



Fall 2013
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Much More than Milestones

Lee Grande Ranch/Todd Parker



Thorne Swift Nature Preserve/TW Peterson

Like most of LTC's nature preserves, Thorne Swift was created to give people of all ages a place to exhale in nature.



Scottie Lansill purchased this bench for the Roaring Brook Preserve in memory of her father, Bim Lansill.

EVERY YEAR AT OUR ANNUAL AUGUST MEETING, WE REFLECT ON WHAT has happened since we gathered the prior year. Shortly before this year's event on August 6, a land project was completed that brought LTC's total acres protected to date to more than 50,000. This is a fantastic milestone for a local land trust, and one that can be looked at it many ways.

For example, 50,000 acres amounts to 78 square miles, which represents about 1.8% of the land in our five-county service area, which comprises some 4,400 square miles.

The volume of land protection is one way to measure the success of a land trust. So is the number of members who support it, and the amount of money that is raised each year or for a particular project.

Yet protecting land in its natural state and making it available for public use and enjoyment comes with many other intangibles that can't be statistically measured.

So often through the year, we are struck by the comments of people who let us know how much they appreciate a particular nature preserve or a trail. This past spring, Beaver Island's publication, *Beaver Beacon*, reported the results of a survey of the island's favorite trails.

Of the top four, two are LTC Preserves (Barney's Lake and Little Sand Bay) and one is an LTC assist project (Miller's Marsh). Little Sand Bay's beach is also the island's fourth most popular beach on the island.

For generations, people have been called to northern Michigan because it is blessed with generous natural resources. Native Americans settled around our bays because they would have water for transport and food, as well as the rich diversity provided by the woods and a climate where many crops and fruits thrive. Though the winters would prompt many of them to migrate south for the cold months, they would make the long trips back north during the warmer seasons as the natural abundance was worth the commute.

While most of us no longer collect our own firewood for heat or boil the sap from our trees for sweeteners, it is that same rich diversity that continues to draw people to this region when they are in need of an exhale - a pause from

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul."

John Muir

continued page 4

Protecting the natural and scenic character of northern Michigan since 1972



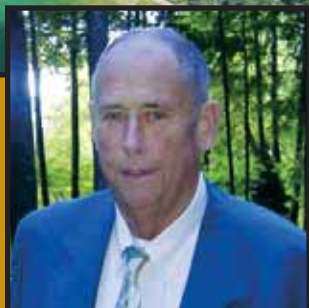
photos by TJPetersen

State Partnership Protects 540 Acres

Little Traverse Conservancy recently played a partner role in assisting the state with acquiring a 540-acre parcel in Chippewa County. The parcel includes 1,400 feet frontage on Ziegler Lake. The land is now part of state forest holdings just west of Detour Village. "We were happy to help the DNR acquire this parcel," said LTC Director of Land Protection Kieran Fleming. "It not only protects a large block of habitat, but improves access to other state holdings. The family was wonderful to work with and this was a real win-win situation for all."



The John W. Fischer Memorial Preserve



A 3.5-acre nature preserve with almost 900 feet of M-119 frontage has been purchased in honor of one of Little Traverse Conservancy's founders, John Fischer (left). The new preserve lies near several other protected preserves within the greenbelt.

Thanks to generous donations, the John W. Fischer Memorial Preserve was recently purchased to protect a scenic stretch of M-119 along the entrance drive into Harbor Springs. "The 'Gateway to Harbor' represents the essence of what John - one of the Conservancy's seven founding members - had in mind when they started this organization," said LTC Executive Director Tom Bailey.

Leadership donations from the Conservancy's Board of Trustees and donations from John's friends and family put the Conservancy within \$20,000 of our fundraising goal. In addition, more than \$15,000 was raised during a special donation auction at the August 7 Save the Trees benefit.

"I think my dad would be humbled and honored to have a nature preserve in his name - especially in Roaring Brook," said John's daughter, Lesley Fischer. "The brook and its surroundings were so near and dear to his heart. Because his mother was a physician in Chicago he spent his summers with his grandmother in the family cottage. He would often talk of his adventures in and around the brook - catching brook trout and swimming and boating in the lake. When he was an adult he found a way to move north and return to his true roots. He devoted much of his time to preserving and protecting the area he so dearly loved."





24th Save the Trees

On August 7, our 24th annual Save the Trees fundraiser was a huge success! Held at The Boathouse of Harbor Springs for the second year in a row, the event brought 285 guests through the doors and raised \$43,000 for land protection in northern Michigan. Our event committee co-chairs Kate MacCready and Audie Whitman put together another great event and were rewarded with generosity from our supporters in the live and silent auctions and blitz raffle. Little Traverse Conservancy is grateful for the generosity of the Board of Trustees, Save the Trees Committee, and donors for raising \$70,000 to be put toward the purchase of the John W. Fischer Memorial Preserve, a parcel of land along M-119, for which we held a special pledge drive during the event. We would like to thank the following sponsors for their selfless support of the event:

Sugar Maple Sponsors

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Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Streett
Mr. and Mrs. Michael VanLokeren



Save the Trees Co-chairs Audie Whitman and Kate MacCready



Bidders checking out the silent auction table.



