



"Protecting the North Country You Love"



A First-Ever Opportunity!

For new members and renewing members who increase your annual gift, your donation will be matched this year by the Carls Foundation up to \$100,000 to help the Conservancy purchase this west-end Burt Lake parcel.

A rare two-for-one fundraising and land protection opportunity!

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The LTC Team!

The 3,900 individuals, families, businesses, and foundations who are current members.

The 383 volunteers who donate thousands of hours.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Grateful for them...

These days, most aspiring natural resource professionals go to great lengths to gain job experience and connections before finally settling into a more permanent role somewhere. Entrance into these professions has become more competitive as the number of job seekers has grown, yet the opportunities remain limited. We have had many seasonal employees/interns over the years and hopefully all of them leave the Conservancy with a better chance of finding a career. We try to provide them with education, experience, references, connections, and often some wages.

But it's a two-way street and the Conservancy receives a lot from these folks in return. Obviously it can be an economical way to get work done. Interns often come without much cost. Austin College in Texas, for example, provides its students who intern at LTC with a decent stipend; we just provide them housing. Our seasonal employees are typically short-term and don't get the retirement and health insurance benefits that our salaried employees get, again keeping LTC's costs down. This help allows the staff in all of our departments to focus on high quality production during the busy seasons. By my count, six of our current salaried staff came to us via the path of a seasonal employee or intern, demonstrating that this is a great way for employers to seek talent and "fit."

These are important practical considerations when considering a seasonal or intern work force, but there are more significant things they typically bring to the table. They often have a high level of enthusiasm and energy, and the impact this has on the rest of the team should not be underestimated. They bring different perspectives and intelligence to solve problems in ways we haven't thought of before. Too often, we assign ourselves to roles such as "teacher" when the fact is the teacher is often the pupil at the same time.

So many of LTC's past seasonal employees and interns are exceptional people and many have gone on to great careers. But this year's group in particular has caught my eye. Phillip Weldy, Solomon Harvey, Samantha Krueger, Lindsay Hall, Sarah Koetje, Will Fitzgerald, Ethan Jacobs, and Lorenzo Guel-Camp are all hard working, enthusiastic, self-driven, creative thinking, kind individuals - and they were all here in a single year! This is ironic because in a general sense, their generation has a poor reputation among employers. The Millennials are often accused of being detached, tardy, and entitled and they too often communicate through electronic code to which older generations don't relate.

That has not been our experience with this group. They have brought new program ideas, better methods, inquisitiveness, passion, assertiveness, and the list goes on. To be blunt, I wish there were a way to keep all of them permanently. Unfortunately, full-time employment here is often about timing and other factors out of their control. LTC is lucky to have these folks, if only for a while. As we near the time when a few of them will be moving on, I know they are going to be missed by all of their colleagues. These folks, like many of their predecessors, are going to help change the world. That's a pretty big statement. LTC is proud to have helped discover their talent and been a part of each of their paths. Their futures are bright and, contrary to the rumors, there are great reasons to be optimistic about the Millennial Generation.



Kieran C. Fleming, Executive Director

Growing Membership & Protecting Land: *The Carls Challenge*

On the Cover

In a unique opportunity for LTC, the Carls Foundation is challenging our organization to grow its membership while protecting land at the same time. As an existing member, if you increase your gift, it will be matched dollar for dollar. Do you have friends, family, or neighbors who have not yet joined LTC? If they join this year, their gift will be matched up to \$100,000 for a land project on Burt Lake (see cover photo and below right).

The Conservancy has a purchase agreement to acquire the Burt Lake property for the bargain-sale (below appraised value) amount of \$750,000. We have made terrific progress thanks to a lead pledge of \$450,000, and are now working to raise the remaining \$300,000 to complete this significant Burt Lake land purchase. All new and increased memberships will have double the up to \$100,000 (*the challenge expires at the end of 2019*).

Join us...and help us protect a piece of this beautiful north country that you love at the very same time. To learn more or to donate, visit www.landtrust.org or contact Ty Ratliff at 231.347.0991 or ty@landtrust.org.



Burt Lake

Burt Lake land to be protected through the Challenge.

Visionaries Create New Open Space Park

LTC Holds Conservation Easement On Land

For many years, a 4.7 acre Lake Charlevoix property located within Boyne City's city limits sat vacant, a ghost of an abandoned condominium project that was considered an eyesore. Many groups wanted to see the land protected and added to the city's assets, but it wasn't until 2015 that a real plan was put into place. At that time, Mike Dow and Bob Grove decided to partner to purchase the land and hold it in safekeeping until the city could fundraise to acquire it. At the same time, they began working with LTC to place a conservation easement on the waterfront property to ensure its perpetual protection. This past November, the city was able to complete the purchase of the land with a \$2.4 million grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, city funds, and a \$10,000 grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. "Bob and I are pleased to help Boyne City acquire this open space property on the shores of Lake Charlevoix," Dow said.



First Farmland Protection Project Completed in Resort Township

Todd Parker

Little Traverse Conservancy partnered in the completion of the first voluntary township-based Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) project ever to occur within the organization's five-county service area.

Nestled among the hills of Emmet County's Camp Daggett Road is some of the most beautiful farmland in northern lower Michigan, with views of Little Traverse Bay providing the background. Located just down the road from the Village of Bay Harbor and the mid-sized, tourism-based town of Petoskey, Resort Township has been experiencing rapid growth and development pressure for decades. It is a beautiful area to visit and an especially desirable place to live and raise a family. Which is why in 2011, the township created a Farmland and Open Space Protection Ordinance, which has since been supported with the creation of a Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program administered by the township's Planning Commission.

The project involves the protection of the 84-acre Crothers Farm located in Resort Township, Emmet County using the conservation

easement, a land protection tool for private landowners. Its completion is the result of a partnership between the landowners, the Conservancy, Resort Township, The Americana Foundation, American Farmland Trust (AFT), Cherry Republic, The Owen and Ellen Love Family Farmland Protection Fund ("the Love Fund"), and Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy.

"With the ordinance in place, funding was the next concern," said Kieran Fleming, executive director of the Little Traverse Conservancy. "Fortunately, the Americana Foundation and American Farmland Trust were a great match for this partnership. Both funders have been incredibly patient and resilient while we worked with changing parcels and an evolving process."

