



Winter 2009-2010
Volume 31, No. 4



Mullett Lake Protection

LARGEST UNDEVELOPED SHORELINE SAVED



Conservancy preserves shown in yellow.

WHEN THE LARGEST UNDEVELOPED SHORELINE parcel on Mullett Lake in Cheboygan County became available, the question was how the Conservancy could best purchase the land to protect it, with the hope that state ownership would occur in the near future.

Thanks to a generous Conservancy supporter, things fell into place. Last summer, the 143-acre parcel was purchased by the Conservancy and will be held while the Conservancy works with the state toward its acquisition of the property.

Approximately half of the property is forested wetlands and the upland portion includes large white and red pines, scattered with red oak. The parcel contains more than 1,100 feet of unspoiled, natural shoreline.

"I would like to give a huge 'thank you' to LTC for acquiring what we have called the Johnson property," said Tony Naylor, president of the Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society. "In addition to its size and ecological importance, this parcel is bisected by the North Central State Trail, an old railroad grade resurfaced for public use. Congratulations to LTC for a job well done."

"The presence of the North Central State Trail on the property makes it an especially attractive acquisition for the state," said Kieran Fleming, director of land protection for the Conservancy.

The map at left shows the new parcel in relation to nature preserves owned by the Conservancy. "It is so rare to have the opportunity to protect shoreline of this size anymore," Fleming added.

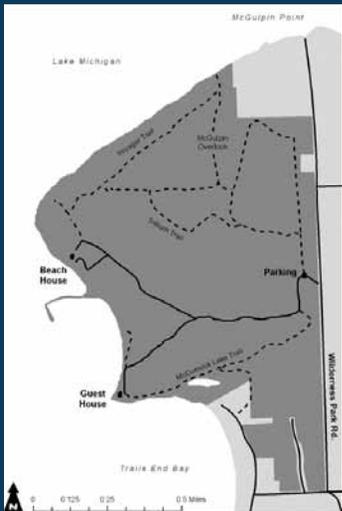


Preserves for Enjoying Winter Sports

SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING OPPORTUNITIES

There are now a handful of Conservancy nature preserves or properties we've helped protect that are regularly groomed for skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. Here are a few that we'd recommend from around the service area. You will find trail updates, maps, and directions at www.landtrust.org. Additional preserves that are not groomed, but still good destinations for outdoor winter adventure, are mentioned as well. *Reminder: When snowshoeing, please avoid the groomed classic ski tracks.

EMMET COUNTY



The Headlands

All of the more than 4½ miles of hiking trails at The Headlands are groomed and open for skiing with snowshoeing beside the groomed portions. This is an Emmet County park that was protected with assistance from the Conservancy. Visit www.emmetcounty.org for info.



Elmer Johnston Preserve

Though not groomed with equipment, the 1½ miles of trails at the Elmer Johnston Preserve near Good Hart are used throughout the winter, providing a consistent track for cross country skiing. (Above, second graders enjoy the preserve by snowshoe.)



Goodhart Farms Preserve

High tech grooming equipment is used to keep the 6½ miles of ski trails open and easy to use. A parking area is kept clear off of Robinson Road to provide easy access to the trails. Located near Good Hart and not far from the Elmer Johnston Preserve (see left).

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY



Driggers Preserve

The 1½ miles of trails at this Charlevoix County preserve are groomed on a regular basis by a neighbor. Located off the Charlevoix-Boyne City Road, a parking area will be kept plowed throughout the winter.

CHEBOYGAN COUNTY



Reed's Alverno Preserve

Located roughly 8 miles outside of Cheboygan, this preserve is groomed for both classical and skate skiing, with a trail system of 2¾ miles. The neighboring property owner graciously invites the public to ski the loops on his land, but please be aware that this is private property and is only open to the public during the skiing season.

MACKINAC COUNTY

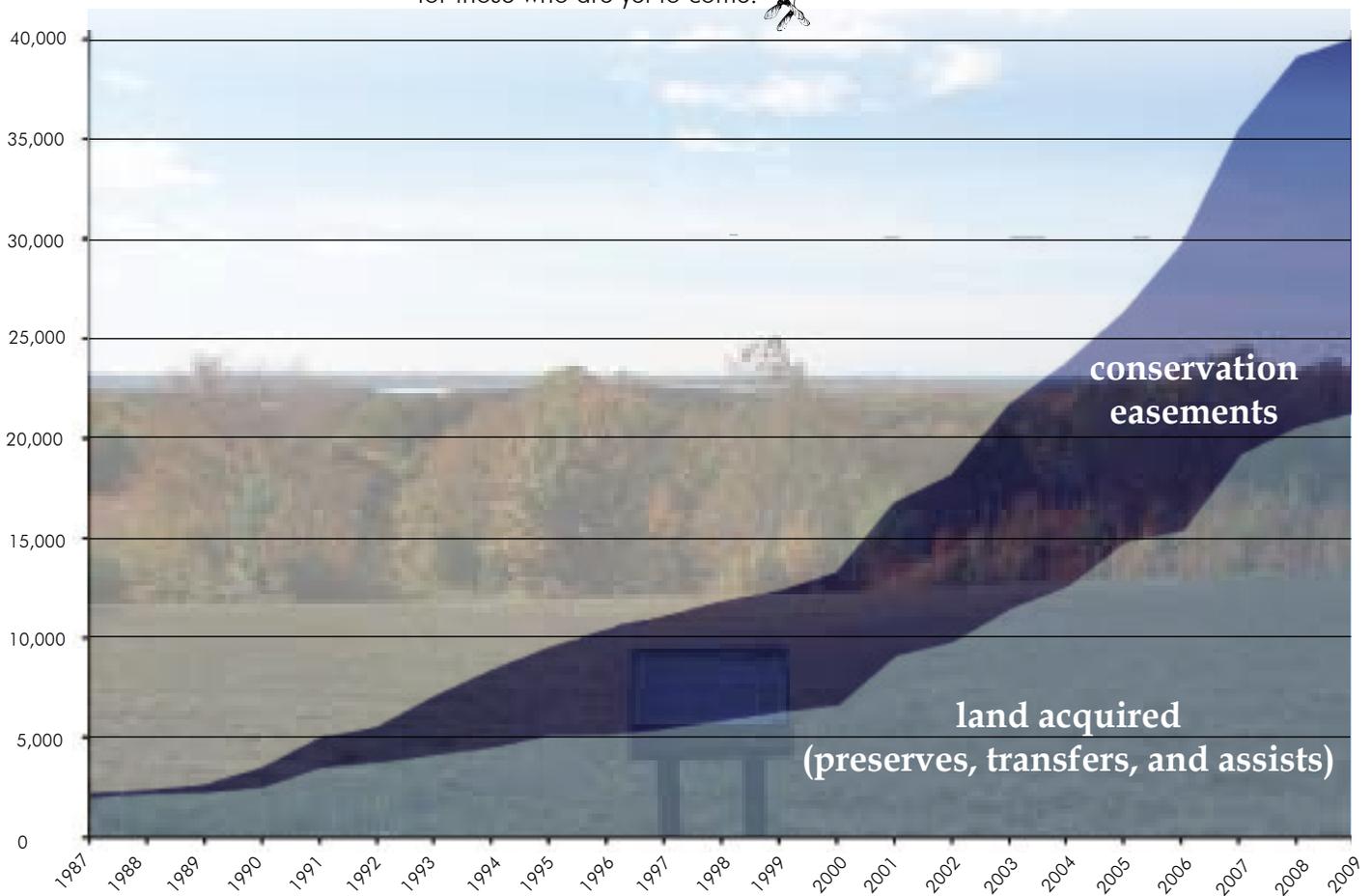
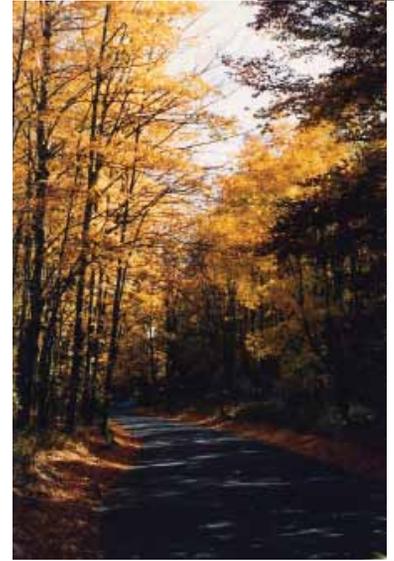


