

# THE LAND EDITION

PROTECTING THE NORTH COUNTRY WE ALL LOVE

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



Kathy Bricker Nature  
Lover Preserve, pgs. 6-7

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# THE RATLIFF EFFECT

by Kieran Fleming  
Executive Director

In the coming months, Ty Ratliff, our Associate Director, will be moving on, increasing his leadership role at the Greenwood Foundation, one of our partner organizations. As his friend, I am proud of his pursuing a big, new challenge and that he remains insatiable in his quest to do great things. But, for those of you who know Ty, it is obvious we have a big hole to fill. And while we have a plan to fill his organizational role, I have been reflecting on what Ty has meant to LTC, and to me personally, for more than two decades.

In the summer of 1996, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) in Traverse City had just hired a new communications director – Anne Fleming. Ty had been working for that organization for about a year when I tagged along with Anne to informally meet some of her new co-workers. I was freshly done with grad school, unemployed, and now removed from my home state of Wisconsin. Ty was willing to sit with me and talk about potential employment options in the area. It took several years for him to confess he did not like me in our first interactions, probably borne from the fact that I knew more than I know now. But we ended up becoming good friends. I have no doubt he was instrumental in my getting hired to work alongside him and Anne at GTRLC. Our friendship and professional relationships grew in those early years so much that after he moved to LTC in 1999, Anne and I took the first opportunity available to follow him here in 2000. I stood up at his and Sarah's wedding, my kids call him "Uncle Ty," and our bond grew to be more like that of brothers, cemented by dozens of hunting and fishing adventures over the years.

And like most brothers, there can be a healthy edge to the relationship. Sarcasm is normal, teasing essential, and occasionally, we fight through our disagreements. I think that when Ty and I hotly debate something from different points of view, the organization is on the cusp of doing some of its best work. It forces us to consider creative alternatives, compromise, or strengthen our resolve. Because he was able to play the role of advocate (or devil's advocate) and to confront my stubbornness when needed, LTC gained immensely even if we did want to kill each other on occasion.

Ty's strongest asset is his genuine character. As LTC's former land protection specialist, he clearly valued his relationship with landowners at an exceptionally high level. The Offield Family Foundation's challenge grant from 2001-2012 ignited our capacity to protect land, but it also took creative thought and absolute dedication to leverage that gift many times over. Ty's fingerprints are on literally hundreds of our successful projects.

Through those years, he not only epitomized our core values, he was instrumental in shaping and articulating them. The emphasis on genuine relationships flows through every aspect

of LTC; it is the foundation we look for when hiring new staff. But most importantly, it shows up in how we engage our constituents, our supporters, our detractors, heck... everyone.

Several years ago, it was only natural for Ty to become our Associate Director which was LTC's primary donor development role at the time. The "LTC way" of fundraising is to provide opportunities for people to do things that align with their own values and goals. We do not apply pressure. In this new role, I'll suggest that Ty's impact on land conservation rose to a whole new level.

Ty will be the first to tell you, it is genuine relationships that will carry us through the long haul. He has

always emphasized the love for LTC's mission above all else, the consummate professional. For this reason, I have had strangely little stress as I contemplate his departure on the professional level. Obviously on a personal level I will miss my friend, my surrogate sibling. But as an old friend once said - he ain't dead yet.

We will cheer him as he helps guide the Greenwood Foundation to new heights and look forward to new and synergistic opportunities to partner. And maybe, if we play our cards right, Ty and I will spend much of our time together in the future on some remote lake, exchanging colorful explanations for why he can't seem to keep up with my fishing prowess.

In this business we take the term "perpetuity" pretty seriously. Land lasts forever, the legacies around the land will too. Thanks for stamping your legacy here at LTC, Ty.



Ty Ratliff, floating down the Maple River.



# The New Davis Family Nature Preserve

## *in Cheboygan County*

In a fitting tribute to their family's legacy on Burt Lake, Daryl and Virginia Davis have helped add 19 acres to a preserve complex that now totals 46 acres. The new Davis Family Nature Preserve lies directly adjacent to the 11-acre Hildner-Bearce Nature Preserve which also connects to the 16-acre Waubun Nature Preserve (see map).

The new preserve lies roughly 600 feet from the eastern shore of Burt Lake, and this growing tapestry of permanently protected lands contributes to the watershed protection of a primary inland waterway lake. The land is almost entirely wooded with a variety of upland hardwood species and pine. A trail connects to the Hildner-Bearce Nature Preserve, and will be expanded in the future.

"Since 2008, this lakeside community has been protecting a growing cluster of nature preserves to both add to their hiking opportunities and to help protect the resource that they love so much," said LTC Associate Director Ty Ratliff.

The Davis family acquired and then sold the land to LTC at a significant bargain-sale, and then neighboring families generously donated to make this land acquisition possible.

Part of the family's motivation to create the preserve was to give their grandchildren a deeper connection to the land and the adjacent lakefront cottage that has been in their family since the early 1950s. Some of the existing paths on the preserve will be formalized as trails and the grandchildren have been invited to help name them.

"We were excited to be able to make the contribution and to protect the woods," said Daryl.

Like all land protected by Little Traverse Conservancy, this stands as a testament to all members who have supported conservation through the last 50 years. Nature preserves are YOUR legacy.

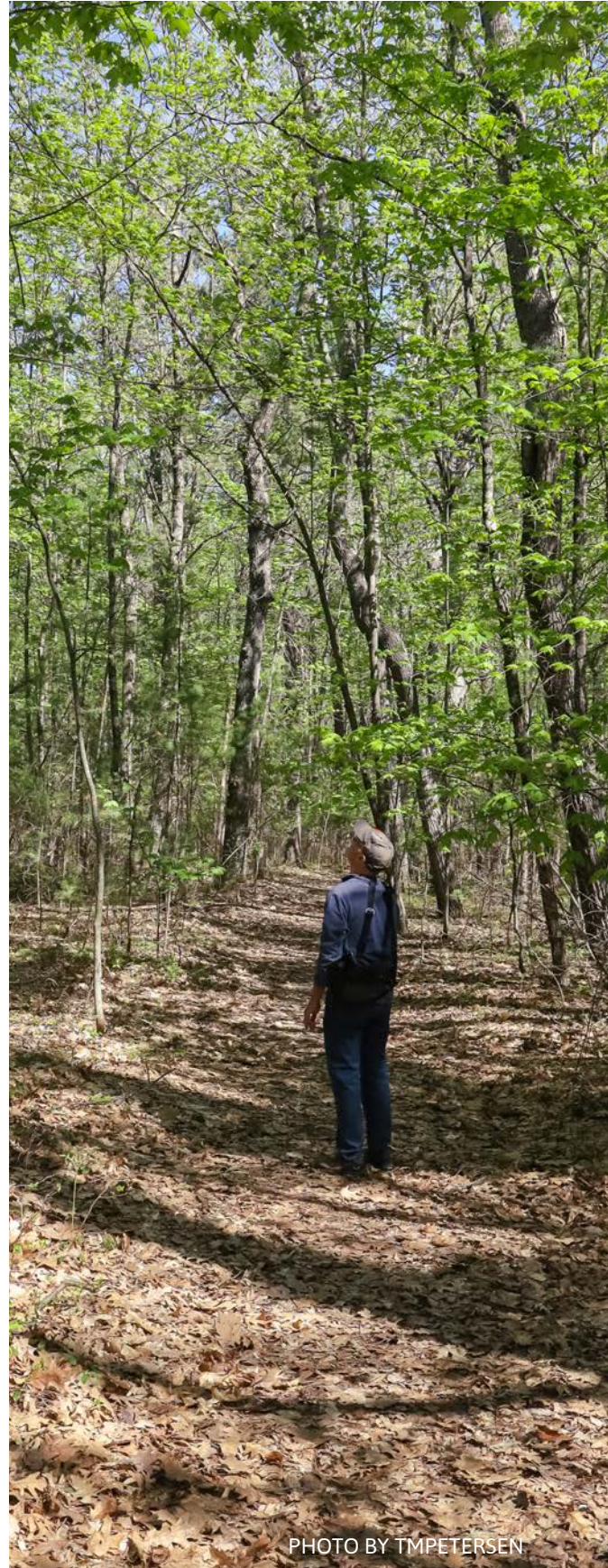
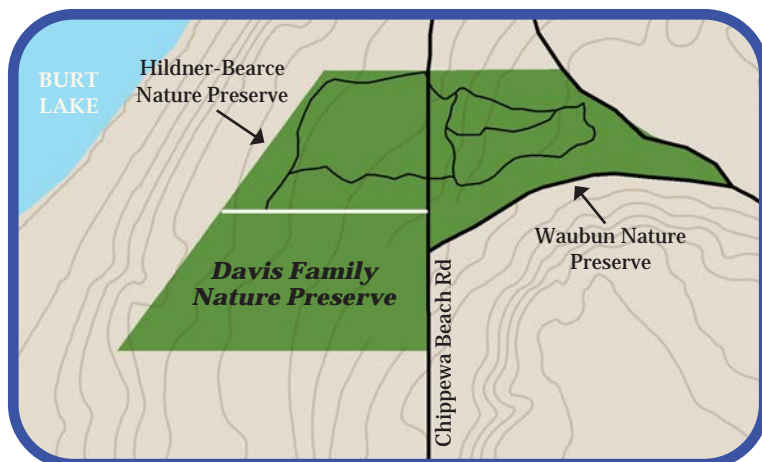


