

The new Skyline Municipal Forest Trail

A Beautiful New Trail

BRIDGING THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL

Just a few miles southeast of Petoskey lies a high glacial moraine, deposited onto the land when the ice masses retreated more than 11,000 years ago. From atop this hill are sweeping views of Little Traverse Bay and the Bear River Valley. And now, thanks to the previous landowners and a partnership between the city of Petoskey, the North Country Trail Association, anonymous donors, and Little Traverse Conservancy, a new scenic public trail is available for all to enjoy.

This topographically-rich region includes hundreds of acres owned by the city of Petoskey known as the Skyline Municipal Forest. It also includes state land and many privately-held parcels. "Since the late 1980s, the city of Petoskey has recognized the importance of securing property connections between land holdings that comprised the Skyline Municipal Forest," said Al Hansen, Director of Parks and Recreation for the city of Petoskey.

During the past few years, the Conservancy and local chapters of the North Country Trail Association joined with the city in its efforts to protect one of the highest priority parcels. Previously owned by Doug and Pam Boor, the 65-acre parcel allows the city to complete connections to more than 865 acres of city land, as well as additional land owned by the county and the state, plus land connected through privately-granted easements. At an elevation of more than 1200 feet, the views are dramatic. In addition, the property was a logical location for diverting a portion of the North Country Trail away from a road.

"We all saw a unique opportunity to accomplish a multitude of goals," said Ty Ratliff, land protection specialist with the Conservancy. Ratliff worked with the city to apply for a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The Conservancy also agreed to provide a large portion of the match funds needed for the grant, most of

which was funded through an anonymous donor. The grant was awarded in 2009, but because the grant process takes place over a number of years, the Conservancy also agreed to hold the land for the city until all the paperwork was completed.

"This property acquisition project is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when multiple agencies and individuals work collaboratively toward a common goal," Hansen said.

In the meantime, the Tittabawassee, Harbor Springs, and Hiawatha Shore to Shore chapters of the North Country Trail Association were able to reroute the trail from the road, now weaving through the newly-protected land. In fall 2008, the chapters held work days to create the trail which involved a technique known as "benching" (see above middle photo). Because the land is so steep, the trail consists of several switchbacks similar to what you experience when climbing a mountain. "Our partnership on this trail reroute was fantastic and it was a joy to work with Little Traverse Conservancy," said Gary Johnson, president of the Tittabawassee chapter.

Locals are already enjoying the new trail with great enthusiasm. "The new annex to the North Country Trail came as a surprise to me," said neighbor Toril Fisher. "I was thrilled and giggly when I got to run the new switchbacks for the first time. The views and landscape change every half mile or so complete with ooh's and aah's at every turn. Thank you to all the volunteers that made this possible!"

Last summer, Fisher encountered a massasauga

continued page 4



2009 in review

More than 1,000 acres were protected through Little Traverse Conservancy in 2009. This included 16 projects on land valued at more than \$3.8 million. In addition, the land includes 1.1 miles of water frontage along lakes or streams and 4.2 miles of scenic road frontage. The seeds for future projects were planted through significant grant applications prepared last year. The Conservancy continues to partner with many others including the Pigeon River Habitat Initiative, the Little Traverse Bay Watershed Initiative, the Cheboygan River Habitat Initiative, Lake Charlevoix Watershed Initiative, and M-119 Scenic Heritage Route Committee.

land protection

The “to do” list continues to be long for the Conservancy’s stewardship staff as they maintain, protect and address various needs at more than 200 nature preserves and monitor approximately 260 conservation easements on private properties. Most of the Conservancy’s hundreds of volunteers work through this department, serving as preserve monitors or trail stewards, helping the staff on individual projects or joining organized work days. Last year’s volunteer Thank You event was held in June at the Greenwood Wildlife Sanctuary.

stewardship

While the number of active members declined from 4,100 to around 3,930 at year end, overall donations were only down around 1 percent from last year. “With the downturn in the economy, the Conservancy budgeted for a 10 percent reduction in expenses for 2009. Fortunately, thanks to the wonderful support of our many members and donors, we were able to meet our budget goals for the year,” said Tom Lagerstrom, the Conservancy’s associate director.

membership

Approximately \$3 million was donated to the Conservancy for land protection projects alone in 2009. This included a surprise \$1.25 million gift that was received in December, which will allow the Conservancy to complete some projects in early 2010 that had been on hold awaiting funding. Other gifts last year included a foundation gift that enabled the purchase of a new van, funding of new snowshoes for winter environmental education programs, and many other donations that were given to meet specific needs. Every gift received last year – no matter what size and for what purpose – was an indication of how much this beautiful land means to the people who care for this region, and was greatly appreciated.

finance

In 2009, 231 classes totaling nearly 4,800 students participated in a school year environmental education outdoor field trip. Students came from all five counties of the Conservancy’s service area. Ten classes participated in the year-long journaling program. Sixty pairs of new snowshoes were purchased thanks to several grants. Thirty-six groups checked out one of the Conservancy’s Discovery Boxes throughout the year. In addition, the 15 community field trips offered around the seasons drew more than 240 individuals.

environmental education

James Donaldson Moore Preserve

A 40-ACRE PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF SAULT STE. MARIE was recently donated to Little Traverse Conservancy to create the James Donaldson Moore Nature Preserve. Directly east of the 220-acre Hobbins-Meyer Nature Preserve, the Moore Preserve abuts state land to the south and east and is close to the state's Algonquin Ski Trail (see map below).

