



Fall 2014
Vol. 36 No. 3
www.landtrust.org

Converging Efforts

THE LAND - THE WATER - THE TRAILS

Round Lake, the Fochtman Preserve and the North Western State Trail are all shown in this drone photo.

What started out as a unique way to commemorate a birthday for a local conservation champion evolved into a celebration and fundraiser highlighting the exceptional efforts made in recent decades to protect the land, water, and trails of northern Michigan.

Last year, Lisa Loyd began talking with three local conservation organizations about her desire to somehow celebrate what would have been the 100th birthday of her father, the late Horace "Huffy" Huffman. Inspired by his love for northwestern lower Michigan, Huffy devoted much of his retired life to establishing and growing Little Traverse Conservancy, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, and Top of Michigan Trails Council. He is given large credit for helping each of these organizations build solid foundations.

On Saturday, August 9, more than 50 friends and family members gathered the day after Huffy's birth date to celebrate all that has happened and continues to happen to protect and appreciate the treasured natural assets of our region. The group gathered at a newly-completed viewing platform located on the Conservancy's Fochtman Nature Preserve. The preserve is bisected by Top of Michigan Trail Council's newly paved North Western State Trail, and is along the shores of Round Lake, whose waters have been monitored for decades by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Some participants walked, some arrived by bike, and another group paddled their way to the overlook from the

Round Lake boat launch.

"To me, this location represents the perfect confluence of so many things that my dad and all of us cherish," Loyd said. "The protected land of the Fochtman Preserve, the sparkling waters of Round Lake, this new trail, and in the background, the hills of Menomqua Woods and our family's summer homes."

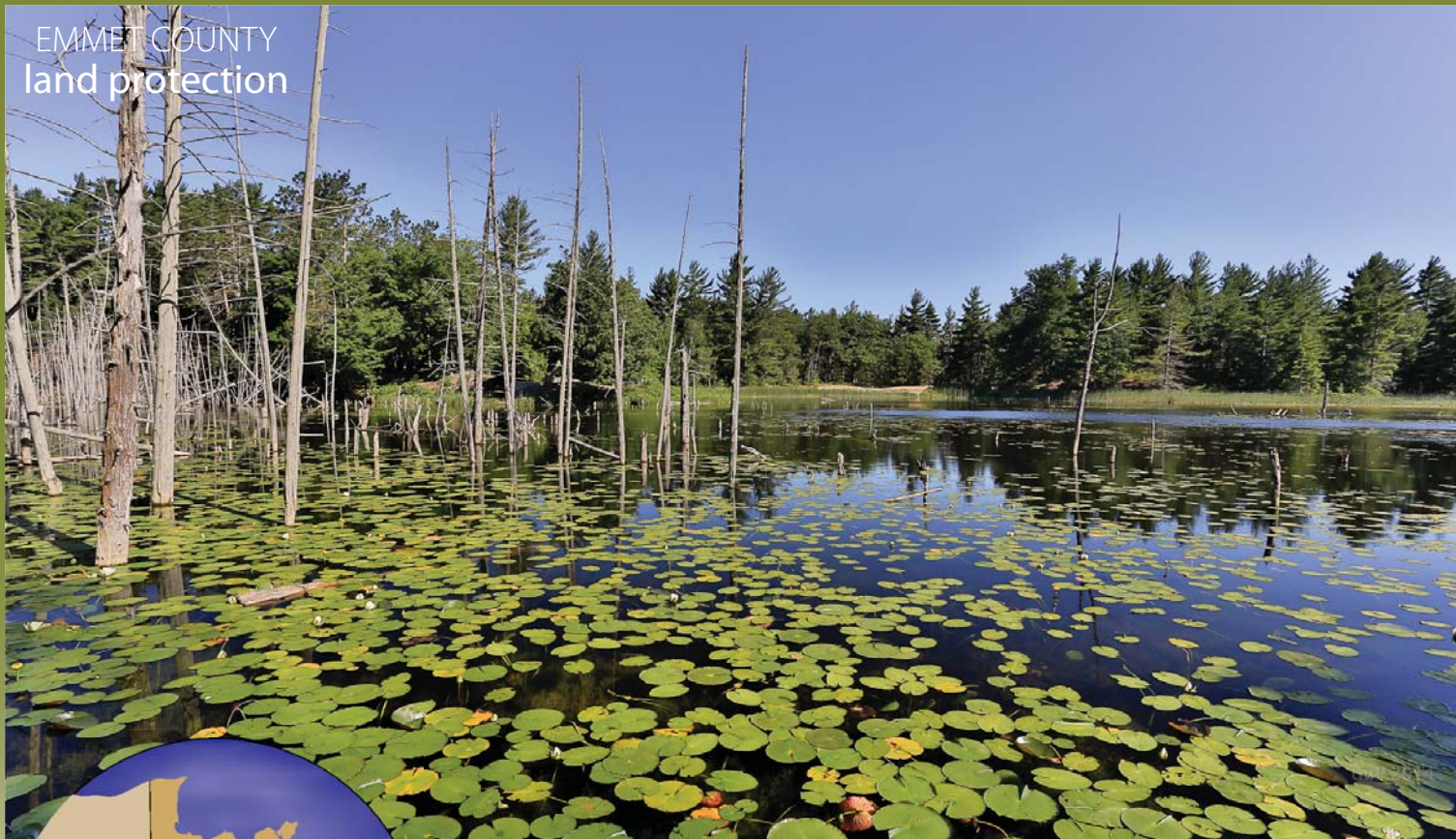
A commemorative four-paneled sign was unveiled at the event with one panel about Huffy and the other three panels describing the mission and work of the three organizations.

