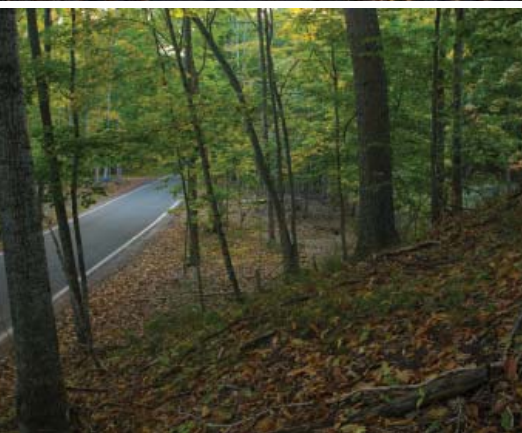
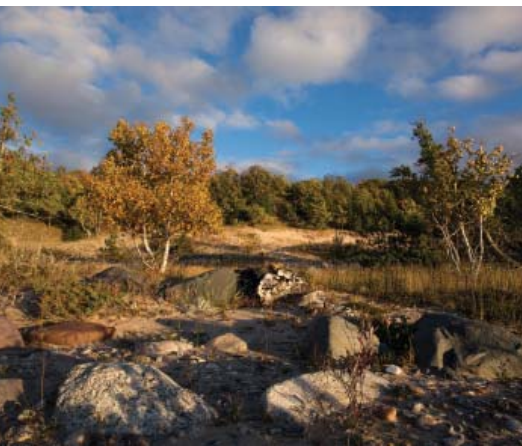




Fall, 2015
Vol. 37 No. 3
www.landtrust.org

Woollam Family Nature Preserve



New Preserve by the Numbers

62 acres

*2,450 feet Lake Michigan shoreline
2,300 feet M-119 frontage*

photos this page by Todd Parker

For many months, we've been telling our members about LTC's purchase of the largest remaining Lake Michigan parcel between Harbor Springs and Cross Village. We are pleased to announce that fundraising is now complete for this extraordinary property that will be known as the Woollam Family Nature Preserve. As a result of one family caretaking a property for more than half a century, another family was able to step in to ensure that the land would remain undeveloped and protected as a permanent nature preserve for all time.

In 1967, David and Joanna Meeks purchased the 62-acres just south of Cross Village in the names of their four children: Lani, Anne, Maile, and David. The Meeks family never intended for the land to be developed, but rather to be a retreat where the family could gather for picnics, hikes, star watching, and plain old Lake Michigan shoreline memory making. And that is exactly what happened for many decades.

Several years ago, the Meeks' children began discussions with LTC about their options for the future of the land they always referred to as "the Far Property." They found it was more challenging to get the younger and older generations out to it, and the tax burden was high relative to their use of the land. Recently, the three surviving siblings realized that a sale to the Conservancy made the best possible sense. In late 2014, the Conservancy officially purchased the land from the Meeks families.

The purchase would not have been possible without the leadership gift from the Woollam family. The Woollam name is familiar to LTC and the broader land trust community. Many properties have been protected through challenge grants and other assistance offered by the J.A. Woollam Foundation which has made Great Lakes waterfront protection a high priority in its charitable giving.

As the primary sponsor of this newest Lake Michigan nature preserve, John Woollam has dedicated the preserve in honor of his family who have supported him in his life and work. "I consider this preserve a way to honor my entire family who all deeply care for and appreciate the outdoors," John Woollam said. "From my parents who provided an outdoor environment for shared memories with me, Jane, and Steve, to my wife, children, and grandchildren who value the many gifts of our natural environment, this preserve celebrates that love." John added. "I grew

continued on page 5



Another Record Breaking Year for Save the Trees

On behalf of Jane Enterline and Sarah Post and everyone associated with the Little Traverse Conservancy, we would like to thank our members, event donors, and the benefit committee for their support of the 26th annual Save the Trees Benefit. For the second year in a row it was our most successful event ever! Thanks to our generous donors to the silent auction and raffle, we were able to raise a record total of \$57,000 at the party this year! The kindness of donors to the paddle raise generated an additional \$8,700 for the new Woollam Family Nature Preserve. This preserve protects the largest undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline in our service area (*see cover story*). This alone is a huge success and we are proud of the generosity of the community and our supporters. This benefit provides important funding for the Conservancy's land protection efforts and has raised more than \$645,000 over the past 26 years!



