
Kendal and Christine Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Ternes
Patrick and Judy Terrian
Richard and Catherine Tillen
Chris and Michelle Tracy
Mr. Scott K. Usitalo
Joel and Nancy VanRoekel
Leonard, Julie, Sam and Maddy Whitley
Don and Judy Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald E. Woiteshek

WISH LIST

The Conservancy's van is on its last legs and we are seeking a reliable used van for multiple uses. Please call 231.347.0991 if you can help us in this search!

Getting Out There!

All Conservancy nature preserves are found online at www.landtrust.org

Each season, a handful of opportunities to join staff or community partners at Conservancy nature preserves are offered. Images from this past season include (from top left): Stewardship Specialist Cindy Mom leads a trip through the Offield Family Nature Preserve; Jessie Hadley of Woods and Water Ecotours provides a day-long kayak trip through the Les Cheneaux island preserves; Participants on a bike trip with Top of Michigan Trails Council stop for a tour of the Agnes Andreae Nature Preserve, standing on the bridge overlooking the Pigeon River.



and for the young ones: *UPDATE!* Getting Kids Outdoors

The Getting Kids Outdoors in Emmet County coalition continues its efforts to pull together all groups and individuals in Emmet County who are interested in actively promoting more outside time for our region's youth. Recent highlights include:

- The Creative Kids Backyard contest was held to encourage families to construct a creative backyard play space. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter;
- The Michigan "No Child Left Inside Summit" was held on June 27 in Lansing and attended by 175 people. (We are proud that the local community breakfast for our initiative drew 100 people alone!). At the summit, GKO - Emmet County was featured as one of four Michigan "stories" of what's happening around the state, demonstrating how volunteers can start a local initiative that is not based out of an existing nature center;
- T-shirts are being sold to raise funds for the program. They are available for \$15 and can be ordered through the GKO website: www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org. Don't forget to go to the website for more updates, information, and activity ideas for your kids!



Conservancy staff Reb Ratliff, Jay Neff, and Cindy Mom model the new GKO t-shirts available at The Outfitter in Harbor Springs (a GKO coalition partner) or at www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org.