The executive directors from all three organizations were on hand to speak at the event along with David Jones, executive director of the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation. A grant through the foundation helped pay for the new overlook platform and an interpretive sign.

"This event and the fundraiser gave us all an opportunity to reflect and be grateful for the many good things that have happened since these organizations have come about," said LTC executive director Tom Bailey.

Through a special invitation-based fundraiser, Loyd and her family offered the opportunity to purchase candles for a birthday cake, with all proceeds benefitting the three organizations. More than 120 donations were made raising a total of \$12,450 distributed among the organizations.





TMPetersen



The new Ralph and Ursula Compton Nature Preserve

Like many who have spent their childhoods in northern Michigan, Mike Compton grew up with outdoor traditions that have continued into adulthood. Each season holds certain rituals

that mark the changing scenery and the way of life “up north.” For Compton and his family, the area around O’Neal Lake had become an annual destination for harvesting blueberries or wild mushrooms.

When the opportunity came to purchase a lakeside parcel in 2003, he took it. “I’ve always loved it up there,” Compton said. “It is adjacent to Wilderness State Park with all of the trails and areas to explore.” Located at the southeast end of the park, O’Neal Lake is roughly 130 acres and drains through Big Sucker Creek into Sturgeon Bay, Lake Michigan. It is a popular local destination for fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and even recently, stand-up paddleboarding. Animals that Compton has regularly observed over the years include Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Beaver, and Northern Water Snake. “I was once told that this lake holds the largest known population of the snake in Michigan,” he added. An osprey platform was placed at the southeast end of the lake many years ago and this past August, two young were seen calling to their

mother, who quickly returned to ensure no harm was done. Loons are often seen on the lake, and Compton notes they are sensitive to disturbance and have the best chance of successfully nesting when left alone.

Local lore states that a sawmill once existed along O’Neal Lake, and - based on the large volume of garbage removed over the years - it is quite certain a homestead once sat on the preserve land.

This past year, Compton approached the Conservancy about receiving the land as a donated nature preserve. “I really like the idea of this land being available for all to enjoy,” he said. “It feels like the right thing to do with it.”

Land Protection Specialist Caitlin Donnelly noted how desirable it is to protect the land. “With its proximity to Wilderness and the watershed protection, this is a priority parcel to hold as a preserve,” Donnelly explained. She also said that staff will be exploring possibilities for conducting lake-based field trips from the preserve next summer.

The preserve is named after Compton’s parents, Ralph and Ursula. Conservancy staff plan to place a sign so that it is visible from the lake.



Rodney Campbell

SAVE THE TREES 2014



RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR SAVE THE TREES!

Thanks to all of those supporters mentioned below as well as the 225 people who joined us at this year's Save the Trees, we broke a fundraising record this year of nearly \$50,000! All proceeds go into LTC's land protection fund.



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Walstrom Marine



NEW Program-To-Go

Conservancy education staff have made their popular 'Dirt Makers' program available in a "To-Go" form. Designed for teachers who feel confident conducting this program without an LTC naturalist present on your school yard or natural space, this kit is filled with everything you'll need! *Supplies include:* Teacher's Guide, log worksheet, magnifiers, collecting jars, identification guide, pencils, books and clipboards. Give us a call at 231.347.0991 for more information.



To better meet the needs of teachers and changing standards in curriculum, LTC staff has spent the last year working with Dale Lewis, retired elementary principal and LTC education committee member. Dale has been refining LTC education programs to better reflect the Next Generation Science Standards. NGSS correlations with each of LTC's programs are now available online at the education section of our web site: www.landtrust.org.

program praise

"The Nature Photography program has been a part of my curriculum for the past two years. It has allowed my students to appreciate nature and has also created an environment for students to develop a passion for something that they normally would not do on their own. Sarah Mayhew's knowledge of photography makes it an enjoyable learning environment and her passion for teaching is evident in the way she interacts with students."

"Photography allows my students to view objects from a different perspective. This last school year I used their personal photos to demonstrate looking at objects from different points of view. I was able to transfer their newly-learned knowledge of perception into all of the other core subjects taught at St. Francis. As a teacher I believe it is important to create personal connections for students to succeed. LTC has created a teaching platform through the Nature Photography program that allows me to create positive and personal learning situations through classical education." - Jeff Sulitis, St. Francis 5th grade



FALL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

September 16-October 29

Animal Home Discoveries (PreK)
To Be a Tree (PreK)
Falling for Leaves (K-1)
Sharpening the Senses (K-1)
Healthy Habitats (1-3)

Buggin' Out (1-3)
Everybody Eats (1-3)
Purely Plants (3-4)
Dirt Makers (3-5)
Orienteering (6-12) *Fall & Spring

Year-Round Programs (Fall through Spring)

Intro to Nature Photography (grades 5 and up)
Eco Journaling (grades 5 and up)
Intro to Wilderness Survival (grades 6 and up)

For full program details, visit www.landtrust.org
To register for a program, call 231.347.0991 and ask for Sarah or Melissa.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Our summer environmental education programs were again offered for three age groups with the knee-high programs the most popular once again.

