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Consuelo Diane and Charles L. Wilson Jr. Working Forest Reserve

A large and familiar landscape for those who know the Harbor Springs region was purchased for protection this past fall. At 248 acres, the Consuelo Diane and Charles L. Wilson Jr. Working Forest Reserve is one of the largest protected lands near the city. Located 3.5 miles north of Harbor Springs along Middle and Hughston roads, this new reserve typifies the beautiful rolling mixture of woods, hills, and fields of this part of northern Michigan.

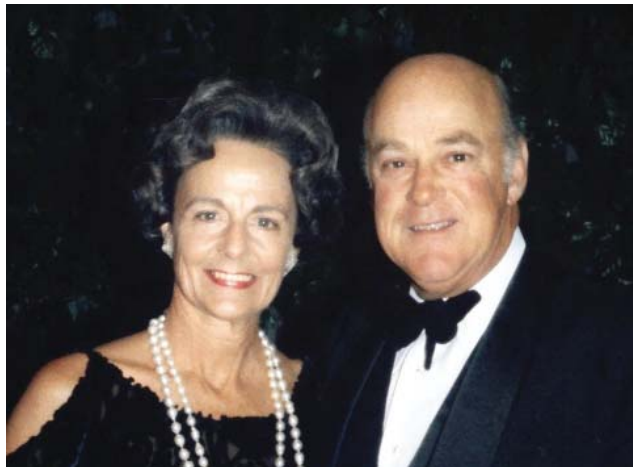
Land has played a central role in the Wilson family for several generations. Their early 19th century westward migration from Massachusetts through New York and then finally to Michigan was largely driven by their need to support a growing family by farming higher quality soils. Several generations of Wilsons were subsequently raised on a fertile homestead in Livonia, Michigan.

As Detroiters have done for many years, the Wilson family has enjoyed visiting northern Michigan to experience its natural beauty, pleasant climate, and leisure activities. In the 1970s, Diane (Wenger) and Chuck Wilson finally committed to buying a home in Harbor Springs, which ever since has been the annual gathering place for the Wilsons and their extended family. Diane and Chuck encouraged their children to explore the natural world and to embrace their curiosity. And so they did, collecting monarch caterpillars to witness their metamorphosis, searching endless trails for elusive morels and other

forest treasures, scanning the late night sky for shooting stars and constellations and on and on. One of Diane's favorite expressions remains "Carpe Diem," (Latin for "Seize the Day") which for her meant it was time to engage in activities outdoors.

"Part of what makes northern Michigan so alluring and why we were interested in this conservation effort was to protect the stunningly beautiful landscapes spread throughout the area, for ourselves and future generations," said Charles Wilson III on behalf of himself and his sisters, Caprice Baun and Consie Pierrepont. "At the same time we were approached by the Conservancy, we were informed that the existing owners hoped this land would forever remain intact, which served as an added inducement. We were delighted to play a role in helping the Conservancy acquire this magnificent acreage."

As the crow flies, the new Wilson Reserve is less than three miles from Lake Michigan. More than half of it is wooded, with the remainder in open fields that transition to the sloped, wooded ridgeline. Old logging trails meander throughout the woods, and a small pond is found in the northeast section. "A block of land of this size located amidst developed lands plays a significant role in habitat and watershed protection," Ratliff said. "The natural lands offer wildlife habitat and ecosystem services that benefit the quality of all the natural resources nearby, and thereby improving the quality of



Diane and Charles Wilson Jr.

The C. Beach Day and Family Nature Preserve

HONORING ONE WHO EMBRACED ALL THINGS OUTDOORS

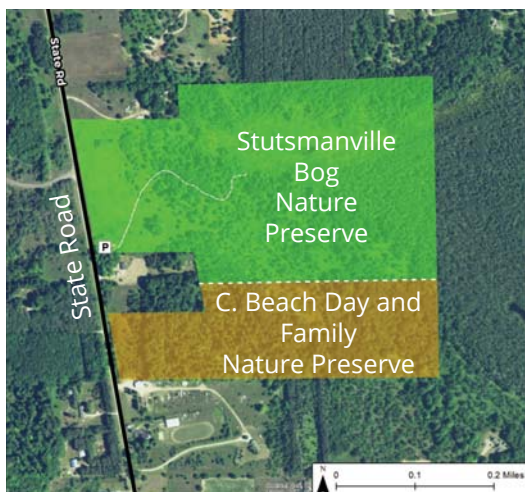


Beach Day (right) and his son Guy (center), son-in-law Nick and grandson Alex skiing in Colorado.

A 34-acre parcel of land directly adjacent to the Stutsmanville Bog Nature Preserve has been protected as the C. Beach Day & Family Nature Preserve. The land expands the original 65-acre preserve — established in 1999 — by roughly 50%. Donations for the purchase of the addition came with a lead gift from the Day family, as well as additional gifts from friends and family.

“After recently re-visiting the childhood home of my dad, the need to honor his life with something as special as he was became very apparent,” said daughter Sarah Day Knowlton. “This will allow us to celebrate him in a natural environment for generations to come.”

The family is pleased to be able to establish this preserve in Beach’s memory, seeing a preserve as the perfect tribute for a man who embraced all things outdoors, including fishing, boating, hunting, golf, and his true passion: downhill skiing.



Beach and Trudy Day lived downstate until 12 years ago, after Beach retired, when they moved to Harbor Springs full time. Harbor Springs is near and dear to the hearts of all of the family, and was one of Beach’s most favorite places. Beach passed away in April 2017.

Beach’s family — wife Trudy; children Guy and Mary Day of Cleveland, Lee and Patrick Shirley of Traverse City, Sarah and Nick Knowlton of Denver; and grandchildren Alex and Will Day, Marin and Emma Shirley, and Lauren, Elizabeth, and Nash Knowlton — thanks everyone who made a contribution to the Conservancy to support the project. “In addition to being an avid outdoorsman, Beach was a family man, and self-proclaimed social ambassador,” Sarah added. “We look forward to many visits throughout the seasons as we continue to celebrate the man, the myth, and legend of our Husband, Dad, and Grandad, Beach Day.”

Formed by a glacial kettle depression, a bog is a unique ecosystem in that its waters are isolated, with no springs or rivers or creeks feeding into it. Only precipitation adds moisture to a bog. This creates an acidic environment that is conducive to unique and rare plants, such as the carnivorous sundew and Pitcher thistle. Stutsmanville Bog has been studied by researchers at the University of Michigan Biological Station because of its ecological significance. Bear, deer, Marsh Hawk, and nesting Sandhill Cranes are just a few of the species that have been observed there.

“It was evident that Beach touched not only the hearts of his family, but also the community of Harbor Springs,” said LTC Land Protection Specialist Caitlin Donnelly. “I hope that this preserve gives those who loved him a place to go and think back on their happy memories with him.”



FROM EASEMENT TO PRESERVE

Elizabeth B. Hoffmann Nature Preserve

138 ACRES AND OVER A QUARTER MILE ALONG US-31

Protecting nature has always been a high priority for Betty Hoffmann, who grew up — as her father would say — east of Northport and north of Eastport in the Antrim City community. An educator by profession for more than 40 years, her love of and respect for the natural world is just part of who she is as she has studied and cared for the birds and plants that shared the land around her. Hedgerows along US-31 still grow today from when Betty and her husband Walter planted them as part of the Highway Beautification Act that was passed in 1965 under Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson.

Over the years, Betty has helped complete roughly a dozen land protection projects through the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, the former Charlevoix County Land Conservancy, and LTC. But you typically would not have heard her name mentioned with those projects unless you worked at those organizations because she is a person of deep modesty and would always tell staff, “It’s not about me. It’s about the land.”

However, when LTC staff worked with Betty over the last year and a half to protect another significant property, she finally agreed to having a project named after her.

