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[www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)

## The new Darnton Family Nature Preserve

WEAVING TOGETHER FAMILIES WHO LOVE "UP NORTH"

A NEW PRESERVE WITH A LONG HISTORY OF FARMING and conservation has now been established in the Lake Charlevoix watershed, thanks to a conservation-minded seller and generous foundations.

In 1968, Arthur and Pauline Keeler purchased more than 200 acres for their family to have a recreational property in northern Michigan that offered the feeling of getting away from it all, yet was close to skiing, restaurants, and other vacation attractions. In the early '90s, the Keelers' grandson Jeff Knaggs and his wife Ruth Hufnagle purchased the land, keeping it in the family. From the 1970s until last year, the family

worked with local agencies to enroll the land into a variety of conservation programs. Trees were planted for wind breaks, erosion control, wildlife food, and aesthetics. Over time, the trees were managed within a Forest Stewardship Program, including most recently for Emerald Ash Borer.

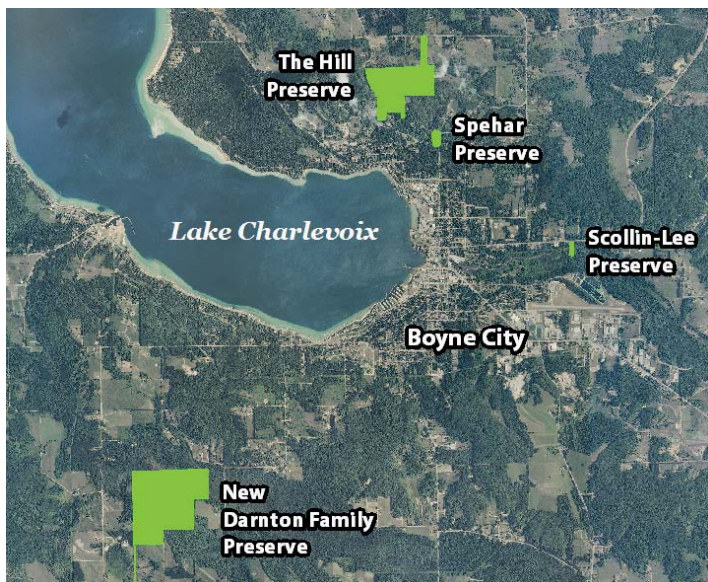
"What wove all of these efforts together were the fun times family and friends enjoyed on the property," Jeff said. When it came time to consider selling the land, Jeff contacted the Conservancy to explore what options might exist. "Over the past four years, Jeff really stuck with us to find the right solution so that the land could ultimately remain in the natural state that his family and the farming families before them had treasured," said Land Protection Specialist Ty Ratliff.

With frontage on Behling and Dyer Roads in Wilson Township, the new preserve is a mix of old hay fields, northern hardwood forests, pine plantations, and conifer swamp wetlands surrounding Porter Creek, a trout stream and important tributary to Lake Charlevoix.

The purchase of the preserve was made possible with funding from the Taylor Foundation, the J.A. Woollam Foundation, and support from the greater Darnton family. The preserve is named



A few members of the Knaggs family, the most recent of several generations who have loved the Darnton Family Preserve land.



*Continued on page 6*





# 2012 Year in Review

As part of Earth Day 2012, Boy Scout Troop 11 from Charlevoix parked their mountain bikes at the Banwell Preserve after arriving from the Andreae Preserve cabin where they were staying. The troop hauled in boardwalk lumber for a new connector trail between the two Cheboygan County preserves.

## Stewardship

In 2012, more than a dozen organized work days were held on Little Traverse Conservancy nature preserves in addition to numerous work days completed by scouts, church groups, and other volunteer efforts. The Conservancy currently uses more than 200 volunteers to assist with various office and field opportunities. The Conservancy became a primary partner in a local initiative of the national American Kestrel Nesting Box Program. By the end of 2012, 17 boxes had been placed at nature preserves and privately protected properties around Emmet, Cheboygan, and Charlevoix counties. Little Traverse Conservancy's FREE Nature Preserve Smart Phone App was released in late 2012 and has been very well received. With this app, a user has access to maps and useful information about nature preserves located throughout the service area or near where they are currently located. A total of 263 conservation easements on privately-owned land were monitored throughout the five-county service area in 2012.

## Environmental Education

In 2012, more than 4,300 students or children participated in a Conservancy-led environmental education outing or program. A total of 39 programs were offered for ages 3-12 during Summer 2012. LTC is a primary partner with the local initiative Getting Kids Outdoors Emmet County (GKO). Last spring, GKO held a successful Spring Kick-Off event on April 28 with more than 300 attending. The Passport to Adventure was also redesigned and made available.

## Land Protection

The Little Traverse Conservancy had one of its most successful land protection years ever in its 40-year history in 2012, completing 39 land projects throughout the year. All told, these new projects protected more than 5,200 acres of land and 9.3 miles of shoreline on streams, rivers, and lakes throughout the Conservancy's five-county service area. For every membership dollar given in 2012, \$13 worth of land was protected.

## Membership & Finances

The Conservancy's 40th year of operations was, in many ways, its best year ever. The Membership program finished with a record high of \$786,092 from 3,952 members and a \$27,528 increase from the previous year, along with an increase of 59 members. The average gift was \$198.91, also a record high. Also in 2012, increased donations, decreased donations, lapsed members, and new members totaled a net increase of \$145,168, an increase of \$20,712 over the previous year. The endowment fund had a strong year in 2012 with the Unrestricted Endowment earning 15.7 percent on investments for the year. The fair market value of LTC's endowment fund surpassed \$9,300,000.



# Hymas Woods Nature Preserve

145 ACRES - CHEBOYGAN RIVER WATERSHED



TM Petersen

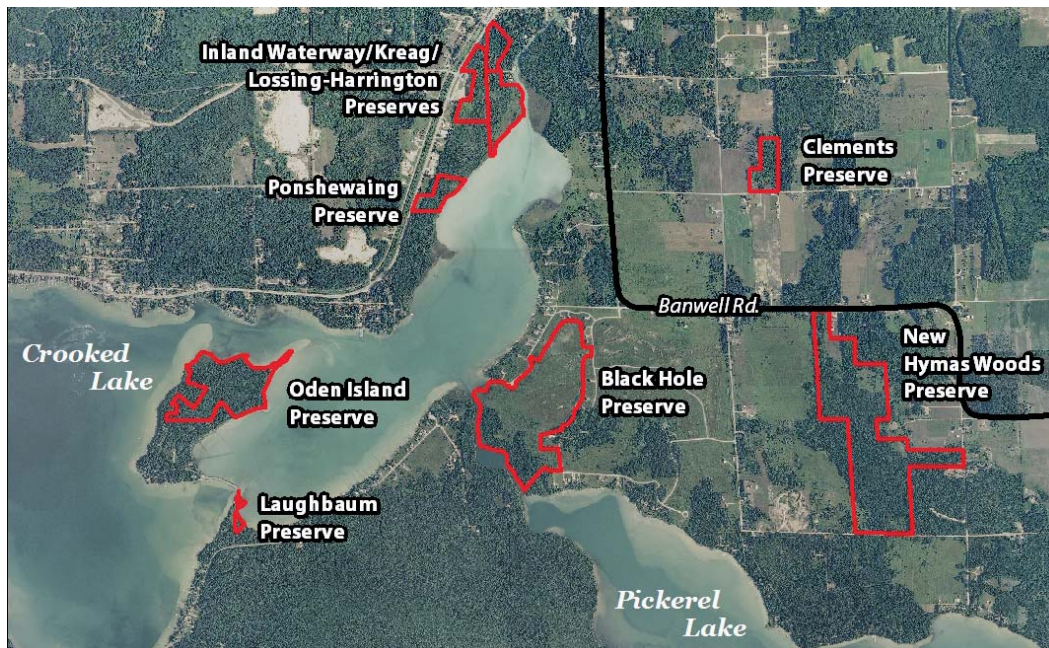
A LARGE TRACT OF LAND WAS RECENTLY DONATED TO THE CONSERVANCY AS THE Hymas Woods Nature Preserve. The new preserve is near Pickerel and Crooked lakes, which are in turn part of the large Cheboygan River Watershed. The Hymas Woods Preserve complements other nearby lands to provide water quality protection, wildlife habitat, and scenic open space.