Adventure Naturalists: Mountain Bike at Offield



Junior Naturalists: Into the Wild



Adventure Naturalists: Skyline Trail Hike



Junior Naturalists: Nature Art



Knee-High Naturalists: 'Bout Birds



Knee-High Naturalists: Fairy & Gnome Houses



artwork by Anna DeCamp

Conservation of Working Lands

by Greta Jankoviak, LTC AmeriCorps Stewardship Technician

When you think of land conservation, what comes to mind? Do you visualize scenic vistas encompassing trees and lakes? Or rivers and wetlands with migratory birds? But what about open fields with hay bales or pine plantations? As part of the mission of Little Traverse Conservancy, not only are the staff and volunteers working to protect the natural and scenic character of northern Michigan, they are also protecting the working lands in the area. What are these working lands, you may ask? They consist of sustainable forest reserves or agricultural land used for crop production or livestock grazing. As a native to northern Michigan, I understand that LTC protects scenic lands, but I never realized, specifically, they also help protect and sustain timber production.

It was my second day of service as the new AmeriCorps member for LTC and the plan was to scout out potential donation properties on Sugar Island with other staff. Before leaving, I was familiarized with the properties and learned that one condition is that they remain in the Commercial Forest (CF) program. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the CF program “provides a significant property tax reduction to private landowners as an incentive to retain and manage their forest land for long-term timber production in support of the state’s forest products industry.” So as we’re driving through the Upper Peninsula, my eagerness at a high, I thought to myself, “Why would a land conservancy acquire commercial forest properties?”

Here is what I have learned. The Commercial Forest program isn’t new to Little Traverse Conservancy. There are already four nature preserves, including the Offield Preserve, enrolled in the CF program along with 10 other preserves with pine plantations. Some of these preserves remain active in timber management in order to uphold the donor’s wishes, whereas others are managed in order to remove exotic pine, such as Scotch or Austrian, or to

convert pine plantations to a more naturally occurring forest stand.

However, being enrolled in the CF program comes at a cost, as there is a monetary withdrawal penalty and three requirements: allow public access for hunting, fishing, and trapping; maintain an active timber management plan by a professional forester on file; and harvest trees when needed. On the other hand, some of the benefits of sustainable timber management include: suppressing disease or pest infestations, enhancing biodiversity, controlling wildfires and creating an overall healthy forest ecosystem.

With this in mind, LTC has been given the opportunity to acquire more than 1,000 acres of land subject to timber management as per the donor’s requests. With these lands, according to Director of Land Protection and Stewardship Kieran Fleming, LTC tentatively proposes a new category of protected lands called “Working Forest Reserves” for the “purpose of protecting working forest lands and promoting sustainable forest management in perpetuity.” Not only will LTC be able to generate revenue for future resources and land projects, but also look at this as an opportunity to educate the public on sustainable forest management and contribute to the local economy. In the end, LTC will never enroll a nature preserve into something it’s not and will protect old growth forests and manage new growth for future generations.

Statistics say nearly 26 million acres of forests are projected to be developed by 2030. Instead of losing more forests to development, Little Traverse Conservancy has the chance to protect additional working land and will be committed to implementing healthy forest management in its service area for the public’s benefit.

The Offield Preserve (left) is one of LTC’s preserves enrolled in the Commercial Forest program. Other working farms such as the Warner Farm (above) are protected with conservation easements through the Conservancy.



2014 Black Hole Kestrels

Story and photos submitted by Kestrel monitor Lynn Walters-Fraze, (Black Hole Preserve, Emmet County)

Last October when the LTC asked if I would be willing to be a monitor for the American Kestrel Project I had no idea what to expect. Jim and Wendy Bean came out to install the nest box in the Black Hole Preserve just west of my farmland. Then we experienced a winter with record snowfall and unusually cold temperatures. On April 13, 2014 I thought I saw one Kestrel fly by the nesting box and the following day a pair of Sandhill Cranes mated by the windmill atop my hill. I had been reading the American Kestrel website about pairs nesting and my concerns were growing as there appeared to be no activity around my box. Then on Sunday, April 20, I noticed cedar shavings on the ground and thought I heard scratching noises inside the box. I did not lower the box to check inside, but feared that perhaps it was some rodent or some other bird in the box. Then as fate would have it, I was called out of town for two weeks.

On Mother's Day (May 11), I lowered the Kestrel Box LTC032 and opened it for the first time to find one egg. I was so excited that I emailed Jim and Wendy immediately. They explained that the mother Kestrel might lay up to 6 eggs, but that it takes two days for her to lay each egg. Jim suggested I wait a full two weeks before opening the box again to make sure not to scare off the mother before all her eggs were laid: "Once she is incubating the eggs, the mother bird will not abandon the nest," he said. This advice paid handsomely. To my delight, there were five Kestrel eggs in the box when I opened it on May 25. I waited another two weeks before opening the box again. But on Sunday, June 8, still no eggs had hatched even though my calculations were that it had been 28 days since the first egg had been laid. Throughout the process, I regularly communicated with Jim and Wendy and researched the website to learn about the incubation and fledging.

