

photo by Kiley

## Looking at Nature with New Eyes

The Conservancy's new Intro to Nature Photography program is being piloted this school year by Nancy Cole's 5th and 6th grade class at Harbor Light School near Harbor Springs. LTC Education Coordinator Sarah Mayhew has worked with the class both in and out of the classroom, most recently on a winter outing to Petoskey State Park (*see photos this page*). A classroom set of cameras and cases was purchased last summer in part with a grant from the Youth Advisory Council of the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation. Students are learning how to work with their cameras to achieve desired effects.

"We have used the photos as the setting of some English writing," Nancy Cole says. "We will be using the winter photos in a unit of writing which allows the students to upload the pictures to the computer program called Photostory 3 and then as in a cartoon, pictures are added frame by frame. Music, text, and voice can be added to each frame so that a story can be told digitally," Cole adds.

The program will be offered again during the 2012-13 school year. For more information, please contact Sarah at 231.344.1018. See p. 8 for more examples of photos taken by the students.



Harbor Light 5th and 6th graders last fall and winter during the new Intro to Nature Photography program.



# Reflections...

Tom Bailey

## Forty Years Protecting the Back Forty!

The “back forty” acres on a farm used to refer to a portion of land that was not under cultivation, not pastured, but set aside as a place for wildlife, for harvesting firewood, and - to children who loved to play and have adventures outdoors - for exploring. And though the “back forty” is an expression that was developed on the farm, it isn’t only farms that have a “back forty.” Many of us who grew up in the post-World War II Baby Boom remember having a special place outdoors, whether we were country folk or city dwellers. It might have been a large natural area or simply a vacant lot, but regardless of size and scope, many of us can remember a “back forty” where we learned to love the outdoors.

Realizing that all communities have those special outdoor places and that they range in size and scale from small lots to large natural areas, the founders of the Little Traverse Conservancy set out to ensure that such places will always be available, for generations to come. Having personally spoken with most of our founders, I can say that the results achieved by LTC have exceeded their best expectations. And switching from acreage to time, in 2012 we can look “back forty” years to the founding of the Little Traverse Conservancy.

As we celebrate our 40th anniversary year, we have more people to thank for helping us to protect the back forty than we can ever possibly name. From the seven founders of the organization to the nearly four thousand members who supported us in this past year, we are grateful to everyone who has helped us: Board members who gave of their time and talent to lead this organization from the early years as a struggling non-profit to its current status as a major institution in our community. Staff members who put their professional skills and energy to work in building the land protection, stewardship, educational and administrative programs of our Conservancy into outstanding examples for land trusts across the state and nation. Volunteers from the RSVP program who have pitched in to do everything from signing letters through

the “licking and sticking” process in our annual membership mailings. Field volunteers who watch over our preserves, care for our trails, clean up, fix up and otherwise keep up our nature preserves. Large donors and foundations who have made it possible for us to take on large projects. And the great majority of donors who might not be able to make a six-figure grant to buy land, but whose long-term support has made literally everything we do possible. You have made all the difference. You have made this organization what it is. You deserve the credit for a 40-year legacy of conservation and education that has protected some 45,000 acres and educated more than 100,000 children.

What a privilege it has been for me to serve during more than 27 of those 40 years! Though the job was a dream come true when I came to LTC, I could not possibly have known that it would become so much more – so rewarding and so fulfilling to work with so many wonderful people on so many fabulous projects. Looking back on all we’ve accomplished over these years, I am deeply grateful to have had your trust and your support as we have worked together to protect what we all love about Michigan’s North Country.

Throughout this 40th anniversary year, the pages of this quarterly will highlight some of the milestones we have achieved along our way, and we will feature some of the people who have made it all possible.

At our annual meeting this August, we will hold an extended celebration that will not only highlight our 40 years, but also take a look at what’s happening now in conservation and what lies ahead.

We’ll be featuring special field trips that highlight the various habitats protected on LTC’s nature preserve.

We’ll celebrate some of the partnerships that have contributed to the success of our organization and the gains made in land conservation not only in our service area, but statewide as well.

And, through it all, we won’t miss a beat as our land protection, stewardship and education programs move onward.

Thank you, everyone, for helping to make the Little Traverse Conservancy a successful land conservation institution. Thank you for protecting the natural integrity and scenic beauty of the North Country through our efforts. Thank you for making it possible for a hundred thousand children to learn about the outdoors in the outdoors. And thank you for staying with us as we look ahead to the challenges of land conservation, stewardship and education – protecting the back forty - for another 40 years!!





Despite many gloomy economic indicators in our country and state, 2011 ended as one of Little Traverse Conservancy's strongest years by some measures. The beautiful lands and waters of our region continue to draw us in for so many reasons—from the traditions of our families to our general sense of well-being.

## land protection

Looking at acres protected within a given year as a measure, 2011 was the second highest land protection year since LTC was founded. Last year, 23 land projects were completed, ensuring 3,692 acres will remain development free. These projects include: land valued at more than \$10 million; 65,743 feet (more than 12 miles) of water frontage along northern Michigan lakes and streams; and 21,858 feet (more than 4 miles) of scenic road frontage. Five additional projects were completed but not included in the totals for the year: 3 conservation easements were completed on lands being acquired as nature preserves, and 2 parcels were transferred to units of government that had been acquired in previous years as "transfer and assist" projects. Their acreage was noted in the year they were originally acquired.

Nine of the 23 projects completed in 2011 expanded on protection provided by existing nature preserves or conservation easements.

Total acres protected since 1972 is 44,185 with 122 miles of lake or stream frontage.

## stewardship

Currently, Little Traverse Conservancy owns and manages 160 nature preserves totaling more than 14,000 acres of land. The organization also enforces conservation easements on more than 20,000 acres of land.

Throughout 2011 and throughout the service area, extra attention was given to about 30 nature preserves including new trails connecting the Andreae and Banwell preserves in Cheboygan County, the removal of cabins at the Search Bay Preserve in Mackinac County, and the removal of exotic plants and old trash dumps at a few preserves.

## membership & finance

In 2011, Little Traverse Conservancy reached a new membership record in terms of dollars raised. A total of \$757,954 in donations were received in 2011 from 3,887 family and individual members. This was about \$20,000 more than received in 2010. The Conservancy was also able to meet its budget of \$1,227,000.

## environmental education

More than 5,650 kids attended a Conservancy program in 2011 with many teachers and parents coming along. Participants include children from public, private and home schools, scout groups, and area families and visitors during the summer. Twenty classes benefitted from bus reimbursement from LTC in 2011 (\$870.00), making it possible for classes to participate that would not have been able to without transportation cost assistance. The new Intro to Nature Photography program was created by Sarah Mayhew and the Harbor Light 5th and 6th grade class is the pilot group this school year.



