

# THE EDUCATION EDITION

PROTECTING THE NORTH COUNTRY WE ALL LOVE



Celebrating 50 years of land protection, stewardship, and environmental education.

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# 50 Years: Standing on

by Kieran Fleming, *Executive Director*

That phrase has been around since at least the 1600s but it has never meant more to me than when I reflect on the evolution of LTC over the past half a century. Many incredible individuals have given their intelligence, sweat, and money to develop the philosophy of this organization and to make it so successful. I'm going to mention some names below and I recognize that neglects many others who also played a critical role in the evolution of LTC. That's ok, the giants involved are as forgiving as they are strong.

Over 50 years ago, seven local men came together to contest certain development projects in the Little Traverse Bay region that they viewed as excessive. The tool of the time was to file lawsuits, of which someone once observed, "Even when you win, you lose." Perhaps this is what inspired them to take a completely different approach to protecting the region they loved so deeply.

In 1972, John Fischer, Dave Irish, Ed Koza, Earl Larson, Seberon "Boo" Litzenburger, Frank Pierce, and John Tanton formalized a new course

when they established the Little Traverse Conservancy. They would use the lessons of their past and develop guiding principles that last to this day. As time went on, there were many other incredible leaders (Huffy Huffman, Kathy Bricker, John Baker, John Woollam, Reg Sharkey, Mike and Rhea Dow, Ian and Sally Bund, Jack and Tucker Harris, George Covington, several generations of the Offield family just to name a few) that influenced LTC significantly. One must be mentioned specifically: Tom Bailey, the longest tenured Executive Director in LTC history, my predecessor and friend. Tom has the unique ability to capture concepts in language that moves people. This not only helped articulate the intent of our founders and other leaders, but also firmly established Tom's own immense influence on the organization. And as they stand the test of time, these principles remain brilliant and steadfast, born from amazing people, and still form the core values to guide our organization today. They also make LTC unique among nonprofits and land trusts.

# the shoulders of giants

PHOTO BY CAM BRADDOCK

One of our core values is to work only with people who voluntarily want to work with us. We do not twist anyone's arm. Our founders knew there had to be a better way to protect our region than spending time and money locked in legal battles. They took the calculated risk that there were many people who loved this region so much they would want to participate in protecting it. Our founders nailed it.

We welcome anyone who wants to protect the region we all love, regardless of their politics, career path, or the like. And, we may have different reasons for protecting our landscape: clean water, scenic views, recreation, wildlife habitat, farmland, peace of mind, educational opportunities to name a few. In order to stay focused on our work, we have strictly observed a non-advocacy stance on other issues. Our mission is a place where folks who come from different points of view can work toward a common goal. Realtors, hunters, builders, farmers, merchants, birdwatchers, lawyers, school teachers, and any group you can name might give you a different reason for why they support our work,

but we all have the same end goal. I love that, and that our Board and Committees represent the wide range of people from across our region.

Here is one of our principles that I really like: we believe that you have the right to develop your land. We also believe you have the right to protect it. If you want to develop your land, you can walk into the county or township office and there are people who will help you get started on the process. If you want to protect your land, LTC is at your service. Balance is the goal, and balance is good.

And so it went. A sleepy little nonprofit started in 1972, the brainchild of a group of very different but forward thinking founders who shared a common vision, was nurtured and fed by generous people with the ability to think beyond themselves. Today, their organization has protected almost 70,000 acres of what makes this place so special. We have stayed exclusively focused on three things: acquiring the land or conservation easements, stewarding the land under our wing, and providing environmental education.

The environmental education part of our mission is getting special attention in this newsletter and it was the late-comer to the LTC scene. We always believed in access to the outdoors as evidenced by nearly 100 miles of trails on our lands, a new mountain bike trail, hunting, access to water, cross country skiing, etc. The core value here is that for people to appreciate nature, they have to be able to immerse themselves in it. Education should be the starting point, not an add-on to that philosophy. And within these pages you will read about the genesis of our environmental education program and the giants whose shoulders lifted that program. Also in these pages is more information on our Andreae-Brown Family Environmental Education Endowment Fund that makes the work possible. (There are more giants in that story, not that you would have expected anything less.)

***Welcome to LTC's 50th anniversary and thank you for making LTC well poised for the next half a century and beyond!***



# Robert L. Bytwerk Forest Reserve

**F**orest protection in northwest Charlevoix County was greatly enhanced in late 2021 with the creation of the 160-acre Robert L. Bytwerk Forest Reserve. Bordering the existing 80-acre Charles A. Ransom Nature Preserve and providing access to the 40-acre Charlevoix County Working Forest Reserve #1, this new land preserves a significant connected block of undeveloped acreage.

The new reserve is named in honor of a man who loved northern Michigan. Two of Robert's children - Randall Bytwerk and Beth Byrne - had been seeking a way to memorialize their father, and protecting land served the dual purpose of supporting a cause in which they believed. "Our father enjoyed boating and exploring northern Michigan," Randall said. "He relished all the Charlevoix area has to offer."

Robert was born in Muskegon in 1926. After serving in

Germany with the U.S. Army after WWII, he graduated from what is now Calvin University in 1950 with a degree in education. After working jobs that did not suit his independent spirit, he took a job in sales with the Grand Rapids Herald. He called on Robert Sneden, president of what was Davenport Institute, who saw promise in the young lad and helped him purchase the Grand Rapids franchise of Manpower, a temporary help service. Decades of hard work paid off and in his 50s, Robert was spending less time in the office and more time boating and enjoying Michigan. He built a home on Lake Michigan just south of Grand Haven in the 1980s.

After his wife Ruth died in 1999, he spent more time in northern Michigan. About 15 years ago, he purchased an Earl Young "A-Frame" cottage on the north shore of Round Lake and up until six weeks before his death in 2019 loved being in the middle of so much beauty.

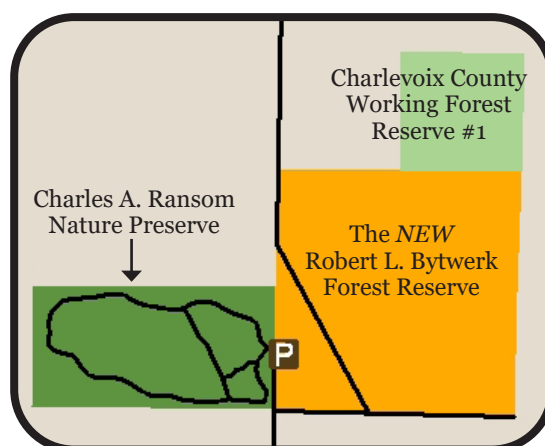




PHOTO BY TODD PARKER



160 acres of rolling forests are now protected in Charlevoix County in memory of Robert L. Bytwerk (pictured above).



Remembered as a generous philanthropist, he often remarked on the truth of what his mother taught him: “You will never become poor by giving.”

Because Randall and his wife Sharon love hiking the Conservancy’s trails, Randall contacted the Conservancy to see if land could be found to protect in Robert’s memory. He worked with LTC Associate Director Ty Ratliff, who sent various properties to him to consider.

“Our overall experience working with Ty was extraordinarily pleasant and smooth, and we are so pleased that this reserve connects with the existing preserve and forest reserve,” Randall said.

Ty returned the compliment to the Bytwerks. “One of the most gratifying parts of this work is when we can find a land that speaks to people who wish to memorialize a loved one,” Ratliff said. “This one checked the boxes for

these family members who were seeking meaningful conservation.”

