



Environmental Education

IT'S ALL CONNECTED

THE LOOKS ON THE CHILDREN'S FACES SAY IT ALL: the Great Outdoors is a place of wonder, joy, and adventure. And, say the Conservancy's education staff members, if you spend a little time out there, you just might learn something, too.

What we in the Conservancy call "environmental education" is all about experiencing nature in a variety of ways. It's a middle-school English class visiting a natural area in every season, keeping journals about what they see, smell, hear, taste, touch, think, and feel. It's a group of enthusiastic second graders learning about how soil is made in the forest through a program called, "Dirt Makers."

Executive Director Tom Bailey talks about land protection in terms of "from what and for what," and says that one of the best things to protect land for is outdoor education programs. "It's one thing to learn about trees, animals, and insects in a classroom, but it's quite another to go outside and actually see them, and see how they all interact. Science, art, history, literature—it's all involved in the outdoors," he said.

Melissa Hansen, one of the Conservancy's three staff education coordinators, recently discussed how participation in the program helps children to sharpen their observational skills. She recalls an instance on a February snowshoe trip when she saw a telltale pattern of small twigs on the snow. "Many children had already walked right by," Melissa said, "but I stopped the group and asked them to look up and see if they could figure out what might have caused those twigs and pine needles to be scattered on the snow. Sure, enough, there was a porcupine up in the tree." Hansen notes how excited the group was to see the animal in its natural habitat, and remembers one excited boy who had never seen a porcupine before. "I think our programs encourage kids to be more observant and more open to

discovering new things," she said.

In addition to her role as a Conservancy education coordinator, Alison Berry is also involved in the Getting Kids Outdoors movement which is spreading across the nation. She notes the groundbreaking work of Richard Louv, whose book, "Last Child in the Woods" has called attention to a condition that plagues our children, called "Nature Deficit Disorder." Berry points to the statistic that children spend 90% of their time indoors and 53 hours per week outside of school on some electronic media (Kaiser Family Foundation study). Louv and others have shown that there are serious emotional, social, and physical problems associated with children being cut off from outdoor play and experience in nature.

"Kids need to get outside and play; to just 'be kids.' Despite what growing research says, common sense tells us that kids need an outlet for their natural energy. No other environment can offer all of the hands-on learning experiences and confidence building that the outdoors can. Interacting with the outdoors is where kids learn creativity, socialization, personal limits, and most of all, it's where they gain connection to the land. And the younger the better. The good thing for parents is, it doesn't have to be one more thing to do and the less adult-driven the better. It has to be okay to let kids go outside and play again. It concerns me to think of what this generation is missing out on that previous generations took for granted."

To help guide education staff in their activities, an education committee was recently formed from the Conservancy's board. The committee is chaired by Nadine Cain, a former school principal and lifelong educator. "The Conservancy's objective is to acquire land, but if we don't teach children to appreciate it, what will happen in the

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conservancy year in review

Stewardship

Currently, the organization manages 150 nature preserves (totaling 12,000 acres) throughout its 5-county service area. Each county has a number of preserves that are considered superb outdoor recreation destinations. Much of this work is done with the help of volunteer preserve monitors and trail stewards. In addition, annual visits are made to the more than 260 private properties that are protected with conservation easements.

Land Protection

Of the 20 land projects completed in 2010, almost half included the protection of land either surrounded by other protected land or adjacent to an existing nature preserve. Typically, these are the highest priority projects for the organization because they build on existing efforts to create larger blocks of wildlife habitat or scenic protection. Nearly 400 acres and more than two miles of water frontage were included.

Membership & Finance

The Conservancy's membership surpassed the previous year's marks by a dozen members, and \$5,707 dollars more were contributed to the organization's membership program than in 2009

Education

More than 4,500 students from 215 classes throughout northern Michigan participated in Conservancy environmental education programs last year. Dozens of classes were able to participate in a field trip in 2010 thanks to bussing reimbursement available to them through both the Conservancy and the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Community Foundation.

Iroquois Island Protected

BIRD SANCTUARY DONATED AS PRESERVE

by Sharon Rouse

I FIRST VISITED MICHIGAN IN 1985, TAKING A ROAD TRIP FROM Colorado to Mission Bay north of Traverse City to visit my new friend Bill Powers, who grew up in Lansing. The state captivated my aesthetic senses with the late June sun pouring onto the cherry orchards and Grand Traverse Bay. The evening thunderstorm at Elk Rapids was equally spectacular. We camped in Grand Marais and met some of the locals there, including Rick Capagrosso at his mother's hotel and the late John LeClair, who knew how to tie nets like no one. Two years later we were able to buy a small bungalow on Hessel Bay near where the Dutcher family's old boat dock once stood.

Bill bought a sea skiff. Little by little we got more acquainted with the Les Cheneaux Islands.

In 1990, my father and my son and I flew my dad's Cessna 180 from Boulder to the little Hessel airport and we made some more local friends from the islands during the Hessel Antique Boat Show. My daughter learned to wind surf in the Bay on her summer break from college. In the 1990s, Bill acquired some land on Whitefish Bay and took me to visit the lighthouse at Whitefish Point in Paradise, where I learned that this was a major migration route for many bird species.

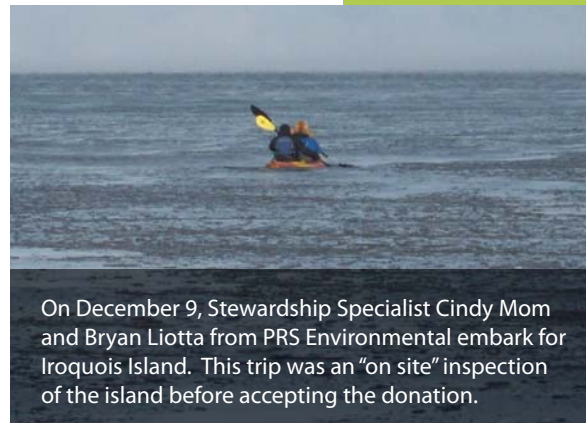
A summer trip to Isle Royale in 2000 and I could see that all of Lake Superior and its shorelines were a very special part of the planet.

