



# Crown Jewel in the Emerald Necklace

HIGHEST PRIORITY PROJECT IN HARBOR SPRINGS GREENBELT PROTECTED

Nine years ago when the Harbor Springs Greenbelt land protection program was launched, a 390-acre property located within minutes of the ski resorts and a short drive from Harbor Springs was considered the most desirable property to protect. This past spring, thanks to a lead grant from the Offield Family Foundation, the property was purchased to create a permanent nature preserve held by Little Traverse Conservancy. "This property is a 'crown jewel' in the Emerald Necklace around Harbor Springs, also known as the Harbor Springs Greenbelt Project," said Jim Offield.

To the Conservancy, the protection of this land represents one of the highest of many conservation summits that have been reached thanks to the generosity, foresight, and commitment of people like the Offield family (story p. 2) and the Stebbins family from which it was purchased.

With thousands of feet of road frontage on Quick, Hedrick, and Hathaway roads, the new preserve will maintain scenic routes that have been enjoyed by travelers for decades. A deeper exploration of

the land reveals quality wildlife habitat as well as a beautiful diversity of natural features that include hardwood and pine forests, a boggy area, an old orchard, and vernal (Spring) pools. "We were pleasantly surprised to discover the range of habitats

at this property," said Cindy Mom, stewardship specialist for the Conservancy.

## FIRST A FARM...NEVER A DEVELOPMENT

For many years in the middle of the 1900s, much of the property was part of Crowl's Fruit Farm. Located along the "fruit ridge" that benefits from a microclimate created by its proximity to the bay, the Crowls maintained a farm stand along Hathaway Road. Neighbors, including the Bango family who have lived next to the new preserve for 40 years, are thankful that the property did not become a golf course development. This never happened, thanks to C. Rowland (Rolly) Stebbins entering the picture in the 1960s.

Stebbins, a realtor from Lansing whose family has summered at Roaring Brook since 1902, dearly loved northern Michigan. An avid outdoorsman, he was well known in the Lansing area for his fierce protection and enhancement of the Grand River.

Stebbins first began acquiring land in Emmet County in 1944 when he purchased 80 acres so he could enjoy berry picking and scavenging for wood. His married life was cut short when his wife, Virginia, died of multiple sclerosis at age 45. Yet their three sons — Winston, Malcolm, and Kenyon — were raised in the same tradition and love for the outdoors. Much of the land Stebbins purchased was within a short distance of the ski hills. "Dad always enjoyed skiing and spent 13 years walking up the

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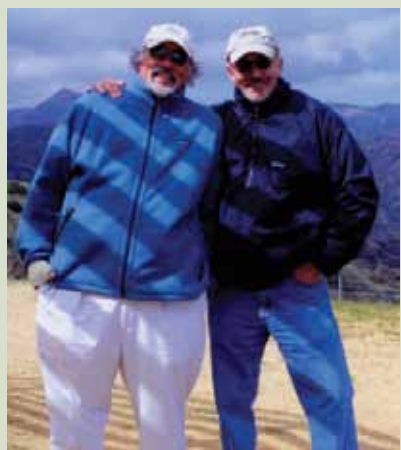




James R. Offield, 1930s



(L-R) John Fischer, Wrigley (Bud) Offield, and Huffy Huffman, 1979



Packy and Jim Offield, 2005



## This Place Would Be So Different

THE INFLUENCE OF THE WRIGLEY-OFFIELD FAMILIES CAN BE FELT THROUGHOUT the Harbor Springs and Petoskey communities in numerous ways from the arts center to the hospital. But perhaps the most enduring legacy created by generations of their family is that of conservation. “Undoubtedly, the drive between Petoskey and Harbor Springs would look a lot different than it does today if not for the Offields,” said Tom Bailey, executive director for the Conservancy.

In 1908, James R. Offield married Dorothy Wrigley, daughter of William Wrigley, the founder of the chewing gum empire. James was a devoted outdoorsman, especially fond of fly fishing, and eventually owned a cabin on the Manistee River. In Wisconsin, he donated a large tract of land to be used by boy scouts, and over the decades, the Wrigley and Offield families became increasingly involved in conservation throughout the country. One of the family’s most significant conservation accomplishments was the formation of the Catalina Island Conservancy that today protects 80% of the famous island off the coast of southern California, a total of 48,000 acres and 55 miles of shoreline.

It wasn’t just coincidence that the Catalina Island Conservancy was created in 1972, the very same year Little Traverse Conservancy was founded. By that time, three generations of the Offield family had summered on Harbor Point in Harbor Springs. “For Catalina Island, our family was exploring all the possible ways we could ensure the land was protected for all time, the way we wanted it to be,” said Packy Offield, great grandson of William Wrigley. “We wanted to guarantee that it would be protected forever, and to do so, our family felt that establishing a local land trust was the best way to go.” Packy’s father, Wrigley “Bud” Offield, was one of the driving forces behind the start of Little Traverse Conservancy. “I’m certain that the lessons they were learning on Catalina Island were also applied to northern Michigan,” Packy said.

“Bud Offield isn’t technically considered a founding member of LTC, but he was there from early on,” said John Fischer, one of Little Traverse Conservancy’s founding members. “He didn’t like the pomp and attention brought on by his family name, and was more likely to be the one behind the scenes, making things happen,” Fischer said.

One of the most significant impacts the Offields had on the young Conservancy was in 1980 when Bud and Ed Offield donated a 40-acre nature preserve to the Conservancy. That property is now known as the Round Lake Preserve and the Offields helped underwrite the expenses involved with moving the Conservancy’s office to its current location adjacent to the preserve. Bud was also instrumental in the development of the L’Arbre Croche Association located next to the Petoskey State Park, ensuring that the homes blended with nature and allowed for a scenic buffer from the road. Between 1984-86, L’Arbre Croche Association members in turn made significant contributions to the purchase of the expanding Round Lake Nature Preserve. Today, the preserve consists of 58 acres and includes nearly 1/2 a mile of frontage on Round Lake, home to nesting loons. It is one of the most popular field trip destinations for local schools.