thank you

- **Phil Ohmer, Greg Czarnecki, Sue Dempsey and Todd Parker** for donating many wonderful photos to our office. All of you have been extremely generous and have added greatly to Conservancy outreach.
- **Bev Warner** for donating flatware to our office kitchen!
- **Wayne Blomberg** of Ryde Marina for the use of a pontoon boat to access the Rocky Point Preserve to remove several old duck blinds (and for disposing of the trash!).
- **George Jury and Dave and Muffie McCauley** for hosting and helping with the 2009 Stewardship Volunteer Event at the Greenwood Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council** for loaning us a clinometer for forest inventorying work.
- **Reith-Riley** for donating two pickup loads of sand from their Bayshore pit for use at the Driggers Preserve.
- **Home Depot** for a discount on construction materials for the Andreae cabin.
- **James Dawley** for helping with electrical wiring for a new cook top at the Andreae Preserve.
- **Glen Matthews** for expert advice on wildlife and natural resource management on many preserves.
- **Vic Lane** of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy for leading staff and board members on a tour of forestry activities at their Arcadia Dunes Nature Preserve.
- **Northwoods Area Narcotics Anonymous** for remodeling the kitchen and painting the siding at the Andreae Preserve cabin.
- **Emmet County Probate Court/Lakeview Academy** for helping to clean up an old dump site at the Watson Nature Preserve.
- **Steve and Karen Andrews** of Sturgeon River Pottery for the Wildflower Field Guides.
- **Sally Stebbins** for leading the Greenwood Birding trip on June 6.
- **Tia Bowe, Chris Cantway, Karla Shandonay** (volunteers and staff of the Michigan Nature Conservancy) and **Thaddeus Lewandowski** for pulling spotted knapweed at Vermilion Point on June 18.
- **John Griffin and Nadine Cain** for pulling spotted knapweed at the Birge Preserve on July 1.
- **Dayna Baillo, Jim Evans, Lynn Evans, Diane Matthews, Glen Matthews, Diane Morand, Alex Tunks, and Terry Tunks** for participating in the Vermilion Point Clean Up on July 17.
- **Jessie Hadley** and Woods and Water Ecotours for leading our annual kayak trip in Les Cheneaux.
- **Jim and Betty Vosper, Suzette Cooley Sanborn and John Sanborn** for their extraordinary hospitality on Bois Blanc Island, and to Jim for his demolition skills!
- **Ann Macomber Pappas** for donating Wildflower guides.
- Members of the **Fifth Annual Blossom Family Camp** for spotted knapweed and marsh thistle control at the Jinny Palms Wildlife Preserve on August 7:
Dave, Betsy, Molly, and Tess Borneman;
Nancy Schlabach, Jim MacDonald, Spence MacDonald and Casey MacDonald;
Leigh Baguley, Don Werthmann, Sophia Werthmann and Emmett Werthmann;
Jason Frenzel
Mary Goode
Carol and Mark Palms
Jeannine Palms and Dale Petty
- **Joe Kimmell** for donating an extension ladder in response to the wish list request.
- **Steve Anderson** for donating \$1,000 to buy wish list items for stewardship and education needs.
- The following individuals who assisted with our summer membership mailing, **Dodie Horan, John Maximiuk, Trudy Day, Cacia McClain** as well as the following individuals who assisted through the RSVP Program:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Marlene Bartson | Maxine McDowell |
| Sharon Brown | Carolyn Snead |
| Ann Burek | Betty Trippe |
| Tillie Cone | Bev Warner |
| Pearl Daly | Marjorie Upton |
| Doris Lark | Sharon Van Meter |
- **Lisa and Ric Loyd** for the wonderful staff thank you luncheon they provided at our office on August 14.
- The following young people from the **Emmanuel Episcopal Church** who removed a fence at the Susan Creek Preserve and cleared saplings for view enhancement at the Ransom Preserve.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Kyler Wells | Anthony Audia |
| Devin Porter | A. Popkey |
| Danni Dietrich-Biolette | Neal Cronkite |
| Jen Cronkite | Megan Keith |
| Andy Scott | Rebecca Puzan |
| Lukas Schroeder | Eric Clark |
| Katie Swymeler | Kelley Samuels |
| Claire Audia | Evan Samuels |
| Nik Schredder | Father Greg Brown |
| Jordan Degen | |
- The following people who removed Autumn Olive from the Chaboiganing Preserve on August 26:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Dayna Baillo | Matt Pierle |
| Ed Boyer | Perry Nelson |
| Michelle Boyer | John Shreves |
| Doug Drapal | David Skaggs |
| Tucker Harris | Dick Taylor |
| Hal Lawrence | Stephen Tolger |

And the Northwest Michigan Works Crew:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Greg Mastin - supervisor | Cody Fettig |
| Dan Wilson - supervisor | Samuel Drenth |
| Kevin Kreiser | Logan Stachler |
| Shawn LaLonde | |

improving preserves

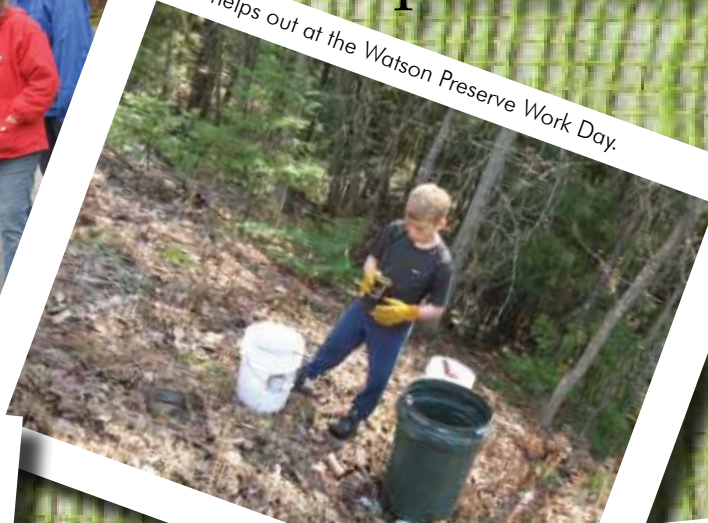
Round Island Point Preserve Work Day



Eagle Scout Mike Wilhelm stands beside the bike rack that he built for the Bubbling Springs Nature Preserve.



