



PROTECTING THE NORTH COUNTRY WE LOVE

THE TRAILS YOU MADE



Fall 2020 | Vol. 42 No. 3
www.landtrust.org | 231.347.0991
PHOTO BY LATITUDE 45

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The individuals, families, businesses, and foundations who are current members.

The 400+ volunteers who donate thousands of hours.

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Scars

a word from Kieran Fleming, Executive Director

"That's gonna hurt," flashed through my brain in the split second after the northern pike, still attached to the front hook of my lure, squirmed from my grip and was now dangling from my knee, by the back hook of said lure. As if on cue, the pike began thrashing wildly, driving each of our respective hooks deeper. My rapid analysis tuned out to be true – it did hurt. Later on, the ER nurse scolded me with this useful tidbit: don't cut the eye off any hook that is impaled in your flesh. It makes it harder to get it out. She gave me the stink eye when I tried to explain the chaos surrounding a live fish still connected to my knee when it objected to the hooks. In any case, let this spare you similar embarrassment if you ever find yourself in this predicament.

I deduced that I was 16 at the time because after I cut the hooks free, I drove home and it was the first time I ever exceeded the speed limit. If I were younger than 16, I would have been on my bike and I know speeding was a regular occurrence by the time I was 17.

This was on the White River, about three miles from my childhood home. I would fish there frequently. At first I'd ride "th green machine," my single-speed Schwinn with a banana seat. Fishing pole in one hand, tackle box in the other. Later, I'd borrow the station wagon – the one in which I learned to speed. You could usually catch at least one small pike, but carp were both big and plentiful. It was here that my little sister Nora sometimes joined me. Nora is not that outdoorsy, but she is a force of nature. She loved to fish (still does) and I will never forget the time she hooked a big carp, simultaneously belly laughing and crying as the fish strained her wrist in the tussle. Many who grew up in the era before cell phones have similar stories.

Fast forward to today. Anxiety, depression, suicide, eating disorders, and other ailments have never been higher amongst teenagers and young adults. While we know there are many factors fueling these issues, I just read yet another account of the negative implications of today's social media and technology. It described how social media is harming our kids' (especially girls') ability to navigate conflict and that, in turn, is showing up in the form of high anxiety and need for safe spaces, among other things. As dramatic as that sounds, I think most of us can see we were not built to handle all the unknowns this technology brings to our psyche.

It's ironic that as our culture started to migrate away from unsupervised play in the outdoors and towards structured play environments and digital relationships, things may have actually worsened for us.

On one hand, it seems logical that kids being outside (particularly while unsupervised) can be dangerous. But is it really THAT dangerous? And don't our kids NEED to learn to navigate real problems that come when you take risks? After 37 years, my scar from the hook removal surgery is scarcely visible, and it has the added benefit of a great story from a real-life experience in the outdoors.

The counter argument is that the scar on my knee is nothing compared to the unseen scars of anxiety and other issues our kids today are dealing with, issues that may take a lifetime to address. And, despite their struggles, young people have fewer stories or real-life experiences to fall back on. Some contend that our young adults will have a harder time confronting hardships when they arise and that they lack a full understanding of taking risks, dealing with consequences, and reaping rewards. Think about your grandchild someday telling you about an incredible Snapchat he/she saw. Or that time they belly laughed over a text message. Can you imagine that? Neither can I. Would their stories be better if they involved telling ghost stories around a campfire and howling to see if the coyotes (or wolves) would respond?

You probably know what I am going to say next: we must do more to get our kids out in the woods. I am starting with me; adults have been sucked into this technology thing too. I decided to cut social media and other forms of being bombarded by my phone to an hour or less a week. After three weeks on a technology diet, I submit that this can change your view of the world more dramatically than you may think. Maybe if we decide to lay down our phones, our kids will follow suit. Maybe we can turn the tide that is working against them such that they value turning over logs looking for salamanders, catching tadpoles, eating wild blackberries, or fishing at the river. And we need to, because now the science is actually showing that these real-life experiences are more important than we thought. They literally provide the foundation for a happy life, for better relationships. Yes, there may be some stitches involved. But a good scar always has a good story.

