



LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY



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Summer 2003

Of Farmland and the Future

CONSERVANCY RECEIVES LARGEST
SINGLE DONATION TO DATE



Randy McCune

In the largest single donation ever granted to the organization, Ed and Maureen Mayne have given their 625-acre property, “Goodhart Farms,” to the Little Traverse Conservancy to ensure the land’s long-term protection.

“We didn’t give anything away from which we didn’t receive something in return,” Ed said. “And in so many ways, having this land protected is like a salve on a burn. We built a dream on that land and now we can feel that, in essence, that dream will not ever be disturbed.”

Ed’s wife, Maureen, agreed. “I have put so much of myself into the farm and have so many good memories there. It’s wonderful to know that now it cannot be built upon or damaged.”

“It is a phenomenal gift, both in terms of protected land and what it will mean to the community,” said MaryKay O’Donnell, the Conservancy’s Director of Land Protection.

The farm, known for growing high quality horse hay, has 200 acres in hay production and 425 forested acres. The balance of hay operations had been from 300 acres of land

leased locally.

The Maynes purchased Goodhart Farms in 1994 from the estate of John Hannah. Hannah, a former president of Michigan State University, had been purchasing and piecing together smaller farms since the 1950s, using the land for his own cattle herd and for agricultural experiments affiliated with the University.

John’s son, Tom, recalls hand planting 50 acres of conifer trees, including Ponderosa pines, which was the first time those trees had been grown in northern lower Michigan.

“When it came time to sell our parents’ land, our entire family was very pleased to sell it to Ed

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Farmland and Future
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Mayne.” Tom said. “We received several offers from people who intended to develop it, but Ed desired to keep the large tract of land intact, following my father’s original wishes .”

“It’s terrific that now the protection of the land has been formalized,” Tom added.

Because most of the fields had been cattle pasture, the land had become compacted and non-crop productive. “The first big job was to prepare the soil so that fine hay could be grown,” Ed explained. “It took three years to achieve this objective.”

About a year ago, the Maynes decided they had accomplished what they intended with their hay operation and needed to determine what to do with the land. The couple were well aware of the Conservancy’s work in the region. “I’ve never seen a Conservancy-protected property that I didn’t like,” Maureen said. “I always hoped that some day we could also protect land in that manner.” In addition to donating the land outright, the Maynes also donated the farm equipment and



Randy McCune

buildings that had been used to run their hay operation. The proceeds from the sale of the equipment and buildings will be used for stewardship and further land protection efforts.


“What a generous, generous gift this was to our organization and to the beautiful landscape of Emmet County,” said Tom Bailey, the Conservancy’s executive director. “The

magic of the rolling countryside can now be enjoyed by all of us, forever.”

“Each time we drive by the farm, we have the pleasure of knowing that through the Conservancy, we share our good fortune with others now and in future generations,” said Ed.

The developed portion of the farm where the buildings are grouped will be forever protected with a conservation easement. Eventually, this portion of property will be sold to a private individual who will keep the farm in production. The fields will

continue in hay production and the balance of the property will be managed as a natural area. A stewardship plan to guide the property’s management is currently being developed by the Conservancy and will be completed in a year.

The Conservancy’s annual meeting will be held at Goodhart Farms on August 5 (see page 5). 

14th Annual Save the Trees Benefit

featuring the artwork of Julie Ryckman
Saturday, July 5, 2003, 6-9 pm
Irish Boatyard, Harbor Springs

In 1990, the Little Traverse Conservancy’s Benefit Council hosted its first annual “Save the Trees” fundraiser. The Benefit Council was formed by local citizens who were concerned about rapid development and its potential negative impact on the area. The fundraiser was the council’s way to offer help. For 13 years now, the Save the Trees benefit has been the Conservancy’s only annual fundraising event, raising thousands of dollars for land protection efforts.

This year’s event co-chairs Shelagh Luplow and Gow Litzenburger are planning yet another exciting event. A silent auction will feature a beautiful oil painting of the Harbor Springs bluff and Little Traverse Bay by Julie Stenger Ryckman. “The James Greenway Trio” will provide musical entertainment throughout the evening. Dress is casual and complimentary cocktails and hors d’oeuvres by Nancy Kelly Catering will be served.

Tickets are available for \$40 in advance and \$45 at

the door. Special sponsorship donations are also available ranging from \$125-\$500 that include complimentary admission with the donation.

For more information, contact the Conservancy office at (231) 347-0991. 



Harbor Springs from the Bluff, an original oil painting by Julie Stenger Ryckman, will be auctioned at this year’s Save the Trees fundraising event in Harbor Springs.

Conservancy Fundraising for Protection of Key Charlevoix County Farmland

The plight of today's farmer is all too familiar for many around the country, and northern Michigan is no exception. The current market value of land contrasts starkly with the economic realities of farming for a living, or even for a part-time venture.

