

THE VISIONING EDITION

PROTECTING THE NORTH COUNTRY WE ALL LOVE



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



Winter 2022 - 23 | Vol. 44 No. 4
www.landtrust.org | 231.347.0991

THE LTC TEAM

YOU, Our member
Our volunteers

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Cedric A. (Rick) Richner, III, *Chair*
Phil Porter, *Vice Chair*
Jon Lyons, *Treasurer*
Karie Slavik, *Secretary*

Josh Baker	Tom Litzner
Lisa Blanchard	Lisa Loyd
Richard M. Bolton	Glen Matthews
Michael T. Cameron	Harriet McGraw
George M. Covington	David G. Mengebier
Mary Faculak	John Merrill
Jeffrey S. Ford	Emerson Meyer
Gregg K. Garver	Maureen Nicholson
John Griffin	Consie Pierrepont
Eric Hemenway	Bill Roney
Joe Kimmell	Tom Rowland
Dave Kring	R. Ham Schirmer
Darrell Lawson	Meg Sprow
Nancy Lindsay	Susan I. Stewart

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Mary Faculak, *Land Protection*
Gregg K. Garver, *Stewardship*
John Merrill, *Education*
Phil Porter, *Nominating*
Jon Lyons, *Investment*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kieran Fleming

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Ty Ratliff

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Thomas Lagerstrom

CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Emily Hughes

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Sarah Gurney

COMMUNICATIONS

Anne Fleming, *Director of Community Outreach and Communications*
Lindsay Hall, *Communications Specialist*

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Cacia Lesh

LAND PROTECTION

Caitlin Donnelly, *Director*
Joe Graham, *Land Protection Specialist*

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Sarah Mayhew, *Director*
Sarah Koetje, *Education Specialist*

STEWARDSHIP

Derek Shiels, *Director*
Melissa Hansen, *Director of Conservation Easements*
Charles Dawley, *Technology and Stewardship*
Mike Lynch, *Preserve Stewardship*
Amy Lipson, *Conservation Specialist*
Brad Von Blon, *Stewardship Technician*

The Bridge From Past to Future

by Kieran Fleming, Executive Director

As we close the celebration of LTC's 50th anniversary, you have seen this newsletter touch on our Land, Stewardship, and Education programs. We have been paying homage to the past and setting the stage for conversations of what the future may hold. In this edition, we will try to focus on the people and communities we serve through our mission and give some ink to how our constituents will guide the path of the Conservancy in the next 50 years.

One way to illustrate what I mean is in the words of a rather new employee. Within these pages Joe Graham writes about some of the historical core values he has observed in his two years on our staff. He poses them as keys to our success, keys that should remain with us in the future. I beam with pride seeing how our culture has been embraced and affirmed by our staff, particularly those who weren't around when these things were taking shape. Institutional memory is important, at least for LTC.

Also within these pages you will read about an endowment fund set up by Tom and Pat Jeffs (see page 16). Tom was on our Board for almost 10 years including when I became LTC's Director. Tom has enormous experience in dealing with many of the challenges I was then (and often still am) facing. He quickly became one of the people I leaned on more heavily. I suspect Tom doesn't recall those conversations as being significant, but I was a sponge. For me, his gifts to LTC go far beyond the dependable and significant financial support. When he and his wife Pat decided to make a major gift to LTC's endowment, I wasn't surprised at all. My emotion was more along the lines of pride that their names will

forever be attached to LTC as a living legacy. I have met many wonderful people in my time at LTC; Tom and Pat are in the upper tier of that category.

In spirit with the theme of standing with the strength given to us by people in the past, and looking ahead to leveraging that and engaging new people in the future, I'll share a quick story about the City of East Jordan. In 1992, the Dressel family donated a nature preserve to LTC. It has frontage on the Jordan River and is wonderful wildlife habitat. Over the years, we began to assemble more land contiguous to or very near the Dressel Preserve with the largest being the Rogers Family Homestead Preserve. This adds up to significant water frontage within the City limits. East Jordan chooses to look at LTC lands as an asset, and now we have entered a partnership with them, and many local stakeholders, to create a new universally accessible trail connecting downtown, through Sportsmen's Park, all the way out to the trail at the Rogers Family Homestead Nature Preserve. This new trail will span a half mile of wetlands and open water and benefit people of all mobility levels. It will be a destination all by itself. We still have significant funds to raise for this one and you will be hearing a lot more about it (see pages 4-5).

But this story illustrates how the work of our past can lead to incredible opportunities in the future. Just as that boardwalk will bridge the gap between a community and a cherished resource, it also bridges the gap from where we have been, to where we are going. Those who hold our mission dearly believe that LTC's work is good for everyone who lives in or visits this magnificent region. The challenge is to make sure the people we serve through land conservation see that relevance, so that they are empowered to propel this incredible work.

50/50 VISION

VALUES FOR SUCCESS

by Joe Graham
Land Protection Specialist

This year's 50th anniversary has been a great opportunity for many of us to deepen our understanding of LTC's history. As the saying goes, "You can't really know where you are going until you know where you have been." In the case of a widely successful organization like LTC, we need to understand and shape strategies around the core values that have brought us here. As I've learned about the past, I have found there are a few values we must ensure remain central to our work.

Engaging with our community and seeking broad relevance

We must ensure we are a part of our communities, that we are at the table listening to their needs and finding areas where we can serve them. Relevancy, while staying true to our mission, will be a core consideration in our work. It's our way of ensuring LTC remains a leading and cherished organization.

Empowering landowners

29,550 acres of LTC's land protection is the result of donations of land and conservation easements. This is the cornerstone of LTC's success; people here have a love for their land. Almost daily I am humbled by their generosity and foresight to preserve the northern Michigan we all love. It is essential that we provide exceptional service to these people, educating them about the land protection tools available, and working closely with them to achieve their goals and forward LTC's mission.

Balancing strategic prioritization and opportunity

"The most critical need in land conservation in our service area is not to create more plans and priority lists, but to act in protecting land." - Tom Bailey, Former LTC Executive Director

Seizing opportunity and seeing land for what it can be has been incredibly effective for LTC. The largely unspoiled nature of our region means we still have huge potential for impactful protection. If you throw a dart at a map of our region, you're probably going to hit something worth protecting.

Our success at taking action has led to a framework of nearly 70,000 acres to expand upon. We can and should identify and pursue properties with higher ecological, scenic, strategic, or recreational significance. Doing so

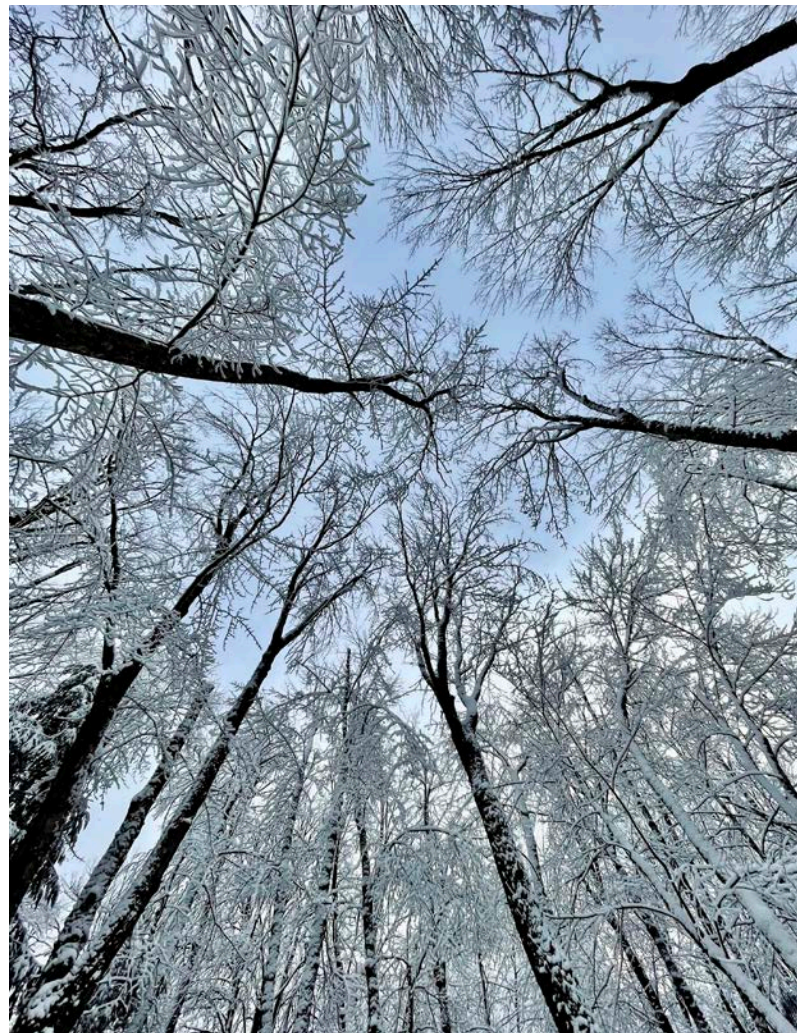
allows us to link landscapes, secure wildlife corridors, and build extensive trail systems.

