



Summer 2015  
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[www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)

# A Land Ethic for All Time

*"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land. By land is meant all of the things on, over, or in the earth. The land is one organism. Its parts, like our own parts, compete with each other and co-operate with each other. The competitions are as much a part of the inner workings as the co-operations. You can regulate them – cautiously – but not abolish them."*

Aldo Leopold "A Sand County Almanac: And Sketches Here and There"

This summer, Little Traverse Conservancy joins with the Les Cheneaux community to celebrate the life, the heritage, and the messages of one of America's most renowned conservationists, Aldo Leopold.

Considered by many to be the father of wildlife management and of the United States' wilderness system, Leopold spent many summers of his youth on Marquette Island, Les Cheneaux, where he developed an appreciation for the environment and the wildlife of that beautiful Great Lakes community. Aldo's family recalled how intimately he came to know the island, producing handmade, illustrated maps detailing the typical trees, animals and birds. If one believes that our love of the land begins in childhood, it can be said that those summers exploring by foot and by canoe significantly shaped Leopold's own land ethic.

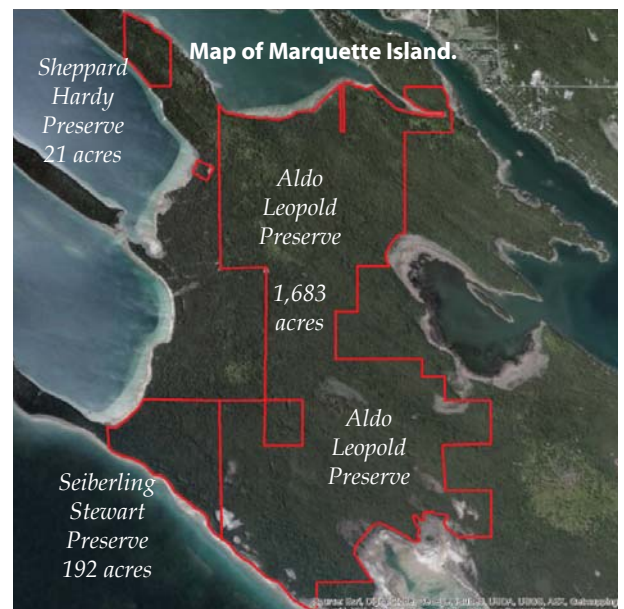
While in the Les Cheneaux islands, Leopold met the headmaster of the Lawrenceville School, a preparatory school that eventually led him to Yale, the only school in the country at that time offering a forestry degree. Graduating from Yale in 1909, Leopold pursued a career with the newly-established U.S. Forest Service working in Arizona and New Mexico. A 1924 transfer to Madison, Wisconsin, began an era of intense wildlife research, and Leopold published the country's first textbook in wildlife management in 1933. That textbook is still used and referenced in many university programs today.

The book Leopold is best known for by the general population is "A Sand County Almanac: And Sketches Here and There" published in 1949, a year after his death. Since that time, Leopold has been considered one of the most influential conservation thinkers of the 20th Century.

The Conservancy's largest nature preserve currently in its ownership is the Aldo Leopold Preserve on Marquette Island. The Conservancy - along with The Nature Conservancy and Michigan Nature Association - have a enduring presence in this region. It is for this reason that we are all joining forces with the local community to promote the concepts spirited by Leopold decades ago, but still held within this beautiful corner of our northern Michigan world. See page 6 for more information about the festival and note Tom Bailey's column on page 14.



A young Aldo Leopold in front of his family's Marquette Island cottage.





# Save the Trees

July 30, 2015

5:30-8:30 pm

Walstrom Marine Showroom  
500 E. Bay Street  
Harbor Springs

Auction of Painting by  
Mary Hramiec Hoffman

Live & Silent Auction & Raffle  
Music by David Cisco  
Lite Bites by Carol Costello  
Desserts by Julianne Tomatoes  
Local Libations  
Tickets: \$60

Tickets may be purchased at our office  
or online at [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org).



JOIN US IN THE SNOWS ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2015  
FOR OUR 43RD ANNUAL MEETING & BOAT RIDE  
9:30 AM COFFEE  
10 AM MEETING

AFTERNOON:

OPTIONAL LUNCH AND FERRY BOAT RIDE AROUND MARQUETTE ISLAND  
(MEMBERS, WATCH FOR MAILED INVITE OR CALL 231.347.0991 TO REGISTER)



## Conservancy Assists with Addition to Cheboygan State Park

### PURCHASE ADDS MUCH DESIRED WILDLIFE HABITAT NEAR LAKE HURON



When a 37-acre parcel completely surrounded by Cheboygan State Park became available for purchase, the State of Michigan asked Little Traverse Conservancy if it could purchase the land until the needed funds were available through the state. LTC purchased the land in July 2013 and just this past April, resold it to the state recovering the organization's costs. The result is that the park now includes this important inholding property. The land and the entire park provide significant migratory bird habitat along the shore of Lake Huron at the northeastern tip of the Lower Peninsula. "The purchase of this property is very exciting for Cheboygan State Park in many ways," said Paul Koszegi, Cheboygan State Park Supervisor. "Bird watchers will have new areas to explore, our avid hunters and mushroom pickers will be very excited to go into this open area; this property will be used year round by many different outdoor enthusiasts."