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(*past chairs)

The Treasure of (Protected) Family Land



This image was scanned from a 1985 local calendar page featuring the Atchison property.

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." - David Brower

Les Atchison is the fourth generation of his family to own a special piece of land in Springvale Township between Petoskey and Wolverine. His great-grandfather first purchased 160 acres at the turn of the 20th century, eventually leaving half to his daughter Edna and half to his son Lester. Lester then passed it on to his son Garfield, Les's father.

In 1975, Les and his wife Linda purchased the 80-acre property from Garfield and - despite many opportunities to sell the land - have held on to it and come to treasure it more and more with each passing year. Whether it is a fall walk in the woods or a select harvest, the land has given back in a multitude of ways, prompting the couple to protect it from future development by donating a conservation easement to the Little Traverse Conservancy.

"I'm thrilled that my parents have taken the steps necessary to protect their land from development," said Les and Linda's son Mike (fifth generation). "I am proud of them for doing that and I am proud of my brother and sister for embracing it, as I have. Little Traverse Conservancy has done so much to help make northern Michigan a wonderful place to live and visit. I greatly appreciate the work that they do."



What is a conservation easement?

One way to visualize a conservation easement is to think of owning land as holding a bundle of sticks. Each one of these sticks represents the landowner's right to do something with their property. The right to build a house, to extract minerals, to lease the property, pass it on to heirs, allow hunting are all rights that the landowner has. A landowner may give up certain development rights, or sticks from the bundle, associated with their property through a document called a conservation easement. The easement will carry with the property for perpetuity, regardless of future ownership.

The Sixth Generation of Atchisons:
Van (top) and Ava Atchison are two of Les and Linda Atchison's six grandchildren who will someday inherit their family's protected property.

Searching for Vernal Pools

by Josh Epperly, AmeriCorps member

It's been a whirlwind of a summer with the Little Traverse Conservancy. In the three short months that I've served as an AmeriCorp member, I have bushwhacked, hammered, and chainsawed my way from fresh newcomer to a regular part of the team. Although the field days have not been without their challenges (wood ticks, anyone?), the overall experience has proven to be invaluable. One of the most rewarding projects I've been tasked with is mapping vernal pools on LTC's preserves.

Vernal pools are low-lying areas that fill up with water during the rainy spring season only to dry up again by the end of the summer. Although often overlooked because of their short-lived nature, vernal pools play very special roles in our forest communities. Every spring, species such as spotted salamanders, wood frogs, and Blanding's turtles use these pools as safe zones to mate and reproduce in, away from the predation of fish. Some creatures, such as the fairy shrimp, live out their entire existences within the bounds of vernal pools.

Thankfully, people have just begun to recognize the value of these fragile ecosystems. Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is now including vernal pools in their list of natural features to protect, alongside bogs and wetlands. This year, Little Traverse Conservancy has made it a priority to locate any vernal pools that might exist on our many preserves. Knowing where our vernal pools are would be the first step in not only protecting them, but also in educating youth about them through our EcoStewards program. But in order to know where these vernal pools are, someone has to go off trail and track them down. This is where I've come in.

Overall, this project has taken me to about a dozen different preserves – some big, some small, some downright swampy. Since vernal pools can be anywhere, it's not enough to try and spot them from the trails. Proper vernal pool hunting is a labor of love. It requires sweat, patience, a solid pair of hiking boots and a willingness to brave the brambles and swamps. On some days I've found a vernal pool in the first half an hour. On other days I've found a whopping total of zero, but in the meantime make some equally exciting discoveries – wildflowers, porcupines, Sandhill cranes. At the end of each field day, whether or not I put a vernal pool on the map, I always walk away feeling like I've come closer to the essence of what Little Traverse Conservancy is about. For our health and sanity, we need places to explore, places where it is still possible to be surprised.

So far Little Traverse Conservancy has confirmed vernal pools at Offield, Chaboiganing, Goodhart Farms and Susan Creek. There are other preserves – such as Ray Johnston and Darnton – with areas that might be vernal pools, but cannot be confirmed until next spring. With the approach of the fall season, most vernal pools have dried up completely. Come April, the salamanders and fairy shrimps will be swimming in these water holes once more. Until then, stay tuned – this is an ongoing project.



