



Martin Kenny

2013 Preserve Priority Projects

In addition to our scheduled work bees, the following list highlights major projects we hope to conduct at nature preserves throughout our service area this upcoming season. If you are interested in working specifically at one of these preserves please contact Cacia at 231.344.1002 or cacia@landtrust.org.

Charlevoix County

Barney's Lake
Darnton
Schultz & Taylor Horton Creek
The Hill
Wisser-Saworski

Cheboygan County

Seven Springs
Waubun

Chippewa County

DeTour Peninsula
Foster-Hartley Lake

Emmet County

Braun
Bubbling Springs
McCune
Offield

Mackinac County

Birge
Derby

*There are two ways of spreading light
- to be the candle or the mirror that
reflects it. Edith Wharton*

Invasive SWAT Team

LTC is looking for volunteers to help manage invasive plants on high-priority preserves. In the future we hope to have an Invasive SWAT Team at one preserve in each county, however, this first year we will have a pilot SWAT Team at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve. We are looking for people interested in working with a small group or on their own on a regular basis to harness the spread of targeted invasive plant species. Once a group of volunteers is established we will hold a formal training day and then let you loose on your own to schedule SWAT Team work bees throughout the year. Please contact us if you are interested.

Nature Preserves by County as of March 2013	County	# Preserves	Acres
	Charlevoix	43	2,623
	Cheboygan	26	2,022
	Chippewa & Luce	19	2,893
	Emmet	70	4,112
	Mackinaw	14	2,959
	TOTAL	172	14,609

Monitoring Preserve Boundaries

As our eyes on the ground, Preserve Monitors and Trail Stewards act in helping LTC maintain preserve boundaries and keep boundary encroachments at bay. You may be some of the first visitors to many preserves, marveling at the beauty, color and vitality of northern Michigan. As you get a first look at the condition of trails, signs and boundaries you may also be the first to notice any new trash piles or neighbor encroachment along preserve boundaries.

LTC's preserve boundaries are marked in a number of ways, including orange carsonite posts labeled "Preserve Boundary" located generally at corner survey pins and along road frontage. The wording on these carsonite faces away from the preserve so that the LTC logo can be seen when entering the preserve. Metal T-posts are used along boundary lines between property corners, sometimes green and white or silver metal and orange. Metal square boundary tags are placed on trees along the boundary in between T-posts and sometimes along road frontage. Where a road or trail crosses into a preserve, LTC rules signs are often placed to mark the boundary and inform visitors of LTC preserve rules.

Please take a walk around your preserve's boundaries this spring and report to us on any issues you come across. If you have a GPS unit we can load preserve boundary information onto it for you for accuracy. If you are not confident at identifying your preserve's boundaries or would like a staff member to walk the preserve boundaries with you, please contact us.



Volunteer Steward Newsletter

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Dan and Jan Reelitz

We introduce you to Dan and Jan Reelitz, preserve monitors to the Derby and Search Bay preserves near Cedarville.

When Dan and Jan Reelitz became involved with the Conservancy in 1994, it was with great intention and an eye for long-term commitment. Having been concerned citizens of the Birmingham, MI area and outdoor enthusiasts, Dan and Jan had a lot to offer when they moved to northern Michigan. Since first visiting the Upper Peninsula with friends in the St. Martin Bay area, they purchased property in 1987 and built a log cabin which they now call home. One of their first commitments to the protection of the Great Lakes was to become members of the Conservancy. But they didn't stop there; they wanted to continue to stay concerned about environmental issues, and being stewardship volunteers for the Conservancy was a great way for them to fulfill that interest.

After years of being summer visitors to the Les Cheneaux Islands, in 2009 they both retired to move to Cedarville year-round. Jan was the Library Director and Wilderness Expedition Program Leader at Cranbrook School, and Dan was Project Manager at Unisys in Bloomfield Hills. Their retirement gave them the time to

become Preserve Monitors for the Derby Preserve and the Search Bay Preserve, as well as help out with special projects and stewardship work days held in the Les Cheneaux area.

