



Members and Communities Make Land Caretaking a Priority

We say it time and again: Little Traverse Conservancy can only keep doing what we do because of you - our members, donors, and volunteers. Northern Michigan holds a special place in the hearts of many, and preserving it for now and for the years ahead continues to be a community priority. Whether you give through your finances or your time, each dollar and each hour given to LTC is stretched further today than ever before.

Since 1972, LTC has worked with local government and landowners to protect nearly 60,000 acres with 50,000 acres under our caretaking either as a nature preserve, working forest reserve, or a conservation easement on a private property that we annually monitor. The breadth of the work of this organization continues to expand. Last year alone, landowners entrusted us with protecting an additional 2,866 acres either through preserve, reserve, or easement. We are committed to remaining an efficient staff that makes the most of the resources entrusted to us.

One of the primary reasons we can do this is the corps of volunteers who join our efforts every single year. Last year, 383 volunteers gave thousands of hours to help us with our work. Volunteer Coordinator Cacia Lesh explains that this translates to multiple paid staff positions within the organization. Cacia also noted that our annual interns add a tremendous capacity to our efforts typically during the summer season. "We have an extremely lean staff in relation to the volume of land we care for and newly protect every year," Lesh said. "Our volunteers provide many essential services, allowing us to maintain that leanness and fiscal responsibility."

At this time, LTC's board and staff are re-examining our priorities and planning for future needs. We are celebrating how far this organization has come since it was founded more than 45 years ago. At the same time, we are acknowledging the very large land stewardship responsibilities we will always have, even if we never do another land project.

Fortunately, this organization is up to the challenge of not only keeping up, but of doing more with what we have. Director of Stewardship Derek Shiels is quick to point out that with LTC's growing responsibility to care for these lands, there are also many new opportunities. "Of course there are 'must-dos' such as checking

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Hathaway Family's Regina Caeli Nature Preserve

Tom Hathaway answers some questions about the new 92-acre nature preserve his family recently donated, located within Mackinaw City limits.

Can you tell us a bit about the land and what it has meant to you and your family?

My father, Judge James A. Hathaway, bought the farm land back in the 1950s, when the owner's family was no longer able to maintain a successful farming business. Our mother, Carmelita ("Dolly"), was born and raised on a farm in Minnesota, and Dad acquired the farm land for her. It had a farm house and a large barn/garage/tool building with all kinds of farm implements, old Model T car, and horse harnesses, etc. My parents donated the farm house to the local Catholic priest, Fr. Bienowski, when he retired from ministry at St. Anthony's church in Mackinaw. The farm remained. Originally, my parents wanted to grow Christmas trees on a part of the land, and they planted row upon row of trees. But they never did harvest the trees, and they remain, as planted, as a forest of pine trees on the land to this day.

We always spent our summers in Mackinaw, working and vacationing as summer residents, while Dad commuted to Detroit. Over the years, we would drive onto the land in the summer and walk its area, observing and enjoying the sightlines of the Straits and the Upper Peninsula, and wonder at the possibilities. The high ground area was tremendous. At various times our

parents would consider offers to develop the land for a golf course, for high- and low-income housing, and a high-rise restaurant, overlooking the Straits. All of these ventures were ultimately rejected, and the land stayed as it was, except for the underground easement for the gas line, with its above-ground pumping stations. We wanted the "farm" to remain as the farm land. Up North, undeveloped, rich and beautiful.

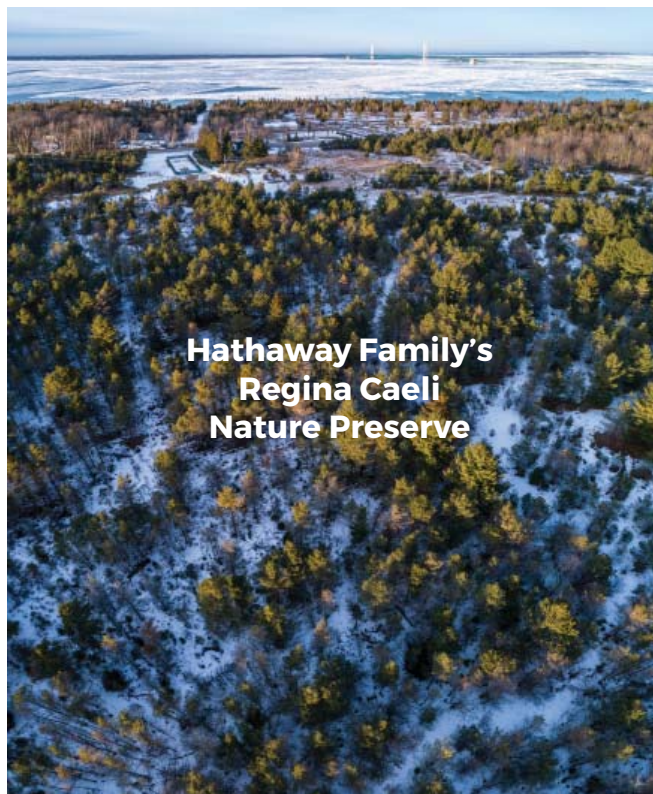
How did you choose the name for it?

The name, Regina Caeli, is Latin for "Queen of Heaven" and our parents had said that any project with the land would be named in honor of the Blessed Mother Mary, to whom they had a deep devotion. With a name like that, any project would have to be special, and meaningful. Dad had observed that the use and enjoyment of this beautiful Mackinaw land would be dedicated to Mary, who had blessed and watched over their lives and their family so abundantly. We honor our parents' wish by naming it Regina Caeli, as they would have.

What prompted you to donate it to LTC?

After our parents passed and we were administering the trust, we discussed many possible uses of the land. We couldn't find any use that would match our parents' vision for the land. Finally, we decided that we should donate the farm land to a conservancy that would hold the land in trust for the benefit of future generations, just as our parents did. Our sister Lita, and brother Frank, did research on various conservancies, and we ultimately decided on Little Traverse Conservancy.

We know that Mom and Dad maintained the land ownership for almost 50 years, and we wanted to honor them, their stewardship, their vision for the land, and the history of this pristine land by ensuring it would forever remain in an original state, and a living part of the history and culture of Mackinaw, and the Straits area. It contains the highest land in Mackinaw, and has wonderful views, flora and fauna. It is vintage Mackinaw. Our family is delighted that LTC will now take over and maintain this special land as the Hathaway Family's Regina Caeli Nature Preserve.



