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**THIS LAND IS
PROTECTED FOREVER**

Summer 2021 | Vol. 43 No. 2
www.landtrust.org | 231.347.0991
A Land of Resilience, pg. 10

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YOU, our member
Our volunteers

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A Tapestry of Land

by Kieran Fleming, Executive Director

A few days after our most recent land protection committee meeting, LTC Trustee Phil Porter called to remark on how complex some of our projects are, and how impressed he is with our land protection team's ability to handle them. This reminded me of how grateful we are for the landowners we work with and for our team in the land protection department. There is a lot of synergy there and they are knocking it out of the park. It is fun to watch.

LTC is now approaching 65,000 acres of land protected in our five-county service area. By any measure this is an enormous success, and it is primarily because of the incredible support from the people like you who live, vacation here, and invest in protecting this special place. We are a simple reflection of what our community values, and it is pretty clear you love and value Michigan's Up North. This is an enviable situation for a community; I wish I could say the same about where I grew up.

At that same land committee meeting, we were looking at a map of a new project that also showed all the lands around it that had been permanently protected through LTC. Through this lens, the cumulative effect of private land conservation jumps off the page. Conservation easements are our least known protection tool, yet they protect more acres than lands we own or those we have helped local units of government acquire. You will not see these conservation easements on our maps for public consumption. We do this because they are on private land, and we want to eliminate the perception that they are open to the public, because they are not. Yet they do provide enormous public benefit. And when you look at them on a map with our other protected lands you see just how significant they are in landscape conservation, more than doubling the number of acres protected by nature preserves and reserves.

This map is like a beautiful tapestry of many different permanently protected patches of land: undeveloped lake frontage, pristine

streams, mature forests, working forests, young forests, and scenic farms. While the tapestry in its entirety is absolutely impressive, the art metaphor also works because not everyone looks at it the same way. We hear varying opinions on numerous topics related to public access, trails, or hunting to name just a few.

Forest management is an issue we have been dealing with more frequently since it is allowed on our working forest reserves and also on some privately-owned conservation easement lands. You can bet that people have strong feelings about this one way or the other. In fact, just this week we found our signs at the Waldron Fen Nature Preserve vandalized with profanity because we cut the invasive Scotch Pine to promote native forest regeneration. Another example of an opinion delivered our way was the suggestion that our lands should be "clothing optional." I don't think we will be implementing that one, but hey, it was worth a try.

Any one patch in this tapestry of conservation may not be perfect to the individual looking through their own lens of ideals. And it is true, we can debate what types of use should be allowed, what management practices are best, what is "perfect conservation." Without a doubt, we will continue to strive to do this work even better. However, in my mind, the debate over just what constitutes "perfect" is a wonderful luxury and one that is no longer on the table once the land becomes overdeveloped. Pavement is "the last crop" so to speak. Striving for perfection on the parcel scale should not impede greatness on the landscape scale.

Regardless of our disagreements on what is "perfect conservation" for each patch, most agree that they all work together to form and maintain this beautiful tapestry that is northern Michigan. And here, in our little corner of the world, that is starting to look like a great work of art and one that will endure forever. I look forward to continuing the conversation!

NEW PRESERVE FOR BEAVER ISLAND

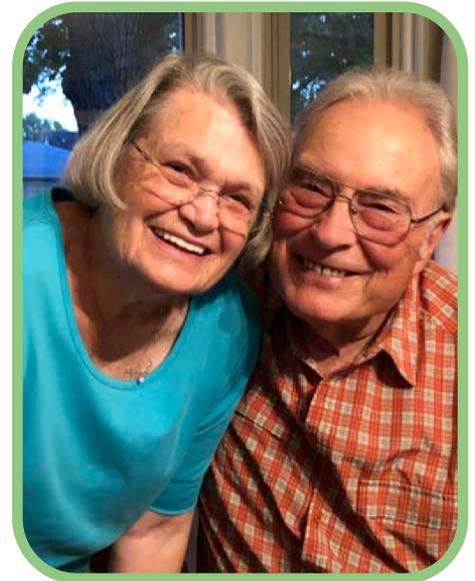
STANHOPE FAMILY NATURE PRESERVE

After nearly 50 years of visiting and living on Beaver Island, the Stanhope family cares deeply for this special place. When the opportunity arose for them to protect land – especially land that was connected to a public trail – Ray and Ann Stanhope stepped up. The result is the 13-acre Stanhope Family Nature Preserve along Gull Harbor Drive and adjacent to land owned by St. James Township.

“A primary part of our motivation was to ensure that people could still easily hike through the Limestone Ridge Trail where it comes through there,” Ray Stanhope explained. He realized that if the land had been subdivided, access to the trail could have been greatly compromised.

A Michigan native, Ray graduated high school in Grand Rapids where he met the love of his life and wife of more than 65 years, Ann Hunter. After working in Chicago, the young couple returned to Michigan where Ann was a nurse and Ray worked for Upjohn and later the Staley Company, in Illinois, from which he retired in 1988. The couple purchased their first home on Beaver Island in 1980. While they lived in the Pacific Northwest in the 1990s, they visited the Island intermittently, until returning to Michigan in 2005. Today, their Beaver Island home is near the new preserve. Their son also has a home on Beaver Island, and their daughters and grandchildren visit frequently.

“Working with the Stanhopes on this project was a positive experience because their motivation was truly to prevent further development and to keep a trail open,” said LTC Executive Director Kieran Fleming. “This preserve’s location near the road and the shoreline also provides important ecological value to this part of the island with the changing water levels of Lake Michigan.”



Ray and Ann Stanhope graciously donated the funds to protect 13 acres on Beaver Island, Charlevoix County.



Robinson Nature Preserve

HONORING GOLD STAR FAMILIES

A new nature preserve has been created near Petoskey to honor those who have fallen while in service to our country. Located adjacent to the existing Bubbling Springs Nature Preserve in Emmet County, the new five-acre Robinson Nature Preserve Honoring Gold Star Families is named not only after a local family that has suffered tremendous loss, but all families who have experienced similar tragedy.

