



FALL 2011
VOL. 33, No. 3

"The Hill" Nature Preserve

NEW BOYNE CITY PRESERVE DONATED

FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, THE BEAUTY OF NORTHERN Michigan, the love of adventure, and a special piece of property have woven three families together.

During the 1960s, ski trips to Boyne Mountain first brought the Herzog brothers — Gene and John — as well as their friend and fellow orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Lou Mrstik, to Boyne City. "I immediately bought a home," Mrstik says. "We were eager to enjoy the 'up north' and we did just that." The Herzogs also bought a shared home and a lifetime of trips to northern Michigan was started.

Soon after their first visit, the three men began searching for a piece of property they could share. The main requirement was that it have a hill, and, in 1966, they discovered and purchased the old Grunow Farm. Located on the north end of town, the land includes a great variety of features, most notably beautiful panoramic views of Lake Charlevoix. "This was where the men could truly relax and take a break," said Ruth Herzog, John's wife.

As children came along and the families began creating traditions tied to the property, they fell more deeply in love with the region during all of its seasons. Lou and Gene started an annual task of planting trees. "This actually became our job," laughs Jackie Malloy, Lou's daughter, recalling how the men would send the kids off with hundreds of seedlings and a shovel. It is a ritual the kids still tease their fathers about because most of the seedlings died the first couple of years until they realized they should be planted in furrows. Trees were planted in the shape of a peace sign one year and spelled out "Big Lou" another year, all clearly visible from the air. An "O"

circle of pines still stands out today. John planted a vineyard on the hillside and harvesting and processing grapes became an annual event for all three families. Variations of a garden waxed and waned over the years. Today the vineyard and garden are still an almost daily destination for John and Lou during the seasons when they reside below it on the lake.

Over the years, dozens of special family events and gatherings with friends were held at the land that was now commonly referred to as "The Hill." "Jackie puts a book together for each of the kids' graduations and they all include memories from The Hill," Lou said.

In 1996, the families donated a conservation easement on 106 acres of the property adjacent to the vineyard and garden. This year, the land was donated to Little Traverse Conservancy to become a permanent nature preserve. "We're getting up in years and it was time to give the land away," said Lou.

A COMMUNITY GEM

In addition to the topography of the land, The Hill Preserve includes a nice diversity of both pines and hardwoods within its boundaries. Apple trees have risen from the seeds of the old farm orchard and lilac bushes reveal the old farmstead.

"The primary concern with this preserve right now is that there is very limited parking," said Doug Fuller, director of stewardship. "But it is currently open to the public and is an excellent destination for hiking." The Conservancy is working with the county to explore other options for parking along Old Horton Bay Road. Watch future newsletters and the website for more information about The Hill.

The Herzog and Mrstik families have enjoyed The Hill around the seasons, for generations. *(photos courtesy Ruth and Sally Herzog)*





22nd annual *Save the Trees*

A brand new venue and format all proved successful for this year's 22nd annual Save the Trees fundraising event. Once again, event founder Shelagh Luplow partnered with Beth Kost and the Benefit Committee to put on a beautiful event attended by 250 people. A total of \$36,700 was raised.

A special thanks to Walstrom Marine and our most sincere gratitude to the Benefit Committee, featured artist James Kosloskey, all of the generous artists and photographers mentioned below, Gow Litzenburger for donating trees and shrubs, L. Mawby for donating their sparkling wine, "Conservancy," and Grain Train for donating cookies. Jelly Rolls Blues Band and Carol Costello provided entertainment and food for the evening. We also thank the following event sponsors:

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Original preserve

Lake Michigan

Addition Purchased for Little Sand Bay Preserve

New addition

A 28-ACRE ADDITION TO THE LITTLE SAND BAY Preserve on Beaver Island was recently purchased by Little Traverse Conservancy as a result of a donation from the J.A. Wool-lam Foundation. The addition brings the much-beloved preserve to a total of 88 acres and adds 1,000 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline to the preserve, for nearly a half mile of total lake frontage.

The addition consists primarily of cedar lowlands and wetlands, and there are two marshy ponds in the southeastern portion of the land near the shoreline. Shortly after this announcement was posted on the LTC Facebook page, favorable

comments came right in. Valerie Olink-Damstra, former year-round resident of Beaver Island, said "one of my most favorite spots on Lake Michigan - so beautiful!"

"It's wonderful that Little Traverse Conservancy allows public use of the majority of its property," said Steve West, Executive Director of the Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce. "The Little Sand Bay Preserve is a big favorite of Beaver Island visitors. Many return to my office to say thanks for the tip following their family's enjoyment of the cedar swamp trail and stunningly beautiful bay."