"More than 18 of James Moore's descendents participated in this gift to donate it in the memory of their grandfather," said Ty Ratliff, Conservancy land protection specialist. "It took a lot of legwork, but they all had the united goal to convey this land for preservation." Ratliff added that the property offers great wildlife habitat as well as critical habitat for birds migrating along the shore of Lake Superior.

As with so many stories from that era, James Moore's story highlights the creative means that people who lived through the Depression undertook. According to Moore's grandson, Steven Whiting of Ann Arbor, James was born and raised in the Soo, then attended college at Ohio Wesleyan. After his father's death in 1925, he took a job in the California oil business and started a family there with his wife, Dorothy Jacobs, of Wayne, Michigan. After losing his job in the Great Depression, he hitchhiked back to Michigan and completed his bachelor's and a master's degree in Ann Arbor. Back in California, he taught school and pioneered speech therapy for children who had been successfully treated for cleft palate. He raised four children in various California towns. Too old to be drafted in WWII, Moore began working for Douglas Aircraft, who moved him and his family to their office near Orchard Airfield (now O'Hare International Airport) to the west of Chicago. After the war, Moore taught at Maine Township High School, then went into personnel consulting. Upon his retirement, he returned to Ann Arbor with his second wife, Katherine Meier (Dorothy having died in 1952). He died there in 1985, but he is buried in the Soo.

JD (as his family called him) was a large man with a hearty appetite for life and a tendency to spin tall tales. His grandchildren remember him talking about a piece of property in the Soo, where someday he hoped his grandchildren would open a plant to bottle Lake Superior water. "Now that some of his grandchildren have actually visited the property, we believe it is better off in the hands of the land trust, and have donated it in memory of JD," Steven said.



courtesy Moore family

James Donaldson Moore with his daughter, Sally Anne Moore, on her wedding day.



The new James Donaldson Moore Preserve is highlighted in yellow.

Protecting the Cedars in Cedarville

The Conservancy partnered with the Chippewa/Eastern Mackinac Conservation District to accept a conservation easement protecting nearly 20 acres of cedar wetlands near Cedarville. Using grant funds through the Conservation District, the easement was purchased on land owned by Wendy Wagoner. The land includes 1,300 feet of frontage on Pearson Creek which empties into the Les Cheneaux channel/Lake Huron further downstream. This project also fit into the Les Cheneaux Watershed Implementation Project (LCWIP). "Pearson Creek is a trout stream coursing through the heart of the Les Cheneaux watershed," said Pat Carr, Project Manager of the LCWIP. "It is largely undisturbed and State of Michigan-protected from its headwaters to the Wagoner parcel, where it begins to course through private ownership and the accompanying threats of urban development."

"I hope others will see how they too can put smaller tracts into easements so collectively we can make larger green belts that will matter for the health of the planet," Wagoner said. "Let the natural system work. I feel good about helping caretake this little piece of heaven in the Upper Peninsula."

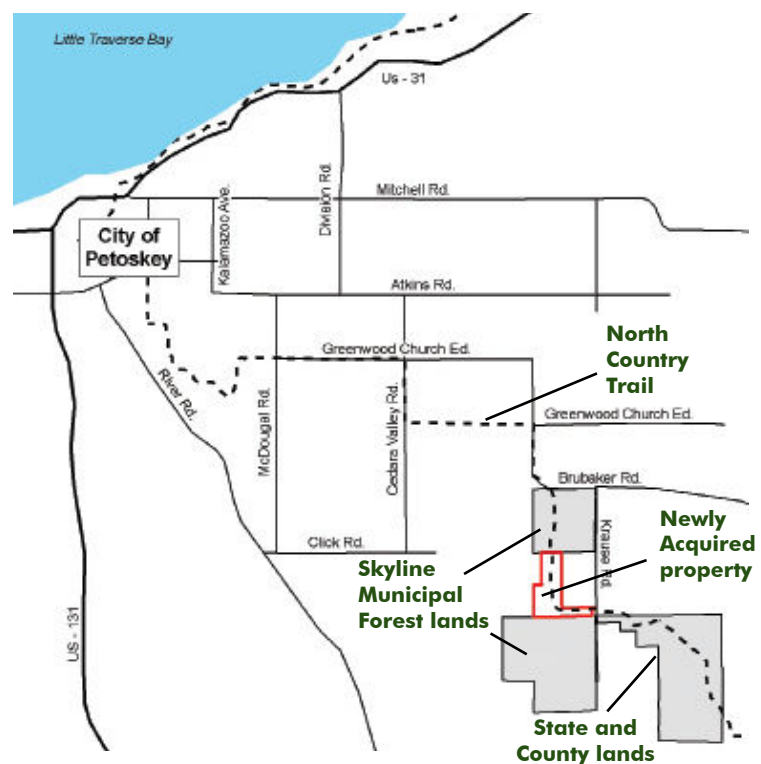


A Beautiful Trail - continued from cover

rattlesnake, quite unusual this far north, while running along the trail and documented it with the Department of Natural Resources. Other uncommon wildlife using the area include black bear.

In addition to the trail, Conservancy staff have added an overlook platform funded by a local donor (see cover photo). The overlook provides a panoramic view to the north. "One of my favorite points about this new section of the North Country Trail is that the overlook provides the first glimpse of the Great Lakes for hikers headed from New York to North Dakota," said Peg Jones, a volunteer with the Titabawassee chapter. "If you had walked from Lake Champlain you'd be pretty excited to see that glimpse of Lake Michigan."

The map to the right shows the general location of the newly-protected property. A hike of the Skyline Trail portion of the NCT will be offered on May 1 when Trail chapter members and Conservancy staff will be on hand (see page 15).