In his career, Mark Melvin has worked on military bases throughout the world and has deep reverence for soldiers, their families, and for the sacrifices they have endured on behalf of us all. "Later in life I became acquainted with several team members from special forces, which led me to an even greater appreciation for those who were in harm's way and who served in the most dangerous missions," Mark explained. "I was chatting with one of them about a team member who had fallen, and he sent me a link where I ended up reading about Heath Robinson of Petoskey, a Navy SEAL who died in combat in 2011." Mark was compelled to do something locally to honor Heath, and as a longtime supporter of the Conservancy's work, Mark reached out to the LTC staff.

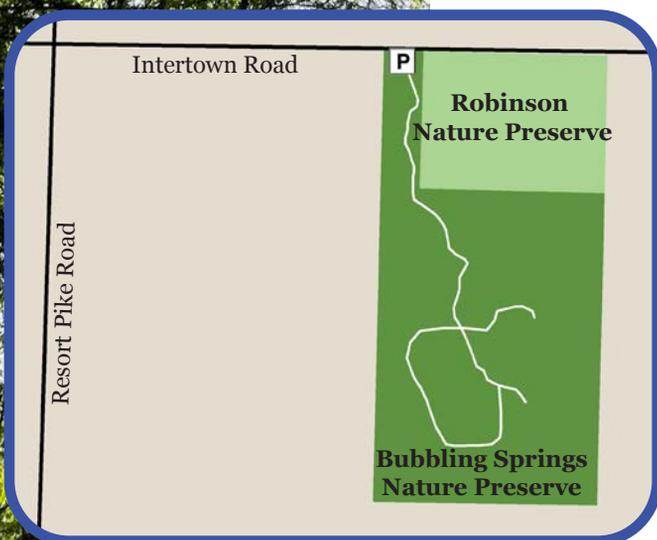
When approached with the idea of a nature preserve, Heath's father, Dan Robinson, loved it. However, he thought good and hard about how the preserve should be named. "In his will, Heath directly expressed that he did not want any accolades or

recognition if he died in duty because he felt he was just doing his job." Yet Heath comes from a legacy of men who have served in the military. His grandfather, Leonard M. Robinson, who passed away this past April, was in the Navy during WWII with time in Japan and Guam. Leonard's brothers and cousins were also in WWII, Battle of the Bulge, and Pearl Harbor, at sea. Heath's uncle Greg was a Marine who served in Vietnam, and Heath's two younger brothers have also served their country in the United States Navy.

Dan also thought of the other military families who have suffered the loss of a loved one. "A Gold Star family is any family who has someone in their immediate family who was killed while serving," Dan explained. "I never even knew there was such a thing until Heath died, and now all of these other people I have met through this are truly like family to me. I started thinking about how good it would be to honor them."

"Of LTC's hundreds of preserves, this is the first one that directly honors our veterans and their families and I must say, it really hits to the heart," said LTC Executive Director Kieran Fleming. "The generosity of Mark Melvin in considering this and the generosity of the Robinson family for extending the honor far beyond their own family are so inspirational to all of us. This will always be a very special place."

Currently, plans are to expand the existing Bubbling Springs Nature Preserve trail onto the new preserve. The trail is well loved by locals and is regularly visited by The Friendship Center. For safety reasons, the current parking area will be moved from the Bubbling Springs Nature Preserve onto the Robinson Nature Preserve. These improvements will take place over the next year.



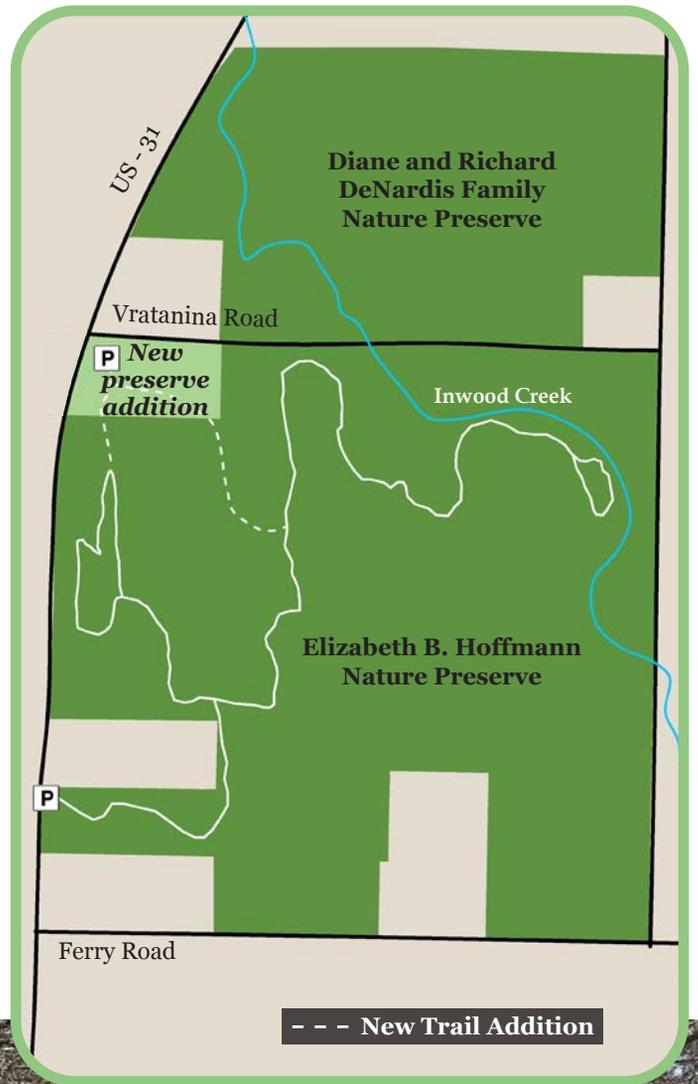
HIT THE TRAILS!

HOFFMANN PRESERVE COMPLEX GROWS AGAIN!

Betty Hoffmann has expanded the size of the Elizabeth B. Hoffmann Nature Preserve once again with a second land donation of more than five acres. This latest gift adds frontage on both Vratanina Road and US-31.