“Bud Offield was part of our initial committee that set up the Gateway to Harbor Springs program,” recalls Fischer. “Our primary goal was to conserve as much green space as possible along the stretch of M-119 from the Harbor Springs airport into Harbor Springs. He helped us work with landowners along that stretch and today, that drive is virtually free of commercial development. It really defines the entrance into town.”

Years later, Bud’s sons, Packy and Jim, continued the momentum created by their father by helping the Conservancy establish the

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continued from page 2

Harbor Springs Greenbelt Program. Through this program, outlying lands around Harbor Springs were prioritized for protection, as opportunities arose.

"From the start, the property owned by the Stebbins was considered the highest priority," Jim said. "This is the back way into Harbor, and it is incredible to know that it will stay the way it is," agreed Packy.

The Offields have traveled the world and yet - like it

does for so many of us - this region holds a place in their hearts. "We've had the best of it," Jim said. "It just feels like we are obliged to do what we can to make sure others get as much as possible."

So the next time you drive along M-119 between Petokey and Harbor Springs or enjoy the new nature preserve or one of the preserves mentioned below, give thanks for the good fortune that this region has enjoyed of having people like the Offields help us all care for it. 

## The Offield Family Challenge: A Measurable Difference

Beginning in 2001, the Offield Family Challenge grant put \$1 million into the Conservancy's land protection fund for each year that the same amount was raised. From 1972 until 2000, Little Traverse Conservancy had completed 250 conservation projects protecting 13,241 acres. By contrast, during 2001-2008, an additional 226 projects protecting 25,903 acres were completed. "In eight years, we were able to nearly double the volume of land protection that we had completed in the 28 years prior," said Conservancy Associate Director Tom Lagerstrom. "Some of the organization's most significant land projects were able to come about because of the Offield grant money used to leverage additional dollars."

For example, the Conservancy has secured three federal grants totaling nearly \$3 million from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act program, thanks, in large part, to the matching power provided with the Offield challenge. "The challenge grant has allowed us to protect

land in regions where local fundraising was extremely difficult or simply not available at all," Lagerstrom said.

A sample of some of the other land protection projects throughout the Conservancy's service area that received significant funding from the Offield Family challenge grant includes:

- **Round Island Point Preserve**, 1,024 acres and 1.75 miles Lake Superior frontage in Chippewa County.
- **St. Helena Island**, 266-acres of island with nearly 3 miles of Mackinac Straits frontage in Mackinac County.
- **Fochtman Preserve**, 243 acres and 1/4 mile of Round Lake frontage in Emmet County.
- **Banwell Nature Preserve**, 320 acres and 2 miles of Pigeon River frontage in Cheboygan County.
- **Susan Creek Preserve**, 223 acres and nearly a mile frontage on US-31 in Charlevoix County.

See page 4 for questions and answers about the new preserve.


*Crown Jewel - continued from cover*

(ski) hills before the first rope tow was invented," Kenyon said. Five separate purchases were assembled to create the parcel now protected as a preserve.

In the early 1970s, Stebbins served on Little Traverse Conservancy's founding board. For more than 40 years, the Stebbins family has held onto this land, with the shared hope that someday it would be owned by the Conservancy. Stebbins planted pine seedlings on the open acreage, enrolled the land in the state's Commercial Forest Act (CFA) program, and followed best management practices over the years. Now as a nature preserve, the property will remain in the CFA program.

"Coming up with a comprehensive plan to protect the natural resources on this wonderful, big new preserve — yet at the same time utilizing its tremendous potential for wildland recreation — will be a high priority for us over the next couple years," said Director of Stewardship Doug Fuller.

"The education staff is excited about using this new preserve for education programs as well," said Melissa Hansen, Conservancy education specialist. "We are evaluating which programs will work there beginning next school year."

The Conservancy will be offering field trips to the preserve this summer (see back page) and during the annual meeting. 



Rolly Stebbins



## New Nature Preserve Q & A - continued from cover story

### Will there be a place to park?

While we don't have the exact locations determined yet, there will likely be one parking area on Quick Road and one parking area on Hedrick Road. For the time being, please park safely on the road shoulders in these areas.

### What kind of trails will be on the property?

A network of existing two-track roads and single-track foot trails is found on the property, some which are well-used and others which are overgrown. The Conservancy will conduct an inventory of all potential trails before a trail system is finalized. Our goal is to use the very best of the existing trails in order to offer several loops for hiking, biking, and skiing. The total trail system will probably include at least three miles of trails.

### Will I be able to drive my car, truck, ATV, dirt bike, or snowmobile on the trails?

No. LTC does not allow the use of motorized vehicles on its preserves. In the near future we will be installing vehicle barricades at drivable entry points.

### Will LTC do any forest management?

The property has been enrolled in Michigan's Commercial Forest Act (CFA) program for years, and it will remain in this program. As such, it is likely that sustainable forest management activities will take place periodically. In fact, we are in the process of inventorying forest and natural resource features, and will be developing a forest management plan in coming months.



Charles Dawley

For additional questions about the new Emmet County Preserve, please call the LTC office at 231.347.0991.

### Will it be open to hunting?

Yes. All properties enrolled in CFA are open to the public for hunting, trapping, and fishing, and this will continue for this preserve. While permission is not required, we ask interested hunters to contact us for the Conservancy's hunting guidelines. These guidelines can also be found on our website at [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org).

### What plants and animals live on the preserve?

With a variety of habitat types and a property of this size, many of the plants and animals found in Emmet County are likely to be found on the preserve. We will be inventorying the flora and fauna, and welcome any sightings that you'd like to report. We are excited that the University of Michigan Biological Station's Flora class will also be doing a flora inventory this summer.

### Can I pick mushrooms and berries in the property?

Yes. Foraging for wild fruits, nuts, berries, mushrooms, etc. is permitted on all LTC preserves. However, we ask that otherwise vegetation not be cut, uprooted, damaged, or destroyed.