Readily Available to Everyone

FAMILY DONATES LAND TO KEEP IT WILD

After a family vacation to Beaver Island in 1971, the Stoffregen family was inspired to dream of some day having a cabin on the island. In fact, parents David and Jean Stoffregen purchased twenty acres on the east side of the island to keep the dream alive. “My folks were averse to commercialization and over-development and so of course found Beaver Island very much to their liking,” said son Roger. “They enjoyed the unspoiled landscapes and the curious history of the place, such as the Mormon settlement and Protar’s tomb. It was very much their cup of tea.”

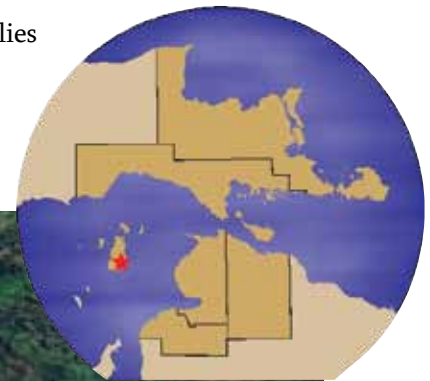
However, with home base in Cincinnati, island visits were not as frequent as hoped. The family would camp on the land from time to time, but the cabin was not to be. “We were all sympathetic with the idea of a conservation donation,” said Thomas Stoffregen. “But it was our mother who took the active steps. Our parents believed that exposure to the natural world can be profoundly beneficial to the mind, body and spirit. They believed that these benefits should be readily available to everyone. And I am certain that they would be happy and proud to know that our former property on Beaver Island is now part of the public trust.”

The donated land is completely forested and fully in its natural state with no structures present. Conservancy Land Protection Specialist Ty Ratliff expressed the Conservancy’s gratitude to the Stoffregen family. “This family’s main concern has been to have the land stay wild and natural,” Ratliff said. Ratliff noted that because it lies adjacent to state land, a future possibility is to have the state add it to their holdings, and the family is agreeable with this option. “We are currently working with staff from the state to determine who best should own and care for this property,” Ratliff said.



courtesy Stoffregen family

David and Jean Stoffregen



Little Traverse Conservancy Featured on Public Television Series

WCMU Public Television created a two-part series entitled “Nature Conservancies in Michigan” that aired last fall. The Little Traverse Conservancy was featured in the show with interviews from the Roberts family who donated a conservation easement to protect their property on Beaver Island. These interviews are available by visiting www.wcmu.org where you can type in a search for “Conservancy”. The story from the show is also available through the Conservancy’s home page at www.landtrust.org.



Teaming Up to Clean Up

Top photo: Four or five old fishing shanties, dating from prior to the Conservancy's ownership, have been rotting along the shore of the Round Island Point Nature Preserve for years. Last spring, LTC staff and volunteers dismantled the shanties and left the debris in piles on the remote shoreline. In this photo, local residents, Lake Superior State University Fish and Wildlife Club members, Lake State faculty, and other volunteers load the debris on sleds.

Middle photo: Andrew Hagle rides the vintage 1970 tote sleigh, while John Griffin of Cedarville uses his snowmobile to tow the load across the ice of Mosquito Bay and out to the trailhead. Four other volunteers also provided the use of their snowmobiles for this cleanup effort.

Bottom photo: A well-deserved lunch beside the fire at Ashley Moerke and Chris Scherwinski's house awaited this hardy group of volunteers. Thanks to everyone for the great effort! (See page 15 for a complete list of participants.)

Volunteer Preserve Monitors Needed

Please contact Cindy at 231.344.1011 or cindy@landtrust.org if you are interested in monitoring any of the preserves listed below. More information can be found on our website, or call Cindy to find out the details.

Charlevoix County

Dressel
Erber (on Beaver Island)
Helle
Raven Ridge

Cheboygan County

Bearsaw Creek
Giaque
Hanel
Needle Point
Vivian VanCampen

Chippewa County

Curtis Anderson
(on Drummond Island)
Seymour Bay

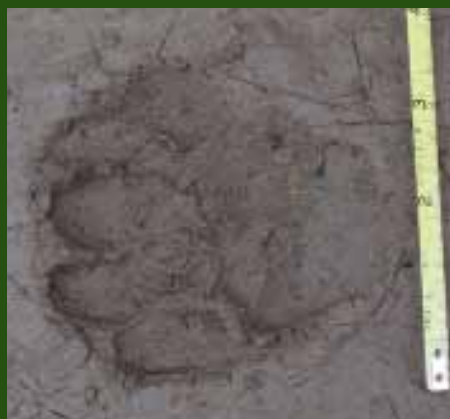
Emmet County

Dobson

Mackinac County

Nordquist (on Boot Island)
Young-Montgomery

On January 22, this photo of a lynx was taken on the north end of Sugar Island near the Conservancy's Koren Preserve.



Last fall, Cindy Mom photographed what is believed to be a cougar track at the Round Island Point Nature Preserve roughly 1/2 hour west of the Sault. A cougar sighting in the eastern Upper Peninsula was verified by the Department of Natural Resources shortly afterward.

This wolf track was photographed by John Griffin at the Oliver and Edna Birge Nature Preserve near Hessel this past February.



Stewardship Work Days 2010



Frost, Fog, Fen by Nancy Payne

This beautiful picture recently received the top honor in the Crooked Tree Arts Center juried photography show, "Watershed Awareness." The photo includes private property owned by Nancy and Jack Waldron (known as Waldron Fen) that is protected through Little Traverse Conservancy with a conservation easement.

The following work days have been scheduled for the stewardship work season. If you would like to join us, please call 231.347.0991 for more information.

