

Camp Sea-Gull

PARTNERING FOR PUBLIC ACCESS



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HAYES TOWNSHIP – The former Camp Sea-Gull property along the north shore of Lake Charlevoix officially became a Hayes Township park on the morning of January 6, 2014. With 1,400 feet of lake frontage, the 20-acre site offers public access to the lake for numerous recreational opportunities, with a number of the camp's facilities slated for public use and year-round enjoyment.

The Camp Sea-Gull property has functioned as a camp since the 1920s when it was the all-girls Camp Kare-free. In 1955, Lew and Regene Schulman purchased the camp, which had already changed to its current name. Their three children - Bill, Jack, and JoAnne Schulman - ran the camp from 1972 until it closed in 2012.

With the camp's closing, township officials suddenly saw an opportunity.

"Through a 2008 township survey, our residents identified the need for more lake access as a high priority," said township Supervisor Ethel Knepp. Township officials had been actively looking for land to acquire, with special interest in a place to launch small boats. When the Camp Sea-Gull property came on the market, the township held a series of public hearings and determined that there was

widespread support for acquisition of the site. One of the advantages is that the property is just across the road from the 75-acre Nathan "Barry" Driggers Memorial Nature Preserve, acquired by Little Traverse Conservancy through a 2007 grassroots fundraising campaign.

As this was a first project of its kind for Hayes Township, officials consulted with the Conservancy for advice. Early on, LTC Executive Director Tom Bailey connected township officials with Emmet County's late Controller Lyn Johnson and Parks and Recreation Director Laurie Gaetano. Emmet County has a long and successful track record of protecting and enhancing recreational properties,

including Camp Petosega on the shore of Pickerel Lake.

"When Tom Bailey introduced us to the Emmet County staff, it was like 'off to the races' after that. It really was," said Hayes Township Clerk Marlene Golovich. "It was so positive. They kept telling us, 'You can do this, you can do this.'" The cost of acquiring lakeside property was daunting, but together, the group came up with a plan.

In 2012, Hayes Township Parks Committee member Anne Kantola worked with Golovich and the Conservancy's Ty Ratliff to submit a grant request to the Michigan Natural

"The people of Hayes Township have proven over and over again that they want to establish a healthy balance between land development and land protection. This new public park will be a tremendous resource for people who live in the Township and those who come here to visit."

— Tom Bailey, LTC Executive Director

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2013 in Review



Since 1972, Little Traverse Conservancy has worked with private landowners, local and state government, and donors to complete 589 projects resulting in the protection of 50,567 acres of land across the five-county service area. All told, this land is valued at more than \$151 million.

Land Protection highlights

A total of 28 land protection projects were completed in 2013, protecting a total of 1,138 acres. These lands include 1.3 miles of water frontage along area lakes and rivers as well as more than two miles of scenic road frontage. Land projects (shown in red on map) included significant assists with the State of Michigan, donated nature preserves, nature preserve additions, and one conservation easement on privately-owned land.



Land Stewardship highlights

Fifteen miles of new trail were added to Conservancy nature preserve trail systems in 2013. All told, the organization manages and maintains 90 miles of trails with the help of hundreds of volunteers. In 2013, 24 work days were held at a variety of nature preserves involving anywhere from a couple to more than a dozen volunteers at each event. All 271 conservation easements were monitored by the end of October, an ever-growing aspect of the Conservancy's work. Ninety-five of these were monitored by air, and the rest were monitored on the ground.

School & Community Education highlights

In 2013, some 3,224 students from 161 classes participated in a school year outing with another 500 participating in a summer outing. Twenty-four schools participated, using 18 different locations. To inform teachers of our offerings, a flyer is sent to more than 300 teachers via standard mail each season and an e-blast is sent to more than 400 teachers each month during the school year. Forty-seven teachers borrowed Discovery Boxes in 2013. A total of 551 people participated in an LTC Community Field Trip offered by staff and volunteers throughout the year.

Membership & Finance highlights

In 2013, a record \$833,210 in memberships were contributed to the organization. In addition, a total of \$78,633 was given in memorial and honorarium donations alone. A total of 3,886 individuals, families, and businesses currently support the Conservancy's efforts. The highest numbers of supporters come from the Lake Michigan shoreline (909 members), Lake Charlevoix (516 members) and general Emmet County (443 members).



Camp Sea-Gull continued from cover

Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). Funded by revenues from oil, gas, and minerals on state-owned land, the Trust Fund makes grants available to help local units of government acquire land for public recreation and conservation. In December of 2013, the Camp Sea-Gull project was recommended for funding with a \$3,750,000 MNRTF grant. The 25% local match requirement was met with \$500,000 from the township's recreation fund and some \$672,000 raised in a public fund raising campaign with help from the Conservancy. More than 260 individuals, families, and foundations contributed towards the project.

"The Camp Sea-Gull land acquisition is a great example of the type of project the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund makes possible," said Steve DeBrabander, Manager of Recreation Grants for the DNR. "This project will provide the public with additional high quality access to Lake Charlevoix for swimming, boating, and other outdoor recreation uses. The Department of Natural Resources is proud to be a partner in this project."

While the Township immediately opened the property to the public for activities such as ice fishing access, many of the steps required to convert the property from a private camp to a public park will take time.

"Some of the buildings need to be removed, and some will be renovated for public use," Golovich said "We'll be enlisting the help of community volunteers for some of this work, but we'll also be applying for development funds in order to develop public recreation facilities."

Township Supervisor Ethel Knepp said that the manager's residence on the property will be retained, and that the township plans to employ an on-site manager. "We might not be able to make that happen right away," Knepp said, "but it's an important part of our long-term plan."

"The people of Hayes Township have proven over and over again that they want to establish a healthy balance between land development and land protection," Bailey said. "This new public park will be a tremendous resource for people who live in the township and those who come here to visit."

Bailey also noted that the previous owners of the Camp Sea-Gull property, the Schulman family, deserve a lot of credit for sticking with the partners through what ended up being a three-year process. "We wouldn't have the property to consider as a park site if the Schulmans had not provided good stewardship for the land," he said, "and the sale would not have been possible without their patience."

A written statement from the family reflected their sentiments on the sale: "Camp Sea-Gull has been part of the Schulman family since 1955, offering families and children the opportunity to experience our beautiful northern Michigan outdoors. That legacy can now continue indefinitely under the township's stewardship."

Hayes Township is planning for a June 7 Open House at Camp Sea-Gull. Look for an announcement with details later this spring.

Historic Camp Sea-Gull/courtesy Schulman Family



Closing the Gaps

KEY ADDITION TO PRESERVE COMPLEX CONNECTS TO NATIONAL FOREST LAND

A 40-acre addition to the Birge Preserve complex was recently purchased to add habitat and opportunities for trail expansion to this northern Lake Huron preserve.