Birge Preserve

In 2008, a new 2-mile loop trail was created at the 435-acre Birge Nature Preserve located southwest of Hessel. The new trail complements an existing short trail leading to an overlook at Loon Lake. Volunteers plan to keep the trails groomed for skiing and snowshoeing.

40,000 acres in 38 years

The Conservancy recently passed a milestone by protecting more than 40,000 acres of land. These acres include all of the nature preserves, private properties with conservation easements, and assist projects in which the Conservancy was primarily involved. The numbers add up to the tangible, visible difference that Conservancy supporters have made in this five-county region. The board and staff are grateful for your trust as we continue to seek a balance between land developed for human use and land that has been permanently set aside in its natural state. As much as this work has been done for those of us here today, this organization is also paying it forward for those who are yet to come.



by category & county

216 Nature Preserves		208 Conservation Easements		63 Transfers & Assists		1 State Partnership	
County	# Projects	County	# Projects	County	# Projects	County	# Projects
Charlevoix	44	Charlevoix	47	Charlevoix	18	Cheboygan	1
Cheboygan	35	Cheboygan	44	Cheboygan	9		
Chippewa	21	Chippewa	15	Chippewa	8		
Emmet	91	Emmet	90	Emmet	16		
Mackinac	25	Mackinac	12	Mackinac	6		
12,060 acres total		18,575 acres total		6,952 acres total		2,434 acres total	

The following gifts were received
between September 1 and November 30, 2009



Memorials

Pauline Apley

Mr. Michael Cameron

Jane Marie Bailey

Chuck and Jeri Feltner
Mrs. Margaret Pittman
Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. VanSullichem

John Bartley

Herbert and Peggy Stockham

John and Jane Bartley

Stan Dickinson

Dr. Louis Batmale

Sam and Mary Lou Supernaw

Marc Bohlke

John and Rhoda Brooks

Ann Braham

Edward and Jane Terrill

David K. Chattin

Ms. Catherine T. Freebairn

Patricia Davis

Dick and Veroneze Strader

Virginia Dowling

Ms. Catherine T. Freebairn

Forest Evashevski

Mr. and Mrs. W. Anthony Huffman

Ernest Gaunt

Ms. Joan Caldwell

Arthur G. Hailand, Jr.

Patti and Bally Grannis
Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Hightower
Polk and Susan Laffoon

Edith Hawks

C. Beach and Trudy Day

George Henkle

Bill and Nancy Harrison

Mark Carroll Howard

The Couch and Brown Families
Menonaqua Cottage Owners Association

David G. Huebner

Jane Denay
Harbor Arthritis Center
Charles Huebner

Dale Jacobs

East Burt Lake Association

Ian Hughes

Tom and Kathy Snow

Rebecca Johnson

Ken and Pat Gitersonke

Craig Juenemann

C. Beach and Trudy Day

John 'Jack' Lansill

Mr. and Mrs. William O. Alden, Jr.
Mrs. Richard C. Wozniak

Jutta Letts

Mr. A. Victor Abnee
Robert and Ann Aikens
Ms. Joan Allgood
David and Marcia Altmaier
Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Aschauer
J. Bruce and Margie Ball
Harriet Berg
Mrs. Betty Birkmeier
Steve and Avis Birkmeier
The Law Firm of Bush Seyferth &
Paige PLLC
Cheryl Bush, Patrick Seyferth and
Richard Paige

Glenn and Joan Carpenter
Nina and Bill Collins
Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Cox
Mr. William Davenport
Mr. and Mrs. Rex E. Ely
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fisher
Foley & Lardner, LLP
Joanne and Chuck Forbes
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Gerwin
The Getsinger Family
Alicia and Jere Gillette
Mr. Thomas C. Goad
Phebe and Sid Goldstein
James and Martha Haines
Ms. Vicki Haley
Martha and Frank Harding
Mort and Brigitte Harris
Eugene and Donna Hartwig
Lauren Harvey
Mrs. Martha L. Horsburgh
The Horween Family
Ms. Karen Hughes
Sara W. Ingold
John and Cathy Johns
Ms. Ruth Ann Johnson
Irene Jones
Kelly Joyner
Mr. James E. Kanuch
William and Nancy Kerver

Paul and Fotini Lazaros
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Leland, Jr.
Les Jardinieres Garden Club
Doug and Beverly Link
Alan and Linda McInally
Don McLellan and Friends
at RM Restoration
Ms. Kerri Mertaugh
Mertaugh Boat Works
Gene Messengar
Bonnie S. Mikkelsen
Fred and Joyce Moore
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Murray
Ms. Krista O'Brien
Erinn Odell
Dave and Linda Parlin
Mrs. Sally A. Parsons
Tim Penn (Wanxiang)
Bill and Jane Petzold
Miss Alexandra Phillips
Mrs. Elliott H. Phillips
Ms. Sandy Phillips
Helen and Joe Pickering
Mrs. Margaret Pittman
Mrs. Alice Powell
Jesse Raver
Tim and Linda Ressler
Jim and Linda Robinson
Mike Robinson
Ms. Sally Saunders
Ms. Carolyn A. Shantz
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Snyder
John and Karen Street
Jeanne and David Tennent
Edward and Jane Terrill
Trek, Inc.
Mark and Karen Upham
The Stephen P. Upham, Jr. Family
Barbara C. VanDusen
Eilert and Eva VonVoss
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Walker
Anne and Pete Whitelaw
Neil and Lynn Williams

Mildred A. Willis
Curt and Bonnie Wood
Ms. Marion Wyatt

Mr. Robert L. McMurtrie

Ms. Jackie McMurtrie

Nigel McNamara

Jane Denay
Harbor Arthritis Center
Charles Huebner

Marty Moore

Mr. William Rattenbury

George Pensinger

Mr. Michael Cameron

Howard Petty

Howard Schubiner and Valerie Overholt

Marge Raines

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schobert

William Saal

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stude, Jr.

