



PROTECTING THE NORTH COUNTRY WE LOVE

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*Storey Lake, See Page 3*

## The LTC Team

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

The 290 volunteers who donate thousands of hours.

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## Partnering for 'Conservation Synergy'

Storey Lake is such a wonderful windfall for conservation (see story facing page). We call this kind of project an "assist" because LTC was actively involved in helping another entity achieve permanent conservation. In this case, state ownership and management made the most sense for the land because the property is in the heart of the state-managed Pigeon River Country State Forest. Additionally, the funding for its purchase came through a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, a unique-to-Michigan source of funding that can only be received by governmental entities. For many years now, LTC has helped townships, cities, and counties in our service area apply for these funds which are generated from gas and oil revenues on state lands. As someone who grew up in a different state, take my word for it: Michigan is extremely lucky to have the Trust Fund. Other states typically rely on some form of taxation to generate this magnitude of conservation and recreation dollars.

We have completed dozens of assist projects over the years, and many of them are pretty spectacular. Sturgeon Bay Dunes in Wilderness State Park was former LTC Executive Director Kathy Bricker's biggest project. Imagine Emmet County without this beloved beach that is considered one of the best in the state. There have been many more assist projects since then: Indian Point on Burt Lake (formerly known as Colonial Point), Crisp Point on Lake Superior, The Headlands (which is now an International Dark Sky Park in northern Emmet County), and North Point in Charlevoix, just to name a few. LTC has helped complete the protection of more than 16,000 acres of land conservation by assisting our partners with these projects.

One of my personal favorite assist projects is the 2,400-acre Lee Grande Ranch in Cheboygan County. This is now state-owned land that is managed as a Grouse Enhanced Management Site (GEMS). It is a wildlife haven. Lee Grande Ranch was one of the more technically complicated projects I have ever been a part of, and where I witnessed Tom Bailey's ability to bring wise compromise and some risk to the table to make great things happen. LTC actually owned Lee Grande for a year in the name of ensuring the project's completion.

LTC's role in land conservation partnerships varies. Sometimes we have the relationship with the landowner, sometimes we help secure funding, or - as with Lee Grande - sometimes LTC has stepped into the chain of title. In all cases, LTC's involvement is usually the difference in moving the project forward.

One of many things I have learned over the years is that in order to be a good partner, we sometimes need to show up *without* our hands out asking for money. Other times when one hand is out, the other may need to be in our own pocket digging for some bills to offer in a meaningful way. We have always lived this ethic and the result is conservation synergy. Think of how different our landscape would look if those lands mentioned above were instead locked up in private hands and developed.

Kieran C. Fleming  
Executive Director

# Patience for the Pigeon STOREY LAKE

*2,100 Acre*  
Partner Project Completed



In September 1999 when LTC's Associate Director Ty Ratliff took a call from a landowner in Switzerland who wished to protect more than 2,100 acres of land known as Storey Lake, he never imagined it would take 19 years to see the landowner's wish come to fruition.

**R**atliff did know that this was a perfect project for the State of Michigan to apply for funding with the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). And the State readily agreed. With 2,103 acres on the edge of the Pigeon River Country State Forest, a small inland lake known as Storey Lake, and more than a mile of Stewart Creek (a tributary to the Sturgeon River, the fastest flowing river in Michigan's Lower Peninsula), the land was clearly a rare gem. It offers habitat for far-ranging species such as elk, black bear, and bobcat which require large tracts of natural land for their survival. The land also lies adjacent to the North Central State Trail, enhancing the numerous outdoor opportunities in Cheboygan and Otsego counties that will now be available to the public.

Over the years, the Conservancy has assisted both local and state government with applications to the MNRTF, and Ratliff became involved with this application from the start. "Since 2000, we have helped the DNR submit Storey Lake for funding three separate times," Ratliff explained. "Yet all the pieces were not perfectly in place for all involved parties until this third time, which was finally the charm."

"This acquisition was truly a test in perseverance," added Kerry Wieber, forest land administrator for the Department of Natural Resources. "But it paid off in the end and the people of Michigan now get to benefit from the years of work that went into making the purchase of this property a reality."

Ratliff also acknowledged the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Pigeon River Habitat Initiative, the HeadWaters Land Conservancy, and countless other

partners and individuals who helped shepherd this land opportunity along for so many years.

Visible from I-75 just north of Vanderbilt, Storey Lake is located between the boundary of the Pigeon River Country State Forest and extensive state forest land. Stewart Creek is a cold-water trout stream that will directly benefit from leaving the land natural, and Storey Lake itself is a small, roughly eight-acre lake in the northwest corner of the forest. "Purchase of this property will help us meet the goals of protecting the Lower Peninsula's last 'Big Wild' from overuse and overdevelopment," said Brian Mastenbrook, DNR Field Operations Manager. "It helps provide an east-west corridor of protected land that reaches across nearly 60 miles of northern lower Michigan."

Tom Bailey, former executive director of Little Traverse Conservancy, gives kudos to the staff of both LTC and the Michigan DNR for staying with this project over the decades. "And congratulations to the real winners in this: the people of the State of Michigan who have acquired a tremendous asset in this land that protects wildlife habitat, provides recreational opportunities, safeguards an important watershed and enhances the Pigeon River Country State Forest."

The DNR notes that motorized use is currently limited at the Storey Lake property until they complete an inventory of existing roads on the property and put together their plan for access points. The public will have an opportunity to be involved in developing the access plan. Currently, Storey Lake is fully open for outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, hiking, and more.

# Burt Lake Treasure

## Harris-Melvin Family Nature Preserve SUCCESS!

**L**ittle Traverse Conservancy is excited to announce the completion of the former "Ellinger Road" project which has now become the Harris-Melvin Family Nature Preserve. Announced last year as a fundraising project, this preserve represents one of the largest remaining private and undeveloped properties along Burt Lake.

At eight acres, the new preserve contains more than 930 feet of pristine and undisturbed Burt Lake shoreline. The property is located within a long stretch of Burt Lake that has very little public access.

A robust economy and strong real estate market had made this undeveloped shoreline desirable and highly-threatened. After many discussions, the landowners were willing to sell at a bargain sale, and the Conservancy launched a successful fundraising campaign that was completed last summer.

The Conservancy staff note that if not for the dedicated perseverance of the Harris and Melvin families – longtime conservationists in the region – the preserve would not have happened. "Our clan has been spending summers in Indian River for generations now," said Mark Melvin. "It has become a part of many of us: the lake, the rivers, the streams, and the shores around the lake."