Hathaway Family's
Regina Caeli
Nature Preserve



For the turtles

This winter, Glen Matthews placed a turtle basking raft that he had constructed on a pond on the Black Hole Nature Preserve on Crooked Lake.

Armistead Family Nature Preserve

Approximately 16 acres with frontage on Pickerel Lake Road were recently donated by Dan and Mary Pat Armistead as the Armistead Family Nature Preserve. The land lies behind the lake home that has been their family's gathering spot for decades.

As a young girl, Mary Pat Armistead and her family always visited Petoskey on their way to Copper Harbor for their summer vacation from their home in southeast Michigan. "Petoskey was special to us. My mother loved it there," Mary Pat said. After they were married, Dan always wanted them to have a cottage in northern Michigan and early in their marriage, they had an opportunity to purchase property on Pickerel Lake.

Over the years, the couple cleared space for a cottage and eventually built their home on the lake for year-round getaways. Three of their kids were ski racers, giving them more time to spend up north. Eventually all four of their children came to love northern Michigan, and – after they were all grown and grandchildren came along – a renewed commitment to family and their northern Michigan home was made.

The new preserve land lies behind the cottage, and the southern portion of the property is forested with primarily white cedar. A small creek enters from the south and appears to go underground in the center portion of the



The Armistead Family at their Pickerel Lake cottage. Mary Pat and Dan (seated middle) are surrounded by their children, their spouses, and their 12 grandchildren. Standing top left are son Jeff and wife Terry; daughter Jenn and husband Joe, bottom left; son Matt and wife Jen behind Mary Pat and Dan; and son Matt and wife Jen far right.

property. The northern portion of the property is mixed open and shrub uplands.

"The kids have always hiked that land, and a few years ago, we started talking about donating the back property, because we always admired the Ray Johnston Preserve," Mary Pat explained. "Ray's granddaughters and Ray and his wife sometimes babysat for our kids." Protected in 2005, the Ray Johnston Preserve lies just down the road from the new Armistead Family Preserve.

"The Armistead Preserve adds a layer of protection within the Pickerel Lake Watershed," said LTC Director of Land Protection Caitlin Donnelly. "It is nice to have this expansion of protection in a region that can have a great impact on the overall health of the Inland Waterway."



BEQUESTS: powerful...simple

For many Conservancy members a bequest is the most direct and impactful way to give, no matter how large or small of a gift. A bequest is invaluable to the Conservancy's continued growth and stability. And bequests ensure the special places we preserve will be cared for and protected forever.

For more information on bequests and other planned giving options, please contact Ty Ratliff, Director of Donor Relations, at 231-344-1005 or tyratliff@landtrust.org

Gaines Family Conservation Easement

PROTECTING LAKE HURON SHORELINE

A 62-acre property with more than 2,000 feet along Lake Huron and 2,500 feet along US-23 has been protected with a conservation easement donated by the Gaines family. This new easement lies adjacent to and near additional lands also protected with easements held through LTC, including one completed by the Gaines family in 2010.

"This land was all part of a bigger tract first purchased by my great-grandfather, Fredrick Gaines, during the Great Depression, and it has been in the family ever since," said Jim Gehrke. "It was my grandfather, James O. Gaines, who was the person who set the tone for stewardship in my family. He was a hunter and fisherman and really conveyed a great respect for the land and how important it is."

Today, Jim's mother Sue Gaines Gehrke owns the land and adjoining cottage, a place that has been the gathering spot for the family for decades. "We've always kept things simple up here," Sue said. "Instead of cocktail hour at 5, you will find the adults down on the beach digging a hole for a sand castle with the kids."

"This land binds us together," Jim added, "noting that family members have lived in Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, the District of Columbia, Arizona, North Carolina, and California. The easement is a way for us to protect the land and ensure its future as a natural, undeveloped space for family and nature. I know my mom is very proud we have done this, and I know my grandfather would have been also."

Sue Gehrke celebrating her 80th birthday last summer with her son, Mark and granddaughter Claire.



What is a conservation easement?

One way to visualize a conservation easement is to think of owning land as holding a bundle of sticks. Each one of these sticks represents the landowner's right to do something with their property. The right to build a house, extract minerals, lease the property, pass it on to heirs, or allow hunting are all rights that the landowner has. A landowner may give up certain development rights, or sticks from the bundle, associated with their property through a document called a conservation easement. The easement will carry with the property for perpetuity, regardless of future ownership.

Activities occurring throughout the Hessel/Cedarville area.



SAVE THE DATE

Aldo Leopold Festival

May 31-June 3, 2018

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land." Aldo Leopold



Thursday, May 31

Birding on Drummond Island

Friday, June 1

- Birding on Whitefish Point
- Sea Kayaking
- Photographing Wild Birds
- Wildflower Walk
- Exploring Leopold Landing and Preserve
- Sunset Birding

Saturday, June 2

- Birding for Warblers & Waterfowl
- Birding for Grassland and Marsh Birds
- Exploring for Wild Orchids
- ALF Triathlon
- "Greenbird" Birdhouses Family Workshop
- Children's Programs
- Special Leopold Presentation
- Paddle to Duck Bay
- Exotic Forest Pests in Michigan Talk
- A Talk about Ticks
- Afternoon Birding Strolls

Sunday, June 3

- Birding for Grasslands and Marsh Birds
- Birding for Warblers and Waterfowl
- Birding by Kayak
- Wildflower Exploration
- Free Community Picnic by the Lion's Club

Ongoing "Where's Aldo" Scavenger Hunt at Local Businesses!

www.aldoleopoldfestival.com



Chestnut Sided Warbler/Dave Inman



TMPetersen

A Soft Space to be Resilient

The morning after the memorial ceremony for her husband Don, held at their hand-built home near Harbor Springs, Jennifer Eis was pulling out of her driveway and saw a sign. Literally, a “For Sale” sign had popped up within the last 24 hours on the property across the street from her home. “It was like an exclamation point!” Jennifer said, noting that she and Don had walked and explored that property for decades. A few years ago, the land had been logged and not in a favorable way. She and Don had grieved for the destruction and loss that had occurred, having donated a conservation easement protecting their own 50 acres directly across the road in 2005.