## Inholding Purchased on Marquette Island

This past winter, Little Traverse Conservancy purchased a 50-acre parcel on Marquette Island that helps link together major portions of the Conservancy's largest nature preserve, the Aldo Leopold Preserve (see map to right). The new addition brings the preserve to 1,273 acres with 3.4 miles of Lake Huron shoreline.

The Darrow family, who had used the property for hunting and snowmobiling, were happy to sell the land for public access and to protect it in its pristine condition.

"We are thrilled to be able to protect this 'heart of the island' parcel," said Ty Ratliff, land protection specialist with the Conservancy. Funding for the purchase came from a grant received through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act program.







## Preserve Donated on Drummond Island

A 46-acre property on Drummond Island was donated to the Conservancy by siblings Mary Sue Jack and William Jack.

Natives of Grand Rapids, the siblings have enjoyed summers on Drummond Island for years, and had purchased the land as a buffer to their cottage property. "In New York state, where I now live, we see how much of the green space is gobbled up," said Mary Sue. "We all just love that place - the minute you get on the ferry heading to Drummond, your stress and worries melt away. It feels good to know that the land will stay just the way it is."



## Alanson Secures Access to New Park

A recently-acquired parcel in the Village of Alanson will now allow public access to the Island Sanctuary Park, an island within the Crooked River that was donated to the Village in 2005. Little Traverse Conservancy assisted the Village in writing a successful grant request to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. A \$99,000 grant was approved in 2007 and funding allowed for the property's purchase just this past spring. The new property includes 500 feet on the Crooked River, part of the 40-mile Inland Waterway that travels from Crooked Lake to Burt and Mullet Lakes eventually out to Lake Huron through the city of Cheboygan.

Plans are for the Village of Alanson to request a Development Grant from the Trust Fund that will help them complete a handicap-accessible trail, boardwalk, fishing dock, and an overlook gazebo. The new park is very close to US-31, making it readily accessible to travelers.



**Celebrating  
37 years**

## LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY'S 37th Annual Meeting Tuesday, August 4, 2009

*Harbor Springs Performing Arts Center  
Harbor Springs High School*

**9:30** coffee  
**10:00** meeting  
**Noon** lunch

**Afternoon field trips  
will be offered at the new  
preserve (see cover story)  
and Thorne Swift.**

**Watch for your invitation, or  
please call 231.347.0991 for  
more information or to register.**

Mary Jane Ulrich




## Emmet County Rallies Behind New Initiative

MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE GATHERED AT THE LITTLE Traverse Bay Bands Tribal Center in Emmet County to find out more about Getting Kids Outdoors: Emmet County. This locally-based initiative is a coalition of local non-profits, day care centers, health care providers, businesses, and individuals all seeking to improve the health and well-being of kids by encouraging more time outdoors. Bill Rose, Director of the Kalamazoo Nature Center where a similar community initiative is underway, was the guest speaker. Rose shared many ideas from their group and also expressed how impressed he was with the Emmet County group saying that in some ways, it was already further along than the downstate group.

Surveys were collected that morning from 50% of the attendees and the advisory committee is now adding volun-

teers to work groups and community events based on people's responses. Some of the next steps for the group are to coordinate more joint events, to maintain an updated and improving web site, to distribute information throughout the community, and to promote local groups already working toward getting kids outdoors.

If you would like to get involved with Getting Kids Outdoors: Emmet County, please email [alison@gettingkidsoutdoors.org](mailto:alison@gettingkidsoutdoors.org) or [molly@gettingkidsoutdoors.org](mailto:molly@gettingkidsoutdoors.org). And please help spread the word about the local website: [www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org](http://www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org). There you will find activity ideas, resources, upcoming events, information about the national movement, and a whole host of other things to encourage and inspire us all to get outdoors! 

## Junior Birders of Northern Michigan


Want your child to get outside to learn the joy of birding? This summer SEE-North, Northern Michigan's Science Environmental Education Center, is proud to announce its new program: Junior Birders of Northern Michigan. The goal of the program is to provide the skills and knowledge for young birders to be birding mentors to other people in the community.

The Junior Birders of Northern Michigan is an interactive program designed to appeal to a variety of children. The birding field trips will provide children with a new adventure at every location. To enhance their learning experience, there will be hands-on programs, special art projects and other fun activities. Each child will have access to binoculars, field guides, and a spotting scope and each will receive a badge, lanyard and membership card.

Children from the ages of 8 to 14 can join the Junior Birders of Northern Michigan. This club will meet once a month at different locations throughout the area. The program is designed to be flexible to meet the needs of everyone's schedule so you may attend one session or all of



the programs. The Junior Birders of Northern Michigan program is collaborating with Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Little Traverse Conservancy, University of Michigan Biological Station, and the Straits Area Audubon Society. Little Traverse Conservancy will be a partner at the August 8 meeting at Thorne Swift as well as other dates throughout the year.

For more information and to register, please call 231.348.9700 or visit [www.seenorth.org](http://www.seenorth.org). The dates and locations throughout the upcoming year can be found on the website as well. 





## Knee-High Naturalists

Summer Programs  
for ages 3-6

two days a week, 10-11 am

Pre-registration **is required** by  
calling Melissa at 231.347.0991.

### Nature in Motion: Hop, Scuttle, Leap, and Flitter!

Tuesday, June 23 and Thursday, June 25

Spring Lake Park

Hop like a bunny, leap like a frog, scuttle like a bug, and flitter like a butterfly! Animals move in many different ways. You will explore animal motions and mimic their movements. What's your favorite way to get around? Come prepared to jump high, crawl on your knees, and move your body!

### Sensing Nature: See It! Hear It!

Tuesday, June 30 and Friday, July 3

Thorne Swift Nature Preserve

We experience the world using our senses. Come explore nature with your eyes and ears! Look for colors, listen for birds, and do some fun activities to discover some of the many wonders of nature.