In addition to Mark's family's lead donation, generous support came from Kalynd Brandewie, Anne Melvin and Dan Sullivan, the Burt Lake Preservation Association, the Carl's Foundation, and numerous other Burt Lake supporters.

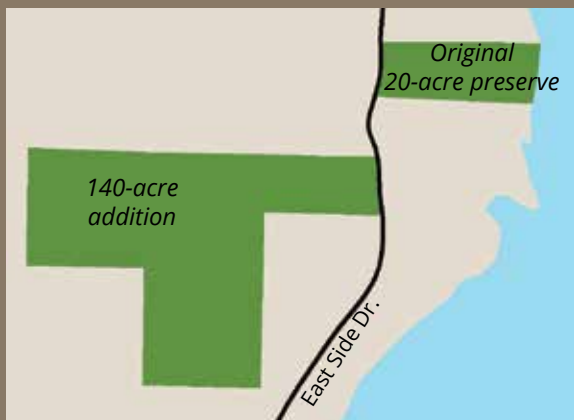
"Burt Lake is a precious northern Michigan jewel and the support we received for this project confirmed how much people care about it," said LTC Executive Director Kieran Fleming. "As part of the Inland Waterway, the waters of this lake eventually end up

in Lake Huron and the more we can do to care for the land that feeds the waters, the better."

Plans include a short boardwalk and viewing platform along the shoreline, which should be constructed next year.



## Conn's Cove Nature Preserve Grows Eight Fold!



**T**he Conn's Cove Nature Preserve on the northeastern shore of Beaver Island recently grew by 140 acres with the bargain sale purchase of land previously protected with a conservation easement. The new addition is located kitty corner from the original 20-acre preserve which includes 700 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline. The addition consists mostly of forested habitat with pockets of wetlands throughout. Some of the land was once farmed, and remnants of these activities are visible.

"Now as a preserve, the land is open to the public for exploration," said Caitlin Donnelly, LTC Director of Land Protection. "We will be evaluating its characteristics and

developing a management plan for the property to determine appropriate uses."

The preserve's new size and diversity of ecosystems provide for a variety of wildlife. Located a short distance from the Central Michigan University's Biological Station, it is easily accessible for student research opportunities as well.



# Donnie Doan and Dee Engwis Families Nature Preserve

The protection of Great Lakes shoreline is a rare opportunity and one that Little Traverse Conservancy considers an extremely high priority. With that, the Conservancy is pleased to announce the creation of the 22-acre Donnie Doan and Dee Engwis Families Nature Preserve. The land includes 430 feet of Lake Huron frontage at Duncan Bay just outside of the city of Cheboygan, protecting the high quality wetlands and shoreline that are important for so many plant and wildlife species to survive. Undeveloped wetlands are imperative for keeping the lake water clean as well, filtering out toxins that might otherwise enter Lake Huron.

"This was another true collaborative effort with a significant gift coming from an anonymous donor who loves Duncan Bay, along with several other private and foundation gifts," said Ty Ratliff, LTC's Associate Director. "In addition, we received a significant grant of \$104,875 from the Michigan Forested Habitat Fund\* which ensured that this important land preservation effort could happen."

The new preserve lies down the road from the 145-acre Duncan Bay Nature Preserve where LTC - along with partners and volunteers - recently completed a boardwalk trail system, bridge, and Lake Huron/Duncan Bay overlook platform. Both preserves lie along the Sunrise Coast Birding Trail and Cheboygan's designated biking route. These preserves greatly complement other trails that move through or near Cheboygan, such as the North Central State Trail and the North Eastern State Trail.

*\* Grant funding available in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Conservation Fund as mitigation for habitat impacts anticipated to arise through construction of the Nexus Pipeline Project.*



Todd Parker

# A Unique History and Partnership: The Cross Village Cross Nature Preserve

by *Debbie Hindle*  
LTC Member & Legacy Member

In 2008, the Little Traverse Conservancy assumed responsibility for their smallest preserve – a 20-foot square parcel, plus an easement for access, surrounding the cross in Cross Village. Few people are aware that this is a LTC property. The wider open park area surrounding this parcel is owned by Cross Village Township. The reason for LTC taking on this parcel has to do with the Supreme Court rulings on the separation of church and state that prohibits the display of religious symbols on public lands.


So given this, Cross Village Township had to find a partner to enable the cross – such a symbol of Cross Village and its history – to continue to be displayed. There has been a cross on or near this site since the mid to late 1600s erected by Jesuit missionaries. Local historian Jane Cardinal noted that in the 1760s, the original church built by the Jesuits was abandoned and burned by them when they left. In a letter by Fr. Gabriel Richard written to Bishop Carroll in 1799, there was mention of all that remained of a previous mission five miles north of Middle Village – a large cross on the shore which was nearly 100 feet high! In the 1830s, Father Frederic Baraga rebuilt the old log mission church.

We know from photo evidence there was a cross near a log church in Cross Village at that time. We also know that when a fire swept through Cross Village on September 28, 1918, taking the entire Main Street with all its homes and shops, it burned the old bluff church, but jumped the cross.

Since then, the cross has been renewed and replaced many times. Although the catholic church sold the property in the early 1900s, and it passed through the hands of several owners, in 2008 Cross Village Township purchased the land. Since the 1990s Cross Village Community Services (CVCS), an all-volunteer organization, has cared for the area around the cross. In 2010, funds were donated for landscaping and CVCS purchased a bench. Cross Village Township maintains the wider park area. All in all, this has created a beautiful overview of the lake. Since 2018, this has also been the site for Concerts on the Bluff featuring local musicians and groups who give four or five concerts each summer and open to anyone.

