



Summer 2016
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www.landtrust.org

The Sally Stebbins Nature Preserve

A LAND TO HONOR ONE WHO LOVED ALL THINGS WILD



Sally Stebbins 1951-2015.

One of the most recent land gifts to LTC was given in honor of an extraordinary woman. The new Sally Stebbins Nature Preserve includes 30 acres of land nestled between the two ski resorts northeast of Harbor Springs. The rolling hardwood forest along Highland Pike Drive preserves the scenic views near the entrance to Boyne Highlands. A multitude of seasonal and migratory wildlife use the land as habitat year round. The following words written by her husband, Kenyon Stebbins, offer a tribute to a woman who emulated love, grace, and appreciation for the natural world in all that she did.

Sally Stebbins was “never not birding.” She was happiest when she was in the outdoors, and she loved to share her extensive knowledge of nature, and especially birds. Sally’s enthusiasm for sharing her passion with others was infectious, and her fascination with the natural world was contagious. She is now happily soaring with the birds everywhere.

Sally loved wild birds and all the places they could be found – she managed to see 734 bird species in North America, and nearly 2,000 world-wide. But despite her global adventures, she was most appreciative of the birds in her “local patch” – she tallied 136 bird species in her small yard near Harbor Springs. In keeping with her preference for simple pleasures, she loved her Black-capped Chickadees every bit as much as the more exotic birds of the world. If you are quiet, and listen carefully, you’ll quite likely hear these feathered friends on the Sally Stebbins Nature Preserve. That would make Sally very happy indeed.

Sally Ann Hiddinga Stebbins (1951-2015) was born and raised in Holland, Michigan, and was proud of her Dutch heritage. After we met at Michigan State University in 1983, she quickly



Todd Parker

“Hope is the thing with
feathers that perches
in the soul.”

Emily Dickinson

indoctrinated me into her world of birding. Together we reinvigorated the Mountaineer Audubon chapter while living in Morgantown, West Virginia for 16 years, where Sally led early morning bird walks at West Virginia University’s Core Arboretum every April and May.

Upon moving back to Michigan in 2001, Sally’s love of sharing the wonders of nature with others inspired her to create the position of Field Trip Coordinator for the Petoskey Regional Audubon Society. She served PRAS tirelessly for a dozen years, sharing her infectious love of nature with several thousand folks on hundreds of different outings, which she always considered “treasure hunts.”

Sally was a voracious reader, a great music lover, and was blessed with an insatiable curiosity about all things in nature. Her love of the outdoors led her to many corners of the earth, including Antarctica (twice), Australia, Attu Island Alaska (twice), and the Amazon and the Andes of South America. I was able to join her on most of these expeditions, as well as others to Gambell Alaska, Costa Rica, Panama, the

Stebbins Preserve story continued page 2



RIGHT: The Sally Stebbins Preserve is nestled between two northern Michigan ski resorts. ABOVE RIGHT: LTC Executive Director Tom Bailey, longtime friend Wil Cwikiel, and Kenyon Stebbins prepare to speak at the May 23 dedication.



Stebbins Preserve story from cover

Galapagos Islands, Mexico (7 times), a 10-week car-camping trip to Alaska, a summer-long driving trip to Honduras, and a three-month sabbatical in Ecuador, Peru, Chile and Argentina. She also enjoyed reaching the highest points in 43 different states, with Oregon's Mt. Hood the one that challenged (and thus satisfied) her the most.

She was never happier than when she was in the field. We especially loved experiencing her birthday "Dawn Chorus" together every May 23, getting situated outdoors before dawn, and appreciating the various bird species as they vocalized, one after another as darkness gave way to daylight, a truly magical phenomenon.

Sally's sweet personality, sparkling smile, quiet humility, and infectious sense of wonder are dearly missed by those who knew her, but her spirit lives on in all the bird songs that brings joy to those who listen with their heart.



Special preserve regulations

Because Sally cared so much for the well-being of the birds and wild things, the Conservancy is honoring Sally and Kenyon's wishes by declaring that this preserve does not allow smoking, dogs, horses, nor wheeled vehicles (including bicycles). Sally and Kenyon's primary hope is that this preserve will offer tranquil sanctuary for those who love nature and want to enjoy the simple quiet beauty of the everyday. Thank you for your cooperation!



Woollam Family Preserve Dedicated

On May 29, more than 20 family members and friends gathered to dedicate the Woollam Family Nature Preserve that lies along Lake Michigan between Good Hart and Cross Village. This extraordinary property includes a roughly half mile walk through dramatic topography and across a "lunar like" dune swale, ending at a nearly half mile protected stretch of Lake Michigan.



"Spring Awakening" an original painting by Trisha Witty

Save the date for
Little Traverse Conservancy's

Save the Trees

27th annual fundraiser

Wednesday July 27, 2016

6:00-8:30pm

**Walstrom Marine Showroom
Harbor Springs**

**Silent Auction & Raffle
Music by Younce Guitar Duo
Small Bites by Carol Costello
Mawby Bubbles & Short's Brewery**

Ticket Cost:

Available at www.landtrust.org
or at the LTC office.

44th annual meeting
Tuesday, August 2, 2016
Camp Sea-Gull, Hayes Township Park Lake Charlevoix

9:30 am Sweets and coffee
10:00 am Meeting
Catered lunch following meeting (\$20 cost)

*Optional field trips hiking
around Camp Sea-Gull or the
Driggers Nature Preserve
following lunch.*

Doc Bauer's Watershed Dream

Though some of Dr. Arnold Bauer's finest memories from his youth are of sailing Lake St. Clair, he recalls that when it came to water, it was an era of "flush it and forget it."

"We didn't think about how everything we put on the land could affect the water that we drank," he said. But a two-year stint as a dentist in post-war Germany during the 1950s — in towns where the water wasn't drinkable — gave him and his wife Shirley a renewed appreciation of America's fresh waters.