While the land was clearly no longer as attractive and enjoyable as it had once been, Jennifer knew she had to find out what it would take to purchase the property. She also knew that if she could buy it, she would plan to immediately protect it with a conservation easement. A serendipitous series of events did allow her to buy these 40 acres that were once owned by Alford LaCount, namesake of the road along which the land lies.

Jennifer’s feeling about the land had been focused on the great loss that had occurred there, and how the land needed to have some “soft space to be resilient” to recover from the heavy logging. Yet about a week before the purchase was complete, she reached out to LTC’s Kieran Fleming, with whom she and Don had completed

their first conservation easement. Kieran asked her if she would be interested in walking the property with him and Mary Trout, an accomplished birder who regularly volunteers for LTC. “My grandmother was an amateur ornithologist and it was part of an inheritance from her that allowed for this purchase,” Jennifer explained. In just one short visit, the three saw and heard 15 species of birds, including warblers, northern oriole, indigo bunting, and eastern wood peewee. Suddenly the land became rich with potential, once again. And by the end of 2017, Jennifer had completed her donation of a conservation easement to LTC that would ensure the land would stay protected from that day forward.

“I am so grateful that LTC exists,” Jennifer said. “How else are we going to be assured that this land we care about is going to be looked after once we are gone? I did this so the land will continue to be a place for living beings, and not just the two-legged.”

“This is just one more generous gift that Jennifer and Don have given to our community,” said LTC Director of Land Protection Caitlin Donnelly. Last December, Jennifer and Don’s long-standing business, Ward & Eis, received the Petoskey Chamber’s first-ever Thriving Petoskey Award, acknowledging businesses that are practicing conscious corporate responsibility. Over the years, Ward & Eis has donated more than \$436,000 to local non-profits that serve the needs of the community. “They have always had the bigger picture, the greater good, in their minds and completing this project with Jennifer was a true privilege,” Donnelly added.

Celebration of Spring Migration

Sunset Coast Birding Trail will host a Celebration of Spring Migration with events and programs May 20–24. Learn how to bird watch with a workshop on May 20 at the Charlevoix Public Library. Enjoy a raptor workshop at the library with Wings of Wonder on May 21. Partake in local bird walks on May 22, 23 and 24. Full details available at www.sunsetcoastbirdingtrail.org.



Rondell Conservation Easement

This past fall, Paul Rondell donated a conservation easement on his 50-acre property along Brutus Road in central Emmet County. Rondell's property consists primarily of upland hardwoods dominated by sugar maple, American beech, American basswood, and ash. The topography is rolling with a ridge line that runs southwest to northeast.

Originally from north central Ohio, Paul and his wife Betty spent most of their working career in Ann Arbor, where Paul was a physiologist for the University of Michigan and Betty worked as a teacher. Over the years, their family made regular trips to northern Michigan to ski. Upon retirement, they sold their Ann Arbor home and built a ski cabin on their Brutus property. Today, Paul spends a good part of the year at the chalet, living in downtown Harbor Springs during the winter (Betty passed in 2001). While Paul no longer hunts on the land as he used to, his son Mark still does, and they have enjoyed many years of wildlife watching.

The Rondell family has enjoyed many adventures in their lives, including two years living in Switzerland while Paul conducted research. Betty and Paul spent several retirement winters sailing their boat around Florida and the Bahamas. Yet northern Michigan has been the constant for them, with Paul, Mark, and Paul's daughter Rachel all calling the Harbor Springs region home. When asked why he wanted the land protected, Paul notes that he simply didn't want it developed but preserved as it is, and now that the easement is complete, it makes him very happy. "I have no complaints," he said with a big smile.

Join the Little Traverse Conservancy for the 3rd annual



**Partner with naturalists, professional biologists,
and area citizens to document the diversity of
living creatures in one location in one day.
Explore on your own or join a guided foray.**

Saturday, June 30, 2018 - All Day
Agnes S. Andreae Nature Preserve, Indian River
Register at www.landtrust.org or call 231.347.0991.





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Conservancy and Watershed Council Partner with Middle School Programs

For most of the week of February 12, Petoskey 6th graders (6 classes of roughly 30 students each) joined staff from Little Traverse Conservancy and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council at the McCune Nature Preserve southeast of Petoskey. During the programs, the students studied "Tracks & Signs" with the Conservancy and conducted stream quality monitoring on the Minnehaha Creek with the Watershed Council. They did determine that the Minnehaha, a tributary to Crooked Lake, was in good health!



Spring 2018 Environmental Education Program Season

Programs run May 1-June 8
Educators call 231.347.0991 to reserve your spot!

Eighteen youngsters joined in this winter's After School Birding Club at Sheridan Elementary in Petoskey. Mary Trout volunteers her time in partnership with LTC.