Mary Shands

Mr. and Mrs. Ward C. Case
Bob and Joy Files
Mrs. Joan Keller
David L. Davies and John D. Weeden
Mrs. Richard C. Wozniak

Charlotte Simmons

Mr. and Mrs. Ward Case

Theodore H. Smith, Jr.

East Burt Lake Association

Helen Sprengel

East Burt Lake Association

Jane Swanson

Jane Denay
Harbor Arthritis Center
Charles Huebner

Joan E. Treves

Jon and Jessica Jensen

Betty L. Westfall

Lynn M. Vance

Bill Wolf

The Timms Family

Thomas 'Tim' Wright, MD

Elizabeth Bachorik, ANP-BC
Col. and Mrs. Broadus Bailey, Jr.
Kurt and Lisa Beske

Correction

We sincerely apologize
for the incorrect listing
of a gift given for John S.
Speed from Mrs. William
Barnes III which should
have been listed as a
birthday honorarium.

Welcome New Trustees

NEW TRUSTEES AND TERM LIMITS CHANGE BOARD

Harry and Fay Black
 Steve and Mary Brown
 Mr. R. Kenneth Butler
 Mr. James Dear
 Mr. Bruce Doubleday
 Mark and Michele Fracasso
 Edward and Rhonda Friedler
 Mr. Thomas M. Fulcher
 Dr. Richard J. Hart, Jr.
 Ms. Katherine C. Kane
 Mr. John Maddox
 Nephrology Associates of
 Northern Virginia
 Charles and Michele Oseroff
 Dr. Douglas Rennert, Dr. Vas Devan
 and Pulmonary and Critical Care
 Associates, P.C.
 Bob Silverstein and Aileen Reynolds
 The Scutts
 Mo and Nancy Shriber and Family
 Albert and Fran Skutans
 Lynne and Allan Somoroff
 Steve Prestegard and Tom VanAlen
 Mr. Jack M. Williams
 Mr. Thomas N. Wise
 Major Robert Zikowitz
 Mr. Harold Zimmerman

Honorariums

happy birthday

Maureen Delaney-Lehman

Dr. Mary C. Linton

Carol Godfrey

Ms. Kelli Hoogerland

Karen Hovey

Carol and W. G. Giles

Merv Sternberg (75th)

Harold and Lynda Friedman

Byron and Laura West

Mary Driggs

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Fischer
 & Family

happy anniversary

Jack and Karen Barnwell

Richard and Susan Causley

Ann and David Irish (50th)

Chris Ford and Ali Hill

James and Faye Johnston (60th)

Mr. and Mrs. James Johnston

Jean and Arnold Kluge (50th)

Mr. and Mrs. Ian Bund

newly married

Richard Hodgson and Perry Irish

Chris Ford and Ali Hill

**Barbara Bowman and
 R. Hamilton Schirmer**

Terra and Brian Burgess

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Campbell

Pat and Bill Freehan

Ms. Suzanna K. Stump

The Conservancy is pleased to welcome two new trustees to the organization.

Two years ago, Marsha Tompkins, her husband Mark, and their family moved from the Grand Rapids area to Harbor Springs when Mark took a job as the school superintendent. The family has owned a cottage in Leelanau County for 12 years and was well familiar with the region before the move. Prior to moving, Marsha was the executive director of the East Grand Rapids School Foundation. From this experience, she has an understanding of how non-profits work. "I believe being good stewards of people's trust is critical for a successful non-profit," Marsha said. "Conservancy supporters are trusting the organization with something near and dear to them, with maintaining this very special place."

"When you feel passionately about something, you really want to make a significant difference, be it in time, talent, or treasure. To me, being part of this board makes the romance even sweeter," Marsha said.

"I am so impressed with the Conservancy's staff and what they bring to their jobs," Marsha added. "I look forward to finding out how this organization works and seeing where I can offer my time and talents."

We also welcome new trustee Mary Driggs. Mary is now a year-round resident of northern Michigan. "This is such a wonderful community with a diversity of things to do all the time," she said. "I find so much happiness here - from the beauty of my surroundings that change every season to the warm and friendly people."

When Mary was a young girl, her parents purchased a home in the Wequetonsing area just outside of Harbor Springs, and there her deep love of the region began. In the 1970s, she and her then husband purchased a home which became their summer destination while they raised three sons. Mary made the home her permanent residence in 1989 and it is now a summer destination for her 5 grandchildren who visit from Columbus, Ohio and Chicago.

As a new trustee, Mary is excited to work with the board and staff and learn more about Little Traverse Conservancy. She is particularly interested in encouraging others, especially older people, to get outdoors. "I think that if we just provide the opportunities, we will help people discover the wonderful trails and views made possible through this organization."

A big thank you goes to outgoing Conservancy trustees Jack Batts, Frank Ettawageshik, Richard Oelke and James Offield whose terms are limited by our bylaws. The following people were re-elected for new terms on the board: Joanne Arbaugh, John Baker, Ian Bund, Michael Dow, Michael FitzSimons, Carol Jackson, William McCormick, Mark Paddock, R. Hamilton Schirmer and Carlin Smith.



New trustee Marsha Tompkins with husband, Mark, and children Ben, Madeline, and Eleanor. "When my kids bring friends home from college, they can't believe the beauty here."



Now a full-time resident of Harbor Springs, Mary Driggs has spent summers in this region since she was a child. "This area provides me with a beautiful aura of peace every time I walk out my door."



PRESERVE MONITOR/TRAIL STEWARD PROFILE Les Arnold, Elmer Johnston Preserve



Thea Arnold



out a more defined trail system for the preserve. Les notes that most weekends, people are hiking the property and, with the nearly 600-acre Goodhart Farms Preserve just around the corner, the region offers attractive outdoor opportunities. An avid cross-country skier, Les keeps the preserve's trails "groomed" by virtue of his frequent ski outings during the winter months.

