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The Barbara C. Hoffius Nature Preserve

Along the western shore of Lake Huron, between Mackinaw City and Cheboygan, lies a small, gravel-road resort called Point Nipigon, founded in 1914 by Glenn R. and Lena Chamberlain of Grand Rapids. Nipigon is thought to be Chippewa for “waters that stretch far” and Point Nipigon looks toward Mackinaw City, Mackinac Island, and Bois Blanc. Once you reach the Point, on the east end, it looks out on the expanse of Lake Huron.

In 1914 Glenn and Lena Chamberlain’s daughter, Barbara, was born (as was her future husband, Stuart Hoffius) and for her lifetime she enjoyed summers at Nipigon. As was the case with so many northern Michigan summer resorts, Point Nipigon was sought as a retreat for many “Southerners” to escape to the clear waters and clean air that gave reprieve from seasonal allergies. Most of the original families at Nipigon came from Grand Rapids and Detroit, many of them taking the Timberliner train that ran from Detroit to Mackinaw City (today, the North Central State Trail follows that railroad line from Gaylord to Mackinaw City). The resort is perhaps best known for its unique entrance off U.S. 23, which was built in 1928 to resemble an old stockade and guard house, along with totem poles. The Hoffius family built their cottage at Nipigon in 1952.

Through the years, the Chamberlains bought much more land in the area, and eventually gave more than 1,000 acres to their three children. After Barbara Hoffius’s death in 1995, she left her share of the land west of Point Nipigon to her two sons - Dirk, an attorney in Grand Rapids, and Stephen, a writer in Charleston, South Carolina. Dirk and Steve have donated

all of that land, 370 acres with 1,000 feet of Lake Huron frontage, to the Little Traverse Conservancy. The gift is in recognition of their mother’s love of place and is the answer to a question Dirk and Steve agreed upon: “If we could come back in 50 years or 100 years, what should happen to the land so that we would feel good about what was done with it?” “We sometimes called it ‘Babbyland’ in her honor and with a smile,” remembered Steve. “But now it’s got an even more impressive name: ‘The Barbara C. Hoffius Nature Preserve.’ She would be thrilled.”

“The Hoffius land gift allowed us to pursue funding for an adjacent shoreline parcel,” said Ty Ratliff, LTC’s Director of Donor Relations. Funding from the J. A. Woollam Foundation, and Consumers Energy Foundation enabled the purchase of additional acreage and 1,000 feet of shoreline. This past summer, a new parking area and trail were created by LTC staff to allow for a beautiful hike from U.S. 23 to the shore of the preserve. In the future, additional trails will be built on the south side of U.S. 23.

On July 14 more than 25 Nipigoners, including Dirk and Steve and their families, gathered on the site to dedicate the preserve and enjoy the new trail to the shoreline. Shortly thereafter, an additional 50 Nipigoners joined the celebration at the Point Nipigon Lodge located less than a mile to the east.

“The land is home to a great variety of wildlife and plants,” points out Steve. “Naturalists have found bear scat and rare northern Michigan plant species. We thought how great it would be if others could enjoy the land too, especially school children in the area. The LTC staff have helped make our dreams come true,” Steve said.



The July 14 dedication of the Barbara C. Hoffius Nature Preserve.

Partnering for Duncan Bay

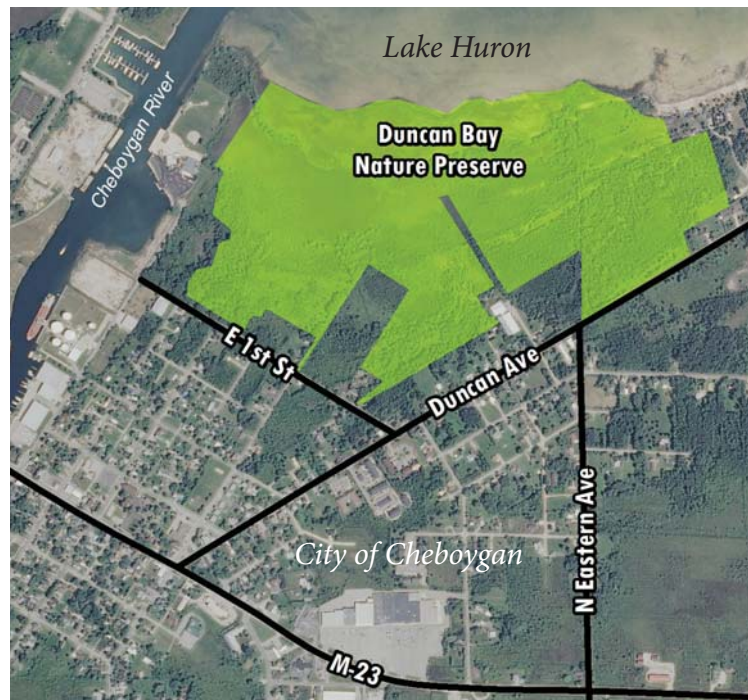
"From our perspective, the best projects turn out to be those that, at their core, are really based around people, partnerships and places. When people are passionate about their community and natural resources and willing to form a strong partnership to protect or enhance a special place, that's really both 'the why and the how' of our work." Brad Jensen, Huron Pines

Located within Cheboygan city limits, the Duncan Bay Nature Preserve was expanded as a result of a collaborative effort between LTC, Huron Pines, the City of Cheboygan, and a grant from the Sustain Our Great Lakes program.

Purchased in 2014, the original 33-acre Duncan Bay Preserve included 750 feet of Lake Huron shoreline. The 2017 additions have added 112 acres and 3,500 feet of Duncan Bay shoreline, further enhancing ecosystem protection as well as recreational opportunities for that region.

Since the 1930s, the portion of land most recently purchased from the City of Cheboygan has long been desired for recreational use by the public, even as it changed ownership over the years. "When LTC purchased the original Duncan Bay Preserve, the light bulb went on for me," said Tom Eustice, City Manager for the City of Cheboygan. "I called Kieran (Fleming) and the Conservancy worked very hard to obtain funding, which helped pay off some debt for the city and freed up monies which can be used to improve and maintain existing public properties."