Cube Point

Little Traverse Conservancy is partnering with the Les Cheneaux Foundation, LTC supporters and the Carls Foundation to preserve the Cube Point property on Marquette Island in the 36-island archipelago that comprises the Les Cheneaux Islands. Part of the scenic approach to Hessel, Cedarville and the Les Cheneaux Islands from Mackinac, Cube Point, originally called "Kecheto-taw-non Point," is 13 acres with 1,500 feet of beautiful, pristine frontage on Wilderness Bay. The preservation of this property will provide critical habitat for migrating birds, Bald and Golden Eagles and Osprey, outstanding shoreline habitat for waterfowl, and important water quality protection for Lake Huron.

As the largest of the islands in the Les Cheneaux archipelago, Marquette Island is already home to three LTC Nature Preserves: the Aldo Leopold Nature Preserve, the Catherine Seiberling Stewart Nature Preserve and the Sheppard-Hardy Nature Preserve. These preserves now total more than 1,900 acres and protect nearly five miles of Lake Huron shoreline.

The scenic Cube Point shoreline enhances all forms of water recreation, including the potential for a destination along the Les Cheneaux Islands Water Trail. LTC has the long-term goal of connecting the Cube Point property with the nearby Sheppard-Hardy Nature Preserve, and also expanding this land conservation effort eastward towards the Aldo Leopold Nature Preserve.

WILL YOU HELP PRESERVE THIS PRISTINE PROPERTY ON THE SHORES OF LAKE HURON?

The Cube Point property is under contract for the bargain-sale amount of \$850,000. The Les Cheneaux Foundation has contributed \$340,000 to this land preservation effort and the Carls Foundation has provided a 2:1 challenge-grant opportunity that will match up to \$100,000!

"The Les Cheneaux Foundation (a long-time partner of LTC) was able to work with members of the Brown family, who generously agreed to a bargain sale. The Foundation is delighted to turn this project over to LTC which has preserved so much priceless land in the Les Cheneaux Islands," said George Covington, president of the Les Cheneaux Foundation and current LTC board member.

For more information or if you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit www.landtrust.org/cube-point or contact Ty Ratliff, Associate Director, at 231.347.0991 or tyratliff@landtrust.org.



Conservation Investment Program Update +80 Acres!

Through LTC's Conservation Investment Program (CIP), a privately-owned 80-acre property in Koehler Township, Cheboygan County is now owned by a conservation-minded buyer and permanently protected with a conservation easement. Through the program, LTC purchased the land and placed a conservation easement on it to protect the mostly wooded habitat that is bordered by state land on three sides. It did not take long for LTC to find a buyer who wanted to purchase the now-protected land.

"We were able to handle this transaction at no financial loss to the Conservancy, which is the ideal way to make this program happen," said Caitlin Donnelly, LTC Director of Land Protection.

If you are interested in working with LTC to find a property through the CIP Program, please contact Caitlin at caitlin@landtrust.org or call 231.347.0991.

Expansive Experience

PHOTO BY RAY GAYNOR

THE OFFIELD FAMILY VIEWLANDS

After weeks of preparing the land by converting golf cart paths to foot trails, erecting signs, and ensuring the safety of the surrounding buildings, the Offield Family Viewlands Working Forest Reserve was opened to the public at the end of June.

"We have seen a steady stream of visitors to the Viewlands since the first day the gate was left open," said Kieran Fleming, LTC's executive director. "With its proximity to town, vast open trails, and beautiful views of Little Traverse Bay and the Inland Waterway, this property offers a unique way to capture and enjoy so much that epitomizes the grand beauty of northern Michigan."

Roughly six miles of trails are marked for recreational enjoyment, meandering the land in much the same way as golfers have for many years. "While it's certainly possible, it isn't typical for people to walk these trails from start to finish as there are numerous steep hills," said LTC director of stewardship Derek Shiels. "If you were training for a race or backpacking in the mountains, this would be an excellent place to get your workout in!"

Restoration efforts (see photo to the right) have already been underway all summer slowly converting some of the old greens and fairways. To date, three fairways have been prepared for native seed planting that will occur in late fall. Staff and volunteers have been removing invasive knapweed to prevent it from invading the native plant meadows that are also being established. "This is a multi-year effort with few immediate results, but steering the direction of this land back to a natural state is rewarding work," Shiels added.

The old golf club and associated buildings remain closed for the time, with the maintenance buildings now in use as LTC's central outpost for their field and

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stewardship activities. Plans for the restaurant and event facilities are still being discussed, and this winter we hope to reach a decision for the 2021 summer season.