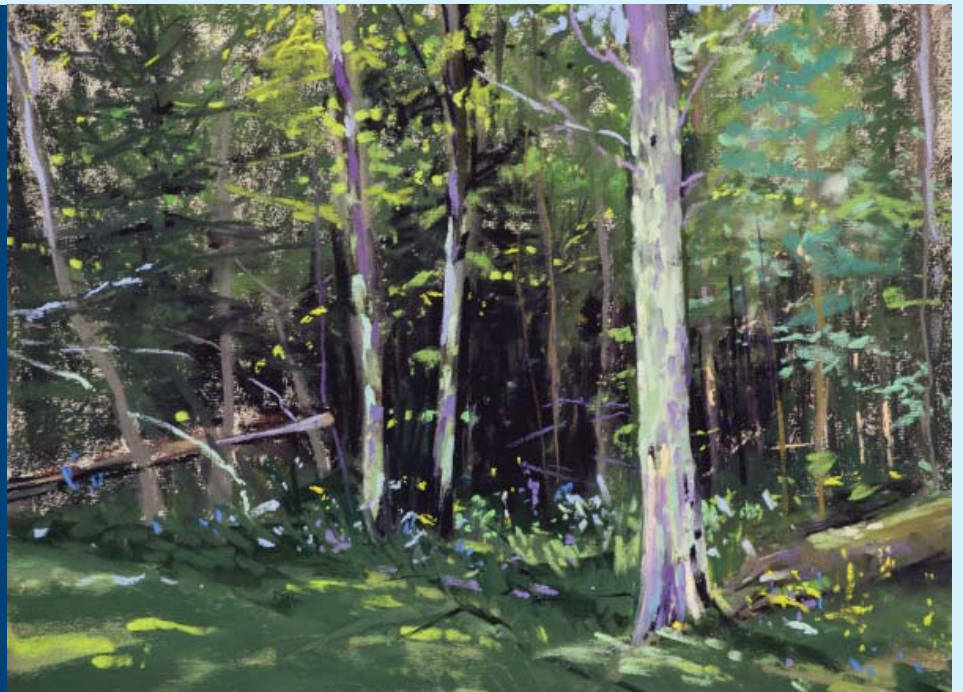
Sue Kurtz

Save the Date 46th Annual Meeting and Tom Bailey's Retirement Party

Watch for more information in our summer newsletter and member invitation!

Tuesday, August 7
Great Lakes Center
for the Arts, Bay Harbor
Annual Meeting 3-4:30
Retirement Party 5-7

painting by Heidi Marshall
from Tom Bailey's new book (see p. 12)



Staff Updates



Becky Wadleigh

We are excited to welcome **Becky Wadleigh**, as the Land Protection Specialist, to northern Michigan and the Little Traverse Conservancy.

Originally from Racine, Wisconsin, Becky has been living in Stevens Point, where she was attending university. Becky interned and

worked for the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust in southeastern Wisconsin, observing firsthand the positive influence that land trusts and conservancies can have on their communities. Upon completion of an undergraduate degree, Becky said she envisioned moving out west, to learn how different regions of the country protect land. But, she says, “In the last couple years, especially in Wisconsin, there seemed to be a negative paradigm associated with conservation and I had this switch; the Great Lakes Region has a tremendous need for conservation, and so I wanted stay in the Midwest.” In returning to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point for her master’s degree in natural resource planning, Becky focused on how to engage and

establish positive dialogue with private landowners in forest conservation projects in their communities. Becky’s insight into the fostering of positive relationships with landowners is an invaluable asset to the conservancy; she will be raising awareness of conservation options and benefits for private landowners, working to protect land through conservation easements projects, and working with our Stewardship Department in the Working Forest Reserves.

With an interest in farming, Becky recently returned from Oaxaca, Mexico where she assisted in an equal-trade coffee farming initiative: harvesting, processing, and flying home with 100-pound bags of beans for roasting and distribution in Stevens Point. With graduate school finished, Becky now enjoys reading without a deadline. Having grown up in Racine, on the exact opposite side of Lake Michigan, Becky enjoys hiking, trail-running, and snowshoeing. In recent years she has ventured north to the Boundary Waters, canoeing and portaging through the myriad of lakes and rivers.

As of January 1, some existing LTC staff members took on new roles. **Melissa Hansen** has moved from environmental education to become LTC’s Conservation Easement Stewardship Coordinator. **Caitlin Donnelly** has become LTC’s new Director of Land Protection. Also, **Sarah Mayhew** has become LTC’s new Director of Education, assisted this winter and spring by seasonal educators **William Fitzgerald** and **Sarah Koetje**.

story continued from cover

preserve boundaries and monitoring conservation easements that are our top priorities, but there also are so many ‘get-tos’ that keep us inspired and working with new people throughout our communities.” Shiels explains that some of these things include establishing and improving access to preserves in more communities, keeping trails open, and discovering and helping conserve rare species, a truly rewarding investment.

“If you are interested in taking a more active role, if you want to dive further into our ‘we’ here at LTC, well welcome!” Shiels adds. “You, too, can say, I get to be a part of something grand, and feel the gratification of conserving and taking care of our shared land. We have a blossoming EcoStewards program that is driven by our citizen-science volunteers, and we have more openings for Preserve Monitors.”

LTC is entering a phase of more active land management. This starts simply with gathering more information about the creatures that find refuge, food, or space on LTC lands. This information might occur from a BioBlitz event (see page 6), an iNaturalist.org observation, or a biological consultant’s inventory. It includes sustainable harvests at our working forest reserves, creating more resilient forests. And as we consider new ways to be wise stewards, we are making strides in combating infestations of invasive species threatening our native plants. We are targeting habitat creation techniques and opportunities that mimic natural disturbance and support species dependent

on declining habitat types, such as grasslands or young aspen stands.

Our growing land holdings also open up new doors to exciting avenues for supporting our local economies and increasing local recreational outlets. We have been directly involved with the establishment of two local Birding Trails and eagerly support the other two in our service area. These Birding Trails will hopefully bring more visitors in the migrating seasons—the slow seasons to our tourism-based communities.

The responsibility calls us to be strategic and hone in on our priorities, identifying where our resources can best be directed to make meaningful contributions to public access, the health of our ecosystems, and the flourishing of communities. The responsibility is a call to the practical and the visionary. It means we must be supportive to those who share in our business of land conservation and it means we must challenge our community to enter into the fray. We see our challenge to you as an invitation to come and share in our “get-tos.”

All of this is only possible with the consistent support of each member and donor. We are grateful for all of you who support our existing obligations and our new initiatives. Like those who founded this organization more than 45 years ago, you join us in the shared understanding that our gratitude for this beautiful place must translate to our caring for it — for the long haul.

NEW MEMBERS

Thank you to the following individuals, families, and businesses who joined LTC as new members between November 15, 2017 - February 21, 2018.

