



Spring 2017
Vol. 39 No. 1
www.landtrust.org

Celebrating 45 Years

The Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve

GIVING BACK TO THE LAND...AND TO THE COMMUNITY

At a square mile, the newest working forest reserve is one of the largest protected lands in the Little Traverse Conservancy holdings and is the largest working forest reserve to date. This magnificent property encompasses 640 acres with 1,500 feet along the Pigeon River and well over a mile of Wilkes Creek, a tributary of the Pigeon. The land also runs along more than half a mile of Montgomery Road near Afton.

The acquisition was almost fully funded by Jack and Tucker Harris, longtime northern Michigan summer residents and LTC supporters whose summer home is on Burt Lake.

Originally from Ohio, Jack's grandparents began coming north for summer visits to the Columbus Beach Club, a fishing destination that was eventually incorporated as a club in 1886. Also originally from Ohio, Tucker had visited Michigan's Sugar Island with her grandparents, and also spent time at the Columbus Beach Club with other friends, long before meeting Jack. When Jack and Tucker began their life together, the couple continued the tradition begun by Jack's family. Today, the couple's eight grandchildren are part of the Harrises fifth

generation to summer along the same Burt Lake shoreline.

Jack and Tucker have contributed to land protection work for many years, with significant support given toward the Seven Springs Preserve on Burt Lake and the Helmer's Dam/Robert D. VanCampen Nature Preserve, which lies directly adjacent to the new working forest reserve, along the Pigeon River. The mouth of the Pigeon River empties into Mullett Lake and from there, the waters meander through a large portion of the Inland Waterway where they drain into Lake Huron near Cheboygan.

"Jack and I felt particularly good about having this property protected for a couple of reasons," Tucker Harris said. "He and our sons have fished the Pigeon River for many years, and protecting another long stretch of this stream is especially meaningful to them. In addition, by enrolling this land in the Commercial Forestry Act program, we know the land will offer an economic 'give back' to the community for many years to come."

Ecologically speaking, the new forest reserve includes a combination of lowland conifers, mixed northern hardwoods,

continued page 4

CURRENT LAND PROTECTION INITIATIVES

LAND FUNDRAISING PROJECTS



Addition to Seven Springs Preserve

*"We made a donation because we love Burt Lake.
But really, it's a gift to our children, our
grandchildren and all future generations
who gather around Burt's shores."*

Anne T. and Mark C. Melvin, siblings, and
Anne H. Melvin, their late mother

Looking at a map of the Seven Springs Nature Preserve, it seems incomplete. The northwest corner cuts into what seems to be the natural boundary of the preserve. Shown in yellow on the map, this parcel has been privately owned and is now available for purchase by the Little Traverse Conservancy. The last puzzle piece could be added to complete the Seven Springs Nature Preserve, protecting 65.25 acres and 2,800 feet of shoreline in total.

The 3.25 acres is currently undeveloped, but allows for a single home. By purchasing the land by July 1, 2017, a home will never be built and the shoreline will remain preserved in its entirety.



Connor and Hobbes at the Seven Springs Nature Preserve/Trish Woollcott

Burt Lake champions have already kickstarted the campaign to complete this preserve by pledging \$115,000 towards the \$200,000 purchase price. The Burt Lake Preservation Association has partnered with the Little Traverse Conservancy to help support the protection of this beloved preserve. We hope you will join us.

For more information, please contact Ty Ratliff at 231.347.0991.



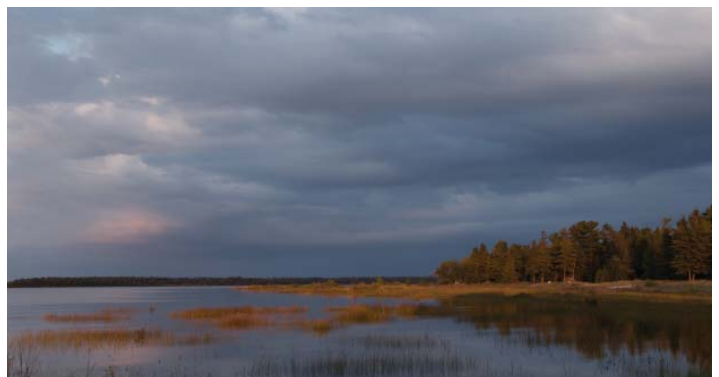
Duncan Bay Land & Wetland Protection

A cooperative effort between the Little Traverse Conservancy and Huron Pines is seeking to protect Lake Huron and restore 317 acres of Great Lakes coastland and 2,750 feet of frontage, mostly within the Cheboygan city limits.

LTC has hoped for more conservation opportunities in this area, and this partnership offered a unique opportunity. When land is purchased through LTC, it is protected and open to the public for hiking, birding, dog walking, and more...forever. It will not be developed or sold...ever. The lands will be restored to their natural state by Huron Pines with funding from the Sustain Our Great Lakes program. Restoration will include the removal of exotic species, allowing for them to be replaced by a healthier habitat for plants, birds, fish and mammals.

The City of Cheboygan was built on—and sits on—the edges of Great Lakes wetlands. Protecting these wetlands will ensure a buffer of ecological and infrastructure protection. Wetlands are like sponges. When water levels are high, wetlands absorb excess water so that houses, basements, and soccer fields (less absorptive surfaces) are protected from flooding. In times of drought, wetlands slowly release the stored water to hydrate surrounding soils and protect them from drying out. With changing water levels and climate change, the protection of wetlands is more important now than ever.