"The Crothers Farm project honors the vision of the Love Fund donors by permanently protecting critical farmland that would otherwise

be at risk for development," said John Piotti, president of American Farmland Trust. "Conserving this land is a prime example of how AFT works with local communities and committed land trust partners – like Little Traverse Conservancy. Crothers Farm is part of AFT's broader efforts to support farmland protection and demonstrate the effective use of agricultural conservation easements in Michigan. We hope this project catalyzes additional farmland protection projects in Emmet County and beyond."

The Crothers Farm was voluntarily submitted for consideration for the PDR program last spring, and received unanimous support for funding from the Resort Township Planning Commission and the Township Board of Trustees. Criteria for selection and recommendation include: percentage of the parcel supporting prime or unique soils, forest land, threat of development, viewshed protection, and parcel



size. "This type of township-based partnership has existed for years in areas such as Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties and we have wanted to help make it happen up here for decades," Fleming added. "Resort Township has been on board for a long time, but all the parts had to come together to identify the right property and complete the funding to get the program off the ground."

"The Resort Township residents established the ordinance with the goal of using Township funds to help preserve the rural and

scenic nature of the township for future generations," said Ed Stokel, Resort Township Board Vice Chair. "The PDR has been funded with taxpayer approval and supported by several township Boards. The Crothers property is a great example of the cooperation between funding sources that successfully results in preservation of working farmland that retains private ownership. This a beautiful piece of property that will remain prime farmland in perpetuity, thanks to the initiative and donation of the Crothers family."

- until transferring to Petoskey schools after 6th grade. Before purchasing their first tractor, the Crothers used draft horses to do most of their work, and daughter Eleanor recalls the last team that they had: "Prince" and "Maude."

In the early 1990s, Glenn and Marie left the farm to their children Eleanor, Robert, and Benjamin, who run the farm together today. The 84 acres are comprised of gently rolling open pasture, with views of both Walloon Lake and Lake Michigan's Little Traverse Bay. The siblings still care for and manage a small beef cattle herd and have selectively harvested 16 acres of forested land over the years. The soils on the land are considered very high quality and desirable for crop production. Eleanor maintains a small garden which yields beautiful tomatoes and flowers.

Neighboring landowner and Resort Township trustee Paul Schemanski first told the Crothers siblings about the township's opportunity to purchase development rights from local farmland to ensure their family land's long-term protection. "We talked about it and it sounded


Continued on next page...



Siblings Eleanor, Robert, and Benjamin continue to run the farm today.

In 1948, Glenn and Marie Crothers established their farm along Camp Daggett Road and raised their four children on the land. Throughout the farm's history, the land was managed for crops, hay, beef cattle, and timber. The children walked two miles each way to the local one-room schoolhouse - The Carpenter School

What is a Conservation Easement?



A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement that allows a landowner to limit the type or amount of development on their property while retaining private ownership of the land. The easement is signed by the landowner (who is the easement donor), and the Conservancy (who is the party receiving the easement). The Conservancy accepts the easement with the understanding that it must enforce the terms of the easement in perpetuity. After the easement is signed, it is recorded with the County Register of Deeds and applies to all future owners of the land.

Another way to visualize a conservation easement is to think of owning land as holding a bundle of sticks. Each one of these sticks represents the landowner's right to do something with their property. The right to build a house, to extract minerals, to lease the property, pass it on to heirs, allow hunting are all rights that the landowner has. A landowner may give up certain development rights, or sticks from the bundle, associated with their property through a document called a conservation easement.

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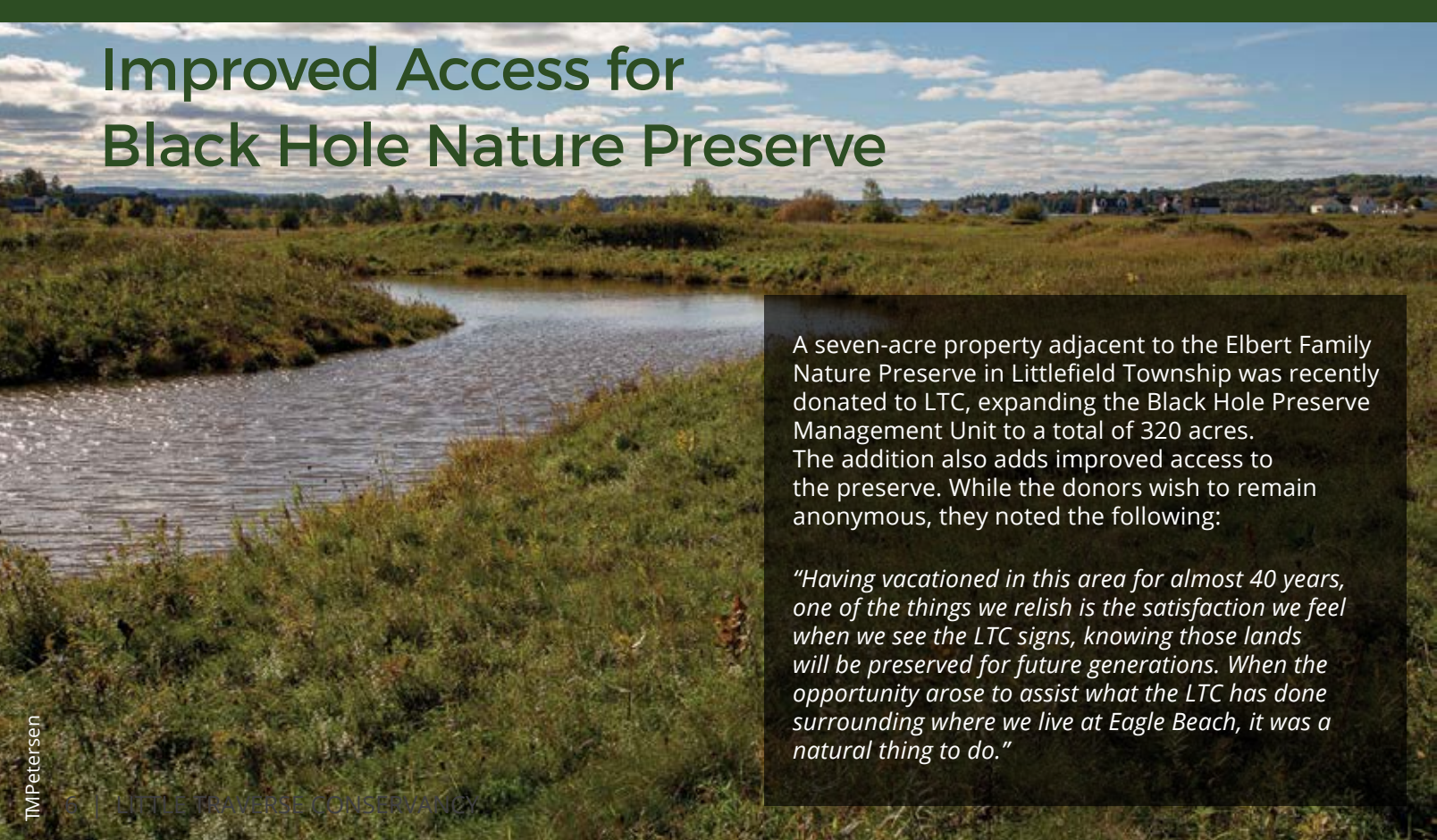
good to us," Eleanor said. "We do not like the idea of this farm ever being built up." Eleanor remembers the simple pleasures she and her siblings have had growing up and living on the land. "We always wanted to try skiing, and one Christmas our dad found some used skis for us so we could try it on our big hill. We didn't know how to turn so we just skied straight to the road and had to fall down to stop!"

