



Celebrating 40 Years!



Goodhart Farms

Fall 2012
Vol. 34, No. 3

Placemaking is What We Do

Placemaking: to identify, nurture, and protect the things about a region that make it special.

IT WAS A BLUEBIRD DAY FOR LTC'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY annual meeting on August 7 at Goodhart Farms. The kind of day when you step outside and mentally register a note of thanks for the privilege of being alive amid such beauty at that moment.

Our guest speaker was Rodney Stokes, former director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, who was recently appointed by Gov. Snyder as a Special Advisor for City Placemaking. Stokes pointed out how lucky Michigan is to have so many lands protected and available for everyone to enjoy. He noted, "When I grew up in Georgia, there was not a lot of public land. So when I came to Michigan, I thought I had died and gone to heaven when I saw all of this public land and water access."

"I don't mean to offend anyone here, but I worry, at times, that many folks in Michigan take for granted what we have. The ability to walk on to state land to hunt, fish, trap, bird watch, mushroom pick, trail ride, mountain bike or camp is not something enjoyed by a lot of people in other states, especially our immediate neighbors," he added.

Stokes then pointed out that the way Little Traverse Conservancy opens up all its lands to the public greatly contributes to the blessings of the state.

"When I started thinking about all that Little Traverse Conservancy has accomplished, I realized that placemaking is exactly what your organization does," Stokes said. "Forty years ago you chose a mission statement that evolved into a statement to protect

the natural diversity and beauty of northern Michigan by preserving significant land and scenic areas, and fostering appreciation and understanding of the environment. As your communities have grown over the past 40 years, you did not shut the door on growth. You worked hard to insure it was smart growth. You put your money where your heart was and you set aside beautiful open spaces to add aesthetic beauty to your buildings, scenic views for your citizens and visitors, and wildlife habitat to enhance your communities and protect your watersheds," he said.

COLLABORATION & VISION BROADENING - Stokes explained that Michigan's Department of Natural Resources is streamlining its functions and becoming more dependent on collaborations with other groups. Over the past year, we've reported how LTC has formalized its working relationship with the DNR, allowing us to better assist the state with significant land protection opportunities.

An example of local collaboration that is producing benefits for natural resources and tourism is the Conservancy's work assisting Emmet County in building on the success of the 600-acre Headlands Park (acquisition of which was a collaborative project of Emmet County, Mackinaw City, the Conservancy, and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund), which has been designated as an International Dark Sky Park. Seeing immediate benefits to tourism and recreation in the area from the recognition, local citizens and businesses were encouraged that the night sky as a natural resource afforded substantial opportunities for expanded visitation and tourism. Conservancy staff helped to expand the 600-acre

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Helstrom Family Preserve Broadens Greenbelt Protection

A 40-acre property adjacent to the Hailand Preserve near Conway was recently purchased with a generous donation from John Helstrom and Robert and Ruth Fountain in memory of Mathias and Esther Helstrom (*see photo right*). As such, it will be called the Helstrom Family Nature Preserve. The new preserve includes a mix of wetlands and uplands, creating outstanding habitat for wildlife. It directly complements not only the 50-acre Hailand Preserve but also the 243-acre Fochtman Preserve, all of which “anchor” the east end of the Conservancy’s Harbor Springs Greenbelt Focus Area.

Mathias (Matt) and Esther Helstrom were residents of Muskegon, Michigan. They and their children traveled widely in Michigan to enjoy the natural beauty of the state. Favorite places included the northern Lower Peninsula where they spent many visits hiking in the woods and walking the beaches. The Harbor Springs area became a regular vacation destination. A trip to the “North Country” was always anticipated and long remembered. According to the family, Matt and Esther would have been honored to



have this nature preserve gifted in their memory. They cared deeply for nature and the preservation of the natural environment. They passed this ethic to other family members, including their children. The Helstrom Family hopes this preserve will benefit the resident plants and animals that make this their home. They also hope those who visit will gain a greater appreciation for nature as they experience this special place now forever preserved.



Donation Expands St. Clair Lake/ Six Mile Lake Natural Area



A lot with 100 feet of Six Mile Lake frontage was donated by John and Regina Dytyniak to expand the protection of the St. Clair Lake-Six Mile Lake Natural Area in the upper Chain of Lakes on the border of Antrim and Charlevoix counties. Jointly owned by LTC and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, the natural area now includes 192 acres and more than 1.5 miles of water frontage.



Undine Addition Donated

A 78-acre addition to the Undine Nature Preserve in Charlevoix County was donated by Mike and Rhea Dow earlier this summer. The original preserve was also donated by the Dows in 2004. The addition brings the preserve to 109 acres and significantly adds to the protection of the Lake Charlevoix Watershed.