Ratliff also noted that several others helped complete the fundraising for this community conservation effort, including a challenge grant from the Carls Foundation, a generous grant from the Austin Memorial Foundation, and strong support from several members of the Lake Charlevoix-based Belvedere Club. “Supporters have truly loved helping to preserve this large, and unique, Charlevoix County property that will protect bird and wildlife habitat and enhance recreational opportunities for this growing preserve/reserve complex.”

No trails are currently planned at this reserve, but parking and trails are available at the Charles A. Ransom Nature Preserve.

# ZEBEWAING RIVER BASIN NATURE PRESERVE



PHOTO BY TODD PARKER

**T**he headwaters of Emmet County's Five Mile Creek are now permanently protected thanks to the recent donation of the 23-acre Zebewaing River Basin Nature Preserve from Jim and Peg Anderson. The new preserve protects more than a quarter mile of the Creek and a quarter mile along Five Mile Creek Road. Located northwest of the new Seberon "Boo" Litzenburger Nature Preserve, it amplifies a growing complex of lands that now include more than 183 acres and over a half mile along the Creek, a tributary to Little Traverse Bay.

"Our love of the land was deepened by our experience of it in the winter of 2019," Jim said. "It has huge hemlock trees and some people might see it as a swamp, but I say, 'Yes, it is a swamp,' and I love it."

The land was part of a larger parcel that Jim and Peg had purchased earlier that year. Jim tells a story of how it all began as a visit to their friend Mary Whitmore who – like Peg – raises sheep and tends them with border collies. At the time, the Andersons owned 100 sheep at their farm in Georgia. But when they experienced Angell Farm, a conservation easement protected property owned by Sally and Ian Bund where Mary once kept her sheep, they were struck by its beauty. And when Mary told them that a parcel across the road was for sale, a significant life change for the couple was put into motion.

They made an offer within days of seeing the land. The Georgia farm was eventually sold and the Andersons began the project of making northern Michigan their home. "We knew upon purchasing the property that we would not develop it," Jim said. "But we wanted to secure it for the long term. The idea of a preserve was a natural way to accomplish this goal."

The new preserve contains mature hemlock and cedar trees, which form a dense canopy and surround a wetland with small deep pools. The Andersons and Mary have birded on the land and found it to be species rich.

In talking with LTC Board Member Eric Hemenway, who is the Director of Repatriation, Archives and Records for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Jim discovered that an Odawa community once lived at the corner of Five Mile Creek Road and M-119. In fact, the title search for the property revealed that the first two families to lay claim to the land were Odawa. In addition, there was a store and the schoolhouse, the latter which still stands along M-119.

As Eric explained the historic and cultural significance of the region to Jim, they came up with the native name "Zebewaing" (pronounced Zee-Be-Wang), which means "river basin" and was how many Odawa would refer to the general region. Many people still fish that part of the creek today.



# Rogers Preserve Grows

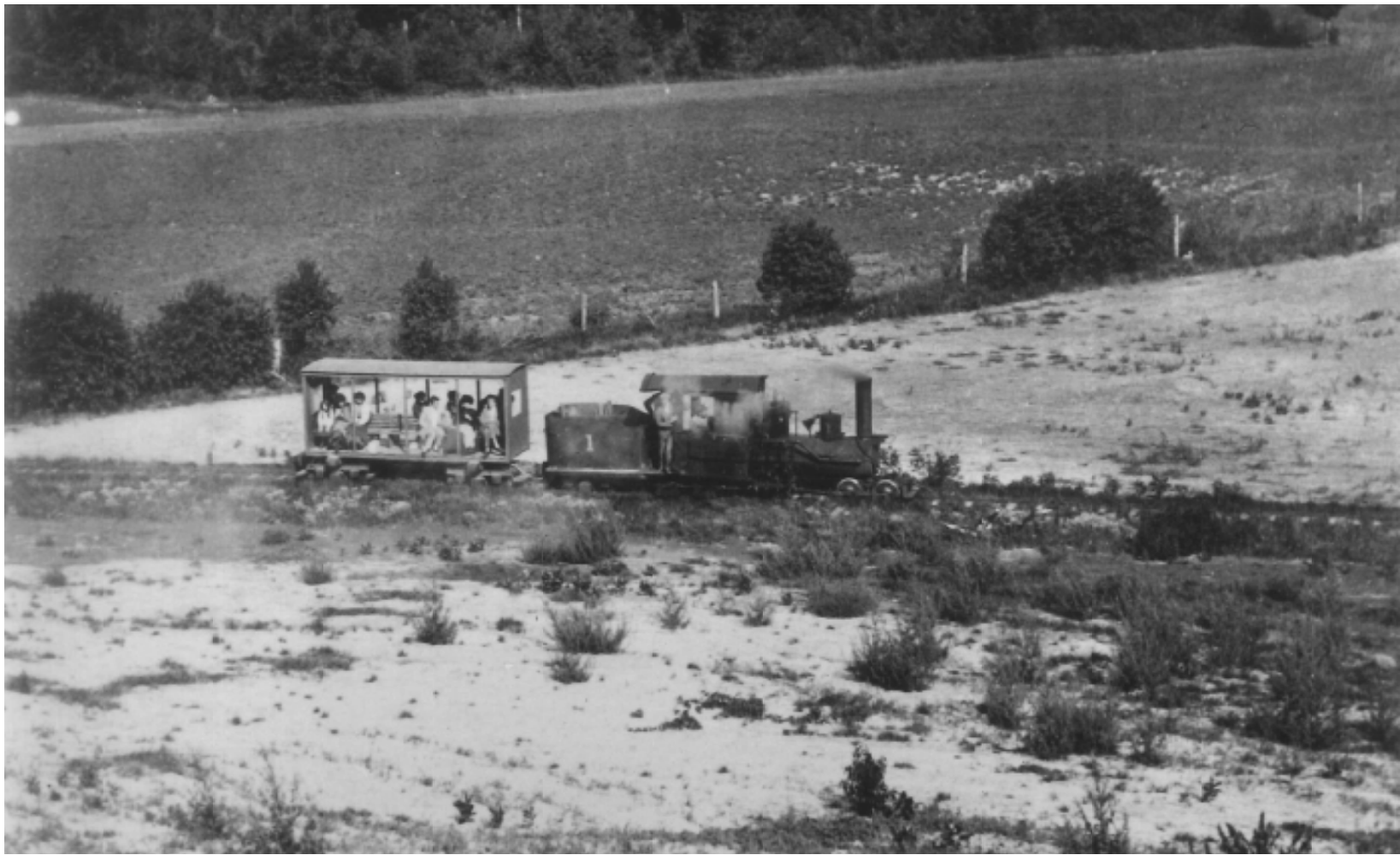
A two-acre addition to the Rogers Family Homestead Nature Preserve near East Jordan was donated in late 2021 by Patrick Bonadeo. A paddler, Patrick had originally purchased the land to have an access point to the Jordan River and had always intended to eventually donate it to the Conservancy.

"I have long enjoyed the access and preservation aspects of the Little Traverse Conservancy's land acquisition efforts," Patrick said. "I was therefore pleased to be able to extend their Rogers Family Homestead Nature Preserve and provide floaters, fishers, and hikers with additional acreage. I encourage others to donate their unused parcels to conserve our dwindling land and water resources for the recreational benefit of all."