How we will balance these two strategies is by recognizing we are not working with an entirely blank canvas. There are certain areas where we can see what is needed, and there is still plenty of room to create.

Everything we do flows from your support

Let's finish with the most obvious one: your support is what makes everything LTC does possible. Every time you donate or volunteer, you reaffirm that this work is good. Over 4,300 of you chose to support our mission last year. That speaks volumes. We are honored to have your support and strive to maximize the impact of your gifts.

It's hard to predict tomorrow, let alone the next 50 years. I can't estimate how many acres LTC will have protected when it turns 100, but I hope I can read these words and find they still hold true. If that happens, I believe the organization will be as vibrant and successful as it is today.



A Love Story, a Vision, a Trail

THE DON AND EILEEN KLEIN NATURE TRAIL

This is a love story that reminds us of the healing power of nature. It demonstrates just how important the ability to get outdoors and into nature is during all seasons of life. And it is an example of how one person's life experiences and vision is elevating an entire community.

Through a lead gift given by Don Klein of Boyne City, the first phase of a riverside loop trail along the Jordan River has gained significant momentum.

The City of East Jordan is uniquely situated at the heart of two of northern Michigan's ecological jewels: the Jordan River and Lake Charlevoix. This is a source of pride for the community and has drawn people to live and play there for decades.

Since 2014, local citizens, community advocates, and business stakeholders have desired an expansion of walkable trails along both sides of the Jordan River from downtown East Jordan to Rogers Road. With much of the land already in City or Conservancy ownership, this group has always recognized the very real opportunity to create a large, connected trail system that is accessible from town. The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed's riverside office has been a tangible reminder of the community's love for and connection to its outdoors, and the desire was to do more.

In 2021, a long standing trail group decided it was time to reconvene and start formulating a plan for the trails. The Conservancy became a partner with the group because much of the proposed trail crosses Conservancy-owned nature preserves. A grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation was received in the Fall of 2021 to hire an engineering firm who then estimated the cost of the next leg of trail. With these numbers in hand, the Conservancy agreed to help the group find funding.

This is where the love story came into play.

Don and Eileen Klein and their three children were an outdoor- and adventure-loving family who traveled north for skiing and boating for years. After retirement, Don and Eileen purchased a home in Boyne City to spend more time up north. For the last several years of her life, Don would take Eileen on walks at many trails including several Conservancy preserves. Eileen suffered from Alzheimer's



Don and Eileen Klein

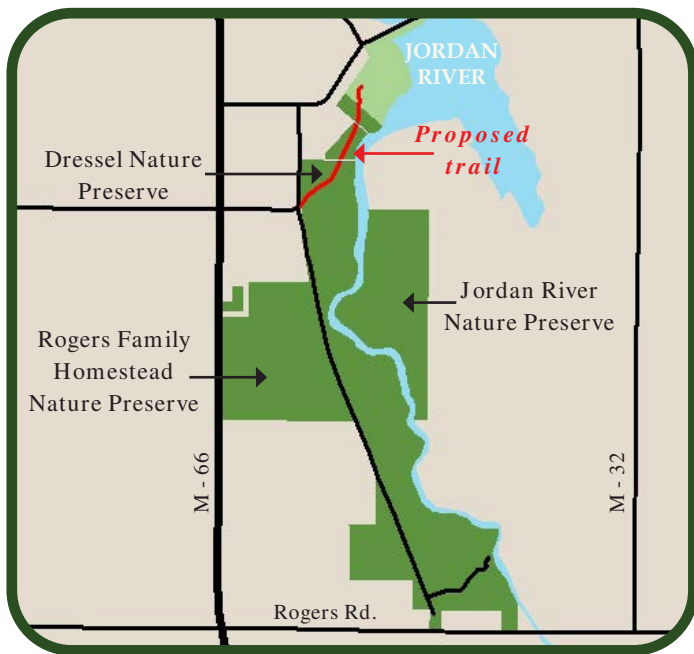
and the doctors repeatedly told Don that his commitment to getting her in nature was far better than any medicine they could give her. In the summer of 2019, Don had visited the Conservancy office to learn about additional trails that he and Eileen could visit.

Last winter, Don contacted Executive Director Kieran Fleming to let him know that Eileen had passed away in December, and he was now looking for a project to do in her memory. He expressed to Kieran how important those trails had been not only for Eileen, but also for him as her caretaker.

Kieran described several opportunities, and Don's interest was piqued when he heard about the trail work happening in East Jordan. He and Kieran met in East Jordan to learn more, where Don could envision how a safe and accessible trail and boardwalk along the river could be for someone in a wheelchair, someone walking with a cane, or someone pushing a stroller. He could see that an overlook off of the boardwalk would offer views of the eagles and ospreys nesting along the river, or of the mink and muskrats moving through the wetlands.

This past October, Don pledged a significant lead gift toward the completion of what will soon become the Don and Eileen Klein Nature Trail.

"Don's gift generated an enormous amount of excitement and energy for the trails group and the Conservancy with the realization that this dream could actually come true," Fleming said. "So often, a project doesn't get legs until



THE DON AND EILEEN KLEIN NATURE TRAIL

- The trail will be just under a half mile total.
- Both aggregate and pre-fabricated boardwalk materials will be used to follow requirements for universal access.
- The trail connects a walkable paved trail, path, and boardwalk from downtown East Jordan.

Charlevoix County Community Foundation, local donors, the Malpass Foundation, and the Charles M. and Joan R. Taylor Foundation, Inc. The City of East Jordan is pursuing a grant for federal funding as well.

“We thank Don for his heart and vision,” said Mark Penzien, East Jordan’s mayor. “How his heart aligned with our community’s spirit, we may never fully comprehend, but we are truly blessed to have the Klein family as a part of our community.”

To date, just over \$1.4 million has been raised toward the \$1.8 million needed. For more information or to support the Don and Eileen Klein Nature Trail, please contact the Little Traverse Conservancy office at 231.347.0991.

a significant donor steps up. In this case, it happened in a very meaningful way. This is such pure vision and generosity.”

“Eileen and I always enjoyed the outdoors, as do our kids who went to NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) and Outward Bound schools,” Don explained. “Hopefully this trail will encourage families to expose their kids to the beauty around us.”

Since Don’s gift, the Conservancy and City have continued to fundraise, and more support has been pledged from the





A HIGH POINT

NEW RESERVE BETWEEN BURT AND MULLETT LAKES

When Mark Melvin started looking for land to protect in Cheboygan County, his real estate agent was struggling to find land that met all the criteria Mark desired. But then a new property became available.

“He told me he had found a special place located between Mullett and Burt lakes, a place where you can see both lakes from the high points of the land when the leaves are off,” Mark explained. “He had my attention there!”

After consulting the topographic map – which revealed how hilly the 150-acre parcel was – it didn’t take long for Mark to know he wanted to purchase and protect it through the Conservancy. Ultimately, Mark had a vision for this land.

“I was looking for a protected land where we could create designed mountain bike trails,” Mark said. His daughter Kathleen, who lives in California, had recently introduced him to the sport and he discovered that this part of northeastern lower Michigan could benefit from a trail.

Mark and his family have been longtime supporters of the Conservancy’s work and have helped make several projects in Cheboygan and Emmet counties come to fruition. “This is just one more extraordinary piece of land that is now permanently protected for everyone’s benefit, because of his generosity,” said Kieran Fleming, LTC Executive Director.

An exciting plan for enjoying this land is in the works. The Melvin Family Biking and Hiking Trails will include two separate trail systems: one dedicated to hiking and the other to mountain biking. Both trails will take advantage of the elevation changes on the property to offer views and enjoyable recreation. Fundraising has begun to make the trails a reality. \$100,000 of the needed \$300,000 has been committed. If you are interested in supporting this project, please contact Emily Hughes, Chief Development Officer, at 231.347.0991 or emily@landtrust.org.