Bob Bradley, Resort Township Zoning Chair and third generation to live on and enjoy his own family land in Resort Township, emphasizes the importance of keeping the momentum from this project going. "In partnership with the Little Traverse Conservancy we have taken a significant step forward in meeting the goals of the township board and citizens with the purchase of development rights on the Crothers family farm," Bob said.

The completion of the Crothers farmland preservation effort has provided the momentum needed to seek additional funding sources, more partnerships, and other interested landowners.

For more information about the PDR program, please contact Little Traverse Conservancy at 231.347.0991.

Improved Access for Black Hole Nature Preserve



A seven-acre property adjacent to the Elbert Family Nature Preserve in Littlefield Township was recently donated to LTC, expanding the Black Hole Preserve Management Unit to a total of 320 acres. The addition also adds improved access to the preserve. While the donors wish to remain anonymous, they noted the following:

"Having vacationed in this area for almost 40 years, one of the things we relish is the satisfaction we feel when we see the LTC signs, knowing those lands will be preserved for future generations. When the opportunity arose to assist what the LTC has done surrounding where we live at Eagle Beach, it was a natural thing to do."

The Roberts Family Nature Preserve

This past October, Irene Roberts donated a 32-acre parcel that includes 224 feet of Douglas Lake frontage to Little Traverse Conservancy as a nature preserve.

A native of the United Kingdom, Irene became friends with her late husband Fritz's family when she first met him at a school on Staten Island, New York in 1969. She and Fritz began dating after his first wife passed, and they married in 1977. Their connection to the area was through Fritz's family cottage on Douglas Lake. "I love the outdoors, the lake, the woods!" Irene stated.

The natural features of the new Roberts Family Nature Preserve include large white pine and a mix of hemlock with birch, willow and red oak. Further north, the forest cover transitions to balsam and spruce, and then to maple and aspen. MacArthur Road traverses through the heart of the property, and there is an access easement from MacArthur Road to the property to the west. Bald eagles are regularly seen roosting there, and loons, waterfowl, herons and bitterns use the shoreline and lake.

Irene and Fritz retired early and moved to Pries Landing, northwest of Cheboygan along US-23, not far from their Douglas Lake property, where they often returned to explore, discovering "wonderful wildflowers around the cottage and fungi in the woods."

"Fritz had always wanted to be a forester, but in those days it didn't pay well," Irene explained. "So in retirement, he took care of the woods. He didn't take down the trees and left fallen branches for the animals."

Members of LTC since 1987, Fritz had long considered donating their Douglas Lake property to LTC. After he died in 2000, Irene explored the idea of a conservation easement, and completed the donation of an easement on the land in 2012. However, she began spending more time back in the UK and less time in the states, eventually prompting the decision to donate the land.



Fritz Roberts (center)



Historic Douglas Lake

"I am very happy that this land is now a nature preserve, as is the rest of the family. I know Fritz would be happy, as would Wilma and Harry, his parents."

Irene Roberts



Bringing It to Cheboygan *Duncan Bay Nature Trail*

LTC staff and volunteers were busy this fall building one of the largest boardwalk projects the organization has ever undertaken.

Roughly 2,000 feet of boardwalk, a footbridge, and an overlook platform are all planned for the Duncan Bay Nature Preserve located on the edge of the City of Cheboygan. Funding for the boardwalk materials is provided through a grant from the Save Our Great Lakes (SOGL) Program received by Huron Pines out of Gaylord. "This trail is a result of a community appeal by the City of Cheboygan, the local grassroots group Bring IT Cheboygan, and other local citizens who have worked to improve opportunities for outdoor recreation and enjoyment in the region," said LTC Director of Stewardship Derek Shiels. "The new half-mile trail loop already offers a nice opportunity to explore nature along the edge of Duncan Bay. Once completed next year, an overlook platform will offer an excellent destination for bird and wildlife watching overlooking Lake Huron and this beautiful Great Lakes wetland complex."

In addition to Huron Pines, the City of Cheboygan, the SOGL Grant Program, the donors who helped protect the land, and Consumers Energy for donating utility poles for a bridge, LTC thanks the extraordinary volunteers who showed up on a regular basis this fall to get the project well underway. High school students from Straits Area Youth Promotion Academy and volunteers from the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Youth Conservation Corps were the first to kick-start the project by hauling nearly 400 twelve-foot boards (a total weight of about 20,000 pounds!) a quarter mile in under four hours. Electrical poles were donated by Consumers Energy and moved by these students (by hand!) for the supports for the bridge. These kids worked hard! One of our weekly volunteers, Mike Tiedeck, was instrumental with the bridge construction, providing valuable input and generously donating the use of crucial construction tools, including an aluminium boat. "The permit delay and weather made this project challenging, along with the work of hauling lumber and building boardwalk in wet conditions, but these people continue to be there side by side with our staff. It has certainly been inspiring for us!" Shiels added.



Invasive Species Management at WFRs

Our stewardship team was busy this fall managing the widespread populations of honeysuckle at the Offield Family and Consuelo Diane and Charles L. Wilson Jr. Working Forest Reserves.

Honeysuckle is a perennial, woody shrub with both native and non-native species found in Michigan. Removing the non-native honeysuckle at these reserves was a top priority for LTC this fall season largely due to upcoming timber harvests over the next few years. The temporary disruptions open the forests up to risks associated with non-native plant infestations.

