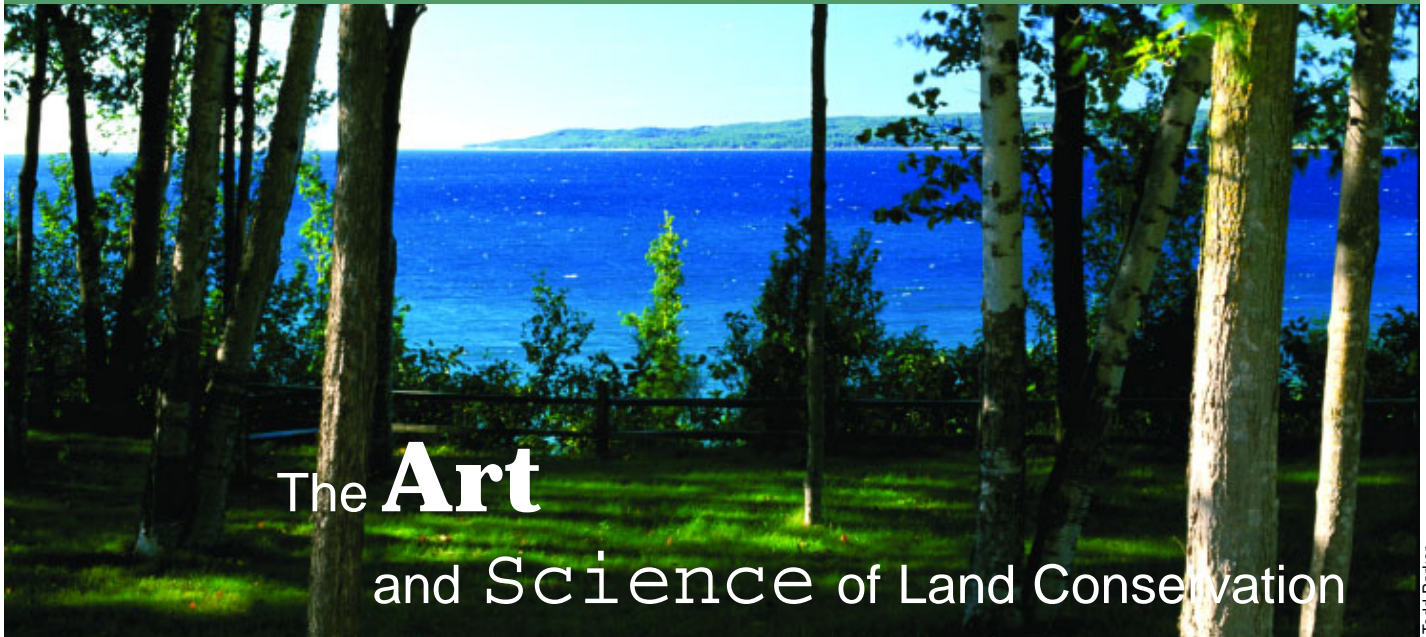




# LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY

A Quarterly Newsletter - VOLUME XXVI, No. 2 - Summer, 2004



## The **Art** and Science of Land Conservation

Todd Parker

*Little Traverse Conservancy's*

### 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting

Tuesday, August 3, 2004

Crooked Tree Arts Center, Petoskey

9:30 am - Coffee  
10:00 am - meeting  
12:00 am - optional light lunch  
followed by docent art tours



**W**hen the Conservancy was established in 1972, the founders understood how the protection of a beautiful viewshed is intertwined with the protection of intact habitat. They knew that the region was becoming increasingly popular because of its sandy beaches, winding, tree-lined drives, and undeveloped farm fields. At the same time, they knew that the pristine and calming effects of the scenery only existed as long as the ecosystem that provided it was protected. Protecting lands adjacent to existing protected lands became highly desirable, expanding the protected boundaries of the natural system as well as the size of the scenic view.

In this newsletter, we share the stories of lands protected for both ecological and aesthetic reasons. As you read each story, consider how the influences of art and nature may have played a role in motivating the landowners to take the steps that would ensure their land remained in a natural state – forever. Also in this newsletter, read about a Conservancy trustee whose general approach to life honors the inter-relationship between the arts and the natural world.

