



PROTECTING THE NORTH COUNTRY WE ALL LOVE

*Good News for Pigeon River
Watershed!*

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The Quest for Balance

by Kieran Fleming, Executive Director

I was at the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund meeting a few weeks ago where there was a presentation making the case for heavier financial investment in conservation in southeast Michigan. The logic is pretty strong; that’s where Michigan’s highest population is. It’s worth mentioning that these comments were presented by the Council of Governments, not an entity with a pro-environmental or anti-growth agenda.

Some of the things that were said need deeper contemplation. First is the recognition that open space is important for our quality of life and mental health. It was pointed out that southeast Michigan has the lowest satisfaction with existing outdoor recreation opportunities. And it’s not just recreation. They are also talking about the simple need to have relief from urban environments. It struck me that people are now recognizing this as fact even though I remember Tom Bailey talking about this 23 years ago when it wasn’t so widely acknowledged.

Adding open space to rectify the situation is complicated because 1) acquiring land for conservation is exponentially more expensive in developed zones, and 2) developed areas have significant infrastructure that needs fixing/updating, meaning that many municipalities can scarcely divert their attention toward chasing conservation dollars. They literally have to worry about providing clean drinking water before they can think about providing a park where a kid can walk barefoot on the grass. I won’t argue with their priorities.

Compare that to our situation here in northern Michigan. We still have abundant natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities. It’s no secret that people come here just for those things and, considering the situation described at that meeting, it’s even easier to see why. I submit that our natural resources are THE biggest reason most of us are here. We have relatively functional “ecosystem services” that keep our water clean without the incredible investment more urban areas need to undertake. But mostly, this is just a beautiful place defined by woods and waters.

Yet, we too have problems of our own in the north. The hot topic for some time now has been a shortage of housing across the economic spectrum. It affects everything. And so our communities are rightfully trying to figure out ways to alleviate that issue and I applaud those who are willing to take on the challenge. So, while I am not insensitive to how difficult these issues are, I just hope we can learn from others and exercise some caution as we tackle these problems.

For example, our downstate friends might tell us that if we overdevelop, the subsequent loss of ecosystem services, the need for infrastructure, police, and fire protection, is all coupled with a higher cost of living, and lower access to the elixir that is the great outdoors. Some have told me outright that it’s exponentially more affordable to keep the natural system intact. At some level of development, we risk degrading the very reasons we are here. The balance between a rural landscape and “over development” is like art: it’s in the eye of the beholder. This may blur the lines around when enough is enough. But I would argue striving towards balance is critical regardless, mostly because our society does not function and flow in perfect unison. It can be messy, just like the rest of human nature.

These days we are hearing a lot about the virtues of an

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investment in industries that would bring new jobs to Michigan. Wait...what? I thought we were short on workers and housing, not jobs. This irony illustrates the propensity to race towards growth without regard to balance. It’s how we are wired.

Skeptics are quick to point out that conserved lands often experience reduced tax assessments or exemption altogether. Logically, they argue this means a higher burden on the rest of us. But this logic crumbles when you realize that urban communities have services and infrastructure problems that require outside investment because the local property tax collection, even at a higher rate, can’t pay for it. In my experience, (which includes serious inquiry into the effect of conservation on property taxes), the more developed a community is, the more each of its constituents pay in property taxes, with very few noted exceptions. Read that line again; it is counter intuitive to what many people assume is true.

I recognize there is a big difference between northern Michigan and our southeast counterparts. But all of this is observable on a graduating scale. Compare a rural township to a more developed township, then to a city, then to a larger urban setting. Property taxes, infrastructure needs, expenses all go up while outdoor opportunities and benefits go down. Sure, more development can have its benefits, but we can’t pretend it doesn’t have a significant cost.

Ironically, all of this is against something looming that we can see but have yet to consider meaningfully: Michigan is one of the states currently seeing the least population growth and is predicted to have a declining population in the coming decades. Is it possible that we are trying to solve problems that are going to invert into a different situation altogether? Will our hand be forced to look at economic development in new ways?

Again, I don’t have the answers. So why do I even ponder these things? Because LTC brings striving towards balance to the equation. I firmly believe that smart and creative minds can find ways to remedy whatever the needs of the day are without needing to upset that balance. However, because of the challenges that periodically impact our communities, some will choose to see conservation as an obstacle, not an asset.

I simply disagree with the notion that we have to choose between prosperity and conservation. In fact, I think we need one to have the other. We need to reassure ourselves that the work we do at LTC is critically important even if we don’t know what the final “build out” scenario will look like. I believe in a scenario that includes a vibrant economy in a community with a plethora of outdoor opportunities; that the water we drink and look across remains clean and clear; that we have abundant forests and fields defining the distance between our humble but amazing towns; that the “other” residents and visitors - our abundant wildlife - continue to thrive. And, most importantly, that the people are living fulfilled lives. We are already pioneering great examples of complementary relationships, and the optimist in me is grateful that we are ahead of the game in this endeavor. And we do need to continue.