The Martinchek family was facing this dilemma head-on. As lifelong farmers and owners of farmland that is located adjacent to lands associated with the new Charlevoix High School, the family found itself in the middle of a community controversy that was rooted in a proposed sewer extension leading from the new high school into the nearby countryside. With such an extension, sprawling development would have been inevitable and the Martinchek's 225 acres of land were first in line.

But the Martinchek family wanted to stay where they were and they wanted to continue farming. "Farming is in my blood," Joe Martinchek said. "I like the outdoors and love to watch things grow." Two years ago, the family began working with the Conservancy to look for alternatives to selling their family farmlands.



Phil Ohmer

By selling development rights on 225 acres of their farm, Joe Martinchek (above) and his family can continue farming the land that they've enjoyed for generations.

Purchase of Development Rights as a Conservation Tool

Last year, the Conservancy completed its first purchase of development rights (PDR) project by protecting a portion of Clayridge Farm in Cheboygan County.

"Our board has agreed to use this conservation tool in appropriate circumstances," said Tom Bailey, the Conservancy's executive director. "However, we currently do not have a large pool of funding for this type of conservation and must be cautious." Bailey added that the Conservancy is still fundraising for the purchase of the Martinchek's development rights. "We've had wonderful support from donors who recognize the importance of protecting this property. But, we also know we don't have the same fundraising capabilities in all parts of our service area at this time."

For more information about PDR or the Martinchek project, please call our office at (231) 347-0991.

"We were interested in keeping our farm land protected from urban sprawl," said Joe. After exploring the various land protection tools that might work, the Martincheks decided to sell the development rights on their farm to the Conservancy, permanently restricting the land and allowing it to remain as open space in perpetuity. This agreement also allows for continued farming on the land.

"The scope of this project is larger than just one family," said Ty Ratliff, a Conservancy land protection specialist. "By protecting their land, the Martinchek family has helped slow unplanned sprawl in this community. In addition, they have permanently protected significant farmland and open space in scenic northern Michigan."

Ratliff added that this project helps demonstrate to other area residents that subdivision and development are not the only options for their land.

The Conservancy is currently fundraising for the purchase of the Martinchek's development rights. Already, a neighbor has pledged to donate funds toward the project and to donate a conservation easement on his own significant farmland property located nearby.

"For us, this was the right thing to do," Betty Martinchek said. "This is such a beautiful part of God's world, we want to keep it that way."

We All Need Places Like This

Soon after they were married, Dick and Sally Bartosik began looking for land to start their own farm. Living in the Detroit area, Dick's godparents lived outside of the city and the Bartosiks hoped to find land nearby.

"But by the time we were ready to purchase something, we saw how developed everything was becoming," Sally said.

On a trip to Leelanau County in the early 1960s, the Bartosiks decided to stop at a realtor's office. The realtor showed the couple a farm that they absolutely loved, but by the time they saved the money for a down payment, the farm was sold.

However, now they knew where they wanted to be. The couple made frequent trips north on the weekends, searching for just the right spot. When Dick worked long weeks, Sally came up alone and stayed at Bell's Bay in their truck camper with a Siamese cat as her guard.

Finally, after five years of looking, the Bartosiks found their farm. Located off of Norwood Road and offering scenic views from US-31, the land held an old farmhouse that was perfect for their homesteading dream.


With their land, the Bartosiks have experienced the ups and downs that country life can offer. For years, the couple raised farm animals which included Jersey and Angus cows, pigs, chickens, and more. The original farmhouse, which included a stone fireplace built by Sally, was lovingly restored but tragically suffered a fire in the early 1990s. A



The Bartosiks donated a conservation easement protecting 80 acres of their 120-acre farm.

new residence was built where the couple live now.

Why a conservation easement? "Can you imagine kids growing up without the benefit of seeing wild animals and plants?" Sally asked. "We can tell just by the number of roadkill that we see now, compared to years ago, the influence of increased population and development."

Yet having moved "up North" to find their own place of quiet and peace, the Bartosiks say the main reason they protected their land is for others who don't have access to places like this, and need to come for respite. "These are places that we all need where we can hold on to our sanity," Sally said. 




Oden Island. The arrow shows the location of a tract of land recently protected through local fundraising.

Community Support Protects Crooked Lake Frontage

The Conservancy recently worked with area residents to purchase a critical tract that includes 1,000 feet of Crooked Lake shoreline. Private donations totalling \$31,000 were raised and the Conservancy finished off the \$41,000 project. The tract lies along the land bridge leading to Oden Island.

In 2000, the Conservancy also partnered with Oden Island and other local residents to raise nearly \$1 million for the purchase of a 50-acre tract on the island. Now a nature preserve, that property protects nearly a mile of shoreline.