In the meantime, a series of night sky programs led by Star Lore Historian Mary Stewart Adams are planned for this fall at the Viewlands property. Your annual membership support of LTC made this incredible project possible. Your gifts go to work to ensure that northern Michigan's most special lands are open to all and protected forever. See back cover.



You can help restore this meadow!

Three fairways have been prepped, and native grasses and forbs will be planted in the fall of 2020. Help us document the change over time by placing your phone or camera on the provided bracket and taking a picture. Email it to lrc@landtrust.org, post it on Instagram with the hashtag: #RestoreViewlands, or tag @ltconservancy on Facebook.

Burt Lake Watershed Protection Grows

A 22-acre nature preserve near Burt Lake has been protected thanks to a land purchase funded by Bert Ebbers and Katie Parker. Lying adjacent to the 17-acre Bearsaw Creek Nature Preserve, the land protects more than half a mile along Mullett-Burt Road as well as 600 feet of frontage along Bearsaw Creek, which drains into Burt Lake. Bearsaw Creek is one of only three major creeks or rivers in Burt Township that feed into Burt Lake.

As longtime residents of Burt Township and lifelong ecologists, Bert and Katie have been observing the diversity of wildlife that congregate around Bearsaw Creek throughout the seasons. "When the lake is still frozen in early spring, the creek opens up ahead of the lake, and the earliest arriving ducks congregate there," Bert said. "Mallards, Black Ducks, Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers are a welcome sight after enduring months of icy whiteness and having no waterfowl around anywhere in the neighborhood. Red-shouldered Hawks, a state-threatened species, return at about the same time, and are another welcome sign that spring is underway. At this same transitional time of year, pike swim up Bearsaw Creek through the new property to

spawn in the marshes that adjoin the main channel."

Ebbers gives much credit to the land's previous owner, Mac Richardson, for selling the land for conservation when he had ample opportunity to sell to others who were interested in development. "My great-uncle Clyde Milliken first acquired this and surrounding land in the early 1920s and it has passed through to my grandmother and eventually to me," Richardson explained. He added that the now-preserved land was mostly appreciated for its wild and natural state and used occasionally for hunting.

"In 2002, the Bearsaw Creek Nature Preserve was sold to LTC for a bargain sale by Bert and Katie," said Becky Wadleigh, LTC land protection specialist. "We thank them and the Richardson family for doing so much over the years to ensure that this significant Burt Lake watershed remains healthy and natural." An official name for the new preserve is yet to be determined.



Red-shouldered Hawk, a Michigan Threatened Species *From Michigan Natural Features Inventory:*

Adult Red-shouldered hawks can be distinguished by the reddish coloration of their underparts and wing linings and their 5-6 narrow, white tail bands. In flight, they show crescent-shaped translucent patches lining the bases of the long, outermost wing feathers. The bird's red shoulders are often not readily visible. Their call during the breeding season is distinctive; a loud, rapidly repeated "kee-yer," though it is closely imitated by Blue jays. Eight-two occurrences were documented in 2015 in Cheboygan County.



PHOTO BY TMPETERSEN



MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS AT THE TANTON FAMILY WORKING FOREST RESERVE ARE OFFICIALLY OPEN!

You are part of the greatest new mountain bike trail in northern Michigan. Countless people have already flocked to the Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve to experience over six miles of mountain bike enhanced trails. The 236-acre property just southeast of Petoskey was protected in 2016 with a lead gift from the Tanton family. The reserve is located almost directly adjacent to and across the road from one of LTC's most popular properties, the 168-acre Allan and Virginia McCune Nature Preserve.

The joint fundraising effort between LTC and Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association (TOMMBA) resulted in enough funding to hire the nationally renowned Rock Solid Trail Contracting out of Copper Harbor, Michigan. Rock Solid has gained a reputation for constructing some of the finest mountain bike designed trails from the upper Midwest to Arkansas.

The trail building crew spent roughly two months building the trail which is now complete with more than six miles of trails featuring three tiered loops that increase in difficulty. "This property used to be called Christmas Mountain because of its high elevation, and it had hiking trails going straight up that would lead to erosion and are unsustainable," said Derek Shiels, LTC Director of Stewardship. "The trails now follow more of a switchback pattern similar to what you would find out West when hiking true mountains. It makes for such a beautiful and unusual trail experience in northern Michigan, whether done by bike or on foot."