The New L. John & Helen Bishop Working Forest Reserve

INCREASING PIGEON RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION

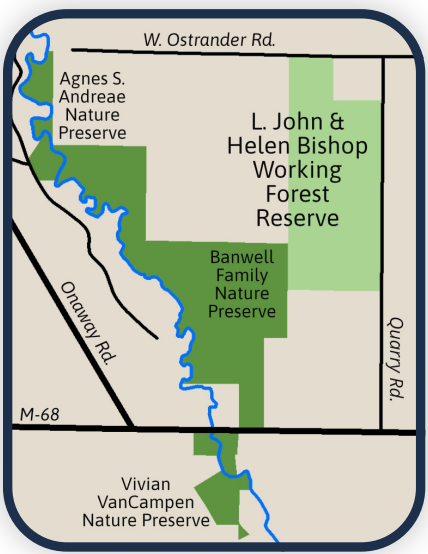
One of the Conservancy’s premiere complexes of protected lands has now grown by 360 acres with the creation of the new L. John & Helen Bishop Working Forest Reserve. Adjoining the northeast side of the Boyd B. Banwell Nature Preserve, the reserve features nearly 1½ miles of the Little Pigeon River, amplifying the protection of this spectacular watershed. The lead donors for the new reserve were Stuart and Patty Bishop, longtime Conservancy supporters who have a deep love for the natural beauty and serenity northern Michigan has provided them and their family for decades. The reserve is named after Stuart’s parents.

Stuart’s father, John, first heard about Harbor Springs while he was a navigator in World War II. The pilot of his plane knew, and eventually married, a young woman whose family had been coming to Harbor Springs for years. A few years later, a chance meeting with a man named Truman Cummings, who went to the same church as John and Helen in Ohio, further sparked his curiosity about this place. “So one Memorial Day weekend, we packed up the car and made the long drive from Ohio to northern Michigan, renting a bluff cottage that overlooked the bay,” Stuart explained. It was the start of a love affair with this region. “Even in his last years, every early April Dad would start asking about going up to Harbor Springs, and we would get him up to the cottage for at least a week.”

Stuart fondly recalls working eight summers in his late teens and early 20’s at Irish Boat Shop. “Back then, we roamed free around here,” Stuart reminisces. He describes working at the Irish Boat Shop as a significant life experience, where he gained a deep respect for Dave Irish, one of LTC’s founders. “Think about how those founders took the time in their own busy lives to create the Conservancy as a positive antidote to unchecked change. They saw it happening then, and yet there is so much more pressure on the land today. All I want to do is to help preserve some of what this area used to be.” At the new reserve, you will find a mix of dry-mesic northern forest, as well as areas planted with pine and spruce. Pockets of aspen and white pine are regenerating throughout. Along the edges of the Little Pigeon River lie a variety of wetland habitats such as conifer swamp, northern shrub thicket, and beaver-dam floods.

Old two tracks meandering the property will be converted into a formalized trail system that will eventually connect to the Andreae/Banwell trail system. Once finished, the complex will offer the largest system currently maintained by the Conservancy, at approximately nine miles. The idea of the trail expansion makes Stuart smile. He and Patty regularly hike the Andreae/Banwell trails and their son Mike, who lives nearby, hikes them almost daily. While hunting will be allowed, it will only be from September through December.

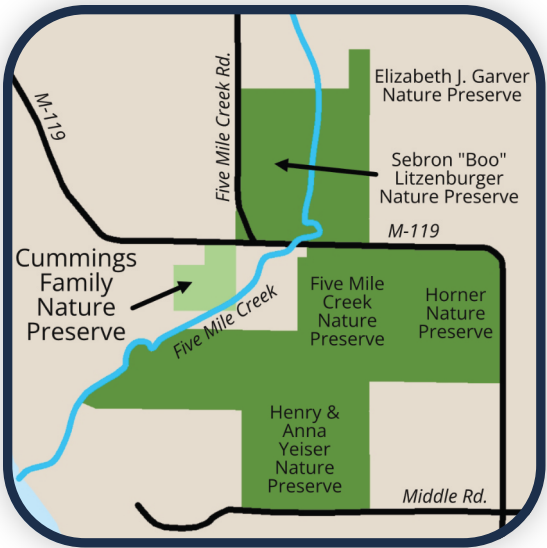
In addition to the Bishop gift, the protection of the new reserve was made possible by those listed to the right. Longtime personal and professional friend of Stuart and his father, Dave Yost, made his donation based on his high regard for both men. “John and Stuart always exhibited the highest levels of integrity. If more companies had a person like John Bishop, followed by Stuart, as CEO, the world would be a better place.”



Growing an Ecological Corridor

An 8-acre addition to a complex of protected lands north of Harbor Springs was acquired this spring, dropping another piece into a priority land protection puzzle.

Last year, Dave and Judy Cummings approached the Conservancy with an interest to sell a portion of their land which lies close to several other preserves (see map). As a tributary to Lake Michigan, the protection of Five Mile Creek and its surrounding watershed offers a multitude of ecological and scenic benefits. The land was acquired this spring and will be called the Cummings Family Nature Preserve, as chosen by funders Ian and Sally Bund.



“This new preserve is a wonderful addition to a growing wildlife and hiking corridor north of Harbor Springs,” Ian said. The Bunds, who protected their 80-acre farm just northwest of the new preserve in 1997, have long understood the value that these corridors have for both wildlife and humans. The new preserve also lies along the iconic M-119/Tunnel of Trees, one of Michigan’s most beloved travel corridors known for extraordinary beauty and Lake Michigan views.

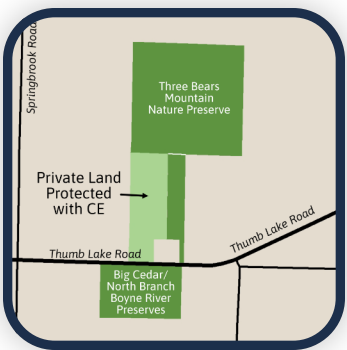
“This area is also very rich with history, from the Native American settlements to the role of the Cummings family in developing a community here. It is wonderful to have this much of it now protected for the benefit of everyone, both the two-legged and the wild,” Bund added.