In 2006 we got a phone call about Iroquois Island. The owner needed to sell and intended to list it on the internet. I had always thought that I would like to leave the earth with something special during my life, having grown up on a ranch in the mountains west of Denver with lots of wildlife and ranch animals. Here was the moment for me to do that, on Whitefish Bay in the Great Lakes.

We were able to scrape up enough to buy the island, always with the idea of preserving it as a bird sanctuary. I could not imagine it being used for a boat slip and upscale second home. I had seen land preserved when in 1986 my parents sold most of their 600-acre ranch to public open space. In August of 2010, my dad's plane flew out of his hay meadow for the last time. It seemed that this was the year to make the donation, as it was a year of passage in many ways. It fulfilled my lifelong dream of preserving habitat somewhere, and it turned out to be in Michigan, preserving a home for its historical occupants, the birds, cranes, and ducks.

I am grateful that there is the Little Traverse Conservancy which gives a safe haven for people such as me who want to donate land and know it will be preserved in its natural state. I was very impressed with the photos of the Conservancy team members canoeing out to the island in the forming ice floes to assess it in December. It looked like a National Geographic photo. We in Colorado were in awe of such undaunting devotion to your purpose!

I thank you all for your efforts in making this gift possible in 2010. Iroquois Island is a small oasis in a huge lake. The natural leeward harbor affords a haven during storms for airborne fowl. The rookeries that have been there for thousands of years will stay. It is a small part of the world that serves a very large purpose.



On December 9, Stewardship Specialist Cindy Mom and Bryan Liotta from PRS Environmental embark for Iroquois Island. This trip was an "on site" inspection of the island before accepting the donation.

Ryan Kozar



Landed on the six-acre Iroquois Island

Cindy Mom



Researchers from the University of Minnesota have historical data from the island which is known for nesting great blue herons, herring gulls, and cormorants. This photo shows heron nests.

Cindy Mom

Great Lakes Island Preserves

Little Traverse Conservancy owns eighteen nature preserves on Great Lakes islands, which are located on Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Superior, and the St. Mary's River/Lake George. Some of these, like Iroquois Island and St. Helena Island (except for the lighthouse), are owned in their entirety by LTC. Others are along the shorelines or in the interiors of larger islands, such as Drummond, Beaver, Marquette, or Bois Blanc. In total, LTC protects 2,790 acres on Great Lakes islands, with approximately 17 miles of shoreline on Great Lakes water bodies.

Charles M. Taylor Nature Preserve/ Olstrom Family Preserve

CHOOSING CONSERVATION FOR A SHORELINE JEWEL



Anne and Bill Olstrom



Anne Olstrom and her grandkids in 1995.



Showy lady slippers at the Olstrom farm.

GROWING UP ON A FARM, JUST A FEW MINUTES WALK FROM LAKE CHARLEVOIX, has been a privilege the Olstrom family has enjoyed for four generations. Their story on this land began in 1898 when August and Augusta Leu purchased a farm just inland from the south arm of Lake Charlevoix, a region which was the logging settlement of Dwight's Landing. (Remnants from the sawmill can be found on the land today including old dock pylons pictured below.)

In September, 1934, the Leu's daughter, Anne, married Bill Olstrom of Advance and the young couple began farming across the road from the homestead where Anne was raised. Since then, their children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren have enjoyed this piece of northern Michigan heaven in a variety of ways.

Over the years, the Olstrom family have been approached with a multitude of offers to sell their land - but they didn't. The land is so much more than a financial asset to the two sisters and two brothers who can finish each other's sentences. This is where their children have learned to swim, fish, and hunt. Old submerged lumber was pulled from the water and incorporated into various projects. They played in the same creek that once kept the milk cold for the people of Dwight. For years after Grandpa Bill died in 1969, the family would gather every weekend at Anne's. As one of her granddaughter's recalls, "Friday night usually was: the adults at the kitchen table and the kids in the back room singing to the old 45s and eating popcorn out of colored bowls...As we grew older, we ventured further; we quit singing in the barn and started singing around the campfire. At any gathering, you could easily pick Grama out of the crowd — she always wore her hat to the lake."

In late December, the Conservancy purchased 17 acres from the Olstrom siblings: Louise Vanderlaan, Neil Olstrom, Bill Olstrom, and

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A section of Olstrom Bay that is now protected as nature preserve.

Todd Parker

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Susan Vrondran. The purchase was made possible with a grant from the Charles M. and Joan R. Taylor Foundation. The Taylor Family was a long-time owner in Charlevoix's Belvedere Club, and though they no longer visit the region, the family still has an affinity for preserving Lake Charlevoix and its watershed. The new preserve will be known as the Charles M. Taylor III Nature Preserve, as a memorial for the son of Charles and Joan Taylor.

In addition to the land protected through purchase, the Olstrom siblings donated a 100-foot waterfront lot adjacent to the new preserve. The adjacent parcel will be known as the Olstrom Family Nature Preserve in memory of their parents. "We know that leaving this land just the way it is was something our mother had hoped would happen," Susan said. "And now that it is over, we feel like it was the best possible option that we had."

"This is LTC's first shoreline purchase on Lake Charlevoix and is the essence of what the Conservancy is all about," said Ty Ratliff, the Conservancy land protection specialist who worked with the Olstroms for several years. "Throughout the process, the family kept saying, 'once it is gone, it is gone' a phrase that had meaning at many different levels. Having the land as a permanent nature preserve ensures that their family and many others can enjoy its



The Olstrom farmland, part of which is now the Taylor Preserve.