77 Acres In Les Cheneaux

KERRI AND MARGO MERTAUGH NATURE PRESERVE

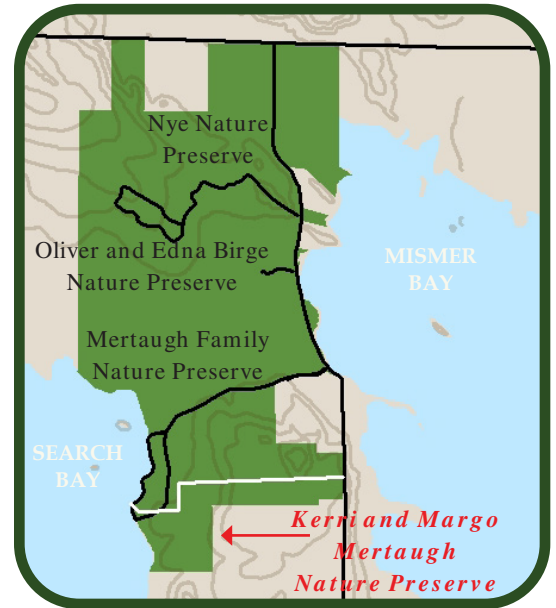
Point Brulee is a beautiful peninsula reaching down into the north shore of Lake Huron, just a few miles west of Hessel. Over several decades, a handful of landowners have worked with Little Traverse Conservancy to ensure that the land they have loved for generations will be protected in perpetuity as nature preserves. The resulting four preserves in this complex have been made possible by some extraordinary donations of both land and dollars.

Earlier this year, the Conservancy completed the acquisition of the Kerri and Margo Mertaugh addition to the Mertaugh Family Nature Preserve. Showcasing more than a quarter mile of frontage on Lake Huron's Search Bay, the 77 acres brings the Mertaugh Family Nature Preserve to a total of 315 acres. The entire complex is now made up of 966 acres and protects more than three miles of Lake Huron on both Search Bay and Mismar Bay.

This spectacular preserve is almost entirely wooded with classic woodland species to this region: cedar, balsam fir, spruce, and hemlock.

"Expanding the protection of an existing nature preserve remains a top priority for the Conservancy's land protection efforts," said Caitlin Donnelly, Director of Land Protection. "The Les Cheneaux region has long been lauded for its exceptional natural beauty and it is why those who live or vacation there have chosen it."

Funding for this project came through the Les Cheneaux Foundation guided by George Covington and an anonymous donor. See map for the location of this project and others that have been completed with support of the foundation and other donors.



Growing a Natural Area Since 1993

A seven-acre addition to the St. Clair Lake/Six Mile Lake Natural Area near Bellaire was recently purchased by Little Traverse Conservancy. This newest parcel includes 415 feet of St. Clair Lake frontage and brings the total size of this nature preserve complex to 268 acres. The SCL/SML Natural Area is a joint project between Little Traverse Conservancy and Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. Its protection began when a local grassroots group raised funds to prompt the first joint project in 1993.

This latest addition is the ninth project completed since that time. A parking area off of Ellsworth Road offers a universally accessible boardwalk and a viewing platform, as well as a kayak launch along the Intermediate River between the two lakes. It is a beautiful and popular location for paddling, and a designated stop along the Chain of Lakes Water Trail.



Community Conservation

SAULT STE. MARIE LAND DONATED FOR NATURE TRAIL

A 43-acre parcel on the south end of Sault Ste. Marie was recently donated to Little Traverse Conservancy from RG Properties, Inc. to become a permanent nature preserve. A mixture of wetlands and uplands, the land has long been sought out for protection by a local trail group that seeks to connect and improve the City trails to benefit hiking and outdoor opportunities around the City.

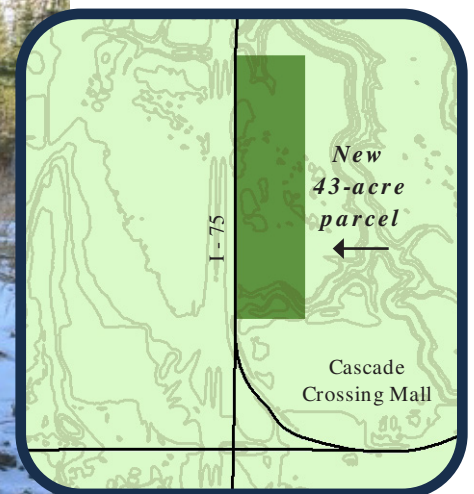
The trail group, known as OUTHouse Consortium, has historically been allowed to use this land for winter snowshoe outings offered for free to the community. With the events sometimes drawing more than 200 people, it became clear that a trail resource such as this was desired.

"Our group sees the acquisition as an initial pivotal piece in the future development of our top priority: the Ashmun Creek trail system," said Ken Hopper with the Consortium. "It is also a way to protect the natural diversity and beauty of our area by preserving this property. We see this as a start and hope that we can add to this preserve in the future. Our intent is to develop, maintain and promote area trails. As we continue our partnership, we will be able to provide locals and visitors unique recreational opportunities and help foster appreciation and understanding of the environment."

The uplands of the preserve include a mixture dominated by maple and spruce, with the wetter portions primarily cedar and tag alders. A small, seasonal tributary runs through the land and drains into Ashmun Creek, which lies just to the east. The preserve is easy to access, adjacent to the Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant in the Cascade Crossing shopping center. The preserve's west boundary includes a half mile of frontage along I-75.

"RG Properties, Inc. was honored to donate land for the new nature preserve and entrust the preservation of scenic areas and the environment to the Little Traverse Conservancy," said Bruce Langos, President of RG Properties, Inc.

The Conservancy will be working with OUTHouse Consortium to evaluate the creation of year-round trails at the new preserve. Stay tuned for updates on this emerging project!



The Kevin and Pam Cooper Bridge was constructed through an Eagle Scout project by Haydn Jones and Scout Troop 105 in cooperation with OUTHouse Consortium and the City of Sault Ste. Marie. This bridge is part of a City trail that will connect to the new preserve.

HONORING A FOUNDER

Ed and Judie Koza

As we close out our 50th anniversary year, we give tribute to another one of the Conservancy's original founders, Ed Koza. Along with his wife, Judie – whose family connections to northern Michigan brought the family here in 1969 – the Kozas reflect generations of treasuring this special region.

Judie's grandfather, John Wing, purchased a cottage near Harbor Springs in the 1930s, a familiar story of seeking respite from allergies suffered in Illinois. After Ed and Judie married in 1956, Ed experienced the special qualities of Little Traverse Bay during his summertime visits. With a family heritage in farming and lumber, he always felt an affinity for the outdoors and soon added sailing to his existing loves of hunting and fishing.

After years of working in the wood products industry in Chicago, several things prompted the couple to leave a successful career behind and move their family to northern Michigan. "The 1968 Chicago Riots helped instigate that move as we sought a different quality of life for our young family," Ed said. He quickly credits Judie for the family's ability to transition to a new form of business, working from a home office in northern Michigan. And for allowing him the time to meet with a small group of



One of the Conservancy's seven co-founders, Ed Koza, and his wife, Judie.

men who were seeking a way to protect the precious natural resources of northern Michigan in a non-adversarial way.

Ed and Judie recall meetings around their kitchen table, with the group dubbing themselves "The Little Traverse Group."

"We were really fortunate to be in the right place at the right time," Ed says, adding how wonderful it is to see all that the organization has accomplished in 50 years.

"We are so fortunate that Ed was part of that group," adds Kieran Fleming, LTC's Executive Director. Fleming points out that Ed's son-in-law, Joel Moore, has served on the LTC Board and also as the organization's attorney for more than two decades. "Some of the Conservancy's iconic projects have Ed's fingerprints on them such as the Naas, Mauger, Raunecker, and Leslie Nature Preserve as well as Sally and Ian Bund's Angell Farm," Fleming said.

In tribute to this family's legacy and a nod to Ed's career, the Conservancy has named a working forest reserve in central Emmet County "The Koza Family Working Forest Reserve." Look for it on Van Road between State and Larks Lake roads.