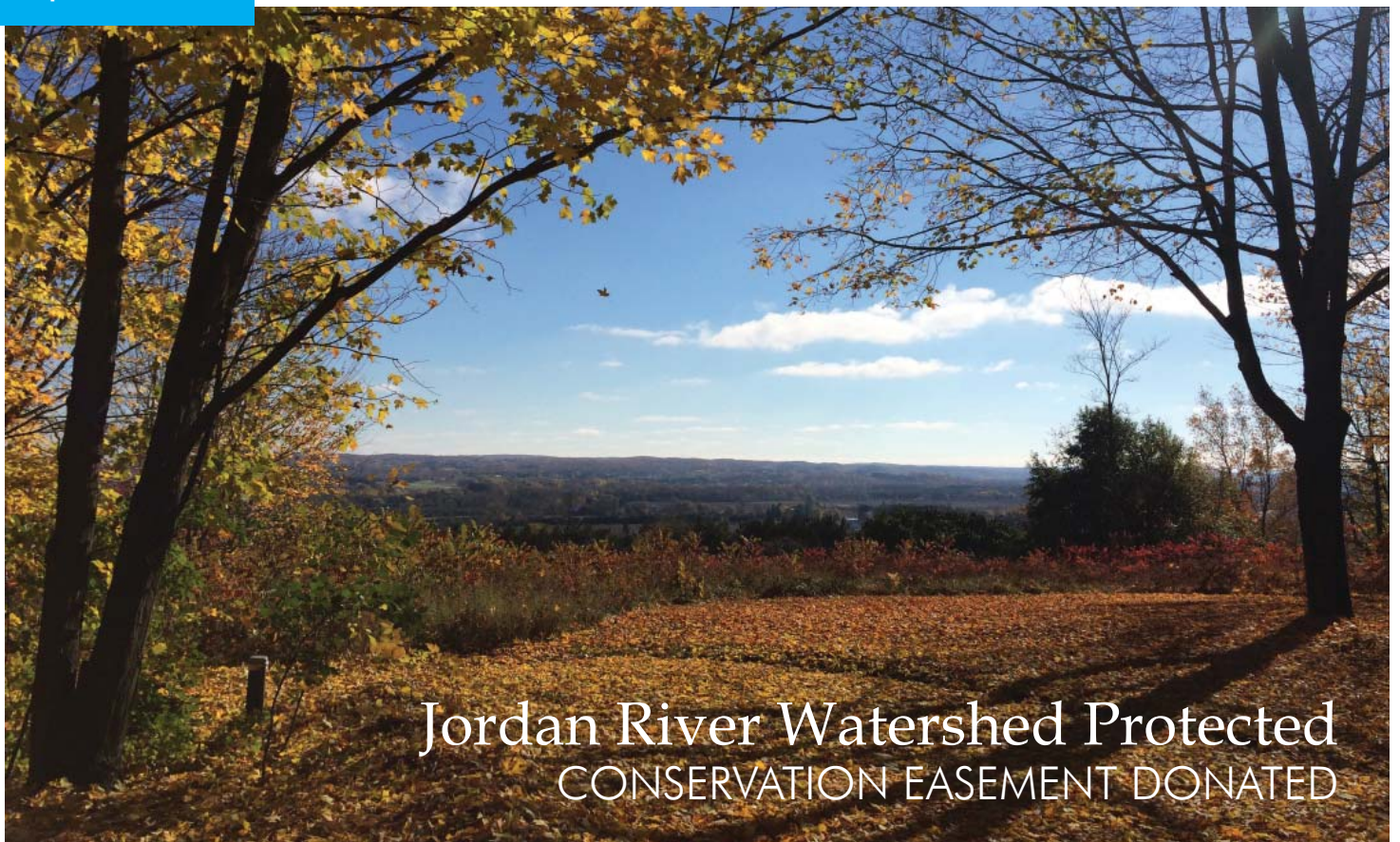
## Trail Expands at Watson/Schott Preserve Complex

### NEW COMMUNITY HIKING TRAIL NOW AVAILABLE

The recent acquisition of the Joseph J. Schott Nature Preserve has allowed the Conservancy to expand a trail system that now crosses both the Watson Preserve and the Schott Preserve. This now approximately mile-long trail is strategically located to provide easy access to the neighborhoods immediately to the north with parking off of Mink Road. "We place a high priority on offering trails that are next to or near neighborhoods," said Kieran Fleming, LTC's director of land protection and stewardship. "This new trail is easily accessible off of M-119 and walking distance from dozens of homes."







## Jordan River Watershed Protected CONSERVATION EASEMENT DONATED

THOUGH RAISED IN CHICAGO AND DETROIT, CHARLENE Michael new she wanted to live her life in a sustainable way. “We were living through the energy crisis of the 1970s and we wanted to be self-sufficient,” Michael said. Having moved to East Jordan for her former husband’s job, the young family began looking for the right land upon which to settle. “When we found this place, we just knew this was it!” Charlene said smiling broadly. In 1973, the family of five moved into their new home, thus starting an era of homesteading that connected them deeply to the land. With no prior knowledge, Charlene learned to freeze and can the food grown on two large gardens. The children raised every farm animal imaginable, participating in 4-H. Milking goats were purchased to give the family dairy. “And we had our own wood for our wood burning furnace right here,” Charlene explained, “another wonderful gift the land gave us.”

“My love for this land really developed from the many hours I spent on it, walking during the warmer months, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing during the winter...exploring its nooks and crannies, identifying animal tracks, learning the names of wildflowers, eating the wild foods this land offered. There were usually delightful surprises to be experienced: coming across a large herd of deer wintering by the creek, flocks of turkeys roosting in the trees as evening approached, tiny vole tracks meandering across the snow, and so much more,” she said.

For many years, Charlene harbored the idea that she would like to protect the family’s land through the Conservancy and last fall, she reached out to Conservancy staff. A conservation easement protecting 76 acres of her land and 950 feet of frontage on Jones Creek was signed and completed on May 6. “I cannot express how delighted I am that this land is now protected with the Conservancy,” Michael said. “Every time I think of it and every time I look out on it, I smile.” (While she didn’t want to be



Jones Creek, a tributary to the Jordan River, flows through Charlene Michael’s land that is privately owned, yet protected from future development with a conservation easement.

photographed, we hope you can accurately get an image of a lovely, happy soul.)

Today, Charlene lives with her dog Abbey and her three children are many states away in places she enjoys visiting. Charlene is highly creative and images of one of her favorite wild animals - the Canada Goose - emerge in various art forms throughout her home. (She once was given permission to capture an injured goose that could no longer fly and it made residence in their barn for more than t10 years!)

“Working with Charlene on this easement was a true pleasure,” said Land and Stewardship Specialist Caitlin Donnelly. “Her easement overlooks the Rogers Family Homestead Preserve along the Jordan River and greatly contributes to the protection of this high quality watershed on the edge of East Jordan.”

For more information about protecting your private land with a conservation easement, contact one of our land protection staff at 231.347.0991.







This past March, Little Traverse Conservancy was invited to participate in a unique, online fundraising campaign. The Patagonia x Moosejaw Charity Thing is a friendly charity competition involving a group of causes that were hand picked by Patagonia and Moosejaw to compete to raise the most money during a given time frame. While we led the challenge for most of the duration, we ended up in 2nd place right at the end by less than \$200. A total of 169 donors (including 37 new donors) raised \$13,460 for LTC. This was our first attempt at an online fundraiser and while we promise to not continually appear in your inbox, we thank each and every one of you for playing along with us and helping support this work!