Because the trail is open to both bikers and hikers, we are asking users to follow a trail direction system that is explained on the signs. It is crucial that users be respectful and ensure visibility as best as possible because hikers may be coming towards bikers in the opposite direction, and there will be bikers at all skill levels. This trail system does allow for Class I Electric Bikes, meaning pedal-assist only with cut off at 20mph. Please continue to follow social distance guidelines, including in the parking area.

On behalf of LTC and TOMMBA, thank YOU to all who donated to make this trail a reality.

Directions and a downloadable copy of the trail map are available at www.landtrust.org/mountainbiketrail.

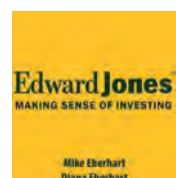
Thank you to the following individuals, families and businesses who helped us raise an incredible total of \$223,950 to make this community trail possible for all to enjoy. We couldn't have done it without you! Donors listed below made their generous gift prior to August 31, 2020.

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Fall Foraging

Many people in northern Michigan are familiar with the popular springtime edible mushroom, the morel. However, most are not as familiar with some excellent fall edible mushrooms found around our region. It's true that eating wild mushrooms can be intimidating, especially if you're not confident with how to identify. Some can make you very ill, but some are also choice culinary edibles! The following information highlights two fall-favorite edible mushrooms: Oysters and Chanterelles.

Both of these mushrooms can be found during fall months; the Oysters can even be found throughout winter. The grocery store is a good place to familiarize yourself with these mushrooms, but there's nothing quite like finding your own in the wild! Please note that all mushrooms should never be consumed without cooking. There are countless recipes available online, but most times a simple pan sauté in butter or olive oil is all you need.

Besides providing delicious food, mushrooming is a fantastic way to engage both children and adults in the woods. Remember, if you're unsure, don't eat it. We'd love to see your mushrooming journey so tag us on social media!

Happy foraging!

OYSTER MUSHROOMS

Grow wild on tree trunks, stumps or logs.

Habitat: Commonly found on dead Beech trees, but can also be found on other deciduous trees.



Identifying Oysters:

- White or off-white in color
- Grow in clusters
- Stems are usually short and stubby and often fused together
- Fan-shaped caps overlap in tiers. Cap size generally between 2-8 inches.
- Have regular, geometric gills
- Gills are attached to the stem or the cap in a uniform way
- Gills can be rubbed off or separated from the underside of the cap quite easily
- Prime edibility when white in color. The gills turn brownish when old. Once they've turned brown they are no longer fit for consumption.

CHANTERELLE MUSHROOMS

Found scattered in groups on forest floors.

Habitat: Forest comprised of beech, oak, pine, and birch trees.



Identifying Chanterelles:

- Egg-yoke yellow in color
- Have irregular, cross-veined ridges
- Stem is solid
- Younger chanterelles have a flat cap with slightly down curled edge
- Mature chanterelle a funnel or trumpet-like bell shape upward
- Ridges aren't in a set, uniform pattern
- They are not attached to the stem in a distinct and regular way, as gills are. Ridges are part of the stem. There is no distinct pattern in the way they grow out of the stem.
- Ridges cannot be rubbed off easily like gills can.



NATURE AS TEACHER AND HEALER

Many adults have naturally found solace in nature during these uncertain times because we inherently know that it elevates our mood and decreases stress and anxiety. The same effects are true for a child's emotional, behavioral, and intellectual development. Our current reality means children are exposed to more digital screens this school year than ever before. It is our belief that outdoor learning is essential to navigating through this time.

Time in nature has been shown to decrease stress levels and ADHD symptoms in students while increasing academic performance. Students also increase their understanding of the natural and human communities, resulting in caring, active citizens!

We are planning to provide outdoor programming this fall. Whether you are homeschooling or a teacher in school, we want to hear from you. Please contact us to start exploring ways our education staff can meet your needs. Sarah Mayhew: 231.344.1018 or sarah@landtrust.org.

Citizen Science Stewards

For one week in July, nature explorers and biologists visited 32 LTC properties in an effort to catalog biodiversity in celebration of this international "Biodiversity Super Year." By using a smart phone app called iNaturalist (an online, crowd-sourced species identification system), participants took photos of living things on LTC preserves and working forest reserves. By the end of the week, 319 species were identified including at least one new county record (false nettle, *Boehmeria cylindrica*). First- and second-place prize gift certificates to McLean and Eakin Booksellers were awarded to Susan Fawcett and the Knickerbocker family, respectively, for documenting the most species of flora and fauna.