Dan and Jan recently placed a Geocache at the Search Bay Preserve with their grandsons, no doubt instilling the same concern and passion for the health of the Great Lakes. They are hopeful that this new form of outdoor recreation will invite new visitors to the remote preserve. Jan recently emphasized that "being involved with Little Traverse Conservancy keeps us involved in Great Lakes Issues, concerned about lakes, invasive species and water levels. The Great Lakes are so unique and we have a strong commitment to feel involved and concerned." Dan and Jan are also instructors for the Inland Seas Education Association in Suttons Bay, encouraging local youth to explore the Great Lakes on a "schoolship" and get hands-on experience doing things like water quality testing in the spring and fall.

The Reelitzes are an inspirational example of dedication, kindness, and care for the natural world around them. Not only do they share this through the tone of their voices when talking about volunteering, but also through sharing the connection to landscape and community with their grandsons and youth in the northern Michigan region. We are lucky to call them LTC Volunteers and want to thank them for their selfless work in furthering the land- and lakes- protection cause.

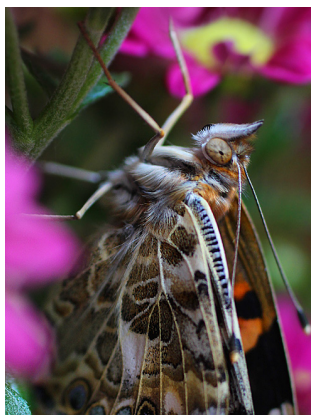
Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon & Island Preserve Visit

Saturday, June 29, 11-3

Clark Township Community Center, Cedarville

This is our chance to say thank you for your hard work and your chance to mingle with other volunteers. We hope you can join us for this appreciation lunch. Staff will begin the event with an introduction and presentation. Lunch will be served from 12-1pm, and will be followed by optional hikes at the Birge Preserve and Aldo Leopold Preserve on Marquette Island (boat transportation provided). Please check your mailbox in early June for your invitation and more details. We greatly enjoy this chance to see you with no work projects in mind, and to thank you again, and again.





2013 Stewardship Volunteer Work Days

Help us spread the word! To sign up, or for more information, please call our office at 231.347.0991.

Wisser Saworski Part I – Trails

Saturday May 4, 9am – 3pm

Help us build a bench-cut trail to the top of a kame (a distinctive gumdrop-shaped hill resulting from glacial meltwater deposits). Later in spring, LTC staff and volunteers will be building an overlook platform at the top of the kame. Come prepared with work gloves and boots. Snacks and water will be provided.

Rogers Family Homestead Work Bee - Rescheduled!

Saturday May 11th, 9am – 4pm

Along the Jordan River, Charlevoix County, Efforts at the Roger's Family Homestead Nature Preserve are ongoing, and this year we are looking for volunteers interested in protecting this wonderful mixture of riverine habitats. The focus for the day will be to remove old farm dumps and an existing barbed wire fence so a more appropriate fence may be put into place. There are many other tasks available for volunteers who do not wish to engage in removing farm equipment or fence work; these include tree trimming, sign replacement and post hole digging. Come out for the day or for a few hours and enjoy a lunch along the beautiful Jordan River. Bring work gloves and a lunch. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Wisser Saworski Part II – Platform Building

Saturday May 18, 9am – 3pm

Many hands and strong backs are needed to help us move the lumber needed to build an overlook platform at top of the new bench cut trail. We will also be working on clearing the view for the new overlook platform by removing small trees and brush. Come prepared with work gloves and boots. Snacks and water will be provided.

Meadowgate Restoration

Saturday June 8, 9am – 4pm

As part of multi-faceted restoration activities on the Meadowgate Preserve (located just east of Harbor Springs) help is needed to dispose of brush and slash from a grove of silver poplar trees previously cut down. We will also be removing invasive garlic mustard and other undesirable species. Bring work gloves and ear plugs (there will be a chipper in use at the site throughout the day).

