



Summer, 2014
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Growing an Easement

GREENWOOD FOUNDATION EASEMENT ADDS 330 ACRES

In an era when things seem to be changing at an ever-increasing pace, the notion that something will stay the same - forever - certainly can offer comfort, especially when it involves a beautiful piece of wild land.

"This has all been a labor of love, and my desire for this land is the same as it was more than 40 years ago when I first started piecing it together," says George Jury, founder and president of the Greenwood Foundation. "That desire is simply to keep this land in its natural state for the animals and for the environment."

This past spring, guided by George's wishes, Greenwood Foundation donated a conservation easement protecting 330 acres of Nunda Township land owned and managed by the foundation. The land - which includes 1,800 feet on MacAndrews Lake and 6,150 feet on the Little Pigeon River - adds to the nearly 1,400 acres of foundation land protected through conservation easement in 2008. In addition, the property is dominated by a mix of mostly upland forest types. Red pine plantations are converting to aspen, some areas are dominated by spruce and balsam, and

a few white pine are scattered throughout. The entirety of the Greenwood property lies adjacent to the Pigeon River State Forest, home to the largest population of elk east of the Mississippi River.

"Greenwood is a unique and highly special situation," says Ty Ratliff, LTC senior land protection specialist. "Not only is it one of the largest parcels of non-governmental protected land within LTC's service area, it is overseen by a private foundation, a sort of double assurance that George's wishes will remain in place far into the future." Ratliff notes that the terms of the conservation easement clearly reflect the purpose of the foundation, which includes "making the land available as an educational resource to qualified persons to the extent consistent with (its) goals."

"While the land remains privately owned, Greenwood often holds seasonal field trips allowing the public to enjoy the incredible beauty and wildlife that are thriving under the foundation's care," Ratliff added.

LTC will continue to work jointly with Greenwood to offer educational field trips throughout the seasons, with the next event planned for Fall 2014.

Greenwood Foundation is a privately-operated foundation with the mission to conserve the natural state of the land, protect the wildlife, and allow for the education and study of nature in its pristine state.



MacAndrews Lake



A bull elk at Greenwood



Little Pigeon River

*Mark your calendars
for LTC's two big summer events!*



ORIGINAL PAINTING BY ELIZABETH CARROTT

YOU ARE INVITED TO

**THE 25TH ANNUAL
SAVE THE TREES
LAND PROTECTION FUNDRAISER**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014

**5:30-8:30 PM
WALSTROM MARINE SHOWROOM,
HARBOR SPRINGS**

**LIVE AUCTION
MUSIC BY DAVID CISCO
TROPICAL HORS D'OEUVRES AND DRINKS**

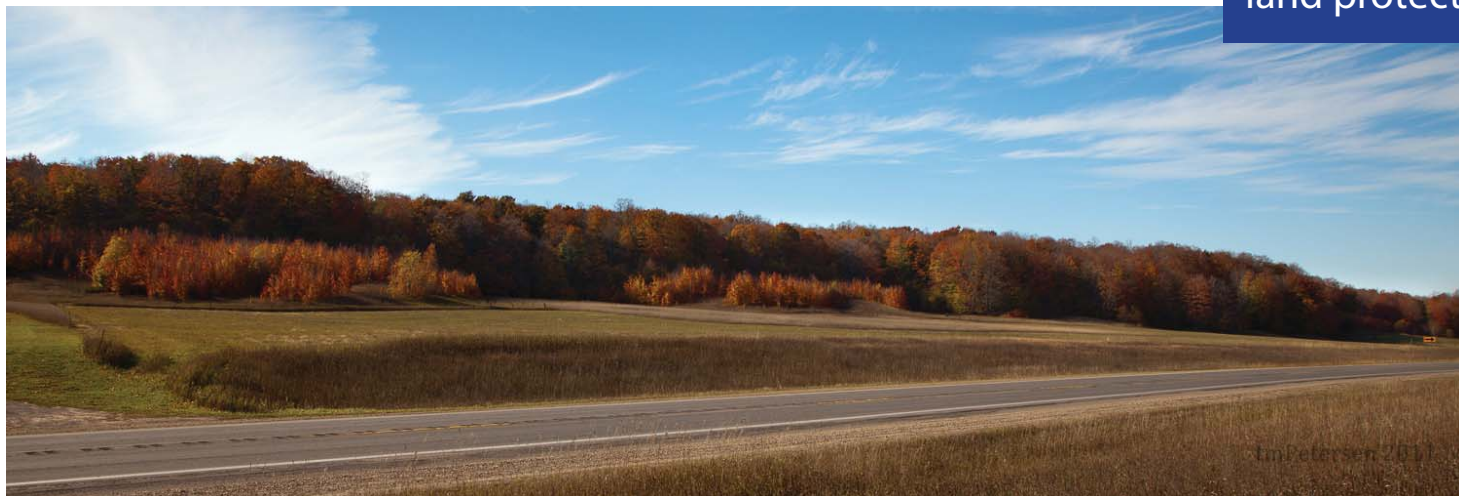
**FOR TICKETS CALL 231.347.0991 OR
REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.LANDTRUST.ORG.**

**42ND ANNUAL MEETING
CELEBRATING
Community
Conservation Connections**

**Tuesday, August 5, 2014 9am-2pm
North Central Michigan College, Petoskey
Members please watch for your invitation in the mail!**

**Field trips to the
NCMC Natural Area
& the Skyline Trail**

Skyline Trail



TMPetersen 2017

PROTECTING A SCENIC TRAVELWAY & A HOME Karkosak Conservation Easement

As a young girl, Rosemary Karkosak loved spending time at her grandparents' farm near Bad Axe, Michigan where she learned to appreciate the benefits of country living. And raised in the suburbs of northern Ohio, Jack Karkosak was allowed to roam the wild spaces nearby and the wonders of the outdoors captivated him early in his life.

When the young couple moved their family to northern Michigan in 1977, they first settled in Boyne City. It was always their intention, however, to eventually purchase land outside of town. While driving around, they noticed a stretch of land located between Walloon Village and Boyne City. "At the time, much of the land we own today was being farmed, but one of the main fields along the road was always full of daisies," Rosemary recalls.