A Land Legacy Honored Across Generations

The final conservation piece of the Deppa Family land legacy fell into place this spring with the donation of a conservation easement protecting the last 50 acres of land once owned by a veterinarian who held a deep appreciation for wild, undeveloped land.

This land protection story begins in 1946 when Dr. Woodrow Deppa acquired 160 acres near Boyne Falls from the Department of Natural Resources. As time went by, Woodrow acquired additional lands that could provide him access to and expand the original parcel. He and his wife Helen began



regularly bringing the family north to spend time on “The Farm” to explore and learn more about their little piece of paradise. After Helen’s death, his second wife, Joan, played an active role in protecting The Farm, particularly after Woodrow’s death in 1999.

The Conservancy’s part of the story began 25 years ago in 1998 when Woodrow and his second wife, EvaBelle Deppa, donated 100 acres to Little Traverse Conservancy. A year later, they donated another 100 acres, and the land became the Three

Bears Mountain Nature Preserve, The North Branch of the Boyne River Nature Preserve, and part of what is now the Big Cedar Nature Preserve. All told, the Deppas have now protected 271 acres.

“Dad always had an interest in forestry,” said Jerry Deppa, Woodrow’s son. “He presumed he would follow his older brother in that profession. But then his dog encountered a porcupine and when Dad was looking for a vet, he found how scarce they were and this eventually motivated him to pursue that occupation.”

The Farm became a retreat for the extended Deppa family for decades, and various family members have shared stories about how much the land meant to them. Jerry credits The Farm for his choice to pursue a career in Wildlife Biology. “The back of the property was untouched and a wonderful place to prepare me for what I would encounter in inner Alaska,” Jerry said.

“We have so much admiration for the family members who, after Woodrow’s passing, have honored his wishes for the land to be wild and preserved forever,” said Caitlin Donnelly, director of land protection for the Conservancy.

While the new easement protected land remains in private ownership, the surrounding nature preserves are open to the public. More information can be found on the Conservancy’s interactive map at www.landtrust.org.

Protecting Land for Others...Protecting their Own

Originally purchased as a family retreat cabin, Don and Karen Stearns have donated a conservation easement to permanently protect their 40 acres in Clark Township, just northwest of Hessel.

Don explained that the land is primarily used by his extended family, and he is particularly pleased that his nephew - a 2-star general - uses it regularly for hunting retreats. "He was responsible for the supervision of 20,000 people in Florida at an Air Force Base and it makes us feel good to know he has this place to recharge himself from such a stressful job," he said.

Surrounded by state land on three sides, the property includes mixed hardwoods and large aspen stands. A multitude of plant and wildlife species have been seen there, further emphasizing the Stearns’ desire to protect it. “Knowing that this is such good

habitat for the birds and animals makes it particularly satisfying to protect it,” Don said.

This is just the latest conservation project in a long list that Don and Karen have completed through both The Nature Conservancy, Little Traverse Conservancy, and others. They were recently acknowledged for 30 years of work on the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail in central Michigan. And they have been integral in funding several preserves, including fully funding the purchase of what is now the Little Leaf Nature Preserve, a school forest used by Lake Superior Academy near the Sault.

“Don and Karen Stearns not only help support conservation financially where they see opportunities, they have now protected their own land,” said Kieran Fleming, the Conservancy’s Executive Director. “In our business, that is rare air; your own property is an intimate thing. Yet it is no surprise that Don and Karen felt so strongly about their land that they decided to make sure it is forever wild.”

Remembering Brian Granger in a Place He Loved

The Harbor Springs community lost a longtime friend and co-worker with the passing of Brian Granger. Brian was known as a kind-hearted friend who loved everything about northern Michigan. In addition to his many years working at Walstrom Marine - and more recently with Down East Yachting - Brian was a familiar face in the boating community, the hunting community, and through his outdoor adventures with friends and family.



When he died unexpectedly in late 2021, those who loved Brian sought a way to honor his life. The result has become a project to create the Brian Leonard Granger Nature Preserve.

"Brian was a true outdoorsman and loved everything about northern Michigan," said Kate Granger, Brian's wife. "Together we spent countless hours outdoors fishing, hunting or just enjoying nature. Snowshoes in the winter, flushing birds in the fall, honing Mac's (Brian's dog) bird hunting skills in the pasture during the summer months, each season brought joy and nothing made Brian happier than being outdoors and sharing these moments with his friends. I can't think of a better way to honor Brian's memory and ensure that future generations can enjoy the wonders of nature on the same land that brought Brian such peace. I will be forever grateful for the community support that is making this happen."

The Little Traverse Conservancy has partnered with the local Al Litzenburger chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society to raise \$65,000 to protect these 31 acres in memory of Brian. Down East Yachting and the Baiardi Foundation led the fundraising effort.

The new preserve is located just west of Crooked Lake and will adjoin the Sally & Art Hailand, Jr. and Helstrom Family nature preserves. In true Brian fashion, the land includes many wetlands, meaning it is home to a multitude of waterfowl. It also includes uplands that provide habitat for woodcock and other upland birds that Brian and his dog Mac loved to pursue. "Brian volunteered with the Conservancy for many years with a particular interest in protecting the lands and wildlife that he loved so much," said Kieran Fleming, the Conservancy's executive director. "He was a dedicated member of the Ruffed Grouse Society and helped us join forces for conservation once again."

If you would like to contribute to protecting this land in memory of Brian, visit landtrust.org/granger/ or call the office at 231.347.0991.



Your Snapshot

Here is your update on current projects in the works. If you would like to help empower one, visit www.landtrust.org.