You can help! The Little Traverse Conservancy is just \$20,000 shy of the purchase price, and an anonymous Duncan Bay champion has stepped up to match every dollar that is given to that goal. Your donation of any amount will be doubled to help make this protection possible! You will know that you helped protect part of Lake Huron's shoreline for future generations. For more information, please call Ty Ratliff at 231.347.0991.



Duncan Bay, Lake Huron/Todd Parker



LTC supporter, Charles Wilson, navigating the Maple River.

The Maple River...

- is part of the Cheboygan River Watershed.
- has two primary branches. The West Branch starts in the Pleasantview Swamp and the East Branch starts as the outlet from Douglas Lake.
- supports a good population of resident brook, brown, and rainbow trout, as well as important non-game fish species. There are also "lake run" populations of browns and rainbows (a.k.a. steelhead) which live a portion of their lives in Burt Lake and return to the river at different times for feeding, thermal refuge, or spawning. The river is dominated by brook trout upstream of Lake Kathleen, and by brown trout below the dam.

A River Runs Through It

In December 2016, Charles Wilson donated a conservation easement to Little Traverse Conservancy to ensure the long-term protection of his 153-acre property that lies along nearly 4,500 feet of Emmet County's Maple River. This is the longest stretch of the Maple River in private ownership that has been protected to date through Little Traverse Conservancy. Here he explains the motivation behind the gift.

"As a result of its natural beauty, abundance of fresh water and climate change, portions of northern Michigan are on the verge of being discovered in a way not experienced before. Although timing is hard to predict, change in the area seems certain. So if we want to preserve our magnificent landscapes, starting early makes sense. The Little Traverse Conservancy is a terrific local resource which can be used to mitigate the inevitable pressure of development. While accommodating smart growth, it will be reassuring to know that portions of Emmet and surrounding counties will forever be protected thanks to the efforts of the LTC.

"Several years ago a fellow adventurer and I decided to kayak the Maple River in stages, from its source near the Pleasantview Swamp to Brutus Road. We quickly learned to maneuver over the many beaver dams on the West Branch as we meandered through dense cedar forests and large stands of maple and white pine. Otter, trout, deer and other wildlife were common throughout. This adventure gave me the inspiration to look for property on the Maple to be

enjoyed by family and friends hopefully for many years. Fortunately, I was able to achieve this several years later when the descendants of an early Maple River Township family decided to sell their homestead.

"The Maple is special because abundant groundwater gives rise to a cold stream habitat, perfect for brook, rainbow and brown trout. In addition, very little of the land encompassing the river has been developed and much of it remains in a natural state. And so several years after my purchase, I began thinking about how a conservation easement might be designed to forever protect the property and yet allow various low impact activities. I spent the first several years envisioning how I wanted to use the property, and with the LTC's help, incorporated these ideas into the easement document. It is my hope that the execution of this easement might encourage others within the Maple River watershed to do the same. I am delighted to know many years from now, no matter the ownership, the lower section of the Maple will remain as natural and environmentally diverse as it is today."



Charles Wilson

upland pine and aspen, and large openings.

“With its size and so much river and creek frontage, this property features a broad diversity of habitats,” said LTC’s Chief Operating Officer Kieran Fleming. “The Harris’s longtime love for northern Michigan and their interest in giving back to the community come together perfectly in this land,” Fleming added.

Fleming explains that the staff will be developing a management plan that emphasizes the forest’s healthy growth. “It is not so much about making it a production forest. This is an overgrazed land that needs to be healed, and we want the main emphasis of the plan to be working toward a healthy system.

While there will be changes made on the land, they will be made in the interest of helping the land recover,” he said.

Last fall, a significant cleanup effort was begun to deconstruct and remove a dilapidated homestead from the new forest reserve. Already, nine 40-yard dumpsters worth of debris have been removed from the property including an old home, barn, outbuildings, campers, farm equipment and more. Additional work days are planned for later this spring, all aimed towards helping the land restore to its natural state.

“Jack and Tucker are two very kind and generous people who love Burt Lake, the Pigeon River, and ‘Up North’ in general,” said Ty Ratliff, LTC’s Director of Donor Relations. “It is wonderful to have their name associated with this landscape-level conservation effort.”



Old farming roads exist throughout the new Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve.

PROGRAM IN ACTION

Land Purchases Made Possible with WFR Program

Forest management on the Conservancy’s Working Forest Reserves (WFR) is done to enhance diversity, while protecting sensitive features, through sustainable forest management practices. An added benefit is the financial return often generated through the sale of timber. LTC has several costs that are covered with these proceeds such as paying the professional forester, treating exotic species that try to invade, and gates/parking areas that facilitate public use. After those items are paid for, we put the rest of the money in the Land Acquisition Fund to acquire other lands. Recently, LTC purchased 50 acres from the Kanine family expanding one of our Charlevoix County Working Forest Reserves and gave us a route for public access to what we already owned. Another example of how we are using some of the forest management money is to help fund the acquisition of sensitive habitats in Duncan Bay, near Cheboygan on Lake Huron (see map page 2). So, we are putting the money to the best use possible...more conservation!

photo right: Offield Family Nature Preserve, Autumn 2016



Conservancy Assists U.S. Forest Service

LTC purchased a 40-acre property that is entirely forested, and contains over 1/4 mile of Summerby Creek frontage and a large marsh. Because this land was surrounded by the Hiawatha National Forest, the U.S. Forest Service asked LTC to purchase the land until it could secure funds to purchase it back and add it to national forest lands. This “assist and transfer” partnership project is very similar to three other successful land purchases completed in partnership with the U.S.F.S. in 2006, 2011, and 2013. Summerby Creek is a state-designated trout stream and coastal stream that feeds into Lake Huron. It’s protection adds to significant migratory bird, waterfowl, and wildlife habitat in Mackinac County near St. Ignace.

