



# Leaving it Beautiful

## BLACK RIVER WATERSHED EASEMENTS DONATED

FOR MUCH OF HER CHILDHOOD, MARION WEBERLEIN and her family would travel from their home in Plymouth to the Eastern Upper Peninsula to fish for pike. "At that time, those fish were our family's meat. My mother would come prepared to can everything we caught," Marion explains. Her father had been a master baker who had emigrated from Germany, and this was shortly after the Depression.

Marion went on to study veterinary medicine at what is now Michigan State and established a successful business near her home town. But the family's heart was always up north. Every year, they rented a cabin for their fishing excursions, eventually spending their trips in the north-eastern Lower Peninsula. One day, they discovered the nearly 200-acre farm surrounding the cabin they liked to

rent was for sale. "My dad just loved it," Marion says, "but didn't feel he could afford it."

So Marion purchased the farm, enabling her parents to move north while she kept her business going downstate. Her folks loved the land and, with Marion's help, gardened, canned, and built barns for her horses and other animals. Every year, flowers popped up around the homestead, planted by the prior owners who ran a cut flower business.

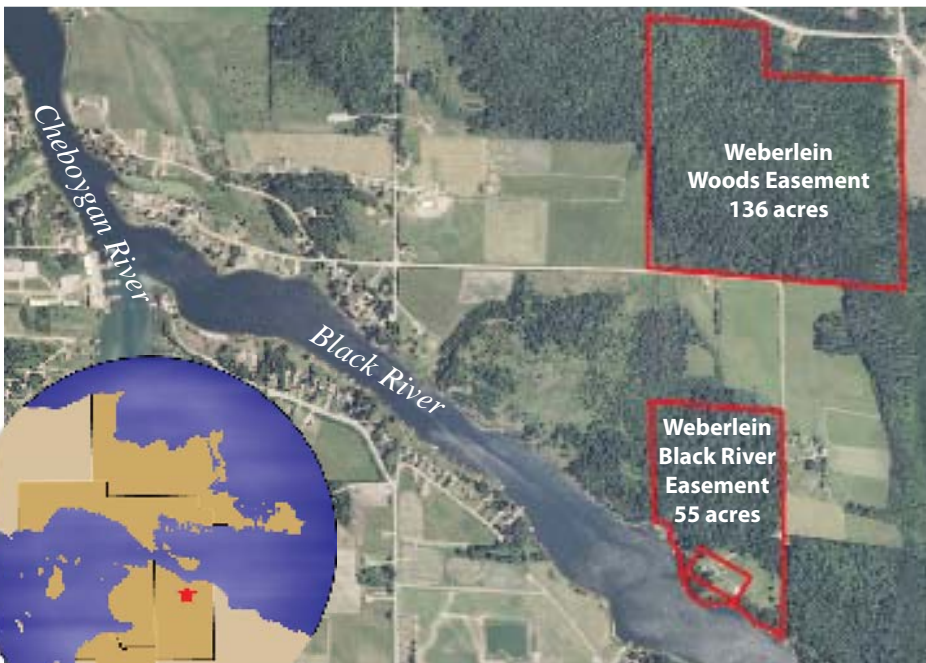
Many years later, Marion sold her downstate practice and joined her parents on the land, with the intention of retiring as well as raising and showing Arabian horses.

One thing led to another and her passion for the welfare of animals was too strong and the need for her services was too great. She soon found herself back in business just outside of Cheboygan, and worked right up until she was 70. "Marion's success as a vet was due to her strong spirit and the fact that she always put animals first," said Mary Talaske, a close family friend. "When someone brought in an animal to put down because they didn't have the money to pay for a broken leg, she would just say, 'Oh, I can fix that.' She never turned an animal or a person away if there was something she could do."

It was in this spirit that several



Marion Weberlein (above) is happy to be out on a beautiful spring day to watch her Arabians on fresh pasture.



*continued on page 3*





*"Lake Path" by James Kosloskey, this year's featured artist.*

*Little Traverse Conservancy  
invites you to join us for the 22nd annual*

## *Save the Trees Land Protection Fundraiser*

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

*6:00-8:30 pm*

*New Walstrom Marine Sales Center  
501 East Bay Street, Harbor Springs*

*Entertainment by Jelly Roll Blues Band  
Catering by Carol Costello*

*Admission Tickets: \$75 (\$80 at door)  
Raffle Tickets: \$50*

*For more information or to purchase tickets, please  
call the Conservancy office at 231.347.0991.*

*An all-art raffle will be held featuring original work by the  
following artists: James Kosloskey, Kevin Barton, Mary  
Hramiec-Hoffman, David Krause, David Lesh, Sr., Marta  
Olson, Margie Smith, Dr. Kim Aikens, Tedd Greenwald,  
Ruth Petzold, Robert Swanson, and William Tribble.*

## **Little Traverse Conservancy's**

### **39th Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 2, 2011**

*Cheboygan Opera House, Cheboygan*

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 9:30 am     | Tea and coffee  |
| 10-11:30 am | Meeting at Cheboygan Opera House  |
| 11:30-12    | Travel to Mackinaw City Arnold Ferry  |
| 12:30-2 pm  | 1½-hour ferry cruise from Mackinaw City around St. Helena Island and along shoreline. Lunch will be provided on the cruise. |

Join us at the beautiful Cheboygan Opera House for this year's annual meeting. From the meeting, we will travel to Mackinaw City for a wonderful afternoon boat cruise. Cost is \$20/person (including box lunch on ferry). Space will be limited, so call soon! Member invitations will be coming in the mail.



An aerial view of the  
lighthouse on St. Helena Island.



# Piecing Together Paradise Protection

BARGAIN SALE BUILDS ON PRIOR PROJECTS

A new addition to a growing collection of protected lands has been added to the southeast end of Paradise Lake (aka Carp Lake) in northern Emmet County. Thanks to a significant bargain sale from Bill and Stephanie Veling, a 66-acre parcel was purchased this past spring. The property is located directly adjacent to the Conservancy's 80-acre Harry C. Smith Preserve which links to township land that is directly south of the Conservancy's 50-acre shoreline Stony Point Preserve.