WHEN IT COMES TO DEVOTION TO A NATURE PRESERVE, it would be difficult to match what Les Arnold has done for the Elmer Johnston Preserve. For 27 years, Les has served as the preserve monitor for the 220-acre property located near Good Hart.

Les, who had summered on Mullett Lake with his grandparents most of his childhood, knew he wanted to settle in the region after graduating from college. In 1982, he was working as a bread baker for The Grain Train, a health food store in Petoskey, looking for the perfect piece of land to build his own, eco-friendly home. "When the realtor showed me my property which is near state land, and then told me the Conservancy was receiving the adjacent property to become a nature preserve, that pretty much sealed the deal for me," Les said.

Shortly after this time, Les met with Lou Borie, then executive director of the Conservancy. Borie told him how the Conservancy was seeking preserve monitors for the new stewardship program to help the organization watch over and care for the properties being acquired. A natural fit, Les has embraced this role ever since.

Prior to its protection, the Johnston Preserve was farmed, and old cattle and logging trails provide attractive hiking today. Over the years, Les has helped maintain the trails as succession began to shape the land. "Probably the best feature of the Johnston Preserve is the view," Les said. "On a clear day, you can see six islands: North and South Fox, Beaver, Whiskey, Garden, and Hog." As part of the preserve's management plan, Les has also helped ensure the views remain clear.

This past summer, Conservancy staff worked with Les to map

In addition to his roles as a preserve monitor and trail steward, Les brings a strong land ethic to the Readmond Township Planning Commission. "I feel it is such a privilege to be able to care for this land while we are here," he said. "To me, land ownership simply gives us the right to be a steward of that land. And truly, it is in our most selfish interest as humans to protect this land that sustains us."

If there was a future dream that Les would envision for his corner of the county, it would be to see a continuous wildlife corridor protected from Goodhart Farms all the way to Lake Michigan. "We already have these nice large tracts as nature preserves, along with the township beach in Good Hart," he said. "It would be neat to connect the dots all the way to the water."



Preserve Monitors and Trail Stewards Needed

We are seeking a few dedicated volunteers in each of our five counties to help us look after our preserves. Preserve monitors visit their preserve regularly and send us a report twice each year. Trail stewards do the physical work of maintaining preserve trails. Contact Cindy at 231-347-0991 or cindy@landtrust.org to find out which preserves are available, what your responsibilities would be, and how to apply. Cindy will do her best to match you up with a preserve!

Your Membership Support is Vital to Conservancy's Success

With the 40,000 acre milestone now surpassed, it is clear that there has been a direct correlation between the membership support the Conservancy has received and the amount of land it has been able to protect. Over the past 20 years, the growth in membership donations has closely paralleled the growth in the total acres protected by the Conservancy.

Over the past 10 years, membership support has fueled remarkable success by the Conservancy. We have been able to protect 27,500 acres of land valued at \$74,400,000 during the past decade, or \$12 of land protected for each membership dollar donated. These leveraged membership dollars are protecting the scenic and natural character of the North for today and for the generations to come.

We extend our thanks to all of our members and supporters for sharing our vision and helping the Conservancy advance its programs and grow into one of the premier land trusts in the nation.

As with most non-profits, the Conservancy has been working hard to maintain its programs in this distressed state and national economy. Your support is more important than ever to help the Conservancy protect the special places that define Northern Michigan.

If you have already renewed your support or joined as new members this year, we thank you. If not, we thank you for your past support and we encourage you to continue your investment in the future of Northern Michigan by supporting the Conservancy this year. Each dollar you donate will help us protect more of the North's scenic and natural character.



Jessica Joy

New Members

The Conservancy would like to thank the following new members, new Friends or Benefactors, or members who have increased their level of giving within the Friends or Benefactors level from September 1-November 24, 2009.

New Friends and Benefactors

Frank and Connie Hagelshaw
 Drs. Vaughn and Harriet McGraw
 Forrest and Arlene Page
 Archibald and Virginia Sheldon
 Mrs. Joan F. Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. Howard A. Ternes
 Kurt and Carolyn Workman Wacker

Mrs. Margaret J. Hall
 Ms. Ruth M. Harris
 Nora and George Heinrichs
 Al and Kathleen Helner
 James and Carol Hodgson
 Lori and Ken Hoehn
 Mrs. H. Earl Hoover
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael L. Hunting
 Ms. Patricia A. Jones
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Lee II
 Charles and Barbara Lindsey
 Mr. Robert L. Luettjohann
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Marsh
 John and Diana Meyer
 Robert S. and Ann Minarik
 Mrs. Jane L. Murvin
 Mr. Thomas O'Brien
 Ms. Margaret Patrick
 Kal and Carole Peltari
 Michael W. and Jerri Puerner
 Mr. Steve Radecki
 Jane Ramer
 Steve and Darlene Secrest
 Ms. Jane Stearns
 William and Jane Stone
 Mr. Howard C. Walker
 Mr. Mike Williams

New Regular Members

Business Members

Harbor Springs IGA

New Regular Members

Ms. Mary Margaret Abood
 Earl and Sherry Bash
 Mrs. Carlo J. Calcaterra
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles I. Carpenter
 Mr. Roger Davis
 Bob and Pattie Decker
 Mr. Daniel J. Egbert
 Mrs. Forest Evashevski
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Flanagan
 Leonard and Katherine Ginop
 Paul and Carol Godwin

A long-time Conservancy friend and board member departed this world last fall. Jutta Letts, along with her husband Chuck, have been on the Conservancy's finance committee since 1992.

"I will always remember Jutta as an enthusiastic supporter of land conservation, and a tireless worker for the cause through her involvements with both the Little Traverse Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy," said Conservancy Executive Director Tom Bailey. "She was positive and thoughtful in her approach to conservation, and always had the broader well-being of the community in mind." A native of Vienna Austria, Jutta and her one surviving sister lost much of their family during the Nazi invasion. Beginning a new life for herself, she came to the states working for the United Nations. Through Chuck, she began a lifelong connection to the Les Cheneaux islands. "She was simply a remarkable woman and we will miss her greatly," Bailey said.





1 Steve Carland's students from Charlevoix High School cleaned up an old farm dump on the Driggers Preserve in conjunction with the United Way's 2009 Day of Caring.

12 A segment of the new Harbor Springs bike path travels along the Fisk addition to the Conservancy's A.C. Fischer Preserve.

2 New stretches of boardwalk were installed at the Birge Preserve trail to improve access in wet areas. This two-day effort went quite smoothly thanks to a devoted group of local resident volunteers.