Twin Island Donated

A 3-ACRE ISLAND IN THE

St. Mary's River channel near

Munuscong Bay has been generously

donated to Little Traverse Conservancy. Vegetation

covers most of the island including a 60' tall paper birch,

basswood, and ash on the northern end of the island, with a few

red maples and aspens mixed in as well. A grove of white spruce, balsam

fir and cedar is located just to the south of the hardwood trees. Along the

shoreline grows willow, red osier dogwood, sedges, cattails and **native** phragmites.

The St. Mary's migratory bird flight zone is an area of high importance to migratory waterfowl, and a Great Blue Heron rookery is found in the hardwood trees on the north end of the island. During a recent staff visit, 34 nests were counted. Though small, this island's diversity and importance to migratory species make it a little gem.



Enjoying the great outdoors ...naturally!

For a six-week stretch this summer, Little Traverse Conservancy offered three Knee-High programs and one Junior Naturalist program each week. Knee-High programs were geared for 3 to 6-year-olds and Junior Naturalist programs for 7 to 12-year-olds. These programs were offered at no charge to the community and were highly popular. A total of 252 preschool-aged children attended a knee-high program along with 54 siblings and parents. Nearly one hundred 7-12 year-olds attended a Junior Naturalist program during the series.

"For being so young, I wasn't sure what she would get, but she really learned a lot. She talks about things long after the class. It is one of those moments when I think, wow, she actually was listening!"

Jodi Rogier, mother of 3-year-old Eliza

Mia Helmer, age 7, said: "I liked catching bugs and picking blueberries."

Grandpa Jim Helmer, age 74, enjoyed hiking on and learning about the scenic conservancy properties that fortunately will be preserved for future generations.



A Physician's Perspective

We asked Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, if he could share his perspective on how important it is for children to get outdoors.

Children (and adults) need to spend time outdoors. Playing outdoors helps promote physical activity that is so important to a child's physical and mental development. The simple acts of playing help develop gross and fine motor skills. This physical activity also helps to promote the maintenance of a healthy weight. Spending time outdoors helps to not only encourage and promote a healthy body but a healthy mind. Natural environments can help reduce anxiety and promote improved mood and the ability to focus. When children are outside, in nature, they experience the calming effects of the sights, sounds, smells, and feel of the environment. It is this stimulation of all our senses - not just visual and auditory but the tactile experience of a cool breeze, the warm sun, the soft grass, that helps create a healthy mind and can promote the development of lifelong learning skills.

Being outdoors also is significant for what children are NOT doing - namely they are not engaged in watching TV or playing video/computer games. Excessive (more than two

hours a day) screen time increases a child's risk of being overweight or obese and can contribute to problems with behavior and overall school performance.

Humans are meant to be engaged in their environment, not a sedentary observer. Time spent outdoors is a strong consistent predictor of children's physical activity.

Light exposure to sunlight also is important to promote Vitamin D production for healthy bones. It is for all of these reasons that the 2010 National Standards for Child Care and Early Education developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (and other national groups) includes standards for Outdoor Play that include a minimum of 60-90 minutes during the day of outdoor play time for toddlers and young children enrolled in child care or preschool.

It is for all of these reasons that I consider my prescription to "go outside and play" to be among the most important advice I can give all of my families.

— Joshua Meyerson, MD, MPH



For outdoor activity ideas for our region, visit www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org.

Autumn Education Programs

Fall 2011 Education Program Information

Fall education programs will be held Tuesdays-Fridays from September 20 to November 4. Registration began in late August, but please call Melissa at 231.344.1004 to check for availability.

FALL EDUCATION PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The Shape of Things (Pre K)
Falling for Leaves (K-1)
Meet the Arthropods (1-3)
Everybody Eats (1-3)

Purely Plants (3-4)
Dirt Makers (3-5)
Orienteering (6 and up)
Eco Journals (6 and up)

The Huffy Effect

While Little Traverse Conservancy was officially founded in 1972, it took several years of volunteer efforts before the organization found its solid foothold in the late 1970s/early 1980s. "It was LTC's extremely good fortune that the timing of Huffy Huffman's 'retirement project' coincided with the organization's need to move to the next level," says Tom Bailey, the organization's executive director since 1984.