## Honoring a Farming Legacy

In our last newsletter, we introduced you to the new David H. Irish Nature Preserve. Since that time, we have learned a bit more about this land that for many years was owned and farmed by Hugh and Marian Heynig. The Heynigs left it to their children, who then recently sold it to become the preserve. The Heynigs' daughter, Sandy Lauer, shared this photo of the old Shay Train traveling through what is now the preserve. According to the Harbor Springs Historical Museum, the Shay Train ran from 1902-1912 and carried logs, freight, and passengers on a total line length of about eight miles. Locals and visitors would take it north for a picnic or to pick blackberries.



# The Land is Here Forever

## CONSERVATION EASEMENTS EMPOWER LANDOWNER'S PROTECTION GOALS

A total of 77 acres in Charlevoix County has now been permanently protected through the donation of two conservation easements by Errol and Carol Lee. In addition to its ecological value as wetlands and wildlife habitat, the land includes one of the headwaters to the Bear River, which eventually empties into Little Traverse Bay in Petoskey.

Raised on his uncle's working farm just northeast of Lansing, Errol learned to understand and appreciate the land from an early age, eventually owning his own 53-acre hobby farm in Shiawassee County. With his career as a union plumber and pipe fitter based in Lansing, he often traveled to northern Michigan throughout the 1970s for vacations and outdoor recreation.

In 1986, he saw a small sign in front of land with an old home on the northeast side of Boyne Falls. As he had always wanted his own land in northern Michigan, they purchased it. A few years later, additional acreage on the other side of the road was purchased. When he retired in 1991, he and Carol sold their downstate farm and made Charlevoix County their permanent home.

"I have enjoyed the place, done a lot of upgrades and wildlife plantings along with gardening," Errol explained. Over the years he has seen a multitude of wildlife including several bear visiting his bird feeders. Poplar, aspen, birch, white pine, and black cherry are just some of the tree species found on the protected land. Additionally,

Errol estimated that he has planted more than 1,000 trees including white and red oak, maple, crabapple, and red pine.

Because he has been involved with the township since moving here, he has watched Petoskey expand and believes there is a high likelihood that Melrose Township will eventually become a bedroom community for Petoskey. "So I just decided that there was only one way to prevent what is happening to a lot of other places," he added. Errol had read about Little Traverse Conservancy and followed our activities. Motivated to take steps to protect what he had, he let LTC know he was interested in donating the development rights. In 2019, a conservation easement was placed on the western 34 acres – a mostly forested wetland – and in 2021 a conservation easement was completed for the eastern 43 acres of uplands and fields.

"I like this place, I like the way it is, I like where it is and if I could stop the development from happening here, that is actually my goal. I am only here for a short time – any of us – and the land is here forever. I have been attached to the land all my life," he said.

LTC Land Protection Specialist Joe Graham worked with the Lees on this donation and commented, "The love, care, and sweat Errol has put into his property are an inspiration, and his knowledge reflects a deep and special connection to this place. It was a pleasure working with Errol to protect his land."



The Lee Conservation Easement in Charlevoix County





Vermilion Point Nature Preserve  
PHOTO BY BEN MUSIELAK

# A MILLION FOR VERMILION

**Y**ou may hear the word endowment and think of universities like Harvard and Princeton. You may not immediately think of a remote and majestic nature preserve on Lake Superior. Thankfully, Evan Noyes did.

Evan and the Wild Shore Foundation had the vision and foresight to protect the Vermilion Point Nature Preserve in a unique and powerful way. By establishing the Vermilion Endowment Fund, Evan and the donors who stepped up to support the Fund have ensured the long-term care of this special place. Vermilion has greater needs than a typical nature preserve. On the 175 acres stand 4 historical buildings, one of which has extraordinary preservation value, the 1876 life-saving station cared for in partnership with SOS Vermilion. Summer researchers from Lake Superior State University are housed on the property

each year to conduct Piping Plover nest monitoring. All of this and the maintenance of the remote access driveway are overseen by a part-time caretaker. Accounting for these unique needs, the Vermilion Endowment Fund was established and is now well funded to ensure the appropriate care for this beloved landscape.

Evan shared, "Because of the great support of LTC's members, the \$1,000,000 initial goal for the Vermilion Endowment Fund has been met two years ahead of schedule. I want to express my gratitude and that of Wild Shore Foundation to Sally and Ian Bund for their wonderful lead gift; to Joey Arbaugh, Jerry and Eileen Phaner, and 'Anonymous' for their exceptional generosity; and to the fifty-some other donors whose generosity has shown that LTC was the right stewardship choice for Vermilion."

## **We would like to give special thanks to the following families whose gifts made this endowment possible:**

Mrs. Joey Arbaugh  
Catherine Bennett  
Sally and Ian Bund  
Circle the Globe Production  
Don and Sarah Cohen  
Ms. Jeanene Cooper  
Druscilla S. Doehrman  
Jerry and Eileen Phaner

Alex A. Green  
Debbie Hindle and Ken Ross  
Carol Huard  
J A Kless  
Mrs. Polk Laffoon and Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott A. Myers  
Liz Quick  
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Rudolph

Mr. Michael H. Schirmer  
Joan Slater  
Craig and Judy Taggart  
Mrs. Ingrid Tomey  
Don and Mary Trout  
Wild Shore Foundation  
Mary B Wojcik

# A FOREST FOR LEARNING

For several years, the Conservancy has emphasized protecting land within walking distance of schools through our Forest School program. Teachers can use the land for learning and class time in the outdoors. In late 2021, a 40-acre property in Pellston that had been on the market for several years was purchased with such aspirations in mind. The land lies approximately 400 feet away from the Pellston Elementary School.

The land was purchased from Bill Anderson along with his children Heidi Kresnak and Craig Geary. “We had listed the land in a couple different ways over the years and we just kept saying that we wished it could be kept as a whole,” shared Heidi, whose family roots run deep in

the area. Heidi’s grandmother Adelia Anderson – who had been the oldest living person in Pellston at the time – passed away just last summer at the age of 101, and Heidi’s grandfather, Willis, used to own the Pellston Texaco station.

“All of us feel that this could be a great thing to help further children’s education in the outdoors,” Heidi added, as she lamented how little time children spend outdoors in today’s world. “My dad and brother have taught my boys so many basic survival skills and comfort in the outdoors, and it has really empowered them. I want that for more children and I want that for the children in Pellston.”

The central part of the new preserve consists of scotch pines that had been planted as Christmas trees more than 25 years ago, and the remaining woods are dominated by aspen

of varying ages, much in an early successional stage. Mixed hardwoods can be found to the south.

“When our Land Protection and Education teams visited the property, we saw many opportunities to engage children in the stewardship and ecological restoration of the land.” said Land Protection Specialist Joe Graham.

LTC Director of Education Sarah Mayhew added, “The early success we’ve witnessed with our Forest School model has already been so powerful with other schools. We hope that the acquisition of this property and future relationship with Pellston Schools will provide those students with a memorable and impactful experience that they will take with them wherever they end up in the world.”





# Inspiring the Next Generation

## THE CROSS POLLINATION BETWEEN STEWARDSHIP AND EDUCATION

by Derek Shiels, Director of Stewardship

**S**uperstar Doug Tallamy has said that, "Knowledge generates interest and interest generates compassion, which the natural world needs more of these days." Tallamy, author of "Bringing Nature Home," 2009, and "Nature's Best Hope," 2020, from Timber Press is an expert entomologist turned conservationist, who teaches on the phenomenal relationships between insects and plants. His knowledge is sure to spark curiosity and interest in planting native plants in your yard (but it won't turn your thumb green, sorry). His message has turned many landowners into conservationists who grow native plants that benefit insects, and in turn, the native birds that gorge (and persist) on the smorgasbord of insects.