3 Marty Serva, Landscape Supervisor for Litzbenburger Landscape (left) and Gow Litzbenburger show one of the 1,500 native tree seedlings their crew planted at the MacDonald Preserve. The gift was in honor of Litzbenburger Landscaping's 25th anniversary.

4 LTC stewardship staff joined with The Nature Conservancy to conduct a shared visit to the Les Cheneaux islands where both organizations needed to monitor protected lands. Doug Fuller (left), Little Traverse Conservancy's director of stewardship, stands with Chris Cantway, land steward for TNC, on the shore of the Nordquist Preserve on Boot Island.

5 Tom Allen saving stone with field gathered bog found

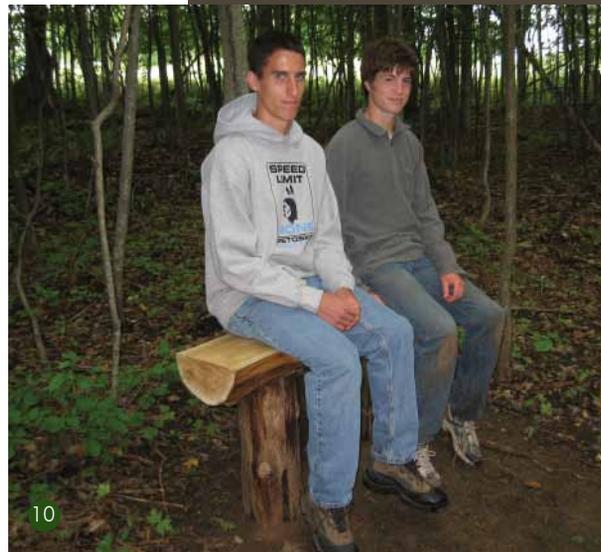


Stewardship is wrapping up another days in September, those of us left in as the Stew Crew would head out with on their shoulder. But then, October endless rain... dang. As always, it was Stew Crew to get so much done with dozens of volunteers who join them. Look at the long list of thank yous or that much more is offered than stron



11

11 Becky Scholl-Stauffer and her Petoskey High School Agriculture Class worked together to remove unwanted Scotch pine seedlings from the McCune Preserve as part of the United Way's 2009 Day of Caring event.



10

10 At the Bubbling Springs Preserve, Mike Wilhelm of Scout Troop #7 and his friend Jack Touran sit on a bench they built as part of Mike's Eagle Scout project. Mike also built a bicycle rack for the preserve and improved trails.

busy field season. So many inside would watch longingly whistling, into the sun, a shovel or hit with that seemingly impossible for the about the support of the - rain or shine - in the field. on page 15 and you will see ng muscles.

9 Eagle Scout candidate Ryan Cartwright and his Troop #5 of Petoskey helped the Conservancy complete a shoreline erosion control project along the Pigeon River at the Andreae Preserve.



9

8 Conservancy staff and volunteers met with staff from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy to study forestry techniques they are using at their Arcadia Dunes Preserve.



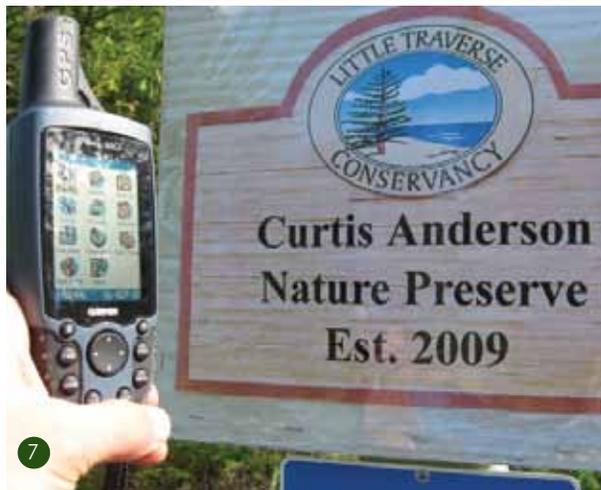
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7 The new Curtis Anderson Preserve was formally dedicated on Drummond Island.

6 New interpretive signs were recently installed at the Ransom Preserve in Charlevoix County. This sign explains the view you see from the highest point of the preserve.



6

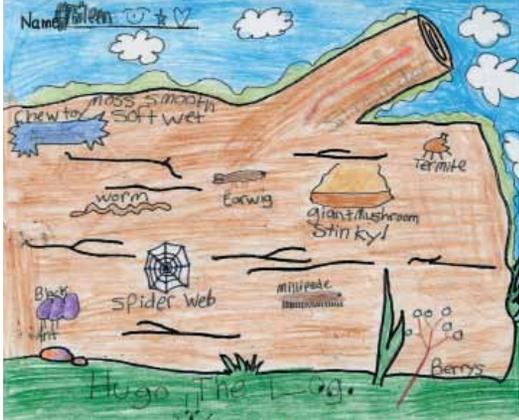


7

photos courtesy Garth Law



Fourth graders from St. Ignace Elementary hold up a shelf fungus found on their Dirt Makers field trip to The Headlands. To right is a log illustration done by Eileen Law.



The Perfect Formula

ST. IGNACE TEACHER EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

by Patrice Mackin, 4th grader teacher, St. Ignace

The St. Ignace Area Schools have been involved with the Little Traverse Conservancy for many years. We truly appreciate all you have done for us in the past, all you do now, and all you plan to do for us in the future.

In the past, you have provided our students with a field trip called “McDonalds is not a Food Chain” at the ‘Seven Springs Nature Preserve’. We also have attended what you used to call ‘Ready, Set, Rot’, and is now called “Dirt Makers” in Mackinaw City. As you recall, I have been active in the Little Traverse Conservancy for many, many years and you have always done an outstanding job for our kids. We really look forward to seeing you each year as we have done this now for approximately eight years!

One of my former students just came into my class room, and I asked him if he remembered the “Dirt Makers” field trip a couple of years ago.

“Yeah, I loved it,” said Trevor Gugin. “I loved the part where logs could turn into dirt; they were really old.” Trevor said he would go again and wondered if they went in sixth grade (his current grade). This program made an impression on him and he will always remember that awesome field trip. What a true testimony. I always feel what the children say is the highest form of a compliment. Congratulations!