# De Tour Peninsula Nature Preserve Created

DETOUR— More than three miles of northern Lake Huron shoreline and 145 acres of land on Point DeTour were recently donated to Little Traverse Conservancy as the De Tour Peninsula Nature Preserve. Located just south of De Tour in eastern Chippewa County, this is one of the most ecologically significant properties now owned by the Conservancy as a public preserve.

Along with the exceptional shoreline, the new preserve includes the rich diversity that typifies northern Lake Huron land: sand and gravel beach, limestone cobble shore, shoreline forest (made up of boreal forest and rich conifer swamp components), coastal fen, and an emergent marsh are all included within the preserve. The forests are a mixture of white cedar, aspen, spruce, and balsam fir.

A sampling of the flowers observed on the property in 2010 included columbine, potentilla, blue flag iris, coreopsis, Indian paintbrush, pitcher plant, wild rose, native honeysuckle vine, and the federally threatened Pitcher’s thistle.

The De Tour Peninsula Preserve is a point of land located in a major migration corridor centered on the St. Mary’s River. Songbirds, raptors, waterfowl, and shorebirds tend to use these points of land during their migrations as critical stopover habitat. Many birds use the land as breeding and brood-rearing habitat in the spring and summer.

Resident birds observed during a staff visit included black-throated green warbler, hermit thrush, white-throated sparrow, red-eyed vireo, common tern (state threatened), shorebirds, common merganser, bald eagle (state and federally threatened), and merlin (state threatened). In addition, the peninsula is prime breeding and/or migrating habitat for coopers hawk (state threatened), northern goshawk (state special concern), and common loon (identified as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Michigan’s Wildlife Action

Plan). The preserve also provides habitat for black bear, coyote, wolf (state and special concern), otter, bobcat, and other wide ranging species.

Conservancy Executive Director Tom Bailey said that although the Conservancy will own the property, it is in fact a gift to the entire community. “We hold land in trust for communities,” he said, “and we look forward to welcoming people to this property to enjoy its beauty.” The property is open to the public for hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

A two-track road that runs through the preserve to private land on the tip of the peninsula will be open to foot traffic, providing an easy way for people to get into the new nature preserve. Over time, the Conservancy expects to add a small parking area at the end of Point Road and trails to make it easier for visitors to see the land’s natural features.

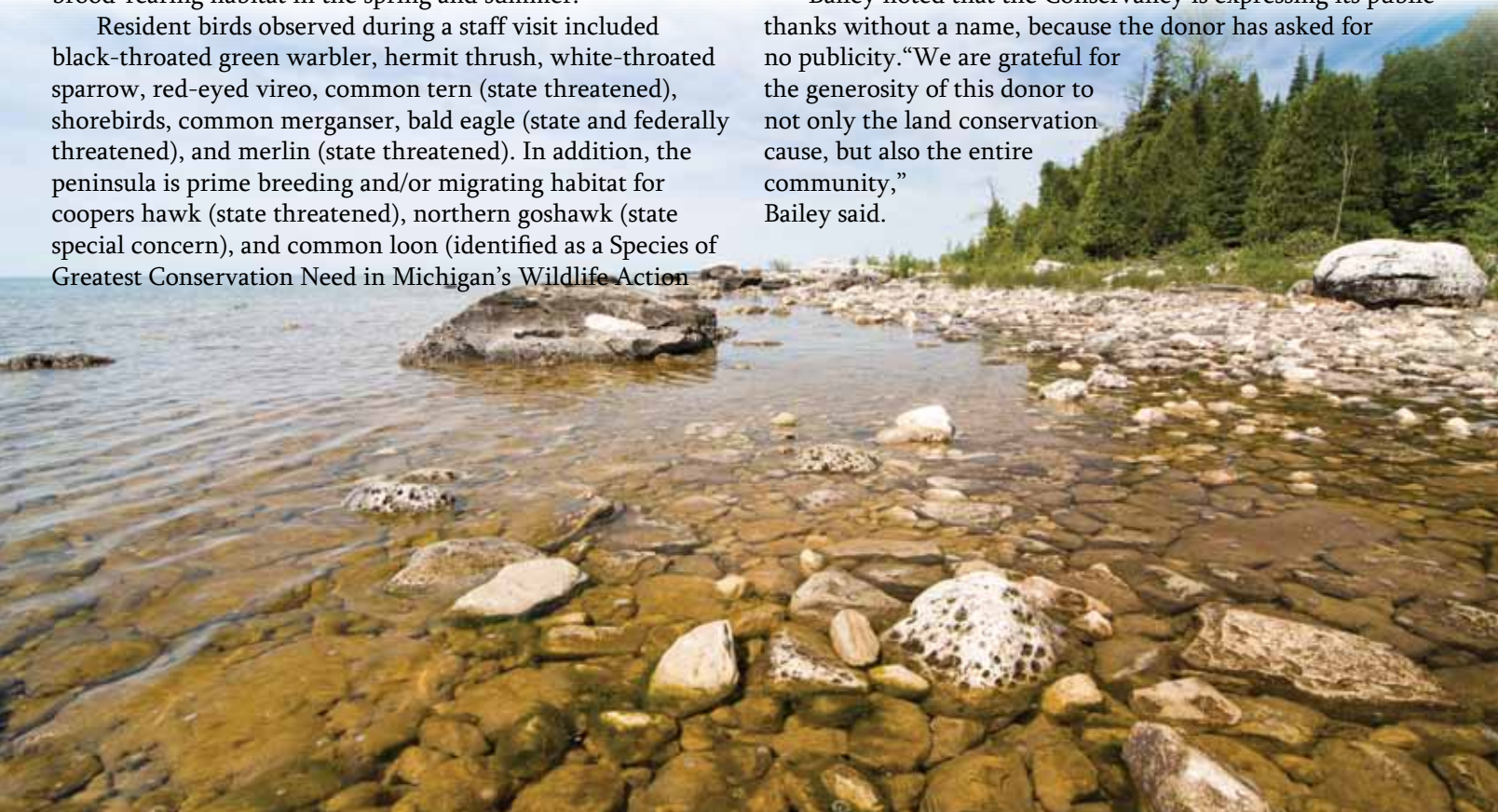
Bailey noted that the Conservancy is especially looking forward to incorporating the property into its education program, “so that the young people in area schools can

learn about the outdoors in the outdoors.” He notes that the Conservancy offers programs to schools free of charge, with reimbursement for transportation costs available. The programs are matched to state curriculum guidelines and are intended to offer field trips to teachers and students in a variety of subject areas.