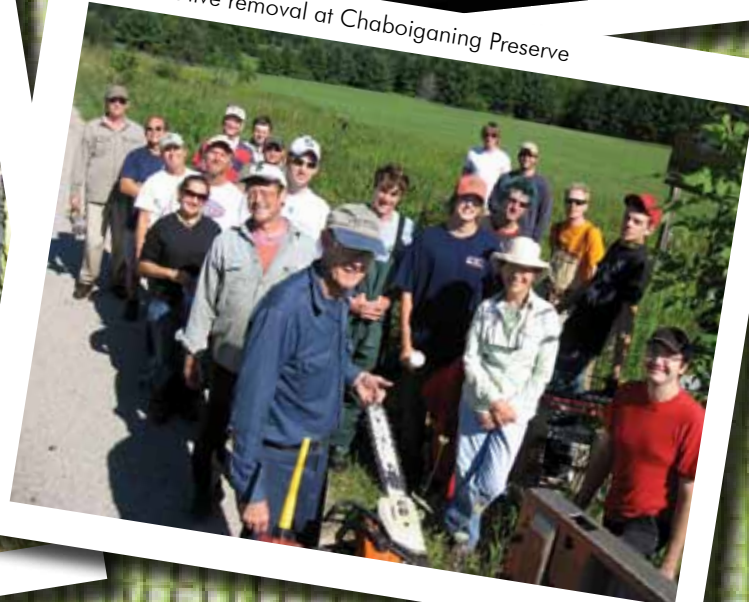
James helps out at the Watson Preserve Work Day.



Jim Vosper riding in the back of the Conservancy pick up after disassembling a blind on Bois Blanc Island.



Autumn Olive removal at Chaboiganing Preserve



Volunteers from Episcopal Church clean up at Susan Creek.



Reflections...Tom Bailey

Thank you, Jane

It seems appropriate that I write about Jane during the fall, which is so bittersweet with its glorious beauty, its abundance and fullness, and yet its sense of parting. It is much more than bitter to lose one who has been so close; especially so because we had come so very far together in so many ways. Yet the sweet encompasses wonderful memories, life well lived, and the world made a better place for her having been here. No matter how painful the loss, even death cannot erase or undo the wonderful things that came to many from her life, and to me from our 32 years of marriage.

I have Jane to thank for my being in the Little Traverse Bay area. She had graduated from Michigan State University a year ahead of me. We had become friends. Because of Jane's love for Lake Michigan she had applied for teaching jobs only in schools located along the lake's shore. She landed a teaching job with the Petoskey Public Schools and, knowing of my interest in skiing, invited me to come up during the winter season for a visit.

Without going into detail, I'll note that she tried to arrange a bit of matchmaking for me, but it didn't work. Three and a half months later, we were engaged. I had fallen in love with both her and this area at the same time. So began a great many trips north from MSU during our engagement. When we were finally married, our first residence was a cozy rented cottage on the North Arm of Walloon Lake.

We moved back to the Lansing area after that first year so that she could earn her master's degree at Michigan State and I could go to work for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Six years later, on trips back to the Petoskey area to visit friends, we felt so at home that our course was set to return.

I was hired by the Little Traverse Conservancy. Jane was running a successful educational consulting business in Lansing which was not easy to leave. But leave she did after two years of commuter marriage. She took a job as a special education teacher at the Alanson Public Schools here in northern Michigan and earned so much respect and admiration that she was made high school principal before the year was out.

After a couple of years in that position, she was courted by the Harbor Springs Public Schools for their high school principalship, and then a couple of years after that by the Char-Em Intermediate School District which created a position especially to take advantage of her talent as a teacher of teachers. Then, the Petoskey schools called again and she finished her career where she started, in administration of curriculum and staff development rather than the classroom.

What a difference she made in so many lives! I have testimonials galore from students, teachers and administrators about the ways in which Jane's wisdom, support, advice, or leadership by example changed the courses of their lives or



Tom, Jane, and John Bailey

careers for the better.

She brought me to Little Traverse Bay where we made a wonderful home and I became the luckiest man in the conservation movement. She brought joy into the world through our son, and she was a wonderful mother. How can I ever come close to expressing what it meant to me to not only savor the good times we had, but also to use the challenges for growth that brought us both to new heights, new insights, and through all the rough patches to such fulfillment and happiness? Through her, our biggest challenges became our finest hours.

She remained ever the teacher, even as she squared off against cancer and the defeat and despair that this terrible disease so often brings about. She triumphed, as all her friends and family who were awed by both her strength and humility can attest. I learned more about life and faith from Jane in this past year and a half than in all my previous life.

