



PROTECTING THE NORTH COUNTRY WE ALL LOVE

YOU MAKE
forever
POSSIBLE

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Vermilion Point Nature Preserve Needs You, pg. 8

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YOU, our member

Our volunteers

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Thanks, Dave

by Kieran Fleming
Executive Director

Little Traverse Conservancy lost two of our founders in 2020. Boo Litzzenburger passed away in July, as we shared in last fall's newsletter. And in November, Dave Irish passed away, dealing LTC a second blow with the loss of another visionary leader whose foresight and love of this land laid the groundwork for the protection of more than 60,000 acres almost 50 years later.

In recent years, Dave became an invaluable resource for me both personally and professionally. In addition to serving several board terms over the years, he was on one of our committees for the entirety of our existence. He was always around, and his fingerprints can be seen on every department.

Dave was the guy who would sit quietly and listen. You could see the wheels turning in his head, and then he would speak, softly but confidently, and often turn the entire conversation

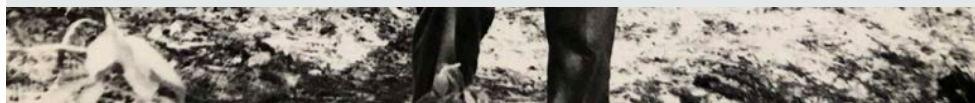
to another outcome. He was that rare individual who simply carried the respect of everyone in the room.

My predecessor Tom Bailey often spoke fondly and in admiration of Dave. Other people have recently shared their deep respect for him such as LTC Trustee Stuart Bishop. He credits Dave as a major influence in his life, impacting his perspective on how to care for this area that means so much to so many. Longtime trustee and volunteer John Baker knew Dave since the 1960s and warmly refers to him as his boss, mentor, and friend.

I feel fortunate to have known Dave for more than 20 years, bearing witness to the huge role he played in LTC's success. His legacy endures through many things he has done in our community, not the least of which are the forests and fields that are forever protected for future generations. We will miss you, Dave.



Dave Irish hauls in materials for the platform on the James Dilworth Trail at the Round Lake Nature Preserve. This photo was taken in May 1988 by Reg Sharkey.





Loons on Larks Lake.

PHOTO BY LIGHT REVEALS PHOTOGRAPHY



LARKS LAKE PROTECTION

VAN LOKEREN FAMILY LAKESIDE PRESERVE

One of the last remaining undeveloped and unprotected parcels on Emmet County's Larks Lake is now protected as a nature preserve. This was made possible by donors to the Maple River Watershed Land Conservation initiative and the sellers, Michael and Mary Ann Van Lokeren, who sold the land at a significant bargain sale.

With 33 acres and more than a quarter mile of lake frontage, the new preserve includes a mix of open shrub uplands that leads to a lowland cedar dominated forest at the lake's shore. A small stream flows through the preserve to the lake.

"We originally bought this land when we moved into town so that we would have a place to run our dog Kate, an English setter," Michael explained. "It was a

place that was safe for her, and I would drive up there every day for the last three or four years so she could get her exercise, point grouse, all while we would see eagles flying overhead and so much more."

Because of their love for dogs, Michael hopes that someday the new preserve can be used for events or outings that bring people and their dogs together.

"Over the years, the Van Lokerens have done so much for our community, and this is just one more way they have given back to help protect a place that is dear to them," said LTC Director of Land Protection Caitlin Donnelly. Donnelly explained that this land is part of the greater Maple River Watershed, a current strategic priority protection area for the Conservancy.

YOU DID IT!

Funding for the Offield Family Viewlands is officially complete thanks to YOU! Because of you, this reserve is open for EVERYONE! Because of you, this special place has already become beloved by so many.

PLUS! The Viewlands buildings will be open for a select number of private events in 2021. Visit www.landtrust.org/booktheviewlands for details!

PHOTO BY TODD PARKER

A Slice of Shoreline

THE PAULLY NATURE PRESERVE: LAKE HURON GEM PROTECTED

In the late 1930s, E.E. Paull of Cheboygan purchased land that lies along Lake Huron from the North American Pulp and Paper Corporation. At the time, it was purchased as an investment with the belief that Cheboygan would become a shipping port connecting to the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Today, thanks to a donation from Paull's daughter, Virginia Bransfield, the land has become the Paull Family Nature Preserve. At 4.5 acres, the preserve includes 600 feet of Lake Huron frontage and lies directly across the road from the 42-acre Adolph and Margaret Gauthier Nature Preserve, both of which are within Cheboygan city limits.