“With Betty’s generosity and all that we have planned here, this will soon be one of LTC’s most popular Charlevoix County preserves,” said Associate Director Ty Ratliff, who has worked with Betty on several land protection projects over the decades. “The preserve is easily accessible at two parking areas off of US-31 which were funded by a grant through the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. As an added bonus, the preserve and trail lie adjacent to an art gallery and brewery!”

Hit the trails with LTC staff! See page 19 for our Hike and Hops event at this preserve on July 15.



LTC volunteers Chris Ford (left) and John Baker (right) mulching the new trail at the Elizabeth B. Hoffmann Nature Preserve. This trail now connects the new parking area on Vratanina Road to the rest of the preserve and existing trail system.

VALUABLE CONSIDERATIONS

CAROLINE AND WILLIS BROWN NATURE PRESERVE

A love for the lake and five generations of family memories has prompted the creation of a new nature preserve along the shores of Cheboygan County's Black Lake. The Caroline and Willis Brown Nature Preserve was made possible with a donation from Valerie Hendricks, who has honored her grandparents by naming the preserve after them. With 24 acres, the preserve lies along 877 feet of Black Lake shoreline and is less than a mile east of LTC's Cain's Creek Swamp Nature Preserve, the only other LTC nature preserve on the lake.

"Reading about the generosity of others who have purchased and

donated land to LTC was certainly an inspiration for this donation," Valerie explained. "I have witnessed a lot of land being cleared on Black Lake for development, and am concerned about the loss of green space and what that could mean to the ecological balance. I hope future generations may enjoy this beautiful part of the world."

Valerie first learned about LTC when her father requested donations be made to the organization at his passing. "My father was an avid golfer and skier and eventually built a house in Harbor Springs, but this was the first time I became aware of the organization and its purpose," she said. "Since then, I have come to appreciate the organization's mission, have become a member and enjoy exploring the trails," she added.

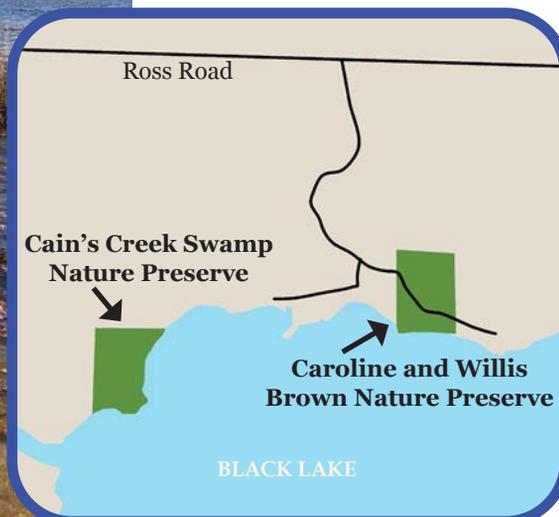
After renting cottages on Black Lake for several summers, Valerie's grandparents, Caroline and Willis Brown, purchased a piece of property on Restmore Beach in 1946. Valerie discovered that the deed described them as paying "two dollars and other good and valuable considerations" for the land, and Willis had told his family that he had paid for the land with a used car!

"On this land, my grandparents built a cedar log cabin which our family has enjoyed for five generations," Valerie said. "We have so many treasured memories of swimming, hiking, picking huckleberries, fishing, and watching sunsets at the lake. They will always be my favorite memories."

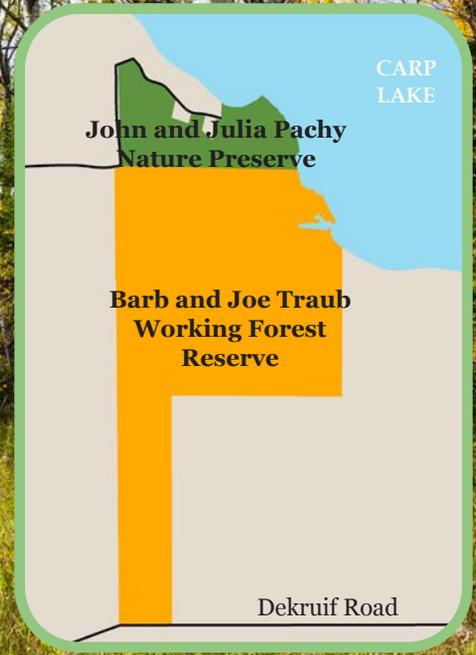
Executive Director Kieran Fleming describes this donation as particularly remarkable. "Valerie called our office saying that she would like to protect some land, and ideally on Black Lake where her family had vacationed," Fleming recalled. "We reached out to a realtor who works in that area and he found this property that was available on the lake. It was such

a rare find, and one of the last remaining undeveloped parcels of its size on the whole shoreline."

At this time, the only access to the preserve is from the lake, and no trails are planned. It will largely be preserved to protect the lake and surrounding watershed.



BARB AND JOE TRAUB FAMILY WORKING FOREST RESERVE



Written by Joe Traub

I think our connection to Carp Lake Village is a good way to start. Barb's grandparents (Harold and Edna Craig) first visited around 1918. By 1922 they had purchased land and were clearing it for a cottage. As teachers from Indiana, they would spend most of the summer at the lake. Their three children were raised on the lake and still have a presence there today. Now we're into the fifth generation with over 50 family members.

Barb's early memories as a child revolve around summer at the lake, catching tadpoles in the streams and fishing with her grandfather. Often she would accompany him to Jordan's Marina, where Smokey would preside over the liars' club with the other fishermen (the liars' club is the jovial name for all fishermen on the lake). Barb tended to ask many questions, and more than once Smokey threatened to place her in his rolltop desk and close the lid.

We were married in the early '70s and spent our honeymoon at the lake. It was my first trip. We came in the back way, after dark, twisting and turning on those gravel roads to the backside of the lake. I thought I was going to the last outpost of civilization. The next morning, I found out we were only 1,000 feet from pavement and could be in Mackinaw City within 15 minutes. That has been a dual love affair going on for 49 years now.

We enjoy kayaking and sailing on the lake and watching the grandkids spend their day in the water. We purchased a Sunflower Sailboat at Sears in 1974, for \$200. Three new sails later, the grandkids are still using it.

