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A Very Special Place

WALDRON FEN DONATED

Originally protected with a conservation easement in 2001, the 147-acre Waldron Fen in Littlefield Township, Emmet County has been donated to the Conservancy as a nature preserve to ensure its long-term protection.

When Nancy and Jack Waldron set out to find a piece of property where they could enjoy their love of nature and birding, they didn't fully realize what an ecological treasure they had found in the 78 acres they purchased in 1992. Over time, as they began to add more acreage and invite others to explore and study their land, the special aspects of what soon became known as "Waldron Fen" became more and more apparent.

"Any time you have a water event that is surrounded by grasslands, a unique habitat is created that is especially conducive for a diversity of plant and animal species," said Vern Stephens, who has been working with Nancy to remove non-native plants and replace them with native plants to improve bird and wildlife habitat.

For decades, birding and nature groups have taken field trips to Waldron Fen. Students from the University of Michigan Biological Station regularly visit the fen to study its unique aspects and species. Nancy's good friend and birding enthusiast, Sally Stebbins, has documented 124 species of birds there. Unusual sightings have included Wilson's Phalarope, a flock of American White Pelicans and a Long-Eared Owl, the latter not documented in Michigan since the 1940s. Sandhill Cranes have nested at the fen nearly every year for the past 20 years. Black bear have been seen on the property and badger holes are frequently seen.

As a child, Nancy discovered her love of the outdoors while roaming the woods and fields of her family's home out-

side of Indianapolis: "I was always raking trails to lead to my playhouse," she said. Her grandfather also made an early impression by allowing her to explore his hobby greenhouses.

Although he died when she was 10, the impression stuck and she is an avid landscape gardener today in her mid 80s.

When asked how it feels to now have the land protected as a nature preserve, Nancy replied, "I am delighted. It has always been shared like a preserve and now we know it is in good hands and will be cared for and appreciated for the long term." When she looks around, she can see the years of loving work that she and Jack - who passed away in November, 2013 - put into the land. A native of northern Michigan, Jack was the second youngest of 10 children and from a farming family. Jack's father worked for 35 years on the mail train from Mackinaw City to Detroit. It is estimated that the couple first met when they were about six years old, when Nancy and her family would summer on Burt Lake.

"Jack used to love going there by himself and would spend time at the fen every single day, mowing the trails, trimming trees in the Third World Forest (their name for an exotic evergreen section of the preserve), or anything that involved the land." Jack would bring his binoculars and sit at the gazebo each morning and feed the birds, always



Photos by Todd Parker

continued page 7

Barney's Lake Preserve Expands Around Lake

BEAVER ISLAND - Jon and Sally Fogg of Beaver Island have again worked with the Little Traverse Conservancy and one of the group's foundation partners to protect significant land on Beaver Island. A 40-acre addition to the Barney's Lake Preserve has been created, significantly expanding the lake's protection. The addition includes 2,000 feet on Barney's Lake and 1,175 feet on Barney's Lake Road. This premiere preserve now totals 337 acres, 4,900 feet of Barney's Lake, and 1,770 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline. Roughly 2.7 miles of trails are available throughout the preserve.

"Jon and Sally have supported conservation for many years on Beaver Island, and this caps a wonderful history of land protection," said Tom Bailey, the Conservancy's executive director.

The original 120-acre Barney's Lake Preserve was donated in 1988 by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard O'Donnell. At that time, the preserve included 2,200 feet on Barney's Lake.

Most of the land around Barney's Lake was purchased in 1997 from the Marchmont-Robinson family trust by the Foggs, on a lead from Bailey. Jon and Sally built Deerwood Lodge in harmony with nature and the surroundings, selling Deerwood and 173 acres to the Scully family - who shared similar views of the land - in 2007. Upon purchasing this land, the Scullys worked with LTC to place a conservation easement on the land that will permanently protect it.

In 2012, Terry and Bev Scully donated much of the land around Deerwood to the Conservancy. The donation grew the preserve to 293 acres and added a half mile of Barney's Lake frontage along with 1,770 feet of Lake Michigan frontage. "I am confident that the Little Traverse Conservancy will be wonderful stewards of this fantastic property," Terry Scully said.

Yet the land protection story was not finished. "The remaining 40 acres was always of concern, as Barney's Lake is a prestigious setting, untouched, a rare unique place," said Jon Fogg. "We decided to work with the LTC and the J.A. Woollam

Foundation to preserve this additional piece of land for future generations. Our thoughts have always been that God owns the land and we were fortunate to have had a short-term lease."

The Foggs have a deeply personal connection to the preserve land. "I had the opportunity to camp down at the beautiful lake with our daughter and talk about her future around a little campfire as we enjoyed the moonlight," said Jon Fogg. "I was proud to be with her young presence. Little did I know that this would be the last time as she was tragically taken from us in an automobile wreck in January of 1998. With these thoughts it behooves us, along with the LTC and the J.A. Woollam Foundation, to simply dedicate this addition to the Barney's Lake Nature Preserve in memory of our daughter, Jennifer Anne Fogg."

In recent years, LTC has been expanding and improving the trails at this nature preserve, but it is not yet clear how trails might fit into the newest lakeside addition. "We will be working with our stewardship committee and our Beaver Island steering committee in coming months to make these decisions," said Kieran Fleming, the Conservancy's director of land protection and stewardship.