Located along US-31 a few miles south of Charlevoix, the new preserve had previously been protected with a conservation easement that was largely made possible with Betty’s help. When the landowner needed to sell the land, Betty again stepped in and provided funding so the land could be purchased



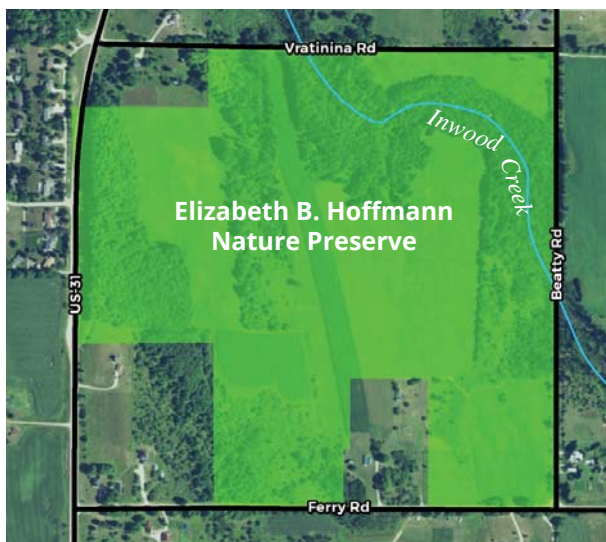
The Elizabeth B. Hoffmann Nature Preserve is a rich mix of open fields and wetlands. Inwood Creek (right) flows through a portion of the land.



by the Conservancy. “This was a complicated and often frustrating land project to complete,” said LTC’s Director of Donor Relations Ty Ratliff, who has worked closely with Betty over the years. “Yet as she has always done, Betty hung in there and kept the bigger picture in mind to ensure that this land would be permanently protected, and now open to the public as a nature preserve.”

Set amidst the scenic agricultural woods and fields of Norwood Township in the historic Inwood community, the new preserve includes views of Lake Michigan. There is a large glacial erratic on the preserve, a remnant from the era that left the rolling hills and fields that characterize this region. “The preserve holds tremendous conservation value, offering a variety of habitats for birds and wildlife that include mixed hardwood forest, rolling meadows, lowland conifers, and active agricultural fields,” Ratliff said. The property also contains sensitive riparian wetlands along 2,500 feet of Inwood Creek, a tributary to Lake Michigan. Art galleries and farm stands abound — it is a region rich in resources and rich in human spirit.

So it is with great pleasure that we announce the formation of this new preserve, named in honor of one who has quietly and consistently worked for a cause much bigger than herself.



Birge Preserve Grows to the East

A 40-acre addition to the Birge/Mertaugh/Nye Nature Preserve Complex was recently purchased, adding 2,000 feet of frontage along Steele Creek and a quarter mile of M-134 frontage to this Mackinac County Preserve. Located just a few miles west of Hessel, the Birge Preserve now totals more than 812 acres with 2.7 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. Funding for the addition was provided by Don and Karen Stearns, who have generously helped LTC protect other lands in the Les Cheneaux region as well. “Don and I are just happy to help preserve land in the Upper Peninsula and to support the work done by Little T.,” Karen said.

Wilson continued from cover

life, in a number of different ways, for all who live near there.”

The Conservancy is working on the management plan for the reserve, and trails and a parking area are planned to be ready by early next summer. Permitted activities will include hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hunting. Field trips — including educational outings describing the forest management of the reserve — are anticipated to be held in the near future.

“The fundraising for this land preservation effort was inspiring and engaging,” said Ty Ratliff, LTC’s Director of Donor Relations. “It started with a lead pledge from the Henry E. and Consuelo S. Wenger Foundation and was coupled with a timely challenge grant from the Carls Foundation. Then the Birchwood Farms community stepped up and helped us finish the fundraising for this Harbor Springs community conservation effort.” (A full list of project donors will appear in the 2017 annual report.)

“We are grateful to the donors who made this project possible and to the thousands of members who will continue to care for this land through their annual gifts,” Ratliff added.

In addition, both LTC and the Wilson family would like to acknowledge the sellers, Tom and Cece Bolz, who purchased the land more than 25 years ago and chose to have it protected all of these years. “We are delighted about having the land preserved forever, and cannot be happier with the way everything went,” Cece said. “I am especially happy that the animals will have this preserve forever.” ❄️



What is a working forest reserve? A relatively new category of protected lands, LTC’s working forest reserves are protected lands that may be enrolled in the Commercial Forest Act Program (CFA). CFA designation means the land has and/or will always be actively managed for timber production. CFA designation also requires that the land be open to the public for hunting. Currently, LTC owns 21 working forest reserves encompassing 2,863 acres throughout the LTC service area.

BEAVER ISLAND

The New Sarah A. Martin Nature Preserve

A 106-acre parcel on Beaver Island was recently donated in honor of a woman who was born on Beaver Island and who helped ensure the land stayed protected, and in the family, for many years. This preserve is a tribute to a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother who recognized the value of owning property and despite many life hardships she made sure the taxes stayed paid throughout her life. The ability to own land in America was important to her Irish immigrant ancestors, and she also did not take this for granted.



Sarah Agatha Gallagher was born on Beaver Island in 1903, the second youngest of eight children. After eight years of schooling on the island, she finished high school in Chicago, living with a sister. In the summer of 1923, Sarah visited Beaver Island for a vacation and met Wilbur

Martin, an island fisherman of the well-known Martin Brothers Fishery. They married in November 1926. When her husband became ill, she still had young children at home and had to return to work to support them. She eventually settled in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area owning her own home in Kentwood, Michigan and always making certain the property taxes were paid on Beaver Island. Sarah died in 1983 in Grandville, Michigan.

The new preserve consists of mostly forested uplands. When this property became part of the family holdings it was never logged, nor ever built upon. In over 100 years it has remained untouched. "This new preserve is one more jewel in a string of nature preserves found throughout Beaver Island," said LTC Land Protection Specialist Caitlin Donnelly. "Now, it can remain natural and wild for another 100 + years to come."

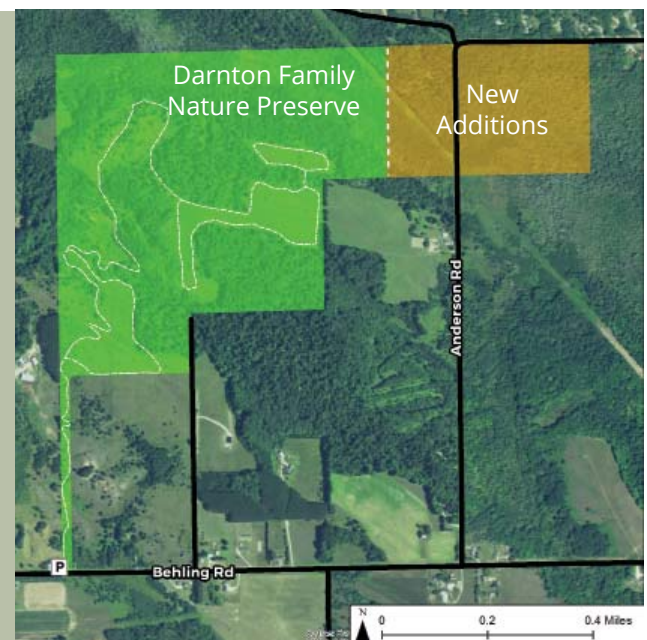


Sarah Agatha (Gallagher) Martin

Darnton Family Nature Preserve Grows

Two additions to the Darnton Family Nature Preserve near Boyne City were purchased with funding from John and Cyndi Woollam. Together, the additions expand the preserve by 70 acres and add 2,000 feet of frontage on Porter Creek.

The original 204-acre preserve was purchased in 2012, with funding from the J.A. Woollam Foundation. The preserve is named after the Darnton family, longtime summer residents of the Lake Charlevoix area who have always deeply appreciated and enjoyed the wild beauty of northern Michigan. Now at more than 270 acres, the preserve offers 6.5 miles of hiking and biking trails that take you through rolling terrain and varied habitats.