For more information, please contact our office at (231) 347-0991. 



Todd Parker

Celebrating more than 18,000 acres of land and 31 years of land protection, the Conservancy's annual meeting is a time for gratitude and renewal.

Honoring the gift of land 31st Annual Meeting

*Tuesday, August 5
Goodhart Farms, Emmet County*

9:30 am coffee

10:00 am meeting

12:00 lunch (catered by The Crow's Nest)

Visit the beautiful Goodhart Farms and join us as we recap the past year and highlight current Conservancy projects and initiatives. Member invitations will be mailed in early July, or call (231) 347-0991 to register.

Afternoon horse-drawn hay rides touring the property will be offered after lunch.

Conservation Investment Protects 360 Acres

The Cheboygan River Watershed and Little Pigeon River won a large victory when a 360-acre parcel was permanently protected through the Conservancy's Conservation Investment Program.

Last year, the property's owners approached the Conservancy to see if the organization was interested in purchasing the land for protection. Normally, the Conservancy is not able to make outright purchases without fundraising or using specially designated funds. But through the Conservation Investment Program, the Conservancy was able to purchase the land, place a conservation easement on it, and then re-sell it to a conservation-minded buyer.

"The sellers were happy to sell the land to the Conservancy with the knowledge that it would be re-sold for protection," said land protection specialist, Kieran

Fleming. "We quickly found a buyer who was interested in purchasing the land as an investment opportunity centered on conservation."

In the past three years, 1,474 acres of land in our service area have been purchased and resold with a conservation easement. Per acre, the average cost of protecting land has



Gary Williams

360 acres and more than a quarter mile of the Little Pigeon River are now protected with a conservation easement.

been \$151, making this a desirable conservation option.

"This conservation tool continues to be proven as a very effective way for the Conservancy to protect large tracts at a minimal cost," said Tom Bailey, the Conservancy's executive director. "Other land trusts are watching its success with the hope of implementing similar programs in their service area."

For more information about the program, please call the Conservancy office at (231) 347-0991.



After All These Years, Conservation is Still the Answer

Siblings Mary DeMuth Fuehrer and George DeMuth recall that they have made annual visits to the north shore of Lake Huron since 1929, when their parents introduced them to Hessel and the Les Cheneaux Islands area. Years later, friend Albert Lindberg of Hessel “called to our attention the wonders of a parcel of land on Deer Point Road, south of DeTour.”

When Mary and her husband, Bill, and George and his wife, Margaret, walked the land, they were delighted. They learned that the owner of the parcel was not interested in subdividing the 10-acre parcel with 1,000 feet of shoreline, and they concurred. Since then, annual visits have been enjoyed by three generations as their families have discovered the wonders of the Lake Huron shoreline and the magical Les Cheneaux region.


Recently, the sister and brother began to contemplate the various options they had for themselves and the land’s future. With many more family members now involved, they needed some questions answered, the first being whether or not they would want to subdivide the parcel to accommodate the various families. “When we thought about how much we originally liked the land because it was ‘unsubdivided,’ we made a decision to look further into how we could leave it intact,” Mary said. And after discussing their options with



“Dawn at Deer Point,” an original oil painting by Leslie DeMuth, shows a shoreline view from the family’s conservation-easement protected property on Lake Huron.

Conservancy staff, Mary and George chose to donate a conservation easement on their land. “Now, regardless of the length of our ownership, it will remain undivided.”

“Giving the conservation easement to a recognized conservancy was, for us, an appealing approach,” George added. “While we appreciated the recognition of a donated conservation easement by the IRS, the primary motivation of our easement was to protect the land.”

Land protected with a conservation easement remains private property and remains on the local tax rolls. For more information, please call (231) 347-0991. 


Land Donor Further Protects Land



Jeannine Palms (right) and partner Dale Petty on the easement land.

Two years ago, we reported on the protection of 360 acres of land in Chippewa County, the purchase of which was largely made possible by Jeannine Palms. Palms chose to dedicate a recent inheritance toward the protection of this beautiful land now known as the Jinny Palms Nature Preserve, in memory of her mother.


Jeannine has now taken the final step of her land protection by donating a conservation easement on a 40-acre tract located adjacent to the Palms Preserve, which she has purchased for private use. This land, which is located one mile inland of Lake Superior and 11 miles west of the Whitefish Point Bird Sanctuary, now complements several tracts protected by the state as well as the 380-acre Michigan Nature Association’s Lake Superior Sanctuary. Nearly 1,000 acres of adjacent land are protected, protecting critical habitat for neotropical migrants traveling from Canada to their winter homes.

“Finalizing the conservation easement and recently spending time there reminded me of the amazing beauty and richness of life,” Jeannine said. 