Todd Parker

special attributes — forever."

The new preserve complex lies along Peninsula Road in South Arm Township. It includes an upland red pine plantation that slopes down to an open field. Between the field and the lake lies a pretty cedar wetland where artifacts from the logging settlement can be found. For more information about the new preserves, please call our office at 231.347.0991.



Michigan Wildlife Foundation

MEMORIAL LAND TRANSFERRED

A 40-ACRE PARCEL OF LAND IN PIGEON RIVER ELK country has been transferred from the Michigan Wildlife Foundation to Little Traverse Conservancy. The land includes a quarter mile of frontage along US Highway I-75.

Several years ago, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs started the Michigan Wildlife Foundation as a way to recognize the contributions of many Michigan conservation leaders while dedicating a piece of land in their memory. Over the years, it appeared more practical to have a land conservancy that was nearby own and manage their lands, rather than have them held in a Lansing-based foundation.

"I view this as a very positive move," said Bob Garner, Michigan Wildlife Foundation board member. "The Little Traverse Conservancy certainly is one of the most trusted, credible organizations that dedicates itself to long-term land conservation. There is not a better conservancy than the Little Traverse Conservancy that is more capable and understands it's mission in which we can leave this historic conservation memorial in perpetuity. It is a perfect fit."

The property includes a constructed pond with a small island in the middle. A gravel drive enters the property



from Ford Road to the South and leads to a wooden pavilion and memorial site in the central portion of the property. The pavilion includes a plaque that lists the conservation leaders it honors. In addition, there are two rock memorials: one in honor of Tom Washington and the other in honor of Fred Bear. A trail leads down to the pond from the pavilion and some wood benches.

The new preserve will be known as the Michigan Wildlife Foundation Nature Preserve.





Sarah Mayhew




continued from cover story

future?” Nadine said. “I’ve always been impressed by how LTC has made environmental education a priority — it is one of the few land trusts in the country that does!” The Conservancy is also lucky to have retired teacher Lisa Loyd and educator Marta Olson join Nadine on the committee.

It’s probably no coincidence that our newest staff educator, Sarah Mayhew (*see related story, page 13*) visited Thorne Swift Preserve in her public school days, and grew up to choose environmental education as her career. “Everything is connected to the outdoors,” she said. “No matter what kids choose for their careers or personal interests, they will have many choices to make that involve the outdoors and the environment. From the products they buy, the charities they support, or the candidates they vote for — all have implications for their and their communities’ relationship with nature. We have to remember that they ARE our future conservationists!”

Since the program was launched in the late 1980s, more than 100,000 children have participated in the Conservancy’s education programs. The programs are tailored to fit in with state curriculum requirements, so that the field trips and outdoor experiences enhance what students are learning in science, math, arts and language.

The Conservancy’s education programs put our preserves to work as outdoor classrooms and “living laboratories” for students, and they help provide young people with a sense of wonder, awe, and discovery. We have the Conservancy founders, board, and supporters to thank for making the education of our youth a high priority in our northern Michigan communities! 

In addition to seasonal field trip programs, LTC’s education program provides resources to educators in our five-county region including the following:

- themed Discovery Boxes available for loan or for class presentation
- loanable curriculum materials and Discovery Packs
- presentations at local education conferences and workshops
- partnership with Getting Kids Outdoors - Emmet County (visit www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org)

If you would like to learn more about environmental education but need some help getting started, Conservancy educators are available to assist you. Please call the office at 231.347.0991 or visit www.landtrust.org.

Education around the seasons

(from top left to right): Sheridan 3rd graders snowshoe at the college natural area; Mackinaw City 1st graders at The Headlands; Young Naturalists at McCune Preserve; Students from the Joseph K. Lumsden Bah-weting Anish-nabe Academy at Monacle Lake.



Spring Field Trip sign up begins April 11. The spring programs will run from April 26 to June 7. Please call Melissa at 231.344.1004 or Sarah at 231.344.1018 to get your date!

Meet Our New Board Chair

John Griffin

IMAGINE COMING INTO A NEW COMMUNITY FOR THE first time. It is a beautiful area and you can't wait to get out and see it. But where to start? How to best get around, especially since this region is water based and you don't have a boat. In the Les Cheneaux community, you need only seek out their ambassador extraordinaire, John Griffin. The Conservancy is lucky enough to now have John serving as chair of the board.

For many years, John has introduced people to his favorite place in the world. As a realtor, community volunteer and activist, and just as a nice guy, John is eager to take you to the shores and coves of the islands, sharing history and stories along the way. And the really cool part: you are likely to be transported in an old wooden boat, the kind that typifies this region's rich boating heritage.

Raised in Cedarville, John left his beloved "Snows" for an eight-year tool and dye apprenticeship only to return and start the Cedar Tool Company in 1969. Since 1978, John has grown a successful real estate business, a role that has well complemented his desire to work with people to conserve

"He's just one of those amazing people whom you suspect might not ever sleep."

— Doug Fuller

and knowledge of a certain area," said Ken Drenth, former superintendent with Les Cheneaux schools. "With John I'd suggest you have found exactly the right person."

A sample of the numerous organizations in which John and his wife Jeri have been involved include the Les Cheneaux Islands Association and the American Council of Snowmobile Associations. John also served as the Clark Township Supervisor. Les Cheneaux resident Lisa Dunn explained John's instrumental role in creating the Les Cheneaux library when he worked with a landowner who eventually donated the downtown location for the new

the region. "It would be my assumption that the most important qualities a person can bring to a board of your nature, would be a combination of personal integrity



John Griffin in his role of "island ambassador."

Cindy Morn

structure. "It created an excitement and enthusiasm within the community that tremendously helped with the Friends' fundraising efforts for the project."

John is also known for the historic postcards that he brings into the 4th grade classes every year. "I give the students a little presentation using the postcards to help explain the history of the region," John said.