PHOTO BY TMPETERSEN



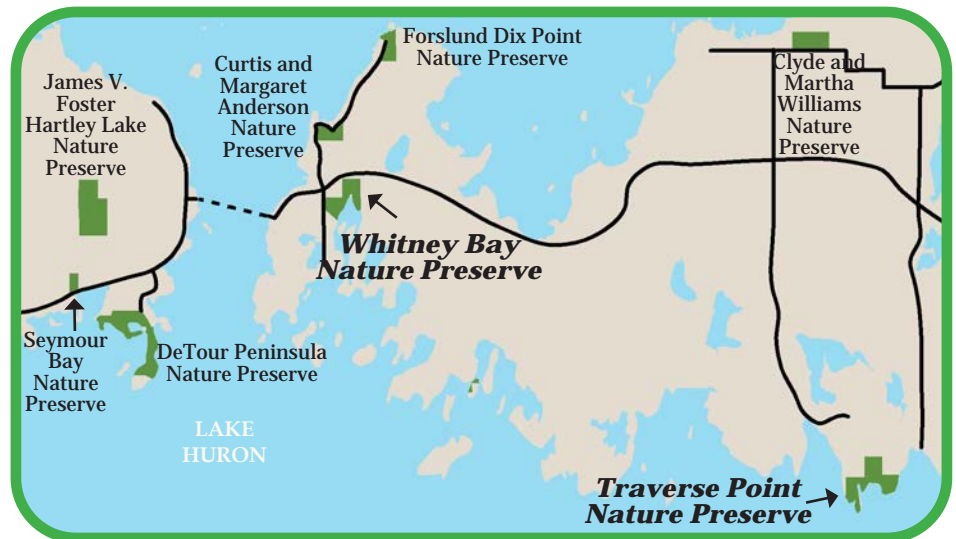
# PROTECTING A POINT

## TRAVERSE POINT NATURE PRESERVE

**A**mong the hundreds of lands protected through the Conservancy, a handful of them include more than a mile of shoreline along a Great Lake.

Thanks to funding from the J.A. Woollam Foundation, we are thrilled to announce that 111 acres on Drummond Island with 6,600 feet of Lake Huron shoreline has now been protected as the Traverse Point Nature Preserve. Located midway along the southern shore of the island, this beautiful land is mostly forested with cedar, hemlock, spruce, and fir trees. Just off its shallow waters, the shipwreck of the Steamer Agnes W. can be seen, lying in less than 15 feet of water.

“The opportunities to protect shoreline property of this magnitude are always decreasing, so we were thrilled to have the chance to complete this project,” said LTC Director of Land Protection Caitlin Donnelly. “Once again, we have the J.A. Woollam Foundation to thank for making this possible.”



### What other LTC lands include at least a mile of Great Lakes frontage?

#### NATURE PRESERVES:

- Vermilion Point Nature Preserve – 1.75 miles Lake Superior
- Round Island Point Nature Preserve – 1.7 miles Lakes Superior
- Bailey-Lagerstrom Nature Preserve – 1.3 miles St. Mary's River
- DeTour Peninsula Nature Preserve – 3.125 miles Lake Huron
- Aldo Leopold Nature Preserve – 3.83 miles Lake Huron
- Catherine Seiberling Stewart Nature Preserve – 1.25 miles Lake Huron
- William B. Derby Nature Preserve – nearly a mile Lake Huron
- Birge/Mertaugh/Nye/Wallace Preserve Complex – 3.1 miles Lake Huron
- St. Helena Island – 2.8 miles Lake Huron

#### ASSIST PROJECTS:

- Crisp Point – 4 miles Lake Superior
- Raber Bay – 1.1 miles St. Mary's River
- The Headlands – 2 miles Lake Michigan



# Community Conservation

## WHITNEY BAY NATURE PRESERVE

## *for Drummond Island*

**W**hen 93 acres of land on Drummond Island with 3,000 feet of Whitney Bay/Lake Huron frontage (see map on page 4) was listed for sale, several islanders paid close attention. “Here was an opportunity to permanently conserve a sizable and diverse set of habitats located in a strategic location,” said retired University of Wisconsin Professor of Botany Don Waller.

Don and neighbors on Drummond Island were familiar with Whitney Bay from boating and hiking nearby, and admired the natural shoreline. While Wisconsin is home, Don and his wife Caitlyn Allen consider Drummond Island their summer home. Like their neighbors, they have been deeply attached to the island for years. When they noticed a real estate ad for a larger property that included the new preserve, the idea of conserving the land took root.

Then in 2020, Don ran into Paul Smith, a fellow islander who had independently been thinking the same way. They were soon working together with neighbors to see if it might be feasible to buy the property. Ed Zeerip, Conservancy friend and easement donor, joined the effort and suggested working with LTC. Talk among neighbors on the Island met universal approval, and soon, a group of six agreed to work together to help finance the project. They then approached the Conservancy with their proposal.

“We agreed that if we could find a grant to complete the purchase, we would team up with Don and his neighbors to turn this land into a nature preserve,” said Director of Land Protection Caitlin Donnelly.

Fortunately a \$100,000 grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act program was approved in 2022.

The new preserve is 90% forested with northern white cedar, black spruce, balsam fir, paper birch and balsam poplar with openings dominated by grass, fern, and sedge - all species that have adapted to the dolomitic limestone bedrock of the region. In his ecological assessment of the property, Don noted that the shallow waters of the adjacent bay mean that motor boats typically avoid the area, contributing to its attractiveness for nesting loons and other disturbance-sensitive wildlife.

“The property serves as a key corridor connecting forests, wetlands, and other natural habitats on the southwest corner of Drummond Island with the rest of the island. This enhances the viability of populations and expands the effective habitat area for many species,” Don said. “Deer, bear, and beaver use this land regularly. Trail cameras have recorded a lone male wolf, as well as fox and bobcat, within 1 km of the new preserve.”

“This was such a satisfying land project because it was

brought to us by a group of concerned people who were willing to make contributions themselves to form the preserve,” Caitlin said. “It was a true partnership effort.”

Don agreed. “It felt wonderful, to tell you the truth, to work with friends and neighbors to make this happen because we all had the bigger purpose in mind.”