A small parcel in Bay Mills Township, Chippewa County, was also accepted by LTC in late 2016 as a donation from Bonnie and Sylvan Frank. With frontage on Lake Superior, this land will be donated to the U.S.F.S. to add to its existing lands sometime in the near future.



This 40-acre parcel was purchased by LTC with plans to re-sell it to the U.S. Forest Service within the next two years.

ONE YEAR GOAL: VISIT ALL LTC PRESERVES Wrapping up the Year’s Travels

by Sue Irish Stewart www.picnicthepreserves.org

Trekker, Dave (dad), John (brother-in-law) and I have finished our year-long project of visiting the LTC preserves. We made it to most of them, in one fashion or another. Trekker is mostly intact and has retired to my home office windowsill where he strikes a handsome action pose.

When we began our travels in January of 2016, my perspective on the preserves was colored by my professional background. I was interested in issues of visitor access and use, property boundaries, land use and land cover history, and plans for managing the preserves. In winter, I could hold all that in my head and still enjoy visiting the preserves. Winter is dramatic; in the woods, there’s always something fallen or broken or moved. Animal tracks are easy to see, and birds are few and easy to identify. Walking is slow, so there is plenty of attention to spare for thinking bigger thoughts.

Through the winter we visited preserves where the parking area was plowed, or where we could park on a small street. Once the snow melted, everything changed. We decided to visit as many preserves in the U.P. as we could before the flies and mosquitos hatched. The weather cooperated; spring was warm and dry, and we saw Vermilion Point and Barb’s Beach on a sunny day when Lake Superior was glassy-calm.

Spring was when I discovered birds. Have there always been so many raptors in the sky during spring migration? On one of my trips to the U.P., I stopped by the spot where Straits Raptor Watch volunteers count migrating birds. Tony Dunaske, a photography instructor, gave me a quick lesson on how to photograph birds. From then on, my attention was on the birds.

In early summer, my team had travel conflicts so I recruited my sister Perry Hodgson and her sons Raymond (6) and Alex (8), to visit the Darnton Family and Ransom preserves near Charlevoix.



Trekker the Fox

My husband Gary went with me to the MacDonald and Watson/Schott preserves, both close to home. He was also my ride to Raven Ridge, where we learned that not all roads are paved and not all dirt roads are well graded! That was the last time he offered to drive.

By early August, we looked through the remaining preserves and prioritized the ones we thought we should see while the water was warm. Some

are on islands served by passenger ferries, but for scheduling flexibility we hauled John’s 16’ Whaler to local launching ramps. We borrowed kayaks and paddled to two uninhabited near-shore islands. There are a few preserves that are surrounded by untracked wetlands but have lake- or river-front access, and we spent my mid-September birthday paddling to those in hot, sunny, and windless weather, with clouds floating in a rich blue sky. We reached Sugar, Drummond, and Bois Blanc islands by car ferry, and Beaver by air. Those were some of my favorite visits because each island is so different from the others, and the island preserves feel very remote.

The fall of 2016 brought an amazing crop of mushrooms. I took many, many mushroom pictures and spent hours with my new mushroom ID books. Most of me - and all of my camera - marked the start of December with a swim in Mud Lake, part of the Wendy O’Neil Memorial Preserve.

Over the 365 days of 2016, we made it to 188 preserves (out of 191 on our list - there are already new ones) spread across five counties. My only regret is that we’re done. In the coming year we want to visit those last three. John and I have asked to adopt one preserve and clean it up. This winter we have already made a return visit to some of our favorite preserves - Foster Hartley, Seymour Bay, Ellen Weatherby, and Mackinaw Bay - all Eastern U.P. preserves where shallow, standing water limits what you can see, until they freeze over. Come to think of it, there are some others we could walk around on while the weather is cold; and it won’t be too long before the birds are back.



SPRING TRAINING SERIES 2017: ECOSTEWARDS VOLUNTEERS

Frog and Toad Detection

Spring Kickoff Event



April 8 11-2pm
Charlevoix Library



Training:
March 21
5:30pm
LTC Office

Invasive Plant Surveys



Training: June 19
5:30pm
Location TBD

Do **YOU** want to make an **impact?**

Butterfly Monitoring



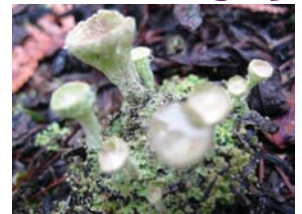
Training:
May 16 5pm AND
May 20 1pm
Grass River Natural Area

Vernal Pool Adoption



Training: April 19 1-3pm
Chaboiganing Nature Preserve

Nature Photography



Training: May 24
6-7:30pm
Resort Twp. Park East

Search for Earth Day
Events & Opportunities

- **Earth Day Every Day Emmet County**
- **www.earthweekplus.org (Cheboygan area)**



Our EcoStewards volunteers are citizen scientists gathering data, experiencing nature in new and exciting ways, and contributing to state and nationwide endeavors. Our small actions are multiplied together by thousands of others to accomplish grand tasks, such as conserving the American Kestrel or rare habitats!



iNaturalist workshop

Training: April 26 4-6pm
Munson Healthcare
Charlevoix Hospital Meeting Room

Anyone who likes to take photos can be a citizen scientist!