Five years later, the land came up for sale and the Karkosaks were able to purchase it. "We made the deal while we were away on vacation," Jack explains. "And if we hadn't followed through with the details, a developer was next in line."

The Karkosaks raised their six children on the farm while they lovingly restored and added on to the original farm house. Farm animals quickly became part of their lives and, at one time, their herd of cattle grew to 17 and the children had horses. Rosemary was the children's 4-H leader as they showed sheep, pigs, rabbits, and chickens. And Jack began a lifelong passion of planting a wide variety of trees around the homestead, a love that he continues to pursue even more heartily now in retirement.

"Jack has always known the names of the trees and the birds, and he started passing that knowledge and love on to all of us," Rosemary said.

This past spring, the Karkosaks donated a conservation easement to protect 104 acres of their farmstead, ensuring that the scenic field they have enjoyed for decades will

always remain in a natural state. The easement-protected land includes 300 feet of South Arm Creek (a tributary to Lake Charlevoix) as well as more than half a mile of frontage along North M-75.

The Karkosak's youngest daughter, Beth Lieberman, is pleased that her parents protected the family land for the future. "Beginning at a young age, I have had a great love and appreciation for that property," Beth said. "There are so many memories that have been made there throughout the years for every member of my family and many others. To know that for years to come, that land will remain undeveloped and its beauty preserved is one of the greatest gifts our parents could have given to us and to our future generations."



A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement that allows a landowner to limit the type or amount of development on his or her property while retaining private ownership of the land. 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.

MULLETT LAKE WATERSHED

The New G.C. Preserve

A 20-acre property in Aloha Township, Cheboygan County, has been donated to the Conservancy as a nature preserve. The land was donated by the Crittenden family in honor of Grandma Crittenden, for whom the preserve has been named.

The new preserve lies roughly two miles east of Mullett Lake and was accepted as a preserve because of its contribution to habitat protection within the watershed of the Inland Waterway. Staff noted that the Cheboygan County Soil survey indicates the northern portion of the property contains areas

of peat soils, which are not common and indicative of high quality wetlands. This part of the preserve drops in elevation to a lowland forest with cedar, spruce, balsam fir, ash, and other wetland species. The wetland includes the headwaters of Ballard Creek, an important tributary of Mullett Lake.

The southern 16 acres were formerly pasture land that is now succeeding to a shrub cover type with some species of plants such as tag alder and willow, normally found in wetlands soils. An assisted living facility lies adjacent to the east end of the property.



TMPetersen

CONSERVANCY LAND PARTNERSHIP LTC Receives Lands from CCLC

In October of 2013 the Little Traverse Conservancy acquired six nature preserves from the now-dissolved Charlevoix County Land Conservancy (CCLC). The CCLC felt that LTC would be the ideal entity to take on the perpetual care and stewardship of these preserves. LTC is excited to add these lands to our portfolio of wonderful protected-properties for the public to visit, and enjoy, throughout Charlevoix County.

One of the six preserves recently transferred to LTC from the former CCLC is the 28-acre Peter P. Faskey Preserve along the Boyne River, just south of Boyne Falls. (credit: Gary Osterbeck)



Peter P. Faskey Preserve

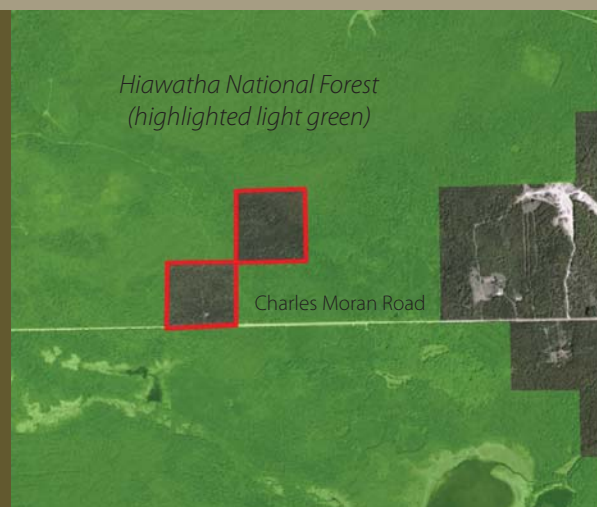
Gary Osterbeck

LTC Assists with Addition to Hiawatha National Forest

Little Traverse Conservancy recently assisted the U.S. Forest Service in pre-acquiring two 40-acre tracts of land surrounded by Hiawatha National Forest lands. The land is suitable habitat for the federally endangered Hines emerald dragonfly.

In July, 2012, the Forest Service approached LTC to inquire about an "assist & transfer" to help acquire these desired lands (*shown highlighted in red to right*). Because of its ability to move quickly, LTC purchased the properties in December 2012 to ensure their protection, and then re-sold them to the Forest Service in September 2013.

"Little Traverse Conservancy has again been an exceptional partner!" said Sharon Hagstrom, Land Program Manager with the Hiawatha National Forest. "Removal of the cabin, deer blind, and dilapidated building plus the site rehabilitation supports our national goal to minimize obtaining properties with improvements."



This summer, be sure to check out the new butterfly display at the Elizabeth Kennedy Nature Center that was funded by The Frey Foundation. Located at 6696 Lower Shore Drive, 3.5 miles north of Harbor Springs, Thorne Swift is open from 10am-7pm, seven days a week. A \$5 parking fee is required for non-township residents (\$15/season pass). Call 231.526.6401 for more information.



THORNE SWIFT SUMMER PROGRAMS

Please register within one week of the event by calling 231.526.6401. Unless a fee is noted, the program cost is included with the \$5 parking fee. No parking fee for Conservancy members or West Traverse Township residents.

Children in Nature *Thursdays, July 10-August 14 (10:30am-noon)*

Our exciting thematic children's programs (for young explorers ages 5-11) entail a captivating story session at the fire circle, an outdoor nature activity, and fun crafts. Remember to dress your child for the weather!

Night Hike & Local Lore *Friday, July 11 and Saturday, August 9 (9-10:30pm)*

Experience the sights and sounds of Thorne Swift Nature Preserve at night. Listen to stories around the fire circle as you feast on s'mores by firelight. We'll end the night with a hike to the beach to view Lake Michigan and the stars. Bring a flashlight.