The funding ultimately came through a grant obtained through Huron Pines from the Sustain Our Great Lakes program under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. "The City of Cheboygan had the foresight to see the value in protecting these lands and part of our partnership is to use the land to build trails that will eventually connect the City of Cheboygan with Cheboygan State Park," said Brad Jensen, executive director for Huron Pines. In addition to land protection, the grant includes funding for several other initiatives. "Now that the land



Original Duncan Bay Preserve (2014): 33 acres; 750 ft. Lake Huron
City of Cheboygan Addition (2017): 72 acres; 2,750 feet Lake Huron
Private Purchase Addition (2017): 40 acres

is protected, we're making plans to improve the habitat where needed, primarily through the removal of invasive, exotic species," Jansen added.

"It's a great partnership!" Eustice said. "I have been told by a couple of environmental engineers that the vegetation on this property includes some of the best plants for filtering water."

On June 23, a dedication to celebrate the land's protection and the partnerships that made it happen took place at the Duncan Bay Preserve (*photo below*). Representatives from the local grassroots group "Bring IT Cheboygan" were in attendance. "LTC's Duncan Bay Nature Preserve will enhance our trail system and our Cheboygan community in all ways," said Joanne Cromley of Bring IT Cheboygan. "Volunteers with our group are working closely with LTC in connecting the Duncan Bay Nature Preserve to the Cheboygan State Park with a hiking and biking trail. This trail would then be routed into downtown Cheboygan and then on to the North Central State Trail," she said.

LTC Executive Director Tom Bailey added, "It's important to note that LTC has also partnered with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division to block in ownership in the nearby Cheboygan State Park." See LaHaie story on the next page for the most recent land protection adjacent to the park.



The June 23 dedication of the Duncan Bay Preserve additions.

EXPANDING DUNCAN BAY PROTECTION

Charles & Alice LaHaie Nature Preserve

Growing up in Cheboygan with six siblings, some of Pam Crawford's best recollections of summer are driving down to the swimming beach at Duncan Bay, Lake Huron. When she left for college, her parents - Charles and Alice LaHaie - built their lake home on the shores of Duncan Bay and the water took on a new magic for the whole family as they had unending direct access to the joys of living on a Great Lake.

Pam recently sold 42 acres of land with 550 feet of Duncan Bay frontage to Little Traverse Conservancy at a significant bargain sale to honor her late parents, who dearly loved the Cheboygan region all of their lives. The land lies behind what used to be the family home, and directly adjacent to the Cheboygan State Park. The new preserve is part of a wetland complex that is a vital part of maintaining the health of Duncan Bay.

"Having this land protected makes me very happy," Pam said. "A nature preserve is the perfect way to honor my mom and my dad, and it just feels right that it allows access to the lake for others to enjoy." In addition to the scenic protection, the land is well known to be used by wildlife including deer, bear, fox, and bald eagles. For years, osprey have nested at

a platform on top of a telephone pole across from the most westerly portion of the preserve, and an active nest was visible this past July.

"The Conservancy has been looking for the right opportunity to protect this land," said Caitlin Donnelly, LTC land protection specialist. "In addition to the excellent wildlife habitat and state park next door, this region is a significant flyway for migratory waterfowl traveling along the Lake Huron shoreline."

Donnelly noted that funding for the purchase of the LaHaie Preserve came from the same Sustain Our Great Lakes grant used to protect the Duncan Bay Nature Preserve land additions this past year (*see story, facing page*). "The recent spurt of land protection around the bay are all part of a bigger vision that many people see for preserving and enhancing this special region," she added.





Seated are Cameron Reycraft O'Keefe and Donna Reycraft Bender, the eldest surviving descendents of the Reycraft family. Cameron's daughter Liesel Litzenburger Meijer shares her testimony for the family's love of the land before unveiling the sign at the Reycraft-Meijer North Nature Preserve.

a long-term family commitment to land preservation. They studied surgery in England and traveled the world to educate themselves in the most current medical techniques of that era before returning to operate a hospital near the mouth of the Bear River on the Petoskey waterfront, as well as a nursing school, and taking turns serving as mayor of Petoskey, alternating the position for many years—running against each other, once even standing on opposing soap boxes at opposite ends of Pennsylvania Park to deliver their campaign speeches.

Despite their political differences, they were very close, and both took a great interest in helping the people of this area as well as in preserving the old growth forests of this region—the woods, the streams, the shorelines and inland lakes, native plants and flowers. These Reycraft doctor brothers lived with purposeful modesty as they bought up lands with the sole purpose of doing nothing with any of it. This is to say, they did everything they could for it: they kept it just as it was. Dr. George never married, and when Dr. John's young wife died tragically in an accident, he never remarried, nor had any children. As if in unspoken agreement, both men committed even further to two things: saving lives and saving the lands of northern Michigan. It is because of these two men, and my other relatives spanning back now so far, that we are able to carry on their mission to preserve the beauty of this place we call home, and to share it now with generations of many other

Borrowed From Our Children

On August 5, a small group of family members and friends gathered for the dedications of four new nature preserves recently donated to LTC from the Reycraft/Meijer/Litzenburger families. Two preserves, Reycraft-Meijer North (14 acres) and Reycraft-Meijer South (42 acres), are found near the shores of Walloon Lake along Indian Garden Road. The other two preserves, Gow Litzenburger East (80 acres) and Gow Litzenburger West (20 acres), lie along Bear River Road. The Conservancy holds enormous gratitude for these permanent gifts of land that can now be enjoyed by all.

By Liesel Litzenburger Meijer

To paraphrase John James Audubon, true conservationists know that the world is not given to us by our mothers and fathers, but borrowed from our children. We believe so much in the value of preserving the beautiful natural world we all enjoy in our special corner of the planet.

To back up, just a bit of history. The first members of our family came to northern Michigan in the 1800s from Canada and Scotland. They came here for the reason many people came to this area and stayed: the land and its natural beauty—the hills and wooded forests, the lakes and springs and streams, the views that let us all know we are in a place unlike any other, the incomparable landscape that can be found only here.

Our family has now been in this region for six generations. Yet those early relatives, the Reycrafts, were unusual for two reasons. First, because perhaps long before many people had a notion of “land conservation,” our Reycraft forbearers began to acquire property for the sole purpose of preserving it. Two Reycraft sons, Dr. John and Dr. George Reycraft, were pioneering physicians in Petoskey. They inspired what has become

Unveiled!





(Left) Gow Litzenburger with his nephew and niece, Hardy and Cali Meijer, after the unveiling of the Gow Litzenburger East Preserve. (Right) Gow's family celebrates the nature preserve where he and a friend once planted hundreds of pine trees that now tower overhead.

families, with anyone who wishes, for years to come.