The Gift of Land

80 ACRES OF
FAMILY LAND
PROTECTED FOREVER

Longtime Conservancy members and volunteers Dan and Jan Reelitz have taken yet another step to help care for and protect the beautiful corner of eastern upper Michigan they call home. This time, they have donated a conservation easement to permanently protect their 80 acres of wetlands and forest near Cedarville. Their land includes more than a quarter mile of Scotty's Creek and runs along nearly half a mile of M-134, a state-designated scenic corridor running across the northern Lake Huron shoreline to Drummond Island.

Both Dan and Jan have roots in farming communities, Jan from Iowa and Dan from Illinois. The couple met while attending Greenville College in Illinois. Before moving to the Les Cheneaux region permanently in 2009, Jan worked as the library director and Wilderness Expedition Program Leader for Cranbrook School and Dan was Project Manager at Unisys in Plymouth. While they started supporting the Conservancy in 1994, their retirement to the eastern Upper Peninsula allowed them to become more involved as preserve monitors for the Derby and Search Bay nature preserves and also to help with special projects such as the Aldo Leopold Festival, the North Huron Birding Trail, and more.

"Dan and Jan are inviting, warm people who make you feel like family from the get go," said Caitlin Donnelly, LTC Director of Land Protection.

Land Protection Specialist Joe Graham agreed. "When Caitlin and I walked the property with Dan, it was obvious that this was a special place with its towering cedars, car-sized glacial erratics, and a peaceful creek, all connected by trails Dan has thoughtfully woven into the landscape. As I learned more about Dan and Jan, it became clear that they were what was truly special. This easement is a wonderful gift to the community and something everyone can appreciate as they drive along M-134," Graham said.

When asked what prompted the easement, Jan explained, "When my brother and I sold our Iowa family homestead and farm a few years ago, that created a very empty sadness in my heart. The purchase of the land we have now placed in the easement went a long way toward



Jan and Dan Reelitz with their three grandsons who live in Colorado and get to enjoy both the mountains and the Great Lakes!

healing my heart and when I walk our land, it brings to mind the love my father had for his home and farm. I know he would be delighted that Dan and I have this acreage."

"You kind of do it for yourself and your generation," Dan added, smiling. "But you also pass on a favor to the next generation because it takes away the need for them to go through that thought process."

He added that both of their daughters (Heather from Portland, Oregon, and Michelle from Colorado) accepted the easement without any hesitation.

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

One of the most effective and flexible mechanisms for the permanent protection of privately owned land is a conservation easement. A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and Little Traverse Conservancy that protects its conservation values by restricting uses that will harm them. Landowners choose to use this tool for a variety of reasons including open space preservation, agriculture, natural resource protection or to simply ensure the land remains protected forever, regardless of future ownership. A conservation easement is an excellent tool for families who wish to keep their land intact to pass on to the next generation.

GROWING OLD

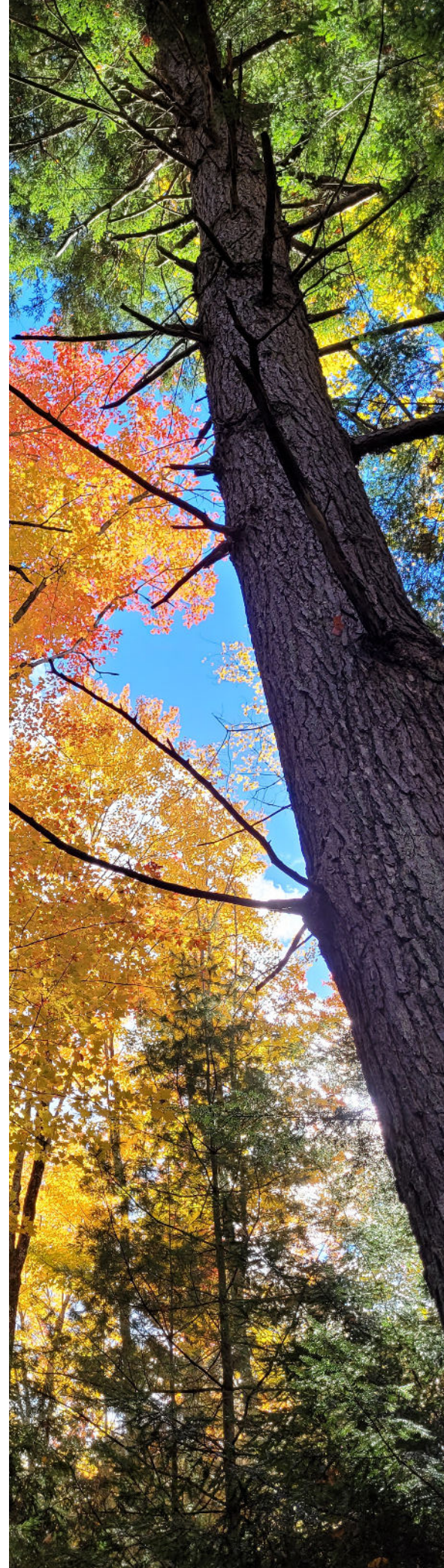
Oden Island Nature Preserve is now the fifth forest in Michigan to be designated an old growth forest by the Old Growth Forest Network. While it is not truly an old growth forest yet, it is a mature forest where we are committing to never harvest trees. We're calling it "Old Growth Trajectory." In a few hundred years, it will be a true old growth forest, but in the meantime, we can enjoy the qualities that make mature forests special.

It is possible that a few scattered trees were missed in the late 1800s logging boom that deforested most of Michigan because white pines, hemlocks, and sugar maples of about 30 inches in diameter can be found throughout the preserve. Characteristics of an old growth forest are developing there, such as trees that were once seedlings growing out of a nurse-log now standing on their own stilt-like roots. The terrain is undulating where old trees fell over and rotted, leaving mounds and depressions. Rather than relying on logging to thin out mature trees and make room for young ones, natural processes like wind throws (trees that fell over in strong winds) thin the canopy. These trees, along with standing and fallen dead wood, increase biodiversity by creating layers of different habitats within the forest.

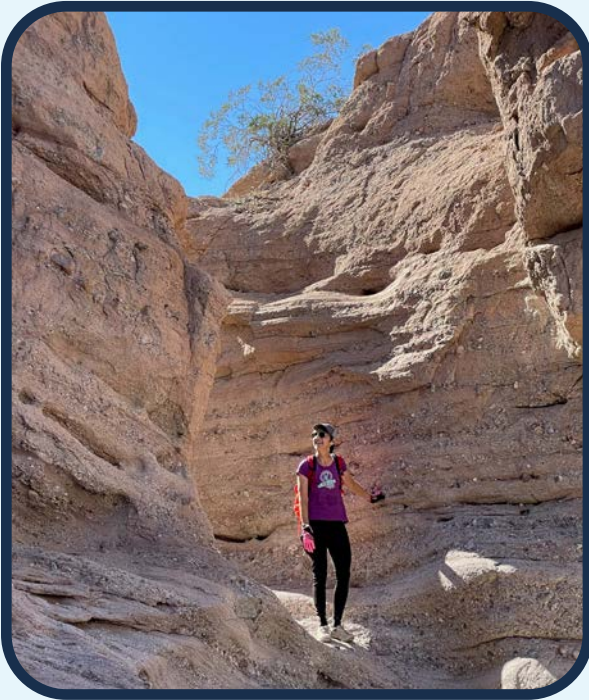
The Old Growth Forest Network's recognition of this special place inspires us to imagine what this and other forests will be like in the distant future. And the long history of the Island and the community of locals who fundraised to protect Oden Island Nature Preserve reminds us that we don't need to wait for our forests to become ancient to be inspired by them.



An official dedication ceremony was held at the preserve on October 26.



Members Speak...



ANNE T. MELVIN

*LTC member and volunteer since 1994
Burt Lake*

In the next 50 years I'd like to see Little Traverse Conservancy build on its legacy of discrete tracts of land by thinking about the landscape more holistically. What will preserve the biological and ecological integrity of the landscape? How can we preserve the health of whole water and land systems? In nature, everything is interconnected. A forward thinking LTC could build on its success in preserving independent tracts of land by thinking of ways to preserve the larger ecosystems that those individual tracts depend upon.

Photo: Slot canyon in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park near the Saltonstall Sea, south of Palm Springs, California.