Student Volunteers Replace Boardwalk

On April 23, a group of 14 students from Petoskey Middle School's Service Club and Builder's Club repaired boardwalk at the Emmet County McCune Nature Preserve. This effort was coordinated by Janice Elliot, Char-EM ISD AmeriCorps member, as part of National Youth Service Day.

"Some of the boardwalk at the McCune Preserve has aged and needs replacing, said Melissa Hansen, the Conservancy's Stewardship Coordinator. "The students' work helped us get a great start on this project."

Our thanks go to Janice and the following students: Ellen Blanchard, Courtney Doernenburg, Courtney Graham, Amanda Kisro, Amanda Lamb, Katie Lansbury, Becky McCune, Susie Marvin, Rose Morford, Candace O'Neal, Kyle Ronquist, Kelsey Stewart, Kourtney Swiss, Mark Wilhelm. 




Middle schoolers fixing boardwalk at the McCune Preserve.




Help Needed to Restore Fountains

The Conservancy is seeking donations to repair the A.C. Fischer fountain and the larger fountain at the Roaring Brook Preserve. Estimated cost to repair both fountains is \$7,000. For more information, please call our office at (231)347-0991 and speak with Tom Lagerstrom.

Great Lakes Energy Grant Received

A \$3,500 grant from the Great Lakes Energy People Fund was awarded to the Little Traverse Conservancy this past spring to be applied toward the purchase of a new Global Positioning System (GPS). The equipment is being used by stewardship staff for documenting specific features such as boundaries, trails, dump sites, hydrological features, roads, power lines, and building envelopes. With this new equipment, our staff can now be accurate to less than a meter in the field. The Great Lakes People Fund is created by Great Lakes Energy customers who choose to "round up" their energy bills and contribute to the fund. Thank you, Great Lakes Energy and Great Lakes Energy customers! 

Interpretive Signs Placed at Mackinac Bay Preserve

Thanks to a grant from the Michigan Nongame Wildlife Fund, three new interpretive signs were created and placed at the Mackinac Bay Nature Preserve overlook, located between Cedarville and Hessel. Located directly off of M-134, the 22-acre preserve was protected in 1994 through a partnership of the Les Cheneaux Foundation, the Little Traverse Conservancy, and the Michigan chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Management of the property is supported by the Les Cheneaux Beautification Committee. For more information about this preserve and other Conservancy preserves, call our office at (231) 347-0991 for a copy of our newly updated publication, "Nature Preserves of the Little Traverse Conservancy." 



Mackinac Bay Preserve



Gary Williams



Milestones of 2002

Matthew and Susan Bonnett broke new ground for the Conservancy when they sold the development rights on 345 acres of their Clay Ridge Farm to the Conservancy at a highly discounted price.



Students on the beach at Beaver Island enjoying a Conservancy sponsored field trip.



Charity Navigator, a non-profit “watchdog” group, ranked Little Traverse Conservancy second in the category of “Best Charities You’ve Never Heard Of” in late 2002.



A new trail system was created at the Raven Ridge Nature Preserve near East Jordan. 7th & 8th grade students participating in a Science Career Expo at the adjacent Raven Hill Discovery Center helped clear the trails (above).



Milestones of 2002



In 2002, the Conservancy worked with local videographer Rand Shackleton to produce the video, "For the Love of the Land." The video is available for educators who want to know more about Conservancy environmental education programs.



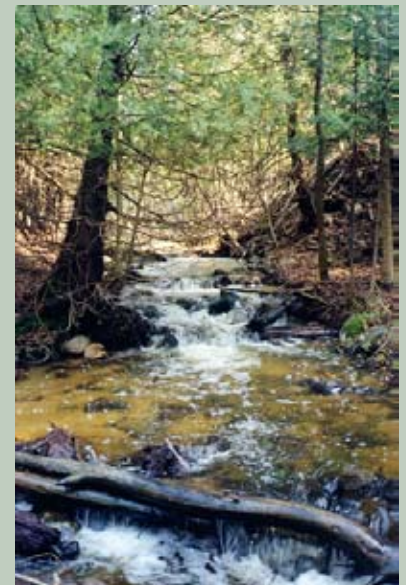
Randy McCune

The donation of the 625-acre Goodhart Farms property was the Conservancy's most significant land protection event for 2002 (see cover story).

The Conservancy was awarded an \$850,000 grant from the North American Wetland Conservation Act program in 2002. The funds will apply toward the protection of properties in Mackinac and Chippewa County, emphasizing lands used by migratory birds such as the Peregrine falcon.



Robert Benson



A total of 222 acres and more than a mile of US-31 frontage and Susan Creek frontage are now protected as the Susan Creek Preserve, located between Charlevoix and Petoskey. Foundation and donor support made this preserve possible.