*Thank you to the following individuals, families, and businesses
for newly made or increased commitments to the Little Traverse
Conservancy between August 24-November 14, 2017.*

New Members

Raymond and Barbara Battestilli
Ms. Carolyn Belknap
Bell Title Agency of Petoskey/Harbor
Springs
Mr. Seth Bernard
Mr. John Bierma
Greg and Anne Billiard
Mr. and Mrs. Jay R. Bingham
Matthew J. and Stephanie Breckenfeld
Sarah Porter and Kirsten Buccigrossi
Daniel and Mary Card
James and Susan Carne
Steve and Teri Chaffee
Robert and Maggie Charlton
Mr. William Ciccariello
Ms. Betty Coffey
Sam Cornelius
Ms. Pamela A. Crawford
Ben and Carla Crockett
Mr. Barton N. Dean
Tim and Marta Dennis
Brent and Sandra Duffiney
Eric and Katie Engler
Jean and Clayton Faivor
Chris Hinrichs and Megan Feeley
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Fleury
GA Files Foundation
Gary and Sandy Gerlach
Frank Hawthorne
Mrs. Susan Heitner
Platt and Barbara Hill
Mr. Benjamin Houck

Cheryl and Eric Howell
Lewis and Mary Lou Jewell
John M. Crinnion Insurance Agency
Kathy Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Katt
Ms. Jana Lanning
Clay Lansill
Ms. Nancy K. Lindsay
James and Thelma Luesing
Tony Michigan and Melissa McLain
Erica and Micah McLaughlin
Harry and Evelyn Meehan
John Richard and Meg Menkedick
Traven Michaels
Craig and Julie Miller
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Stuart and Amber Neils
Aaron and Jessie Nolan
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Ms. Denise Plakmeyer
Mr. John M. Rolwing
Sandra and Ken Rudolph
Philip and Carie Schlink
Jill and Scott Sellers
Karen Szcodronski
Helen and John Thompson
Mr. Glen W. Thorman
Liz Thorp
Ms. Mary Ann Tubbs
James and Mary Vosper
Mr. and Mrs. Ward H. Walstrom Jr.
Ron and Suzanne Witthoff

Increased Giving

Mr. and Mrs. William O. Alden Jr.
Wayne and DeDe Andrae
David and Paula Bardsley
Mr. and Mrs. David J. Barrett
Rob and Ann Bassett
Mike and Beth Benjamin
Daniel and Elain Beyer
Mr. and Mrs. Irvin G. Bieser Jr.
Big Stone Bay Fishery, Inc.
Mr. Alfred D. Bosley Jr.
Mr. Dan Branson
Mr. Vern E. Brooks
Brown Motors
Citizens National Bank, Cheboygan
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Phillip and Carla Erlewine
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis L. Fear
Fernanda and Brian Fisher
Julie and Jerry Galante
Raymond and Rita Gaynor
Dr. and Mrs. Gerrit B. Gucky
Ted and Nancy Haddad
Harbor Wear
Mr. and Mrs. Norman W. Harris III
William and Judith Heil
Nancy Hoppe-Groudiss

Mr. and Mrs. Michael P. Horowitz
Stephen and Karen Hume
Roger and Patricia Jacobson
Mrs. Susan A. Keiser
Mark and Denise Lammert
Dan and Tonya Mann
Timothy and Lynne McGarry
Dan Sullivan and Anne T. Melvin
John R. and Lynn Mills
Ms. Maureen Nicholson
Michael and Cindy Pettibone
Rick and Janie Richter
Kevin and Shelly Schalk
Ms. Kathryn Schirtzinger
Andrew and Andrea Siudara
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Tom and Kathy Snow
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Stetson
Tom and Missy Stewart
Patrick and Lois Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. Simon S. Vance
Robert and Laurel Warski
Lee and Cathy Cooper-Weidner
Donald and Jan Weir
Jan and Bill Werner
Mr. Hugh Westwater
Ms. Lisa Wiley
John and Anna Young

STAYING THE COURSE

AN LTC FOUNDER REFLECTS ON LTC'S 45 YEARS -
AND HIS YEAR OF VISITING THE PRESERVES

In an era of accelerating change, Dave Irish offers a refreshing perspective about the future of LTC. “I don’t think the Conservancy needs to change course,” Irish said when interviewed last summer at his Harbor Springs business. “Those of us who were involved early on have been able to slide into the background and see the organization go from strength to strength.”

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Dave was one of seven men who regularly met to talk about their shared concern: increasing development pressures on the Harbor Springs/Petoskey region that threatened to destroy the very natural character that made the region so beloved. (Fellow founders included John Tanton, Boo Litzenburger, John Fischer, Ed Koza, Earl Larson, and Frank Pierce.) “We could have started off in bad ways,” Dave said, recalling how litigation was the “tool” of the time, and was “difficult but marginally effective.” Fortunately, while only a few land trusts were actually established at the time, these men had heard about The Nature Conservancy, as well as a small land trust in Florida that was enjoying success. Dave recalls John Tanton pushing the group to look into the concept more seriously. And they did. “Through good fortune and maybe a little luck, we started in a sustainable, constructive pattern that has continued to this day,” Dave said.

There was something magical about this group of men. They came from varied careers and varying political beliefs. “That’s the thing,” Dave said. “When we put our Conservancy hats on, we stick with the Conservancy and that is what we do. We made a very conscious decision early on that there are several things that are what the Conservancy does NOT do. And that is at least as important as what we have decided we DO do. Do just land.”

After all, land is the enduring unifier, reminding us that we are only passing through. It is why environmental education was added into the mission of the organization more than 30 years ago, giving opportunity to plant the seeds of land ethic in an increasingly distracted world.

Another thing Dave noted that *has* changed over the years is the way the resort communities now better understand the value of land beyond the shoreline. “When we were getting started, I was surprised by people from the resort community who kept showing up at our meetings and who cared for more than just their cottages. Over the years, I have seen a growing awareness and understanding of how important it is to protect the inland lands as well,” he said.

Two years ago, Dave’s daughter Sue, who had recently moved back to the region, came up with the idea of having a picnic at every one of LTC’s more than 200 nature preserves. Beginning in January 2016, Sue, Dave, and Dave’s son-in-law John Texter began this ambitious challenge. And by year’s end,

they only had a few more to go, waiting until this past summer to complete them.

Some of Dave’s favorite LTC preserves included more remote properties such as Three Bears Mountain near Boyne Falls, and preserves in the Les Cheneaux island chain. There he noted that stepping onto one of the islands was like stepping back in time. “You get in and there is this very old growth thick cedar forest. You wouldn’t want many people in there because it is still unchanged from the pre-logging era.”

As the Conservancy completes its 45th year of operations, Dave and the surviving founders can look at each of these nature preserves — along with the more than 230 conservation easements and 77 assist projects — with the satisfaction of knowing that what they set in place worked...and continues to work thanks to committed members.

“I cannot think of anything we really should have done differently,” Dave said. “We didn’t invent the concept, we just did it the way others had done it successfully. And it has stood the test of time. Times are changing, but THIS is still the same.”



Dave Irish at the Braun South Nature Preserve, overlooking the Maple River.



Memorials

Patricia Aiello

Mrs. Boyd A. Carlson
Nobuhiko and Nancy Tokita

Barbara Kellogg Blackmore

Ball State University's
Construction Management Program

Ruby Bookwalter

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude Jr.

Carolyn "Jo" Boyd

Candace Whitmore Trustee

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Susan Causley
Cynthia Gullickson
Pamela Saftler

Sally Carlin

Jill and Dave Patterson

Virginia Carroll

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Mr. and Mrs. W. Anthony Huffman
Ric and Lisa Loyd
Menonaqua Beach Cottage Owners
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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Peterson
Scott and Lisa Schaefer
Chris and Lora Searles
David and Karen Searles
Sally and Sheldon Veil

Lynnetta A. Conti

Sandra Holben
Tannery Creek Condominium
Association

Frank Couzens Jr.

Mrs. Frank Couzens, Jr.

Carrington Beach Day

Eldridge and Deborah Leeming

Charles Dickinson

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude Jr.

Walter Fisher

Mrs. Joan F. Smith

Howard Gilbertson

William and Treva Breuch
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Mr. Mark Paddock
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John Jeffrey

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Dr. Rudolf F. Laveran-Stiebar

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Mrs. Jean I. Everest
Mrs. Joan F. Smith

Richard Lent

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Judy McCaffrey

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Jackie McMurtrie

Diana H. Melvin

Mark Melvin

Peggy Peters

Menonaqua Beach Cottage Owners
Association

Henri Regenwetter

Thomas and Ellen Swengel

Elizabeth Reutlinger

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude Jr.