Horace M. Huffman Jr., known to us as Huffy, was a tireless worker, a role model, a leader, a mentor and a great friend. "It is not an exaggeration to say that if it weren't for Huffy and his work, there would not be a Little Traverse Conservancy as we know it today," Bailey says. "Our founders established a wonderful vision for the Conservancy, but when it came to getting down to the work of coming up with the organizational structure and money necessary to bring that vision to reality, Huffy was the one who really put the Little Traverse Conservancy on the map."

Huffy knew a thing or two about starting and managing a business. His great, great grandfather was one of Dayton, Ohio's founding fathers, arriving there in 1812. The Huffy family owned one of the city's most established businesses, at first producing sewing machines and in 1893 its first bicycle:

a "safety" bicycle. Dayton — well known as an entrepreneurial hub — was home to the Wright Brothers and many of their first flight experiments occurred on a piece of land known as Huffman Prairie. In 1925, Huffman Manufacturing began producing steel bicycle

rims and during WWII while the company switched some operations for the war, it continued to produce civilian bicycles. By 1949, Huffy was a household name and Huffy bicycles were used by medal-winning Olympic athletes in the 1980s.

The outdoors was dear to Huffy from a young age. In

1931, at age 17, he and a friend paddled the Mississippi River from its source in Minnesota to its merging with the Missouri River in St. Louis. Later, he would take his own sons on regular trips to Minnesota's Boundary Waters and then his grandchildren to Michigan's Jordan River.

Huffy's wife Jane was born in Cheboygan though, at age four, moved to Dayton. It was Jane's northern Michigan connection, Huffy's summer camp in Grant, MI, and family friends from Dayton that linked him to Michigan. His children recall that their first visits to the Harbor Springs area were to stay at the old Colonial Inn on the edge of town. But it was eventually the woods of Menonaqua — located further out of town — that called to his heart. "He fell in love with Menonaqua," said Lisa Huffman Loyd, Huffy's daughter. "And this is why he began pouring his heart and soul into Little Traverse Conservancy."

Tony recalls, "At the time that our parents began spending almost six months a year at Menonaqua, Dad would bound out to the cottage early in the day to head over to Powell Road and lay on Tom Bailey some new idea/challenge, en route he would spend time weeding the myrtle bed in front of the LTC office building. No grass, nor weeds, would grow under his feet."

Huffy's son Steve explains that his father described life as a three-legged stool: family, work, and community. Huffy is known in the northern Michigan community for his fingerprints on LTC, but also Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and the Top of Michigan Trails Council.

According to Bailey, "Huffy not only raised money for the Conservancy's conservation and education work, he also

established an organizational structure and ingenious systems that ensured the continuing ability of the organization to sustain itself. He recruited the right people to help him, most notably his great friend, the late Charles C.S. Winston, Jr. Thus, the membership program that started as Huffy's one-man project now includes 44 individuals and couples on the Finance Committee. The work of this committee is all coordinated by the Conservancy staff



Huffy saw life as a three-legged stool of family, work, and community.



Friends and family gather on August 8 for the dedication of the Horace M. Hoffman Nature Preserve.

Transformation

A HOME SITE
ALONG A
WELL-TRAVELED
CORRIDOR
BECOMES A
NATURAL WAYSIDE

IN THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER, WE REPORTED ON ALL THE work that had been happening at the restored Martha Cavanaugh Cameron Preserve along M-119 between Petoskey and Harbor Springs just after Earth Day. During that work day, the land was reseeded, primarily with native species collected locally by volunteer Chris Leifson.

This past July 12, another group of volunteers spent two hours pulling exotic species that had sprouted at the preserve. The work was done in anticipation of the official dedication of the preserve, which occurred on July 13 when friends and family of Martha Cameron gathered to celebrate the restored property protected in her memory.

Today, the preserve is a welcome oasis along the Little Traverse Wheelway. With a new bicycle rack and benches placed near the wooded portion of the preserve, it invites wheelway users to get off the roadside path to enjoy the peaceful wooded setting that abuts the greater Menomqua Nature Preserve.



continued from previous page

through the mail and over the telephone, so that in a quarter century of existence, the Finance Committee has never had a meeting!"

On August 8, Huffy's three surviving children, Lisa, Steve, and Tony, gathered with family, friends, and Conservancy staff to dedicate a nature preserve along M-119 in Huffy's name. Located across the road from the Menomqua Woods Nature Preserve — a preserve that Huffy played a role in protecting — and just down the road from the Cameron Preserve (*see photos above*) the new preserve is also across the street from the bike trail, another initiative Huffy helped spearhead.