Auctioneer Rip Hayes

Special thanks also to event co-chairs Audie Whitman and Kate MacCready and the full committee and event volunteers, the 43 event sponsors, auction and raffle donors, Ruth Petzold Photography, L. Mawby, Harbor Springs Vineyards & Winery at Pond Hill Farm, Petoskey Brewing Company, Taylor Rental, North Coast Imagewear, Carter's Imagewear, Graphic Printing, Christians' Renolda Greenhouse, The Boathouse of Harbor Springs, Teddy Griffin's Roadhouse, Julianne Tomatoes, Younce Guitar Duo, and Rip Hayes (auctioneer). More than \$43,000 was raised! Thank you also to those who donated to the special effort to acquire a nature preserve in John Fischer's name.

their every day lives. Rachel Carson once wrote, "Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life."

The raw beauty of nature gives us solace in our every day lives and also helps us confront the temporary nature of our days. The Conservancy was founded because of our visceral need as humans to have nature sustain us physically, emotion-

ally, and spiritually. So often in this work, we are privileged to hear of how the natural world has touched and affected someone's life. It is this work that makes us know that what this organization has been doing for more than 40 years must continue for decades, centuries, and millennia to come.

The tributes below celebrate two people whose lives on this earth were unexpectedly and suddenly ended this past summer. An intense love of nature pervaded each family and was given back to our communities and to the Conservancy.

In Honor of Dan



Dan Adams was an enthusiastic person whose quick smile was infectious. He was easy going and loved life. "Like the Warrior Two yoga pose he had tattooed on his arm, it was as if he saw aspects of his life as challenges to rise to, things that would make him a better person," said Conservancy Volunteer Coordinator Cacia Lesh who also knew Dan through yoga. "Being a warrior in a really positive way, he was an eager volunteer for LTC and would do just about anything that was needed."

A love of nature pervaded the Adams family. "As long as I can remember, my dad liked the outdoors," said Dan's son, Ben, who served as LTC's 2011 AmeriCorps Stewardship service member. "For his birthday, we always did some activity outside, such as kayaking as a family. He liked that

more than any gift. We worked together on being the trail stewards at McCune."

"We took many family hikes and snowshoe trips on the McCune trails," said Dan's wife, Linda. "We chose that spot for the bench because he loved that bridge and the quietness of the Minnehaha Creek," she added.

A beautiful bench built by Chuck Leazier of White Cedar Rustics was purchased by the Adams family and placed at the McCune Preserve (photo right).



In Honor of Kyle

Kyle McGarey spent his childhood exploring the outdoors in nearly every way imaginable. From backpacking on Isle Royale, kayaking in the Upper Peninsula, and dirt biking throughout northern Michigan to hang gliding at Kitty Hawk in North Carolina, he had as many adventures during his 17 years as many people have in multiple decades. Kyle's inspiration certainly came from his outdoor-loving parents, Janet and Stacey. Janet would sew their tent and sleeping bags by hand in an attempt to make them lighter for backpacking and she and Kyle took an eight-day backpacking trip to Isle Royale in 2012.

Musician, soccer player, volunteer fire fighter, Eagle Scout, and loving son also describe Kyle. "He was awesome," said Kyle's longtime scout leader, Chris Snabes. "He absolutely adored anything to do with the outdoors and loved to share the wonders of the outdoors with others."

For his Eagle Scout project, Kyle worked at two Charlevoix County Conservancy nature preserves: Driggers and Sleepy Hollow. Using a photo he had taken of a bench he had seen in Canada, he drew up the plans and, with friends and members of his troop, built four benches that were placed at the Sleepy Hollow Preserve this past June. "We, and all the hikers using the trails, are so appreciative. Their rustic look fits in well with the woods and their sturdiness means they'll be there a very long time," said Bonnie Brunett, longtime preserve monitor of the Sleepy Hollow Preserve.

Just over a month after Kyle's passing, his friends and troop members gathered at his home on his birthday and built four more benches that will hold plaques inscribed with a memorial to their friend. Three of the benches will be placed at the Driggers Preserve and one will be placed at Northwoods Academy where Kyle would have been a senior this year.



One of four benches built by Kyle McGarey (pictured above) and placed at the Sleepy Hollow Nature Preserve.



Nature Preserve Work Days

Help out for the day or just a few hours as your schedule permits! Please bring work gloves, appropriate footwear, and a water bottle. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

Derby Preserve Trail Building - #1, Mackinac Co. Sunday, September 22, 2-5pm

We are extending the Derby Preserve trails at this large preserve with Lake Huron shoreline. Join us to continue building a new trail that will add to the hiking experience in the Les Cheneaux Islands. For more information or to sign up, contact Charles at 231.344.1019 or charles@landtrust.org.

Beaver Island Preserves Work Bee, Charlevoix Co. Monday/Tuesday, September 23-24 9am-4pm

Join Stewardship Staff for a couple of days packed with trail building at Barney's Lake, general preserve clean-up and maintenance. With multiple preserves on Beaver Island, LTC takes a few days each year to get some large projects completed. Join us in contributing to the recreational opportunities and protecting the scenic beauty on Beaver Island. For more information or to sign up, contact Mike at 231.344.1011 or mike@landtrust.org.