For the Conservancy, John wears many hats. At this time of year he can be found grooming ski trails at the Birge Preserve or driving down to Harbor Springs for a land protection committee meeting.

"John spends many days every year helping with LTC Stewardship Department projects, from clearing trails with a chain saw to shuttling staff to remote preserves on snowmobiles, to working behind the scenes on politically sensitive matters," said Doug Fuller, the Conservancy's Director of Stewardship. "This is in addition to his help with other LTC Departments and his role as board member (and now Board President). With running a busy realty office and activism in many other aspects of the Les Cheneaux community, I don't know how he does it all. He's just one of those amazing people who you suspect might not ever sleep."

It is people like John Griffin, who move across all sectors of their community, that help give Little Traverse Conservancy strength and credibility in its work.



IF ONLY THE TREES COULD TALK

Conn's Cove Preserve Named for Historical Beaver Island family



In our last newsletter, we reported on the protection of a 20-acre property along the northeast side of Beaver Island. Since then, the new preserve has been given the name "Conn's Cove Preserve." The name is rooted in the historic ownership of the land. The 1900 plat map shows ownership of the property to have been by James McCauley - aka "Jimmy Conn" who was born on Beaver Island in 1860. Just south of the land lies "Conn's Point" where Conn McCauley was known to keep his fishing boat on a sheltered pond.

Memorials

*The following gifts were received
from November 22, 2010 through February 23, 2011.*

David A. Armour

Matthew and Anneke Myers

Jack Arnold

Ms. Ruth S. Bennett

Walker Bagby

L'Arbre Croche Club
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lent
Mrs. Andre J. Perry
Mr. Ed Riddell

Jane Marie Bailey

Patricia McKay and Ted Fox

W.H. 'Hutch' Bearce

J & N Disposal

Cleatis Beaubien

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Burnham

Charles D.K. Brown

Meghan and Jeff Barlow

Charles Burke

Mr. Henry Grix

James Canham

Mr. and Mrs. Ian Bund

Julian Castleberry

Dan and Sally Eustice

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Carol and W. G. Giles
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David J. Davies

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Howard Demorest

Ken and Pat Giteronke

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Don Fellabaum

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John W. Fischer

Mr. Winston L. Stebbins

Katherine Barkhausen Geraghty

Tom and Mary Beth Brown
Chuck and Jane Dowding
Jim Whalen and Carrie Kalina
Kenneth and Sandra Lyles

Ziba Graham

Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. FitzSimons
Mrs. Joan Keller
James and Margot Stoehr

Ghassan and Nina Haurani

Matt and Randa Dudus
Chady and Mona Haurani
Joe and Tamra Haurani
Nathan and Zeina Sterling

Beverly Hinschowen

Mrs. Edie S. Johnson

JoAn Holzhauer

Donald Holzhauer

Frank L. Ingram

Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Vicki Bernitt
Carol and Sandy Bryson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Cox
Dennis and Amy Donohue
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Gerwin
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Haines
Ronald and Mary Hosner
Mr. and Mrs. Yale Kamisar
Mr. and Mrs. Everett Landen
Leitha Marsolais
Harry and Nanette Meckler and
Family
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Moore
Jay and Dale Ransom
Les Nimmo and Laura Renker
Charles and Nancy Seebeck
Tom and Linda Whitson

Norma Jackson

Mr. and Mrs. Edward McVicar

Tom Lacy

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Dean Hovey

Patrick Lawless

Kevin Bennett and Paula
Hendriksen
Mr. and Mrs. Steven R. Hofmann
Jefferson County School MIS
Hospitality Fund
Mrs. Therese Lawless
Mr. and Mrs. Donald McCarty

Bob and Pat Nolan
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Rochon

Jutta Letts

David and Genny Letts

John G. McCoy

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel P. French

B.J. Mogg

Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Bissell and
Family
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Files
Ms. Judith A. Gillow
Mr. and Mrs. George W. James
Mr. and Mrs. C. Mark Pirrung
Mr. and Mrs. Allen W. Whittemore

Mary Lou Dexter Munroe

Mr. Kirk Munroe

Jane B. Murphy

Carol and W. G. Giles

David Poxson

Gary and Mary Street

Rodney Hardy Rajala

Mr. and Mrs. Eino Rajala

Samuel Rea

Carol and W. G. Giles
Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Dean Hovey

William Rupp

Mr. Michael Cameron
Mrs. Robert R. Coon, Jr.
Patrick and Susan Schulte
Mrs. David L. Truog

Mr. Kim Shanahan

Kevin and Alison Ryan & Family

Glen Sheppard

Jim and Kathy Bricker

Nicholas Vassalo - a birthday remembrance

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Tankersley

Richard Wallace

Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West

Geraldine Warner

Brad and Sharon Gerlach
Mike and Susan Linton

Gerald Wendell

Mrs. Marian Wendell

Paul Zerges

Mrs. Jane A. Guttman
Mr. and Mrs. Julian A. Magnus

Honorariums

happy holidays

Francis Pittman Book

Mrs. Margaret Pittman

Richard Brewer

William Brewer Family

Brian and Mary Pittman Coco

Mrs. Margaret Pittman

Jason and Noel Pittman Davidson

Mrs. Margaret Pittman

Robert and Letty Fawcett

Susan Fawcett

Lucas and Beau Kennard

Marc Green

Gow Litzenburger

Hendrik and Liesel Meijer

Liesel Meijer

Gow Litzenburger





Spring has returned. The earth is like a child who knows poems.
— Rainer Maria Rilke