In August, as three generations of our family gathered under cerulean blue skies, we found ourselves humbled and gratified to donate four new preserves to the Little Traverse Conservancy's growing network. It was a remarkable day for us all. These were some of the lands purchased well over one hundred and thirty years ago by Dr. John and Dr. George Reycraft and will now be known as The Reycraft-Meijer Preserves, North and South, more than 50 acres along Indian Garden Road, near the north arm of Walloon Lake, and the Gow Litzenburger Preserves, East and West, some 100 wooded acres straddling the border between Emmet and Charlevoix counties in Chandler Township southeast of Petoskey. They will be open to all who care to visit them, and they will be preserved forever forward, thanks to the Little Traverse Conservancy.

As we dedicated the lands, I said a few words about what this meant for our family. The land carries our memories, it defines us and shapes us as people, and the lands which are now the Reycraft-Meijer Preserves and the Gow Litzenburger Preserves hold so many memories and stories for all of us who grew up with them, near them, walking their woods and hills, taking in their views.

My mother, Cameron Reycraft O'Keefe, and her sister, Donna Reycraft Bender, spent their summers on Walloon Lake at Birch Point. The lands which are now the Reycraft-Meijer Preserves are directly adjacent to this point of land, and were purchased by Dr. John Reycraft in the 1800s from a railroad company. Before that, we know this was a Native American summer fishing and agricultural area. We believe there was one earlier settler, back in the wooded area of the

property, who left only some now long-overgrown remains of a cabin and some apple trees.


My mother cherishes childhood memories of walking the sloping hillsides with apple trees, wildflowers and the wild blackberries from which they made jam. One summer, she picked sack after burlap sack of milkweed pods, the soft fiber filling of which would be used for life preservers during World War II. Thousands of pine seedlings my mother and aunt planted as children with my grandfather are now a fully mature pine forest.

Once my brother, Gow, as a boy, dug a small hole in the earth near our grandmother's house on Birch Point and pulled out an interesting looking rock. Carbon dating revealed it to be one of the oldest hand tools ever discovered in the state of Michigan, and a cartoon drawing of Gow as a boy pulling a red wagon and holding up a carved stone and smiling, appeared in the *Detroit Free Press*.

The Gow Litzenburger Preserves, also purchased by Dr. John Reycraft in the 1800s, are alive with wildflowers, wild orchids and carnivorous plants. When we were children, our grandmother, Hazel Reycraft, would drive us to this land and ask Gow or me to "Run in and check on my flowers"—she didn't mean to pick them; quite the opposite. She wanted us to make sure they were still flourishing in their wooded sanctuary. Gow was usually the explorer. When we were deciding on a name for these preserves, it was easy to choose my brother's. I don't know anyone who has planted more trees or done more to protect all things arboreal in northern Michigan than Gow. After all, he was the one who would always come back to the car, muddy and smiling, to tell us: "The lady slippers are just fine."

These are the lands we preserve. These are the memories that shape us.





The Straits of Mackinac and the Mackinac Bridge are visible from the Litzner home, looking out across their easement-protected land.

LITZNER CONSERVATION EASEMENT Land with ‘Just About Everything’

As a young man, Tom Litzner knew that if he ever were to build a dream home, he had the perfect place picked out. With a hill that offered views to the Straits of Mackinac — including the bridge — a mixed valley of fields and woods, and a clear, cool creek running through it, this was just one of those places that “felt right.”

Last May, after nearly 30 years of living on their dream land, Tom and his wife Fran gave a gift to their 105 acres by donating a conservation easement to LTC to ensure its long-term safekeeping. They now have the satisfaction of knowing that this incredible northern Emmet County property will remain natural and wild as it has always been.

Tom’s grandfather originally came from Germany and set up in Moran, a small settlement near Brevort Lake just northwest of the Mackinac Bridge. Tom’s father, Ray, first started farming near Levering, where Tom was born and raised. The main crop eventually became potatoes, and over the years, Ray expanded his land holdings to include the property where Tom and Fran now live. After graduating from Pellston High School, Tom pursued college downstate, returning north in 1972 immediately upon graduation. He worked on the family farm, began constructing his dream home, and enjoyed a 39-year career as a teacher, coach, athletic director, and principal in Pellston. After marrying in 1986, Tom and Fran raised two children who, now grown and living hours away, are in full support of what their parents have done.

The easement-protected land includes a combination of maple and beech hardwood forest, wetlands, and open hay fields that are actively managed. A few oaks are thriving, but Tom laments the elms that succumbed to Dutch Elm disease years ago. The property includes 2,980 feet of frontage along Cope Creek, and in fact the Cope family originally homesteaded just

down the hill from the current house.

Portions of the land consist of prime farmland and farmland of local importance as classified by the United States Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Litzners raise a small herd of beef cattle, and continued activities such as this and forest management will be allowed in the terms of the easement.

“I have known about conservation easements for some time, and recognized that this was a good way to go,” Tom said. “One of the words I like is ‘legacy’ and it is kind of nice to think you are leaving behind something that is protected.”

In addition to thanking the Litzners for their gift, LTC welcomes Tom as a new member of the organization’s Land Protection Committee. “With his long history and love of this region, Tom has many insights that will be valuable for us as we address future projects,” said Caitlin Donnelly, land protection specialist.



Fran and Tom Litzner

A Bean Field, A Hunting Ground, A Place to Stay as It Is

When Marion Light would visit her sister in Norwood, she told herself that someday she, too, wanted to settle in this place. Born in Hubbell, raised near Detroit, yet residing in Chicago for more than two decades, she knew she wanted to someday return to Michigan. What she didn't realize at the time was that Norwood would become her heart home for years to come. And in 2017, she would be donating the 22-acre George and Marion Light Nature Preserve to the Little Traverse Conservancy to protect a special land that she and George wanted to be left in its natural state for all time.

The drumlins surrounding Norwood offer clear evidence of the glacial retreat that carved out Lake Michigan and nearby Lake Charlevoix and Torch Lake. Native Americans knew the region to be a source of chert, and members of tribes as far as Ohio and Wisconsin would come for this sedimentary stone that could be worked into arrowheads. The first permanent settlers came from northern New York, seeking cheap land and sources of lumber. Marion explains that after the great Chicago fire of 1871, much of the city was rebuilt with lumber from around Norwood.