Finally, on June 15, when the box was lowered and the mother flew out of the nest, I opened it to find both eggs and chicks. The chicks were so fluffy and huddled so closely that I could not be sure if there were three or four. I could see one egg, but if there was another, it must be hidden beneath the ball of fluff. A week later when I lowered the box, I was worried because I did not see the mother dart out. This time there were clearly five fuzzy chicks. Mother must have been hunting as they all appeared quite healthy. Monitoring the Kestrels made me a better all-around bird watcher. For example, I began to notice that every time the Killdeer climbed on top of my mulch pile and screamed alarms, the Kestrels were usually hunting from atop my windmill. It made my life as a photographer much easier once I began to learn and observe different birding behaviors.

On June 29 at 1:30 pm, shortly after a thunderstorm, I spied the mother atop my windmill. The five babies had grown considerably and were beginning to lose their fuzzy down feathers. The following Sunday, the five babies appeared to be almost fully grown. However, with the exception of one male who stood alert staring at me from the rear of the box, the others appeared lifeless lying on the cedar shavings, not making a sound. Concerned that there was something wrong, I emailed Jim and he explained that the babies were now used to the routine of me lowering the box and "simply hunkered down as soon as they felt the box move." The babies were so large at this

point, they barely fit inside the box, so I was careful to only open the door part way to take my photo out of fear one might fall out. Jim explained that the first babies should fledge the following week, so it would not be necessary to lower the box any more. The following Thursday, Jim and Wendy kindly drove all the way to my house to loan me a portable camouflage netting blind so I could get closer to the box to photograph the fledglings. Their parting words were, "You are going to have a very exciting next couple of weeks." And they were right.

Fortunately, when Jim and Wendy installed the nest last fall, we picked a spot I could observe with binoculars from inside my home. At fledging time this became a major advantage. I began to notice the fledges peeking out of the hole in the box as the adults in a nearby tree called to them constantly to "fly the coop." With the blind, I was able to creep to within a hundred feet of the nest and sit for hours beneath the shade of a large tree observing up close. That was the week of the Super Full Moon, and the first time, I noticed an Eastern Kingfisher chasing the mother Kestrel. I began spending several hours a day watching the Kestrels, but never was fortunate enough to see one of the fledglings actually fly out of the box. All of a sudden, it seemed there were Kestrels everywhere in the treetops, on every rung of the windmill, in the grasses of the lower fields, on electric wires, and even on top of my silo.

Then on July 18 at about 7 pm, through the long glinting rays of the sun, I noticed one of the fledglings sitting on top of the nesting box. Without the aid of the netting, I simply walked across my field toward the windmill and down the hillside all the while veering slightly north to get the sun to my back to get more than a silhouette photograph. I was able to approach within 50 feet of the box, and the male fledgling watched my every move, but did not fly away. He even turned around so that his tail was flat on top of the box so it appeared as if he was reclining in an easy chair. His sister, who had been perched next to him, had darted away from the box as soon as

I left my house, confirming her incredible eyesight at great distances.

Over the next week, I noticed this one lone male fledgling was the only one who would allow me to approach without flying away. It dawned on me that perhaps he was the first one born, the first to open his eyes, and the one who stood staring at me each time I opened the box. My theory is that "the big eye" of my camera lens and I accidentally imprinted on this baby Kestrel, so naturally I have chosen to personify him by naming him "Mikey" after the Life cereal child of the 1970s.

The mother Kestrel has expanded her territory out of the preserve, across the road, and into the woods to the east and daily calls the fledglings to follow. Now they perch atop the trees right next to my house and hunt in the fields 50 feet outside my door. Almost every afternoon around 1pm without fail, I am distracted from computer work by loud chattering signaling that the five siblings have successfully killed another mouse or vole. My camera sits ready on the chair and my screen door remains open in the event I am lucky enough to photograph their group celebration in the field before the one with the prize flies off.

They are full of childhood glee and I have watched them play "king of the mountain" on top of my mulch piles. On windy days, there is nothing lazy about their circles in the sky but rather they have made a racetrack from tree to tree on the perimeter of my farm and they are exciting and beautiful to watch.





On the way to monitor the Cain's Creek Swamp Preserve in Cheboygan County.

High school-aged interns from New York who were part of The Nature Conservancy's LEAF (Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future) program helped LTC staff build trails at the Leopold Preserve on Marquette Island this past July.

The new overlook platform and signs at the Fochtman Preserve overlooking Round Lake. All construction of this boardwalk was donated by Evening Star Joinery and materials were partially funded with a grant from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation.



Cameron Stewart and his uncle Ryan Paquette completed a bench now placed at the Raunecker Preserve complex as part of fulfilling service requirements at Cameron's school.

Summer Stewardship Snippets

A sample of the multitude of projects that have occurred at a variety of LTC preserves this summer.

"I've been meaning to tell you how nice the overlook platform and sign look at Round Lake. Thanks for mentioning Loonwatch and the great information on the Round Lake loons. I ride by there almost every day and it's a great spot to take a rest and look over the lake. Really nice job."