Wild Edibles *Saturday, July 19 (10-11:30am)*

Plants can serve as food, medicine, and tools. Join our staff and learn how to identify wild edibles and medicinals, along with how to use plants in many other ways.

Birch Bark Picture Frames *Monday, July 21 (6-9pm)*

What better way to display a photo taken at TSNP than in a frame made with your own hands? Please call to register. Fee: \$25.

Starry Starry Night *July 25/26 10pm and August 24 (9:30pm)*

We begin our night-time tour by using star charts to cruise through constellations. Afterwards, we will use our 8-inch telescope in search of galaxies, clusters, and nebulae. If you like, bring your own binoculars, telescope, and lawn chairs. We recommend that you bring a flashlight for the hike to the beach.

Birch Bark Birdhouses *Monday, August 4 (6-9pm)*

At the end of this workshop, you will have created a custom birch bark birdhouse with a charming shingled roof. Please call to register and for the list of materials to bring. Fee: \$10.

Wildflower Walk *Saturday, July 12 10am and Saturday, August 16 (10am)*

Spend an enjoyable morning exploring Thorne Swift's diverse range of habitats and the plants they support. We are home to not only a wide range of flowering plants, but also ferns, liverworts, the carnivorous sundew, and much more.

New Members

The Conservancy would like to thank the following new Friends or Benefactors or members who have increased their level of giving within the Friends or Benefactors level from February 21, 2014 to May 20, 2014

Friends and Benefactors

Michael and Christine Grant
Mr. Nathan P. Laffoon
Ms. Margo Milde

New Contributing Members

Shane and Erin Albrecht
David and Robyn Barrie
Dennis and Beverly Boettner
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Ehinger
R. David and Tina Eick
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fifer
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Goan
Rick and Joyce Golding
Mr. Eric Knop
Stathi Kritselis
Mr. Mike McCarthy
Timothy and Katherine Mikolajczak
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis R. Morgridge
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Neff
Mr. and Mrs. Tom O'Dell
Shawn Cordes-Osborne and Shaun Osborne
Mr. Jericho Simon
Ms. Rebecca Smith
Jeff and Jessica Wynder



Petoskey waterfront/Todd Parker

Happy Notes

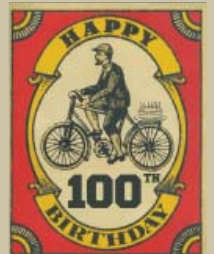
"The maps posted along trails were great. Walked alongside the xc ski tracks. Nice trail close to East Jordan." Kevin M. speaking of The Hill Preserve

"Those were wonderful videos! I've been laid up with pneumonia for more than two weeks, and it was so good to 'be' Up North for a while. What a miracle all this technology is, and thanks to those who made these clips...and for all who work to save our Nature!" Ruth K.



CELEBRATING HUFFY'S 100TH

at the new Round Lake Overlook Platform*
along the Northwestern State Trail



HORACE "HUFFY" HUFFMAN 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2014 10AM-NOON

Join Little Traverse Conservancy, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, and Top of the Michigan Trails Council as we honor Horace "Huffy" Huffman, an influential leader whose passion for the outdoors left indelible fingerprints on all three organizations during his lifetime.

10AM - COMMEMORATIVE PADDLE WITH TIP OF THE MITT WATERSHED COUNCIL

Bring your own kayak and meet at the DNR Boat Launch off of Powell Road. Free of charge, but pre-registration required by calling 231.347.1181.

11 AM - BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT THE NEW FOCHTMAN PRESERVE/ROUND LAKE DECK OFF OF HIAWATHA ROAD

**The new platform will be completed before the event and is being funded, in part, with a grant from the Petoskey-Harbor Spring Area Community Foundation.*



Thanks Jay!

Little Traverse Conservancy offers a big thank you to Jay Neff for his service to the organization's conservation cause, most recently as the organization's first-ever Conservation Easement Specialist. "Jay's work in land protection and stewardship has helped to make the North Country a better place for us all," said LTC Executive Director Tom Bailey. Jay took on the task of monitoring conservation easements, and turned that task into an organized program. He also helped organize some of the office logistics and equipment, and we sorely miss his attention to details as our "fleet manager"!

At Jay's retirement party, Bailey noted, "As one who, like you, had a father who was well known for his involvement in the outdoors and conservation, I have felt a special kinship with you as we carried on in a field of endeavor where our fathers had gone before. It has been a special privilege for me to work with you and it is especially gratifying to know at this moment that somewhere beyond, in the great Out There, both of our fathers are smiling."

Welcome Derek!

We are pleased to welcome Derek Shiels as the Conservancy's new Conservation Easement Specialist, filling the position left vacant with the retirement of Jay Neff (*see above*). Derek's primary role will be to ensure the annual monitoring and management of the Conservancy's 271 conservation easements that encompass more than 20,700 acres held in private ownership.

A native of Rockford, Michigan, Derek spent his childhood exploring a large parcel of wild land right near his home, prompting an early desire for a career in the outdoors.

After two years of undergraduate study, Derek spent a semester in Wyoming with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), an experience that he described as life changing. With his new found passion for environmental stewardship he then went on to finish his bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management at Grand Valley State University.

Following his undergraduate program, Derek decided to pursue a Master's Degree in Environmental Science from Taylor University, where he conducted research that utilized Geographic Information Systems. Derek spent two

years in Missouri working for the Missouri Department of Conservation as a cave biology technician. He monitored endangered gray bats and crawled, canoed, and rappelled into caves to document other cave life.

Derek really enjoys to botanize (look for and identify plants); this passion lead him back to school at Central Michigan University, where he recently received a Master's in Biology with an emphasis in Plant Systematics.

Last year, Derek spent the summer with the Leelanau Conservancy's Invasive Species Team, with one week dedicated to assessing invasives at a handful of LTC preserves.

Derek, his wife Adrienne, and daughter Ayla will be making their home in Petoskey. "It hasn't taken long to see why this area is so special—it is a privilege to be able to work here and with the many private land conservationists. My family and I are excited to settle into northern Michigan."



Welcome Greta!