### Sensing Nature: Smell It! Feel It!

Tuesday, July 7 and Friday, July 10

Thorne Swift Nature Preserve

More exploring using our senses. This time, we'll be focusing on using our noses and hands! Smell leaves and flowers, touch bark and plants, and do some more fun activities to discover our natural world.

### Water Wonders!

Tuesday, July 14 and Friday, July 17

Petoskey Bayfront Park: meet near the waterfall

Discover the wonders of a flowing creek and learn about some of the critters that call a creek home. We'll do some fun water activities and have a rubber duck race! Bring your own duck or we'll supply one. Wear clothing you don't mind getting wet!

### Frog Fun

Tuesday, July 21 and Friday, July 24

Spring Lake Park

Hop on over to Spring Lake Park to learn all about frogs. How do they grow? What do they eat? What special body parts do they have? Shhhh! - Quietly take a hike along the lakeshore to see where the frogs are hanging out. Can you find one?

### Animal Homes and Hideaways

Tuesday, July 28 and Friday, July 31

Thorne Swift Nature Preserve

Just like humans, animals need shelter to keep warm and stay safe. Explore the many different kinds of animal homes at Thorne Swift. Look high into the trees, low under the ground and everywhere in between. What is living there? We'll finish our adventure by making a rabbit shelter in the forest.

## Junior Naturalists

Summer Programs

for ages 7-10

Wednesdays, 10-noon

(bring a sack lunch and stay!)

Pre-registration **is required** by  
calling Alison at 231.347.0991.



### Aquatic Adventure

Wednesday, June 24 Spring Lake Park

Exploring the underwater world to discover the tiny creatures that live there. Aquatic Adventures will take even the most apprehensive and turn them into curious and courageous! *All materials supplied, but children are welcome to bring their own dipping items. Be sure to dress for muck and goo!*

### Field of Bugs!

Wednesday, July 1 Stutsmanville Bog

Crawl with us in search of hidden friends and little wild creatures creeping through the meadow. *Insect materials are provided, but children are welcome to bring any of their own field items.*

### Beat-a-Leaf Journal Making

Wednesday, July 8 Thorne Swift Nature Preserve

Although the name sounds decidedly un-eco-friendly, leaf beating is a favorite project that will combine your most primal gathering instincts with another famed activity: banging rocks! We'll put the finished print on the cover of a blank spiral notebook, and voila! A journal for recording your summer adventures! We'll get started on those adventures by heading into the nature preserve and finding a wild place of our own. Please bring your own notebook. The 9" x 6" or 5" x 7" sizes work well for journaling.

### Get Outside and Play!

Wednesday, July 15 North Central Michigan College

It's summer boredom-buster day! Time to turn off the TV and head outside to play. Races, relays, and other silly, wacky fun is sure to make being in the outdoors a place you want to be. Bring your running shoes and be ready for some old fashioned FUN! Parents...stay and play with us, we dare ya!

### Woodland Adventure

Wednesday, July 22 McCune Nature Preserve

Have you ever thought of the woods as one huge playground? There are just as many things to climb on, jump off, and investigate in the woods as you have at recess! We will think like animals, and sneak like them too, and explore all the different amazing things a forest habitat has to share. To remember our expedition we will borrow some forest materials to create nature art. All materials will be provided.

### Bear River Boat Float

Wednesday, July 29 North Central Michigan College

Native Americans and pioneers used tree bark to make boats to help them explore Michigan's unknown waterways. Using materials from nature, we will construct our own boats, test them on the creek, and then head to the Bear River to give them the full test! Please bring a styrofoam egg carton and sturdy footwear that you don't mind getting wet.

## 20th annual **Save the Trees!**



**Little Traverse Conservancy's**  
land protection fundraiser

**Friday, July 10, 2009**  
**6:30-8:00 pm**

**Irish Boat Shop, Harbor Springs**

This year's format is family-friendly food by Island Bean and music by The Keelhaulers. An "all art" raffle will be held through the event featuring outstanding pieces and services.

**Admission Tickets:** \$75 (\$80/door)

**(No charge for children with an adult)**

**Raffle Tickets:** \$50



"Save the Trees" an original oil painting by Kevin Barton, will be raffled at this year's fundraising event.



Artists capturing  
land & water...

tvedten fine art presents  
**Wet Paint/Fresh Ink**  
**Saturday, August 8, 2009**

Artwork available for purchase beginning at 6:30pm



...to protect land & water.

FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, LOCAL ARTIST and gallery owner, Margaret Tvedten, will be hosting a special event designed to increase appreciation of the beauty of northern Michigan and to generate donations for two organizations that seek to protect it: Little Traverse Conservancy and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

On August 8, invited artists and authors will go to a special place in Emmet County to paint or write, returning with their work for display at the Tvedten Fine Art Gallery in downtown Harbor Springs. An opening reception will be held that evening, and the artwork and writing will be on display throughout August. Ten percent of the sales of the works created that day will be split and donated to the Conservancy and the Watershed Council.

"This show is a win-win for all the people involved: Artists and writers celebrating the beauty of our sweet area with their special talents and the people who come to enjoy the show," Margaret said. "Hopefully these people will take something home with them which, in turn, will support the land and water organizations with a donation for the great work that they do."



# 25 Years of Two Toms

IN 1984, LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY WAS 12 YEARS OLD.

Just over 1,200 acres had been protected and the organization's membership was at 700. The original, log cabin office was moved down to the Round Lake Preserve, Orchis Fen was purchased, and things were starting to happen with the Colonial Point project on Burt Lake. This was also the year that both Tom Lagerstrom and Tom Bailey joined the organization.

Lagerstrom was here first, working in a new Membership Coordinator position that was split between the Conservancy and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. He had recently won a Governor Award for his efforts in recycling.

Since that time, Lagerstrom — as Chief Financial Officer and Development Director — has made every effort to recycle and even reuse the dollars brought into the organization to minimize waste and redundancy. While his co-workers are constantly ribbing him about his frugal ways, deep inside we all know that his watchful eye on the membership and finances over the years has largely contributed to the Conservancy's sound financial standing, especially noted in these trying times.