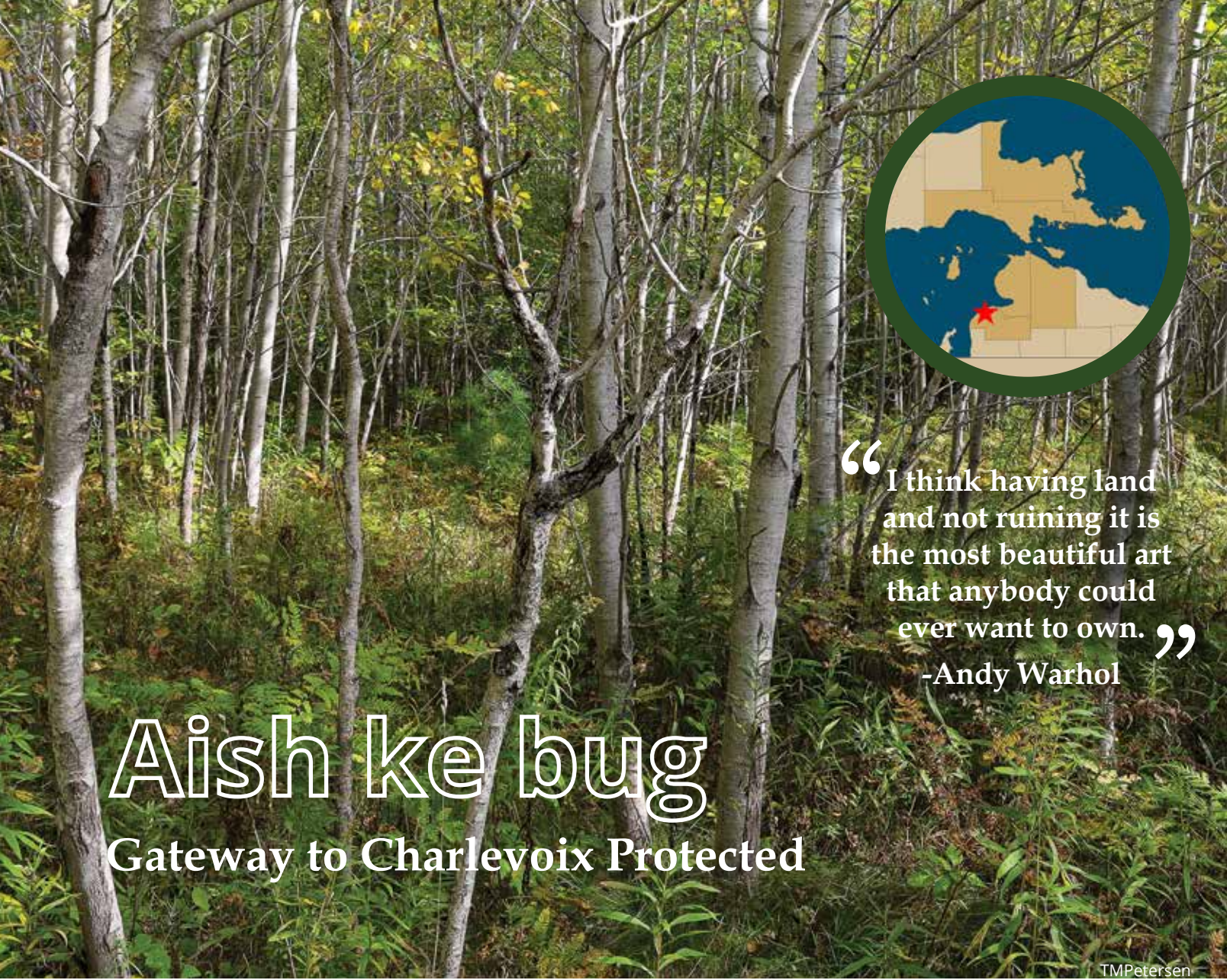
This past September, CVCS installed a sign that provides a summary of the historic significance of the cross and the site. If you are in Cross Village, stop by to appreciate this unique site!

## Barbara C. Hoffius Nature Preserve Grows



**A** 226-acre parcel adjacent to the Barbara C. Hoffius Nature Preserve in Cheboygan County was recently acquired by the Conservancy and added to the preserve. This tax reverted land was held by the Michigan Land Bank and up for sale. The Conservancy was able to purchase the land using funding from its land acquisition fund. "Building on existing protected lands is always one of our top priorities," said LTC Director of Land Protection Caitlin Donnelly. "This preserve in particular includes Lake Huron shoreline, straddles the North Central State Trail, and lies along the Sunrise Coast Birding Trail, making it highly desirable for a multitude of reasons." The new addition brings the nature preserve to 600 acres in total.

The Hoffius Preserve features a parking area along US-23 between Mackinaw City and Cheboygan. A short trail takes visitors down a slope to Lake Huron. For more information, visit the interactive map at [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org) or call our office for a copy of the newly updated Nature Preserve Map.



“I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own.”  
 -Andy Warhol

# Aish ke bug

## Gateway to Charlevoix Protected

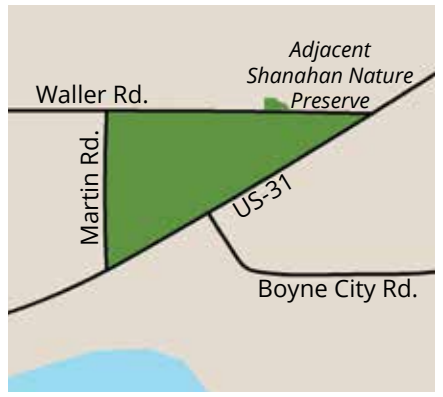
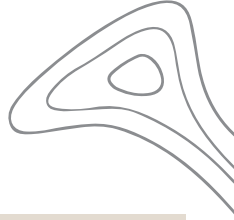
TMPetersen

One of the last undeveloped parcels of its size on the northeast end of Charlevoix has become a nature preserve thanks to a bargain sale and significant donations. The nearly 50-acre, triangle-shaped property sits between US-31/Martin/Waller roads, at the “north gateway” into Charlevoix.

“This is undeveloped land along a highly traveled road corridor that most of us have taken for granted as natural and undeveloped,” said Caitlin Donnelly, LTC Director of Land Protection. “Ensuring its permanent protection is highly significant for ecological, wetland and scenic protection. It is a superb example of how we can work together to protect the North Country we all love so much.”

The land will be known as the Andrew and Mary Aish ke bug Nature Preserve in honor of the first owners of the land by patent from the United States on August 19, 1875. Longtime Charlevoix conservationist Betty Hoffmann, who donated her half interest in the land to LTC, has the original abstract showing this ownership. The remaining funds for purchasing the other half of the land came from the Charles M. & Joan R. Taylor Foundation, Mike and Rhea Dow, and Sandy Dauch.

The Aish ke bugs sold 40 acres (more or less) of the original 56 acres and for many years, the land was part of a family farm. The wetlands that now exist were created when US-31 was re-routed, resulting in a damming of the creek on the land. Future plans for this preserve may include a public trail.



# Leash Your Dog on *Our Shared Spaces*

by Derek Shiels, LTC Director of Stewardship

**"The dogs spotted us and three came at us with teeth bared. One went after (my dog's) throat and one came after me...and the owner did nothing to control the dogs."**



Maple proudly sports her leash while visiting one of her favorite preserves!