Scott and June Hymas first discovered Michigan when their daughter, Kim Shomin, married a Petoskey native. When Kim's husband unexpectedly died in 1990, Scott and June made more regular trips to help Kim and her two young sons. Eventually, they purchased land adjacent to Kim's and built a home where they could stay during their long summer visits. Over the next several years, more acreage was added and they acquired three parcels which now, together, comprise the preserve.

"I had always dreamed of owning my own forest," June said. "I think the thing that really made us decide was the bald eagle nest in a tall snag in the meadow north of Coors Road." Early on, the couple joined the Petoskey Regional Audubon Society and through it, began visiting some of LTC's other preserves. They also began to learn about the beauty of northern Michigan. "More and more, we observed the wildlife that was using the meadows and woods around us," June explained. "Hognose snake, deer, wild turkeys, a pair of coyotes, barred owls, pileated woodpecker (along with four other woodpecker species), marsh marigolds, trilliums, and many others. Sandhill cranes came down in the field often after we mowed the meadow."

June also pointed out the diversity of habitats found on the new preserve including wetlands, cedar bog, maple forest, aspen groves, conifer-mixed woodlands, and open meadows. "We even found a seasonal pond with turtles and frogs. The more we looked, the richer and more interesting it was," she said.

The new Hymas Woods Nature Preserve is located within the Cheboygan River Watershed. This watershed is over 1,400 square miles and contains hundreds of individual lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands. Portions of six counties, and the towns of Gaylord, Onaway, Cheboygan, Indian River, and Alanson are all part of the Watershed. (source: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.)



The Hymas land also lies in close proximity to Waldron Fen, a highly diverse property that was protected with a conservation easement in 2001 by owners Jack and Nancy Waldron.

LTC land protection specialist Ty Ratliff noted that June and Scott truly had preservation in mind from when they first began buying this property.

"In dedicating this preserve for the use of the native wildlife of northern Michigan, we hope to honor both the local Native American heritage of our grandsons and the lives of the loggers and homesteaders who also lived on this land," June said.





## More Access to the Pigeon River

LANDS MOVE FROM PRIVATE OWNERSHIP TO PUBLIC ENJOYMENT

Two large parcels of land that were previously protected with conservation easements through Little Traverse Conservancy were recently opened up for public access: one as state land and one as a new nature preserve. Together, these lands run through more than two miles of the Pigeon River.

### CUDLIP PROPERTY

In 2000, the Cudlip Family donated a conservation easement to Little Traverse Conservancy on their 480-acre property located in Cheboygan County with well over a mile along the Pigeon River. Originally purchased in 1964, the land was pieced together over the years and enjoyed as a hunting camp where the family would enjoy the wildlife, hunting, fishing, and solitude.

The property had long been considered desirable for acquisition by the state because of its location adjacent to the Pigeon River Country State Forest. This past year, a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund made the purchase possible. The land is now part of the Department of Natural Resources Gaylord Forest Management Unit.



The former Cudlip property is now state land.

TMPetersen

### REED'S PIGEON RIVER PRESERVE

A lifetime of love for the outdoors prompted Larry and Lois Ann Reed to purchase land in northern Michigan. In 2002, before Larry's death, they contributed land that became the Reed's Alverno Preserve. Lois Ann kept property on the Pigeon River with extensive trails and a cabin for her use. This 110 acre property with more than 4,400 feet of frontage along the Pigeon

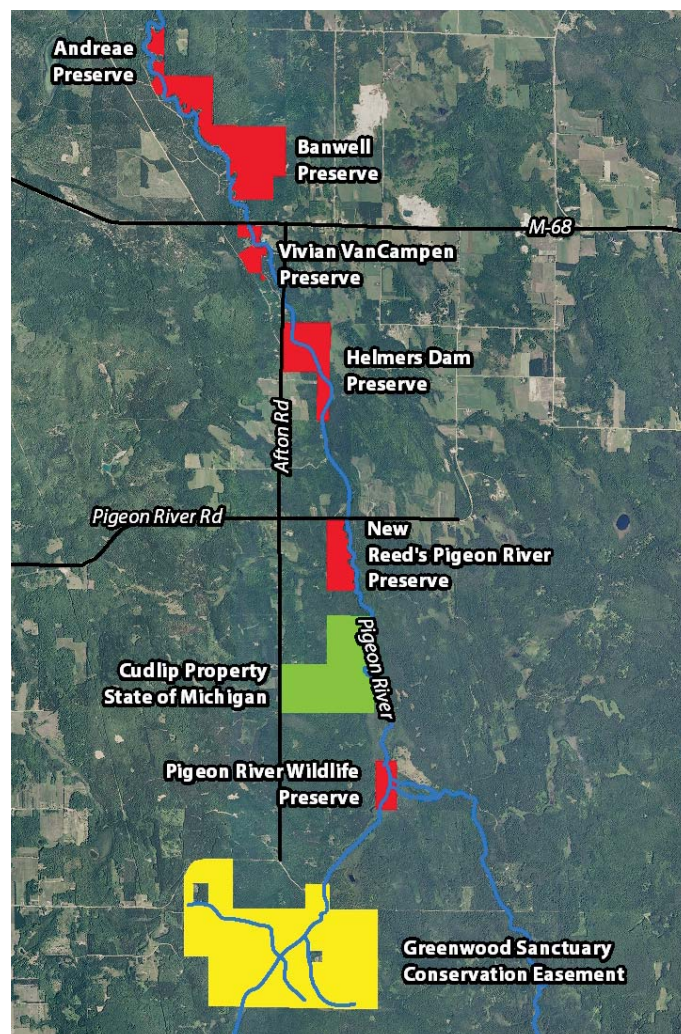
River was a wonderful area for the family to enjoy the natural world, fishing, hunting and hiking and skiing for the family. Now that the family is older and not actively using it, she has donated a conservation easement to Little Traverse Conservancy to permanently protect this property.

"I am committed to both preserving the natural beauty of Michigan and having it available for future generations to both learn about and enjoy," Lois Ann said.



Reed's Pigeon River Preserve

TMPetersen







## US-31 Program Makes Significant Progress

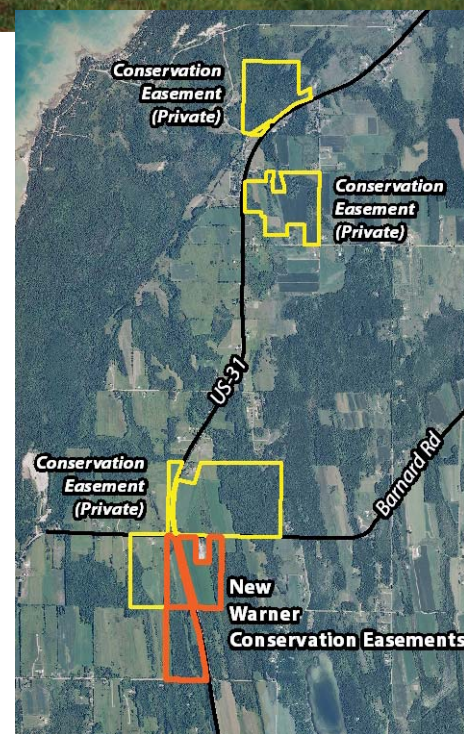
### HIGHLY SCENIC STRETCH WILL REMAIN NATURAL

For many years, protecting the scenic qualities of US-31 from near Mackinaw City to Traverse City has remained a high priority for Little Traverse Conservancy and Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy which covers from Antrim County southward. Many strides have been made over the past decade to ensure that some of the signature scenic views along the highway were preserved. Familiar scenes that we take for granted have been protected thanks to funding provided by private funders, foundations, and state and federal programs. Some 8.6 miles of scenic frontage and 1,350 acres will permanently remain free from development as a result of these efforts.

In late 2012, the Conservancy purchased conservation easements from two of the highest priority parcels along this corridor - the farms of Doug Warner and his mother Grace Warner. Since 1927, when Doug's grandparents, Roland and Mary Baumbach, first purchased the land, three generations have farmed it. Grace has lived there for 88 of her 93 years, and Doug still runs the farm's dairy and harvests crops from the land. Conservation practices have been employed over the decades, and Doug actively works with other farmers to continually improve the soils and the quality of the lands in that region.