Bailey noted that the Conservancy is expressing its public thanks without a name, because the donor has asked for no publicity. “We are grateful for the generosity of this donor to not only the land conservation cause, but also the entire community,” Bailey said.

We hold land in trust for communities and we look forward to welcoming people to this property to enjoy its beauty.

- Tom Bailey

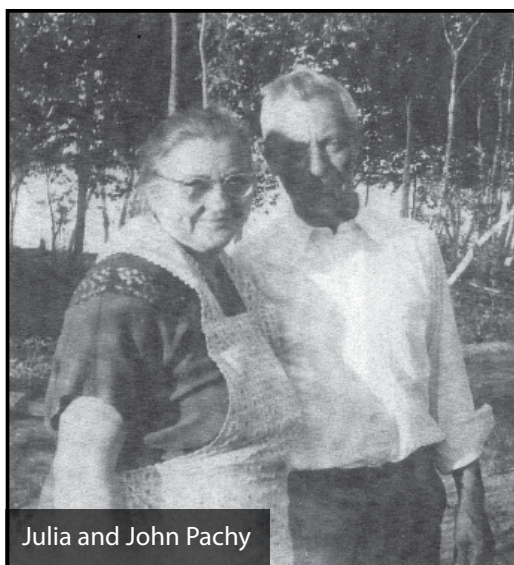


# John and Julia Pachy Nature Preserve

*Cousins Al Owens and Jim Moss recently sold 36 acres with 1,500 feet of Paradise Lake shoreline to Little Traverse Conservancy. According to Land Protection Specialist Ty Ratliff, purchasing the land was an easy decision because it came at a significant bargain sale, includes naturally-forested undeveloped shoreline, and lies close to other protected lands as shown in the map below. (Note: The LTC Stewardship committee has recommended that the preserve be closed to hunting and left as wild land.). Here, Al and John share a bit of history about this new northern Emmet County preserve which is now known as the John and Julia Pachy Nature Preserve.*

John and Julia Pachy, Hungarian immigrants, came to the U.S. in the early 1900s. John was a butcher and had two stores in Detroit. He heard of the Carp Lake area from a fellow Hungarian, who came to the North Country for asthma relief. John purchased 325 acres on the south side of Carp Lake (now called Paradise Lake) in 1939 via a government land sale. Site unseen, I might add.


They built their first cottage a year later. In 1948, John retired from his business and decided to further develop his property, and began to build cottages to rent. Therefore Pachy Resort. They then built the current year around home, affectionately known as "The Big House." They then retired to Carp Lake to live out their lives in peaceful respite. According to



Julia and John Pachy

a 1997 article celebrating Julia's 100th birthday, Julia loved working in her kitchen, looking out at the lake, or just sitting on the porch. "For them, it was 'truly God's country - even with all of the hard work,'" the article reads.

After 67 years of marriage together, John passed away at the age of 88 in 1983, and Julia passed away in 1997. They had two daughters, Mary Owens Prain and Olga Moss, both who - at various times - lived at or near the Pachy retreat. Olga still resides there in the summers. The family, four grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and many great-great-grandchildren, is proud to leave the remaining property in the loving hands of the LTC. The

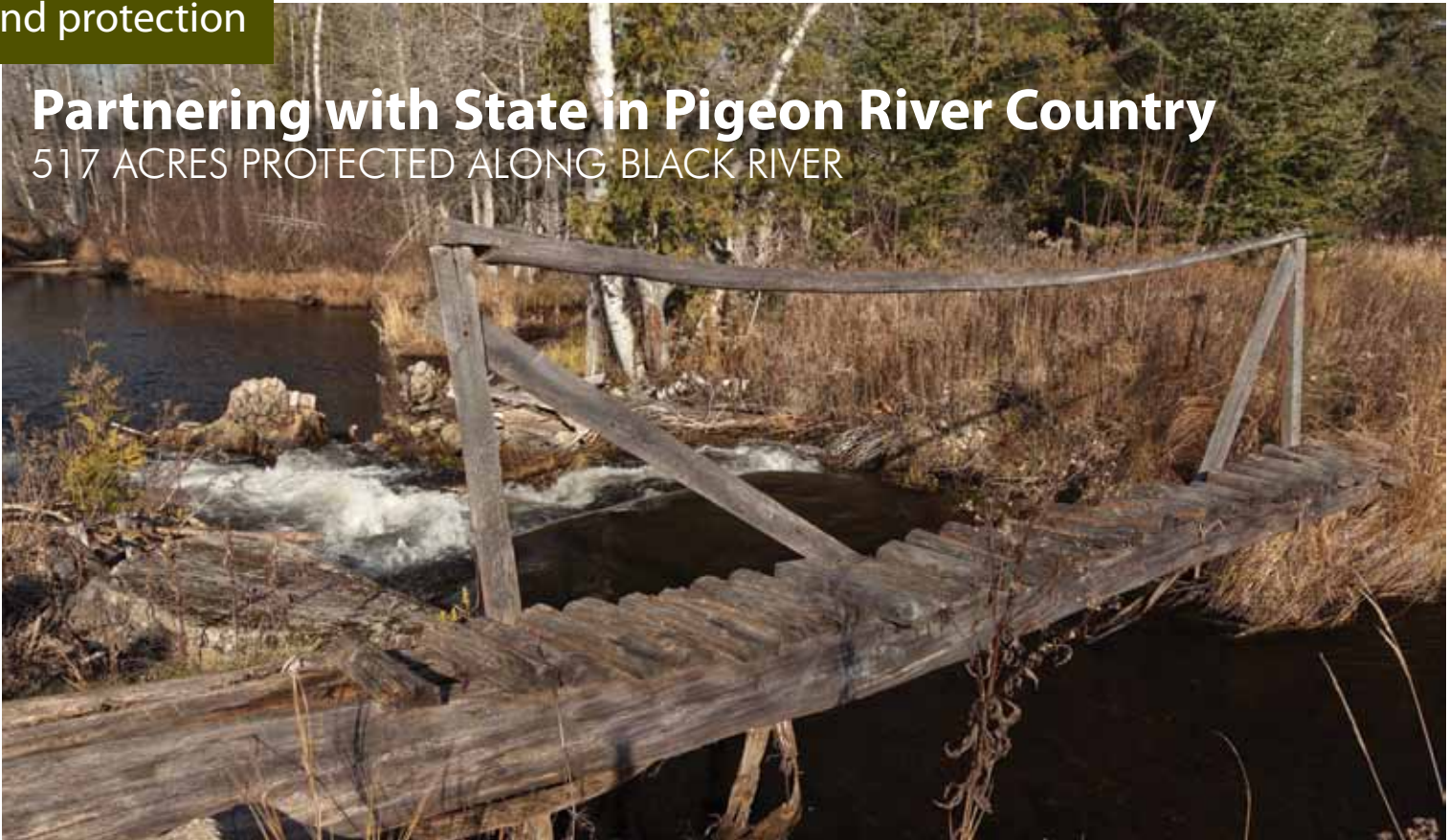
John and Julia Pachy Nature Preserve. "Sounds nice, doesn't it," said Al. 