Whitney Bay Nature Preserve

# Protecting What She Loved

## KATHY BRICKER NATURE LOVER PRESERVE

**I**n early summer as you are reading this newsletter, imagine sitting on a wild stretch of shoreline in a protected bay on Lake Huron. Nearby, a Great Blue Heron stealthily hunts for frogs or minnows in the bullrushes. A raucous Kingfisher flies back and forth. You may even glimpse a northern pike or smallmouth bass in the clear, warm waters. Behind you is a dense, unbroken boreal forest of spruce, fir, and cedar. Mink or bobcat tracks in the sand indicate the reclusive residents of these woods. Warblers seem to be flitting everywhere through the dense foliage. While you may hear a boat or plane in the distance, you will not hear car traffic as this is Duck Bay on Marquette Island, the largest of the Les Cheneaux Islands.

Duck Bay has been classified as a Great Lakes marsh characterized by a deep zone with submerged plants; an emergent marsh of mostly narrow-leaved species; and a sedge-dominated wet meadow that is inundated by storms. This is one of the more imperiled and vulnerable of Michigan's 77 natural community types. Great Lakes marshes provide important habitat for migrating and breeding waterfowl and shorebirds. Studies indicate that coastal areas on the north shore of Lake Huron provide critical stopover habitat for landbird migration because of the early abundance of aquatic insect hatches. Over 50 species of fish, including several game fish, have been

documented to use the coastal wetlands of northern Lake Huron in at least some part of their life cycle. It is widely recognized that Great Lakes marshes should be a focus of conservation efforts, especially given the increasing development pressure that threatens these areas.

If you are like most people, the words above sound pretty technical. It takes a certain person who truly understands ecology to grasp the importance of this conservation. Incredibly, Kathy Bricker, LTC's first Executive Director (1978), immediately understood. Before she passed in March of this year, Kathy chose these 130 acres with ½ mile of Lake Huron frontage as a place to protect. Kathy's husband Jim, along with generosity from family and friends, have made this nature preserve possible as her legacy.

Though you may have heard Kathy's name, you may not have known of her vast accomplishments (see sidebar), because being in the limelight simply wasn't her way. Yet hers was a life of service to the natural world, and in that spirit we now celebrate Kathy Bricker through a beautiful new preserve protected in her honor and memory. The Kathy Bricker Nature Lover Preserve (her email handle) is a land that evokes so many things that she held dear and spent her lifetime protecting.

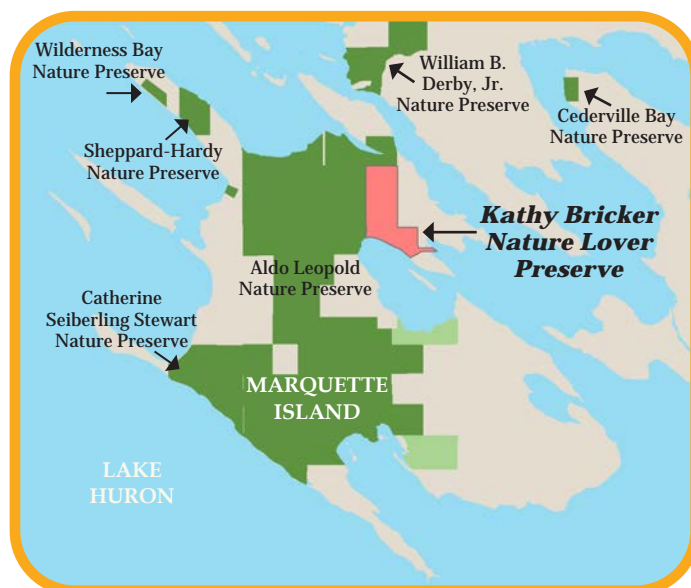




"As far as I could tell, Kathy was never not working on some project related to protecting, or educating people about the environment," stated former LTC Director of Stewardship Doug Fuller, a longtime friend of Kathy's and her husband Jim. "But, she also made plenty of time for enjoying nature and the outdoors and pursuing adventure. She felt strongly that was needed to avoid despairing about the state of things and to keep inspired to do protection work." Kathy and Jim made numerous trips to the Canadian far north, some of the wildest and most unsoiled landscapes left on Earth. They were expert wilderness travelers and had great experiences. "I had the pleasure of joining them on one of their trips, and spent three weeks amongst the caribou, wolves, and musk ox in the barren grounds of what is now Nunavut (formerly Canada's Northwest territory)," Doug said.

This property, with its remote setting, dense boreal forest, wild shoreline, and abundant wildlife, embodies many of the things that Kathy treasured. And, it's adjacent to the Aldo Leopold Preserve, one of LTC's largest nature preserves. Aldo Leopold was one of Kathy's heroes and as a boy summered on Marquette Island where he no doubt gained the foundation of his famous environmental ethic. So, it will be an especially fitting location.

In keeping with Kathy's philosophy, Doug urges readers to "get outside to enjoy nature through a hike, birdwatching, botanizing, or a paddle, and use the pleasure of that experience to motivate you to do something for the Earth."



## A LIFETIME OF CONSERVATION

**Mid-1970s:** Kathy advocated throughout northern Michigan to support the establishment of Michigan's bottle deposit law.

**Late-1970s:** As the Executive Director of LTC, Kathy mobilized a grassroots effort to successfully protect 750 acres of Emmet County's Sturgeon Bay Dunes from sand mining.

**1980s:** As the President of the Petoskey Regional Audubon Society, Kathy initiated many environmental programs. She also helped found the non-profit Recycle North, the precursor to Emmet County's award-winning recycling program.

**1980 – 2010:** Kathy, along with her husband, Jim Bricker, produced and held public showings of programs and films of the Canadian north woods and Arctic Tundra, including their most well-known film Caribou Summer.

**2005:** Revitalized the Straits Area Audubon Society as its President.

**2007:** Played an instrumental role in Cheboygan County adopting its recycling program.

**2008:** Started Earth Week-Plus, a hugely successful grassroots effort in Cheboygan to increase awareness of environmental issues and education.

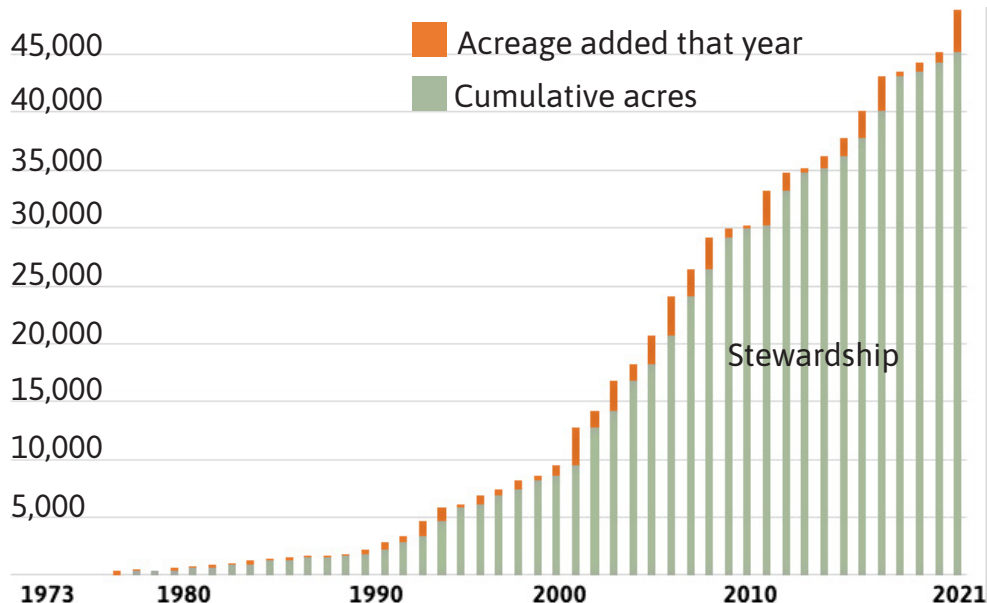
**2014:** Co-founded Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch.