She showed everyone who knew her what it meant to come to terms with one's mortality with courage and grace. She elevated daily life to new heights, and showed others how to do so, too. The local newspaper, in their front-page tribute, got only one thing wrong: they printed that Jane had "lost her battle with cancer." Not true. She no more lost her fight against cancer than the Allies who died at Normandy lost World War II. Cancer never broke her spirit, and in that she triumphed as few of us could ever manage or even hope to do.

What a gift it is for me to have been Jane's husband!! I miss her terribly and her absence is something that will take me a long time to get used to. Yet there is still so much of her with me that I will never be truly alone. And as the bittersweet glory of fall in the North reminds us that a sense of loss is only possible because of what we have gained, I will continue to celebrate the joy of what Jane and I built together. I will continue to thank her for bringing me here. I will go forward, for her and with her, resolved that just as cancer and its effects could never break her spirit, through the Grace to which she opened my eyes and those of many others, so it shall never break mine.

Thank you, my dear Jane.



UPDATE from the Offield Family Nature Preserve

IN OUR LAST NEWSLETTER, WE FEATURED a new 380-acre preserve recently created within the Harbor Springs Greenbelt. At that time, an official name was not yet known, but we can now report that the property has been named the Offield Family Nature Preserve in honor of the family that funded its purchase.

Because of its size and close proximity to Harbor Springs and Petoskey, the Conservancy has been and will continue to invest significant stewardship resources to this wonderful local resource. Below is a brief summary of what has been happening at the property this past summer. To the right is an updated copy of the trail map. Staff are still working on a trail system, seeking to use existing trails and two-tracks as much as possible. Several field trips were held at the property over the summer.

Recent activities at the Offield Family Nature Preserve included:

- An assessment of the exotic Tartarian honeysuckle is being conducted by interns with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians;
- A field botany class from the University of Michigan Biological Station compared the forest tracts and examined the peatland on the property;
- A detailed forest resource inventory is being done with a special grant received for the preserve. (Watch for a further story on this in the next newsletter.);
- Temporary trail maps have been posted at entrance points to the preserve, along with rules signs;
- Vehicle barricades have been installed; and
- Preserve name signs should be installed by October.

Watch for more information about the preserve in future newsletters or call our office if you have any questions. This property is an excellent destination for all kinds of outings! 🌿



Please note: This trail system is still a work in progress. Not all trails are shown on this map (one reason being because some lead off the preserve onto private property). This map reflects those trails that will be a part of the final trail system.



The 2009 University of Michigan Field Botany class at the Offield Family Preserve

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Fall Field Trips

Andreae Preserve/Todd Parker

Unless noted, Conservancy field trips are offered at no charge. Pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991. Out of fairness to our program leaders, many of whom are volunteers, please do let us know if you plan to come. It greatly helps with planning.

Legends, Labyrinths, & Lore Sunday, September 27 2-4 pm Private property north of Harbor Springs

Join Jennifer Eis and Don Ward, authors and lecturers, for an educational walk-about at their 50-acre protected property. Site of the "Wisdom Keeper-Wisdom Seeker" summer lecture series for the past 12 years, this is a rare and wonderful opportunity. Weather permitting, you will be free to explore the teachings of the Medicine Wheel, walk the largest turf Labyrinth in Michigan, sit in the Talking Circle or the coils of the Great Serpent. Interpretive signs at each of the features will allow for a self-guided experience. Arrive anytime between 2 and 4 pm and expect the unexpected. Due to the walking and fragility of structures, this program is not suitable for young children. Pre-register and get directions through the Conservancy at 231.347.0991.

Cranberries at Vermilion Point Saturday, October 3 11 am Vermilion Point Nature Preserve, Chippewa County

Early October can be one of the nicest times to visit

Vermilion Point. With luck, there will be blue skies, no frost, warm water, peak fall color, and no bugs. Tom Allan, who lived at Vermilion Point for eight years, will lead a cranberry picking field trip to this remote preserve. He'll cover a little history on the old cranberry farm and the life saving station, and a little bit of wetland and interdunal ecology. Bring your own bucket, and fill it with wild cranberries! Pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991.

Hike the Driggers Preserve Saturday, October 3 10 am Charlevoix County

Ty Ratliff, land protection specialist for the Conservancy, will be leading a one-hour hike at this property situated between Charlevoix and Boyne City. This past summer, recent improvements made the trails even more enjoyable, making this a property to explore! Hiking difficulty will be moderate, with some smaller hills. Please call to pre-register at 231.347.0991.



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