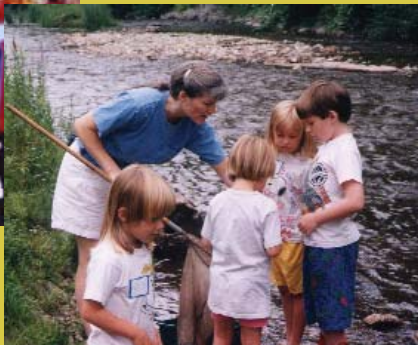


courtesy George DeMuth

Mary DeMuth Fuehrer and her brother George DeMuth donated a conservation easement on their Lake Huron north shore family land.



9-year-old twins Kate and Liz Thorp have been members of the Young Naturalist Club since 1998. The twins are shown in a recent photo (above) and in 1998 (right).



Young Naturalists Profile: *Kate and Liz Thorp*

The Young Naturalist Program was begun in 1997 as a way to encourage local children to get outside and enjoy northern lower Michigan. Here we introduce you to Kate and Liz Thorp who have been participating in Young Naturalist programs since they were 5 years old!

Why did you join the YN Club with LTC?

K - Because I like nature.
L - Because I like nature too.

Do you like it so far? Why?

K - Yes. (nodding head with wide eyes) Because I'm with nice people and nature.
L - Yeah! (also nodding head) Nice people and nature and good teachers!

What was your favorite Young Naturalist program?

K - Last summer's nature journal program (Johnston Preserve).
L - The nature journal program and the Spring Habitat Hike at the last club meeting (at the Andreae preserve).

Favorite nature activity you've done with Conservancy education staff Marci and Alison?

K - Making the nature journals. We use them about once a week. Sometimes we go up in our tree house and just write in them.
L - Making the nature frames and the nature journals.

Do you have a favorite nature preserve you like to explore? Why is that your favorite?

K - Round Lake. I like the tree with all the woodpecker holes.
L - I like all of them! McCune, Round Lake, East Park...

Does the YN Club encourage you to continue exploring nature in your backyard or nature preserves on your own? (The activities in the Howling Herald, and the monthly activity pages.)

K - Yes. The activities (for backyard study) are helpful.
L - Yes. I like reading Howling Herald (the YN quarterly newsletter). I like reading the questions for Howling Henry that other YN kids send in.

What is your favorite thing in nature to learn about?

K & L - Wolves! And track identification and learning about signs that animals leave behind.

Anything else you would like to say about the club?

K - I like the summer programs because we meet once a week.
L - I like getting the club mail because I barely get any mail. I like reading all of it.

What are your favorite things to do outside on a typical Saturday in northern Michigan?

K - Observe nature. Look for birds in our tree house. Watching for a tail in the fields, that's our cat. She follows us when we go for walks. We always see just the tip of her tail following us through the field.
L - Go for a swim, observe nature, just kind of be with nature in our woods, or the field.

How does being out in nature make you feel?

K - Happy. It helps you forget about all your worries.
L - Happy.

And from mom, Eileen - As a parent, I learn a lot every time I come. I grew up in a city so it's wonderful to come and learn. It's a nice time to be with your kids outside.

The mailings and meetings are also great. The recent Spring Habitat Hike for the club meeting was something that they remembered. Hands-on is a wonderful way to learn. These programs are good opportunities for the girls to get their science and environmental education lessons.

We often take hikes after doing our book work at home, too. We always feel so much better after being out in the woods.



YOUNG NATURALIST Summer 2003 Schedule



All Young Naturalist Programs are held on Wednesdays from 1-3 pm. The programs are free for young people ages 8-12 with parents and siblings welcome. Pre-registration is required by calling Marci or Alison at (231) 347-0991. Don't forget to dress for the weather and for hiking!

Wednesday, June 25 1-3 pm Waterbug Wonders Spring Lake Park (near Petoskey)

Wear old shoes and come ready to get a little wet as we collect insects and other creatures from the wetland! We'll gather insects who live all or part of their lives in water, use guides and other materials to identify them and learn how scientists use them to determine how healthy a stream is.

Wednesday, July 2 1-3 pm Sole Searching Seven Springs Preserve (Burt Lake)

Humans have many ways of learning about our natural surroundings. But we often only use two: seeing and hearing. On this hike we will not only use our eyes and our ears to learn about nature, but we will also use our sense of touch...with our feet! See what it's like to walk through nature as wild animals do every day.

Wednesday, July 9 1-3 pm Creepy Crawlies Stutsmanville Bog (north of Harbor Springs)

There are billions of species of insects in the world but only a very small percent are actually considered "pests." Most insects are harmless to people and lead very fascinating lives. Join us as we collect terrestrial insects (those that live on land) using sweep nets and other devices. We'll learn more about their lives in the wild and a little about keeping insect pets at home!