Saturday, April 24 (9 am to 3 pm)

Commemorate Earth Day by helping with one of several work projects at LTC's big new **Offield Family Nature Preserve**. We'll be pulling up old fencing, removing hunting blinds, cleaning up trash dumps and old fire pits, clearing trails, removing undesirable invasive exotic plants, planting tree seedlings, and doing the prep work for construction of a parking lot on Quick Road. So, there's something for almost everyone and lots of help is needed.

Thursday, July 8 (9 am - 3 pm)

The **Adolph and Margaret Gauthier Preserve** consists of 38 acres on the western outskirts of Cheboygan. Situated adjacent to Lake Huron, the Cheboygan Marsh and the Little Black River, this preserve is a "diamond in the rough" (with the emphasis on rough, as a fair bit of junk clean-up is needed). Get to know this interesting little preserve better while making it a better home for wildlife.

Tuesday, July 20 (9 am - 3 pm)

The **Kalman Preserve** near Harbor Springs has an exceptionally high quality and diverse assemblage of native plants. Unfortunately, invasive exotic species such as yellow flag iris, purple loosestrife, spotted knapweed, and shrub honeysuckles have become established. Join LTC staff to spend an hour or a day helping to rid this preserve of undesirable plants.

Wednesday, August 18 (9 am - 3 pm)

A new two-mile long loop trail was constructed on the **Birge Preserve** in the Les Cheneaux area in 2008. Since then, we've

been making improvements to the trail. Some wet spots are found along the trail and several sections of boardwalk are needed to make this a truly all-season trail. Put your skills to work to help complete the boardwalk construction this year. (P.S. You won't have to carry in any lumber!)

Saturday August 21

Participate in one of the aforementioned events and receive an automatic invitation to LTC's annual **Stewardship Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**. This year we're planning to hold it at the Lake Superior State University campus in the Soo, with a catered meal and a side trip to a nearby LTC preserve, or perhaps the LSSU's Aquatic Research Lab (stay tuned for more details).

Tuesday, September 14

Spend three hours participating in the seventh annual Day of Caring, a community-wide volunteer work day coordinated by Char-Em United Way. This year we plan to host volunteer events at the **Marvin Preserve** in Charlevoix County (clean-up) and **Goodhart Farms Preserve** in Emmet County (trail maintenance).

Saturday, September 25 (10 am - 3 pm)

Travel to the **Cook Island Preserve** on exotic and far-away Sugar Island (actually, it's just east of Sault Ste. Marie) for a day to join with local islanders and LTC staff to improve access, trails, and signage and remove old duck blinds and pig huts. (Now we're betting you're really intrigued!)

The following gifts were received
between December 1, 2009 and February 28, 2010

Memorials

Hobbs

Gary and Jane Roe

Maggie

Richard and Linda Johnson

Jane Marie Bailey

Ms. Lynn Walters Frazee
Richner & Richner, LLC

Jean Belyea

Gary and Patsy Cooper

Russell Edward Blumke

Ms. Mark L. Townsend

Mary Close

The Jansing Family
Mr. David P. Reynolds

Delores Crusoe

Larry and Wendy Whippo

David J. Davies

Mrs. Marian Wendell

Eileen J. Davies

Mrs. Marian Wendell

L. Thomas Dulaney, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hord Armstrong, III
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Buhl
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence D. Buhl, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Townsend Driggs
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Everest
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. FitzSimons
Mr. and Mrs. George W. James
Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West

Forest Evashevski

Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Files

Doris Fedus

Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger

Rendigs Fels

Ms. Susan McMillan

Patricia Ann Gallatin

Ms. Judy Bayliss
John and Gretta Coppens
Kevin Coppens, Sydney and Shawn
Mark and Laura Freed

Arthur G. Hailand, Jr.

The Jansing Family
Mr. David P. Reynolds

Jay Hanna

Mrs. Joan Keller
Mrs. Richard M. Ross

Bruce Hansen

Gera and Jim Witte

Ellie Harvey

Ms. Susan McMillan

Jutta Letts

Ms. Nancy Breithart
Ms. Rosemary Dickerson
Katy Procter and Jan Elsmann
Dr. and Mrs. Frederick D. Haffner
Kip and Jean Horsburgh
Mrs. Kenneth P. Horsburgh
Mrs. Mary Jolliffe
Ms. Marilyn H. Larson
David and Genny Letts
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lincoln
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Swanson
Ray and Dot Titcomb
Ms. Tamara S. Upham

Tom Mroczkowski

Jane Denay
Harbor Arthritis Center
Dr. Charles Huebner

H. Jerome Noel

The Noel Family

Helen Peloquin

Ms. Darleen Flaherty

Philip McMillan Pittman

Ms. Susan McMillan

Todd Rhein

Mr. and Mrs. Michael L. Mesmer

Helen Grace Ries

Kay and Bill Backus
Mrs. Evelyn Stolberg

Joan Ripstra

John and Debbie Rohe

Frances 'Dicky' Schirmer

John and Jackie Coleman
Ann and Jim Wightman

Marie Schneider

Mrs. Joan Keller

Denice Summers

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hord Armstrong, III
Mrs. William Barnes, III
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Carruthers, IV
Mrs. Wallace H. Cole, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. David W. Smith
Mrs. Elizabeth Terry
Todd and Valerie Terry



Hawk Owl



Snowy Owl



Sharp-Tailed Grouse

Eastern Upper Peninsula/Sugar Island
Birding Field Trip
photos by Mark Mittlestat

Jim 'Chief' Templin

Mrs. Joe R. Goodman
Susan Goodman

Sylvia Thompson

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Olofsson, Jr.