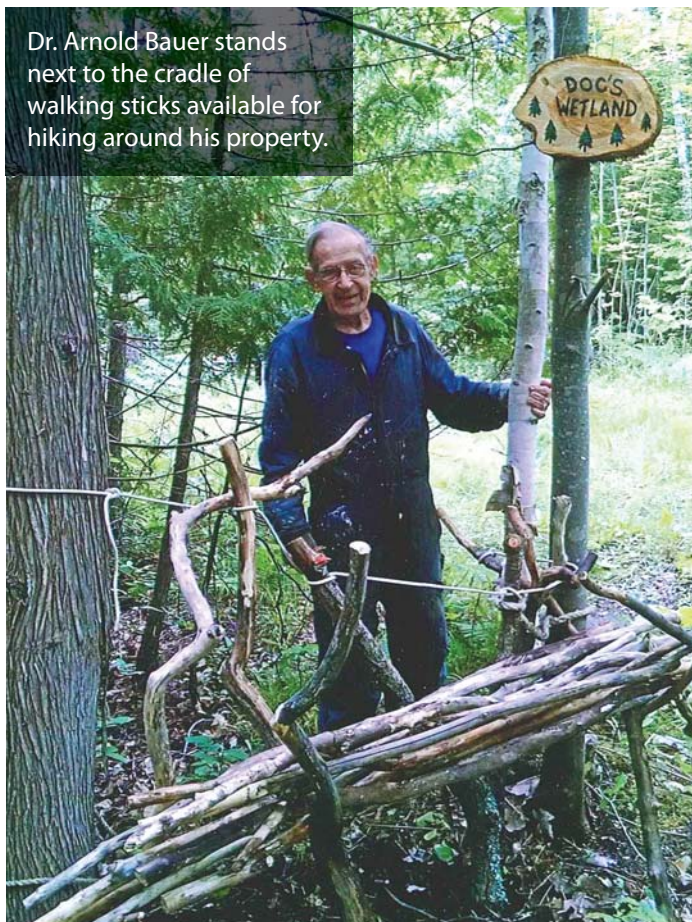
While raised near Detroit, the young couple wanted to settle their family near water and traveled north, where they discovered Lake Charlevoix. Doc established his dental practice in Boyne City, and the family settled into life along a stretch of the lake between Advance and Ironton, "the best sailing on the lake," Doc smiles. Over the decades, the family's appreciation for this incredible body of fresh water deepened.

Early on, Doc observed how the lack of planning and zoning for lakeside lots eventually led to water drainage and septic problems. He learned about the varying soil substrates on his and the surrounding properties, and came to understand which way the water flowed underground to the lake. When an adjacent resort property with historic septic problems came up for sale, he purchased the land. Other lots were purchased in later years as Doc continually tried to think about what was best for the Lake Charlevoix watershed.

The Bauers have been actively conserving lands for many years. In 1993 the couple purchased and donated a 235-acre parcel of land in Antrim County, roughly five miles east of Central Lake. The Bauer Nature Preserve is held by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and subsequent additions have brought its size to 362 acres. In 2012, Doc Bauer worked with his neighbors and fellow association landowners to donate towards the purchase and formation of the 23-acre Gatt Family Nature Preserve through Little Traverse Conservancy.

Most recently, only a few months after Shirley's passing last year, Doc Bauer decided to donate a few additional acres

Dr. Arnold Bauer stands next to the cradle of walking sticks available for hiking around his property.

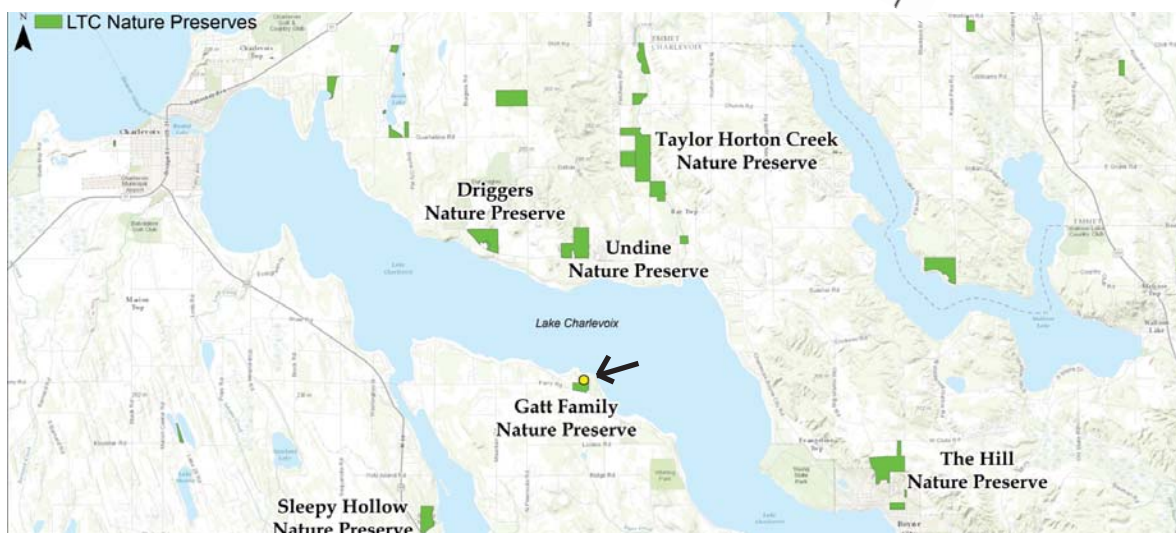


to add to the Gatt Family Nature Preserve. At the same time, he dedicated an adjacent lot to provide a "safeholding" property in the case of future septic or water issues. "Unlike some of the surrounding properties, that lot includes perkable soil," Doc explains. The land will provide a sort of insurance policy that will help keep the surrounding developed lands from negatively affecting waters flowing into the lake.

