



Barb Hysell looking for agates on the beach before it became a preserve. (Dogs must now be on a leash.)



Spring 2015
Vol. 37 No. 1
www.landtrust.org

Barb's Beach



photos by John Hysell

When Dr. John Hysell and his wife Barb purchased 16 acres of Lake Superior shore land near the tip of the Whitefish Peninsula, they planned for it to be an investment. Yet over the last decade, they grew very fond of this little slice of heaven, which includes 573 feet of agate beach. And with market values stagnating in that part of the state, the Hysells recently chose to donate the land as a nature preserve instead of selling it. "We feel like it is a legacy to everyone for their enjoyment," John said. "It feels very good to know that we can continue to visit it, but it is open for others now as well."

The beach is a spectacular location for viewing ore boats traveling to and from the Soo locks. The woods behind the beach are mostly composed of mature red pines with blueberries sprinkled among the undergrowth.

Barb's Beach may be one of LTC's less visited or promoted preserves, but it will certainly serve as a place for quiet reflection, wildlife viewing, and observing Lake

Superior in all of its power and splendor.

Both Barb and John are avid photographers and regularly travel to the Upper Peninsula to pursue their hobby. "Typically, we spend hours at the beach and then go up to Whitefish Point for birding and photography," John explains. Each has won awards in wildlife photo competitions. The photo of a cross fox was captured by John just a mile south of the beach. "It is the only cross fox I've ever seen in my life," he noted. (A cross fox is a color variant of the red fox, *Vulpes vulpes*, typified with a dark stripe running down the back that intersects with another stripe running across the shoulders.)

The couple attributes their love of nature to childhood years spent in the country and outdoors. "We describe ourselves as 'country,' not 'country club,'" John laughs.

With John's recent retirement from his pathology practice in Midland, the Hysells look forward to continued explorations of northern Michigan and beyond.





Barney's Lake Preserve/Todd Parker

2014 in Review

STEWARDSHIP

Conservancy staff and volunteers added 4.64 miles of new trails to its now 106 total trail miles. With abundant volunteer and donor support, benches were added to three preserves, a platform and interpretive signs were placed at the Fochtman Preserve overlooking Round Lake in Emmet County, and a new platform was constructed off of the Northwestern State Trail leading into the Hailand Nature Preserve. Our 2014 AmeriCorps Stewardship Technician, Greta Jankoviak, worked for six months spearheading volunteer work days, coordinating the completion of a project at the Michigan Wildlife Foundation Preserve, and spending nearly 1,000 hours on a variety of work projects.

FUNDRAISING & MEMBERSHIP

Conservancy membership and fundraising both grew in 2014. Last year, members donated \$16,990 more than the year before for a total of \$850,190. The number of active members increased from 3,887 in 2013 to 3,917 in 2014.

LAND PROTECTION

The Conservancy completed 25 land protection projects protecting more than 1,048 acres of land in 2014. These projects included approximately \$8 million in land or conservation easement value, 3.1 miles of water frontage along lakes, rivers, and streams, and more than 2.8 miles of scenic road frontage. Nine new nature preserves were created and additions were purchased or donated for 12 existing nature preserves across the organization's five-county service area.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Conservancy staff reached more than 4,000 students from 202 classes through the school year programs. More than 30 schools participated, visiting 18 different natural area locations. Forty-eight programs reached 431 young people through summer adventure, junior, and knee-high naturalist programs. A new environmental education endowment was established at the Conservancy in 2014. The primary goal of the fund is to develop projects and programs for high school and college-aged students, and additional endowment donations are sought.

Little Traverse Conservancy has now protected 51,461 acres of land in its five-county service area. This includes nearly 200 nature preserve management areas, 246 conservation easements on privately-owned properties, and 77 projects that were transfers or assists with local units of government. Together, these lands are valued at \$159,540,670.

The New Philip J. Braun South Nature Preserve

Love to fly fish? You will be particularly happy to hear about the new Philip J. Braun South Preserve. At 32 acres, the preserve includes 1,500 feet of Maple River frontage and 660 feet along US-31 south of Pellston. The new preserve adds to only a small handful of other opportunities for the public to easily access this Blue Ribbon Trout Stream.

In 2011, the J.A. Woollam Foundation enabled the Conservancy to purchase the first Braun Preserve, located just outside the village of Pellston. This second preserve by the same name was created to further honor a cherished friend of the Woollam family who loved the sport of fly fishing.

"The original preserve location is a wonderful tribute to a very special person, Philip J. Braun. Phil fly fished (dry fly only) the Maple River from one end to the other," said John Woollam. "However, his favorite stretch was upstream from the bridge on Brutus Road. There he would enter the stream and spend the day working his way upstream to the old iron bridge at Maple River Road, where he would often get out of the stream. The new part of the Braun Preserve includes his favorite fishing section." In addition to the Woollam Foundation gift, LTC received a grant from the Wenger Foundation. While it supports a variety of projects in many locations, the Wenger Foundation has a special interest in supporting projects along the Maple River and within its watershed.

According to Larry Hull of the Wolverine Fly Fishing Journal, "Come early summer, a certain number of browns (brown trout) from Burt Lake migrate to the cooler Maple River waters. A tough quarry, indeed, but certainly catchable to the fisherman that is willing to experiment with different techniques, think out-of-the-box, and persist."

Extending between both Emmet and Cheboygan counties, the Maple River empties into Maple Bay on Burt Lake. "The preservation of this forested riparian



Brown Trout

corridor not only protects the water quality of the river — it also provides a great place to hike, fish, or explore," said Ty Ralfliff, senior land protection specialist for the Conservancy.