When a habitat is freshly disturbed, non-native plant species tend to exploit these areas where there is less competition for space and plentiful sunlight. Unfortunately, this often leads to



Invasive Honeysuckle

native plants being outcompeted, including the young trees we are trying to regenerate. Loss of native species is a critical issue because wildlife depends on the food and habitat resources that these plants supply.

To prevent this from happening during the next timber harvest, LTC hired two seasonal stewardship staff, Phillip Weldy and Solomon Harvey, to take on the task of invasive honeysuckle removal. Funding for their positions came from harvest revenues generated on working forest reserves. They used a brush-cutter to cut the stump of the honeysuckle, as well as herbicides applied directly to the cut stump of the plant, a technique aptly called the cut-stump method. Throughout the fall season, the two successfully removed and treated a majority of the mature honeysuckle populations in both reserves, discouraging the spread of new



Phillip Weldy and Solomon Harvey

plants into the harvested area.

"It's been rewarding to see our progress in cutting back the honeysuckle week by week," Weldy commented. "I'm looking forward to returning to the reserves in the future to see the forests transformed and thriving from the benefits of our work," added Harvey.

Landowner Workshop

Invasive Pests Threatening Our Forests with Amber Neils, MI Dept. of Ag & Rural Development

Thursday, December 20, 5-6:30pm

Petoskey Public Library

Registration required. More info at 231.347.0991 or www.landtrust.org.



Little Traverse Conservancy Seasonal Educator Samantha Kruguer (left), next to the newly installed interpretive kiosk at the Naas, Mauger, Raunecker, Leslie Nature Preserve Complex just outside of Harbor Springs. Lindsay Hall installing new signs at Seven Springs Nature Preserve.



New Program Piloted with Mackinaw City Schools

by Sarah Mayhew, LTC Director of Environmental Education



Over the course of two days this past October, every K-12 class from Mackinaw City Public Schools got close and personal with the Hathaway Family's Regina Caeli Nature Preserve. Mackinaw City is piloting a new education program model being developed at LTC.

over time through more frequent visits to a property. We will be working more closely with teachers

to develop cross-curricular outdoor experiences that better meet their needs, build stronger connections for students to the environment, and help fulfill LTC's stewardship goals for the preserve.

Acquired in late 2017, the Hathaway Preserve is a 10-minute

walk from the school and about the same distance from The Headlands county park. Given the close proximity and the school's 20-year commitment to our education program, piloting with Mackinaw City Public Schools was a natural fit. It is a beautiful thing to have this preserve right down the road and to have an eager, willing, and supportive school staff who value this type of educational experience for their students!

This new model is the result of an extensive year-long visioning process undertaken in 2017 by our education committee and staff. The model focuses on project and inquiry-based programming that builds on a student's experience



LTC Director of Stewardship Derek Shiels shares botany info with the students.

Meeting the Preserve

Here is how the experience went:

The students were broken into four groups for their introduction to the preserve: high school, middle school, upper elementary and lower elementary. Each group spent 3 hours on the property collecting baseline data and making observations that stewardship staff will use when writing the management plan for the preserve. Each group was given a particular quadrant of the property to focus on. Different plots were identified within each quadrant where students collected a variety of data including: ground vegetation types, understory vegetation, canopy trees, coarse woody debris and soil types. Younger students learned to identify different species and use their observation skills to determine where special features on the property exist and envision where future trails may go. Additional visits to the property have already taken place and plans are being made for projects to be done this school year.

This is an exciting first step for a blossoming program and partnership!

LTC Director of Environmental Education Sarah Mahew explains conifers to Mackinaw elementary students.



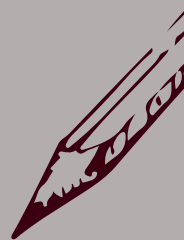
Goodhart Writer Residency and Lakeview Academy at McCune Nature Preserve

LTC collaborated with Sue and Bill Kico's Goodhart Artist & Writer Residency program this Fall.

Writer Bryna Cofrin-Shaw arrived in late September and visited several LTC preserves for inspiration in her writings, which include themes relating to environmental topics and climate change. The residents are asked to give something back to the community, and, thanks to English teacher Kelly Wilson, Bryna met with Lakeview Academy students two times: once in their classroom and once at the McCune Nature Preserve where they were given writing prompts including pieces by Wendell Berry and Mary Oliver. This was a really special opportunity and experience!

LTC will be collaborating with the residency program again in 2019. The Good Hart Residency Program offers 2- to 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.

For more information, visit www.goodhartartistresidency.org.





LTC Opens Lands Up to Disabled Hunters for Independence Hunt

October 18-21 was the Independence Hunt here in northern Michigan.

The Independence Hunt is reserved for Veterans with 100-percent disability or rated as individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition, hunters who possess a permit to hunt from a standing vehicle or to hunt using a laser-sighting device,

and hunters who are legally blind may also participate.

We at the Little Traverse Conservancy joined with the Brave Hearts Estate, North Country Sportsmans Club, Tip of the Mitt QDMA and Harbor Springs Outdoors Club to support our injured warriors and share the publicly open lands protected through LTC. Several donors gave generously to help with this effort. In addition, the Petoskey High School Building Trades class taught by Larry Liebler built storage cabinets to be used by the hunters at Brave Hearts Estate.

our veterans. The wind swirled about while the sky spitted and snowed, but that did not deter them. Some sat out for 8 hours in the cold with a smile on their face," said LTC Executive Director Kieran Fleming, who volunteered as a guide for part of the weekend.

This was a brand new venture for LTC this year, and we look forward to discovering new ways to partner with other groups in our community who may have limited access to land for their outdoor recreation and enjoyment.

"With so much land within our care, we continue to hold close our value of sharing it. We will not protect land by keeping people from it. It is times like these that show the power of stewarding the land and sharing it for our community to thrive."



LTC Executive Director Kieran Fleming with students from the Petoskey Building Trades class.

Twenty-two hunters were able to experience the joy and fulfillment of hunting on nature preserves, working forest reserves, and other privately-owned lands. "These men are as tough as you would expect from



Robbe DiPietro

Robbe DiPietro is the former Associate Director of the Michigan Humanities Council and has worked in nonprofit management, grant administration, education and policy development for more than 30 years. She has held positions in both the private sector and in state government, including over a decade with the Michigan DNR. She is a graduate of Michigan State University.

