

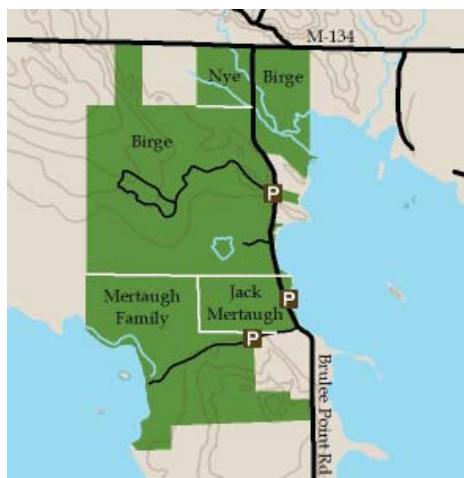
# Mackinac & Chippewa Counties

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## Birge/Mertaugh/Nye/Wallace



**Size:** 435 acres

**Frontage:** 1.2 miles on Lake Huron (more than 6,400 feet on Mismar Bay and more than 4,500 feet on Search Bay).

**Land Description:** The Birge Preserve includes an impressive complex of cedar wetlands, hardwoods, a small lake, and more than 6,400 feet of frontage on Mismar Bay. The northern Lake Huron shoreline is some of the most biologically productive habitat in Michigan. A short trail to Loon Lake provides opportunities to see beaver, bald eagle, osprey, and many other mammals and birds. Abundant native wildflowers including orchids, lady slippers, gentian, asters, marsh marigold, Indian paintbrush, and iris can be found throughout the property.

**Trails:** There are three parking areas and three different trails. The northerly parking area provides access to a 2-mile long trail which traces a historic road bed and then ventures into the forest. This is often groomed in the winter by a local volunteer. Further to the south, a quarter mile trail and boardwalk leads to the Loon Lake viewing platform. The Mertaugh Addition parking area is on the Lake Huron side, and has a bench overlooking Mismar Bay. And a third trail to Search Bay is available from the most southerly parking.

**History:** The original 171-acre preserve on Point Brulee was donated to the Conservancy from long-time Hessel residents Oliver and Edna Birge in 1992. According to Oliver, the old wheel road crossing the property is a section of the oldest road in the area. Many additions have been gifted and purchased over the years, and trail improvements continue each year.



Todd Parker

**Directions:** From the Mackinac Bridge, follow I-75 north about 14 miles to M-134. Take M-134 east 11 miles and turn right on Pt. Brulee Road. (From Hessel take M-134 west 2.4 miles to Pt. Brulee Road). On Pt. Brulee, travel .7 mile to Wheel Road trailhead parking (on right) or go 1.1 miles to shoreline parking area on left. The Loon Lake trailhead is about halfway between the two parking areas.



MACKINAC COUNTY  
**William B. Derby**



**Size:** 207 acres

**Frontage:** More than a mile along Lake Huron

**Land Description:** Located just a short distance from downtown Cedarville, this preserve is the most popular community preserve in the Les Cheneaux region. The land is dominated by cedar trees and the hummocky topography is interspersed with numerous very large, moss-covered boulders. Because they consist largely of limestone/dolomite, the rocks are permeable and many have nurse trees growing from them. It is a magical place for a hike.

**Trails:** A nearly 3 mile trail loop. Public parking is available for the preserve thanks to the Les Cheneaux Club and Les Cheneaux Community Foundation.

**History:** This preserve was named after the landowner who sold it at a significant bargain sale. The trails loop around and one section follows "The Snows Channel," an excellent place to bird, and a stopover point for kayakers who want to come ashore and have lunch on the preserve. The Derby Preserve is a designated stop along the North Huron Birding Trail: [www.northhuronbirding.com](http://www.northhuronbirding.com).



**Directions:** From M-134, head south on Four Mile Road to Club Road. Take a right on Club Road and travel half a mile. Look for signs on right and parking area is a little further up on the left. You will have to hike back to the preserve trail entrance less than 100 yards.



## Hessel Beach



### Land Description and History:

As LTC's very first assist project in the Les Cheneaux area, since 1994 this township park has offered free parking, a place to carry kayaks and canoes to the water, a swimming beach, and public restrooms. An excellent access point for paddlers who are headed out to LTC's Marquette Island preserves. The beach is also located just down the street from the Hessel public marina and the Les Cheneaux Culinary School.

**Directions:** From the corner of M-134 and S. Pickford Ave./3 Mile Road, go south into downtown Hessel about two blocks until the street ends at the public marina. Turn right onto Lake Street. Go about 600 feet. The township beach has street level parking on the left.