We value documenting which creatures are living on and using our lands because this information helps us be better stewards of our lands, making more informed and effective management decisions. Thanks to all of the participants and foray leaders for making this event a success, despite the challenges of the COVID pandemic.

BioBlitz Recap!



Thank You...

Brendan and Daniel Egan for clearing trees at Hoogland Family Nature Preserve.

Scott Martin for clearing trees at Offield Family Working Forest Reserve.

Chad Johnson for repairing the fence at Offield Family Viewland

My Sister's Bake Shop for donating cookies for preserve dedications.

Wequetonsing campers and families for making notecards for LTC and for clearing trails at Offield Family Working Forest Reserve.

Andy Keen for watering trees at Consuelo Diane and Charles L. Wilson, Jr. Working Forest Reserve.

Preserve Perfectionists for helping with trail maintenance and boardwalk projects: **John Baker, Pat and Julie Dougherty, Dan Dueweke, Jim Ehrnst, John and Sue Esser, Chris Ford, Richard Jenkins, Tom Rowland, Rick Pawley, Bill Thompson, and Beth Wilson.**

Todd Petersen, Wood Rodgers, Spencer McCormack, Ray Gaynor, and Latitude 45 for photography and video work.

Trail Blazers for going above and beyond to help clear windfall after storms: **Carolyn Belknap, Pat and Julie Dougherty, Dan Dueweke, Doug Engler, Gary High, Richard Jenkins, Mary Johnson, Scott Martin, Mark and Michelle Melvin, Rick Pawley, Paul Pioszak, Christina Rajala, Stan Royalty, Randy Tarzwell, Craig Williams, and Rob and Lisa Yates.**

Jim Palmer and Ellen Waller for pulling invasive spotted knapweed at the Kalman Nature Preserve.

Pat and Julie Dougherty for donating lumber for boardwalks.

Jim and Wendy Bean and Ed Pike for helping with the kestrel nesting and banding season. Thanks to **all the kestrel nest box monitors** for keeping their eyes peeled.

Richard Jenkins and John Baker for watering plants at Offield Family Viewlands.

Philip Booth and his father for trail work at Darnton Family Nature Preserve.

Kathy Wassman for paint blazing at Susan Creek Nature Preserve.

BioBlitz foray leaders **Doug Fuller and Glen Matthews; and Richard Jenkins and Darrell Lawson** for their willingness to help.

Mary Trout for help with online Environmental Education programs.

Pat and Julie Dougherty, Doug Fuller, Bill Garlinghouse, Scott Haley, Adam Schubel, and all Preserve Perfectionists for hauling lumber and building boardwalks at Chaboiganing Nature Preserve.

Scott Smith and family for mowing trails at the Sally and Art Hailand, Jr. and Helstrom Family Nature Preserves.

Lynn Brown for the boat ride around Marquette Island.

Bill Courtois for joining the trail crew at Round Island Point Nature Preserve.

Larry Liebler for making and donating two bat houses.

EcoSteward volunteers **Kelly, Heidi and Jack Dumas, William and Audrey Ollinger, Sander Cole, Doug Fuller, Julie Dougherty, John and Sue Esser, Chris Ford, Richard Jenkins, Jim Ehrnst and Glen Matthews** for removing invasive garlic mustard at preserves in Emmet and Charlevoix counties.

Glen Matthews and Mary and Bill Kunst for planting trees at Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve.

Nick and Michaleen Karay, Sally Bales, and Rye Muir for stuffing and stamping envelopes for our summer mailing.

Petoskey High School Shop Class and teacher Larry Liebler for building a "bat condo" for the Nathan Beem Memorial Nature Preserve.

Glen Matthews for sharing his expertise in review of forest management activities.

Lisa Morris for shoreline cleanup at the Kalman Nature Preserve.

Land Conservancy of West Michigan, Blandford Nature Center, Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Andy McDowell for photos.



Volunteers and staff pulling invasive spotted knapweed at the Kalman Nature Preserve



2020 UPDATE - RECORD BREAKING YEAR!

For the first time since its inception over 30 years ago, Save the Trees was not held as an in-person event this year. But that didn't stop you from saving the trees! A total of 89 donors raised \$102,000, a new record for the event. That's a total of 4,080 trees planted! Although we missed seeing everyone in person, we commend you on rising to the occasion and keeping the spirit of land conservation alive and well.