Caroline "Cakes" Reutter

Mark and Debby Pirrung

Dr. Richard G. Ries

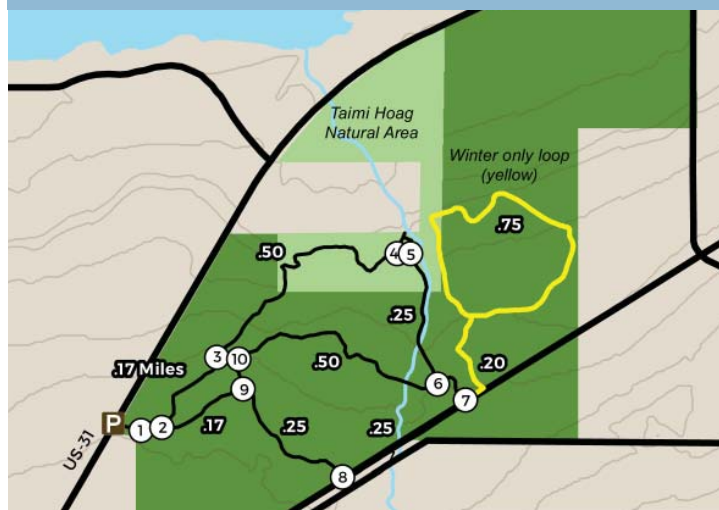
Mari Craft
Nancy Peterson and Cary Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Lake Sr.
Jon and Donna Lake
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. McDonald
Mrs. Mary M. McVicker

Jan Swanson

The Christine Aasheim Family
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Mrs. Mary M. McVicker
Menonaqua Beach Cottage Owners
Association
Mrs. F. Michael Messner
Jo Anne and Richard Meurer
Mrs. Carl W. Nichols



The trails of the Susan Creek Nature Preserve were expanded this fall, creating trail between the numbers 5 and 6 on the map below.


Shannon and Steve Nolan

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Mr. and Mrs. William A. Petzold
Tricia Petzold and Ted Paisley
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Piku
Ms. Kathryn Polansky
Robert and Susie Raisch
Donna and Gino Rossetti
Scott and Lisa Schaefer
Ms. Jean Schuler
Daniel and Candace Sebold
Marjorie Smith
Patrick and Joanne Smith
John and Karen Street
Peter and Dexa Swanson
Jeanne and David Tennent
Sally and Sheldon Veil
Anne Whitelaw
Bonnie and Curt Wood

Margaret Swift

Ms. Diane Curtis

Dr. Edward G. Voss

Dr. and Mrs. Lynn Elfner

James J. Wilson

Harbor Wear

Honorariums

**In honor of
Kristin McDonald**

Mr. Henry Amick

Shelly Ottimer

Mary Biagini

Happy Birthday
Dr. Norman Baker's 90th

Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West

Joan Keller's 90th

Mrs. Walter L. Ross, II

Lisa Loyd

Ric Loyd

Julia Makoski's 100th

Sally and Ian Bund

George Melzo's 90th

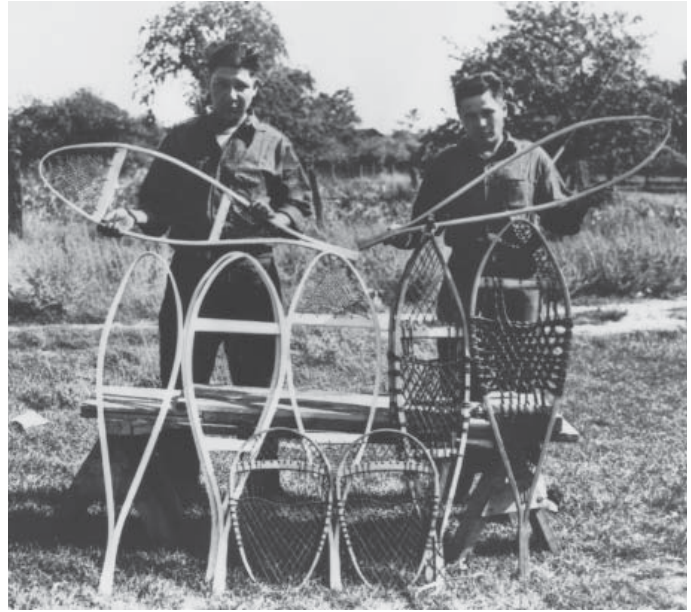
Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West

Theo Neils' 1st

Mr. Owen Neils

A Time That Defines the Year

Winter in Odawa History



Snowshoe making in Cross Village. The man on the right is Ben Odemin, a local who was killed in action during WWII.

Historically, the winter months were times that defined Odawa prosperity, seasonal movements and at certain points, the very survival of families. It could be argued that the remaining seasons were spent preparing for the harsh winter months. Food was grown, caught and hunted in preparation for winter. These winter stores of food, called caches, would be stored in strategic locations in the woods. In times of starvation, these caches would be the difference between life and death for an Odawa family. Winter was so important that years were measured in winters. Once somebody made it through a winter, that person earned it!

Historically, the Odawa had access to millions of acres of land in the Great Lakes. This access was critical to the seasonal movements of the tribe, particularly during the winter months. As winter began to set in, Odawa families would move to where resources would be obtainable. This often meant going south to live along major rivers, such as the Grand, Muskegon and Kalamazoo

rivers. Here, Odawa trappers would be able to provide for their families, taking games such as beavers and muskrats. These animals would later translate into economic means with the fur trade in the 18th and 19th century. Along with trapping, men would hunt — often in harsh conditions — or ice fish.

Hunts and fishing adventures were not always successful. Many hunters froze to death and starvation was a constant danger.

The family units that comprised winter camps were often small, to meet demands for food and resources. While winter was often exhausting for hunters and fishermen, it was a time for the passing of history, culture and tradition. During winter, tribal elders would spend days relating history, language and traditions to Odawa children. The men and women in the best physical

condition hunted, fished, gathered wood, prepared food, repaired clothing and snowshoes, etc. For those not able to perform such tasks, education was taking place.

Not all Odawa left the homelands of Wagnakising for the winter. Some stayed in Cross Village, Middle Village, Bear River and Little Traverse. Some adventurous trappers would go as far west as Minnesota and Saskatchewan. But the primary wintering grounds were southern Michigan, with these lands being shared with

Potawatomi from the Kalamazoo area.

The practice of helping others during winter was common throughout the Great Lakes. If an individual or family was struggling to find food, others would help them make due. Many independent hunters would volunteer their services to help a family through the winter who did not have someone to provide for them. For example, if an elderly couple had their grandchildren or a single parent was setting out for the winter, a young hunter would commit to helping by saying, “I will hunt for you this season.” Not only did this ensure people were taken care of, it created family bonds throughout the tribes. Even if someone was not blood related, after hunting for a family, that individual would be referred to as a “son” or an “uncle.” And when that son or uncle was in need of assistance, the help would be returned.

The first Europeans to make contact with the Odawa and other Anishnaabek in the 1600s commented on the tribe’s ability to withstand winter. Clothing made of deer and moose hide, as well as bear skin robes, provided the necessary protection from the elements. The Anishnaabek’s constant exposure to the elements conditioned them to as well. But no amount of conditioning and clothing could truly overcome winter, thus making it the measuring stick of time for the indigenous people of Michigan.



After the Great Depression, the 1935 Emergency Relief Appropriation Act funded the Work Progress Administration Project (WPA). Michigan had a unique Indian handicraft/traditional art program using local natural resources to create local jobs and economic growth. Snowshoe making was one such craft.