Wednesday, July 16 1-3 pm Beachology Sturgeon Bay Dunes (north of Cross Village)

One of the most special parts of living in northern Michigan is our beautiful beaches. From petoskey stones to crayfish and dunes to wildflowers, there is so much more to the beach than swimming! Be ready to "dive in" as we take a closer look at our local gem and hear the amazing story behind this nature preserve!

Wednesday, July 23 1-3 pm Compass Confusion Ransom Preserve (between Charlevoix and Petoskey)

Using a compass to find your way is an important skill to have if you enjoy exploring in nature. It can also be a lot of fun! Come learn some basic orienteering skills and find out about a fun new sport called "Geocaching"! Experienced geocachers are encouraged to join us and share their knowledge. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes since we'll be bush-wacking most of the way.

Wednesday, July 30 1-3 pm Art in Nature Resort Township's East Park (Bay Harbor)

Can you copy nature? Sometimes nature makes it look easier than it really is. Before giving it a shot ourselves, we will first look for things in nature that inspire us enough to try to copy them. Even if we can't copy nature exactly, at least we'll have the nice art work to remind us of our favorite things in nature!



Want to become a Young Naturalist? Benefits include a nature newsletter for kids, nature guides to use at home or at local preserves, information about club meetings, programs, and outings, and ideas for nature outings of your own. To find out more, call Alison at (231) 347-0991.

SPECIAL GIFTS

In memory of

The gifts listed on these pages were received from February 1 - May 27, 2003

GEORGE E. ALTMANSBERGER

Mrs. Jane B. Milward
Mrs. Edward A. Schirmer

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Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Fisher

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Carol and Rick Godfrey

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Mrs. Viola Laursen

Randy and Sandy Meono

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Mrs. Sarah Philippon

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KEN ROY

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Cadwalader

WILLIAM AND VIRGINIA SCOTT

Virginia Kelley

Matthew and Jennifer Kelley

William and Yezika Kelley

Dr. Deborah Scott

BERDEAN F. SMITH

Mrs. Thomas Smith

GREGORY B. SMITH

Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Fisher

Seberon and Dianne Litzenburger



Blue wing teal/Dave Menke

Mary Keith Morris Remembered

The Conservancy was saddened at the recent loss of Mary Keith Morris, a long-time friend and supporter of our organization. We first worked with Mary when she helped us raise \$700,000 to protect the North Point Nature Preserve near Charlevoix in 1987. In 1989, she joined the Conservancy's Finance Committee and helped with membership in the Belvedere Club for 13 years. We will miss her straightforward honesty and good humor and extend our sympathies to her family and friends.

SPECIAL GIFTS

ROBERT 'DUSTY' M. SURDAM

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Smith

W. EVERETT THOMAS

Mr. and Mrs. William Ammann

Mr. Robert Bell

Mr. and Mrs. William Boehler

Mr. Fred W. Bostleman

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Project Gifts

For projects of the Les Cheneaux Area, in memory of CHARLES R. HORSBURGH

Mr. and Mrs. James S. Abbott, III
Warner and Norma Adams
Boston University, School of Public
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Mr. and Mrs. William A. Cornwell

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Ms. Elizabeth H. Steinemann

Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Titcomb

In honor of

DANIEL K. SANQUIST'S Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Sanquist

PAMELA SANQUIST'S Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Sanquist

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE STIRRAT'S 50th wedding anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn W. Cumberland

MR. AND MRS. K. PETER KNUDSEN'S 25th wedding anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Turnbull

IN HONOR OF HARRY WALSH

Carol and Rick Godfrey

IN HONOR OF WILL LEWIS' Eagle Scout ranking

Mr. and Mrs. George L. Notarianni

If you would like to remember a special person or occasion, what better way to honor those who appreciate northern Michigan than by helping protect the natural diversity that makes this area so unique. We accept donations in honor of birthdays, graduations, marriages, anniversaries, and other holidays as well as donations in memory of loved ones. The honoree or their family will be notified of your contribution, so please include a clearly written address.

REFLECTIONS

...Tom Bailey



A recent series of articles in the Washington Post (and re-printed in Traverse City's Record Eagle) has drawn a lot of attention to the practices of The Nature Conservancy, an international conservation group headquartered in Arlington, Virginia.

The Nature Conservancy, which many of us in smaller, private land conservancies refer to as TNC, is the largest conservation organization in the world. TNC was the first group to pursue the protection-through-purchase approach to land conservation on a large scale, having established regional, national and global programs during a period of phenomenal growth that dates back to the 1960s.

Two Washington Post reporters spent two years with TNC studying their methods and learning about their projects. The series of articles which ran in the Post took TNC to task for misrepresenting the compensation of their CEO, for an oil drilling fiasco on one of its preserves, for taking a lot of money from industry and for involving board members or former board members in land transactions that the Post characterized as questionable. The series referred to TNC as "Big Green" and generated a lot of activity.