"It is perfectly fitting that the Martha Cameron Preserve is located along the bike trail and across from the Horace M. Huffman, Jr. Preserve," said Mike Cameron, Martha's hus-

band. "Martha liked to bicycle, and loved the Menomqua Woods. We both developed a wonderful friendship with Huffy. His love of the environment inspired us both to join LTC and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council."

During a luncheon celebration after the Huffman Preserve dedication, Huffy's granddaughter Shawna Huffman Owen spoke about the impact her grandfather, fondly known as "Chief," had on her. "Conservation is in our blood and we will make sure that our generation continues to care for these lands as Chief taught and showed us."

Every time we stand on one of the Conservancy's nature preserves and appreciate the view of a windswept shore, a meadow in the morning mist, a deep forest or a babbling northern Michigan stream, we have Huffy to thank for making it all possible.





A large tree fell onto the Andreae Preserve's bridge over the Pigeon River. Although the railing was broken, no major structural damage occurred. Members of Narcotics Anonymous volunteered to do the repairs.

This house was removed from the Martha Curtis Preserve (located just outside of Petoskey) and relocated to Camp Petosega. Recycling at its best!

Large piles of debris needed to be removed from the Nordquist Preserve on Boot Island in the Les Cheneaux area. The dump likely dated back to the 1920s.

Stewardship on island preserves presents logistical challenges. This equipment had to be hauled by barge to the Nordquist Preserve, and all the debris was hauled off by barge, too.

Volunteer Corps Keeps

"It was another amazing group of people," said Stewardship Specialist Cindy Mom, upon returning from the work day at the Search Bay Preserve near Hessel. (See group photo below right). "This was one of those days when I just had to get the volunteers lined up and then stay out of their way!" Cindy maintains a database of people who want to do stewardship

Sue Ring speaks at the dedication ceremony for the Judd's Ring trail at Goodhart Farms Preserve.

Stewardship staff from LTC and Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy meet to discuss joint management of the St. Clair Lake/Six Mile Lake Natural Area.





This year's volunteer thank you event was a dinner at the Goodhart Farms Preserve. Stewardship Specialist Cindy Mom demonstrated trail-trimming techniques.

Charles Dawley and Ben Adams created two benches for the trail at the Birge Preserve. Ben served with us this summer through the AmeriCorps program.



stewardship

Growing

work; currently there are about 400 people on the list. Veteran volunteers sometimes bring friends along to stewardship work days, and the new folks get hooked. The work can be physically hard, but the time spent outside in beautiful places, the camaraderie and team work, and the gratifying results of a job well done keep bringing people back for more.

Since 2007, volunteers have been pulling spotted knapweed from the Vermilion Point Preserve in Chippewa County. This enthusiastic group worked hard for two days, and a few folks even spent the night in the Station House.



Cheboygan County's Bessey Creek Preserve was the 2011 site for the University of Michigan Biological Station students' flora inventory project.



A big crew turned out on June for the building of a new three-quarter mile connector trail between the Banwell and Andreae Preserves.

Ten volunteers demolished a couple of cabins at the Search Bay Preserve in Mackinac County. The debris was hauled out by boat – and much of the material was reused or recycled.





Mishel Northrup

Memorials

*The following gifts
were received from
June 1 - August 31, 2011.*

Martin Breighner

Mrs. John W. Fischer & Family

Michael M. Carey

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Cross Village Cross

Restoration in memory of

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Irvin G. Bieser Jr.'s 70th birthday

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City of Harbor Springs for coordinating the B.J. Mogg memorial tree planting

Ms. Judy McCaffrey

Emma Danly

Mr. and Mrs. John Danly

Andy Forney's 30th birthday

Sarah J. Forster

Jonathan and Lynn Friendly's 50th wedding anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Goldblatt

Deb Hansen's 60th birthday

Debbie Bienstock

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Robin, Shep and Katie Hermann

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kobusch Jr. in honor of their wedding

Mrs. William Barnes III

Beth Kost for her leadership with 22nd Save the Trees Benefit

Brent and Ann Carstensen

Gow Litzenburger for donating a tree for the B.J. Mogg memorial in Harbor Springs

Ms. Judy McCaffrey

David and Joy McBride's wedding anniversary

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Busard

Molly and David Mengebier's 25th wedding anniversary

Ms. Pauline Mengebier

Wendell and Barbara Meyer's 50th wedding anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Edwards

Margery Murray's birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gano

Susan Reams' birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West

Stafford and Janice Smith's 50th wedding anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. David B. Hill