Vermilion Point Knapweed Pull

Friday & Saturday July 19 & 20, 9am – 3pm

The 7th annual Spotted Knapweed pull is a collaboration between LTC, The Nature Conservancy, Lake Superior State University and the Eastern UP Cooperative Weed Management Area. This work keeps the pristine Lake Superior coastline in great shape for nesting Plovers and the Lake Huron Tansy. Volunteers may choose to spend the night at the historic Life Saving Station.



Special Collaborative Project: Northern Michigan's American Kestrel Nest Box Monitoring Program

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) populations are experiencing long-term declines in North America. The Peregrine Fund's new American Kestrel Partnership is a research and conservation project designed to produce nesting habitat, data, models, and conservation plans for the American Kestrel across North America. The Partnership unites the data-generating capacity of citizen scientists with the research expertise of professional scientists. It also fosters long-term conservation values and appreciation of science by providing the public with fun and hands-on research experiences.

Little Traverse Conservancy is partnering on a local initiative of this national program. In 2012 a \$5,000 anonymous grant was given to help get the project off the ground, and the response has been outstanding. Jim Bean, who with his wife, Wendy, volunteers his time to coordinate the LTC Kestrel Program, mentions that there are many threats to the American Kestrel, "Immature birds such as a Coopers Hawk or even the immature Kestrels have a difficult time in their first year. Much is trial and error.



Many do not make it through the first year due to injury, predation or starvation. But enough do make it normally to help the keep the population stable. In the case of the Kestrel something seems to be interfering with their success rate such that the population is in decline by 47% since the mid 1960s. It could be lack of nesting cavities, changes in farming practices, pesticide / herbicide use or rodent control chemicals. The program involvement that LTC has with the Peregrine Fund should help define the cause and come up with recommended management of the American Kestrel."

The goal for the first season (2013) is to recruit volunteer partners to install and monitor 30 nest boxes on LTC preserves and other suitable properties. Nest boxes are currently placed at 23 conserved properties in Emmet, Charlevoix and Cheboygan Counties (as of April 2013). Boxes are primarily placed on LTC nature preserves, however some conservation easement land owners have chosen to place and monitor a box on their land. In addition, a growing number of landowners with conservation easements protecting their land are participating.



Pat and Paul Wilson Earn 2012 Citizens of the Year Award

Pat and Paul Wilson are deeply committed to the Eastern UP community and landscape. The Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce recently honored Pat and Paul - much to their surprise - at a dinner celebration last year. Paul and Pat moved permanently to Cedarville in 2000 from Sault Ste. Marie. They have been dedicated LTC volunteers since 1999, helping maintain trails at the Birge Preserve for more than 13 years. Pat and Paul fell in love with their "edge of heaven" through sailing adventures in the area. Congratulations, and thank you Pat and Paul! (Pat shown in middle and Paul to right)

Cool Kestrel Facts

- Unlike humans, birds can see ultraviolet light. This enables kestrels to make out the trails of urine that voles leave as they run along the ground. Like neon diner signs, these bright paths may highlight the way to a meal.
- It can be tough being one of the smallest birds of prey. Despite their fierce lifestyle, American Kestrels end up as prey for larger birds such as Northern Goshawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Barn Owls and snakes.
- Kestrels hide surplus kills in grass clumps, tree roots, bushes, fence posts,

tree limbs, and cavities, to save the food for lean times or to hide it from thieves.

Nesting Facts

Clutch Size: 4–5 eggs

Number of Broods: 1–2 per season

Incubation Period: 26–32 days

Nestling Period: 28–31 days

Egg Description: White to yellowish/light reddish-brown, mottled with violet, gray, or brown.

Size: 8.7–12.2 in

Wingspan: 20.1–24 in

Weight: 2.8–5.8 oz

What is involved in the Monitoring Program?

- Install nest boxes.
- Minimize disturbance.
- Once eggs are laid, begin monitoring.
- Nest Boxes are visited at least twice.
- Enter and transmit your observations.
- Maintain nest boxes. In the fall or winter, nest boxes may need repair, cleaning and bedding replaced.

If you would like to get involved please contact the coordinators of the program, Jim and Wendy Bean at 231-758-3085, jimbean@utmi.net

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