Iconic Farm and Forests along M-119

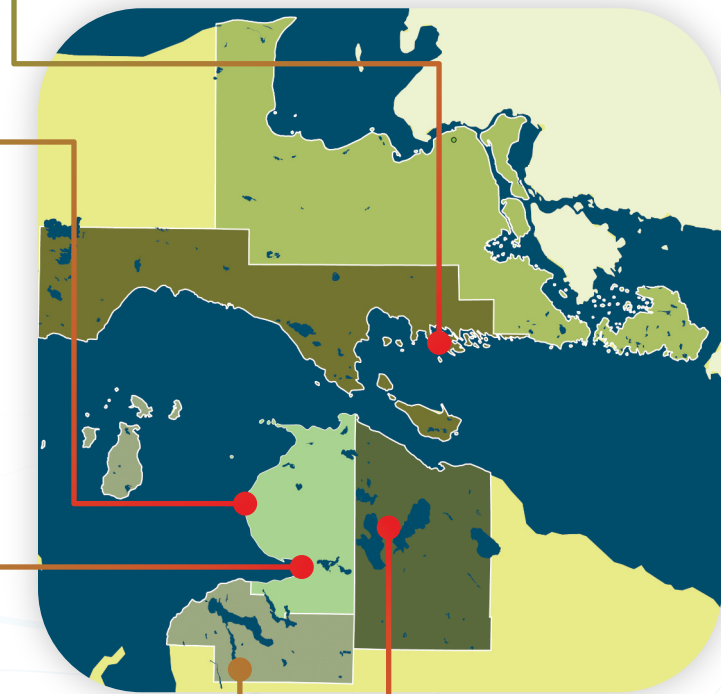
The Lamkin Farm in Good Hart is an iconic landscape. It will soon be protected and named "Woody's Woods". The view that has been there for 150 years will stay that way as an LTC reserve forever. A challenge from the Carls Foundation was met, bringing us to the final \$72,640 needed to protect this special place.

Cube Point in Les Cheneaux

Years ago, the Les Cheneaux community came together to protect Cube Point on Marquette Island. The land became the Wilderness Bay Nature Preserve. We are coming together again to protect an additional 9.24 acres with a combined total of 772 feet of beautiful, pristine frontage on Wilderness and Hessel Bays. We are \$92,442 away from protecting this land by yearend.

Remembering Brian Granger

Protecting 31 acres near Crooked Lake will do more than build on two beloved nature preserves. It will honor the life of Brian Granger. We are \$18,200 away from protecting this land, and remembering Brian, forever.



First Universal Access Trail

Partnering with the City of East Jordan, we are so close to creating a UA trail from the City to our nature preserve. The Don and Eileen Klein Nature trail will be nearly half mile of walkable, wheelable trail along the Jordan River. As of May 9, \$79,495 is needed to begin trail construction this fall. This will be the Conservancy's first UA trail with hopes of having more in the future.

Building a mountain bike trail between Burt and Mullett lakes

Our first mountain bike trail at the Tanton Family Working Forest Reserve (WFR) has seen some of our highest numbers of visitors. We are excited to create another walking and biking trail, this time in Cheboygan County at the Melvin Family WFR. Construction will begin in August of this year pending fundraising.

An Experiment with an Off The Leash Preserve



We understand that walking through nature with a dog is what brings many people close to nature. For many, it is the main way we relate to nature. There is one nature preserve where you are allowed to have your dog off leash any time other than nesting season for ground nesting birds (April 16th-July 8th). It is not a dog park, and there is no fence aside from a short segment near the entrance to prevent dogs from running up to the neighbor's house. The boundaries are clearly marked, and there is plenty of space for you and your dog to explore a nature preserve without using a leash. Dog handlers are still responsible for keeping their dogs in line, and for managing their dogs' safety. There are porcupines and skunks on the preserve, and interactions with other off-leash dogs is possible. Please read the full rules before visiting to determine if Van Lokeren Family Lakeside Nature Preserve is an appropriate place to bring your dog. This is an experimental preserve usage; if it goes well, off-leash use can continue. There is also a municipal public dog park in Boyne City. Search for Ridge Run Dog Park.

Thorne Swift Summer Programs

While Thorne Swift is owned by Little Traverse Conservancy, it is operated and managed by West Traverse Township. Thorne Swift trails are open daily from 10am to sunset April 15-November 14. The Nature Center is open Memorial Day through Labor Day from 10:00am-7:00pm. To register for these programs, please call Thorne Swift directly at 231.626.6401.



STORY TELLING AND EVENING HIKE

July 8 + August 5 | Saturdays: 8:00pm - 9:30pm

We begin our experience in our Fire Circle where we share stories from different Tribes, followed by s'mores, before hiking to the beach. Any one of these would be fun by itself, but all three makes for a very special evening of family fun. No reservations required

FAIRY HOUSES WITH DEB

July 10 + August 7 | Mondays: 5:00pm - 8:00pm

This is without a doubt the workshop which fills most quickly, so reserve your spot right away! We supply the base onto which you will craft your masterpiece using natural materials that we provide. Feel welcome to bring your own special items though. There is a tool/material list that you will receive when you sign up. We do have success with crafty teens and slightly younger with but it is considered an adult workshop. Please call for a tool list and to register. \$20 Fee.

SHADOW BOX

July 17 | Monday: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

This art piece is structured on a wooden frame and we combine textural rich materials such as hand made paper and birchbark as well as whatever interior elements you wish to add. Typically birch bark and twigs fall into crafts but the addition of handmade paper and your imagination can bring this project into the World of fine art. Please call for a tool list and to register. \$20 Fee.