This year, we will further highlight our community's appreciation of the arts and the sciences by holding our 32<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting in downtown Petoskey at the Crooked Tree Arts Center. There we will take a look at highlights from the past year and embrace our challenges for the future. An optional lunch will be catered by Stafford's and docent-led tours of the exhibits will be offered following lunch. Featured shows at the Arts Center on this date will be *Paintings from the Manoogian Collection* and *Ruth Petzold Under the Sea*. Conservancy members will receive a personal invitation, but the public is welcome. For more information or to register, please call our office at (231) 347-0991.

#### ALSO INSIDE...

- Not Taken For Granted –2
- 625 Acre Deer Habitat Protected –3
- Harbor Springs Greenbelt Update –4-5
- Partnering in Elk Country –6
- Board Profile: Frank Ettawageshik –11
- Summer Nature Program Series –12
- Youngest Preserve Monitor –14
- Spring Field Trips – back cover

EASEMENT DONATED ON 160-ACRE FARM

# Not Taken for Granted

The decision to protect their land was not theirs alone. It was a concern of the previous owners before they would sell the beautiful 160 acres of rolling farmland near Harbor Springs to Jenny and Mark Buday. “They made it clear they would only sell this place under two conditions,” said Jenny. “The first was that there would be children on it. And then they asked us not to develop it.” The Budays easily met the first criteria as their family now includes Lily, age 7, and Stefan, age 5. After a few years on the land, the couple found the time was right to take permanent steps toward ensuring the land’s long-term conservation by donating a conservation easement.

Todd Parker



*The 160-acre Buday Farm.*

With a half mile of frontage on Middle Village Road, the Buday Farm is surrounded by state land on three sides, contributing to a large block of habitat that supports black bear, coyote, deer, owls, ducks, cranes, and badgers to name just a few. The lowest portion of the property includes an established pond on the edge of the woods, and the North Country Trail passes by just down the road.

“This land contributes to one of the largest remaining intact ecological blocks of habitat this close to town,” said land protection specialist Kieran Fleming. “Without permanent protection, its location clearly places it in the path of expanding rural development.”

Mark and Jenny are beginning to integrate aspects of modern small farming to the land, returning it to some of its agricultural heritage. The family’s horses graze in the open field under a new windmill that helps power the farm. The east end of the property

includes a small Christmas tree and red pine plantation which will be managed appropriately to maintain the health of the stands.

In their conservation easement, the Budays have retained the right to farm and the right for each of their two children to build a home on the land in the future. Avid outdoor recreationists, they also retained the right to improve and maintain a cross country ski trail system throughout the property.

“We have been committed – spiritually – to protecting the land from the beginning,” Mark said. “Yet the process of putting the details of the conservation easement together forced us to think about the next 40 or so

years...and then the next 100 years. The Conservancy listened to us and worked hard to get us to our comfort zone, making it a positive experience.”

**This land contributes to one of the largest remaining intact ecological blocks of habitat this close to town.**

The presence of children pervades the farm. One of the outbuildings is currently being remodeled to include a large upstairs homeschooling classroom. For the past few summers, the family has hosted children for weekly play sessions dubbed “Kids Camp.”

Indeed, the land feels much more alive watching Stefan take a small watering can to the newly planted garden. “We know we’ve been given a gift with this farm,” Jenny said. The depth of that gift became fully apparent last fall when the Budays brought their son home from Ann Arbor’s Pediatric Hospital. Stefan was undergoing radiation therapy after being diagnosed with brain cancer a few months earlier. “I just know that being able to bring him home to this land has been enormous for his healing...for all of ours.”