2017 BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL

45 Degree North Yacht Management
Linda Adams
Tom and Jodi Adams
Al & Jim's Tree Service
American Home Technology, Inc.
American Spoon Foods
Andrew Kan Travel Service
Dr. and Mrs. Mark C. Antonishen
Archambo Electric
Arfstrom Pharmacies, Inc.
Arnold Mackinac Island Ferry
Mike and Cathy Atchison
Kal and Jenni Attie
Avalon & Tahoe Manufacturing, Inc.
Dr. Michael and Jane Bacon
Bar Harbor
Lenny and Rose Mary Barrette
Mr. Stephen Bartha
Bay Inn of Petoskey
Bear Cove Marina
Bearcub Outfitters
Beaver Island Boat Company
Becky Thatcher Designs
Harry and Roberta Begley, Jr.
Bell Title Agency of Petoskey/
Harbor Springs
Belle Aquatic
Benchmark Engineering, Inc.
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
Andy and Mary Bielaczyc
Big Stone Bay Fishery, Inc.
Bill's Farm Market
Bingham Insurance Service
Birchwood Property Management
John and JoAnn Birdzell
Elizabeth Blair Fine Pearls
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BUSINESS PROFILE: Zoo-De-Mackinac, Inc.



The Drawbaugh Family

Zoo-De-Mackinac, Inc. is a small family-owned and operated business that puts on a major event here in northern Michigan each year on the weekend before Memorial Day. Greg Drawbaugh, his wife Kathleen, and step-daughter Katie, spend nights and weekends preparing for the annual bike ride from Boyne Highlands to Mackinaw City – and that's in addition to having full-time jobs and raising families. Their hard-working event staff, about 75-80 strong, is almost entirely made up of family and friends who volunteer their time in exchange for weekends of physical activity and fun-filled parties.

"We're the kick-off to summer," said Greg. They barely advertise other than an ad in MI League of Cyclists. The rest is from word of mouth. Word must spread quickly. In its 28th year, Zoo-De-Mack brought in nearly 4,000 riders (that's how many members support LTC each year!).

"There are a lot of rides/athletic events where you show up and ride, go home. We make it a whole weekend. Friday night is lots of fun at Boyne. The ride ends on Saturday with a big party in Mackinaw City then everyone gets a ticket to the Island. Bars and restaurants say it may be the biggest night on the Island every year. We have special permission to run boats until 2AM so that people can stay on the Island or in Mackinaw City," Greg said.

"It was never an intention for it to be a business, but it turned into one. Thirty years ago we came up north to ski for Thanksgiving. There was no snow so we drove up M-119 and had lunch in the UP. This got us thinking about biking through the scenic Tunnel of Trees, so the next year six of us did. We told friends about it and by the next year we had 80."

When asked why Zoo-De-Mack supports the Little Traverse Conservancy each year, Greg shared, "We're all about preserving the land. What you guys do is phenomenal. It was a natural tie-in to donate to a cause like yours." The ride along M-119 also passes by more than 20 properties protected by LTC.

"In anything you do, you want to give back a little bit," Greg said.

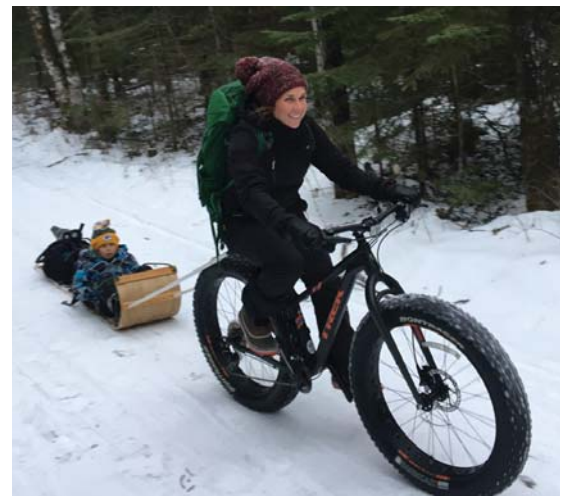


WINTER 2018 PROGRAMS WILL RUN FROM
JANUARY 16–MARCH 2, 2018

Winter Education Staff Update

This winter, our education programs will be led by new Director of Education, Sarah Mayhew. Seasonal help will come from Will Fitzgerald (profiled in our Fall newsletter) and newcomer Sarah Koetje, who shares a bit about herself here.

My name is Sarah Koetje and I am a mother of two boys: Gavin (10) and Rowan (6). We are a family that loves exploring and learning as much as we can about the world around us. We live for outdoor experiences big and small. I love getting my children's creative juices flowing. In nature, the possibilities are endless. LTC has played a very special role in our family. For years my children and I have attended the summer learning programs. In fact, a few of the art projects are still displayed on our walls! My interest in environmental education stems from my passion for nature, conservation and my love for children. I'm so grateful to have this opportunity to enlighten young minds as I am simultaneously being illuminated by them. Seeing the world through a child's eyes is purely extraordinary. I can't wait for this adventure to begin!



How to be Your Own Naturalist

It's not hard to be your own naturalist if you can't make an LTC outing, and you happen to have a couple of curious, adventurous kids who would love a day in the woods. Here outdoor enthusiast and Indian River native, Amanda Monthei, shares a few steps you can take for a successful and fun day learning in a nature preserve near you.

- 1. Bring snacks.**
This might be the most important thing you can do, especially if you'll be heading out with kids under 6. Snacks like applesauce, fruit, cheese sticks and PB&Js will keep anyone happy, but especially the little ones. And don't forget the water!
- 2. Wear appropriate clothes.**
Romp around in the river won't be quite as fun if you end up with soaked pants. Appropriate boots (muck boots for rivers or swampy areas, hiking boots for dry trails) and clothes that can get a little wet/dirty are a critical part of any successful day in the woods.
- 3. Do a (teensy) bit of research.**
Whether you're a parent, relative or just a friend of someone with young kids, teaching the kids in your life about local trees, plants and animals is a great way to spend a day outside. Doing just a little bit of research into local tree species, what kind of fish live in nearby rivers or even historical information about the place you'll be hiking goes a long way towards keeping kids interested.
- 4. Bring something hands-on.**
A fishing rod, binoculars or even a map and compass can all provide an additional resource for learning, and for keeping your young naturalist's attention. Additionally, trying out different ways to enjoy the woods (snowshoeing, cross-country skiing or mountain biking) is a great way to cover more ground and experience things from a different perspective.
- 5. Go with the flow.**
Don't come into a day in the woods with too much of a schedule — take advantage of the things you find along the way. Wildlife like deer, porcupines, grouse, woodpeckers and frogs are common occurrences in the preserves around northern Michigan, so pause occasionally to look around and see what you find. Use your map and compass to do a little bushwhacking, or bring a picnic to enjoy along the way. Whatever you do, don't be in a rush!

Welcome New Trustees!



SUSAN IRISH STEWART

Growing up in northern Michigan, I watched the social and ecological landscapes here evolve. As the environmental activism of the early 1970s gave way to the rural housing boom of the late 1970s, my father joined with others to eventually form the Little Traverse Conservancy (see page 7).

I went off to college thinking I might study business and

return to work in the family marina business where I had worked summers. But the world of ideas was far too interesting and I stayed at MSU through degrees in social science and resource management. With a PhD in hand I went to work for the US Forest Service. My research focus on the effects of housing growth originated from having lived through LTC's beginnings. My husband's retirement brought me back to northern Michigan in 2012, and after my father's retirement in 2017 I returned to the marina business.

In 2013, I agreed to serve on the LTC investment committee under Ian Bund, whose passion for change inspired him to overlook my relative inexperience with non-profit investing. After one of my frequent question-and-answer sessions with the investment committee, I realized that LTC had taken a different path than many land conservancies. Rather than focusing solely on managing conservation easements, LTC had acquired outright ownership of huge amounts of property. These fully-owned preserves spread across a five-county service area intrigued me, and I convinced my father and brother-in-law to join me in a year-long effort to visit each of the roughly 200 preserves.

My re-acquaintance with LTC took a huge leap forward that year (2016) as I read management plans, planned visits, spent time on the preserves, and reported back to staff. It also rekindled my interest in stewardship. I am a life-long student of the northern Michigan landscape and its stewardship, and I see service on the Stewardship Committee and board as my newest opportunities to learn all about these places I love.



PHIL PORTER

I was born and raised in Grosse Pointe, Michigan and Mackinac Island (during the summers.) While attending Kenyon College (Ohio) and the State University of New York, Cooperstown Graduate Program of History Museum Studies, I worked as a historic interpreter at Fort Mackinac. I joined the permanent staff of Mackinac State Historic Parks in 1976 and served in a variety of museum positions until I was appointed director in 2003.