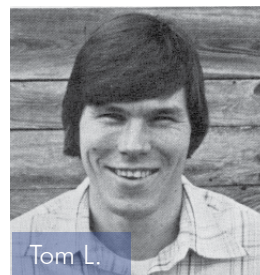
Bailey began his role as Executive Director just a few months after Lagerstrom, filling a vacancy left by Lou Borie. His background made him well suited for the job. Yet most would agree that it is his shining passion and heartfelt caring — demonstrated every time he speaks — that is best known about him throughout the community and beyond. Dave Irish, one of the Conservancy's founding members, played significant roles in numerous land protection projects including Thorne Swift, Colonial Point, and dozens of years on committees. But Irish simply says, "My most significant contribution to land conservation was hiring Tom Bailey."

Not long after Lagerstrom started his split job, a full-time role opened up with the Watershed Council, which he took. However, Conservancy trustee and pillar, Huffy Huffman, decided this wouldn't work. "I remember Huffy telling me, 'You are the promotion and Tom's the production. This team needs to be together,'" Bailey recalls. Shortly after that, Lagerstrom was offered a full-time role back with the Conservancy.

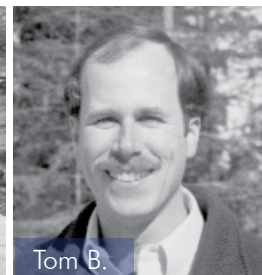
Founder Seberon "Boo" Litzenburger and his wife Dianne, past chair and current board member, agree that the pairing is perfect: "Without Bailey and Lagerstrom the Conservancy would not be what it is today. With Lagerstrom watching the purse and Bailey watching the forests and meadows...what a perfect match and how lucky for all of us in northern Michigan that this duo came along to help steer the Little Traverse Conservancy!"

John Woollam, long-time Conservancy partner in land protection, has great admiration for Bailey and Lagerstrom. In fact, it was his idea to name a nature preserve after the two Toms in 2005, resulting in the Bailey-Lagerstrom Preserve on Sugar Island. "I have a huge respect for these guys," Woollam said. "Generally, they work beautifully together. They are complementary in the sense that Bailey — as everyone knows — is eloquent, global, inspiring. Lagerstrom has an incredible attention for detail. When you want the numbers worked out and everything thought through, Lagerstrom is super at it."

So today, 25 years later, while the stats have changed a bit (39,700 acres with more than 4,000 members) the good news is that many parts of the landscape have not changed, thanks to these two so aptly guiding the organization toward fulfilling the intentions for which it was created. Thanks, Tom...and Tom!



Tom L.



Tom B.



Colonial Point in Cheboygan County



Bailey-Lagerstrom Preserve in Chippewa County (known by locals as the T2 Preserve)



## Memorials

### Virginia 'Ginger' Austin

Mrs. Mary Driggs

### Foster Hitchcock Barrows

Menonaqua Cottage Owners Assoc.

### Jane Bartley

Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Bissell  
Mrs. William Flemming  
Mr. and Mrs. George W. James  
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Renker  
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stockham

### Kathryn Brownlee

Mrs. Joan Keller

### Virginia 'Ginner' Bryant

Ms. Linda Bingham  
Taida Buljina-Prohic  
Mrs. William Flemming  
Ms. Laura Gordon  
Carol Wesch and John Gross  
Everyl Yankee, Becky Uren and Janet Sicoli  
Ms. Carolyn Wilson

### Wendall Bueche

Menonaqua Cottage Owners Assoc.

### Suzanne Busch

Mrs. Mary Driggs

### Colene Childs

Ms. Nancy Andrews  
Rob and Kathleen Baryer  
Laurel Greenwood and Doug Bevil  
William and Kay Cansfield  
Lydia and Allan Cutler  
DEQ Cadillac Office and Cadillac/Gaylord AQD Staff  
John and Vicki Duso  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Geiss  
Ms. Phylis Nadeau Giles  
Mr. James A. Gillis  
Ms. Deborah K. Glasgow  
Kim and Paula Hocquard  
Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum  
Edgar and Audrey Jaggi  
Susan Bippely and Michael Leahy  
Mr. Nestor Melnyczuk  
Dennis and Eileen Mikus  
Ms. Marlene A. Miller  
Richard and Myra Moore  
Roger and Marjorie Moore  
Robert and Judith Most  
Joyce Nickols  
Ms. Judy O'Neal  
Roger and Mary Parker  
Don and Beverly Ann Knox Pipes  
Tim Raymer

Vern and Cindee Reed  
Shirley Selby  
Grace Smith, PhD  
Millie McFadden - Smith  
Nancy and Chuck Straight  
Christopher Starkey and Dr. Ernie Terry  
Peter and Susan VanHaften  
Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Wheeler  
Paul, Holly and Valerie Wick  
Charles and Marion Williams  
Mrs. Gussie Williams  
Ken and Barb Williams  
Jim and Shelley Williams  
Mrs. Vera Wright

### Mary Close

Mrs. Wallace H. Cole, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Millard Cox  
Mr. and Mrs. John Izard  
Mrs. Joan Keller  
Mr. Nathan P. Laffoon  
Mr. and Mrs. Polk Laffoon, IV  
Mrs. Louis Seelbach

### Robert R. Coon, Jr.

Menonaqua Cottage Owners Assoc.

### Dorothy Doane

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Harrison

### Barbara Frey

Mrs. Sandy Bell Croll  
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Fischer & Family

### Michael Gluck

Mr. and Mrs. William O. Alden, Jr.