Vaughan Tufts

Dick and Veroneze Strader

Quinton Walker, II

Tom and Kathy Snow

Shirley Wayburn

Rick and Kathi Cohen

Gerald Wendell

Mrs. Marian Wendell

Dorothy Wheeler

Allan and Carol Baldes
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Bird
Mr. H. D. Chulumovich
Gary and Patsy Cooper
Richard and Cherrill Cregar
Ms. Beverly Crosthwaite
Jerome and Patricia Didier
Mr. A. Keith Dressell
Rich and Roxie Hornak
Ms. Suzanne Hug
Lynn and Buddy Laughlin
Jack and Margaret Layne
Jay and Cheryl Leachman
Joe and Cheryl Mallette
Ann and Jon Nicholson
Gary and Pam Raff
Paul and Marlene Schlaefflin
Janis and Larry Slaughter
Patrick and Shirley Sweeney
Brad and Ann Tate
Mr. Steve Turner
Casper and Peggy Weiss

Ellen Whitting

Tom and Rosanne Bloomer

Charles S. Winston, Jr.

Ric and Lisa Loyd

Thomas 'Tim' Wright, MD

Dr. John and Louise Poole

Honorariums

happy holidays**Francis Pittman Book**

Margaret Pittman

Gerald and Margaret Charbeneau

Nancy Charbeneau

Robert and Letty Fawcett

Ms. Susan E. Fawcett

Dave, Chris, Andrew and**Shelby Frutiger**

from your Michigan family,
Richard and Sara Frutiger

Richard and Barbara Lindner

Mr. Christopher M. Lindner
Matthew and Michelle Lindner

Paul Nowak

Lynn and Jonathan Friendly

John and Beth Pittman

Margaret Pittman

Susan Pittman

Margaret Pittman

Jeff and Carol Whitehead

Mrs. Margaret Pittman

Sally Pittman Wright

Mrs. Margaret Pittman

Jeff and Dian Schubel

Lynne, Chuck and Josh Saperstein

Rick Schubel

Lynne, Chuck and Josh Saperstein

happy birthday**Mary Driggs**

Sally and Bill Soter
Laura and By West

Hank Meijer

Gow and Meghan Litzenburger

for Thorne Swift**George Gess**

Ms. Hope J. Welles

in honor of their wedding**Barbara Bowman and****R. Hamilton Schirmer**

Ms. Jill Whelan

in honor of**William B. Kelly**

Mr. William Frank

Katherine B. Piper

John and Kathy McGuire

Scott and Dibby Smith**Drew Smith and Erin Currier**

Ms. Ruth St. Pierre

Marge Upton

Ms. Barbara A. Olson



University of Michigan BIOLOGICAL STATION

Three non-credit, adult Mini-Course sessions are being offered this summer through the University of Michigan Biological Station on Douglas Lake, near Pellston: Birds of Northern Michigan, Forest and Landscape Ecology, and Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design with Nature. These small field courses are taught by individuals who are leaders in their field and are well acquainted with the Biological Station and Northern Michigan.

The cost for a five-day course is \$475 (\$525 for Birds), including tuition and lab fees. Housing and meals at the Biological Station are an additional charge of \$274.

Courses begin on Wednesday morning and run through Sunday afternoon. For more information, contact the UMBS office, lisaumbs@umich.edu or 231.539.8408 in Pellston.

Full course descriptions and registration forms are available at the UMBS website: <http://lsa.umich.edu/umbs/courses/minicrses/>.

Wish List

- Heavy-duty anvil loppers, with 1 1/2" cutting capacity or bigger
- 12" Miter Saw
- Heavy-duty posthole diggers
- Digital cameras, 6 megapixels or higher, that take AA batteries

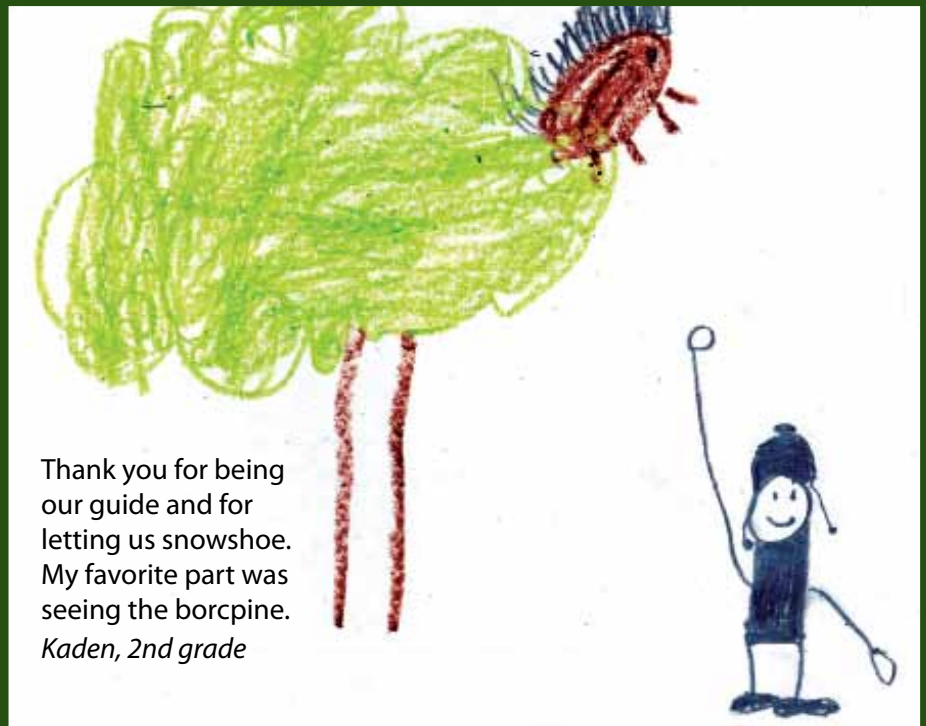
new phone system

The Conservancy recently installed a new phone system that allows for direct numbers for staff members. The main number for the office is still 231.347.0991.