Paul Nowak

Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Friendly

John and Beth Pittman

Mrs. Margaret Pittman

Phil and Ginnie Pittman

Mrs. Margaret Pittman

Susan Pittman

Mrs. Margaret Pittman

Frederick Sanquist

Daniel and Pamela Sanquist

Thomas F. Sanquist

Mr. Frederick Sanquist

Gretchen Toshach

Ms. Katrina Toshach

Jeff and Carol Whitehead

Mrs. Margaret Pittman

Sally Pittman Wright

Mrs. Margaret Pittman

in honor of

Elizabeth G. Brown

Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Godfrey

Ian R.N. Bund

Mr. Richard C. Bruder

Matt and Randa Dudus

Chady and Mona Haurani
Nathan and Zeina Sterling
Joe and Tamra Haurani

Bob and Elizabeth Garaghty

Chuck and Jane Dowding

Nancy Sheppard and Peter Poullada

Ms. Roxana Safipour

R. Hamilton Schirmer

Scott and Catherine Hill

Carl Dunkle Sheppard

Ms. Christine D. Sheppard

Ann Smith

Ms. Pauline Mengebier

happy birthday

David McBride

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Busard

holiday gift memberships

Susan Causley

LC Heller

Richard and Barbara Lindner

Matthew, Michelle and Evan
Lindner

Joe and Karen Luther

Ralph Fodell

Donald Jr. and Lacey Nummer

Donald and Julie Nummer, Sr.

James and Lisa Pedersen

Esther Summers

Jane Ramer

LC Heller

George and Date Renton

R. Bassett

John Richardson

Joan Richardson

Carolena Saunders

Annegret Goehring

Ms. Charity Steere

Judith Jarecki

Red Wing Winterfest fans

Paxson Offield

Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Hirrel

Love of the Community

Marta and Peter Olson

Brita Olson

Bar Mitzvah

Noah Alexander Pines

Mr. and Mrs. David B. Hill

50th Wedding Anniversary

David and Kathy Smith

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Petzold

Harbor Springs Greenbelt

Patsy and Sandy Warner

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Morrison

Preserve Positions Available

The Conservancy is currently seeking **Volunteer Preserve Monitors and Trail Stewards** for those preserves listed below. Please contact Cindy at 231.344.1011 or email cindy@landtrust.org for more information or to apply.

Charlevoix County

Conn's Cove – Beaver Island
Dressel – in East Jordan
Raven Ridge – 5 miles east of East Jordan

Cheboygan County

Hanel Preserve – in Wolverine
Michigan Wildlife Foundation – 2 miles north of Wolverine

Emmet County

Bryan Wildlife Preserve – 5 miles northeast of Pellston
McCune – 7 miles east of Petoskey (TRAIL STEWARD only)

wish list

LTC is seeking applicants for an AmeriCorps Stewardship Technician position from May through October. We are also seeking free or low cost housing for the Stewardship Technician. Please call Doug at 231.344.1009 or check out the LTC website for more information

The Stew Crew is seeking an 8-Foot Fiberglass Stepladder (Werner model 5908S, 225-Pound Duty Rating with Pail Shelf or similar).

DeWalt 18V Cordless Reciprocating Saw (DC385K)

A "standard" walk-behind power lawn mower like the one pictured or a similar model in new or good used condition.

The Andreae Preserve kitchen, registry is found at www.bed-bathandbeyond.com. Click on Bridal & Gift Registry. Under "Find a Registry," type in "Andreae" for the first name and "Cabin" for the last name. Thank you to those who have given (see p. 13)!

www.landtrust.org - 9



The Conservancy would like to thank the following new Friends or Benefactors or members who have increased their level of giving within the Friends or Benefactors level from November 19, 2010 to February 18, 2011.

Friends and Benefactors

Businesses

The Cottage Company of
Harbor Springs
J & N Disposal

Individuals or Families

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Beynon
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Mr. Garrett Burke
Michael and Mary Jane Clayton
Mrs. Peter Cummings
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Clayton and Anna Timmons
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Mr. and Mrs. Steve Toth Jr.
Kurt Wacker and Carolyn Workman
Clay and Mary Jo Warner
Mr. and Mrs. Norman White

New Contributing Members

Businesses

Etc. Kitchens and Baths

Individuals or Families

Peter and Judy Ajluni
Mr. John G. Anderson
Ms. Barbara Bacon
Alan and Maureen Barkley
Meghan and Jeff Barlow
Jack and Karen Barnwell
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Bassett
Joseph and Shirley Bavonese
Ms. Jane Bellezza Dziurda
William and Molly Bibb

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Sue A Bissell
Thom and Carrie Blanck
David and Pamela Blanton
Kenneth and Franny Bluhm
David and Frances Borchers
Adam and Heidi Brege & Family
Holly and Norm Brown
William and Barbara Brown
Stephen and Amy Campbell
Scott and Amy Carbeck
Dr. and Mrs. Charles O. Carothers
Kenneth and Mary Alice Carpenter
Richard and Christine Carreno
Scott and Susan Cavell
Patrick and Jean Chargo
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Chartkoff
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Cheney
Andrew and Michele Cohen
Murray and Jen Cotter
Ms. Joanne M. Courtney
Mr. Arthur W. Curtis III
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Dean, Jr.
Crane and Susan DeCamp
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel L. Dierdorf
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Doebel
Dr. and Mrs. Richard S. Downey
Mr. and Mrs. Ted L. Dumbauld
Mr. and Mrs. Kent G. Dupont
Mr. Scot R. Egleston
Kathleen Moloney and
Edward S. Egnatios
Ms. Patricia Ewing
Mr. Robert Falk Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Farrugia
Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. Fawcett
Gary and Molly Ferguson
Victoria Seibert and
Nathan Fitzpatrick
Mr. and Mrs. Colin FitzSimons
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Flotow
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Fordney
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On December 8, Conservancy staff prepared a potluck luncheon for our volunteers.

Thanking our Wonderful Administrative Volunteers

by Cacia Lesh, Administrative Coordinator

As a new staff member coordinating the membership mailings, I have had a great time getting to know our administrative volunteers as well as learning how to be an active part of the community. LTC is indebted to these wonderful folks who remind us through their actions that we all have unique skills to offer and the impact of those skills on one another is always positive.