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 Ms. Eliece B. Aiman  
 Mr. Eric D. Alsberg  
 Darrell and Marty Amlin  
 Mike and Cathy Atchison\*  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Aten  
 Kal and Jenni Attie  
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 Todd and Jennifer Winnell  
 Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Woolcott

\* indicates first time donors/new members to the Conservancy



# Aldo Leopold Festival

June 19-21, 2015

Les Cheneaux Islands, MICHIGAN

**EVENTS**  
A Schedule of Events can be found at local businesses.

**FRIDAY**  
3-8:00 p.m.  
Les Cheneaux Row Club Meet & Greet  
6:00 p.m.  
*The Historic Waters of Aldo Leopold*, kayaking trip  
7:00 p.m.  
*Green Fire* Documentary, introduction by Ed Zahmiser  
Scavenger Hunt all weekend

**SATURDAY**  
9:00 a.m.  
- *Up a Creek Without a Paddle?*  
- Les Cheneaux Row Club RAID  
- Hike Birge Preserve  
- Hike Gerstacker Preserve  
- Kayak Rolling & Safety Demonstration  
- *Want to See the Outback?* Mountain Biking  
10:00 a.m.  
- *Green Bird* Bird Houses Family Workshop  
- Wildflower/Plant ID Walk  
12:00 p.m.  
Kayak to the Sea presentation  
1:00 p.m.  
- Rugged Mountain Biking  
- Hike Gerstacker Preserve  
- Hike Woolam Preserve  
2:00 p.m.  
- *Paddle to Duck Bay* kayaking trip  
- *Breeding Birds of Michigan's Coastal Wetlands & Islands*  
4:00 p.m.  
Masonic Roast Beef Dinner  
5:00 p.m.  
Island Boat Cruise  
7:00 p.m.  
*Finding Farley* Documentary

**SUNDAY**  
9:00 a.m.  
Birding Hike, Gerstacker Preserve  
10:00 a.m.  
*Sea Kayak the Sweet Waters of Lake Huron*, kayaking trip  
11:00 a.m.  
Michigan Nature Assoc. Hike  
12:15 p.m.  
Aldo Leopold Historical Marker Dedication  
1:00 p.m.  
Lion's Club Community Picnic

Find more information on

Katie Eberts

For more details about the Aldo Leopold Festival, visit [www.lescheneaux.org](http://www.lescheneaux.org).

## New Members

The Conservancy would like to thank the following new Donors at the Friends or Benefactors level from March 21-May 22, 2015.

### Friends and Benefactors (\$500 or more)

Chase Bank of Petoskey  
Chemical Bank  
Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society  
Ms. Lynne Aspnes  
Robert and Janelle Burke  
Clannad Foundation  
Mr. George Covington  
Jim and Bonnie Ellis  
Judy Solomon Engelberg  
Mrs. Alfred J. Fisher, Jr.  
Dave and Carrie Gabriel  
Frank and Connie Hagelshaw  
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Harris  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Horn  
Dr. and Mrs. John Paul Jones  
Ms. Martha E. Kersey  
John and Barbara Kowalczyk  
Mr. and Mrs. Archibald McClure, Jr.  
H. Gary and Renee Morse  
Ms. Sally A. Olds

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Petzold  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Mark Pirrung  
Archibald and Virginia Sheldon  
Ms. Christine D. Sheppard  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Simms, Jr.  
Mr. Omar R. Troyer  
Samuel Westerman Foundation

### Contributing Members

Ms. Susan Affholter  
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Jerry and Ruth Augustine  
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Ms. Margaret Bray Hoven  
Alexandra, Nicklaus and Victoria Bund  
Eowyn and Iris Bund  
John and Marilyn Carpenter  
Dr. Phil Carrott, Jr.  
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Mr. Michael Duff  
Mr. Eric Elkins  
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Alice Menefee and Richard Flemming  
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Mr. Mark G. Mittlestat  
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Ms. Cheryl Sedstrom  
Ms. Karen Stewart  
Mr. and Mrs. William Stubbings  
Ms. Laura Sylvain  
Mr. and Mrs. John Szczesny  
Mr. Michael Thompson  
Mr. B. Tryon  
Ms. Grace Ueberroth  
Benjamin and Molly Veling  
Larry and Sally Wagle  
Steven A. and Ellen Walters  
Mr. Cody Wilcox  
Mr. Jeffrey Zellner



Aldo Leopold Festival artwork by Katie Eberts



# Trail Cameras

## A TOOL FOR RANKING PRIORITIES



In recent months while visiting an LTC nature preserve, you may have noticed a trail camera at or near the entrance. LTC is trying to learn more about how much and what kind of use we are getting at our preserves. This will help guide our future stewardship goals and activities on the more than 100 miles of trails we caretake and manage. We are also gaining valuable statistics that demonstrate just how important our preserves are to the communities we serve. For example, we found that our Offield preserve was used by more than 20 people a day in the late winter months, the highest of all preserves surveyed.

And don't worry, we are very careful to delete photos once we record the data from them. The only pictures we do not automatically delete are those known to be of staff personnel or of wild animals. And, we have been documenting some interesting creatures using the very same trails that people walk every day. Critters like raccoon, deer, coyote, red fox, and even a grey fox have shown up on our trail cams. We have also been placing cameras at strategic locations specifically to get footage of some of the wildlife. The wood ducks and hooded mergansers recently gave us a show at the Hailand and Helstrom preserves - go to our Facebook page to see some great footage! Special thanks to volunteer Tamara Stevens for helping us collect this information.



### Winter Trail Cam

#### Average Daily Users

Mid Dec. 2014-mid March 2015

Birge - .43
Banwell - .51
Wisser-Saworski - 1.42
Andreae - 2.69
Susan Creek - 2.79
Driggers - 3.10
Seven Springs - 3.16
Round Lake - 3.98
Goodhart Farms - 6.83
Offield 2 - 7.09
McCune - 8.92
The Hill - 10.98
Offield 1 - 14.16
Offield overall - 21.02

*(Two cameras placed at Offield Preserve)*



## INTRODUCING OUR 2015 AMERICORPS STEWARDSHIP TECHNICIAN

Josh Epperly

This year's LTC AmeriCorps position is held by Josh Epperly. Josh will be working for six months side by side with stewardship staff learning primarily about the land caretaking aspect of the organization's work.

Josh is a 2013 graduate of Calvin College with a double major in Environmental Studies and Spanish. He credits first falling in love with the outdoors to canoeing and backpacking trips, and in particularly to a trip to the Boundary Waters in high school. "I love the self sufficiency of backpacking," Josh said. After college, Josh completed a summer AmeriCorps position building trails in the Adirondacks, completed a six-month internship

with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council as part of the water resources protection team, worked as an Aquatic Species Technician with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in Cody, and took three weeks to backpack on the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico.

"I hope to play a valuable role in protecting the ecosystems around us," Josh said. "I also hope that through my contributions to LTC's mission, more Michigan residents will come to appreciate the inherent value of nature instead of merely what it provides for us. I am looking forward to learning new skills to carry with me into the future, and having fun while I'm at it."