This year's Huron Pines/LTC AmeriCorps stewardship technician is Greta Jankoviak. A northern Michigan native, Greta recently returned to Michigan after several years of living and working in many other states, including two previous stints with the Montana Conservation Corps, first as a field member and then returning as a crew co-leader. Most recently, she and her boyfriend worked in landscaping in Tennessee and are using their skills to create a vineyard on Greta's family land near Cheboygan.

Greta is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a "Program in the Environment" major and minors in both Earth Science and Statistics. Two summer college classes at U. of M.'s field campus in Jackson Hole, Wyoming sparked a keen interest in hands-on working.

"I'm excited to be back in northern Michigan and look forward to learning first-hand from LTC about conservation efforts and local natural resources," Greta said.





Knee-High Naturalist Programs (ages 3-5)

These sessions include a story, short hike or activity, and more. Take home ideas/projects will be provided. **Registration required.** Please call Melissa at 231.344.1004.

PLEASE NOTE! Sessions are held Tuesdays and Thursdays unless noted.

Tuesday sessions SPRING LAKE PARK 10-11am and 1-2pm

Thursday sessions RESORT TOWNSHIP PARK EAST 10-11am and 1-2pm

June 24 and June 26: Critter Camo

Animals have special colors, shapes, patterns and designs to help them blend in with their habitats. Animal pelts plus several "seek and find" activities will engage young naturalists as we explore how animals use camouflage to hide themselves.

July 1 and July 3: 'Bout Birds

Birds enthrall the child in all of us with their songs, beauty, flight and nest building. We'll explore what makes birds special, listen to their calls, mimic their flight styles and search for them up in the air, around the trees, behind the bushes and on top of the water.

July 8 and 10: Terrific Trees!

Our planet's tallest plants amaze us with their beauty, strength, and utility. We'll explore the parts of a tree, how trees grow and how important they are to animals and people through activities and art projects.

July 15 and 17: Frog Fun

From sticky tongues to webbed feet, frogs are fascinating creatures and capture the attention of preschoolers. We'll explore the unique characteristics of frogs and how they grow, eat and survive through pictures, songs, and observation of real frogs. We'll conclude with a search for hidden frogs in their natural habitat.

July 22 and 24: Summer Senses

The scents, sights, sounds, textures and tastes of summer beckon little ones outdoors to experiment, play and discover. We'll explore the wonders of nature in our warmest season through a variety of hands-on sensory activities, finishing with a tasty summer treat.

July 29 and July 31: Fairy Houses and Gnome Homes

Young ones will engage their imaginations exploring the magical world of fairies and gnomes through story, art and play. We'll exercise our creativity by constructing a fairy house or gnome home of our own using natural materials found or provided on site.

Junior Naturalist Programs (ages 6-8)

Offered twice on Wednesdays: 10-11:30 am and 1-2:30 pm.

Registration is required. To register, call Sarah at 231.344.1018.

Pond Adventures: June 25 Spring Lake Township Park

Discover the wonders that are in and around a pond! During this program we will explore the pond habitat, the creatures that call it home, and even try 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!

Into the Wild: July 2 McCune Nature Preserve

Using all of our senses, we'll explore the wild and beautiful woods of the McCune Nature Preserve. We'll wind our way through the field, ramble through the hardwoods, meander up the Minnehaha creek and search the swamp for all things wild and fascinating. Wear shoes you don't mind getting wet or mucky.

Cool Camo: July 9 Round Lake Nature Preserve

Come out, come out wherever you are! Camouflage helps animals blend into their surroundings and avoid being someone else's lunch. We'll explore some of northern Michigan's greatest hide-and-seekers while searching for animals in disguise. Bring your observation skills and wear your own camouflage if you've got it!

Art and Outdoors: July 16 East Park, Resort Township

Get creative! We will explore the natural world through a variety of arts and crafts projects inspired by nature. Dress appropriately for possibly getting a little messy. Bring an extra shirt if you want to make a wearable art project.

Incredible Insects: July 23 Offield Family Nature Preserve

Insects are the most abundant, fascinating, and diverse life form on Earth. Creep through the meadow with us while we search for these tiny friends! We'll provide the bug nets, books and jars. You bring your sense of wonder.

Creature Camp: July 30 North Central Michigan College Natural Area

Roll over logs, dip in the pond, wade in the creek and wonder through the woods! The college natural area has a wide variety of habitats and creatures who call this place home. Bring footwear you don't mind getting dirty or wet.

Adventure Naturalist Programs (ages 9-12)

Offered Thursdays unless noted: 10am -noon. **Registration is required.** To register, call Sarah at 231.344.1018.

summer
education programs

Adventures in the Sky: June 26

Skyline Trail, Petoskey

More than 800 acres of land and an elevation of more than 1,200 feet create dramatic views of the northern Michigan skyline. This section of North Country Trail winds up in a switchback pattern, just like climbing a mountain! A variety of wildlife calls this area home. Let's discover just who lives here as we make our way to the scenic overlook with must-see views!

Nature Photography: July 3

Spring Lake Township Park, Petoskey

Interested in photography and love being outdoors? Grab your camera for some photo fun at beautiful Spring Lake Park! Our focus is to improve your nature photography skills and expand your creativity while providing opportunities to photograph unique and exciting subjects in nature. All abilities and cameras welcome.

Mountain Biking: July 10

Offield Family Nature Preserve, Harbor Springs

Join former professional mountain biker Chad Wells for this fun biking adventure through the Offield Family Nature Preserve! Chad is the manager of North Country Cycle Sports in Petoskey and brings with him a wealth of mountain biking knowledge. The trail is not extreme and hill climbing is minimal. A mountain style bike is recommended for this program. Extra water, appropriate footwear, and helmets are required. Designed for children with an intermediate biking ability.

Orienteering: July 17

Ransom Nature Preserve, Charlevoix

Knowing how to use a compass is an important skill to have if you enjoy exploring in nature. Learn basic orienteering as we navigate this beautiful nature preserve. Parents are encouraged to participate, as one adult will be needed to accompany each group. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy the view from atop the hill overlooking Lake Michigan. Long pants and sturdy shoes are recommended.

Survival Skills: July 24

McCune Nature Preserve, Petoskey

This course is an introduction to the skills and mindset needed in survival situations. We'll cover the importance of being prepared and informed before venturing out into the woods, as well as strategies for addressing a survival situation. Skills include shelter building, fire building and identifying the 10 essentials. The McCune Preserve offers a variety of maintained trails through a beautiful Michigan hardwood forest. A short hike will also accompany this program.