In 2010 more than 35 volunteers helped LTC with membership mailings, communications, photography, wildlife surveys, and more. Some volunteer through the Friendship Center of Petoskey's Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and admirably, many are veteran volunteers. Some of them are so generous that they have been volunteering with us for more than 19 years! To thank them for their dedication with helping LTC protect northern Michigan's wild places, we invited them to join our staff for a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at our office. Many of the men and women who attended are volunteers at other organizations around the area, in addition to LTC. Thank you, all!

If you have free time, or a specific skill to offer towards our protection efforts, and you are interested in volunteering with LTC, please call our offices at 231.347.0991.



Nicky Haller, librarian at the Alanson Public Library, stands next to the new LTC informational display board.

New Displays Created with Community Foundation Grant

In 2010, Little Traverse Conservancy received a grant from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation to purchase two new display boards. One of the boards has been developed into a portable display for Getting Kids Outdoors - Emmet County. The display has already been used at a variety of conferences and meeting for the group. The other board has been developed into a general display that explains the Conservancy's major programs. It is currently rotating around area libraries and will be located at a variety of public settings throughout Emmet County and the Conservancy's service area. So far, the Conservancy has been pleased by how well received the display and Conservancy materials have been. "We realize that there are still a number of people in our communities who have heard of the Conservancy or see our signs, but don't understand all of the services and opportunities we provide," said Executive Director Tom Bailey. "We hope these boards will make our program information more accessible to the public."



Unselfish and noble actions are the most radiant pages in the biography of souls.

— David Thomas

Stewardship Work Days

Spring 2011

The following work days have been scheduled for the stewardship work season. Contact Cindy at 231.344.1011 or cindy@landtrust.org for more information.

Friday, April 22 (9 am to 2 pm)

Earth Day Work Day at Martha Cameron Preserve

Celebrate Earth Day by helping us to restore an old home site at the Martha Cameron Preserve in Harbor Springs. We'll be doing some final cleanup, raking out topsoil, and planting meadow seeds and tree and shrub seedlings. We also plan to create a Bicyclists' Wayside at this preserve along the Little Traverse Wheelway. Plans are still in the works, but this may include spreading crushed limestone, installing benches and a bike rack, and doing some additional landscaping. There is no parking at the site, so please call to register and find out where to park your car. Or, better yet, ride your bike!

Friday, April 22 10 am and 2 pm

Earth Day Roadside Preserve Cleanups

Explore the edges of the Menonaqua Preserve and the Fochtman Preserve as we pick up spring melt trash along their road borders. Meet at the Conservancy office, and we will provide a shuttle ride to the cleanup sites. We'll do Menonaqua at 10:00 am and Fochtman at 2:00 pm. Bags will be provided.

Saturday, May 14 (10 am to 3 pm)

Little Sand Bay Home Site Cleanup

The old Gallagher House on the Little Sand Bay Preserve in Beaver Island is one of the oldest structures on Beaver Island, thought to date from the Mormon era in the 1850s. The Beaver Island Historical Society hopes to preserve or restore the house. In the meantime, we'll be cleaning up the area around the home site by removing barbed wire, demolishing small outbuildings, and searching along the old fence lines and stone walls to find and remove hidden stashes of farm debris. Come out Saturday, May 14 from 10 am to 3 pm to help with this effort and learn more about BIHS's historic preservation plans. It's guaranteed to be an interesting day, and you can take home any treasures you find.

Thursday, May 26 (9 am to 2 pm)

Meadowgate Meadow Restoration

In May, 2010 about 50 students and adults from Harbor Springs Middle School spent a morning pulling invasive garlic mustard from throughout the 11-acre Meadowgate Nature Preserve near Harbor Springs. Don't let their efforts go to waste! Come on out and help us keep this weed under control. We'll also be doing work on other phases of the meadow restoration project planned for this preserve, including removing undesirable shrubs and saplings and planting tree seedlings. This is a great opportunity for kids to try their hand at land stewardship and learn more about our plans for meadow restoration.

Saturday, June 4 (10 am to 3 pm)

Pigeon River Preserves Trail Linking

National Trails Day, created in 1993 by the American Hiking Society, is celebrated around the country on the first Saturday in June each year. Spend National Trails Day helping us to link up two great trail systems: the beloved and familiar Andreae Preserve, and our brand new Banwell Preserve. When complete, the combined total trail system will be four miles.

Friday, July 22 & Saturday, July 23

Vermilion Point Knapweed Pull - call for time

For the fifth year in a row, we will be pulling spotted knapweed at Vermilion Point. This high priority project is a cooperative effort of Little Traverse Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Lake Superior State University, and the Eastern UP Cooperative Weed Management Area, and will help keep Vermilion's habitat in shape for Piping Plovers and Lake Huron Tansy. This is your opportunity to stay overnight at Vermilion in the old Life Saving Station barracks. Don't miss out!

Thursday, July 28 (9 am to noon)

Chaboiganing Preserve Invasive Removal

Since 2005, we've been working to remove autumn olive and other woody invasives from the hay fields and forest edges at the Chaboiganing Preserve. Great progress has been made, but there are always a few stragglers left behind.