EDIBLE AND MEDICINAL PLANTS

July 24 | Saturdays: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Join us on a tour of our preserve's array of wild edible and medicinal plants. Along with a practical walking tour we will sample a collection of wild foods and teas. No reservations required.

BIRCH BARK PICTURE FRAME

July 31 | Monday: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Learn the basics of adding birch bark and split twigs on a picture frame and you will be able to create everything from picture frames, to bird houses, to planter boxes. "Birch barking" is so much more than adding a beautiful white material to something, it is almost like working with stained glass. This bark has a front side and back side and many different colored layers in between. In this class, we will be working on a simple project but it shall show you the possibilities of creating scenes in a larger scale with the different colors of birch bark. Please call for a tool list and to register. \$20 Fee.

Looking Deeper at our Protected Lands: E.C.A.R.



Brad Von Blon is Little Traverse Conservancy's first Ecology Technician, working fully on the E.C.A.R. Program

Introducing: E.C.A.R.! A brand new program for evaluating and protecting our ecosystems. ECAR is a survey method, a classification system, and a planning process all rolled into one. The acronym stands for Ecological Conditions Analysis and Response. Through it, we collect information on current habitat conditions, analyze what we've found, and then make a management plan to

respond. LTC has partnered with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (a team of biologists and ecologists in Michigan) to survey nearly our entire catalog of protected lands in the next three years!

This new program will be an effective way for our stewardship department to assess habitat type and health within preserves or reserves and then create a plan on how best to maintain high quality sites or improve degraded ones (a.k.a Respond!).

Here's how it will work: We'll visit a preserve, identify forest stands and distinct habitats such as uncommon wetlands like fens or bogs, measure trees, collect data, look for unique features, create a list of all the wonderful plants and animals we see, and then put all that information into a database. The ECAR database will be a guide for making wise management decisions and annual work plans. There is much for us to learn about the

25,000+ acres for which we are responsible. Here are some examples:

EXAMPLE 1: The ECAR program reveals observations of *Bombus terricola*, a bumble bee species that is listed as a species of special concern in Michigan. The particular property where it has been found has favorable habitat for the bee, but that habitat is degrading. This is where LTC can respond. The habitat can be manipulated in a manner to keep the characteristics the bees need to thrive and persist, or any future recreational features can be carried out in a manner that does not negatively impact the bees.

EXAMPLE 2: The ECAR program reveals that a preserve includes a marsh that was fragmented by infill from a road put in years ago. Over the years, this fragmentation decreased the habitat quality, but the impact had not been easily visible. This is where LTC can respond. The impairment can be removed, and the hydrological connectivity restored.

In many cases, the response will be that a habitat is doing a very good job of maintaining itself, and a passive approach to management will often be the best option (Nature has quite a knack for helping us out like that!). Knowing which habitats are stable and which are not will help us efficiently use limited resources.

MNFI is helping inventory nearly all the 4.6 million acres of state land in Michigan. By incorporating their methods and protocols, LTC will be able to make comparisons to state managed lands and collaboratively conserve wildlife. A thorough understanding of the habitats and their conditions will equip LTC staff to make more informed management decisions, budget allocations, and restoration prioritizations, and will improve how the organization reports and communicates about conservation progress to the Board as well as the public. We will be excited to share our findings in future newsletters!





Honorariums & Memorials

IN HONOR OF

Judy Allen
Shirley Allen

Bonnie Lee Crampton
Roznowski Family

Anthony Kenny
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. MacDonald

Derek Pachla & Rachel Headley
Mark & Wendy Smith Pachla

IN MEMORY OF

Luke Thomas Balstad
Sophia Putman

Suzanne Blakeman
Mrs. Louise Taylor

Peter and Martha Blom
Ms. Julie Blom

Cary Ambler Boggs
Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey A. Bennett
Ellen & Steve Liestenfeltz
Ric & Lisa Loyd
K. C. & Louise McAlpin
Matthew & Sheri Schroeder

Burke Campbell
Ms. Maureen Burke

Michael Cameron
Anton Family Foundation
Thomas Bailey & Heidi Marshall
The Couch & Brown Families
Mary Lee & Mike Duff
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn R. Evans
Martha Lancaster & Doug Fuller
Mr. & Mrs. W. Anthony Huffman
Emily Hughes & Joe, Ember, & Ada Graham
Dave Kring Chevrolet Cadillac

Ric & Lisa Loyd
Mrs. William G. Rupp

Ms. Mary Stenger
Mr. & Mrs. Byron L. West

Margaret Cannon
John & Penny Kreucher
Ms. Polly Ryan
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Sprinzl
Bob & Kathie Carr
Ralph & Mary Sustar

George Chapman
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen P. Kost

Heidi & Jack Clausnitzer
Norma Clausnitzer

Morry Clayton, beloved dog
Lynn Tryban

Margot Condie
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. FitzSimons

C. Howard Crane
Mr. & Mrs. James K. Dobbs, III
Mrs. Elizabeth & Mr. Morton Payne

DePrez Ewing
Graham Real Estate

Stephen Graham
Alanson Area Library Board & Alanson Library Director
Dave Kring Chevrolet Cadillac
Emmet Co. 57th Circuit Court
Anna Petzold Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Petzold

John Graff
Lee & Anne Davis

Patricia Hamel
Kristi Autore
Patricia Bailey Duncan
Kara Sweeney Guertin
Mrs. Arnold D. Hamel
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Thompson
Pat & Paul Wilson