## A Blossoming Program

### ECOSTEWARDS OFF TO GREAT START

Officially launched this past spring, the EcoStewards Volunteer Program is receiving highly positive feedback from newly-engaged volunteers. On April 11, 53 people participated in a kick-off event to find out more about EcoStewards. Twenty-five individuals stayed on to attend our first ever Invasives Species Training. “So much interest emerged from the kickoff that we created three new Frog and Toad Survey Routes for six new EcoStewards teams,” said the Conservancy Volunteer Coordinator Cacia Lesh. “If possible, we’d like to make this an annual event where new volunteers connect with us and are assigned volunteer positions such as kestrel nest box monitoring, invasive species mapping, tree planting, and more,” she added.

The program is a great opportunity to get high school and college-aged students involved with LTC. There’s also the opportunity for volunteer cross-over between our education and stewardship departments. High school classes are registering for projects like Vernal Pool monitoring on LTC preserves. The environmental education staff will lead these classes, and as needed, stewardship staff can offer expertise.



## Offers Volunteer and Citizen-Science Opportunities

**Community volunteers** can find a preserve of interest and adopt a project LTC has prepared – like invasive species mapping, or propose a project to us, such as a reptile survey, or whatever you are passionate about.

**Educators** can offer students a field learning opportunity to foster a better understanding of the natural world and to develop skills such as using a GPS, and plant and animal identification. Students can engage with one another and have a direct impact on their community.

**Students, scouts, or summer interns** interested in independent study can take on a summer project of special interest that will provide meaningful experiential learning. LTC can better manage its preserves by gaining significant information about what plant and wildlife exists on the ground.

This program offers volunteers a venue for special interest projects that are fulfilling while also enhancing LTC’s knowledge of the species we protect on our nature preserves. Want to know more? Give us a call at 231.347.0991.



Volunteer Coordinator Cacia Lesh explaining the EcoStewards Program at the April 11 Kickoff event.

“Citizen science is where the public volunteers time to assist scientists in their research. Citizen scientists can support professional researchers in a lot of ways – by submitting data, sharing experiences or spreading valuable information. Scientists benefit from having a lot more data to analyze and a pool of volunteers willing to help.” [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)

### Educators and Students



### Community Members







## UNDERSTANDING THE LAND/WATER CONNECTION

### Watershed Academy Uses Nature Preserves as Outdoor Classrooms

Students participating in Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's new Watershed Academy spent a portion of their time learning how land and water are interconnected. On their field day, students spent the morning visiting a water body and then the afternoon visiting an LTC nature preserve. Groups of 9th and 10th grade biology students from Boyne City, Alanson, East Jordan, Harbor Springs, and Pellston participated in the inaugural spring season of the program visiting the Braun, Wisser-Saworski, Inland Waterway, Five Mile Creek, and Rogers Family Homestead preserves. Former LTC educator and high school biology teacher Maria Affhalter is coordinating the new program. "The TOMWC Watershed Academy motto, 'Learning to Protect What We Love,' starts with the connection between water and land," Affhalter said. "Students learn that what we do on the land impacts water quality and quantity, and the quality and quantity of our water impacts the quality of life in our communities. Academy members learn that our region is made up of diverse natural ecosystems that are impacted by human actions such as protecting land. Clean water is one of the most important by-products of LTC's land protection program. The Watershed Council and LTC together provide a very simple message to our young watershed stewards; protecting and stewarding our land protects our water, and protecting our water protects life," she said.

## The Eagle Eye Naturalist Program

LTC volunteer Mary Trout continues to share her love of birds through this monthly bird-themed series for ages 6-12. Field guides and binoculars provided, but please bring your own if you have them. Upcoming dates, times, and locations are shown below (*rain dates in parentheses*).

**Saturday, July 11 (7/18)**  
10-11:30 am  
Thorne Swift Nature Preserve

**Saturday, August 8 (8/15)**  
10-11:30 am  
Offield Family Nature Preserve

**Saturday, September 12 (9/19)**  
10-11:30 am  
Waldron Fen Nature Preserve



## Exploring Vernal Pools

In partnership with the Grand Traverse Conservation District, LTC educators joined Harbor Springs 8th grade science teacher Kelly Polleys and her students on an exploration of a seasonal vernal pool at the Offield Nature Preserve in May. Vernal pools are small wetlands that often fill up from rain, snow melt, or high groundwater in the spring or fall, and typically dry up by late summer. Vernal pools provide a safe haven for a diversity of frogs and salamanders, allowing the young to have greater survival than in other habitats like regular ponds. Some vernal pools smaller than 1/2 acre have been found to be home to over 500 animal species!



# SUMMER 2015 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## Knee High Naturalist Programs *Ages 3-5*

*These fun and interactive sessions are geared for children ages 3 – 5 and include a story, short hike or activity, crafts and more. Siblings are welcome to tag along. Parents are asked to stay with their children. No charge, but registration required by calling Melissa at 231.344.1004. **Tuesdays** will be at Spring Lake Park from 10-11am and 1-2 pm **Thursdays** will be at Resort Township Park East 10-11am and 1-2 pm*

### **Follow Your Nose** *June 23 and June 25*

Share in the story adventure of Little Bunny as he follows his nose and discovers many wonderful smells. We'll do some smelly activities, follow our own noses on a nature hike, and learn some things about rabbits.

### **Frogs & Friends** *June 30 and July 2*

Hop on over to find out about frogs, toads and salamanders. Learn what makes them amphibians, where they hang out, what their favorite meal is and meet some up close.

### **Nature in Motion** *July 7 and July 9*

Animals move around in many different ways. We're going to get our bodies in motion with fun activities mimicking how some northern Michigan creatures get from one place to another. Come prepared to hop, crawl, flap, waddle and more!

### **The Buzz on Honeybees** *July 14 and July 16*

Bees pollinate more plants than any other insect. They are fascinating little creatures and vital to our food supply. They live in hives, have special dances and make wax and honey. We'll learn all about bees and what makes them special with fun activities and crafts.

### **Flower Power** *July 21 and July 23*

Their beautiful colors attract people and animals, but there's more to flowers than just a pretty face. Let's discover their parts, what they need to grow and what unique job they do for nature.

### **Habitat Hoppin'** *July 28 and July 30*

Join in the fun of exploring the different habitats of the park and learn about what makes each one special. How are they alike or different? What animals and plants live there? Which one is your favorite?

## Junior Naturalist Programs *Ages 6-8*

*Offered Wednesdays at two times: 10-11:15 am and 1-2:15 pm  
No charge, but registration required by calling Sarah at 231.344.1018.*

### **Aquatic Adventure** *June 24*

*Spring Lake Park, Petoskey*

We'll be exploring the underwater world to discover the tiny creatures that live in Spring Lake. This program will take even the most apprehensive and turn them into curious and courageous! All materials supplied, but children are welcome to bring their own dipping items. Be sure to dress for muck and goo!