Records Broken with 23rd *Save the Trees!*

save the trees

On August 2, the 23rd annual Save the Trees event was held at The Boathouse of Harbor Springs. Once again, a new venue and ideas were implemented, thanks to our extraordinary steering committee. This year a total of \$50,000 was raised and approximately 350 people attended! In addition to all who attended and purchased items, we thank the following for contributing towards this event:



Sugar Maple Sponsors

Mrs. Mary Alice Abood
Baiaardi Family Foundation, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. John A. Woollam

White Pine Sponsors

Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Bissell
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Nolan
Ms. Ruth H. Petzold
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Petzold

Eastern Hemlock Sponsors

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Mrs. Thomas H. Carruthers IV
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. FitzSimons
L'Arbre Croche Realty
Ms. Audrey Wallace Otto

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Mr. Tyree G. Wilburn

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Charles Barnes Photography
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Michele Burian Massage
D. Scott Outdoors, LLC
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Scott Conti & Balanced Health and Fitness
Carol Costello Catering
Lesley Fischer
Gregg and Debra Garver
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Jack and Ceejay Heckenberg
Mary Hramiec-Hoffman
James and Laura Hunt
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Judy Kern and Kent Whealy
Beth Kost
Lakeshore Express Aviation
Leggiadro Clothing Boutique
Dave Lesh Sr.
Little Traverse Sailors
Litzenburger Landscaping
Mary Meldrum and Mitten Massage
Bonnie Mikkelsen
Dick Moehl and Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Assoc.
Bob and Pam Moorhead
Nub's Nob
Ruth Petzold
Root Health
Tim Statler
Toski Sands
Donn Vidosh
Trisha Witty
Woods & Water Ecotours
Yoga Roots

Event Sponsors

The Boathouse of Harbor Springs
Graphic Printing
Gurney's Bottle Shop
Harbor Springs Winery at Pond Hill Farm
Litzenburger Landscaping
Walstrom Marine



Fall Education Program Registration Underway

Registration for school year environmental education programs began August 29 and runs through **September 19**. Fall programs begin **September 25**.

The programs offered for Fall 2012 are the same as in Fall 2011 and full descriptions can be found on the education page at www.landtrust.org.



The main change for this year is that teachers can now sign up for a full school year of programs when they call this fall. We hope this added opportunity allows educators to better plan their school year in advance and with one phone call!



Campfire & Night Hike Adventure Saturday, October 27, 2012

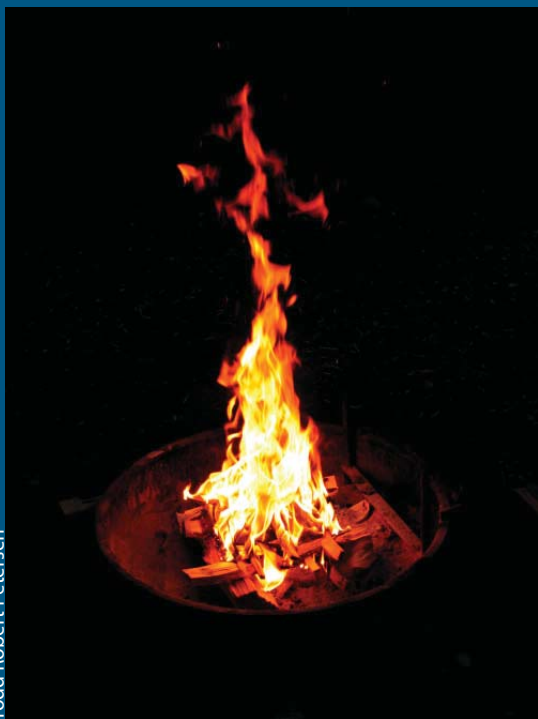
Petoskey State Park - 6pm

Get out your Passport to Adventure and join GKO partner Maureen Stine of Natureology (www.natureology.com) for a night time adventure at Petoskey State Park. Meet at the campsite for s'mores and more as we wait for the sun to go down. Once our eyes have adjusted to the dwindling light we will set

out - without flashlights!
- into the night. Learn all about bioluminescence, rhodopsin, and nocturnal night life through some fun games on the trail.

This outing is free, but a DNR Recreation Passport (or daily entry fee) is required for entrance. No registration is required for this program, all ages welcome!

To go in the dark with a light is to know the light. To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight, and find that the dark, too, blooms and sings, and is traveled by dark feet and dark wings....Wendell Berry.



Todd Robert Petersen

Teacher Training and More



Driggers Preserve/Todd Petersen

Upcoming conferences and professional certifications opportunities in northern Michigan! Please contact an educator in our office at 231.347.0991 for more information on any of these events.

September

Flying WILD* - offered by Natureology
Saturday, September 29, 2012
Cheboygan County

October

Window of Opportunity Early Childhood Education Conference - Friday, October 12
North Central Michigan College - Petoskey
LTC will be offering the keynote address.

Michigan Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Conference

October 12-14
Kettunen Center, Tustin www.maeoe.com

Project Learning Tree

Saturday, October 20, 2012
Otsego County

November

Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS)

Saturday, November 3, 2012
Presque Isle County

December

Project WILD*
Saturday, December 1, 2012
Cheboygan County

*WILD (Wildlife in Learning Development)
Flying WILD places focus on birds. Project WILD is about wildlife in general.



Knee High Naturalists:



Junior Naturalists:



Adventure Naturalists:

New Members

The Conservancy would like to thank the following new Friends or Benefactors or members who have increased their level of giving within the Friends or Benefactors level from June 1 to August 23, 2012

Friends and Benefactors Businesses and Organizations

Burt Lake Preservation Association
City Park Grill
Harbor Wear
Palette Bistro
Roast & Toast Coffee Shop

Individuals or Families

Doug and Anne Albrecht
Mr. and Mrs. Irvin G. Bieser Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Bishop
Timothy and Kerri Burg
Mr. and Mrs. Millard Cox
Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Farmer
Paul and Lori Fenton
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Mr. and Mrs. Carroll J. Haas
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Sarah and Dan Kay
Edwin W. and Jane A. Marin
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Mr. and Mrs. David J. Neithercut
Ms. Audrey Wallace Otto
Gregory and Sharon Peters
Mark and Patti Prendeville
Grant Morrow and Cordelia W. Robinson
Ham and Barb Schirmer
Mr. John R. Shreves