Shortly after moving to Norwood herself in 1995, Marion met George Light, a recent widower who had been born and



Marion Light (second from left) with family members at the dedication of the new preserve in July.

raised there, attending school in Norwood's one-room schoolhouse, and later finishing high school in Charlevoix. After his discharge from active duty in WWII, George returned to Norwood to raise his family, eventually purchasing and running East Jordan Lumber Company for 35 years.

Within five months, George and Marion were married. It was a second marriage for both, and the couple was determined to not waste a minute of what was to be more than 20 years together. The two dearly loved the outdoors and spent many of their days together fishing on Lake Michigan.

The land that is now a nature preserve was originally part of the Light's family farm. As a teenager, George raised beans as a small cash crop, and he would often hunt there. After they were married, George and Marion would sometimes take a picnic to the land, or just sit in George's deer blind to see what would happen. One day, they witnessed a bald eagle killing a wild turkey, the eagle oblivious of them as it flashed out of the sky.

The home where Marion lives today, and where the couple lived until George passed last October, was originally built in 1869 by the family who started the first sawmill in the region. Today, the rich history of the land, along with her many years of living and loving life with George, give Marion a solid sense of home and of being exactly where she wants to be. While living in Chicago, Marion dedicated herself to refining her lifelong love of painting, committing 20 hours a week to practice, on top of working more than full-time as a director of nursing. Her specialty has become botanical and nature painting, and her life in Norwood provides endless sources of inspiration and material for her work. Just a few blocks from her home lies the new George & Marion Light Nature Preserve, a legacy that will endure forever. "I am glad it is there," Marion says. "It will never be built on, just as George and I both wanted. It was a bean field, a hunting ground, and now simply a place to be enjoyed."



Marion and George Light

Seven Springs Nature Preserve Addition



The people of Burt Lake have done it once again!

When called to action to protect land on their lakeshore, Burt Lake lovers step up. This summer they helped add a critical addition to the Seven Springs Nature Preserve. More than 100 supporters came forward to make a gift to purchase this parcel. Burt Lake Preservation Association and members of the Columbus Beach Club made a special effort to ensure this conservation feat. The addition brings the preserve to more than 65 acres and 2,800 feet of shoreline.



A Massive Cleanup!

Twenty 40-yard dumpsters have been filled and removed over the last year to clean up a multi-structure dump at the new Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve. The majority of the cleanup was near the entrance of this 640-acre property. Staff and volunteers will continue to restore this area to provide a welcoming entrance into this spectacular property which includes 1,500 feet along the Pigeon River and more than a mile along Wilkes Creek.





Record-Breaker Third Year in a Row for 28th Annual Save the Trees

Special thanks to Walstrom Marine staff who made it possible to hold our 28th annual fundraiser in their showroom again this year. With close to 300 attendees, a record \$58,380 was raised at the event on July 27. The silent auction, raffle and treasure tree had wonderful items for auction-goers to choose from, and brought in a total of \$18,070. A handful of generous donors raised \$2,300 at the Giving Tree for preserve stewardship and trail improvement projects at Goodhart Farms and Raunecker nature preserves. In the past 28 years this event has raised more than \$760,000 for land protection in our northern Michigan "corner of Heaven." Thanks to all of you who attended and volunteered to make the event a success.

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Transferring Care from One Generation to the Next

By Bonnie & Mike Brunett

Our association with the Little Traverse Conservancy began on one summer morning in 1980 when Lou Borie, the first executive director, pulled in our driveway. We were aware that the 55 acres behind our home had been donated to the Conservancy. We didn't know what that meant, but when Lou left, we had become preserve monitors. The number of preserves was very limited in 1980 with a much smaller staff and scope of operation. Later that summer, Lou returned with two board members for a walk through the new preserve. There was discussion on developing a nature trail which would allow access to the more remote areas of the land. Today we have a trail system with two loops which are clearly marked given years of use. Benches were added as part of an Eagle Scout project. There are three geocaches that are located on the preserve and have increased use of the trail. The preserve and trail became part of our backyard for our family including two young daughters; a safe area where they would run and play with neighborhood children. We picked morels in the spring when the elms were dying and finding them was easy. Some years the fall provided an Alice in Wonderland kind of walk when the ground exploded with varied species of mushrooms. We have a spring fed small creek that runs through the preserve and when the Jordan River had a fall salmon run, strays would find their way up our small stream...quite an experience to see a 25-inch salmon in a stream six inches deep! Our time in dealing with the Little Traverse Conservancy and many of its members has been very positive. It's pretty easy to get along with people who appreciate nature and want to preserve it in a natural state. We now have another young family (Jean and Clayton Faivor) with two daughters who will be assuming the role of preserve monitors. We can only hope it will be as rewarding for them as it was for us.



Bonnie and Mike Brunett (above left) are passing the preserve monitoring torch onto a new family, Jean and Clayton Faivor and their two young daughters.



Students learn from retired DNR Biologist Glen Matthews at the July 1 BioBlitz at the Philip J. Braun Nature Preserve.

The 2nd Annual BioBlitz — held this year at the Philip J. Braun Nature Preserve in Pellston — was a success! We are very appreciative of the support from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the University of Michigan BioStation faculty, staff and students. Over 60 participants came out during the 18-hour event, including seniors and young children. The most exciting discovery is that of a federally endangered plant species! We learned that there is great biodiversity at this nature preserve, which includes frontage along the Maple River, a wetland, meadows, hardwood forest and cedar swamp habitat. In all, we recorded 447 species, including 44 birds, 8 mammals (including the little brown bat), 5 fish, 91 insects and spiders, 207 plants, 6 fungi, 4 protozoans, 2 reptiles and amphibians, and more! Thanks to our many volunteers who helped this event run smoothly. We will use this citizen-science collected data to better watch over and manage the resources at this preserve and we look forward to a 3rd annual event next year at a new location. Stay tuned for details!

Restoring A Unique Bridge.... Preserving Special Memories.

In 1983, Agnes S. Andreae donated 27 acres of land along the banks of the Pigeon River to the Little Traverse Conservancy. The land donation included a small cabin and a footbridge that spanned the river from bluff to bluff.

All who have visited the preserve have stood on the footbridge and enjoyed the sounds of the rushing river below and the peaceful wilderness experience that it provided. Preserve users have walked over this bridge on snowshoes in February, with a fly rod in May, and with sandals and bug spray in July. Time and long Michigan winters have taken their toll on the footbridge, and a major construction effort is underway this summer and fall to restore the bridge.