The Hill View Clearing - Phase II, Charlevoix Co. Friday, September 27, 9am-4pm

LTC plans to keep the view of Lake Charlevoix open at this hilltop preserve just outside Boyne City. Help us maintain this view by clearing brush, hauling it and chipping it. For more information or to sign up, contact Mike at 231.344.1011 or mike@landtrust.org

Derby Preserve Trail Building - #2, Mackinac Co. Sunday, October 6, 2-5pm

See September 22 Derby Preserve description above.

Darnton Preserve Trail Building, Charlevoix Co. Tuesday, October 8, 9:30am-4pm

With the trail work ongoing, there is much to do at this new preserve near Boyne City. We will be focusing on building a section of switchback trail near the old homestead site. For more information or to sign up, contact Charles at 231.344.1019 or charles@landtrust.org

Stewardship Wish List

- 18-ft. dual axle equipment trailer
- crew cab utility truck
- a volunteer who might have access to a Kubota excavator for use at the new Darnton Nature Preserve (for mountain bike trails)



Memorials

The following gifts were given from May 31 through August 31, 2013

Daniel Adams

Dave, Linda and Morgan Adams
Joyce Beebe
Michael and Jill Birchmeier
Doug and Sue Bouwense
Ms. Nancy Brand and Mr. Mike Mazur
Patrick, Nancy, Hunter, Maxine and Alexis Brown
Mrs. Laura Buckingham
Mrs. Ann Bullinger
Ken Burns
Doug and Susan Carpenter
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Chew
Rich and Judy Conrad
The Corteville's
John and Sue Dixon
Mrs. Mary Farrow
Ray, Jayne and Jacy Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Fleury
Friends of the Charlevoix Public Library
Dan and Deb Gordon
David and Cam Gordon
Eda Gordon
Susan and Phillip Hancock
Richard and Sherrie Harris
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Hartwig
Mr. Jim Haas
Mr. and Mrs. Michael C. Holmes
Mr. Richard Jensen
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George and Brenda Korthauer
Cacia and David Lesh, Jr.
Pauline and Joe McDermott
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Ms. Judith A. Gillow
Mrs. Frances Gluck
Mr. and Mrs. Hord Hardin, II
Joan Keller
Ms. Jinny McCoy
Mr. and Mrs. George E. Melzow



Many members of the Darnton Family gathered for the August 28 dedication of the Darnton Family Nature Preserve near Boyne City.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete and Linda Myer
John and Jean Norton
Ms. Margaret Postle
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Sellers
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. G. Sheldon Veil
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wehrle, Jr.
Mrs. William K. Westwater and Family
Mrs. Charles L. Wilson, Jr.

Dolores Eastcott

Ms. Janet Clarke

Robert Files

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Bishop
Ms. Maureen Boylan
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Joan Keller
Ms. Ruth Klein
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Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude, Jr.

John B. Ford, III

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Hightower

Katie Haensel

Mr. Thomas Dillon

Ms. Jane Hartzell

Mr. and Mrs. William Stude, Jr.

Gene Hiddinga

Kenyon and Sally Hiddinga Stebbins
Mr. Dick Taylor

James O. Holton, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnston Hightower
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude
Marilyn Simon Lord

James H. Howe III

Tom and Ginnie Horner
Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Hightower
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude, Jr.

William K. Howenstein

Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Baldwin
Julia Barnes
Debby Bergh
Carol C. Bitting
Mr. and Mrs. Delano deWindt, II
Fred and Barbara Detwiler
Andrea Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Fisher
Mr. David G. Frey
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Harris III

Bob and Donna Leland
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Jessica Stephens
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude, Jr.
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Ted Kilmer

Mr. Barry Berner
Kim and Joe Engelman
Ms. Jane Mosconi
Springboro Centerville Jazzercise

Beverly Kaiser

Site Planning Development, Inc.

John Koerth

Ms. Miekeleen Koerth

Keehn Landis

Mary Jo Truog and Family

Elizabeth Larson

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Hightower

Dr. Fred Lepley

Menonaqua Cottage Owners Association

Dave Lesh

Mrs. Linda Orlow

Bonnie Londal

Don and Julie Nummer, Sr.

Thomas Mich

Mrs. Thomas F. Mich

B.J. and Robert Mogg

Mrs. Charles L. Wilson, Jr.

Robert Mogg

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Ruth Paddock

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Mr. Charles Weiner

Susan Phelan

Marily Simon Lord
Mr. and Mrs. William Stude, Jr.

Hanns Pielenz

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude, Jr.

Norbert C. Roth

Ms. Darleen Roth Flaherty

Mary Jane Rousseau

Mrs. Wendell Bueche

Valdis Spacs

East Burt Lake Association

Margie Sue Spreng

Dr. and Mrs. Michael Spreng, DDS

Andrew Vollink

Robert and Rosita White

Betty Voss

Dick and Veroneze Strader

Carol Wierenga

Ms. Darlene Dawood

Georgina Wolohan

Mrs. Robert A. Files
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude, Jr.

Mrs. Lee Yff

Mr. and Mrs. William Stude, Jr.

Honorariums

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Buzzelli in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary

Mrs. Herbert H. Edwards
Richard and Mary Lou Hazleton

Can't thank you enough.