Observing the growth around us here in Florida, or what I call the "Pave the Pasture" project (10,000 homes over five years), has made us aware of resource allocation. To be able to protect waterfront and land is a dual privilege. We have always tried to teach our children—and now grandchildren—that nature is a gift, and we need to nurture that gift for the future.

Thank you, Joe, Barb, your family, and YOU (yes, you, the person currently reading this article). You understand the value of protecting the land we all love and sharing it for future generations. Your children's children and all those yet to come will get to play and learn in the woods and waters of the Barb and Joe Traub Family Working Forest Reserve. Thank you.



Barb, George (grandson), Julie (daughter), and Joe Traub at the Barb and Joe Traub Family Working Forest Reserve in Emmet County.



REBIRTH AND REGENERATION

THE ROLE OF FIRE IN FORESTS AND FIELDS

Written by Amy Lipson, Conservation Specialist

Fire has been a part of Michigan's natural landscape since plant communities formed after the glaciers retreated, roughly 12,000 years ago. No one put out fires caused by lightning strikes, and plants that evolved in upland habitats had to survive in the wake of wildfires. They developed adaptations such as fire-resistant bark, deep root systems, and cones that open in the heat of fires to spread seeds in the freshly burnt areas.

Many of our natural communities now depend on occasional fires as a type of natural disturbance that returns nutrients to the soil and creates openings for new plants to grow. The black ground after a fire heats up in the sunlight faster than unburnt terrain, stimulating faster spring growth in many smaller plants. After a fire, look for an increase in spring wildflowers, and new plants whose seeds may have been waiting in the soil for the right time to germinate.

While the native people of Michigan used fire as a tool to keep forests

open for easier hunting, and maybe to reduce tick populations too, white settlers suppressed fires to protect the structures they built. Not only did they actively put out fires caused by nature, but the roads they built proved difficult for fire to cross without strong winds. Without regular fires, fuels can accumulate to dangerous levels and the risk of wildfires becomes high.

Today we know that fire is important to certain landscapes in Michigan and that it can be a useful tool to manage land. Many of the invasive plants that plague our landscapes did not evolve with fire as a major factor in their development. Plants like the Amur honeysuckle and common buckthorn are weakened or killed by fires. While there are some invasive plants that seem to thrive after fires and some that usually survive the types of low intensity fires done by management specialists, the combination of weakening most of the invasive plants and giving a boost to the native ones usually helps to turn things in the right direction. This was the goal of the burn at the Jack and Tucker Harris

Working Forest Reserve: to rejuvenate the old field, give the native plants a boost, and see what new species may sprout in the seed bank.

Controlled burn teams are highly skilled in preventing their fires from getting out of hand. They prepare burn breaks, or perimeter lines cleared of burnable fuels, to keep the fires contained. Then they carefully choose where to start the fire so that it burns into the wind until the burn breaks have grown wide enough to keep the fires from jumping over. The crews are aware of wildlife in the burn unit and leave openings for animals to escape through. Smaller animals survive the fire by burrowing down under the leaf litter, where it doesn't get terribly hot.

Regeneration efforts like these are made possible with the support of our members. Thank you!

Pictured above: A controlled burn at the Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve in Cheboygan County this past May.

Many Hands Make Light Work

Thanks to our awesome crew of volunteers, we had another successful spring season stewarding LTC lands.

Top: Students from Robert Harris' math class at Petoskey High School worked with shop teacher Jake Giffin to build bird and bat houses as a donation to the Conservancy.

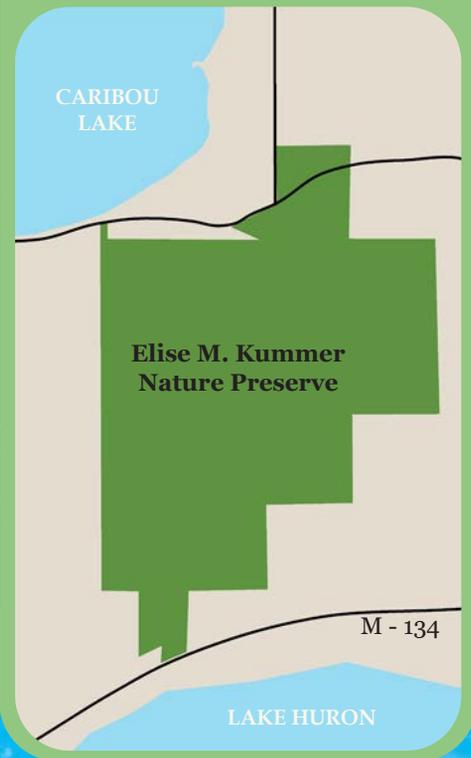
Middle: Thank you Firman Irrigation & Tree Services for removing a tree at the Stutsmanville Bog Nature Preserve that had a canker on it. Cankers are visible wounds on tree bark that can spread to other trees and kill them.

Bottom: Middle school students from Harbor Light Christian School forged a new trail at the Offield Family Working Forest Reserve. The same day, another group of students also paint blazed the trails at the Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve.



582

acres now
protected in
Chippewa
County



A Land of

Walter Kummer has been concerned about protecting land his entire life.

As a teenager, he recalls how much it bothered him to see any structures within a national forest. "I have always felt that we need to preserve more land. In the 1970s, my sister bought me a membership to the Cranbrook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills, and I remember the keynote speaker at one of the monthly seminars saying that we only had until the year 2000 to preserve our natural lands in Michigan. Thankfully this was not actually the case, but his message has always stayed with me," said Walter.

At the age of 27, Walter began volunteering for the Michigan Nature Association and is considered one of their most dedicated land stewards.

Over the years he has gained a deep understanding of how large, protected lands can significantly impact climate change.

This year, Walter decided to take things into his own hands, and in a very big way. His efforts and generosity have created the 582-acre Elise M. Kummer Nature Preserve. The preserve is named after his mother, whom he credits for instilling a love of the outdoors through family camping vacations and lots of time at beaches and state parks.

To appreciate the magnitude of this land and its many acres, consider the fact that the north and south boundaries are more than a mile apart.