Franklin Whitman's 90th birthday

Ms. Audrey W. Otto

Gussie Williams' 75th birthday

Kevin, Brian and Eric Williams

Gift Memberships**Michael and Sue Freedland**

Allison, Joshua, Sophie, and Mae
Freedland

Kalleen Halverson Steele

Diane and David Steele

Nancy Turner

Ms. Becca Turner

summer photos

Paddling the Pigeon in June



Mud Lake Kayak



Burt Lake Bike Tour at Colonial Point



Staff participated in the 2nd annual Smart Commute Week carpooling, biking, and electric-biking to work from Bliss, Harbor Springs and Petoskey.

wish list

- compound miter saw (DeWalt 15 amp 12")
- fuel-efficient small car
- 12' x 12' EZUp brand pop up tent with Regency Canopy

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Todd Petersen

WHEN TODD PETERSEN CAME INTO THE LTC OFFICE offering his help, he may not have realized how many capacities his talents could serve for this organization. Beginning last fall Todd, often accompanied by his sister and LTC trustee Marta Olson, started to photograph Conservancy nature preserves around the seasons. Thanks to Marta's wizardry as a web designer, many of their photos have been posted on rotating slide shows on the LTC web site over the past nine months.

This summer, Todd's photography assignment was to take photos of some of LTC's favorite "community preserves." Almost weekly, Todd has been emailing us a series of images from some of the most beloved and popular

"I believe that the natural world represents the only true material constant in our lives."

- Todd Petersen

nature preserves around the organization's five-county service area. In addition, he has been visiting some new preserves and some that simply haven't been well photographed yet. "It has been good for me to have a reason to get out and visit these properties and parts of northern Michigan that I

might otherwise not see," Todd said.

But photography is not all that Todd has been doing for LTC. While visiting properties, he has often doubled as a preserve monitor, helping stewardship staff complete the required annual visit to some of LTC's more time-consuming preserves. "Todd has been an enthusiastic and intrepid explorer of some of our more remote preserves in the eastern U.P.," says Cindy Mom. "He's currently monitoring five nature preserves, and I wouldn't be surprised if he asked us for more assignments."

And Todd now sits on the organization's land protection committee, working with staff and board members to examine new and ongoing land projects. "Learning more

about how a land project unfolds has been really eye opening," Todd says. "I never realized how much was involved in getting a project done and now have a deeper respect for how busy the staff is trying to keep up with it all." LTC Director of Land Protection Kieran Fleming speaks to how beneficial Todd has been to the committee. "Todd brings a great practical perspective to the Land Committee. He's not afraid to pose tough questions that, in the long run, result in better projects."

Growing up, the Petersen family split their time between Lansing and Mackinac Island, where Todd's father Eugene was the Director of Parks. Todd recalls how the family lived right within Fort Mackinac and would have the fort and the rest of the island as their playground. "You couldn't get lost and parents allowed for more freedom back then," he says. For several year's, Todd's summer job on the island was a Harbor Master for the state marina, a role he happily enjoyed. Fishing has always been a big part of his family's life and the men made regular visits to the Boundary Waters area in northern Minnesota.

After college studies at both Michigan and Michigan State, Todd started what became a 32-year career in marketing and consulting for IBM. Today, he and his wife Kathy live in Petoskey. Their daughter Zina is a junior at the University of Toledo. He has made a full circle back to northern Michigan and is happy to be close to and able to help out with family.

So why, with new freedom in his days, did Todd choose to dedicate so much time and energy to Little Traverse Conservancy? He cites 3 reasons: "1, I love the outdoors and LTC's mission is consistent with my own values; 2, The people who work at LTC are the kind of people you want to spend time with. That is important to retirees!; and 3, This is an opportunity to practice my hobby, photography."

"I believe that the natural world represents the only true material constant in our lives," Todd says. "Our stewardship of that constant reflects our respect for our ancestors and our hope for our children's future."



Todd Petersen photographing the Vivian VanCampen Preserve last winter. (photo credit: Marta Olson)





Teresa McGill took this image of a young fledgling merlin at the Vermilion Point Preserve this summer. www.natureinmotion.com.

The Conservancy would like to thank the following New Members or Members who have increased their level of giving within the Friends or Benefactors level from June 1, 2011 to August 21.