We need your help! The total cost for restoring the bridge is \$45,000. Please consider joining the Conservancy in this effort to restore the footbridge, ensuring that this special nature preserve feature will be available for future generations to enjoy. All donations, big and small, are tax deductible and will help the Conservancy complete the bridge restoration effort.



Please contact Ty Ratliff, Director of Donor Relations, at the Conservancy if you have questions. Phone# 231.347.0991 or tyratliff@landtrust.org.

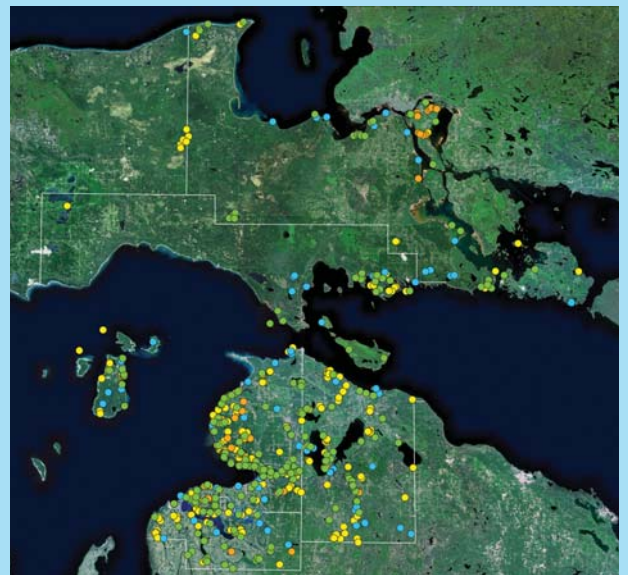
Donations are welcome via check, on-line, or stock transfer.



Map Key Color Goof!

Our bad. We apologize that on our summer newsletter centerfold map, two of the land protection categories had the same color indicated in the key. If you still have this issue lying around, please note that the nature preserves are indicated with green dots and the conservation easements with yellow dots.

- NATURE PRESERVES
- WORKING FOREST RESERVES
- ASSIST PROJECTS
- CONSERVATION EASEMENTS



SPECIAL GIFTS



Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Youth Conservation Corps members help with river erosion control at the Andreae Preserve.



As part of improving LTC preserve signage, a new kiosk and interpretive signs were created for the McCune Preserve. This kiosk was built by volunteer John Baker.

Memorials

G. Robert 'Bob' Adams

Mr. William F. Bradford

Patricia Aiello

Ms. Lisa Goldstein

Mr. Lynn Barber

Mr. and Mrs. Quinton L. Kuebler

Arthur J. Barnes

Mr. and Mrs. Norman W. Harris, III

Betty Bisok

East Burt Lake Association

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Lisa Loyd's Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Minoletti
Shridhar, Katy, Lucy, and Henry Shah

Ric Loyd's 60th birthday

Katherine and Shridhar Shah

Jim Schroeder

Kerry John

Sheldon Veil's 90th birthday

Ms. Diane Curtis
Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West



Eagle Scout candidate Maxx Nichols built two wooden benches and cleared the trails at the Ray Johnston Preserve, which lies across the road from his family's party store. Thanks to the Nichols Family and all the scouts involved in helping Maxx complete his project.



Debbie Hindle and Ken Ross, longtime LTC members, have included a gift of their extraordinary Emmet County land in their will.

A Land of Many Special Spots

By Debbie Hindle

Growing up in the summers in Bay View, I thought open land would always be there. I would sail across the Bay and explore the area between Menonaqua Beach and Wequetonsing, never thinking that it might belong to anyone, let alone that in years to come, it would be developed. Gradually, I could see favorite meadows being subdivided and built on — so much so, that I thought something of the beauty and uniqueness of northern Michigan was being lost.

Having lived abroad for nearly 10 years, by the early '80s I was looking for some property to call my own. I viewed many lots, but when I saw this property on Lookout Road, I knew this was “the one.” I could have purchased two beach lots or 80 acres — and at the time, there was no competition. The views were expansive — we could see all four lighthouses, a corner of Wycamp Lake, all of Waugoshance, and the Upper Peninsula. Since then, the trees have obscured the view, but even now we can see two lighthouses, and the sand dunes along Highway 2 in the Upper Peninsula.

The land includes mixed woodlands (about 30 acres) and open rolling meadow. One always imagines that the land just takes care of itself, but “doing nothing” we have found is an action. However, it was only when we built our home and began living here for six months every year since 2010 that we understood what was involved. We have had to learn that maintaining the meadows, keeping our forest healthy, etc. takes time and effort. We also came to realize that without paths, the land was virtually inaccessible. Learning to drive and then purchasing a tractor and a brush hog changed everything. We tackled the sumac that had invaded the

fields, laid out paths and gradually widened them, discovered areas we had not seen and started creating viewing points and sitting areas. We had the woods selectively logged, removing the beech and ash trees that we were destined to lose, but before they became diseased, and had a path laid out through the woods. We've learned more than we care to know about invasive species and are constantly alert to managing knapweed, Russian olive, and Canada thistle — so much so that at times it feels like a full-time job.

My mother was a member of LTC from the start, and loved birdwatching and nature and was able to enjoy walking in the Thorne Swift Preserve well into her 90s! So this love was naturally passed on to me. Also, I purchased the land with money I had saved from my inheritance from my father, which adds a special meaning to me and to the wish to pass it on. I had it in my mind to leave this property to the Conservancy from the point of purchasing it, and it has been in my will since 1982! I had seriously considered and had discussed with LTC about the possibility of putting the land in an easement, but this was at a time when I was still getting to know the land and thinking about how to develop it. What I love now is having field trips and open days and making it accessible to others. Over the last four years, we have had LTC field trips, Petoskey Regional Audubon Society bird walks, the Cross Village and Good Hart Walking Group, Plein Air painters, and the Dark Sky Park do events here.

What has also been wonderful has been meeting like-minded people, also involved with the Conservancy and enjoying other field trips and Conservancy properties. Over the last 35 years, I have seen the acreage of land and number of preserves grow and seen how this has benefited the whole area. I think more and more people are considering dedicating land as it truly preserves something that is irreplaceable. The importance of this, I do not think, can be over-estimated. We need open spaces and wild spaces for wildlife and birds, for native plants which might otherwise be lost, and for the next generation to enjoy and experience what we did as children. But this requires good stewardship of the land as well.