**2022:** Received the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council Lifetime Achievement Award.

# MAKING A PRESERVE

Once protected, we must care for it. When a new land project is approved, LTC's land protection staff review the project with stewardship staff to get a "stewardship lens" on the new land. What might the stewardship responsibilities entail? What conservation values does the property hold? Initial visits to the property are taken to document threats (such as existing encroachments or invasive species infestations), evaluate the potential for trails, and to take brief surveys of the habitat types and any rare species of special concern. From there, we formulate a management plan that will outline our stewardship goals and actions for the future. Below is a picture of the 50-year (and growing) responsibility that staff and volunteers have for the stewardship of LTC protected lands. What a rewarding challenge!

**TOTAL ACREAGE WITHIN LTC'S CARE  
(PRESERVES AND EASEMENTS)**



## HELPING HUNTERS ENJOY OUR LANDS

The Independence Hunt is a special weekend event for veteran and disabled hunters held annually in October. We are entering our fifth year partnering with North Country Sportsman's Club, Tip of the Mitt National Deer Association, and Brave Heart's Estate who use our lands for this event. Hunters come from all over the state to hunt in Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet counties.

To learn how you can help these veteran hunters get outdoors and do something that they dearly love, visit [landtrust.org/independence-hunt](http://landtrust.org/independence-hunt).



## Seeds for All

LTC would like to thank the Pollinator Partnership for awarding us with seeds and plugs that will improve habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Through their Project Wingspan program, LTC recruited and trained volunteers who helped us collect seeds last fall. We sent those seeds to a nursery that partners with Project Wingspan to clean and distribute the seeds. They even propagate some of them to grow plugs! This spring they sent us seeds from milkweed, primrose, and boneset plants, and plugs from Joe-Pye weed. These will improve habitat for pollinators on our Meadowgate, Viewlands, Waldron Fen, and Harris preserves and reserves. We look forward to collecting seeds for Project Wingspan again this fall.





# LIVING AND LEARNING *here*

2022 SPRING EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS



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this summer!

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education programs  
are **free** to members,  
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# The Early Years

Chaboiganing Nature Preserve / Indian Point Memorial Forest

**I**n 1973, Jean and Janell Everest donated the West Wequetonsing Nature Preserve to The Nature Conservancy (TNC). TNC soon transferred the property to the newly formed Little Traverse Conservancy, making this our first ever land acquisition. The Everests had purchased the land for the sole purpose of conserving it. LTC was awaiting the final paperwork to become an official non-profit, and TNC was able to step in and facilitate the transaction as everything was coming together. It is a fascinating journey through the file to see our founders at work, long before we had any professional staff. Frank Pierce, Boo Litzenburger, and Dr. John Tanton all show up specifically in that file. Like all of our land projects in our first decade, this was a land donation. In the early years, documents in the file usually included basic due diligence items and notably lacked the added complication of raising funds. You can tell a lot about how complicated a land project is by the thickness of the file and in this era, they were comparatively thin. Notable nature preserves of the day included Charles A. Ransom, Round Lake (our current office site), and the Agnes S. Andreae cabin on the Pigeon River.

The next decade would be game changing for LTC for three major reasons: 1) our first major fund raising effort; 2) our first Trust Fund project; and 3) the use of conservation easements.

Colonial Point Memorial Forest (now called Indian Point on Burt

Lake) was what we now call an “assist” project. LTC’s role in these can be critical. The plan was for the University of Michigan Biological Station to acquire the property primarily using funds from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. However, significant matching funds were required. Newly hired executive director Tom Bailey was able to convince our Board to take risk, raise hundreds of thousands of dollars, and to lead LTC into a bold and effective new way of doing business. Before that we had solely relied on landowners who could afford to donate land. In 1985, the ability to have a landscape-level effect took a huge leap as we began to empower others who could donate money, at any level, to protect land. And, our now strong relationship with the Trust Fund led to the protection of some of the most significant parts of the northern Michigan landscape to this day.

Through the new land protection tool officially adopted by LTC in 1987, conservation easements now protect more acreage than all of our land ownership combined. Conservation easements are complex for many reasons, and those files get really thick.

The first quarter of our existence set the stage for magnificent success. Raising funds, the Trust Fund, and conservation easements have propelled this organization’s accomplishments to almost 70,000 acres protected today. Needless to say, we have had to evolve as the complexity level increased, and invest in more file space!

## The History of LTC’s Land Protection

**1972:**

The Little Traverse Conservancy is founded by John Fischer, Ed Koza, Seberon “Boo” Litzenburger, Earl Larson, Frank Pierce, Dr. John Tanton, and David Irish.

**1976:**

The Charles A. Ransom Nature Preserve is donated in Charlevoix County.

**1980:**

Round Lake Nature Preserve in Emmet County is donated.



**1973:** The first land project is acquired - the West Wequetonsing Nature Preserve in Emmet County.

**1978:** LTC hires its first, part-time staff and Executive Director, Kathy Bricker.

**1982:** Elizabeth and James Kennedy protect the Thorne Swift Nature Preserve for education and public access, and make a gift to establish what will become the Andreae Brown Family Environmental Education Endowment Fund. The project of building nature trails and an educational nature center begins.



# CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

## A UNIQUE LAND PROTECTION TOOL

**C**onservation easements were added as a land protection tool in 1986 with the first easement donated in 1987. The conservation easement provided another tool for protecting land in northern Michigan and LTC adopted this capability after the IRS rule that allowed tax deductions for qualifying easements was established in 1986. This unique tool allowed for the opportunity to have land protected, but still remain in private ownership. Landowners can help protect wildlife habitat, scenic views, shoreline, rivers, forests, and fields, while still keeping the land in family ownership or selling it in the future.

In 1987 the first conservation easement was donated to LTC by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Horner. Thirty-five years later, LTC has acquired 318 conservation easements totaling 27,508 acres. While most conservation easements have been donated, some have been purchased through special programs. The Conservancy has recently revived our Conservation Investment Program (CIP), which entails purchasing a property, placing a conservation easement on it, and re-selling it to a conservation minded buyer.

Since conservation easement properties are not open to the public, they are not as well-known as our preserves and reserves, but remain a vital component of our land protection efforts. Each conservation easement is unique to the landowners and their goals, and together, we can preserve the land's natural beauty and intrinsic value.

*"I am glad the property won't become a housing development and that farming is a focus for what is allowed. We'll be able to carry out our future plans within the parameters of the easement, yet be assured of the land's protection into the future."*

*- Katie Parsons, Easement Owner*

*"Conservation of the Les Cheneaux Islands has long been a concern of my family. I feel we owe it to the foresight of those who brought us to Long Island, to ourselves, and to those who shall come after."*

*- Bill Kurtz, Easement Owner*

*"When we placed the conservation easements on our land, the best way I can explain how I felt was that a weight was lifted from my shoulders. Undeveloped land like this is so precious and it was so important for us to know that it would always stay that way. We have always felt a responsibility to preserve and nurture our land so that others in the future can enjoy the tranquility and beauty that has captivated us. We know we have achieved that goal through our conservation easements."*

*- Penny Huber, Easement Owner*

### 1983:

The Agnes S. Andreae Nature Preserve and cabin is donated, protecting 2,000 feet of Pigeon River frontage.



### 1985:

Colonial Point Memorial Forest (now called Indian Point), LTC's first million-dollar project, is undertaken.

**1984:** Tom Lagerstrom (left) and Tom Bailey (right) are hired as Membership Coordinator and Executive Director, respectively.