*Lily and Stefan Buday.*

j

## Conservancy Assists with Bargain Sale Protection of 625-Acre ‘Ecological Hotbed’



*Common Terns (center inset above) are just one species that will benefit from the protection of this property along the St. Mary's River. The newly-protected land, outlined in red on the map, consists of both uplands and lowlands (top and bottom inset photos) providing ideal habitat for a diversity of wildlife.*

A 625-acre Chippewa County property with 1¼ miles of St. Mary's River frontage has been protected thanks to a bargain sale by the seller, assistance and funds from the Little Traverse Conservancy, and a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Lying along Raber Bay, a region designated as high priority by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the land is adjacent to state land and less than seven miles from the Munuscong Wildlife Management Area. In addition to providing much desired water access for waterfowl and recreational users, the property enhances many forms of hunting and recreational activities available to the public in that region.

"This region is not only identified as highly important ecological habitat by the state, but also in the North American

Waterfowl Management Plan," said land protection specialist Ty Ratliff. The Upper Peninsula's largest nesting colony of

Common Terns, a state threatened species, is found within foraging distance of this property as well as a large nesting population of Black Terns, also a state threatened species.

Dominated by northern white cedar, the property provides optimal winter habitat for whitetail deer. Once the land is owned by the state, it will be managed to maintain habitat for an array of wildlife species. Signs of bobcat, coyote, snowshoe hare, and many birds were recently observed.

A grant request for most of the purchase price of the property has been approved by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Currently, the Conservancy holds the property and, upon the grant's receipt, will transfer the land to the State of Michigan.

The Conservancy credits the seller, Dolly Dittrich, for her efforts to protect this large intact property.

"Upon purchasing the land 15 years ago, I knew it was a rare find," said Dittrich. "What started out as only a means for a private hunting ground for family and friends became a haven for this city girl – a place to appreciate nature at her best."

Dittrich emphasized that her experience working with the Conservancy was positive. "Preserving the land and providing a home to its wildlife became my goal. Little Traverse Conservancy, with the unwavering help of Ty Ratliff, made this goal possible."j

**Preserving the land and providing a home to its wildlife became my goal.**

**- Dolly Dittrich**

## HARBOR SPRINGS GREENBELT Scenic Landscape Protected



photos by Todd Parker

A well-known landscape in the Harbor Springs region will remain scenic forever through a conservation easement that will permanently secure its protection.

Familiar to all who travel along Quick Road northeast of Harbor Springs, the protected land is owned by John Hoffman and is the main growing area for a landscape business now owned by his son Mike. “This land is a defining view enjoyed by travelers between Harbor Springs and local ski resorts,” said executive director, Tom Bailey.

Hoffman originally purchased the land in 1989 because the business was in need of a place to grow their plants, trees, and shrubs. While his business was based in Petoskey, the Harbor location was chosen because of the quality of the soil. Over the years and with proper tending, the soil proved itself and the nursery thrived.

Since its inception, the Conservancy has actively sought to protect scenic viewsheds within a region now formally described as the Harbor Springs Greenbelt. Funders have contributed specifically toward its protection, making

the purchase of conservation easements possible.

When Hoffman was first approached about protecting his land, the option wasn’t appealing to him. “We looked at the land from the perspective of the business, and protecting it would mean we couldn’t do some of the things we thought we needed to do,” Hoffman said.

However, as time went on, John began to like the idea of the land’s long-term protection. He decided to sell the majority of his development rights to the Conservancy, retaining limited development rights on a wooded portion of the property.

“I really like what has happened. I hope that the nursery and hillside stay just the way they are for many generations to come,” he said.

Bailey commended Hoffman for his decision. “The land along that travel corridor is changing rapidly, and John’s decision cannot be taken lightly. We, and all who enjoy the Harbor area, can be thankful that he recognizes the long-term value of this scenic view.” j



## 15th Annual Save the Trees Benefit

*featuring the artwork of Trisha Witty*  
Saturday, July 10, 2004 6-9 pm  
Irish Boat Shop, Harbor Springs

*This original painting by Trisha Witty entitled "View of the Harbor from Hoyt Street" will be auctioned at this year's "Save the Trees" benefit.*