### Arthur G. Hailand, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hord Armstrong, III  
Mrs. William Barnes, III  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Bissell  
Mr. and Mrs. J. David Cummings  
Ms. Diane Curtis  
Mr. and Mrs. L. Thomas Dulaney  
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Everest  
Mrs. Jean I. Everest  
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Fischer & Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Fisher  
Mr. Charles Hollerith, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Howe, III  
Mr. and Mrs. William K. Howenstein  
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*The following gifts were received  
between February 20 and May 31, 2009*

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Mr. and Mrs. Greg Renker  
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Mrs. Walter L. Ross, II  
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### William Wieland

Gavin Wieland, John Kemmerer and Kristina Clark

## Honorariums

*Happy Birthday*

### James Arthur Dane - 50th

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Brewer

### Marguerite Murphy - 90th

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Edwards

### John W. Fischer

Mrs. Mary Driggs  
Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West

### Ralph Graham

Ms. Carol J. McCarus

### Elizabeth Marsh

Jill L. Porter & Robert J. Marsh

### Mrs. Richard 'Libby' Ross

Mrs. Mary Driggs  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Townsend Driggs

### Pamela & Daniel Sanquist

Mr. Frederick E. Sanquist, Jr.

*in her honor*

### Betty Hartman

Mr. Nathaniel Johnson

*in honor of their wedding*

### Mr. and Mrs. Grant William James

Mr. and Mrs. James S. Offield

*in honor of their 40th anniversary*

### Mr. and Mrs. Otto Georgi

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Hall, Jr.

*in honor of their upcoming wedding*

### R. Hamilton Schirmer and Barbara Bowman

Ned and Marcia Bearden  
Bev and Bill Hoglund

*in honor of his retirement from Manchester College*

### Dr. David Kreps

Dick and Veroneze Strader



## remembering a friend...



Art Hailand (dark blue sweater) is shown with his family last year at the dedication of the Sally and Art Hailand Nature Preserve.

Art Hailand, Jr. who spent more than 60 summers in Wequetonsing, passed away in April. He had many friends in northern Michigan, supported a number of charities, and will be remembered for his enthusiastic love of the North Country. Through the Little Traverse Conservancy, he worked hard to protect the beautiful forests, fields, bluffs, and beaches that he loved. He was a longtime Trustee of the Conservancy, and played a key role in helping to build both the endowment fund and to raise money for land-saving projects in the Harbor Springs Greenbelt.

Art was a great friend who brought a positive spirit to everything he did, and will be missed by all of us at the Conservancy. Our most sincere condolences go out to his family.



"So get out there and hunt and fish and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, encounter the Griz, climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers, breathe deep of that sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness, that lovely, mysterious awesome space." - **Edward Abbey**

### Vermilion Point Preserve



Charles Dowley



Weather doesn't stop Nadine from enjoying Conservancy nature preserves!

## Getting Adults Outside

### Visit a nature preserve this summer!

by Nadine Cain

How long has it been since you have delighted in the wonders of nature? If it has been some time,

a trip to the Vermilion Point Preserve will provide you with an opportunity to enjoy the playful spirit and the beauty of nature.

Vermilion is certainly no ordinary destination but the effort to reach this windswept spot is well worth it. The gentle breezes will caress your face and toss your

hair about. You will see Lake Superior at her finest and miles of pristine beaches.

I often go to Vermilion to pull invasive weeds, to sweep old floors, and maybe to paint but, most of all, to experience the best that nature has to offer. It is an awesome preserve to explore. I always enjoy the chance to get outside and to explore nature.

Visit Vermilion soon. You will be thankful that you took the time. You won't hear any city sounds here. Your cell phone probably won't work, but you will hear birds singing and waves hitting the shoreline. Children need to get outside and so do more adults. Plan a summer trip now. I hope to see you there soon.



**Note:** A work day at Vermilion is planned for July 17 (see page 12). Visit the Conservancy's website at [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org) for more information, maps, and directions for Vermilion and all Conservancy preserves.

# Stewardship Work Days - 2009

## Many Hands Make it Much More Fun!

For all volunteer work days, please wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves and drinking water. For some of the work days, we welcome the use of extra tools when possible. For more information or to sign up, please call our office at 231.347.0991.



**Wednesday, July 1**  
**9:00 AM to noon**

### **Birge Nature Preserve - Clark Township, Mackinac County**

Spotted Knapweed pull. Help rid the preserve of this weed, making way for the beautiful native wildflowers instead. Local volunteers have been working on knapweed control here for a few years and have seen a great impact with their efforts!

**Friday, July 17**  
**9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

### **Vermilion Point Nature Preserve - Whitefish Township, Chippewa County**

For many years, people who lived in this remote location dumped their household trash and other debris around the Life Saving Station buildings or in convenient spots behind the dunes. Help us clean up this preserve, and explore the beautiful Lake Superior beach afterwards as your reward.

**Wednesday, August 26,**  
**9:00 AM to noon**

### **Chaboiganing Nature Preserve - Brutus, Cheboygan County**

Autumn Olive shrub control. Follow up on the work days we had in 2005 and 2007. This year we will focus on the edges where woods and field meet, as well as along the road frontages.



photos by Phil Ohmer

## thank you

**Dick Oelke** for help with recent land surveys and legal descriptions.

**Sally and Kenyon Stebbins**, and **Al and Pat Oloffson** for donating Sibley Field Guides to Birds. The LTC staff now has three copies to use: one for the office, and a copy for each LTC vehicle. And to Sally again for leading a birding hike at Greenwood!

**Greg Zimmerman** and **Lake Superior State University** for facilitating a meeting location for our Round Island Point volunteers.

**Glen Matthews** for helping us write the management plan for the new Reed's Alverno Nature Preserve in Cheboygan County. Glen's expertise in natural resources, forestry, and wildlife management has been much appreciated.

**Larry Robinson** who will be pruning the plum and apple trees at the Barney's Lake Preserve on Beaver Island.

**Paul Pioszak, Bobbie Preston, and Megan Stan** for help building fences, marking boundaries, and tearing down old fishing shanties at the Round Island Point Preserve on the May 16 work day.