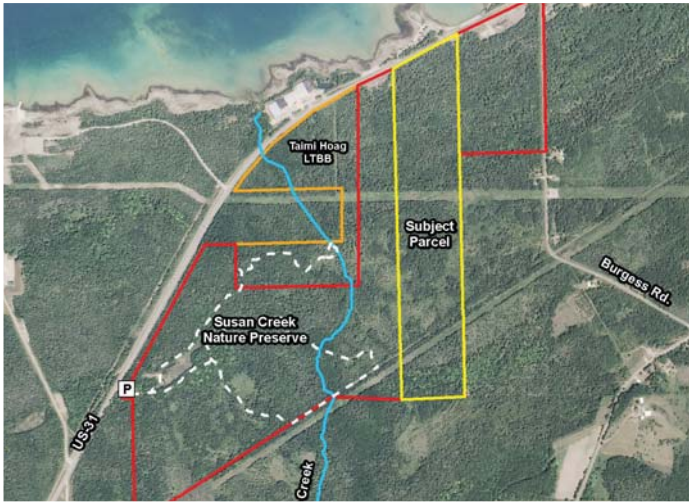
Though small in size, this latest donation represents the culmination of a decades-long dream for Doc Bauer. "Protecting these pieces is key for the whole system," Doc says. "It has been my dream for 58 years to make this happen and I am so happy to have it come to fruition."



Dr. Arnold Bauer is donating land to add to the Gatt Family Nature Preserve, one more piece of watershed protection for Lake Charlevoix.



Recent Land Protection Projects



CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Susan Creek Preserve Grows

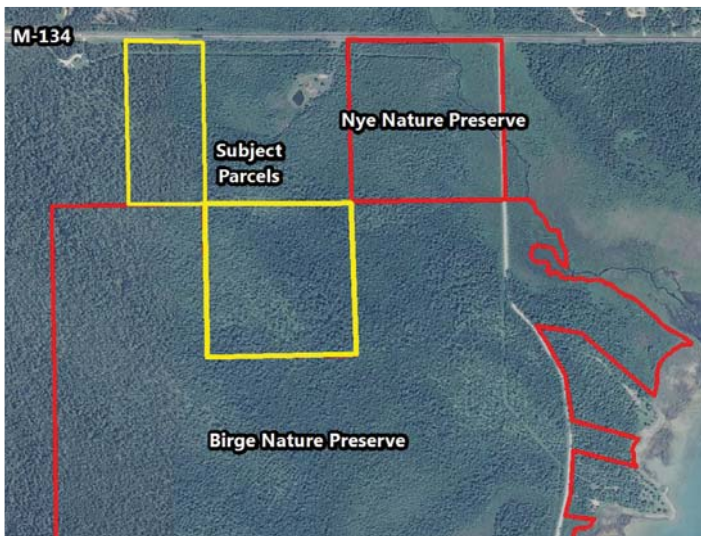
This past February, the Conservancy purchased a 90-acre addition to the Susan Creek Nature Preserve (shown in yellow on map to left). This newest addition includes 980 feet of frontage on US-31 and increases the wetland and wildlife habitat of the preserve. The total size of the Susan Creek Nature Preserve is now 314 acres and it lies adjacent to the 55-acre Taimi Hoag Nature Preserve owned by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. A contiguous trail system connects the two preserves which are located four miles east of Charlevoix.



CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

Fox Point Assist - Beaver Island

Little Traverse Conservancy was a primary partner with helping Peaine Township secure a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to purchase a 23-acre parcel on the southeast shore of Fox Lake, Beaver Island. The land adds to public and recreational access to Fox Lake, building on significant wildlife and waterfowl habitat.



MACKINAC COUNTY

Preserve Complex Expanded

The scenic entrance into Les Cheneaux has been protected further with a recent 60-acre addition to the Birge/Mertaugh/Nye preserve complex in Mackinac County. The addition includes 660 feet along M-134 and greatly expands wildlife and migratory bird habitat at this extraordinary northern Lake Huron nature preserve. With the original donation of the preserve made in 1992, the preserve complex now includes 588 acres and 1.5 miles of Lake Huron frontage. A 2.2 mile trail follows a historic road through the cedar forest and wetlands.

Join us...

*...in protecting
beautiful
Christmas
Mountain*

As you drive just a few miles east of Petoskey, you notice huge upland hardwood hills that cradle the Minnehaha Creek. Tucked in this valley along the Minnehaha sits the McCune Nature Preserve — one of LTC's most popular preserves for hiking, snowshoeing, dog walking, and cross country skiing. Adjacent to the McCune Preserve lie 236 acres of high, rolling hardwoods known by some as "Christmas Mountain."

The Conservancy now has an opportunity to purchase and permanently protect Christmas Mountain. We hope to raise \$408,000 by September 1 to acquire this unique land, with \$150,000 already pledged!

Christmas Mountain's dramatic topography, hardwood forest, and existing trail system will complement LTC's popular McCune Nature Preserve and adjacent state lands. Trilliums and Dutchman's breeches cover the hills in the spring, and acorns and beechnuts are scattered on the forest floor in the fall to provide abundant food for wildlife.

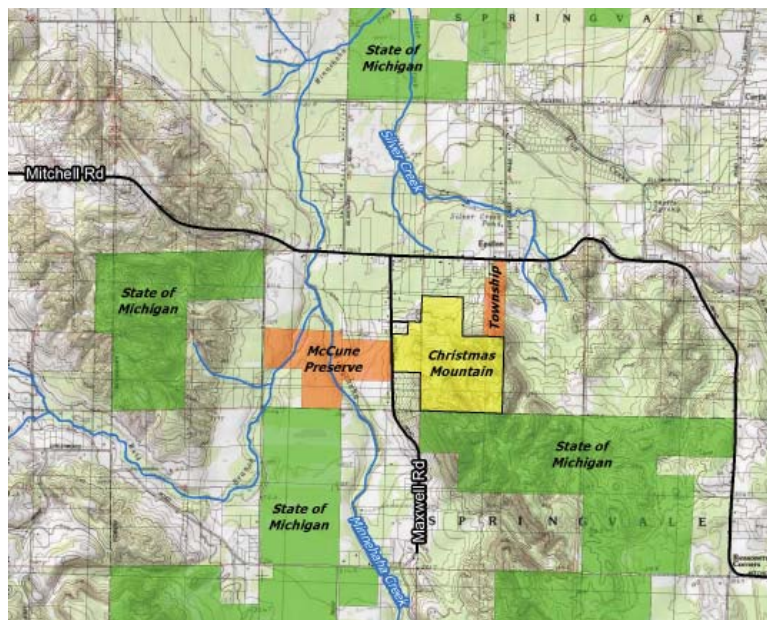
At its highest point, Christmas Mountain reaches 400 vertical feet (slightly lower than Nubs Nob Ski Area) and offers peeks of both Little Traverse Bay and Pickerel Lake.