Vernal Pool Goodhart Farms



Vernal Pool Offield Preserve

Amphibian egg mass
at Offield Preserve.



Fairy shrimp rely on
vernal pools to survive.

High schooler
Caroline
Bearce
prepares
to look for
vernal pools
at the
Sturgeon Bay
Preserve on
Burt Lake.



Woollam Family Preserve continued from cover

up near Lake Michigan and often brag to people about Michigan's sand dune coastline stretching from the Indiana Dunes to the Straits. To me and my family, this preserve — from the beach shore to the sand dunes that lead up to a hilly forest — epitomizes everything that makes the west coast so special."

Little Traverse Conservancy is deeply honored to recognize the Woollam family with this spectacular piece of Great Lakes shoreline encompassing 62 acres with 2,450 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline, and 2,300 feet of M-119 frontage along the famed Tunnel of Trees. "John Woollam has blessed our community, our landscape, and our state by protecting some of the most scenic and high quality natural land in the Conservancy's service area," said LTC Executive Director Tom Bailey. "This is one of the most significant Great Lakes shoreline projects in the history of the Conservancy."

Following the grant from the J.A. Woollam Foundation, a number of generous donors helped the Conservancy pay off a 2015 mortgage on the land through a fundraising campaign started early this year. Foundation support came from the Baiardi Foundation, Carls Foundation, Frey Foundation, Offield Family Foundation, and others (*see below for full list*). The final contributions were given this summer at the Conservancy's Save the Trees event in July and a paint-out art sale generously held by the Three Pines Studio and Gallery in Cross Village.

The Conservancy plans a small, rustic parking area with a half-mile rustic trail to the rugged Lake Michigan shore. A location map can be found on our website or our nature preserve app, LTC Explorer.



John Woollam (left) is shown here with his wife Cyndi and daughters Susie and Cathy.



John Woollam (center) with his brother, Steve, and sister, Jane.

Thank You Contributors to the Woollam Family Nature Preserve

Anonymous

The Baiardi Family Foundation, Inc.

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Mr. and Mrs. Mark A. Baun

Matthew and Nancy Blandford

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photo by Todd Parker



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FOR FULL PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS, VISIT THE
EDUCATION PAGE AT: WWW.LANDTRUST.ORG

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SEPTEMBER 1

PROGRAMS RUN
SEPTEMBER 22 - OCTOBER 28

WINTER REGISTRATION

DECEMBER 1

PROGRAMS RUN
JANUARY 12 - FEBRUARY 26

SPRING REGISTRATION

APRIL 12

PROGRAMS RUN
APRIL 26 - JUNE 3

Bus parking now available at the McCune Preserve and the Banwell Preserve (off M-68).

NEW for 2015! Citizen Science Opportunities for your Students!



Little Traverse Conservancy's EcoStewards program offers unique opportunities for educators to engage students in the natural world while meeting curriculum needs. As citizen scientists, students can have a direct impact on their community while helping Conservancy stewardship staff gather valuable preserve data. EcoStewards opportunities can extend far beyond the classroom, making them ideal projects for independent studies. Students in the past have conducted sampling based ecological studies and presence/absence surveys throughout a preserve. EcoStewards projects are available for whole classes or for individuals. For more information about this program, visit us online or give a call today! www.landtrust.org or 231.347.0991.



NATURAL CLASSROOM CONTEST

RECOGNIZING THE NATURE INSPIRED EDUCATOR

GKO would like to recognize local teachers who enhance their classroom lessons by connecting children to nature. Whether they bring nature into the classroom, or use the schoolyard or community as an extended learning opportunity, we want to shine the spotlight on those who help students make real world connections and develop meaningful relationships with nature.



GEOGRAPHIC REGION: All schools in Emmet County

GRADES: PreK-5

CONTEST DEADLINE: November 16, 2015

CONTEST WINNERS AWARDED BY: December 15, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SUBMIT

Contest form link can be found on GKO website:
www.gettingkidsoutdoors.com. Completed forms and photos can be emailed to gettingkidsoutdoors@gmail.com, or drop off at the Little Traverse Conservancy office:
3264 Powell Rd., Harbor Springs, MI 49740.

The Conservancy would like to thank the following new members and Friends or Benefactors who are new donors or increased their giving within that level from May 21, 2015 to August 24, 2015.