"During COVID, I found myself scanning listings for large properties for sale all over the country," Walter explains. "When I saw this property in



Photo and cover image by BCreativeMedia, LLC

Resilience

ELISE M. KUMMER
NATURE PRESERVE

the eastern Upper Peninsula, I could tell that it was a quality piece.” Walter observed that the land was particularly desirable for protection not only because of its size, but also because of its proximity to the St. Mary’s River and Lake Huron. “The cooler temperatures of the northern Great Lakes make the land more resilient to climate change, allowing certain species to thrive in that microclimate. Those are the areas that are going to be our ‘ark’ for saving many of our species,” Walter believes.

In addition, Walter understands the importance of linking protected lands together to provide larger travel corridors for animals and to amplify all of the other benefits. “One thing I like about LTC is how adjacent landowners are notified once a property has been protected. It opens the possibility for even more land protection opportunities,” he stated.

“In Walter’s first phone call to me, he said, ‘There’s a spectacular property for sale near DeTour. It is big, has three small lakes, a stream, and an eagle’s nest. My dream is to protect this property in memory of my mother,’” recalls Ty Ratliff, LTC’s Associate Director.

A preserve as vast as this one includes several habitat types. The middle and southern portions are dominated by northern white cedar, with an open bog in the center. The northern part of the preserve transitions to higher and drier mixed hardwood-conifer forest. Bear Lake is found in the northwest corner, and the northeast corner includes frontage on Brown Lake. Caribou Creek runs through the property. The preserve also includes more than 500 feet along Scenic Byway M-134 and is bisected by South Caribou Lake

Road in the north. Other two track roads provide access throughout.

“This has been land protection at its finest and grandest, and for the most pure and simple reasons,” Ratliff said.



Walter Kummer and his mother, Elise M. Kummer in July 1959.



YES! YOUTH EXPLORER SERIES

Summer 2021

Summer education programs are back! Our YES program is intentionally designed to expose our nature-loving youth to activities and skills they can carry with them throughout their lifetime. Adventures vary in length, time, and age-appropriate topics, all consciously structured to meet the evolving COVID restrictions. Registration is required as space is limited. Programs are free to current members or \$5.00 for non-members. Please register by visiting www.landtrust.org/summer-programs or call LTC Director of Education Sarah Mayhew at 231.347.0991.

MOUNTAIN BIKING ADVENTURE

Thursday, July 1 / 10:00 - 11:30am

Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve, Petoskey

Come enjoy and explore these new mountain bike designed trails! Ideal for beginner to intermediate level riders. Bring your own mountain bike. Extra water, appropriate footwear, and helmets are required.

***Recommended for ages 8-12**

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL SKILLS: SHELTER BUILDING

Tuesday, July 6 / 10:00 - 11:30am

Charles A. Ransom Nature Preserve, Charlevoix

This program focuses on shelter building, the 10 essentials, and the mindset needed in survival situations. We will cover the importance of being prepared before venturing out into the woods. We will also take a short hike. Sturdy shoes are recommended.

***Recommended for ages 6-12**

KAYAKING ROUND LAKE

Thursday, July 8 / 10:30am - 12:00

Round Lake Boat Launch (Powell Rd.), Harbor Springs

You won't want to miss this amazing opportunity to explore Round Lake via kayak! Life jackets are required. Some kayaks and life jackets are available. Space is limited.

***Recommended for ages 9-12**

MOUNTAIN BIKING ADVENTURE

Tuesday, July 13 / 10:00 - 11:30am

Boyne School Forest, Boyne City

Our friends at Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association (TOMMBA) built this trail system that meanders through a beautiful rolling hardwood forest. Designed for beginner to intermediate level riders. Bring your own mountain bike. Extra water, appropriate footwear, and helmets are required.

***Recommended for ages 9-12**

That's a Wrap!

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2020 / 2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Written by Sarah Koetje, Education Specialist

When I think of this year, a few words come to mind: perseverance, resilience, dedication and love. So much love. A year full of unknowns turned out to be just that. I didn't know we'd be able to have an entire year of programs. I didn't know we would add three more schools to our Forest School Program. And I didn't know this would turn out to be one of the best years in my career.

This year especially, we knew students needed to be outside more than ever, and we wanted to provide them with that experience. We pushed ourselves outside of the

box and were able to pivot at every twist and turn. This was all possible because we are fueled by our mission that you, our members, believe in and support. You understand that forming a connection to nature at a young age inspires our future generations to become empowered and caring individuals. **Because you believe in this work, we have hundreds of students across northern Michigan who are learning and experiencing how great it is to love the land.**

As this school year comes to a close, I couldn't feel more proud of our accomplishments. Thank you for making it all possible.

TRAIL BLAZERS

Thursday, July 15 / 10:00 - 11:30am

Five Mile Creek Nature Preserve, Harbor Springs

The ability to use a compass and read a map is a crucial skill if you enjoy the outdoors. This program will cover both! The Five Mile Creek Nature Preserve is a hidden gem in northern Michigan and a must see. The lack of trails makes for a walk that requires maneuvering over logs and through branches. Dress for hiking, in clothes and shoes you won't mind getting wet.

***Recommended for ages 6-12**

INCREDIBLE INSECTS

Wednesday, July 21 / 10:00 - 11:30am

Susan Creek Nature Preserve, Charlevoix

Get ready to lift a log, dig through the mud, and follow the buzz in search of fascinating bugs. Let's see how many different kinds of insects we can find. Sweep nets, bug jars, and identification books are provided.

***Recommended for ages 5-10**

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL SKILLS: SHELTER BUILDING

Thursday, July 22 / 10:00 - 11:30am

Allan and Virginia McCune Nature Preserve, Petoskey

This program focuses on shelter building, the 10 essentials, and the mindset needed in survival situations. We will cover the importance of being prepared before venturing out into the woods. We will also take a short hike. Sturdy shoes are recommended.

***Recommended for ages 6-12**



ADVENTURES ON THE PIGEON

Thursday, July 29 / 10:30am - 12:00

Agnes S. Andreae Nature Preserve, Indian River

Our adventure will begin with a hike along the Pigeon River to a gorgeous lookout and one of our nation's only nature megaphones. The hike is two miles in total. If tromping through the woods and playing along a river sounds like fun, then this is the program for you! Dress for hiking, in clothes you won't mind getting wet.