# Partnering with State in Pigeon River Country

517 ACRES PROTECTED ALONG BLACK RIVER



A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, HeadWaters Land Conservancy, and Little Traverse Conservancy has protected a beautiful 517-acre parcel of land that lies along the Black River. More than 1.4 miles of both the river and Saunders Creek frontage are found on this sizeable property.

Jim Supina, a board member with HeadWaters Land Conservancy, first alerted the State of the parcel's availability, recognizing that it would be a high priority because of its location within the Pigeon River Country State Forest. As a result of prior work with the State on similar projects, Little Traverse Conservancy was called in to assist with the acquisition by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The purchase was funded through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, approved in December, 2010. With the Conservancy's help, the purchase was completed in late November, 2011. It was the second largest inholding remaining within the Pigeon River State Forest.

Kerry Wieber, DNR Forest Land Administrator, states that

she and her colleagues were very pleased with how the process worked. "Considering the larger number of projects the DNR is currently working on, as well as the reductions in staff due to attrition, we were excited to pilot a project with LTC, one of our most trusted partners." Wieber added that the process worked very well with constant communication between DNR and LTC staff. "The role that LTC staff played in this acquisition was critical to its success and I appreciate the very strong partnership that exists between the two agencies."

LTC Executive Director Tom Bailey in turn praised the DNR and HeadWaters for the success of the partnership. "We've broken some new ground here in terms of partnerships for conservation," he said, noting that the results speak for themselves in the form of a significant conservation project completed in a very compact time frame. "This collaborative effort illustrates that we can accomplish more working together than any of us can on our own."





# Anna Badgley - Little Trout Lake Preserve

Another bargain sale opportunity recently allowed the Conservancy to purchase half the frontage of Chippewa County's Little Trout Lake. Located adjacent to the Conservancy's Badgley Preserve and a short distance from the Muir Woods Preserve, the new acquisition provides additional protection of wildlife, waterfowl, and fisheries habitat just southwest of the little village of Trout Lake. A total of 25 acres and 4,000 feet of Little Trout Lake shoreline are included in the new preserve.

In 1991, Anna Badgley donated 1/2 acre of land adjacent to Birch Lodge ([birchlodge.com](http://birchlodge.com)), a resort she owned for many years with her husband Cliff from 1952 until she passed in 2006. Anna was concerned about the lake being overdeveloped and discussions had been started with her to potentially add more land to protection. "This was a tremendous opportunity to expand on what Anna had begun," said LTC Land Protection Specialist Ty Ratliff. 🦋

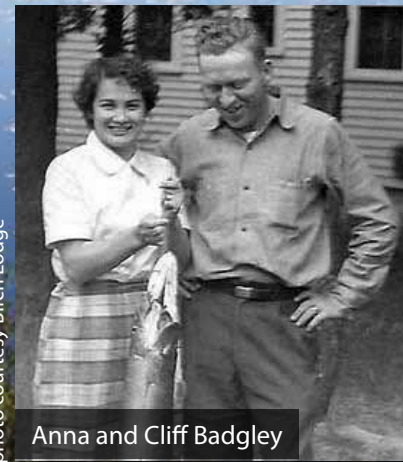


photo courtesy Birch Lodge

Anna and Cliff Badgley

## Kinglet Preserve Grows by 30 Acres

The Conservancy's Kinglet Preserve grew by 30 acres with a purchase last December. With more than half a mile of Old US-31 frontage, the addition brings the preserve to a total of 83 acres. Approximately one-third of the land is uplands and the remaining two-thirds is forested lowlands dominated by cedar, balsam fir, and aspen. 🦋





## Spring EE Events & Opportunities

### Register in March for the **Emmet County Conservation District's 2012 Master Naturalist Certification Program.**

Contact Program Coordinator, Cydney Steeb:  
cydney.steeb@macd.org, or 231.439.8977

**Saturday, April 14 – Cheboygan County Earth Week at Cheboygan High School.** Conservancy education staff will be sharing information about the Conservancy and its nature preserves, along with a session on Owls and Michigan Mammals.

### **Friday, April 20 – Childhood Obesity Conference - North Central Michigan College 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**"Active Child, Healthy Eating: What is Your Role?"** The Child Abuse Council annual spring conference is focusing on children's health as it relates to nutrition and physical activity. [www.upnorthchildabusecouncil.org](http://www.upnorthchildabusecouncil.org). Little Traverse Conservancy Education staff will be joining Getting Kids Outdoors to provide a session about nature and the outdoors as an essential part of a healthy lifestyle.

**Saturday, April 28, Spring Kick-Off Event with Getting Kids Outdoors.** Don't be left out! Join the festivities at Pond Hill Farm as we launch the newly remodeled 2012 Getting Kids Outdoors Passport to Adventure. A variety of outdoor family activities are planned for this afternoon event. Check the GKO website for specific event information, [www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org](http://www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org).

**Saturday, May 26 at Spring Lake Park Project W.E.T certification with Maureen Stine** Get certified in Project W.E.T (Water Education for Teachers) Learn about this national program to teach students of all ages about properties of and lessons in H<sub>2</sub>O. 9:00a.m. -3:00 p.m. Cost is \$50.00 per participant (includes book).

Ice fishing during the Round Lake Winter Celebration on February 4.



Petoskey Middle School Orienteering

## Spring Program Registration Begins March 26

The Spring environmental education classes will run from Tuesday, April 24-Wednesday, June 6. Registration for the classes begins Monday, March 26 through Friday, April 20 (excluding the week of spring break). Please call 231.347.0991 to register and visit [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org) (click on "Education") for more information on class offerings.

Spring Sprouts  
Aquatic Life  
Spring Nature Study  
Using Our Senses  
To be a Tree  
Healthy Habitats  
Navigating Spring Woodlands



photo by Eva



photo by Kiley



photo by Cora



photo by James

The above photos are a few samples of the winter photos taken by Harbor Light 5th & 6th graders during their winter outing of the Intro to Nature Photography program.