My dedication to historic and natural resource preservation was formed through my work with the historic sites and parks under the jurisdiction of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. I feel very fortunate to have a role in the care and preservation of these important properties and for the

opportunity to create interpretation and education programs to help the public understand and appreciate these resources. I am particularly interested in the process of evaluating potential properties and how they can enhance the mission of the Little Traverse Conservancy.

CEDRIC RICHNER

From the time I can remember I had a deep interest in and passion for the natural world. I developed an early fondness, for some unknown reason, for turtles. At one point during my childhood I had 18 of them living in aquariums and terrariums in my bedroom.

I grew up in Grosse Pointe, but my great-grandmother started going, by train, to Good Hart during the summers beginning in the early 1900s and my family continues that tradition today. In a strange twist of fate or, perhaps, destiny, I married a woman, Mori Hannah, whose family also owned summer homes in Good Hart. Because of the blending of the two families, our two daughters, Sorbie and Roxie, at one point believed that everyone in Good Hart was somehow related to them, and there is some truth to this as there are now dozens of us that are blood or marriage related up and down M-119 and Lamkin Road. While Ann Arbor is our primary residence, Good Hart is my home.



I'm very lucky because I get to live out my passion for environmental issues through my work. I co-founded a fundraising consulting firm 21 years ago and among our hundreds of consulting engagements and clients are various kinds of organizations dedicated to improving the world in myriad ways.

In addition to being proud to serve on the LTC Board of Trustees, I am also on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Environmental Council, Wolfpack, an Ann Arbor-based organization designed to address a variety of environmental issues. I also serve on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for our international association of fundraising consulting firms, The Giving Institute.

The land we live on is our terrarium. Taking care of it is not a nice thing to do, it is critical to our survival as a species. Spending so much time in northern Michigan instilled in me a great passion for preserving it. When I hit West Branch on the way North and begin to smell the white pines and cedars, it makes me euphoric!

I'm very passionate about fundraising and the importance of garnering philanthropic resources from individuals, corporations, and foundations. These kind of generous, voluntary, private investments can be tremendously impactful in preserving what is great about northern Michigan.

I would like to see LTC develop a massive endowment dedicated to land acquisition and stewardship of existing protected properties. Although many conservancies are moving to targeting large tracts of land — and I understand the logic of that — with more financial resources, I know a great organization like LTC can become even greater by having the kind of financial undergirding to be even more creative in protecting and stewarding a wider variety of land projects throughout the region.



Spiffing Things Up at the Round Lake Nature Preserve

A grant from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the strong backs of several volunteers helped staff complete significant trail, boardwalk, and sign improvements at the Round Lake Nature Preserve, adjacent to the LTC home office. More than 300 feet of replacement boardwalk over a very wet wetland were completed, leading to a new overlook platform facing Round Lake. Nestled among many residential communities, the preserve is a popular option for an easy hike or dog walk.

"Nature is not only beautiful to look at and enjoy but provides natural healing abilities to one's health. So being able to help others access nature's hidden beauty makes me feel blessed to have been a part of the project."

Sharon Myers,

Chemical Bank, Round Lake boardwalk work day, October 9, 2017



The "Handi-Capable Hunt"

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED HUNTERS

For the last several years, the North Country Sportsman's Club has participated in the Department of Natural Resource's fall Independence Hunt. The Independence Hunt (referred to by the Club as the "Handi-Capable Hunt") is a special, early season hunt for people with disabilities (including veterans), held on private lands. The new Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve — protected just a year ago — has traditionally been hunted by many friends and neighbors. Encouraged by Tucker Harris who heard about the Independence Hunt from a friend, Conservancy staff alerted the Sportsman's Club about this option for their hunters.

This year's Independence Hunt ran from October 19-22, and several hunters were assisted with their hunts on the Harris Working Forest Reserve. On the second day of the hunt, Wilbur Jankowski — with assistance from his grandson, Coy — harvested an eight-point buck! A northern Michigan native, Wilbur is a Vietnam veteran who was exposed to Agent Orange, who has fought and defeated both cancer and leukemia, and today struggles with a kidney disorder that makes it uncomfortable for him to stand or even sit for too long. He is also blind in one eye from a work-related accident. "Wilbur impresses me as someone not caught up in his own problems," said Kieran Fleming, LTC's Chief Operating Officer. "It is gratifying to be able to offer these options to these wonderful people who have served our country. Hopefully we can offer additional lands in the future."



Wilbur Jankowski with the buck he harvested at the Harris Working Forest Reserve in October as part of the Independence Hunt, offered for veterans with disabilities.

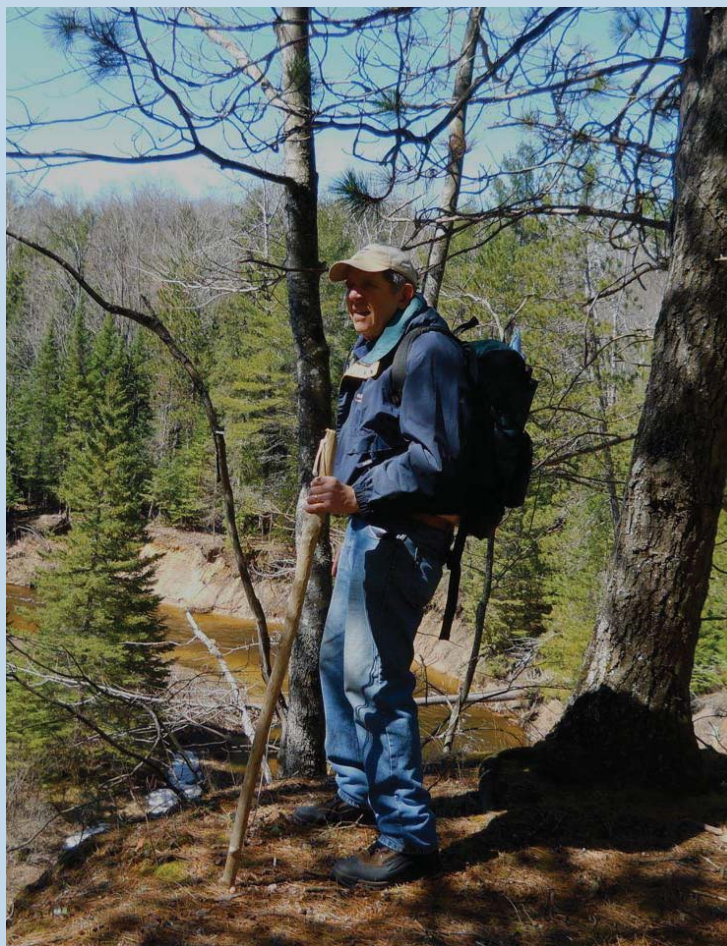
Even Fishless Days Are Great

by Dale Landes
LTC Preserve Monitor

Over the years, I have developed a special relationship with the area around and including the Andreae Preserve, as I have been fishing the Pigeon (River) in that area since 1972. Most often I would access the river from the main entrance to the preserve, but other times I would park at the preserve and bike to the bridge on M-68 and wade downstream to the pedestrian bridge at the preserve. While I can't deny that I enjoy fishing, it was really the beauty of the area that attracted me. Though there have been many great fishing days, there have been some fishless days also, but I never considered the time spent there wasted. Many are the memories of wildlife, including a family of woodcocks, a family of opossums, eagles, deer, beavers, great blue herons, and a porcupet (baby porcupine). The latter was cute, but I didn't try to pet him. There were several memorable encounters with deer, including a doe and a fawn drinking placidly in the stream as I came around a bend, and another occasion when I heard a huge splash on the upstream side of a logjam. I thought it must have been one gigantic fish, until a few minutes later when a deer crawled up out of the stream and shook itself off. It must have been on the bank when it gave way, dropping the startled deer into the river. Once, as I came to a bend in the river, a great blue heron took flight and flew on upstream. This action must have been repeated at least five times; as I approached each subsequent bend, the heron was waiting for me there only to take off for the next bend.