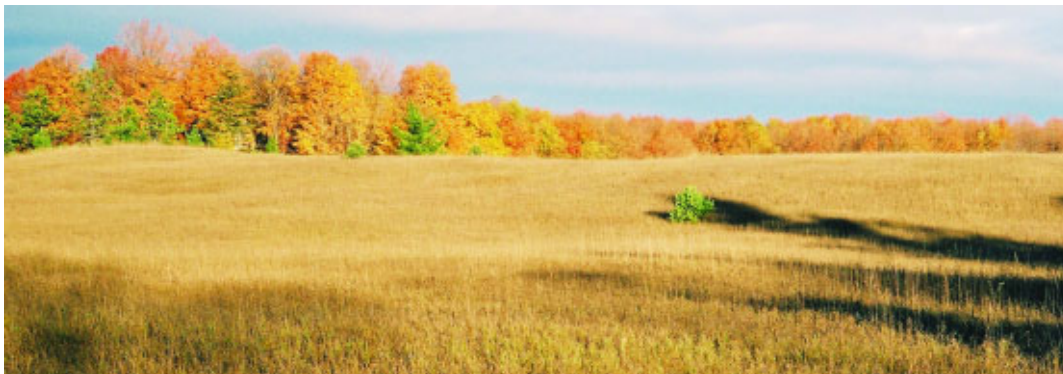


**D**on't miss the festivities of this annual event featuring local music, food, and auction items to raise funds for land protection.

This year's event, co-chaired by Shelagh Luplow and Gow Litzenburger, will include the auction of a beautiful painting by local artist Trisha Witty. Dress is casual and complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres by Nancy Kelly Catering will be served. Music will be provided by the Harbor Springs Jazz Band.

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 GREENBELT

## Preserving a Sense of Place

**M**axine doesn't have to think about why these 40 acres should be protected. Philosophical discussions of biodiversity never enter her mind. But the enthusiastic bark and wag of tail she shows her owner, Jon Jezisek, before their evening walk conveys how much she enjoys exploring among the new spring wildflowers and through the hardwood trees and open meadows of this scenic property.

For Jon, protecting his land was an easy decision. Jon's parents, who worked and raised their family in Harbor Springs, bought the land for a respite. "This land was a place for my dad, a school teacher, to come and tinker," Jon said. Visible from Lightfoot and Middle Roads, it is clear that the land has been well cared for by the Jeziseks over the years.

Just a short distance outside of Harbor Springs, the Jezisek property could readily have been targeted for development. But Jon knew that he wanted to figure out a way to keep his land intact, so he sought help from the Conservancy. After careful consideration, Jon agreed to bargain sell a conservation easement to the Conservancy. A conservation easement is a permanent legal document in which a landowner agrees to give up some of the develop-

ment rights to the property. In Jon's case, the easement limits development to the single homesite that exists on the property and no further development can occur. A conservation easement does not allow public access to the property, as the land remains in private ownership, but the scenic and ecological benefits will be enjoyed by everyone.

The purchase of the Jezisek conservation easement was funded by generous donors to the Conservancy's Harbor Springs Greenbelt program. This program was designed to protect undeveloped lands around the Harbor Springs area. "A protected greenbelt around town will help preserve the unique sense of place one feels in Harbor Springs," said MaryKay O'Donnell, the Conservancy's land protection director.

"This project was feasible because Jon agreed to sell his development rights for a price below the fair market value," O'Donnell added. "He generously made a significant financial contribution through the bargain sale."

On the day the easement was signed, the Conservancy's executive director Tom Bailey attempted to tell Jon what a hero he was for protecting the land. Jon would hear none of it, saying: "It's just the right thing to do."

j

PARTNERING WITH ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION  
**A Good Idea in Action**



Stan Sloan had dreamed up the idea of how to protect his farm before he even knew that others were already implementing a similar idea elsewhere. “We were determined that we wouldn’t split the land up until we were forced to,” said the World War II veteran and auctioneer.

He proposed his idea to his friend Arch Reeves, a retired forester who worked in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. Arch worked with the Conservancy on the Pigeon River Habitat Initiative and one thing led to another. The end result was that Stan and his wife Marie, who co-own the land with their son John, sold the development rights of their 105-acre property to the Conservancy, ensuring its perpetual protection and allowing the Sloans to remain on their beloved property. The land has been in Marie’s family since 1916.