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Top left corner

LTC volunteers and staff improved signage and cleared trail at the Cha-boiganing Preserve near Burt

Staff assisted Clark Township with improving the docking at Duck Bay, Marquette Island. The township property at this location lies adjacent to LTC's Aldo Leopold Preserve.



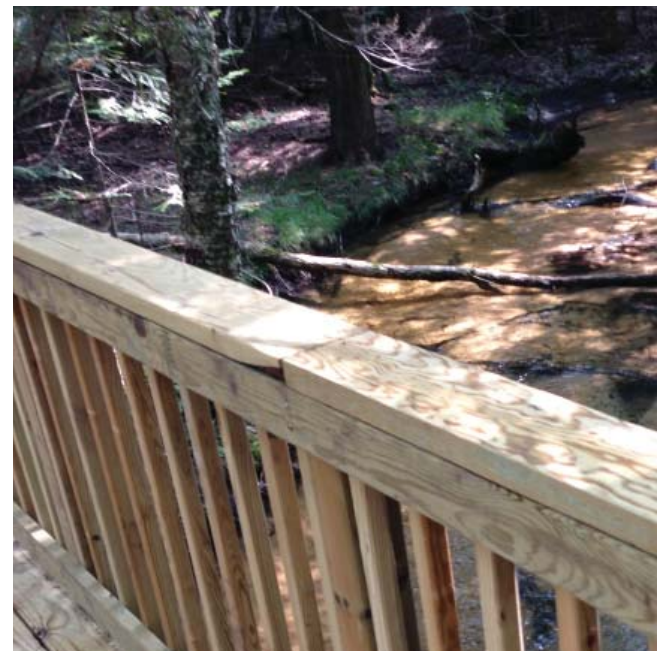
Many Hands Working Together

Eagle Scout candidate Nick Rhudy (center) helped LTC improve trail and stairs on a steep bluff at the McCune Nature Preserve in Emmet County.

Bottom left

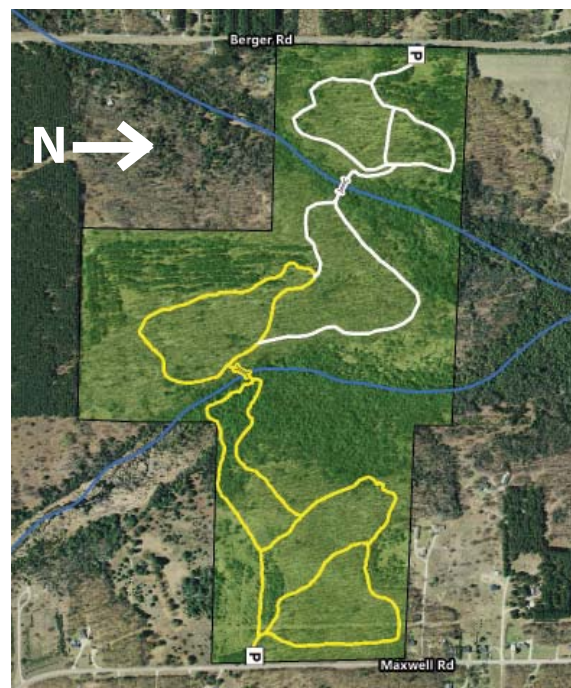
LTC volunteer monitors and stewards walk the trails of Waldron Fen during the summer appreciation event.

A view of the Minnehaha Creek from the new bridge at the McCune Nature Preserve. You can now hike to this bridge from the new Berger Road parking area (see trail map upper right).





Central Michigan University students assisted LTC staff with boardwalk improvements at the Little Sand Bay Preserve on Beaver Island.



Top right

New trail at the McCune Nature Preserve is shown in white along with the location of the new parking area on Berger Road. Roughly 3.5 miles of trail are now available.



Preserve Care and Maintenance

A view of the Pigeon River from the new trail along the Andreae Preserve.



Bottom right

The platform at the Wisser Saworski Preserve near Boyne Falls was completed this summer. A steep single track leads to it from the main trail. While the viewshed is not complete, adventurous hikers will enjoy the climb.