Lois Aroian
Harry and Mellanee Asher
Ms. Laura Athens
John and Joyce Atkinson
Ms. Nancy Baerwaldt
Ms. Mary J. Baird
John and Nancy Banks
Dr. Cheryl Barget
Mr. Peter S. Barre
Nathan and Monica Algate Beck
Shawn and Tammy Beckman
Mr. Edward Belanger
Dr. Roger and Ann Benter
Noel and Melanie Bergeron
Mrs. Katherine Blake
Mr. and Mrs. Louis O. Blessing
Janet and Tim Borden
Gerry Boris
Gordon and Carolyn Bourland
Trevor and Carla Brazell
Camp Walden Inc.
Mr. Jeffrey Caston
Todd and Loren Chappell
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Cobb
Anne and Bill Coghill
Karen W. Connolly
Mr. William Connor
Ms. Laura Conrad
Denny and Mary Cook
Mr. Arthur D. Currey
Mr. Benjamin Dark
Jason and Amelie Dawson
Decka Digital, LLC
Ms. Emilie Delehanty
Edmund and Julia Denapoli
Julius and Jane Drotos
Mr. Karl F. DuBois
Dr. Ralph and Kathy Duman
Frank and Rochelle Ettawageshik
Evening Star Joinery
Barbara Forslund and Robert Fedor
Thomas and Marie Fluent
Ms. Gretchen Ford
Sarah and Peter Ford
Zach and Bobbie Ford
Gavin and Kristy Fralick
Ms. Lynn Walters Frazee
Mary Froede
Steven and Nancy Galassini

Mrs. Carol Garlinghouse
Ms. Heather M. Gates
Deb Andreen and William Gillette
Jim and Jill Glowniak
Mimi and Corey Griswold
Andrew and Rebecca Grove
Ms. Danielle Grumski
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Hamstra
Dean and Elizabeth Hanson
Gale and Karen Harkness
Laurelynn Harris
Robert and Sandra Hartman
John and Sarah Hastings
Barbara and Andrew Heitner
Ms. Elizabeth A. Hetrick
Patrick and Kathleen Hickey
Steven and Cindy Higgins
Rich and Nancy Hofstra
Ms. Amy M. Howe
Brad and Dawn Hynes
Will and Rachel Jackson
Stuart and Sheila Jacobson
Vicki and Carl Janssens
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Jeffers, Jr.
Jim and Stephanie Jones
Todd and Sarah Kallman
Mr. David Kasievich
John F. and Michelle Kelly
Ms. Gale D. Kepford
Bill and Delores Kingsbury
Tom and Betsy Klein
Krall Family
James and Dena Kruzan
Mr. Walter Kummer
Thomas and MJ Kuschinski
Alexander Hirshfeld and
James LaForest
Ms. Holly Wingenroth Lambert
Mary Campbell and John Larch
Ms. Deborah Lawrence
Iver Ray Lewis
Dr. and Mrs. James F. Lichon
Louis and Nellie Sieg Fund
Hanna and Micah Lovett
Barbara Marshall
Ronn Blodgett and Gordon Master
Mr. and Mrs. Michael R. N.
McDonnell
Jess and Pam Miller

Mr. David J. Miller
Richard and Karen Minkin
Timothy Moher
Shirley and Gary Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Mark G. Morrison
Mr. and Mrs. David Murray
Ronald and Jean Nadeau
Barb Nagle
Ms. Susan E. Nearing
Steven and Jacquoline Nickol
Steve and Terrie Niehaus
William H. Ollinger
Lawrence and Virginia Parratto
Richard and Cindy Pawley
Dawn Sieplinga and Don Penniman
Graham Peters
Bruce and Kimberly Peterson
James and Cathryn Peterson
Petoskey Pretzel Co.
Ms. Beth Ann Piehl
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pike
Brian Coco and Mary C. Pittman
Juliann Plimpton
David and Susan Pocklington
Lou Polle
Mr. and Mrs. Phil Porter
Mr. and Mrs. Missy and Jim Rainear
Mr. Gary Rellinger
Chris and Terry Renker
Ricks Chiropractic Clinic
Gary and Charlene Roberts
Ben and Joanne Robinson
Stephen and Nancy Rogers
Mrs. Annette Rowe
Thomas and Donna Rudy
William and Janet Russell
Lee and Cheryl Sachnoff
Mehran and Frances Salari
Michael and Kelley Samberg
Patrick and Susan Schulte
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Mr. Todd Wayne Shawl
Mr. Christopher B. Shepler
Ms. Karla Sherman
Roger and Janet Shoemaker
Mr. and Mrs. Gary W. Shults
Ms. Heather Siersma
Michael and Maria Simonte

Nora Doherty and James G. Smith
Charles and Ingeborg Spaulding
Calvin and Susan Sprik
Ms. Peggy Starr
Vaughn and Gwen Stewart
Edward and Karla Stokel
Michael Stornant
Robert and Rose Straebel
Michael and Lisa Sullivan
Jim and Debbie Suzak
Douglas and Theresa Swanson
James and Pamela Swanson
Mrs. Peggy Swenor
Thomas and Sherry Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Teel
Ken and Brenda Tewel
Jim and Peg Thatcher
Stan and Sandy Thompson
Mr. Oliver Todd
John and Virginia Trumble
Mr. Anthony Vollmar
Susanna Peters and Chuck Wallace
Ms. Dana Ward
Lewis and Donna Watkins
Stephen and Lee Webster
Kerry Whelan
Fenton and Margaret Williams
Fredrick and Diane Wilson
Fritz and Joey Yambrach

Monthly Giving Members

Carrie Corbin and Dave Stebbins
Arthur W. Curtis, III
Richard C. Deming
David and Laurie Graham
Michael and Julie Hinterman
Bill and Sue Klco
Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Mateer
Lisa and William Morris
Elliot Nelson
Graham Peters
Thomas and Barbara Pluister
Ira and Ann Purchis
Lawry N. Reid
Chris and Terry Renker
Christine D. Sheppard
John R. Shreves
Scott and Marty Whitcomb
Matthew T. Woehrmann

Andreae Preserve Enthusiasts Restore Beloved Footbridge

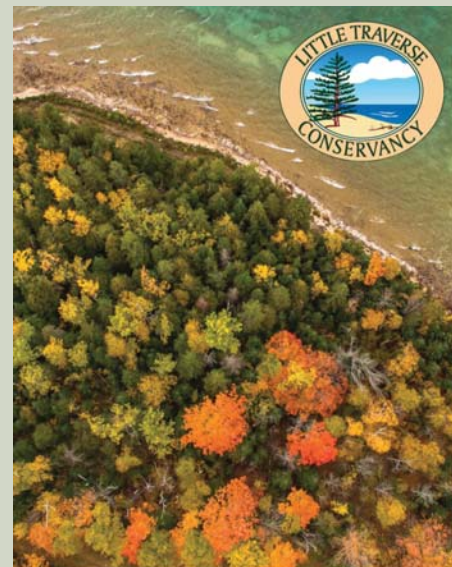


The idea of restoring the Andreae Preserve footbridge seemed like a daunting and insurmountable task - until we reached out to those who love it. The outpouring of support for this effort over the past year included not only donations but also countless notes, emails and phone calls from community members stating their love of and connection to the Andreae Preserve.