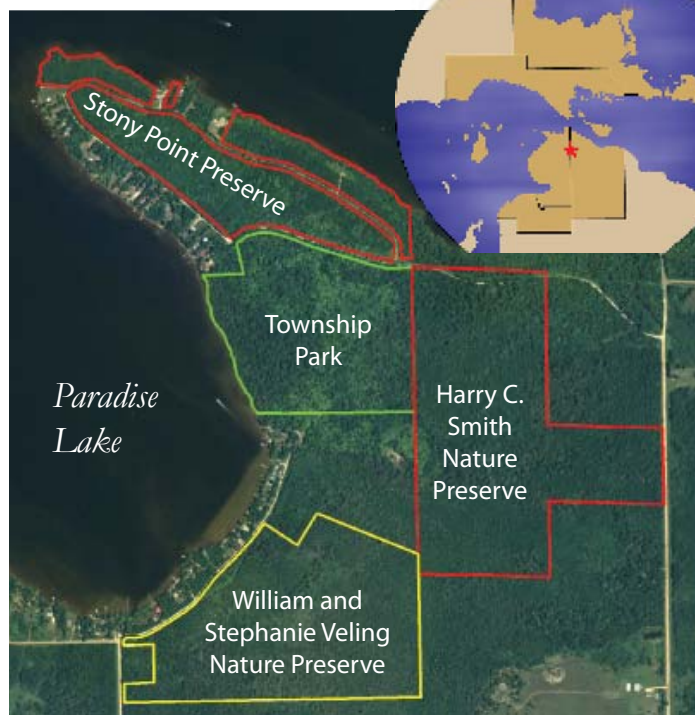
"Linking properties like these together is a high Conservancy goal," says Kieran Fleming, Conservancy Director of Land Protection. "The combination of protected shoreline and uplands largely contributes to keeping the lake healthy."

The Velings purchased the land in 1993, attracted to the wild nature of the land and its proximity to the water. "It was so thick, we often had to carry a compass to find our way back!" Stephanie says. But this remoteness and peacefulness was also what made it attractive to them.

Having met as children of families from downstate who summered in the Cross Village region, the couple both have deep appreciation for northern Michigan. While in graduate school, Bill designed a thesis project studying the limnological qualities of Larks and Wycamp lakes.

Stephanie's father, William Cranmer, donated both a conservation easement and a nature preserve to the Conservancy in 1990, protecting Lake Michigan and scenic M-119 frontage, as well as habitat for the federally endangered Pitcher's Thistle.

Though their lives have taken them often many states away, they always came back in the summers and knew retirement



would eventually bring them north for good. With a home in Bliss Township and other properties as well, the time was right to do something with their lake property. "We always hoped it could stay natural, so selling to the Conservancy was the right solution," says Stephanie. 🦋

A view of the Black River from Marion Weberlein's protected farm.



**A conservation easement** is a voluntary agreement that allows a landowner to limit the type or amount of development on their property while retaining private ownership of the land. The easement is signed by the landowner, who is the easement donor, and the Conservancy, which is the party receiving the easement. The Conservancy accepts the easement with understanding that it must enforce the terms of the easement in perpetuity. After the easement is signed, it is recorded with the County Register of Deeds and applies to all future owners of the land. **The land is not open to the public.**

*Beautiful continued from the cover*

years ago Marion started thinking about the future of her farm. Throughout the years, she has had numerous offers to purchase the land, especially the 2,000 feet of river frontage. Similarly, she has always turned down requests from hunters wanting to use her land. "She really wants to pass this land on to her family, but with the assurance that it will not ever be subdivided," says Ty Ratliff, land protection specialist. "The conservation easement was the perfect estate planning tool for her."

This spring, Marion donated conservation easements to Little Traverse Conservancy to permanently protect a total of 191 acres of her farm. The river easement excludes the homestead and farm, protecting the surrounding 55 acres. A second easement protects a 136-acre forested tract located just down the road.

"This place has always been natural and free for the animals to have refuge, and that is just how I want it to stay," she said. 🦋



## Rogers Family Homestead Preserve Grows

PRESERVE GAINS IN POPULARITY AND SIZE

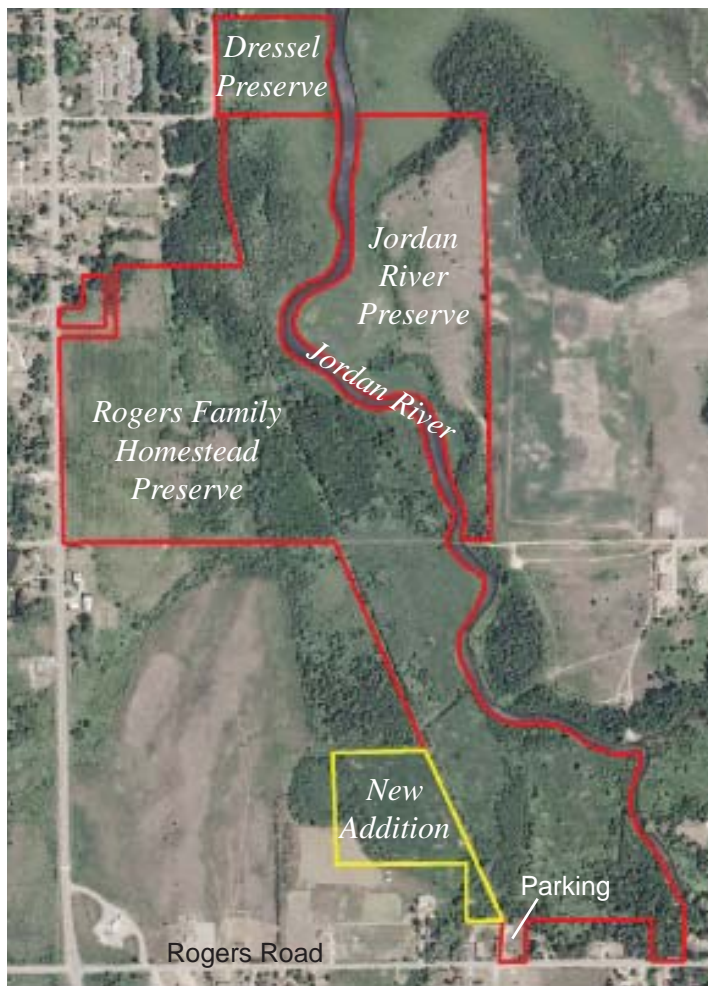
Ever since it was established in 2007, the Rogers Family Homestead Preserve has been becoming a local favorite for the greater East Jordan community. With more than a mile of frontage on the Jordan River and a 1½-mile trail system, the preserve is being enjoyed by cross country skiers, hikers, and anglers.