Adventures on the Pigeon: July 31

Andreae/Banwell Preserves, Cheboygan County

The beautiful Pigeon River meanders its way through the adjoining Andreae and Banwell preserves in Cheboygan County. Let's explore it! If tromping through the woods and playing in the river sounds like fun to you, then this is the program for you! Be sure to dress for possibly getting dirty or wet.

Family Nature Discovery Series

This summer, the Family Nature Discovery Series will be held at the North Point Natural Area in Charlevoix and the Wisser-Saworski Nature Preserve in Boyne Falls. These programs are for families of any size or configuration to enjoy some outdoor exploration time and connect to our natural world. *Please come prepared with appropriate footwear, sunscreen, insect repellent and water. Please call 231.347.0991 to register.*

North Point Natural Area

Wednesday, June 25: Creature Camo 10-11am

One of the most fascinating things about animals is how they use camouflage to hide from predators or prey. We'll explore the world of animals in hiding and discover some of the colors, patterns and tricks critters use to blend in through some seek and find activities plus a scavenger hunt. Wear your camo if you've got it!

Wednesday, July 2: Tree Time 10-11am

Their strength, beauty and persistence capture our eye and respect. Shade on a hot day, shelter and food for animals, and life-giving oxygen are just a few of the many gifts that trees provide. They are an integral part of our lives and worthy of getting to know better. We'll explore tree life at North Point through observation, activities and our senses to become more familiar with the largest of plants in our neck of the woods.

Wednesday, July 9: Nature Arts & Crafts 10-11am

We'll awaken our artistic side while exploring the diverse habitats of North Point. Venturing through the woods, dunes, and shoreline, exploring the designs of nature will inspire creativity for some nature-based projects. Projects will include plant pounding banners/flags, keepsake sand casts and rock mosaics. Bring your imagination with you!

Wisser - Saworski Nature Preserve

Wednesday, July 16: Ponderific 10-11:30am

Explore secrets of pond life. We'll listen and look for frogs, birds and other creatures that inhabit ponds and use nets to capture some intriguing underwater critters. Learn about their special adaptations that help them survive a watery world. All captured creatures will be released back into their pond home. Wear shoes that you don't mind getting wet. Dipping nets and collections jars provided, but you're welcome to bring your own.

Wednesday, July 23: Forest Foray 10-11:30am

Forests are dynamic ecosystems with many facets to explore. We'll do some fun activities to become more familiar with the parts of the forest as well as the plants and animals that call it home and then complete our venture with a nature quest.

Wednesday, July 30: Nature Arts & Crafts 10-11:30am

Nature is a palette of color and mosaic of designs. We'll hike the preserve with the eye of an artist. Using our observations, findings and imaginations, we'll then create some nature art of our own. Projects will include decorating a walking stick, twiggy creations and plant pounding banners/flags.



See page 5 for the summer schedule at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve



Memorials

The following gifts were given between February 27 and May 27, 2014

Hollis Baker

Mr. and Mrs. James K. Dobbs III
Mrs. Charles L. Wilson Jr.

Christine Bommarito

Will and Judy St. John
The Bochenek Family

Margaret "Maggie" Cheney

Mrs. Susan Keiser

Marilyn Coll

Norman and Dianna Kerr

Mildred Darnton

Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Beuthin
Mr. Bruce M. MacArthur
David Nussbaum and
Laurie MacArthur

Peggy Ford

Mrs. Richard M. Ross
Mrs. Walter L. Ross II

Kathleen Hannah

Randel Richner and Eric Russell

George W. James

Mr. and Mrs. Allen W. Whittemore

Robert E. Johnston

Ms. Maureen Burke

Katie Kieren

Carolyn Wood and Tom Brown
Mary Pat Key and Wayne Harner
Mrs. Sue Libstaff
Mike and Barb Rodenbuerg
Traverse City Convention
and Visitor Bureau
Ms. Joan F. Woods

Rosalie Moore

Randel Richner

Anthony Pakizer

Mr. Richard J. Pakizer

Arthur Roy Ranger III

Mrs. Beth Ranger
Emily Robison

Robert "Rocky" Rochester

Ms. Darleen Flaherty

Teena Elizabeth Sabin

Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger

Richard Salzer

Bill and Janet Vuillemot
Mrs. Van White

Frank Shumway Sr

Mrs. Joey Arbaugh
Jim and Tesa Baker
Mrs. Martin B. Breighner
Spencer Davis
Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger
Robert and Jane Winfield

Herb and Peggy Stockham

Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West

Peggy Stockham

Mrs. John W. Fischer
Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Soter
Ms. Elizabeth Terry
Todd and Valerie Terry

Donna Stolz

Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger

Patrick Vizina

Dave Kring Chevrolet-Cadillac

Jack Waldron

Maureen O'Brien and Craig Bell
Jack and Vickie Lyon

Shirle Westwater

Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Bissell
Mrs. Thomas H. Carruthers IV
Jack and Susan Dingle
Mrs. D. F. Doehrman
Grant and Susan Gerlach Douglass
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Townsend Driggs
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Everest
Mrs. Jean I. Everest
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. FitzSimons
Ms. Barbara Gardiner
Mr. and Mrs. Norman W. Harris III
Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Hermann Jr.
Mrs. William K. Howenstein
Herb and Jo Lape
Patrick Losinski
Mr. Raymond Mason III

Mr. and Mrs. John B. McCoy
Mr. James S. Offield
Dr. and Mrs. David Parrish III
John and Rita Picton
Mr. and Mrs. G. Alexander Ross
Mrs. Walter L. Ross II
Mr. and Mrs. Louis H. Sanford
Mrs. Sandy Schirmer
Mrs. William F. Souder Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Street
Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Streett
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen G. Sweet
Ms. Place Tegland
Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Thomas Jr.
Mrs. Mark L. Townsend
Ms. Karen Vanassenderp
Jerre McCulley and Jeff Wadsworth
Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West
Mr. and Mrs. Allen W. Whittemore

Dorothy Winnard

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude Jr.