New Contributing Members Businesses and Organizations

Beno Clinic Chiropractic Center, P.C.
Birchwood Property Management
Barbara Boz Boutique
BreknRidge Farm
Holiday Vacation Rental
Howe Marine

Indian River Marina
Madigan/Pingatore Insurance Services
Rasmussen, Teller, O'Neil & Christman
Trout Creek Condominiums
Yoga Roots

Individuals or Families

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Dr. Ada Hall and Michael Barnes
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Jim and Wendy Bean
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Mr. and Mrs. Andrew DeWitt
Mr. Thomas B. Doran
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dunlap Jr.
Gayle and Chip Everest
Kent and Cindy Fairless
Gary and Jesse Falkenberg
Thomas and Martha Fallor
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Farr
Chad and Kacey Finefrock
Mr. Ronald B. Fratrack
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Gaither
David and Cynthia Garland
Pat and Francie Gibbons
Mr. Jim Gillespie
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Giuliani
Paul and Francine Hack
Shan Hale
Harbor Springs Outdoor Club
Dave and Jackie Harris
John and Diane Harris
Ms. Shirley Hartnagel
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Hecht
Mr. Chick Hershberger
Dr. and Mrs. John V. Hinterman
Dr. F. Hoffman
Walter and Barbara Holdan
Tom and Mary Hord
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Howell
Matt and Susan Howell
Carl and Emogene Hoyt
Charles and Janet Huffman
Jennifer and Sandy Kasten
Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Katlein
Kevin and Fay Keane
Joe and Julie Kuchnicki
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Mr. John S. Lamack
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Lawson
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Gary Whitfield
Mrs. Fran Wilson



A Unique Way of Giving for Conservation

Longtime LTC supporters Dr. Loyal Jodar and Dr. Janice Griffin donated an Upper Peninsula lot along Lake Superior to the Conservancy this past spring. The lot was donated to be sold with the proceeds going towards the organization's work - no strings attached. "Both Janice and I have supported the Conservancy for a long time and really believe in its mission," Jodar said.




Olivia Gibson is shown at one of the 40 preserves that she and her mother Anita visited during LTC's 40 Preserves in 40 Days Challenge! The Gibsons were given special recognition at the August 7 annual meeting.



Bon Voyage, Cindy!

For nearly nine years, Little Traverse Conservancy has benefited from the passionate ideals and multiple talents of Cindy Mom. From organizing our online land project information to coordinating hundreds of stewardship volunteers and dozens of volunteer events, Cindy's attention to detail and deep caring for the land added layers of integrity to LTC's work. "Cindy was as passionate about protecting northern Michigan's natural places as anyone I've ever met," said LTC Director of Stewardship Doug Fuller. "I'm not sure anyone else will ever develop such intimate knowledge of LTC's preserve system. She left a great legacy and will be greatly missed."

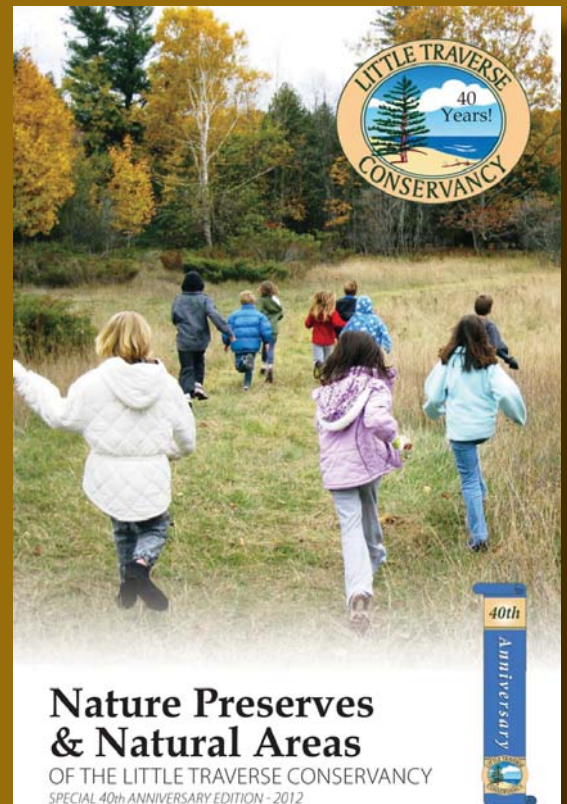
And while she points out that this is the longest time she has stayed in one spot, the call of the sea and other lands was strong. Inspired by her 2010 Rotary exchange journey to Norway, Cindy is anxious to return to those lands. But instead of taking a plane this time, she and a friend are crewing on a sailboat across the Atlantic! (By the time you are reading this, they should be well underway.)

To follow Cindy's adventures, go to <http://hitchhiketheatlantic.wordpress.com>. 

Thanks and Congratulations, Mary Ann



The Natural Resources Commission honored Conservancy board member Mary Ann Van Lokeren with a Partner in Conservation Award at its May 17, meeting in Onaway. Van Lokeren was recognized for her help in restoring wildlife habitat on the site of Camp Pellston, an abandoned State correctional facility. Mary Ann is shown fourth from right receiving her Partner in Conservation Award. Also shown (left to right) are Bill O'Neill, acting chief of the DNR's Forest Resources Division; Kerry Wieber, DNR forest land administrator; Michael Van Lokeren; Bill Moritz, DNR deputy director; Mary Ann Van Lokeren; Tom Bailey, executive director of the Little Traverse Conservancy; Karen Gleason, a friend of the Van Lokerens; and NRC chairman Tim Nichols.