"With its Great Lakes shoreline and associated wetlands, this preserve's ecological value is very high and greatly amplifies the protection that is offered by the Gauthier Preserve," said Caitlin Donnelly, LTC's director of land protection. "Migratory and residential birds are readily seen in this region because of this excellent habitat," she added. "It is one more piece of Lake Huron shoreline protection in a necklace of preserves now on both the west and east sides of the Cheboygan River and near Duncan Bay."



Forest School Synergy

NEW PRESERVE CREATES OUTDOOR CLASSROOM FOR U.P. SCHOOL

In a beautiful partnership among a new charter school, donors who support learning in the outdoors, and Little Traverse Conservancy's education program, a new nature preserve has been acquired. In addition to protecting wetlands, the new preserve creates a school forest for immersive environmental education.

In late 2019, LTC education staff learned about the Lake Superior Academy (LSA), an eastern Upper Peninsula school about 9 miles south of downtown Sault Ste. Marie. "I hadn't even heard of the school until Susie Schlehuber (LSA Principal) called to inquire about borrowing our discovery boxes," explained LTC Education Director Sarah Mayhew. "When speaking with Susie further, I learned of the school's outdoor education focus and about the property next door they'd attempted to purchase. Immediately my brain started spinning!"

LSA values many of the same things the Conservancy values through its education programming. The school follows the Montessori method, serves primary age students through grade five, and boasts an impressive outdoor classroom. "LSA teaches all academic subjects by beginning with concrete instruction and moving to

abstract learning," said Susie. "This allows students to touch, feel, move and understand the whys of concepts before they are expected to use the skill in an abstract format."

"This is exactly what our outdoor classroom, and the preserve made available through LTC's land purchase, will provide," Susie added. She points out that while many students are familiar with the concepts of "green living" and are taught to care for nature, very few actually get the opportunity for hands-on learning opportunities to deeply instill the importance of these things. "At this new preserve, students will walk through the land, learn about the environment, and will be able to touch, smell, interact with, and personally experience the outdoor space around them," she said.

To Don and Karen Stearns, who funded the project, this resonates with them perfectly. "We believe that environmental education is very important and to get kids into the outdoors is the best method," Don shared.

The name of this new 37-acre preserve is currently being decided with student participation (see below), and will be announced in a forthcoming newsletter.



From the Field

by Sarah Mayhew, Director of Education

Our first visit to the property was with students in January with grades 3-5 for a snowshoe outing. The intention of this day was to provide students the opportunity to experience a variety of habitats on the preserve. They recorded observations in their journals, learned about what's growing on the property and started to get a feel for the land. They've also been challenged to name the preserve. The younger students have been able to explore the preserve as well. Enthusiasm for this direct access to nature is a common theme among all.

There are already countless ideas of ways LSA's students can contribute to the stewardship of the property and how our education staff can meet teachers' needs. We're very excited to continue developing this partnership and see where it takes us!

HEART OF HARBOR

DONNELLY & KUSEL FAMILIES NATURE PRESERVE

A 20-acre property adjacent to state land and a much-loved trail system just north of Harbor Springs has now become the Donnelly & Kusel Families Nature Preserve. Located off of Bigfoot Road, a seasonal road that connects to many multi-use trails, this area is a true outdoor recreation mecca for Harbor Springs. The previous landowners allowed for public use and hoped it could remain permanently that way.

"This project had the perfect synergy of a landowner who wanted to sell the land for protection, and donors who were seeking to protect land," said Kieran Fleming, LTC's executive director.

Karen and her husband Michael Donnelly readily decided to donate the remaining funds needed for the land's purchase. Because both of them regularly bike, hike, or ski nearby, they have watched how the popularity of the trails has grown.