## Memorials

*The following gifts were received from December 1, 2011 - February 29, 2012*

### David A. Armour

Matthew and Anneke Myers

### Warren Avis

Mark and Debbie Pirrung

### Willi A. Berger

Yvonne Wipp

### Thalia Bohlen

Dr. and Mrs. J.A. Woollam

### Philip J. Braun

Dr. and Mrs. J.A. Woollam

### Thomas H. Carruthers, IV

John and Rita Picton  
Mrs. Joan F. Smith

### Leslie R. Cottrill

Dr. and Mrs. John A. Woollam

### Oliver Crawford

Mrs. Ralph E. Piper

### David and Eileen Davies

Mrs. Marian Wendell

### Edgar DeYoe

Mrs. Barbara Lucas

### Judy Hickey Engelsmann

Mr. Richard Engelsmann

### John W. Fischer

Frank and Eve Lauer  
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stockham

### Barrie Fitzsimons

Mrs. John W. Fischer and Family  
Ms. Judith A. Gillow  
Frank and Eve Lauer  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Mackell  
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Petzold  
By and Laura West

### Charles B. Fort

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne S. Fort

### Harry Griffith

Mrs. Nicki Griffith

### Dr. Frederick Haffner

Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Terrill

### John B. Hodge

The Tad Malpass Family

### Charles Hollerith, Jr

Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Pennington, III

### JoAnn Holzhauer

Richard Ellis

### In memory of Jutta Letts

Charles E. Letts, Jr.  
David Letts Family  
Martin Letts Family  
David and Genny Letts

### Louise Doris Litzenburger

Bunker, Clark, Winnell, & Nuorala, P.C.

### Mike Mahoney

Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Terrill

### Jim McBride

Mr. and Mrs. Quinton L. Kuebler  
Drs. Vaughn and Harriet McGraw  
Mr. and Mrs. Jay T. O'Neil

### Harold McGraw

Mike and Barb Cady  
Greg and Susan Goodman  
Mrs. Walter G. Huber  
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Kanine  
Dave Kring Chevrolet-Cadillac  
Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger  
Mr. and Mrs. David E. Massignan  
Mr. and Mrs. Melvyn L. Smith

### Mr. Robert L. McMurtrie

Jackie McMurtrie

### Katie, Hannah, and Wyatt Morrison

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Baker

### Rosemary Mueller, who loved the North

Susan Allen and Family

### David P. Reynolds

Phillip T. and Melissa Harrison

### Mary Jane and Robert Rousseau

Mr. Frank J. Frischkorn

### John Ruddell, Sr.

L. J. and Jane Merson Moore

### Robert and Marie Shepard

Lucille Lercel  
Mark Lercel  
Michael J. Lercel

### Carl Dunkle Sheppard

Christine Sheppard

### Alice Sloane

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Mackell

### William E. Spengler, Sr.

Mr. James D. Kline

### Robert B. Stebbins

Menonaqua Beach Cottage Owners Assn.  
Mr. and Mrs. G. Sheldon Veil

### George D. Stilwill, MD

Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Leland, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Petzold

### Jane Thomas

Dr. and Mrs. Douglas H. Otto

### Roland Tibbetts

Mrs. Jean Pickett  
Carolyn Tibbetts  
Marjorie Tibbetts

### Robert D. VanCampen

Dr. and Mrs. John A. Woollam

### Nicholas Vassalo, a birthday remembrance

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Tankersley

### Dr. Ed Voss

John and Tucker Harris  
Cindy Mom

### Gerald Wendell

Mrs. Marian Wendell

### Franklin Whitman

Mrs. Ralph E. Piper  
Ms. Sara E. Smith

## Honorariums

**Molly Ames Baker for her contributions to environmental education and as a new LTC board member**  
Marcia and Richard Ames

**Pat Cope Ober in honor of her 70th birthday**  
Ms. Susan Brandt

**Pamela and Daniel Sanquist in honor of their birthdays**  
Mr. Frederick E. Sanquist, Jr.

**Win and Lille Stebbins in celebration of their wedding**  
By and Laura West

**Brent and Tina West in honor of their 25th anniversary**  
By and Laura West

### Bill and Dea Danly

Mr. and Mrs. John Danly

## Holiday Gift Memberships

### Ian R.N. Bund

Mr. Richard C. Bruder

### Robert and Letty Fawcett

Susan Fawcett

### David Frederick and Hildi Paulson

Mitch and Nancy Carey

### Carol and Rick Godfrey

Mr. Walter H. Walsh

### Paul Nowak

Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Friendly

### Frederick Sanquist

Daniel and Pamela Sanquist

### Gretchen Toshach

Trina Toshach

### Elise Billingsley, Merry Christmas and Happy Birthday

Kyle and Alana Billingsley

### Brendan Billingsley and Allison Churnside

Kyle Billingsley

### C.T. and Francie Martin

Kathy and Doug Boyer

### Ono Nakarado

Caroline Granfield

### John and Carla Olds

Andrew William Olds

### George and Date Renton

Rob and Ann Bassett

### John Richardson

Mrs. Joan Richardson

### Carolena Saunders

Annegret Goehring

### Charity Steere

Judith Jarecki

### Dwayne and Peggy Swenor

Maureen Owens and Eric Swenor

### Jacqueline Taylor Upham

Mr. Pierce Lord





Dr. Ed Voss with Sally and Kenyon Stebbins identifying plants at the Orchis Fen Nature Preserve.

## Michigan's Plant Man

DR. ED VOSS

Michigan lost an exceptional teacher and individual with the passing of Dr. Edward Voss on February 13, 2012. Dr. Voss was professor emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Michigan, curator emeritus of vascular plants at the University Herbarium, and a legendary teacher at the U-M Biological Station. His service on the Little Traverse Conservancy board spanned four decades.

Born in Delaware, Ohio, Dr. Voss spent his childhood summers in Mackinaw City, Michigan, where his parents encouraged his early interest in biology by taking him as a nine-year-old boy to a "Visitors Day" at the Biological Station.

Dr. Voss's area of scientific research was the vascular plants of the Great Lakes region with special interest in boreal and aquatic plants. He was also interested in the history of biology (especially early exploration of the Great Lakes region) and in the Lepidoptera of the northern Great Lakes region. Since 1969 he was involved in botanical nomenclature, including service on the editorial committee (1969-1993) for the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature and as chairman of the General Committee on Botanical Nomenclature (1999-2005). He was a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, served as Rapporteur-general for botanical nomenclature at the XIII International Botanical Congress (Sydney, 1981) and was editor of *The Michigan Botanist* vols. 1-15 (1962-1976). The first volume of his *Michigan Flora* was honored by a Resolution of the Michigan Senate in

1972; the second volume received the H.A. Gleason Award of the New York Botanical Garden; the third and final volume was published late in 1996. On February 16 of this year, the University of Michigan Press released *Field Manual of Michigan Flora* (co-authored with Dr. Anton A. Reznicek).