In the meantime, this exceptional nature preserve stands as a scenic and ecological treasure, offering solace and beauty to all who visit, as well as habitat for varied species of plants and wildlife. The state threatened Merlin (a small raptor) has been seen on the property and the federally threatened Pitcher's thistle grows on the Lake Michigan beach.

"Barney's Lake is a gorgeous lake and I am really pleased that an addition is being made to this beautiful preserve," John Woollam said.

"The formation and growth of this preserve is like so many of the properties we have protected over the years," Bailey said. "So often it begins with a small but devoted group of people who fall in love with a piece of land and - above all - want those special qualities to be preserved for others to enjoy. We can only express gratitude for the generosity of spirit that comes into play with these land gifts." ❄️

New Preserve Donated to Honor Tribe

NIIWIN ZIINGAAK PRESERVE - "FOUR CORNERS"

A 50-acre Cheboygan County parcel was recently donated by longtime northern Michigan business owner Ed Brill. Located roughly two miles north of the Chaboiganing Nature Preserve/Colonial Point complex, the property will be preserved as wildlife habitat.

At one time, Ed lived on Burt Lake and is well familiar with the history of the Burt Lake Band (BLB) on and around the lake.

On October 15, 1900, the families of the BLB were unexpectedly and violently ousted from their homes and village on Indian Point by "legalized arson." Cheboygan banker and timber speculator, John McGinn, was determined to remove the Native Americans from Indian Point and establish his own claim. To do so, he obtained tax title to their lands. Indian Point was located at the site of what is now the Colonial Point Memorial Forest.

"The new preserve is part of the land where some of the BLB settled after the burnout," Ed said. In honor of the historic event and the suffering that members of the tribe endured, Ed requested the preserve be given a Native American name.

The Conservancy consulted with Eric Hemengway of the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians. "Our Chairman's family is from the Burt Lake and relayed to me that as a kid, the area was always known as the four corners," Eric said. The name, Niiwin Ziingaaak translates to "Four Corners." (NOTE: This name will be formally approved at LTC's January Stewardship Committee meeting)



Preserve Purchased on Duncan Bay

High quality bird habitat and Great Lakes shoreline are now protected with last September's purchase of 33 acres on Duncan Bay near the city of Cheboygan.

With 750 feet along Lake Huron, the new Duncan Bay Preserve contains wetlands that are known as both ephemeral and transitional: their characteristics are always in flux along with Great Lakes water levels.

The range of habitats on this preserve provides plentiful vegetative associations that meet the requirements of wetland and upland birds. The preserve includes both submergent and emergent marsh and a variety of shade intolerant successional woodlands along with shrub and herbaceous openings.

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council did a shoreline survey of this parcel in 2013 while developing a watershed management plan for Duncan and Grass Bays. Kevin Cronk, their staff monitoring and research coordinator, stated that the property was given a perfect score for greenbelt vegetation. Shoreline greenbelts reduce erosion by stabilizing the soil and slowing runoff, filtering nutrients, sediments, and other pollution, and by providing valuable wildlife habitat.

"Not only was the new Duncan Bay Preserve a noteworthy property to protect for the community, it is also a substantial parcel for waterfowl, migratory birds, and wildlife to thrive," said Caitlin Donnelly, LTC land protection and stewardship specialist.

Anna's Concern

DOGS, TRAPS AND MICHIGAN'S LEASH LAW

by Tom Bailey, LTC Executive Director

We've heard from a Conservancy member, let's call her "Anna" for purposes of this column, who enjoys walking on the Conservancy's Offield Family Nature Preserve near Harbor Springs. When cancer struck and she was weakened and sickened by numerous rounds of chemotherapy and radiation, one of the things she missed most was her walks in the Great Outdoors.

Fortunately, Anna's treatments were effective and she has recovered—somewhat. Her bones were left weakened by the chemotherapy and radiation, and her balance isn't quite what it used to be. So, Anna has to be very careful about where she walks because a fall could result in a potentially life-threatening fracture of one of her now more fragile bones.

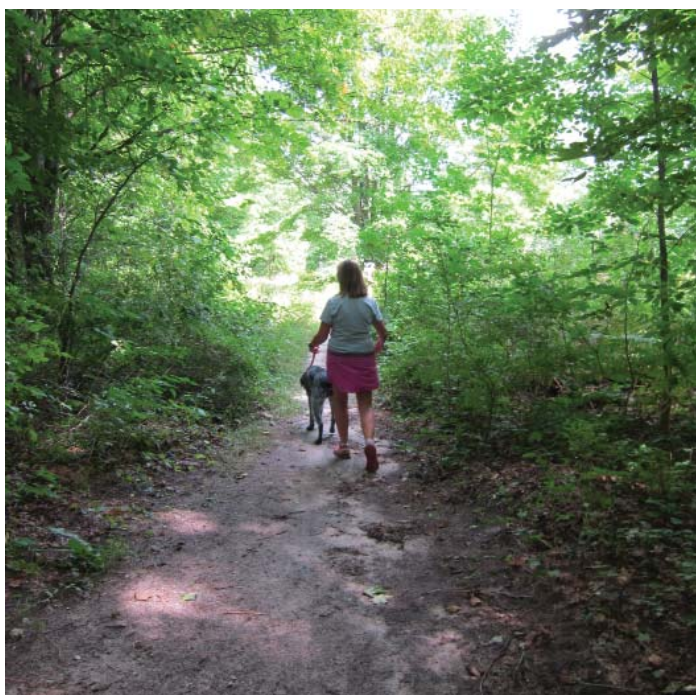
Anna returned to walking the Offield Preserve as soon as she was able, but she encountered an unexpected problem: a number of people were letting their dogs run loose on the trail, and even the friendly ones put her at great risk of falling. Many dogs

Most dog owners probably haven't thought about what an encounter with a dog could mean to someone in Anna's condition and, after all, it's easy to think that "my dog is friendly and wouldn't hurt anyone."

and encountered one another, the confrontation nearly led to a disastrous fall for her. Sadly, because of the risk, Anna doesn't walk at the Offield Preserve anymore.