- Jeff Lange, Loonwatch Coordinator



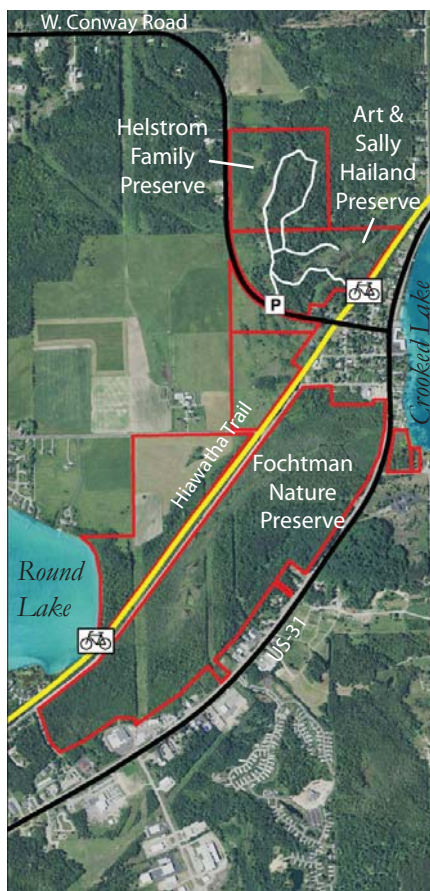
AmeriCorps Stewardship Technician Greta Jankoviak demonstrates the girth of a huge red oak at the Clyde and Martha Williams Preserve on Drummond Island.

Girl Scout Troop #04199 donated a bench that now resides at the Susan Creek Nature Preserve (bench and Troop shown below).





The map to right shows the locations of the two new platforms along the North Western State Trail. See side bar to right for the photo story of the construction of the Hailand platform.



Preserve monitor Dan Relitz assembled this Leopold bench and placed it just off of the trail at the William B. Derby Nature Preserve. See page 13 for more information about the Leopold Bench.



LTC staff placed staired platforms at the Bubbling Springs Preserve to allow use of the trails through wet areas.



Group Efforts Yield Trail Assets

NEW OVERLOOK, RAMP, & BOARDWALK AT HAILAND PRESERVE

Thanks to the added efforts of several volunteers including Eagle Scout candidate Zach Hunt and members of his troop (see p. 11), a new overlook deck now invites users of the North Western State Trail to take a rest and hike onto new boardwalk into the Hailand Preserve. Beautiful new assets for trail and preserve!



Setting the footings



Building the base



Invitation from the trail



Park your bike and come in for a hike!



Charlevoix County/Cathy Osterbeck

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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, 2014 to August 20, 2014.

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thank you

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- Gary Osterbeck and Todd Petersen for donated photography and video work.
- Ginny Cole, Mary Trout, and Dale Lewis for help with education programs this summer.
- Evening Star Joinery (Jeff Ford and staff, Drew Bartlett, Russ Capaldi, Kevin Hammond) for donated labor constructing the overlook deck at the Fochtman Preserve.
- Harbor Springs Excavating for donating sand and gravel for both the Fochtman and Hailand preserve platforms.
- Super M Excavating for removing a stump at the Fochtman Preserve.
- Jeff Leinicke, Paul Vanklaveren, Reid Goble, Larry Marvin, and Susan Marvin for hauling in wood for boardwalk at the Hailand and Helstrom preserves.
- Zach Hunt and his scout friends Sam Bailey and Brandon Goldsmith for work at Hailand overlook. And thank you to Libby Kirk, Zac Luhellier, and Camden Smith for additional help.
- Kestrel Box coordinators and volunteers.
- Al Moberly for removing blind at Cain's Creek Swamp.
- Girl Scout Troop #04199 for new bench at Susan Creek Preserve.
- Community field trip leaders Mary Trout, Eric Hemenway, Debbie Hindle, Kenn Ross, Mary Stewart Adams, Jessie Hadley and Woods and Water Ecotours, Jennifer Eis, Don Ward, and Marilynn Smith.
- Emmanuel Episcopal Training Leaders in Christ volunteers who

- completed many tasks at the Rogers Family Homestead Preserve: Bow Rudolph, Reid Goble, Jimmie DeCamp, Abby Armstrong, Ellen Audia, Reilly Ingleson, Claire Audia, Erich Ankle, A. Papkey, Spencer Goodrich, Taylor Brown, Tony Audia, and Fr. Greg Brown.
- Mary and Don Trout for help with view clearing at The Hill.
- Eastern Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management, Mike and Chris Grant, and Ron Oesterreicher for help with Knapweed Pull at Vermilion Point Preserve.
- Emily Johnson, Julia Temple, Xica Felix, Tajeira Bonner, Heidi Fehr, Magda Zackiewicz, D'zyre Chambers, and Rachel Anderson from The Nature Conservancy's LEAF program who helped with trail work at the Aldo Leopold work on Marquette Island.
- Cameron Stewart for boardwalk work and bench at Raunecker and clearing the ditch at Roaring Brook.
- Connor Ingleson for Eagle Scout project at Bubbling Springs.
- Glen Mathews for ecological inventory at Martha Curtis Preserve.
- Pam Grassmick for use of her truck by our staff on Beaver Island.
- Matt McDonough for allowing staff to stay in his cabin on Beaver Island.
- Bonnie Mikkelsen and Tim DeWick for transporting staff to Marquette Island and letting them stay at Windswept.
- Bill Hodges, Bret Huntman, and Doug Fuller for continued work at the Meadowgate Preserve.
- Ben Musielak for going above and beyond the call of duty with his work at the Vermilion Point Preserve.