The work of the Conservancy has a ripple effect. One person can only do so much, but combined, like-minded people create a state of mind which gets us all to think more about the land. Donating land in one's will is a worthy legacy and one way of ensuring that something of the beauty of our area will be preserved.

The Hindle-Ross property features sweeping Lake Michigan views and eight special sitting and viewing areas, including a brand new analemmatic sundial. Exotic and invasive species are being mindfully exterminated, evidenced by this thriving field of bee balm.

Call our office now to sign up your class for a school year Environmental Education Program 2017/2018 School Year Program Dates

**Call our office
at 231.347.0991
to sign up for
a season or
for the whole
school year!**

**Fall
September 19–October 24**

**Winter
January 16–March 2**

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May 1–June 8**

**Be sure to ask us
about the funding
opportunities to help
cover your bus
transportation costs.**

Mouly Kumaraswamy



Joe Francis Farm, Middle Village

LTC Trustee Eric Hemenway explains the role that fishing has played for the Odawa and why the quality of water - and the quality of fish - has literally been a life-saving matter.

The Season of Giving: The Importance of Autumn for the Odawa of Waganakising

The landscape of northern Michigan has provided for the subsistence of the Odawa for centuries. Whether it be Lake Michigan, teeming with whitefish, or the farms and gardens of Odawa families, which yielded corn, beans and squash, the land fed the people. Like many other communities in North America, the most critical time to harvest the land for the Odawa was that of autumn.

The Odawa word for autumn is “dwah-ge.” All of the critical crops of corn, beans and squash were harvested. In addition to these, some berries were also harvested, such as blackberries. But the most important crop was that of corn or “dah-min.” Traditionally, there were dozens of strains of indigenous corn in the Great Lakes. Each type grew in very specific soils and climates, providing a long, sustained harvest throughout the region. Potawatomi, Ojibway, Huron and other tribes grew corn as well. The Odawa grew so much corn, they would use it as a trade good with other tribes and later with the French and British. But before a surplus of corn could be bartered, enough corn had to be stored to survive the testing winter months of the Great Lakes.

Food caches, often stored in trees, could be the difference between life or death for an Odawa family in the winter months. These small

stashers of food often held dried corn. Other dried foods from that autumn’s harvest would be in a cache but corn was the best, as it could be stored in large amounts for long periods of time. Without a good corn harvest in the fall, a difficult winter was sure to ensue.

The connection between the land and the people is so great that time could be told through what was occurring in nature. For example, the months of September, October and November, as translated into the Odawa world. September is “mah-no-mi-nee-geezis” or “wild rice moon.” October is “bi-nah-kwa-geezis” or “falling leaves moon” and finally, November is “gashkidino-geezis” or “freezing moon.” The Odawa, along with their Anishnaabek kin, told time through what was happening around them. The fall months directly reflect that connection with their environment. Today, Odawa still farm, hunt and fish in the lands of their ancestors.

LTC Photography Collaboration with Crooked Tree Arts Center

By Education Coordinator Sarah Mayhew

In August, students entering grades 4-8 participated in LTC's first-ever program collaboration with the Crooked Tree Arts Center in Petoskey. The week-long program consisted of a variety of technical instruction about camera settings, technique, terminology and concepts for composing a solid image. Field trips took place at local natural areas including Resort Township Park East (an LTC assist project), McCune Preserve and Thorne Swift Nature Preserve. Students were given exposure to all aspects of the process, taking an idea from start to finish. Students learned about critiquing each other's work and their own, naming the piece they chose to show, and matting and framing.

On our last day of

camp, students viewed the galleries and hung their own show in the lower level of the building. We celebrated with a small reception consisting of family members, popcorn, and high fives.

This show coincided with the National Parks and Ansel Adams exhibitions that were on display in the upper level galleries. What an honor to have the students' work hanging below such a master as Ansel Adams! While the students hadn't heard of Ansel Adams prior, and I was forced to make a Hail Mary comparison to pop star Taylor Swift in a last-ditch effort for them to understand the magnitude of his popularity, they were able to appreciate his photographs by using critical processes and now have a better understanding of the power that photography has had on land conservation in our country.



Hundreds of young people from preschoolers to teens participated in an LTC or LTC partnership program this past summer. Partners this season included the Boyne District Library, the Charlevoix Public Library, the Petoskey District Library, Camp McSaubia, and Crooked Tree Arts Center.





Members attend LTC's 45th annual meeting held August 1 at the United Auto Worker's facility on Black Lake.

Thank you to the following individuals, families, and businesses who newly made or increased their commitment to the Little Traverse Conservancy between May 17 and August 23, 2017.

New Members

Ms. Laura Adler
 Archambo Electric
 Ken and Marti Barrow
 Mr. Jon Bartell
 Ms. Shirley Barton
 Mr. Ronald Benson
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 Robert and Anne Boch
 Ms. Denise Bondy
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 Anne Lowell Campbell
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Increased Giving

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 Brendan and Abby Egan
 Ross and Emily Emmerman
 Jack and Nancy Engledow
 Mrs. Virginia Ewing
 Ms. Mary Fenske

Welcome Will!

Last July, LTC welcomed Will Fitzgerald for a three-month internship during which he is completing baseline biological inventories for some of our newest nature preserves, and helping with a variety of land stewardship tasks. The internship is Will's final requirement for completing his bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University where he is majoring in Recreational Park and Tourism Management and minoring in English and Sustainability Leadership.

With family roots in Bay View, Will has lived and traveled in numerous places around the world including Australia, Denmark, Patagonia, and most recently in Tanzania. For the past two summers, he worked at a summer camp taking young people on expeditions to Nova Scotia and the Appalachian Trail. At this time, he is interested in international land conservation, but also notes, "I have wanted to delve into conservation of a place that I am familiar with and hold dear."

"This internship has already exceeded my expectations," Will adds, saying how much he has enjoyed learning more about the plants and animals of the region. "Holistically - and already outside of work - I find I am stopping so much more to take the time to look up...and look down. I am noticing so much more. And I really enjoy the balance of switching between the physical field work and the office-based work."

In his free time, some of Will's interests include tennis, biking, skiing, writing, cooking and baking.



A favorite quote: "I spent my youth envying people who had lived all their lives in the houses they were born in, and had attics full of proof that they had lived...Some are born in their place, some find it, some realize after long searching that the place they left is the one they have been searching for. But whatever their relation to it, it is made a place only by slow accrual, like a coral reef."