Connecting Trails and Building Community

MCCUNE PRESERVE UPDATE

by Greta Jankoviak, Stewardship Assistant

Imagine yourself hiking through a hardwood forest, looking up at tall, old-growth maple, beech and black cherry trees, too big to put your arms around; strolling down a ridge into a floodplain area, transitioning into cedar trees and other wetland flora; crossing a wooden-planked bridge over a tranquil creek while listening to the song birds overhead. Welcome to the McCune Nature Preserve outside of Petoskey, a 168-acre property donated to LTC in 1984 by Allan and Virginia McCune and a focus project for the 2015 stewardship season.

Last year LTC stewardship staff created a vision to enhance the experience at the McCune Preserve due to its high usage within the Petoskey community. The original parking area needed to be safer and more accessible year round. The solution was to construct a new parking area off Berger Road which, in turn, led to plans to expand the trail system along with adding a new bridge and boardwalk for deeper exploration. These plans quickly turned into a large project with many components and costs that exceeded the budget. This is where a great community came into play to help carry out the vision.

As a whole, this project is the epitome of outstanding community collaboration with land conservation as a common core value. Within the last year, five community groups have helped complete the work: Lowe's Heroes of Petoskey, Training Leaders in Christ from the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Petoskey, Boy Scouts, Home Builders Association of Northern Michigan and a Petoskey High School class during Char-Em United Way's Day of Caring. In addition, LTC received help from the preserve monitors, local AmeriCorps members,

neighbors, as well as new and existing LTC volunteers. In addition to labor, there was a financial need to complete the project. LTC was awarded two grants to help alleviate the costs of the parking area: \$5,000 from the "People Fund" of Great Lakes Energy and \$10,000 from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation. Long-term Conservancy friend and conservation easement land owner, Carl Wager, asked to dedicate a memorial fund, gifted to LTC in honor of his late wife, Sandy Wager, towards the cost of the bridge. Fortuitously, Carl is an experienced contractor and very active in the local Home

Builders Association. He was able to round-up his colleagues for HBA Northern Michigan's "Day of Action" and they expertly constructed the new bridge, which will be dedicated in Sandy's honor.

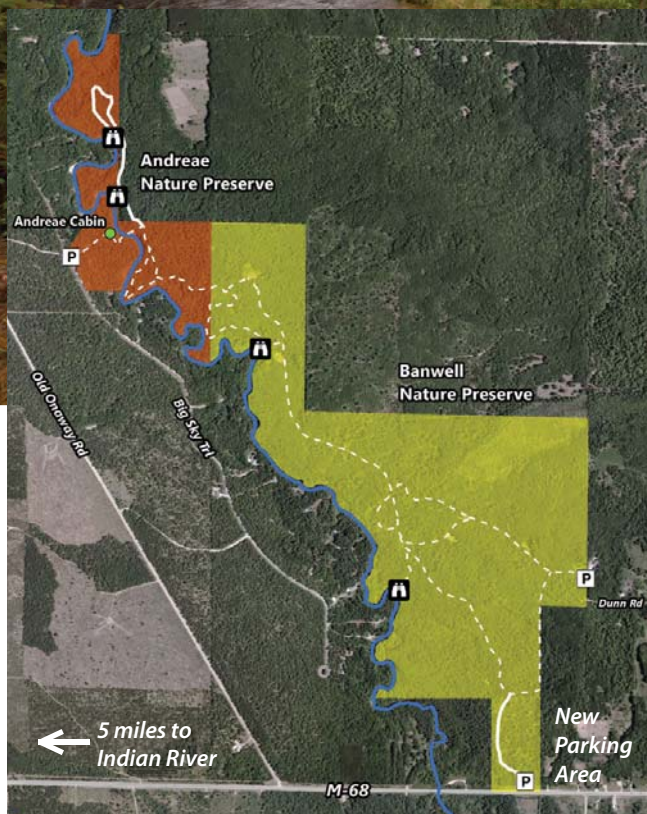
Everyone involved worked well together to complete all the pieces of the puzzle to this project. Lumber was hauled to the worksite of the bridge and boardwalks, new trails were blazed with snow grooming in mind, old trails were rerouted, new boardwalk installed, railroad tie steps removed, and a brand new bridge was built in one day. After all

of this labor-intensive work, you can now park at Berger Road and hike all the way to Maxwell Road without having to bushwhack or get your feet wet when crossing the west branch of the Minnehaha Creek. Furthermore, school groups in buses can safely park and unload, plus winter exploration just got easier. All of this was made possible by helping hands in the surrounding community of Petoskey, determined to make a difference in land conservation.