*Top photo: Marie and Stan Sloan  
 Bottom photo: The original Michigan elk herd was released a mile and a half from the Sloan’s property in 1918.*

A grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation provided funding for half of the conservation easement’s purchase. The Sloan property is located a half mile north of the boundary of the Pigeon River Country State Forest. Stewart Creek, a main tributary to the Sturgeon River, travels through the property for a half mile helping to support active elk habitat as well as a wildlife corridor that links the Mackinaw State Forest with the Pigeon River country. The family frequently sees an elk herd on the edge of the woods in the morning hours. Bear, coyote, bobcat, deer, and owl are some of the other wildlife species thriving there.

“Loss of habitat is the greatest threat to elk,” said Rawland Cogan, Land Programs Manager with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). “Because the Sloan tract was identified by the Michigan DNR as high quality habitat for elk and other wildlife and was also identified as a potential site for development, the partnership with the Conservancy was a natural fit with RMEF’s mission: to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat.”

Ty Ratliff, land protection specialist with the Conservancy agreed. “The funding partnership with RMEF and the fact that the Sloans were willing to sell their development rights well below their market value allowed this project to happen.”



## Membership

*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.

- Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Cottrell, Jr.
- Ms. Betsy Fuller
- R. Ma
- Ms. Shelia M. McColley
- Mr. and Mrs. Kevin J. Pimlott

*New General Members*

- James and Diane Avedisian
- Mr. Robert Haack
- Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Hanssen
- Mr. John T. Larin
- Mr. and Mrs. Wm. David Lyle
- Ms. Ann M. Marlatt
- Mr. Ben Maule
- Roger and Mary Ann Meyer
- Mr. Richard W. Nash
- Mr. Philip F. Patterson
- Ms. Eugenia M. Pocalujka
- Thomas and Beverly Price
- Ms. Jill Redmon
- Ms. Emmaly S. Reid
- Mr. John Stapleton

## Keeping It Just as It Is

“Things are so different now than they were then,” reminisces Les Umlor as he tells the story of how his father first acquired the family farm in Charlevoix County. The elder Umlor had purchased the original 86 acres of land when he was 20 years old and paid for it while he was in World War II. After the war, he eventually came back to his land to make a living raising beef cattle.

After his father’s death in 1988, Les Jr. was the only one of five children who was interested in keeping the land and continuing to farm. While working at Harbor Industries in Charlevoix for many years, he also has raised corn, hay, and feed cattle on the same land where he was raised. Les was interested in having his family’s land stay intact, and this desire became stronger as he watched subdivisions spring up around the farm.

However, with the challenge of holding on to large acreage today, Les contacted the Conservancy. Just last year, the Conservancy began to implement the conservation tool of purchasing conservation easements (also known as PDR or purchase of development rights). Because funding for this type of conservation is extremely limited, when Les first approached the Conservancy, he was warned that there was a fairly slim chance that the

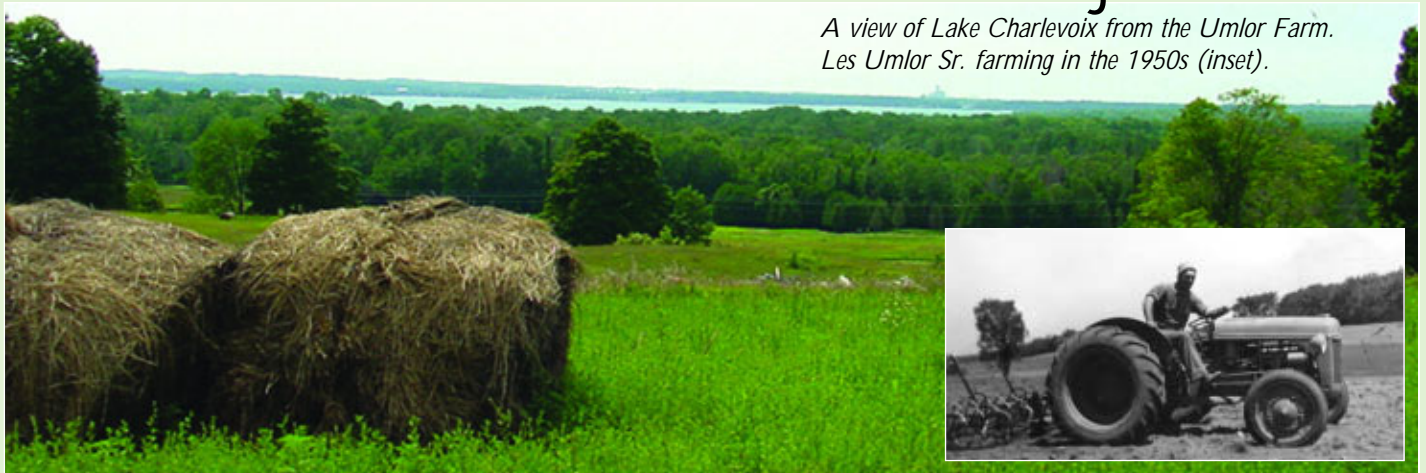
Conservancy could buy an easement from his property.