***Recommended for ages 6-12**

FLY FISHING WITH TROUT UNLIMITED

Thursday, August 5 / 9:30 - 11:30am

Maple River, Brutus

Trout Unlimited is partnering with LTC to offer this incredible opportunity to youth! Taking place on a pristine stretch of the Maple River, this program show how to fly fish, read the river, and tie flies. All gear is provided. Space is limited. Directions will be provided once registered.

***Recommended for ages 9-12**



Memorials & Honorariums

The following gifts were given between February 10 and May 11, 2021.

IN HONOR OF

Carol McKee

The Paxton Family

Celine and John Fox

Tom Austin

Cheryl Darnton

Mr. Tom Darnton

David Joseph

Mr. Michael Joseph

Josette Lory

John McLeod

Michael and Mary Ann VanLokeren

Tim DeWick and Bonnie Mikkelsen

IN MEMORY OF

Julianne Ager

Mr. Frederick Ager

Larry Andres

Ty and Sarah Ratliff

Terri Lynn Armstrong

Ty and Sarah Ratliff

David Arnold

Mrs. David Arnold

Fay Buhl

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Everest

Mr. and Mrs. Michael J.

FitzSimons

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Hightower

Mr. and Mrs. Norman W.

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Ms. Anne Wallace

Sharon Clark

Paul and Claire Forney

Ronnie and Jeff Higgs

Charles and Mary Beth Kitchens

Bob A. Clossley

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Peterson

Steve Conway

Chuck and Patty Marquis

DeWayne Cox

Larry and Margaret Anderson

Ms. Joan M. Clare

Gordon and Lynnette Engdahl

Mary K. O'Rourke

Kurt Damschroder

Russell and Suzanne LaBeau

Fred Mulhauser and Paula

Welmers

Dr. and Mrs. Franklin D. Ronan

Ann Dean

Dave and Pam Comer

Jennifer Noble Kothe

Larry and Nancy Piotrowski

Patricia Dolle

Nancy Dolle Busch

Margaret and Bill Stude

Linda Ford

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Richard Glowacki

Katie and John Ogden

James Grissom

Mary Grissom

Priscilla Haffner

Edward and Jane Terrill

John Hall

Dr. Ruth Marie Allen

Paul and Sally Hoelderle

Cornelius and Shirley Hegewald

Thomas Hegewald

Robert Hoisington

Mr. and Mrs. John Hoffman

Carleigh Jaques

Marjorie I. Hurd

Al and Julie Hurd

David Irish

Mr. D. Laird Blue

Grant and Forrest Chong and

Christine Vogt

Dr. and Mrs. Allen Damschroder

Dave Kring Chevrolet Cadillac

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Gilbert

Gib and Jennifer James

Ms. Ellen V. Kilpatrick

Mrs. Richard A. Kutcipal

Tim Radigan

Michael and Debby Reagan

Mr. and Mrs. Gig Stewart

Mrs. Elizabeth Strawbridge

Frank Kelley

Mrs. William D. Saal

William Klingbeil

Mr. James Danaher

Mrs. Virginia Ewing

Kevin Kavanagh and Renee

McDuffee

Mr. and Mrs. David Loving

Mr. and Mrs. William H.

Rudolph, Jr.

Jean Rudolph Scott

Millicent Sloan

Marilyn Lange

Mrs. Mary Lauhoff

James Lark

Mary Lark

Mary B. Layher

Thomas A. Layher

Seberon "Boo" Litzenburger

Dr. and Mrs. Allen Damschroder

Mrs. Richard A. Kutcipal

Maureen Mayne

Bruce and Nancy Dunn

Ms. Sara E. Smith

Roberta VanderBreggen

Mr. and Mrs. Michael VanLokeren

Lorna McMahon

Mrs. Donna Watkins

Mary McVicker

Cathy Kalahar and David Evrard

Kerri Mertaugh

Ms. Patricia Duncan

Robert Murdock

Julie and Jim Armstrong

Patti Chetcuti and Jeff Anderson

Luis and Jill Giro, Harold and

Vicki Leach, Gerry and Lynn

Bowers and Tracy Cushman

Sheila Harkaway

Paul and Lee Harkaway

Robert and Jennifer Moll

Paul and Cindy Obermeyer

Nathan and Lindsey Ohle

Paul and Roberta Shanahan

Robert Notestine

Kelly and Daniel Begnoche

Ms. Cynthia A. Van Allen

Norma Petrie

Kathy Bodzick

Reverend Father Justin Reis

Michael and Janet Jenkins

Richard Rider

Ty and Sarah Ratliff

Marilyn Rorick

Barbara Bergin, Alice Bryan and

Families

Mrs. Raymond L. Campbell, Jr.

Edward Skae

Ms. Anne Wallace

John Speed

Mr. William Ciccariello

Virginia Spencer

Kim and Nancy Spencer

Robert Streett

Todd and Valerie Terry

John Tanton

Dr. and Mrs. Allen Damschroder

Mike Thelen

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis A. Thelen

Charles E. Thomas, II

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Peterson

Blake Wagenschutz

Tom and Fran Litzner

John Wait

Ms. Dixie Carlisle

Belle Wauldron

Michael and Cindy Pettibone

REMEMBERING BELOVED PETS

Tessie Mackenzie, the family cat

Lynn Tryban

Maggie, the dog

Mike McNamara

Sadie Mercer, the dog

Lynn Tryban

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to the following new members who joined between February 23 and May 11, 2021.