You can join in the data collection effort and play an important role by joining iNaturalist.org and adding observations to the Little Traverse Conservancy Preserve Life database. You do not need a smartphone to participate and adding observations is a cinch! Visit www.iNaturalist.org and look around, contact derek@landtrust.org for instructions and/or come to the first-ever northern Michigan iNaturalist workshop!

Join us for our second annual BIOBLITZ! A bioblitz is one day blitz to identify as many plants and animals as we can at one location! Last year we identified more than 230 species. This year we will be exploring our Braun Nature Preserve in Pellston. The BioBlitz is a great opportunity to learn from experienced naturalists, expand your own identification skills, and grow in wonder at how many living creatures we share our lands with!



Saturday, July 1, more details to come
Philip J. Braun Nature Preserve - Pellston

PLANNED GIVING

Longtime Members and Conservationists Leave Legacy Gift

Little Traverse Conservancy recently received a bequest from the estate of David and Marian Gates. Marian had passed away in 2006 and David in the spring of 2016. The Gates had been members of Little Traverse Conservancy since 1981. “Their bequest conveys a profound commitment to LTC’s mission and our permanence, and follows a decades-long love of Douglas Lake and their family’s time spent ‘up north,’” said Ty Ratliff, LTC’s director of donor relations.

The Gates’ connection to northern Michigan began in the early 1900s with David’s father Frank. Frank Gates was a plant ecologist who taught at the University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS) on Douglas Lake until he died in 1955. From the time he was a baby, David Gates spent his summers at UMBS, taking classes there as a senior in high school before attending college at Kansas State in 1939. In 1940, David transferred to the University of Michigan where he received his bachelor’s, master’s, and a doctorate degree in Physics.

Gates acquired his father’s passion for botany and his combined interests of plants and physics led him to establish a new science known as biophysical ecology. After a teaching post at the



Douglas Lake/Laura de Olazarra

University of Colorado, he became the director of the Missouri Botanical Garden. In 1971, he joined the University of Michigan faculty and from 1971-1985, David was the Director of UMBS. David’s children recall how involved their father was in saving the Colonial Point property. David wrote in his journal that his father, Frank, had taken his plant ecology classes there for many years: “These woods of red oak, sugar maple, hemlock and pine were one of



Marian and David Gates

few remaining virgin stands, about 300 acres. I worked hard to raise funds and called Dean Richardson, president of the Bank of Detroit, asking him to loan the money to the LTC while the funds were raised. Eventually the property was saved.”

Upon retiring from UMBS, David and Marian purchased property across the lake where their son built a beautiful home for them. For many years, they enjoyed spending half their year “up north” and half the year in Ann Arbor. David loved sailing on Douglas Lake, the Great Lakes, and in the Virgin Islands. They were able to introduce their grandchildren to the love of the area over the years which gave them great pleasure.

A March 2016 *New York Times* article described David Gates as “in the vanguard of scientists who raised the alarm about an ecological crisis that would culminate in global warming from greenhouse gases. He served as an advisor to the U.S. Public Health Service and his congressional testimony, speeches, and publications helped shape provisions of the Clean Air Act. He is quoted as saying the following in 1968: ‘We will go down in history known as an elegant technological society which underwent biological disintegration for lack of ecological understanding.’”

The Gates children remember their mom, Marian, as a key part of David’s success. “She supported environmental as well as social causes in Michigan and nationally, and was an ardent Democrat, always standing up for those who were less advantaged.”

“The Gates’ gift is an extraordinary bequest to our endowment fund,” Ratliff added. “Long after they left this earth, their generosity - and conservation ethic - will be remembered and appreciated.”

A bequest is just one of the many ways to leave a lasting legacy with the Conservancy. Please let us know if you would like more information on planned giving options, or if you have already included the Little Traverse Conservancy in your estate plans, by contacting Ty Ratliff at 231.344.1005 or tyratliff@landtrust.org.

 **NatureCHANGE**
Conversations About Conservation and Climate

www.naturechange.org

Don’t miss these informational, local videos showcasing ways that individuals and groups in northern Michigan are showing resilience in a changing world.

SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the following members who newly made or increased their commitment to the Little Traverse Conservancy between November 19, 2016 and February 16, 2017.

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Bear Cove Marina
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Kurt Wacker

Carolyn Workman and Kurt Wacker of Columbus, Ohio joined the Conservancy in 2008. While their northern Michigan address is on Crooked Lake, it is more likely you will find them exploring nature preserves whenever they are up north. We have chosen Carolyn and Kurt as our first Member Highlight.

How did you discover the Conservancy?

We had always noticed the Conservancy signs during our summer vacations on Crooked Lake. About 10 years ago, we took our mountain bikes up to the Good Hart and Cross Village area, looking for some good roads or paths. We stumbled on the Elmer Johnston Preserve near Good Hart. Though there were not any "No Trespassing" signs, we were not sure it was open to the public. It was a beautiful thrilling ride through the woods, and it was a loop that ended right where we had parked our car! That next winter we came up to our cottage for a week, and stopped in at the LTC office to meet staff and learn more. We became members, and gave our first donation. LTC's Tom Lagerstrom directed us to the Andreae Nature Preserve. What a fun new adventure!



Carolyn Workman

What is your favorite thing to do on preserves?