As part of the family's estate planning, Doug began working with LTC a few years ago. "Our family simply hopes that several generations from now, this land will look the same," Doug said. "And we sincerely hope it can stay in agriculture as well." Since completing the easements, Doug emphasizes what a valuable tool this was to help plan for the future. "I really encourage others to look into this option to help meet your own goals for your land and to pass it on to your heirs," he said.

Together, the new conservation easements protect 173 acres and a mile of frontage along US-31, with half a mile protected along both sides of one stretch (see map at right). Funding was provided by the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation and the J.A. Woollam Foundation.

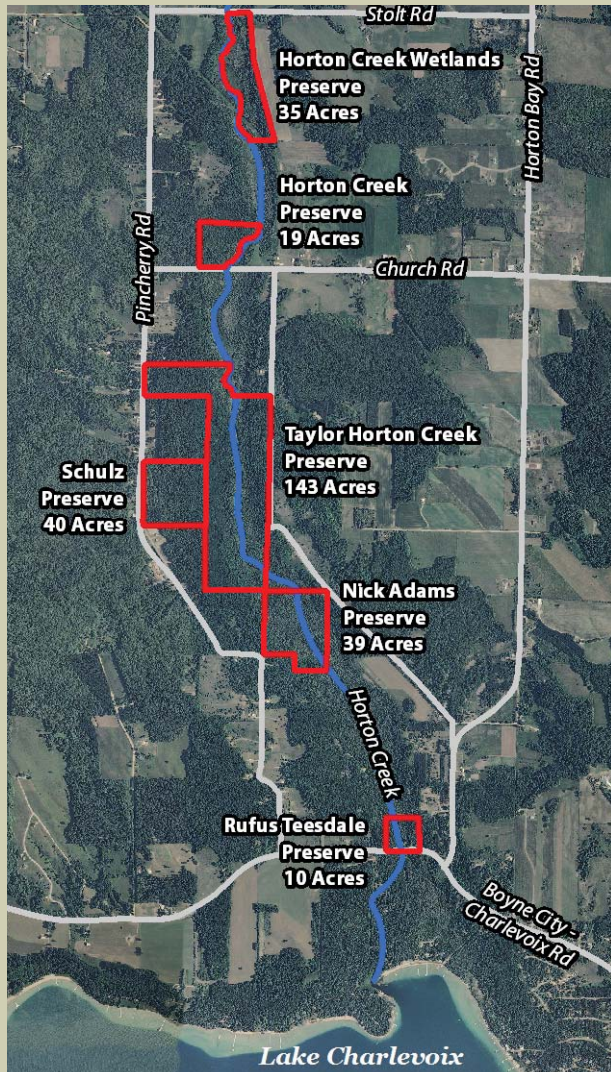


A **conservation easement** is a voluntary agreement that allows a landowner to limit the type or amount of development on their property while retaining private ownership of the land. The easement is signed by the landowner, who is the easement donor, and the Conservancy, who is the party receiving the easement. The Conservancy accepts the easement with the understanding that it must enforce the terms of the easement in perpetuity. After the easement is signed, it is recorded with the County Register of Deeds and applies to all future owners of the land. Conservation easements are ideal for protecting the scenic quality of private land, where physical access by the public is not needed.



# More Protection Along Horton Creek

PROTECTING A SIGNIFICANT TRIBUTARY TO LAKE CHARLEVOIX



The land protection momentum along the beautiful Horton Creek has continued into the new year. In recent months, an additional 38 acres and well over half a mile of creek frontage have been purchased by the Conservancy to become nature preserve lands.

A five-acre addition to the Nick Adams Preserve was purchased in January. The new addition adds 350 feet of creek frontage to the preserve which now stands at 44 acres. And at the end of February, 33 acres with nearly 3,200 feet of Horton Creek frontage were purchased with donated funds. It will be known as the Horton Creek Wetlands Preserve.

“Since 1990 when LTC acquired its first preserve on Horton Creek, we’ve had great success in acquiring additional land on the Creek and in the watershed,” said Doug Fuller, the Conservancy’s director of stewardship. Horton Creek and the swampy corridor surrounding it is a locally significant natural resource and a primary tributary into Lake Charlevoix. To date, 284 acres and 12,045 feet of stream frontage (2.25 miles) are included within six nature preserves owned by LTC.

“Some of the Horton Creek preserves are wild land, without parking areas or trails,” Fuller said. “On others, parking areas and trails are present to allow for a variety of recreational pursuits.” This spring, the Conservancy plans to construct a new parking area along Pincherry Road to improve the trail system on the Schultz/Taylor Horton Creek Preserve complex. A work day will be held on April 13 (see p. 11).



Horton Creek/TMPetersen

## Darnton Family Nature Preserve - ctd. from cover

in honor of the Darnton family, longtime summer residents of the Lake Charlevoix area who have similarly enjoyed the beauty and escape that northern Michigan has offered their family for generations.

“My family first came to Lake Charlevoix back in the mid-20s,” said Paul Darnton who was born in 1921. “My father had two weeks vacation and we used to leave Flint at 4:30 in the morning. You were on a gravel road and when you got north of Gaylord, you were on a two-track road.”

Over the years, Paul recalls exploring much of the northern lower peninsula. “I’m a bird hunter and a trout fisherman and I’ve hunted and fished almost the whole part of the lower peninsula north of Gaylord, though I can’t anymore.”

Paul had four married brothers (Robert and Francis; Richard and Laura; Thomas and Sue; and William and Mildred) and today, several of the Darnton family members still vacation in northern Michigan. A few live in the area full time. To celebrate his and his wife Jeane’s 60th wedding anniversary, they rented a home on



Members of the Darnton family on Lake Charlevoix during a 2005 family reunion.

Gayle Lierd

Lake Charlevoix where everyone could come and stay. “We just had a most wonderful time,” Paul said.

In so many ways, the Darnton family represents how the wild beauty of northern Michigan is a treasure to be protected.

LTC staff will be assessing the property for trail potential in collaboration with local stakeholder groups. Stay tuned in future newsletters for more details about this exceptional new nature preserve.





# Piecing Together Access to Leopold

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES ALSO IMPROVE TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

In an effort to improve access and trail opportunities at the Aldo Leopold Preserve on Marquette Island, the Conservancy very recently acquired two additional land parcels. The Leopold Preserve now includes a total of 1,483 acres and 3.8 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. It is the Little Traverse Conservancy's largest nature preserve.

The latest additions include a 21-acre parcel with 1,720 feet of frontage. Located on the south-west side of Marquette Island, the parcel directly adjoins the Seiberling Stewart Nature Preserve to the northwest.

Another addition purchased at the end of 2012 was a 96-acre parcel that strategically connects other inland portions of the Leopold Preserve. "The newest additions to the Leopold Preserve will make it more accessible and appealing to those who want to enjoy these unique islands," said Ty Ratliff, Conservancy land protection specialist.

Gary Reid, Clark Township Supervisor, agrees. "Clark Township is enthusiastic with the prospects for additional trail development within the Aldo Leopold Preserve on Marquette Island via access from a number of sheltered bays as well as Snows channel. We welcome the opportunity to showcase a nature trail system that celebrates the founder of land ethics and we look forward to working with the conservancy in achieving goals mutually beneficial to the community."



The two newest additions to the Aldo Leopold Preserve on Marquette Island are highlighted in yellow above. These high priority parcels will improve access from the water and connect trails within the preserve.

## Fochtman Preserve Addition - A Tribute



The Pocklington and Gerould families recently donated a parcel of land to add to the Fochtman Nature Preserve. Though small in size, the land provides additional access (and acreage) from US-31 to the southern portion of the Fochtman Preserve.

Nancy Gerould explained that the families gifted the addition in memory of her brother:

"My brother Don had a great love of the outdoors. Fresh out of Michigan State University's natural resources program, he became the outdoor education director of Wolverine Camps for 21 years, during which he shared his knowledge and appreciation of nature and the environment. He also worked two years as a summer interpreter and helped build boardwalks at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve. Donating this property - which he purchased in 2002 - to the conservancy is a very fitting way to honor and remember Don."



# The Katherine G. Phelan and Orth Family Nature Preserve

THE DEEP BEAUTY OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN HAS LURED GENERATIONS OF PEOPLE from all around the world to return to these woods and waters year after year. Often, extraordinary effort and resources are used to ensure that family can return to the cabin or cottage as often as possible to reconnect with family, friends, and the pure joy received when sitting on the shores of Lake Michigan or one of our beautiful inland lakes.