“In the last couple of years, we have been collaborating with Clark Township officials, the Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce, US Forest Service, and other local partners to promote outdoor opportunities in the Les Cheneaux region,” said Tom Bailey, LTC’s executive director. “LTC currently owns 10 preserves in the area, and new trails have been developed at some of the larger preserves. Combined with other local, state, and federal protected lands and water trails, Les Cheneaux is a paradise for eco-tourism and paddling.”

Bailey explained that this most recent preserve expansion was desirable because it allows for the possibility of connecting preserve trails to federal forest trails (*see map below*).

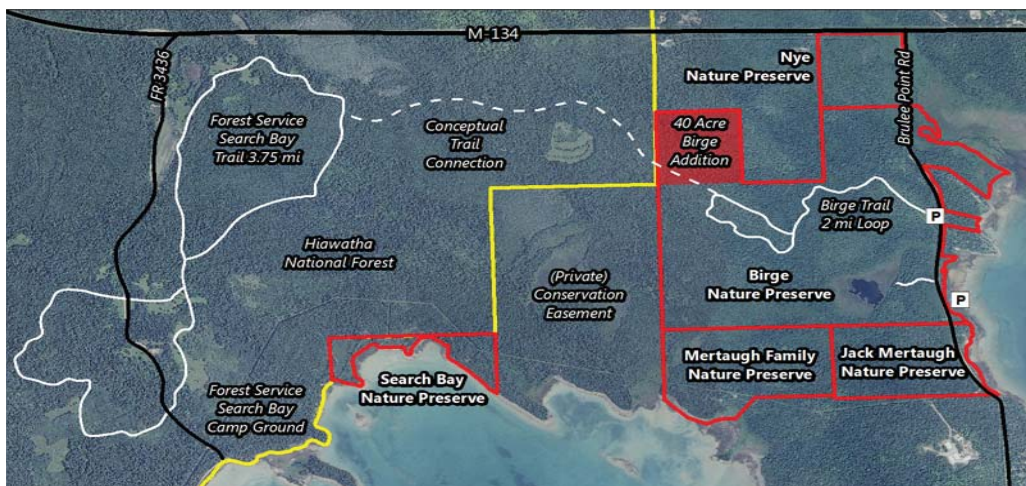
For the last couple of years, LTC board member John Griffin has voluntarily groomed the trails at the Birge/Mertaugh/Nye/Wallace Preserve complex. In addition, Tim DeWick has voluntarily kept the parking area plowed.

As a result, the preserve has been open year round for recreational enjoyment. But with only approximately three miles of trails, opportunities to expand the trails to link with the federal forest service trails to the west were sought.

“With this new addition, we will be exploring how we can best make this linkage occur,” said Charles Dawley, LTC’s stewardship/GIS specialist.



The black-throated blue warbler is one example of a neotropical migratory passerine that uses the northern Lake Huron shoreline for summer habitat.



The newest addition to the Birge Preserve complex is shown shaded in red above.

The preserve complex now includes a total of 570 acres as well as 1.5 miles of northern Lake Huron shoreline. This unique shoreline along with the island archipelago of the Les Cheneaux is an important stopover point for migratory neotropical songbirds. The region is known to be extremely rich in biodiversity and is described by the Michigan chapter of The Nature Conservancy to be one of the “last great places.”



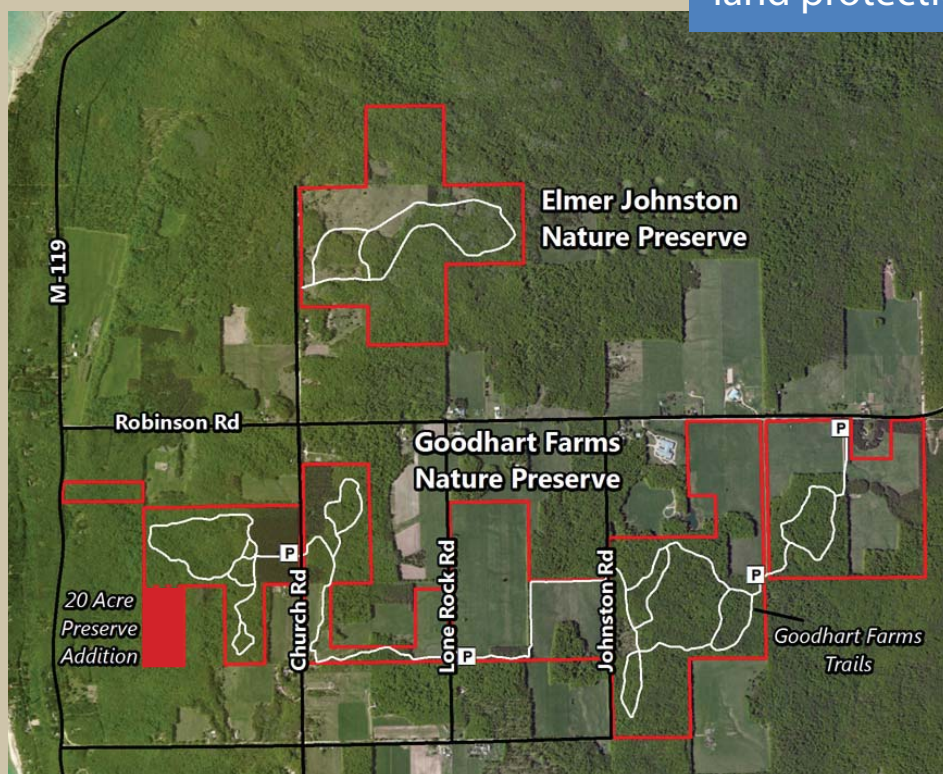
Rosen Family Preserve

Protecting Scenic M-119 Corridor

A 4-acre parcel with 1,000 feet of frontage along M-119 and 1,000 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline was recently donated to LTC as the Rosen Family Nature Preserve. The new preserve adds to the protection of the scenic heritage route. “This is an extremely sensitive and steep bluff and the preserve will protect both scenic and ecological features,” said Kieran Fleming, LTC director of land protection.

Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve Grows by 20 Acres

Thanks to assistance from Readmond Township, LTC recently purchased a 20-acre addition to the Goodhart Farms Preserve. The addition is a natural complement to existing protected land, adding wildlife habitat to the Conservancy's largest preserve in the Lower Peninsula (*see map to right*). Now at 685 acres, this preserve has become a local favorite during all seasons. With four parking areas, 7½ miles of trails, and 3½ miles of groomed ski and snowshoe trails, the property provides prime opportunities for a multitude of activities ranging from horseback riding to mountain biking. The original preserve was donated in 2002 by Ed and Maureen Mayne in the single largest donation ever given to Little Traverse Conservancy.



Thank you, Doug

NOTHING IS AS CERTAIN AS CHANGE, AND THE LTC OFFICE is undergoing several staff changes this season. Most notably and immediately, we are saying goodbye to Doug Fuller, the Conservancy's Director of Stewardship since late 2006. Doug is retiring, and his last day of employment will be March 31.