John Woollam is pictured here at the formal dedication of the newly-protected Crisp Point land. Hi foundation was a primary partner in ensuring that more than 3,810 acres of land were purchased and added to state forest. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Natural Resources Commission awarded John with the Partner in Conservation Award this past June.



Kyle Underwood

Emily Edsell in her honor

Mr. Christopher H. Troth

Janell Everest in honor of her birthday

Mrs. William Barnes, III

Sue Gillikin and John Garr in honor of celebration of their marriage

Darrell and Marty Amlin

Lisa Loyd in honor of her Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. John J. McIntosh

William and Barbara McKinstry in honor of their 65th wedding anniversary and over 80 years of caring for the South Arm and the Great Lakes

Jenny, Bruce, Kevin, and Gracie Abel

Janet Smith Price in memory of her birth 100 years ago

George and Pam Houk

Frazer and Susan Reams in honor of 50th wedding anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West

David and Barbara Young in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Streett

Summer Intern Profile: Sarah Dillabough



It was the Conservancy's good fortune to host intern Sarah Dillabough this past summer from Austin College in Texas, where she is just starting her sophomore year. While Sarah spent the majority of her time with the Stewardship department working on a multitude of outdoor activities, she also assisted with land protection grant research and environmental education programs this summer. Director of Stewardship Doug Fuller said, "We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with Austin College on their internship program and it was great having Sarah here for eight weeks. She is smart, articulate, enthusiastic, game to take on any work task (like tramping through a marsh to the extent her hair turned yellow from cattail flower pollen), and super friendly!"

"My experience working with the Little Traverse Conservancy has been proof that if thought is put into action, great things can be accomplished.

The importance of true passion for the work one is doing coupled with motivating and friendly colleagues really shines at LTC. I have learned about a field of work I was previously unaware of, a field of work I think is of great importance and needs to become more recognized throughout America.

Working with the Conservancy has broadened my awareness of occupational options that pertain to my field of study: Environmental Studies and Political Science. At LTC, I didn't feel as if I was working **for** the organization but **with** it to accomplish an everlasting goal of land conservation/protection which is a great feeling. I have enjoyed working with various volunteers and seeing many different preserves.

Everything about my experience in northern Michigan - the land, the people, and my work - have contributed to me fully enjoying my time spent. LTC has set a high standard for future jobs in regards to staff and volunteers, the working environment, and the goals of the organization." - Sarah Elena Dillabough

stewardship



A new dune overlook platform was recently completed at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve.

(Above left) Volunteers cleared brush at the Meadowgate Nature Preserve after meadow restoration work during early summer.



The new Burt Lake Trail runs along the side of the Chaboiganing Nature Preserve.

The TLC group from Emmanuel Episcopal Church worked hard to create a new stairway at the Braun Preserve.



(Bottom left) For the seventh year in a row, LTC staff and volunteers pulled knapweed at the Vermilion Point Nature Preserve.



Thank you to our many volunteers

Between June 1, 2013 to August 20, 2013...

- 162 Trail Stewards and Preserve Monitors nature preserves management units;
- 35 Kestrel Nest Box Monitors observed 23
- More than 65 project volunteers helped co
- 19 volunteers sealed and stuffed 22,000 env
- 10 volunteers helped lead our Community
- 2 interns worked with our stewardship and

All of these **293** indi
than **817** hours o

The Maple Grove Martial Arts group completed trail work at the Taylor Horton Creek Preserve.



Preserve Steward Specialist Mike Lynch spends part of his summer keeping meadows and parking areas mowed at several Conservancy nature preserves. Here you see Goodhart Farms before and after.

Members of Petoskey CrossFit helped haul bags of cement to a new overlook platform at the Wisser-Saworski Preserve.



Volunteers!

Volunteers helped clear and maintain trails and boundaries on 172

conservation easements and nature preserves; complete 12 stewardship work bees; envelopes in our summer mailing; Field Trips; and communications departments.

Individual or family volunteers spent more of their time supporting our mission!

Cameron Stewart built this bridge on the Roaring Brook Preserve as part of his school-related community service project. Pictured with him is his uncle Ryan Paquette who helped with the project.



(Below right) Volunteers from Consumers Energy helped staff clear the view from a new platform at the Wisser-Saworski Preserve.



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 May 20, 2013 to August 20, 2013.

Friends and Benefactors

Businesses

Dam Site Inn
Kilwin's Quality Confections, Inc.
ZooDeMackinac, Inc.