Donors to Huff's 100th Birthday Celebration

In celebration of what would have been her father's 100th birthday, Lisa Loyd and her family conducted a special fundraising campaign for LTC, Tip of Mitt Watershed Council, and Top of Michigan Trails Council (see cover story).

Joseph W. and Jennie Lou Amy
William Anton
Tom Bailey
Steve and Kathy Biggs
Diane and Bruce Burnett
Brooke Courtade
David and Teresa Crouse
Jim and Marilyn Cusenza
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Jeff, Elsa, and Jonathan Shrader
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John and Mary Lou Tanton
Mary Jo Truog and Family
Michael and Mary Ann Van Lokeren
Ron and Jan VandenBrink
Sally and Sheldon Veil
Steve and Connie Vorenkamp
John and Anna Young

Wish List

- Dump trailer
- Waders
- Funding to purchase replacement cameras for Nature Photography program (estimated \$130 per camera/5 cameras desired).
- Funding to construct two benches at the Art & Sally Hailand Preserve (provides an opportunity to dedicate bench to an individual).



Dark Sky Park Director Mary Stewart Adams preparing for a night sky watching program at the Elmer Johnston Preserve near Goodhart.

Memorials

The following gifts were given between May 27 to August 20, 2014.

Jane Marie Bailey

David and Ruth Ann Keefer

Christine Bommarito

Woman's National Farm & Garden Assoc.

Myles Borgen

Ms. Carole A. Erbel
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. McGreevy

Marty Brennan

Mr. and Mrs. John Day Jr.

Larry Buhl

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Mrs. Jean I. Everest
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Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger
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Mr. and Mrs. Tony and Carole Musarra

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Bernard Costello

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Mrs. John W. Fischer
Joan Keller
Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger

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Robert B. Dick, PhD

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Mr. Bruce T. Flack

Ludmilla Spacs

East Burt Lake Association

Herb and Peggy Stockham

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Mrs. William Barnes III
Ms. Diane Curtis
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Townsend Driggs
Mrs. Mary Driggs

Hampden Swift

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Hightower

James Vosper

John and Suzette Sanborn

Dr. Edward G. Voss

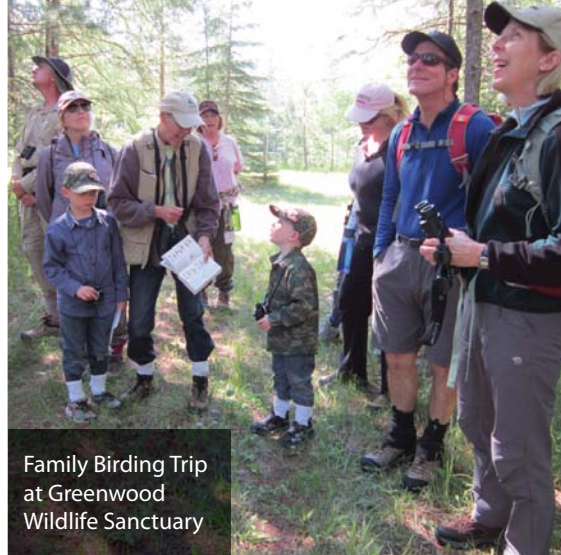
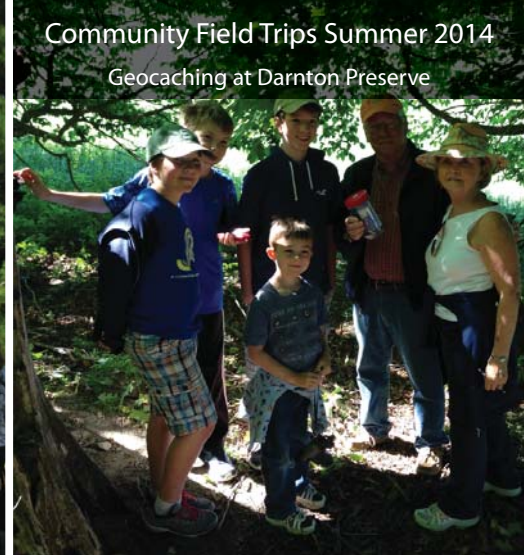
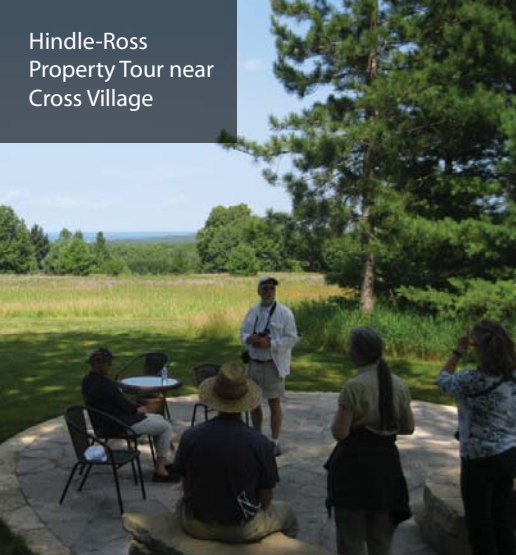
Dr. Lynn Elfner