"Doug Fuller guided the Conservancy's stewardship program to higher levels of performance and professionalism," said Executive Director Tom Bailey. "He improved our stewardship planning process as a means for looking ahead, and our record-keeping and reporting for looking back and keeping track. He brought to his work a temperament ideally suited to the job - as my grandfather would say, 'Firm, fair, and friendly.' His commitment to the stewardship program and the Conservancy was unwavering and heartfelt. We will replace our Director of Stewardship, but we can never replace Doug Fuller."

Part of the northern Michigan conservation "family" for decades, before coming to work for LTC, Doug spent time working with SEE-North and the majority of his professional career was in water resources with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Over the years, Doug has gained a reputation as one of the most knowledgeable and trusted experts in our area on a variety of outdoor and environmental topics.

"I firmly believe that Doug Fuller knows more about the natural landscapes of the northern Michigan region than anyone!" said longtime Conservancy trustee and former chair Mark Paddock. "He is equally knowledgeable about the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems plus the glacial landforms that dominate our landscape. He has acquired this knowledge over the years

through his professional work and equally through his intense love of being outside fishing, skiing, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, hunting, and camping. He is an amazing guy, and my life has been enriched by knowing him and his work."

Conservancy trustee and past Stewardship chair Mike Cameron worked closely with Doug for several of his LTC years. "The natural order or rhythm of our environment is constantly being negatively impacted by human intrusion. The conservancy movement endlessly works to soften humanities' negative impact. Doug represents the very best of those who commit themselves to speak for nature in the form of leadership, hard work, and dedication. His years of service both to the Watershed Council and to Little Traverse Conservancy will be missed. I extend my best wishes to Doug and to Martha for a long and happy retirement. Nature need not worry. Doug lives his beliefs 24/7," Cameron said.

Upon Doug's departure, Kieran Fleming will serve the role of Director of Stewardship and Land Protection. Former AmeriCorps member Caitlin Donnelly was hired in January as a full-time Land Protection and Stewardship Specialist.



Finding Their Place Up North

CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROTECTS EMMET COUNTY LAND

WHEN JOHN AND MARY MERRILL'S KIDS WERE YOUNG, the family would take an annual trip to northern Michigan from their home in Columbus, Ohio, where both are employed at Ohio State University. In those early years, they would visit Mary's relatives who owned a home near Harbor Springs. Over time, the Merrills rented their own place and, as they fell in love with the area, started looking for their own property. A tip from a family friend from Columbus led them to discover a 40-acre parcel in Readmond Township, about 20 minutes north of Harbor Springs.

Originally part of a tree farm, the Merrill property includes remnant pines, but the remainder of the land is a diversity of habitats that range from open meadow and field to hardwoods, which are becoming more established. "We wanted to protect the property from development, preserve it as habitat, and pass it on to next generations," John said. "We live in central Ohio and we've seen some pretty nice countryside get chopped up into subdivisions. It keeps happening over and over again. Even though population pressures are different in northern Michigan, we have to take a stand now to protect it."

The Merrill easement property is adjacent to a five-acre parcel where they have created a homestead over the years. After purchasing the land in 1991, the Merrills camped with their

children for many years, using an outhouse and an outdoor kitchen. In 2009, the couple built a garage with a small apartment above it and today, John and Mary try to visit their land every 6-8 weeks year round with visits from their now grown children whenever possible. This time of year, cross country skiing is their favorite pastime. In the summer, the couple enjoy gardening - including a rain garden - and intend to plant native Michigan prairie plants in their meadow.

"Working with Ty (Ratliff) was great," John said when asked what he thought of the conservation easement process. "He patiently helped us work out our own reasons for why we did this, and LTC was very flexible with a lot of 'what-ifs' that we and our kids posed. This process was important for us because we do not yet live there, so it was often hard to see the implications of our decisions. In the end, we felt that we arrived at an agreement with which we were very happy, and that would make this work for our kids, grandkids, or any future owners, while still adhering to the basic principles of habitat preservation."

"One of the concerns that we would get from family and friends is that we were 'giving our property away' or that we were losing control of it, losing our personal rights as property owners," John added. "It was an educational experience for us as well as them to explain that this was not the case, and that we were in fact adding to the protection of our property and its habitat value for the community by keeping it intact. The easement conditions to us are guidelines for stewardship, not restrictions on our rights. You might say that we have embraced the LTC mission!"



John and Mary Merrill

A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement that allows a landowner to limit the type or amount of development on his or her property while retaining private ownership of the land. The Conservancy accepts the easement with 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. The land is not open to the public.

The Conservancy would like to thank the following new Friends and Benefactors or members who have increased their level of giving within the Friends or Benefactors level from November 15, 2013, to February 20, 2014.

Friends and Benefactors Businesses

Crooked Tree Breadworks

Individuals and Families

Mr. and Mrs. John Bissell
Erik and Ann Borgen
Robert and Lisa Bowman
Mr. and Mrs. David T. Buzzelli
Ceres Foundation
Mrs. Sam Cupp
James and Susan Doby
Larry Willis and Robyn Ellis
Mr. Andrew E. Farley
Mr. Devin Frazee
Mr. Digby Frazee
Trent Hodges and Family
James and Laura Hunt
Helen J. and Allen I. Hunting Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. David H. Irish
Martin and Patricia Jahn Foundation
Mrs. John C. Jansing
Jasam Foundation
Ms. Kay Jeffrey
Ms. Cathy Kalahar
Sarah and Dan Kay
Mr. and Mrs. Mason H. Lampton
Raoul and Janet LePage
Ric and Lisa Loyd
Mrs. Harry W. Mellen
Keith and Justine Miller
Al and Jean Moberly
Paul and Tracey Natke
Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. Pappas
Grant Morrow and Cordelia W. Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. David H. Roche
Ross and Mary Anne Roeder
Joanne Kelley and William Roney
Dr. William C. Scharf
Mrs. Bill Schwarz
Daryl and Ella Smith
Donald and Karen Stearns
Mr. and Mrs. James Surwillo
Mr. and Mrs. Michael VanLokeren
Dr. and Mrs. Steven Wang
Clay and Mary Jo Warner
Mrs. John L. Wessinger

New Contributing Members

Businesses

Michigan Outdoor Advertising
Sturgeon River Pottery



Membership

Individuals and Families

Maribeth Foltz and Peter Allegrina
Mr. Ted Anton
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Augustitus
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome E. Baracz
David and Robyn Barrie
Michael and Christine Bartlett
Michel and Marilyn Berrery
Andy and Mary Bielaczyc
Marc and Joanna Boeckl
Mrs. Joyce Boss
Mr. Roger D. Branton
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Braun II
Mr. and Mrs. W. Trevor Brazell
Holly and Norm Brown
Mr. Kenneth H. Buchanan
Ms. Debra Lee Campbell Coon
William and Jennifer Chope
Gary and Glenda Ciszewski
Ms. Karen C. Coppedge
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Courtney
Ms. Paige Crim
Mr. and Mrs. Raymo Dallavecchia Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. A. Council Darling III
Ms. Susan Darrow
Mr. and Mrs. John Day Jr.
Dennis and Kitty Delaney
John and Laura Dickinson
Terry M. Dupuis
Jeffrey and Patricia Ebling
Dep and Deborah Ewing
Mr. Terrance Filter
Andy and Sarah Forney
Mrs. Patty Forster
Mark and Patty Fralick
Ms. Mary E. Furseth
Mr. and Mrs. Howard K. Gandelot
Ms. Julia Gelinas
Mrs. Maryln Graham
Howard and Carolyn Gronow