RICK AND LINDA BOLTON

*LTC members and volunteers since 1994
Good Hart*

In the next 50 years we would like to see LTC:

- Become the premier land trust in the Midwest and be perceived as a leader in promoting best practices for land trusts.
- Be a regional/national resource for, and an opinion leader in, conservation/land trust issues.
- Build an endowment which ensures sustainability in the future.
- Expand our influence and work protecting lands throughout the Great Lakes states and the adjacent provinces of Canada.
- Promote reasonable land protection and management of/ impact on development so that both can exist in a harmonious and mutually supportive environment.
- Achieve and maintain high ratings for charities and non-profits.
- Remain a mission driven organization (i.e. avoid mission creep and/or becoming a large non-profit that promotes employee interests over mission driven objectives).

Photo: Linda Bolton and their dog, Parker.

What is your vision for LTC in the next 50 years? We asked that exact question to the following members. Here are their replies:

EILEEN AND JERRY PHANER

LTC members since 2001

Lancaster Lake

I believe the love of Mother Nature begins with experiences, especially at young ages. If humans can have positive experiences or memories of wonderful times in Mother Nature, they will be better stewards and donors. LTC should continue to focus on experiences, focus on young people and families, demonstrate passion, and tell your story.

Photo: Jerry and Eileen at the Grand Island Ice Curtains outside of Munising.



CAITILYN ALLEN AND DON WALLER

LTC members since 2021

Drummond Island

Don and Caitilyn want to see our good work continue in the following ways: The natural areas and shores in Upper Michigan harbor exceptional beauty and diversity. Many who love the natural world feel acute pain when trees are cut, rocks scraped bare, and living ground paved over. It is a correspondingly deep comfort to look at a piece of land and know that it will not be destroyed, but carry on green and whole.

We enjoy working with the highly knowledgeable and friendly staff of LTC in their pro-active efforts to stem these losses and protect high-quality natural areas.

KATHY BRICKER

LTC's first Executive Director who passed early this year.

LTC member with Jim Bricker since 1978

In 2011, she shared this vision:

Land protection remains urgent. Try to make properties large through joining contiguous land. Bobcats, wolves, and mountain lions need corridors and large areas. Geographical expansion.

What would you tell someone today who is considering getting involved with the Conservancy?

It's the best investment of both your money and time for the future of northern Michigan. Make LTC benefit from your estate planning.

Kathy did just that. Her nature preserve will forever stand in her memory. See page 20.



What a fall for being outdoors!

A total of 95 classes participated in a fall education program this year. 52 of those programs were a part of LTC's Forest School Program which currently involves Alanson, Lake Superior Academy in Sault Ste. Marie, and Three Lakes Academy in Trout Lake.

Other participating schools included:

- Blackbird Elementary
- Shay Elementary
- Harbor Light Christian
- Home School groups
- Lakeview Academy
- Concord Petoskey
- Sheridan Elementary
- Ottawa Elementary
- Central Elementary
- Petoskey Montessori
- Charlevoix St. Mary



Above: During their shelters program at the Agnes S. Andreae Nature Preserve, Alanson middle school students stopped to enjoy the beautiful Pigeon River.



THANK YOU TAYLOR!

Taylor Sobczak joined our Education Department this fall as our seasonal education specialist. Thanks, Taylor, for a great season!

"I am a Petoskey native, recently married to my middle school sweetheart! We have two dogs named Yukon and Russet and we love to go on walks and camp with them any chance we get. I graduated with a BS in Environmental Studies from Central Michigan University. In 2019, while getting my Associates Degree at North Central Michigan College, I took an environmental sustainability class which gave me the opportunity to intern with LTC. After coming back to Petoskey from CMU, I reached out to LTC again and was lucky enough to be hired for the fall of 2022. My favorite part of my time at LTC was teaching students about decomposers by flipping over logs to find slugs, salamanders, snakes, and so much more! I even picked up a snake at one of my last programs and let students carefully touch the snake to feel how smooth its belly was, but how scaly the back was."

ASH BORER, NO MORE!

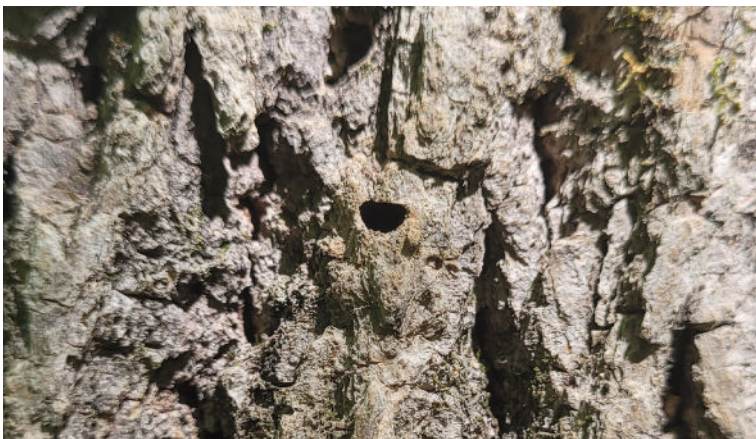
by Amy Lipson
Conservation Specialist

The emerald ash borer (EAB) was accidentally introduced in Michigan around the same time I was born, so for most of my life, mature ash trees have been a rare sight. I grew up with dying trees in the wetlands I explored, with a thicket of ash saplings that were doomed to never reach the canopy before they germinated.

When I moved to northern Michigan, I was surprised to see some areas where mature ash trees are still healthy. Large trees, up to 32 inches in diameter with full crowns, grace the canopies of mature forests while dead and dying ash of similar size stand right next to them. After I pointed out one of these trees on a field trip at the Hoogland Family Nature Preserve, LTC member Larry Bernhardt called to ask if these trees might be at least somewhat resistant to EAB. Since resistant does not necessarily mean immune, Larry generously asked if he could fund the protection for some of these trees. He had seen many more at Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve. With his generous donation, an arborist was able to give 23 trees injections that will protect them from EAB.

We hope that these trees will cross pollinate and the resulting seeds will include some that are even more resistant to EAB. If successful, these trees could eventually become sources of seed to reintroduce ash trees into other areas where they've been effectively eliminated.

Because trees take so long to grow, it will be years before we know if we're actually breeding resistant trees. Treating the trees only protects them temporarily. To treat them at all is an act of profound optimism and faith in the power of nature to adapt and heal itself. If this project inspires you and you'd like to sponsor a tree, please call the LTC office at 231.347.0991.



A close-up image of an ash borer hole. Once mature, the emerald ash borers chew D-shaped exit holes in the bark.



Above: Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association volunteers, Mark Lefevre (left) and Mark Sibel (right), work on the new mountain bike trail addition for beginners at the Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve.



Above and below: This fall, Eagle Scout candidate, David Johnston (below right), and his Troop constructed a new staircase at the Agnes S. Andreae Preserve to prevent erosion and improve slopes for walking.





Providing Longevity:

A NEW GIFT TO LTC'S ENDOWMENT

This fall, Tom and Pat Jeffs donated \$100,000 to form the Patricia and Thomas Jeffs Family Fund, a sub-fund of the LTC's general Endowment Fund. "We are incredibly grateful for this gift from the Jeffs family," said LTC Executive Director Kieran Fleming. "Tom has been a mentor to me for many years and I have been so grateful for his time and wisdom. Now, this endowment fund looks to the future of the organization and provides the long-term assurance that we can uphold our promise of 'protected forever'."

Shortly after their marriage, Pat and Tom started coming north to ski at Nub's Nob and Boyne Highlands. Forty years ago, the Jeffs built their first home in L'Arbre Croche, located just down the road from the Conservancy office and adjacent to the Round Lake Preserve which was formed in part by the Association. Their children own a condominium there today.

A lifelong canoeist, Tom often took their three daughters on his adventures. "Our daughters are now married and we have seven grandchildren, the youngest age 8," Tom said. "All of them are devoted to the outdoors and are very interested in the Conservancy."

Pat is originally from Chicago, and was raised in the suburbs of Detroit. The couple met at the University of Michigan, marrying in 1964. "This gift to the Conservancy was really Tom's idea and is something he has been devoted to," Pat said. From her perspective, teaching programs to young children is of utmost importance, and she is glad that the endowment will help this part of the Conservancy's mission.

Tom, who served three terms as an LTC board member from 2010-2019, believes strongly in the Conservancy. "I have told Kieran that the Conservancy is by far the best managed, best led, and most dedicated group of people I have ever seen. I have loved working with Kieran and have been impressed by all of the staff," he said.

Looking forward, in addition to protecting crucial lands, Tom shares Pat's wish that LTC continues providing access for young people. "It is the young people who will make the difference if they get involved and comfortable in the outdoors," Tom added.