**1987:** LTC's first conservation easement is completed.



# A Most Successful Partnership:

## THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND AND LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY

*Written by Tom Bailey, Former LTC Executive Director*

**A**mong the many partnerships in which LTC participates, perhaps the most productive for conservation and public recreation has been our relationship with the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Since the mid 1980s, collaborative projects involving LTC, the Trust Fund, the State of Michigan and 17 local units of government have created 34 public parks or additions to State Parks and State Forests. These projects have dedicated more than 10,900 acres to public use and conservation, opened more than fifteen miles of lake, river and stream shoreline to public enjoyment and created many miles of recreational trails. These acquisitions, valued at more than \$39 million at the time they took place, were made possible because the Conservancy raised some \$10.8 million in local matching funds to match more than \$28 million in Trust Fund dollars.

The leverage and power of these projects extends beyond money. The Colonial Point Memorial Forest project, now owned by the University of Michigan Biological Station and known as "Indian Point," protects a living laboratory for research on forest ecology and climate. It vaulted LTC into a leadership role in land conservation in Michigan and nationally. Projects such as Hessel Beach, The Headlands, East and West parks at Bay Harbor, Camp Petosega, and Spring Lake Park cemented relationships between the Conservancy and local government park programs. The Petoskey-Mackinaw City Trail, Storey Lake, Lee Grand

Storey Lake, Cheboygan County

**1988:**

North Point Natural Area project is completed and transferred to Charlevoix Township.



**1991:**

The 750-acre Sturgeon Bay Dunes are protected, successfully ending a 10-year effort.



**1989:** First land protection specialist is hired, Glen Chown.



**1992:** The first Beaver Island conservation easement is accepted and the first preserve in the Les Cheneaux Islands is donated by Oliver and Edna Birge.



Ranch, Sturgeon Bay Dunes and other projects helped the DNR to fill important gaps in State Parks, State Forests, and recreational trails.

A hallmark of the successful Trust Fund/LTC partnership is the collegial relationship between the LTC staff, the state, and local units of government. LTC gets no funding from the Trust Fund and can't own the land purchased with Trust Fund dollars. Instead, the Conservancy works as a free consultant for local units and sometimes, because the real estate market usually moves more quickly than the state is able to act, to acquire the land and hold it for subsequent transfer of ownership to the state. LTC always puts energy into a Trust Fund project and never profits from it.

The Trust Fund was the brainchild of DNR Regional Director Don Inman, developed by Director Howard Tanner and Michigan United Conservation Clubs Executive Director Tom Washington, championed by Governor William Milliken and passed into law thanks to the leadership and sponsorship of Senator Kerry Kammer in 1976. Hailed as a great compromise in a very public dispute over oil and gas drilling in the Pigeon River Country State Forest, the fund was originally called the "Land Trust Fund." The voters of Michigan wisely enshrined the fund in the state constitution by referendum, and recently approved an amendment which provides flexibility and additional future revenue. The fund has served as a model for others and is the envy of state resource agencies and recreation authorities nationwide.

Since reaching its "cap" of \$500 million, the fund has been operating as a foundation thanks to the wisdom and guidance of Sam Cummings, Bill Rustem, and Steve

Hamp. Appointment to the trust fund board is one of the most popular and sought-after posts in state government, as noted by Bob Garner, who as Senator Kammer's right hand staff member shepherded the Trust Fund bill through the legislative process and later served on the Trust Fund Board.

The Trust Fund/LTC relationship has produced wonderful benefits for public conservation and recreation and stands as a shining example of what can be accomplished when people and organizations work together in service to a worthy cause.



Jones Landing, Emmet County

#### 1994:

LTC, The Nature Conservancy, and Les Cheneaux Foundation team up to protect the Mackinac Bay Nature Preserve. Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve on Beaver Island is protected (right).



**1996:** The Headlands project protects 600 acres in northern Emmet County with nearly 2.5 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. Seven Springs Nature Preserve on Burt Lake is protected (right).



#### 1997:

More than 10,000 acres of land is protected by the Conservancy to date.

**2000:** Oden Island Nature Preserve is purchased, completing one of the organization's most challenging fundraising projects ever.





# The Offield Family Challenge Years

**I**n the summer of 2000, Jim Offield of the Offield Family Foundation presented an organizational-changing proposal to then LTC Executive Director Tom Bailey. The Offield family proposed granting the Conservancy \$1 million per year for 10 years beginning in 2001.

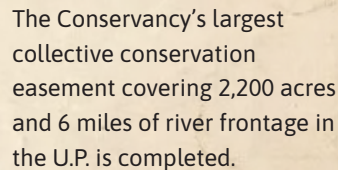
"Northern Michigan has been home to our family for 6 generations," Jim described. "From my grandparents to my youngest niece, the Harbor Springs area is where the magic happens. As a kid it defined summer. The lake. The woods. The small town. The weather. And same is true in the winter. Its breathtaking beauty in the stillness of a heavy snow. The beauty of the frozen harbor. It was home. The sheer natural beauty of the area was captivating."

Later known as the “Offield Family Challenge,” the Conservancy was charged with using the annual grants to further its land protection efforts and to challenge area individuals and foundations to help meet this challenge by donating land, easements and financial support. The Offield Family Challenge ignited the entire organization and led to an unprecedented transformation of the Conservancy.

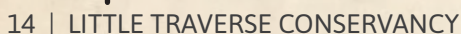
Jim explained the motivation behind the challenge. “I think we realized 20 years ago the uniqueness of the area was due to its wild natural beauty, and if we were to maintain this, we needed to be proactive in land protection. LTC was on the forefront of land protection and helped the Offield family design a \$10 million pledge to help build the ‘emerald necklace’ around Harbor Springs. It was the start

The Offield Family  
Challenge grant begins  
and LTC protects 3,500  
acres, its largest land  
protection year ever.

LTC acquires the 200-acre Helmer's Dam/Robert D. VanCampen Nature Preserve with a mile of Pigeon River frontage.



**2005:** A successful community effort raises \$1 million to protect the eastern shore of the Black Hole and Pickerel-Crooked Lakes Channel. *Pictured right: Bobolink at the Black Hole by Darrell Lawson.*





of truly understanding the effects of land conservation on the quality of life. Needless to say, with the advent of Covid, climate change, and overpopulation, protected wide open spaces that are easily accessible to the public are an absolute must to maintain one's health. Getting outside into the woods is more important today than ever before."

Prior to the challenge, the Conservancy had protected 13,000 acres valued at \$54 million. By the completion of the challenge in 2012, a total of 48,860 acres had been protected, nearly tripling the beginning total. Land protected during that period was valued at \$95.5 million!

Of the 314 projects that were completed during the challenge years, several stand out:

- One of the first projects was the Boyd B. Banwell Nature Preserve with 320 acres and 2.5 miles of meandering Pigeon River frontage.
- St. Helena Island in the Mackinac Straits was acquired in 2001 thanks to donations totaling \$1.5 million.
- In 2002, the Mayne family donated the Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve. The 625-acre property is a mix of upland forest and high quality hay fields.
- In 2009, the 390-acre Offield Family Working Forest Reserve located within the Harbor Springs Greenbelt was protected with funding from the Offield Family Foundation (**top right**).
- A donation from Nick and Susan Noyes in 2011 created the 145-acre DeTour Peninsula Nature Preserve. The preserve includes 3 miles of frontage on Lake Huron (**bottom right**).
- The largest project was the spectacular 3,810-acre Crisp Point property, with 4 miles of frontage on Lake Superior. Now owned by the State of Michigan, the Conservancy helped coordinate the acquisition and raise the \$6 million funding (**previous page, top**).