Ronald and Cheryl Gulbranson
Bill Heeschen and Judy Gunderson
James and Veronica Haines
Jeffery and Jane Halstead
John Wieck and Betty Hirschman
Mrs. Betty Holen
Mr. Thomas J. Lewis and Alison Hollister
Reynold and Nelva Homan
Mrs. Elizabeth Howe
Mr. Nelson Howe
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Huard
Frances Hydon
Gib and Jennifer James
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Jung
Gregory Guyon and Nancy Kamieniecki
Chris Kasamis
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Kelly
Thomas and Kerry Kievit
Jeremy and Mignon Weber Kilar
Mr. and Mrs. John Kirila
Paul and Nancy Knapp
Mrs. Jo Anna Kolodziej
Glen and Rebecca Kruse
Kimberly Kihnke and Dan Laninga
Mr. Michael Lercel
Robert and Cherie Levy
Charlotte Koger and Samuel Lopresto
John McLeod and Josette Lory
Lower Shore Drive Property Owners Assn.
Mr. William M. Lynch
William M. Makinen
Mr. Robert Marshall
Dr. Julie Martinson
Ms. Lois Martinson
Mike and Pam Mazor
Tim and Debbie McAndrew
William C. McCaughrin PhD
Ms. Preston Lyon McGregor
James Iacino and Meghan McMahon
Ms. Ruthie Merrell

Mark and Penny Minick
John and Kebby Monaghan
Mr. Dominic Monterosso
Mr. Jerald Morgan
Daniel and Patricia Neumeyer
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard F. Nowak Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Paisley
Jonathan and Sally Parlow
Ms. Susan Perry
Karen L. Robertson and Steven Pflaum
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Rentrop
Jeffery B. and Amy Risinger
Mr. and Mrs. Gary H. Schleif
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher M. Searles
John and Laura Seck
Andrew and Andrea Siudara
Donald and Janeen Smith
Lisa Boyle and Bruce Smith
Wally and Betty Stansbury
Eugene and Barbara Steele
Ms. Marcia Steinke
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey K. Swallow
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Swears
Mr. and Mrs. John Talboys
Bill and Jean Thompson
Don and Susan Thurow
Mrs. Johanna Tibbetts
Ms. Loa Traxler
Ben and LaVaun Tumminello
Thomas and Theresa Tytar
Ms. Jacqueline Upham
Barbara Sugden and Ronald Vargason
Mr. Howard Vreeland
Norman and Karan Weinberg
Connie Shelton and Joseph Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Wood Jr.
James and Mary Zandee
James and Judith Zasadny
Christopher and Marsha Zingas
Ms. Martha Zuehlke

The Beaver Island Birding Trail

Beaver Islanders are demonstrating - once again - how their spot on the globe is truly an ecological gem. This winter, through a collaborative effort supported by numerous organizations, corporations, researchers, and residents, the Beaver Island Birding Trail website was launched. "Beaver Island has great public access to a wide variety of high quality habitats which host a rich array of migratory and nesting birds," said Pam Grassmick, the project's coordinator through the Beaver Island Association. "Over the past few years, we have discussed the potential of hosting a birding festival but recognized the huge personnel requirements and associated costs. A birding website seemed a natural solution. We worked with Kay Charter, executive director of Saving Birds Thru Habitat, and other birders to develop the Beaver Island Birding Trail." Visit www.beaverislandbirdingtrail.org.

"Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through successive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language." - Aldo Leopold



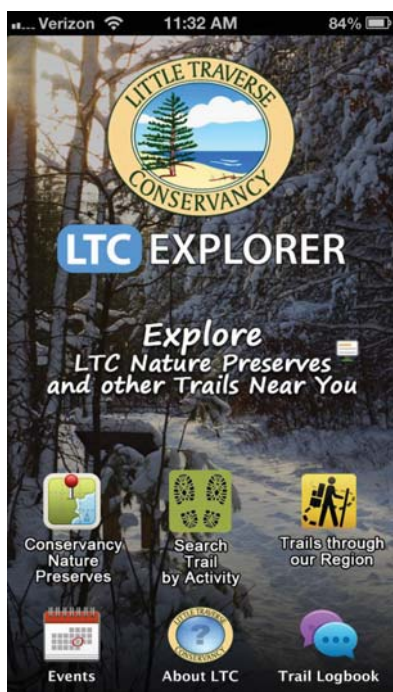
LTC Preserves Available for OPDMD Use

To conform with a recent federal law, LTC has developed policies allowing use of "other power-driven mobility devices" (OPDMDs) by individuals with mobility disabilities. OPDMD use is now allowed on 22 suitable nature preserves. Applications for using an OPDMD on our property are available at the Conservancy office. Users are also required to go through a short orientation, where they will be given a gate key (if applicable) and map, highlighting suitable trails, and given rules for use. Please contact us at 231.347.0991 with questions or for more information.



Chaboiganing Preserve and the Burt Lake Trail

Last fall, Burt Township was awarded \$11,200 through the Michigan Recreation Passport Grant program to construct a new parking area that will serve both the Burt Lake Trail and the Chaboiganing Nature Preserve. The parking area will accommodate 10 cars as well as school buses, greatly improving access to the Chaboiganing Preserve and the adjacent Colonial Point Memorial Forest. Construction is planned for later this year. These efforts are a continuation of LTC's partnership with the township and the Burt Lake Trail Committee in support of the trail, a portion of which goes through the Chaboiganing Preserve.



NATURE PRESERVE APP UPDATE New Features & New Trails

In addition to continually adding new LTC nature preserves to the app, our tech guru Charles Dawley has been also adding local trails such as the **North Country Trail** and the **Little Traverse Wheelway**. So far, there are more than 117 trailheads visible on the app. Join the more than 3,500 others who are using this tool to find the best preserves and trails to visit in northern Lower and eastern Upper Michigan.



iPhone



Android

Scan the QR codes above to download the free LTC Nature Preserve app, or search for "LTC Explorer" in the Apple app store or Google Play.

Black Hole Preserve Access

Following a season of assessing this now 120-acre preserve with a mile of Crooked Lake and channel shoreline, a new parking area on the east side has been established. Beginning in spring, 2014, staff will begin mowing a flat grassy area off of Sunset Boulevard. The extent of a trail system, if any, is still under consideration, but in the meantime visitors and neighbors are welcome to wander around and explore the ponds, streams, grassy meadows, lowland conifer swamp, and the shoreline of the Black Hole and Pickerel-Crooked Channel.