### **Creatures of McCune** *July 1*

*McCune Nature Preserve, Petoskey*

This casual stroll will take us through the field, along the Minnehaha Creek and through the hardwoods of the beautiful McCune Preserve. We'll be searching for tracks and signs of all the wild animals that call this preserve home.

### **Bugs 'n Bogs** *July 8*

*Stutsmanville Bog Preserve, Harbor Springs*

What exactly is a bog? Who lives there? What makes them so special? Equipped with sweep nets, magnifying lenses, and bug jars (provided) we will explore our way through the tall grasses to the fascinating 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! Long pants are recommended.

### **Kids Art** *July 15*

*Resort Township Park East, Petoskey*

Join LTC staff and fine art landscape painter Mary Bea McWatters for this inspirational artistic adventure outdoors! Children will learn a variety of painting techniques including physical and visual elements while painting a tree after our walk. Dress for taking a short walk and potentially getting paint on you. All materials will be provided.

### **Creatures of Camo** *July 22*

*Watson Preserve, Harbor Springs*

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.

### **Bike Path Cruise and Preserve Tour** *July 29*

*Spring Lake Park, Petoskey*

Come for a leisurely ride along the paved bike path leading from Spring Lake Park. We'll be casually riding north passing several LTC nature preserves along the way. Parents are encouraged to come along. Helmets and extra water are recommended. This is an easy paved trail; however children are expected to have an intermediate level of riding experience. Please bring your own bike. Meet at Spring Lake Park pavilion.

## Books and Outdoor Adventures with the Boyne District Library

The Boyne District Library is offering a summer Outdoor Adventure Club program for ages 7-10, incorporating literacy and field trips into each session. Little Traverse Conservancy is partnering with the library, leading the field trip portion of each adventure at LTC's Hill Preserve and the Boyne River Nature Area for the Life in Water program. Please call the library (231.582.7861) or view its website ([www.boynelibrary.org](http://www.boynelibrary.org)) for more information and to sign up for these fun and educational programs. Program time is 1-2:30 pm.

**July 8:** Buggin' Out

**July 15:** Dirt Makers

**July 22:** Life in Water

**July 29:** Trees and Forests



## Adventure Naturalist Programs

Ages 9-12

Offered Thursdays: 10am-Noon  
No charge, but registration required by calling Sarah at 231.344.1018.

summer education  
programs

### Wilderness Survival June 25

Offield Family Nature Preserve, Harbor Springs

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 addressing strategies for a survival situation. Skills include an intro to 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. Sturdy shoes are recommended.

### Adventure in Nature Photography July 2

Resort Township Park East, Bay Harbor

Interested in photography and love being outdoors? Grab your camera for some photo fun at this beautiful park near Bay Harbor! Our focus is to improve your nature photography skills and expand your creativity while providing an opportunity to photograph unique and exciting subjects in nature. All abilities and cameras welcome. Some cameras available.

### Mountain Biking July 9

The Hill Nature Preserve, Boyne City

Join former professional mountain biker Chad Wells of North Country Cycle Sports in Petoskey for this fun and educational biking adventure! Chad brings a wealth of mountain biking knowledge and experience. The Hill Preserve offers well maintained trails, rolling hills, and sweeping views! This trail is not extreme and hill climbing is minimal. Designed for children with an intermediate biking ability (little to no mountain biking experience is perfectly fine). A mountain bike is recommended. Extra water, appropriate footwear, and helmets required.

### Compass Camp July 16

Ransom Nature Preserve, Charlevoix

Knowing how to use a compass is an important skill to have if you enjoy exploring in nature. Ransom Nature Preserve is home to our popular orienteering course. Come learn the basics of orienteering as we navigate this beautiful nature preserve. Parents are encouraged to participate, as one adult will be needed to accompany each group. Long pants and sturdy shoes are recommended.

### Trailblazers July 23

Five Mile Creek Preserve, Harbor Springs

Take a walk on the wild side of the creek! With no established trail, this hike is for the adventurous child. Be prepared to have some fun getting muddy and wet! Although the walk is not extremely difficult, it is not as easy as walking a maintained trail and will require maneuvering over logs and through branches. Dress for hiking.

### Adventures on the Pigeon July 30

Andreae/Banwell Preserves, Cheboygan County

Splash along the river bank. Stick your toes in the beautiful Pigeon River meandering 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, then this is the program for you! Be sure to dress for getting dirty or wet.

## Burt Lake Area Outdoor Sessions

Designed for Ages 7-12 Tuesdays in July 10-11:30 am

### Into the Woods July 7

Seven Springs Nature Preserve, Indian River

The woods are a perfect retreat for hot summer days. Let's peek into the woods and long the shoreline in search of creatures that call this preserve home. While we hike, we will learn about forest ecology (life in the woods) and what makes our northern forests so unique.

### Buggin' Out! July 14

Seven Springs Nature Preserve, Indian River

They're small. They crawl, fly, and swim, and they live just about anywhere! Search for these six-legged critters and capture them for observation using nets both in the field and along the shore. Use field guides to identify them and what makes them so special. All materials are provided, though you are welcome to bring your own!

### Adventure in Nature Photography July 21

Andreae/Banwell Preserves, Cheboygan County

Grab your digital camera for some photo fun! Refine your observation skills and take some cool nature photos to share with family and friends. The 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.

### Adventures on the Pigeon July 28

Andreae/Banwell Preserves, Cheboygan County

Splash along the river bank. Stick your toes in the beautiful Pigeon River as it meanders its way through these Cheboygan County nature preserves. If tromping through the woods and playing in the river sounds like fun, then this is the program for you! Be sure to dress for getting dirty or wet.

## Programs at Boyne River Nature Area

Designed for Ages 6-11 10-11:30 am

The Little Traverse Conservancy and Friends of the Boyne River are hosting a series of summer Nature Explorer Programs at the Boyne River Nature Area for ages 6-11. We prefer that parents/guardians accompany children. Siblings are welcome. No charge. Please wear appropriate footwear and bring sunglasses, sunscreen, insect repellent and water. Please call 231.347.0991 to register. (The Boyne River Nature Area is in the back of Boyne City's Business Park. From M-75 east of the Boyne City schools, turn onto Moll Drive and follow to intersection with Lexamar Road. Turn right and the parking area is on the left.)

### CREATURES IN DISGUISE - July 1

Let's explore how creatures use camouflage to conceal themselves from predators and prey. Observe animal pelts up close, participate in fun seek-and-find activities that will test your observation skills and take a hike to look for critters that may be hiding in the nature area.

### FEATHERED FAMILIES - July 8

Learn about different types of nests, nesting habits, communication techniques and more about the family life of our feathered friends. Take a hike to discover local birds and make a bird nest of your own. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be available for use during the program. Please bring your own if you have them.