John & Carrie Hayden
Neal & Madonna Allread

Martin Jones
East Burt Lake Association

John Karkosak
The Bath & Body Works
International Planning Team
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Christensen
Mr. & Mrs. Al Cohen
Thomas and Jackie Dimambro
Dykema Gossett
Mary Faber & Peter Morman
The Flett Family
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Flynn, Jr.
Legal, IT & CS Depts. at Toyota
Boshoku America
Laurel Jernigan
Mrs. John Karkosak
Erik Koehler and Kelly Kozlowski
Ms. Mary Lieberman
Susanne Mocer
Mr. & Mrs. Donald J. Nessen
Scott Perreman
Greg & Sally Talberg

Moxie Kennard, beloved dog
Lynn Tryban

Edward Koza
Thomas Bailey & Heidi Marshall

Richard Kudner
Eleanor & James Berghausen
Amy Diamond & Eddie Wolf
Members of Forum X
Sue Green
Idlywilde Friends of Dick & Martha
Sue & Bill Howell
Ms. Cathy Kalahar & David Evrard
Dave & Kathy Schmitt
Joseph & Sharon Timmons

Harold Leach
Cynthia Allen
Mr. Hal Gibson
Lisa Hritz
Valerie Lange

Seberon Litzenburger
Gaetan & Quan Gerville-Reache

Ed Marin
Gus Foster
Alex A. Green
George & Anne Lewis
Ric & Lisa Loyd
Mrs. Sophie McGee

Cali Meyer, beloved dog
Emily Hughes & Joe, Ember, & Ada Graham

Thomas Murray
Graham Real Estate

Matthew Nisbett
Richard & Susan Nisbett

Margaret O'Malley
Marion Bitzer
Sophie MacMahon
Dr. & Mrs. Albert F. Polk, Jr.
Ms. Joan F. Wright

Audrey "Tolie" Otto
Mrs. Thomas H. Carruthers, IV

Loretta Pakizer
Kim Pakizer

Jillian Parker
Mark & Sarah Parker

Elaine Rose
The Abraham Family
The Bolla Family
Suzanne Girard & John Swartz
Mike & Jacque Harrington

Mary Ellen Harrison & Larry Carriker
Lalaine Kilbourn
Terry & Meg O'Brien
Jennifer, Kurt and Emma Steinsvik
V. Clayton, Anne and Elizabeth Weaver
Richard & Janet Young

Suzanne S. Schulze
Peter & Helen Schulze

David Searles
Mrs. Louise Taylor

Richard Seguin
Ty & Sarah Ratliff

Beverly & Edward Stenger
Ms. Mary Stenger

Ed Stolt
Dave Kring Chevrolet Cadillac

Brenda K. Tripp
Patricia Dishman

Deacon Winslow
Mr. & Mrs. Norman W. Harris, III

Robert Wonnacott
Dave Kring Chevrolet Cadillac

Skip Young
Sam & Mary Lou Supernaw



First Full Year of Forest School Complete!

It has been a creative year for us. In fact, a total of 63 new programs were created over the past year as part of the Forest School Program.

“The frequency of visits through our Forest School model allows us to create a beautiful relationship with both staff and children,” said Sarah Mayhew, education director.

How exactly does this theme by grade approach work? Each grade has a subject, which is the focus of the whole school year and complements other work being done by the teachers. Having a theme by grade eliminates program redundancy for students and strengthens environmental literacy. At the end of the year, each grade will complete a service project that will strengthen the life of their subject matter. The overall theme is ‘wild life’ and each grade is given a particular subject within that theme based on discussions we would have with the teachers.

Here is an example by grade: Kindergarten (plants), first grade (birds), second grade (mammals), third grade (reptiles/amphibians), fourth grade (fish) and fifth grade (wilderness survival skills).

These photos are more examples from this year of innovation!



Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following new members
who joined since February 23, 2023

Callie Bakker
Scott Banfield
Kimberly Barraco
Jeff Beemer
Robin Biebuyck
Cathy and Mike Brady
John and Savanah Cool
Laurie and Lotus Cornell
Gregory Curtner
Charles and Judy Gattis
Shelli Hesselroth
Steve and Joli Hoffman
Mitch and Debra Howell
Emily Johnson
Margie Ladzick
Ron Lyon
Trudy Marcum
Meriel Meehan
John Nagel

Anne Oosthuizen
Ashley Reische
Kevin and Marcy Rogers
Keason and Jill Sanvordenker
Anna Schaenzer
Don and Mary Scheible
Leslie Jeffs Senke
Mr. William A. Sheets
David Trautman and Charlene Kitson
Thomas and Chelsea Trautman
The Tuomikoski's
Amy Wendell
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Wojan
Justin Wolgamott

Nobody Like Mike

Some people are part of the fabric of LTC. They are familiar faces that are always willing to lend a hand or an idea, or a smile. Michael Cameron was one of those people, with an emphasis on lending a smile – Mike had a great smile. As a member since 1991, Mike was involved on board committees, writing letters to neighbors, and in creating a nature preserve to remember his beloved wife, Martha. This photo of Mike was from the dedication of the Martha Cavanagh Cameron Nature Preserve on July 13, 2011.

While Mike lived in places other than northern Michigan throughout the year, Menonaqua was where he called home. As a Legacy Member of the Conservancy, Mike was sure to remember the land in his passing. By including LTC in his will, Mike’s legacy will live as long as the land – forever. We are honored to have known Mike. If you knew him too, we hope you will smile at his memory and then go take a walk outside and enjoy this land he loved.



Thank You.

Don App for building a bridge for the new DeNardis Family Nature Preserve trail.