The Conservancy envisions this land as a destination for hikers, birders, and mountain bikers. It would also come to LTC as a Working Forest Reserve, a new category of pro-

tected land for the Conservancy involving forests that are carefully managed following the best protocols for sustainable forestry. These practices will maintain the integrity of the forest so that it will be here and healthy long into the future.

The property is being acquired in honor of John and Mary Lou Tanton, who have had an enormous impact on local conservation and have been very dedicated, and involved, in the planning and future of Emmet County. Together the Tantons started local chapters of the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society. Mary Lou spent 19 years on the Emmet County Planning Commission with emphasis on Signs and Lighting guidelines, and co-founded the Outdoor Lighting Forum. John was a founding member of the Little Traverse Conservancy, and was instrumental in completing the acquisition of the Sturgeon Bay Dunes, the McCune Preserve and several other early Conservancy preserves. The preservation of Christmas Mountain will protect a piece of the Joy Valley that they love so dearly, and will be an ideal tribute to these wonderful conservationists.

With your help these 236 acres will be permanently protected for you to enjoy every spring, summer, fall and winter. Please contact Ty Ratliff at tyratliff@landtrust.org or 231.344.1005 with any questions. A special fundraising page has been established at www.landtrust.org.



John and Mary Lou Tanton have been champions for the natural world all of their lives. As the lead donors for the Christmas Mountain project, they hope others will join this effort to protect this unique Emmet County property.

Sustainable Forestry and the Offield Family Nature Preserve

Over the next year, scheduled forest management will begin at the Conservancy's most visited nature preserve, the Offield Family Nature Preserve in Emmet County. While the land has been managed for several decades in this way, this will be the first active management since LTC became owners of the land in 2009.

The land now known as the Offield Family Nature Preserve was purchased from the Stebbins Family in 2009 thanks to a generous grant from the Offield Family Foundation. Though once comprised of several small parcels, this preserve land was assembled by C. Rowland "Rolly" Stebbins, who believed in restoring land in northern Michigan from abandoned farms and cutover barrens to productive, working forests.

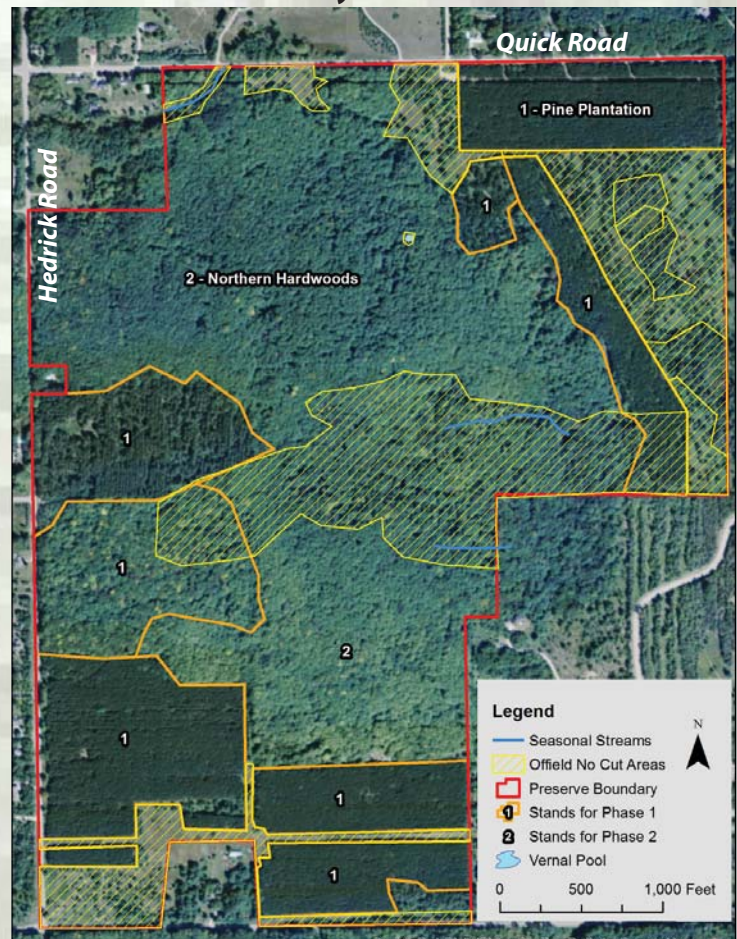
Many years ago, Mr. Stebbins enrolled the land in Michigan's Commercial Forest Program. This dedicated the property to periodic sustainable harvesting of timber, and opened the area to public hunting and trapping in exchange for property tax incentives under Michigan law. When the Conservancy purchased the land, we agreed to maintain its status under the Commercial Forest Program, managing it accordingly. The Conservancy currently owns four nature preserves enrolled in the program, with parcels acquired more recently under the Commercial Forest Program now designated as Working Forest Reserves. The Conservancy continues to make the same payments for these lands — in the form of reduced property taxes to local government — as would be made by any private owner.

So what will be happening? We have enlisted the professional opinions and support of a Licensed Forester and a retired DNR Wildlife Biologist with decades of experience. This summer, the forester will mark the trees that will be removed with paint, and then timber buyers will visit the preserve and submit bids. Once a bid is accepted by the Conservancy, work will begin within the year. This could happen as early as this summer. The map above right shows which stands will be affected during each phase.