SUGAR MAPLE - \$10,000+

Baiardi Family Foundation, Inc.
Gayle and Chip Everest
Seth and Consie Pierrepont
Dr. and Mrs. John A. Woollam

RED OAK - \$5,000

Mr. and Mrs. Reed H. Eberly
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schiff

WHITE PINE - \$2,500

Meg and Jim Sprow
Kelsey Lee Offield and Col Sternberg

EASTERN HEMLOCK - \$1,000+

Dave and Robyn Barrie
Tim and Susan Collins
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BALSAM FIR - \$500

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Jill and Dave Patterson
Tricia Petzold and Ted Paisley
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Curtis and Carol Jean Schaberg
Susan and Gary Stewart
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Anne Wallace

TAMARACK - \$250

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Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Thank you to the following new members who donated between May 14 and August 18, 2020. If you were a new donor and do not see your name on the list, please accept our sincere apologies and let our office know

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Thank you, Marta!

This September, Marta Olson finished her term as Chairwoman of the Little Traverse Conservancy's Board of Trustees. Joe Kimmel has been elected Chair, and he is poised to continue in the tradition of great leadership for LTC. Many people are unaware of the investment of time, thought, and energy the Chair gives to our organization. On top of that, Marta oversaw the first transition of an Executive Director at LTC in over 30 years, and she did it with grace and enthusiasm. I am personally grateful for her leadership, intelligence, patience, and strength. I cannot tell you how many phone calls, texts, or emails she instantly responded to at any time of the week or day. She was the perfect leader at the right time for LTC. Fortunately, she will remain on the Board to serve out her remaining term. On behalf of our members, Trustees, volunteers, and staff, thank you Marta!



- Kieran Fleming

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Seasonal Stewardship Staff

Tulwen Adams & Madison Talmage

This summer, we were lucky to welcome two interns from Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Tulwen Adams (left) and Madison Talmage (right) joined the Stewardship team along with Brad Von Blon (center) who has been with LTC as a seasonal staff member since the summer of 2019.

Tulwen, originally from Ladonia, Texas, is majoring in Environmental Studies with a minor in Spanish at Austin College. Madison is from Greenville, Texas, and double majoring in Environmental Studies and Public Health. For both of these Texans, it was their first time in Michigan! When asked about the most interesting differences in the two landscapes, both commented on the immense amount of natural, public spaces in Michigan such as state parks and nature preserves. Tulwen also remarked that the natural springs in northern Michigan are a stark difference to paying for water in Texas.

From trail maintenance at Bois Blanc and Beaver Islands, to painting and installing posts and signs, this team did it all this summer! Madison commented that one of her favorite aspects was being involved at the height of the Offield Family Viewlands opening. Tulwen enjoyed exploring the simple and unique ways of showing care for the land, such as building bat houses and managing invasive species.

The busy work of summer was made a lot lighter with these helping hands and fresh energy. *Thank you so much for your hard work and dedication!*



Memorials & Honorariums

Gifts given between May 14 and August 19, 2020.

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Conservancy Loses Founding Member

SEBERON 'BOO' LITZENBURGER

1936-2020

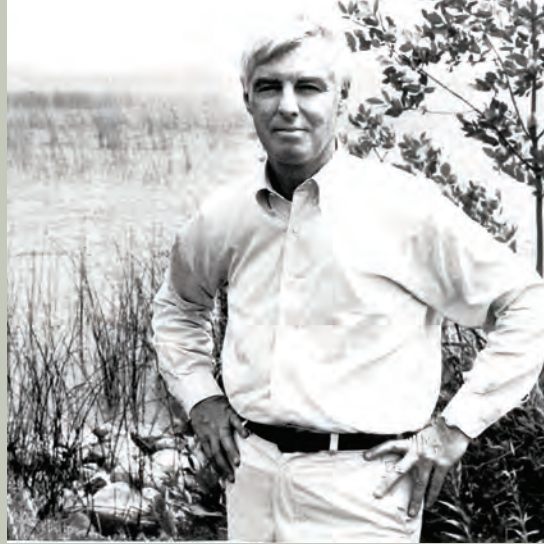
One of LTC's seven founders, Seberon "Boo" Litzenburger, passed away in July following a brief illness.