This spring the Conservancy purchased a 13-acre addition to the Rogers Preserve. The acquired property includes abandoned pasture land and the remainder of an old railroad grade, improving trail access along this section of the preserve.

The trails of the preserve are mowed by neighbors and previous owners Bill and Carolyn Ashley. Carolyn, whose family homesteaded the property, recalls how this portion of the preserve was used as a hay field. She shares a memorable story from 1950 when she was helping her family gather a bumper crop of hay in this field and lost her brand new glasses. “Can you imagine — I got \$20 for the calf I had to sell to pay for my new glasses!”

For more information about this preserve complex, visit [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org) and click on Nature Preserves.

*Map to left:* The new addition to the Rogers Family Homestead Preserve is shown in yellow. This three-preserve complex includes nearly 200 acres of land and nearly 1.5 miles of Jordan River frontage, some on both sides of the river.



## Sharkey Preserve Expands



A WATERFRONT LOT WITH 100 FEET ALONG CROOKED Lake was recently purchased to add to the existing Reg Sharkey Nature Preserve. Together, the properties include 900 feet of shoreline as well as the lake's inlet. The property is one of several links of protected lands along the Inland Waterway, including the 243-acre Fochtman Preserve located across US-31. This part of the lake is highly used by waterfowl and is important for maintain-

ing the health of the fishery. Purchased from Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, the land was being restored to a natural state to be used as a demonstration site. Ten years ago, the Watershed Council planted native plants at the site. LTC plans to continue managing the land to promote native plant diversity. “We’re thrilled that the land is now permanently protected,” says Gail Gruenwald, Watershed Council Executive Director.



# Seeds of Restoration

## NATIVE SEEDS GATHERED FOR PRESERVE

On April 29, Stewardship Specialist Cindy Mom was grateful that the weather forecast came to fruition with blue skies and cool temps. After weeks of preparation, the work day she had been meticulously planning at the new Martha Cameron Nature Preserve had been delayed a week due to late season snow. This day was just right.

One of the first volunteers to arrive that morning was Chris Leifson. Chris has a special interest in this new preserve. For the past year, he had been traveling to natural areas to collect the seeds of native plants. Chris, who intentionally does not own a car, travelled by bicycle to gather the seeds. He found them off of the bike trails, along the side of the road, at the Sally and John Clark Preserve, the Five Mile Creek Preserve, Susan Creek Preserve, and from his mom's wild field off of Mitchell Road. The fruits of his labor were going to be sown on this day and like any good nurturer, he wanted to ensure the conditions were optimal for success.

Chris explains that seeds need to be "stratified" to ensure they will germinate when planted. This means the seeds must go through periods of cold and wet to encourage proper germination in the spring. The stratification requirements vary by species and some may be harvested in the fall and kept cool artificially over the winter. Other species could be left outdoors and gathered in the spring shortly before planting.

All together, Chris collected well over a pound of seed including 9 different species for planting at the Cameron Preserve, located between Petoskey and Harbor Springs on M-119.

In this era of creative entrepreneurs, Chris sets the bar high. Born in Salt Lake City and having lived several years in Arizona, he arrived in his mother's hometown of Petoskey in his early 20s to take classes at North Central Michigan College. After years of watching Arizona overdevelop and overplant in unsuitable habitats, he was quickly attracted to the natural diversity of northern Michigan. His interest in the outdoors was further inspired by a class he took with Seamus Norgaard at the college, co-workers at The Grain Train, and a friend who shared the same developing passion for plants. They all fanned a growing spark within him.

A recent road trip around the country only further inspired his commitment to learn more about plants and help others understand the importance of planting species that were meant to



Chris Leifson sows native seeds at the Cameron Preserve. The bike he used to collect the seeds sits in the background.

grow here. Chris recently started a formal business growing native plants from seed and says there is no way he can keep up with the demand. But that only makes him smile: "I have a dream of landscaping every home in Petoskey with native plants, emission free, all powered by bicycle." He is about to purchase a sturdy bike trailer that can carry up to 300 pounds.

In the meantime, Chris is working for another one of his mentors, David Spieser, who owns the native landscaping/hardscaping (stone) business North by Nature. He is keeping an eye on all those little seedlings now emerging from the soil at the Martha Cameron Preserve. And he can't get enough of learning about the biology, chemistry, therapeutic, and nutritional traits of plants. It may not be an overstatement when Chris talks about the plant bioneers who are working tirelessly to protect native species. "These folks are going to save this country," he says.



Chris shares the simple tools of the trade for seed collectors.



The seeds are sifted several times to clean them for planting.



# field work



Restoration work has been ongoing at the Meadowgate Preserve .



Forty-eight easements were monitored aerially this spring as well as any large preserves that were along the monitoring route.



A new interpretive sign and tree identification signs for the Goodhart Farms Preserve have been created.

EACH YEAR WHEN THE SNOW MELTS, THE STEWARDSHIP staff hit the ground running to start whittling away at the ever-growing list of needs, wants, and annual “must do’s” at Conservancy protected properties. Almost all of the 13,500 acres of nature preserves are now being monitored by a volunteer crew of preserve and trail stewards. Staff have been meeting with landowners who have conservation easements on their property, as well as introducing new landowners to the conservation easements that were placed by prior landowners.

If you would like a further window into the work of the land stewardship part of the organization, visit the Conservancy’s website, [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org) and click on “Publications.” Scroll down and you can now see both the Conservation Easement Landowner newsletter as well as the Volunteer Steward newsletter in this part of the site.

These newsletters include featured interviews, special topics, statistics, and contact information. If you are considering protecting your land, these could be very helpful!