TNC responded to the Post's series with a commentary from CEO Steven J. McCormick, who pointed out that during the Post's inquiry, more than two million acres had been protected by the organization. He noted that corporations account for less than 10 percent of cash donations to TNC, and added that while

they have admittedly made some mistakes in compatible development projects, the occasional failure is inevitable when an organization is working to try new things in pursuit of its mission. Finally, McCormick apologized for confusion about his compensation.

Several phone calls came into the office of the Little Traverse Conservancy asking whether we are connected with TNC in any way. The answer is no: Little Traverse Conservancy is an independent Michigan non-profit corporation headquartered in Harbor Springs. We are governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of citizens and land owners from throughout our five-county service area. We subscribe to the Standards and Practices of the Land Trust Alliance, a national group formed by and for land trusts.

Our land protection priorities and processes differ in several fundamental ways from those of TNC. TNC focuses primarily on global biodiversity—the protection of the diversity of species of flora and fauna worldwide. They intend for their work to be guided primarily by science. At Little Traverse Conservancy, our priorities are oriented more toward aesthetic and recreational land of local significance. As TNC pursues the science of land protection, we pursue the art.

It would make little sense for Little Traverse Conservancy to attempt to duplicate the efforts of TNC across our service area. TNC has a solid reputation and a good track record in Michigan. They have succeeded in protecting many important natural areas statewide.

What Little Traverse Conservancy does—and what TNC does not, and should not, do—is to work on projects of local significance. A local non-profit organization is the best means through which a community can help to protect its scenic views, its treasured local natural area, and its favorite spots for a quiet walk along a beach, through a forest, or around a beautiful meadow. A local land trust is best suited to acquiring the important little nooks and crannies of green space where children venture on their bikes, to drop those bikes in the roadside grass and pursue adventures and discovery along a creek, through a forest or in a local vernal pond.

Keeping nature close at hand for all who live in northern Michigan is the important mission of the Little Traverse Conservancy. And while our protection efforts protect a great number of rare, threatened and endangered plants and wildlife, they also protect those rare, threatened and endangered local green spaces whose loss would represent a tragic blow to our local communities, diminishing our quality of life. It is a simple fact that if we don't act locally to protect those areas, nobody else will do it for us.

Integrity and honor are critical commodities for any non-profit organization. Mr. McCormick has answered the criticisms of the Washington Post by noting that while TNC has made some mistakes, it has accomplished a great deal that the Post barely noted. TNC, he wrote, has also learned from its mistakes and strives constantly

to better itself as an organization. My experience with TNC has proven them to be a solid organization, highly dedicated to conservation. I have hired former TNC staff members, and have also sent staff members on to work for TNC. All have been outstanding, ethical, honorable employees and accomplished conservationists. My own opinion is that the Post series gave short shrift to the group's accomplishments and the solid integrity of the vast majority of its staff members in order to highlight scandal and controversy. A balanced picture was not presented.

None the less, all non-profits can learn from TNC's experience. By remaining a locally funded, locally governed and locally regulated organization, the Little Traverse Conservancy can best carry out its mission in our five-county area and stand as a positive example for local land trusts everywhere. Our local roots and work remind us daily that we are accountable for everything we do and that we have a continuing obligation not only to regulatory programs and codes of conduct, but also to our friends and neighbors whose generous gifts of money and trust make all of our accomplishments possible.

From those who serve on our Board of Trustees through our staff members and the volunteers who work hard to protect land and provide educational opportunities for people, everyone at Little Traverse Conservancy is committed to providing the highest possible return for our donors' investments and the broadest possible benefits for the communities we serve.

Visit our nature preserves. Enjoy the scenic views we protect. Have fun at the many public areas we have helped to set aside for nature study and recreation. And remember that as a locally based, locally funded and locally governed non-profit, we're here working for you to protect what you love most in beautiful northern Michigan.



Membership Support Funds Conservancy's Programs

Over the years, the Conservancy's growth has been directly related to the corresponding growth of our membership. From 1987 to 2002, membership support has increased 6.4 times, from 675 members donating \$82,184 in 1987, to \$604,280 received from 4,160 members last year. The total number of acres protected has similarly grown 7.2 times, from 2,227 total acres protected in 1987, to 18,156 acres at the end of 2002.

Membership support provides the Conservancy with the majority of the funding needed for operations. It helps pay for 11 full-time staff and funds our ability to protect additional land, to care for the lands held in trust for the public, and to provide free environmental education programs for more than 7,000 school children each year.

Last year the Conservancy celebrated its 30th anniversary. We are deeply grateful to all of our members for their support and for helping the Conservancy to grow over this time into one of the most successful land trusts in the country.