The first round will involve thinning of red pine stands and removal of exotic Austrian pines, as well as the removal of dying ash and beech trees. A five-acre section of this stand will be left untouched, allowing us to monitor the difference between active and passive management in the future.

The second round will occur after the first has been completed, and will involve timber stand improvement for the remaining hardwood stands on the preserve. No-cut buffers will be in place to protect sensitive areas such as vernal pools and natural springs. The goal for this portion of the forest is to encourage large trees to develop, scattered throughout the stand. Harvesting some of the trees and leaving others (think of thinning radishes in a garden) will increase the growth rates of remaining trees and encourage a more diverse mix of species in the forest. The Conservancy will place signs directing visitors away from harvest operations, with trail closures being minimal and temporary. The result will be an accelerated return of the preserve to the conditions that existed before the area was settled, logged, burned, and farmed: a thriving forest community with healthy and diverse plant and wildlife

Offield Family Nature Preserve



populations.

Please be assured that we will work to keep as much of the preserve open as possible during forest management activities. We understand the inconvenience of those occasional operations. We also recognize that in the short term, the effects can seem unsightly. But please understand that what you see is an example of state-of-the-art forest management, carried out in the best tradition of great conservationists such as Aldo Leopold and Theodore Roosevelt. The Offield Preserve forest is being managed in a very intentional way, from the removal of diseased and pest-infested trees to the leaving of woody debris on the forest floor for fungi and other decomposers to turn into new soil and recycled nutrients, just as nature intended.

If you have any questions about these activities, please contact the Conservancy office at 231.347.0991.

NOTE: On May 21, a forest fire occurred at the Offield Preserve that is believed to have been human caused. The Conservancy extends our gratitude to the volunteer firefighters and DNR staff who responded so quickly. Pine plantations lack species diversity, making them more vulnerable to fire. Planned management will allow the preserve to slowly convert to a more diverse and stable forest that is less susceptible to fire.



SUMMER 2016 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

KNEE HIGH NATURALIST PROGRAMS AGES 3-5

These fun and interactive sessions 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 are at SPRING LAKE PARK from 10-11am and 1-2pm
Wednesdays are at RESORT TOWNSHIP EAST PARK from 10-11am
Wednesday, August 3 is at the PETOSKEY WATERFRONT*

July 5 and July 6 - Radical Reptiles

These cold-blooded critters with scaly skin fascinate us and freak us out! Through pictures, stories, observation, and a search through their habitat, we'll explore the lives of reptiles that inhabit northern Michigan, perhaps helping us gain a little more appreciation and a little less apprehension about them. We hope to have live specimens available to view.

July 12 and July 13 - Feathered Families

Warm temperatures and a plentiful food supply make summer the perfect time for birds to raise their young. We'll learn about different types of nests, nesting habits, how birds communicate and more about the family life of our feathered friends with LTC volunteer and bird enthusiast Mary Trout. She'll also guide a short hike to observe local birds and a nest making craft to take home.

July 19 and July 20 - To Be a Tree

From seeds and fruit to shade and animal homes, trees are vital to us and our natural communities. We'll learn about our most magnificent plants and discover what makes them special through several activities including a fun tree treasure hunt.

July 26 and July 27 - Bug Bonanza!

Explore the fascinating world of insects and their cousins. They can be pesky, but they are also vital to our food supply and healthy habitats. We'll search the fields and woods to catch some bugs and observe them up close.

August 3 - Just Ducky - at the Petoskey Waterfront

With Lake Michigan shoreline, a pond and rivers, the Petoskey waterfront is a great place to learn about ducks! We'll explore the lives of these water birds with a story, short hike, fun activities and a duck race in a little "creek." Participants can bring their own rubber duck or they can borrow one of ours.

August 9 and August 10 - Fairy Houses and Gnome Homes

Little ones will walk the fairy and gnome trail to gather building materials for constructing a forest fairy or gnome home in the park. They'll sprinkle magic dust on their enchanted house and imagine all the adventures that will happen there.



JUNIOR NATURALIST PROGRAMS AGES 6-8 WEDNESDAYS 10-11:30

No charge, but registration required by calling Sarah Mayhew at 231.344.1018.

Wednesday, July 6

Bugs Life Helstrom/Highland Nature Preserve, Conway

From field to forest to pond... they're out there! We're going to be taking a closer look at insects, their relatives and different habitats during this adventure. All materials provided.

Wednesday, July 13

Nature Art McCune Nature Preserve, Petoskey

Join local LTC staff and local multi-media artist Katie Brines for a creative exploration into the art of found objects. This program will begin with a short walk into the gorgeous McCune Nature Preserve. Following our walk, children will create a unique found object work of art using a variety of materials and techniques.

Wednesday, July 20

Cool Camo Watson Nature Preserve, Harbor Springs

Come out, come out wherever you are! Camouflage helps animals blend into their surroundings and avoid being someone else's lunch. In this program we'll build on our own observations skills while learning about different predator and prey adaptations through a fun hide-and-seek activity along the trail.

Wednesday, July 27

Feathered Friends & Fens Waldron Fen Nature Preserve, Alanson

Birds are amazing creatures with their songs, beauty, flight and nest building! What is a fen? Fens are unique wetland ecosystems that attract many different kinds of birds. We'll be exploring both during this program at this fascinating nature preserve. Some binoculars are available. Feel free to bring your own!

Wednesday, August 3

Bike path cruise / preserve tour Spring Lake Park, M119

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.

Wednesday, August 10

Sensing the Forest McCune Nature Preserve, Petoskey

Using their senses and a few simple tools to explore the beautiful forest of the McCune Nature Preserve, children will examine many kinds of plants and animals and in the process learn about their basic needs. Sight, sound, and smell will help them investigate the natural world, from tiny mushrooms on a rotting log to birds singing from the treetops.

ADVENTURE NATURALIST PROGRAMS AGES 9-12 THURSDAYS 10AM-NOON

No charge. Registration required by calling Sarah Mayhew at 231.344.1018.