## Marquette Island Preserves

### Sizes: (in acres)

Aldo Leopold Preserve - 1,683

Sheppard-Hardy - 21.4

Seiberling Stewart - 192

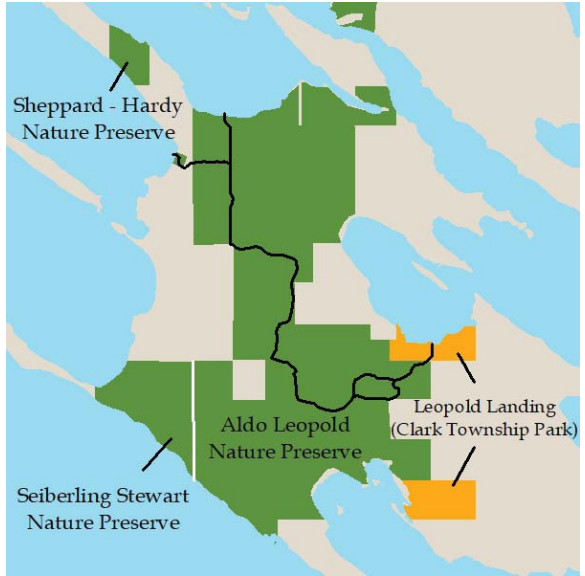
### Frontages:

Nearly 5 miles of Lake Huron frontage combined.

**Land Description:** In 1993, the northern shore of Lake Huron was designated a "Last Great Place" by The Nature Conservancy, a global leader in natural lands conservation. The Les Cheneaux region is at the very heart of this "natural wonder of the world."

**Trails:** Accessible only by boat (or over the ice in winter) with the easiest access to the Aldo Leopold Preserve through Leopold Landing at Duck Bay. Through the preserves, you can explore the shore, bushwhack through dense conifer forests, or travel along footpaths or two-track roads.

**History:** None of the Marquette Island preserves would have been made possible without the generosity, perseverance, and love of the islands shown by many including the J.A. Woollam Foundation, the Les Cheneaux Foundation, Les Cheneaux Club, and many others. Significant funding for the Seiberling Stewart Preserve was provided through the North American Wetland Conservation Act Program.



**Directions:** From the Mackinac Bridge, follow I-75 north about 14 miles to M-134. Take M-134 east 13 miles to Hessel. You can reach the islands from launches in Hessel or further east in Cedarville. Only accessible by boat.



MACKINAC COUNTY  
**St. Helena Island**

**Size:** 266 acres

**Frontage:** 2.84 miles Lake Michigan shoreline

**Land Description:** When crossing the Mackinac Bridge, look west and the largest island visible (~7 miles away) is St. Helena. LTC owns the entire island except for the lighthouse and the three acres which are owned by the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association (GLLKA). In *The Michigan Botanist*, Ed Voss reported that he had documented 332 vascular plant species on the island. There is very little sandy beach here, with most of the shore gravelly.



**Trails:** A rough trail connects the lighthouse to the old village site on the north side of the island. (This trail is sometimes impassable due to poison ivy.) The Beach Trail, established in 2010, leads along the south side of the island and follows an old ridge running parallel to the shore.



**Directions:** Access limited to boat travel. Nearest boat ramps are St. Ignace, Point La Barbe, and Mackinaw City. Anchor a boat or land a kayak at the sheltered bay near old village site on north side of the island. GLLKA offers a variety of ways to get to the island: [www.gllka.com](http://www.gllka.com) or 231.436.5580.



## Bailey-Lagerstrom (Sugar Island)



**Size:** 422 acres

**Frontage:** More than two miles of St. Marys River frontage.

**Land Description:** The Bailey-Lagerstrom Preserve is one of LTC's largest, most wild, and remote nature preserves. Located within the St. Marys River migration corridor, its pristine wetland and shoreline habitats make it important for migratory birds and wildlife.

**Trails:** Despite its remoteness and lack of "traditional" trails, this preserve is relatively easy to access. From the parking area, hike on an old road. If you make it beyond the

pond, the road curves to the left near the shore, and you can cut west through the woods to the rocky Lake Nicolet shoreline, or continue walking south on the old road.

**History:** Acquired in 2004 as three separate projects, the purchase of this nature preserve was funded by the J.A. Woollam Foundation, the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) program, and Michigan Audubon. The preserve was named in honor of Tom Bailey and Tom Lagerstrom, Little Traverse Conservancy's long-time Executive Director and Associate Director.



Kyle Anderson

**Directions:** From downtown Sault Ste. Marie, travel east to the Sugar Island ferry. Once on the island, drive 3.7 miles east on 1½ Mile Road. Turn right on Brassier Road. Drive 11 miles south on Brassier (which turns into Homestead Road after about 4.5 miles). The parking area is on Homestead Road on the right at a big curve. Give yourself at least 15 minutes to get back to the ferry. The ferry returns to the mainland on the hour and half hour.



CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
**De Tour Peninsula**

**Size:** 145 acres

**Frontage:** More than three miles of Lake Huron shoreline

**Land Description:** Jutting down into Lake Huron, this preserve includes the rich diversity that typifies northern Lake Huron: sand and gravel beach, limestone cobble shore, boreal forest, rich conifer swamp, emerging marsh, and coastal fen. The land lies within a major migration corridor centered on the St. Mary's River.

**Trails:** A two-track road, Point Road, runs through the preserve to private land on the tip of the peninsula and is open to foot traffic. A small parking area is available at the end of Point Road.

**History:** This preserve was anonymously donated to LTC in 2011.



Charles Dawley

**Directions:** From Detour, head south one mile on M-134. Turn left onto Point Road. Drive .6 mile to parking area.





CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
**Round Island Point**

**Size:** 1,024 acres

**Frontage:** 9,000 feet Lake Superior

**Land Description:** This large block of protected habitat in the Upper Peninsula provides excellent wildlife habitat for black bear, wolf, moose, bobcat, and others. The property lies within a major flyway for migrating waterfowl and other birds.

**Trails:** While much of this preserve is difficult to access, a paved road bisects the property and takes you within a short distance of the lake. (There are no established trails that lead directly to the lake.) A 1½ mile inland trail and viewing area are accessible from the parking area.

**History:** The original 460 acres was donated to the Michigan chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) by the Finlayson family. In 2000, TNC transferred the land to LTC and since then, LTC fundraised to purchase several additions.

**Directions:** From Sault Ste. Marie, head south on Hwy. 75 to exit 392. Travel approximately 1 mile and turn left (south) on 20th Street (S. Bakerside Road) and travel 3 miles. Turn right on 6 Mile Rd. Go 5 miles and turn right (north) on Birch Point Rd. (east loop). Go ½ mile and look for logo and directional sign on right. Turn right onto paved road. Follow one mile to parking and trail head at end.



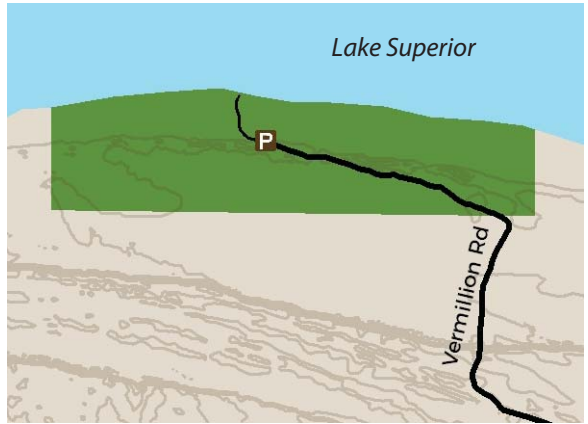
John Heck/www.johnheckphotography.com

**Size:** 175 acres

**Water frontage:** 9,240 feet  
Lake Superior

**Land Description:**

This preserve is defined by the majesty and moods of Lake Superior and its remote location. It contains a wide sandy beach, low shore dunes, upland forest, old cranberry bog wetlands, and a stream. Ecologically, the land is known habitat for the federally endangered piping plover.



Todd Parker



**Trails:** A dirt road takes you to a parking area where easy access to the beach is available. A marked trail to the beach is available from the buildings.

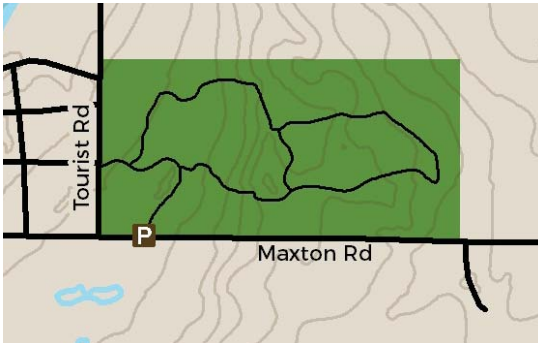
**History:** This spectacular property was protected in February 2007 thanks to a bargain sale from Evan Noyes and his Wildshore Foundation

and grants from the J.A. Woollam Foundation and the North American Wetland Conservation Act Program. Historically, this property and its associated buildings were a life saving station first built in 1876. Years of neglect and harsh Lake Superior weather have taken a toll on the buildings. Researchers from Lake Superior State University, The Nature Conservancy, and Michigan Audubon use the property to study the piping plovers as well as other birds, and the wetlands.