"I am connected with northern Michigan both personally and professionally, especially around the Burt Lake area, where my family has enjoyed a home for 25 years. I have been an LTC member for more than two decades and my work with the DNR sparked my passion for protecting our state's natural resources. As my two children grew up spending their days outdoors exploring and experiencing the beauty of northern Michigan, I further understood the importance of caring for the special places that offer us a way to connect with nature and with each other throughout generations.

"I have joined the LTC Education Committee and am excited to learn more about LTC youth and adult

programs. Encouraging kids and adults to spend time outdoors and nurturing a stewardship ethic throughout all stages of life helps ensure that natural areas and their ecosystems will continue to thrive for all to enjoy.

"I think the LTC is doing amazing work. I'm happy to see preserves and programs that incorporate an area's heritage with its natural history, especially from the perspectives of indigenous people and early residents of northern Michigan whose voices and stories may not have been part of the dominant narrative in the past. To me, part of the peace and beauty of the land comes from understanding and respecting the families and individuals who walked on trails many generations before me.

"I love gardening, walking and hiking, kayaking, and traveling. My husband Dan and I are both recently retired and hope to explore places around the world, and spend more time enjoying our special home in northern Michigan. I grew up in Detroit and reside in the Lansing area.

"The Chaboganing Nature Preserve/Colonial Point Memorial Forest is near my home and I often enjoy walking and skiing the trails there throughout the year."



Jon Lyons

A summer resident of northern Michigan all his life, Jon Lyons has lived here full time since 1992 after graduating from Ferris State University. He has worked in the banking industry since 2002 in Residential Mortgage Lending, and serves as LTC's Assistant Treasurer and serves on our Executive and Finance Committees. Jon loves to spend time with his family along with being outdoors, and his

hobbies are cycling, watersports, boating, and hockey. He has been married to Christy for 11 years and has three children (Jason, Jordan, and Brady).

"My grandfather purchased land in Bear Creek Township in 1941 as a vacation home as he would travel out here for the summer. He was involved with the Bay View Association. I spent every summer of my childhood in Petoskey staying with them until my parents purchased their own Bay View summer cottage in 1981. I now reside at the property my grandfather purchased in 1941, so northern Michigan has meant a lot to our family through generations.

"I like the direction the Conservancy is currently taking and the focus on the Working Forest Preserves. LTC is such a tremendous asset to Northern Michigan and its continued growth is important to keeping Northern Michigan a special place.

"I would say my favorite preserve is the McCune Nature Preserve. Until my recent move in 2017 I was within walking distance of McCune and used it during all four seasons. It is just a beautiful piece of property."



Consie Pierrepont

Consie Pierrepont grew up in Michigan and summered in northern Michigan with her family for years. Now her own family also enjoys vacations here, and believes that northern Michigan is one of the most unique places in America, with its open space, fresh water, and wildlife, woods, hills, streams and glens. She and her family

love the water, the weather, and all the activities northern Michigan enables, including hiking and biking and skiing.

"I enjoy the outreach part of the volunteer work. My friend and mentor, Art Hailand, taught me how to enjoy most aspects of fundraising including both personal meetings and events. I recall that he ran an early fundraising event for the Conservancy, the Emerald Necklace. I think if you are passionate about something, it becomes easy. I enjoy event planning and hosting.

"I am a brand new board member, so I hesitate to weigh in on future directions for the Conservancy yet. It seems to be doing a fine job of preserving our natural areas and providing public access. This is my learning year."

PRESERVE SPOTLIGHT



Rose twisted stalk

Looking Closer at the Woollam Family Nature Preserve

With funding support from the Michigan Botanical Foundation, a botanical survey of the Woollam Family Nature Preserve was conducted by Borealis Consulting LLC this past summer. A total of 165 vascular plant species in 61 families were observed across the 62-acre parcel. Of these, 135 are native (82%) and 30 are non-native (18%). Of the non-native taxa, 12 are invasive species. Three state threatened species were also documented!



Pyrola



Grain Train Natural Foods Markets

Walking a similar timeline, both the Grain Train Natural Foods Markets and Little Traverse Conservancy were established in the early 1970s, and, in a sense, both had and still have the same goal - making a better world for now and the future.

The Grain Train's mission: *To inspire our community to make well-informed, healthy choices that support both people and planet* works hand in hand with the mission of LTC: *To protect the natural and scenic character of northern Michigan.* "As a business co-operative, as a dedicated group of staff members, and as a community at-large, Grain Train believes in what LTC does for our area—protecting our land for both nature and people, said Grain Train's Laura Cherven.

When asked about their favorite preserve, GT staffers tossed out a long list and many reasons — from birding at Waldron Fen, to skiing The Hill Nature Preserve, to honoring Clem and Jay O'Neil through a walk at the Bubbling Springs Nature Preserve, to a relaxing end-of-workday summer run at the Allan and Virginia McCune Nature Preserve. Many favorites and countless reasons why!

Over the years, the Grain Train has regularly supported Little Traverse Conservancy by donating snacks and beverages for various Conservancy events and workdays throughout the year. And the business readily offers gift baskets for Conservancy fundraisers.

How does conservation relate to healthy eating? "Very simply—healthy eating and healthy living are interrelated. We are so lucky to live in an area where the natural world is at our doorstep — and will remain so thanks to the efforts of LTC. There's nothing better than good food, good people, and getting outdoors!" Cherven added.

The Grain Train has two markets: The Grain Train Natural Foods Market at 220 E. Mitchell St. in downtown Petoskey, and the Grain Train Neighborhood Market at 104 S. Park St. in Boyne City. Plus, in July of this year, the Grain Train Market Cafe opened at 316 E. Mitchell St. in downtown Petoskey.

Thank You to our 2018 Business Members!