The bridge was overdue for safety repairs and stabilization. The restoration included new decking, new railings, new staircases, and major foundation work along both sides of the Pigeon River.

Pellston Boy Scout Troop 2 gave one of their troop's biggest donations to the footbridge restoration effort. "I've been taking scout groups to the Andreae Preserve for 20+ years. The kids love that bridge and exploring the preserve trails along the Pigeon River, and organizing chess tournaments inside the snow-covered cabin!" said Troop 2 leader Wayne Aurands.

The children of Agnes S. Andreae, the preserve's namesake, came forward and generously "finished the fundraising" for the bridge restoration. Their support embodies their family's love of this special Pigeon River land legacy given by their mother 34 years ago. A big THANK YOU to Pellston Boy Scout Troop 2, the Andreae Family, and to all the Conservancy members who supported this major undertaking.



Featured Nature Preserves
OF THE LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY
2018 EDITION

Limited Edition Featured Nature Preserve Guide

*Available at no cost for
current members*

With a full-page description of 55 of LTC's easiest to visit nature preserves, this handy half-page preserve guide easily fits in your glove box or pack.

Non-member cost: \$5.



In Memory of Fred Clinton

Fred and Mary Clinton, along with their dog Barley, joined our volunteer crew in 2011. Fred passed away last December after fighting cancer. Our staff enjoyed many work days with the Clintons creating the trails at the McCune and Woollam Family preserves. During his career with the DNR, Fred was the first person to aerially photograph the entire Great Lakes shoreline in Michigan. Last year he and Mary traveled the world seeing nature's unique places such as Newfoundland and the giant Redwoods in California. Fred's enthusiasm for being outdoors and preserving our natural world ran deep. The Woollam Family Preserve became a place of spiritual connection for him, as he once noted, "There is a larger energy out there, one to which places like the Woollam Family and McCune nature preserves helps us connect, and it is our moral obligation to care for those places." A memorial bench will be placed this spring at the Elmer Johnston Nature Preserve. We miss Fred's enthusiasm and steady laughter; his love for tie dye and brewing beer; and we keep his words in our hearts as we continue to care for the places to which we connect.

Thank you to the following individuals, families, and businesses who joined LTC as new members between November 15, 2017-February 23, 2018.

Memorials

William Aikens

Mr. and Mrs. G. Sheldon Veil

Gary Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. David B. Hill

David A. Armour

Matthew and Anneke Myers

Charles Asbury

Mr. and Mrs. David B. Hill

Emily Keyes Barksdale

Mr. and Mrs. Neil T. Brown
Mrs. Lawrence D. Buhl, Jr.
Mrs. Thomas H. Carruthers, IV
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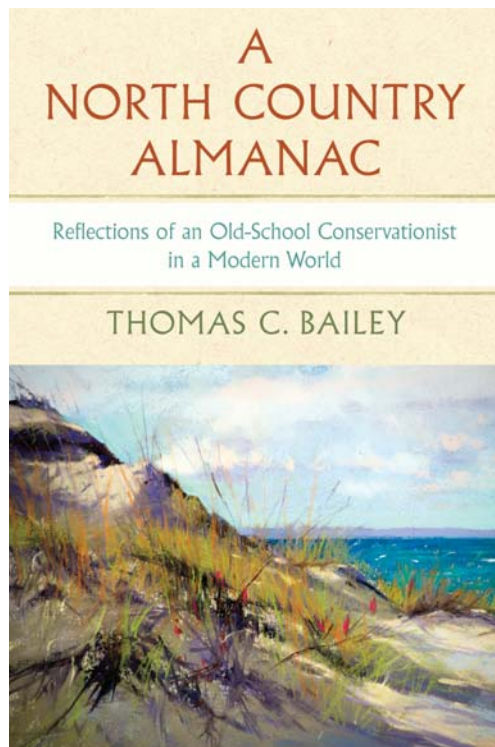
New Book by Tom Bailey Released June 1

The highly requested and much anticipated compilation of essays and newsletter columns by longtime LTC Executive Director is hot off the press this month. Artwork for the book was generously donated by Heidi Marshall, Tom's fiancée.

From MSU Press: A North Country Almanac: Reflections of an Old-School Conservationist in a Modern World includes the musings of an independent mind on wilderness, the conservation ethic, and the joys of loving the outdoors. Although a lifelong conservationist, Thomas C. Bailey has never unquestioningly accepted environmental dogma. The essays here often challenge familiar assumptions about stewardship of natural resources. The former National Park ranger, fishing guide, and conservancy director offers a rich variety of perspectives on an interesting array of topics, returning always to his fundamental belief that conservation pioneers such as John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt, and Aldo Leopold had it right when they affirmed Walt Whitman's observation that "the secret of making the best person . . . is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth."

Books will be available this spring. If you would like to pre-order or purchase a copy, please call our office at 231.347.0991.

BOOK SIGNING EVENT: Wednesday, July 11, 6pm
McLean & Eakin bookstore, Petoskey



DATABASE CONVERSION

The Conservancy is currently in the middle of switching over to a new fully integrated database. Please contact us if you notice an error with your address or donation acknowledgements. We thank you for your patience as we undertake this major transition.