THE STEWARDSHIP PROCESS

Volunteer Completes Hymas Woods Preserve Inventory

Volunteer Glen Matthews recently conducted a resource inventory of the Hymas Woods Nature Preserve which was donated in 2012 from Scott and June Hymas. Since 2009, Glen has conducted 21 ecological inventories of various Conservancy preserves. "As a retired wildlife biologist, Glen does an excellent job documenting habitats, covertypes, and wildlife signs helping us better understand and manage our preserves," said Preserve Specialist Mike Lynch. "His contribution to our knowledge of these properties is invaluable."

LTC Hosts Regional Stewardship Gathering

LTC again hosted the fall gathering of stewardship staff from land trusts throughout the Lower Peninsula. The meeting was held at the cabin on the new Reed's Pigeon River Preserve in Cheboygan County. As such, one of the discussion topics was maintaining and using structures on nature preserves. Numerous other discussion topics were covered, ranging from volunteers and seasonal staff to the use of Go Pro Cameras and other technology for documenting preserve use.



Kestrel Season is Approaching

American kestrel nest box monitoring season is almost upon us! If you are involved as a monitor already, then get your tools, observation sheet, and camera ready. If you are interested in the program, we still need monitors and have a few more boxes to place this spring. Contact Jim and Wendy Bean, volunteer program coordinators, at jimbean@utmi.net or check out our info page at www.landtrust.org.

Partnering to 'Sustain our Great Lakes'



Northern Ring-Necked Snake

Eric Ellis, Conservation Resource Alliance

In 2013 LTC partnered with the Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) of Traverse City for their Sustain our Great Lakes (SOGL) Grant project titled *Beaver Island Archipelago Invasive Species Initiative*. SOGL is public-private partnership administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with the mission to sustain, restore, and protect fish, wildlife, and habitat in the Great Lakes basin.

Through the grant, experts were contracted to conduct surveys for rare plants, invasive and exotic plants, birds, reptiles, and amphibians on all five of LTC's Beaver Island preserves, many conservation easement properties (with owner's permission), as well as other types of protected lands. These surveys identified:

- 24 different types of plant communities
- 7 rare plant species
- 16 invasive species of concern
- 81 culturally significant plants
- Floristic Quality Indices for each community type (the conifer swamp on the Little Sand Bay Preserve ranked highest!)
- 17 species of herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) including four designated as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN--northern leopard frog, blue-spotted salamander, northern ring-necked snake, and smooth green snake)
- 57 species of breeding birds, including 8 SGCN species.

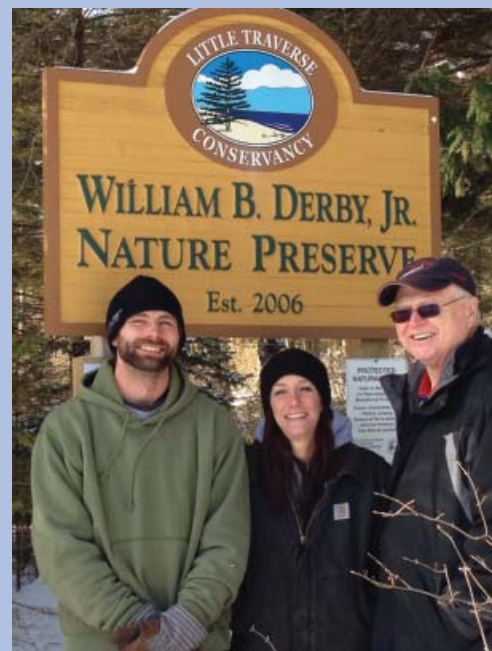
In 2014, recommendations for invasive plant control and habitat protection and restoration will be implemented. More information is available on CRA's website, www.rivercare.org.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Preserve Monitors and Trail Stewards

Thank you to more than 200 dedicated Preserve Monitors and Trail Stewards who volunteered a total of 1,059 reported hours on 140 preserves in 2013! These long-term volunteers help LTC maintain our trail systems and make sure that our preserve boundaries and rules are adequately respected. Their time last year is valued at more than \$10,000!

This winter, our hard-working volunteer trail groomers and snow plowers have put in extra duty at a few key preserves providing winter access to the community during this high volume snow season. These volunteers spent hundreds of hours during extra cold months, enabling hundreds of community members to explore and enjoy Conservancy winter trails.



Volunteers Jeremy Davis, Brandy Todd, and John Griffin have donated dozens of hours to making the Derby Preserve trail useable this winter.

Spring Work Days

Offield Preserve Plant & Habitat Survey - Emmet Co.

Saturday May 17 11am-3pm

Volunteers are needed to help identify areas of good native spring wildflower diversity and abundance throughout the Offield Preserve. We will document the type, location, and habitat of invasive plants as well as wildflowers with the goal of preserving the best wildflower sites in the future. Please bring good hiking shoes, a GPS if you own one, a water bottle and lunch. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Rogers Family Homestead Preserve Clean-Up - Charlevoix Co.

Saturday, May 24 9am-4pm

This scenic homesteading site along the Jordan River is a great place to enjoy your day and help conservation efforts at the same time. We will be removing an old farm dump and preparing trails for the upcoming hiking season. Many hands make light work! Please bring a lunch, but snacks and refreshments will be provided. Also bring your favorite work gloves and wear sturdy shoes.

Trail Building at Reed's Pigeon River Preserve - Cheboygan Co.

Saturday, May 31 9am-3pm

Join Stewardship staff at the new Reed's Pigeon River Preserve in Cheboygan County. This preserve is 109 acres and includes 4,400 feet of frontage along the Pigeon River, a designated Blue Ribbon Trout Stream. Help us create trails to the river, remove existing deer blinds, and mark our permanent trail system with new map signs. Snacks and refreshments will be provided, but please bring a sack lunch to enjoy on the preserve's cabin deck, overlooking the beautiful scenery. Please wear sturdy work shoes and bring work gloves if you have them.

Boardwalk Building at Hailand & Helstrom Preserves - Emmet Co.

Saturday, June 21 9am-3pm

Help us prepare to build boardwalks for this new trail so that it is accessible in the wettest of seasons. Wear good work shoes (and bring muck boots if you have them in case the ground is wet) and bring work gloves if you have a favorite pair. Snacks and refreshments will be provided, but please bring a sack lunch to enjoy on



Want to know when we're having a work day ?

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping once in a while with various stewardship projects. These projects are a great option if you want to volunteer without a long-term or significant time commitment beyond one day here and there, as suits your schedule. We have work that you can do in a group or as an individual. Group work bees can also be a great way to involve your business employees, build teamwork among staff, and give back in a meaningful way. Please call our office or sign up at www.landtrust.org for our work day emails and we will keep you in the loop when we have one-time stewardship projects on nature preserves.



Looking for Earth Day/Week/Month Activities?