Honorariums

**Jim and Mary Leenhout's
60th wedding anniversary**
Mrs. Herbert H. Edwards

**In honor of Pamela and
Daniel Sanquist**

Mr. Frederick E. Sanquist Jr.

thank you

Jim Haveman of Nature's Reflections for his donated taxidermy for LTC's environmental education programs.

Doug Fuller for his expertise on multiple stewardship projects, now on a volunteer basis.

Kristina Rock for helping with GIS mapping.

Tammy Meyer for helping with web listings and outreach.

Al and Jean Moberly for publication distribution in Cheboygan County.

Gary Osterbeck for photography at various preserves.

Andy Reyburn for leading the Trillium Walk at Goodhart Farms.

Mary Trout for continued support of our Family Birding Program and other birding educational materials.



Darrell Lawson for leading a birding field trip at Ransom Preserve.

Dale Ziembo for trail clearing at various preserves.

Jim Scollin for coordinating hunting blind removal at Reed's Pigeon River.

Doug Tilly for helping with the Barney's Lake boat rack.

Bill Kohls and CMU Honors Program volunteers for helping clear the Barney's Lake Preserve trails.

Ben Kleinstiver for donating a 6' back blade for our tractor.

The Grain Train for providing snacks for our stewardship work days.

Wish List

- Contractor-style wheelbarrow
- Gas powered post hole digger for sign installation
- Dump trailer
- 5' X 9' utility trailer
- Jig Saw
- 2.5 hp, 25-30 gallon portable air compressor

Staff member Charles Dawley used his drone camera to photograph some LTC nature preserves including the Fochtman Preserve (facing page) and the Stutsmanville Bog Preserve (below).



2014 Stewardship Volunteer Work Days

Help us spread the word! Join us for the whole day or a few hours, as your schedule permits. To sign up, or for more information, please call our office at 231.347.0991. You can also find more details and online registration at www.landtrust.org

Boardwalk Building at Hailand & Helstrom Preserves, Emmet Co. Saturday, June 21, 9-3

Help us prepare to build boardwalks for this new trail so that it is accessible in the wettest of seasons. Wear good work shoes (and bring muck boots if you have them in case the ground is wet) and bring work gloves if you have a favorite pair. Snacks and refreshments will be provided, but please bring a sack lunch to enjoy on the trail. Call or go to our website to register.

Trail Building at Darnton Preserve, Charlevoix Co. Friday, July 18, 10-4

LTC is working to create miles of trails on this preserve that are mountain bike-friendly and hiker friendly. Join us in clearing trail on this new preserve to help open it up for the community to enjoy. Bring lunch and work gloves, and wear sturdy footwear. Contact Charles Dawley to register, charles@landtrust.org.

View Clearing at The Hill Preserve, Charlevoix Co. Friday, July 25, 10-4

The view at the top of the hill overlooking Lake Charlevoix is a sight to be seen. We are going to be clearing some trees to maintain the view for all to enjoy. Volunteers will be moving brush, cutting small trees, and enjoying the scenery. Bring lunch and work gloves, wear heavy duty footwear, and bring any bow saws or loppers you may have on hand. Contact Mike Lynch to register, mike@landtrust.org.

Invasive Spotted Knapweed Pull at Vermilion Point Preserve Chippewa Co. - Saturday and Sunday, July 19-20, 9-4

For the eighth year in a row, we will be pulling spotted knapweed at Vermilion Point. This high-priority project is a cooperative effort of Little Traverse Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Lake Superior State University, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Eastern U.P. Cooperative Weed Management Area. The goal is to help keep Vermilion's habitat in shape for Piping Plovers and Lake Huron Tansy. This is a rare opportunity to stay overnight at Vermilion in the historic Life Saving Station barracks. Contact Mike Lynch at 231.344.1011 or mike@landtrust.org for more information or to reserve your spot.



2014 Nature Preserve Priorities

In addition to our scheduled work bees described to the left, the following list highlights nature preserves where we are planning to conduct major projects this upcoming season. If you are interested in working specifically at one of these preserves please contact our office at 231.347.0991.

Charlevoix County

Darnton
The Hill
Wisser-Saworski

Emmet County

Watson
Hailand/Helstrom
Fochtman

Cheboygan County

Andreae
Reed's Pigeon River
Chippewa County
Foster-Hartley Lake

Mackinac County

Aldo Leopold
Birge



Education Endowment Added

Thanks to the generosity of longtime Conservancy supporters Ian and Sally Bund, the Conservancy now has an additional endowment fund designated specifically to benefit our education program. The fund, which has some unique qualities that make it more innovative than a traditional endowment, is intended to make it possible to extend the reach of our education programs, which currently touch the lives of some 5,000 students every year. Expansion to include more high school and college students is one of the fund's goals. We ask Conservancy supporters to consider supporting the Education Endowment in your will, trust or other charitable giving plans. For more information, contact the Conservancy office at 231.347.0991 or www.landtrust.org.

MACKINAC STRAITS RAPTOR WATCH **Newly Formed** Bird of Prey Group in Northern Michigan

by Kathy Bricker

Few people realize that Michigan's mitten land mass, bordered by Lakes Michigan and Huron, serves as a funnel to concentrate birds heading north to summer nesting grounds. The choke-point occurs at the Straits of Mackinac and Mackinaw City. Many birds, among them hawks and owls (collectively known as raptors) gather here before crossing to the Upper Peninsula. Our region's natural woodlands and fields provide a stopover area while birds await appropriate conditions to continue their northward migration.

To survey these birds of prey and educate people about their natural history, the Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch launched as a not-for-profit effort just this past January. Says its president Ed Pike of Harbor Springs: "At the heart of successful conservation lays basic scientific knowledge about the population size and distribution of species. We aim to count hawks flying above Mackinaw City and to survey migrating owls. We also want to expand opportunities for the public to see these birds of prey first-hand and enjoy this natural history offering of our area." The group's first priority has been to expand the previous volunteer hawk counting by hiring a professional counter. This counter worked almost every day from March 15 through May 30, tallying a remarkable 37,296 raptors of at least 17 species. More than 300 guests visited from around Michigan, confirming there is a high public interest in the migration.

Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch is a project of U.S. Inc. Foundation, and tax-deductible Founding Membership donations are still accepted to enable the 2015 hawk count and expand to owl research. Questions can be directed to secretary-treasurer Kathy Bricker at 231.627.4830 or kathynaturelover@gmail.com.