I just wanted to let you know how special your programs are to our students and the entire staff. In Fourth Grade we cover the “ecosystem” and “food chain” systems. I will never forget how the students reacted when they got into the woods and saw, first-hand, the things we talked about in the classroom. It truly does come alive and make sense to them. It seems like magic happens right

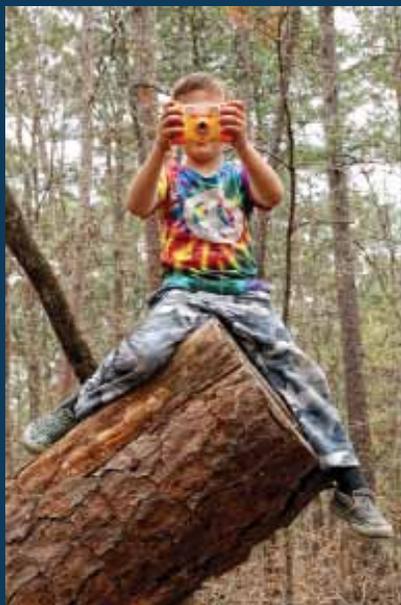
before their young eyes and minds. It is like cement, and it creates a perfect formula for learning to remain in the brains of our children. That is why it is so very important that we make it to The Headlands every year for our students.

My colleague and I actually make sure we cover this unit in Science during the beginning of the school year, to correlate this activity, because we want our students to experience this awesome learning. We have the MEAPs (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) to make sure we plan for, and our curriculum actually puts this unit later in the year. However, we feel it is so very important for the students to experience your program that we make sure we get it in, right at the start. That way we are able to teach them the necessary concepts and objectives and then tie in your field trip experience for a perfect match.

Not only do I prepare my students prior to our visit and exploration with you, but I also like to take it to another level. I take the log that you give the students and let that be their “sloppy copy” that they use on the field trip. Then they take it home where they can add details and examples to their papers. The next day they come back and I give them a clean copy and they redo their logs. I laminate them, hang them in the hall for everyone to see. We are very proud of our work and enjoy doing it. I keep them for their “books of memory” at the end of the school year. I also have a CD burned for all the students and it has many pictures of our adventures at the Headlands in Mackinaw City. I know that my students keep these books for a long time, because I’ve asked students who have graduated and they tell me they still have them!

Don't Forget: Little Traverse Conservancy is an option for McLean & Eakin's 10% for Schools program in which the store donates 10% of a customer's sales towards a school or related program.

Hey Kids - Have a Camera? Nature Winter Photo Contest



Flickr user Randell

Little Traverse Conservancy and Bearcub Outfitters in Petoskey are pleased to announce the Kids Winter Outdoor Photography Contest. We challenge all young people in grades 3-12 from the Conservancy's service area to submit their finest outdoor winter photo taken at a Conservancy nature preserve or natural area. (See www.landtrust.org for a full list or call our office for a preserve guide and map.) In addition to photos from nature preserves, photos may be taken on properties that the Conservancy does not own, but has helped protect such as The Headlands near Mackinaw City or North Point near Charlevoix.

Photos can be of something as small as a leaf captured in ice or as broad as a full winter scene. All photos must be taken and submitted between December 15, 2009 and March 31, 2010. Format can either be digital or print. Digital photos must be no smaller than 500 KB and prints should be no larger than 5" x 7". We will request each participant to fill out a form allowing us to reproduce the image in Conservancy publications.

Photos will be judged by in the following age categories: 3rd-5th grade; 6th-8th grade; and high school. The top entry from each age category will be awarded a \$50 gift certificate from Bearcub Outfitters of Petoskey.



Harbor Springs elementary teacher Patti Jackson and her 5th graders practice the skill of orienteering at the Ransom Preserve this past fall. Teachers are sent pre-visit activities to help acquaint students with the compass before the 2-hour field trip. Post-visit activities are also suggested for the classroom. "This is one of the more intensive field trip offerings because of the time and prep involved," said Melissa Hansen, education specialist with the Conservancy. "It is a great skill to learn at this age."



Education program receives grants for new snowshoes

For the past 13 years, the Conservancy has been using the trusty hard plastic snowshoes during its popular snowshoe outings. At the time of their purchase, these snowshoes were the standard and, considering the thousands of students who strapped them on, they held up pretty well! But replacement parts are no longer available when shoes break.

This year, students will be trying out new Crescent Moon snowshoes. "Crescent Moon was recommended to us by Josh Baker, co-owner of The Outfitter in Harbor Springs because of the quality of their product, made in Boulder, Colorado, and because it is a highly responsible green company," said Alison Berry, education specialist for the Conservancy.

Purchase of the snowshoes was made possible thanks to the grants provided by the Oleson Foundation, the Charlevoix Community Foundation, and the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Community Foundation. Gail Piltz also made a significant donation toward their purchase. In addition, The Outfitter coordinated the purchase and enabled the Conservancy to get a great value on the shoes. A huge thanks to all who make us look forward to a fresh new snowshoe season!



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Greggar Garver, Community Bank President of the Harbor Springs branch offices of First Community Bank, hands Tom Lagerstrom, Associate Director for the Conservancy a check that resulted from their Bank Green initiative. First Community Bank donated \$10 for each personal checking account that was opened last spring and early summer, to three environmentally-oriented groups, including the Conservancy.

Business Profile: First Community Bank

As our country recovers and perhaps recreates its economic picture, the emphasis on keeping our money local is on the rise. In the greater Harbor Springs region where the Conservancy is based, the First Community Bank is one business that walks the local talk.

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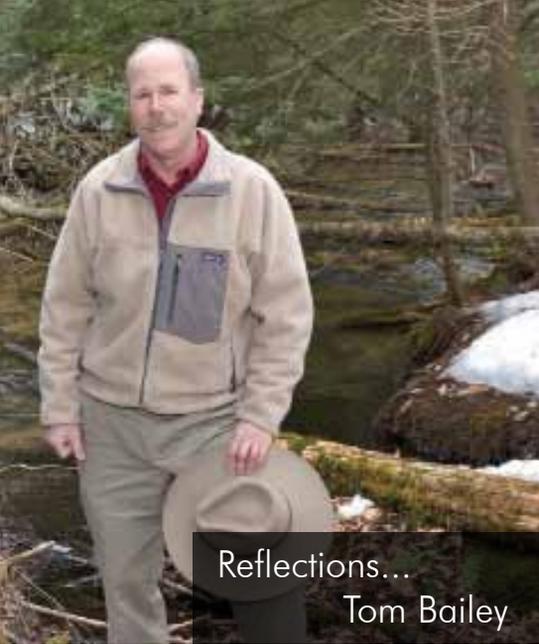
First Community Bank was founded in 1905 by Mr. W.J. Clarke, an Irish immigrant who had moved to Harbor Springs in 1876. At first, the bank was known as the Emmet County State Bank but, in 1975, the name changed to Harbor Springs State Bank. When the bank expanded into the Petoskey community in 1993, the name again changed to its current name. Today, the bank includes branches in Cheboygan and Traverse City as well.