**Bobbie Preston** for helping us plant trees at Round Island Point on April 28.

**Mike Brindley** for helping remove an old culvert on the Sturgeon Bay Preserve trail.

**Kurt Yuengling** for leading a field trip to the Round Island point Preserve.

**Wayne Lindstrom** for pulling garlic mustard at Meadowgate on May 28th.

**Site Planning Development** for removing dead pine trees on the Teesdale Preserve.

The sixteen volunteers who helped us clean up the Watson Preserve on April 18:

**Anna Asbury**  
**Indy Bacon**  
**Gary Barfknecht**  
**Marlene Bartson**  
**Kate Cwikiel**  
**Jessica Hall**  
**Bret and James Huntman**  
**Nicole Love**

**Kaia Olson**  
**Marta Olson**  
**Dario and**  
**Gianna Primo**  
**Larry Rychlick**  
**Nicole Sheppard**  
**Roger Srigley**



# Returning the Meadow to Meadowgate

THOUGH ONLY 11 ACRES IN SIZE, THE MEADOW-Gate Nature Preserve is one of the Conservancy's most familiar and visible nature preserves around Little Traverse Bay. Located on M-119 along the "Gateway to Harbor Springs," the land was donated in 1978 to protect the scenic beauty of that stretch.

Over the years, natural succession has taken place and the meadow looks much different than it did 30 years ago. Today, it is filling in with sumac, pine trees, silver poplars, and other woody vegetation.

"The management plan for Meadowgate calls for maintaining the land as a meadow to keep it scenic," said Conservancy Director of Stewardship Doug Fuller. "However, the size of the woody saplings and the presence of invasive exotic species has now made the prospect of doing this fairly difficult."

While exploring long-term management options to restore and maintain the meadow and other habitats found on the preserve, Stewardship staff became acquainted with the Federally-funded Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP). Working with Bill Borgeld, the District Conservationist with the Emmet County office of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), it was agreed that achieving the aesthetics desired at Meadowgate is a process that is compatible with improving grassland wildlife habitat there.

Last year, the Conservancy was awarded a four-year WHIP grant to help offset the costs of implementing the "meadow reclamation."


"We've come up with a plan that calls for creating and managing six different habitats on the Meadowgate



Don't worry! The tree removal that you will see this summer at the Meadowgate Preserve is part of a large-scale effort to remove exotics and return the preserve back to the open meadow as it was intended when originally protected.

Preserve, most notably several types of grassland adjacent to M-119," Fuller said.

Fuller explained that the Conservancy is trying to get the word out as much as possible beforehand so that people don't misinterpret what is happening at Meadowgate. "It is going to look a little rough in there for a while, especially with the removal of numerous, undesirable trees," Fuller said. "But ultimately, the work we'll be doing, including removing exotic species, will be in the best interest of the preserve and the surrounding land."

If you have any questions or concerns about the Meadowgate project, please call the Conservancy office at 231.347.0991 and ask for Cindy or Doug. 







## Wish List

- We're seeking additional GPS hand held devices for staff use. Our existing models are Garmin 60Cx for which our accessories and maps are compatible.
- Nikon or Canon digital cameras of 6 mega pixel or higher
- small table saw
- 16' - 24' aluminum extension ladder
- "Wildflowers of Michigan" guides by Stan Tekiela to use for journaling and other programs and field trips.



Kevin Wallentang

**Snapshots from the season** (clockwise from top left): A Petoskey Middle School student journals in the field outside the school. One of the journaling sessions occurs in the classroom where students prepare for their outings. A knee-high naturalist discovers the wonder of magnification! Visitors to the Round Island Point Preserve enjoyed a geology hike led by Kurt Yuengling.

## New Members

*The Conservancy would like to thank the following new members, new Friends or Benefactors, or members who have increased their level of giving within the Friends or Benefactors level from February 21, 2009 to May 31, 2009.*

### Individuals/Families

Mr. and Mrs. John Bissell  
Mr. Michael Cameron  
Martin and Patricia Jahn Foundation  
Ms. Jane Jontz  
Mr. John G. McCoy  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Myers  
Mr. and Mrs. David P. Parker  
Eric Russell and Randel Richner  
Mrs. John E. Riecker  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Vallee

### New Contributing Members

#### Individuals/Families

Mr. and Mrs. William Belonge  
Mr. Matthew Bower

Mr. Michael Brode  
Ms. Lynne Erskine Bryant  
Jim and Ginger Burdick  
RaeAnn and Paul Cononi  
Chris and Denise Dundon  
Mr. Paul A. Lindberg  
Emily Meyerson and Harry Kitchen  
Ms. Polly Corbin Mittag  
Mr. and Mrs. David Munson  
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Nida  
Ms. Beth A. Nieman-Adams  
Don and Julie Nummer  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Platte Jr.  
Mr. Roger L. Srigley  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Supers  
Ms. Nancy Turner  
Mr. Chuck Wagner  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Wing



# Reflections... by Tom Bailey

## The Conservation Imperative

THE DICTIONARY ON MY OFFICE bookshelf defines “imperative” in part as “essential, obligatory.” Imperative is a word I have used quite a bit over the years in reference to many aspects of conservation, because it seems to me that it has been imperative for many decades that we make conservation a priority.

For example, I believe it imperative that we reduce air pollution. Regardless of all the arguments about mathematical atmospheric models and dire predictions about climate change, it seems easy to me for most anyone to understand that the fewer toxic chemicals, acids, soot particles and other pollutants in the air we and our fellow creatures breathe, the better.

It is equally imperative that we reduce pollution of the earth’s waters. Salt water, fresh water, surface water, or ground water, it again seems simple to understand that it is in the best interest of humanity and all creation if we minimize the fouling of the waters. Much of earth’s life is in the seas where all water eventually runs, and minimal common sense tells us that poisons and other pollutants can only do harm.

Land conservation emerged as an ever more important imperative in the last century. In the United States and elsewhere, the past 100 years saw the balance shift from a predominantly natural world with islands of human development to a primarily human-modified environment with pockets of natural areas remaining. This is cause for a number of concerns, one of the foremost being that from an evolutionary standpoint, humans have virtually no experience as the dominant force on the landscape. Our ability to manage living systems as well as Mother Nature is completely untested.