Winter: We cross-country ski, snowshoe, or hike. Every day, after checking the LTC webpage, we head to a different nature preserve with our skis, shoes, or boots. After a two-hour adventure, we are filled up with fresh air and nature's beauty as we settle in our cottage by the fireplace. *Spring:* We are overwhelmed with the beauty of all the trillium. We usually hike at the Offield Family Nature Preserve. *Summer:* We bike! This last summer I (Carolyn) participated in the LTC Ladies Mountain Biking field trip. It was so much fun! We also both joined in for a yoga class at Helstrom Family Nature Preserve one Sunday morning. We look forward to participating in many other field trips and work bees. *Fall:* We try to enjoy one week of the beautiful golden colors and have one last bike ride. Thank you, especially Offield Family Nature Preserve!

Share with us some of your favorite preserve discoveries.

Last summer we discovered the Woollam Family Preserve, a short

but beautiful hike to the Lake Michigan shoreline. We returned there for a winter hike in December. The Andreae Preserve is our absolute favorite, because it has such varied terrain, and is along the Pigeon River, and now with the Banwell Preserve, can be a full-day outing. All the preserve trails are well-maintained and well-marked. This winter, after reading the LTC newsletter, we headed to Chaboiganing Preserve for the first time, and had a beautiful peaceful ski. Also, Waldron Fen Preserve was a new discovery a couple years ago, a beautiful prairie walk with lots of birds.

Why do you support the Little Traverse Conservancy?

We love "Pure Michigan," and are grateful for LTC's mission to protect the natural diversity and beauty of Michigan, and to help everyone access these preserves, sharing environmental education and appreciation. We really appreciate the friendly, knowledgeable staff, and their efforts to provide hands-on opportunities to learn and have fun.

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LTC's Education Department Wins State Award

The Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society EDUCATION AWARD was presented to the LTC's Education Department on March 3, 2017 during an annual seminar in Lansing. The award was given with special acknowledgement of staffers Melissa Hansen and Sarah Mayhew for their talented interpretive expertise and the impacts of the program. LTC's is one of very few land trusts in the country that offers environmental education. It has been doing so for more than 30 years.

Nature Programming with Charlevoix Public Library

LTC and Charlevoix Public Library are collaborating to promote nature study, literacy and outdoor adventures at local preserves through joint programming and materials. Inspired by Richard Louv's book "Vitamin N," Conservancy Education Coordinator Melissa Hansen and Charlevoix Public Library Youth Services Supervisor, Audrey Shaprio, are working on a number of materials and programs.

Modeled after LTC's community nature packs and the library's book packs, a new Spring Nature Pack will feature books, craft ideas, a scavenger hunt, a frog cycle activity, plus discovery equipment such as binoculars, a bug box, and a magnifier. Three more nature packs will be assembled, one for each season. The packs will be available for checkout through the library.

This past February, an Animal Tracks & Signs program for families was led by Hansen with assistance from Charlevoix library staff. Twenty-one participants viewed a presentation, made track casts and a track stamp bookmark, and took a short field trip to the wooded area by Lake Michigan. Future plans include a "bug catching" program and a birding program with LTC volunteer Mary Trout.

Collaborating with libraries is not brand new for the Conservancy. The past two summers, LTC has partnered with the Boyne District Library's Outdoors Adventure Club. Participants were shuttled to an LTC preserve or natural area where books were read, followed by a hiking adventure or nature games. "We're thrilled with these partnerships that bring nature education to the community in a new way," Hansen said.



**Spring 2017
Environmental Education
Program Season**
Programs run May 2-June 9
Educators call 231.347.0991
to reserve your spot!



Animal Tracks & Signs program in Charlevoix

Student Nature Photography Featured at Airport

The current Mackinaw City Area Arts Council sponsored Art Exhibit at the Pellston Regional Airport features photographic images from a recent Introduction to Nature Photography Class held with Mackinaw City 7th-12th graders. Forty-five images are featured from the class which was led by LTC Education Coordinator Sarah Mayhew. Students learned how to use digital cameras followed by a field trip to nearby Headlands County Park to photograph nature. To learn more about the Intro. to Photography class, visit <http://www.landtrust.org>. To see all of the images online and to learn more about upcoming art related events visit the MCAAC website at <http://www.mackinawcityareaartscouncil.org> The show will be there through April 10th.

(Mackinaw City student photo)

March is maple syrup season in northern Michigan. New LTC Trustee Eric Hemenway describes a traditional Odawa maple sugar bush.

Uh-ni nah-ti-goong: The Sugar Bush

by Eric Hemenway

The Odawa, like their Ojibway and Potawatomi kin, moved with the seasons in their ancestral homes of Gitchi-Gumek, commonly known today as the Great Lakes. A large part of this moving was the fact that the Odawa adapted their lives to fit that of their natural resources. The Anishnaabek (Odawa, Ojibway and Potawatomi) did not alter their environments for the sake of their lifestyles. For example, Odawa families would move where game was plentiful or where berries were in abundance. But not all life was migratory, as small-scale farms were established by Odawa families during the growing season. One other resource was a staple in the Odawa cycle of natural resources: maple sugar.

The maple tree, known as “uh-ni-nah-tig” in Odawa, was and continues to be one of the most important trees for the Odawa. Each spring, families returning from their winter hunting and trapping grounds across the Great Lakes would immediately establish their camps to harvest and produce maple sugar. Referred to as “sugar bush,” these camps were essential to the Odawa rhythm of life with the seasons and environment. Families with historic ties to stands of maple trees would create their sugar bushes in the early spring.