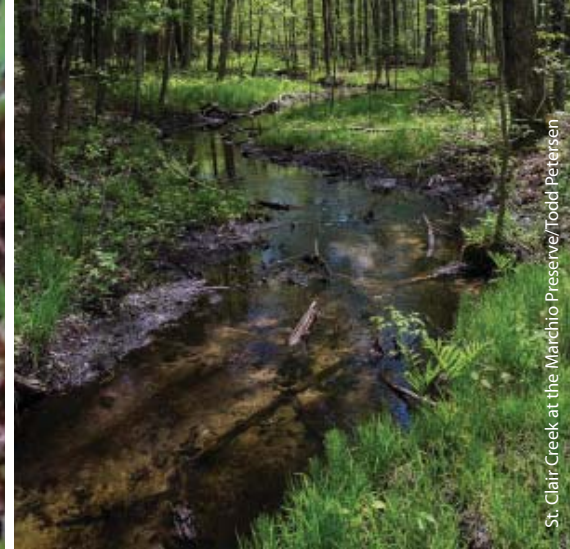


The new Philip J. Braun South Preserve includes 1,500 feet along the Maple River. Access can be found between Brutus and Pellston off of US-31.





Round-leaved sundew



St. Clair Creek at the Marchio Preserve/Todd Petersen



Yellow lady's slipper

The new Joseph and Ingeborg Marchio Nature Preserve

In every community, there are special places that even though privately owned, have been shared, studied, and admired by others. In Charlevoix County, the Marchio Fen is one such land known for its rich diversity and simple beauty. Now through the generosity and wishes of the landowner and support from additional donors, the Marchio Fen has officially become the Joseph and Ingeborg Marchio Nature Preserve.

The 40-acre fen captured the attention of nature lovers years ago. Wetland sections of the property are dominated by northern white cedar and characterized as “northern peatlands,” one type of fen. Three species of orchids have been found: Twayblade orchid, Showy lady slipper, and Yellow lady slipper. St. Clair Creek flows through the land, and the mix of ecosystems provides outstanding wildlife habitat for deer, red fox, coyote, raccoon, mink, and skunk.

Ty Ratliff, LTC senior land protection land specialist, credits

JoAnne Beemon of the former Charlevoix County Land Conservancy for supporting this project for many years and encouraged LTC to become involved.

“Over the years, the Marchio Fen was the loveliest of land preservation projects,” Beemon said. “Ingeborg Marchio is such a beautiful person. She spoke of her love for family, flowers, and painting. She gave us permission to go into the fen and I would call her to tell her about the orchids and our new discoveries.

“The first time I went into the fen in July of 1993, we parked at the old farmhouse, waded through grass and pasture, over blossoming wild strawberries, and entered the dense thicket surrounding the fen. Black, soggy earth sucked at our shoes as we struggled forward. Suddenly, the tangle of trees opened and we found ourselves in a bright, open, wet meadow thick with nodding Cottongrass and hundreds of hundreds of Yellow and Showy lady's slippers. The quiet, the sweet clean smell of the stream, meandering through mats of moss, the tiny Sundew, and the sweet song of the Sparrow silenced us and made us stand still in wonder,” Beemon added.

Other than removing an old building, current stewardship plans are minimal, with the primary goal of habitat preservation.



The Fen

A place of quiet beauty
Where the sundew grows.
And the showy lady's slipper
With its blush of rose.

The mosses cushion our footfalls
As we walk carefully,
And we hear the Whitethroat singing
His “Old Sam Peabody.”

Twinflower, twayblade,
Tamarack and fern,
Cranberry, spruce
(and many more to learn!)

This is the Garden
Of the Lord,
And we are to tend it
According to his word.

Liz of Antrim
July 1997

“My name is Ingeborg Marchio. My late husband Joe and I purchased this property in September of 1973 because it was such a beautiful piece of land. We always enjoyed our times spent there during the summers. I have many fond memories of hunting for morels, picking apples, painting or sketching wildflowers and just enjoying nature. I wish we could have been there more often. As a tribute to Joe, I am pleased that I had the opportunity to work with the Little Traverse Conservancy in establishing this property as the Joseph & Ingeborg Marchio Nature Preserve. I hope it will bring joy to all nature lovers, young and old, for generations to come. I look forward to visiting the preserve in the Spring.”



Ingeborg and Joe Marchio

PARKING & TRAILS ADDED TO COMMUNITY COMPLEX

"This latest acquisition was highly desired to allow us to expand a trail system that will now travel through more than 100 acres," said Kieran Fleming, the Conservancy's director of stewardship and land protection. "This preserve complex is available for the communities located to the north and west and also by employees of the business complex located off of M-119 near Griffin Arena." See box to right for details about an upcoming work day to clear trails at the new preserve.

Join Conservancy staff to clear new trails at the Schott Preserve. We will supply trail clearing tools, snacks, and water. For more details or to sign up to help, please contact Mike Lynch at 231.347.0991.



NEAR BOYNE CITY

An aerial photograph of Lake Charlevoix. A red rectangular box is drawn over a portion of the shoreline, enclosing a residential area. The text "Gabos Family Preserve" is written in a white, serif font within this box. The lake's surface is dark blue, and the surrounding land is green with trees and some buildings.



wildlife photos by Lynn Walters-Fraze

The *new* Elbert Family Nature Preserve

Charlie and Jane Elbert credit Charlie’s father, Robert, for the fact that they now live so connected to the trees and wildlife of northern Michigan. “He is the one who brought the family north, and every day we get up and feel very blessed to live here,” they said. For the Elberts, “here” is on Pickerel Lake, just a stone’s throw from the new Elbert Family Nature Preserve, a project that was launched when Jane and Charlie donated their 16 acres to the Conservancy.