Earth Week Plus Northern Michigan has put together a wonderful month-long schedule of activities, workshops, and presentations to celebrate Earth Day all the way through April and May! Kicking off with their expo on Saturday, April 12, at the Cheboygan High School, visit www.earthweekplus.org for their full schedule. LTC educators will be presenting again this year.

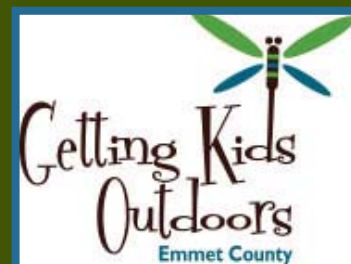
New All About Birds Discovery Box

A new Discovery Box will soon be available for loan to teachers to offer hands-on and fun science through the study of northern Michigan Birds. Five resource kits from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and additional materials make it easy for teachers to integrate it into their schedule. Included kits are *BirdSleuth: Discovery Birds!* for grades 1-4; *BirdSleuth: Discovering Bird Diversity* for grades 5-8; *Science Investigators Kit for Homeschoolers*; *Afterschool Investigators: Nature Detectives* for grades 3-8; and *Most Wanted Birds* for grades 4-8. The kits include step-by-step instructions for completing each lesson and resource materials, which may include posters, DVDs, CD-ROMs, laminated cards, games, quizzes, scavenger hunts, trivia sheets and more. In addition, several books, a DVD, feather examples, egg replicas, nest examples, field guides and two pairs of binoculars are included. This Discovery Box is made possible through generous donations and assistance of LTC volunteer and bird enthusiast Mary Trout.

New Animal Home Discoveries

Preschool Program Now Offered

Young children are fascinated by animals and curious about where they live. This program will tap into that enthusiasm and engage preschoolers in outdoor discoveries as they learn about northern Michigan animals and search for their homes. The 45-minute program will include a story, outdoor exploration, and activities that encourage observation, engage the senses and promote enjoyment of nature. It will be available for the upcoming spring program season along with other programs listed below. Full spring program descriptions are available at www.landtrust.org and a complete list is below left.



3rd Annual Spring Kickoff at Pond Hill Farm

Save the date! On April 26 from 1-4 pm we'll be offering all the activities, food, music, and door prizes you've enjoyed in the past, in addition to a few new offerings. Look for more info on our website, Facebook page, and in future newsletters. Each of the last two years we've welcomed more than 300 people to this event. Let's keep it growing! Pond Hill Farm is the perfect place to get your kids outdoors.

www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org

2014 Spring Registration: April 7-18

2014 programs run from April 29-June 6

SPRING PROGRAMS

- Animal Home Discoveries (Pre-K)
- To Be a Tree (Pre-K)
- Sharpening the Senses (K-1)
- Healthy Habitats (1-3)
- Buggin' Out (1-3)
- Everybody Eats (1-3)
- Purely Plants (3-4)
- Dirt Makers (3-5)
- Life in Water (3-5)
- Spring Sprouts (4-6)
- Nature Study (5-8)
- Orienteering (6-12) *Fall & Spring
- Spring Navigation (5-12)





Sturgeon Bay Dunes/Andrew McFarlane

Memorials

The following gifts were given between November 22, 2013, to February 27, 2014.

Daniel Adams

Larry and Julie Burgess

David A. Armour

Matthew and Anneke Myers

Carolyn Berry

Mr. and Mrs. J. David Cummings
Ms. Virginia McCoy
Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Hightower
Mrs. Richard M. Ross
Mr. and Mrs. Allen W. Whittemore

Floyd Bowers

Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger

Tom Boyer

Sam and Mary Lou Supernaw

Charles D.K. Brown

The Barlow Family

Ward Case

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Hoster

Mary Conrad

Dr. David G. Anderson

Kenneth Conn

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest S. Cornwell Jr.

Robert T. Cox

Peter Harvey and Barbara Cox

Vivian and Kent Cravens

Mr. Kent Phelan
Ms. Phoebe P. Ruess
Mr. Tim Phelan

J. Oliver Cunningham

Mr. and Mrs. Allen W. Whittemore

Stanley Dickinson

Ms. Meredith M. Arneil

Bea Schober and Shirley Droste

Warren and Ann Watkins

Ann Ellwanger

Alan and Maureen Barkley
George and Eva Goscinski
Mrs. Susan Lightfoot
Bob and Helen Skriba

Richard Fuller

Ms. Janet Mancinelli

Kaethe (Kate) Haddox

Mark and Marcia Haddox

Kathleen Hannah

Richner & Richner, LLC

William K. Howenstein

Detroit Friends Meeting
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Mary Barlow Sienkiewicz
Mrs. Carol S. Smith

George W. James

Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Bruening
Mrs. Mary Driggs
Gayle and Chip Everest
Mrs. Robert A. Files
John and Peggy Graham
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Horner
Ms. Virginia McCoy
Mr. and Mrs. Paxson Offield
Mr. and Mrs. C. Mark Pirrung
Mrs. James M. Quinlan
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude Jr.

Patsy Ketterer

Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger
Mac Boelens and Mary Upton

Jeanne Marie LaFontaine

Ms. Ann Cunningham
Mr. Robert Laliberte
Ronald and Sandra Marshall
William and Susan Parker
Thomas and Vickie Ann Poremba
Mrs. Marilyn Stower Weizel
Jerry and M.J. Waechter

Robert Landick, MD

Mrs. Gerald L. Park

Peter E. Lanier

Ed, Kathy and Alicia Gansz
Ms. Nan Jackson

David Lesh

Robert and Mary Milne

Jutta Letts

David and Genny Letts

Sinikka Lindholm

Dick and Veroneze Strader

John McKay

Birchwood Association of Mullett Lake

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Mr. Kirk Munroe

Carol Murphy

Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Godfrey
and Family

Diane Osborn

Mrs. Barbara Bohls Graham

Ruth Paddock

Dr. and Mrs. John H. Tanton

Edward Perry

Mrs. Susan Perry

Billy and Susy Phelan

Mr. Kent Phelan
Ms. Phoebe P. Ruess
Mr. Tim Phelan

William Phelan

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Phelan

Allen and Mary Beth Soffer & Family
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The Robison Family

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Dorothy Young

Birchwood Association of
Mullett Lake

In honor of...

Eliece Aiman

Ms. Nora Hiatt

John Baker

Josh and Molly Baker

Ian R.N. Bund

Emily Donnelly and
Richard C. Bruder

Susan Causley

Ms. Linda Heller

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Dulak and Kurt Erleben**

The Employees of Bay Pines
Veterinary Clinic

John and Mary Merrill

Ms. Lydia Merrill

Diane Morand

Grant and Laura Karnes

Paul Nowak

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**The wedding of Georgie
Richner and Bill Solomon**

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Frederick Sanquist

Daniel and Pamela Sanquist
Ms. Erika Sanquist

**The wedding of Matt and
Loren Woehrmann**

Ms. Ruth O'Neill

Fay Buhl's 80th Birthday

Mrs. William Barnes III

*"In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds
of weather inside of 24 hours." —Mark Twain*

slow retreat...