As part of celebrating LTC's 40th anniversary - and frankly because it was time - an updated version of our full nature preserve guide was printed in August. The guide was mailed to all current members and is also available online.

And don't forget, the website includes up to date maps of LTC preserves, hunting guidelines and much more!



Loon Ranger Cheri Hogan of the Six Mile Lake Association shared this photo (*top left*) of successful loon chick hatching this summer on the lake. LTC jointly owns the 192-acre St. Clair Lake/Six Mile Lake Natural Area with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

Sarah Cook and Kendra Luta (*above*) visited the Kalman and Thorne Swift preserves in August to identify, inventory, map, and treat invasive exotic plants. They were part of an invasives plant crew generously loaned to LTC for a week by the Leelanau Conservancy as part of their Lake Michigan Coastal Monitoring program.

super stew crew support

Shawn, Cameron, and Hannah Stewart helped to improve the trail at the Rogers Family Homestead Preserve near East Jordan.

came this summer (and continues this fall) with Stewardship Assistant Mike Lynch and AmeriCorps member Katherine Brown (*photo right*).

Volunteers (*bottom left*) journeyed to the Vermilion Point Preserve to continue a multi-phase effort to remove exotic spotted knapweed from this preserve.

Cindy Mom is shown below leading a field trip at The Hill Preserve during the Volunteer Appreciation thank you event in June.



stewardship



Boy Scout Duncan Dickinson and Troop 204 of Indian River (*above*) painted the Andreae cabin floor, created a new switchback trail at the preserve, and constructed the new parking lot at the Banwell Preserve with help from other volunteers and stewardship staff.

Stewardship Crew installed new boardwalk along the connector trail between the Andreae and Banwell preserves (*right*).



Volunteer Miles Trumble (*on tractor to right*) has put in dozens of hours this summer at a variety of preserve projects.



An exceptional group of volunteers from the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Petoskey removed nearly half a mile of barbed wire (*below*) at the Braun Preserve and cleared a new trail.

A collapsed structure and (literally) a ton of litter were removed from the new addition of the Kinglet Preserve along US-31 near Bay Shore (*bottom right*).





Geocaching at Banwell Nature Preserve



Native Orchid Field Trip with Steve Baker



Hiking St. Helena Island

Memorials

The following gifts were received from June 1-August 23, 2012

Ruth Berlesky

Mrs. Irene Roberts

David E. Carlson

Harbor Arthritis & Lifestyle Center, PC

Theresa Connelly

Michael and Donna Sobier

Francis Desloge

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hord Armstrong III

David and Alyce Dick

Robert B. Dick, PhD

Margaret Mackey Dick

Robert B. Dick, PhD

Stanley Dickinson

Mrs. Lorraine Lucy
John and Judy Shehigian
Mr. and Mrs. Brice E. Smith

Herbert H. Edwards

Jim and Joyce Aylward
Dr. and Mrs. Don Carlsen
Dave and Elanor Friend
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Mr. and Mrs. Ed Koza
Bob and Anne Loeblein
Tom and Elsie Misner
Jim and Alice Morgan
Mr. and Mrs. John Ogden
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Slebiska
Ms. Lucy Somes
Mrs. Helen Tingleff

John W. Fischer

Equation Team USA 323

Alfred Fisher Jr.

Boo and Dianne Litzenburger
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stockham

Barrie Fitzsimons

Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Milton Jr.

Alfred Haddad

Ms. Darleen Flaherty

Katherine Haensel

Mrs. Joey Arbaugh
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Mr. Thomas Dillon
Chad and Mariah Eckhardt

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Mrs. Irene Roberts
Mark and Charlotte Slater
Steven and Rochelle Slater
Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Smith
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Mr. Mark Synnes
David and Dorrit Tuthill

Michael Heinz

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Koza

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Edward Perry

Ms. Susan Ward Christopherson

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Cathi Kleinedler
Billie and Gloria Myers
Mrs. Dawn Myers Rhodes
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Stetson
Mrs. Judith Stubbs
Mrs. Clifford J. Vaughan Jr.
Mrs. Dolores Wehrenberg

Arthur Roy Ranger III

David and Leslie Archer
Bobby and Laura Kaska

Arthur Roy Ranger III ctd.

Emily Robison
Patrick and Corbin Robison
Ed and Kathy Straley

Herb Rulapaugh

Michael and Donna Sobier

William K. VanAllen

Birchwood Association of Mullett Lake

Carol Wieringa

Ms. Darlene Dawood

Mrs. Nel Worsfeld in memory of morning walks with "Paisley" and "Willie"

Mr. and Mrs. Peter M. Igoe

Alice L. Younggren

Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Lindsay

Honorariums

Bob Adams' 80th birthday

Mrs. Herbert H. Edwards

Samantha Cole's birthday

Ms. Gail Cole

Casey Morley and Joe Guild's wedding

The Jump Coppes Family
Ms. Jill A. Kimble

Jack and Tucker Harris' 50th anniversary

Mrs. John Summers

Stewart and Sue Kissinger's 50th anniversary

Karen and Tony Adamo
Mr. and Mrs. David B. Kissinger

David and Joy McBride's anniversary

Mrs. Max Busard

Anne C. McClure

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. McElroy

Nate Rice

Rev. and Mrs. R. Stanley Sutton

Dave and Liz Schwab

Ms. Evelyn Steinmetz
Ms. Sue Van Straaten

Lois Thomas

Mr. Robert Kalin

WISH LIST

- trail cameras
- dump trailer
- new GPS units

Placemaking

continued from cover

Dark Sky Park into a 23,000-acre Dark Sky Coast which is attracting visitors from out of state at an unexpectedly high rate (roughly 350 attended one recent meteor shower event!) and which serves, as Stokes pointed out, as a wonderful example of placemaking and using an area's natural attributes for economic development.