Thursday, July 7

Adventure in Nature Photography Resort Township Park East, Bay Harbor

Interested in photography and love being outdoors? Grab your camera for a photo adventure at this beautiful park near Bay Harbor. This program's focus is to improve your 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.

Thursday, July 14

Wilderness Survival 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 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 hardwood forest. Sturdy shoes are recommended as we will also be taking a short hike.

Thursday, July 21

Compass Camp 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 land. Parents are encouraged to participate, and one adult will be needed to accompany each group. Long pants and sturdy shoes are recommended.

Thursday, July 28

Mountain Biking The Hill Nature Preserve, Boyne City

Do you like mountain biking? Join our mountain biking staff for this fun introduction to a great sport to do in northern Michigan. 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.

Thursday, August 4

Trailblazers 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.

Thursday, August 11

Adventures on the Pigeon 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 and wet.

Little Traverse Conservancy's Burt Lake Area Outdoor Sessions Designed for Ages 7-12 Tuesdays in July 10-11:30 am

No charge. Registration required by calling Sarah Mayhew at 231.344.1018. For more information on all summer programs, visit www.landtrust.org or call the LTC office at 231.347.0991.

Tuesday, July 5

Chaboiganing Nature Preserve, Brutus Buggin' Out!

They're small. They crawl, fly, and swim, and they live just about anywhere! Equipped with sweep nets, magnifying lenses, and bug jars (provided) we will explore our way through the tall grasses to the gorgeous forest within the Chaboiganing Nature Preserve. Using field guides, we will identify them and learn what makes them so special. All materials are provided, though you are welcome to bring your own!

Tuesday, July 12

Andreae/Banwell Preserves, Cheboygan County Adventures in Nature Photography

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 goal 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.

Tuesday, July 19

Seven Springs Nature Preserve, Indian River Creatures in Disguise

Let's explore some of northern Michigan's greatest hide-and-seekers! 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. During this program, we'll learn more about how creatures use camouflage to conceal themselves from predators and prey.



Tuesday, July 26

Andreae/Banwell Preserves, Cheboygan County Adventures on the Pigeon

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.

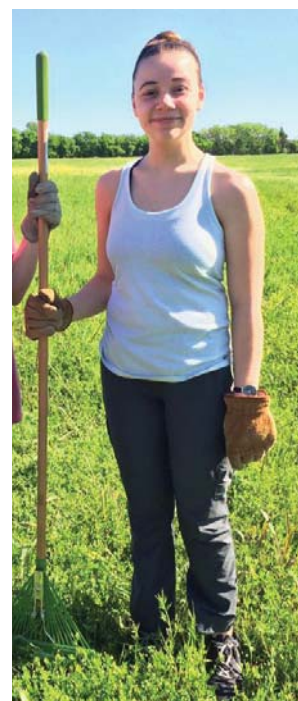
Visit Thorne Swift Nature Preserve north of Harbor Springs along Lower Shore Drive for their full summer program brochure. Classes range from Edible and Medicinal Plants to Stone Art. You can also call 231.526.6401 for more info. \$5 parking fee is waived for LTC members and West Traverse Township residents.

Welcome Summer Crew



Last summer, **Graham Peters** spent time as an EcoStewards Volunteer for LTC, conducting invasive species inventories at several nature preserves. Graham returns to us this summer as a seasonal stewardship technician who will conduct daily field work along with our regular stewardship staff.

Raised in Petoskey, Graham and his family spent one week every summer visiting a different National Park. Canoeing and camping were a regular part of their life, unquestionably contributing to his great love of and curiosity about the outdoors. Graham is a well seasoned traveler who has journeyed as far as Thailand and Columbia with missionary trips through an organization based in Montana. Currently, he is completing his Bachelor's of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries at Lake Superior State University. Though not exactly sure what his ideal future job will be, he loves field work and research.



A native of Oregon and a student in Texas, **Marissa Wilkinson** is also a comfortable globe trotter who is excited to spend two months in northern Michigan with an internship through Austin College. While Marissa's youth was spent with an abundance of outside time with friends in her Portland suburb's neighborhood, she didn't set an intention to study the environment while attending college. But a dynamite teacher for her freshman Environmental Studies class lit a fire in her prompting her to now minor in Environmental Studies. Well rounded with a variety of interests and skills, Marissa is majoring in International Business and two of her personal passions are singing and theatre.



LTC's 2nd annual EcoStewards spring Kick Off was an opportunity to get energized for the upcoming field season and learn more about citizen science opportunities through the Conservancy and beyond.



ABOVE: The winner of this year's high school EcoStewards poster contest was 10th grader Kelsey Ronk of Harbor Springs High School.



LEFT: This year's featured EcoStewards Kick Off speaker, Dave Milfsud, shows attendees how to locate and identify amphibians near a vernal pool at the Offield Family Nature Preserve.



Entrance to new Susan Creek Parking Area/Todd Parker

Improving Access

AN ONGOING LTC GOAL

The Conservancy would like to thank the following new members and Friends or Benefactors who are new donors or increased their giving within that level from February 24, 2016 to May 22, 2016.

Friends and Benefactors

Businesses

Belle Aquatic

Individuals and Families

Paul and Michelle Astolfi
Mr. and Mrs. H. Hewett Brown
David and Cheryl Cooper
Tiffany Moore and David Corteville
Mr. Bob Dunn
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Holton
Wendy J. Hoyt
Paul and Susan Opfermann
Todd and Kathy Petersen
Samuel Westerman Foundation

Contributing Members

Ms. Pauline Adams
Ray and Paulette Attie
Mr. Hassan Azar
John and Margaret Eckhold
Mr. Joseph Fedewa
Mr. Keith Hochstetler
Mr. Wayne Hunter
Mr. and Mrs. Terrence and Patricia Ladrikan
Mr. James Pierce
Mr. and Mrs. John V. Runberg
Edward M. and Anitra Lynne Thomas
Mark and Mary Tripod

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter." Rachel Carson

New Parking at Susan Creek Preserve

A larger and safer parking area has been created at the Susan Creek Preserve just northeast of Charlevoix to accommodate the growing number of visitors at one of LTC's most popular preserves. The new parking area will also be large enough for a school bus. The Conservancy extends its gratitude to Consumer's Energy for donating land for the parking area. Additionally, grant funding for the work came from the Bay Harbor Foundation, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Chemical Bank, and Matt Lester. "We're grateful for this abundance of support that has improved access off of US-31 to this much loved preserve," said Kieran Fleming, director of land protection and stewardship.