### Meet our 2011 AmeriCorps Steward Ben Adams

Ben Adams has joined the Conservancy for a six-month stay through the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program. A Petoskey High School graduate and 2010 graduate of Michigan Technological University with a degree in environmental engineering, Ben is excited to learn more about the conservation field, hoping to apply what he learns to his particular interest in water and wastewater treatment. He will primarily be working with the stewardship staff, but will get some experience in all aspects of the organization. In his spare time, Ben is training for some local mountain bike races and likes to kayak. Welcome, Ben!



## preserve renewal

Join the hardy crew of stewardship staff and volunteers who have been working around the Conservancy service area to take care of business. This is physically challenging but rewarding work and can take you to a part of our region that you might never have seen before. The following work days have been scheduled for the upcoming stewardship work season. Contact Cindy at 231.344.1011 or [cindy@landtrust.org](mailto:cindy@landtrust.org) for more information.

### Friday, July 22 & Saturday, July 23

#### Vermilion Point Knapweed Pull - call for details

For the fifth year in a row, we will be pulling spotted knapweed at Vermilion Point in the Upper Peninsula. This high priority project is a cooperative effort of Little Traverse Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Lake Superior State University, and the Eastern UP Cooperative Weed Management Area, and will help keep Vermilion's habitat in shape for Piping Plovers and Lake Huron Tansy. This is your opportunity to stay overnight at Vermilion in the old Life Saving Station barracks. Don't miss out!

### Thursday, July 28 (9 am to noon)

#### Chaboiganing Preserve Invasive Removal

Since 2005, we've been working to remove autumn olive and other woody invasives from the hay fields and forest edges at the Chaboiganing Preserve. Great progress has been made, but there are always a few stragglers left behind.



The a.m. crew at the Cameron Preserve workday on April 29.



The p.m. crew at the Cameron Preserve workday on April 29.



Central Michigan University Honors students worked incredibly hard with Conservancy staff to clean out the old Gallagher House on the Little Sand Bay Preserve on Beaver Island.

## Knee-High Programs (ages 3-6)

June 21-July 27 (Tuesdays and Wednesdays)

*The same program is offered three times each week:*

Tuesdays 10-11 am and 1-2 pm, and Wednesdays, 10-11 am. Each program will include a story, short hike, and craft/activity. Pre-registration is required by calling Melissa at 231.344.1004 no earlier than a week prior to the program.



### Color Me Hidden **Tuesday June 21: 10-11 am, 1-2 pm** **Wednesday, June 22: 10-11 am**

Now you see me, now you don't! Animals use camouflage to stay hidden in their environment. Come explore how colors and patterns help animals survive! Look for hidden objects including your own painted animal rock.

### Frog Fun **Tuesday June 28: 10-11 am, 1-2 pm** **Wednesday, June 29: 10-11 am**

A watery home, webbed feet, and bugs for lunch. Hop on over to Spring Lake Park to discover a frog's world. We'll look at a frog up close, search for them along the shores of the pond, and find out about their survival secrets.

### Blooms **Tuesday July 5: 10-11 am, 1-2 pm** **Wednesday, July 6: 10-11 am**

Flowers with their many colors, interesting shapes, and alluring beauty capture the attention of kids of all ages. We'll search for blooms, examine a flower up close, and maybe even spot a flower fairy.



### Bug Safari **Tuesday July 12: 10-11 am, 1-2 pm** **Wednesday, July 13: 10-11 am**

They gross us out, but fascinate us at the same time. Whether crawling, flying, or swimming, bugs are interesting to watch and fun to catch. Take an up-close look at some bugs and discover where they live and what they do.

### Just Ducky **Tuesday July 19: 10-11 am, 1-2 pm** **Wednesday, July 20: 10-11 am**

Waddle into this program to learn all about ducks. Do all ducks quack? What do they eat? How do they waterproof their feathers? Are there any at Spring Lake? We'll finish off with a game of duck, duck, goose - of course.

### Fins & Scales & Tails **Tuesday July 26: 10-11 am, 1-2 pm** **Wednesday, July 27: 10-11 am**

Something's fishy around here! What kinds of fish live in our lakes and streams? What special body parts do they have to live in water? Let's have fun learning about some local fish. We'll make some fish prints to take home too!

## Junior Naturalists Hikes (ages 7-12)

June 23-July 28 (Thursdays) 10 am-Noon

Due to the popularity of these programs, pre-registration is required by calling Sarah at 231.344.1018 no earlier than the week prior to the program.

### Goin' Mucking!

**Thursday, June 23 Spring Lake Park**

Discover the wonders that are in and around a pond! During this program we will be exploring the pond habitat, the creatures that live there, and even trying to catch a few. All materials provided, but children are welcome to bring their own dipping nets. Be sure to dress for muck and mud!

### Creatures of McCune

**Thursday, June 30 McCune Preserve**

The McCune Nature Preserve is home to a spectacular diversity of plants and animals, a beautiful creek, and great hiking trails. Who calls this place their home? Let's look under logs, dip our feet in the Minnehaha Creek, and stroll the trails! Please dress for hiking and getting a little wet.

### Adventures in Nature Photography

**Thursday, July 7 Spring Lake Park**

Creative and like the outdoors? Grab your digital camera for some photo fun with naturalist and photographer Sarah Mayhew. Refine your observation skills and learn some tips for taking really cool nature photos that you can share with your family and friends.



### Explore-A-Shore

**Thursday, July 14 North Point Preserve**

Bring your sun block and shoes you can get wet! During this program we will be exploring the beach and shoreline of Charlevoix's North Point Preserve along Lake Michigan. Who lives there? What grows there? Why are we not the only ones who love the beach?

### Creek Crawl

**Thursday, July 21 Five Mile Creek Swamp Preserve**

Take a walk on the creek side! We will be exploring the creek up close during this adventure. Where does the creek come from? Where does it go? Who sips from its edge? Who hides in its bed? Enjoy views of the creek from on top a ridge with a dramatic slope to the water. This field trip is for the adventurous child! There are no established trails, so although the walking is not extremely difficult, it is not as easy as a maintained trail and will require maneuvering over logs and through branches. Dress for hiking in the woods.