Friends and Benefactors
Individuals/Families/
Businesses

Devon Title
VanDam Custom Boats
John and Nona Carr

Individuals/Families

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John and Julie Holder
Fred and Edie Kaufmann
Mr. Nathan P. Laffoon
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff D. Lowe
Fred and Barbara Malpass
Ms. Audrey Wallace Otto
Ham and Barb Schirmer
Mr. Mel Shafer

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Korthase Flinn Insurance & Financial Services
Prudential Preferred Properties Network

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Mr. Joel Altman
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Reflections

...Tom Bailey

The Ultimate Wilderness

What if I told you that, wherever you live, you are at most within a few minutes' drive of being able to peer into one of the most vast and beautiful wilderness areas people have ever seen? What if I told you that this great wild place has had only a few dozen human visitors in all of recorded history, and that it appears the same before our eyes today as it did to our ancestors hundreds and even thousands of years ago? And what if I also told you that this is the very same wilderness that has inspired and illustrated the myths and legends of virtually every culture the world has ever known? Would you be inclined to take a few minutes and have a look for yourself? Would you say that it is important for all of us to protect the view of this wonderful place so that future generations can experience the same sense of awe and wonder that inspired our ancestors and can still inspire us all today? Are you curious about exactly where this beautiful, wonder-filled place can be found? If you answered yes to any of those questions, welcome to the ranks of people who are taking a new look at an old familiar friend: the night sky.

It's all there, free for the viewing: constellations, vast spaces, beautiful lights, twinkling colors and endless wonder. The steadiness of the stars in their places, the slow wandering of

the planets through the heavens. The occasional visits of comets and the breathtaking spectacle of shooting stars. Moonrise and moonset, the ethereal dance of the Northern Lights, and the mystical glow of things like noctiluminous clouds. Galaxies, nebulae, and other worlds. Up There, we can see all of the Great Dramas that have played out in our history and mythology: from the Greek and Roman myths many of us studied in school to the Norse legends, African tales, and American Indian stories that address the Big Questions about who we are and why we're here. No admission charged and no telescope required.

The Conservancy has a special connection to night sky viewing through Emmet County's Headlands park, acquired with assistance from the Conservancy, which holds a conservation easement on the land. The Headlands has been designated as the sixth International Dark Sky Park in the United States, and the ninth the world. In part a tribute to the work of the late Gary Williams, who served a number of years on the Conservancy's Board of Trustees, the Dark Sky Park also owes its gratitude to Mary Stewart Adams, who for the past decade has championed the cause of what one might call "dark sky conservation" in the North and now serves as Program Director for the Headlands on behalf of Emmet County.

A key feature of the International Dark Sky Park is control of stray light or "light pollution" from surrounding areas. Many northern Michigan communities, businesses and residents are discovering that traditional outdoor lighting often casts so much glare that one can barely see the stars at night. But there are relatively easy fixes for this that provide adequate illumination while not interfering with the beauty of the night sky. Conservancy Trustee Dave Kring won an award from the regional Outdoor Lighting Forum for the excellent job on lighting at his auto dealership that illuminates the building and cars without obliterating the view of the moon, stars and planets whirling overhead. The town of Elk Rapids won a similar award after it refitted its street lighting to protect the night sky view, and as this issue goes to press the Village of Mackinaw City is embarking

on a similar project. Importantly, these lighting improvement projects also produced significant energy cost savings as a bonus.

What a wonderful thing this is! Just as the Conservancy works to keep the beauty of natural land close at hand, thanks to Gary's vision and Mary's inspiration and leadership, the people of our area are working together to keep the glorious beauty of the night sky close at hand as well.

Part of the beauty of the night sky is that it represents so many things to us. William Shatner famously declared it "the final frontier," and the sky can inspire us as can remnants of the American Frontier in places like our great National Parks. In the Space Age, we can look directly at Space itself — and the wonders that occupy it. We can contemplate vast distances, scientific theories, and technological wonders. It's all connected in our heritage. The ancient art of astrology, we must remember, was the forerunner of what became the science of astronomy. It was the starry sky that most inspired our ancestors when they contemplated their place on the Earth and in Creation. These same stars have been dreamed of, sung about, worshiped, sought after and wished upon throughout the entire existence of humankind. To protect the night sky is to have not only a vast wilderness area but also a museum of science, mythology and human culture before us every cloudless night.

As Mary so eloquently says, "It doesn't matter whether your attention to the starry skies is focused through a telescope or a horoscope." We are all linked to the night sky, and the night sky is an important part of what links us to one another.