Certainly no dog owners intentionally put Anna in danger, and certainly nobody means for their dogs to create a problem. But most dog owners probably haven't thought about what an encounter with a dog could mean to someone in Anna's condition and, after all, it's easy to think that "my dog is friendly and wouldn't hurt anyone."

But the fact is that in Michigan, unless a dog is on its owner's property, legally hunting or engaged in field trial activities, state law requires that the dog be restrained on a leash no



more than six feet in length. And while it may indeed be tempting on a Conservancy nature preserve to ignore this statute and let one's dog run free, it puts people like Anna at risk. It puts wildlife and ground-nesting birds at risk, and so our preserve rules include compliance with this state requirement. It also accommodates a number of people whose condition may not be as fragile as Anna's, but who simply don't care for dogs as much as some others may. Given the law in our state, all of these folks have the right to expect that dog owners will comply.

There's another important reason to pay attention to this requirement: running off-leash could be harmful to the dog itself.

The Offield preserve is one of the properties that came to the Conservancy enrolled in the state's Commercial Forest Act. The act requires that timber on the land be managed and periodically harvested, and the law also mandates that the property be open for public hunting and trapping. Thus, a dog running free on the Offield Preserve or any of our properties enrolled in the Commercial Forest Act could run into a leg-hold trap or even a body-crushing trap that has been legally set by someone with a Michigan Trapping License. Traps are baited with scents that are often attractive to dogs, and it would be a sad event if someone's beloved pet were to be injured by encountering a trap.

LTC tries to accommodate as many compatible uses on our preserves as reasonably possible, including those who want to take their dogs for a walk. In fact, this year we are going to try a new "dog loop" concept at the Offield Preserve. This will be a trail loop that is specifically for dogs (on a leash of course) and their owners to take from the parking lot on a short loop back to the main trail. The idea is that most dogs defecate rather quickly after getting out of the car. Ideally, this would happen on the "dog loop," which other preserve users could avoid. Ideally, dog owners will pick up after their pets, but at the very least we would like to confine the "doggie bathroom" to an area that other preserve visitors can easily bypass. In spring, when melting snow exposes accumulated waste, it can be quite a mess around the trail.

Summing up, while LTC wants dog owners to use the Offield and other preserves, we believe it is not too much to ask our preserve visitors to please obey the law and keep dogs leashed. It's best for the dogs, best for the preserves, and best for people like Anna who love the outdoors and have a special reason to want to enjoy the beauty of nature. ❄️

Feeling that Outdoors Vibe

Alanson teacher and administrator
 Rachelle Cook shares how LTC programs
 complement and enhance her teaching.



Despite dense mosquito clouds, Rachelle Cook's students kept smiling through their trip to the Waldron Fen in the spring of 2013.

Can you let us know your background as an educator and tell us what motivated you to bring your students to Conservancy programs?

I have been in education since fall of 2002. I started in Harbor Springs as a Title One teacher for 6 years. Then I was hired in Alanson to teach 2nd grade, which I did for 6 years. Last year, however, I taught 2nd grade for the first 2 months, then taught in our 4th grade classroom for a maternity leave, and then in January I stepped in as elementary principal for the remainder of the school year. I am currently teaching 6th grade self-contained, meaning I have them all day for all subjects. My highlight of every day is seeing my students enter with a smile on their face and making the school day the best we can make it. I first started bringing my students to LTC field trips because I was told they correlate to science and are free! So my first year teaching, I signed up for trips and have fallen in love with them. Most of my students are not aware of outdoor activities around them, and connecting it to education is even better.

How is your school incorporating the concepts of "learn local"?

Here is an example: In 2nd grade, our social studies curriculum focused on community. I stressed that all the nature preserves we visited were in our local community and I wanted students to learn about these fantastic places they could visit outside of school while being active and connecting to education! So far this year, we did the orienteering trip at the Offield Family Nature Preserve. Many students had no idea how to use a compass and didn't realize they could visit the preserve at any time. It was such a great feeling getting off the trails and walking through the woods, knowing you would get where you needed to be by using the compass!

How does an LTC program work into your regular curriculum?

I try to connect to science or social studies. No matter what, I know it is important for these kids to get outdoors and be active. This is especially true for my 6th graders since they no longer get recess during the school day. Sometimes there are follow up activities linked to writing or science.

You have the unique perspective of having served in an administrative role. Do you have suggestions for working with administrators to help make environmental education a priority in a school?