Staff Updates

Little Traverse Conservancy recently welcomed **Sarah Mayhew** onto staff as an Education Coordinator. Sarah first interned with the Conservancy in 2006 shortly after receiving her degree in Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management with a minor in Photography from Northern Michigan University. Since then, Sarah's travels and job experiences have included interpretive work with the Department of Natural Resources, adventure education in Washington State, and most recently she worked with Crooked Tree Arts Center in Petoskey. "Teaching environmental education for LTC has seriously been a goal of mine for a long time. It was always in the back of my head as something I would love to do in the future... not having any idea 'the future' was going

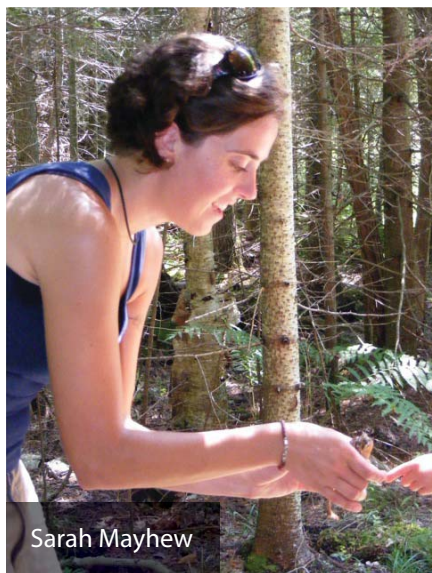
to come so soon!" Sarah said. "Getting a job in my desired field (and using my degree) in northern Michigan is miraculous! I feel SO blessed." Sarah will work with Melissa Hansen and Alison Berry to continue offering year-round programs to our region's youth.

At the start of the new year, staff member **Jay Neff** transitioned from the land protection department to the stewardship department. This move was made to help accommodate the

growing stewardship needs. "For many years we have forecasted that the organizational needs would eventually become heavier on the stewardship side, and this shift is already making itself evident," said Executive Director, Tom Bailey. Jay will be involved in a multitude of stewardship responsibilities with an emphasis on conservation easements. The staff is also pleased to be able to take advantage of his knack with equipment purchasing, care, and maintenance.

This winter, **Mark Simpson** has been working as a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) intern through North Central Michigan College. Mark has been working directly with Stewardship Specialist Charles Dawley to learn how GIS applies to land conservation work.

Mark holds an Associates in Science degree from Delta College and went back to school in Fall 2009, choosing to pursue the growing field of GIS. "I have always had a love for nature," Mark said. "I am placed at Little Traverse Conservancy for my work base learning skills and am learning quickly about hiking and GPS. If I had the opportunity I would definitely pursue a GIS job in the Conservancy field." Mark plans to get his bachelor's degree in GIS with a minor in Geology from Lake Superior State University.



Sarah Mayhew

Thanks to:

- Garrett Thatcher for work on the Andreae cabin last fall.
- Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative crew for work at the Goodhart, Ransom, and soon-to-be Maple River preserves as well as repairs to the office building deck, and back steps.
- John Griffin for facilitating a winter Vermilion site visit and for grooming trails at the Birge Preserve.
- Additional volunteer trail groomers Tim Dewick (also at Birge Preserve), Denny Paull (Reed's Alverno), and Dan Mann (Driggers).
- Diane Andreae, Gretchen Toshach, and Diane Morand for gifts to the Andreae Cabin kitchen.
- Beth and Ed Leuck, faculty members at the CMU Biological Station for doing a survey of Michigan Monkey Flower at Little Sand Bay.
- Sally and Kenyon Stebbins for helping to inventory the bird species at the Curtis Preserve.
- John and Mary Lou Tanton for funding a scholarship for a staff member to attend a University of Michigan Biological Station mini-course.
- Glen Matthews for help with preserve management plans.
- Glen Schmiede and Lynne Petersen for graciously hosting the snowshoe field trip to the Bailey-Lagerstrom Preserve on Sugar Island.
- George Jury for again generously hosting and feeding participants for the snowshoe and ski outing at Greenwood Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Kim Clare for opening up her home, store, and property for the 20 people who attended the snowshoe and wool event at Flower Lady Farm.
- Marta Olson and Todd Petersen for the winter preserve and education photos.
- Bev Warner and Lurli Vaughn for help with an end of year mailing.
- Raven Hill Discovery Center for allowing snowshoe field trip participants to leave from their center and stay warm inside before the trip.
- Jim Liska for donating two duck mounts to the Conservancy's education program.



Education Coordinator Melissa Hansen accepts one of two duck mounts donated by Jim Liska.



Reflections

...Tom Bailey

With great fanfare, President Obama just released his report on “America’s Great Outdoors: A Promise to Future Generations.” Here is the Vision Statement included in the executive summary:

Americans envision a future in which:

All children, regardless of where they live, have access to clean, safe outdoor places within a short walk of their homes or schools, where they can play, dream, discover and recreate.

Americans participate in the shared responsibility to protect and care for our unique natural and cultural heritage for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

Rural lands—our working farms, ranches and forests—are conserved and restored through incentives and local partnerships.

Our national parks, national forests, and other public lands and waters are managed with a renewed commitment to sound stewardship and resilience.

Our natural areas and waterways, whether publicly or privately owned, are reconnected, healthy, and resilient and support both human needs and the wildlife that depend on them.

Communities work together to restore and protect healthy rivers and lakes to provide recreational opportunities and to contribute significantly to a vibrant economy.

My first thought was, “gee, this sounds familiar.” Much of this vision could easily have been written by the founders of the Little Traverse Conservancy nearly forty years ago. It reflects values that are shared by most all of us who live in the North Country, or who have resort homes here. It’s a vision that vacationers would embrace, and most business people would probably also agree that maintaining our outdoor heritage is not only good for business but also good for the communities where our people live, work and play.

I’ve seen dozens of “vision statements” over the years ranging from local community master plans to county plans, regional visions, state reports like those produced by former Michigan governors Engler and Granholm, and also presidential commissions, like the current one prepared for President Obama and a notable one that was created during the Reagan Administration.

All of these visions tend to emphasize the same themes, same values, same lofty goals. As I have noted on a number of other occasions, it’s usually no secret what people want for their communities, regions, state and nation. The President’s report rings true with most of the other vision statements I have seen over the years and decades. The problem, as I see it, is how to make the vision stick.