Individuals/Families

Steve and Mary Anderson
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Mr. Hal Washburn

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Businesses

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Elizabeth Blair Fine Pearls
Grantham Building and Remodeling
Hilda
Louis Hoffman Nursery
Maple Bay Marine
Rocking Horse Toy Company
Ruddy Duck Charters

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Karen DenBesten and Caesar Citraro
Dennis and Shirley Cone
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Mr. Jeffrey Smith
Stephen and Susan Smith
Dean R. and Frances Solomon
Ms. Dawn Stanislaw
Bill and Carolyn Stark
Ms. Janet K. Stutzman
Thomas and Ellen Swengel
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Thomas and Sari Thoman
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Mr. Dale Turton
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James and Karen Vance
Mr. James Vuke
Mr. and Mrs. James N. Walker
William and Christine Warren
Alexander and Sarah Watson
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Weibel
Paul and Joan Witting
Kenneth and Carol Woodhurst
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth B. Wright
Mr. and Mrs. Glen D. Young

Geocaching at the Braun Nature Preserve - excerpts from a note from Pellston Pack 2 shared from an online forum:

"Took Mr. Noah's cub scout pack out tonight & introduced them to geocaching. This, I thought, would be the perfect cache for such an experience... We were armed with 3 GPS units and the scouts were in 3 groups sharing a GPS. We enjoyed picking & eating blackberries along the way. The scouts had a great time. No one complained about the heat or the hike. I hiked out here a couple of nights ago and added some swag to the cache so the scouts would have that much more of a fuller experience of caching... Thanks for a neat site to explore. It was a memorable experience for them all I'm sure."

Horton Creek preserves are a good location to learn about wetland ecology.



Visiting Les Cheneaux island preserves



One benefit of becoming a member of Little Traverse Conservancy is first-hand knowledge of our year-round community field trips. We do not publicize them to the public until after members get first dibs!

with many thanks...

Margie Reh for help marking boundary lines at the Braun Preserve.

RSVP summer mailing volunteers:

Sally Bales, Marlene Bartson, Barb Bechhold, Gretchen Brown, Patricia Denemy, Arlayne Froysaa, Janice Green, Karen Knapp, Elmer Kochans, Doris Lark, Sharon Ledingham, Nancy Fay Packer, Jude Parson, Mary Phillips, Shonny Riehl, Betty Trippe, Lurli Vaughan, and non-RSVP summer mailing volunteers **John Maximiuk** and **Bev Warner**.

Anna Decamp for donating artwork used in invitations and publicity.

Todd Petersen for voluntarily and beautifully completing photo projects for LTC.

Mary Trout, Cydney Steeb and **Ginny Cole** for assisting with summer Knee High Programs and for donating education materials.

Bay Harbor Equestrian Center for collecting horse hair over several weeks for a Birding Program project.

Wilson's Flower Shop for donating flowers for an education program.

Rick Loyd for making a new logo sign cover.

BSA Troop 4, of Ann Arbor, for controlling poison ivy, clearing a new relatively ivy-free trail segment, and dismantling campfire rings on St. Helena Island in mid-June.

TLC group members **Connor Ingleson, Brian Riordan, Taylor Brown, Ellen Audia, Amy Riordan, A. Popkey, Claire Audia,** and **Tony Audia** for constructing steps, installing signage, and clearing trails at the Braun Preserve.

The neighbor who mows trails at the Hailand.

The neighbor who mows trails at the Chaboiganing Preserve.

Al Haske for mowing trails at The Hill.

Greenheart group for clearing the trails at the Gauthier Preserve with Sarah Dillabough.

Gow Litzenburger of **Litzenburger Landscape** for boulder donation at the Martha Cameron Preserve.

Cameron Stewart, along with **Jane Stewart, Sean Stewart, Ryan Paquette,** and **Arthur Barnes** for work at Roaring Brook Preserve to clean out streams, culverts, and spring basins, build a bridge (including donating materials), clear trails (including poison ivy) and remove woody debris, and inspect signs.

Leonard and Lee Schreier and **Nicholas Roznowski** for help removing a large elevated deer blind from the Braun Preserve.

John Arevalo for conducting a floristic quality assessment of the Oden Island Preserve.

Lisa Morris for providing low cost housing for LTC's summer intern.

Leelanau Conservancy for again sending their invasive plant crew



gratitude

to assess and control invasive exotics on LTC preserves. **John** and **Mary Lou Tanton** for providing housing for the crew at their Douglas Lake cottage.

Gene Randall and **Narcotics Anonymous** for constructing a bridge on the Roger's Family Homestead Preserve.

John Griffin and **Dan Reelitz** for helping at the Derby Trail Work Day and to **Amy Polk** for homemade treats.

Community Field Trip Leaders **Zack Ginop, Mary Cummings,** the crew at **Woods and Water Ecotours, Jennifer Gelb** and **Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Mary Trout, Cydney Steeb, Jennifer Eis** and **Don Ward,** and **Marilynn Smith.**

Summer volunteer interns **Kylah Johnston** and **Sarah Elena Dillabough.**

Lakeview Academy for removing Scotch Pine at the Curtis Preserve.

Gregg and **Libby Garver, Jana** and **Brandon Goldsmith, Georgia** and **Wayne Lindstrom, Tim O'Brien,** and **Win Stebbins** for help with Meadowgate Restoration Work Bee.

Mark Paddock and **Maple Grove Martial Arts** for trail work at Taylor Horton Creek Preserve.

Ed and **Diane Strzelinski, Chris Wimmer, Don** and **Mary Trout,** and **Darryl Parish** for Darnton Preserve fence and boardwalk building.

Great Lakes Endurance for their donation from the Waugoshance Marathon and Half-Marathon.

Crossfit Petoskey for hauling concrete at Wissar Saworski Preserve.

Margie Reh, Leanne Gillespie, Sarah Ratliff, and **Martha Lancaster** for help at Save the Trees.

Audrey Immonen for help at Annual Meeting.