RENEW

Come to the water
Live in the moment, and Be.
Refresh your mind. Rest your body. Renew your spirit.
Regain a gentle heart and Peaceful soul.
Reclaim Yourself.
Restore in The Power that is greater than you.
- Bonnie L. Mohr

THANK YOU

- Rick Byer for building and donating a PATH-MASTER narrow trail groomer to LTC.
- Greenwood Foundation for hosting another wonderful winter hike & ski. And Emmitt Ratliff and Henry Seymour for helping LTC staff at this event.
- Harbor Springs Excavating for sanding our office parking area.
- Glen Matthews for wildlife biology consultation on our Working Forest Reserves.
- Site Planning Development for donating a thermal camera for our EcoStewards program.
- Mary Trout for leading the Susan Creek Nature Preserve field trip and for conducting the Sheridan Elementary After School Birding Club.
- Julienne Tomatoes and Roast and Toast for donating food and drink to our open house at the Andreae Nature Preserve.
- Jim and Wendy Bean for educating new participants on the Kestrel Nest Box Monitoring Program.
- Latitude 45 and Top of Michigan Trails Council for partnering on the Fat Bike and snowshoe field trips.
- Elliot Nelson for opening our eyes to the winter birds on the Eastern UP field trip.
- Eric Hemenway for sharing his historical knowledge and stories about Odawa winter hardships.
- Interns Ethan Jacobs and Garrett Greer from North Central Michigan College for helping out and learning about land conservation this fall and winter.
- Mary Jane Clayton for tirelessly counting trail camera data.
- Sally Bales for keeping the jokes coming and helping with our winter mailing.

SPRING 2018 COMMUNITY EVENTS



Pre-registration is requested by calling 231.347.0991 or online at www.landtrust.org.

Saturday, March 24, 10–11:30am, Charlevoix Parsons Farm & Harwood Gold Maple Syrup Tour

For the second year in a row, the Parsons Family and Harwood Gold Maple Syrup open their taps to us to watch, learn, and — if we are lucky — taste what it means to produce syrup on a centennial farm. Recognized as the best new business in 2017 by the Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce, the Parsons' passion for sustainability and preservation go hand in hand with becoming an integral part of the local business community. In 2016 the family worked with LTC to place a conservation easement on 110 acres of their farm, giving them peace of mind knowing that it is preserved for future generations. Families encouraged!

Saturday, April 21, 2018, 10 am–1 pm Earth Day Tree Planting Consuelo Diane & Charles L. Wilson Jr. Working Forest Reserve, Harbor Springs

Bring your family and friends. Let's see if we can plant 1000 trees!

Saturday, April 28 10 am–12 pm The Season of Renewal Hoogland Family Nature Preserve, Emmet County

After surviving the long winter season, spring was a time of renewal for the Odawa. Come learn how the Odawa historically utilized the land in the spring to carry out their way of life and how this season brought Odawa back home after long, winter journeys afar throughout the Great Lakes.

Saturday, May 12, 1:30–3 pm LTC and Charlevoix Library Partnership Program Bird Migration Celebration at the Susan Creek Preserve

Join local birder Mary Trout on International Migratory Bird Day to learn about bird migration, courtship, and nest building. Walk the Susan Creek Preserve trails looking and listening for bird courtship song and behavior. This is a family-friendly program, so bring the kiddos! A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be available. Please bring your own, if you have them.

Sunday, May 13, 1–3 pm Mother's Day Wildflower Walk Elmer Johnston Nature Preserve, Emmet County

Celebrate Mother's Day with a hike through rich, northern-hardwood forests in search of wildflowers. Learn why early blooming plants have some of the showiest and most splendid flowers. LTC Director of Stewardship, Derek Shiels, will share his passion for plants and guide us through the wonders of northern Michigan's spring ephemeral wildflowers. Families welcome.

Wednesday, May 16 6pm–8pm Kayak the Maple River Brutus, Emmet County

Enjoy a summer paddling trip down the twists and turns of the Maple River as you look for rising trout and enjoy the wonders of this pristine riverine habitat. LTC staff will discuss land conservation efforts along the Maple River and the float will be about 1½ hours on the water. The float is for confident kayakers with basic self-rescue experience, and you must provide your own kayak and PFD. Kayak rentals are available through Ryde Marine of Alanson, The Outfitter in Harbor Springs, or BrassWind Landing in Indian River. Group size is limited.

Saturday, May 19 11 am Sturgeon Viewing, Biology, and Beauty - Black River Black River, Cheboygan County

The Lake Sturgeon has a long history in the Great Lakes and rivers of Michigan. In fact, sturgeon have been cruising our lake waters since the time of the dinosaurs. They are an important biological component of the Great Lakes fish community, yet many stresses threaten their survival. Join Brenda Archambo from Sturgeon for Tomorrow as we hike along the Black River in search of this fascinating creature during its spawning season. If luck prevails, we may be able to coax a closer look out of one of the most ancient and wonderful creatures in our Michigan wild areas. Ask for exact directions when you register.

May 20–24: www.sunsetcoastbirdingtrail.org Sunset Coast Birding Trail Spring Celebration

May 31–June 3 Aldo Leopold Festival (*see page 4*) Les Cheneaux Region - www.aldoleopoldfestival.com.

Friday, June 1, 9am–3pm Trail Building Work Bee Consuelo Diane & Charles L. Wilson Jr. Working Forest Reserve, Harbor Springs

Join us to open up this new Working Forest Reserve to the community by creating a new trail system and putting up trail maps through this scenic new property near Birchwood Farms. Bring work gloves, lunch, and water. Join us for just an hour or come for the day; all help will be appreciated!

Saturday, June 30 BioBlitz 2018 (*see page 6*) Andreae Nature Preserve

Reflections...by Tom Bailey

As I prepare for retirement in August, I reflect on the past 33 years and the wonderful conservation work I have been privileged to help bring about here at Little Traverse Conservancy. A person in my position is frequently asked about his/her “legacy,” and while it is really not for me to decide how this may be viewed in the future, I believe that one of the best things I have helped to establish in recent years is our Working Forest Reserve program. This program is, I believe, a perfect blend of reaction to changing times and proactive work to stay not only with, but ahead of the times.

The Working Forest Reserve program incorporates the latest innovations in land management and the best of old-fashioned conservation in the tradition of Aldo Leopold and Theodore Roosevelt. It brings much more land under our conservation protection and helps to address a disturbing trend in land ownership across the north Country.

Over the past few decades we’ve seen forest owners and large timber companies selling out their holdings, either piece by piece to various owners or in large parcels to real estate investment trusts (REITs). Former timber company land holdings are being fragmented and at risk of withdrawal from Michigan’s Commercial Forest Program (CFP) which renders them unavailable to large segments of the public for recreation and can make them less desirable for wildlife.