### HABITAT HOPPIN' - July 15

Explore the various habitats at the Boyne River Nature Area and find out what makes each one unique. Through fun activities, learn about the plant and animal life in each one. Compare them and decide which habitat you'd prefer to make your home in.

### BUG DETECTIVE - July 22

Insects make up the largest and most diverse group of animals on the planet. They and their relatives live nearly everywhere and their behavior, adaptations and life cycles make them interesting to learn about. Investigate bug life at the Boyne River Nature Area by using nets to capture some on land and in the river, observing them up close and determining their role in the natural world. Wear shoes you don't mind getting wet!

### CREATIVE KIDS - July 29

Nature's beautiful colors, patterns and designs can inspire the artist in all of us. We'll start with an artsy scavenger hunt to get our creative juices flowing and then make several projects to take home. Bring your imagination with you and be prepared to paint, pound, rub, shape and create!



# Memorials

March 21-May 22, 2015

## Mary Ella Alfring

Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. FitzSimons

## Jollie News Allen

Ms. Susan Allen

## Daniel R. Arrowood, Sr.

Robert and Rosita White

## Jane Marie Bailey

Mr. Thomas C. Bailey

## Helen Carey Bechtold

Ms. Jackie McMurtrie

## Mike M. Dinan

Sam and Mary Lou Supernaw

## Chris Dundon

Ty and Sarah Ratliff

## John W. Fischer

Ms. Tracy Fischer

## Mrs. Charles T. Fisher III

Mr. and Mrs. Allen W. Whittemore

## Harley E. Fortier

Mr. Tim Fortier

## Donna Rae Gaunt

William and Treva Breuch

## Katie Haensel

Mr. Peter Haensel

## Elizabeth Austin Hall

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Peterson

## Irene Hickman

Clifford and Linda Clark

## Vivienne B. Jahncke

Dan and Patty Jaszabkowski

## Joy Jamerson

Jim and Kathy Bricker

## Lyda Hayes James

Mr. Roger W. Blaser  
Ms. Kamee Cumbie  
Mr. and Mrs. James K. Dobbs, III  
Steve and Susan Esco  
Gayle and Chip Everest  
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Everest  
Mrs. Jean I. Everest  
Mary Fischer and Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Fisher  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. FitzSimons  
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Harrison, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Hightower  
Michael and Judy Hightower  
Kim and Cynthia Hocker  
Harriet Hull and Family  
Gib and Jennifer James  
Joan Keller  
James B. Kite, Jr. and Family  
Ms. Virginia McCoy  
Mr. and Mrs. George E. Melzow  
Randy and Diann Moran

Lin and Mary Nash  
Mr. and Mrs. Paxson H. Offield  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Parker  
Susan H. Parker and Drew Neville  
Mr. and Mrs. Morton Payne, III  
Ned and Marci Stocker  
Ms. Lynette Thweatt  
Mrs. Mark L. Townsend  
Mr. Craig VanGilder  
Roger and Donna Welder  
Mr. and Mrs. Allen W. Whittemore

## Mr. and Mrs. George W. James

Mrs. Ann Watson

## Susan Klingbeil

Mr. John S. Wilson

## Jeffrey M. Kring

Mr. Michael Cameron  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Koza  
Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger

## Jeanne Marie LaFontaine

Mr. Robert Hamer

## Jean Marx

Mr. and Mrs. James Britton  
John and Midge Culos  
Colleagues from Flagstar Bank  
Ms. Mary Graven  
Robert and Karen Hengehold  
George and Martha Hosek  
Rick and Sandy Powals  
Dick and Kathy Schaefer

## Raymond Marx

Philip and Tamara Carrott

## Raymond and Jean Marx

Bryan and Megan Marx

## Norman J. Menton, MD

Ann and Joe Sefcik

## William John, Charlotte and "Rol" Miltz

Charlene Miltz Deuber

## Sandy Muir

Mrs. John C. Jansing  
Anne Downey Wallace

## Robert J. Otto

Mr. and Mrs. Ian Bund

## Eugene T. Petersen

Marta and Peter Olson

## Bill Pollard

Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Dietrich

## Arthur Roy Ranger III

Emily Robison

## Suzanne Fitzsimons Reynolds

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Hightower  
Mrs. John C. Jansing

## Vicki Stevens Rohlman

Ms. Darleen Flaherty

## Katie Ryan

Ms. Maureen Burke

## Luanne Smith Schonfeld

Larry and Susan Nutson  
Katie and Craig De Voto

## Marjorie Sherk

Mr. Robert Naumann



LTC preserve inspired artwork by Mary Bea McWatters

## Annabelle Smith

Jim and Kathy Bricker

## Fran Straus

Lorna Straus

## Mary Jo Truog

Philip and Tamara Carrott

## Elizabeth Carrott Whittemore

Philip and Tamara Carrott

## Richard Willey

William and Deborah Hodges

# Honorariums

## Quinton and Patricia Kuebler's 60th wedding anniversary

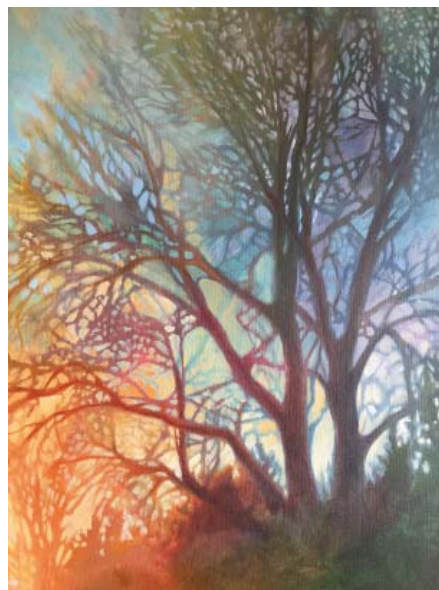
Ron and Andi Shafer

## Liv Pines' bat mitzvah

Mr. and Mrs. David B. Hill

## Frederick Sanquist

Daniel and Pamela Sanquist



by Mary Bea McWatters



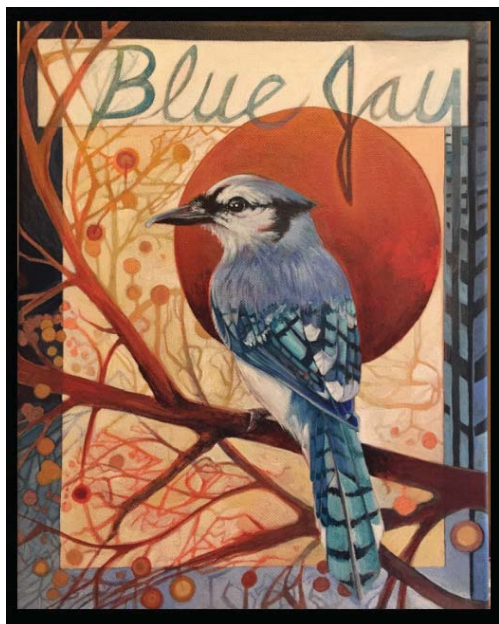
## Mary Bea McWatters

Why this local artist recently donated a portion of proceeds from her show to Little Traverse Conservancy

"I have always wanted to be able to give back to the environment from which I take so much of my inspiration. I have a deep love and respect for the earth and for northern Michigan. I am continually impressed with LTC's devotion to land conservation and outdoor education.