Margie Reh, Rick Richter and **Al** and **Jean Moberly** for aid station help at Waugoshance Marathon and Half-Marathon.

Ron Oesterricher for helping rebuild the Seven Springs overlook platform.

Waubun Preserve Trail building volunteers **John** and **Dorothy Johnson, Amy Burgdolf, Julie** and **Paul Hull, Sheryl Kendrick, Scott Steesma, Elizabeth** and **Glenn Pluhar, Ron Oesterricher, Gretchen Bearce,** and **Bruce Alexander.**

CMS Energy for view clearing at Wissar-Saworski Preserve.

John Griffin for assisting with trail building at the Derby Preserve and, along with **Helen Hall,** for lending their boats for the Stewardship Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

Mark Paddock for co-leading the Marquette Island field trip for the Stewardship Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and **Bonnie Mikkelsen** for donating a portion of the catering cost for the luncheon.

Adventure Naturalist Program contributors **Tonya Baumhardt, Wayne Blomberg** of Ryde Marine, and **Chad** and **Lisa Wells** of North Country Cycle Sports in Petoskey.

Education Volunteer Profile

DALE LEWIS

We introduce you to LTC Education Committee member and volunteer Dale Lewis. With his positive and professional demeanor, Dale has been providing a monumental service assisting us with curriculum development and communications. We're very grateful for his contributions!

Can you tell us a bit about your background and your interest in environmental education?

I've always been interested in the sciences, especially life science. I'm a native of Petoskey, and while growing up, my family spent a lot of our free time outdoors. My father, also a native of Petoskey, was an advocate for responsible development and setting aside natural areas for public use. My experience as a Boy Scout and Scout leader gave me more opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities and learn about nature. During my first three years at Michigan State, I majored in environmental science and biology. Then, after volunteering in an inner city after-school program during my junior year, I decided to change my major to elementary education. I've served as an educator for 33 years – 8 as an elementary classroom teacher, and 25 as a school principal. I also served on the SEE North Board for 4 years. As an administrator, I enjoyed working with teams of teachers to revise the science curriculum, materials, and activities in three school districts.

My wife, Jeannette, and I enjoy outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and skiing. We appreciate the natural beauty of our area, and want to do what we can to protect it. One of the ways we can practice our responsibility for the stewardship of our natural resources is to support local efforts such as the Conservancy's Environmental Education Program, which helps young people learn about and appreciate our natural environment. We're fortunate at LTC to have excellent educators - Sarah Mayhew and Melissa Hansen - leading this effort.

In your years of working in public education, what are some observations you've made about how environmental education complements/fits in with regular classroom teaching?

Every day, we learn about people making good and not so good decisions that will impact the quality of our natural resources and our health for many years. So, environmental education is a critical component of every child's K-12 education. I believe every one of us needs a solid understanding of the interconnectedness of living things and the impact we make on our environment. With early education, children will grow into responsible adults who can make informed personal and professional decisions about issues large and small.

From a teacher's perspective, ensuring that students master environmental concepts is probably more difficult than instruction in other areas, since it demands a hands-on, investigative approach to learning. While classroom resources and discussion can offer some

information, students need to be able to use all of their senses in an "outdoor classroom" to truly learn and appreciate the beauty and fragile nature of plants, animals, and water resources.

Outdoor environmental science instruction is also the perfect vehicle for helping students to understand the scientific method through investigation. Opportunities to ask questions about the relationship between living things and their environment, make observations, and analyze cause and effect helps students develop critical thinking skills they can apply to many areas. This discovery approach to learning is something we're trying to incorporate in the lessons.

What do you believe are the most effective things LTC can do to remove barriers and encourage more educators to participate in environmental education opportunities?

It all boils down to time, money, and priorities. With decreasing revenue and increasing demands, schools and teachers are finding it more difficult to provide transportation to outdoor classes and allocate the time needed for hands-on, discovery-based environmental learning. LTC can help classroom teachers by sharing lesson ideas that can be carried out on the school site or at local natural areas, lending hard-to-come-by materials to classrooms, and by continuing to provide engaging, worthwhile lessons valued by teachers and students. The Conservancy can also help by ensuring that the LTC lessons directly support and enhance the curriculum goals for which each teacher is responsible, while continuing to assist with the cost of busing students to LTC sites. In addition, all of us – teachers, parents, and community members - need to make outdoor learning experiences a priority for our children.

You are currently helping LTC staff update their lesson plans. Can you explain what you are doing?

My most important goal in revising the LTC environmental education lessons, as requested by Sarah and Melissa, has been to "spice up" the LTC curriculum by creating separate lessons appropriate for each grade level, adding high-interest activities, and providing follow up lesson ideas for the classroom teacher to use with students. Questions and topics from the new science curriculum goals for each grade are also being added, and can be used as the curriculum is implemented locally by school districts.



Knee High



Junior Nats



Boyne Programs



Adventure Nats



More than 500 young people participated in an LTC Summer 2013 program. LTC partnered with Friends of the Boyne River (FOBR) for three sessions at the Boyne River Nature Area drawing sixty-one participants. The FOBR acquired grant funds to make the Boyne River Nature Area more accessible and user friendly including boardwalks to the river's edge. Thanks to Friends of the Boyne River, especially Nancy Cunningham, Ed and Diane Strzelinski, and Marie Sheets for working with us. A series of three programs were also offered at the The Hill Nature Preserve. Volunteers Cydney Steeb and Mary Trout assisted with The Hill Preserve programs.