I think the more that the trips can be connected to the Common Core

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State Standards for English Language Arts and Math as well as the Next Generation Science Standards, the better. When I want to go on a field trip, I have to fill out a form that I turn in to my principal/superintendent for his approval. I have to describe how this is connecting to my teaching of the common core, next generation science standards, or state social studies standards. The more LTC can provide that information for the teachers/schools, the more it makes that connection piece easier. The other amazing thing about your trips that I love is that

it costs me nothing or very little to go on an outdoor adventure with all the supplies and guest teachers there. The kids love having someone else to listen to and present/teach.

Do you have any suggestions for other teachers who might want to take on more environmental or nature-based education, but are hesitant to try?

Again I can't reinforce enough that the more connections to the state standards the better. We have to turn in lesson plans and trimester maps of how everything we are teaching is related to these standards. Also I think many teachers may not realize how much Conservancy staff actually run the program. I took a team teacher with me once on a fall field trip and she

remarked on how much the LTC educators do during the trip and how the general classroom teacher can enjoy the trip with the students! It gives us an opportunity to bond and connect with the kids in new and healthy ways.

Can you share any stories with us about student responses or reactions to a nature outing?

The kids always love every trip, even if things have to be adjusted due to the weather. I have had students tell me that they have never seen snowshoes or ever tried them on. They love snowshoeing while learning about animals! This year with the compasses, most of my students had no idea how to use them properly. It is such an important tool to have and know how to use. Many of our students are not exposed to these extra activities and this is why I continue to do these field trips. A bonus is that they become team building sessions and bring us closer together as a class. My students are always asking when our next trip with the Conservancy will be and what we will be doing. Most recently, it was raining for our fall orienteering trip. When we arrived, the LTC staff asked if we wanted to call it off. My kids begged and said they wanted to stay and do it



WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW AT THE MEADOWGATE PRESERVE?

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT CONTINUES

Though only 11 acres in size, the Meadowgate Nature Preserve is one of LTC's most familiar and visible nature preserves around Little Traverse Bay. Located on M-119 along the Gateway to Harbor Springs, this preserve has been a natural showcase since it was donated in 1978.

Because of its scenic values, the management plan calls for keeping the meadow open. This requires controlling the growth of shrubs and trees that would naturally succeed the grasses over the years. In the case of Meadowgate, the plants that have taken hold on the preserve are non-native species that spread rapidly and aggressively.

In 2009, the Conservancy began implementing a meadow restoration plan with help from a grant received from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Work in the early years included brush hogging, tree and shrub removal, and invasive control by disking and herbiciding. In 2013, native meadow grasses were planted (*see photo of little bluestem to right*), but a variety of circumstances caused this planting to fail and a re-planting occurred this past summer. By August the success of this planting was evident and we expect the meadow grasses to be showing

their true potential by August of next year.

On November 13, Conservancy staff took down a small grove of invasive white poplar trees that were growing in the middle of the preserve. Popple trees can be particularly challenging to eradicate because of the nature of their root system. A topical herbicide will be applied to the stumps of these trees in the hopes that this will permanently control their regrowth.

Restoring native ecosystems requires some patience; the benefits are not always immediate. The meadow restoration project will continue for several years and ongoing maintenance will be needed. Once the aggressive exotic plants are under control we can

plant native grassland wildflowers, such as milkweeds, coreopsis species, and cone-flowers. These spectacles, with the autumn glow of little bluestem, will be a treat for any M-119 traveler. In the end, not only will the scenic values of the preserve be upheld, but we will also have cared for the wild creatures that depend on a diverse array of native plants at the bottom of the food chain. Any interested volunteers who would like to assist with this project as it progresses are encouraged to contact the Conservancy at 231.347.0991. ❄️



little bluestem

A.A. Reznicek

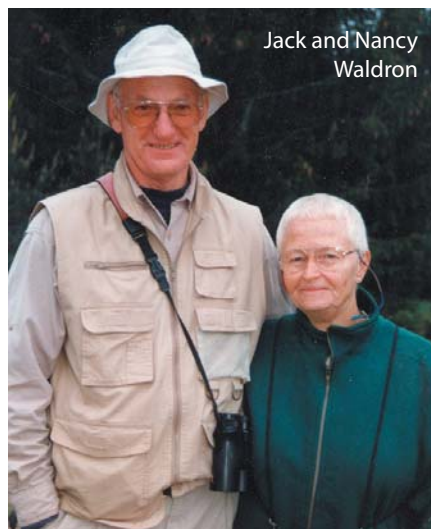


WALDRON FEN

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watching for what special species might appear. “The little Red-Breasted Nuthatches would land on him in great anticipation of being fed,” Nancy said. For several summers, Jack and Nancy would move their camper to the land and spend weeks at a time there. They brought in electricity and built a picnic table pavilion near a small pond, creating an idyllic and private camping spot.

Before Jack passed, the couple began working with Stephens after attending one of his native plants workshops. The Waldrons wanted to do something about the abundance of exotic species growing on the land. Plants such as spotted knapweed and autumn olive are becoming increasingly intrusive in northern Michigan and are greatly compromising the habitat quality of much of our land. Because of Jack and Nancy’s love of birds, a special emphasis has been placed on improving the habitat for neotropical migratory songbirds.



Jack and Nancy
Waldron

(See sidebar to the right for more on this land restoration effort.)

“We are still completing the management plan for the fen, but we encourage nature lovers to enjoy the existing trails and beauty of this exceptional place,” said Kieran Fleming, LTC’s director of land protection and stewardship. ❄️

Restoring a Prairie: How Does it Work?