Jack Waldron

Ms. Gail G. Cole

Shirle Westwater

Mrs. Mary Driggs
Mrs. Joan F. Smith
Marilyn and Emmet Tracy



Family Birding Trip
at Greenwood
Wildlife Sanctuary

Honorariums

Gretchen Bearce

Bob and Elaine Carlson

Jonathan Friendly's milestone birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Goldblatt

Tony and Amie James

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas A. Warner III

Shannon Nolan's birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West

Michael VanLokeren's birthday

Bunny and Hord Armstrong

Lisa and Jimmy Dobbs

Kenneth R. Wilson's birthday

Colleen Wilson

Martin Zofchak

The Krieger Family

EARLY SHOPPING

HOLIDAY IDEAS!

The Les Cheneaux Historical Association &

Les Cheneaux Watershed Council

partnered to build replicas of The Leopold Bench to celebrate the Aldo Leopold Park and Preserve on Marquette Island.

906.484.2821

www.lchistorical.org



THE LEOPOLD BENCH

CORRECTIONS

The new butterfly exhibit at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve is a beautiful addition to the nature center. This exhibit was created with funding from the Frey Foundation in memory of Barbara Caroline Frey. The display is one more reason of many to take a trip to Thorne Swift this fall.

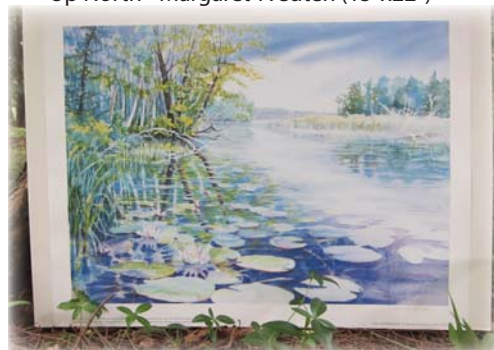
Richner & Richner, LLC was mistakenly omitted from the Benefactors section of the Annual Report.

Mrs. William G. Rupp was mistakenly omitted from our Friends and Benefactors roster.

Our apologies for the errors.



Up North - Margaret Tvedten (15"x22")



Crooked/Pickerel Channel- Jan VandenBrink (14"x19")

LOCAL ARTISTS' PRINTS FOR SALE

We currently have copies of these three prints available for purchase through the LTC office at a cost of \$30 each with an additional charge for shipping. Please call our office at 231.347.0991 for more details.



Little Traverse Woodlands - Mary Hramiec-Hoffman (19"x12.5")

Reflections

...Tom Bailey

Communicating Across Two Centuries

Welcome to the 21st century, where it's not unusual to be in a meeting, concert, or even church when the proceedings are interrupted by a crazy song playing loudly on a cell phone which an embarrassed owner forgot to switch to the "silent" mode. We e-mail, we text, and we tweet; we Skype, Facebook, Instagram and Google. We pay our bills through the ether, get sports scores instantaneously on our "mobile devices," and move from desktop to laptop to tablet to one of those wrist things that I don't even know what to call. Newspapers are dying in droves, and for many people, paper is largely a thing of the past. It's all done "on line," and there's no need for anything but a variety of screens.

Except for some of us. Confession time: in my heart I'm really techno-Amish. I love the feel of a good book in my hand, and if it's an old book, so much the better. "e-newsletters" don't thrill me but I really enjoy the experience of literally unfolding a nicely printed publication on good paper with interesting photos awaiting on the next page. Turning pages beats "scrolling" for me every time. Yes, I use computers and yes, I have an iPhone. And yes, I'll admit that the darned things come in awfully handy for a number of tasks. But as one who loves the feel of a book in hand, the ability to scan through a newspaper and the warmth of personal communication, I still like a lot of my communication to unfold the old-fashioned way.

My son laughs at me. On a road trip while I'm trying to recall the words to an old song, he's grabbing his smart phone and getting the lyrics downloaded before I can remember the opening line to the second verse. It wouldn't have occurred to me to consult my phone about such things. He has grown up with technology, and it comes as second nature to him.

But whether your preferences run more along the lines of his generation or mine, at Little Traverse Conservancy, we're doing our best to accommodate everyone's preferences from Old Guys like me to the most die-hard technophile. We're on Facebook and Twitter; our website is refreshed often, and we send e-mail "blasts" to anyone who enjoys receiving them. Our newsletter is available on-line, and our smart phone app gives one instant access to maps and driving directions for our preserves, information about trails, and even the ability to contact us about an interesting wildlife sighting or a tree down across the trail.

I draw a lot of snickers and smiles from Conservancy staff members when I haul out my dog-eared, worn-out,



LTC Executive Director Tom Bailey speaks at the Huff 100 Celebration showing off a new interpretive sign that stands along the North Western Trail (see cover story).

falling-apart, 35-year-old Mapbook of Michigan Counties when discussing a potential conservation project. And when information is sent to me attached to an e-mail, if I'm serious about it I'll print it and draw those same smiles again when I say that I print it "so I can read it." The laughs don't bother me at all. "Hey," I say, "laugh all you want. I'm old and I admit it – there were only 48 stars on Old Glory when I was born!"