### Bugs-N-Bogs

**Thursday, July 28 Stutsmanville Bog**

What exactly is a bog? Who lives there? What makes them so special? Equipped with sweep nets, magnifying lenses, and bug jars (we provide) we will be exploring our way through the tall grasses to the famous Stutsmanville Bog. At the bog, we'll find a whole new environment filled with wonder and beauty. Come find out what makes a bog so cool!



One of the extension programs that Conservancy education staff help with is the Petoskey Middle School Ecology Seminar on Sugar Island. Students and instructors stay at the University of Michigan Biological Station field station on the island, which is located in the St. Mary's River off of the eastern coast of the Upper Peninsula. The students conduct hands-on studies and incorporate them into various activities. This year's group witnessed a "seiche" on Lake Huron, an unusual condition created by high winds.

"This trip is experiential education at its best!" says Sue Fogo, Petoskey 8th grade science teacher. "We have the opportunity to get kids out of the traditional classroom and out in the field hiking, sketching, collecting samples, identifying plants and animals. They certainly get their hands dirty and love every minute of it! We are able to share our love of nature with these kids and we all come home with a better understanding of the world around us."



Bahweting 5th grade pond study.

"Thank you, Melissa, Sarah, and Alison! JKL Bahweting 5th Grade had a fantastic time at our pond study and nature hike at Mission Hill today! You ladies do a fantastic job! See you again next year!"

**- Susan Solomon  
5th grade teacher**



Preschoolers learn about evergreen trees.

Todd Petersen



Mackinaw City students at The Headlands.

Todd Petersen



Earth Week session in Cheboygan.



*The following gifts were received from February 24 - May 31, 2011.*

## In Memory

**Joanne and Walker Bagby**

Joan Keller

**Gerry Brady**

Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger

**B. Gill Clements**

Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Green

**Winsor Coman**

Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger

**Quinn Delaney**

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Carroll

**Jane Earls**

Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Terrill

**Sam Gaylord**

Ms. Margo L. Hodder

**Carol Jeanne Hague**

Bruce and Kay Wasilewski

**John B. Hodge**

Karen and Steve Andrews, Sturgeon River Pottery

Ms. Phyllis J. Childs

Karen and Hank Jallo

Ms. Charlotte Kirch

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Koza

Mr. and Mrs. John Kurtz

Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger

Fred and Barbara Malpass

Tracy and Brenda Malpass

Drs. Vaughn and Harriet McGraw

Charles and Jill O'Neill

Mr. and Mrs. Max R. Putters

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Strong

Peggy and Dwayne Swenor

**Frank L. Ingram**

Mrs. Terry Iverson

**Betty LaPrairie**

Brad and Sherry Gerlach



Seven-year-old Lauren Willman talks to a saw-whet owl at The Headlands this past April.

Jim Bricker

**R. Janice McCue**

Mr. Neal McCue

**George Menzi**

John and Nona Carr

Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger

Thomas C. Peterson and Family

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Petzold

Mr. and Mrs. David W. Smith

**bj Mogg**

Mrs. Dannie Bea Hightower

Mrs. John C. Jansing

Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Pennington, III and Family

Mr. and Mrs. Greg Renker

**John Molesta**

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Day, Jr.

Mr. Robert C. Pew II

**Katie, Hanna and Wyatt Morrison**

Mrs. James Alfring

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hord Armstrong, III

Mrs. William Barnes, III

Mr. and Mrs. James K. Dobbs, III

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Townsend Driggs

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Everest

Mrs. Jean I. Everest

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Farley

Ms. Judith A. Gillow

Mrs. Dannie Bea Hightower

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Dean Hovey

John and Judy Keller

Joan Keller

Dr. and Mrs. Rudolf F. Laveran

Ms. Virginia McCoy

Ms. Laura L. Parrish

John and Rita Picton

Mr. and Mrs. Greg Renker

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Soter

Mrs. Mark L. Townsend

Patsy and Sandy Warner

Charles and Kerry Wilson

Sarah Ziegler

**Norma Mueller**

Mr. And Mrs. Walter H. Lindsay

**Diane Nilstoft**

Mr. and Mrs. William K. Howenstein

**Dorothy Oldham**

Paul and Jacquelin Taglia

**Gustav and Margaurite Olofsson**

Ms. Thelma Weaver

**Rolland "Skip" Perry**

Jeff Berman

Ward and Sandy Bollinger

Ms. Susan Ward Christopherson

Tom and Sally Lugar

Terri and Chris Shrader

Gig and Nancy Stewart

**Patricia Postle**

Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger

Mr. and Mrs. David J. Neithercut

**Falzur M. Rahaman**

Darleen Flaherty

**Judd Ring**

Mr. And Mrs. David J. Donovan

**Mrs. Rufus Smith**

Robin Armstrong, Holly S. Williams,

Sharon S. Iltis and Braxton Smith

**John Vala**

Tom and Kathy Snow

**Louis Ware**

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Carroll

**William Yates**

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Edwards

**In Honor Of...**

**Billie Friend's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Herb and Lorraine Edwards



Mishel Northrop



# Headlands Becomes an *International* Dark Sky Park

This past May, the 600-acre Headlands received the distinctive designation as one of only six Dark Sky Parks in the United States and only nine worldwide! To achieve this status, a local Dark Sky Park committee completed a rigorous application process showing why, in addition to its conservation protection (a conservation easement protects the land), this unique property also deserved to have the skies above it protected for all time. "The designation gives us a place to stand so we can raise awareness about the importance of having a dark night," says Mary Adams, the park's new program director. "We who enjoy the benefit of living in the beautiful natural environment of Emmet County have a built-in responsibility to steward these areas in ways that protect them for everyone's enjoyment. And we don't only need to be concerned with the quality of our water and our air, but also another resource that belongs to all of us – the night sky."

In 1996, Little Traverse Conservancy assisted the city of Mackinaw and Emmet County in securing a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to purchase the Headlands. With nearly 4 1/2 miles of trails and 2 1/2 miles of frontage on the Straits of Mackinac, the property is a local treasure enjoyed by schools, families and individuals.

The Conservancy will be partnering with the County on a June 21 solstice celebration (see page 13).