A retired Grasslands Specialist with the Department of Natural Resources, Vern Stephens has made a second career with his habitat restoration business, Designs by Nature.

“Waldron Fen is such a unique, rare habitat with a lot of surface water, agriculture on one side, and endangered species,” Stephens said. He describes the restoration as a three-phase project.

In Phase One, exotic species such as autumn olive and spotted knapweed were removed from the southwest corner and native grasses such as little bluestem were planted. With grasses now established, flowers will be planted. “We target flowers that go with the specific grasses we plant, so short-grass forbs will complement the shortgrass prairie habitat,” Stephens explained. Examples of these flowers include blazing stars (good butterfly plants), butterfly weed (milkweed species) thimbleweed (anemone) and coreopsis and cone-flowers. “We will wrap it up with asters and goldenrods and there will be blooms - and a nectar source - every season,” Stephens said.

Phase Two will be a tallgrass prairie on the north end of the preserve, and much of this was planted in Spring 2014. Flowers will be introduced in Fall 2015. And finally, preparations are beginning for Phase Three, which will include a controlled burn to prepare the soil for a shortgrass prairie on the south end of the preserve.

“Vern is at the forefront of ecological restoration and has a wealth of valuable experience in prairie restoration,” said LTC Easement Specialist Derek Shiels. “This will be a special place for people from all over the state to not only see an exemplary wetland to grassland complex, but to also witness the value of dedicated, active management.”

Funding was secured from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for much of the restoration work at Waldron Fen. Stephens says that funding is competitive and only a few such sites in Michigan have qualified for this special support.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Arfstrom Pharmacies

profile by Cedarville manager, Michelle Sheckler



Can you tell us a little bit about the business. Arfstrom Pharmacies was incorporated in 1987 after Robert Arfstrom had already spent 15 years in independent pharmacy. His first purchase was an independent pharmacy with a long standing history. Arfstrom Pharmacies, Inc. has expanded into three independent pharmacies in Sault Ste. Marie and Cedarville as well as delivery locations to three additional communities including Kincheloe, Pickford and Drummond Island. Ownership has changed but our focus remains to provide excellent healthcare service to all residents in the eastern Upper Peninsula.

How about a little bit about your history in the area and how long you've lived here? I moved to Cedarville in 1988 with my family to manage the newest Arfstrom Pharmacy location in Cedarville. Moving to a rural area from Traverse City, it was essential to me to get involved in the community. I have two daughters who became very active in sports and extra curricular activities which helped to get to know the wonderful people in the area. I currently instruct spin classes and am active in the running world, which gets me outside to enjoy what nature has to offer.

Why is the Conservancy work important to you? The Conservancy's presence in the Les Cheneaux area ensures that we will never be without the beauty and serenity to which we have become accustomed. This in turn brings people to our area, which is important to commerce.

Do you have a favorite nature preserve or trail that you enjoy? They are all unique and offer their own awareness of the beauty in the Les Cheneaux area. Marquette Island must be among the most beautiful of all preserves in the state.

What do you see as conservation priorities for the eastern Upper Peninsula? I believe the land here is so special that proper promotion is key. Certainly we want to show off what we have, while at the same time keeping it natural. I appreciate living in an area where there is a nice mix of commerce, housing, outdoor activities such as boating, snowmobiling, skiing, running, biking, and untouched land. The presence of the Conservancy is important and appreciated.

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Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Wright
Joel and Dorothy Wurster
Yoga Roots
Dr. Anna and John Young
Dr. and Mrs. Louis R. Zako
Dr. Beverly Zelt

We make every effort to include all of our business and professional members in this roster. If we have inadvertently omitted your name, or your business' name, please let us know and we will correct our oversight.

VOLUNTEER BUSINESS PROFILE: Yazaki's Circuit Controls Corporation



Since 2008, employees at Yazaki's Circuit Controls Corporation (CCC) have volunteered with LTC on the United Way Day of Caring in September on a number of neighborhood nature preserve improvements.

Located on M-119, CCC is a manufacturer of automotive electrical terminals and has donated more than 300 hours of volunteer service to the Conservancy in their six years of volunteering with LTC. Employees are motivated volunteers who come as a team, ready to make their neighborhood preserves more enjoyable for public use. They have shown us that they are willing to put in the hard work of cleaning up an historic trash dump at The Hill Preserve, improving the confusing trail system at the Raven Ridge Preserve, building a new trail loop at the Highland and Helstrom Preserve complex, cleaning a dump at the Offield Family Nature Preserve, removing invasive species at the Winston Preserve, and improving a community trail at the Watson Preserve on M-119.

Jack George, Environmental, Health and Safety Manager, has been the CCC liaison for these Day of Caring projects. By volunteering, the staff are fulfilling company objectives for helping with community-based environmental projects, and he reflects that "most of our staff are motivated to volunteer because they care about local environmental quality and want to help improve the areas in which they live. Being able to get outside is also a nice break from our day to day jobs and lets us interact with others in the community. Plus, it just feels good to help somebody else. We take pride in our work."

Stories of the Land...A GATHERING TO CONNECT

sponsored by Little Traverse Conservancy and Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy



Elvyn Lea Lodge

Thursday, February 5 5:30-8:30pm

The long winter evenings are the perfect opportunity for us to gather and share our stories. Join us for a potluck dinner at the newly-restored Elvyn Lea Lodge just outside of Walloon Village. After dinner, we will gather in the common room of the lodge and take turns sharing our own "stories."