**Directions:** From Paradise, head north on Whitefish Point Road approximately 5 miles. Turn left on Vermillion Road (near Andrus Lake campground). The road will quickly become gravel and sand. Four-wheel-drive is highly recommended. Travel roughly 7¼ miles until road veers north. (Be careful not to go onto 452.) Continue north on Vermillion Road for more than a mile. Follow signs to parking.



CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
**Clyde and Martha Williams**



**Size:** 80 acres

**Frontage:** Lies along Maxton Road.

**Land Description:** The Williams Preserve is mostly forested with either upland mixed hardwood/conifer stands (including white pine and hemlock components); northern hardwood stands dominated by beech and maple (with minor conifer component of ash, ironwood, basswood, and balsam fir); and lowland areas dominated by cedar, balsam fir, and paper birch. Fallow agricultural fields now vegetated with bracken fern, blackberry, and various tree seedlings and saplings are present in small areas. Soils in some areas are flat and sandy, and very rocky in others, with some large boulders. Fissured bedrock is visible at the surface in some spots. Ancient post-glacial lake shorelines are evident on the preserve. An old stone wall built by early Island settlers is located in the east part of the preserve.

**Trails:** An easy 1.3 mile trail.

**History:** The Williams Preserve was purchased at a bargain price and named after the sellers' parents.



**Directions:** From Detour, take the ferry to Drummond Island. Drive onto M-134/East Channel Road for 7.9 miles. Turn left at South Town-line Rd. Travel 1.5 miles to Drummond Road/East Maxton Rd. Turn right and go ½ mile to the preserve on the left.





## **Keeping it special for those yet to come.**

You support the work of the Little Traverse Conservancy because northern Michigan holds a special place in your heart. Whether you and your family have been visiting “up north” for generations or you live here year-round (or something in between) you want this place to stay as natural and wild and beautiful and healthy as possible.

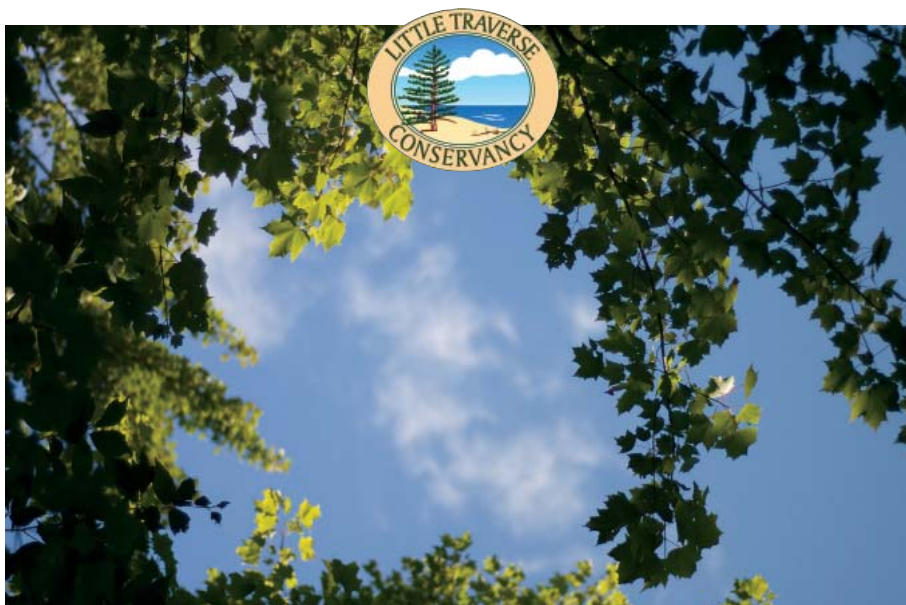
Thankfully you are not alone. Thousands of individuals, families, and businesses contribute to the work of land conservation, land stewardship, and environmental education each year. These are our members.

As our work and our protected holdings continue to grow, we depend more and more on those annual gifts shared by our members. Thank you for valuing northern Michigan. Thank you for supporting the Little Traverse Conservancy.

*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. Our service area includes Chippewa, Mackinac, Emmet, Cheboygan, and Charlevoix counties.*

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How do you envision Northern Michigan  
100 years from now?

As each year passes, and more and more land gives way to development, we watch our landscape change. Some change is readily absorbed by the environment—but some is not. The Little Traverse Conservancy is here to seek a healthy balance between development and preservation. By becoming a member of the Little Traverse Conservancy, you will join roughly 4,000 individuals, families, and businesses who want to work toward that balance, to preserve the quality of the “up north” life we’ve come to appreciate and enjoy. The most appealing and comforting thing about Conservancy protected lands is that they are protected forever and accessible for all of us to enjoy. For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation, please contact our office at 231.347.0991 or visit [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org).