Not only was Dr. Voss an internationally renowned scientist, but also a devoted conservationist and educator. Whether his students were undergraduate, graduate students, or dedicated amateurs, he shared his passion for botany with them with an equanimity of zeal. "I feel so fortunate to have been able to spend quite a bit of time in the field with Dr. Voss during the years of 2004-2009," says LTC Stewardship Specialist Cindy Mom. "In July of 2004, I had the pleasure of spending the whole day with Ed, just the two of us, in the Wildwood area and at the McCune Preserve, doing the 'pre-scouting' for LTC's Annual Meeting Field Trip that

he would lead in August. That day, he not only named the plants that we saw, he also told me the names of the butterflies, and which plants were the hosts for the larvae, or nectar plants for the adults. The dry dusty roadside suddenly seemed to be a much richer place."

Dr. Voss will also be remembered for his ready wit, economy of words, and command of all nuances of the English language. "He certainly was a unique Board member being a rather 'different' academic scientist," says Mark Paddock, a Conservancy trustee who also spent years with Voss at the Biological Station. "Even with Ed's outspoken ways and hypercritical comments, he was given great respect by the staff and board because of his knowledge and commitment. In reality, there is no one who can take his place on our Board nor in the entire state!"

Dr. Voss spent his professional life classifying plants with great specificity into families, genera, and species. However, he more broadly defined the people he considered to be family to include those for whom he had great fondness: his students, his colleagues at the University of Michigan Herbarium and the University of Michigan Biological Station, members of the Michigan Botanical Club, Little Traverse Conservancy and the Nature Conservancy, First Baptist Church in Ann Arbor and Church of the Straits in Mackinaw City, Michigan.

He is survived by his devoted sister, Eleanor (Elly) Hendricks (Tom) of Dayton, Ohio, nephews: Andrew Stephen Hendricks of Tempe, Arizona, and James Edward Hendricks of Dayton, Ohio, and grandnephew Thomas Charles Hendricks of Brookville, Ohio.



*Note: Much of this article was taken from the University of Michigan Ecology and Evolutionary Biology website.*



## LTC Seeks Stewardship Technician

Again this year, Little Traverse Conservancy is offering a Stewardship Technician position through the Huron Pines AmeriCorps Program. Open to college graduates, the Stewardship Technician will serve closely with Conservancy Stewardship staff to help manage nature preserves and monitor conservation easement properties throughout the LTC service area, with a focus on Lower Peninsula counties. This position requires a 6-month commitment and is part of the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program. The program offers opportunities to develop creative approaches involving the public, knowledge about land protection and resource management, and broad skills in field methodology. This position will require some travel and will involve some physical labor. The tasks for this position are highly dependent on weather and other factors. As such, the work may occur on some weekends, holidays and evenings. Visit [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org) for a link to a full description and application.



photo courtesy Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council



## Watershed Connections

Tip of Mitt Watershed Council's annual "Volunteer Monitor Winter Adventure and Potluck" was held this year at LTC's Five Mile Creek Nature Preserve. "We hiked through the beautiful, partially frozen cedar swamp and made our way to the amazing ravine that cuts its way through the bluffs to Lake Michigan," said Tip of Mitt's Monitoring and Research Coordinator Kevin Cronk. The group collected aquatic macroinvertebrates from the stream as an exercise to train new volunteers and to evaluate the water quality of the creek.

## Birge Preserve Has New Parking Area

Thanks in part to a grant from the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation, the Little Traverse Conservancy has created a parking area giving access to the trail loop of the Birge Nature Preserve. The new parking lot is located off of Pt. Brulee Road and is large enough to accommodate a school bus. "Previously, people parking along the road risked getting stuck in the ditch," said Director of Stewardship Doug Fuller. "We hope that this safer access to the trail will encourage more users, especially school groups." The 2.2-mile trail loop travels through the beautiful forested interior of the preserve. The 435-acre Birge Preserve complex lies adjacent to the 63-acre Mertaugh and 40-acre Nye preserves and is in close proximity to the 25-acre Search Bay Preserve.



## Stewardship Networking

Since 2006, the "Stewardship Group" - a collection of stewardship staff from land trusts around the state - have been convening to brainstorm and share ideas about land management. This past December, 18 staff and board members from a variety of land trusts convened at LTC's Andreae Preserve. Meeting topics included: defining a stewardship program; easement amendments and stewardship enforcement; enlisting organizational support from hunters and other preserve users; and more.

"Land trust stewardship staff face a unique mix of challenges, and the job demands expertise in many different areas," says LTC Stewardship Specialist Cindy Mom. "Over the years, we have built an excellent professional network and we keep in touch by phone or email between meetings when questions come up."

In the above photo, participants walked the new trails connecting the Andreae and Banwell preserves. LTC staff gave an overview of the LTC approach to preserve management as it relates to trail planning, construction, and maintenance.





(Photo left) Stewardship volunteer Bill Lawson cuts exotic Scotch Pines at the Curtis Preserve near Petoskey and also made a wood gate for the Hildner-Bearce Preserve on Burt Lake.



(Photo right) Bret Huntman of North By Nature landscaping business has committed a significant amount of volunteer work at the Meadowgate Preserve this winter to apply his expertise during their slow work season.

Join our Stewardship Work Days Crew!

We hold work days throughout the year, many of which are too spontaneous to publish in our newsletter. If you would like to be on our Project Volunteer list, we will send you an email to let you know about upcoming work days. Tasks include trail work, cleanups, invasive plant control, tree planting, and more. Also, keep an eye on our Facebook page where we post upcoming activities. Contact Cindy at 231.344.1011 or cindy@landtrust.org with questions or to sign up.

Banwell Preserve Cleanup – Earth Day

Saturday, April 21, 2012

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Kick off the field season and celebrate Earth Day by helping us clean up a couple of sites at the Banwell Preserve. We'll need volunteers to fan out through the woods to look for scrap metal and other items, demolish a shed and an old truck, and sort materials into piles to be recycled. We'll also be hauling bridge and boardwalk lumber in for the Andreae/Banwell connector trail. Come for the whole day, or just an hour or two – it's up to you. Be sure to set aside some time to hike along the Pigeon River during your visit.