Tallamy's sentiments are reflected in LTC's mission. We protect the natural world by preserving land and stewarding those lands, but we also seek to foster appreciation and understanding of the natural world. We agree with Tallamy: an understating of nature generates an interest in nature, and interest generates support for nature conservation.

This is why education has been so integral to LTC's programming and why our Stewardship department cross-pollinates with the Environmental Education department. From citizen science activities such as vernal pool monitoring by local schools, to engaging students in building trails and developing preserve management plans, students are exposed to the natural world and how they have an ability to influence

it wisely and respectfully. A student who finds him or herself comfortable and confident outside in nature, who knows the name of a plant, remembers how important wetlands are to healthy waterways, or just recalls a positive memory of smiling and laughing at a nature preserve, is more apt to be an advocate for wild places.

Stewarding LTC's natural areas is "forever" work and we need to always be replacing ourselves, passing on the torch, and training the next caretakers to carry on the worthy and rewarding responsibility to observe, understand, and respond to threats to the conservation values we hold.



*LTC Preserve Stewardship Specialist Mike Lynch joined the Education staff for a Forest School project with middle and high school students from Mackinaw City Public School. They spent the day collecting baseline data for the Hathaway Family's Regina Caeli Nature Preserve management plan.*

## GROWING AND LEARNING...

Thorne Swift Nature Preserve was protected for use as an educational facility. LTC's Education Committee and programs began with the support of several devoted volunteers.



Chuck Robbins was hired as LTC's first paid staff position for education.



The first winter snowshoe education programs began.

1982-1984

1991

1999

# THE GROWTH OF LTC'S

1988

1992

1993-1994



Programs are well under way at Thorne Swift Nature Preserve. Elizabeth and James Kennedy make a gift to establish what will become the Andreae-Brown Family Environmental Education Endowment Fund.

Education programs expanded from Thorne Swift to year-round programs at other LTC nature preserves.



Maria Affhalter joins Education staff and the first summer programs were offered.





Alison Adams joins Education staff and the Young Naturalists program was created.



Sarah Mayhew joins Education staff and creates the Nature Photography program.

...LEARNING AND GROWING

Forest School partners include Mackinaw City, Alanson, Lake Superior Academy, and Three Lakes Academy schools.

2000

2011

2022

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

2007

2017

2018-2019



Melissa Hansen (now Director of Conservation Easements) joins Education staff and programs expanded to include more community partnerships.

Education Committee Chair Dale Lewis led a year-long visioning process for the education program's future. This set the groundwork for what was to become our Forest School program.



Sarah Koetje joins Education staff part-time and Forest School begins.

# How It All Began

by Sarah Mayhew  
Director of Education

## THE GENESIS OF LTC'S ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

“It was the best thing I did with my heart.” Marilyn Smith’s eyes sparkled and she gestured her hand to tap her heart as she began to tell us the story of the education program’s infancy.

Marilynn is not only an impressive forager of fungus, she’s a true pioneer in the field of mycology (the scientific study of fungus) and one of the foremothers of our education program. Education Specialist Sarah Koetje and I had the privilege to sit down with Marilyn over coffee and hear her stories from the inception of our program and her path getting there.

She told us of her time at the University of Iowa and how she was the only woman in the Botany Department in the mid 1960s. That was where her fascination for slime mold began. I had to smile because I’d never witnessed someone’s face light up about slime molds as if she were in love.

Marilynn went on to receive a teaching certificate and studied and taught mycology throughout the Midwest and East Coast before landing in Petoskey. It was here that she became involved with the University of Michigan Biological Station, and became familiar with the newly formed Little Traverse Conservancy. Upon meeting former director Tom Bailey, they soon discovered they shared a passion for education. Conversations began about LTC starting a program, and she was invited onto the Board of Trustees.

Bailey recalls, “We wanted to put our properties to work to teach kids about the outdoors and to have them grow up knowing, learning and enjoying it. It wasn’t just about putting away land and locking it

up. We didn’t want to protect land FROM people, we wanted to protect land FOR people. Marilyn’s vision and commitment to using LTC properties as a way of educating our community was the genius of her leadership and an integral part of our conservation ethic.”



*Marilyn Smith leading a mushrooming community field trip at Indian Point (formerly known as Colonial Point) in the late 1980s.*

Working with Harriet McGraw, Mary Whitmore, and Patty O'Donnell, LTC's Education Committee and program was born in 1984. Harriet was the Board Chair at the time, Patty was an LTC staff member, and Mary was hired to build the program further by creating curriculum. Many others would become instrumental; however, it was these pioneering women who created the first programming, trained volunteers, and led programs from the very beginning. At the time, all programs were held at the Thorne Swift Nature Preserve.

When asked what the intention of the programming was in those early days, Marilyn responded with, “We wanted to make connections from the classroom to the outdoors. We wanted to enrich classroom lessons and get children into nature. You can’t save forests unless you teach their worth and its impact on students’ lives.”

Now, nearly forty years since the beginning of our program, I am honored to say that the original intention still holds true.

When Harriet was asked about those early days, she said, “We were laying the foundation that correlates directly to our donations and membership. We laid the foundation to cultivate the next generation of members who embrace projects and want to move the Conservancy forward.”

I recently read a piece from poet Mary Oliver, where she wrote, “Give them peppermint to put in their pockets as they go to school. Give them the fields and the woods and the possibility of the world salvaged from the lords of profit. Stand them

in the stream, head them upstream, rejoice as they learn to love this green space they live in, its sticks and leaves and then the silent, beautiful blossoms. Attention is the beginning of devotion.”

Today we are now seeing the devotion from seeds planted in the 1980s. The children that experienced those early programs are now the ones showing up, supporting our organization, and sharing with their children the natural wonders of northern Michigan.

Our department is honored to carry forward the torch that these early pioneers lit.



# How It Will Continue

## A GREAT GIFT TO THE ANDREAE-BROWN FAMILY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND INSPIRED BY TIME OUTDOORS

**I**t's one of the first days of spring at the Consuelo Diane & Charles L. Wilson Jr. Working Forest Reserve. You can tell because there is no longer snow on the ground, and the grass is just peeking out in hints of green beneath the brown. Director of Education Sarah Mayhew is taking LTC members Ian and Sally Bund for a walk to give them a glimpse of what thousands of children get to experience each year – time in nature, learning with Sarah.

Mayhew describes how the pandemic gave our education program the time and space to be creative and innovative. The opportunity to shake things up a bit. This is where the Forest School program model was born: connecting students with regular visits to the same outdoor space within walking distance from the school. This is why Sarah Koetje became a year-round education staff member. This is where, together, Sarah and Sarah partnered with our Land Protection staff, local schools, and LTC donors to find and protect land near schools. As Sally reflects, "In a crunch, Sarah and Sarah came up with a whole new way of giving students accessible education."

Ian and Sally have long been supporters of LTC's mission, and their overriding commitment to education was part of that. This experience in the woods with Sarah took that commitment and grew it to absolute excitement about what has been created. LTC Education has gone from busing students to nature preserves, to protecting land right outside the school's door and empowering teachers with the tools to take their students out each day with or without LTC.