We would like to welcome the following new members who joined our organization during the period of February 1, 2003 to May 31, 2003

New Friends and Benefactors

The following are new Friends or Benefactors, or previous members who have moved up to these categories in their annual giving.

Dr. Christopher J. Abood
Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Bissell
Ms. Anne L. Fitzgerald

New General Members

Mr. and Mrs. J. Bruce Ball
Stephen and Holly Blossom
Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Cunningham
Mr. Jim Dietle
Roger and Carol Faber

Reinhold and Ann Friebertshouser
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Ms. Carol Raitzer
Mr. Brian Schad
Paul and Debra Seehaver
Mr. and Mrs. Dave and Maggie Sturvist
Bruce and Jane Tillinghast
Ms. Robin Williams
Mr. William R. Winslow

Thank You...

- Bob D'Alcorn and Maggie and Jason Kromm for donating GPS units to our education department for navigational excursions.
- Great Lakes Energy for a grant toward a new GPS system for our stewardship department.
- Justin Wilkins, Palmer Sylvain, and Zack Luhellier for volunteer help with stewardship projects at various nature preserves.
- Doug Fuller of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, MDNR Conservation Officer Duane Budreau, and Jeff Valliere for helping with the kids ice fishing field trip on Round Lake
- Scott McEwen for leading a wetland walk at Spring Lake.
- Joel Moore for his invaluable help with our many complicated land projects.
- Volunteers Virginia Croff, Marjorie Upton, Maxine McDowell, Gloria Krusell, and Jackie Dombroski for helping us mail our spring newsletter.
- Chippewa County Community Foundation for funding Discovery Boxes that will be used in local schools.
- *A big thank you to our 102 volunteer preserve monitors who monitor our 86 preserves and maintain 14 trails.*

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Pigeon River Hike
Pigeon River Wilderness
June 26 5:30 pm

Outdoor enthusiasts have long enjoyed the wealth of knowledge shared by retired DNR biologist Arch Reeves, who spent years working in the Pigeon River Wilderness. Don't miss this opportunity to join Reeves for an informative hike through these northern Michigan's wild lands. Come prepared for a moderate hike with sturdy footwear, insect repellent, water, and appropriate clothing. (1½ hours, 2 miles)

Save the Trees,
Saturday, July 5 (see page 2)

Bike and Breakfast
Little Traverse Wheelway
Saturday, July 12 7:30 am

Rise and shine! Learn more about the Little Traverse Wheelway, how it came to be, and what still needs work, as we leisurely bike around the bay from Petoskey to Harbor Springs. Steve Barney, President of Top of Michigan Trails Council and Tom Bailey, executive director of Little Traverse Conservancy will talk about the history and future of conservation and recreation in beautiful northern Michigan. Learn about Conservancy nature preserves located along the wheelway and join us for an optional breakfast in Harbor Springs. Meet at the Clock Tower at Petoskey's Waterfront Park. Coffee and registration at 7 am. Departure at 7:30 am. Please RSVP: a final number is needed to prepare for the optional breakfast at The Pier (cost will be approximately \$10 for lunch).

Level of experience: novice to advanced (bike tour will be slower paced and may stop occasionally at preserves)

What's Bugging You?
Ransom Nature Preserve
Thursday, July 24 6 pm

Found on every continent and in every habitat throughout the world, insects are perhaps the most successful life form on our planet. There are millions of known species, and yet scientists suspect we have only discovered a third of those which exist. Regarded by many as creepy and gross, only a small percentage of insects are



Summer Field Trips

Conservancy field trips are offered free of charge, but pre-registration is required by calling (231) 347-0991.

actually considered pests by the experts. Come learn more about the fascinating world of insects and their kin as we collect, identify and marvel at these wonderful wild neighbors. (easy hike, hilly terrain)

Annual Meeting
Tuesday, August 5 (see page 5)

Sturgeon Bay Hike
Sturgeon Bay Dunes
Saturday, August 9 1 pm

In the 1990s, the State of Michigan purchased 4,100 feet of shoreline adding this beautiful beach plus 750 acres to Wilderness State Park. The property includes habitat for the endangered Piping Plover and several endangered plant species. The driving force behind the acquisition was a grassroots effort mobilized in the 1970s by Conservancy co-founder John Tanton. Join Tanton and executive director Tom Bailey for a hike through the dunes as they share the conservation history of one of our most treasured northern shorelines and a project that took two decades to come to fruition.

Tour of Goodhart Farmlands
Goodhart Farms
Tuesday, August 19 7 pm

One of the most impressive conservation gestures in recent years, the Goodhart Farms property in Emmet County was donated to the Conservancy in 2002. Join Stewardship Specialist Vic Lane for a tour of the grounds as he shares the story of the preservation of this land as well as what its future with the Conservancy will hold.

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