"After my mother [Josephine Kusel] died, we learned that she and my dad had set money aside for each of their children to donate to a non-profit in their community, and there was no doubt in our minds that we wanted that money to go to the Conservancy," Karen said. "My parents always told us that we picked a wonderful place to raise our children, and they and my siblings have always loved coming to Harbor Springs."

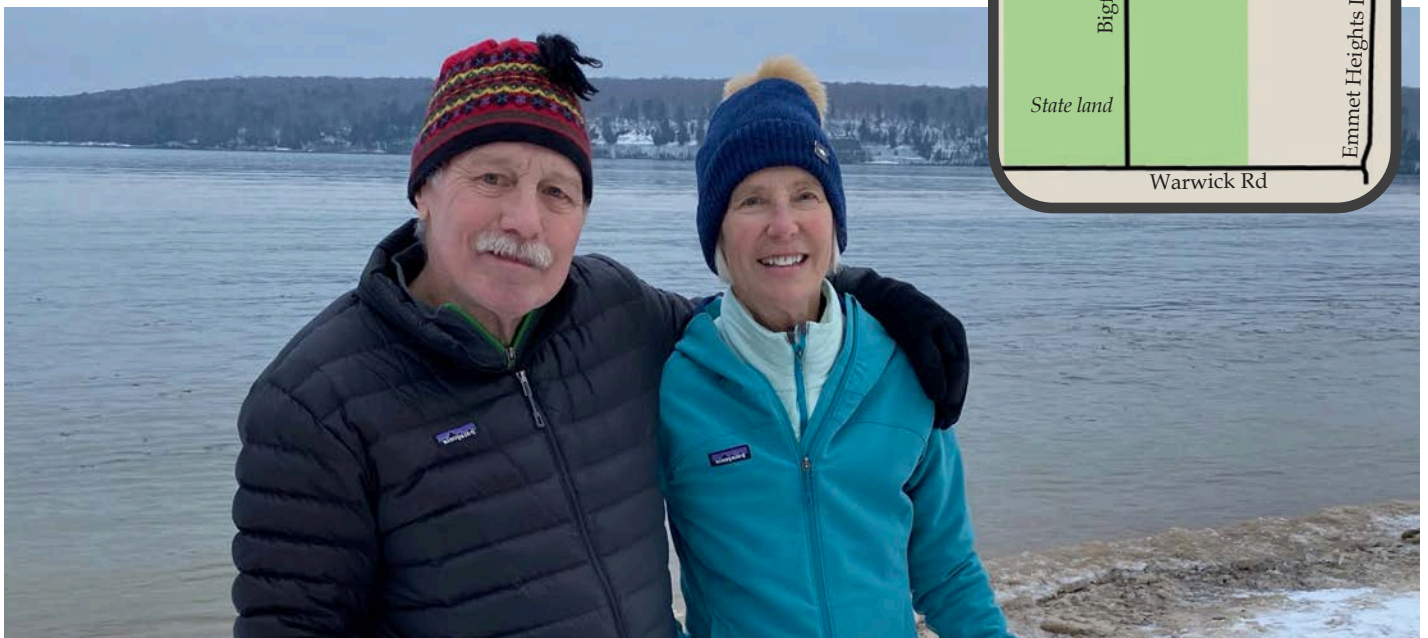
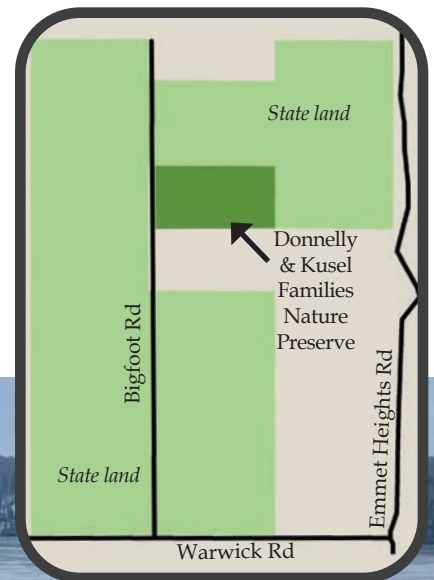
Fleming added, "In addition to the public access benefits, it also enhances other protected lands, growing the ecological landscape and making it a very high Conservancy priority."