**W**e receive too many comments like this one. Maybe you, too, have had a similar experience on a LTC nature preserve where a dog off leash came rushing by you. Keeping dogs on leash in areas open to the public is a state law and is also a LTC rule that guests must follow to visit LTC lands. Our data supports our suspicion; this rule is broken more often than it's followed.

Our staff family includes several cherished pups: Bart, Billy, Daya, Jet, Jinx, Journey, Juliet, Lewis, Maple, Nolie, River and Simon, so we have a lot of appreciation for the many dog owners using LTC lands. However, we also recognize the problem dogs off leash pose to overall preserve enjoyment, user safety and conservation of the land. We can appreciate that some dogs will heed commands, but many do not, and these spaces are shared by all. Maybe one dog is fine, but another might not be if approached off leash.

People have stopped visiting preserves because they don't feel safe, and to us at LTC, that is unacceptable. Young kids and the elderly are especially vulnerable to even an overly friendly dog off leash. There are potential ecological impacts to dogs running free as well. Whether through actual predation or just intimidation, they can alter the behavior of wildlife. Two preserves, the Sally Stebbins and Waldron Fen Nature Preserves, have been closed to dogs to protect breeding birds. Now a third, the Woollam Family Nature Preserve, is also closed to dogs to protect breeding birds, particularly because of the potential habitat for the federally-endangered Piping Plover. But by far, most of our lands are open to dog walking - with a leash!

Let's work together to keep our dogs on leashes while at a nature preserve. Staff will be adding more signs, kindly and firmly, reminding you of this rule. In the meantime, please keep your dog on a leash while on a LTC nature preserve or working forest reserve. Thank you ahead of time!



Photo: Latitude 45

Fundraising for the Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve mountain bike trails was **SUCCESSFUL!** Construction will begin summer 2020. Thank you for your incredible effort and support. *See you on the trail!*

## Fall Stewardship Projects

*(Photos to the right)*

1. In an effort to keep people on trail and minimize erosion, a new bridge was constructed at the Woollam Family Nature Preserve.
2. A slight expansion was made to the Duncan Bay Nature Preserve parking area, along with the addition of gravel.
3. Larry Liebler and the Petoskey High School Shop Class constructed bat houses that will be placed on LTC properties.
4. Seasonal stewardship technician, Brad Von Blon (right), led student Sierra Club members from MSU on a day of honeysuckle removal at the Consuelo Diane & Charles L. Wilson, Jr. Working Forest Reserve.
5. Staff from Lowe's volunteered to help make improvements on the boardwalk at the Waldron Fen Nature Preserve.
6. LTC staff planted food plots on three select properties in preparation for the 2019 Independence Hunt.

**YOU DID IT!**







# Poetry on Preserves

by Sarah Mayhew, LTC Director of Environmental Education



This fall, LTC partnered for the second year with the Good Hart Artist Residency program to offer high school students a unique opportunity to learn from working professionals in the field of writing. One consideration for an artist's acceptance to the residency is their proposed collaboration with a partnering organization. Little Traverse Conservancy is one of several local organizations committed to supporting this program.



This year we teamed up with author Timothy Bradley and Mackinaw City Public Schools to offer a Trail Writing Workshop. The workshop started in the classroom setting with several prompts to enhance the students observation skills and use of descriptive vocabulary, pulling from their prior experiences to facilitate discussion.

Students were then led outside where they gathered for a reading designed to focus their minds on the outdoors. This exercise was followed by a silent walk to the Hathaway Family's Regina Caeli Nature Preserve. Once they reached the preserve, students spread out to record their observations in journals provided by LTC, using rocks and fallen trees for seats.

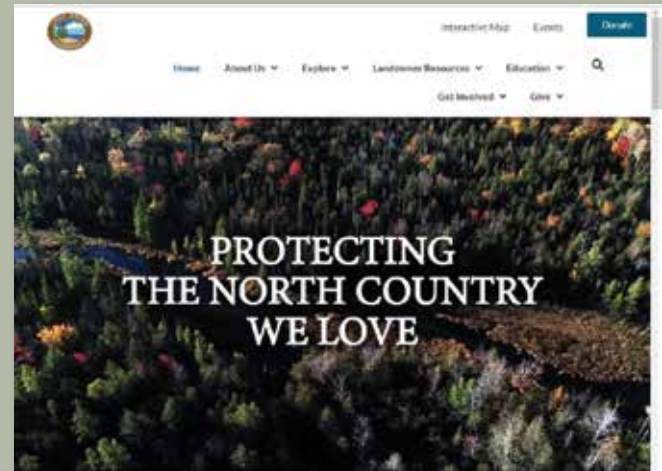


The following piece was shared from this outing by 10th grade student Maya Robertson:

**A little Seed  
Deep under the dirt  
on my way into the sunlight,  
I begin to sprout.  
With help from the rain and sun,  
I am able to become a sapling.  
When I get big enough,  
I will be used to collect maple syrup from.  
I watch the days turn into nights,  
over and over,  
while the seasons change.  
In spring I get to watch the flowers bloom  
and the bees fight over them.  
In summer I see the small critters play  
among my branches  
that get stronger by the year.  
By fall I've laughed all of my leaves off.  
Winter is my least favorite.  
It's sad, lonely, and cold.  
I watch years go by,  
over and over,  
one after the next  
until the day comes  
that my trunk buckles in  
and I fall among the leaves.**

The Good Hart Artist Residency program offers dedicated artists a two- to three-week stay in a creative and quiet environment. The residency provides living/studio space, meals and close proximity to nature preserves and beaches. For more information, visit [www.goodhartartistresidency.org](http://www.goodhartartistresidency.org).

LTC has long valued the close connection between art and nature and providing young people unique opportunities. We look forward to continuing this relationship!



We made some updates to our website! Visit [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org) to explore the changes.



Fresh off the press! Pick up your **NEW** and **UPDATED** version of our Featured Lands Preserve Guide Map at our office.



*Business Member Spotlight*  
**Bear Creek**  
**organic farm**

**W**hen I was 22, my then-fiancée and now wife and I moved to Petoskey to start a farm. In our quest to find a northern home, we were struck by the natural beauty of northern Michigan. We dreamed of moving West, but sought more clean water, more arable land, and a place that felt more like "home." Thank goodness we found Petoskey!