"In addition to this incredible land protection that changed our landscape forever, the Offield Family Challenge prompted creativity and new partnerships," said LTC Executive Director Kieran Fleming. "We are lucky to live in a place where those who love it invest in protecting it. In 200 years, the people of northern Michigan can thank the Offields for so much!"



PHOTO BY RAY GAYNOR



#### 2008:

The Greenwood Foundation donates a 1,390-acre conservation easement in Cheboygan County (right).



#### 2010:

600 feet of Lake Charlevoix is protected with the Charles M. Taylor, III Nature Preserve.

**2007:** LTC assists the state in acquiring Lee Grande Ranch in Cheboygan County, a 2,434-acre natural area.

**2009:** LTC acquires a remarkable 390-acre natural wonder just a few miles east of Harbor Springs named the Offield Family Working Forest Reserve in honor of the family's decades of generosity.

**2011:** A generous donation of the 145-acre DeTour Peninsula Nature Preserve protects 3 miles of Lake Huron.



# The Shared Language of Land

Written by Caitlin Donnelly, Director of Land Protection

**R**eflecting on the poignant moments in our organization's history — the first land project, the Offield Challenge years, the nearly 67,000 acres of land protected across our service area — it is a good time to contemplate how we got here and where we are going. In addition to major conservation wins like the Bologna conservation easement, we've also come to realize projects that we thought we'd never get ourselves into, including owning a former golf course that is now the Offield Family Viewlands Working Forest Reserve.

Innovation is and always has been the cornerstone of LTC, starting with our founders who had the vision for what our organization is today. It was Kathy Bricker who led the charge to protect Sturgeon Bay Dunes, a northern Michigan landmark. Our Conservation Investment Program, born out of the Offield Challenge days, took us to the next level of land protection in the Harbor Springs Greenbelt and beyond.

Innovation means doing more with less — and it's more than just the bucks and acres. It all comes down to what LTC does best, and that is maintaining genuine relationships. We are a conduit for landowners who have already been protecting their lands for perhaps generations. We are here to provide options for those who want to preserve their own version of heaven on earth. Building a foundation of trust and mutual love for the land gets the projects done. When it comes to land, we likely speak the same language. It's what has brought 4,325 members to this mission, fundraised for

projects that seemed out of reach, and carried this work further than we may have ever thought possible.

The future of land protection will always be more projects. It does not mean reinventing the wheel, but continuing to add to our wheelhouse. This means more conservation: larger tracts in the far reaches of our service area, continued promotion of conservation easements, and expanding the number and variety of funding sources to make the projects "go." There will be continued challenges of ecological and financial nature, in policies and political forces outside of our control, and in finding balance with continued developmental pressure. We will need to take creative risks, stepping out of our typical box to effectively respond to community needs and desires. It may mean that we facilitate a trail through a community park by acquiring that last needed parcel, or that we assist a local township in purchasing land for a public beach. It may not always look like a conventional conservation project, protected on the merits of habitat or frontage on an important waterway, but may simply be a project that fosters appreciation for what we all love about the north country. And we will continue to maintain our relevancy in the communities we serve through protecting land for people, not from people (that's what we call a "Baileysism").

In the words of a familiar conservationist, Aldo Leopold, "We shall never achieve harmony with land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations the important thing is not to achieve, but to strive." And we will keep striving.

## 2012:

The Conservancy coordinates private donations and a federal grant that allows the State to acquire Crisp Point, a 3,810-acre natural area with 4 miles of Lake Superior shoreline.

## 2014:

The Woollam Family Nature Preserve is created near Cross Village, completing a \$1.8 million fundraiser to protect the shifting dunes and Lake Michigan frontage on the preserve.

## 2016:

The 640-acre Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve along the Pigeon River is acquired. The Conservancy also acquires the Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve, 263 acres across from the Allan and Virginia McCune Nature Preserve in Emmet County.

**2013:** Total acres protected surpasses 50,000 acres, more than doubling in the 11 years since the Offield Family Challenge began.

**2015:** LTC begins its Working Forest Program. It will feature habitat and wildlife improvements through forest management, and encourage a healthy undergrowth and succession, especially in pine plantations.

**2017:** The 248-acre Consuelo Diane & Charles L. Wilson, Jr. Working Forest Reserve is acquired thanks to a local fundraising effort. A donation from the Fabiano family creates the 1,400-acre Fabiano Family Working Forest Reserve in the eastern Upper Peninsula.





Trout Lily  
PHOTO BY JULIE FALK

**2018:**

Tom Bailey retires; Kieran Fleming transitions to become Executive Director.

**2020:**

One of the Conservancy's most ambitious projects is completed with the \$2 million acquisition of the former 280-acre Little Traverse Bay Golf Club. Now named the Offield Family Viewlands, this property has sweeping views and is being restored to forested land and native meadows.

**2022:**

Thanks to the generosity of its members and supporters, over the past 50 years the Conservancy has protected 67,068 acres!

**2019:** After more than a decade of negotiations with a foreign owner, the Conservancy is able to facilitate the State acquisition of Storey Lake, 2,103 acres within the Pigeon River State Forest.

**2021:** With help from a \$1 million federal grant, LTC purchases a 1,766-acre conservation easement on the headwaters of the Maple River, one of the most significant ecological areas of Emmet County.

**Beyond:** The future is bright for another successful 50 years. ***Thank you for making it all possible.***



# Mothers of Conservation

## TWO OF LTC'S LONGEST MEMBERS

Written by Emily Hughes, CFO and mother

Fifty years ago, seven men who loved northern Michigan united to protect land. They founded Little Traverse Conservancy and passed the hat to pay for it. Standing at their sides were incredible women who have carried on the legacy of protecting land. Whether these powerful women of conservation literally raised children or nurtured ideas into reality like Kathy Bricker (see page 6), these mothers are the Conservancy's first and longest members. Ann Irish (married to founder Dave Irish) and Mary Lou Tanton (married to founder Dr. John Tanton) are among them.

## Mary Lou Tanton

If you value the beauty of Emmet County's landscape, you have Mary Lou to thank. Serving for 20 years on the Emmet County Planning Commission, Mary Lou helped shape and preserve the countryside. If you have ever appreciated the limited signage in Michigan and low-light pollution, you can thank Mary Lou again. She served on Scenic Michigan to create healthy limits on signage to ensure easy visibility and limit light pollution. If you have enjoyed the Skyline Trail east of Petoskey, you also have Mary Lou to thank for her work to establish it. Mary Lou did this and more to help protect what you love about northern Michigan. She did this while raising two daughters and running the family's household. She has been a member of LTC for 50 years and the Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve, protected in 2016, stands in honor of her and her family.



Laura, Mary Lou, and Jane Tanton.



## Ann Irish

Another mother to hold in high esteem is Ann Irish. While raising four young children and supporting Dave's growing business (the Irish Boat Shop of Harbor Springs), Ann was instrumental in shaping the educational culture of Harbor Springs and Petoskey. After spending eight years on the Harbor Springs School Board,



Ann and Dave Irish with their four children.



Ann Irish at her home in Harbor Springs.

Ann supported the fledgling North Central Michigan College as a trustee and went on to found the college's foundation. If you live in or visit northern Michigan, you have been positively impacted by the quality education offered here. With that education, our community thrives. With that education, people like you see the benefit of supporting the protection of land here. The David H. Irish Nature Preserve, protected in 2021, stands in honor of Dave. The preserve was created by his entire family who are led by their matriarch, Ann, who has been a member of LTC for 50 years.

*We are honored to know Ann and Mary Lou and be inspired by them.*



# Thank You...

**John Baker, Richard Jenkins, and Gary Gauthier** for a complete bathroom renovation at our intern house.

**Harbor Springs Excavating** for discounted plowing.

**Denny Dougherty** for generously providing a tour and information of features at the Voyageur Island park for potential use at LTC lands.