The story of Ellen Phelan-Shapiro's recent donation of ten acres near Good Hart to Little Traverse Conservancy is a rich example of how a family, now spread to many corners of the map, remained linked for many years through northern Michigan.

Ellen's grandmother, Catherine Orth, was born in Detroit in 1879. After marrying a Polish cavalry officer, Wesley Gojlewicz, the young couple traveled to Galveston, Texas, where she gave birth to daughter Katherine and son Anthony. Tragically, Catherine died in 1916 while the children were very young, and Wesley moved them back to Michigan to be with Catherine's sisters, Louise and Christine, who was called Teen.

When young Katherine's father remarried, the children moved back to Texas and over the years, lost touch with their aunts. During the Great Depression, Louise and Teen both built summer homes in Readmond Township, near Good Hart. Eventually, the aunts tracked Katherine down and she returned to Michigan, marrying Thomas Phelan, a Canadian. While Ellen was young, the Phelans had a cottage on Lake Erie. Yet every summer, they would travel north to Good Hart to visit with Teen and Louise. It was during these visits that Ellen first experienced northern Michigan.

Ellen grew up in Detroit and trained as an artist at Wayne State University. After moving to New York City in her 20s, she met and married sculptor Joel Shapiro. Both have built highly successful art careers in the city and also spend summers at their home in the Adirondack Park, directly on Lake Champlain. She has recreated a fireplace tile surround in her Adirondack home that is similar to one in her Aunt Louise's Good Hart home. "The lakes in the Adirondacks are all connected and were early routes of exploration and commerce," Ellen noted. "It is a very similar ecosystem to where I grew up on the Great Lakes."

Ellen notes that she is much affected by nature's beauty and a great deal of her art work is based in landscape.

In 1968, the Good Hart property was deeded to Katherine who then deeded it to Ellen in 1982. But Ellen found she rarely returned to Michigan and eventually it was time to do something with the land.



The Orth Family



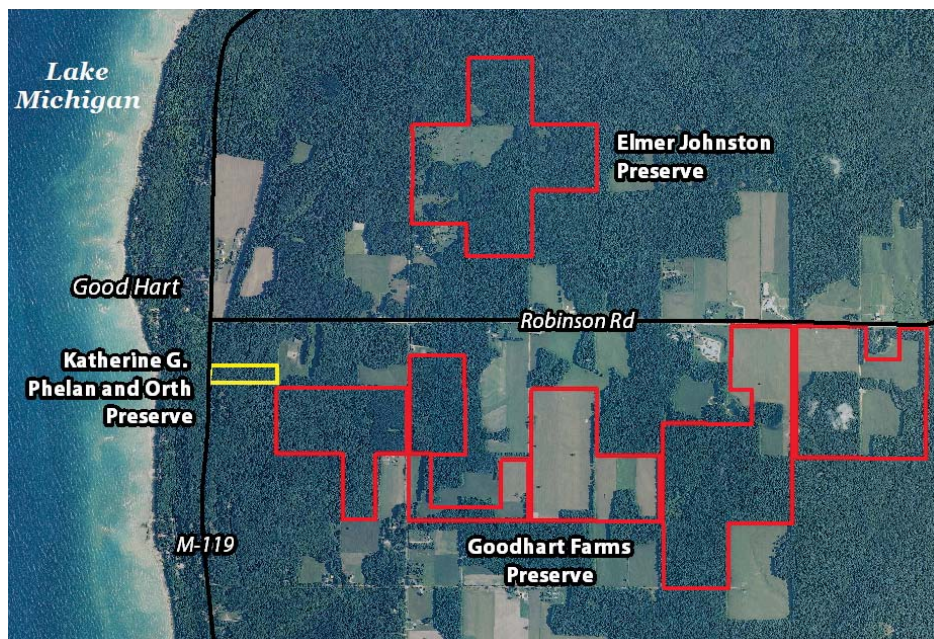
Katherine G. Phelan at age 21



Ellen's Aunt Teen's cabin near Good Hart



Ellen Phelan-Shapiro



The new 10-acre preserve includes 330 feet of frontage along M-119. The preserve's eastern boundary lies within 100 feet of the Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve, and in the future, a connector trail may be created to link the preserves. The land is entirely uplands forested with mature trees. Near M-119, there are large aspen and then the forest transitions to red oak, maple, beech, and other species in less abundance. "This property has tremendous topography with long sweeping valleys," said Kieran Fleming, LTC director of land protection "And because the forest is very mature with relatively little under-story, you can see the terrain very well. It's a really neat place to take a walk, but be ready for some hills!"





## post-storm trail cleaning



On December 20 and 21, a powerful snowstorm (Winter Storm "Draco") with high winds dumped up to 18 inches of snow throughout northern Michigan. The heavy wet snow blocked roads, closed schools, snapped trees, brought down branches, and bent saplings. Many trails on LTC preserves were nearly impassable. "I couldn't even tell where the trails went at Goodhart Farms Preserve, and I maintain them weekly year-round," stated LTC staffer Jay Neff. While we are still working on some of the trails, most of the trails have now been cleared thanks to help from many dedicated volunteers such as Margo Sutton shown here at Goodhart Farms.



LTC's Mike Lynch, Doug Engler, LTC's Charles Dawley, and Rick Loyd clearing trail at the Banwell Preserve.

## Nature Preserve App A Perfect Tool for Hitting the Trails

Since releasing LTC's nature preserve smart phone app in mid-December, the app has been downloaded more than 1,500 times. "We have been so happily surprised by the feedback we are getting," said LTC Stewardship Specialist Charles Dawley, who assembled the app. Maureen Radke of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation noted, "I never thought I would ever want a smart phone, and now I'm going to buy one!" CCCF along with the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation provided funding for the web hosting of the app. An article written by the Petoskey News Review about the app even appeared in the Chicago Tribune in January!

Below are a sample of comments from app users:

*I am addicted to hiking in northern Michigan - This app is perfect!! by Lites4Ever*

*Some of my favorite trails are on Little Traverse Conservancy land. This app is perfect for me to find the ones near me, and includes trail maps once I get there.*

*I actually found two near my house that I didn't know about. I will be checking them this weekend!*

*Great job! Love the App! Fabulous App. by Csailor*



## kestrels are coming!

Kestrel Nest Box Project volunteer coordinator Jim Bean estimates the American kestrels will begin returning to our region in mid-March. Seventeen boxes have been placed so far and EarthWeekPlus will be holding a nest box building workshop for kids on April 20 (see back page).

### American kestrel facts:

#### Nesting Facts

Clutch Size: 4-5 eggs

Number of Broods: 1-2 broods

Egg Length: 1.2-1.5 inches

Egg Width: .9-1.1 inch

Incubation Period: 26-32 days

Nesting Period: 28-31 days

Egg Description: White to yellowish or light reddish brown, mottled with violet magenta gray or brown

Condition at Hatching: Feeble with sparse white down over pinkish skin, eyes partially open by first or second day.

#### Measurements – same for both sexes

Length: 8.7-12.2 inches

Wingspan: 20.1-24 inches

Weight: 2.8-5.8 oz.



LTC Stewardship Specialist Charles Dawley with Maureen Radke of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and Sara Ward of the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation.

*If you live or visit northern Michigan this app is a must. Little Traverse Conservancy has long protected and shared the beauty of the area. Now it expertly guides you through it, a must for everyone visiting the preserves and a great invitation for those new to the hike. I am a long time summer resident and learned so much on the first trail guide I used, simply indispensable.*

Look on back page for QR codes for downloading the app. You can also go to the Google Play or the Apple App Store. Search LTC Explorer.



## Monitoring Season Begins in April

At this date, Little Traverse Conservancy is responsible for monitoring 270 conservation easements totaling 21,000 acres on privately-owned properties. "It is a very big and important part of the Stewardship Department's responsibilities, but is something that is not publicized a lot," stated Jay Neff, LTC's easement stewardship specialist. For 2013, each easement will be monitored by LTC staff between April 8 and October 31. Large or remote easements are often monitored aerially, though periodically on foot.



## LTC Seeks 2013 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 is an excellent opportunity to acquire hands-on experience in the fields of land protection, education, outreach and volunteer engagement.