McCune by the Numbers:

- 1 new 85-foot bridge
- 1 new parking area large enough to accommodate a school bus
- 80 feet of new boardwalk
- 1.5 miles of new trail
- 5 community groups
- 12 professional builders, 84 hours
- 65 total volunteers
- 380 total volunteer hours





New Parking & Trail at Andreae/Banwell Complex

PARKING AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL BUS

This summer, Conservancy staff and contractors restored the site of an old homestead at the newest addition to the Banwell Preserve. A new parking area has been created allowing easy access to the preserve from M-68. A \$25,000 grant from Consumers Energy Foundation helped make this project possible.

Parking is now available for school buses, making it much easier for classes to visit this increasingly popular preserve. Trail was added from the new parking area to existing trails, and trail was added at the adjacent Andreae Preserve to the north. Together, more than five miles of trails are now available between the two preserves lying along more than four miles of the Pigeon River. We highly recommend visiting this improved trail system for a spectacular fall hike!



Establishing the North Huron Birding Trail

According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), birding is currently the second fastest growing hobby in the United States (after gardening). In Michigan alone, four new birding trails have been established in recent years.

As a member of the Clark Township Stakeholder group in Mackinac County, Little Traverse Conservancy is playing an active role in raising support for one of the newest trail efforts: the North Huron Birding Trail.

This past summer, LTC helped support University of Michigan graduate student Elliot Nelson as he researched the potential for a birding trail along the north shore of Lake Huron continuing on up towards Sault Ste. Marie. Elliot has identified roughly 24 sites along the northern Lake Huron shore including LTC nature preserves.

Funding is currently being sought to take Elliot's data and translate it to communication tools including a trail map and brochure, website, and signage.

If you are interested in this initiative, please contact Anne Fleming at 231.344.1007 or email anne@landtrust.org.



Memorial Gifts

May 22-August 25, 2015

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Happy Anniversary Jack and Tucker Harris' 50th

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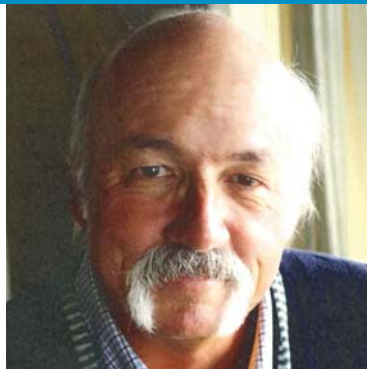
Remembering dear friends... This past summer saw the passing of some longtime Conservancy friends.



John Maximiuk



Anne McClure



Packy Offield



Sally Stebbins

Reflections...

...Tom Bailey

Birding Trails: Good Business and Good for Business



Petriz Preserve, Beaver Island/Todd Parker

I've maintained for many years that land conservation is not only good business but also good for business. A number of win-win situations bear this out, but one of the latest examples of conservation and economic development complementing one another is the expanding popularity of birding trails.

Birding trails are community efforts that identify spots where a variety of bird species can be found and make it easy for visiting bird enthusiasts to find them. Lists and maps of the sites are compiled, guidelines written for spotting the birds, and a route identified connecting the sites. The resulting trail affords visiting birders a self-guiding opportunity to observe a great variety of birds with the best sites identified for them. With the help of internet web sites, maps and observation guides, birding trails can attract substantial numbers of visitors at various times of year. In northern Lower Michigan and the eastern Upper Peninsula, the best times for birding include the spring and fall migration seasons and, especially for certain species of owls in the eastern UP, the winter.

These are times of year when many hotels, restaurants and other facilities in summer resort areas are

experiencing low rates of occupancy. The development of a birding trail can thus increase economic development without requiring additional land development. Visiting birders in fall, winter and spring extend a resort area's visitor season and make existing businesses more prosperous. The only physical development needed for a birding trail is the placement of a few signs that help to identify sites, many of which are existing public parks and nature preserves.

The benefits can be substantial. Several studies of recreational users show that birders tend to spend more money on lodging, food and other services than most other tourists – good news for the innkeepers, restaurateurs and others who thrive on summer business but have a hard time breaking even in the fall, winter and spring. Interest in birding trails from many chambers of commerce shows that birding trails are not just of environmental interest but also of economic interest.