Andreae and Banwell Preserves Volunteer Meeting

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

6:30 pm at the Andreae Cabin

Are you interested in helping us take care of the Andreae and Banwell Preserves? We'll try to get all potential preserve monitors and trail stewards all in one room at the same time. The various jobs will be explained and some basic training given, and then folks will be assigned their positions according to the best fit in terms of interest and location.

Rogers Family Homestead Preserve Work Bee

Saturday, May 12, 2012

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Located less than half a mile from downtown East Jordan, the 148-acre Rogers Preserve protects over a mile of Jordan River frontage and has a 1½-mile trail system. We're looking for volunteers to help us do trail work, clean up some old farm debris, remove barbed wire fencing, and plant native trees and shrubs along the river. Come for the whole day, or just an hour or two – it's up to you. The Wagbo Center, only a mile down the road, is having a noon potluck — so you may want to plan that into your day! Contact Doug at 231.344.1009 or doug@landtrust.org for more information, or to sign up. This event is part of The Grand Traverse Regional Invasive Species Network (ISN) Heritage Plant Week. ISN partners will host a variety of activities and workshops throughout the week from May 5-12. To learn more about ISN and other activities during Plant Week, visit [www.natureiscalling.org](http://www.natureiscalling.org).

Vermilion Point Knapweed Pull

Friday, July 20 and Saturday July 21, 2012

Dawn to dusk Friday, dawn to 3:00 pm Saturday – you choose your own hours

For the sixth 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 a rare opportunity to stay overnight at Vermilion in the historic Life Saving Station barracks.

meaningful partnerships

For the past six years, LTC has collaborated with the University of Michigan Biological Station Field Botany class to complete plant inventories of specific nature preserves. Here instructor Eric Hellquist remarks on this partnership:

*"The class really enjoyed working at Bessey Creek. Working at a small preserve allowed us to do more detailed work that I hope will be valuable to you. With the three papers combined, you should have a thorough overview of the vegetation of the preserve. You have a great organization (you'll be happy to know I have one of your nice LTC stickers on my office door). It makes me and the class feel really good to contribute our efforts to your cause. Working with LTC adds a feeling of scientific service to our work that is valuable to the students personally and we hope valuable to you as an organization."*



*As part of featured stories during this 40th anniversary year, we will be highlighting longtime members of Little Traverse Conservancy in every newsletter issue. These and other interviews will be posted on the LTC website as well. Volunteer Marty Amlin conducted these interviews on behalf of LTC and her husband, Darrell, took the photos. This first interview was conducted with Rosemary Geist last July. Rosemary has been a member of Little Traverse Conservancy since 1979.*

“From the time I was born, we were a nature family,” says Rosemary Geist. “My father knew all the birds and trees and my mother knew all the flowers and mosses and mushrooms. That had an enormous influence on my life.”

Her mother, Lydia King Frehse, wrote a book of nature essays, *Flower in the Crannied Wall*, which Rosemary illustrated.

“My mother used to take my children on nature walks all the time. They’d come back with their hands full and she’d help them look it up to identify what they had found.”

Rosemary has been active in protecting special lands around Walloon Lake. She explains that the Mackinaw State Forest includes a spit of land near her property on Walloon Lake and the Department of Natural Resources wanted to use that piece for a boat launch. Geist recognized that it was an old-growth forest without a road, accessible only by boat or by walking. “It’s just pristine, and they wanted to destroy it.” To come up with an alternative solution, homeowners pooled their resources together to buy land in the village of Walloon through the Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy and established a place for boat access.



Rosemary Geist

Rosemary’s father bought the family cottage on Walloon in 1950. “I came here before I was married.”

“At that time, people could do whatever they wanted. There was a lot of empty space. The difference since then is overwhelming. If anyone had told me they were going to be building condos in the north woods, I would have laughed. We had to come in by boat. There were no roads.” To reach the cottage, she remembers, “I had a baby in my arms and my father paddling us in a canoe in the rain — and the thing was, we loved it.”

Her mother had “a sense of wonder. She wanted to teach it to children and get them interested in the outdoors.” Her mother wrote educational publications and had columns in the *Birmingham Michigan Eccentric*.

Rosemary was an art teacher and artist.

She became involved in the conservancy as soon as she knew about it. “I thought, ‘Good.’ There were so many people I knew who wanted to preserve land. The more people can talk to other people about it, the more we can accomplish. It inspired me to find out more as well.”

Today, Rosemary still spends her summers on Walloon and lives in Rochester, Michigan, the remainder of the year.

## thank you...

- **Lou Awoodey, Steve DeForest, Doug Hoek, Zac Luhellier, Lisa Morris, Tom Neidhamer, Ruth and Steve Nelle, Darryl Parrish, Shawn Peterson, Michael Sheean, Jerry Swift, Don Trout, and Carl Wehner** for helping us build the new trails at The Hill Preserve on 11/11/11.
- **Dina Tocco** for helping us clean the Banwell Cabin from top to bottom on 1/12/12.
- **Rick Lashuay** for plowing the Banwell drive and parking area, and for letting us use his dumpster. Also for loaning his snowmobile to groom trails for the Banwell event.
- **John Baker** and **Darrell Schwalm** for clearing the Banwell trails on 1/12/12.
- **Ashley Moerke, Jason Garvon, Greg Zimmerman, Sally Childs, and Tom Allen** (faculty members at Lake Superior State University) for support and interest in LTC preserves, and getting their students involved.
- **Glen Matthews** for his continued assistance on developing management plans for the Taylor Horton Creek, Goodhart, Banwell, and The Hill Preserves.
- **Pam Grassmick, Eric Ellis, Shaun Howard, Jackie Pilette, and Phyllis Higman** for assisting us on invasive plant inventory, management, and grant-writing efforts, particularly on our Beaver Island nature preserves.
- **John Baker, Jim Baumann, David Lesh, Duncan Dickinson, and Martha Lancaster** for helping to staff the Banwell Winter trail event.
- **Bill Lawson** for cutting Scotch Pines at the Curtis Preserve and making a wood gate for the Hildner-Bearce Preserve.
- **Tim DeWick** for plowing the Birge parking lot for free.
- **Joe Dannenberg** for discounted plowing services at the Offield Preserve.
- **Bret Huntman** of North by Nature for assisting with meadow restoration at the Meadowgate Preserve.
- **Dan Adams** for help burning brush at the Meadowgate Preserve.
- **Nan Taylor** of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network for assisting with creation of flyer for a project at the Vermilion Point Preserve.
- **Dick Darnton** of Darnton Builders for conducting an assessment of the log cabin on the Banwell Preserve.
- **Craig Reynolds** and **Mark Pomford** for helping to manage woody debris on The Hill Preserve.
- **John Griffin** for grooming the Birge trails and helping promote the January snowshoe trip.
- The folks of **Greenwood Sanctuary** for again being such generous hosts for the winter outing.
- **Kira Davis, Maureen Stine, and Eric Hemenway** for partnering with the Round Lake Kids Winter Celebration.
- **Dan Mann** for grooming trails at the Driggers Preserve.
- **Todd Wright** for grooming trails at The Hill Preserve.
- **Austin Kruzel** and **Mallory Pardee** NCMC interns, for their service during Fall, 2012.
- **Michael Kent**, NCMC GIS intern.
- **Joan Seaton** for donating a car.
- **Laura E. Kelly** who donated her time through [www.sparked.com](http://www.sparked.com) to help us develop anniversary graphics.
- **Mark and Becky Lipchik** for donating a refrigerator for the LTC kitchen.