"First Community Bank is one of the oldest locally-based banks in the region," said Tom Lagerstrom, Associate Director for the Conservancy. It was started and has stayed in this region alone. Gregg Garver, Community Bank President for the Harbor Springs offices confirms that First Community does not invest outside of the region. "We work very hard to take money depos-

ited with us and invest it back into projects in the Harbor Springs, Petoskey, Cheboygan, and Traverse City communities," Garver said. "As a community bank, we have more ability to loan in these times, whereas many bigger banks are holding their money more tightly with extra strings attached," he added.

Recently, First Community ran their Bank Green initiative generating money for the Conservancy as well as two other environmental groups in the region (see photo and caption to left). The bank has been increasing its efforts to reduce paper and energy waste and has instituted a company-wide recycling program.

We appreciate all that First Community Bank does to support the Conservancy's work and our community!



Reflections...
Tom Bailey

Preservation & Change

Of the many conundrums in land conservation, one of the most intriguing to me is the matter of preservation versus change. On one hand, we're in the business of "preserving" land to help keep things as they are—to keep open spaces open, wetlands wet, wildlife habitat hospitable for its inhabitants, and beautiful scenic views free from artificial clutter for the enjoyment of the public. On the other hand, the things we protect are alive and dynamic and thus never remain the same. Forests evolve over time as old trees die, new ones take over, and gradual shifts take place among the inhabitants of the area. Because life is a dynamic process, by definition anything that is not changing at all is dead. Preservation, in our business, means figuring out how to protect natural processes in a manner that allows them to continue to function.

A good example in recent memory is the well-intentioned efforts that were made to "preserve" the wilderness of Yellowstone National Park through the suppression of wildfires. Generations of fire suppression resulted in an artificially high accumulation of fuel in the Yellowstone forests and a catastrophic conflagration when things finally reached the point of no return. Great lessons were learned about the dynamics of ecosystems and the importance of change and disturbance in the health and evolution of natural systems.

Another example can be found in well-intended efforts to preserve endangered species. When we look at the Big Picture, we're faced with a dilemma: Mother Nature works through natural selection. We should not seek to freeze the family tree of life in place, but instead figure out how to appropriately nurture and protect the growth and development of that tree. Some species need to become extinct in order to make way for others. New forms need to emerge, niches in natural systems need to flex and adapt. The imperative for humanity is to refrain from so dominating the earth's various processes that we interfere with the growth of that all-important and precious family tree of life.

Acknowledging that the principles of ecology tell us that everything is interconnected and interdependent (principles, I would point out, that can be found not only in ecology but in fields ranging from physics to spirituality), it becomes incumbent upon us to do some hard thinking about the extent and direction of human activity at levels ranging from the local to the global.

One of the Little Traverse Conservancy's founders, Dave Irish, has said on a number of occasions that "our mission is not to save the world, it's to save our little corner of it." The more I learn about ecology, the more I see the wisdom in this statement. The earth is so huge, so complex and so vastly interconnected that it is impossible for us to completely understand it all at once. However, if we do our best, community by community and system by system, to take care of our earth and that family tree of life, the cumulative effects will be positive. Following on Mother Nature's model, everything ties in together and it all adds up.

Whether one is a park manager in Yellowstone or a conservation-minded citizen in northern Michigan, our challenge is to consider how our own actions may contribute to or erode the health of our local environment and so the tree of life. We can't predict or even understand issues like trends in the global climate from our local vantage point. But we can certainly use what we know about things like air pollution and the consumption of natural resources to determine whether our actions are

helping or hurting the environment that supports us.

We can look not only at the physical environment in an ecological light, but also at our social environment, our cultural and economic environments, and recognize that these various "environments" are all tied together and all impact and are impacted by our activities.

It would be a vast oversimplification to say that our mission in land conservation is to "prevent change." Recognizing that life is all about change and adaptation, we can look to Nature and the processes of life itself for guidance as to which changes are beneficial and which are perhaps not so.

As the Little Traverse Conservancy passes the milestone of 40,000 acres of land protected, we can take great pride in having helped to establish a more healthy balance between land development and land protection across our little portion of northern Michigan. The land under our care provides open spaces for wildlife to thrive, for plants to propagate, and for people to learn about nature and enjoy the peace and beauty of the outdoors. The land also binds up carbon, produces oxygen, filters storm water, and provides a host of other ecological services that contribute to the health and well being of the tree of life.

And whether one views it from the perspective of science, culture, economy, or spirit, there are many reasons to celebrate the manner in which conservation uses the techniques of preservation to protect and nourish the dynamic variety of life that surrounds us, and the processes through which all of life continues.

Dave Irish was right: we may not save the world on our own, but thanks to the wonderful generosity of the Conservancy's many members, supporters and volunteers, we can do a lot to save our little corner of it. Others around the world are doing the same, in fields ranging from land conservation to human services, political reform, economics, agriculture, and—suddenly it all comes clear that all is connected and it all matters. That, I believe, is enough to provide hope for us all.



thank you

Gow Litzenger for planting 1,500 evergreen seedlings on the MacDonald Preserve.

Gayle Vandercook for donating a beautiful illustration of the Andreae Preserve cabin on the Pigeon River (see below right).

Becky Scholl-Stauffer and her Petoskey High School Agriculture Class for removing unwanted Scotch pine seedlings from the McCune Preserve in conjunction with the 2009 Day of Caring.

Steve Carland and his students from Charlevoix High School for cleaning up an old farm dump on the Driggers Preserve in conjunction with the 2009 Day of Caring.

Site Planning and Development, Inc. of Charlevoix for giving a bargain rate for brush hogging the Ransom Preserve field.

Ryan Cartwright of Troop #5 in Petoskey for planning and completing an erosion control project on the Pigeon River at the Andreae Preserve.

Mike Wilhelm of Troop #7 in Petoskey for trail work, and construction of benches and a bike rack done in fulfillment of eagle scout requirements. (Note: Mike was pictured in the fall newsletter, but was not recognized in the thank you section.)

Bonnie Mikkelsen and Tim DeWick for providing lodging, food, and boat transportation during our Les Cheneaux work in September, and John Griffin for providing ORVs for our use on Marquette Island as well as boat transportation.

Jessie Hadley, Harbour Market, Moira (Pat) Wilson, Bonnie Mikkelsen, Tim DeWick, Pickle Point Publishing, Woods & Water EcoTours, and Mike Dow for donating lumber and funding for the Birge Trail boardwalk.

Bonnie Mikkelsen, Tim DeWick, Nadine Cain, Pat Wilson, Steve Baker, Pete Spieles, Dave Dunn, and John Griffin for helping with the Birge Preserve trail work in October.

Phil Ohmer for donating the use of beautiful images in our publications.

Dan Schneider and Beverly Warner for their donation of a 1999 Windstar van as wished for in the fall newsletter.