John Baker for lending tools for our intern house remodel, for building bird houses and kiosk frames.

Martha Twombly for helping with the intern house remodel and odd jobs in the office.

Mike Kostal for building various wildlife habitat boxes and fun metal art.

Tim DeWick and **Bonnie Mikkelsen** for donating toward plowing at the Oliver and Edna Birge Nature Preserve parking area.

Tom Themm for plowing the Elizabeth B. Hoffmann Nature Preserve parking area and removing old fencing.

To the following for field trip leading or support: **Mary Trout, Greenwood Foundation, and Ty and Grayden Ratliff.**

Drummond Island Grooming Association for plowing the Clyde and Martha Williams Nature Preserve parking area.

Harbor Springs Excavating for sanding the LTC parking area.

Heeres Excavating, Inc. for providing a reduced rate for services to establish a parking area at the Beem Memorial Nature Preserve

Larry Knutson of Penn Trails, LLC. for donating his time to lead a training workshop and Steve Leonard of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust for his invitation to participate in the class.

Photo Contest with Glass Lake Photography

Glass Lakes Photography in Petoskey is partnering with Little Traverse Conservancy for two photo contests offered this June and August. The June contest will celebrate public lands and feature LTC trails and preserves. The August contest will focus on the theme of water features on public lands.

The contests are open to everyone. The winning photographer will have their winning photograph printed, mounted, and matted up to a 16x20 frame size by Petoskey Print Studio, a value of \$110.97. The participant is responsible for any additional services requested such as shipping or framing if desired. Full rules will be officially announced in late June and late July.

Photo Credit: Glass Lake Photography



Thank you Charlevoix County Community Foundation! Through the wonderful contributions of CCCF, Heeres Excavating, and Dan and Heather Beem, we have installed a new parking area and established a new trail at the Nathan Beem Memorial Nature Preserve for everyone to enjoy.

Mick of Micks Bait Shop in Curtis for donating bait and tackle for our ice fishing outing with 3 Lakes Academy.

Patrick Kline and Chris Bellrose from **Cedar Swamp Sporting Goods** for donating several materials for our wilderness survival program.

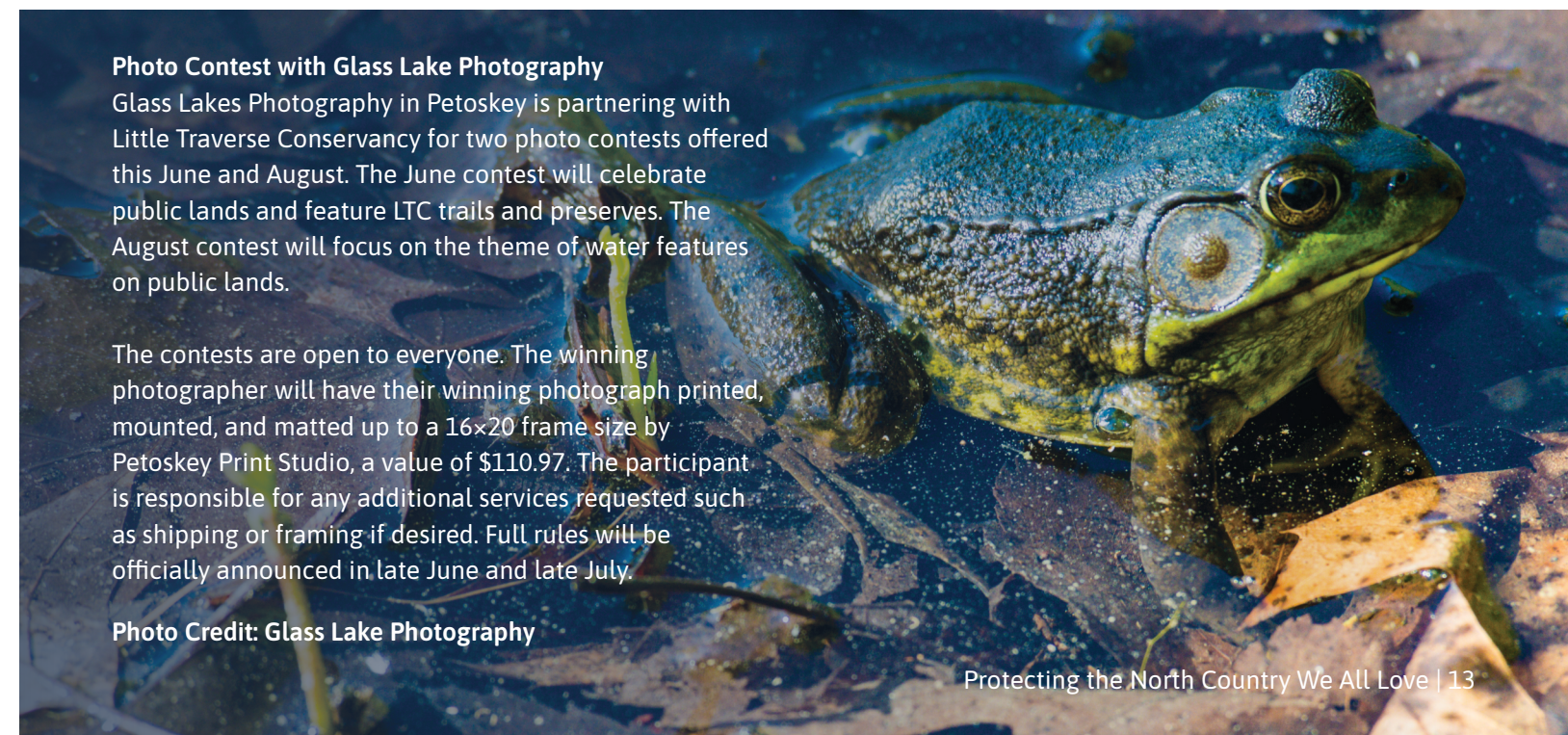
Jared Graham for graphic design work for our Forest School program.