Thomas C. Bailey	231.344.1001
Mary Anne Griffin	231.344.1002
Tom Lagerstrom	231.344.1003
Melissa Hansen	231.344.1004
Ty Ratliff	231.344.1005
Jay Neff	231.344.1006
Anne Fleming	231.344.1007
Doug Fuller	231.344.1008
Alison Berry	231.344.1010
Cindy Mom	231.344.1011
Kieran Fleming	231.344.1015
Charles Dawley	231.344.1019



Cheboygan East 2nd and 3rd graders at Cheboygan State Park



Thank you for being our guide and for letting us snowshoe. My favorite part was seeing the borcpine. Kaden, 2nd grade

March 2, 2010

Dear Melissa, Alison, and Molly,

Thank you for the great program last week at McCune Nature Preserve. We really appreciate the opportunities you offer our students and staff. It is great to get the kids outside and moving!

Keep up the great work you guys are doing. It's quite the asset to our community.

Kara Copeland
Lakeview Academy
sent via email

Blackbird 1st graders at Round Lake Preserve



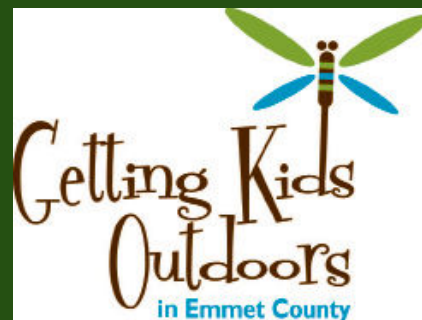
Harbor Light 5th and 6th graders checking out snow fleas at Offield Family Preserve



Ellsworth 3rd and 4th graders loving their hike at Raven Hill

Passport to Adventure

With support from Harbor Springs Area United Fund and local grants, Getting Kids Outdoors is developing a collaborative project that will directly benefit children, families, and local organizations. Modeled from the National Park Service's "Junior Explorer" program, Passport to Adventure will encourage children and their families to get outdoors and explore, while promoting local programs/organizations and nearby natural destinations. Through outdoor explorations, children will record their observations and/or complete an activity page in their passport book to receive an official stamp, encouraging further additions to the book. Watch for more information in the summer newsletter.



Environmental Education Conference to be Held in Northern Michigan

ENGAGING STUDENTS IN SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP

This year, the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education will be holding its annual conference at the University of Michigan Biological Station on Douglas Lake from October 8-10. The theme will be "Engaging Students in Science and Stewardship". Think you might want to get involved in the growing movement to better connect our young people with the outdoors? For your own children, grandchildren, students, or simply your community, you are all needed! This conference is open to anyone. For more information, please visit www.michiganenvironmentaled.org.



Petoskey high school students removing exotic Scotch Pine at the McCune Preserve.

To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug.

- Helen Keller



Partner Spotlight: Junior Birders Program



Little Traverse Conservancy is partnering with SEE North in their Junior Birders of Northern Michigan program. The purpose of this program is to encourage young people to spend time outdoors, foster an interest in natural history, and explore our diverse landscapes while identifying birds. The program connects young birders with adult mentors who share their time and knowledge to create a community of young birders.

Junior Birders is geared toward children ages 8 to 14, but all children are welcome. The group meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month throughout the year at some of the best birding areas of northern Michigan. Annual membership fee is \$15 per year (\$10 for each additional child). You can attend as many programs as you wish. For more details, please visit www.seenorth.org.

Remembering One of Our Founders

Just as this issue was headed for press, we received the sad news of the passing of John Fischer, one of the Conservancy's founders and our treasurer for many years.

John was one of a kind. He was a major contributor to charities in the Harbor Springs-Petoskey area as a board member, donor, and innovator. He served on the Harbor Springs School Board, the board of Northern Michigan Hospital, was involved in numerous other activities and organizations, and was one of the best-known figures in the community.

In a 1989 profile in the Conservancy's newsletter, he said, "I remember the first meeting we had to talk about forming the Conservancy. It was over coffee and rolls at my house." That was in 1972. At that time, he lived in Chicago, but spent every possible minute in Harbor Springs. He was the third generation of his family to spend summers in Harbor Springs, and the first to locate here permanently, in 1974.

He shared a unique perspective on the North Country with the other Conservancy founders, seeing the importance of protecting the natural and scenic character of the area as not only a challenge for his generation, but a challenge that spans many lifetimes. He gave generously of his time and himself in service to the Conservancy, also working tirelessly for quality education and health care in the region. He was a "doer," a leader, and a friend to all who love the North.

Our deepest condolences go out to his wife, Mary, and their family, along with our profound gratitude for all the time he was able to share with us and all he did in service to our cause. Please watch for more information in our Summer Newsletter. 🐛



John Fischer in 1989



Trout lilies/Gary Osterbeck

Charles A. Ransom Nature Preserve

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

If you like spring wildflowers, consider a hike to the Ransom Preserve, especially around Mother's Day weekend. You will likely be treated to a wonderful variety of spring ephemerals (fleeting flowers). But this is a beautiful place to hike at any time of year.

In 1976, Woodbury and Christiana Ransom donated the 80-acre Charles A. Ransom Nature Preserve in memory of their son.