This is a very informal gathering intended to only remind and reinspire ourselves of why we live mindfully in an effort to appreciate and care for our natural world. The event is open to the public and we will be inviting landowners who have completed land protection projects with both of our organizations to join us as well.

No charge, but please bring a dish to pass! For more information, call Anne at 231.347.0991 or Heather at 231.347.0100.

Memorial Gifts

The following gifts were
given between August 20 and
November 14, 2014.

Elmer Adams

Ms. Sharon Robbins

Larry Buhl

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Hightower
Mr. and Mrs. George E. Melzow
Todd and Valerie Terry

Bernard Costello

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The Lindsay and Schulte Families

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Central Elementary School Faculty and Staff
Ms. Rebecca Littmann
Ms. Morris' 2nd Grade Class at Central
Elementary
Don and Michelle Ressa

Dorothy Seelbach

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Mr. and Mrs. S. Paul Jones, III
Ms. Leslie H. Newman
Ms. Penelope Randolph

Patricia Sheppard

Nancy Sheppard and Peter Poullada

Helen Walters

Walter and Katherine Sweitzer

memorial gifts



Marta Olson

WELCOME TO THE WORLD EVERETT & WYATT!



Congratulations to LTC's
Volunteer Coordinator
Cacia Lesh and her husband,
David, for their recently-
expanded family.

Everett McClain and Wyatt
David Lesh were born on
June 18, 2014. Everett was
5lbs. 4oz. and Wyatt was 6lbs.
8oz. The boys are now
thriving and keeping
parents - and anyone else
around them - busy and
smiling.

Eagle Eye Naturalists Program Series



LTC volunteer Mary Trout is passionate about sharing her love of birds and is offering this monthly series for ages 6-12. Field guides and binoculars provided, but please bring your own if you have them. Programs will be at the LTC office and Round Lake Nature Preserve unless otherwise noted. Program time is 4-5:30 pm. Dates are below with the makeup date in parentheses. This program offers kids an opportunity to discover the intriguing lives of birds, their role in the environment, and connection to the natural world. Through a combination of presentations, stories, nature hikes, fun activities, technology and crafts, kids will explore northern Michigan bird life and more with bird enthusiast Mary Trout.

Tuesday, January 13 (Jan. 20)
Saturday, February 14 (Feb. 17)
Tuesday, March 10 (March 17)



New Members

The Conservancy would like to thank the following new Friends or Benefactors or members who have increased their level of giving within the Friends or Benefactors level from August 20 to November 14, 2014.

Friends and Benefactors

Business Members

Taylor Rental Center
Zoo-De-Mackinac, Inc.
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Edward and Jane Terrill
Ms. Grace Wakulchik

Wish List

- Money for trail cameras
- Snowmobile for hauling ski groomer
- Space heater for garage
- Funding for videography technology and software

photographer spotlight TODD PARKER



Todd Parker is shown working with Nancy Waldron at a photo shoot of her and the beautiful fen she recently donated (see cover story).

In 2002, Todd Parker walked into the Conservancy and expressed his interest in helping our land protection efforts through his photographic work at a very nominal cost. Since then, he has donated hundreds of hours of field photography and editing work to help the Conservancy publicize, promote, and fundraise for land protection projects.

Many of Todd's photos have been the cover shots of our newsletters, and several of his images are framed and displayed on the walls of our office.

With a life split between Colorado, Ireland, and Michigan, Todd has used his extensive travels to cultivate and capture an artist's aesthetic. He has a keen sensitivity to the inherent beauty of a place and his deep love of northern Michigan has continued to pull him back over the years.

We thank Todd for his generous sharing of his gifts and passion for the wild lands of our world.

For more of Todd's work, visit www.toddparker.com.

"Much of my work has been fueled by a sense of reverence for the natural world and commitment to its conservation. I resonate toward images that depict a peaceful coexistence between humans and nature, those utopian values of sustainability and authenticity. Photography has a strong role in conservation work by highlighting what stands to be lost." - Todd Parker



McLean & Eakin Booksellers include LTC in their 10% for Schools program. If you mention LTC's name when you purchase books, they will donate 10% of your purchase to LTC in the form of a store gift card. A neat way of giving directly in and through local businesses. We are grateful for a recent gift certificate that allowed us to purchase environmental education materials.