The Elbert donation initiated a multi-parcel project involving the Conservancy and adjacent landowners to create this new, high quality wildlife habitat preserve. “Many years ago, a portion of the preserve property was a golf course, but the land has recovered and now provides great bird and wildlife habitat,” said Ty Ratliff, the Conservancy’s senior land protection specialist. “The meadow bird population is really thriving, and this spot is an excellent location to watch the night sky.”

Late last year, the Conservancy acquired a total of 70 acres to



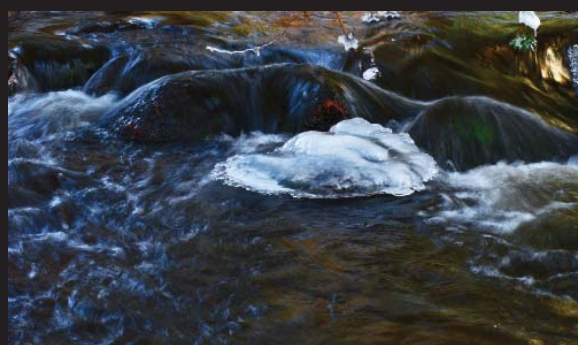
form the new preserve. In addition to the Elberts’ donation, five other parcels were purchased to assemble the preserve in its entirety. The land lies across the road from the 117-acre Black Hole Preserve, which abuts 4,900 feet of the Pickerel-Crooked Channel.

The photos featured on this page were taken by another adjacent landowner, Lynn Walters-Fraze. An amateur photographer, Lynn documented the Black Hole kestrel box in our last newsletter and, like Jane, is in constant awe of the diversity of species she sees. Bobcat, flying squirrels, a multitude of raptors, and a friendly resident group of deer are common sightings. For several winters in a row, a snowy owl chose the Elbert Family Preserve property as its hunting ground.

“This is a great place to live for anyone who enjoys nature,” Jane said. “We have views of both lakes, ponds, and wildlife. Having the Conservancy own this property has been a dream, and now it has come true. Thank you so much.”

Portions of the new Elbert Family Nature Preserve are part of an old golf course that is now revegetating with wildlife-friendly plants such as Joe-pye weed (*shown below*) and few invasives. The preserve is noted for its high diversity of bird species.





The Boyne River, Gary Osterbeck



Volunteer Profile: Gary Osterbeck

Trail Steward, The Hill Preserve

Volunteer Photographer & Videographer

Growing up in the countryside of Walnut Lake, Michigan, Gary Osterbeck developed a love of nature early in life that has not wavered throughout his eight decades. With a professional career that has taken him from the auto industry to Boyne Resorts, he has been settled in the north country permanently since the 1980s. For many years, he helped maintain trails of the Ransom Preserve and today does trail work at The Hill. He also shares his beautiful photography and video work with us on a regular basis.

"I love to be outdoors to hunt, flyfish, boat, ski, and photograph the beauty of up north and all that it includes," Gary says. "As long as I am able to explore out into the open, in good weather and bad, and walk and hike and see things you cannot see from your car or house window, I will give it my heartfelt best to bring back views that some people will never see and share them with everyone. There are endless beautiful things to be seen in this nearby country of ours, and I am out in it sometimes from dawn to dusk, trying to see it all. I particularly love the water of the Boyne River, from quiet places underhanging pine boughs, to rushing waterfalls making all kinds of noise as it follows the pull of gravity making its own twists and turns while carving new paths until eagerly pouring freely into Lake Charlevoix, the Beautiful."

In Their Words: Thoughts from a few of our wonderful preserve volunteers!

Jim Scollin

Preserve Monitor and Trail Steward
Reed's Pigeon River Preserve

"Who's been here"? That's what I asked myself while strapping on my snowshoes before heading into the Reed's Pigeon River Nature Preserve in Cheboygan County on a glorious morning in late January. "Who's been here"? The boot tracks were clearly visible and after I took a closer look I was able to tell they belonged to an adult, a child, and a dog. I thought to myself that if I could find that parent or guardian, I would thank them for getting that youngster away from mindless video games and outside to enjoy the beauty of northern Michigan. But there were other tracks too. Plenty of deer and grouse tracks and, if you looked closely enough, you could see where a bobcat had been walking.

"Who's been here"? Have you? If not, then I suggest you put a visit to this special place on your list of things to do this year. You won't regret it. And one more thing...be sure to bring a youngster or two with you!



Gary Barfknecht

Preserve Monitor Watson, McDonald,
Huffman, and Kuebler Trippe
preserves

I was born and raised in the "wilds" of northern Minnesota and loved spending much of my youth tromping around in the woods there. Preserve monitoring provides me opportunities to continue to tromp around and reminisce while contributing in the present to LTC's mission to preserve the "wilds" of northern Michigan.

Lisa Morris

Preserve Monitor
Arbaugh, Dean, Pack, Sharpe &
Hansen Preserve

One of the best parts of volunteering with LTC is the feeling of giving back, not only to the community but to nature as well. As I work through the week at a stressful, hi-tech job, I need my "decompression" time on the weekends, hiking the trails we've worked on at one of the LTC preserves and sometimes just staring at the lake and breathing deeply. I call that my "lake time." It helps me leave the stress behind and fortifies me to handle whatever situation might confront me in the coming week. I keep a picture of the trees, snow, sky, birds, waterscapes, landscapes, etc. I've experienced on the weekend in my mind - it's my "happy place" to go to when I try to fall asleep at night.