PUBLIC LAND, YOUR LAND - In his role promoting placemaking and having served as DNR Director, Parks and Recreation Chief, and administrator of the Natural Resources Trust Fund, Stokes is perhaps as well qualified as anyone to observe that Michigan's public lands are one of our state's greatest assets. He reminded Conservancy members that what matters here in the North Country is equally important in our cities — if not more so. One of the brightest spots in the recovery picture for the City of Detroit is the recreational development of the waterfront. Through the collaborative efforts of the State through the Milliken State Park, the City, and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, the riverfront has become a vibrant area of community activity, a magnet for economic development, and a wonderful example of how optimizing enjoyment of natural resources can benefit a community. It is a project reminiscent of the improvements made to the waterfront in communities like Petoskey and others in the LTC service area.

Public land, Stokes indicated, will become ever more



Palette Bistro Restaurant in Petoskey chose Little Traverse Conservancy as the recipient of its Art Party for Charity fundraiser with 100% of the \$1,600 raised benefitting LTC. This party is Palette Bistro's biannual event to kick off their Featured Artists Series with each party designed to benefit a community organization. Thank you, Palette!

important as one of Michigan's assets for economic prosperity and quality of life as time goes on. When it comes to attracting businesses, workers, tourists, and maintaining a high quality of life and health for everyone, one of the best investments a community can make is in parks, trails, recreation areas and nature preserves—all great examples of our wonderful public lands.



Sandy Brown and **Zac Brown** for help with the Stewardship Volunteer thank you event in Boyne City.

Litzenburger Landscape for donating dirt & pebbles and **Flowers From Kegomic** (Wendy Ferguson) for donating flowers for Knee High Naturalist programs. Also to **Ron Fowler** of the Petoskey Library for partnering on the Knee High Summer Celebration Day on July 25.

John Griffin for helping staff with boat logistics in Cedarville (as well as his numerous volunteer roles as Chairman of the LTC Board).

Pam Grassmick and 15 others who spent three hours at the Little Sand Bay Preserve pulling knapweed.

An **anonymous donor** and Beaver Island school students **Jenna Battle, Ma-cauley Connaghan, Brigid Cushman, Billy Limmink, Michael Pryor, Trent Williams,** and **JP Stigall** for installing three benches at Little Sand Bay Preserve. And to **Jacque La Freniere** for coordinating the students' efforts and for mowing trails at Beaver Island preserves.

Johan's Bakery, Pond Hill Farm, Meijer, Inc., Litzenburger Landscape and the **Neff and Sutton families** for donating their time, food, or use of items at the Annual Meeting.

Todd Petersen for taking numerous photos for the new nature preserve guide and for his help with the annual meeting.

Al Haske for mowing the trails at The Hill Preserve.

Zach Niersel for pulling garlic mustard at Meadowgate and Raunecker and maintenance help at the LTC office building.

Mary Baker for maintaining the native landscape plants at Mackinac Bay Preserve.

Bill Aten for his help in developing the management plan for our new Wissersawski Preserve.

Bonnie Mikkelsen and **Tim DeWick** for their hospitality, and providing a beautiful place to stay in the Les Cheneaux area.

Jim and Wendy Bean for coordinating our Kestrel Nest Box Program.

Ava Bell, Camryn Bell, Ellen Bell, Nome Buckman, Linda Carr, Chris Grant, Mike Grant, Alan Jarvie, Margaret Jarvie, Alex Larson, Rick Neumann, Elizabeth Nicholas, Frances Paris, Jim Paris, Cadi Whitney Reiss, Renee Schlak, Dick Taylor, and **Donald Eli Whitney** for pulling spotted knapweed at Vermilion Point. Thanks also to **Todd Insley** from the Eastern UP Cooperative Weed Management Area and **Christina Dennison** and **Michelle Jarvie** from Chippewa/Mackinac Conservation District for their help on this project. And to **Mary Stewart Adams** for hosting a "Star Party" for the Vermilion knapweed volunteers.

Glen Schmiede for his help on Cook Island, and for being on the front lines when we encountered a ground nest of bees.

Pam Grassmick, Beth & Ed Leuck, and **Jim Gillingham** for their lifelong dedication to the protection of the unique natural features of Beaver Island.