The position requires a six-month commitment and will be managed jointly through LTC and Huron Pines, with the position based at the Conservancy office near Harbor Springs. The position will provide opportunities to learn about and participate in Nature Preserve Stewardship, Conservation Easement Monitoring, and Education and Outreach. 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. Affordable housing opportunities may be available through the Conservancy. The position offers a living stipend, education award and student loan deferment, and health insurance.

For more details, visit [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org) for a link to a full description and application. Applications must be received by March 22, 2013.

## Assisting Others

### STEWARDSHIP WORK REACHES BEYOND LTC'S BOUNDARIES

Little Traverse Conservancy assist projects are happening not only in the land protection department, but also in the stewardship department. As the work of the Conservancy becomes more familiar throughout the five counties where we work, we receive more and more requests for help with projects that relate to other parks and protected lands.

LTC Stewardship Department staff recently helped West Traverse Township and Erickson Center for the Arts in Curtis with trail map signs. And LTC is helping West Traverse Township with funding and accessories for a new dune observation platform at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve (see photo right).

LTC has also been collaborating with the Burt Lake Trail Committee, a local group advocating for a non-motorized trail around the north end of Burt Lake connecting with the Petoskey to Mackinaw City Trail on the west and the Central State Trail on the east. LTC has helped plan the route, and granted an easement for the trail to run 3,550 feet through the Chaboiganing Preserve. Lately we have been working with the group to design and build an expanded parking area on the Chaboiganing Preserve that would serve as an access to the Burt Lake Trail, the Chaboiganing Preserve, and the adjacent Colonial Point Memorial Forest. "The trail committee is extremely excited to imagine the crushed limestone handicap accessible trail through the woods of the Chaboiganing Preserve," said Steve Vorencamp of the Burt Lake Trail Committee. "It should be beautiful and peaceful. The parking lot addition planned for 2014 will allow many more users, including school buses, to park and enjoy the unique features of the preserve easier, he said."



LTC is assisting West Traverse Township with fundraising for the replacement of the dune platform at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve. Located northwest of Harbor Springs, this beloved preserve is enjoyed by thousands of visitors every year. For more information about this project, please contact our office at 231.347.0991.



# Spring Work Days

## Rogers Family Homestead Preserve clean up day

**Saturday, April 13 9am-4pm**

*Along the Jordan River, Charlevoix County*

Efforts at the Roger's Family Homestead Nature Preserve are ongoing, and this year we are looking for volunteers interested in protecting this wonderful mixture of riverine habitats. The focus for the day will be to remove old farm dumps and an existing barbed wire fence so a more appropriate fence may be put into place. There are many other tasks available for volunteers who do not wish to engage in removing farm equipment or fence work; these include tree trimming, sign replacement and post hole digging. Come out for the day or for a few hours and enjoy a lunch along the beautiful Jordan River. Bring work gloves and a lunch. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Contact Mike Lynch for more information: [mike@landtrust.org](mailto:mike@landtrust.org) or 231.344.1011.

## Schulz Preserve & Taylor-Horton Creek Preserve Trail Work

**Earth Day weekend, Saturday, April 20 9am-3pm**

*Along Pincherry Rd., Charlevoix County*

In 2011 the Conservancy acquired the Taylor-Horton Creek Preserve adjacent to the Schulz Preserve, which was acquired in 1991. Horton Creek drains into Lake Charlevoix and is a beautiful stream to hike along. We invite you to spend your Earth Day Saturday helping to improve your local nature preserves. Volunteers are needed to help simplify and connect these two trail systems, and to improve the parking area and trail signage. In addition, we need volunteers to help clean up remote illegal trash piles on the east and west sides of the creek. Once completed, this trail system will be a popular destination along this beautiful creek for quiet recreation. Please be prepared with work gloves and any trail clearing tools you may have on hand - but make sure they are well-labeled with your name. Bring a lunch and work the whole day or join us just for a couple of hours. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please contact Cacia Lesh for more information: [cacia@landtrust.org](mailto:cacia@landtrust.org) or 231.344.1002.

## Wisser-Saworski Preserve Trail Building

**Saturday, May 4 9am-3pm**

*Boyne Falls, Charlevoix County*

Come join us at the Wisser-Saworski Preserve for a fun day of trail building. We'll be focusing on building a bench cut trail to the top of what appears to be a kame (a distinctive gumdrop-shaped hill resulting from glacial meltwater deposits). Later in Spring, LTC staff and volunteers will be building an overlook platform at the top of the kame. Come prepared with work gloves and boots. Snacks and water will be provided. Contact Charles Dawley: [charles@landtrust.org](mailto:charles@landtrust.org) or 231.344.1019.

## Wisser-Saworski Preserve Lumber Haul / View Clearing

**Saturday, May 18 9am-3pm**

*Boyne Falls, Charlevoix County*

Many hands and strong backs are needed to help us move the lumber needed to build an overlook platform at top of the new bench cut trail. We will also be working on clearing the view for the new overlook platform by removing small trees and brush. Come prepared with work gloves and boots. Snacks and water will be provided. Contact Charles Dawley: [charles@landtrust.org](mailto:charles@landtrust.org) or 231.344.1019.

## Meadowgate Preserve Restoration

**Saturday, June 8 9am - 4pm**

*Along M-119 Harbor Springs*

As part of multi-faceted restoration activities on the Meadowgate Preserve, located two miles east of Harbor Springs on M-119, help is needed to dispose of brush and slash from a grove of silver poplar trees previously cut down, as well as continued work to uproot invasive garlic mustard and other undesirable species. Bring work gloves and ear plugs (there will be a chipper in use at the site throughout the day). Contact Doug Fuller: [doug@landtrust.org](mailto:doug@landtrust.org) or 231.344.1009.

# Changing Staff Roles



For the last eight months, **Mike Lynch** has held the role of stewardship assistant for LTC, but with the departure of Cindy Mom last summer, a permanent role opened up for him as the organization's new Preserve Steward Specialist. Mike will be the organization's point person on many aspects of preserve management. His tasks will include

drafting and implementing management plans for new preserves, identifying and enforcing preserve violations and rules, trail planning and construction, ecological restoration activities, structure maintenance and removal, and much more. "We have an ever growing list of preserve tasks that we are continually prioritizing," said Director of Stewardship Doug Fuller. "Mike has already demonstrated many good skills and done an outstanding job for us. With the position vacancy, he seemed the obvious best choice."

**Cacia Lesh** has recently transitioned into the role of Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator at LTC. She fills a much needed role of volunteer management, with more than 250 volunteers supporting the Conservancy's work and mission. "We are delighted to have Cacia transition to this position," Fuller said. "Her communication and organization skills coupled with her

environmental knowledge will result in a more effective and efficient force of volunteers to help steward our hundreds of nature preserves." Cacia says she is excited to be more active in the stewardship department, organizing stewardship work days and volunteer appreciation events. She will also be coordinating our annual Save the Trees fund raising event and other fund raising events as well as coordinating the seasonal community field trips. If you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer, please go to our website and fill out the online application.







Eighteen people joined outdoor educator Mary Trout on a winter bird hike at the Round Lake Preserve on January 19 during the first session of the year-long series, Birding by the Seasons.

# Family Birding



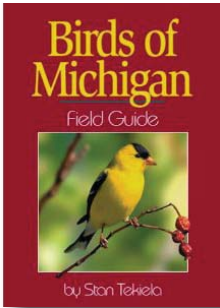
**Next Session of Birding by the Seasons**  
**Spring Lake Park, Emmet County**  
**Saturday, April 20 10:00 a.m. to Noon**  
*(Future dates include: July 20 and October 19.*  
*You can attend any or all sessions.)*

Birds fascinate us with their ability of flight, intriguing behavior, nest-making, and beauty. Explore the world of birds with local bird enthusiast Mary Trout through this new family field trip series. Each session includes a hike, and fun activities the whole family can enjoy. Field guides and binoculars will be available if needed. In this second session, we'll explore the world of spring migrants, learn about using your field guide and binoculars to identify birds that we encounter. After a walk along the boardwalks of this wildlife viewing park, we'll meet at the pavilion to create nesting material bags to take home and put up for the birds in your own yard. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the pavilion after the program. Please call the office to pre-register.