45 North Management
A.R. Pontius Flower Shop
Al & Jim's Tree Service
American Spoon Foods
Andrew Kan Travel Service
Archambo Electric
Arfstrom Pharmacies, Inc.
Avalon & Tahoe
Manufacturing, Inc.
Bay Inn of Petoskey
Bear Cove Marina
Bear Creek Organic Farm
Bearcub Outfitters
Beaver Island Boat Company
Bell Title Agency of Petoskey/
Harbor Springs
Belle Aquatic
Benchmark Engineering, Inc.
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Home Services
Bill's Farm Market
Bingham Insurance Service
Birchwood Property
Management
Birchwood Realty
BKC Insurance Services
Blarney Castle Oil Company
Brady's Carpet Cleaning
Brown Motors
Burt Lake Preservation
Association
Camp Walden Inc.
Carter's Imagewear & Awards
Charlevoix State Bank

Circuit Controls Corporation
Citizens National Bank,
Cheboygan
Clothes Post
Consumers Energy
Cove Island LLC
Dave Kring Chevrolet Cadillac
Decka Digital, LLC
Dentistry By the Bay
Devon Title
Douglas Lake Bar &
Steakhouse
Douglas Lake
Improvement Assn.
Drost Landscaping
East Jordan Garden Club
EJ
Elizabeth Blair Fine Pearls
Elly Oom Artwork
Emmet Brick & Block Co.
Emmet County
Lakeshore Assn.
Evening Star Joinery
Evergreen Lawn Care
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First National Bank
of St. Ignace
Flowers from Sky's the Limit
Great Lakes Reclaimed
H. T. Roofing Co.
HANNI Gallery
Harbor Brenn Agencies
Harbor Springs IGA
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High Gear Sports
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Ryde Marine Inc.
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Teddy Griffin's Road House
Toski Sands Market
and Wine Shop
Traveling Chef, Inc.
Trisha Witty
Trout Creek Condominiums
Turkey's Cafe & Pizzeria
Urvana's LLC
VanTreee & Associates
W. W. Fairbairn & Sons, Inc.
Walloon Lake Trust
& Conservancy
Walstrom Marine
Ward & Eis Gallery
Wentworth Builders, Inc
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Wineguys Restaurant Group



**Petoskey
Plastics**

Evening Star Joinery
HARBOR SPRINGS



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TRUST**



Thank YOU 2018 Save the Trees Corporate Sponsors

Thank You

To the following individuals, families, and businesses for joining as annual members to the Little Traverse Conservancy between August 24 and November 12, 2018.

Leanne and Scot Ackert
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Andros
Mya Bruney
Mr. Callockio
Chris and Lia Carruthers
Ms. Cohen
Abby and Ryan Coxon
Mr. Bryan Diller
Sophia Drinkall
Mr. and Mrs. Reed H. Eberly
Jacob Fettig
Lyra and Woodrowe Forward
Calen Galbraith

Kloee Hacker
Peter and Lauri Hartmann
Keith and Diana Hearit
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Henkle
Autumn and Levi Hummel
Chad Johnson
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Seamus Stewart
Joe Taylor
Urvana's LLC
Abbygale and Ms. Rebecca
Visnaw
Josh Walz
Roland Werth
Mark and Barb Young

Legacy Member: A Powerful Commitment to Protecting the North Country You Love

We invite you to become a Little Traverse Conservancy Legacy Member.

A Legacy Member shares in the mission of the Little Traverse Conservancy and has committed to making a future legacy gift. Legacy gifts are accomplished through estates, trusts, annuities, insurance policies and other planned giving options.

Legacy gifts have a profound impact on your ability to protect the North Country you love, and help us fulfill our obligation to steward conserved

lands forever. No gift is too big or too small. There is no minimum gift amount required to be a Little Traverse Conservancy Legacy Member.

To learn more about becoming a Legacy Member or to share that you have included the Little Traverse Conservancy in your estate plans, please contact Ty Ratliff, Associate Director, at 231.344.1005 or tyratliff@landtrust.org.

MEET OUR FINANCE COMMITTEE



**G.P. Johnson
Hightower**
Wequetonsing

"I've supported Little Traverse Conservancy financially for almost 40 years because I think protection of Northern Michigan's natural environment is critical for us

now, and for our future generations to enjoy. I also think LTC's preservation and restoration practices encourage private property owners to be better stewards of their own land."

Over 30 years ago, our Finance Committee was established by members to better connect to prospective members. These fine folks sign the membership letters that you receive in the mail.

**Anne T.
Melvin**
Columbus Beach Club, Burt Lake

"I support LTC because as more people are discovering the wonders and beauty of northern Michigan and building houses and businesses up here, I want to see more of Michigan's quiet, rural landscapes preserved for future generations to enjoy and for the plants and animals that live here to thrive. We need open land for all of that to happen.

I joined the Finance Committee because I know that LTC's work can't continue without support, effort, money and members, and if you want something to flourish, you have to pitch in to make it happen!

What helps me sign so many letters every year is the hope that I'm winning over my CBC friends and neighbors and convincing them to support LTC, one person at a time. It takes effort, but in the end, it's worth it.

My favorite outdoor activity made possible by the Conservancy's protected lands is running in the woods."



Memorials & Honorariums

IN MEMORY OF

Richard Alsgaard

Don and Janeen Smith

Charles Asbury

Mr. David Andrews

Nathan D. Beem

Mr. Richard Annas

Anonymous

Sue Guinn and

Arnold Fife

Lisa Bailey-WPCU

Randy and Susan

Beem

Brandon Berg

Dennis and

Karen Bond

Cathy Brown

Mark and Michele

Brown

Wanda Long,

Mischelle Johnson

and Cara Long

Ohio Galaxies

Futbol Club

Coast Guard Chief

Petty Officers

Association,

Eastern Great Lakes

Chapter, Buffalo, NY

Lizzie, Anita, Shawn

and Cody Miller

Lizzie, Anita, Shawn,

and Shawn and

Karen Combs

Bill and Jennifer

Danishek

Charlie and Crystal

Danishek

Dayton Pediatric

Imaging

Dayton Children's

South Campus

Medical Imaging

Dayton Children's

Medical Imaging

Department and

Registration

The Graham Family

The Teuschler Family

The Bond Family

The Chuck Family

Cyndi Fevang

Colin James Franks

Cheri Graeter

Mr. and Mrs. Jerold

Graver and Rachel

Greg and Paula

Sollenberger

Mary Grillot

Tim and Becky

Grinstead

Angela and

Michael Haller

Laura Halsall

Dave and Donna

Heeres

Amy and Tyler Heskett

Willis and Valerie

Hoagland-Scarfin

Garrett Karolyi

James and Melanie

Kimbler

Linda Beem Kluge,

Jim and Carol

Beem Wilson

Daniel Rodriguez

Martinez

Jean McGree

Molly McHarg

Linda and Gary

McLaughlin

Kyle D. Mills

Maria Mitter

Kay Moffitt

Tony and Tara

Newbould

Friends of H.E.R.