This land commands one of the most spectacular views in northern Michigan. From its highest elevation of 320 feet above Lake Michigan, you can see much of western Charlevoix County, a broad expanse of Lake Michigan, four islands (North Manitou, North and South Fox, and Beaver), and the distant Leelanau Peninsula on a clear day.

The land is a mix of open fields and northern Michigan hardwoods. With steep slopes in some places, you might find the 1.5 mile trail system to be more difficult than other preserves. But it is worth the hike. Last summer, the Conservancy placed two new interpretive signs and the trail is enjoyed throughout the school year by students, many who come for orienteering classes.

For more information about Conservancy preserves, please visit www.landtrust.org or call the office at 231.347.0991 for a copy of the Nature Preserve map. 🐛

New Members

The Conservancy would like to thank the following new Members, new Friends or Benefactors, or members who have increased their level of giving within the Friends or Benefactors level from November 25, 2009 through March 1, 2010

New Business Friends or Benefactors

Bank of Northern Michigan
HANNI Gallery

New Individual or Family Friends or Benefactors

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Mrs. Joey Arbaugh
Mr. and Mrs. H. Hewett Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Ian Bund
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Mr. William Cheney
Grace and Michael Elta
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Finn
Mrs. William A. Fisher II
Ed and Elaine Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Norman W. Harris III
Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Hermann
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Mr. and Mrs. David H. Irish
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Mr. and Mrs. Layton E. King Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Klingbeil
Ms. Karen L. Klomparsen
Mr. Christopher P. Legghio
Mr. J. Chris Leshock
Mr. and Mrs. H. R. McPhee III
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Nash
Paul and Tracey Natke
Drs. Ted and Tricia Paisley
Steve and Brenda Ramsby
Drs. Edward and Patricia Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. David H. Roche
Mr. and Mrs. R. Desmond Rowan
Mrs. Bill Schwarz
Dr. and Mrs. D. Mark Upham
Mrs. Marian Wendell

New Business Contributing Members

Monarch Garden & Floral Design

New Contributing Members

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Del and Jane Andrews
Ms. Linda K. Anthony
Mark and Debra Arendsen
Darryl and Maryle Barbe
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John and Sharon Benson
Dr. Roger and Ann Benter
Dr. Mark D. Berman
Martin and Johanna Bermann
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Glen and Betsy Borre
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Stephen and Ruth Brede
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Mr. Keith Brothers
Bowden and Elaine Brown
Mr. Dwyer Brown
Ms. Patricia Brown
Ms. Renee C. Brown
Dennis and Christina Bush
Mrs. Carlo J. Calcaterra
Camp Sea-Gull
Susan and Hap Castleberry
Raymond and Theresa Cavallaro
Derbigny and Scott Clark
Ms. Barbara Clay
Henry, Martha and Ted Coates
Ms. Pamela R. Comer
Dr. Robert F. Cooke
Tom and Phyllis Corrigan
David and Emily Coy
Don and Audrey Criner
Mr. and Mrs. David Culver
Mr. Edward Davey
Bob and Pattie Decker
Larry and Sherrod Deputy
Richard and Laura Dinon
Rex and Connie Dowling
Ms. Janis Wightman Early
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Harley and Marilyn Fortier
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Sheila Gelman and David Greenblatt
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Mrs. Nicki Griffith
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Christine and William Hartmann
Mrs. Jane E. Hegarty
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Robert and Sara Holmes
Fred and Fran Holt
Mrs. Dorothy Horan
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Ken and Stephanie Jacobsen
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart M. Kaufman
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Wolfe Family Charitable Foundation
Ed and Jo Zeerip

Correction

In our last newsletter, Zoo-de-Mackinac should have been listed as a Business Supporter at the Benefactor level.



Reflections...

Tom Bailey

Remembering C.S. Winston, Jr.

WE SADLY MARK THE PASSING OF ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE GREATEST Generation: Charles S. Winston, Jr., who was affectionately known to us at the Conservancy as Chuck.

Chuck was an especially dear friend to me, a great mentor and a great inspiration. Truly a member of the Greatest Generation, he served in the US Navy as a PT boat commander in World War II. He was a legend in the advertising business, and a pioneer in many ways in his work at Foote, Cone and Belding. Among many, he told stories about his work with Ford Motor Company and of developing new and successful campaigns and creating a new genre of television specials.

When I asked him about his philosophy of leadership and management, Chuck said that it grew more out of his experience in the Navy than from his business career, and he summed it up by telling me: “you have a boss and you have a board to which you answer, but your first responsibility is to the people who work for you.” He told a story about the great Fairfax Cone, his mentor in business, who took him aside as the people in his firm streamed out of the building at the end of the work day and said, “in this business, our ‘inventory’ goes home to their families every night.” It was something Chuck never forgot. People always made the difference to Chuck.

It is often said of a person who accomplishes much in life that they were a “force of nature.” This is true in Chuck’s case, and I would add that through his tireless and passionate work on behalf of the Little Traverse Conservancy, he also became a force *for* nature. He nurtured a deep love of the outdoors, and a special love of northern Michigan. He told me once, “I am fortunate enough to be able to live anywhere I would like in the world, and I choose here.”

He first came to the North, as he put it, “as a baby in a cracker box on a train to Bay View.” He attended summer camp nearby, and returned to the North every summer except during his service in World War II. One of his favorite outdoor activities, along with fishing, was golf and after spending many winters at a home in Pebble Beach or more recently in Georgia, he loved nothing more than returning to the Harbor Springs area to get back on the links with summer friends.