The summer mailing volunteers for their 268 hours volunteered this summer, and to Barb Wandrie of the Conway Post Office for doughnuts. **Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers:** **Sally Bales, Marlene Bartson, Barb Bechhold, Ann Burek, Janice Green, Rusty Kahn, Karen Knapp, Doris Lark, Sharon Ledingham, Nancy Fay Packer, Shonny Riehl, Val Sterzik, Cynthia Thompson, Betty Trippe, Marjorie Upton, Lurli Vaughan** - **NON-RSVP:** **John Maximiuk, Bev Warner, Jan Wilkins.**

All of our wonderful volunteer field trip leaders: **Steve Baker, Dr. Tom Allan, Caitlin Donnelly, Jennifer Eis & Don Ward, Jessie Hadley** and **Woods & Water EcoTours, Eric Hemenway, Roger Knutson, Glen Matthews, Mark Pad-dock, Emily Proctor, Marilynn Smith, Trisha & Phil Woolcott.** Also to Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers **Dick Moehl, Terry Pepper, MaryAnne Moore, Pan**

Godchaux, and **Susie Safford** for great assistance with the St. Helena Island trip.

Great Lakes Endurance for their \$800 donation and the **Waugoshance Trail marathon runners** who made donations upon registration.

Volunteers **Don and Mary Trout, Miles Trumble, Bill Leanau, Connor Duff, Loyal Jorar,** and **Jason Brabbs** for helping us clean up an old trailer at the new addition to the Kinglet Preserve.

Page Sartell and other members of Northwoods Narcotics Anonymous for cleaning the fire pit, controlling carpenter ants, and improving the landing deck at the Andreae Cabin as part of their annual service project.

Delene Tiernan and girls of troop 2123 for trimming trailside vegetation, planting willows, and spreading gravel at the Andreae Preserve.

Mike and Bonnie Brunett and many other residents of Sleepy Hollow Lane for tree trimming at the Sleepy Hollow Preserve.

Zayna Jones and Megan Aytes for building maintenance and vegetation management at the LTC office.

Bill Hodges for meadow restoration help at the Meadowgate Preserve.

Marc Murphy, Zayna Jones, and **Robert Fryczinski** for help with the Annual Meeting.

Robert Fryczinski for Scotch Pine removal at the Curtis Preserve.

Jim Wojan for numerous work tasks at three Beaver Island Preserves.

Miles Trumble for the use of his tractor for trail improvement at the Rogers Family Homestead Preserve, mowing at the Ransom Preserve, and structure demolition at the Kinglet Preserve.

Duncan Dickinson of Troop 204, Indian River for painting cabin floors and creating a new switchback trail at the Andreae Preserve, and constructing a parking lot at the Banwell Preserve for his Eagle Scout project. The following helped Duncan with his project: **Kim Nichols, Gene Miller, IssaChamberlin, Caleb Chamberlin, Rhonda Goode, Thomas Goode, Stormy Dickinson, Ian Dickinson, Phil Dickinson, Bobby Sproule, Larry Ford, and Andrew Ford.**

City of East Jordan for mowing and fill soils at the Rogers Homestead Preserve.

Jay Krimbill, Robert Fryczyński, Larry & Sue Marvin; Jane, Cameron, Shawn and Heather Stewart, Bill Lenau and his granddaughter **Raisa** for helping with the trail improvement work at the Rogers Preserve.

Cameron, Shawn and Jane Stewart for drainage control work, spraying poison ivy along the trail, and litter pick-up at the Roaring Brook Preserve.

Glen Matthews for resource inventory work at the Goodhart Farms Preserve and leading a field trip at the Seven Springs Preserve.

Scout **Michael Sanders** for conducting a heron rookery survey on St. Helena Island.

Neal Cronkite, A. Popkey, Jacob Knitter, Megan Keller, Spencer Goodrich, Ellen Audia, Connor Ingleson, Hannah Knitter, and **Claire Audia** of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church TLC group for fence removal and trail improvement work at the Braun Preserve.

Dr. Robert Fahey and his **UMBS Forest Ecology class** for management recommendations for the Offield Preserve.

Jan Pfeiger and **Youth Build** for planting trees at the Braun Preserve.

Kara Copeland and **students from Lakeview Academy** for Scotch Pine control at the McCune Preserve.

Boy Scout **Nic George** for installing benches on the Banwell Preserve.



**KATHY
BRICKER**
LTC Member
since 1978

In 1978, Kathy Bricker was hired as the first part-time staff member at Little Traverse Conservancy. Here she explains how she came to the organization and what the conservation climate was like at this time:

Kathy Bricker first came to northern Michigan as a student at the University of Michigan Biological Station. Her foray into the world of conservation really came about as a fluke.

“As a student project you had to do something and I had been out of college so I didn’t want to do just any old student project,” she explained. “I thought it would be good to do something with some connection to reality.”

Kathy contacted the Conservancy, which didn’t have an executive director, and was put in contact with one of LTC’s original founders, John Fought. Fought told her the Conservancy had recently acquired Wequetonsing Preserve which needed to be surveyed.

“So as a project for my flower class, I did a very elaborate spatial and species distribution survey of the West Weque preserve. I knew about the Conservancy and I knew the work and just the names – It was such an honor to be with those people,” she said.

In the mid- to late-1970s, community and conservation groups were uniting to add Sturgeon Bay Dunes as part of Wilderness State Park in northern Emmet County. The land was in private hands and slated for either mining or development.

“One of the initial steps we had to take involved public hearings. I was a young kid at the time, 22 years old or so, and to speak at a public hearing – it was like, ‘Oh my gosh, I could never do that,’” Kathy said with a laugh.

Kathy explained that with the help of John Tanton, who broke the whole process down into doable pieces for everybody so no one person had to cover everything, “we tromped into the public hearing, said our piece and that began a long attachment and involvement with Sturgeon Bay Dunes, which eventually became a major LTC project,” and became part of Wilderness State Park (see back page, bottom photo).