A healthy ecology is an asset that doesn't show up on our balance sheet, but one that we cannot take for granted. Our stewardship is tied to our crop success. We depend on a healthy ecosystem to produce a healthy vegetable crop. We farm with nature, not against it. Much like the Little Traverse Conservancy always says: they protect land for people, not from people.

Our livelihood and our farm's health are interdependent on the land use surrounding us. Our honeybees forage on the surrounding 8,000 acres. So while we take great care of our 75 acres of organic farmland, we LOVE knowing that Little Traverse Conservancy helps protect over 60,000 more acres in our community!



Little Traverse Conservancy gives us hope for the future and peace for the present. In such a complex world, the idea of land conservation is almost too simple, too obvious, and too easy. That's why we believe so much in its power. LTC is executing a simple concept, with complex components, with a clear mission, and an impressive track record. An investment in LTC is an investment in the future of this place, of our home, of a sustainable world. A donation today is a proven investment in our bees, your food, our community's children, your lifestyle, and our shared future.

Let's protect and build a better tomorrow, together, today!

Brian Bates  
Farmer/Owner



## Thank you 2018/2019 Business Members!

The following businesses are current members of Little Traverse Conservancy having given a membership donation between November 15, 2018 - November 15, 2019.

Abuzz Creative  
Alexander's Plumbing & Heating  
American Home Technology, Inc.  
Andrew Kan Travel Service  
Archambo Electric  
Arfstrom Pharmacies, Inc.  
Bahnhof Sports  
Ballard's Plumbing & Heating  
Bay Harbor Yacht Club  
Bay Inn of Petoskey  
Bay Street Orthopaedics  
Bear Cove Marina  
Bear Creek Organic Farm  
Beards Brewery

Bell Title Agency of Petoskey/Harbor Springs  
Benchmark Engineering, Inc.  
Beno Clinic Chiropractic Center, P.C.  
Big Stone Bay Fishery, Inc.  
Bingham Insurance Service  
Birchwood Construction Company  
Boyne Country Sports  
Brady's Carpet Cleaning  
Brown Motors  
Burt Lake Marina Inc.  
Burt Lake Preservation Association  
Carter's Imagewear & Awards  
Charlevoix State Bank  
Chase Bank of Petoskey

Circuit Controls Corporation  
Citizens National Bank, Cheboygan  
Scott Conti Balanced Health and Fitness  
County Emmet Celtic Shop  
Cove Island, LLC  
Dam Site Inn  
Dave Kring Chevrolet Cadillac  
Decka Digital, LLC  
Derrer Oil and Propane Company  
Douglas Lake Improvement Assn.  
Drost Landscape  
East Jordan Plastics  
EJ  
Elizabeth Blair Fine Pearls



Offield Family Working Forest Reserve

Emmet Brick & Block Co.  
Emmet County Lakeshore Assn.  
First Community Bank  
First National Bank St. Ignace  
Friends of the Boyne River  
HANNI Gallery  
Harbor Springs IGA  
Harbor Wear  
Indian River Marina  
Ironwood Construction Company, LLC  
J Phillips  
Julienne Tomatoes  
Kilwin's Quality Confections, Inc.  
Klepadlo, Winnell, Nuorala, P.C.  
Latitude 45 Bicycles & Fitness  
Little Harbor Club  
Love of Michigan, LLC  
McLean & Eakin Booksellers

Meyer Ace Hardware  
Michigan Scientific Corporation  
Mitchell Graphics Inc.  
Muller Electric Company  
Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society  
North Country Cycle Sport  
Northern Michigan Sports Medicine  
Nub's Nob Ski Area  
Petoskey Brewing  
Petoskey Plastics  
Petoskey Pretzel Co.  
Polly's Planting and Plucking  
Pond Hill Farm  
Rasmussen, Teller, O'Neil & Christman, PC  
Raven Hill Discovery Center  
Richner & Richner, LLC  
Ruff Life  
Ryde Marine Inc.

Seedums Garden Club  
Side Door Saloon  
Stafford's Hospitality  
Taylor Rental Center  
Teddy Griffin's Road House  
Touring Gear  
Trout Creek Condominiums  
Van Dam Marine Company  
Vernales Restaurant  
W. W. Fairbairn & Sons, Inc.  
Ward & Eis Gallery  
Wentworth Builders, Inc  
Wheeler Motors, Inc.  
Wineguys Restaurant Group  
Ye Nyne Olde Holles Golf Club  
Zoo-De-Mackinac, Inc.



# Welcome New Board Members

The LTC Board of Trustees currently consists of 35 members. In addition, we have 20 non-Board members serving on various committees, all serving on a voluntary basis. We are so grateful to all of these individuals!



**George M. Covington**

*Lake Bluff, IL  
Lawyer*

"I have been involved in conservation in the Les Cheneaux Islands for many years. First, as a buyer of conservation lands and second as the founder of Les Cheneaux Foundation (which acquired land that it later donated to LTC). I have a passion for the Les Cheneaux "Snows" and want to continue the unfinished business of saving land in that area. LTC is the best organization to continue that mission."

**Tom Litzner**

*Levering  
Retired educator Pellston Public Schools*

"I've always held the belief that the most important of our natural resources is the land. As concerned landowners, my wife and I wanted to protect and preserve the beautiful, natural piece of land that we call home. In LTC we found an organization of great integrity, focus, and professionalism! I am excited and honored to be a part of a team that is truly making a difference!"



**Glen Matthews**

*Alanson  
Retired wildlife biologist*

"Having spent my working life as a wildlife biologist, I have maintained a strong interest in resource management and the protection and appreciation of wildlife habitat. LTC's mission aligns closely with these interests and I view serving on the board as a great opportunity to assist and support that mission."



**Emerson Meyer**

*Petoskey  
Owner Sate Stone Inc., DBA Waffle Cabin  
Boyne Mountain, Waffle Cabin Crystal  
Mountain and Waffle Cabin Wagon*

"Born and raised in northern Michigan, I believe what makes this place so special is our natural and scenic beauty coupled with the character of our residents. I have been honored to be on the Investment Committee and am now honored to join as a new board member. I look forward to learning and spending my time supporting the mission of LTC, the amazing staff and volunteers."



**Dave Kring**

*Petoskey  
Owner of Dave Kring Dealership*

"I was born and raised in Petoskey, and I want to make sure it's there for my grandchildren and on further."



**Darrell Lawson**

*Boyne City  
Computer Programmer*

"I have been volunteering in various aspects for LTC for many years now and have gotten to know the employees and many other volunteers quite well. It is a great organization and I believe in the work that it does. When I was asked to become a board member I considered it a great honor. I look forward to working with LTC in this new capacity."