Memorials

E. Jean Bailey

Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger

Ena Brown

Bert and Karen, the original firm by that name

Michael J. Costello

Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger

Nancy A. Cushman

Anonymous

Janet E. D'Italia

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Kimmell II

Marilyn Gardner

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hord Armstrong III
Mr. and Mrs. J. David Cummings
Mr. and Mrs. James K. Dobbs III
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Townsend Driggs
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. FitzSimons
Mr. and Mrs. Laban Jackson
Mrs. William F. Souder Jr.

Gordon Guyer

Mrs. Elizabeth E. Proulx

Murray Kain Hanna

Atkinson Ferguson LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Binder
Jeff and Lynn Granger
Mr. Michael Lassiter
Mr. Thomas E. Moore
Douglas and Sally Smith
Ms. Elizabeth T. Walle
Mr. Glenn Welch

Louis "Lou" Hollow

Mr. and Mrs. Michael L. Dow
Mrs. Joyce Duke

Donald Lambert

Mr. and Mrs. J. David Cummings
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude Jr.

Marian Louise Randels

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Honorariums

In honor of

Gow Litzenburger

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bogart

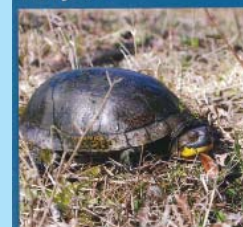
Frederick Sanquist birthday

Daniel and Pamela Sanquist

*Are you or do you
know a budding
herpetologist?
Check out this
great resource:*



Michigan Herp Atlas Project



Submit your observations of reptiles and
amphibians to the Michigan Herp Atlas at
www.MI-HerpAtlas.org

Wishing for...

- A mig welder such as WeldPak140.
- Gift certificates to Acorn Naturalists.





with gratitude

- The following fire departments for their efforts extinguishing a forest fire at the Offield Preserve: Readmond/Friendship/Cross Village Township, Harbor Springs, Alanson/Littlefield Township, and the Michigan DNR, Indian River District.
- Glen Matthews for completing forest management surveys for newly acquired properties.
- Lynn Frazee for acting as volunteer photographer at the spring EcoStewards Kick Off event and for donating a beautiful camera to LTC.
- Eagle Optics for discounted binoculars purchased with a grant for EcoStewards program materials from the Great Lakes Energy People's Fund.
- John Baker for spending his Tuesdays with LTC doing many, many stewardship projects.
- Lisa and Ric Loyd for donating a DVD player for our summer intern residence.
- Sue Irish Stewart and family for monitoring preserves they visit on their tour of all preserves in 2016.
- Darrell Lawson for use of his wildlife photography and for leading four birding field trips this spring.
- Margie Reh for helping with trail camera data, GIS analysis and EcoStewards volunteering.
- Grain Train for donating cookies and juice for the Bill Marks Working Forest Reserve dedication event.
- Mary Trout for bird books, leading the Sheridan After School Birding Buddies program, and assisting with the LTC display booth at the Charlevoix Elementary School Science Night event.
- Sarah and Pete Gurney for doing maintenance on a donated bike for our summer intern.
- McCune Trail Work Bee volunteers Dale and Jeanette Lewis, Bob Grisnak and Sue Hocquhard.
- Ginny Cole for doing sewing projects for Knee High education program materials.
- Herpetologist Yu Man Lee from Michigan Natural Features Inventory for educating local students about Vernal Pool Monitoring.
- Woollam Family Preserve trail worker Fred Clinton who helped haul lumber and install fencing, and also for many additional stewardship trail projects.
- Todd Parker, Todd Petersen, Lynn Frazee, and Gary Osterbeck for sharing their photographic talent, expertise, and images with us.
- Josh Baker and The Outfitter for donating use of kayaks.

Are you a northern Michigan landowner? We hope you can use this new resource!



Do you want to know more about invasive species and what you can do to help?

CAKE is a local resource that is here for you. Professionals in four northern Michigan counties want to help spread information and solutions to help us slow and prevent the spread of invasives in our state. LTC is a partner in this effort.

Contact CAKE CISMA Coordinator Thomas Clement
Thomas.Clement@macd.org or 231.533.8363

Reflections...Tom Bailey

I'm pleased that the Conservancy this year is dedicating a new class of protected lands, known as Working Forest Reserves. This program emerged in part from our experience with the Sims-Moffat, Schulz, Wendy O'Neil and Offield Family nature preserves, which have all been enrolled in Michigan's Commercial Forest Program (CFP) for years. Representing the best of conservation in the spirit and tradition of Theodore Roosevelt and Aldo Leopold, professional foresters and wildlife biologists have been retained by the Conservancy to create long-term management plans to protect and enhance wildlife habitat on these lands while also providing a steady supply of wood and fiber to make use of renewable resources and contribute to the northern Michigan economy.

These properties, identified by green Working Forest Reserve signs in contrast to our brown Nature Preserve signs, will be open to public hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing and other non-motorized recreation. Unlike several of our nature

preserves which are open to hunting, written permission is not required to hunt on enrolled CFP lands. The Conservancy will make the same payments in the form of reduced property taxes to local government for these lands as would be made by any private owner.

Management of our Nature Preserves is generally more "hands off" than the management will be for our Working Forest Reserves, and Nature Preserves will continue to be the primary focus of LTC. But as land conservation in the North evolves, more and more CFP lands are becoming available to us through both donation and purchase and we are working to embrace this new class of conservation properties. We're achieving something that I have been hoping for in my 32 years here: land conservation going mainstream.