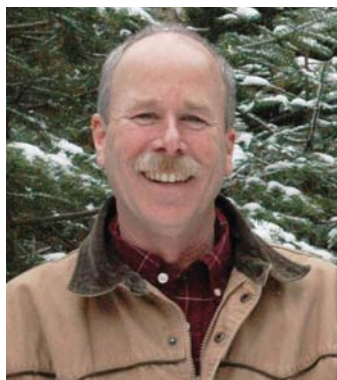
North Point Natural Area Charles Dawley

Wish List

- 2.5 hp, 25-30 gallon portable air compressor
- Contractor-style wheelbarrow
- Gas powered post hole digger for sign installation
- 18' dual axle equipment trailer
- Back blade or box scraper attachment for the tractor
- Dump trailer
- 5' X 9' utility trailer

Reflections... *Winter, Spring, and Onward*

...Tom Bailey



In the heavens, some planets end their apparent retrograde motion while others begin it as the last sliver of the waning moon fades into a new lunar cycle. What would our ancestors, in places like Stonehenge, be making of all of this?

In the air, relentlessly cold winds blow across the North and snow continues to fall. How did our great-great

grandparents handle it before central heating, down jackets, and polarfleece?!

Winter. Each time familiar yet each time a new experience. In our cities and villages, workers deal with frozen water mains and other problems brought on by the cold. In the woods, fields, and fens of our nature preserves, some animals sleep through it all while others struggle to stay warm and survive. On many people's faces frustration is evident, brought on by the unrelenting winter weather.

None the less, we know that spring is not far away. The stars of winter are whirling on, and the stars of spring are emerging. Daylight pushes back the darkness and clouds give way to sun and starlight. And just as slumbering animals in their dens prepare to emerge with new life, and seeds lying dormant in the frozen ground hold within them new grass, new trees, and new blooms, in our hearts there burns that flickering glimmer of hope.

The turning of winter to spring is not just a metaphor for life, it is life. As we watch the sun move northward and see the days grow longer; as we welcome the stars that portend warm days and spring floods; as we see the animals awaken from yet another sleep for yet another season, we connect with timelessness. It is ever-changing and yet the same. How many people over how many lifetimes have looked down at frozen ground with frustration, yet looked up to the growing light with hope for the warmth that will surely come? How

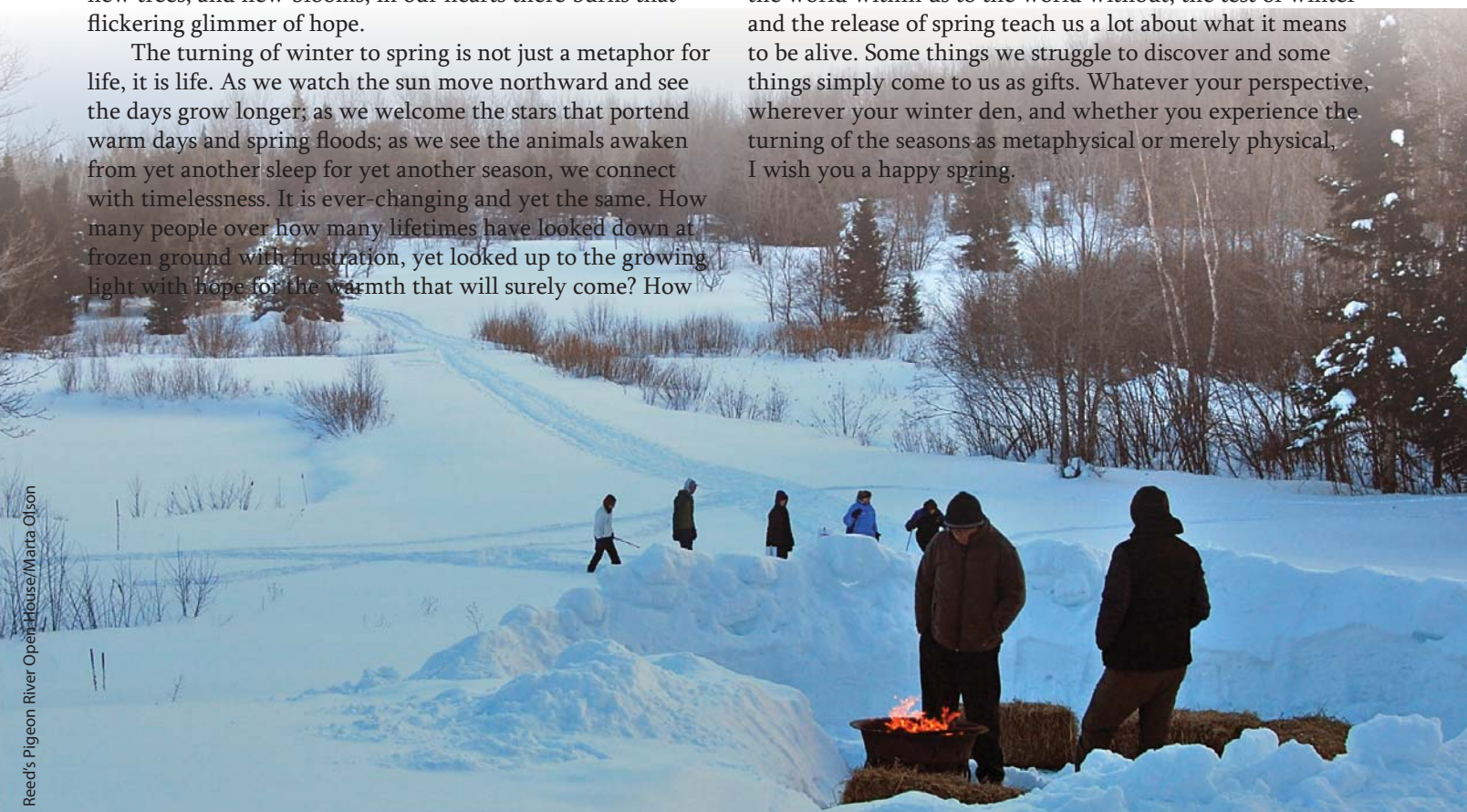
many winters have led into how many springs? How shall it be, as JRR Tolkien had one of his heroes muse, "when winter comes without a spring that I shall ever see?" We wonder, and yet we know, because we have seen them come and go.

I love the winter because it brings us spring. I embrace the cold because it helps us appreciate warmth. And I love the turning of the seasons because it reminds us that the constancy depends on change. As we watch the seasons come and go, the stars whirl on and the cycles of life ebb and flow, we can wander in heart and mind to faraway places and ponder profound questions—or we can simply look about us and appreciate what's there.

From a clear sky come tiny snowflakes that sparkle like diamonds in brilliant sunlight. Sometimes it's just as well to forget things like humidity and condensation, and simply appreciate the sparkling brilliance of diamond-flakes on a sunny, frigid day. It's fun to marvel at the world turned upside-down through the lens of a drop of melt-water. It's a delight to make snow-angels or simply look about and admire the beauty of winter, even as it gives way to spring.