Robert deJonge - Winter nighttime storytelling at The Headlands

## **Vic and Caroline Knowlton's birthdays**

Ric and Lisa Loyd

## **The Marriage of John and Sheryl Childs**

Mrs. Gussie Williams

## **The birth of Sloane Burgess Douglas, son of Justin and Julia Douglas**

Joan Keller

## **Mr. and Mrs. Allen Weston's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Edwards

## **Ralph Graham's 80th Birthday - Blessings to a Great Lover of the Earth**

Ms. Carol J. McCarus

## **Stafford and Janice Smith's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary**

Dick and Shirley Seguin

## **Cross Village Cross Restoration in Honor of Rand Shackleton**

Dr. and Mrs. Arends

## **Gift Membership to Dave and Liz Schwab**

Greg and Kim Clark

**The Conservancy would like to thank the following New Members or Members who have increased their level of giving within the Friends or Benefactors level from February 19, 2011 to May 31, 2011**

## **Friends and Benefactors *Individuals/Families/Businesses***

Samuel Westerman Foundation  
Ms. Shirley Barton  
Ms. Kitty Rothwell

## **New Contributing Members *Businesses***

Harbor Wear

## ***Individuals or Families***

Anonymous  
Mr. Donald Beattie  
Greg and Kim Clark  
Fred and Mary Clinton  
Mr. Jim Flannagan  
Ms. Patricia Godchaux  
Douglas and Valerie Harding  
Alan Ballew and Ann Holtz  
Tim and Cheri Leach  
Ms. Rita Linn  
Mrs. W. Sue McKinnon  
MaryAnn Moore  
Dave and Liz Schwab  
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Stine  
Mr. Matthew Warner

## **wish list**

- 14" chop saw
- adult small waders for education staff to use for pond study program



IT'S SUMMERTIME

# Let's Get Those Kids Outdoors!

Can't make a Knee-High or Junior Naturalist program this week? Want some extra tools for exploring in your own backyard or on your family camping trip? Is your babysitter willing to try some new ideas with your kids? Here are some more resources to help you and the young ones in your life make the most of these precious few green months.



A project of the Getting Kids Outdoors initiative, the **Passport to Adventure** has been updated! Go to [www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org](http://www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org).

The newly-updated **Getting Kids Outdoors website** is full of activities, events, resources, and ideas. A great place to get inspiration for yourself and your little ones. Follow the Getting Kids Outdoors blog to keep you on top of what is happening: [www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org](http://www.gettingkidsoutdoors.org).



Borrow a **Discovery Pak** from LTC for a few days this summer. Materials work best on preserves or at local natural areas and parks, but they are also perfect for your very own backyard. Call the Conservancy at 231.347.0991 to reserve yours today!



These nine different **theme-based discovery boxes** are a fun, interactive way to involve your family in science-based lessons. Each box includes hands-on materials such as animal furs, skulls, books, CDs and video tapes for teachers or parents to use at their own discretion. Each box includes detailed lesson plans, activities, and background information on the topic. All of the boxes meet the Michigan Curriculum Framework Standards, which are listed on each lesson plan. The boxes can be borrowed for up to two weeks, or a Conservancy Naturalist can be scheduled to present a box to your class or group. Visit the website for a full list: [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org).

# Summer Community Events & Outings

Unless specified, these events are offered at no charge. For more information, please call our office at 231.347.0991 or the number given within the description.

## Solstice at The Headlands

**Tuesday, June 21 5-10 pm**

Celebrate the longest day of the year and the new Dark Sky Park designation recently awarded to the beautiful Headlands, a 600-acre property lying along the Straits of Mackinac. Conservancy staff will be offering trail hikes along with a multitude of other activities planned for that evening. For more information, please visit [www.emmetcounty.org](http://www.emmetcounty.org).

## Paddle the Pigeon

**Tuesday, June 28 1 pm**

An afternoon of paddling on the Pigeon is the perfect way to spend an early summer afternoon. Join Cheboygan County paddlers and Conservancy volunteers Judi and Pete Chimner along with Conservancy staff as we canoe or kayak a section of the river along the Conservancy's Andreae/Banwell and VanCampen preserves. We will be meeting at the take out spot to coordinate boat transport. Please call the office at 231.347.0991 for specific directions.

## New Interpretive Trail!

### Hike the Goodhart Farms Judd's Ring Trail

**Wednesday, June 29 2 pm**

One of the Conservancy's showcase nature preserves, the Goodhart Farms Preserve boasts 645 acres, four parking areas, 7½ miles of marked trails, and lies adjacent to many acres of state land. Join Conservancy staff and members of the Goodhart Odds and Ends Club as we hike the Judd's Ring Trail with a new interpretive sign and tree markers aiding us on our walk.

## Yoga on the Beach at Sturgeon Bay

**Saturday, July 16 10-11 am (rain date July 30)**

Bring the warmth of the sand and movement of the waves together through the practice of yoga on the Sturgeon Bay beach. Join LTC Administrative Coordinator and yoga teacher, Cacia Lesh, for an hour-long yoga session where we will practice a range of poses for all abilities. Focusing on alignment, awareness of breath, and taking a yogic attitude in daily life as we celebrate our connection to nature. Take a walk or stay for a picnic on the beach after the yoga practice if you'd like. Please bring your own mat or towel. Please call Cacia at 231.344.1000 to register. (Option to meet at LTC office at 9 am to carpool.)

## Sea Kayaking Les Cheneaux

**Thursday, July 21 10 am-4 pm**

Join Woods & Water Ecotours on a guided paddling excursion among the blue waters and forested shorelines of Les Cheneaux. We will paddle to the 192-acre Seiberling Stewart

Nature Preserve, on Marquette Island. We'll land at Marquette Bay, and hike on a brand new trail across the preserve to the Lake Huron beach. Here we'll break for an Up-North Picnic lunch, and stunning views of the Straits. No prior experience is needed, but participants must be in good physical condition. Total paddle distance is 4 miles; round trip hike is less than a mile. Trip is limited to 10-12 people. Cost is \$60 per person including 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).

## Natural History Bike Ride on proposed Burt Lake Trail Saturday, July 30 9 am

Join the Burt Lake Trail Committee, Top of Michigan Trails Council (TOMTC), Little Traverse Conservancy and University of Michigan Biological Station for a guided tour of little known and fascinating natural history along 12 miles of the proposed route for the new Burt Lake Trail. The trail ride will begin 9:00 am Saturday July 30, 2011 at the Maple Bay boat launch, which has a parking area and rustic toilets. Stops will be made along the way at significant natural history locations. Bring a brown bag for lunch or enjoy a 10% discount at Hoppies. Shuttle service will be provided for those who RSVP by July 20, 2011. Feel free to set up your own shuttle or ride the trail back.