The impact of this work? Forest School students are the best voices to share that:

**"I like to get my hands dirty."**

**"They balance the learning, hiking, and fun perfectly."**

**"They make you feel as if you belong. They make you feel like part of their family. They teach you not only important survival skills, but important life skills as well."**

**"When I'm out with LTC I feel happy and all my worries or sadness go away. I have learned that while being in nature I'm calmer than normal."**

**Kylie Hicks, teacher at Alanson Public Schools shared, "Working with LTC for the past two years has made a huge impact on the students. They look forward to every program and getting outside onto our own trails. Sarah and Sarah have helped the school redevelop our trails while teaching our students so many valuable skills and lessons that will last a lifetime."**

The foundational thinking behind including education in LTC's mission is that people can only protect what they know and love. Watching students overcome incredibly difficult barriers with the help of the Forest School is a clear illustration of our mission in action. Forest School is built on cultivating meaningful relationships, deep connections, confidence, empowerment, respect, trust, and love.

A moment Sarah Koetje will never forget was when she attended her son's basketball tournament in Sault Ste. Marie. "All of a sudden I heard a sweet voice screaming, 'Pinecone!' (a loving nickname from Forest School) and a student from Three Lakes Academy (Curtis) was running full steam ahead to give me one of the greatest hugs I've ever received. Her mother

came running after her probably wondering who Pinecone was. She introduced us by saying, 'Mom, this is one of the Sarahs from Little Traverse Conservancy. They are the ones that teach us about nature.' Her mother then shared some beautiful sentiments on how much this program has helped her child grow. I walked away from the conversation with tears in my eyes. It was more than a conversation. It was a testament to what we are doing."

If you are interested in supporting this work, including Forest School, you can join Ian and Sally in giving a gift to the Andreae-Brown Family Environmental Education Endowment Fund. This fund was created solely for the purpose of supporting the education portion of LTC's mission. Your potentially tax-deductible gift to this fund makes environmental education accessible to children across our five-county region.

**"Our world is going to be a better place if more kids get outside. Nature is the great equalizer." -Sally Bund**



# Staff Updates WE'RE GROWING!



## A FAMILIAR FACE

**S**arah Koetje has been a seasonal educator with LTC since 2018, and now she's here to stay! Sarah officially joined LTC as a full-time staff member at the beginning of 2022. She has been instrumental in the growth of our environmental education department, and specifically, our Forest School program and field trips with the Friendship Centers of Emmet County. We are so excited to have Sarah join us for the long haul!

"My interest in environmental education stems from my passion for nature, conservation, and my love for children. I pinch myself daily - what a gift, what a tremendous opportunity. I get to enlighten young minds as they are simultaneously illuminating me. It's pure magic."



## WELCOME, BABY!

**C**ongratulations to the Donnelly-Roznowski family on their new baby! LTC's Director of Land Protection Caitlin Donnelly, and her husband, Nicholas Roznowski, welcomed their first-born, Miles Vilas Roznowski, into the world on December 1, 2021.

All are happy and healthy, and we are so thrilled to have another baby in the LTC family.

## NEW CFO AT THE HELM

**W**e are proud to announce the promotion of Emily Hughes to Chief Financial Officer and Director of Membership. Emily has been part of our team for six years and has played a critical role in developing our membership program. And now, she will be the gatekeeper of our finances. Stepping down from the role of CFO for over 30 years is Tom Lagerstrom. We are lucky that Tom will stay with us in a part time but formal role as Executive Advisor. Tom is our rock, and we are grateful that he will continue to help shape our future.





# Art & Nature

## SCULPTURES ON LITTLE SAND BAY NATURE PRESERVE

With a mission of "Building Communities through Public Art," the Sauve Art Foundation brought a collaboration with LTC and an expansion of the Beaver Island Public Art project by installing two sculptures at the Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve in Fall 2021.



Artist Steve Cannaert's 8-foot tall steel sculpture "Bird" (pictured) is located in front of the Gallagher House, casting an early shadow over the entry to the house like a sundial. Artist Kansas Williams created "Circle of Fifths" specifically for the Dark Sky Park at Little Sand Bay.

*"Bird" by Steve Cannaert*

## Do You Love the Viewlands?

Join Friends of the Viewlands! Friends of the Viewlands is a small group of dedicated, year-round volunteers that help maintain trails, flower beds, structures, help with habitat restoration projects, and more.

Please contact LTC Volunteer Coordinator Cacia Lesh if you are interested at 231.344.1002 or [cacia@landtrust.org](mailto:cacia@landtrust.org)



PHOTO BY RAY GAYNOR

## SNOWSHOE FUN!

Last March, we received a grant through the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation that allowed us to purchase 30 brand new pairs of snowshoes. Bearcub Outfitters generously offered a 35% discount off the order. LTC members and environmental education supporters Jim and Evelyn Howell donated additional funds to complete the purchase. These acts of kindness and generosity are immeasurable. Thank you! Students had a blast exploring in the new snowshoes this winter.



# MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

The following gifts were given between November 16, 2021 and February 15, 2022.

## IN HONOR OF

### John and Sandy Baker

David and Joan Culver

### John Baker

Mandy and Eric Andersen

### Fred Ball

Evening Star Joinery

### Robert and Carrie Barnes

Nick and Betsy White

### Michael Behrmann

S.A. Morman & Company

### Tim and Cindy Brammer

Nick and Betsy White

### Ian and Sally Bund

Dana Sutton

### William Calhoun

Nick and Betsy White

### Michael Cameron

Evening Star Joinery

### Ruth Ann Casadonte

Donald and Janeen Smith

### Mr. and Mrs. Bill Crawford

Evening Star Joinery

### Benjamin Doornbos

Evening Star Joinery

### The Donnelly Family

Mary Pat Donnelly

### John Edwards

Dick Warren

### Jeffrey Sloane Ford

Hanna Ford

### Mr. and Mrs. Gettel

Evening Star Joinery

### Mary Graven

Donald and Janeen Smith

### Em and Bobby Green

Catsy and Gordie Johnston

### John Robert Hanson

Michael Dommermuth and Family

### Megan Harris

Emily Pittman

### Bob and Signa Hermann, Jr.

Nick and Betsy White

### Keegan and Anne Hitz

Catherine Bennett

### Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Huffman

Mr. and Mrs. W. Anthony Huffman

### Robert and Karen Ivan

Donald and Janeen Smith

### Michelle Kruzel

Evening Star Joinery

### Nick Liebler

Evening Star Joinery

### Tom and Valorie Loomis

Rob and Wendy Walker

### Ric and Lisa Loyd

Mr. and Mrs. W. Anthony Huffman

John and Susan Loyd

### Scott and Dana Marcus

Nick and Betsy White

### Jessica Moore

Evening Star Joinery

### Chase and Jena Offield

Evening Star Joinery

### Shirley Pinson

George and JoAnne Snyder

### Michael and Marianne Raab

Mr. and Mrs. W. Anthony Huffman

### Patricia Ranger

Mrs. Beth Ranger

### Kevin Serba

Evening Star Joinery

### Rick Shadrach and Allie Bishop

Drs. Bob and Kimberly Molter

### Mr. and Mrs. Sincok

Evening Star Joinery

### Ben Slocum

Emily Hengstebeck

### Chris Stoppel

Joel and Julie Stoppel

### Ben and Erika Van Dam

Jean and Steve Van Dam

### Jim VanSteenhouse

Nick and Betsy White

## IN MEMORY OF

### Frances Newman Alden

Mr. William O. Alden, Jr.