After all, what good it is to understand the science of nature if can't at the same time embrace the feeling of it with our soul? What does it mean to "save" the land if we fail to savor it, as well? As the stern test of winter eases and we feel the thaw coming on, how nice to welcome "spring fever" and the giddiness that comes with release from the icy grip of the cold.

From macro to micro, from insight to eyesight, and from the world within us to the world without, the test of winter and the release of spring teach us a lot about what it means to be alive. Some things we struggle to discover and some things simply come to us as gifts. Whatever your perspective, wherever your winter den, and whether you experience the turning of the seasons as metaphysical or merely physical, I wish you a happy spring.



Reed's Pigeon River Open House/Marta Olson

thank you...

- Marta Olson, Todd Petersen, Frank Solle, and Gary Osterbeck for sharing amazing photography.
- Mary Stewart Adams for her star stories at the Reed's Pigeon River Nature Preserve Open House in January.
- Dan Myers and Matt Claucherty (AmeriCorps) from Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council for co-leading a Winter River Ecology field trip at Reed's Pigeon River Open House in January.
- Glen Matthews for co-leading a Winter Wildlife Tracking field trip at Reed's Pigeon River Open House in January and for assessing the resource features on our new Hymas Woods Nature Preserve.
- Josh Raese for donating chainsaw chaps to our stew department.
- Jim Scollin for helping prepare the trails and cabin at Reed's Pigeon River Open House in January and other various tasks at that preserve this winter.
- Volunteer parking lot plowers Tim DeWick (Birge), Carl Fosmore (Bubbling Springs, Susan Creek), and Ron Oesterreicher (Seven Springs).
- Volunteer trail cleaners and groomers John Griffin (Birge, Derby), Dan Mann (Driggers), Forrest Neff, Hannah Neff, and Andrew Dawley (Goodhart Farms) and Todd Wright (The Hill).
- Ashley Moerke and Chris Scherwinski for helping resolve a user conflict at the Round Island Point Preserve.
- Liane Hagerman and Tammy Dornenberg for help planning for parking and expanded trails at the Watson Preserve.
- Kable Maxwell for working on repairs to the deck and walkway at the LTC office.
- Jason Brabbs for preparing a 2013 summary photo slideshow.
- Bob Speeter for help removing deer blinds at Banwell.
- Bluegreen Corporation volunteers for donating their time and materials in building seven Kestrel nest boxes.
- Bill Olstrom for installing boundary markings at the Charles M. Taylor III and Olstrom Family Nature Preserves.
- Betty Trippe for donating a garden cart.
- Pam Grassmick for her collaboration on a new Beaver Island property acquisition.
- GIS interns Libby Benjamin and Kristina Brown for updating preserve maps this winter.
- George and Jan Jury and Dave and Muffie McCauley for hosting the Greenwood snowshoe and ski field trip, and for providing treats for all of the attendees.
- Bev Warner for helping with a winter mailing.
- Tammy Meyers for helping with data/marketing information web uploading.
- Mary Trout for significant and continued work with the family birding programs and new bird box.

LTC Seeks 2014 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 land trust field.



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 for a link to a full description and application. Applications must be received by March 21, 2014.



Tree Face - taken by Petoskey St. Francis Middle Schooler at McCune Nature Preserve - February, 2014

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and event updates!

Little Traverse Conservancy, Inc.

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Harbor Springs, MI 49740-9469

231.347.0991

www.landtrust.org

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Conway, MI 49722

Permit No. 908



SPRING 2014 Community Field Trips

No charge for these programs. Pre-registration required
by calling 231.347.0991 or online at www.landtrust.org.



Explore the Birge Preserve, Mackinac Co.

Friday, May 2

10am-noon

Join LTC staff Mike Lynch for a guided outing at the Birge Preserve in Cedarville. Look down for signs and tracks of wildlife and look up for sights and sounds of abundant birdlife. Enjoy the spring air as you walk the two miles of trail at this 335-acre eastern UP Preserve. Outing will either be a hike or snowshoe depending upon conditions the week of the event.

Riverine Mammals

Andreae Preserve, Cheboygan Co.

Saturday, May 3

10am-noon

Explore this beautiful preserve near Afton with extensive hiking trails along the Pigeon River. Learn about beaver, otter and mink activity, their river habitats, and enjoy hiking upland trails on both the Andreae Preserve and the Banwell Preserve.

Family Bird and Nature Program -

Spring Migrants and River Life

Bear River Recreation Area, Emmet Co.

Saturday, May 3

10-11:30am

Explore the Bear River Recreation Area with expert birder Mary Trout as nature is awakening from a long winter. We'll search for warblers, catbirds, thrushes and other returning migrants among the shrubs and trees. We'll also check out the river for water birds, turtles, fish and other river critters and put together a nesting material hanger for you to take home for the courting birds in your neighborhood. Binoculars and field guides will be available during the event, but please bring your own if you have them. Meet at Mineral Well Park Shelter.

Trillium Walk

Goodhart Farms Preserve, Emmet Co.

Saturday, May 17

10am-noon

Join botanist and LTC volunteer Andy Reyburn on this spring hike to see the exquisite blankets of

Trillium unique to northern Michigan. The woods and trails of Goodhart Farms offer outstanding wildflowers this time of year, and hopefully we will hit the peak Trillium bloom. Meet at the Lone Rock Road parking lot.

Spring Time Discoveries: Flowers, Frogs and More Spring Lake Park, Emmet Co.

Saturday, May 31

10-11am

(For 3-5 year olds -Siblings welcome.)

Spring is an exciting time to explore outdoors as nature comes alive after a long winter! This program will have your knee high naturalist experiencing nature and signs of spring by visiting discovery stations and going on a sensory hike. They'll use their senses, meet a real frog, learn some secrets of flowers and plant a seed to take home.

Spring Birding

Ransom Preserve, Charlevoix Co.

Saturday, June 7

8-10am

Join LTC and the Petoskey Regional Audubon Society (PRAS) on a birding field trip at the Charles A. Ransom Nature Preserve near Charlevoix. The preserve offers a delightful mixture of habitats, which allows it to support a wide diversity of bird species. Scarlet Tanagers and Indigo Buntings have been regularly spotted in the past. Great-crested Flycatcher nested at this location last summer. Rose-breasted Grosbeak, various woodpeckers, various Sparrows and even some Warblers are all possibilities to see. Plan to spend approximately two hours hiking through meadow, woods, and forest edge trails. Darrell Lawson, current president of the PRAS, will lead the trip and help both to locate birds and explain their behavior.

Geocaching Adventure

Darnton Family Preserve, Charlevoix Co.

Saturday, June 14

10am-noon

Get the kids outside exploring the woods and trails with a purpose. Learn new skills with the GPS unit or enhance your knowledge while searching for these hidden treasures in small groups. Please bring your own GPS unit if you have one, or try your smartphone.