**William "Bill" Stark**

*Harbor Springs  
Former Director of Engineering for  
General Motors Corp.*

"I enjoy being outdoors...hiking, biking, snowshoeing...and LTC is a great organization benefitting everyone in northern Michigan. I identify with the mission, and always try to support my local community."

# Thank You & Welcome New Members!

The following individuals, families, and businesses joined the Little Traverse Conservancy between August 23 and November 15, 2019.

Michael and Roberta Bellinger  
Christopher and Amber Benson  
Steve and Linda Biewer  
Austin Cesaro  
Wayne and Glendora Clary  
DDaniels  
R. Matt and Kathleen Davis  
Tom Eustice  
Dennis Fornal  
Guy and Danielle Gehlert  
Artie Hall  
Mr. John Hanel  
Michael and Michelle Harrington  
Craig and Katie Hawley  
Mr. and Mrs. Hill  
Susan and Bruce Holappa  
Ted and Susan Johnson  
Keith and Margaret Jolly

David King  
Don Kline  
Edward J. and Susanne Klinger  
Mr. Patrick Lappan  
Joel Lewandowski  
Joyce Maager  
Margie Marks and Patrick Wise  
Dr. Mark Mercer and Dr. Johnna Driscoll  
David and Jan Motz  
Ms. Nancy Mullett  
Nate Niehuus  
Cody Nordquist  
Steven P. and Anthy Paddock  
Bob and Karen Petrie  
Barbara Phillips  
Tyler Piche  
Bruce and Carol Randels

Adam and Sheri Richards  
James R.  
David and Sharon Schantz  
David W. Shotwell  
The Sweeney Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Thayer  
Jeffery S. Tody  
Steven L. Trulaske, Sr.  
Kenneth and Jill Vollick  
Brett Watson

Thank you to Susan Carne for generously gifting a neckerchief to Save the Trees.

*\*Names are displayed as donors have requested.*

Offield Family Working Forest Reserve



## Member Spotlight

Margie Marks



“

Nature has always been my sanctuary, and living in northern Michigan is a dream come true: being surrounded by natural beauty every single day. I am immensely appreciative that Little Traverse Conservancy, its members, and donors continue to nurture the importance of our natural world. My husband and I are proud to be members of LTC. Today, I bought myself the best birthday present (a LTC membership), and it truly is 'the gift that keeps on giving!' Thank you, LTC!

”



# *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 We Love, and help us fulfill our obligation to steward our conserved lands forever.

*Anonymous*

*The Estate of Agnes Andreae*

*Bob and Anne Boch*

*Stuart and Patty Bishop*

*The Estate of Patricia Bristor*

*The Estate of C. Henry Buhl*

*Ian and Sally Bund*

*The Estate of Thomas R. Burns*

*The Estate of Virginia Clark*

*Micheal and Joanne Cromley*

*The Estate of Martha Curtis*

*Diane Curtis*

*John Deane*

*The Estate of Helen Dekruif*

*The Estate of James D. and Mary Kay Farley*

*Doug Fuller and Martha Lancaster*

*The Estate of Sidney Gamble*

*The Estate of David and Marian Gates*

*The Estate of Katharine Halls*

*The Estate of Robert Harnisfeger*

*The Estate of Ridgely Harrison*

*The Estate of Bonnie S. Hess*

*Deb Hindle and Ken Ross*

*The Estate of Robert and Virginia Horner*

*The Estate of Horace and Jane Huffman*

*The Estate of Donald Hufford*

*Bruce and Jodie Janssen*

*The Estate of Stephen D. Jeffrey*

*The Estate of Elizabeth Kennedy*

*Joe and Karen Kimmell*

*Earl and Barbara Larson*

*The Estate of Noreen McCauley*

*The Estate of Anne McClure*

*Dave McVicker*

*The Estate of Marge May*

*The Estate of Max Naas*

*The Estate of Al and Pat Olofsson*

*The Estate of Jeanne Osgood*

*The Estate of Mary Peabody*

*The Estate of Donald Potter*

*Chip Piper*

*Cedric A. (Rick) Richner III*

*Paul and Carol Rose*

*The Estate of Robert Schaefer*

*The Estate of Harriet E. Schmidt*

*The Estate of Reg and Vivian Sharkey*

*The Estate of Edward and Virginia Soblesky*

*The Estate of Robert H. Smith*

*The Estate of Grace Sutton*

*The Estate of Elizabeth Terry*

*The Estate of Julia W. Terry*

*The Estate of James and Bette Tollar*

*The Estate of Ron Treloar*

*The Estate of Dr. Edward Voss*

*The Estate of Arla Weinert*

*The Estate of Julie Whitman*

*The Estate of Ruth Wilson*

*The Estate of Charles Winston*

*The Estate of Mary T. Wood*

No legacy gift is too big or too small. There is no minimum gift amount required to be a 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](mailto:tyratliff@landtrust.org).

***It is always the Conservancy's goal to acknowledge all of our supporters.  
Please accept our sincere apologies for errors of omissions – and let us know!***



# Memorials & Honorariums

The following individuals, families, groups and businesses donated to Little Traverse Conservancy between August 22 and November 13, 2019.

## IN HONOR OF

### Elise Billingsley

Elise found \$50 at a local preserve and generously donated it to LTC

### Susanne Kurtz

Helene and Brandon Ivie

### Nancy Lindsay

Chris and Tracy Lindsay

### Little Traverse Conservancy

First Community Bank  
("Jean Day!")

### Sarah Mauger Veil

Mrs. Mary Driggs

### David and Catherine Rothschild

Jane and David Baldwin

### Edy Stoughton

Barbara Angotti  
Ann Frick  
Cheryl Walters

## IN MEMORY OF

### Norman Baker

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hord  
Armstrong, III  
Mr. Clarence C. Barksdale  
Mrs. Mary Driggs  
Mr. and Mrs. Hord Hardin, II  
Mr. and Mrs. George E.  
Melzow  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard M.  
Parker

### Julia Barnes

Annie Carrott and Collyer  
Smith

### Jacqueline and Daniel Beck

Georgiana and George  
Solomon

### Jacqueline Bell

Birchwood Association of  
Mullett Lake

### Myles F. Borgen

Mr. and Mrs. Erik and Ann  
Borgen

### Michael Bradley

Mackinac Island School

### Sophy Carpenter

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hord  
Armstrong, III

### Bob Dunn

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Bentley

### Janell Everest

Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner W.  
Garrard, Jr.