- Wallace Stegner, "The Sense of Place"

Increased Giving Continued

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Andrew H. and Eileen Fisher
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Dave and Carrie Gabriel
Julie and Jerry Galante
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Gergel
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Aaron and Candice Wiers
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Wilson
Connie Shelton and Joseph Wilson
Mrs. Cathleen S. Zepelin

As of August 31, 2017
LTC has worked with landowners
to protect 56,959 acres.

Wish List

- iPad to use for event registration and field work
- New wood stove for the cabin at the Andreae Nature Preserve.

Reflections...by Tom Bailey

With the coming of autumn, it will soon be time to put our lawn mowers away and give the land a rest. It's too late for the grass to grow much more, and all of the herbicides that have been applied (diplomatically referred to as "weed control") will prevent native plants from reclaiming the areas that next spring will again be raked, aerated, fertilized and laced with herbicides in preparation for another summer of being repeatedly run over by the roaring, clattering, fossil fuel burning machines we depend on to keep things "neat," "manicured," or "well-kept." I shake my head and again ask, rhetorically, what led us to this obsession with lawns and manicured landscapes, anyway?

I recall from reading Roderick Nash's *Wilderness and the American Mind* in college, and from a lecture by one of my professors, that the European affinity for manicured landscapes has its roots in beliefs that go back to medieval times. The early Church taught that when Satan and his cohorts were thrown out of heaven, they landed in a wooded area and thus anyplace that was "wild" was not only potentially dangerous but also in its own way evil. The mandate for humankind to "multiply and subdue the earth" was seen as a divine directive to convert these wild places to cultivated, modified, manicured areas where human-made order replaced the untamed, godless and evil wild. And while theological perspectives have evolved over the years, the landscaping tradition has remained, giving rise to a whole new aesthetic and the prevailing view that mowed, manicured, weed-free lawns are "good" and more natural landscapes "shoddy," "unkempt" or worse.

I do not enjoy cutting the grass. A lawn-care conscript in my growing-up years, I had responsibility for weekly mowing, edging and a certain amount of dandelion removal and I grew to loathe "yard work." In my adult life, for a number of years I prided myself in owning a home in the woods that had no lawn, and after the demands of family mandated a yard with mowed grass, when I could afford it I subscribed to lawn service so that I would not have to waste time spreading fertilizer, spraying weeds, and chasing a lawn mower while inhaling small engine exhaust in the interest of making pretty lines across the yard and maintaining grass at an artificial height.

In fairness, I will note that I have friends who experience mowing grass as relaxing, zen-like therapy. They love the scent of fresh-cut grass and they savor the symmetry and beauty of a manicured lawn with no crabgrass, no dandelions, no weeds. They enjoy seeing the results produced by fertilizer, and there's something satisfying about turning the dials on the in-ground irrigation system that assures a uniform green even when Mother Nature does not provide regular rains.

I confess to giving in on the irrigation system: I grew too lazy to mind the old-fashioned sprinkler, and neighborhood peer pressure forced me to "do something about that awful brown lawn." For some time now I have had the same sorts



Jim Hudgins/USFWS

of things that whoosh and sputter to life every night at about 3 a.m. on the other lawns around me. Still retaining a bit of my curmudgeonly pride, I run the system sparingly and enjoy turning it off when rain comes to quench the lawn without need for depleting the ground water.

In the bigger picture, I wish for less mowing and more nature; less waste of fossil fuels, air pollution, chemical contamination and genetically modified grass in favor of native grasses that wave and sway with the wind's caress, more small shrubs and flowers, more variety and more color. I long to see people spend more time examining the many forms of life that inhabit a landscape that gardeners might call a mess, but which many living things would call home. What joy is there in combing through a Kentucky Bluegrass monoculture where nearly every living thing is seen as a pest? What is satisfying about the monotony imposed by the mower? Some sports and activities call for mowing and management, but to me the best sports are pursued and the most satisfying activities unfold where machines don't tread, blades don't cut and application of chemicals is not necessary. Give me woods, meadows or beaches over lawns any day.

What a shame that the beauty of fallen leaves on a sunny autumn day brings out blowers that assault our ears and raise clouds of dust, rakes that blister our hands and plastic garbage bags that never decay—all to protect the exotic grass that requires more mowing, more chemicals, more banishment of native flora and fauna from what should rightfully be their homes. How much better it would be to simply enjoy the beautiful colors, savor the rich sounds and scents of autumn, and appreciate the life that thrives in leaf-litter!

Sadly, the attachment to manicured lawns is persistent, and the culture will not change overnight. But perhaps over time more land owners will decide to spare a corner here and there from the mower, to help some areas recover from Kentucky Bluegrass—or Fescue or whatever—and grow an abundance of plant life with flowers that bloom throughout the season, food for different kinds of wildlife, room for ground-nesting birds and the kind of subtle beauty that can please not only the eye but the soul much more than a chopped-off, chemical-laced wasteland that lacks the variety and vitality of the natural world.



THANK YOU

Dick Oelke of Benchmark Engineering for help with legal descriptions.

Bob Dunn for a boat ride to Marquette Island and use of his ATV.

Christine and Thomas Hassett for donating furniture for our intern house.

EcoStewards volunteers Doug Fuller, Richard Jenkins, John Lehman, and the Stewart family for pulling 16+ bags of garlic mustard at Raunecker and Leslie preserves in June.

Johnston Engineering for consultation on the Andreae Nature Preserve bridge repairs.

Eagle Scout candidate Maxx Nichols and his family for clearing trails and building two benches and installing one of them at the Ray Johnston Nature Preserve. Thanks to the Boy Scout Troop 5 volunteers who helped him with the project completion.

John Griffin for a boat ride to Aldo Leopold Preserve.

Haltemann Family for going above and beyond at Rogers Family Homestead Preserve.

Neighbor at Susan Creek Nature Preserve for letting us temporarily use his property to access the nature preserve.

Ellen Waller and Richard Jenkins for pulling spotted knapweed at Vermilion Point Preserve.

Gerald Brown for power washing our office stairs and walkway.

Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital for the use of a meeting room.

Preston Feather for donating toward the repairs of the Andreae Preserve bridge.

Jerry Heinrich for allowing us access to the Andreae Preserve bridge through his property.

Woods and Water EcoTours for leading a Les Cheneaux kayak field trip.

Mary Trout for leading birding field trips and helping with the summer knee high naturalist programs.