Maple sugar production went beyond personal consumption for families. Enough sugar was produced that families would trade, and later sell, to other communities. Other tribes — French, British, and finally Americans — all bartered and bought maple sugar produced by Odawa. Odawa traders would venture hundreds of miles in their birch bark canoes across the Great Lakes trading goods and food, including sugar. Maple sugar was perfect for long journeys, as it could be stored for months. The large trading canoes of the Odawa, which were 30 feet in length, could haul up to four tons of goods, including eight paddlers. Anishnaabek families would produce and store enough food to survive the harsh winter months. Dried corn and maple sugar were essentials in the food caches stashed through the woods. These caches would be the difference between life and death for



Elijah Wonegeshik and Josephine Anderson showing how maple syrup was processed by their ancestors years ago. (1964 photo by Guyles Dame)

many families in the waning months of winter, when food was scarce.

The Odawa were faced with forced removal from their homelands in northern Michigan during the 1830s. Under the Indian Removal Act of 1830, tens of thousands of natives were forced onto lands west of the Mississippi. When threatened with removal to Kansas in 1838, the Odawa pushed back against leaving their ancestral lands. One of their arguments against relocation was Kansas did not have the maple trees like Michigan did. Sugar production was part of the cultural, economic and subsistence makeup of the Odawa.

Odawa families still tap maple trees, making sugar and syrup. It's not the large scale operation it once was in the 1700s and 1800s but nonetheless it's still part of the Odawa community. Many cultural stories are tied into the maple tree and maple sugar. These stories are often passed down to children while they are helping in the maple syrup process.

(See Parsons syruping field trip, back page.)

2nd Mackinaw Straits Raptor Fest April 7-9

Building on the success of last year's inaugural event, the second annual Mackinac Straits Raptor Fest is coming up next month. The public is welcome to come learn more about birds and their twice-a-year migration at this event held at the Mackinaw City Public School. This festival provides an entertaining and educational showcase to promote public awareness and knowledge of raptors and waterbirds, as well as the significance of Mackinaw City and the Straits of Mackinac during migration. It promotes positive public attitudes towards raptors and waterbirds and their importance to the environment. Keynote talks this year will include topics such as Golden Eagles, Live Birds of Prey, and owl research. For more information, visit www.mackinawraptorfest.org.



Kathy Bricker assisting a family during Hawk Watch, 2016.

SPECIAL GIFTS

Photo taken by Lakeview Academy student, Spring 2016

Memorials

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Mrs. Thomas H. Carruthers, IV
Fred and Mary Clinton
Mr. and Mrs. John Cruise
C. Beach and Trudy Day
Harbor Hall Auxiliary
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Kazmierski
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lamere
John and Maureen Delaney Lehman
Mr. James Peck
Mr. and Mrs. Winston L. Stebbins
Ms. Judith M. Wilson
Women in the Word Study Group,
First Presbyterian Church

Steve Andrews

Ms. Linda Heller

David A. Armour

Matthew and Anneke Myers

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Delores Wehrenberg's 95th birthday


Ric and Lisa Loyd

The marriage of**Lauren Boyd and Aaron Gellhaus**

Chris Ali, Will and Nick Ford

WISH LIST

We are seeking a bunk bed for our intern residence.
If you have one to spare, please call Cacia at 231.347.0991.



**3rd Annual
Aldo Leopold Festival
June 2-4, 2017**

WHAT IS THE ALDO LEOPOLD FESTIVAL?
A celebration of conservation.

Les Cheneaux welcomes you to celebrate the legacy of Aldo Leopold — one of America's most influential naturalists — during a weekend-long festival, June 2-4, 2017. Activities include paddling excursions, an award winning documentary showing, orchid and wildflower tours, birding trips, community picnic, triathlon, geology talk and limestone quarry tour, fly fishing demonstration and many other Leopold-related activities. Come experience the woods and water that formed Leopold's early impressions of the natural world as we honor the mark he made on conservation and the environment.

Visit: www.aldoleopoldfestival.com
for the schedule details and online registration.

Leopold family on Marquette Island
courtesy Aldo Leopold Foundation

Reflections...by Tom Bailey

When I was coming of age and the Environmental Movement was blossoming across America, one of the main topics was “Zero Population Growth,” known then as ZPG. It was a common theme and became the name of a non-profit organization. There were advocacy buttons, bumper stickers and such calling on people to “Stop At Two —” children, that is. Wolves limit their breeding and population growth, we learned, and it was suggested that we should do this, too. There was much talk about promoting birth control as a way to minimize the misery and suffering that came with famines, water shortages and wars springing from overcrowding and territorial disputes.

Today, as we approach the 47th anniversary of Earth Day, I hear little or nothing about ZPG. Has it faded from public discussion because it was wrong or are there other reasons? When we see massive movements of refugees prompted by claims to territory, resource scarcities and other matters relating directly to land and population, it calls upon one to wonder just how many humans the Earth can realistically support. To what extent is this a habitat problem and to what extent a social or adaptation problem? Hard to tell; still, the population issue does not receive much attention.

Recent forecasts from the United Nations project that the Earth’s human population will grow from today’s 7.3 billion to 9.7 billion by 2050 and 11.3 billion by 2100. With increasing numbers of people, we can expect increasing numbers of refugees from territorial wars, famines, floods and other disasters. How can the Earth absorb these numbers? What are the implications for governments, the world economy and social order? What standard of living can people expect as the population grows and the proverbial “pie” of land and resources must be divided into more and more pieces? These and other questions loom large, yet it seems to be politically incorrect and socially taboo to raise the issue.