In the Little Traverse Conservancy's service area, the people of Beaver Island have created a birding trail that has boosted tourism and produced tangible benefits for island businesses. (Check it out at www.beaverisland-birdingtrail.org.) In the eastern Upper

Peninsula, Clark Township is well under way with plans for a trail which includes the Cedarville and Hessel area in a Northern Lake Huron Birding Trail, offering outstanding opportunities to observe migrating warblers, shorebirds, and raptors during spring and fall. Winter provides some of the best opportunities in Michigan to observe Snowy owls and Great Grey owls, while in spring the Sharp-tail grouse become active and are of great interest to many birders. Below the Mackinac Bridge, efforts are under way to establish a Northwest Michigan Birding Trail in Emmet and Charlevoix counties that will help to make the area a regional Mecca for birders.

When birding trails boost tourism in traditionally slow times, they help to make better use of existing facilities and resources. They bring an educated, interested and motivated group of visitors to Conservancy preserves and public parks, who tend to be quiet, courteous and accustomed to taking only pictures and leaving only footprints. What could be better for conservation, or for business?



See page 11 for information about the North Huron Birding Trail.

Visit www.beaverislandbirding-trail.org for fall birding opportunities at Beaver Island preserves.

Thank You

- Joe Clark of Glass Lakes Photography, Gary Osterbeck, Mary Jane Ulrich, and Todd Petersen for donated photography and video work over the past several months.
- For the excellent help with our summer membership mailing: Sally Bales, Marlene Bartson, Barb Bechhold, Gretchen Brown, Betty Deschermeier, Michaleen and Nic Karay, Karen Krapp, Doris Lark, Sharon Ledingham, Carolyn Snead, Nancy Staley, Betty Trippe, Lurli Vaughan from Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and also to Mona Fay, Ellie Fleming, Peggy Swenor, and Bev Warner.
- Bonnie Mikkelsen, the Great Lakes Boat Building School, Les Cheneaux Culinary School, and Shepler's for all their hard work for our annual meeting.
- John Hessel for grading the Mackinac Bay Preserve parking area.
- Indian River Village Pharmacy for providing first aid kit supplies at cost.
- Three Pines Studio for hosting a paint-out to benefit LTC's new Woollam Family Nature Preserve (cover story).
- Tamara Stevens and Mary Jane Clayton for helping compile trail use data.
- Chaboiganing Preserve volunteers Dan Adams, John Baker, Barb Kurtz and Margie Reh for helping clarify and mark the trails.
- Len Ginop for helping install gates at Waldron Fen.
- Wissar-Saworski Preserve volunteers Bill Aten, John Baker, Marlene Piekos and her grandson, and Sally Wagle for installing trail maps, installing a gate, and other trail tasks.
- Chaboiganing Preserve volunteers John Baker, Rick Johnson, Jon Jontz, Gary Street, and Steve Vorenkamp for trail work in May.
- The following for hosting or helping with a summer community field trip: Eric Hemenway, Debbie Hindle and Ken Ross, Mary Stewart Adams, Darrell Lawson, David Chown and his daughter, Karie Slavik, Mark Paddock, Jessie Hadley and Woods and Water EcoTours, Elliot Nelson, Marilynn Smith, Jennifer Eis and Don Ward.
- John Baker for many, many projects at various preserves including trail clearing, boundary marking, tree watering, and much more.
- 22 students from the CMU Honors Program led by Ann Partridge for repairing and building boardwalk, building a split rail fence, and trail clearing at the Little Sand Bay Preserve on Beaver Island.
- Elise Gibson and her daughter Victoria Duda for cleaning trash at the Banwell Preserve.
- The following for helping with summer environmental education programs: Mary Trout with Eagle Eye Naturalist field trips, presenting at Earth Week Plus, and helping with the Junior Naturalist and Knee High Naturalist programs as well as environmental education program preparation at the Boyne River Natural Area; Mary Bea McWatters for leading a Junior Naturalist Kids Art program; Chad Wells for leading an Adventure Naturalist Mountain Bike program; Bear Creek Organic Farm for materials for Bee Program; and Ginny Cole for helping with a Knee High Naturalist program.