If you would like to learn more about empowering the Conservancy's work through an endowment gift, please call Emily Hughes, Chief Development Officer at 231.347.0991 or emily@landtrust.org.

Notes of Gratitude...

Sally Bales, Barb Bechhold, Sandy Bollinger, Nick and Michaleen Karay, Karen Knapp, and Rye Muir for spending four days stuffing and stamping membership mailing envelopes with us.

East Jordan 4 Front Credit Union staff members Linnea Bernier, Michelle Duncan, Deb Milligan, Melanie Sims, Jenny Tompkins, and Jackie Wilson for helping clear invasive shrubs at the Rogers Family Homestead Nature Preserve.

Volunteers Katie Allen, Elizabeth Asbury, Richard Jenkins, Charlotte Michels-Asbury, Gary M, Ellen Schloff, Mary and Bill Kunst, Tom Rowland, Stan Royalty, and Peri McGuiness for building the Bluestem Meadow Labyrinth and planting native shrubs at the Offield Family Viewlands.

Members from Great Lakes Yoga Retreat for collecting native wildflower seeds at the Carpenter Family Nature Preserve.

Bill Courtois, Jacque LaFreniere, Ed and Beth Leuck, Ellen Waller, and Beth Wilson for help managing cameras and counting trail camera data.

Richard Jenkins for helping LTC staff learn how to use chainsaws.

Peri McGuiness, Stan Royalty, and Sharon Whitehead Van LobenSels for collecting native wildflower seeds at multiple preserves.

Todd Petersen, Jeff Moyer, and Gary Osterbeck for sharing photos of LTC preserves and reserves.

Doug Fuller for help marking preserve boundaries.

Greenwood Foundation and volunteers from the Miller Van Winkle Chapter of Trout Unlimited for providing space and instructors for LTC's first Women's Fly Fishing Clinic.

Bier's Inwood Brewery for partnership on field trips.

Eric Hemenway from Little Traverse Bay Bands and **Jana Harper and the Goodhart Artist Residency Program** for leading a guided hike on the history, art, and culture of our area.

Cheri Leach from Raven Hill Discovery Center for a generous donation of a variety of animal skulls and bones for environmental education programs.

Trail clearing volunteers Julie and Pat Dougherty, Bill Garlinghouse, and Adam Schubel for clearing trails as we get ready for grooming ski trails.

Dan Dueweke, Brad Moffatt, Stan Royalty, Richard Jenkins, and Pat Alguire, for continuing work on the boardwalk and trails at Susan Creek Nature Preserve.

Friends of Viewlands volunteers John Baker, Nancy and David Cluley, Richard Jenkins, Jeff Pagel, Sheila Malleis, and Kai Malleis for fall cleanup at the Offield Family Viewlands.

Gary High, Ed Leuck, Nils Lindwall, Scott Smith, Bill Reed, and Paul Zardus for helping mow preserve trails and parking areas.

The Michigan DNR Wildlife Division for their support of our grassland burn at the Jack and Tucker Harris Working Forest Reserve this year.

Scott Egelston at Sagasser & Associates for donating his time to do an additional preserve environmental inspection.

Glen Matthews for helping with habitat assessments.

First Presbyterian Church of Petoskey for welcoming LTC to hold our strategic planning meeting in their community space.

Preserve Perfectionists John Baker, Julie and Pat Dougherty, Dan Dueweke, Jim Ehrnst, Richard Jenkins, Kelly Kitchen, Peri McGuiness, John and Mary Merrill, Stan Royalty, Tom Rowland, and Carolyn Stark for pulling invasive plants, planting native trees, fixing fences, building boardwalks, cleaning up after projects, and more.

Beth Cowie, Susanna Glass, and Carolyn Stark for planting trees at Offield Family Viewlands with the Preserve Perfectionist group.

Lucy and Barbara Bergin, Dwan Family, Karen and Gale Harnkess, Kelly Kitchen, Peri McGuiness, Robert Scroggins, Jeff Stimson, and Meg Varnum for planting a haunted forest at Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve.

Mike Kostal for building bird houses for LTC preserves.

Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation for grants that funded the purchase of a new drone and a new mower.

Bert Ebberts for help with wetland delineation in Mackinaw City.

Honorariums & Memorials

The following gifts were received between August 16 and November 22, 2022.

IN HONOR OF

Elise Allen

The Zwemer Family

Jim Bricker

Mrs. John H. Tanton

Charles Dawley

Bay View Association

Jeffrey Ford

Ms. Gretchen Ford

Gretchen and Brian Grad

Kim Lande

Julie Hall

Chris Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Asbury

Susan Huntington

Nolan Family

Martha Lancaster

Michael and Naomi Behrmann

Drs. Pat Alguire and Barb Mathes

Tom and Sheila Moore

Dudley Marvin

Carolyn Workman and Kurt Wacker

Drs. Vaughn and Harriet McGraw

Dr. and Mrs. Michael Cady

Consie Pierrepont

Karen and Courtney McGovern

Ty Ratliff

Drs. Edward and Patricia Robinson

Matt Romano

Sarah and Dan Kay

Tony Vollmar and Amy Tweeten

Lucie and Rob Peven

IN MEMORY OF

Carol Ash

Connie Osters
Oliver and Ana Schwab, Jr.

Gerald Berriman

David and Nancy Benjamin
Pickerel Lake Association of Botsford
Landing
Susan Swan
Wilma Thoms

Alfred Branham, Jr.

Nancy Hoekstra

Gerald Breen

Tim Lundin
Bill and Nancy McCormick
Kathy and Steve Miller

Kathy Bricker

Randy and Jeanette Mateer
Leonard and Susan Page
Mrs. John H. Tanton

Edmund Brochu

Ms. Cynthia A. Van Allen

Jacob Reese Coates

Joe and Lisa Howie

Martha A. Dye

Mary Dye

Robert Greene

Margaret and Ted Dawson
Ms. Virginia McCoy
Mrs. William D. Saal

Virgil Haynes

Anonymous

Cornelius and Shirley Hegewald

Thomas Hegewald

Frances J. McDonald Hill

David B. and Frances J. Hill Family

Polk Laffoon

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Hightower

James Mabee

Catherine Bennett

Robert McMurtrie

Jacqueline McMurtrie

Archibald McClure

Bruce K. Davis and Heidi W. Hill

Carol Morris

Sleepy Hollow Lane Association

J. Anthony Naylor

Amy Naylor Joye

Margaret O'Malley

Sally and Ian Bund
Donald and Sarah Cohen and Family
Chris and Richard Hanley
David and Amy Hesler
Susan Leonard
Kathy and Bob Longendyke
Catharine Maxey
Ms. Anna B. Milburn
John and Sharon Neighbours
Lathrop B. Nelson, Jr.
Sybil Ortego
Dave and Linda Parlin

June Parrish

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Hightower

Marilyn Reed

Christine Brigham
Susan Joslin
Don and Barbara Spencer
Frank and Faye Zimmerman

Suzanne Schulze

Amy Miller
Nita Pitts
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Van Dusen, III

William D. Seeley

Jay and Peggy Smith

Rev. Alfred R. Shands, III

Anonymous

Don Shely

John B. Shely

Douglas Simpson

Charles and Christa Pearce

Melvyn Smith

Drs. Vaughn and Harriet McGraw

Kathleen and Bob Smith

Mr. Robert Smith, III

Edwin and Ruth Strojny

Katherine Strojny and Tim Prachar

Esther Thomas

Birchwood Association of Mullett Lake

James W. Tripp

Patricia Dishman

Sharon Reinke

Philip VanderNaald

Ms. Ellen V. Kilpatrick

Gerry Weimer

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Clarke

Richard and Jackie Ellis

Carolee Fisher

Wayne and Martha Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart C. Kissinger

Jim and JoAnn Lindgren

Ronald and Vickie Perreman

Mori and Cedric A. "Rick" Richner III

Jamie Roark

Kevin Roark

Scott and Margo Robeson

Vicki Vassalo and Tom Hannah

Mrs. Gerald D. Weimer

Jan Werner

Leslie and Kevin Lloyd

Ruth Woolley

Birchwood Association of Mullett Lake

Ralph Young

Birchwood Association of Mullett Lake

Vic Yowell

Ronald and Judith Brown

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Elbert

Douglas and Mary Fry

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart C. Kissinger

Ken and Sue Poniatowski

Bill Roney and Joanne Kelley

Vicki Vassalo and Tom Hannah

Conservation is forever.