The Donnellys see great potential for the new preserve to someday offer a spur loop off of the surrounding trails near Bigfoot Road. "It is just a very nice piece of land, and we are really excited that you all have it and people can use it," she added.



Pictured above: Edward and Josephine Kusel, parents of Karen Donnelly.

Pictured below: Karen and Michael Donnelly.



Stewarding These Lands



Above: The Brandewie family generously donated funds to help LTC acquire the new Harris-Melvin Nature Preserve, and to build a boardwalk trail and viewing platform on the shores of Burt Lake in memory of Richard Brandewie. Richard had a deep love for Burt Lake and his family felt this would be a wonderful way to remember him and their treasured family time spent on the lake. LTC was fortunate to partner with YouthWork Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan, who did an incredible job building this trail and viewing platform.



Thanks to a grant from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, LTC was able to complete a handful of stewardship projects throughout Emmet County over the last year. Some of the highlights include:

- Constructed new boardwalk and graveled the parking area at the Sally & Art Hailand, Jr./Helstrom Family Nature Preserves. *Pictured above on left: Volunteer Richard Jenkins and LTC Volunteer Coordinator Cacia Lesh.*
- Constructed new boardwalk at the Sally & Jack Clark Nature Preserve in the heart of the City of Petoskey.
- Seeded native wildflowers to restore meadows and habitats at Hathaway Family's Regina Caeli Nature Preserve.
- Updated trail maps and signage at Sally & Art Hailand, Jr./Helstrom Family nature preserves, Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve, the Offield Family Viewlands, Oden Island Nature Preserve, and Watson Nature Preserve.
- Planted 525 tree saplings at Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve. *Pictured above on right.*

Vermilion Point

YOU CAN HELP ENSURE THAT VERMILION POINT NATURE PRESERVE IS CARED FOR FOREVER

Your membership support helps to care for our preserves each year. You help us to thrive. But what about when you are gone? LTC is in the “forever business,” as Tom Bailey, former LTC executive director, used to say. We need to ensure that our work continues for the generations that come after us.

The Wildshore Foundation agrees. With a founding gift, they established the Vermilion Endowment Fund to protect and share Vermilion Point Nature Preserve forever.

The fund will be used for the care, conservation, maintenance, and upkeep of Vermilion including:

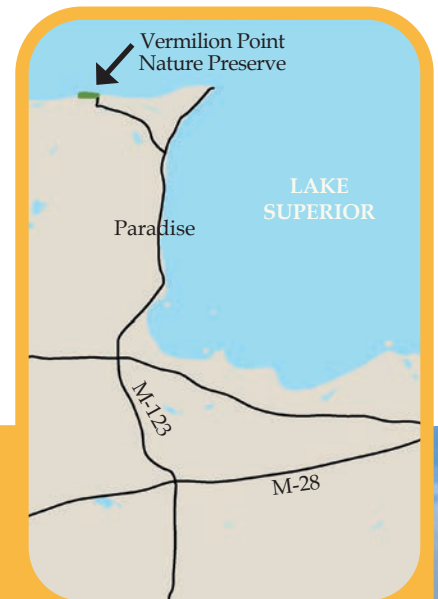
- Ecological management and protection of the property
- Maintaining an accessible parking area
- Improving and maintaining signs
- Hiring a local caretaker
- Maintaining the buildings in a safe and stable condition

A portion of income earned from the fund each year will be used to forward the overall mission of Little Traverse Conservancy.

Goal: Raise \$1 million by 2023 for this unique preserve.

\$330,000 has already been raised!

Any donation to help this fund reach \$1 million will be matched through 2022.



Needs You



Your Generosity, Your Legacy

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Little Traverse Conservancy's Vermilion Endowment Fund visit our website or contact Ty Ratliff, Associate Director, at 231.347.0991 or ty@landtrust.org.

About Vermilion: **An extraordinary 175-acre nature preserve with 1.75 miles of shoreline on Lake Superior.**



In 2007, the Vermilion Point property was acquired by the Little Traverse Conservancy to become a nature preserve and be protected from all future development – forever. The purchase was made possible by a significant bargain sale from the Wildshore Foundation as well as funding from the J.A. Woollam Foundation and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act program. The nature preserve includes 175 acres, 1.75 miles of Lake Superior shoreline, and the associated life saving buildings. Despite its remote location, Vermilion Point stands as one of LTC's top visited preserves.