Well. Setting aside the discussions in our office, I am happy to report that even our young staff members enjoy producing, along with all of our electronic technocommunications, a classy and well-written newsletter that you can hold in your hand. (Yes! It actually comes off a printing press and arrives in the mail!!) Our annual report is still produced on paper as well as on line. And to complement our smart phone app and web site, we still produce a guide to our nature preserves which is printed on paper, requires no electricity to read, and even gives you a number of options to consider when deciding how to fold it up!

With all jesting aside, I'll wrap up by saying that I'm proud of the Conservancy's communications of both the 20th and 21st century varieties. Our staff members, and in particular Communications Coordinator Anne Fleming, deserve hearty congratulations for producing great publications in print and first-rate products on our website, e-blasts, Facebook and Twitter.

Land conservation is timeless. But as times change, land conservancies adapt and evolve just as our natural systems do. As a learning, growing organization, your Little Traverse Conservancy is working hard to stay in touch with you no matter how you like to get your news and information.



Autumn 2014

COMMUNITY FIELD TRIPS

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. - Albert Camus

No charge for these programs, but pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991 or online at www.landtrust.org.

Berry Picking and Jam Making

Ransom Nature Preserve, Charlevoix County

Friday, September 19 2 pm

LTC staff member Charles Dawley will share his tricks of harvesting and "stocking up" during this afternoon session of picking and producing. Bring buckets and clothing you don't mind getting stained. Leave with a pint of berry jam!

Fall 2014 Family Birding & Nature Field Trip

Wisser-Saworski Preserve, Charlevoix County

Saturday, October 4 10-11:30 a.m.

It will soon be moving time for many of our feathered friends and time for deciduous trees to display their autumn splendor. Join Conservancy volunteer Mary Trout and explore the forest of the Wisser-Saworski Nature Preserve while looking for migrating birds and learning about fall foliage. Make and take a nature mobile as a memento of the season. Binoculars provided, but bring your own if you have them. The Wisser-Saworski Preserve is located just outside of Boyne Falls near Boyne Mountain Resort.

Tour the New Fochtman and Hailand Preserve Platforms

North Western State Trail, Emmet County

Friday, October 10 2 pm

Come for a leisurely bike ride along the paved trail leading from Spring Lake Park to just north of Oden. We will first be stopping at the new Fochtman Preserve/Round Lake platform overlook. A few miles to the north, we will stop at the Hailand Preserve platform and hike the trails of the Hailand and Helstrom Family preserves.

Autumn at the Darnton Family Preserve, Charlevoix County

Saturday, October 11 10-11:30am

Conservancy Education Coordinator Sarah Mayhew will lead a tour of the 2.5 miles of trail at this preserve located just a few minutes from Boyne City.

Fall Hike at the William B. Derby Preserve, Mackinac County

Sunday, October 12 2-3:30 pm

LTC's AmeriCorps member Greta Jankoviak will lead a fall exploration of new trails at the Derby Preserve located along the Les Cheneaux main channel and accessed from the village of Cedarville. This magical land features moss-covered boulders and dense evergreens. The nearly 3-mile trail covers rocky but moderate terrain.

Wildlife Adventure at Greenwood, Cheboygan County

Saturday, October 18 10am-noon

At nearly 2,000 acres, Greenwood is one of the largest privately owned northern Michigan properties protected with a conservation easement. Owner George Jury will open his gates so we can explore the beautiful trails and hope for a glimpse of wildlife including elk or black bear. The scenery here is stunning, particularly in the fall.

Fall into Nature: Autumn Discoveries for Knee High Naturalists Spring Lake Park, Emmet County

Saturday, October 18 10-11 am

Geared for 3-5-year-olds

With autumn comes colorful leaves, seeds on the move, changing weather, and animals preparing for winter. We'll explore nature in this dynamic season with a story and several fun activities including a short hike and craft project. This program is geared towards preschoolers. Siblings are welcome. Parents/guardians are asked to stay on site during the program.

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Scan the codes below for LTC's smart phone nature preserve app, available at no charge. The app includes info about LTC trails as well as other area trails such as the North Country Trail.



iPhone



Android

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www.landtrust.org

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Starting Young...

For the second year in a row, Charlie Kost held a snow cone sale at the Menomona Woods beach in July to raise money for LTC. This year's event brought in \$122. Thank you, Charlie!

(left) Caitlin Donnelly receives a check from Charlie

McCune Preserve Work Day with Lowe's Heroes

Wednesday, October 15 9am
McCune Nature Preserve

Lowe's Heroes is a volunteer program in which employees adopt a project with a local nonprofit organization to help improve the communities where they work and live. This year Lowe's of Petoskey is partnering with LTC to add and improve boardwalks at the McCune Nature Preserve. On Wednesday, October 15 at 9 am, Lowe's Heroes will supply \$1,200 of materials needed to repair and extend the boardwalks. Lowe's is proud to work with Little Traverse Conservancy on this project since many of their employees, customers and local schools use this area for recreation, bird watching and education. Lowe's welcomes any and all volunteers that would be interested in assisting on this project.



If interested, please contact Dawn Campbell at Lowe's at 231.753.5100.



McCune Nature Preserve