**For more information contact TOMTC at 231.348.8280 or email [info@trailscouncil.org](mailto:info@trailscouncil.org)**

## Yoga with a View

### new (still unnamed) Boyne City Preserve

**Saturday, August 20 10am-1pm (rain date August 27)**

Join Cacia Lesh to explore this wonderful new 107-acre preserve through the practice of yoga. From our vantage point above Lake Charlevoix, our one-hour yoga practice will not lack inspiration! We will hike about a half mile to a beautiful meadow with spectacular views to practice a fun all-levels class. Bring your lunch to picnic in the meadow if you'd like, or hike around the preserve a bit before walking back to the vehicles. Meet at the Glen's in Boyne City at 10 am to carpool in Conservancy vehicles, as there is no parking at the preserve yet. Please bring a yoga mat or towel. Call Cacia to register at 231.344.1000.

## Legends, Labyrinths, & Lore

**Sunday, September 25 2-4 pm**

Join Jennifer Eis and Don Ward, authors and lecturers, for an educational walk-about at their 50-acre protected private property. Site of the "Wisdom Keeper-Wisdom Seeker" summer lecture series for the past 12 years, this is a rare and wonderful opportunity. Weather permitting, you will be free to explore the teachings of the Medicine Wheel, walk the largest turf Labyrinth in Michigan, sit in the Talking Circle or the coils of the Great Serpent. Interpretive signs at each of the features will allow for a self-guided experience. For those who are interested in traditional Scandinavian log construction, Jennifer and Don will open their handcrafted log home for a personal tour during this time. Arrive anytime between 2 and 4 pm. Due to the walking and fragility of structures, this program is not suitable for young children. Pre-register and get directions through the Conservancy at 231.347.0991.





Greg Czarnecki/Sue Dempsey

## Reflections

...Tom Bailey

### Mother Earth, or "The Planet?"

During recent celebrations of four decades of annual Earth Day observances, I was amazed by the presentations and media coverage that omitted the familiar term "Earth" and spoke of our home in the universe merely as "the planet." It's a trend that I don't quite understand, and I can't say that I believe is a good one. "What's in a name?" one might appropriately ask, and in this case I would respond, "Quite a lot, actually."

I appreciate the manner in which American Indian or Native American people tend to not only use the term Earth, but also refer to our home as Mother Earth. To me, this conveys respect, affection, gratitude and a host of appropriate sentiments as well as facts about "the planet" which sustains us. We don't refer to our mothers as "the parent" or our homes as "the dwelling," so why trivialize this magnificent and wonderful Earth by referring to it as merely "the planet"?

Certainly I'm dealing in the realm of pet peeves here, but please hear me out. By reducing the environment that nurtures us and sustains all life to a generic term that references an assortment of objects in space ranging from small rocks to great gaseous spheres, I think that we denigrate our home and our connections to that home. We also undermine the cause of conservation and environmental protection. The fact

is that Earth is to us a unique, important and sacred place. It is much more than a lump of rock or a ball of gas in space; as our Indian friends say, the Earth takes care of us, and we must help take care of Earth.

What prompted the trend away from speaking of "Earth" in favor of "the planet?" I think there are several factors. One is that many stories about the environment and conservation tend to be science-oriented, and in science it is the fashion to refer to things in a detached, supposedly objective manner. "The planet" fits into this trend. Perhaps there's also an effect from those famous photographs from Apollo 8 that showed the Earth as a distant body rising over the lunar landscape. For the first time, we saw our Earth from space and a sense of insignificance resulted.

I notice that "the planet" has been especially favored by those to whom I refer as orthodox environmentalists. Many of them friends and colleagues, the orthodox enviros embraced the term "the planet" with great enthusiasm as they worked to advance concerns about rainforest destruction, desertification, climate change, and other issues. Science has been emphasized more and more, and the scientific "planet" seems to be preferred over the more sentimental "Earth."

Well, count me in with the sentimentalists. I note the wonderful observation by Dr. Rolf O. Peterson in his book, *The Wolves of Isle Royale: A Broken Balance*, that "there is genuine creative tension between science and soul, reason and myth." He went on to state that "science simply illuminates in a modest way that which invigorates the human soul." I say, "Amen!" We may engage in scientific studies about such things as forest ecology, climate change, or, in the case of Dr. Peterson, the world-renowned study of wolf ecology in Michigan's Isle Royale National Park. And we may present scientific findings in a manner that reflects the least possible bias. But there is no reason to distance ourselves from Mother Earth in our language by reducing it to "the planet" and insisting that everything must be genericized as though seen through a sterile scientific lens.

The greatest scientists down

through the ages tended, as I've learned from my reading and study, to carry with them throughout their scientific work a sense of awe, wonder and in many cases spiritual reverence for the magnificence of creation. This did not seem in any way to compromise or diminish the value of their scientific work; in fact it seems to me rather to have enhanced it. And so I would suggest that as we learn more and more about the universe, more about life and more about our home on Earth, that we should not turn away from reverence, awe and wonder, but embrace these most appropriate outgrowths of our scientific learning. We need not abandon our heartfelt love for Mother Earth in order to gain a better intellectual understanding of "the planet." As Dr. Peterson teaches us, science and spirit are not mutually exclusive. To paraphrase Edward Abbey, we need not lock our hearts away in a safe-deposit box and become mesmerized by calculators. We can study and understand this planet on which we reside even as we cultivate our love and affection for the dear and wonderful Mother Earth that nurtures and sustains us.