### David Armour

Matthew and Anneke Myers

### Linda Badalucco

Mrs. Donna Watkins

### Keith Patrick Barton

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Marker

### Keith Bassett

Ms. Jean Bassett

### Nancy Lou Betts

Donald and Janeen Smith

### Michael Bookmyer

Daniel and Julie Murphy

### Catherine Maxson Bright

Jack and Tay Howell

### Fay Buhl

Mr. and Mrs. C. Howard Crane, II

### Robert Charlton

Mr. and Mrs. Max R. Bunker

### John Thomas Cheney

Mrs. John T. Cheney

### John and Barbara Couture

Bob Solt and Anne Couture

### Kurt Damschroder

Mr. and Mrs. Max R. Bunker

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Rea

### Joan Deppa

Sue Deer Dembowski

Barbara Croll Fought

Aileen Gallagher

Tom Hosley and Family

Leigh Miller

Lance and Judy Simon

Lisa and Nicos Zittis

### Elizabeth Dickinson

Amy Dickinson

### Stanley R. Dickinson

John and Laura Dickinson

### Abbey Dulak-Bragg (dog)

Karl Eppler and Lynn Tryban

### Richard Farmer

Mary T Driggs

### Linda Ford

Mary T Driggs

### Brian Granger

Kieran and Anne Fleming

Martin Letts

Ty and Sarah Ratliff

Ms. Cynthia A. Van Allen

### Norma Hall

Donald and Janeen Smith

### Tucker Harris

Jim and Kathy Bricker

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Hoster

The Jeffrey Company

Jane Mykrantz

Ty and Sarah Ratliff

### Betty Hoffmann

Ty and Sarah Ratliff

### Wesley Dean Hovey

Ms. Ann Joslyn Burrows

Mary T Driggs

Mr. and Mrs. G. Sheldon Veil

Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. West

### Harriet Hull

Mr. and Mrs. C. Howard Crane, II

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Hightower

### David Irish

Mr. and Mrs. Max R. Bunker

Connie B. Goodman

### Kathryn "Kay" Jeffrey

Anne Eiterman

### Roger Kemper

Ms. Elizabeth Otto

### Thomas Kimmel

Donald and Janeen Smith

### Henry Kirchheimer

Donald and Janeen Smith

### Polk Laffoon

Mr. and Mrs. J. David Cummings

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Mackell

Dr. and Mrs. Barton H. Reutlinger



**Carol Landis**

Donald and Janeen Smith

**Chuck and Jutta Genny Letts Jr.**

Chip and Kathleen Letts  
David and Genny Letts  
Marty Letts

**Susan Letts**

David and Genny Letts  
Martin Letts

**Seberon "Boo" Litzenger**

Mr. and Mrs. Max R. Bunker  
Gaetan and Quan Gerville-Reache

**Charles Michael Malloy**

Jamie A. Malloy

**William T. Maxson II**

Mrs. Barbara BohlsGraham

**"Betty" Mary Elizabeth Maxson**

Mrs. Barbara BohlsGraham

**Cindi Mesmer**

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Rhein, Jr.

**Roy McNeill**

Donald and Janeen Smith

**Mark L. Miller**

Mary T Driggs  
Sarah and Dan Kay  
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Soter

**Irmgard Neils**

Diana Baribeau  
Mrs. Maryln Graham  
Mr. Ernest P. Gubry  
Kathrine Neils and Lisa Singer  
Eric Neils and Pauline Neils  
Wadsworth  
W Brewster Willcox and Mary Ellen  
Willcox

**Marge Pertler**

Mrs. Valerie Hendricks

**Jack Postle**

Mr. and Mrs. Max R. Bunker

**Tom Radecky**

Lynn Ittigson  
Marc Radecky

**Robert "Bob" Schneider**

Ty and Sarah Ratliff

**Karen Shaw**

Ginny and Ed Fitzgerald

**Phillip Shawl**

Larry and Wendy Whippo

**Elizabeth Maxson Shier**

Jack and Tay Howell

**Joseph Shore**

The Joseph Shore Family

**Sue Anne Shrader**

Mr. James C. Shrader

**Joseph Smith**

Donald and Janeen Smith

**Medina Spirit**

Tracy Ward

**Leslie Vickey**

Donald and Janeen Smith

**Robert Vickey**

Donald and Janeen Smith

**Joseph and Lena Vratana and Joseph and Josephine Stutzman**

Mr. Gary Stutzman

**Edward Voss**

Dr. and Mrs. Lynn Elfner

**Nolan Wallenfang**

Ty and Sarah Ratliff

**Bill Ward**

Tracy Ward

**Susan Ward**

Tracy Ward

**Pat Weber**

Ms. Jennifer C. Markey

**Ann Whittier Closser**

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Peterson

**Jim and Adele Wingate**

Ms. Suzanne Wingate

## In Memory of Two Incredible Conservationists

### Elizabeth "Betty" Hoffmann

Betty was an LTC member for 32 years and gave generously, and quietly, to many community and land preservation efforts including the grass-root beginnings of the St. Clair Lake-Six Mile Lake Nature Preserve and the Antrim Creek Natural Area. Most recently Betty donated several contiguous parcels to LTC to form the diverse and rolling 149-acre Elizabeth B. Hoffmann Nature Preserve near Norwood. Betty also gifted the Andrew and Mary Aish ke bug Nature Preserve on the north side of Charlevoix, located along US-31. Betty loved birdwatching, reading poetry, and chatting with friends over a hot cup of tea. We will miss Betty and her stoicism, her huge heart, and her passion for community conservation.



Betty Hoffmann



### Tucker Harris

Tucker was an LTC member for 34 years, a past board member, and was instrumental in helping to establish the Seven Springs Nature Preserve along the shores of her beloved Burt Lake. She and her late husband Jack were also the driving force behind the establishment of the Helmer's Dam - Robert D. VanCampen Nature Preserve and the Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve. Tucker was a self-proclaimed "tree hugger" and loved learning about all of the birds, wildflowers, and wildlife that she encountered. We will dearly miss her sweet smile, her glowing gratitude and her love of the natural world.

Tucker Harris (pictured left) with her dear friend, Esther Summers.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to the following new members who joined between November 16, 2021 and February 15, 2022.