"When I use realism in my paintings of nature, I aim to share not only my physical perspective but also the emotional reactions that I have to the subject. I often create abstractions inspired by patterns and shapes that I observe in nature. Whether it's the changing colors of the seasons, the shifting light and shadows throughout a day, or a reflection on the water, I am a student of my surroundings. I spend most of my days outside painting, gardening, photographing, biking, snowboarding, or hiking. All of my work seems to echo this love that I have for the outdoors.

"A few of my favorite preserves are Stutsmanville Bog, Sturgeon Bay Sand Dunes, and De Tour Peninsula Nature Preserve."



## Thank You

- Joe Clark of Glass Lakes Photography, Gary Osterbeck, and Todd Petersen for donated photography and video work over the past several months.
- Alina Dhaseleer, Jonathan Kelly, Nick Hansmann, and Elizabeth Kur for spring trail clearing at Charlevoix County nature preserves.
- Jim and Wendy Bean for leading the Kestrel Monitoring field trip at Wisser-Saworski Preserve. Also for Kestrel Monitoring training and helping out with the presentation on the American Kestrel, and for providing lunch.
- Miles Trumble for brush clearing and tractor use at Meadowgate Preserve.
- John Baker for trail clearing, helping the stewardship crew on Tuesdays, for brush clearing at Meadowgate Preserve and other miscellaneous volunteer tasks.
- GIS intern Chuck Green for mapping potential vernal pools as part of his LTC internship.
- Tamara Stevens for trail cam work.
- Mary Trout for volunteering to lead the Greenwood Spring Birding field trip and for leading the monthly Eagle Eye Naturalist birding programs.
- Jaimon Jacob on Sparked.com for volunteering to create our EcoStewards logo.
- Greenwood Sanctuary for hosting the May 2nd birding field trip.
- Glen Matthews for reviewing management plans and offering professional expertise.
- Gene Reck, Doug Fuller, Marta Olson, and Heidi Marshall for judging the EcoStewards Kick Off Poster Contest and Claire Fleming for helping at the event.
- Doug Fuller for leading the Bubbling Springs Preserve Nature Walk and for helping with other stewardship projects.
- Darrell Lawson for leading spring birding field trips at the Waldron Fen Preserve and the Ransom Preserve.
- Kristin Grote for helping Harbor Springs Middle School class monitor a vernal pool at Offield Preserve.
- Donald and Karen Stearns for the funds to purchase a radiant heater.
- Wayne and DeDe Andreae for help building the Watson and Schott Preserve trail.
- Al and Jean Moberly for distributing maps and brochures in Cheboygan County.



Knee High Naturalists at Spring Lake Park  
(photo by Joe Clark, [www.glasslakesphotography.com](http://www.glasslakesphotography.com))



# Reflections...

...Tom Bailey

## *Aldo Leopold and the Michigan Connection*

Few individuals have had as much influence on the modern conservation and environmental movements as the late Aldo Leopold. Leopold literally wrote the book on wildlife management in his landmark work, "Game Management," which for decades has been the Bible to biologists worldwide. His pioneering efforts with the U.S. Forest Service left an indelible mark on that agency, and in his tenure as a professor at the University of Wisconsin he helped to advance both the science and the art associated with land and wildlife management.

Leopold's influence did not end there. In his later years, he assembled a collection of essays which would be published shortly after his death. "A Sand County Almanac" has become a classic, reinforcing traditional conservation values that go back to the days of Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, and reaching forward to influence what has come to be known as the modern environmental movement. In spite of the rifts that sometimes separate traditional hunting, fishing and forestry conservationists from the more preservationist elements of the environmental movement, Leopold's essays continue to hold a special appeal for all.

Michigan figures prominently in Leopold's appreciation and understanding of nature. He spent the summers of his youth at the Les Cheneaux Club on Marquette Island, near Cedarville. Canoeing, camping, fishing and wandering about in the outdoors as a boy and young man, Leopold's passion for wild nature was nurtured in northern Michigan. Commemorating the time Leopold spent here and his influence on conservation and environmentalism, a Michigan Historic Marker will be placed at the Conservancy's Mackinac Bay preserve between Cedarville and Hessel in late June.

The people of Clark Township, which encompasses Cedarville, Hessel and Marquette Island, are hosting an Aldo Leopold Festival. The festival inaugurates an effort to make more people aware of the Aldo Leopold legacy in Michigan and to invite people to the area to enjoy some of the finest birding and other nature-based recreation in the Great Lakes region.

At Little Traverse Conservancy, we're doing our part to help the folks in Clark Township to capitalize on this wonderful conservation connection. With the blessing of the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin, we have named our largest Marquette Island nature preserve the Aldo Leopold Preserve, and we have helped to obtain the

historical marker and stage the upcoming festival. We're working with local government and businesses to develop a birding trail in the area that will attract more visitors in times of the year that are currently "low season," bringing more prosperity to the area without requiring additional facilities or development. Together, with a partnership between business, local government and conservation organizations, we're all proving that land conservation is not only good business, it's good for business.

A fundamental tenet of Leopold's later work is that we should see the land not so much a commodity that humans trade, but a community to which we belong. His Land Ethic is a classic of conservation/environmental literature. He also acknowledged the value of maintaining large areas of natural land; perhaps he was thinking of northern Michigan and Les Cheneaux when he wrote, "I am glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in. Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?"

Just as the science of ecology notes the importance of each component of a living system, each of the partners working in Les Cheneaux has an important role to play. A quarry in the area and a healthy forest products industry help to provide jobs for area residents and economic prosperity. Tourism and the resort trade are vital to the local economy, as well, and that's where the Conservancy comes in: we work to maintain a healthy balance between land development and land conservation that maintains the quality of life that Leopold and his family enjoyed in this summer resort community. It is this quality of life that attracts resort homeowners, local residents and tourists alike. But the area will only be unique if we all work to maintain its uniqueness, so the lessons offered by Aldo Leopold are important in this beautiful part of Michigan that survives on both consumptive and non-consumptive uses of natural resources.