Memorials

Daniel Adams

Board and Staff Members of
the Charlevoix Public Library

David A. Armour

Matthew and Anneke Myers

Ronald Balch

Sam and Mary Lou Supernaw

Dolores Barkley

Seberon and Dianne
Litzenburger

Keith Bassett

Ms. Jean Bassett

Ogla Baum

Gifford and Alanna Fox

Dwight Black

Mrs. Dwight P. Black

Myles Borgen

Erik and Ann Borgen

William Breckwoldt

Ms. Maureen Burke

William Brick

Donald and Janeen Smith

Patricia King Bristor

Mrs. Robert Bristor
Ann and Eldridge Hardie

Fel Brunett

Donald and Janeen Smith

Larry Buhl

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Thomas Jr.

Bob Casadonte

Donald and Janeen Smith

William Albert Cheney

Michael Fleming and Elise
Billingsley
Gattle's Cincinnati
Mr. and Mrs. Joel and Pat Selmeier
Mrs. Marjorie Upton

Bernard Clark

Seberon and Dianne
Litzenburger
Ms. Ruth H. Petzold

Robert Cooke

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick R. Hylant Sr.

Bernard Costello

Dr. and Mrs. Norman Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Bissell
Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Thomas Jr.

Mary Jane Crowell

Donald and Janeen Smith

Paul Darnton

Ms. Linda S. Lawson

Dave and Eileen Davis

Mrs. Marian Wendell

Jud Davis

Matt Davis

Rob, Austin and Jacob Deane

Paul and Bobbie Bent
Mr. Daryl Ching
Charles and Marcia Growdon
Mr. Daniel Morse
Mr. Anthony Mynsted
Sandy and Samuel M. Ray
Susan Carol Associates

Delano deWindt II

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Strude Jr.

Barbara Draper

Mr. Sam Haberman

George C. Erskine

Donald and Linda Bryant
Ms. Doris Colucci
Justin and Holly Hall

Mary Kay Farley

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Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Thomas Jr.

Ruth Faunce

Ms. Mary Jane Ulrich
Don and Anne Vermeil

Jama Fields

Donald and Janeen Smith

Charles T. Fisher III

Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Bissell

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Elizabeth Austin Hall

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Eric and Susan Conley
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Mr. and Mrs. G. Sheldon Veil
Mr. and Mrs. Allen W. Whittemore

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Virginia Horner

Terry and Lyndi Balven
Ms. Eliza Crowder
Mrs. James H. Howe III
Mr. and Mrs. David C. Searles
Win Stebbins and Lille Foster
Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West



William K. Howenstein

Ms. Ruth H. Petzold

Joy Jamerson

Carol and Julian Magnus

Katie Kieren

Ms. Nadeen Kieren
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Rowe
Bev, Char, Christy, Care,
Marypat, Paula and Robin

Susan Klingbeil

Mr. Frank J. Frischkorn
Charles and Yolanda Turner

Tom Leavitt

Dave Kring Chevrolet-Cadillac

Jutta Letts

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Letts III
David and Genny Letts
Marty and Susan Letts

Thomas Limberg

Donald and Janeen Smith

Patty Rawley Lymburner

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Raymond Marx

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Mr. John Culos
Kevin and Sheila Donnelly
Flagstar Bank
Ms. Beverly Gates
Robert and Karen Hengehold
George and Martha Hosek
Knapheide Truck Equipment
Rick and Sandy Powals
Ms. Carole B. Procissi
Dick and Kathy Schaefer

Dean Mason

Donald and Janeen Smith

Jerry McKibbin

Donald and Janeen Smith

John O'Green

Ms. Maureen Burke

Russ Perry Sr.

Nancy and John Damoose
Jeff and Lynn Granger
Mr. Dave Kimball
Mr. and Mrs. David Kring

Hans Palance

Ms. Ruth H. Petzold

Larry Poquette

Mr. and Mrs. G. Grossi
Kate Marshall and Justin Rashid

Nancy Rajala

Daniel and Linda CasaSanta

Arthur Roy Ranger III

Ms. Emily Robinson

Suzanne Fitzsimons Reynolds

Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Bissell
Mr. and Mrs. James K. Dobbs III
Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Thomas Jr.

Judy Rossman

Jim and Tobi Branam
Ms. Sue Devick
Larry and Linda Glover
Jim and K.C. Leh
Ron and Jenny Palmer
Robert and Barbara Schneider

Carl D. Sheppard

Ms. Christine D. Sheppard

Happy Birthday

Cary Ambler Boggs

Valerie Lester and Geoffrey Greer

Barbara Burke

Thomas and Ellen Swengel

Byron and Laura West

Mark and Lisa Alpert

Happy Anniversary

Dale and Gloria Landes

Al and Jean Moberly

Recent Grants Received



CHERRY REPUBLIC

- Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation (\$10,000) and Great Lakes Energy People Fund (\$5,000) for grants toward the new bridge and parking area at the McCune Preserve.
- The Wildflower Association of Michigan (\$500) to buy native plant seed for the Meadowgate restoration.
- Cherry Republic of Glen Arbor (\$5,000) for a current farmland protection project.



Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area
community foundation



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Brrr...Wishing for Heat

After another bitter winter, we hope to acquire an infrared shop heater for our work barn. Please call our stewardship staff at 231.347.0991 if you can help us out!