**WISH LIST:** We're seeking additional supplies for the *Birding by the Seasons for Families* program including binoculars and field guides. For every three pairs of binoculars purchased through

Eagle Optics, three more pairs will be donated. Please call 231.347.0991 if you can help!



Thanks to a grant from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, Getting Kids Outdoors has planned monthly events to help educators and families connect with the outdoors.

Each month, a new partner will collaborate with GKO on a particular theme. For details, please visit [www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org](http://www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org).

- March 17 - Maple Syruping**
- April - Agriculture in Emmet**
- May - Schoolyard Habitat**
- June - Instructions and Techniques on Local Adventures for Families**

Contact Alison Berry at [alison.berry27@gmail.com](mailto:alison.berry27@gmail.com) or Maureen Stine at 231.838.4913 for more information.

Getting Kids Outdoors: [www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org](http://www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org)  
Little Traverse Conservancy: [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)



More than 20 people attended the January Ice Fishing event on Crooked Lake through Getting Kids Outdoors Emmet County. Some of them were first time ice anglers. "It was exciting to welcome the kids who brought their parents and grandparents along to this event," said Maureen Stine of Natureology who coordinated the event. "To get out of the house, away from the computers and television, and enjoy a great sunny day in the fresh air out on the lake is what GKO is all about. Watching a demonstration on how the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians professionally monitor the health of our regional lakes and streams through sound science and enjoying first time ice anglers marvel at this type of outdoor recreation, was a genuine delight!"





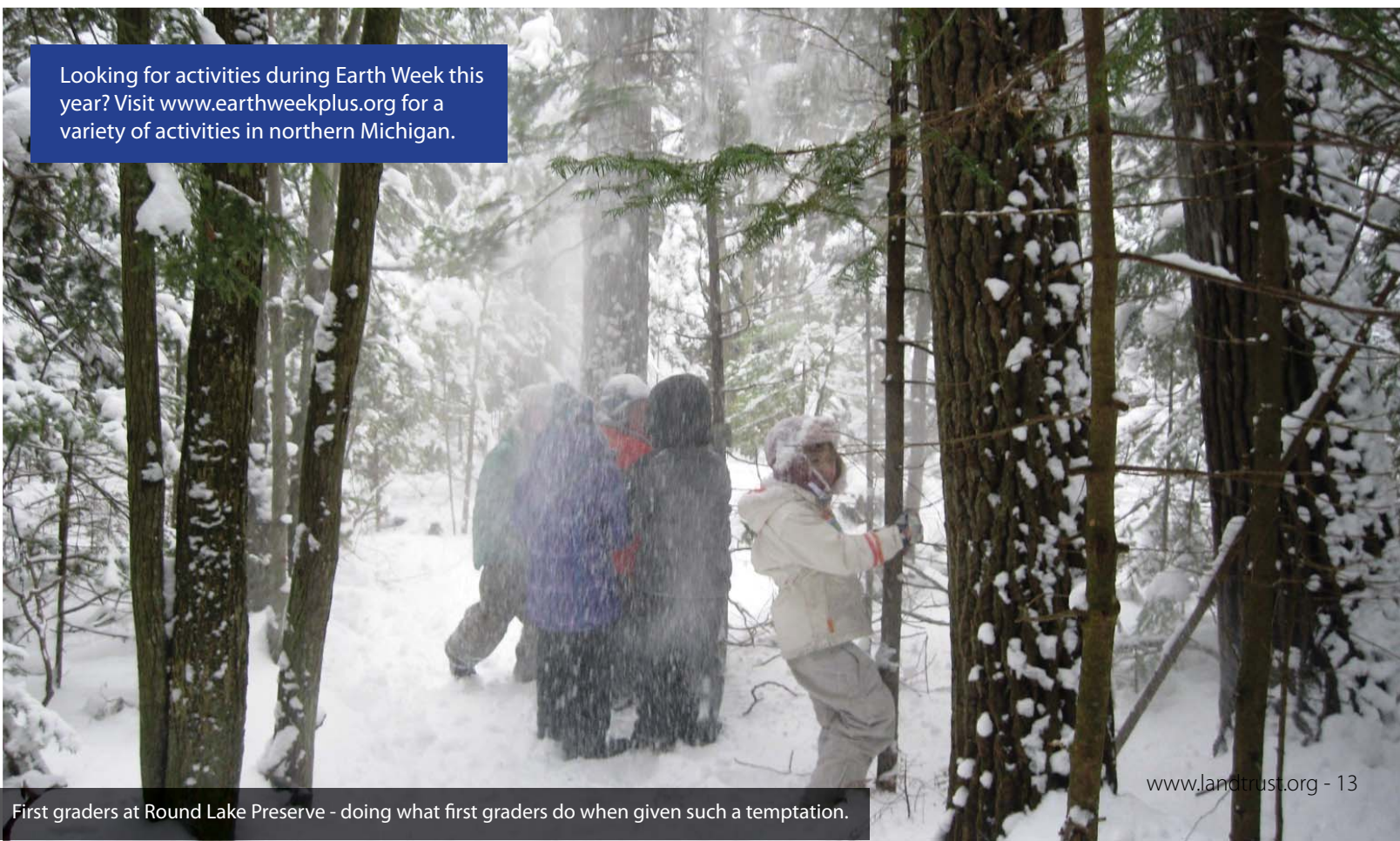
## Thank You, Ali!

We extend best wishes and deepest gratitude to Alison Berry, who left the Conservancy education staff at the end of 2012 to pursue new adventures. She made many contributions to both our Conservancy and the greater outdoor education cause in the North. Ali first joined LTC as an intern, but returned to become a full-time professional educator. She took our education program to new heights and was also a co-founder of Getting Kids Outdoors in Emmet County. LTC executive director Tom Bailey thanked and commended Ali for her enthusiasm and her always-positive focus on outdoor education. "She excelled in creative program development," he noted, "and when it came to making presentations to kids or other groups, she absolutely sparkled." Thank you, Ali, and best wishes from a grateful Little Traverse Conservancy!!

### EE Staff Seeking Summer Volunteer Assistance

Put your passion for the environment and thrill of spending time with children outdoors to work assisting the LTC Education staff this summer. We're seeking volunteers to assist with summer programs for kids. Programs run Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays June 24th through August 2nd in the Petoskey-Harbor Springs area. Tasks will include helping set-up, sign-in, clean up and assisting with crafts and activities. Programs are offered for ages 3-12. Time commitment per session will be 2-4 hours, depending on session and age group. Experience working with children helpful. For more information, contact Melissa or Sarah at the Conservancy office 231.347.0991.

Looking for activities during Earth Week this year? Visit [www.earthweekplus.org](http://www.earthweekplus.org) for a variety of activities in northern Michigan.





# Nature Photography Field Trip

Students Learn New Techniques and Respect for Wildlife

As part of the Conservancy's Nature Photography Program, students learn about a variety of techniques they can use to capture unique images. Each season of the program, Education Coordinator Sarah Mayhew meets the class inside for a PowerPoint presentation highlighting these techniques. The following week, the class heads outdoors to their chosen preserve to practice the techniques on a photo field trip. Below, Sarah outlines the general flow of the program.

The first class participating in a full school year of the Nature and Photography Program were Harbor Light 6th graders. Each of the three school seasons, they visited the McCune Nature Preserve to closely observe and photograph the seasonal changes.