**Pat and Julie Dougherty** for donating lumber and building boardwalk cribs for Chaboiganing Nature Preserve.

**Mary Trout** for leading birding field trips at Waldron Fen Nature Preserve.

Lumber hauling rock stars **John Baker, Dan Dueweke, Dakota Finnerty, Chris Ford, Clif Kennedy, Kathy Lawson, Richard Lord, John Merrill, Tom Rowland, and Richard Seibert** at Susan Creek Nature Preserve.

**Mary Jane Clayton and Richard Jenkins** for counting thousands of trail camera pictures.

**Glen Matthews** for unplugging a culvert at Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve, among other helpful miscellaneous tasks.

**Mary Flynn** for help at the Van Lokeren Family Lakeside Preserve posting boundary signs and removing invasive species.

**Cori Gokee, Peri McGuiness, and Diane Morand** for pulling garlic mustard at Uh-ni-nah tig ziibing Nature Preserve on the hottest day of spring.

**Scott Carbeck** with the Al Litzenburger Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society for leading an American woodcock field trip at the Sally & Art Hailand, Jr. and Helstrom Family Nature Preserve Complex.

**Theresa Flange, Chris Ford, Mark Gilbert, Gregg and KC Kahsar, Tim McClure, Peri McGuiness, Lisa Morris, Mark Pachla, Areya, Kenneth and Nolan Wells** for planting trees at the Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve on Earth Day weekend.

**Peri McGuiness** for planting trees and cleaning up trash at the Caroline and Willis Brown Nature Preserve.

**John and Sue Esser, Susan Hannah, Peri McGuiness, John and Mary Merrill, and Eileen Thorp** for cleaning up trash at the Seberon "Boo" Litzenburger Nature Preserve.

**John Esser, Peri McGuiness and Tom Rowland** for trail clearing and maintenance at the Offield Family Working Forest Reserve.

**Bill Courtois, Frank D'Andraia, Jacque LaFreniere, and David and Carol Murray** for changing trail camera data chips.

**Sally and William Brown, Jacqui Durand, Miranda Fisher, Kevin and Linda Hammond, Anika, Will, Megan and Robert Harris, Dennis and Lori Heathfield, Kelly Jo Kitchen, Sue and Bill Klco, Linda Kortesoja, John Merrill, Amber, Stu and Theo Neils, and Jessilynn and Helene Norcross** for planting trees at the Consuelo Diane and Charles L. Wilson, Jr. Working Forest Reserve.

**Mike Kostal** for building and donating bird houses for preserves.

**Les Arnold** for brush hogging the meadow at the Elmer Johnston Nature Preserve.

**Lee Eckstrom** for crafting two beautiful, custom tables for LTC's office entry way. (Pictured here on the right with LTC Land Protection Specialist Joe Graham on the left.)





# Welcome New Members!

Welcome to the following new members who joined between February 15 and May 12, 2022.

Birdie Baker  
Douglas Barron and Brian Goff  
Edie Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Brown  
Kris and Allie Brueck  
Dean and Jodie Cady  
Christian and Pamela Colby  
Sault Area Garden Club  
Adam Cushman  
Taryn Davis-Hanson  
Paul and Linda Dawson  
Dawne and Larry Fink  
Benjamin and Miranda Fisher  
Theresa Flange  
Zachary Fletcher  
Corrienne L Gokee  
Tyler and Kelsey Gostinger  
Susan Hall  
Kathryn Hartlieb  
Ali Hassani  
Chris and Lisa Hebb  
Peter and Susan Hedemark  
Andy and Erika Koehler  
Bill Krause  
Robert A. Marzosa  
Sarah McDonnell  
Peter and Camille Moss  
Rachael and Will Peek  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Pink  
Dan Pulver  
Ms. Heide Ralli  
Jennifer and Geoffrey Reynolds  
Michael Roberts  
John Scholl  
Kerri Smith  
Mike Snyder  
Colin Taylor  
Michael Tracy  
Nicholas Tracy  
Neil Victor  
William and Amy Wolff  
Will's Outdoor World  
Joseph and Elizabeth Wyskiel

## Beyond Our Own Lifetimes

### THE POWER OF PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving is about looking beyond our own lifetimes, and permanent land protection is one of the most profound ways to accomplish this. Joanne and Micheal Cromley's vision has evolved from donating a conservation easement to planting seeds and trees that benefit wildlife to ultimately turning their land into a permanent nature preserve. These are all acts of hope and love for the land, and all who inhabit and enjoy it.

*Written by Joanne and Micheal Cromley, Easement Owners*

**T**wenty-nine years ago with the help of Little Traverse Conservancy we purchased 240 acres in Cheboygan County and placed it in a conservation easement. Our sole intent was to protect this land that had been logged twice and over grazed.

Nature has done a remarkable job of growing trees and returning the land to one of diversity. We have given nature a bit of help with planting a variety of trees and bushes that benefit the birds and other creatures as well as trying to reduce invasive species by spreading milkweed seeds across the fields. This effort has been successful in not only increasing the acres of milkweed but also increasing the number of Monarchs we see each year.

We also participate in LTC's Kestrel program. With their help we put up a nesting box and monitor it every spring. This year looks promising as we have a pair of Kestrels hunting around the nest box daily.

All of this describes the close and deep bond we feel toward this small piece of land but also the bond we feel toward LTC. Without their steadfast vision we would not have been able to realize our dream, which is why the final step in our commitment is to donate the land to LTC upon our passing. Including LTC in our estate planning has helped us fulfill our profound commitment to LTC, to their mission and to preserving the natural world we love so much. LTC will continue to protect this 240 acres but it will be opened to the public as a preserve, so that all can enjoy a little bit of our heaven on earth.



Joanne and Micheal Cromley



# Memorials & Honorariums

The following gifts were given between February 15 and May 12, 2022.

## IN HONOR OF

### Wally Crockett

Chris Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Asbury

### Wick and Gardiner Garrard

Rachael and Will Peek

### Sarah Gurney

William and Lucy Stubbings

### Becky Jane Hill

Scott and Catherine Hill

### Rick and Lotsie Holton of Twin Branch Farm

Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Holton

### Joyce and Fred Koehler

Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Merten, Jr.

### Lisa Marie Maxson

Karl and Michelle Hansen

### Karla Sherman

Heide Ralli

### Leah Stavenhagen

Chris Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Asbury

## IN MEMORY OF

### Charles Asbury

Chris Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Asbury

### Chris Asbury

Chris Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Asbury

### Tracy Bieser

Mr. and Mrs. David H. Hoster, II

### James Booth

Nancy and Bruce Turner

### Kathy Bricker

Anonymous

Thomas Bailey and Heidi Marshall

Ms. Eileen M. Bur

Cheboygan Golf & Country Club

Arthur W. Curtis, III

Ms. Catherine T. Freebairn

Martha Lancaster and Doug Fuller

Michael and Christine Grant

Melissa Hansen

Emily Hughes

John and Beverley Kirby

Tom Lagerstrom and Mary Anne Griffin

Kathleen Lancour

Dale and Gloria Landes

Diane Morand

Mr. Mark Paddock

Katie Parker and Bert Ebbers

Mr. and Mrs. Max R. Putters

Caroline J. Smith Sheaffer

Walter Susor

Don and Mary Trout

Nancy Waldron

Wheeler Motors, Inc.

Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Woollcott

### Mojo and Daisy Brinkel (dog)

Jennifer Operhall

### Jean and Art Burton

Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Merten, Jr.