Your legacy can be too.



The mission of the Little Traverse Conservancy is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of northern Michigan by preserving significant land and scenic areas, and fostering appreciation and understanding of the environment. If you share this mission and vision, you can support the incredible work we do by making a planned gift to the Little Traverse Conservancy.

Planned gifts come in all shapes and sizes, and the planned giving option you choose will be a reflection of your goals and your overall estate plans. Most importantly, a planned gift can be an expression of your desire to make a difference - and leave a legacy that lasts forever.

For more information or to share that you have included the Little Traverse Conservancy in your estate plans, please contact Emily Hughes, Chief Development Officer, at 231.347.0991 or emily@landtrust.org.

Peter Olson and grandson Silas Cowell, son of Fuller and Brita Cowell, enjoying the trails at the Offield Family Working Forest Reserve.

Welcome New Members

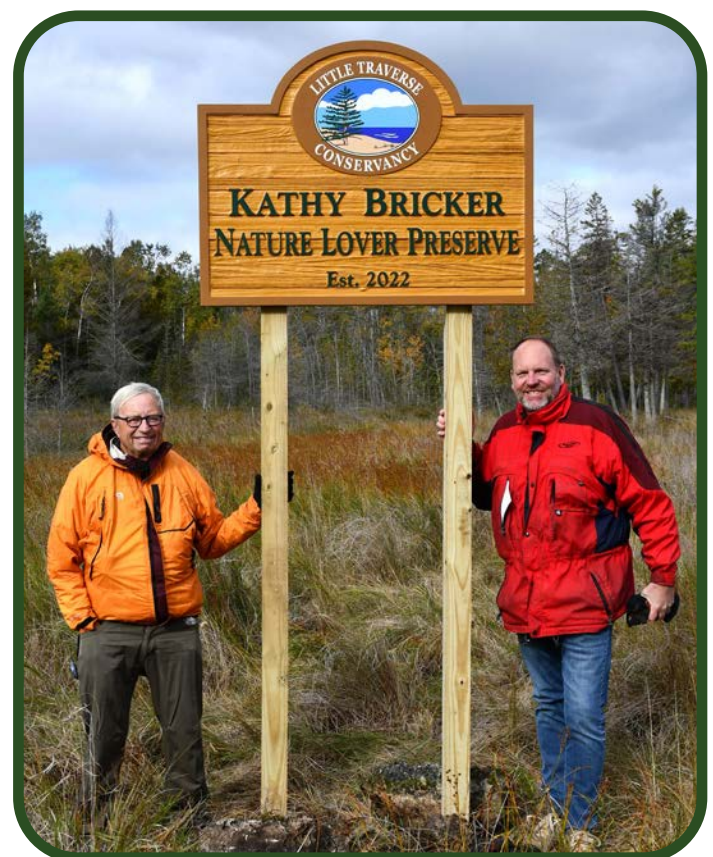
Welcome to the following new members who joined between August 16 and November 22, 2022.

Robert and Marilyn Akers
Matthew and Sarah
Alshouse
Mrs. Charles Atkinson
Ray Barr
Tucker Bartz
Terry Basham, II
Ronald Bearup
Dr. and Mrs. James J. Beno
Ryan and Kris Blake
Keely Blosh and Jesse
Lawrence
Dale and Kayla Briggs
Kathryn M. Buffington
Bruce and Heidi Burnett
Kevin and Wendy Cammet
Thomas and Michele Carter
Brandon Castillon
Riley Chapdelaine
Christopher Churches
Richard Clark
Danny and Tiffany Clemons
Derek Clemons
Paul Connolly
David and Patsy Craig
Michael and Alexa Crane
Hans Creutz
Ben Cross
Paul and Julie Croy
Vince DeAgostino
Elisabeth Doyle
Pamela and Patrick
Deweke
Ms. Paula Edgar
Carolyn Farrugia
Rob and Kaye Fisher
Jane Funfgeld
Tony and Danette Fusco
Zachary Giegler
Laurel Gilmour-Smith
Edwin Willis Gustafson
Mr. George C. Hebert

Emily Heinlein
Arnold and Patricia Herberg
Julie Hill
Tracy Hughes
Shure Incorporated
Sherri Jameson
Michael and Janet Jenkins
Anne Kairis
John Kelley
Larry and Barb King
Kevin Kovachevich
Kit and Laura Kreid
Amanda Labarge
Stacy LaLonde
Aron Lee
Tammy Legenza
Jim and Karin Leland
Betty and Jim Line
Lewis Lockwood
Sam and Mike Malleis
Paul and Christy Marazzo
Michael and Karen
McMahon
Timothy Miller
Ruth Music
Ryan Musser
Geoffrey Niespolo
Marty O'Neill
Donald and Martha
Papke Jr
Barry Parkinson
Charles and Christa Pearce
Chelsea Simms and George
Peet
Melanie and Tony Pitts
Libby Reeg
Michael and Bridget Regan
Christopher and Sarah
Riopelle
Elizabeth and Patrick
Rogers
Greg and Cathy Sawyer

Serge Schillio
Steve and Mary Jo Schultz
Stuart and Holly Seltman
Robert and Becky Sevensen
Myke and Cathy Sherman
Greg Stebbins
Donn Stone
Gretchen Trudeau
Bryan Twinn
Rob and Kaelynn Veneri
Dena H. Vernon
Chris Waibel
Andrew Wasco
Jeff and Bonnie Weisburg
Thomas and Alyssa Williams

Lawrence B. Wingard
Wojnicki Family
Frank Wren
Sarah Youngblood
Barbara Zuehlke



Kathy Bricker was LTC's very Executive Director. She passed away in March of 2022. On a blustery day this fall, Jim Bricker (Kathy's husband) and Jeff Susor (Kathy's nephew) helped install her preserve's sign on Marquette Island.

Thank you, Joe!

by Kieran Fleming
Executive Director



Joe and his wife, Karen Kimmell.

In September, Joe Kimmell concluded his term as Chair of the Little Traverse Conservancy's Board of Trustees. He will remain on our Board and Executive Committee as he serves out his remaining terms. Cedric Richner takes the role of Chair as we head into a new five-year strategic plan.

To be the Chair of LTC's Board requires extreme dedication to our cause. Handling issues with other trustees and being present at events and meetings requires a real commitment of time. Perhaps the most significant role our Board Chair takes on is frequent consultation with me on issues that span the width and breadth of our program work and how we run the business. Joe was always available, always thoughtful, and incredibly helpful. We are all grateful to Joe for pouring so much into LTC. I personally have considered him a mentor for several years now. Thanks Joe for two great years serving LTC in the highest capacity!

WELCOME TOM!

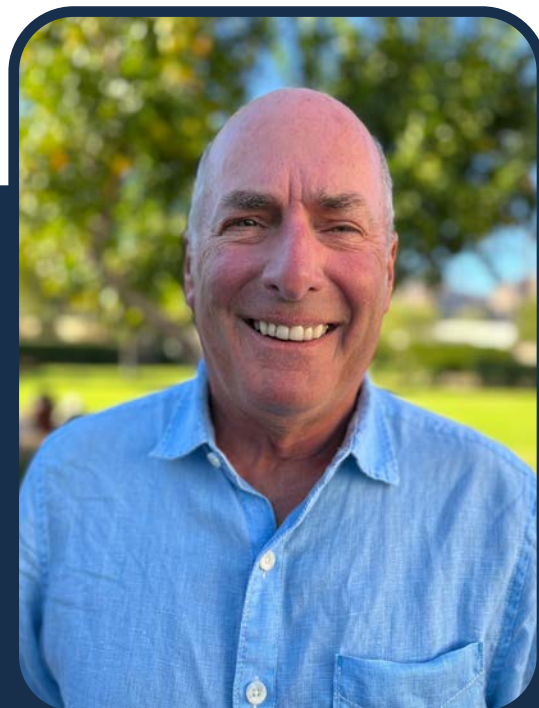
Although not an unfamiliar face at LTC, Tom Rowland is our newest Board of Trustees member:

Tom and his wife Kimberly moved to Harbor Springs 12 years ago. They originally discovered Harbor Springs on a sailing trip. After docking in the harbor for what was planned to be a one night stay, Dave Irish suggested a bike ride out on the Tunnel of Trees. They stayed a week and immediately started to look for a place to live.