Those who made the new snowshoe purchases possible (see story page 11).

The University of Michigan Bug Camp Stewards for lots of assistance on various stewardship projects in Cheboygan County.

Dick Moehl, Mary Anne Moore, Terry Pepper and the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association for providing a visit to the St. Helena Island Preserve.

Tom Allan for leading a "history, biology, and cranberries" field trip at Vermilion Point.

Glen Matthews for his expertise on many land management, forestry, and wildlife topics.

Ruth Paterson Brede for the loan of her Kruger solo canoe and Stephen Brede for facilitating a staff site visit to a prospective new island preserve in Munuscong Bay.

The Hanni Gallery for running a special promotion during the last two weeks of November as a benefit for the Conservancy.

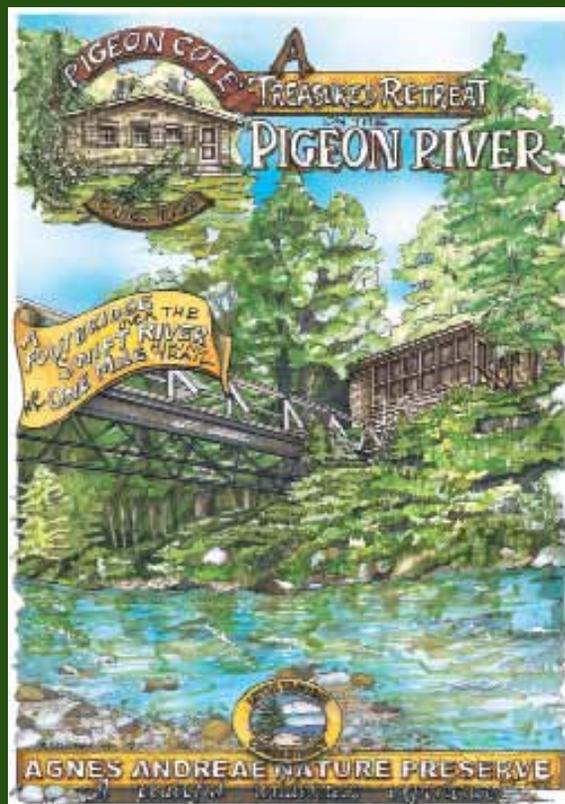
Jennifer Eis and Don Ward for opening up their property for a wonderful afternoon.

The following volunteers who helped with our fall membership mailing: Marian Jurries, Tillie Cone, Sharon Brown, Nancy Fay Packer, Val Sterzik, Bev Warner, Doris Lark, Marge Upton, Maggie Frederick, Norm Cutshall, Ann Burek from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program as well as Trudy Day, John Maximiuk, Nola Murphy, Lurli Vaughn, and Dermot Fleming.

And to Jan Wilkins for coming out of retirement to help with the fall mailing!



In response to our last Wish List, the Ayrshire Foundation provided the Conservancy with the funding for this new 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan. Thank you!!



Gayle Vandercook recently donated her time and creativity to the Conservancy by creating this graphic of the cabin at the Andreae Preserve located in Cheboygan County along the Pigeon River. Gayle, a graphic artist who spent much of her career drawing architecture, has been working with natural settings and her work can be seen on interpretive signs in southeast Michigan. Thank you, Gayle, for this wonderful gift!

Wish List

- Heavy-duty anvil loppers, with 1 1/2" cutting capacity or bigger
- DeWalt 18 volt cordless drill/driver kit
- Heavy-duty posthole diggers
- Digital cameras, 6 megapixels or higher, that take AA batteries
- Digital trail camera with infrared flash
- New or newer model 14" chop saw
- Funding for portable display boards.

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Happy Holidays to you!



Winter Field Trips

These Conservancy field trips are offered at no charge. Pre-registration is required by calling 231.347.0991. Out of fairness to our program leaders, please do let us know if you plan to come. It greatly helps with planning.

Friday, January 15, 2 pm
Ski the Reed's Alverno Preserve
Outside of Cheboygan

Recently transferred to LTC from the Chippewa Nature Conservancy, the Reed's Alverno Preserve totals 160-acres located 8 miles from Cheboygan. A neighboring landowner grooms a 2.75 mile trail system for both classic and skate skiing. Join Conservancy staff on an exploration of this new property.

Saturday January 23
All Day Birding Adventure
Eastern U.P. and Sugar Island

The tundra-like Eastern U.P. is an excellent place to look for Snowy Owls, Snow Buntings, Bald Eagles, and Rough-Legged Hawks. Departing from Harbor Springs in the morning, we'll take the scenic route to the Sault, birding along the way. At the Sugar Island ferry, we'll check for ducks and hope for a Gyrfalcon to fly by. After the short ferry ride to Sugar Island, we'll snowshoe into the Bailey-Lagerstrom Preserve and visit the shoreline, looking for animal tracks and beaver sign. This will be an all-day event (please bring your own lunch), with options to join the trip in Harbor Springs, Pellston, Sault Ste Marie, or on Sugar Island. Ask about carpooling when you register.

Saturday, January 30 10 am
Greenwood Sanctuary Outing
Cheboygan County, near Wolverine

Visit one of the largest private properties in our service area now protected with a conservation easement. Greenwood Sanctuary is a haven for

elk, porcupine, and a multitude of other wildlife. Landowner George Jury opens his gates and invites us in to explore. Trails will be groomed for skiing and snowshoeing, if snow permits. Please call 231.347.0991 to register and get directions.

Saturday, February 6, 2 pm
Sturgeon Bay Winter Hike
Northern Emmet County

You love Sturgeon Bay in the summer, but have you ever walked the beaches in the winter? Join Conservancy staff on an exploration of this wonderful protected region to discover how its beauty remains stunning all year round. Some snowshoes are available through the Conservancy. Ask when you register.

Friday, February 12, 2 pm
Explore the Birge Preserve
Near Hessel, Mackinac County

A visit to the beautiful Les Cheneaux region in the winter is a treat. Take an afternoon off from the office, grab your skis or snowshoes and join us on the trail loops of this 435-acre preserve.

Saturday, February 20, 10 am
Rogers Family Homestead Preserve Outing
Just outside of East Jordan

The lower Jordan River is a special area, much different from the area upstream that is most often visited by paddlers and anglers. Before ending its journey in Lake Charlevoix, the river slows, widens, and develops marshy banks. The river never freezes, and the open water of the lower river attracts lots of wildlife including waterfowl, Bald Eagle, mink, and otter. Winter is actually one of the best times to explore the marshy streambanks on skis or snowshoes. In recent years, LTC has protected large areas of the lower Jordan. Conservancy staff will lead a winter exploration of the marshes and forests along the Lower Jordan on the Rogers Family Homestead Preserve.



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