Roughly 100 people attended the January 21 Banwell Preserve Open House.

*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, 2011 to February 23, 2012*

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*Our apologies to Karl J. Weyand for an incorrect listing in the last newsletter.*



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## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Page

### Spring 2012 Field Trips

*LTC's field trips for 2012 are celebrations of the habitat diversity represented at LTC's nature preserves (noted in italics at end of descriptions). Most field trips will include an educational component regarding the habitat type listed below after each field trip description. All trips are offered at no charge unless otherwise noted. Registration is required for all field trips by calling 231.347.0991.*

#### **Geocaching Challenge at Offield Nature Preserve Earth Day, Sunday, April 22 10-Noon**

LTC stewardship specialist Charles Dawley and board member Carlin Smith will kick off the spring season with an introduction to geocaching. There are more than 80 geocaches on LTC nature preserves and at least four of them are hidden at the Offield Preserve. Join Charles and Carlin in releasing three "Trackable Geocoins." Help us complete the challenge of bringing the geocoins to all of the geocaches on our nature preserves this summer. We'll celebrate the challenge completion at our Annual Meeting. *Northern Hardwoods & Meadows*

#### **Riverine Mammals at Braun Nature Preserve Saturday, May 12 10-Noon**

Explore this beautiful new preserve near Pellston and along the Maple River with board member Mark Paddock. Learn about beaver and mink activity, their river habitats, and enjoy hiking a mile of upland trails. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear for hiking, and also bring necessary items such as bug spray, water, sunscreen etc. *River Ecology*

#### **Mother's Day Wildflower Walk**

**Ransom Nature Preserve Sunday, May 13 3-4:30pm**  
Celebrate Mother's Day in a special way. Bring the whole family to celebrate the fresh spring air. Join botanist Roger Knutson on a moderate hike through 1½ miles of hilly trails at this preserve with views of Lake Michigan. Roger will guide us through the wonders of northern Michigan flowers and open our eyes to the beauty we see but can't always name. *Northern Hardwoods*

#### **Pond Dippin' for Kids of All Ages**

**Spring Lake Park Saturday, May 19 10-11:30am**  
Explore the muddy depths of a pond and discover what dragonflies, mayflies and other larva look like before they emerge from the water as adults. Use Conservancy dip nets and other tools to capture, observe and learn about these and other pond critters before returning them to their watery home. Be sure to wear shoes you don't mind getting wet or dirty! *Pond/Inland Lake*

#### **Wetland Birdwatching at Waldron Fen with Sally Stebbins Saturday, May 26 7:30-9:30am**

Jack and Nancy Waldron generously offer their conservation easement protected property to us for enjoyment and appreciation of this wonderful wetland. Sally Stebbins is an avid local birder who treasures the Waldron Fen as one of her favorite birding hot spots and she loves to share the fun and adventure of birding wherever she is. Kieran Fleming, LTC's Director of Land Protection, will emphasize the importance of protecting these northern peatlands as the Waldrons have done for more than ten years. *Northern Peatlands*

#### **Native Orchid Field Trip in the Eastern UP Friday, June 15 8:30am-4pm**

Join naturalist Steve Baker and LTC Stewardship Specialist Cindy Mom for an all day tour of the Eastern UP, visiting several habitats in search of wild orchids. A dozen blooming species are possible, including four species of Ladies-slippers. Bring a brown bag lunch, repellent, a hat, and boots or mucking shoes as some areas may be wet. The trip will end at LTC's new De Tour Peninsula Preserve. Limited to 12 people due to the sensitive habitats. Ask for meeting location during pre-registration. *Northern Lake Huron shoreline*

#### **Summer Solstice Yoga at Elmer Johnston Nature Preserve Wednesday, June 20 3-5pm**

Celebrate the start of the long-awaited summer season. We are reminded that we can experience these wonderful preserves in yet another way. Enjoy a short hike to the top of the hill where we will practice yoga for about one hour. All ages and abilities welcome; please bring your own yoga mat or towel. *Former Farmland*

#### **Circumnavigation Hike on St. Helena Island Monday, June 25 9am-4pm**

Take a one-hour cruise to the island aboard Dick Moehl's boat, Cake and Ice Cream. We'll moor off shore and ride in the dinghy to the dock. Bring a brown bag lunch and join Cindy Mom for a 2½- to 3-hour hike around the island, or explore on your own. Lighthouse tours available. Limited to 14 attendees. *Boreal Forest*



# Conservancy protected lands are smile destinations



Winter Education Outing



Charlevoix Garden Club at Ransom Preserve



Birge Snowshoeing



Greenwood Sanctuary Winter Outing

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Get the latest info  
about events, field  
trips and other special  
opportunities during  
this anniversary year.



## A Year for Celebrating

### Mark your calendars for the 2012

Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 7. And until then, consider taking on the following challenge:

### Visit 40 Preserves in 40 Days!

To celebrate the Little Traverse Conservancy's 40th anniversary, the staff and board challenge you to visit 40 of our Nature Preserves between now and the Annual Meeting on August 7. Use the LTC Nature Preserve Guide Map or use the interactive map on our web site at [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org) to help you begin your challenge.

To participate, simply download and print the 40th Anniversary Challenge Log on our website to track the preserves you have visited. When you can, send us a photo of yourself in front of a Nature Preserve Sign so that we can post on Facebook and get some friendly competition going!

Those who complete this challenge will receive public recognition and a prize at the Annual Meeting!

## SPRING

This beautiful illustration  
was drawn by Rosemary  
Geist and is included in  
a nature book written by  
her mother, Lydia King  
Frehse, in 1979. See page  
13 for an interview with  
Rosemary.