Herb and Peggy Stockham

Dr. and Mrs. Mark L. Miller

Mary Jo Truog

Mrs. Patricia M. Anton
Dr. and Mrs. James Apostolakis
Bert Couch and Family
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Gurney
Mr. and Mrs. W. Anthony Huffman
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen P. Kost
Mrs. Frederick J. Lepley
Mark and Nancy Lindsay
Menonaqua Cottage Owners Association

Claire and Kevin Morton
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Petzold
Emily Rupp
Mrs. William G. Rupp
Scott and Lisa Schaefer
Patrick, Susan, Franny and Sydney Schulte
Mr. John S. Speed
Mr. and Mrs. Phil Stenger
Mr. Robert S. Troth
Mr. and Mrs. G. Sheldon Veil

Gerald Wendell

Mrs. Marian Wendell

Edward Frey

Mr. and Mrs. David Culver

Steve and Sally Huffman

Mr. and Mrs. W. Anthony Huffman

Tony Huffman

Mr. and Mrs. W. Anthony Huffman

Ric and Lisa Loyd

Mr. and Mrs. W. Anthony Huffman

Wendy Miller

Ms. Linda Heller

Paul Nowak

Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Friendly

Pat O'Keefe

Mr. and Mrs. Ian Bund

Jane Ramer

Ms. Linda Heller

Jacob, Memory, Seth, Ashley, Will and Rachel Risinger

Mom and Dad Risinger

Frederick Sanquist

Daniel and Pamela Sanquist

Louise Sternberg

Jeff, Christy and Tom Goebel

Edward and Kathy Straley

David and Leslie Archer, Patrick Robison and Tiffanie Fulton, Emily Robison and Peter Jaklevic and Bobby and Laura Kaska

Honorariums

In honor of

Ian R.N. Bund

Richard C. Bruder

Maureen Burke

Steven and Barbara Bartley

Julie and Tony Foust

Ms. Judy Tincer

EcoStewards Kick Off!

ARE YOU A NATURE ENTHUSIAST? IS THERE SOME THOREAU IN YOU?

New Program to Engage Field-Based Volunteers

To address the growing pool of volunteers who are interested in helping LTC with a wide range of field work, we are launching a new EcoStewards program. Through this program, volunteer activities and projects will be driven by you, the volunteer. We will provide the framework, land, training, and learning opportunities, and you will explore, collect, research, restore, and share your results with us. You get to learn a new skill or maybe just have an extra excuse to get outside. In return, we receive valuable information about our preserves that will help us better steward the diversity and beauty of these special, protected lands.



What are Examples of EcoSteward Work?

How about conducting local Frog and Toad surveys after brushing up on the calls of all 13 Michigan species? What about taking GPS points of invasive plants on an LTC preserve after completing a course on identifying invasive plants? Some activities will require that you attend a training event, (e.g. monitoring vernal pools); other activities will require minimal guidance (e.g. planting native shrubs or pulling invasive garlic mustard plants). We are actively seeking volunteers for certain projects, but we are also encouraging volunteers to submit their own ideas.

Learn More at our April 11 Kick-Off Event!

We are excited for this fresh opportunity to partner with citizens interested in conserving and monitoring the natural resources of northern Michigan. Please join us on April 11 for an introduction to the EcoSteward program as we kick off a new flurry of volunteer activity and nature observation on LTC preserves! Come learn about how the program will work and how you can sign up as a team or an individual. The event will begin with a strolling poster reception to view entries in our high school student poster contest (*details on our website*). Afterwards, we will hold the first EcoSteward training event for those interested in learning how to identify and map invasive plants.

Date and Time: Saturday, April 11, 2015 11am-1pm (*light lunch at noon*)
Where: Carnegie Building, 461 E. Mitchell St., Petoskey
RSVP by: Online or by calling 231.347.0991. Follow dropdown menu under "Volunteer" then "EcoSteward Program."



Seeking Strong Backs!

Friday, June 12 1pm
McCune Nature Preserve

We are looking for a few strong bodies who can help us move lumber for building new boardwalk at the McCune Preserve in Emmet County. Please call Charles at 231.347.0991 if you can help!

Feeling a creative nature vibe?
EcoStewards
Poster Contest
for high schoolers

We are seeking posters that will communicate the value of protecting northern Michigan's natural lands and wild creatures. Understanding the natural world and our responsibility to its stewardship requires that we use all five senses, that we understand ecosystems and cultures, and that we draw from scientific research, traditional knowledge, and the arts. LTC invites young adults to share their imaginations and ingenuity.

Three cash prizes will be awarded: \$250, \$150, and \$100 for first- through third-place winners, respectively. Images of the three winning posters will be displayed at the April 11 Kick-off Event and on the LTC website. For more details, visit the EcoStewards page at www.landtrust.org.

2015 EcoSteward
Training Opportunity
Identifying and Mapping
Invasive Plants
Saturday, April 11 1-3pm
after kick off event (see left)

Non-native invasive plants threaten the natural diversity and beauty of northern Michigan. Managing invasive species becomes prohibitively costly as an infestation grows. To minimize these costs, many land managers such as LTC are attempting to detect infestations early on. But we need more people to help us patrol for these situations. If you have an interest in plants and would like to know how to identify and map invasive plants on LTC preserves, join us on April 11 when LTC's Derek Shiels will lead a class on terrestrial invasive species management. Come at 10:30am for the kickoff of our new EcoSteward volunteer program (above left) and stay for lunch. Training will start at 1 pm and run roughly two hours.

New Members

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 15, 2014 to February 20, 2015

Friends and Benefactors

Businesses

The Cottage Company of
Harbor Springs
Dam Site Inn

Individuals/Families

Richard A. and Marcia B. Ames
Fred and Christine Andreae
Mrs. Dwight P. Black
Mr. and Mrs. H. Hewett Brown
Andrew and Nancy Buchanan
Mr. Robert L. Bytwerk
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Mrs. Sam Cupp
Crane and Susan DeCamp
Mr. Andrew E. Farley
Paul and Lori Fenton
Ms. Sylvia Fergus
Marin and Kate Gjaja
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Al and Jean Moberly
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Mossburg
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Ms. Audrey Wallace Otto
Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Ricci
Jim and Sally Rogers
Paul and Carol Rose
Raymond and Sharon Schaaf
Mrs. Bill Schwarz
Mr. Charles F. Shalkhauser
Peter Poullada and Nancy A. Sheppard
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sickinger
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory R. Skau
Mrs. Joan F. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Snyder
Mrs. George R. Squibb
Jerry and Barb Stonewater
Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Streett