Reflections...Tom Bailey

TOM LAGERSTROM

There are many unsung heroes who contribute to the work of the Conservancy, but I know of no one who has done more over a longer period of time than our Associate Director, Tom Lagerstrom. A self-described shy person, Tom shuns the spotlight and focuses his unique combination of talents on the business and financial affairs of the Little Traverse Conservancy. His contributions are monumental, his story is important and so needs to be told.

Tom came to the Conservancy before I did—hiring on in early 1984 as half-time Membership Coordinator for the Conservancy and half-time for the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council which shared our office building in those days. By the time I arrived later that year, he had already organized the membership rolls of the Conservancy and was working with our fund raising mentor Horace M. “Huffy” Huffman to expand membership. Huffy was on the boards of both organizations, and did a masterful job of developing membership programs for both. Tom was the perfect man for the job with his passion for conservation, a knack for what was then the emerging field of personal computer work, and an eye for detail that would make many accountants jealous.

As the Watershed Council grew, they created a full-time job for Tom and so the Conservancy lost him for a while. At the same time, however, the Colonial Point Forest project propelled the Conservancy into a greater level of activity, and I’ll never forget the day that Huffy came into my office, plopped down in a chair sprouting what I always thought of as his “sales” smile, and pronounced: “I know what you need.” The smile grew.

Wondering exactly where this was headed, I smiled back and said, “What’s that, Huffy,” and the reply was immediate: “You need Tom Lagerstrom.”

I readily agreed, pointing out, however, that Tom was no longer in the employ of LTC. “Well,” Huffy said with the smile taking on a somewhat mischievous look, “we’ll just have to make him an offer.”

And so, we did. Huffy raised the money, and I asked Tom for a meeting away from the office. We sat on a friend’s sailboat with a six-pack I had procured, talking about where the

Conservancy had been, where it seemed to be headed, and what Tom could do to help things along. We talked about his talents and the manner in which our respective interests and experience seemed to complement one another. Before long Tom had decided and the success of the Conservancy in building a bigger membership program, a new endowment fund and a healthy land protection fund was assured.

Tom never sought the spotlight—in fact, he shunned it—as he worked tirelessly to ensure that our work of land conservation, stewardship and education would flourish. Working with Huffy, who also brought our great mentor C.S. Winston, Jr. into the leadership of the program, Tom built an infrastructure that supported the top land trust membership program in the nation. The program received the Allen Morgan Award from the Land Trust Alliance in 1991, and an interesting footnote to that award was that for the following and future years, the rules were changed because it was obvious that otherwise, Tom’s program at Little Traverse Conservancy would be the winner every year.

While Tom’s contributions to the business operations of the Conservancy are enormous—as Chief Financial Officer, he oversees all the financial and fund raising work of the organization—he has done much more in the community. He was the founder of Recycle North, which evolved into the Emmet County Recycling program that has been recognized as outstanding in its field. He has long administered a men’s recreational hockey league, using his organizational skills to handling finances, scheduling, rosters and such. He currently serves on the board of the local Montessori School, as well. And when people come from other land conservancies across Michigan and nationwide, or from local non-profit groups interested in learning from his expertise and experience, Tom is always generous with his time and advice.

Tom Lagerstrom’s unique combination of talents in organization, accounting, finance computing, and data reporting, combined as they are with his deep dedication to the conservation of land and natural resources, has made him one of the greatest contributors to the success of the Little Traverse Conservancy and its work. This quiet man who loves the outdoors willingly spends hours at a time before a computer screen and hand-picking through lists of names and addresses in order to create the most accurate and productive mailing lists for our membership campaign. His patient style of sticking to tradition while incorporating technology and innovation in an evolutionary manner has kept our membership and fund raising programs moving forward in a measured, orderly fashion. His conservative fiscal perspective has kept our finances on solid ground, even as his willingness to stretch our dollars as far as possible has extended our reach and protected more than fifty thousand acres of natural land.

Tom doesn’t really like to speak before crowds at our meetings; he tends to stay in the back row when pictures are taken; and he goes out of his way to avoid news headlines rather than to make them. But as he closes in on three decades of service to conservation, Tom Lagerstrom stands out as one of the most accomplished professionals in land conservation, and one of the greatest unsung heroes in the history of our Little Traverse Conservancy.

Thank you, Tom, for your service, your dedication, and your expertise.



Most Conservancy field trips are offered at no charge. However, space is limited and pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991.

**Harvest Moon Program with Mary Stewart Adams
Martha Curtis, Emmet Co.**

Wednesday, September 18, 6:30-9pm

Spend an evening with Star Lore Historian Mary Stewart Adams at this in-town Petoskey preserve. Arrive by 6:45 to watch the Moonrise before the sun sets over Little Traverse Bay; participants will be challenged to see who is first to catch the Moon! Mary will share stories with the group and guide us through the night sky as it appears. Moonrise 7:07pm, followed by sunset at 7:46 pm (allowing for nearly 40 minutes of both lights over the horizon). Please bring a comfortable chair or blanket to sit on and appropriate clothing to stay warm. Warm refreshments will be provided. Rain date to be scheduled if necessary.