## 1st session – Fall

- How to use the camera.
- Different setting icons and when to use them.
- Talk about being aware of what's in the background and foreground of the pictures and focus.
- Terms – image, subject, frame, focus, foreground, background
- Cover a few terms for technique – composition, camera orientation (vertical vs. horizontal), texture, shapes, contrast (color, lines, shapes).
- Extreme angle
- Depth of field – what is in focus or out of focus

## 2nd session

- Recap of some terms we covered in the Fall – use student photographs as examples of the terms
- Introduce winter photography ideas for inspiration
- Shadows
- Sunsets/sunrises
- Ice
- Tracks in snow / paths
- Framing in images

## 3rd session

- Wildlife photography
- Code of ethics – being respectful to your subjects, learning about them and their behavior.
- Being aware of body language – are we causing the animals to change their behavior?
- Word of the small – exploring macro photography

*As the greenery of northern Michigan unfolds, a whole new palette of photographic opportunities lies before us. On this page are photos taken by 6th graders at the McCune Preserve last spring. LTC Education Coordinator Sarah Mayhew notes how each photo demonstrates a particular technique (see also page 16).*



Eva Mathews

*"I just love this. Everything about it. Texture, color palette, composition, shapes..."*



Dalton Ormsbee

*"Seeing wildlife while conducting programs is generally very rare given the large numbers of students. The fact that this image was captured during our outing makes it that much more impressive. I do spend a little time talking to them about respectful etiquette when photographing wildlife and paying attention to see if we (the photographer) are causing the animal to change its behavior and get stressed out."*



Eva Mathews

*"This image represents 'extreme angle' pretty well, a techniques I talk about to achieve a unique photograph."*



Emma Johnson

*"These photos are nice examples of 'texture,' another technique I cover. Texture can be used to give realism and character to a picture and may itself be the subject of the photograph. Both of these images do a nice job capturing texture and giving detail and information to the subjects."*



Emma Johnson



## Introducing...the Conservancy's newest members of our board of trustees

### Steve Arbaugh

Steve Arbaugh is from a family that is deeply rooted in conservation, and he attributes his love of the outdoors to his grandfathers. His mother's father was Mort Neff, the host of the television program Michigan Outdoors from the 1960s through the '80s. Steve's paternal grandfather was Clayton B. Seagears who worked for the New York Department of Conservation and was a wildlife artist who drew the 1953 federal duck stamp.

Steve's first introduction to northern Michigan was in the 1960s when his parents would come north to ski. Eventually, the family built a home just west of Harbor Springs where his mother Joey - a longtime Conservancy board member - still lives today. Fly fishing and downhill skiing were Steve's earliest outdoor activities. After attending high school in Lake Placid, New York, he attended college at Utah State University. While in Sun Valley, he started a career in the ski industry and skied and fished the mountains of the West. Eventually, the Midwest called him back and he worked as a manufacturer's representative in the ski industry and pursued a new love of yacht racing. In 1989, Steve purchased a beer distribution company that he ran until selling it last year. This has given him time to further enjoy his boating, fishing, and aviation interests. He has two grown children, Olivia and Hunter, and he and his wife, Flopsie, make their home in Harbor Springs.

"We are so blessed with unique wilderness here in northern Michigan, and I will never regret having made this my home," Steve said. "I am honored to have been included on the Board of the Little Traverse Conservancy. The goals of the Conservancy are so incredible and I look forward to the opportunity of helping to protect this place for future generations to enjoy."

### Dave Patterson

For 41 years, Dave Patterson and his wife Jill have been coming to northern Michigan, at first to the Harbor Springs area before they discovered Burt Lake where they've remained since. "A number of things brought us north," Dave said. "Certainly the beauty and to slow down. We started meeting a lot of new friends and it was like we had two lives." While Dave had a business in Lansing, Jill was a teacher and could spend much of the summers in northern Michigan with their two children, Daniel and Ashley. When the couple retired in 2002 and Dave sold his business, they moved north permanently. Up north, the Pattersons love to golf, boat, and fish and now enjoy sharing their summer home with their three grandchildren. During the winters, they spend time in Palm Desert, California.

As a longtime member of the Burt Lake Preservation Association (BLPA), Dave has been familiar with the Conservancy and other trustees for several years. In recent years, LTC has partnered with BLPA on some lake

projects and the relationships have strengthened. "With about 750 members, BLPA is a very successful lake association. It has been our desire to become more active in the watershed, understanding how most of the water that flows into Burt Lake comes from places like the Good Hart area and the Maple River system. From the Maple, the water eventually gets to Lake Huron and we understand these connections."

The Pattersons' northern Michigan home is very close to the Colonial Point Memorial Forest, one of LTC's earliest and most significant land protection assist projects (the property is now owned by the University of Michigan Biological Station). "When Colonial Point was acquired, we knew several people who were involved with the acquisition of the property. It is such a great story."

Dave's expertise in real estate and development as well as a personal understanding of the oil and gas industry are special areas where he can offer perspectives and advice while serving on the board. "We have to be cognizant of how natural resources are available for all people," Dave said.

### Karie Slavik

In the natural resource field, Karie Slavik holds one of a rare few professional positions that allows her to work in administration, but also spend time in the field among an ever changing crew of students and researchers who are exploring and learning the wilds of northern Michigan. As the Associate Director of the University of Michigan Biological Station, Karie splits her time between the field station in Pellston and the Ann Arbor campus.

Growing up on Lake Erie, Karie began working at a marina every summer from the age of 13 until college. Her parents were sailboat racers and the family loved to camp, which undoubtedly nurtured her strong love for the outdoors. Receiving both bachelor's and master's degrees from Bowling Green University in Ohio, Karie's first job out of graduate school was at The Ecosystems Center of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. She managed stream research that was being conducted at the University of Alaska's Toolik Lake Field Station in Arctic Alaska. Of the last 20 years, she has worked 18 years at a field station. Currently she serves as the Vice President of Biological Field Stations, an international organization.

As a Conservancy trustee, Karie is particularly interested in strengthening the UMBS-LTC partnership and getting a broader diversity of students from the station - both undergraduate and graduate - involved in projects with the Conservancy. "The more we can partner and have access to different preserves, the better!" she said.





## Memorials

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J. David Karr

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Mr. and Mrs. David Culver

### Daniel and Pamela Sanquist in honor of their birthdays

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## Holiday Honorariums

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Allison Churnside and Brendan and Elsie Billingsley

### Allison Churnside, Brendan and Elsie Billingsley

Kyle, Alana and Emmet Billingsley

### Bowden and Elaine Brown

Albert Brown

### Martha Coates

William and Susan Klingbeil

### Jerry Craig

Todd Twichel

### Tracy Dulak, DVM

Bay Pines & Lake Street

Veterinary Clinic and Bay Pines

Boarding & Grooming

### Kurt Erxleben, DVM

Bay Pines & Lake Street

Veterinary Clinic and Bay Pines

Boarding & Grooming

### Robert and Letty Fawcett

Susan Fawcett

*These student photos are examples of the technique "depth of field" paying attention to what is in focus in the image and using different settings on the cameras to achieve different effects.*



Aaron Sydow



Anna Garborg



Dalton Ormsbee



**Dr. Frederick Klingbeil**  
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William and Susan Klingbeil

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Pierce Lord

**Ruthann Waldron**  
Todd Twichel

**Susan Warner**  
William and Susan Klingbeil

## Did You Know?

*Roughly 4.5% of the Conservancy's annual operating budget derives from Memorial and Honorarium gifts.*



Snowshoers on the trail at the Driggers Preserve Open House on February 23.

## thank you...

Natasha Bartha for trail work help at Wissner-Saworski, The Hill, and Goodhart Farms preserves.

Todd Wright (The Hill Preserve), John Griffin (Birge Preserve), and Dan Mann (Driggers Preserve) for trail grooming and clearing.

Miles Trumble for trail clearing at the Offield Preserve.

Kyle McGarey for clearing woody debris from fields at the Driggers Preserve as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Tim DeWick for volunteering to plow snow from the parking area at the Birge Preserve.

Joe Dannenberg of JBD Company for cut-rate snow plowing at the Offield Preserve.

Rick Lashuay for voluntarily plowing snow at the Banwell Preserve, and for loaning us his snowmobile to groom trails for a field trip.

Jim and Wendy Bean for ongoing work to coordinate the Kestrel Box program, including a presentation to the Straits Area Audubon Society. Thanks also to Kestrel Nest Box Monitors: Brook Barney, Gretchen Dorian, Marlyn Graham, Pam and Brad Grassmick, Don and Anne Grimmer, Jim and Sarah Haveman, Bill and Betty Henne, Ron and Barbara Kurtz, Darrell Lawson, Kenyon and Sally Stebbins, Kelly Trierweiler, and Jack and Nancy Waldron.

Becky and Mark Lipchik for donating a microwave oven for the Andreae cabin.

Lorraine Lucy, Lurli Vaughan, Judy Brummeler, and Shonny Riehl for mailing and administrative help.

Sarah Dawley for making chili and Kim Dawley for making cookies for the Banwell–Andreae Field Trip.

Phil Dickinson and the Boy Scout Troop #204 for their help and Mike Supernault for leading naturalist hikes at the Banwell–Andreae Field Trip.