Thus, Little Traverse Conservancy is working to not only provide the best land preservation in the North, but also the best land management. Respecting our mentors Teddy Roosevelt and Aldo Leopold, wildlife habitat is a key concern. We have learned how Nature created niches for many animals through

periodic disturbances such as natural fires, windstorms and, in this area, large areas of forests broken down by the weight of millions of Passenger Pigeons—a species that was hunted to extinction and no longer impacts our forests. We have also learned in places like Yellowstone National Park that there can be too much fire suppression and that forest ecosystems can suffer cataclysmic devastation as a result. Today, forest management techniques can mimic these former natural disturbances and in the process produce a sustainable timber harvest and the young growth which some wildlife species require. The health and vitality of growing forests is also a good defense against the many exotic pests and diseases that have found their way into North America.

Public recreation is another priority for management of

Working Forest Reserves. Logging trails created for periodic harvest activities will continue to serve as recreational trails, and we will maintain some in a condition that allows access by disabled people in permitted mobility devices. At intervals of 15 years or more, these trails will be used to selectively remove trees identified as surplus, subject to disease, or to make more sunlight, moisture and nutrients available to the other trees and generate more



vigorous growth. We'll encourage good habitat for wildlife, and no-cut zones will be established around sensitive areas, raptor nests and other significant features.

I noted that the Conservancy will make the same payments to local government in taxes as any private owner would make. Correspondingly, we will also derive revenue from the sale of timber and pulp on these lands. While we will be managing to maximize sustainability and wildlife habitat and not to produce income, Conservancy members can think of our Working Forest Reserves as a sort of "green endowment fund" that will provide a stream of income to support the Conservancy's conservation and education programs. It's a winner all around: Working Forest Reserves support local government, provide jobs in the forest products industry, provide year-round public recreation, enhance conservation values and wildlife habitat in a manner that pays for itself. A pretty good deal for conservation and a good example for owners of other working lands across the North.





Summer 2016 COMMUNITY FIELD TRIPS

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

Monday, July 4 at The Hill Preserve Dusk

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, 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.

NOTE: NO FIREWORKS ALLOWED.

Invasive Species Monitoring and ID training

Thursday, July 7 5:30-6:30 pm

Roaring Brook Nature Preserve

Managing invasive species becomes prohibitively costly as an infestation grows. To minimize these costs, many land managers such as LTC are attempting to detect infestations early on. But we need more people to help us patrol for these situations. If you have an interest in plants and would like to know how to identify and map invasive plants on LTC preserves, join us on July 7th at Roaring Brook Nature Preserve where LTC's Derek Shiels will lead a class on invasive plant ID and mapping.

Native American Stories with Eric Hemenway

Saturday, July 23 10-12 am

St. Ignatius Church on Lamkin Drive, Good Hart

Aptawating "half-way place" also goes by the names of Middle Village or Good Hart. This historic location has been an important place for the Odawa for many centuries. Ancient battles took place here, as well as international councils between the Odawa and French. Aptawating is the middle of Waganakising and many Odawa families have family ties to this special place. Come and learn more about the history of this area with an historical tour by LTBB Odawa Archives and Records Director Eric Hemenway, an Anishnaabe and native of Cross Village.

Les Cheneaux Wildlife Kayak Ecotour

Friday, July 29 10am- 4pm

Hessel

Experience an Upper Peninsula guided kayak trip through some of the most biologically diverse islands in the Great Lakes region led by an LTC staff member 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 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 to register.

Hike the Hindle-Ross Trails

Saturday, July 30 1-4pm

Cross Village, Emmet County

There are many ways to conserve property, one of which is to leave it to LTC in your will, as Debbie Hindle and Ken Ross have done with their 80-acre property in 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 and go for leisurely walks. Join a guided walk at 2pm or independently explore the two miles of well-maintained walking trails on this nearly 80 acres of rolling meadows and woodland. Enjoy the beautiful and unique views of the Waugoshance Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and take time to linger at the various seating areas provided and look for wildflowers and birds.

Herpetology Surveying Techniques

Saturday, August 6 10am-noon

Braun South Nature Preserve, south of Pellston

Are you fascinated by herps? LTC's summer stewardship assistant Graham Peters is conducting his college senior project on Amphibians and Reptiles. Join him to learn about various survey methods and how to inventory for citizen science.

Legends, Labyrinths, & Lore

Sunday September 11 2-5pm

Emmet County

Join Jennifer Eis and Don Ward, authors and lecturers, for an educational walk-about at their 50-acre protected property. Site of the "Wisdom Keeper-Wisdom Seeker" summer lecture series for the past 12 years, this is 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. 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 15 10am-noon

Location TBA, Limited to 25 participants

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. Space is limited!

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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

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IT IS YOUR LEGACY

Consider a Planned Giving Legacy

One of the most meaningful ways to approach life is to consider what kind of legacy you want to leave – and then to let that be your guiding influence.

Annual giving from our members will always be important to us as our daily foundation. But by including the Little Traverse Conservancy in your estate planning, you provide the means for the Conservancy to remain strong, active, and here for the long term to preserve the lands we love in northern Michigan.

With more than 15,000 acres in our ownership, LTC's staff works hard to care for — and manage — our nature preserves while also focusing on new land conservation opportunities. By including LTC in your plan, you help:

- protect more land through acquisitions and other types of conservation;
- steward our nature preserves and conservation easement-restricted lands in perpetuity; and
- foster an appreciation and understanding of the environment through our environmental education programs and community field trips.

If the work of the Conservancy speaks to you, consider making a bequest through a Will or Trust. You can provide a specific dollar amount, a percentage of a residual amount, real estate, or tangible property to the Conservancy. A bequest to the Conservancy demonstrates a profound commitment to our mission and permanence.

There are many ways to give to the Conservancy through planned giving, with one that is just right for you. Let us know if you would like more information or if you have already included the Little Traverse Conservancy in your estate plans by contacting Ty Ratliff at 231.344.1005 or tyratliff@landtrust.org.



Oden Island Preserve/TMP Petersen