This land was purchased to permanently protect its unique natural and ecological attributes. Undeveloped Great Lakes shoreline is becoming more and more rare as lakefront property continues to be highly desired for private residences. This particular stretch of Lake Superior shoreline is known habitat for the federally endangered Piping Plover, a small shorebird that nests among the preserve's dunes. The wetlands behind the dunes also provide habitat for many other significant plant and wildlife species. ***The Vermilion Endowment will protect all of it!***

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to the following new members who joined between November 9, 2020 and February 23, 2021.

Michael & Jennifer Aenis	Mr. William Ehrstine	Mr. Holt James	Patrick & Alissa Mullally
Todd Ager	Pat & Jerome Emmendorfer	Mick & Katie Janness	Michael & Charmaine
Eric & Sue Anderson	Wes & Melissa Fay	John & Margo Jaqua	Murphy
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Mr. Jeff Barnes	Matthew & Courtney Font	Michael Knapp	Lindsey O'Connor
Jayne & Gregg Bayer	Gary & Adele Forbrig	Aliana Knapp-Prasek	waterfowl8
Owen & Tracy Beckley	Steven & Donna	Mr. & Mrs. Timothy	John & Patricia Offenberg
Joanne Bell-Trees	Froemming	Kochanny	Robert & Connie
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Bill & Shannon Berg	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas	Mike & Nancy Kota	David & Linda Overberg
Michael & Nancy	Geraghty, IV	Linda & John Lamb	Ronald Pacis
Bieganowski	S.H. Graham	Billy & Margaret LaRocque	Jim Page
Mike & Beth Bishop	Bonnie & Beeb Graham	Ryan & Joanna Latimer	Tom & Margie Parker
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Chris & Tami Brinkel	Randall & Patricia Gudme	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey M.	Terry & Emily Phillips
Brett & Lauren Brinkel	John Guthrie	Lipshaw	Lynette Pirrung
Jared Buckley & Patricia	Dan & Anne Guyer	Sid & Laura Lockhart	Alison Pollard & Joe Tinsley
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Auggie & Jane Campbell	Stuart Hammond	Ms. Rosemary Lounsbury	Michael & Laura Posner
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Ms. Alison L. Crowley	Harrison	Maithel Family	Douglas Robert Ray
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John & Jane Dean	Dave & Donna Heeres	Chrissy Maleske	Ms. Sherri Reed
Michele Mucci-Deming	Robert Heisler	Timothy & Pamela Manthei	Mr. G. Bentley Renker
Nancy Dennis	Richard & Martha	Robert & Jill Marsh	Rosemary Renwick
Zenas & Maria Dickinson	Hennessey	Ann & Bill Mason	Rock & Nancy Ringold
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David & Debra Zagurny
Lily Zuccaro

Leaving Your Legacy

"I believe in the work of LTC, and I have been impressed with what you have been able to do to preserve large swaths of northern Michigan, so when it came time to redo our wills, we included a gift to LTC in it. I suppose in making my gifts, I am echoing what every donor to LTC says; 'I wish it could be more.' Northern Michigan is part of my heritage, and so I give my support to you without hesitation."

- Tom Hoster, Legacy Member and LTC member for 21 years



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. No legacy gift is too big or too small; there is no minimum gift amount required to be a Legacy Member.

We are grateful to welcome the following new LTC Legacy Members:

Gay Cummings
Thomas Hoster
Doreen Jagodnik

Marjorie Marks
Randel Richner and Eric Russell

To learn more about becoming a Legacy Member or to share that you have included Little Traverse Conservancy in your estate plans, please contact LTC Associate Director Ty Ratliff at 231.344.1005 or 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 gifts were given between November 9, 2020 and February 10, 2021.