Perhaps if we can stay in touch with our sentiment for the Earth instead of abandoning it, we will do a better job of also enhancing our scientific knowledge and caring for our home in the universe, and the home we are preparing for our children and theirs, for generations yet to come. 🌱



<http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/>

## Community Foundation Grants Awarded



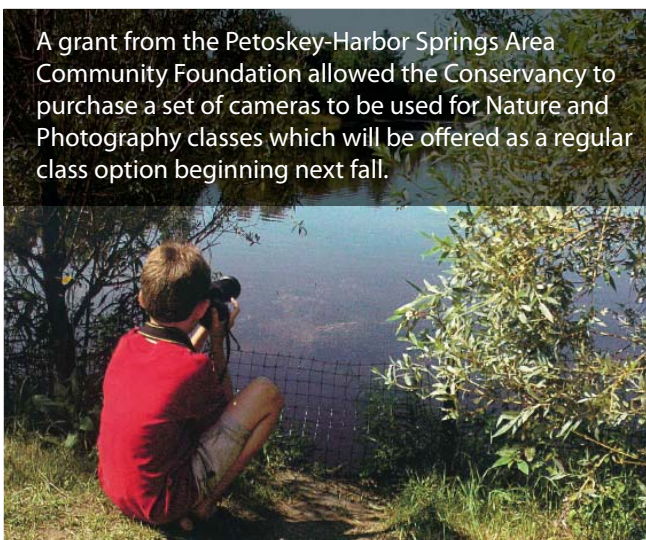
A grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation will allow the Conservancy to replace and install new signs at Beaver Island preserves.

Little Traverse Conservancy is grateful for two recent grants from local community foundations.

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation awarded a grant for \$5,164 for preserve improvements at the Barney's Lake and Little Sand Bay nature preserves on Beaver Island. The funding will be used for designing, constructing, and installing a series of trail maps and interpretative signs as well as installing structures to provide both better preserve access and protect natural resource features of the lands.

A \$1,770 grant was also received this spring from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation (specifically the Youth Advisory Council) to purchase cameras that will be used in new Nature and Photography classes now being developed by the Conservancy.

Stay tuned for details about the future progress of these fun projects!



A grant from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation allowed the Conservancy to purchase a set of cameras to be used for Nature and Photography classes which will be offered as a regular class option beginning next fall.

## Thank you

- Stephanie Sourck, Loren Winters, and Zach Luhellier for clearing brush on the Meadowgate Preserve.
- Gow Litzenburger for donating trees for the Kalman Preserve and a boulder for the Cameron Preserve.
- C.J. Heckenberg for providing funds to buy a lawn mower for the Andreae Preserve.
- John Janicki and the National Wild Turkey Federation for donating seedlings.
- Marta Olson and Todd Petersen for venturing into the field the past few seasons to get LTC photos of projects, properties, and programs.
- **Cameron Preserve work day on April 29: - Individuals:** Ben Adams, Dan Adams, Charlie Baldwin, Sally Brumleve, Mike Cameron, Susan Capaldi, Pete & Judi Chimner, Will Dodge, Jeff Ford, Scott Halford, Kevin Hammond, Larry Ketten, Mike Kennedy, Wes Laughbaum, Chris Leifson, Matt Lohela, Gary Luebke, Jim Martin, Eric Moody, Jim Nuffer, Roger Pennington, Kary Saddison, Tom Seltenwright, Steve Sikkema, Dave Voelker, Jeff Voelker, Wally Wertman.  
**Businesses:** The Grain Train, Evening Star Joinery, Tom Gallagher and Harbor Springs Excavating, Harbor Park Mini-Storage and EMS (for volunteer parking), Litzenburger Landscape, Native Plant Knowledge, John Janicki and the National Wild Turkey Federation.
- **Little Sand Bay cleanup on May 13 and 14:** Tayler Bannasch, Jill Bardowski, Sandy Birdsall, Alyssa Brown, Amy and Dick Burris, Becka Frantz, Pam Grassmick, Andrew Haubenstricker, Jim & Sarah Haveman, Heather Hillman, Becky Markel, Phillip Medina, Ian Milligan, Pete and Deb Platrik, Shawna Ross, Kristin Turbiak, Joe Zielinski.
- Jim and Sarah Haveman for hosting five LTC staff members at their cabin on Beaver Island overnight during the work weekend at Little Sand Bay. Their great hospitality and delicious food made it hard for us to leave!
- Cara Haapapuro for researching Gypsy Moth to help us determine management decisions for our preserves.
- Elizabeth Haber researched invasive plant mapping protocols and will be inventorying some of our preserves this summer.
- Steve and Aldeen Anderson for lending staff rain pants and a chainsaw, and for lunch and coffee on a rainy day on Drummond Island.
- Glen Matthews for work on the preserve management plan and help with trail design at the new Banwell Preserve. Zac Luhellier also helped with the trail design.
- Glen Matthews also for the Banwell Preserve resource inventory and management plan for the Michigan Wildlife Foundation preserve.
- Laurie Holden for helping plant trees at the Hanel Preserve in Wolverine.



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Christine Steensma

## No Charge to Go Here!

COMMUNITY PRESERVES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL

*Ode Magazine* recently published an article entitled, "A New Kind of Personal Wealth." In it, the author cites studies that show how the country's economic changes have caused people to shift from "mindless to mindful consumption" and "putting the dollar more toward life-enriching things."

It seems that people who support the conservation and education work of the Conservancy have understood this concept for a very long time. Not only do members and supporters invest their own money and time into keeping northern Michigan beautiful. Conservancy supporters have also made a conscious effort to set lands aside so that people can come and enjoy them at any time, possibly without spending a cent (especially if you walk or bike to get there).

Conservancy staff have been hearing positive remarks from local businesses, members, and chambers about how much they appreciate Conservancy nature preserves.

Karen Wells, events coordinator for the Indian River Chamber of Commerce, recently told staff how often she sends people out to the Seven Springs Preserve. "Families are looking for a place that is safe, close to town, and that offers a nice easy hike for the kids," Karen says.

B.J. Shawn, co-owner of Bearcub Outfitters, says that her staff frequently hand out the conservancy's nature preserve guides. She also notes that their customers are extremely savvy about outdoor issues. "They cherish the beauty of our area and enjoy the local opportunities to explore," B.J. says. "They salute Little Traverse Conservancy in their efforts to protect and preserve our land, as well as educate our citizens to be environmentally smart and diligent."

Make sure you keep a preserve guide handy in your glovebox. They are available through the office at no cost (call 231.347.0991) or can be found on the website: [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org).