Immature Red-tailed hawk



Northern Goshawk

Michelle Lamberson



New All About Birds Discovery Box

The new All About Birds Discovery Box is now available! Five resource kits from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and additional materials make it easy for educators to integrate into their schedule. The kits include step-by-step instructions for completing each lesson and resource materials, which may include posters, DVDs, CD-ROMs, laminated cards, games, quizzes, scavenger hunts, trivia sheets and more. In addition, several books, a DVD, feather examples, egg replicas, nest examples, field guides and two pairs of binoculars are included. This Discovery Box is made possible through generous donations and assistance of LTC volunteer and bird enthusiast Mary Trout. To check out this or any of the Conservancy's nine other boxes, call 231.347.0991. Visit www.landtrust.org under "Environmental Education" for photos and descriptions of them all.

"To be deeply rooted in a place that has meaning is perhaps the best gift a child can have. If that place has beauty and a feeling of permanence, it may suggest to him unawares that sense of identity with this physical earth which is the humblest and happiest of life's intuitions." - Christopher Morley

Reflections Tom Bailey

The Value of Conservation Land

WHAT'S THE VALUE OF CONSERVATION LAND? WHAT'S IT worth to have open spaces like Conservancy nature preserves and our local, state, and national parks and forests? What are

the costs and what are the benefits? These are questions often asked in the public square and in the gatherings of land conservationists.

I respond that there are a number of values, and I will outline some of them here. They include cultural value, economic value, quality-of-life value, health value, and even spiritual value.

First, the cultural value: America has a rich tradition of open land and open spaces. Native people who oc-

cupied this land for several millennia before European settlers arrived were able to range across an immense continent that offered many different environments to which many different people adapted. From the ice-dwelling peoples of the North to those living in the bayous of the South, and from the peoples on the Atlantic Seaboard through those who occupied the woods, plains, and deserts across the continent to the Pacific, people adapted to the various climates and ecosystems across the land that we now call America.

European immigrants spread across the country too, and they learned not only how to live off the land, they learned to live with it. Our history overflows with stories of people in the vast open spaces of this land, and the story of America is the story of an adventure that unfolded against a backdrop of beautiful, natural places. The land has a central role in the story of the place we call America just as do the people.

Since the late nineteenth century brought an end to the era of the Frontier, the balance has shifted more and more from humans struggling to make a living and a life in wild country to people working to preserve some remnants of the Great Wild so that Americans may never lose touch with the land and the nature that made us who we are. It started in earnest with the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, and grew when the first American land trust was created in the late 1800s.

In what is now known as the state of Michigan, once part of a wild area known as the Northwest Territory, a rich history of Native culture and lore was followed by all the drama of the opening of the American Frontier: traders and trappers followed by loggers, miners, and settlers. And, of course, the unique maritime history of the Great Lakes as a key fishery and important corridor for transportation and trade.

As has been declared by a wide range of people from all across the political spectrum, America is an exceptional place and Americans have a special place in human history. There is no separating the people from the place, and so in order for us to continue to be Americans, we must maintain and protect America. That means, along with providing homes and fuel and jobs and sustenance, providing future generations with the chance to experience traditional America as a land of

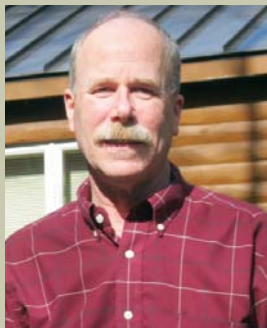
open spaces and plentiful resources. Thus, a principal cultural value of conservation land is the critically important value of reminding us of who we are and from whence we came.

Economically, the value of America's natural bounty is well known. Timber, minerals, fertile farmlands, flowing waters, clean air and open spaces provided the opportunity for people to make a living off the land and to build this country into an industrial and resource-producing powerhouse the likes of which has never been seen on Earth. The value of setting aside some of our most beautiful places is also well documented when one looks at the value of tourism and recreation. But it doesn't end there. Properties with scenic views command higher prices than those without. Properties on clean water lakes and streams sell at a premium compared with those on concrete canals and foul drainage ditches. And we see an ever-increasing demand for housing and businesses in what are coming to be known as "walkable communities," with scenic trails, parks, and open spaces that allow people to escape from their automobiles and enjoy a healthy outdoor lifestyle. This offers not only economic benefits, but tangible health benefits and contributes to that ever-important "quality of life" that prompts many businesses to locate in areas that offer these conservation benefits to residents and visitors.

Counter to this, it is often pointed out that many of these public resources do not produce tax revenue for local government. And while it's true that much of this land does not produce tax revenue, it supports many enterprises which do. In northern Michigan, natural areas are often referred to as "the goose that lays the golden eggs." Without our beautiful forests and beaches, without clean water, and without large areas for hiking, skiing, hunting, and outdoor adventure, the North Country would be "just another place," and our world-class resort economy would wither. And it should be remembered that not a dime is charged for much of the recreation and enjoyment derived from these important natural resources. How wonderful that natural areas represent resources that can be used constantly yet never be depleted!

At Little Traverse Conservancy, we're proud to not only protect important land and resources, but also to support the economy of our entire service area. From the economic benefits that derive from a thriving resort economy, to the quality of life and health benefits enjoyed by our people, to the innovative opportunities for growth created by resources like the Headlands International Dark Sky Park that attracts visitors and business from around the US and other countries, conservation is not only good business, it's good for business.

Finally, as observed by John Turner who ran the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the George H. W. Bush administration, there's a spiritual dimension to our work that should not be ignored. From the inspiration that was drawn by the area's Native people to the sense of awe and wonder that we derive from looking out over the Great Lakes or across an unspoiled view of lush forest green, conservation land contributes not only to our livelihoods and pocket books, but also our souls.



SUMMER 2014 Community Field Trips

Family Birding

Greenwood Wildlife Sanctuary, Cheboygan Co.

Saturday, June 21 10-11:30am

Welcome the first day of summer by discovering bird life and the diversity of habitats and wildlife at Greenwood Sanctuary, a privately-owned, conservation easement-protected property. Woodlands, wetlands, two lakes, and the Little Pigeon River support a rich variety of creatures including eagles, hawks, owls, geese, turkeys, otter, beaver, raccoon, fox, and deer. Pack a picnic lunch for a solstice celebration at the Greenwood Pavilion. Please bring binoculars if you have them.