IN HONOR OF

Foltz & Adams Families

Ms. Nancy Foltz-Adams

John Baker

Mandy Anderson

John & Sandy Baker

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Kyle & Alana Billingsley

Michael Fleming & Elise
Billingsley

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Nick & Betsy White

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Donald & Janeen Smith

David & Pam Johnson

Nick & Betsy White

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Brad Ropp

Iver Ray Lewis

The Lewis Family

Gow Litzenburger

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Don & Robin McCarty

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James Ratliff

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Ty Ratliff

Mike & Karen Ratliff

Cedric Richner

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Dina Pettersen Riquelme

Chris Fitzgerald & Elizabeth
Asbury

George & Mary Elizabeth Smith

Gregory B. & Pamela K. Smith

Chris Snyder

Nick & Betsy White

Bill & Sally Soter

Nick & Betsy White

Karen Swanson

Evening Star Joinery

David & Elizabeth Taylor

Evening Star Joinery

Anne Williamson

Mark Mitshkun & Diane
Rosenblum

Lynne DeMoor & Bill Wilson

Carolyn DeMoor

Sally Wilson

Ms. Linda Heller

Anna Young

Karla Sherman

Michelle Zmikly

Evening Star Joinery

IN MEMORY OF

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Donald & Janeen Smith

Robert & Jeanette Ameal

Mr. R. Michael Ameal

Chris Appleby

Mr. & Mrs. William A. Mosher

David Armour

Matthew & Anneke Myers

Charles Asbury

Chris Fitzgerald & Elizabeth
Asbury

Chris Asbury

Chris Fitzgerald & Elizabeth
Asbury

Dave Baron

Michaleen & Nick Karay

Alice Barkhausen

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Ted & Kate Freeland
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Glass
Mr. & Mrs. James S. Offield
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Henry & Alice Barkhausen

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Susan Barta

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Mary Clayton

Donald & Janeen Smith

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Peter & Sarah Gurney

Jeff & Cindy Hall

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hanna

Dr. & Mrs. Dale M. Herder

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Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Keenan

Mr. & Mrs. Paul C. Keiswetter

Sally Kennedy & Family

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Chip & Kathleen Letts

David & Genny Letts

Charles Letts

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Owners Association

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Birchwood Association of

Mullett Lake

Leonard Stenger

Birchwood Association of

Mullett Lake

Darrell Swantek

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Richard Tobin

Edward & Jane Terrill

Edward Voss

Dr. & Mrs. Lynn Elfner

Jolita Warren

Donald & Janeen Smith

Larry & Lonnie Woodcock

The Seguin Family

Thank You

Bluegreen Corporation staff at Boyne Mountain for monitoring trails at Wisser-Saworski Nature Preserve.

Tatem Phelps for donating hardware for signs and maintaining maps at The Hill Nature Preserve.

Preserve Perfectionists **John Baker, Hannah D'Angelo, Chris Ford, Richard Jenkins, John Merrill, and Tom Rowland** for fixing things, monitoring wetlands, clearing trails, and staying positive despite the cold weather.

Dan Mann, Tom Moody, Randy Tarzwell, Zach Skiera and Todd Wright for volunteer trail grooming at Driggers, Susan Creek and The Hill nature preserves.

Hessel Schoolhouse, Bird's Eye Outfitters, the Les Cheneaux Club, and the O.U.T. House Consortium for co-hosting the snowshoe lantern event at the William B. Derby, Jr. Nature Preserve.

John Baker, Hannah D'Angelo, Dan Dueweke, Jacqui Durand, Casey Haggerty, Glen Matthews, Amber Neils, Sue and Gary Rentrop, and the Springborn family for surveying preserves for the invasive pest, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association (TOMMBA) for grooming a fat tire bike trail at the Offield Family Viewlands.

Dan Dueweke, Randy Tarzwell, Kyle Wagenschutz, Doug Engler, and Andy Keen for trail clearing.

Glen Matthews for wildlife tracking at Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve.

Bill Courtois, Frank D'Andraia, and Kristen, Brendan and Sarah Schornak for trail camera assistance.

Greenwood Foundation for hosting another magical field trip at their property this winter.

Mary Jane Clayton, Mary Merrill, and Carolyn Stark for meticulously counting trail camera data.

Mary Stewart Adams for leading two spectacular night sky events.

Pamela Dueweke for building snow sculptures at the Offield Family Viewlands for the night sky events.

Todd Petersen for winter photography projects.