One fall I was fishing upstream from the bridge for about two hours without even a bite. I came back downstream where some men were working on bank improvements, with their heavy equipment in the river. As they were churning up the water, the river was all clouded downstream from that point, and then the fish became quite active. I hooked a steelhead trout, about 35 inches long, and landed it after a prolonged battle. Though it was an exciting experience, it was also a sad one as the fish was so exhausted, that I was not able to revive it enough to release it. I release most fish as I consider them a more valuable resource in the river than in the frying pan. I didn't have the heart to keep it, so I gave it to the men who were working in the river.

On another day, as I entered the river at the M-68 bridge,



Dale Landes stands on a bluff overlooking the Pigeon River at the Agnes A. Andreae Preserve.

I saw a strange and troubling sight: an elk carcass that had been thrown into the river and was covered by an old mattress! I reported the incident to the DNR, and a few months later the officer whom I had contacted called me to say that my report had led to the arrest of a man for poaching the elk. There had been an investigation and the mattress had led to a cabin and the subsequent arrest of its owner.

Though I spent much of my time in the early years in the river itself, as I grew older (and perhaps wiser), I began to walk the trails a lot more, and thus enjoy the beauty of the river from a different perspective. I love the spectacular views of the river at the overlooks along the new portion of the trail. We are so privileged to have such special areas as the Andreae Preserve.

LTC MEMBER QUOTES

"I am more than happy to support such a great organization, even if only in a small way. Please keep up the good work of protecting beautiful northern Michigan!"

"Thank you for the important work you do."

"Thank you and all the others working so hard at preserving the beautiful land/preserves up there."

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THANK YOU

"Gratitude helps you to grow and expand; gratitude brings joy and laughter into your life and into the lives of all those around you." -Eileen Caddy

Community Field trip leaders Tom Allan, Ian and Sally Bund, Eric Hemenway, Will Fitzgerald, Darrell Lawson, Elliot Nelson, Sarah Sloan, and Mary Trout.

Jim Bean for leading a presentation for Petoskey Audubon on citizen science and the American Kestrel Program.

Lynne Frazee for her video of American Kestrels at the Black Hole Nature Preserve.

Photographers Todd Petersen, Lynn Frazee, and Gary Osterbeck who share their talents so generously.

Mary Trout for leading the Sheridan Elementary After School Birding Program.

Phil Milan for helping with the new Susan Creek Nature Preserve boardwalk.

Greenwood Foundation for hosting another public event on their protected property.

Will Fitzgerald for his internship with us this summer.

Chemical Bank and their staff who helped demolish the old boardwalk at Round Lake Nature Preserve: Bryan Leavitt, Gabriel Monroe, Sharon Myers, Chrystianna Roisen, and Ashley Swan.

Consumers Energy and their staff who volunteered to help build the new boardwalk and trail at Susan Creek Nature Preserve as part of the Char-Em United Way Season of Caring.

RSVP mailing volunteers: Sally Bales, Barb Bechhold, Gretchen Brown, Bonnie Holck, Rusty Kahn, Michaleen and Nick Karay, Karen Knapp, Betty Kujat, Doris Lark, Rye Muir, Pat Piechocki, Lurli Vaughan, and Bev Warner.

Sue Stewart and Linda Baney for helping treat invasive Autumn Olive at the G.C. Nature Preserve.

John Baker, Will Fitzgerald, Richard Jenkins and John Lehman for helping build the new boardwalk at the Round Lake Nature Preserve as part of the Char-Em United Way Season of Caring.

East Jordan High School Students for helping to clean up old farm equipment and fencing at Wissersaw Nature Preserve as part of the Char-Em United Way Season of Caring.

Trail Blazers: John Baker, Carolyn Belknap, Bob Dunn, Richard Jenkins, Dan Reelitz, Tony Wells, and Nick Whitaker, and The Hill's Angels.

Mary Jane Clayton for counting trail camera data.

John Baker for building our welcome kiosks.

Glen Matthews for the time and knowledge he continues to invest in our Working Forest Reserve program.

Jacob Van Patten for taking nesting bird surveys on a number of agricultural fields on our nature preserves.

Seth Bernard for donating part of his time and partial tickets sales at LTC's Concert for Conservation.

Bill and Maxine Aten for donating the use of Aten Place for the second year in a row at Concert for Conservation. John for A/V help, Darrell Lawson for stellar potluck support, and all attendees who brought reusable plates to cut down on waste.

Vernal Pool Monitors: Doug Fuller, Linda Hammond, Kelly Polleys and her Harbor Springs Middle School students, the Springborn Family, and Sandy Willoughby.

Doug Fuller for preserve hydrology monitoring.

Evelyn Meehan for gifting a Rod Lawrence waterfowl plate collection.

The mission of the Little Traverse Conservancy is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of northern Michigan by preserving significant land and scenic areas, and fostering appreciation and understanding of the environment.

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Conservancy Partners with Artist in Residence Program

The Good Hart Artist Residency program in Good Hart, Michigan offers 2-3 week residencies to dedicated visual artists and writers. The residency provides a live/work studio space, food, and a quiet setting to concentrate on creative work. The residency works in partnership with several local community organizations, including Little Traverse Conservancy. The mission of the residency is to connect artists and writers from around the world with the local community to inform, educate and empower people through art in the natural beauty of Northern Michigan.

Through this program, LTC would like to collaborate with an artist who has an interest in land conservation and environmental issues such as native and invasive species, nurturing a sense of place, sustainable forestry, climate change, and similar relevant topics. The Conservancy would like to provide an opportunity for the artist to connect with the public by conducting a plein air workshop on one of the nature preserves in the area, or teaching an art/writing class as part of our summer community field trip series, or a similar, mutually agreed upon event.

The residency includes the following, all of which are paid through the program, not by LTC.

- A two- or three-week residency stay
- A live/work studio space
- Breakfast and lunch foods will be stocked in the studio apartment and dinners offered by the host family 3-4 times per week, with great food! Locally sourced ingredients and seasonal vegetables from an onsite garden are provided when available.
- \$500 stipend



Calendar for 2018 Residencies:

- May 11 – May 25, 2018, OR
- May 30 – June 13, 2018 OR
- June 16 – June 30, 2018 OR
- August 3 – August 17, 2018, OR
- September 21 – October 5, 2018 (writer residency)

Application deadline is January 31, 2018 To learn more and apply please visit: <https://goodhartartistresidency.org/program-details/>

Planned Giving

In early 2017 the Little Traverse Conservancy lost long-time supporters James and Bette Tollar. Conservancy members for nearly 30 years, James and Bette had the forethought to name the Conservancy a beneficiary of their estate. The Conservancy is honored to receive this generous gift that provides a lasting legacy to this couple.

Advanced and thoughtful planning offers you an opportunity to support the Conservancy knowing your gift — like the Tollars' bequest — will further the organization's mission for years to come. Sharing your plans with the LTC allows us to acknowledge and thank you, and makes certain we understand the intentions of your planned gift. For more information contact Ty Ratliff, Director of Donor Relations, at 231.344.1005 or tyratliff@landtrust.org.

Reflections...by Tom Bailey

Conservation, Scrooge, and the Case for Charity

I remember reading a commentary, some 35 or so years ago, in which a Catholic priest lamented the declining role of charity in America. He argued that government programs were turning feeding of the hungry, clothing of the naked and sheltering of the homeless into entitlements on the recipients' part and obligations on the taxpayers' part, rather than a voluntary charitable endeavor. Noting that St. Paul wrote that charity was the greatest of human virtues, the Good Father, whose name I cannot recall, lamented the bureaucratization of helping people as depriving us all of participation in that greatest of human virtues.

It is noteworthy that as government entitlements for individuals grew from the 1970s to the '80s and beyond, government support for parks, forests and general conservation programs declined. There are a number of implications here and, I believe, things to learn about the implications for charity and conservation.

Using Michigan as an example, state general fund support for state parks, forests and conservation education programs declined in the late 1970s and beyond. Shifting government priorities moved general revenues to rapidly expanding programs like Corrections and Medicaid, while State Parks and State Forests were forced to sustain themselves with user fees and harvest revenues. Conservation education funding was largely eliminated from the state budget as our award-winning natural resources magazine was sacrificed and other information and education programs eliminated.