4th of July Firework Viewing at The Hill

The Hill Nature Preserve, Charlevoix County

Friday, July 4 Dusk

From the parking area on Clute Road, we will hike about 1 mile to the top of The Hill. Bring a backpack with a blanket to sit on and a flashlight. We will have a small bonfire and s'mores to enjoy while watching the fireworks over Lake Charlevoix. **NO FIREWORKS ALLOWED AT THE NATURE PRESERVE.**

3rd Annual Waugoshance Marathon & Half-Marathon

Wilderness State Park, Emmet County

Saturday, July 12 7am – 2pm

Event to benefit Little Traverse Conservancy

Great Lakes Endurance is again working with LTC to promote the preservation of wild habitat in northern Michigan and support LTC's environmental education efforts. The course follows a remarkable section of the North Country Trail from Cross Village to Mackinaw City. LTC hosts two Aid Stations for runners, and we are seeking 10 volunteers to help runners push through this challenging event safely. Please call 231.347.0991 if you are interested in helping with this event or go to www.greatlakesendurance.com to register as a runner.

Native American History Hike

Oden Island Preserve, Emmet County

Friday, July 18 10am-noon

Explore the mile of trails on Oden Island with historical researcher Eric Hemenway, who will share how inland waterways and wetlands were, and still are, of great importance to the Odawa.

Hike the Hindle-Ross Trails

Cross Village, Emmet County

Saturday, August 2 1-4pm

One of the many ways to conserve property is to leave it to LTC in your will, as Debbie Hindle and Ken Ross have done with their 80 acres near Cross Village. Through Debbie and Ken's creativity and love for the land, they have turned their property into a wonderful place to quietly sit or take leisurely walks. Join a guided walk at 2pm or independently explore the two miles of well-maintained trails of rolling meadows and woodland. Enjoy views of the Waugoshance Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula, and take time to linger at the various seating areas provided.

Night Sky Gazing

Elmer Johnston Preserve, Emmet County

Sunday, August 3 8-9:30pm

August is one of the best months for stargazing because the weather is warm and the richest part of the Milky Way arcs up over the horizon in the South, with mystery and promise and beauty. We will take a wilderness hike to the stars with Mary Stewart Adams to watch the waxing Crescent Moon on its silent path toward fiery red Mars and golden Saturn in the West, followed by the red giant Antares and the Sagittarius tea pot, tipping toward the center of our Milky Way Galaxy. Mary is the Program Director for the Emmet County's International Dark Sky Park at the Headlands, and she will provide an entertaining and

No charge for these programs, but pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991 or online at www.landtrust.org.

informative perspective on the wonders of the northern Michigan night sky. We will be hiking about 1.5 miles. Please bring something to sit on.

Orienteering for Families

Ransom Nature Preserve, Charlevoix County

Thursday, August 7 10am-noon

Time to put the electronic devices aside for a bit and get back to basics! Come learn how to use a compass or refresh your skills while exploring the Charles Ransom Nature Preserve. An introduction to the compass and how to use it will be followed by excursions where you follow bearing routes to markers. How many markers can you find? Don't be compass shy! This field trip is for individuals or families. The content is most appropriate for older children (12+) and adults. Compasses will be provided for use during the program. You will be going off trail, so please dress in long pants and sturdy close-toed shoes or hiking boots. Also, bring sunscreen, sunglasses and water.

Canoe the Jordan River

Jordan River Nature Preserves, Charlevoix County

Tuesday, August 12 8am-2pm *Limited participants*

Join LTC and Jordan Valley Outfitters as they team for this new field trip. The Jordan was the first river in Michigan to be federally classified as Wild and Scenic. As staff from JVO navigates the group through the river, LTC staff will describe the many protected lands along the lower Jordan. We will paddle from Old State Road to the East Jordan boat launch, about a 4-hour trip. No prior experience necessary, but participants must be in good physical condition. Cost is \$35 per person including lunch, canoe and gear rental. Cost without lunch is \$23. Bring water, snacks, and foul weather gear. **Registration required - Call JVO to register: 231.536.0006.**

Sea Kayaking Les Cheneaux

Marquette Island, Mackinac County

Saturday, August 16 10am-4pm *Limited to 10-12 participants*

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. On the island, we'll hike a 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 of Mackinac. No prior experience is necessary but participants must be in good physical condition. Total paddle distance is 4 miles; round-trip hike is less than a mile. 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.**

Legends, Labyrinths and Lore

Sunday, September 7 2-5pm

Private property north of Harbor Springs

Join Jennifer Eis and Don Ward for an educational walk-about at their 50-acre protected property, a rare and wonderful opportunity. 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 allow for a self-guided experience. The couple's unique hand-built log home will also be open for viewing. Arrive anytime between 2 and 5 pm and expect the unexpected. Due to the walking and fragility of structures, this program is not suitable for young children.

Mushrooming with Marilynn

Thursday, September 11 1-3pm *Limited to 25 participants*

Location to be determined - call for details

A mushroom hike with local mycologist Marilynn Smith is a special treat! Be amazed by her vast knowledge of all things fungal as you wander the autumn woods.

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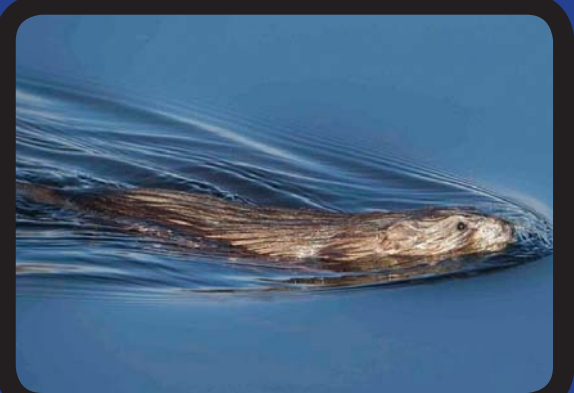
Little Traverse Conservancy, Inc.
3264 Powell Road
Harbor Springs, MI 49740-9469
231.347.0991
www.landtrust.org

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