In the age of computers, smart phones, HDTV, and an expression called "screen time" to define the hours we spend before electronic devices, it's good to know that people are working to protect the view of the night sky so that it is possible to head outside, look up, and experience the primal wonder of the vastness of the heavens. No telescope required. No electrical outlet or device. Just one's self, perhaps a companion or family, and the beauty and wonder of the Ultimate Wilderness, the night sky above us.





LTC staffer Cacia Lesh leads a yoga class at the highest point of The Hill Nature Preserve near Boyne City.

Thank you:

- Marty and Darrell Amlin for hours and hours of time this spring and summer conducting several interviews and taking photographs. And to Marty for newsletter editing.
- Litzenburger Landscaping for providing soil for the I Love Mud program.
- Oden State Fish Hatchery and Tip of Mitt Watershed Council for materials for summer knee-high naturalist fish program.
- Audry Mooradian for extending parking and event space on her property to help with the Huffman Preserve dedication.
- Jane and Walter Enterline for The Birders Handbook & Birders Guide to Michigan.
- Todd Petersen and Marta Olson for photography and web work.
- The following who assisted with our summer field trip programs: The Outfitter Harbor Springs, Judi & Pete Chimner, and Woods & Water Ecotours.
- Bob Speeter for taking photos at the LTC annual meeting and boat trip and for clearing autumn olive at the Chaboiganing Preserve.
- Paul Rose, John Griffin, and John Baker for a board presentation about the current real estate climate.
- Mishel Northrup for sharing wonderful photography.
- Wayne and DeDe Andreae, Curt Bartz, David Carr, Rafael Garcia, Lynne Henzler, Mark Kline, Sheila Malleis, Lisa Morris, Dan Reelitz, Darrell Schwalm, Pam Selvig, Cathy Shier, Dina Tocco, Trisha Woolcott for help building the new Banwell/Andreae Trail Connector on June 4, 2011.
- Ellie Dyer, Gavin Dyer, Chris Leifson, Georgia Lindstrom, Wayne Lindstrom, Thea Murray, Sarane Ross, Stan Royalty, Trish Woolcott for pulling weeds at the Cameron Preserve on July 12, 2011.
- Steve Miller, Glen Schmiede, Brandon ("Brown") McKerchie, Eric McKerchie, and John Mikolowski for clearing trails, mowing, and doing cleanup work at the Bailey-Lagerstrom Preserve on Sugar Island.
- Ava Bell, Camryn Bell, Linda Carr, Chris Grant, Mike Grant, Elizabeth Nichoson, Duane Ridenour, Dick Taylor, Cadi Whitney for pulling spotted knapweed at Vermilion Point on July 22-23, 2011. Thanks also to Wendy Wagoner (Eastern UP Cooperative Weed Management Program) and Emily Clegg (The Nature Conservancy) for professional assistance.
- Tim DeWick and Bonnie Mikkelsen, Bob Creswell, and John Griffin for boat transportation, lodging, and other technical assistance in the Les Cheneaux Islands.
- Chris Leifson for donations of native plants for the Cameron Preserve restoration.
- Sally Stebbins for helping us survey the birds at the Curtis Preserve.
- John and MaryLou Tanton for a scholarship to help send Cindy Mom to Bug Camp (U-M Biological Station) for the Birds Mini-Course in June.
- Shawn Neff for coordinating the catering and site for our volunteer thank you event. Thanks also to Bill and Margo Sutton for "behind the scenes" help at Goodhart Farms Preserve.
- Dick Moehl and the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association for transportation to St. Helena Island.
- Dave and Lisa Ross for mowing the Reed's Alverno trails.
- Bekki Heckman and her conservation class from Inland Lakes High School for stewarding trails at the Andreae Preserve.
- Dina Tocco and Luke Stevens for vegetation management at the Meadowgate Preserve
- Dick Bidstrup for donating an increment borer (a device used to age trees).
- Gretchen Bearce for donating a table saw.
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- David Lintz for help seeding and landscaping at Van Campen Preserve.
- Connie Donovan and Sue Ring for their help and support with establishing interpretative signage at the Goodhart Farms Preserve.
- Liz Holloway for help stewarding the Braun, McCune, and Chaboiganing Preserves.
- Northwoods Chapter of Narcotics Anonymous for their annual Andreae Cabin work bee.
- Emmanuel Episcopal Church TLC Group for clean-up and waterbar construction at Offield Preserve.
- Bill Hodges for discing the 2.3 acres of the Meadowgate Preserve as part of the meadow restoration there.
- Teachers and students from Lakeview Academy for removing unwanted scotch pine saplings from the McCune Preserve.
- Cory Allen of Meyer Hardware for conducting chain saw safety training.
- Ric Loyd for making and donating a cover for LTC preserve name signs.
- Eric Hellquist, Elizabeth Haber and the UMBS botany class for a floristic inventory of the Bessey Creek Preserve.
- The Les Cheneaux Foundation for a grant to help with parking lot construction at the Birge Preserve.
- Suzanne Seggerman and Michael Meyer and John and Celine Fox for generously hosting a friend-raiser gathering at their Belvedere Club cottage on behalf of the Conservancy.
- Elizabeth Haber for conducting an inventory of invasive exotic plants at the Sharkey Preserve.
- Paul and Melissa Keiswetter for hosting Friends and Benefactors party.
- Steve Baker, Nadine Cain, Tim DeWick, John Griffin, Phil Jordan, Dan Reelitz, Mike Rekowski, Bob Speeter, Cindy Speeter, and Katie Speeter for dismantling and hauling out two cabins from the Search Bay Preserve on August 23, 2011.
- Jim and Laura Hunt for waders for the education program.