Klean Kanteen for discounted water bottles for Forest School program.

Nathan Fairbanks for use of ice fishing equipment.

Jay Bitely of **Birch Shores Resort** and math teacher at Three Lakes Academy for donating the use of two pontoon boats for the 4th grade fishing outing.

Pat and Julie Dougherty for being trail blazers.



51st Annual Meeting

Please join us for our 51st Annual Meeting Tuesday, August 1 from 9:00am — 11:30am.

9:00am — Coffee
10:00am — Meeting Begins
11:30am — Lunch
12:30pm — Field Trips

All members will receive an invitation by mail, but all are welcome.

Meeting & Field Trips: No charge

Optional Lunch: \$16 per person/Catered by Nourish (Vegetarian Teriyaki Bowl & Salad)

Please email sarah@landtrust.org or call 231.347.0991 for registration or return your form by July 14.

Summer 2023 Field Trips

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

Restoration Tour: Offfield Family Viewlands

Wednesday, June 21 / 4:00pm | LTC Staff: Amy

A joint program with LTC and our local Invasive Species Management Specialists, CAKE CISMA. The restoration at the Offfield Family Viewlands is well underway, but it will be years before this former golf course functions as a cohesive natural area. Join staff from both organizations and learn the methods we are using to remove invasives and support our prairie projects. See how we have planted and cared for thousands of tiny trees. If you have an old field in your yard and you are committed to transforming into a habitat for native plants, pollinators, and other wildlife, you will appreciate this hike! Come with questions. Please register in advance and be prepared to hike on and off trails in hilly terrain. We will meet at the kiosk near the white tent in the upper parking lot.

2023 Bioblitz: Biodiversity Celebration Week

Thursday - Sunday, July 6:00pm - 9:00pm | LTC Staff: Cacia

Let's celebrate and get inspired, explore, and discover. Over the course of the week we invite you to visit one or many LTC protected properties and observe as many living creatures as you can, from the common northern white cedar tree to the spotted salamander. We will kick off the week with a guided field trip and see how many different species and locations we can record on iNaturalist.

St. Clair Lake-Six Mile Lake Community Paddle

Thursday, July 20 / 6:00pm - 8:00pm

St. Clair Lake DNR Boat Access Site (9400 Six Mile Lake Road)

Grab your paddle-board, kayak or paddle craft of choice for an amazing evening paddle with Paddle Antrim, Little Traverse Conservancy, and Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy through the St. Clair Lake – Six Mile Lake Natural Area. All paddlers must complete a paddling event waiver prior to participation. Waivers can be viewed and signed digitally. The St. Clair Lake – Six Mile Lake Natural Area is a 255 acre preserve co-owned and co-managed by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and the Little Traverse Conservancy.

What Lies Beneath? Plant Communication and Signals from Soil to Canopy in Michigan Forests

Saturday, July 29 | LTC Staff: Lindsay

Hindle Property - Mark Hunter will be the field trip lead

Coastal Habitat Hike with CAKE CISMA

Friday, August 4 / 10:00am - 12:00pm

Woollam Family Nature Preserve - near Cross Village

Conservation associate, Elizabeth Haber, will guide this hike focused on protecting and promoting coastal plants. Limited to 15 people.

Mushrooming at the Elmer Johnston Preserve

Sunday, August 6 / 12:00pm - 2:00pm | LTC Staff: Amy

Join us for a day of mushroom hunting! We will meet at Elmer Johnston Nature Preserve and do a quick intro. Then, we will split up and everyone will hunt for mushrooms. At 1:15, meet back at the starting point near the parking area and we will discuss all the various mushrooms that people have found. If there are not many mushrooms out, we may change to a regular nature walk to talk about plants and mushrooms found in this beautiful preserve. Come prepared to hike off trail on steep or soggy terrain."

Fall Mushrooming!

Sunday, September 24 / 12:00pm - 2:00pm | LTC Staff: Amy

Location: TBD

Join us for a day of mushroom hunting! Location to be determined based on where the mushrooms are most abundant! Register to be notified of the location prior to the event. We will meet at noon and do a quick intro. Then, we will split up and everyone will hunt for mushrooms. At 1:15pm, meet back at the starting point near the parking area and we will discuss all the various mushrooms that people have found. If there are not many mushrooms out, we may change to a regular nature walk to talk about plants and mushrooms. Come prepared to hike off trail on steep or soggy terrain."

Save the Trees & Rock the Forest

*Come for one or
come for both events!*

July 21, 2023 6 - 7:30 pm Concert at 8:00

OFFFIELD FAMILY VIEWLANDS, HARBOR SPRINGS

FEATURING 3 SILENT AUCTION OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Name your own Gurney's sandwich
2. Custom cocktail cruise
3. Maple River kayak



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www.landtrust.org
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What Trails Are Near Me?

Our **Featured Trails** publication is the easiest way to get a snapshot of the trails we recommend for hiking and biking throughout the Conservancy's five-county service area. You can view it online, stop by our office for a copy or pick one up at your local chamber of commerce.

This year will be the last year we maintain the trail app LTC Explorer. We are making improvements to the interactive map on our website to improve readability on your smart phone as well. This is the very best place to find the most updated information about our preserves, reserves, and trails. Visit www.landtrust.org/explore.