Billy Wilson

Robert and Mary Surdam Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Titcomb
Mr. Rick A. Tromble
Mrs. Vern Vance
Carolyn Workman and Kurt Wacker
Clay and Mary Jo Warner
Edwin and Linda Willis

Contributing Members

Businesses

Brady's Carpet Cleaning
Landscape Logic

Individuals/Families

Daniel and Carol Adams
Bill and Sue Allen
James and Colleen Allen
Mark and Lisa Alpert
Todd and Susan Alspaugh
Mrs. Karen Askins
Mr. Louis F. Awodey
Mr. Gilbert Barish
Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Baron
Mr. Charles M. Barsy
J.C. and Mari Bascom
Sydney and Mary Baxter
Ms. Linda Becker
William M. and Linda Berry
Ms. Elizabeth B. Bishop
Mr. Alfred D. Bosley, Jr.
Gary and Joan Bowe
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Brandel
Ms. Cheryl Bristah
Dale and Kristine Burmeister & Family
Kenneth and Barbara Carnwath
Mr. John S. Cauffiel
Sandra Burt and Walter Cesewski
Dennis L. and Rose Choate
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Brenda DeBlake and Brent Cook
Thomas and Karen Coop
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Reflections...

...Tom Bailey

Things Find Their Way

When I met Bill Marks, he was working as an assistant bureau chief in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, overseeing water quality programs. I was a new hand in those days and had a number of discussions with him about our work. But in the moments between meetings, on breaks or in the hallways of the Stevens T. Mason Building in Lansing, he most often talked about Sugar Island and his love of duck hunting.

More than three decades later, I was in Traverse City in line to be seated at a brew pub with several members of the military family that bonded together as sons and husbands were deployed to Afghanistan in the Infantry. It was quite unexpected when a soft voice from behind me said, "Aren't you Tom Bailey from the Conservancy?" I had been so caught up in comparing notes with other family members about our guys that it took me a moment to gather myself and say, yes, that's me. Fred and Mary Clinton introduced themselves and told me that they wanted to get together sometime soon to talk about making a gift to the Conservancy of a collection of duck decoys and other wildlife art that had been entrusted to them in a friend's will. Of course, I responded, and gave them a business card just before our group was escorted to a table.

At the office the following week, I was stunned when Fred and Mary told me that the collection they wanted to donate had belonged to Bill Marks. I think that they were equally surprised to learn that I had known and worked with Bill. How delightful for us all to know that even as Bill and I had not seen one another in decades and he had been gone for a couple of years, we were about to work together again on a project to help conserve natural resources.

With much generous help and support from Fred and Mary, the collection was sold at auction. Proceeds will help

the Conservancy buy important land on Bill's beloved Sugar Island, to become part of the Conservancy's new network of Working Forest Reserves. These will soon be entrusted to us by a group which acquired forest lands enrolled under Michigan's Commercial Forest Act. As "working forests," they are periodically logged in a sustainable manner to produce the renewable resource of timber and in some cases to provide early-succession stage habitat for wildlife. By state law, these lands will also be open to public hunting and trapping. To distinguish these areas from our nature preserves, they will be marked with green Working Forest Reserve signs that will feature the Conservancy logo, but color and wording will stand apart from our nature preserves.

I believe that Bill would be delighted. A true conservationist in the classic sense, Bill believed in the appropriate use of natural resources in order to provide a sustainable stream of food and goods for human well-being while also assuring the perpetuation of healthy natural lands and waters. He was a true believer in resource management and a fervent lover of the Great Outdoors. He didn't just love ducks during hunting season, but all the time as was proven by his extensive collection of decoys, paintings and prints. Bill was the sort of man whom great conservationists like Theodore Roosevelt and Aldo Leopold would recognize and appreciate.

The circles and cycles through which we travel continue to amaze me. How remarkable that at a pub in Traverse City, I ran into two people from Petoskey who had been thinking about seeing me. How remarkable that it involved Bill Marks, whom I hadn't seen in years. Coincidence, as in random happenstance? I don't think so; more like co-incidents, as in things happening in connection with one another. Time and life's events take us on quite a journey, and we never know for sure when things will circle back around. But they do; seeds and relationships bear fruit. When we least expect it, we're given opportunities to help good things happen. Such events as re-connecting with Bill Marks after more than three decades only serves to reinforce my fundamental belief that everything is connected and that, for all the dissonance we see in the world today, throughout it all there is harmony and resonance in all things. *(See related column to right.)*



Bill Marks (*middle in plaid shirt*) is shown hunting on Sugar Island with a couple of the many friends who would often join him.
photo courtesy Fred and Mary Clinton



A Legacy, a Gift and a Wonderful Memory

by Fred and Mary Clinton

Fred Clinton met Bill Marks when he was seven or eight and Bill was around 18 years old. Their fathers had met on Sugar Island where Bill's family owned property and where Fred's father hunted. Fred's father passed away on Sugar Island while duck hunting when Fred was only nine.

Bill continued to visit Fred in Petoskey as he went through college, becoming a big brother and mentor. In Fred's teenage years, Bill took him to Sugar Island for fishing in spring and duck hunting in the fall. Even after graduating from college and going to work for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Bill continued his trips with Fred. It was only natural then that as Fred himself went off to college and later went to work for the MDNR as well, he continued to fish and hunt on Sugar Island with Bill.