Michael and Kathleen Ableson
Richard Anderson
J.M. Astolfi
Henry, Julie and Nathan Bair
Colleen and Jin Choi
S. Cope
Margaret and Terry Dalian
Jim Davis
Mr. Gary Davison
Rick and Deb Donahoe
David and Susan Elwell
Justine Faylor and Cody Lechowicz
Mary Flynn

Constance J. Grzanka
Peter and Sarah Gurney
Jay and Catherine Holley
J.B. Hoyt
Ron Kerver
Justin and Sarah Koetje
Brian and Jennifer Lovely
Mr. P. Abbott McCartney
Kelly McKinley Boatman
Sue and Jim McLain
Bruce and Sue Miller
Justin Minor
Nick and Deb Pellegrini

Mr. Roy Perlove
Betsy Petersen
Margie Phillips
Martha and Jerry Richardson
Susie Salakari
Ken Sherlock
Joyce and Bill Tulloch
Kerry Wieber and Dan Heckman
Sean and Pam Willoughby-Ray
Ms. Trisha Witt

Youth Spotlight: HENRY BAIR

Henry Bair emailed LTC in February: "Hello, I am doing a school project and the winner gets money to donate to their chosen charity. I chose you guys and I was hoping that I could ask you some questions. If \$100 was donated to your organization, where would the money go? What are some goals that you guys are working towards? What do you do for the community?"

While staff knows what we think LTC does for the community, it is our community whose answers really matter most, so we had Henry answer a few questions of our own. His insights were truly inspiring. Here is what Henry had to say:

What do you think LTC does for the community?

You do an incredible job at preserving the land around us for now and for the future, you help to keep the land safe from developers while also keeping it clean and healthy so it doesn't fall into disrepair down the line.

Why did you choose LTC for your school project?

Because the message that you carry with you wherever you work is so inspiring. It feels great to be able to look at a group that is doing so much good for the area that you live in and say that you are thankful for all of their hard work. I genuinely hope that you are able to keep making great contributions to the area and protect what so many of us call home.

What do YOU care about?

I care about a lot of things. Closest to me are causes that are fighting to protect our world and to help stop climate change. It's such a pressing matter and one that needs to be taken seriously, so it is organizations like LTC that I strongly care about and think are very important.

I care that we, as a community and country, strive for excellence in clean energy and become more aware of our impacts on the environment, and keep art and art-related classes easily accessible to students of all ages. That we reach true equality as a society, whether that be with race, culture, gender, etc. They are all very important and not to be overlooked.

Thanks for inspiring us, Henry.



Name: Henry Bair
City: Originally from Fort Wayne, Indiana, but moved to Boyne City four years ago.
Age: 16
School: Boyne City High School

Welcome Amy and Brian!

LTC'S NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS



Amy Lipson joined Little Traverse Conservancy in April 2021 in the new position of Conservation Specialist. A native Michigander, Amy and her family have vacationed in northern Michigan for three generations. Swimming in the Great Lakes, running through the woods, and exploring wetlands inspired her life-long love of Michigan's natural places. In her free time, Amy enjoys sewing her own clothes, gardening for food and flowers, and foraging for tasty snacks in the forest.

Amy hails from Ann Arbor, where she attended the University of Michigan and met her husband, Joe. She studied plant biology there and realized she wanted to pursue a career in conservation while working for the university arboretum. After graduating, she worked for the City of Ann Arbor's Parks and Recreation department at Natural Area Preservation, first as a Conservation Worker, then as a Conservation Crew Leader. After more than four years there, Amy is thrilled to be moving up north to work at LTC!



Born and raised in the Metro Detroit area, Brian Paul joined Little Traverse Conservancy after completing his Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of Michigan this spring. After spending many childhood summers in northern Michigan, he was inspired to move up north in search of new post-graduate opportunities and connected with LTC. He got his start in conservation while serving with AmeriCorps, working on a variety of conservation projects across the state of Texas.

Brian is excited to join LTC and spend the summer protecting northern Michigan's natural heritage while connecting with his new community. Outside of work, Brian can typically be found buried in a history book or floating in his kayak, and occasionally doing both at the same time.

You Make This Community Great

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

MACKINAC STRAITS RAPTOR WATCH

LTC was honored to receive the following award and kind words from our friends at Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch:

"I am happy to announce and present the 2021 Wind Under Our Wings Award. This award recognizes extraordinary contributions to the study or public education about birds of prey. This year the award honors the Little Traverse Conservancy, known to many of us as LTC.

"LTC has supported Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch in many ways. It has generously offered MSRW behind-the-scenes services such as a conference room for meetings and office-related support. It protects land needed by raptors as stop-over and feeding habitat throughout northern Michigan and especially in Mackinaw City and along the Great Lakes shoreline. Most importantly, LTC is an institutional friend and a great model of how to do conservation right."



Sue Stewart of Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch (MSRW) presenting the 2021 Wind Under Our Wings Award to LTC Executive Director Kieran Fleming.

FRIENDSHIP CENTERS OF EMMET COUNTY

LTC has had the recent pleasure of partnering with the Friendship Centers of Emmet County to offer a variety of outdoor programs to their members on a monthly basis. So far the outings have included snowshoeing, hiking, vernal pool exploring, and kayaking! We will continue to offer these opportunities year round. It has been a tremendous amount of fun adventuring with new friends.

Below: A group outing to the vernal pools of the Chaboiganing Nature Preserve.



Thank You...

Petoskey High School shop teacher **Jake Giffin**, math teacher **Robert Harris**, and **math students** for building bird and bat houses.

Jake Giffin for building a memorial sign to replace an old one at the A.C. Fischer Nature Preserve.

Mary and Don Trout for preserve clean up at Wisser-Saworski Nature Preserve.

Cliff Hamel for donating a telescope.

Tim Calloway for cleaning and revamping our canoes.

John Griffin for giving staff a boat ride to Marquette Island on a very cold and blustery day!

Kelly Jo Kitchen for helping Alanson middle schoolers explore vernal pools at Chaboiganing Nature Preserve with LTC education staff and for helping out at the vernal pool community field trip.

Brian Granger and Scott Carbeck of the Ruffed Grouse Society for co-hosting the Sky Dancing with the American Woodcock field trip.

Firman Irrigation & Tree Services for removing a diseased tree at the Stutsmanville Bog Nature Preserve.

Middle school students at Harbor Light Christian School for trail building at the Offield Family Working Forest Reserve and paint blazing the trails at the Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve.

Darrell Lawson for leading a bird walk at the Waldron Fen Nature Preserve.

Tree planting volunteers at the Consuelo Diane and Charles L. Wilson, Jr. Working Forest Reserve:

Teddy Deegan, David and Connie Donovan, Joe Graham, Ember Graham, Emily Hughes, Cheryl Graham-Dryer, Richard Jenkins, Glen Matthews, and Allison, Henry and Kevin Larson.