Tom worked in Information Technology at General Motors and as a management consultant. He retired a few years ago and found himself hiking and biking many of LTC's preserves. A friend introduced Tom to LTC's volunteer opportunities. Tom is now a volunteer Land Steward and is a regular on Thursday's Preserve Perfectionists work detail.

His work in stewardship exposed Tom to other aspects of LTC and he became interested in doing more to further the organization's land protection mission.

"As I learn more about how LTC works, I am intrigued by two tenets of the organization. First, that we protect land for people and not from them and second, that we are always working for a win-win between land owners and conservationists. So I am honored to serve as a Trustee and hope to add value wherever I can."



Holiday Gift Guide

Contemplating what gifts to give this holiday season? The list below will give you some ideas. Want to make it even more fun? Enjoy reading with a young one in your life as you discuss the positive impact of giving.

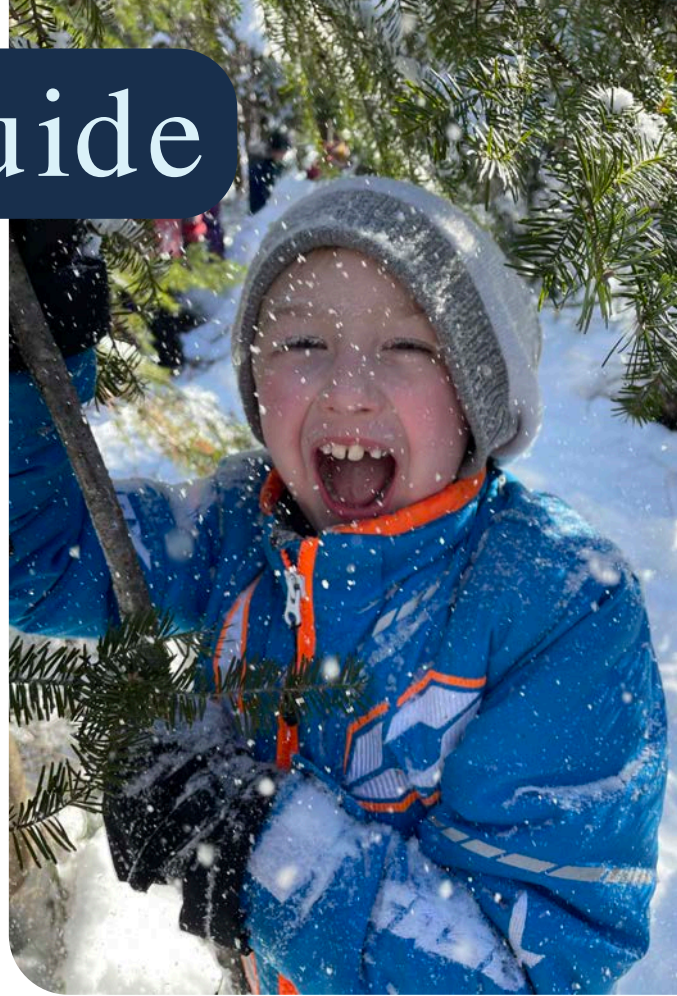
\$1 You're a member! You have officially joined a community of people dedicated to protecting land.

\$5 Pays for a Mackinac Bridge crossing to help care for our preserves and serve schools in the U.P.

\$25 Buys mittens to keep children warm on our free environmental education programs.

\$100 Plants two healthy trees.

\$250 Helps restore a farm field to wildflower meadow.



Have you decided what you would like to give? Visit landtrust.org and click **Donate** or call our office at 231.347.0991 to make your gifts.

Holiday Wish List

Bringing back LTC's past, each newsletter used to include a wish list of items that would help accomplish our mission. This holiday, there are two items of significance that would greatly help care for the land we protect.

- **All-wheel drive car in good working condition**

Help our team most efficiently care for the land you love! This vehicle will be used by our stewardship crew to monitor and care for properties both ecologically and structurally.

- **Dump Trailer**

If you have a dump trailer, you know how helpful it can be. Our team will use a dump trailer to move and easily unload all the materials (think rock and soil) necessary to build and maintain trails and parking areas.





WINTER FIELD TRIPS

Events are offered at no charge, but registration is required by calling 231.347.0991
or online at www.landtrust.org/events.

INVASIVE SPECIES TRAINING

Wednesday, January 18 / 12:00 - 2:00pm
Zoom and in person at the LTC office

Do you have invasive plants on your property, and want to learn how to manage them? Do you need help learning to ID plants so you can determine if there are invasive plants on your land? In this hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting presentation, Conservation Specialist Amy Lipson will answer these questions and more! Come with questions and get the knowledge you need to manage invasive plants on your land. For more practical knowledge, attend the volunteer workday with Amy the following day (*see below*).

WORKDAY: REMOVING INVASIVE SPECIES

Thursday, January 19 / 10:00am - 1:00pm
Seberon "Boo" Litzenburger Nature Preserve

Gain hands-on experience removing invasive plants at this volunteer workday. We will use hand tools and power tools to cut down invasive woody shrubs, then apply herbicide to the stumps to prevent re-growth. Bring warm work gloves, dress in layers, and come prepared to hike through deep snow! Prefer less strenuous work? You are welcome to come and observe to learn how to manage brush on your own property. If you can't make it to this workday, sign up for volunteer emails on our website and come to any of our regularly scheduled workdays: landtrust.org/volunteer.

WALK AND WRITE

Thursday, January 19 / 2:00 - 5:00pm
Offield Family Viewlands and Petoskey District Library

Join Good Hart Artist in Residence Christina Clancy and Conservancy staff for a winter forest bathing and writing experience. While forest bathing is known to improve sleep, stress, and health, it is also great for writers to spark creativity, solve problems, and improve your ability to write about place. We will enjoy a roughly one hour winter walk at the Viewlands, where you will be given several writing prompts. After the walk we'll meet at the Petoskey District Library lower level classroom to write and share. For the forest bathing, dress warmly and bring a blanket or yoga mat to sit on. Option to attend the forest bathing only. Please sign up through the library's link on LTC's website.

WINTER LANTERN-LIT WALK

Saturday, February 4 / 6:00 - 8:00pm
The new Sault Ste. Marie Nature Preserve (*see page 8*)

Experience the magic of a winter lantern-lit walk at this new (currently unnamed) preserve. Co-sponsored by the OUTHouse Consortium and the Conservancy, this event will be held open house style. Come any time before 7:30pm to ensure you get through the trail. Parking is available next to Buffalo Wild Wings.

WINTER WANDERERS

Friday, February 10 / 4:00 - 5:30pm
Offield Family Working Forest Reserve (Quick Rd.)

A chance for young ones to explore the wonder of winter. Join Emily Hughes and her wee ones as you explore the woods in winter. What can you see, smell, and even taste? This program is for kids 5 and under, but siblings are welcome to join with a parent or guardian.

MYSTERIES OF THE WINTER SKY WITH MARY STEWART ADAMS

Wednesday, February 22 / 6:00pm
The Offield Family Viewlands

We will begin the night with storytelling, followed by a lantern walk. In February, the northern hemisphere is still turned away from the center of the Milky Way Galaxy, facing the deep reaches of space, where the mighty constellation Orion dominates the scene. The Pleiades grace the night with their charms, and on this evening, Venus will be the evening star, radiant in her position to the West over Lake Michigan. We will gather with Star Lore Historian Mary Stewart Adams to marvel at the beauty with poetry, history, and cultural tales. See you under the moon, stars, and the velvety blue-black of winter skies.

SNOWSHOE AND BREW AT BIERS INWOOD BREWERY

Sunday, February 26 / 2:30 - 4:00pm
Elizabeth B. Hoffmann Nature Preserve

Join LTC staff to traverse through this winter wonderland preserve on snowshoe. The 1.5-mile trail passes through a mix of apple orchards, woods, and farm fields, and follows a section of the beautiful Inwood Creek. Please bring your own snowshoes. After the hike, we'll gather at the brewery for drinks and pizza. Please park at the brewery.



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

Address Service Requested

Non-profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Petoskey, MI
Permit No. 110

Give the gift of land AND DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!



Forward-thinking members Emerson and Juliet Meyer and Mark Melvin are inspiring the next generation of land lovers. If you are under 50, your gift can be matched by year-end. If you know someone who is under 50 and want to give them a membership, your gift will also be matched. You can give at landtrust.org on the membership page or call 231.347.0991.

Thank you for helping protect land today!