Experiments such as the Biosphere projects in Arizona have demonstrated that it is more difficult to maintain the balance of living systems than it might seem. Real-world experience has shown that human activity can lead to alarming loss of productive land, a process called “desertification,” and many other difficulties. The Hurricane Katrina experience provided an example of the devastation that can result from human modification of coastal wetlands, elimination of barrier islands, and channelization of rivers. There have been other lessons, ranging

from the Chernobyl nuclear pollution episode to the wastelands and poisoned waterways created by careless mining practices all over the globe.

Conservation of natural resources is justifiable for its own sake, but to me there are other important dimensions to the Conservation Imperative. There is, for example, an economic imperative: most natural resources are capital resources in economic terms, and when dealing with things like fossil fuels, strategic metals and other resources it is important that we treat these as capital. One doesn’t squander one’s capital. Capital assets must be managed differently than income or other flow resources. While the word “sustainability” is often seen as an environmentalist term, when viewed in economic terms pertaining to the management of capital resources, the term is perhaps more widely and readily understood. Land is the ultimate capital.

There is a moral imperative for conservation, too. Gluttony and waste are not admirable qualities, and to the extent that any society or generation treats limited resources in this manner, there are legitimate questions about their moral responsibilities to others yet to come. This brings to mind the wonderful “Seven Generations” test of many American Indian people: consider the impact of decisions on seven generations to come.

Not to be ignored is the spiritual side of conservation. Philosophers, poets, saints, indigenous spiritual leaders, and enlightened politicians have all recognized that while conservation is important from the scientific, physical, and economic standpoints, there is a higher calling to care for the earth. Reading selections from Thoreau, St. Francis, Black Elk, Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson and Theodore Roosevelt can provide some insight.


Perhaps the best way to recognize the importance of land conservation issues is to consider a twist on the old “think globally, act locally” slogan from years past: think of how we want things to be in our local communities, and then act to make it possible to have beautiful, livable communities worldwide.

Here in northern Michigan, people have supported parks, recreation areas, and efforts like the Little Traverse Conservancy’s programs to establish a healthy



Greg Czarniecki/Sue Dempsey

balance between land development and land conservation. It’s not the proverbial “rocket science;” most all of us know a beautiful community when we see it, and most all of us recognize that there are limits to the extent of development which is beneficial and what goes beyond the point of diminishing returns. The more we can do to institutionalize these common-sense limits to growth and development, the less we will have to worry about things getting out of control.

A big thank you to all who have supported our efforts—from financial contributors to volunteer workers, leaders on our board and the many others who support land conservation. We’ve made great progress in the North Country toward preserving the natural features that make the area so special while carrying on with appropriate development on an appropriate scale. Folks around here seem to recognize what I call the Conservation Imperative, and our people and landscape are all the better for it. Thinking carefully about our choices and acting on what our hearts and heads tell us is best for our community is not only good for our local environment: if more people can recognize the Conservation Imperative in more places and apply it to their situation, we will have healthier communities and a healthier world. 

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Sandhill Crane and "Colt" at Stutsmanville Bog - taken by Kenyon Stebbins, 6/1/09



## Summer Field Trips

Unless noted, Conservancy field trips are offered at no charge. Pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991. Out of fairness to our program leaders, many of whom are volunteers, please do let us know if you plan to come. It greatly helps with planning.

### Dad and Me Hike

Saturday, June 27, 11 am

Thorne Swift Nature Preserve

Okay, dads. Let's give mom a break and take the little ones on an exploration in nature. Join Conservancy educator, Alison Berry, to explore the many wonders of Thorne Swift. If you've never been to Thorne Swift before, this is a perfect opportunity for a guided hike to this family-friendly preserve. Plan to bring your lunch and eat at the beach, allowing for extra time to explore the nature center or hang on the trails. You won't be sorry that you did! This hike is aimed for all ages. There is no charge except for a \$3 parking fee at Thorne Swift for non-township residents or non-Conservancy members. Pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991.

### Sea Kayaking Les Cheneaux

Sunday, July 19, 2009, 10 am to 4 pm

Join Woods & Water Ecotours on a guided paddling excursion among the blue waters and forested shorelines of Les Cheneaux. Depending on weather conditions, we will either visit the Seiberling Stewart Nature Preserve or the Aldo Leopold Nature Preserve. Both are on Marquette Island, the largest island in the chain, and offer beautiful examples of cobble beach, Great Lakes Marsh, and boreal forest habitats. No prior experience is needed, but participants must be in good physical condition. Total paddle distance is 6 to 8 miles. Trip is limited to 10 to 12 people. Cost is \$60 per person including an Up-North Picnic lunch, kayak and gear rental, instruction, and guide service. To make your reservation, please contact Jessie Hadley at 906.484.4157 or [www.woodswaterecotours.com](http://www.woodswaterecotours.com).

### Visit the new Emmet County Preserve

Friday, July 24, 1 pm

Come along for a first-hand tour of the Conservancy's newest preserve, located just a five minute drive from Harbor Springs and featured in this newsletter's cover story. This nearly 400-acre property includes woods and open fields and is a great place to "get away from it all" without driving far from town. Conservancy staff will lead the way, pointing out the highlights of the property. Pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991.

### Cheboygan County Bike Ride

Saturday, July 25, 10 am

Topinabee to the Andreae Preserve

Join representatives from the Top of Michigan Trails Council and Little Traverse Conservancy on this exploration of a portion of Cheboygan County. Using the North Central State Trail (Gaylord to Mackinaw City) and local roads, this trip will take about three hours and cover roughly 18 miles. We will purchase a box lunch from a local restaurant to eat at the Andreae Preserve, where we will also get a guided tour of the property. The Andreae Preserve lies along the Pigeon River. All bikes welcome, although a hybrid or mountain bike is suggested. We will be meeting before 10 am at the park across from the Marathon Station in Topinabee. For more information or to register, please contact Top of Michigan Trails Council at 231.348.8280.

*Since 1972, LTC has protected more than 39,700 acres of land and 102 miles of shoreline within its 5-county service area.*



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