Those trips started in the 1950s and over the years Bill made many more friends who would join the fishing and hunting group. Bill had a remarkable ability to bring people of disparate backgrounds and interests together as friends. On some occasions, as many as 20 of these friends would gather at Bill's place and today, almost 60 years later, seven of the same men continue to gather on Sugar Island every spring and fall. They have become known amongst themselves as "The Old Farts" and admit that not much fishing or hunting is done anymore.

These gatherings continue even though Bill passed away in 1995. At that time, he willed all of his personal property to Fred and the real estate to his nieces. An accord was quickly reached between the nieces and the "Old Farts" allowing the friends to continue to use the property twice a year, and that the personal property would be left in place, a testament to the man that had brought them all together.

This arrangement continued for several years, but eventually the property changed hands and it became necessary to remove the personal property from the home. With the help of the "Old Farts" this was done. The question then became what to do with a hundred antique duck decoys, many original paintings, prints, glassware, and other collections Bill had acquired over the years. It occurred to Fred and his wife Mary to make a donation to the LTC in Bill's honor. All of the "Old Farts" heartily endorsed this idea since it would mean that their friend Bill would continue to be remembered on Sugar Island where he grew up, went to school, and ultimately went to live again in retirement.

The collections were donated and sold at auction. The Conservancy is now working to use the proceeds to acquire property on Sugar Island that will be named for Bill. Fred and Mary were pleased to learn that LTC is soon to accept ownership of working forest land on Sugar Island, which will be a wonderful way to honor a man who spent his entire career in resource management, and who understood the important balance between protecting the environment while using it in sustainable ways, both for the benefit of future generations.



thank you!

- Glen Matthews for management plan input and review.
- Monica and Michael Farrier and Elvyn Lea Lodge for hosting the first "Stories of the Land" program with LTC and Walloon Land Trust and Conservancy.
- Todd Petersen, Gary Osterbeck, Lynn Walters-Fraze for donating photography time and expertise.
- Greenwood Foundation for hosting another terrific and well-attended snowshoe and cross-country skiing event - George and Jan Jury, Dave and Muffie McCauley and Jack Findlay.
- Bev Warner for January mailing.
- Mary Stewart Adams for leading a star stories presentation at the Andreae Nature Preserve cabin.
- Mike Supernault for leading a winter ecology hike at the Andreae Nature Preserve open house.
- Neil Wilson for leading a winter ecology field trip at the Raven Ridge Nature Preserve.
- Mary Trout for helping with all things birding and field trips at the LTC office and Round Lake Nature Preserve.
- Cheri Leach and Raven Hill Discovery Center for welcoming field trip participants into the Discovery Center.
- Ron Oesterreicher for plowing the parking lot at Seven Springs Nature Preserve.
- Tim DeWick for plowing the parking lot at Birge Preserve.
- John Griffin for plowing the parking lot and grooming the trails at Derby Preserve, and for grooming the trails at Birge Nature Preserve.
- Dan Mann for grooming the trails at Driggers Nature Preserve.
- Todd Wright for grooming the trails at The Hill Nature Preserve.
- Tamara Stevens for photographing field trip participants and helping with our preserve usage data analysis.
- Grain Train and Toski Sands for donating chili to keep participants warm at our Winter Celebration and Star Stories field trip at the Andreae Nature Preserve.
- Beaver Island Community School for pulling Scotch Pine at the Driggers Nature Preserve last November.
- Fat Bike the North for their donation from proceeds of the Fat Tire Bike Race at The Hill Nature Preserve.
- Doug Fuller for help with the Meadowgate habitat restoration and other miscellaneous stewardship tasks.
- Robin Hagen for distributing publications in our service area.

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SPRING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2015 Spring Registration: April 12-27, 2015

Programs run: April 28 – June 5

- Call 347.0991 to register! Don't forget there is bus funding
- Visit www.landtrust.org for program descriptions
- Next Generation Science Standards matched to each program



The Next Generation Science Standards that are met through the Conservancy's environmental education school year programs are now shown for all three seasons of the school year on the education portion of our website.



Spring Education Programs

Animal Home Discoveries
To Be a Tree
Sharpening Senses
Healthy Habits
Buggin' Out
Everybody Eats
Purely Plants
Dirt Makers
Life in Water
Spring Sprouts
Nature Study
Orienteering
Spring Navigation



Now Available! **BUGGIN' OUT** Program-to-Go Kit

Now available for loan is the new **BUGGIN' OUT Program-to-Go Kit for Educators**. This kit includes program information and materials for a teacher to conduct a Buggin' Out program both indoors and outdoors at their convenience. A program guide, lesson plans, field guides, a monarch life cycle replica, collections jars, nets and more are in the kit, making it easy to engage students in an interactive, fun and informative activity. A backpack is also included to transport materials to be used outside. This can be a great follow-up to a field trip with Little Traverse Conservancy. Call Melissa or Sarah at 231.347.0991 to reserve this new resource for the spring!

Eagle Eye Naturalists Program Series

LTC volunteer Mary Trout continues to share her love of birds through this monthly series for ages 6-12. Field guides and binoculars provided, but please bring your own if you have them. Upcoming dates, times, and locations are shown below (rain dates in parentheses).

Tuesday, April 14 (April 21)

4-5:30pm.

LTC Office/Round Lake

Tuesday, May 12 (May 19)

4-5:30 pm

LTC Office/Round Lake

Saturday, June 13 (June 20)

10-11:30 am

Greenwood Sanctuary

Please register online or by calling 231.347.0991.



Mark Pouley



SPRING FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

All events offered at no charge
unless noted. Please register at
www.landtrust.org or
by calling 231.347.0991.