Most of us have seen the story play out: a community master plan or vision statement is embraced by the populace, but before the ink is even dry, there is a challenge. An area that was dedicated in the plan or vision to agriculture is suddenly slated for a mall, big box store, or subdivision. The vision emphasizes parks and recreation, but at budget cutting time, parks are the first to go. Legislators looking for money talk of selling off public lands. And so the story goes. A wonderful vision is embraced, then ignored, and our grandchildren will pay the price in the form of lost scenery, lost recreational opportunities, lost agricultural land, higher infrastructure costs, and ultimately, higher taxes.

There are reasons why this happens. It’s not that we’re cynical about our vision and it’s not that people don’t sincerely want to protect our natural heritage. The problem, as I see it, is that our systems for dealing with land use

issues and the financing of development are antiquated. Our property tax system had its roots in the 19th century. Today, aspects of that system contribute to land development patterns that all of our vision statements say that we don’t want. Our financial system is biased toward development, and even developments that are not financially sustainable end up getting bailed out. Our governmental approach to land remains rooted in the 19th century when the US population was less than a third of what it is now and the technology that now ravages the landscape did not even exist. The simple fact is that the legal, financial and governmental institutions that deal with land have not caught up with the modern vision of what we need to do with our land resources.

I happen to believe that a healthy balance is possible. I happen to believe that the vision of President Obama’s commission—and that of the Reagan commission and Michigan’s two previous governors—can be realized along with a healthy economy, prosperity, and more than enough land development to satisfy the needs of a growing nation. It’s all possible, but it is going to require some changes in how we administer land resources and how we finance land development and community infrastructure.

Republican and Democratic presidents, governors, county commissioners, township board members and city council members have all produced visions similar to those the President just unveiled. Parents and children have all dreamed of better access to areas for kids to play. We’ve all thought about how nice it is to protect certain scenic views. What’s needed now is for us to work together to analyze our governmental, legal and financial structures to see what we need to do in order to make those visions reality, and how we can accomplish it in a fair and equitable manner. I think it’s possible. And land conservancies can play a vital role!

Here’s hoping that this newly stated vision—which resonates with those that have been produced by both political parties in the past—can serve as a catalyst for action that goes beyond visioning and translates into positive progress for conservation of our important resources and our American way of life.





Staff members Cacia Lesh and Kieran Fleming are inspired along the St. Mary's River during a property inspection.



Neighbors to the Offield Family Preserve enjoy a winter hike.



Todd Petersen photographing the Vivian Van Campen Preserve.



Raven Ridge snowshoe field trip.



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Spring Events

These community events are offered at no charge. For more information, please call our office at 231.347.0991.

You need not sign up for the following birding events offered by Petoskey Audubon. All outings are held at properties protected with help from or through Little Traverse Conservancy.

Birding with Petoskey Audubon

May 3, 10, 17, 24 (every Tuesday morning in May) at 7:30 a.m.

Bird walks at Pond Hill Farm near Harbor Springs. Pond Hill Farm is located roughly 5 miles northwest of Harbor Springs on M-119. Continue on M-119 for ¼ mile past the entrance of Pond Hill Farm, and park in the berry field.

Birding with Petoskey Audubon

May 5, 12, 19, 26 (every Thursday morning in May) at 7:30 a.m.

Bird walks at Spring Lake Park (near M-31 / M-119 intersection and the State Police Post). Meet at the gazebo & we'll take advantage of the trails and boardwalk, as well as the rail trail along Mud Lake to Round Lake.

Every Tuesday and Thursday in May, PRAS will offer "early morning bird walks" for members and the general public, free of charge. The walks are appropriate for all levels of experience, and no reservations are required. Six pair of loaner binoculars will be available, so feel free to bring along a "first-timer." We'll be sharing the wonders of spring migration throughout the month, a great reason to get outdoors on a spring morning and enjoy the season's changes up close. The leisurely-paced walks will last about 2 hours, but participants are free to come and go as their schedules allow. John and Joanne Biddick will lead the Tuesday walks, and Sally Stebbins will lead the Thursday walks. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them, dress for the weather, and wear sturdy shoes that you don't mind getting muddy. Participants will receive a checklist of Emmet County birds. Call Sally at 526-1222 for more info.

Frogging By Ear

DATE and TIME to be announced!
Central Emmet County

(This will be an evening program and field trip held sometime between April 4 and May 26) Call Cindy at 231.344.1011 if you'd like to be notified for this outing! If you have a flexible schedule, don't have an early bedtime, love to be outside on warm, still, spring nights, and want to learn about northern Michigan's frogs and toads, this is the field trip for you. We'll start indoors at the Conservancy office with a short introduction to the frogs and toads, and then drive to a spot where we can listen to several different species. Because frog activity is very dependent upon temperature and weather conditions, participants must sign up in advance and be ready to go on short notice. We'll contact you by phone or email the day of the program. The indoor program will start fifteen minutes before sunset; the total event will last about two hours. (In early April this would mean an 8 pm start, by late May it will be 9 pm.)

Kayak Mud Lake

Tuesday, June 14 9 am

Walloon Lake, Michigan's 22nd largest inland lake, consists of five distinct basins. The smallest, shallowest basin of this large, deep lake is known as the Mud Lake Basin. In spite of a somewhat mundane name, this water body is characterized by clear waters, wild shorelines, diverse wetlands, abundant waterfowl and other bird life, and rich aquatic habitats teeming with life. Join the Conservancy's Doug Fuller, Karie Jeisel of the Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy, and other paddling enthusiasts to tour the shores of the Mud Lake Basin and learn about the natural features as well as WLTC's efforts to protect an important part of its shoreline. Participants will meet and launch canoes and kayaks at the end of Stolt Road at 9 am. Kayaks from The Outfitter of Harbor Springs are available by calling our office ahead of time. This will be about a 2.5 mile-long, easy, casual paddle. The trip will last roughly until noon. In case of inclement weather, we will postpone until June 22nd.



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