New preserve clean up volunteers: **John Baker, Bob Bitterman, John and Sue Esser, Pat Gibbons, Bob Haase, Susan Hannah, Ruth Jaffe, Kelly Jo Kitchen, Bill and Carolyn Stark, and Mark Young.**

Tree planting volunteers at the Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve: **Richard Anderson, Emma Armstrong, Jennie Attie and her kids, Maggie Bailey, John Baker, Donahoe Family, Ruth Jaffe, Kelly Jo Kitchen, and Madelyn Mays.**

Volunteer boot brush maintenance crew: **Pat and Julie Dougherty, Dan Dueweke, Chris Ford, Ed and Beth Leuck, Sue McLain and Tatem Phelps.**

Pat and Julie Dougherty, Bill Garlinghouse and Adam Schubel for installing maps at the Chaboiganing Nature Preserve and Indian Point Memorial Forest.

Pat and Julie Dougherty for donating and installing lumber for map sign installation, and multiple preserve clean-up efforts.

Petoskey and Harbor Springs High School volunteers from National Honor Society **Dana Cole, Sadie Liddy, Catherine Britton, Abby Stump, and Will and Ally DeWindt** for cleaning up preserve roadsides this spring.

Waldron Fen Nature Preserve trail restoration volunteers: **John and Sue Esser and Pat Dougherty.**

Elizabeth B. Hoffmann Nature Preserve Earth Day trail building volunteers: **John Baker, Gary Gauthier, Richard Jenkins and Richard Seibert.**

Trail camera data counters: **Mary Jane Clayton, Carolyn Stark and Hannah D'Angelo.**

Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve tree planting volunteers: **John Baker, Chris Ford, Richard Jenkins and Chuck Johnson.**

Richard Jenkins and John Baker for removing boardwalk at Round Lake Nature Preserve.

Jennifer Eis for donating a shrub puller.

My Sisters Bake Shop for providing treats for tree planting volunteers.

Steve Van Dam, Jim and Maureen Doull, and Mike Calabrese for sponsoring the new porta potty at the Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve trailhead.

Carol Burton for helping us with our visit to Beaver Island for stewardship work.

Clare Frey for helping rake gravel at the Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve.

Bonnie Mikkelsen and Tim DeWick for donating a new sign to replace a stolen one at the Mertaugh Nature Preserve.

Ray Gaynor and Crooked Tree Arts Center for the amazing exhibit and related events around the Offield Family Viewlands Working Forest Reserve.

2021 SUMMER 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.*

WELLNESS WALKING WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday mornings from June 9 - July 21 / 7:00 - 8:00am
Offield Family Viewlands Working Forest Reserve, Harbor Springs

Join us for a morning walk at the Viewlands. All levels welcome. Some of us will hike the hilly area at the top and another group will hike the lower trails near the entrance with each hike lasting approximately one hour. A beautiful way to start your morning and experience this property!

HIKE & HOPS WITH BIER'S INWOOD BREWERY

Thursday, July 15 / 5:30pm hike
Elizabeth B. Hoffmann Nature Preserve, Charlevoix

Join LTC staff to explore this newly built trail system. The 1.5-mile trail traverses through a mix of apple orchards, woods, and farm fields, and follows a section of the beautiful Inwood Creek. It is located next to Bier Art Gallery and Bier's Inwood Brewery where we'll gather after the hike! Park at the brewery. See page 5 for the newest addition to this preserve.

VISIT VERMILION! in partnership with Bird's Eye Outfitters and OUTHouse Consortium

Friday, July 16 / 1:00 - 2:30pm
Vermilion Point Nature Preserve, Paradise

Join LTC staff and Ken Hopper of Bird's Eye Outfitters and the OUTHouse Consortium on an exploration of this amazing 175-acre Lake Superior preserve. We will observe the unique flora and fauna found along the rugged shoreline. Easy hiking.

COMMUNITY PADDLE in partnership with Paddle Antrim

Thursday July 22 / 6:30 - 8:00pm
St. Clair Lake - Six Mile Lake Natural Area, Ellsworth

Grab your paddleboard, kayak or paddle craft of choice for an amazing evening paddle through the St. Clair Lake - Six Mile Lake Natural Area. Our hour-long slow paddle will begin at St. Clair Lake DNR Boat Access Site (9400 6 Mile Lake Road). This 255-acre preserve is co-owned and co-managed by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and the Little Traverse Conservancy.

LTC'S ANNUAL MEETING, a virtual event

Again this year we will be creating a Year in Review video celebrating LTC's activities and accomplishments from the past year. This will be released by early August. Please be sure you are on our email list to receive notification (sign up at www.landtrust.org or call our office to give us your email address at 231.347.0991). As a committed LTC member, please vote in this year's meeting by visiting this link by July 31: www.landtrust.org/annualmeeting.

HIKE & HOPS WITH CHEBOYGAN BREWING COMPANY

Thursday, August 26 / 5:00pm hike
Duncan Bay Nature Preserve, Cheboygan

Cheboygan is now an official Michigan Trail Town! Join us for a 1.5-hour hike at LTC's Duncan Bay Nature Preserve, followed by a casual gathering at the brewery. Local trail representatives will be on hand to share the latest trail happenings around Cheboygan.

You're invited to...

SAVE THE TREES

LTC'S ANNUAL LAND PROTECTION FUNDRAISER

July 29, 2021 / 6:00 - 7:30pm

Offield Family Viewlands Working Forest Reserve
landtrust.org/save-the-trees



Little Traverse Conservancy
3264 Powell Road
Harbor Springs, MI 49740
www.landtrust.org

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The Legacy

of Protecting the North Country We All Love

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. If LTC's work resonates with you, consider a planned gift. Advanced and thoughtful planning offers you an opportunity to support LTC knowing your legacy gift will further our mission for years to come. Most importantly, a planned gift can be a powerful expression of your desire to make a difference – and leave a legacy that lasts forever.

There are many ways to leave a legacy gift to LTC. For more information about planned giving please contact Ty Ratliff, Associate Director, at 231.344.1005 or tyratliff@landtrust.org.