- **Grain Train in Petoskey** for donating fresh fruit and muffins to fuel our volunteers for Day of Caring event.
- **Circuit Controls Corporation** staff for volunteering their time for Day of Caring to build a new trail and install fencing around the parking lot at the Watson preserve, and to **Gary Barfknecht**, the preserve monitor.
- **Becky Scholl-Stauffer** from Petoskey High School and her class of 21 students for volunteering their time for Day of Caring to build a new trail at the McCune Preserve.
- **Miles Trumble** for volunteering his time and tractor power for the demolition of the gazebo structure at the Michigan Wildlife Foundation Preserve along I-75.
- **Lilly Connott** for volunteering her time to monitor preserves and do trail maintenance.
- **Sarah Wolf** for volunteering her time to help with trail maintenance.
- **Walstrom Marine** for their generous donation of floating dock sections for our partnership with Clark Township in Mackinac County to provide better access to the Aldo Leopold Nature Preserve and a planned township park.
- **Todd Parker, Todd Petersen, Gary Osterbeck, Jana Chessman, and Mary Jane Ulrich** for donated photography this past fall.
- **Hessel Grocery** for its donation of refreshments for a preserve dedication in Cedarville.
- **Dermot Fleming** for use of his tractor and trailer for stewardship work.
- **Nancy Zebco** for donating environmental education books.
- Fall Mailing Volunteers **Lorraine Lucy, John Maximiuk, and Bev Warner** and mailing volunteers from RSVP **Sally Bales, Marlene Bartson, Barb Bechhold, Gretchen Brown, Amanda Guthrie, Pat Kovach, Doris Lark, Sharon Ledingham, Doris Robinson, Nancy Staley, Betty Trippe, Lurli Vaughan, Delores Wehrenberg**, and the **Friendship Center of Emmet County** for helping to coordinate the RSVP volunteers.
- **Mary Trout** for co-leading the Family Birding field trip.
- Lowes Heroes volunteers **Dawn Campbell, Adam Perenchio, Jericho Simon and Lynn Timmer** for building boardwalk at McCune Nature Preserve.
- Volunteer preserve trail mowing: **Al Haske** at The Hill Preserve, **Chris Oliver** at Rogers Family Homestead Preserve, **Bill Olstrom** at the Charles M. Taylor III and Olstrom Family Preserves, **Jim Scollin** at Reed's Pigeon River Preserve, **Steve Miller** at Pickering Hay Point Preserves, **Bill Kohls** at Barney's Lake Preserve and Little Sand Bay Preserve, and **Scott Smith and Family** at Hailand and Helstrom Preserves.
- **Jim and Wendy Bean** for coordinating the kestrel volunteers and all the kestrel volunteers for a second successful season of nest box monitoring.
- **Wendy Bean** for donating a gardening and wildlife activity kit.
- **Sue Klco** for donating wildlife posters.

And we extend sincere apologies to Beaver Island photographer Frank Solle for mislabeling a photo of his that was used in our membership card.

Welcome new trustee NANCY LINDSAY



We are pleased to welcome our newest trustee, Nancy Lindsay. Nancy has a long history of chamber leadership including past stints with the Mackinaw Area Chamber of Commerce and the Cheboygan Area chamber of Commerce. Currently, she works in marketing as an Assistant Vice President for Citizens National Bank.

Raised in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Nancy attended college at Northern Michigan University and University of Wisconsin. From 1982-1990, she worked overseas as a civilian for the U.S. Army, but she has called Cheboygan home since 1992.

"Having lived in cities most of my life until moving to northern Michigan in 1992, I did not learn to embrace my natural surroundings until later in life," Nancy said. "Now as an avid cross country skier and trail runner, I embrace our natural splendor from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan and love exploring every nook and cranny in between."

She added, "What I have learned and what has impressed me the most about the Little Traverse Conservancy is how far reaching its work is, and the passion that powers this organization. The educational programs are certainly teaching children the value and importance of land stewardship at an early age.

Nancy noted that two of her favorite lands protected with LTC assistance are The Headlands and Sturgeon Bay.

Nancy is married to Stephen E. Lindsay and the couple has one daughter, Annie, a senior at Michigan State University.

Reflections - Winter 2014

...Tom Bailey

The glorious colors of autumn, though they lingered long, have gone. Winter snows arrived early this year and blustery winds blow hard across the North. Large waves with frothing whitecaps surge shoreward on the slate-grey waters of Lake Michigan, driven by gale-force winds. Storm-tossed treetops gyrate wildly in the wind and people snuggle deeply into their wool, down, or high-tech fleece as the days grow shorter, the air grows colder, and the land goes to sleep for another season.

In some ways, it is a season of cold and foreboding. Words like “brutal” and “harsh” abound in references to the weather, and there seems to be among people a general sense of battling against the elements. But there’s another side to the season. It’s only thanks to the cold that we can truly appreciate the warmth of a cheery fire, the pleasure of telling stories as the wind howls outside, and the comfort of huddling close with the ones we love. Stars in the night sky shine brighter in the cold, crisp air of winter and although in this early part of the season the clouds abound, we know that the clear skies of deep winter will soon be here with twinkling stars, streaking meteors, and dazzling displays of the Northern Lights.

It’s the time of year recognized by Native people as Story Time, when The People gather in their lodges around a fire and pass lessons, legends and lore from generation to generation. In a modern twist on that tradition, many of us spend more time in bookstores as winter comes on and more time through the winter curled up near the fire with book in hand, having our own Story Time. Nowadays, many of those books are modern e-books, and while I have mixed feelings about all this technology, I hold out hope that for those e-readers, the steady glow of the screen touches something deep within that recognizes light in the dark night of winter as our connection to generations who have gone before and warmed themselves by fires, or read by the light of candles and oil lamps.

And now, we have the whole new dimension of winter sports. It’s no mere hap-
penstance, I think, that we’ve come up with challenging activities for winter time. As our ancestors adapted to the challenges of winter and the need to hunt, gather wood, and do all that was necessary to survive, something within us responds to the challenges of winter weather. So we snowshoe, we ski; we hunt and go ice fishing. We maintain our bird feeders and we split wood for the fire which, though made obsolete by modern furnaces, provides us with comfort and the direct experience of being warmed by dancing flames and glowing coals instead of the indirect heat of forced air or radiators.