LTC’s Working Forest Reserve program provides a shining example of how this disturbing trend can be reversed. Ownership of productive forest land by a locally controlled, public-spirited non-profit is much more promising than ownership by a corporation or REIT to whom the land means nothing but a number on the bottom line. Our Trustees, members and staff live and work in the community, with the people who enjoy the scenic beauty of these lands, hunt and fish there, and benefit from the jobs created in the forest products industry from those working lands. We use the local services and send our children to the schools that are supported by local taxes and revenue-sharing funds from the state. Our working forest lands are truly “ours,” as in owned and controlled by the community rather than by some out-of state or foreign corporate conglomerate or investment scheme. The results of locally controlled ownership is better for the people and for the land itself.

In the case of Little Traverse Conservancy, this means that we go far beyond the requirements of Commercial Forest Program and open the land not only to hunting, fishing and trapping as the law requires, but to all kinds of recreational uses including hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, birding, berry picking, mushrooming, nature study, and on and on. The land is managed for healthy wildlife populations and for people, not just maximum dollar return. We can monitor a changing climate and manage for adaptation. We can also maximize recreational and educational use of the land. LTC—or any local conservation organization which chooses to follow



TMPetersen

our example— has a long-term yet local focus that goes beyond our lifetimes, with no intent to sell out to the highest bidder at the first opportunity.

How much better to have the land in the hands of a group which hosts thousands of young people every year in its education programs and which holds the land up as an example for other private land owners to learn about sustainable forest management, perpetuation of wildlife habitat and helping the land to pay for itself. How much better it is to know that this land is seen as a community asset rather than a corporate asset.

Another important feature of the program: we invoke no special non-profit tax break for these properties, paying the same to state and local government as any enrolled forest land owner. Yet we offer many more public benefits and much more public use of the land, not to mention education programs, community field trips and other activities.

The Little Traverse Conservancy’s Working Forest Reserve program represents the New Frontier in land conservation: the 21st century adaptation of the bedrock conservation principles established by people like Theodore Roosevelt and Aldo Leopold in the 19th and 20th centuries. It marries old-fashioned conservation with modern concern for sustainability, climate change, and new forms of recreation and education such as birding trails, water trails, etc. that are so important to a population more isolated from the outdoors by electronic devices and hectic schedules.

I’m proud to have had the privilege of helping to establish this great conservation legacy for our Conservancy and the communities we serve.

Pursuit of Property by Will Fitzgerald

When a child,
I unknowingly crossed the preserve delineation. From the forest of the dying beech—
Snags crowned in crumbling punk—I wandered
Into a copse of stunted jack pine.
They'd had enough of growing up.
In tromping through sap-matted grass, a maroon airplane jump seat. Flung from the heavens.
Thick woven tag reminding me:
Pull in emergency.
"Stay right here," I whispered, tripping home to tell grandfather of my discovery.
But it didn't stay, instead, lost with youth and imagination.
When a teenager,
I returned, running. Fueled by beer and a bad attitude
Seething. Mosquitoes swarming.
I snapped bare branches from the stunted pines.
With coming dusk I emerged on a fading field, confidence cracking in the dying light.
I returned with a companion.
In the field beyond the stunted pines we tasted chalky apples from the forgotten orchard.
That was the summer grandfather came north, to die by the woods.
I return now. I sense delineations.
Hide-worn grass of deer-bed, wild carrot at my chest. Tired
Apples mushing underfoot.
Staid white pine, then
The barbed and rusty end.
I will return.
I will lie awake as the earth succumbs to an August-evening downpour.
Dinner's sparring and carping words still echo in my head—
Dishes clattering, words chewed and spat.
The porch door bangs,
My child runs from the slumped cottage on aching cedar shoulders.
— My temple pressed to the screen window,
Rain-flecks gather in the furrows of my brow.
I feel his bare feet cross the delineation.
Amongst the stunted pines, he too, searches for solace.
Piloting the end of youth,
He emerges on sodden field and white pine.

Will is currently a seasonal employee with the LTC education department. Here are his thoughts about the meaning behind his poem: *My grandparents have a summer cottage on the edge of the Bay View woods. Growing up overseas, we always returned to northern Michigan, and I to the woods. With the encouragement of my grandfather, I came to know these woods well. Returning at different stages in my life, the woods seemed to transform, as I too grew older, offering comfort and exploration throughout the years. In 2010 Martha Curtis bequeathed to the conservancy a parcel of land abutting the Bay View woods; it was through this process that I became familiar with the Little Traverse Conservancy. I wanted the poem to convey a sense of exploration of space, and nature, with age; the pushing of boundaries. I wanted it to show that our perspective on place changes—and is filtered through the lessons and awareness that can only come with time. As I hold these places dear, I close with the poem with a vision of the future: come rain or shine the perpetuity of protected spaces will bring solace and exploration, and remain a place for us to bloom.*

Martha Curtis Preserve, Petoskey

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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Nature Preserve Tablecloths now Available!

Ever since the nature preserve tablecloth created by longtime LTC supporter Lisa Loyd has been on display at LTC events, we've had requests for us to sell them. Well now we are! These beauties feature preserves throughout the LTC service area. The size is roughly 103x55 inches (for a 6-7 ft table). Made of cotton, they can be machine washed gently. Hand hemmed by our own Charles Dawley, the cost is \$125. Limited quantities available. And LTC hats are now available in a multitude of colors! Call our office if you are interested in these products at 231.347.0991. Additional items are available at our online store at www.landtrust.org.

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NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Kirsten Buccigrossi

Lives in: Indian River

Interesting Fact: Kirsten is a Licensed Boat Captain

Works at: Walstrom Marine

In her words:

"I am out at an LTC preserve at LEAST once every other week. I fully enjoy the lands in various capacities (hike and bike), and I have recently challenged myself to be more mindful and supportive of things I'm passionate about. Many, many other great reasons...how can I NOT be a member!? I'm excited to get more involved!"

In addition to becoming a member, Kirsten also honored her adventurous friend with a gift membership. Kirsten shares why:

"Since December 26, 2017 my friend has gone on approximately 30 hikes, 20 of them on different LTC preserves! She dedicates almost all of her weekend mornings to getting out and exploring the lands. Quite an ambassador by action!"

We are privileged to have members like Kirsten who see the value of their gift by getting out on the lands she is preserving. A great many thanks to Kirsten and all who support conservation through Little Traverse Conservancy.



Kirsten at the Andreae Nature Preserve