The son of Dr. A.F. and Marjorie Litzenburger, Boo and his family moved to Boyne City when Boo was almost two years old. Northern Michigan's open spaces and pristine waters became his playground and filled his zest for adventure as a boy and young man. He loved fishing and canoeing the Boyne River and nearby streams, hunting birds and rabbits across meadows and woodlands, and skiing at Boyne Mountain. Sailing Lake Charlevoix and waters far beyond was a particular lifelong love. Boo practiced law in Petoskey with various partners for 37 years, specializing in general civil litigation with a strong emphasis on business and real property matters. He eventually joined the first team developing the former Penn-Dixie Cement Company (now called Bay Harbor) and practiced real estate with Sotheby's International Realty in Bay Harbor and Harbor Springs, retiring when he was 80.

In 1971, Boo was among those who challenged a new development near Harbor Springs. Although they won,

the group wanted to find another way to protect land that did not involve litigation. Thus, the Little Traverse Conservancy was founded in 1972 by Boo and six other

men: John Fischer, David Irish, Ed Koza, Earl Larson, Frank Pierce and John Tanton.



"Because of his passionate love of this area and of the great outdoors, Boo felt driven to be part of the land conservation movement," said Kieran Fleming, LTC's executive director. "He was a voice of steady reason for us and his whole family continues to further his legacy of land conservation and protection in numerous ways. We are so grateful for his vision, his sweet temperament, and what he has done to make this world a better place."

Boo's wife Dianne has been active with the Conservancy since 1996 including a stint as the Board Chair. Boo's son Gow carries his father's passion for continually making the world a greener place, and his daughter, Liesel, along with her husband, Hank, have donated land creating four nature preserves in Emmet and Charlevoix counties. The family is currently working to protect a significant and historic piece of land that will be named in Boo's memory and announced in a forthcoming newsletter.

BEQUESTS: PROVIDING IMPACT AND PEACE OF MIND.



Now, more than ever, advanced and thoughtful planning offers you an opportunity to provide significant impact and *peace of mind*.

A bequest to the Conservancy will further our mission for many years and also help care for the special places we have preserved. These legacy gifts are not just for the well-to-do. Bequests of any size will have a noteworthy impact on the Conservancy's continued growth, stability and long-term success. However you choose to give, the Conservancy is grateful for your investment in our future and the future of the North Country we all love.

For more information on bequests and other planned giving options, please contact Ty Ratliff, Associate Director, at 231.347.0991 or tyratliff@landtrust.or



Little Traverse Conservancy
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Night Sky Storytelling

at The Offield Family Viewlands with Mary Stewart Adams

Join Star Lore Historian Mary Stewart Adams for storytelling and sky watching as we hold the light – inside and out – during the darkening months. There are many places to spread out, and Mary's narration will be available through a Zoom link that will be shared with all registrants prior to each program. Please note that buildings will not be open and restrooms will not be available for these programs. In the event of inclement weather, programs will happen entirely online, but otherwise Mary will be onsite speaking. For full program descriptions and to register, visit www.landtrust.org/events or call 231.347.0991.

THE MYSTERIES OF HARVEST MOON

Thursday, October 1

7 - 9pm

Harvest Moon is the Full Moon that occurs closest to Autumn Equinox, and when it happens after Equinox as it will this year, the mood of the season is quite different. Mary will share tales of harvest traditions associated with this Moon, while also considering what we bring to harvest in 2020.

ORIONID METEOR SHOWER

Saturday, October 17

7pm

Each year from early October to early November, the meteor shower of the giant Orion lights up the sky, producing about 10-20 meteors an hour during peak activity. This program is about the stories, literature, art and science inspired by Orion, and by the parent comet of the meteor shower, 1P/Halley, in anticipation of the Orionid Meteor Shower.

HALLOWEEN HIKE

Saturday, October 31

6:30pm

As if the events of 2020 weren't rare enough already, this year also includes a Blue Moon on Halloween. A Full Moon only happens on Halloween every 19 years! Mary will share stories of the mischief associated with All Hallow'd Eve, and why they matter in this season. Bring a luminary of your own to light your way!

NARRATIVE OF THE NIGHT SKY

Wednesday, November 11

7 - 9pm

This evening's program is timed to coincide with the peak of the Taurid Meteor Shower. Mary will share information about the significance of the third and final conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Pluto, the completion of Mars' once-every-two-years retrograde, and other notable celestial phenomena.

PHOTO BY RAY GAYNOR, OFFIELD FAMILY VIEWLANDS

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