Ohio Pediatric Care

Alliance-SPFLD,

Christy Whaley and

Sienna Marino Todd

and Kim Ramey

Ty Ratliff

Cyndi, Tate and

Mark Robertson

Jessica Royer

Cindy Schneider

Ms. Ann M. Shaw-

Kremer

Angi Shupert

Lauren Smith

Rosemary Smith

Greg and Paula

Sollenberger

Tracy and Guy

Titcombe

Rae Treherne

USCG Station

Rochester, NY

Tom and Lorie Watts

Jim and Mary White

Mary Williams

Dave Wills-WPCU

Tim and Rachel Wilson

Rod Begeman

Ms. Joan Begeman

and Anne and

Justin Davidhizar

Betty Birkmeier

Mr. and Mrs.

Fred Moore

L.D. and Maria

Blackwell

Dave and Debbie

Kring

Richard Brandewie

Megan Atkin

Staige and Tricia

Hoffman

Tom and Kathy

Huelsman

Mr. and Mrs.

Patrick Murphy

Rosemary Armstrong

and Sandy Weinberg

Howard Carroll

Mr. and Mrs. John

E. Regan



This fall, family and friends gathered at the McCune Nature Preserve to dedicate a bench in memory of Rick Jorgensen. Rick, Anne, and their dog Willy, found strength and solace in walking the preserve trails. Donations made in Rick's memory purchased the beautiful bench and also helped to finish the new preserve parking area along Maxwell Road.

Bruce K. Davis and
Heidi W. Hill

Barbara Castleman
Mr. and Mrs. William
C. Stude Jr.

Mary Fischer
Judy Szor

Mae Hartman
Don and Janeen Smith

Suzanne Herzog
Sarah and Peter
Gurney
The Mrstik Family

Rick Jorgensen
Linda Jorgensen
Nick Maragioglio
Ty Ratliff
Elizabeth and
Madhuram Ribeiro

Marjorie Kingsbury
Anne Mesmer
Mrs. Robert J. Rhein, Jr.

Christopher
John Krupa
Dave Kring

William Lacker
Don and Janeen Smith

Joanne Warburton
Lenahan
Elizabeth Scovill
Robert and Sue
Ewbank

Marge May
Ms. Linda Heller

Merritt Meeks
Don and Janeen Smith

Matt Nisbett
Nature Learning
Community

Lyle and June
Oesterle
Don and Janeen Smith

Robert Reisig
Vicki Netzel and
Christina Badyna
Mr. and Mrs.
Michael Doyle
Allen and Ruth
Graham
Richard and Christine
Graham
Mr. and Mrs. Quinton
L. Kuebler
Mr. and Mrs. Allan
P. LeChard
Senior Men's Club
of Grosse Pointe
Kenneth and
Sue Smith

William Ryder
Mr. Larry D. Ray

Mark D. Sambrook
Don and Michelle
Ressa

William Street
Mr. and Mrs. J. Hord
Armstrong III
Bruce K. Davis and
Heidi W. Hill

A. Douglas
Sutherland
Ms. Sheila Book
Mr. James P. Danaher
Mrs. Joan Long
Ms. Martha Speer
Ms. Mary Graham
Mrs. Mary M. Roby
Robert and
Virginia Vallee

David Svensen
East Burt Lake
Association

Thomas V. Telder
Dr. and Mrs.
Michael J. Miller

Helen Tingleff
Ms. Sharon Lumsden

Katherine Vail
Chris and Lia
Carruthers

Dr. Ed Voss
Lynn Elfner and
Barbara Sue Elfner

Elizabeth Carrott
Whitemore
Philip Carrott Jr.
Philip and Tamara
Carrott

Linda Wolgast
Don and Janeen Smith

Margery Woolgast
Don and Janeen Smith

John Woodrow
East Burt Lake
Association

IN HONOR OF

Helen Anderson
Don and Janeen Smith

John and Carolyn
Fraser
Don and Janeen Smith

William Gurney-
Birthday
Andrejs and Kate
Reskevics

David FitzSimons
Mr. and Mrs. Michael
L. Turnbull
Mr. and Mrs.
Byron L. West

Theo Neils-Birthday
Mr. Owen Neils

Thank You

Joe Clark for printing student nature preserve photographs to go into the Smithsonian Waterways Exhibit at Raven Hill Discovery Center.

Ellen Waller and **Mary Jane Clayton** for counting data from trail cameras.

Trail Blazers **Brad Moffatt** and his friend **Dar, Hope Evans**, and **John Baker**.

Jacob Van Patten for conducting a bird survey at the Harris Working Forest Reserve.

Duncan Bay trail and boardwalk building volunteers: **Bring IT Cheboygan, Darrell Schwalm, Bill Thompson, Dale and Connie Rieger, Sherry Nelson, Jim Little, Nanette Johnston.**

Tuesday Preserve Perfectionists **John Baker, Tom Rowland, Chris Ford, Jim Ehrnst, Richard Jenkins**, and **Mike Tiedeck, Kenyon Stebbins** and **Bill Thompson**.

Special thanks to the **unknown angel from Cheboygan** who brought our entire Duncan Bay volunteer work crew pizza lunch because she loved that we were building a trail in her neighborhood!

Grain Train Co-Op for donating snacks for our volunteers throughout the summer and fall and for supporting our efforts to get people outside and keep them healthy.

John Baker for building three

trailhead kiosks and many, many more stewardship projects.

Ben Musielak for giving above and beyond at the Vermilion Point Nature Preserve.

Peggy Swenor for ground-truthing our new trail maps at Goodhart Farms.

Olivet College students for clearing a trail at the James Foster-Hartley Lake Preserve.

Chemical Bank volunteers for braving the rain to cut invasive Scotch pine, expand the parking area and remove barbed wire fence at the Consuelo Diane and Charles L. Wilson Jr. Working Forest Reserve, and for providing lunch to LTC staff! **Doug Buck, Kayla Campbell, Josie Czykoski, Tyler Knapp, Jon Lyons, Bill Marshall, Chrystianna Roisen, Ashley Swan**, and **Chrissie Woodbury**.

Odds and Ends trail group volunteers **Connie Donovan, Bill and Susan Madsen, Mike and Candy Pierce, Susan Stein and Brian Pendleton, Fred and Caroline Van Antwerp** for clearing the Judd's Ring Trail at Goodhart Farms.

Mike and **Bonnie Brunett** and **Jean Faivor** for help building the new boardwalk at Sleepy Hollow Preserve in East Jordan.

Preserve Stewards **Claire** and **Tom Rasmussen** for cleaning up trash at the George and Marion Light Preserve.