### Jeanne H. Graham

Ms. Carol J. McCarus

### John Harris

Dwyer, Nancy, Anson and  
Graham Brown

### Sally Herzog

Mrs. Joanne Loniewski and  
Family  
The Terry and Pam Manning  
Family

### Joan Keller

Annie Carrott and Collyer  
Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner W.  
Garrard, Jr.

### John Kromer

Birchwood Association of  
Mullett Lake

### Thomas Kuchnicki

Dave Kring Chevrolet  
Cadillac

### Nancy Lepley

Lindsay and Schulte Families

### Susan Letts

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Bentley

### Peter Loepke

Dave Kring Chevrolet  
Cadillac

### Thomas "Tim" O'Brien

Mr. and Mrs. William F.  
Binder  
Joseph A. D'Italia  
The Levasseur Family

### G. Al Olofsson

David and Karin Brown  
Family

### Pat Olofsson

Mr. David J. Brogan  
Mark and Patti Prendeville

### Douglas Otto

John and Peggy Graham  
Jim and Harriet Hawkins  
Jill and Dave Patterson

### Kay Piper

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jolley, Jr.  
Annie Carrott and Collyer  
Smith

### George B. and Mary Elizabeth Smith

Gregory B. and Pamela K.  
Smith

### Dixon Spivy

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Allen  
Emilie Deady  
George Diehr  
Tara Dziengel  
Ms. Jane M. Kaup  
Daniel R. Murray  
Margaret and Bob Olson  
Martin and Joanne Papoccia  
Debra Yates

### David Squibb

Virginia Fox

### Marion Stetson

Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Post

### Amy Lynn Sullivan

Kelly and Daniel Begnoche  
Dave Kring Chevrolet  
Cadillac

### Charles Taunt

Mr. and Mrs. William A.  
Mosher

### John Tanton

Mary Lou's Wednesday  
Breakfast Group  
Mrs. Gary Anderson  
Jim and Kathy Bricker  
Dr. and Mrs. Peter J.  
Connaughton  
Elizabeth Faupel  
Ann Fusco  
Dr. Hashem Hilal  
Mr. and Mrs. David H. Irish  
Charles and Barbara  
Lindsey  
Michigan Medicine O.R.  
Frank and Jan Parkinson  
Jill L. Porter and Robert J.  
Marsh  
John F. and Deborah J. Rohe  
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald D.  
Snyder  
Brenda Thomson  
Dave and Penny VanDam  
Mrs. Gussie Williams  
Larry Willis and Robyn Ellis

### Elizabeth Terry

Annie Carrott and Collyer  
Smith

### Mahlon Wallace

Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner W.  
Garrard, Jr.  
Jack and Tay Howell



This fall, the Forslund family gathered to unveil the sign of the Forslund Dix Point Nature Preserve on Drummond Island. The land is a gift from and in honor of the Forslund family to keep this much loved part of Drummond Island untouched and accessible for generations to come.

# Thank you

Lowe's staff volunteers for improving the boardwalk at the Waldron Fen Nature Preserve: **Jeff Agre, David Bennett, Matt Buza, Brenda Guttay, and Jerri LaCount.**

**Olivet College students** for clearing the trail at the James V. Foster – Hartley Lake Nature Preserve in DeTour.

**Students from the MSU Sierra Club Chapter** for helping remove invasive species at the Consuelo Diane and Charles L. Wilson Jr. Working Forest Reserve.

Preserve Perfectionists (Tuesday Crew) for finishing the trail and boardwalk at Duncan Bay Nature Preserve, completing a new bridge at the Woollam Family Nature Preserve, building a new trail at the Sally Stebbins Nature Preserve, improving the boardwalk at the Waldron Fen Nature Preserve and helping clear trails for winter use: **John Baker, Jim Ehrnst, Chris Ford, Richard Jenkins, Chris Knickerbocker and his father, Glen Matthews, John and Mary Merrill, Diane Morand, Amber Neils, Connie and Dale Reiger, Tom Rowland, Bill Thompson, Mike Tiedeck, and Don and Mary Trout.**

Fall membership mailing volunteers who keep coming back year after year: **Sally Bales, Barb Bechhold, Gretchen Brown, Bob Esford, Kim Heller, Nick and Michaleen Karay, Karen Knapp, Mary Merrill, Rye Muir and Linda Ward;** and thanks to the RSVP Friendship Center for their partnership.

**Debbie Hindle** for leading the Women in the Wild Field Trip

at the Woollam Family Nature Preserve.

**Marilynn Smith** for leading another mushrooming field trip, for the umpteenth time in LTC history.

**Elliot Nelson** for leading birding field trips along the North Huron Birding Trail.

**The Greenwood Foundation** for hosting a fall wildlife hike and the aster field trip.

**Bird's Eye Outfitters** for partnering on the Round Island Point Nature Preserve field trip.

Eagle Scout candidate **Cole Hoffman and volunteers from his scout troop** for removing invasive Scots pine from the Consuelo Diane and Charles L. Wilson Jr. Working Forest Reserve.

NCMC Sustainability professors and interns, **Taylor Bingaman, Nathan Lipchik, Jacob VanPatten and Lane Whitcomb,** for assistance with stewardship projects.

**Lynn Rice** and her quilter friends for making, and donating, beautiful quilts to the Brave Hearts Estate in support of LTC's partnership in the MDNR Independence Hunt.

**Mary Trout** for leading the After School Birding Club at Sheridan Elementary School in Petoskey.

Kestrel volunteers for another great season. Special thanks to **Jim and Wendy Bean** for helping to coordinate the project and manage nest boxes, and to volunteer kestrel monitors

**Richard Jenkins and Paul Van Klaveren** for helping to relocate a few nest boxes.

Partners from the MDNR Independence Hunt 2019: **Mike and Paula Brown** from Brave Hearts Estate run by Operation Injured Soldiers; **Jim Rummer and Larry Liebler** from Tip of the Mitt Quality Deer Management Area; and **Bonnie Bigelow and Jay Winchell** from the North Country Sportsman's Club in Wolverine. Also thank you to the many hunting guides and financial donors who contributed to the 2019 Independence Hunt and who support our veterans and the disabled in our community.

Trail blazers **Dan CasaSanta, Dan Dueweke, Larry Kepner, Nils Lindwall, Tom and Kim Rowland, and Randy Tarzwell** for helping keep nature preserve trails clear of trees this windy fall.