Al and Earlyne Achelpohl	Ali and Laura El-Mohandes	Victor and Susan Lejeune	Rachael and Jared Rausch
Marie Annette Allard	Erin Emington	Jack Levy	Myles and Sally Rehkopf
Patrick and Sara Armour	Mark and Margaret Eustis	Greg Lipe	Colleen Reid and Hong Jin Choi
Mike Arnold	Scott and Ellen Evans	Leslie and Kevin Lloyd	Ms. Susan Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Michael P. Balter	Gaylord and Regina Forbes	Scott Lockhart	Rocky Roberson
James and Mary Bandeen	Chester Gauss IV	Dr. and Mrs. Ben Lounsbury	Carl Ross
Janet and Mike Basford	Jim Gendron	Joseph and Courtney	David and Nancy Roush
Steve James Beemer	Grant and Lauren Gilbert	Maglichetti	Jeff and Cathy Russel
Sharon and Harley Beslock	Kingsley J Gilchrist	Mark and Judy Malan	Lyle and Michelle Sanderson
Barbara Billings and Knute	Ms. Jo Gingras	Mike and Suzanne Malenfant	Kelley A Sarafa
Nadelhoffer	David and Barbara Gloer	Matthew Malkowski and Jamie	Randy and Christen Satchwell
Steven and Margaret Bohluis	Patricia Greka	Schwartzfisher	Robert and Hope Schaumann
Barrie and Wendy Borovsky	Ronald Berg and Mona	Megan Manahan and Russell	Bonnie Hill and David
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Borowski	Gresenz	Hurford	Schroeder
The Bradleys	Philip and Maribeth Guys	Sue Marcellis	Dr. Dennis and Cathi
Charles and Nancy Brown	W Scott Hanna	Valerie and Paul Markland	Sczechowski
Melinda Brown Schricker	Sarah Hart	Josephine Marquis	Mr. and Mrs. James J. Secor, III
Barbara Bulic	Joe and Joanne Hawkins	Don and Eileen Martini	Chuck and Joyce Shiels
Lindsey Leigh Bur	Jane and Greg Hazle	Jill Matchinski	Jeffrey and Celia Sinclair
Mr. Daniel A. Burk	Sean and Jacqueline Hettich	Margaret McBride	Mr. Dennis L. Sisson
Michael and Brenda Byers	Susie Schlehuber	Ms. Mary Frances McCartney	William Slutz and Linda
Matt and Lissie Canzano	Gregory Holaski	Dr. Robert J McEnroe	Roomann
Nora Cardinal and Pauline	Sue and Bill Holmes	Kevin McKinney	Bob Solt and Anne Couture
Cardinal-Mitchell	Richard A. Cook	Margo B. Mertaugh	Ms. Lea Rene Soltis
Lynne Carpenter	Kristen and Rick Holton, Jr.	Annie and Marty Montagne	Robert and Nancy Sornson
Chuck Center	Mark and Linda Hubbard	Walter E. and Nancy Moore	Dudley Stevens
Diane and Andrew Cesario	Bob and Ann Ivinskas	Karla and Daniel Morgan	Robert Jan and Mariellyn
Sue Perault Chambers	Amy Jacobs	Charles Morris	Stevenson
William Chung	Daniel and Gail Jacqmain	Mr. and Mrs. David A. Mueller	Jim and Scotty Strickland
David Clare	Julie and Scott Jenney	Ruth Mueller	Mr. and Mrs. Robert M.
Shaun Clifford	Kymberli Jennings	Kenneth and Mandy Neihsl	Surdam, Jr.
Mark and Deborah Collins	Brian Johnson	Daniel and Jennifer Nolan	Marissa Swadling
Don and Jayne Corwin	Mark and Heather Kage	Julie and Thomas Nolan	David Swanson
Kenneth and Debra Davis	Lisa Kaniewski and Ryett Miller	Shawn O'Dwyer	Jess and Akira Taylor
Edward and Cynthia Davis	Tim Kepford	Mark and Mary Lou Olds	Tara Vancil
Petersen N and Marguerite	James and Nancy Kilbourne	John and Kris Parrottino	Thomas and Lisa Wadsworth
Decker	Gayle Kirby	Henry and Sally Peet	Bill and Fran Washington
Anthony DeLuca	Lauri Kirsch and Steve	Veronica Pepper	Terri Wells
David and Kimberly DeSantis	Henderson	Mr. Mark and Mrs. Anne Perry	Robin Welsh and Tim
Michele DeVoe Lussky	Andrew and Debra Kiteley	Tony and Carol Piazza	McDermott
Brandon Donlon	Russ and Kathy Kittleson	Caitie Parker and Alex	Ms. Wendy Wieland
Bert and Tina Donovan	Beth Kummer	Plapinger	Beth Wilson
Stephen Dryden	Luke and Cassie Kwiatkowski	Douglas and Kathleen Potts	Amy and Patrick Wingate
Dan and Janet Kohler Dueweke	Hilary Lake	Jeff and Martha Raphelson	Kenneth and Susan Wojcik
Patricia Duncan	Mary Langer	Bryce Rathman	Thomas Worthington
Mike and Jeanne Eddy	Allen and Debra Larson	Jerry and Tracy Rauch	



# Youth Member Spotlight

**Meet Will.** He's 11 years old, lives in Petoskey, and has a passion for the outdoors and all things wild! His love for nature and desire to share it with others inspired the creation of his own YouTube channel - Will's Outdoor World. Will motivates kids (and let's be honest - adults too!) to get outside by exploring outdoor activities from a kid's point of view.

We're honored that Will featured trips to the Waldron Fen Nature Preserve and the Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve on his channel, so we reached out to learn more about what being an LTC member means to him.

## **What do you picture when you think about protecting land in northern Michigan?**

I picture land that's being protected by being kept in mostly its wild state. No houses, only trails and natural area. It is free for us to see and use, unlike land owned by individuals. A place where we can go and feel nature's peacefulness and excitement all at the same time.

## **Who inspires you?**

I'd say, for being in the woods, my dad's been a big inspiration for me. He's taught me how to fish, how to camp, and how to look to the woods for our hobbies and excitement. Also, I would include my mom. She loves the outdoors and she's a teacher. She has a lot to do with me wanting to share my experiences through YouTube. My uncle has helped me do that too.

## **Why do you think it is important to support nonprofits that protect land?**

Nonprofits and land conservancies seem important to me if we're going to protect land for our enjoyment. Through a nonprofit, many people can contribute at whatever level they can to support land preservation. Even small amounts add up to a lot of money in total. The nonprofit then allows the land to be enjoyed by everyone forever, just like the enjoyment I share with my family and friends now. Plus, a nonprofit can go on beyond a lifetime.

**Interested in learning more with Will? Check out his YouTube channel, Instagram, and Facebook by searching Will's Outdoor World.**



**"I think in nature we see a little bit of our past right here in the present and it's fun to think what our contributions now will mean for those in our future."**

## *Bequests:* *Powerful, simple and impactful*

**F**or many Conservancy members a bequest is the most direct and impactful way to give, no matter how large or small of a gift. A bequest is invaluable to the Conservancy's growth and stability. Bequests ensure the special places we preserve will be cared for and protected forever. And with a planned gift you will also become a Conservancy Legacy Member.

To learn more about bequests or becoming a Conservancy Legacy Member, please contact Ty Ratliff, Associate Director, at 231.347.0991 or [tyratliff@landtrust.org](mailto:tyratliff@landtrust.org)



# Thank You...

**Bill Mayhew** for making tree cookies for the environmental education programs.

**Dan and Kathy Wassman** for building benches for the Tanton Family changing room.

**Max Forbrig, his family, and scout-mates** for removing invasive Scots pine from the Conseulo Diane and Charles L. Wilson, Jr. Working Forest Reserve. Thanks also to the Forbrig Family for donating a new pop-up event tent.

Preserve Perfectionists **John Baker, Dan Dueweke, John and Sue Esser, Chris Ford, Richard Jenkins, Kelly Jo Kitchen, Greg Koontz, Peri McGuinness, John Merrill, Eileen Thorp, Paul Van Klaveren, and Sharon Whitehead-van Loben Sels** for spending many cold days cutting invasive woody shrubs.

**Sally Bales, Rye Muir, and Nick and Michaleen Karay** for help with our winter mailing.

**Glen Matthews, Mike McNamara, and Glen Young** for braving thick, frozen cedar swamps to monitor remote preserves.

Trail data counters **Mary Jane Clayton, Glen Matthews, Mary Merrill, and Karen and Stan Royalty** for spending tedious hours clicking through data.