Mary Trout for co-leading the Birding for Families Field Trip.

Doug Whitcomb for leading the Winter Wildlife Tracking Field trip.

Doug Engler, Ric Loyd and Jim Schroeder for clearing trails at the Banwell Preserve this winter.

Don Jenks, Margo Sutton, and Forrest and Hannah Neff for clearing trails at the Goodhart Farms Preserve this winter.

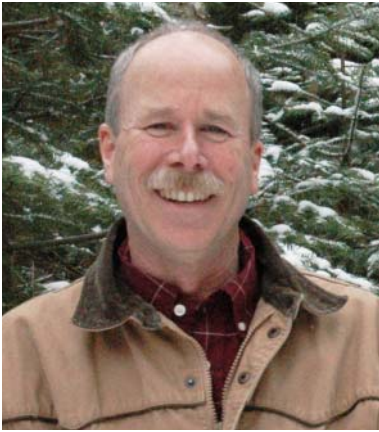
The Olstrom Family for donating *Birds of Michigan* and *Wildflowers of Michigan* books in honor of Wilmer and Anna Olstrom.

Kia Gouza for donating a pair of rubber boots.

Susan Letts for donating books on environmental planning.

Eagle Optics for donating three pairs of binoculars to be used for the Birding by Seasons family field trips and other education programs or community field trips.





## Reflections...

Tom Bailey

## Spring

*For this spring newsletter, I set out to write a column as a simple celebration of spring. As I did, I remembered that the first column I ever wrote for this publication was, in fact, a celebration of spring. I looked back to see what I'd written and after reading it determined that there was not much more to be said, and so I repeat it here, some 28 years after it first appeared, with warm wishes for all to savor the joy of spring:*

Snow in the woods lies heavy with the water of recent rains as I look out the office window. The trees have been freed from their burden of snow, but they still seem to droop from the weight of winter. Birds at the feeder seem less active than they were earlier in the year and on the bay the ice is heavy with its covering of snow. But the sun, when it shines, is higher in the sky and the days are noticeably longer.

The winter constellations reach the horizon earlier

and earlier, and the stars of spring are making their first appearances. Winter will be ending soon. Days of thawing temperatures will come more frequently; and though we could still have a snowstorm or two, the snow has begun its retreat.

Gradually, ice spots will turn to pools and the slow dripping of melt-water will form rivulets, then streams and finally the rivers will swell with spring. A good deal of water will also be taken in by the soil as spring advances over the waiting land.

Like the land, I too am ready for the spring, just as I welcome each season in its turn. I look forward to their changes with delight and never seem to tire of the endless cycle of the living land. I love the summer, when things seem to reach their peak - full bloom, full growth, full life. I love the bittersweet feeling of fall with its colors, its richness and its smells; the sweet sorrow of parting with the life of summer. And I love the winter, too, especially the first big snow when grey billows of cloud descend to turn the world into a frosty wonder while the dormant land lies waiting, seeming to welcome the soft white shroud that will protect it until it is time again for life to renew itself in the spring. How could I not love each of these seasons? They seem to bring everything - life, death, change and the endlessness of being that seems to be embodied in the life of the land.

And so, we look forward to spring, and welcome it with open arms. We awaken with the land, refreshed, renewed and transformed; ready to carry on once again. We look around us more at things beginning to grow. We listen to the gurgling of water in gutters and streams, and we step outside more often just to feel the warmer air, to see the sun and to drink in the sweet smell of spring.



**Transition Time** - While the blooms will be here soon, spring skiing can be wonderful:

*"I ski The Hill a few days a week and it is the best thing that has happened to Boyne City this year. Groomed...fun rolling trail...plowed lots. I couldn't ask for more. Thanks for your efforts."*

— Jack Laurent



*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 30, 2012 to February 28, 2013*

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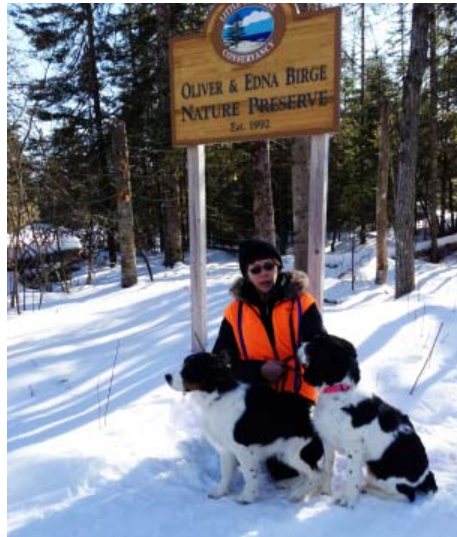
Pellston Lodge

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The Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce held a dog walk fundraiser for Friends of the Animals of Mackinac County at the Birge Nature Preserve on February 17. The event was part of their weekend Snowsfest.



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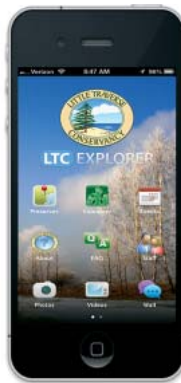
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VOLUNTEER EDITORS

Smart Phone user? Use the QR codes below to download the free LTC Nature Preserve app to access LTC maps, preserve information, and a whole lot more.



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Android



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231.347.0991  
[www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)



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## Spring 2013 Outings & Community Events

*LTC field trips are free and open to the community, but pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991.*

*Don't forget about the monthly Dark Sky events held at The Headlands. Visit [www.emmetcounty.org](http://www.emmetcounty.org) for details.*

### **Geocaching for Beginners**

#### **Wisser-Saworski Nature Preserve**

**Saturday, April 6 10am-1pm**

Join LTC staff Charles Dawley and members of Straits Area Geocaching for a beginner's course on Geocaching. Learn about Geocaching and how you can participate in this world wide treasure hunting game. We'll explain the basics of Geocaching and discover new geocaches on the Wisser Saworski Nature Preserve located just outside of Boyne Falls. Come prepared with appropriate outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear. If you do not own GPS, don't worry; we have some to share.

### **Kestrel Nest Box Building for Kids**

#### **Cheboygan High School**

**Saturday, April 20 12:45 pm**

EarthWeekPlus is holding this kestrel nest box building workshop especially for young people. All boxes built during this workshop will be donated to the Kestrel Nest Box program to be placed at a Conservancy-protected property this year. For more information, go to [www.earthweekplus.org](http://www.earthweekplus.org).

### **Birding by the Seasons – Saturday, April 20**

*See description page 12.*

### **History and Star Lore of Odawa Indians at McGulpin Point and The Headlands**

**Saturday, May 18 8-10pm, sunset at 9pm**

Enjoy a sunset hike along Lake Michigan as we walk the shoreline from McGulpin Point Lighthouse to The Headlands Dark Sky Park with Eric Hemenway, Director of Repatriation, Archives and Records for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Eric will give us a historical tour of how the Odawa came to inhabit the Straits of Mackinac and Little Traverse Bay Area. Once at The Headlands, Mary Stewart Adams, Star

Lore Historian and Director of the Headlands International Dark Sky Park, will share stories of constellations and how they guided early inhabitants both navigationally and spiritually. Meet at McGulpin Point Lighthouse.

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

#### **Wisser-Saworski Nature Preserve**

**Saturday, May 11 10-noon**

Celebrate Mother's Day at the new Wisser-Saworski Nature Preserve located just outside of Boyne Falls. This new preserve is a treasure for this community and it has a great trail system to explore. Join botanist Roger Knutson on a hike through hardwood forests in search of wildflowers. Roger generously shares his wealth of knowledge and will guide us through the wonders of northern Michigan flowers.

### **Riverine Mammals**

#### **Banwell Nature Preserve**

**Saturday, June 15 10-Noon**

Explore this beautiful preserve near Afton with extensive hiking trails along the Pigeon River. 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.

### **Nature Photography Outing**

#### **Birge Nature Preserve**

**Saturday, June 22 10-noon**

Love the outdoors and taking pictures? Grab your camera for some photo fun with Little Traverse Conservancy naturalist and photographer Sarah Mayhew! We will focus on helping you improve your nature photography skills, expand your creativity, and provide an opportunity to photograph unique and exciting subjects at the beautiful Birge Nature Preserve on Lake Michigan. This preserve offers a variety of habitats that are perfect for photographic exploration.