



2026 Conservation Easement Newsletter



Black-throated Blue Warbler / Sue Kurtz

Welcome, Jennie!

Assisting Little Traverse Conservancy as a seasonal Conservation Easement Technician is Jennie Suchewski. Jennie is a State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry graduate with degrees in Conservation and Environmental Biology. Jennie brings valuable experience from her work with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, where she monitored Wetland Reserve Easements and worked closely with landowners. Her background in GIS, field research, and technical writing will be a tremendous asset as LTC continues working to meet our monitoring goals and steward the lands we help protect.

You may hear from Jennie in the future regarding an easement monitoring visit. She will be relocating to northern Michigan with her English Springer Spaniel and Border Collie mix, Willow. We are delighted to welcome Jennie to the LTC team.



In 2026, Little Traverse Conservancy added 10 conservation easements to our land project portfolio, increasing the total acreage by 657 acres. Now we have 351 conservation easements protecting over 29,000 acres.

Little Traverse Conservancy Conservation Easements in 2025 by County

County	Acres	No. of Easements
Charlevoix	160	2
Cheboygan	266	2
Chippewa	0	0
Emmet	228	5
Mackinac	3	1
TOTAL	657	10

Did you know?

- LTC protects more than 82,000 acres through nature preserves, working forest reserves, conservation easements, and transfer and assist projects, which includes the protection of 196 miles of waterfront.
- LTC offers 130 miles of trails on protected land for you to explore.
- LTC has three mountain bike trails.
- LTC has seen more than 175,000 students participate in *FREE* education programs since 1986.
- LTC properties offer over 10 universally accessible trails or trail features.

2026 Annual Site Visit

Each year LTC staff must conduct a site visit to your conservation easement. These will occur in one or more of the following ways:

- Remote/satellite imagery, any time of year, with a preference for leaf-off/early spring and late fall.
- On the ground by foot, boat, or drone, between 9am–5pm, Monday through Friday, any time of year excluding holidays and deer hunting season (for larger parcels).

You are welcome to accompany us during ground site visits. Contact Melissa Hansen, Director of Conservation Easements, to schedule a time at [231.344.1004](tel:231.344.1004) or melissa@landtrust.org.

PLEASE CONTACT US IF:

- There is a change in ownership of your property;
- You plan on exercising reserved rights requiring pre-approval or notification;
- Your contact information changes; or
- You have any questions.

A brief questionnaire is available by visiting www.landtrust.org/cesurvey or by scanning the QR code below. Here you can update your contact information or let us know your plans and activities on your property related to your conservation easement.



Why Plant Native Plants?

As spring approaches, our gardening and landscaping dreams take shape. Planting native species is becoming a more popular part of garden, yard, and landscape plans with many benefits for people and the natural environment. Native plants are suited to soil and weather conditions in the area they originate from, requiring less water, reducing the need for fertilizer and pesticides, and helping protect soil from erosion. Having developed alongside native animal species, native plants provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, and are an important source of food for pollinators and other animals. As winter winds down with the promise of warmer days and the growing season ahead, consider incorporating your favorite native plants into your yard or flower gardens. The animals will thank you!

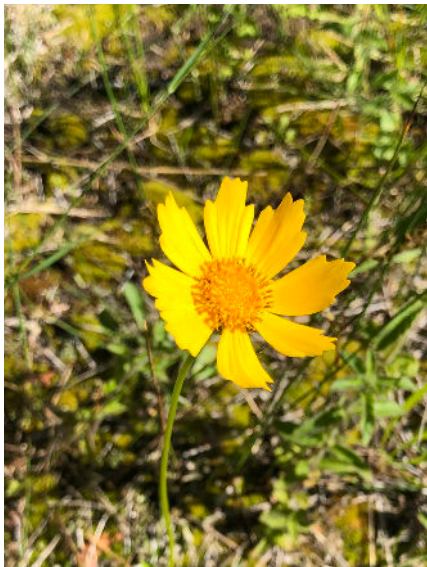
For information on native plants by region, visit www.nwf.org/Native-Plant-Habitats/Plant-Native/Why-Native/Keystone-Plants-by-Ecoregion or scan the QR code. For more information on resources for native plantings, visit www.landtrust.org/additional-resources or scan the QR code.



Native Plants



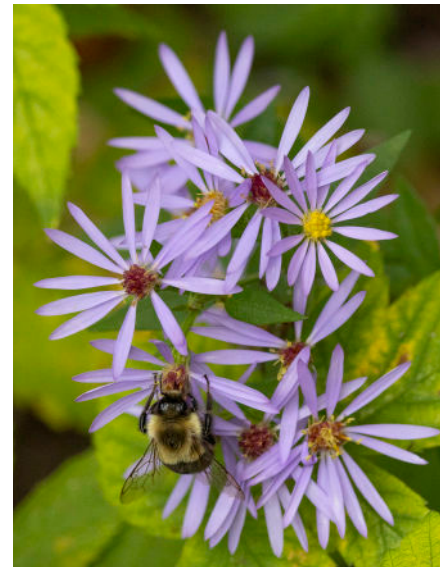
Landowner Resources



Lance-leaved coreopsis
(*Coreopsis lanceolata*)



Pussy willow (*Salix discolor*)



Large-leaved aster
(*Eurybia macrophylla*)