**John Baker, Dan Dueweke, Doug Engler, Richard Jenkins, Mary and John Merrill, Brad and Sue Moffatt, Tom and Kim Rowland, and Robert Washburn** for clearing trails after winter storms.

**Firman Irrigation and Tree Service** for donating their time and equipment to clear windblown trees on the trail at the Allan and Virginia McCune Preserve.

**Evelyn and Jim Howell** for helping with 2nd grade environmental education programs at The Hill Nature Preserve.

**Matt Bowman** for sanding the parking area at The Hill Nature Preserve.

**Erika Keiswetter and Eliza Thomas** for donating clothing and footwear for Alanson Forest School students.

**Richard Jenkins** for assembling a new TV stand in the LTC office basement.

**Home Depot** for donating boxes and duct tape for the cardboard sled race at Alanson Elementary School.

**Bearcub Outfitters** for donating 20% of their Smartwool sock sales from "Socktober" to LTC.

**Zach Skiera and family** for grooming trails at the Boyd B. Banwell Nature Preserve.

**OUTHouse Consortium, Woods & Waters, Les Cheneaux Club, and Cheboygan Brewing Co.** for hosting lantern lit winter hikes.

**Greenwood Foundation** for hosting a winter snowshoe and cross country ski adventure.

**Michele Battiste and the Good Hart Artist Residency** for hosting a writing workshop field trip.

**Paul Rossi** for sharing his beautiful bird photography for LTC publications.

**Evening Star Joinery** for donating their time to construct LTC's brand new office kitchen.

**Bier's Inwood Brewery** for hosting our Hike & Hops winter field trip.



## Business Spotlight:

### THE HIGHLANDS

A new and exciting partnership with The Highlands at Harbor Springs began this winter. On their traditional Community Appreciation Day (Superbowl Sunday) the resort chose to offer deeply discounted lift tickets with the proceeds of all ticket sales then split between Little Traverse Conservancy and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. This year, more than \$16,000 was raised! Thank you to all who came out to support this special event and thank you to The Highlands at Harbor Springs for working together with our organizations to protect the lands and waters of northern Michigan.



# 2022 SPRING EVENTS



As part of our effort to promote health and learning in the outdoors this anniversary year, our community field trips in 2022 will have a special emphasis on lifelong skills. We hope you can join us on one or several of these opportunities this spring. Events are offered at no charge, but registration is required (unless otherwise noted) by calling 231.347.0991 or online at [www.landtrust.org/events](http://www.landtrust.org/events).

## SKY WATCHING WITH MACKINAC STRAITS RAPTOR WATCH

Saturday, April 9 / 11:00am - 1:00pm

Meet at the corner of Pond and Askin St. at the south end of Mackinaw City

At the peak of migration, join birders from the Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch for a chance to see and identify raptors and more. Dress warm, and bring your own binoculars and chair because you will be looking up for some time.

## SKY DANCING WITH THE AMERICAN WOODCOCK

Thursday, April 14 / 7:45pm

LTC Office & Hailand/Helstrom Nature Preserve Complex

Join LTC staff and the Al Litzenburger Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society to discover the incredible spring mating display of the American Woodcock.

## EARTH DAY TREE PLANTING

Saturday, April 23 / 10:00am - 2:00pm

Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve

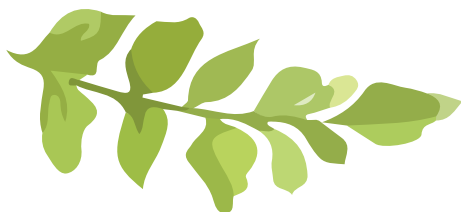
Join LTC staff for a day of tree planting and giving back in honor of Earth Day! Bring water, gloves, and a lunch. All ages welcome. Stay for an hour or the full time!

## TREE PLANTING

Saturday, April 30 / 10:00am - 2:00pm

Consuelo Diane & Charles L. Wilson, Jr. Working Forest Reserve

Join LTC staff as we plant 500 red pine trees. Bring water, gloves, and a lunch. Stay for an hour or the full time!



## COMMUNITY PADDLE

Wednesday, May 4 / 5:30 - 7:30pm

St. Clair Lake - Six Mile Lake Natural Area

Grab your paddleboard, kayak or paddle craft of choice for a scenic evening paddle. We will begin at St. Clair Lake DNR Boat Access Site (9400 6 Mile Lake Road). This 255-acre natural area protects both sides of the lake and sits just north of the Nathan Beem Memorial Nature Preserve, which will be our turnaround point. A handful of sit-in kayaks are available, but must be reserved ahead of time with LTC.

## MOTHER'S DAY WILDFLOWER WALK

Sunday, May 8 / 10:00 - 11:30am

Elmer Johnston Nature Preserve

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. We'll take a leisurely pace as we walk through this 1.5-mile hilly trail system.

## SPRING MIGRATION

Saturday, May 14, 10:00 - 11:30am

Waldron Fen Nature Preserve

Let's explore what the birds are doing this spring. Special guest and birder Mary Trout will lead us on a family friendly exploration of birds migrating through the area. Children can bring home their own nest building craft put together ahead of time by Mary. Some binoculars will be available, but please bring your own if you have them.

## 7TH ANNUAL ALDO LEOPOLD FESTIVAL

June 1-5, 2022

Don't miss this remarkable offering of wildflower walks, paddles, birding, and more! For details and registration, visit [www.aldoleopoldfestival.org](http://www.aldoleopoldfestival.org).

## WALKING WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

June 8 - August / 7:00am

Offield Family Viewlands

Need a little motivation to get up early and exercise? Join us on Wednesday mornings this summer! One group will meet near the clubhouse for a more vigorous, hilly walk. Another group will meet at the lower parking area for a flatter walk. Strollers, dogs on leash, all are welcome! No need to register.

## FLY FISHING

Saturday, May 21 / 10:00am - 1:00pm

Offield Family Viewlands

Join the Miller Van Winkle Chapter of Trout Unlimited for an afternoon on all things fly fishing! You'll visit different stations including learning about the supplies needed to get started in fly fishing, casting a fly rod, fly tying, and a hands-on macroinvertebrate presentation and pond sampling.

## TODDLING THROUGH NATURE

Friday, June 10 / 4:00 - 5:00pm

Consuelo Diane & Charles L. Wilson, Jr. Working Forest Reserve

Join LTC CFO and toddler mama Emily Hughes for an afternoon adventure with your little ones. This program gives children the experience of nature, and, more importantly, gives parents the tools to make time in nature with their toddlers fun. Ages 0-4 years old.



Little Traverse Conservancy  
3264 Powell Road  
Harbor Springs, MI 49740  
[www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)  
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# Under 50? Double Your Impact!

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE

LTC members Emerson, Juliet, Aspen, Cali, and Pearl Sugar Meyer want to inspire more people under 50 to join in support of Little Traverse Conservancy. Why? Because protecting land has a positive impact on people of all ages. The Meyers are offering this challenge:

**Any new members under the age of 50 who join LTC this year will have their gift matched!\***

Show your support for the north country we all love and double your impact today!

For the young at heart who also want to support the challenge, this match can be applied to gift memberships to the young people in your lives.

To ensure your gift is matched, write "under 50 match" on the memo of your check or on your online donation if you or your gift membership recipient are under 50.

*\*gifts will be matched up to a total of \$2,500*