Volunteer Spotlight: Richard Jenkins

I grew up just north of London, England, and worked for auto companies until the recession in the early 1990s. I came over to the USA in 1994 and have officially made it my home, finally becoming a citizen in January 2021. I worked for GM and Chrysler in

the Detroit area as a designer and project chief. Initially our house up north was a vacation home, but upon my retirement in 2013 it became our primary residence.

I had volunteered for the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council for about a year when I got a call from Cacia at LTC to help with their first BioBlitz. After seeing the enthusiasm and knowledge of this dedicated organization and meeting a great bunch of staff and interns, I became hooked on volunteering. I learn something new from the staff and other volunteers every time I am with them. I enjoy the construction challenges we encounter and resolve by design or, more often, group discussion and compromise.

I love the natural beauty of northern Michigan and the diversity of the preserves, beaches, rivers,

woodlands, meadows, swamps; all have their own characteristics. I want to be part of making these preserves accessible to everyone by giving financially but also by giving my time. It is so rewarding after a day's labor hauling lumber, building boardwalks, bridges, clearing trails and especially tree planting to know that these projects will be enjoyed by all for years to come.

I remember one day after planting trees and shrubs at the Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest (and finding out black flies are not deterred by insect repellent), LTC Director of Stewardship Derek Shiels said to us, "What you have planted today will be here one hundred years from now, for future generations to enjoy." Those words will stay with me forever, and that is why I volunteer.



LTC Welcomes Joe Graham to the team!

Land Protection Specialist and Offfield Family Viewlands Coordinator



Joe is very proud of his northern Michigan roots and has called East Jordan, Charlevoix, Petoskey, and now Harbor Springs home. His love of the land and the outdoors began at an early age on his grandparents' dairy farm. His grandfather, Don Graham, instilled in him a deep appreciation for the value of the land. Joe remembers his grandfather saying, "It's the only thing they aren't making more of." A sentiment shared by many who support LTC.

Joe earned a degree in Business Administration from the Rochester Institute of Technology. His professional work experience includes marketing, teaching environmental education, starting his own business fabricating custom bicycles, and working at a local bike store, Latitude 45.

Joe's passions are numerous: cycling, skiing, sailing, sawing lumber, woodworking and metalworking, home improvement, and gardening. Joe is married to Emily Hughes, LTC's Director of Finance and Membership. They have two daughters, Ember and Ada, and a rescue dog, Journey.

DRINK
COFFEE,
PROTECT

LAND



Little Traverse Conservancy teamed up with Populace Coffee, a Bay City, MI based coffee roaster. When Populace Coffee opened a café in Petoskey, they knew they wanted to support local causes. Although their shop is temporarily closed, their support continues with Conservation Bags. 50% of sales go directly towards up north land protection.

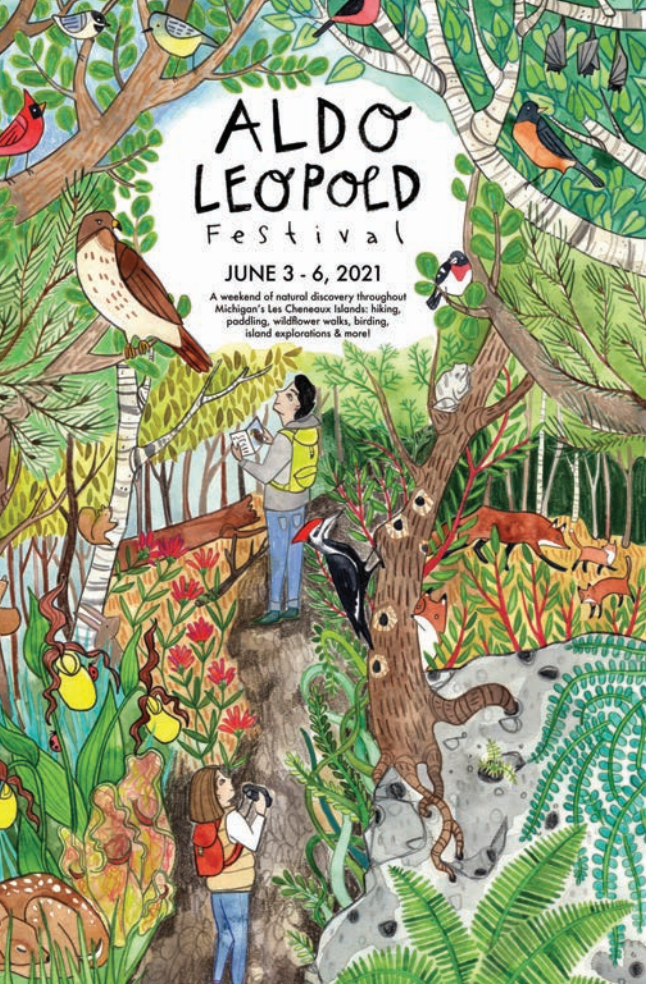
Head to www.landtrust.org/store to purchase. Cheers!