People took notice. I don't believe it mere coincidence that the Little Traverse Conservancy, created in 1972, grew as government support for parks

and forests declined. People saw a need and, in the true spirit of charity, they gave of their time and wealth to create a local organization to protect what they love about the North Country. Our founders spent a lot of time and effort getting the fledgling group started, literally passing the hat to gather funds to buy stamps for mailing the first newsletters. They talked to their friends and neighbors, gave presentations, and put their love of natural beauty to work inspiring others to do more of what government was doing less and less.

I'm certainly not qualified to write a commentary on St. Paul's ideas about charity, but the things accomplished by the Little Traverse Conservancy bring to mind the article I read all those years ago about the greatest of human virtues. The gifts of substance and spirit from our trustees, donors, volunteers, members and friends that have made this organization so successful represent something truly special. We accomplish a lot because people care, and give. The land we protect is open to everyone. There are no litmus tests of ideology, religion or politics to join. Hunters, non-hunters, young, old, handicapped or not, we offer something for everyone. And for the wildlife, too, that we all enjoy. We protect the living Earth, and it is certainly not a stretch to think that what we see at work in the generosity of our supporters represents the greatest of human virtues.

It is truly humbling to work at the center of such a successful effort that accomplishes so much because people care. It is certainly not a stretch to me to think that what we see at work in the generosity of our supporters represents the greatest of human virtues.

It's the time of year when many of us will read or watch theatrical productions of "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens. It is noteworthy to me that one of the low points for Ebenezer Scrooge comes when he is approached for a charity donation to

help the poor. He responds by asking, why – are there no jails, no poor houses? He is told that there are certainly plenty of those but some people would rather die than go there. He responds by saying that if they want to die they had best do it and reduce the surplus population; then sends the stunned solicitors on their way. This resonates, to me, with the priest's point about charity.

Happily for readers and for Scrooge, he has an epiphany brought about by visits from three spirits in the night and after his awakening makes sure to donate generously to charity, to help his employee Bob Cratchet take care of handicapped Tiny Tim and to boot raises Cratchet's salary. Scrooge discovers the joy of St. Paul's greatest of human virtues: charity.

There are many needs in our world these days, and despite the growth of entitlement programs, there is great need for charity in human services. Homeless shelters, hunger programs and many others all need our support, and I thank my colleagues and all donors in the human service sector for their tireless work and generosity to help people in need. Every time my family has needed the services of our local hospital, for example, I note the names of donors on the walls, say a silent prayer of thanks, and also try to thank them in person when I see them or write them.

Fortunately, many people also see the need for charitable support of land conservation and outdoor education. They recognize that caring for our environment and keeping nature close at hand is not a luxury, it's a necessity. They understand that government can't and won't do it all and so they give generously to ensure that our community will not be overrun by development but instead will maintain a healthy balance of land development and land conservation. They see the value of scenic views, trails, and open spaces. They see their friends and neighbors joining together to make the Conservancy successful, and they give generously to make it all work.

Thank you for your gifts of substance and spirit. Thank you for benefitting our Conservancy and our cause through the greatest of human virtues: charity.





WINTER 2018 COMMUNITY FIELD TRIPS

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

Fat Tires and Snow Shoes - NOTE TWO DATES! *in partnership with Latitude 45 & Top of MI Trails Council*

1) Saturday, January 13 1-3pm

Offield Family Nature Preserve, Emmet County

2) Sunday, February 4, 1-3pm

Susan Creek Nature Preserve, Charlevoix

Join Latitude 45 fat bike and snowshoe experts on LTC's groomed winter trails at the Offield Family and Susan Creek Nature Preserves. After you have explored the loops, enjoy a steaming cup of cocoa around the fire. Call the shop at 231.348.5342 to try one of Latitude 45's fat bikes at this event!

Greenwood Foundation Winter Adventure

Saturday, January 20 10am-Noon

Cheboygan County, near Wolverine

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 remote property. A groomed trail for skiers will lead you through the trail systems and offer the chance to find respite in the beauty of a winter wildlife haven. A shorter route is available for snowshoers. Please provide your own skis or snowshoes, although snowshoes are available for children 12 and under if needed. Because this is private property, no dogs are allowed. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early.

Ski and Snowshoe Event

Saturday, February 3 11am-1pm

Andreae and Banwell Preserves, Cheboygan County

Join us in one of our favorite winter traditions! Hike/ski/snowshoe the trails at the Andreae and Banwell Preserves with a destination in mind – the Andreae Cabin on the Pigeon River. Park at the Andreae Preserve and make your way to the Cabin, exploring the preserve trails at your leisure. Once there, hot cocoa and a warm fire will await you. This is one of our most extensive trail systems and the trek can be up to 4-6 miles out and back.

Eastern Upper Peninsula Birding

Saturday, February 3 8am-Noon

Chippewa & Mackinaw counties

Join Michigan Sea Grant extension educator Elliot Nelson for a full day of birding around the Eastern Upper Peninsula. We will be targeting northern owls and hawks as well as other winter birds such as Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine

Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, and Bohemian Waxwing. Sharp-tailed Grouse and Northern Shrike will almost certainly be encountered as well. Binoculars are necessary for this trip. Spotting scopes, cameras and two-way radios (aka walkie talkies) are also helpful, but not required. Participation is limited, so register early! Meet at Pickford Sunoco Gas Station at 8am. Carpooling encouraged. We will travel by caravan to a large variety of locations, stopping when we see birds birding from the car or roadside. We will also stop and do limited hiking at a couple of locations (hiking along gravel roads or well packed areas for 30 mins. or less at a time and less than .5 miles). We will end the trip by having lunch at a local restaurant for those who are interested. Be aware some local restaurants are cash only. Space is limited!

Wonders of Nature in Winter Partner Program

Saturday, February 10 2-3:30 p.m.

Susan Creek Nature Preserve, Charlevoix County

Explore the wonders of nature in winter at the Susan Creek Preserve with Little Traverse Conservancy and the Charlevoix Library. This family friendly outing will involve searching for signs of animals, discussing how plants and animals survive winter, and creating an on-site land art project. Bring a phone or camera to take a picture of your creation since we will be leaving it behind for others to enjoy. A limited number of snowshoes will be available through the Conservancy for ages 7 through adult.

Years Measured in Winters:

The Significance of Winter for the Odawa

Saturday, February 10 10am-Noon

Round Lake Nature Preserve, Emmet County

Traditionally, the Odawa measured years in winters, due to the difficulty wrought by snow, ice, and cold. Come learn from new board member Eric Hemenway how the Odawa navigated the winter season. This will be an outside field trip, so please dress accordingly.

Animal Tracks and Signs with Petoskey Library

Saturday, February 13 4 p.m.

Petoskey Public Library

Join LTC and the Petoskey Library for an Animal Tracks and Signs program as part of their Make and Learn series. Learn how to identify which animals are out and about in winter, and make an animal track cast to take home. There is no cost and no registration is required.



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LTC Gift
Memberships

"When I think about my friend Piper (who is nine years old), I am reminded why I love the Little Traverse Conservancy. The work they do is for her. Land conservation protects the natural and scenic character of northern Michigan for future generations. So when Christmas came around last year and I knew Piper didn't need the next new toy or cool shoes, I thought what better gift than one she can enjoy for all time?"

While Piper's gift membership fit in her stocking, what it represented was much bigger. It represented gorgeous acres of land for her to enjoy. She was so excited to open her welcome packet from the Conservancy and she studied the map to see all the nature preserves that she was going to explore.

Piper truly appreciated the gift and was able to learn all about the work that the Little Traverse Conservancy does in our area. The best part is, I can renew her membership every year for Christmas or her birthday and she knows that when she hikes a trail a contribution has been made on her behalf.

Consider a membership to Little Traverse Conservancy this gift giving season. Whether you are buying for a child, grandchild or friend, a membership to the Conservancy will help protect land for generations to come and cultivate within them a culture of giving."

- Cheryl Graham Dryer
LTC member, volunteer and preserve lover



Cheryl Graham Dryer and her friend, Piper

Call us at 231.347.0991
or visit
www.landtrust.org.