Around that same time, Kathy was approached by Tanton to become LTC’s executive director. She fondly recalls that the Conservancy consisted “in the bottom left-hand desk drawer.”

“It was my job to take it and expand it and to let people know what was going on in the community, because very few people knew about it. (I did) a lot of public programs to any group that would have me and we tried to do publicity in the paper,” she said.

As part of featured stories during this 40th anniversary year, we will be highlighting longtime members of Little Traverse Conservancy in every newsletter issue. These and other interviews will be posted on the LTC website as well. Volunteer Marty Amlin conducted these interviews on behalf of LTC and her husband, Darrell, took the photos.

At that point the Conservancy had the Ransom Preserve. In the first year, six more preserves were donated.

Kathy points to the significant roles others from the Conservancy’s early days also had on her life.

“Bud Offield was so supportive and so intimidating at first until I got to know him. Huffy Huffman was another giving, welcoming person,” she said of some of the early board members.

The Gateway to Harbor program was just getting started. She and Huffy met with land owners along the route to promote the initiative. Huffy also came up with the idea of larger preserve signs that could be seen from the roadway because, “Little Traverse Conservancy was, in (Huffy’s) words, the best-kept secret in northern Michigan,” Kathy recalls.

Huffy also helped Kathy organize the mounting task of starting the Conservancy – really her introduction to time-management and organization skills.

“Personally I grew so much and experienced the joy of working with the eclectic professionals of the Conservancy board and volunteers. It was such a wonderful multi-talented and multi-faceted group of people,” she said.

Kathy is thrilled to see the growth the Conservancy has experienced over the past 40 years and is glad to see the Conservancy proactively identifying key properties for acquisition based on the land’s biological aspect, and relationship to existing preserves and state land.

Kathy also noted the LTC’s presence has expanded to cover more territory within its region and has helped spawn and support the growth of other conservancies in Walloon Lake and Grand Traverse. The educational component of promoting conservation is also noteworthy and must continue, Kathy noted.

“People – whether they’re youth or adults – have a lot of other things on their plate. So the message of why we’re doing this and what we’re doing it for, connecting both intellectually and spiritually, has to be an ongoing important part of what we do,” she said.

Kathy credits those who donate money, land – and their time – to LTC for its continued success.

“It takes time and t-l-c to develop volunteers and LTC has done a real good job of that. And for people to think about LTC in their estate planning is very important.

“There’s no better gift we can leave to our own descendants as well as the whole community than an investment in our natural surroundings.”

Kathy is now retired from conservation work. For 16 years she worked with the Ocean Conservancy in Washington, D.C., but now remains active as a volunteer. Kathy and her husband, Jim, live in Cheboygan and volunteer with LTC, Burt Lake Preservation Association and Straits Area Audubon Society. She is also active in the Dark Skies initiative in northern Emmet County.





Reflections...Tom Bailey

Sounding the Alarm

When I became involved in efforts to protect natural areas in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Earth Day and the dawning of what came to be known as the environmental move-

ment brought a new level of awareness to the American public. Those were days of intense grassroots political organizing as we worked to forge some major changes in federal, state and local approaches to land use, land economics, and the environment.

Arriving at Little Traverse Conservancy in the mid 1980s, I was actually relieved to be working in a part of the conservation field that involved very little policy work. We in the land conservation movement could generally stick to our mission and leave policy and politics to those involved in the regulatory end of the business, not land acquisition.

Oh, how times have changed, and in very short order! In the Michigan Legislature, an attack is being mounted on the sanctity of land owned by all of Michigan's 43 land conservancies. There is also an attempt to close conservancies out of partnerships with local and state agencies to acquire land for parks, recreation, and public enjoyment. It is a serious campaign, and it demands a serious response. Though we in the land conservancy movement have been able to largely avoid issue-based political activism, those days have come to an abrupt end. The clarion call is sounding, we must rise in response, and we have a lot at stake.

Specifically, state senators Booher, Casperson, Pappageorge, Jansen, and Colbeck have introduced Senate Bill 1238 which would, among other things, forbid the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board from recommending approving acquisition of "any land that was solicited for sale by the Department [of Natural Resources], a local unit of government, or a land conservancy." This would undermine our ability to assist with projects like Emmet County's parks at the Headlands and Camp Petosega. It would prevent us from working with local people like those in Cheboygan County's Tuscarora Township who worked hard to establish Marina Park on the Indian River. It would pull the rug out from under efforts like those that created Spring Lake Park in Bear Creek Township near Petoskey; the Colonial Point Forest near Burt Lake; the only public boat launch on the upper St. Mary's River in the City of Sault Ste. Marie; and added the Sturgeon Bay Dunes on Lake Michigan to Wilderness State Park. In an era of shrinking park, recreation, and natural resource budgets when the need is greater than ever for partnerships between government and the

non-profit sector, this legislation is the wrong idea.

It's not just a rural issue. This legislation would prevent a lot of the wonderful work that has been done to create a bright spot in the plight of our largest city: the improvement of the Detroit Riverfront. The riverfront is now a showplace and gathering space, thanks to collaborative efforts between the City, the State, and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. It offers some of the most popular and safe recreation in the entire city. Can we really afford to ban projects such as this? I think the clear answer is no.