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Fall 2011 Field Trips

No charge for these outings but pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991.

Greenwood Sanctuary, Cheboygan County

Saturday, Sept. 24 10am-noon

Visit one of the largest private properties in our service area now protected with a conservation easement. Greenwood Sanctuary serves well as a long-time protected haven for wildlife. Just about all the species found in this region are present at this sanctuary, and some such as elk are likely to be seen. Landowner George Jury opens his gates and invites us in to explore. Hike through the many trails and take in the small lakes and natural landscapes — keeping your eyes open for migratory birds, wild turkeys and elk. Please call to RSVP for this hike and to get specific directions for the meeting location at Greenwood.

Legends, Labyrinths, & Lore, Emmet County

Sunday, Sept. 25 2-4 pm

Join authors and lecturers Jennifer Eis and Don Ward for an educational walk-about at their 50-acre protected private property. Site of the well loved "Wisdom Keeper-Wisdom Seeker" summer lecture series for many 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. For those who are interested in traditional Scandinavian log construction, Jennifer and Don will open their handcrafted log home for a personal tour during this time. Arrive anytime between 2 and 4 pm. Due to the walking and fragility of structures, this program is not suitable for young children.

Fall Hike at the Andreae & Banwell

Preserves, Cheboygan County

Saturday, Oct. 1 2 pm

Fall colors should brighten the day and offer a scenic hike through Pigeon River country. With over 5 miles of trails between the Andreae and Banwell Preserves, these two parcels protect 539 acres and 3 miles of river frontage! Meet at the Andreae Preserve for an afternoon adventure.

Evening Hike and Sunset Viewing at Ransom Nature Preserve, Charlevoix County

Thursday Oct. 6 6 pm (sunset 7:12 pm)

Hoping to catch the autumn colors and a great view this fall? This will be a casual evening hike through 1½ miles of hilly preserve trails ending at the top of the hill for a sunset viewing. Bring chairs, blankets to sit on, warm clothing and picnic hors d'oeuvres to enjoy watching the October sunset.

Angell Farm Conservation Easement:

Sunset Tour, Emmet County

Tuesday, Oct. 4 5:30 pm (sunset 7:17 pm)

Join LTC Board Member Ian Bund on a tour of his property, Angell Farm, on which LTC holds a conservation easement. Ian will highlight the history of the property and answer any questions about his family's conservation easement experience. If you have ever thought about this as an option to protect your own property, this is the field trip for you. After walking the property and marveling at the fall colors we will enjoy watching the sunset over the farm. Call Jay Neff with questions at 344-1006.

Round Island Point, Chippewa County

Saturday, Oct. 8 1 pm

Enjoy autumn in the Upper Peninsula with LTC board member Ashley Moerke and staff member Jay Neff. With more than two miles of beautiful frontage on Lake Superior near the mouth of the St. Mary's River, we will hike the 1½ miles of trails on this 1,024-acre preserve. Considerable wetland habitat has been protected for migrating birds and other wildlife. From the viewing platform keep your eyes open for wildlife preparing for winter.

Colonial Point Cultural Hike, Cheboygan County

Saturday Oct. 22 1:30 pm

Join board member and former associate director of UMBS, Mark Paddock, along with local archaeologist Katie Parker, UMBS Resident Biologist Bob VandeKopple, and LTC Executive Director Tom Bailey for a tour of this unique old-growth oak forest to discuss the cultural history of Colonial Point. Delve into the historical relationship between the land and its people and how it has shaped the existing forest structure.