**Bill Hodges** for his stewardship of the fields and open space at Charles S. Winston Nature Preserve.

**Hessel Schoolhouse** for offering programs that use LTC nature preserves.

**Brielle, Henry and Willy Burris** for their incredible fundraising effort last summer for the mountain bike trail at the Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve.

**Larry Liebler and the Petoskey High School shop class students** for constructing bat houses.

**Susan Carne** for generously gifting a neckerchief to Save the Trees.

For all supporters of the trail fundraising event at The Back Lot:

**Trek Bicycle Corporation and North Country Cycle Sport** for a bike.

**Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association** for volunteers at the event and partnership in this fundraising effort.

**Latitude 45 Bicycles and Fitness** for water bottles.

**American Spoon** for jam.

**Nub's Nob** for buffs.

**High Gear Sports** for high-end jackets.

**McLean & Eakin** for books.

**Jon Royle** for Dakine clothing items.

**Blackrocks Brewery** for logo gear.

**Top of Michigan Trails Council** for water bottles and bicycle bells.

**Touring Gear** for water bottles.

**The Back Lot** for hosting and for donating \$1 from each 51K IPA sold in September (963 beers!).

Interested in joining this incredible list of people that we get to thank each year? Contact Cacia Lesh: [cacia@landtrust.org](mailto:cacia@landtrust.org) for information on volunteering your time, energy, and skills!

## Remembered Forever



## Al and Pat Olofsson

The Conservancy mourns the recent passing of Al and Pat Olofsson, long-time supporters of our work. The Olofssons' involvement began when they served as co-chairs of the Colonial Point Forest (now Indian Point Memorial Forest) protection effort in 1985, enabling the Conservancy to raise \$1.4 million to acquire the scenic and scientifically significant property near Burt Lake. Al then served on the Conservancy's Board of Trustees and, with Pat, co-chaired the Finance Committee, raising funds through our membership program for more than 30 years. The Olofssons also donated artwork to the Conservancy and established a pooled-income fund bequest.

Al and Pat were frequent visitors to the Conservancy office and always shared a good joke or story when they came by. We are grateful to have known Al and Pat and for their willingness to share their love of northern Michigan with the Conservancy. We miss them. We extend our deepest sympathies to daughters Marta and Patty and the entire extended family.

# Winter Events

## Winter Wonderland “Open House” at the Nature Megaphone

Saturday, January 4 / 10am - 3pm  
Agnes S. Andreae Nature Preserve

Join us in one of our favorite winter traditions! What could be more fun than a day at the Andreae Cabin and Nature Preserve? Not much. But when you add chili, hot cocoa, hot cider, snowshoeing, sledding, and a warm fire in the wood stove, there is absolutely nothing better for a winter weekend. Sleds, skis, and snowshoes not provided. This is one of our most extensive trail systems and the trek can be up to six miles out and back. No need to register, just come!

## Winter Birding in the Eastern Upper Peninsula

Saturday, January 11 / 8am - Noon  
Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center, Hessel

Join Michigan Sea Grant educator Elliot Nelson for a morning of birding around the eastern Upper Peninsula. We will be targeting Snowy Owls, Rough-legged Hawks as well as other winter birds. Binoculars are necessary for this trip. Spotting scopes, cameras, and two-way radios are also helpful, but not required. We will end the trip with an optional lunch at a local restaurant. To register, please visit [www.hesselschoolhouse.org](http://www.hesselschoolhouse.org) or call (906) 484-1333.

## Nature, Nutrition, & Health

Saturday, January 18 / 12 - 2pm  
Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center, Hessel

What can we add to our wellness regimen to boost the immune system, sustain energy levels, and find balance? Nature offers plenty of options! To explore natural health opportunities, join Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Nina Fearon for this indoor class. Ms. Fearon will cover natural nutritionals that can protect and help people thrive while exploring the trails this season. To register, visit [www.hesselschoolhouse.org](http://www.hesselschoolhouse.org) or call 906.484.1333.

## Torchlight Hike at Round Island Point

Saturday, January 18 / 6 - 8pm  
Round Island Point Nature Preserve

Join LTC and Bird's Eye Outfitters for a night walk through the trails of the Round Island Point Nature Preserve near Brimley. You will love the cozy glow given by the lanterns hung along this 1.5-mile route. Afterwards, we will enjoy a steaming cup of hot cocoa. Suggested: Bring your own travel mug and walking poles. Snowshoes are optional.

## Greenwood Foundation Winter Adventure

Saturday, January 25 / 10am - Noon  
Cheboygan County, four miles east of Wolverine

The Greenwood Foundation is a privately-owned property near Wolverine protected with a conservation easement held by LTC. Greenwood welcomes the public to enjoy and explore this rolling and remote property. A groomed trail for skiers will offer the chance to find respite in the beauty of a winter wildlife haven. A shorter route is available for snowshoers. Please provide your own skis or snowshoes, although snowshoes are available for children 12 and under if needed. Because this is private property, no dogs are allowed. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early.

## Winter Tracking at Hessel School House

Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center, Hessel  
Saturday, February 1 / Noon - 2:30 p.m.

Interested in the tracks you see in the wilderness and the animals that left them? Join nature educators Mike Supernault and Mike Lynch for a presentation and field trip on tracking and animal behavior in the eastern Upper Peninsula. After an indoor presentation, these knowledgeable wilderness enthusiasts will guide participants on an exploratory hike at a nearby LTC nature preserve. To register, visit [www.hesselschoolhouse.org](http://www.hesselschoolhouse.org) or call 906.484.1333.

## Farmland Protection Opportunities in Charlevoix County

Thursday, February 13 / 1 - 3pm  
Harwood Gold Cafe, Charlevoix

The Conservancy has long made farmland protection a priority in our service area due to its scenic, historical, and economic values. Join Director of Land Protection Caitlin Donnelly to learn more about funding opportunities to protect private farmland using local, state and federal funding. Members of the Harwood Gold family will be there to comment on their experience with the Conservancy and how it helped them transition their farm from one generation to the next. Please call ahead to register. Light snacks and beverages will be provided.

## Hike For Health at Duncan Bay

Saturday, February 22 / 10:30am  
Duncan Bay Nature Preserve

Have you visited the new trails at the Duncan Bay Nature Preserve yet? Join Conservancy staff on a winter hiking excursion to the overlook on the shores of Lake Huron. After our hike, we will (optionally) meet to order lunch at Nourish, the yummy foodie destination in downtown Cheboygan.



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