Nonetheless, humans are pouring into cities at a record pace with fewer and fewer left to work the land and support urban populations. New cities have been created in China with populations growing from a few thousands to many millions in just a few years – the greatest wave of urbanization, ever. In the United States, we’re told that there will soon be fewer than 2 million farms in our country for the first time since the 19th century – and more than 320 million people who need to eat (not to mention those in other countries who depend on US food production). Farm and range land is being gobbled up at an alarming pace across the globe by urbanization and the frightening process known as desertification. Forests that produce timber, fiber and a great multitude of other products are being lost, too. Clean water is at a premium for much of the world’s population and, as we learned in Flint, it’s not just a third world issue.

Here in northern Michigan we are largely isolated from direct impacts of these trends because we remain a relatively sparsely populated area in an affluent and stable nation with 20 percent of the world’s fresh surface water close at hand, good supply lines for food and other essentials, abundant energy and a stable, friendly nation just across the border with a culture very similar to ours. We’re fortunate, while many around the world are not.

All sorts of political, ethical and moral issues arise. Must national governments provide for their own populations? If people have the right to produce offspring at greater than replacement levels



Bob Jagendorf

when there are not enough resources to sustain them, who has the obligation to care for those who become refugees? Is there a “right” to migrate to other areas with more resources? Certainly in western society there is a sense of moral imperative to help those less well off, but for how long? Until it is no longer sustainable? Until resources run out? Until disease, famine or war wipe out large numbers?

Or, perhaps, until we recognize the problem and take steps to control our numbers. We know for certain that if we don’t do it, Mother Nature will, and her ways can be very harsh. Disease, famine, flood, fire and the potential for runaway climate change are some of the grim options that face us if we don’t wise up.

We are learning how unhealthy some of our habits are becoming. Cutting people off from nature, for example, is being shown to have negative effects on the social and cognitive development of children. Natural foods are better for us than over-processed and artificial ones. We are only beginning to learn about the impact of human activity on our climate, and most of what we’re learning is not encouraging. When people who study the gradual changes that have taken place on earth declare that we are now in an epoch called the “Anthropocene,” it’s probably time to take notice. Will we limit our numbers as wolves do, or will we outstrip our habitat and have limits forced on us by nature?

The North Country seems peaceful as I ponder these things and write. Warm breezes are melting winter’s snow from the boughs of the hemlocks and firs around the office. We work, in this little corner of northern Michigan, to ensure that farmland will be protected and available to feed the masses; we designate some forests for production of wood and fiber on a sustainable basis for the future, and we work to set aside a few green places so that nature can function unhindered and we can escape now and then from the headlines, the politics and the pressures of “modern life” to enjoy the beauty of the land as people have longed to do since time immemorial.

We contemplate the stars through a largely unpolluted sky, as our ancestors did for thousands of years. We warm ourselves by wood fires as they did and we can be proud of the conservation legacy we have created here in the North. But when we turn on the news and see what’s happening across the globe, it is as though a dark cloud dims the picture. What of the billions of people clamoring for access to more resources and to escape from war and alarming social unrest? What does it mean to create a culture of sustainability and to limit our consumption of resources to reasonable levels? How does what we see going on around the world relate to us and how do we make meaningful progress against these daunting problems?

It seems to me that most of our problems stem from the simple fact of our numbers. I tend to look to nature for the answers to the big questions, and there are many things to learn. Perhaps, for one, we can learn from the wolves and begin to limit our numbers.

Thank You...

- John Baker, Jason Brabbs, Bret Huntman, Sue Gosse, Richard Jenkins, Lisa Morris, Charles and Barb Lindsay, Kate Melby, and Andy Reyburn for help removing invasive honeysuckle at the Offield Family Preserve.
- Mary Trout for leading After School Birding programs at Sheridan Elementary and a family field trip at Susan Creek.
- Pat Bunker for plowing the parking area at the Banwell Preserve.
- Tim DeWick for plowing the Birge and Derby Preserve parking areas.
- John Griffin for ski grooming the Birge Preserve trails.
- Todd Wright for grooming the trails at The Hill Preserve.
- Dan Mann for grooming the trails at the Driggers Preserve.
- Ratliff Family for donating cooking pans, and Emily Hughes and Joe Graham for donating a couch for use at our intern residence.
- Kelly Borgmann for helping with website work.
- Amy Stubblefield for taking photographs at the eastern U.P. birding field trip, and Elliot Nelson for leading the field trip.
- Darrell Lawson for leading a birding trip at Waldron Fen Preserve.
- Top of Michigan Trails Council and Latitude 45 for collaborating on two winter field trips.
- Mary Jane Clayton and Fred Clinton for compiling trail camera data.
- Eric Hemenway for leading an outing at the Round Lake Nature Preserve.
- Sarah Sloan for helping update Eco-Journaling materials.
- Glen Matthews for continuing assistance with forest management.
- Peggy Swenor for mailing and editing help.
- Harbor Springs Excavating for salting our icy driveway.
- Dave Dempsey for helping LTC with a book project.
- Marty Amlin and Cheryl Graham for publication editing.
- Gary Osterbeck for photography work.
- Dick and Sheilah Bogart of Brady's Carpet for donating carpet cleaning at our intern residence.

New Birding Trail Coming Soon!