It is the quietest time of the year. Sometimes I love to simply go outside in winter and listen. The snow absorbs sound, there are no leaves to rustle and the quiet can at times be profound. Even along the lakeshore, where even on calm days there is often the sound of rippling waves, the ice-covered water is deeply and movingly silent. I love to experience the silence of a calm winter day, the silence of sunset, and the deep silence of a winter’s night under a starry sky.

And it is precisely this silence that makes winter sounds stand out. Taking in the deep quiet of the snowy woods—standing still so there’s no crunch from my snowshoes—I love to simply listen. The approach of a small group of chickadees can be heard from far away with no other sound to interfere. Their cheery twitters and calls come closer, and when they pass by seem almost loud. And as they make their way along, as the sound retreats, the quiet and peace is even more profound.

The gurgling and babbling of a flowing stream stands out more against a backdrop of winter silence. And when the wind does come up, one can hear it coming from far away. It has many different sounds depending on where one is on the land: the wind announces itself differently in open country, in a bare-branch hardwood forest, or in a deep stand of hemlock or pine, cedar or fir.

Winter’s beauty has come early to the North this year and I am happy to greet it gladly, to welcome it wholeheartedly, and to embrace it as lovingly as I savored the bittersweet radiance of fall and will surely welcome the life and growth of spring.



Winter 2015

COMMUNITY FIELD TRIPS

Most LTC trips are offered at no charge. However, space is limited and pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991 or registering online or through the free LTC app. All outings require your own ski or snowshoe equipment, but if you would like to borrow equipment, please let us know.

Eagle Eye Naturalists Birding Winter Sessions

Next Session: January 13 (see page 11 for upcoming dates)

Fat Bike the North Bike Series

Saturday, January 24 - Beginner class at noon

The Hill Preserve, Boyne City

Visit www.bikereg.com/fat-bike-the-north for details.

Knee High Naturalist "Winter Wonders"

Saturday, January 24 10-11am

Round Lake Nature Preserve, Emmet County

For ages 3 – 5. Siblings welcome. Registration preferred.

We'll start with a story about a winter walk and many of the beautiful things to be found in nature during this coldest of seasons. Then we'll take a snow hike of our own to explore the winter wonders at the Round Lake Nature Preserve. Snow permitting, we'll make some miniature snowpeople and finish with a fun craft to take home.

Wildlife Adventure

Saturday January 31 10am - noon

Greenwood Wildlife Sanctuary, Cheboygan County

The Greenwood Foundation is a privately-owned property near Wolverine, MI protected with a conservation easement held by LTC. Greenwood welcomes the public to enjoy and explore this more than 1,700-acre property. Groomed trails will offer you the chance to enjoy the great outdoors. Skis and snowshoes are only provided for children 15 and under if needed. Because this is private property, no dogs are allowed. Please arrive 15 minutes early.

Winter Celebration & Star Stories

Saturday January 31 4-6pm

Andreae Preserve, Cheboygan County

Explore this beautiful preserve on the Pigeon River with naturalist Mike Supernault at 4pm, or snowshoe/XC ski on your own through the 5+ miles of trails on the Andreae and adjacent Banwell Preserve. At 5pm head into the cabin to hear stories of the winter constellations with star lore historian and Headlands International Dark Sky Park director, Mary Stewart Adams. Please park at the Andreae Preserve parking area and bring a headlamp or flashlight to light your way back to your car.

Stories from the Land

Thursday, February 5

Elvyn Lea Lodge, Walloon Lake, Charlevoix County

(see description page 10)

5:30-8:30 pm

Nordic Ski Adventure

Saturday February 7

Goodhart Farms Preserve, Emmet County

10am-noon

If you have never been to Goodhart Farms Preserve in the winter to explore the 600 acres and 5+ miles of XC ski trails, now is the time! Join LTC land protection specialist Caitlin Donnelly on a winter cross-country ski adventure.

Winter Forest Snowshoe Exploration

Saturday February 7

Raven Ridge/Raven Hill Discovery Center, Charlevoix County

Neil Wilson, pastor at First Congregational Church in Charlevoix, leads a challenging snowshoe hike through this hilly 140-acre preserve in East Jordan. Neil will share his knowledge of the sights and sounds in a winter forest from his history in timber management on the hike. You are invited to warm up with hot cocoa at the Discovery Center and explore their exhibit after the field trip. Admission is \$10 for the Discovery Center.

10am - noon

Snowshoe Adventure

Saturday, February 28

Round Island Point Preserve, Chippewa County

Enjoy the silence of an Upper Peninsula winter with LTC staff member Derek Shiels. We will look for birds, tracks, and maybe try out some woody shrub and tree identification as we snowshoe on the 1½ miles of trails at the 1,024-acre Round Island Point Nature Preserve. Bring your snowshoes if you have them, or borrow one of our set.

10am-noon

Full Moon Ski & Snowshoe

Thursday, March 5

Driggers Nature Preserve, Charlevoix County

5-8pm

Join Conservancy staff for an evening of moonlight, snow and adventure. The 1.5 miles of trails at this wonderful 75-acre preserve offer wooded pathways and open meadow star gazing. Ski or snowshoe the trails on your own or with a LTC guide to the top of the hill for a moonlit view of Lake Charlevoix.

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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

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GIFTING THE COMFORT OF PLACE

By joining LTC or giving a gift membership, you are helping us...



More reasons for tree savin' gift memberships this year:

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