- Graham Peters for invasive species surveys at Hankin's Glen and Bubbling Springs preserves.
- Glen Matthews for plan review, surveys, and invasive species management.
- Serena Lake and her family for completing vernal pool mapping at Braun Preserve.
- Caroline Bearce for vernal pool surveying at Hildner-Bearce and Waubun preserves.
- Brothers Sean and Cameron Stewart, and their mother, Jane, for miscellaneous preserve tasks and for power washing the Raunecker and McCune boardwalks.
- UMBS Field Botany students for a Floristic Quality Assessment at the Duncan Bay Preserve.
- Ann Scott for mapping invasive species at McCune Preserve.

McCune Preserve volunteers

- Training Leaders in Christ campers who helped build trail and replace boardwalk.
- The Emmet County Homebuilders Association volunteers for building a beautiful new bridge.
- Nick Rhudy and family for working on his Eagle Scout project building trails. Also to the other scouts who helped: Nicolas Sims, Camden Smith, and Diana and Chris Johnson.
- John Baker, Fred and Mary Clinton, Bruce Dawley, Alina Dhaseleer, Holly, Peter and Nick Willcome, and Todd and Jennifer Winnell for hauling lumber.
- Carl Wager and Petoskey Home Builders Association of Northern Michigan members: Wager Builders, Grantham Building and Remodeling LLC, DWS Builders Inc., McBride Construction Inc., Bob Fate Builders Inc. Knibbs Building and Remodeling, and Liebler Builders for superb construction of the new bridge.

HELPING OUR COMMUNITIES

Great Lakes Energy People Fund

A grant from this fund helped pay for the new bridge and parking area at the McCune Preserve. Members of Great Lakes Energy have the opportunity to "round-up" their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar. The extra funds collected are then turned into grants and awarded to non-profit organizations and charitable activities within Great Lakes Energy's service area. Generally, the People Fund will invest in organizations focused on humanitarian, educational and community development purposes. There is no cost to GLE as it is funded exclusively by its members and "100 percent of the money collected is returned to [their] communities." If you are a member of Great Lakes Energy, be sure to enroll in the "round-up" program in order to help fund projects like these in your community.



- Thank you to Owen, Greta, Doug Drawbaugh and Bill, Shelly, Matt, and Julia Bock for their donation jar contribution of \$140.26 to LTC.

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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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Wisser Saworski/Todd Parker

Fall Field Trips

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

Greenwood Foundation, Cheboygan County Saturday, September 26 10 am to noon

Visit one of the largest private properties in our service area now protected with a conservation easement. Nearly all the species found in this region are present at Greenwood which is surrounded by the Pigeon River State Forest. Call for specific directions.

Fall Discoveries for Knee High Naturalists Saturday, October 17 11 am to noon Spring Lake Park

Fall is a time of change and preparation for the coming winter season. This program will have Knee High Naturalists (3-5 year olds) observing colorful leaves, helping scatter seeds plus learning about animals preparing for winter. A story, activities, and songs are included.

Golden River Orchard Tour Saturday, October 17 3pm

Landowner Steve Crusoe will lead this tour of his conservation easement-protected farmland near Cheboygan. Steve raises apples and pumpkins making this the perfect opportunity to stock up on harvest goods!

Fall Birding at Waldron Fen Saturday, October 17 8-10am

Join Petoskey Audubon President Darrell Lawson and LTC staff member Derek Shiels at Waldron Fen's rich

diversity of habitat that make it ideal for a variety of migrating birds. On this trip, we will look for late fall migrants while discussing the differences between spring and fall migrations and both the challenges and the potential rewards those differences pose to birders in the fall.

Cider Making at The Hill Preserve Saturday, October 24 1-4 pm

Join LTC staff member Charles Dawley for a cider making extravaganza. From the Clute Road parking area, we will hike to the overlook and orchard part of the preserve. There we will collect apples, crush, and press them. Please bring an empty milk jug or jar if you would like to take some cider home!

Eagle Eye Naturalists Programs For children and their families

Visit www.landtrust.org for full descriptions. All programs meet at the Conservancy office.

Tuesday, October 13 4-5:30 pm Topic: OWLS

Tuesday, November 10 4-5:30 pm Topic: LOONS

Tuesday, December 8 4-5:30 pm Topic: WINTER BIRD SURVIVAL