Saturday, March 21, 2015 3-5pm
Presentation on the American Kestrel
Carnegie Building, Petoskey - No charge

The American Kestrel is the smallest bird in the falcon family, and is being studied by citizen scientists all over the western hemisphere in an effort to understand its population decline. This spring, we are pleased to host Delora Hilleary from the American Kestrel Partnership for a community presentation. Learn why and how to get involved in studying this bird on LTC preserves. Join this national movement led by the American Kestrel Partnership, a project of The Peregrine Fund. More information is on our website or call Cacia at 231.347.0991.

Saturday, April 4 9-11am
Kestrel Monitoring
Wisser Saworski Nature Preserve, Boyne Falls

Whether you'd like to just bird for a day, or are interested in becoming a volunteer kestrel box monitor, join LTC staff and LTC volunteer Jim Bean while we monitor a kestrel nest box. Learn more about kestrel biology and the citizen science efforts to research their population decline in this birding field trip. We may take a short hike, so wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring your own binoculars if you have them.

Saturday, April 11 11am-1pm
EcoSteward Volunteer Program Kick Off
Carnegie Building, Petoskey See page 10 for details.

Saturday, April 11 1-3pm
Identify and Map Invasive Plants - Training Opportunity
Carnegie Building, Petoskey See page 10 for details.

Tuesday, April 14 4-5:30pm
Eagle Eye Naturalists Program See page 14 for details.

Saturday, May 2 10am-Noon
Spring Birding
Greenwood Sanctuary, Windswept Gate

Join LTC volunteer and birder extraordinaire Mary Trout as we explore the varying habitats of the Greenwood Sanctuary. May is the month for migration and courting so we will look and listen as birds sing and establish their territories. Meet at Greenwood's Windswept gate along Webb Bring binoculars if you have them.

Tuesday, May 12 4-5:30pm
Eagle Eye Naturalists Program See page 14 for details.

Saturday, May 16 8-10am
Spring Birding
Waldron Fen Preserve, Emmet County

Join LTC and the Petoskey Regional Audubon Society (PRAS) at this new preserve. A delightful mix of habitats supports a wide

diversity of birds. This will be the peak of songbird migration, so expect to see a wide array of species during this walk. It is possible that even a species that is rare to Northern Michigan could show up. Plan to spend approximately two hours hiking the trails while learning to identify birds by sight and sound. Current PRAS President, Darrell Lawson, will lead the trip and help to both locate birds and explain their behavior.

Saturday, May 16 10-11am
Spring into Nature for Knee High Naturalists
Spring Lake Park (For 3-5 year olds -Siblings welcome to tag along.)

Spring is an exciting time for youngsters to explore outdoors as nature awakens after the winter season. This program will begin with the story *When Will It Be Spring?* about a curious little cub anticipating spring while he's supposed to be asleep during the winter. Discussion about black bears, some "bearry" fun activities and a nature walk to look for signs of spring will be included.

Tuesday, May 19 10am-Noon
Bubbling Springs Nature Walk

Join former LTC stewardship director Doug Fuller for a short (less than mile) hike at this neighborhood nature preserve. Doug will highlight the unique qualities of this area such as spring wildflowers and birds, the headwaters of a Walloon Lake tributary, wetlands, a vernal pond, upland hardwood forests, and the mesmerizing springs.

Friday, May 22 10am
Work Day at Watson/Schott Preserve See page 5 for details.

Saturday, May 30 10am - Noon
Wild Edibles 101
Location to be determined

Join LTC staff member Derek Shiels on a Little Traverse Conservancy nature preserve to identify, learn about, and taste a sampling of wild edible plants. Get your taste of the spring edibles before they're gone or become bitter! The location will be within a half-hour's drive of the LTC office. Check online later this spring for an update.

Saturday, June 6 8-10am
Spring Birding
Ransom Nature Preserve, Charlevoix Co.

Join LTC and the Petoskey Regional Audubon Society (PRAS) at the Ransom Preserve where a delightful mixture of habitats are available for a wide diversity of bird species. Scarlet Tanagers and Indigo Buntings have been regular in the past. Great-crested Flycatcher nested at this location in the past. PRAS President Darrell Lawson will lead the trip and help locate birds and explain their behavior.

Friday, June 12 1pm
Work Day at McCune Preserve See page 10 for details.

Saturday, June 13 10-11:30am
Eagle Eye Naturalists Program See page 14 for details.

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Scan the codes below for LTC's smart phone nature preserve app, available at no charge. The app includes info about LTC trails as well as other area trails such as the North Country Trail.



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Android

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Celebrate the summer solstice in Les Cheneaux

SAVE THE DATE

Aldo Leopold Festival

June 19-21, 2015

Friday, June 19

Viewing of Green Fire
Documentary
about Aldo Leopold

Evening Sunset Paddle

Meet & Greet
Les Cheneaux Rowing Club

Saturday, June 20

Morning Birding Field Trip
Morning Mountain Bike Ride
Scavenger Hunt to Nature Preserves
Les Cheneaux Rowing Club Tours & Races
Kayak to Sea Presentation
Build Your Own Paddle class
Bird Photography Exhibit by Paul Rossi
Kayak Rolling & Safety Demonstration
All Day Sea Kayak Trip with Lunch
Afternoon Paddle to Duck Bay
Finding Farley Documentary
Masonic Roast Beef Dinner
Evening Cruise Boat Tour around Marquette Island

Sunday, June 21

Morning Birding Field Trip
Sea Kayak Lake Huron

Sunday Picnic

**more details:
lescheneaux.org**

Activities occurring throughout the Hessel/Cedarville area.

The Father of Conservation Ethics in America and author of *A Sand County Almanac*
Aldo Leopold spent his childhood summers in Les Cheneaux. b. January 11, 1887 d. April 21, 1948



photos courtesy of Aldo Leopold Foundation

Young Aldo in front of the family cottage on Marquette Island



In the "Snows Channel," Les Cheneaux