We have been advised that Senator Casperson intends to introduce a bill this fall which would require any tax-exempt conservancy land to be open to "unlimited public recreation," including motor vehicles. Though vehicles could be confined to trails, the draft legislation requires that if a motorized recreational trail comes to the boundary of a conservancy-owned tax-exempt parcel, the conservancy **MUST** complete a motorized trail through its property.

This is crazy. Conservancy lands in Michigan are more open to more people than most other tax-exempt lands held by charities. Though we restrict vehicles, camping, and other activities, people are free to walk, cross-country ski, snowshoe and otherwise visit all of our lands, all of the time. That cannot be said for children's camps, church camps, and other non-profit camps that are understandably open only to participating children, or land owned by religious organizations, or other non-profit lands. To single out conservancies – or any other charity – for such a measure is unreasonable and unnecessary. And again, it bears repeating: conservancy lands are more open to more of the public than most other land held by charities. Not to mention the fact that at Little Traverse Conservancy, we take some 5,000 to 7,000 school children per year to our preserves at no charge to learn about the outdoors in the outdoors.

Michigan's land conservancies are going to respond to these challenges. We will act both individually and together. One mechanism for joint response is our state association, called the Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy: www.heartofthelakes.org. But the word must come not just from organizations, it must also come from individual constituents and political supporters. It's time for you, our members, to start contacting your state legislators and let them know how you feel about these proposals.

At Little Traverse Conservancy, we are in the process of working out how we can best keep you informed. This newsletter can be helpful, but the pace of legislation can be much faster than can be tracked in a quarterly publication. So, please look to our web site and Facebook pages for information as these proposals make their way through the legislative process.

It's early in the process for these bills, but the threat is real and the implications are serious. The clarion call is sounding. It is time for us to respond.



Fall 2012 Field Trips

LTC's field trips for 2012 are celebrations of the habitat diversity represented at LTC's nature preserves. Most outings will include an educational component regarding the habitat type listed after each description. All trips are offered at no charge unless otherwise noted. Participation is limited and registration is required for all trips by calling 231.347.0991.



Barney's Lake/Frank Solle

Fall Nature Hike for Knee High Naturalists (geared toward ages 3-5, siblings welcome)

Round Lake Nature Preserve, Emmet Co.

Saturday, September 29, 10-11 am

The Knee High program is back for more fun this fall for a hike along the Round Lake trail. On our hike we will discover leaves and their many colors, shapes and sizes (maybe even jump in some and collect a few), roll over logs in search of creepy crawlies and discover places to hide just like the animals do. After the hike we will head inside to make fall leaf art and check out fun books for fall. This hike will be held rain or shine (just remember your wellies).

Tree Identification

Raven Ridge Nature Preserve, Charlevoix Co.

Saturday, October 6, 10am-noon

Mike Lynch will lead a hike through these beautiful Charlevoix County hills exploring the forest with a closer eye. As we identify trees and their defining features, we will also inquire about the relationships trees have with their habitat, wildlife and climate.

Lake Superior Fall Colors

Round Island Point Preserve, Chippewa Co.

Saturday, October 6, 10 am-noon

Enjoy autumn in the Upper Peninsula with 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.

Wildlife Adventure

Greenwood Sanctuary, Cheboygan Co.

Saturday, October 13, 10 am-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.

Orienteering for Adults and Families

Ransom Nature Preserve, Charlevoix Co.

Saturday, October 20, 10am-noon

Katherine Brown

Join LTC's AmeriCorps Service member Katherine Brown for a lesson in how to find your way in the woods. Build your confidence by learning how to use a compass and enjoy

the views and fall colors of this gem of a nature preserve. There are about 1.5 miles of trails for you to enjoy, but beware, orienteering does not follow the well-beaten path. Wear suitable footwear and clothing for bushwhacking.

Geocaching in the UP

De Tour Peninsula Preserve, Mackinac Co.

Saturday, October 20, 10 am-noon

Join Charles Dawley to hike the De Tour Peninsula on this new 145-acre preserve including three miles of Lake Huron frontage. This preserve lies along a bird migration corridor centered around the St. Mary's River. As you look through the trees for the cache, you can also look up for migrating birds, and enjoy southern views of the De Tour Reef Lighthouse. If you are new to this activity you can learn how to use a GPS unit to find a cache in the woods and get more comfortable exploring new places.

Getting Kids Outdoors

Campfire and Night Hike Adventure

Petoskey State Park, Emmet Co.

Saturday, October 27, 6 pm

(see page 4 for details)



Kestrel Box Program Update

Volunteers Jim and Wendy Bean along with Cindy Mom tend to the American Kestrel box display at the annual meeting. Jim has offered to be the local coordinator for this new project with assistance from LTC. A \$5,000 anonymous grant was given to help get the project off the ground. The goal for the first season (2013) is to recruit volunteer partners to install and monitor 30 nest boxes on LTC preserves and possibly other suitable properties. If you have an interest in helping with the American Kestrel box program, you can email Jim at jimbean@utmi.net or contact Anne Fleming at the Conservancy at 231.347.0991. More info can also be found at www.peregrinefund.org.

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annual meeting 2012 - 40 year celebration - goodhart farms preserve - august 7, 2012



Native American History field trip at St. Ignatius Church near Good Hart.



Doug Fuller leads a field trip at the Goodhart Farms Preserve.



Dr. John Tanton acknowledges Kathy Bricker (bottom left) for her foundational work as LTC's first executive director and for her instrumental role in the protection of Sturgeon Bay Dunes in the 1980s.