Partner Spotlight: Ruffed Grouse Society



Kieran Fleming and Scott Carbeck of the local chapter of Ruffed Grouse Society at the Offfield Family Working Forest Reserve.

The local chapter of Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) along with Little Traverse Conservancy were featured in a five-page story in last summer's national RGS magazine "Covers." The story highlights how the organizations are working together toward the shared goal of improving wildlife habitat for a multitude of species. In the spring of 2019, LTC received a \$9,000 grant from the Michigan Drummer Fund to improve habitat at the Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve. The Drummer Fund is supported by local RGS chapters that pool their resources to protect habitat particularly for American Woodcock and Ruffed Grouse. "LTC's working forest reserves are perfect locations for us to continue these relationships and combine our resources," said LTC Executive Director Kieran Fleming. "We are excited to see how land management has become a top priority of the RGS nationally and look forward to continued partnerships with our local and statewide chapters."



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2021 Spring Events

Events are offered at no charge, but registration is required by calling 231.347.0991 or online at www.landtrust.org/events unless otherwise noted. *Note: Events are subject to change due to potential restrictions. See website for up to date information.*

VERNAL POND EXPLORATION

Saturday, April 24 / 10:00am - Noon

Chaboiganing Nature Preserve, Cheboygan County

Come into the forest to find the creatures that inhabit the vernal ponds. We will get close to the ground to search under logs and in the water for creatures like salamanders and freshwater "fairy" shrimp. Learn about the importance of these seasonal ponds and how we can protect them. All ages welcome. Muck boots are strongly recommended. Limited to 15 participants.

SKY DANCING WITH THE AMERICAN WOODCOCK

Thursday, April 29 / 7:30pm

LTC Office & Hailand/Helstrom Nature Preserve, Emmet County

Join LTC staff and the Ruffed Grouse Society to discover and witness the incredible spring mating display of the American Woodcock. Learn how these two organizations are partnering to improve habitat for upland birds, the Golden winged Warbler, and much more.

MOTHER'S DAY WILDFLOWER WALK

Sunday, May 9 / 1:00 - 3:00pm

Emmet or Charlevoix County, location to be announced

Celebrate Mother's Day with a hike through a rich, northern-hardwood forest to enjoy spring wildflowers. We'll walk among the spring beauties and trillium to celebrate our mothers and the yearly return of northern Michigan's spring ephemeral wildflowers.

BIRDING THE FEN

Wednesday, May 12 / 6:00pm

Waldron Fen Nature Preserve, Emmet County

We return to this unique and diverse preserve to wander with binoculars. Neotropical migratory birds - warblers, thrushes, tanagers, and hawks - will be moving through our area to find breeding sites. Join expert birder and LTC volunteer Darrell Lawson as he guides our eyes to the sky and our feet along the ground.

WOMEN'S MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE

Saturday, May 22 / 10:00am

Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve, Emmet County

Grab a friend and join us on this new mountain bike enhanced trail system. All levels welcome, but some biking experience recommended. Your ride can be as short as 3 miles or as long as 6 miles. Bring your own bike and helmet and be ready for a fun ride.

ALDO LEOPOLD FESTIVAL

June 3 - 6

Les Cheneaux Islands, Mackinac County

See poster above left. The 2021 Aldo Leopold Festival will include all outdoor programming exploring a variety of natural world topics. Family-friendly activities will be included! Please note that attendance will be limited for many events. Register at www.aldoleopoldfestival.com.