### Katie Crockett

Chris Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Asbury

### Sharron Dillin

Ms. Cynthia A. Van Allen

### Barbara Flemming

Mrs. Joey Arbaugh

Ms. Dolores Beetham

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Clarke

Bruce and Nancy Dunn

Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Godfrey

Mr. and Mrs. Hord Hardin, II

### Brian Granger

Mr. and Mrs. James K. Dobbs, III

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### Tucker Harris

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Old Homestead Homeowners Association

### Jullian Parker

Lisa and John Maxson

Mark and Sarah Parker

### June Parrish

Jack and Tay Howell

Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Parker

Mrs. Elizabeth and Mr. Morton Payne

Margaret and Bill Stude

### Dina Pettersen Riquelme

Chris Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Asbury

### Willard E Rohrbeck

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Rohrbeck

### Trev Warfield

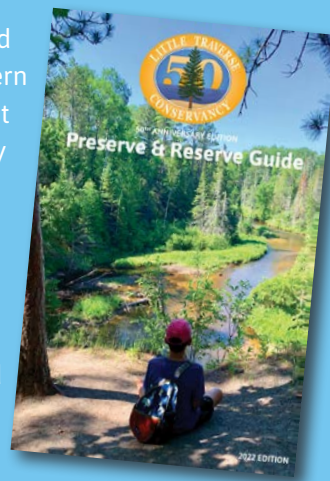
Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Merten, Jr.

### William Weiss

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Sanford

## 50th Anniversary Edition Trail Guide

Explore our top-recommended preserves and reserves across all five counties! This handy pocket-sized booklet is your go-to guide to access woods, water, and wonder in northern Michigan. Current members already received theirs via mail. If you haven't received one, make sure to stop in! Free for members and \$5 for not-yet-members.





# Welcome, Cole!

We're excited to welcome Cole Hoffman to the crew this summer as a Stewardship Technician!

"I grew up in Harbor Springs where I loved to explore nature. I graduated from Harbor Springs High School in 2020, and I attend Michigan Technological University in Houghton where I am pursuing a bachelor's degree in Forestry. I wanted to work with LTC because I love being outside and working to let everyone enjoy what nature has to offer. Some of my hobbies include downhill skiing, mountain biking, and hunting. My favorite spot to explore and adventure would be the



Keweenaw Peninsula. It has so many incredible spots to explore whether you are hiking, biking, swimming or just taking in some of the great scenery. A few of my favorite spots are Canyon Falls, Douglass Houghton Falls, and Bare Bluffs."

## A Golden Time to Celebrate!

Join us for Little Traverse Conservancy's  
*50th Annual Meeting*

Tuesday, August 2, 2022  
*The Lyric Theater, Harbor Springs*

9:30 am	Sweets and coffee
10:00 am	Meeting
11:30 am	Gurney's lunch (\$10 cost)

Optional field trips to the Consuelo Diane and Charles L. Wilson, Jr. Working Forest Reserve and the Seberon "Boo" Litzenburger Nature Preserve will follow lunch.

Call 231.347.0991 or email [gurney@landtrust.org](mailto:gurney@landtrust.org) to reserve your spot.



## limited edition **50<sup>th</sup>** anniversary mugs

- Handmade by local potter Stephen Stuchell
- Each mug is unique and design varies slightly
- First come, first served - **only 50 available!**
- Call 231.347.0991 or email [lrc@landtrust.org](mailto:lrc@landtrust.org) to purchase - **\$50 each**
- Must be picked up at the LTC office





# 2022 SUMMER EVENTS

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).

## 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! Different route options are available based on ability. Strollers, dogs on leash, all are welcome! No need to register.

## OPPORTUNITY TO TOUR THE TRACY CONSERVATION EASEMENT

*Monday, June 27 / 9:00 - 11:00am  
Tracy property, Cheboygan County*

Michelle and Chris Tracy donated a conservation easement to LTC on their 485-acre parcel in 2007. They are graciously providing an opportunity to visit their property to share its story. Michelle and Chris (and their sons - Mike and Nick) have worked with several conservation organizations and partners, foresters, and habitat specialists, to carry out a variety of habitat management projects. Their property, located in northern Cheboygan County, boasts forests, forest openings, wetlands, a diversity of wildlife, and the Green Creek flows through it. Come see this beautiful property to learn from Chris and project participants about conservation goals, habitat improvement projects, and life around Green Creek.

## MYCOLOGY WALKS

*Saturday, July 9 and Saturday, August 13  
9:00 - 10:30 am  
Location TBD*

Join LTC and Mike Banyai of the Northern Michigan Mycological Society for an educational mushroom hunting foray. We will meet at a location determined 1 week in advance in order to select a site with good mushroom variety. We will wander off trail and hunt for interesting mushrooms individually, and then reconvene to identify the mushrooms as a group! Two dates are available.

## COMMUNITY PADDLE WITH PADDLE ANTRIM

*Thursday, July 21 / 6:30 - 8:00pm  
St. Clair Lake-Six Mile Lake Natural Area*

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

## EXPLORE THE HINDLE ROSS TRAILS

*Saturday, July 30 / 10:00am - 12:00pm  
Hindle property, Emmet County*

This is a unique opportunity to experience the trails of Debbie Hindle and Ken Ross's property with Caitlin Ludlow, an embodied movement and mindfulness teacher. On this forest bathing experience, we will focus our attention on our senses and the other-than-human world as a way of reducing stress and regulating our nervous systems. The property contains 80 acres of rolling meadows and woodlands. Enjoy the beautiful views of the Waugoshance Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula. Also take time to linger at the various seating areas provided to look for wildflowers and birds.

## EXPLORE DETOUR

*Friday, August 5 / 7:30pm - Sunset  
DeTour Peninsula Nature Preserve*

Take a midsummer trip to DeTour to look for wildflowers and stroll an undeveloped Great Lakes shoreline at LTC's DeTour Peninsula Nature Preserve. Staff trip leader, Derek Shiels, will point out some of the property's special plants and then cool off in Lake Huron if desired! Closed toe shoes are recommended, but Derek will probably be wearing sandals. Bring a water bottle and swimsuit.

## BIKING THROUGH HISTORY

*Saturday, August 6 / 10:00am - 2:00pm  
LTC office, 3264 Powell Rd. Harbor Springs*

Have you ever wondered what preserves you pass between Little Traverse Conservancy's office and Harbor Springs? Join staff members Joe Graham and Emily Hughes for a there-and-back tour to discover some of the best kept secrets. Meet at the Conservancy's office on Powell Road and bike along Beach Road to Harbor Springs with stops at preserves along the way. Bring a bagged lunch or grab food in town and we will eat at Zorn Park on the waterfront. Our return trip will take us up to M-119 and back to LTC along the Little Traverse Wheelway. This trip requires the ability to bike at least 12 miles on both roads and the Little Traverse Wheelway.

## DISCOVER THE BEAUTIFUL SEBERON "BOO" LITZENBURGER NATURE PRESERVE

*Wednesday, September 21 / 1:00 - 2:00pm  
Seberon "Boo" Litzenburger Nature Preserve*

We celebrated the opening of this brand new preserve located along the M-119 Scenic Corridor at the end of last year. This preserve was protected and named in memory of one of LTC's original founders. We'll explore the nearly 1-mile trail system through the spectacularly scenic setting.

## GO FOR GOLD

*Saturday, September 24 / 12:00 - 1:30pm  
Location TBD, Cheboygan County*

We're on a search for gold this golden anniversary year! Goldenrod that is. Join LTC staff member, Amy Lipson, for an informative hike and hunt for goldenrods. She will discuss their value to the ecosystem as well as identification tips and fun facts for other plants we come across. Plan for appropriate footwear to walk across soggy ground or very shallow water.



# THE LTC TEAM

YOU, Our member  
Our volunteers

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Little Traverse Conservancy  
3264 Powell Road  
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[www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)

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**Friday, July 22, 2022**  
*Offield Family Viewlands Reserve*

**Save the Trees Cocktail Party**  
**6 - 7:30pm**

**Details and tickets:**  
[www.landtrust.org/save-the-trees](http://www.landtrust.org/save-the-trees)

**Rock the Forest Concert**  
**8 - 10pm**