**Kestrel Nest Box Monitor Review/Info Session and Training
LTC Office - 3264 Powell Road**

Wednesday, Sept 18, 5:30-7:30pm

If you are a current Volunteer Kestrel Nest Box monitor or would like to learn more about the program, join us for a refresher course and info session on how to be part of this national citizen science effort to collect data on declining American Kestrel populations. We will be reviewing and uploading your observations to the online database, sharing your experiences, and discussing better ways to effectively participate in the Kestrel Monitoring Program. All current monitors are highly encouraged to attend this training/info session.

**Fall Color Bike Tour - Emmet County Nature Preserves
Friday, September 27, 3-5pm**

Enjoy a ride while leaves are changing color along the new Petoskey to Mackinac Trail on the Little Traverse Wheelway from Spring Lake Park to the Inland Waterway Preserve in Alanson (14 miles total). The Trail passes seven nature preserves or LTC assist projects, some of which do not have trails, but protect wetland habitat. We will take a short hike at Spring Lake Park and the Inland Waterway Preserve to explore the natural world in our back yard. Please bring your bike, good walking footwear and a water bottle for your bike.

**Knee High Naturalist Program: Nutty for Squirrels!
Round Lake Preserve, Emmet Co.**

Saturday, September 28, 10-11am

Bring your 3-5 year old children to explore the world of squirrels and how they prepare for winter. They'll hear a story about a busy squirrel, learn about the different squirrels in northern Michigan, sing some squirrely songs, do some fun activities on the preserve and make a craft to take home. The program and activities are designed for 3-5 year olds, but siblings are welcome to come along.

Tree Identification Hike

Taylor Horton Creek, Charlevoix Co.

Saturday, October 5, 10-noon

LTC staffer Mike Lynch will lead a hike through these newly expanded trails along the creek, 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.

**Cranberry Picking at Vermilion Point
Vermilion Point Nature Preserve, Chippewa Co.**

Saturday, October 5, 11am-2pm

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. If you choose, there is an opportunity to stay overnight in the historic life-saving station on Friday, October 4, but reservations are required when you register for the field trip.

**Fall Color Bike Tour - Cheboygan County Nature Preserves
Saturday, October 12, 1-4pm**

A unique opportunity to bike ride the new Burt Lake Trail and hike LTC nature preserves with a guide, and in the peak fall color season. Our bike ride will begin at Maple Bay and go to Carp Creek and then return by the same route (11 miles total). The Burt Lake Trail winds through the Chaboiganing Preserve and near UMBS's Colonial Point Memorial Forest, so we will explore these protected properties by foot and view the old growth oak forests there. Participants will also have a chance to hike along Carp Creek on Biological Station property. Please bring your bike, good hiking footwear and a water bottle for your bike.

Yoga in Nature

Braun Nature Preserve, Cheboygan Co.

Saturday, October 19, 10-noon

Enjoy a hike and then practice 1 hour of yoga with certified yoga teacher and LTC Volunteer Coordinator, Cacia Lesh. Yoga can help you connect with your inner self, relieve stress, and energize you. Practicing yoga in the outdoors allows you to connect with your natural surroundings in addition to gently stretching the body with movement. Children must be accompanied by an adult; all other ages and abilities welcome. Please bring a yoga mat or towel, water, and wear appropriate clothing to both hike and practice yoga.

**Birding by the Seasons for Families
Offield Nature Preserve, Emmet Co.**

Saturday, October 19, 10-noon

Explore the world of birds with local bird enthusiast Mary Trout. Learn about fall migration and birds' most distinguishing feature – feathers. Find out what bird your "wing" span compares to, and hike through the beautiful Offield Preserve in search of northern Michigan's creatures of feathered flight. Finish this fun outing by making an owl mask to take home. Field guides and binoculars will be available for use during the program, but please bring your own if you have them.

"The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely, or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature, and God."

— Anne Frank

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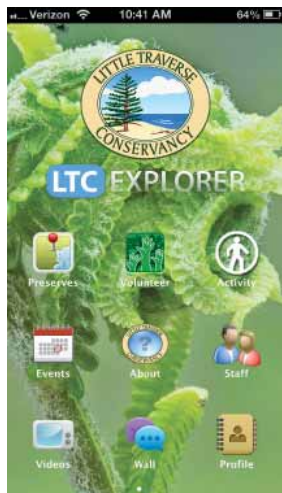
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Little Traverse Conservancy, Inc.

3264 Powell Road

Harbor Springs, MI 49740-9469

231.347.0991

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We're on Facebook and now Instagram, too!

Kids for Conservation!

Clockwise from right: Nadia Cain of Washington, D.C. (granddaughter of LTC Trustee Nadine Cain) gave out LTC preserve maps at her lemonade stand during the 2013 Boat Show in Cedarville.

Charlie Kost raised \$166 for LTC by selling snow cones at the Menonaqua Beach this past summer.

Four-year-old Daniel Dawley carries shims to the workers building new boardwalk at the Darnton Family Nature Preserve at one of several August work days.