Boyne, Charlevoix, and Petoskey libraries and Camp McSaubia for collaborating on summer youth programs.

Debbie Hindle and Ken Ross for opening up their property for a guided tour of their trails and new analemmatic sundial.

Courtney McGeorge for counting trail camera data.

Mark Halsted for donating a trail groomer.

Summer RSVP Mailing volunteers Sally Bales, Marlene Bartson, Barb Bechhold, Rusty Kahn, Michaleen and Nick Karay, Karen Knapp, Doris Lark, Rye Muir, Nancy Staley, Nancy Fay Packer, and Lurli Vaughan.

Save the Trees event volunteers Parker Driggs, Townsend Driggs, Will Fitzgerald, Joe Graham, Darrell Lawson, Richard Jenkins, and Sarah Ratliff.

Tyler Sykes for monitoring remote Les Cheneaux Island Preserves.

Volunteer parking area and trail upkeep: Scott Smith and family (Hailand-Helstrom Preserve), Les Arnold (Elmer Johnston Preserve), Shane Albrecht (Sugar Island Preserves), Bill Olstrom (Taylor and Olstrom Preserves), and Bill Kohls (Barney's Lake Preserve).

Trout Unlimited Miller Van Winkle Chapter members Ed Davis, Steve Radecki and Glen Young for assisting in fly fishing education for the T.O.S.S. Environmental Education program this summer.

Katie Brines for collaborating on the Junior Naturalists EcoArt Environmental Education program.

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Youth Conservation Corps members for help at the Andreae Preserve with river erosion control and hauling lumber and trail clearing at the Susan Creek Nature Preserve.

SEEDS Youth Volunteer Corps members for cleaning up trash at a farm homestead at the Darnton Preserve and cleaning up a home site at the Harris Family Working Forest Reserve.

Anne T. and Mark Melvin for hosting a special gathering at Columbus Beach Club and for being superheroes on Burt Lake fundraising efforts.

Bill and Carolyn Stark, Kenyon Stebbins, Ian and Sally Bund, Gus and Kathleen Serra, Randy & Lori Croyle, and Steve Judd for lending your support in Birchwood Farms for the Wingforth land project.

Fred and Mary Clinton for donating a weed whip, chainsaw, and hedge trimmer.

Todd Petersen for volunteer photography for our projects.

Sheree and Richard Lincoln of Brasswind Landing in Indian River for donating time and kayaks for the TOSS program.

Tom Foster and the Hidden River Golf & Casting Club for allowing LTC kayak floats to start and finish at the Club House.

The mission of the Little Traverse Conservancy is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of northern Michigan by preserving significant land and scenic areas, and fostering appreciation and understanding of the environment.

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Cranberry picking is just one of many adventures planned through our community field trips this fall. Join us!

Little Traverse Conservancy, Inc.
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www.landtrust.org

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Autumn 2017 Community Field Trips

Pre-registration is requested for all field trips at www.landtrust.org or by calling 231.347.0991.

Warblers and Waterfowl on the North Huron Wednesday, September 20 8-11 am

Meet at Bridge View Park, Mackinac Bridge

Join LTC and MI Sea Grant Educator Elliot Nelson for a birding tour of some of the most spectacular sights along the North Huron Birding Trail. We will target waterfowl such as Redhead, Scaup, Red-Necked Grebe and Scoters in the Saint Ignace area. Then we will drive east to Hessel and visit the Birge Nature Preserve where late migrant warblers and large flocks of Bonaparte's gulls can be expected. A great birding opportunity!

Apple Cider Making

Saturday, September 30 1-3 pm

Offield Family Nature Preserve, Harbor Springs

Join LTC staff member Charles Dawley for a cider making extravaganza. We will hike to the orchard within the preserve. There we will collect apples, crush, and press them. Bring an empty milk jug or jar if you would like to take some cider home!

Yoga in Nature

Saturday September 30 2-4 pm

Headlands, Mackinaw City

Join LTC volunteer coordinator and certified yoga instructor Cacia Lesh for an invigorating hike and yoga practice outdoors. Bring a yoga mat or towel, water bottle, and dress appropriately for the cool, fall weather. Yoga for all levels, ages 10 and above. Space is limited, registration required. Rain date is 10/1.

This is Waganakising

Wednesday, October 4 3-4:30 pm

Woollam Family Nature Preserve, along M-119

Eric Hemenway will share how fall was a time of importance for the tribe and how the Woollam Family Nature Preserve is in the heart of Waganakising. Parking is limited, so we encourage carpooling or alternative transportation if possible.

Citizen Science and the American Kestrel

Tuesday, October 10 7 pm

Northern Lights Recreation Center, Petoskey

Want to learn more about birds? Want to be part of a national bird conservation effort? You can! Little Traverse Conservancy's Volunteer coordinator, Cacia Lesh, and citizen science volunteer

Jim Bean, share their experience with the American Kestrel Partnership's kestrel nest box monitoring program. With the help of an anonymous grant in 2012, LTC has erected 77 nest boxes on its preserved lands in order to monitor American Kestrels. Free and family friendly.

Cranberry Picking at Vermilion Point

Saturday, October 7 11 am-2 pm

Vermilion Point Nature Preserve, Chippewa Co.

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 to fill!

Fall Wildlife Hike at Greenwood Foundation

Saturday, October 7 1-3 pm

Wolverine, Cheboygan County

The Greenwood Foundation is one of the largest privately-owned northern Michigan properties protected with a conservation easement. Join Conservancy staff as you hike the trails around the beautiful Lake Holy Smoke — keeping your eyes open for migratory birds, wild turkeys and elk.

Birding around Little Traverse Bay

Saturday, November 11 begins at 8:45 am

Meet at Harbor Springs Marina parking lot

Join Petoskey Regional Audubon Society President Darrell Lawson and LTC as we caravan our way around Little Traverse Bay in search of migrating birds! Starting in Harbor Springs and ending at East Park in Bay Harbor, we'll spend about 3 hours at six or seven sites looking for geese, ducks, loons, grebes, gulls, and other seasonal and resident birds. Dress for the weather. **Please plan on meeting at the Harbor Spring Marina public parking lot.** We will then carpool to the Raunecker Nature Preserve trailhead at the base of Bull Moose Hill. The leader will have a scope, but please bring one if you have one. Optional lunch afterwards at one of Petoskey's downtown restaurants. Rain date is Sunday, November 12. You can register through LTC, but for more information, please contact Darrell at lawsodw@gmail.com.