Volunteers who mow trails and parking areas: **Scott Smith** and **his family** at Hailand & Helstrom Preserves, **Gary High** at Bubbling Springs Preserve, **Bill** and **Candace Sanderson** and **their family** along

with **Shane** and **Erin Albrecht** at Sugar Island Preserves, and **Bill Olstrom & Family** at the Taylor & Olstrom Preserves.

Bill Hodges for brush hogging the Charles Winston Preserve to maintain a scenic view.

Field Trip leaders **Marilynn Smith, Eric Hemenway** and **Darrell Lawson**.

Mary Trout for – well – for so many things!

MSU Spartan Sierra Club volunteers for removing invasive honeysuckle at the Offield Family Working Forest Reserve.

Mike Tiedeck for lending his boat and other specialized equipment and engineering skills to build the bridge at Duncan Bay Preserve trail in Cheboygan.

Alec Sheets for cleaning up trash at the Elizabeth B. Hoffmann Nature Preserve.

Bruce Dawley for lending equipment for the Duncan Bay Preserve boardwalk and bridge project.

American Waste Company for donating the cost of trash disposal.

NCMC Sustainable Living Skills intern **Renae Elzinga**.

My Sister's Bake Shop for donating snacks for our mailing volunteers.

Consumers Energy for donating power poles for the Duncan Bay Preserve bridge.

Glen Mathews for inventorying our forest lands and helping with Mackinaw Schools inventory of the Hathaway Family Nature Preserve.

Photographers **Ray Gaynor, Todd Petersen, Sue Kurtz**, and **Gary Osterbeck**.

Mailing volunteers: **Barb Bechold, Sally Bales, Michaleen** and **Nick Karay, Gretchen Brown, Betty Benson, Carolyn Snead, Doris Lark, Lurli Vaughan**.



Holiday Greetings

NEWEST SEASONAL STAFF PROFILES

This fall, LTC was fortunate to have the added team power supplied from these two sweet souls.



Solomon Harvey

Stewardship Assistant

Solomon was inspired to join the Conservancy to learn more about the environment and natural landscapes that he has come to love since moving to northern Michigan. He grew up in East Lansing and has a background in cooking as well as video and audio production. As a stewardship technician, he assisted in a variety of projects including invasive species removal, boardwalk construction and trail maintenance. "I didn't know what to expect on my first day. I was blown away by the amount of land the Conservancy protects and grateful to be outside working on it all day! It's been a huge learning experience for me, and I've gained so much appreciation for all of the people and work that goes into maintaining land. I'm excited to come back and volunteer when I'm done!"

Favorite Moment from the Field:

"The feeling of satisfaction when walking over a newly built boardwalk. In a matter of seconds, you walk over something that took so many days and hard work to build!"



Lindsay Hall

Communications/Education Assistant

Lindsay grew up in Harbor Springs and is incredibly proud to call this place home. "From trail running in these woods to swimming in the lake, I feel so connected to northern Michigan and all of its beauty!" Finding it hard to stray far from the Great Lakes, she opted for the shores of Lake Superior to study Environmental Studies and Sustainability at Northern Michigan University. After graduating, Lindsay moved to Petoskey where she served as a FoodCorps AmeriCorps member connecting kids to healthy, local food in schools for the past two years. She joined LTC this fall as an Environmental Educator and will be staying on through the winter and spring to assist with Communications. "I'm so happy to be here with this awesome team. I've learned so much about land conservation and am continually inspired by the 'family' LTC has created - staff, members, volunteers, board, and community included. All coming together for the love of the land. That's really special."

Favorite Moment from the Field:

I was practicing identifying trees with a group of students, and one girl was so proud to announce that she had identified a cedar tree, "It's a white cheddar tree! A white cheddar!"



The Odds and Ends group clearing the Judd's Ring Trail at the Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve - West.



Students from Olivet College clearing trail at the James Foster-Hartley Lake Nature Preserve in Chippewa County.



New boardwalk covering wet portions of the Waldron Fen Nature Preserve trail.



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Holiday Gifts! New logo trucker hats (5 colors) regular hats, sweatshirts, books, and calendars are all available. Call our office for more information at 231.347.0991 or visit www.landtrust.org.

Winter Community Field Trips

These events are offered at no charge, but pre-registration is requested by calling 231.347.0991 or online at www.landtrust.org.

Wreath Making and Hike

Saturday, December 15

10am-Noon/Round Lake Nature Preserve, Harbor Springs

Join local artist and florist Katie Brines and Little Traverse Conservancy staff for a fun and festive hike and wreath making workshop. This event will start with a short walk on the Round Lake Preserve collecting materials and finish with the wreath making indoors. LTC will provide some materials but feel free to bring your own additions!

Winter Hike with Eric Hemenway

Saturday, February 2

10am-Noon/McCune Nature Preserve, Petoskey

"Be-Boon" or Winter in the Odawa language, was a critical time of year for northern Michigan's indigenous people. This talk will look at what the Odawa did historically to survive the harsh winters of years past.

Greenwood Foundation Snowshoe & Cross-country Skiing Adventure

Saturday, February 9

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 large and diverse property. A groomed trail for skiers will lead you along the trails in this 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 try to arrive at least 20 minutes early.

Knee High Naturalists:

Winter Wonderland (for 3-5 year olds)

Saturday, February 16

10-11am / Round Lake Nature Preserve, Harbor Springs

Winter is a great time to explore and play. Join us for a walk through the woods as we gather materials to create our very own nature snowmen, look up close at snowflakes, and discover what stories are left behind in the snow. We will end our adventure by enjoying some delicious hot cocoa.

Les Cheneaux Snows Fest Hike:

Winter Ecology

Sunday, February 17

Noon-2 / Birge Nature Preserve

Join Little Traverse Conservancy on a snowshoe outing at the Birge Nature Preserve. Explore on and off trail while tracking wildlife and searching for hidden jewels of this preserve. Please bring your own snowshoes. All ages welcome. Meet at the Mertaugh Camp Road parking area

Women in the Wild Series Part I:

XC Skiing

Saturday, January 26

1-3 pm / Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve

This year we will offer 4 field trips for women of all ages to become more comfortable getting outside in new places. The first trip will explore the 3+ miles of groomed trails at Goodhart Farms. Whether this is your first time on skis, or at this preserve, come get some fresh air while also building your confidence on your cross country skis. Adventure awaits, complete with hot cocoa! Adult must accompany child(ren).