If you haven't read Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, I urge you to do so. Whether your relationship to the land is primarily rooted in hunting and fishing tradition, the forest products industry, real estate development or modern environmentalism, there's something in the book for you. If you've ever enjoyed the turning of the seasons, the beauty of a sunset, the sight of migrating geese, the warmth of a fire or a sweeping vista of natural land, you'll recognize a kindred spirit in the late Aldo Leopold who loved natural land and who loved northern Michigan.

Aldo Leopold Foundation



Aldo with wife Estella and dog Flick in a boat at Les Cheneaux. ca. 1912





# 2015 SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

Unless noted, no charge for these programs, but pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991 or online at [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org).

## **Saturday, July 4 at The Hill Preserve      Dusk**

Meet at parking lot on Clute Road

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

## **Saturday, July 11      10-11:30am (see page 9 for details)** **Eagle Eye Naturalists Program at Thorne Swift**

## **Friday, July 17      8-10 am** **Birding and Nature Hike at the Derby Preserve**

Join eastern Upper Peninsula native and current Birding Trail Intern Elliot Nelson while we stroll through this premier wooded shoreline habitat filled with boreal forest plant and animal species. We will watch for breeding birds such as Blackburnian Warbler, Black-Throated Green Warbler and Pileated Woodpecker as well as look for rare boreal plant species and other unique natural features.

## **Saturday, July 18      10am-noon** **Native American History Walk Around Cross Village**

Cross Village is one of the oldest village sites in the state, pre-dating European arrival by centuries. This village, called "Ahnumawatikomeg" by the Odawa, translates into "place of the prayer sticks." The original name comes not from the Catholic cross but from the sacred four directions symbol of the Odawa. Cross Village has been a center for important councils, gatherings and living for the Odawa for nearly a millennia. Come and learn more about the history of this area, with a tour of Cross Village by LTBB Odawa Archives and Records Director Eric Hemenway. Eric, an Anishnaabe and native of Cross Village, will lead a tour of "down-town" Cross Village, highlighting historical events and figures from the "place of the prayer sticks. Limited participants. Meet at schoolhouse.

## **Sunday, July 26      10am-4pm** **Les Cheneaux Wildlife Kayak Ecotour**

Experience an Upper Peninsula guided kayak trip through some of the most biological diverse islands in the Great Lakes region led by avian interpreter and sea kayak instructors. Tour the boreal forest and limestone shoreline by kayak and explore one of LTC's island preserves on foot. Featured habitats will also include rare and highly productive Great Lakes marsh that serve as a breeding area for wetland dependent birds and fish. Learn about the interdependence of habitats and human components that make this area ecological treasure. No experience is necessary. Pack a lunch, binoculars, and your personal bird checklist. Cost of \$70 includes guides and paddling gear. Reservations required. Trip is limited to 14 people with children over 10 welcome. Please contact Woods & Water Ecotours at 906.484.4157 or [info@WoodsWaterEcotours.com](mailto:info@WoodsWaterEcotours.com).

## **Saturday, August 8      10-11:30 am (see page 9 for details)** **Eagle Eye Naturalists Program at Offield Family Preserve**

## **Saturday, August 8      8:30-10:30pm** **Star Gazing at the Hindle-Ross Property**

August is a spectacular time of year for stargazing, with the thickest part of the Milky Way arcing overhead and to the south, as well as the onset of the most prolific season of meteor showers with the much-loved Perseids. Enjoy wide open views from the rolling landscape of Debbie Hindle and Ken Ross' 80-acres that have been left to the Conservancy in their will. Headlands International Park Program Director Mary Stewart Adams guides us into the history and the mystery of the constellations, planets, and other celestial phenomena that are overhead in this season,



including tips on how to catch the best views of the Perseids, which are active throughout this season, though they peak a few days following our gathering. Call for directions.

## **Friday, August 21      10am-noon** **Exploring The Gorge**

LTC board member and UMBS Faculty Karie Slavik will lead a hike along the bluffs and down into a natural gorge. Learn about the importance of protecting land for wildlife and habitat corridors, ecology and natural history. Join us as we venture into this unique habitat which includes scores of natural springs forming a large cold stream that empties into Burt Lake. We'll see mature pine stands, cedar swamp, and a beaver dam.

## **Thursday, September 10      10am - noon** **Mushrooming with Marilynn Smith** **Location to be announced.**

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. Limited to 25 participants.

## **Saturday, September 12      10-11:30 am (see page 9 for details)** **Eagle Eye Naturalists Program at Waldron Fen Preserve**

## **Sunday, September 13      2-5pm** **Legends, Labyrinths and Lore** **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.



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VOLUNTEER EDITORS



Scan the codes below for LTC's smart phone nature preserve app, available at no charge. The app includes info about LTC trails as well as other area trails such as the North Country Trail.



iPhone



Android

Little Traverse Conservancy, Inc.  
3264 Powell Road  
Harbor Springs, MI 49740-9469  
231.347.0991  
[www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Petoskey, MI  
Permit No. 110



A complete flyer with details is at [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org) or contact Three Pines Studio at 231.526.9447 or [joanne@threepinesstudio.com](mailto:joanne@threepinesstudio.com).

## Three Pines Paint Out Benefit for New Lake Michigan Preserve

WHO: Artists of all skill and experience levels

WHAT: A Paint-Out and Exhibition Sale

WHEN: August 2, 2015 Painting Time: 10am-2pm  
Fundraiser/Exhibition & Reception: 6-8pm

WHERE: Three Pines Studio  
5959 W. Levering Road, Cross Village, MI

WHY: Painting proceeds will be used to complete the purchase of the largest undeveloped piece of Lake Michigan shoreline in the area. This beautiful stretch of shoreline will afford a destination for all to enjoy, and the purchase will help protect steep forested dunes, inter-dunal wetlands and habitat for several endangered species including the Piping Plover and the Pitcher's Thistle.

## Calendar at a Glance

July 4 - Fourth at Hill Preserve  
July 11 - Eagle Eye Naturalists  
July 17 - Birding at Derby  
July 18 - Native History Walk  
July 26 - Les Cheneaux Kayak  
July 30 - Save the Trees  
August 2 - Paint Out Benefit  
August 4 - Annual Meeting  
August 8 - Eagle Eye Naturalists  
August 8 - Star Gazing  
August 21 - Exploring Gorge  
September 10 - Mushrooming  
September 12 - Eagle Eye  
September 13 - Legends

## See pages 10-11 for Kids Programs Series

- Knee High Naturalists
- Junior Naturalists
- Adventure Naturalists
- Burt Lake Outdoor Programs
- Boyne District Library Series
- Boyne River Nature Area

**Online registration  
is available for many  
of our events at  
[www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)**