Not taking the scenic beauty of the North for granted, he became active in the Little Traverse Conservancy in the mid 1980s. Partnering with his friend the late Horace M. “Huffy” Huffman, Jr., Chuck launched the Conservancy’s first successful endowment campaign, raising over \$1.25 million in one summer. He was the creative genius behind the development of the Conservancy’s Finance Committee, which raises membership donations through direct mail. It may seem ironic to some that a man who spent his career in advertising would develop a low-key approach to fund raising that involves few mailings and no fund raising “inserts” in newsletters and other publications, but this was a mark of Chuck’s respect for people’s willingness to support a worthy cause without being assaulted by endless requests for money.

Chuck served many years on the Board of Trustees of the Conservancy, and with his wife, Joan who also served the Conservancy for many years, was most recently elevated to the status of Trustee Emeritus. To date, Chuck and Joan are the only people to have received that distinction.

The Conservancy will never be able to adequately express our gratitude for all that Chuck did to not only establish our organization but also to make it sustainable for the long term. Neither will we ever manage to adequately thank Joan for her service as a Trustee, Finance Committee member, and supporter of our work. For my own part, I will always carry Chuck’s memory and many of his words with me; he was one of the most influential people in my life. I am grateful to have known him, grateful to have learned from him, and grateful to have been able to work with him.

To all of Chuck’s family, we extend the heartfelt condolences of the entire Conservancy organization, along with our gratitude for their sharing so much of Chuck’s time and energy with us over the years. We are truly grateful to have had him as a colleague, a leader and a friend.



Chuck Winston



Chuck and Joan Winston

Spring Field Trips

As a courtesy to our trip leaders, many who are volunteers, please pre-register for a Conservancy field trip by calling 231.347.0991.



North American Bear Center

Saturday, April 17 2-4 pm

Wonders of Nature for Young Wonderers

Reed's Alverno Preserve

Join Conservancy staff and Straits Area Audubon Society as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day! This outing will be a spring exploration of one of the Conservancy's newer nature preserves. Geared towards school-aged children, everyone is welcome. Check out SAAS's full schedule of Earth Week activities at: www.straitsareaaudubon.org.

Saturday, May 1 10 am-noon

Hike the Skyline Trail - Petoskey region

Join Conservancy staff and members of the local North Country Trail Association chapters to hike a recently re-routed stretch of the trail onto new property owned by the city of Petoskey (see cover article). This hike will last roughly two hours and will be somewhat challenging because of the many hills. No charge, but pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991.

Thursday, May 6 1-3 pm

Sturgeon Watching in Cheboygan County

Each spring, the majestic lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) migrate upstream in select rivers to spawn along the rocky riverbanks, almost oblivious to nearby human activity, making these rare fish susceptible to illegal harvest. A threatened species in Michigan and rare throughout the United States, the sturgeon is protected by local groups including Michigan's Sturgeon for Tomorrow. This guided tour provides a unique opportunity to observe this fascinating fish while they spawn and learn about protecting them. A suggested donation of \$10 per person is appreciated to help support Sturgeon for Tomorrow's programs. Limited to 20 participants. Please pre-register and receive directions by calling 231.347.0991.

Saturday, May 22

10-11 am

Spring Outing for Knee High Naturalists (3-6 year olds)

Spring Lake Park, Petoskey

Frogs have been emerging from their winter's sleep under the pond mud or leaf litter and are jumping into action. Discover how they grow, what they eat, and search for their hiding spots. Includes a story and fun activities.

Friday, June 11

2-5 pm

Kayak to Oden Island, Crooked Lake

Paddle across the water of Crooked Lake at the head of the Inland Waterway to Oden Island. Our circumnavigation of this relatively large island will provide an opportunity to closely explore the interesting and wild mile-long swampy shoreline of LTC's Oden Island Nature Preserve. We'll plan to pull ashore and hike on the mile-long trail through the mature forest of the island's interior. This will be about a 3-mile paddle and a roughly 3-hour trip. The Outfitter is generously donating the use of their kayaks if you do not have your own. Please let us know if you need a kayak when you register and get directions.

thank
you

- To the following people who have been grooming trails this winter: Dr. Daniel Mann at the Driggers Preserve; Jay Neff and Brian Schman at Goodhart Farms Preserve; Denny Paull at the Reed's Alverno Nature Preserve; and Tim Dewick and John Griffin at the Birge Preserve.
- To the following who helped with winter community field trips: Robert Davison for allowing us to park on his property for the Reed's Alverno field trip; Glen Schmiede and Lynne Petersen for hosting the annual Eastern U.P. and Sugar Island field trip; and Greenwood Sanctuary for hosting the winter snowshoe/ski event and providing warm food and drink.
- Natasha Bartha, Connor Lindsey, and Bill Prall for doing fall cleanup on the ski trails at the Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve.
- Dorothy Mills and Krista Mills for the wonderful photographs shared with us from the winter field trips.
- Dorothy Heslip for donating 14 copies of a book titled *Alien Invasives: America's Battle With Non-native Animals and Plants* for us to distribute to LTC members and volunteers. If you would like a copy, please contact Cindy at 231.344.1011 or cindy@landtrust.org.
- Tim DeWick for the gift of a DeWalt 18 volt drill set.
- Amanda Chambers, Rob Cross, James Dawley, Paige Filice, Ross Gay, John Griffin, Jessica Kosiera, John Leech, Paul Pioszak, Kyle Sommers, Mike Tower, Kelly Turek, Andrew Hagle, Tom Schirer, and Greg Zimmerman for helping with the Round Island Point cleanup on February 20. Extra special thanks to Ashley Moerke and Chris Scherwinski for providing refreshments and hosting the group at their house for lunch next to a bonfire after the event.

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