SUNSET COAST BIRDING TRAIL

This trail highlights the important habitats and birds along Michigan's Sunset Coast in Antrim, Charlevoix and Emmet Counties.



sunsetcoastbirdingtrail.org

Petoskey Audubon is leading the way for a new birding trail that will follow the Lake Michigan shore of the northwest Lower Peninsula, along with several inland sites. LTC's preserves are included along this new trail with nine of them as primary sites and five of them as secondary sites. Watch for more information later this spring.

- Volunteer Preserve Steward Mary Johnson and her volunteer crew "The Hill's Angels" for organizing a trail clearing work bee at The Hill Preserve. She was joined by Susan Conklin, Meg and John McClorey, and Jeff Johnson.

The mission of the Little Traverse Conservancy is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of northern Michigan by preserving significant land and scenic areas, and fostering appreciation and understanding of the environment.

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Join LTC and many others for Earth Week opportunities near Cheboygan and Petoskey:

- Earth Day Every Day Emmet County (check North Central Michigan College website for details)
- www.earthweekplus.org (Cheboygan area)

Little Traverse Conservancy, Inc.
3264 Powell Road
Harbor Springs, MI 49740-9469
231.347.0991
www.landtrust.org

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Community Field Trips

Pre-registration is requested for all field trips at www.landtrust.org or by calling 231.347.0991.

Tour and Taste at Parson Family Farm, Charlevoix

Saturday, April 1 10-11:30am

The Parsons family has been making maple syrup since the late 1800s on their centennial farm located in Charlevoix. Their passion for sustainability and preservation go hand in hand with their plans for the future of the farm and maple syrup operation. Working with LTC has given the Parsons family peace of mind knowing that part of their property is preserved for future generations. Come tour their farm, see the maple operation in full swing, and answer any questions you may have about their conservation work with LTC. Light refreshments provided.

Kayak the Maple River near Brutus

Saturday, May 6 10am-noon

Enjoy a spring float down the Maple River as you look for minnow and rising trout, and enjoy the wonders of this pristine riverine habitat. LTC staff will discuss Maple River land conservation efforts, and the float will end on a recently-protected conservation easement property. You must provide your own kayak, PFD, and lunch. Rentals are available through Ryde Marine, The Outfitter in Harbor Springs, or Big Bear Adventures in Indian River. Pre-registration required.

Spring Birding at Greenwood Foundation near Wolverine

Saturday, May 6 10am-noon

Join LTC volunteer and birder extraordinaire Mary Trout as we explore the varying trails and habitats of the Greenwood Foundation. May is the month for migration and courting so we will look — and listen — as birds sing and establish their territories.

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk at Hoogland Family Preserve

Sunday May 14 10am

Hoogland Family Nature Preserve near Harbor Springs

Celebrate Mother's Day with a hike through rich, northern-hardwood forests of this brand new nature preserve in search of wildflowers. LTC stewardship staff member, Derek Shiels, will share his passion for plants and guide us through the wonders of northern Michigan's spring ephemeral wildflowers. Families welcome.

Jordan River Birding at Rogers Family Homestead Preserve

Thursday, May 18 5:30-7:30pm

This preserve near East Jordan offers a strong mixture of habitat that is sought by both migrating and breeding birds. Darrell Lawson, current president of Petoskey Regional Audubon Society (PRAS), will identify birds seen and heard. For those who wish, we will plan on dinner in East Jordan afterwards. Loaner binoculars are available.

Waldron Fen Birding

Saturday, May 20 8-11AM

Waldron Fen Nature Preserve near Alanson offers a delightful mixture of habitats supporting a wide diversity of bird species. This will be the peak of songbird migration through northern Michigan, so expect to see a wide array of species, possibly even a rare species. Plan to spend approximately two hours hiking the trails while learning to identify birds by sight and sound. Darrell Lawson, current president of the PRAS, will lead the trip, help locate birds, and explain their behavior. Loaner binoculars are available.

Hiking the Wilds of Harbor Springs

Saturday, May 20 10 am – noon

The Naas/Mauger/Raunecker/Leslie Preserve Complex is one of LTC's most popular and interesting urban nature preserves. It has a pond, trout stream, and artesian spring; a mature mixed upland forest and dense conifer swamp; forested dunes, ancient shoreline features, and distinctive soils. Come along with former LTC Director of Stewardship Doug Fuller and have a look.

A War for Beavers? Harris Working Forest Reserve

Saturday, June 3 10am-Noon

Yes, it sounds crazy but during the 17th and 18th century, Great Lakes tribes, the French, and British all fought expansive wars in North America for control of the booming fur industry. The most coveted of all furs was beaver. Learn, from Eric Hemenway, how a simple animal, known for building dams, helped shape the history of North America. The Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve along the Pigeon River is the Conservancy's largest land protection project of 2016. Visitors are welcome to enjoy Eric's history lesson and then explore the two-tracks on foot guiding you through 643 acres of forests, beaver ponds, and creeks.

Yoga in Nature at Wisser-Saworski Nature Preserve

Sunday, June 4 1-3pm

This preserve near Boyne Falls offers an overlook deck built as a viewing site that offers a unique place to birdwatch, picnic, or do yoga after hiking the preserve. Join LTC Volunteer Coordinator and certified yoga instructor, Cacia Lesh, for a one-hour yoga practice on a beautiful platform among the trees. All ages and levels welcome, but children must be with an adult. A 1/2 mile intermediate hike is required to get to the site. Bring your own water and yoga mat, or ask for one to be provided when you register.