As luck would have it, a private funder who was especially interested in having the scenic properties of the Umlor Farm preserved offered to help fund the easement purchase. Another creative farmland opportunity presented itself just in time, and the easement was purchased this past spring.

“While I have been approached many times by people who wanted to purchase the land, my mother and father didn’t give me this place to break it up and build it into houses,” Les said. “The more that I think about it, that’s what makes me happiest: to know that this land will always remain as it is.”

The Umlor Farm provides scenic views along the Charlevoix-Boyer City Road and views of both Lake Charlevoix and Susan Lake can be enjoyed from the property. The farm is located in close proximity to the Haggerty and Mulberry Farm nature preserves as well as the Henne Farm which is also protected with a conservation easement.

“We thank the donors who made the protection of this farm possible,” said Ty Ratliff, Conservancy land protection specialist. “And we are grateful to Les for choosing conservation for this beautiful land.”

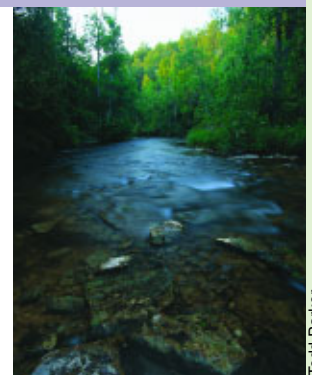


*A view of Lake Charlevoix from the Umlor Farm. Les Umlor Sr. farming in the 1950s (inset).*

### Pigeon River Preserve Dedicated

The Conservancy is proud to dedicate its new nature preserve on the Pigeon River as the Helmer’s Dam–Robert D. VanCampen Nature Preserve. The property, which includes the old Helmer’s Dam site and more than half a mile of trout water on the beautiful Pigeon River, is located in Cheboygan County off Afton Road in Ellis Township.

Robert D. VanCampen, a longtime Harbor Springs resident, is a great lover of the outdoors. Active in the past as an avid hunter and fly angler, Robert enjoys photography, birdwatching, and simply being outdoors. The dedication in Robert’s honor is made by his son-in-law, John Woollam, who cherishes the time he has spent outdoors with Robert, a great inspiration and mentor.



Todd Parker

*The gifts listed on these pages were received  
from February 24 - May 31, 2004*

## In memory of

### **WILLIAM BECHER**

Judson and Frances Edwards  
Elba-Seaton School Staff  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Supernault  
Fred and Karen Wahls  
Wolfeboro Camp School

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George and Kay Melzow  
Menonaqua Beach Cottage  
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Michael and Cindy Pettibone

## THANK YOU

- To RSVP members who assisted with our March mailing: Virginia Croff, Pearl Dally, Jane Houseworth, Maxine McDowell, and Iris Walker
- Kristin Majkrazak, Lois Robbins, Brenda Archambo, Dave Wellman, Maureen Jacobs, and Top of Michigan Trails Council for leading fantastic field trips for us this spring.



Todd Pariker

Mr. and Mrs. William Petzold  
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**JUDY WOLGAST**  
 Dave and Ann Irish

**HELEN YAHR**  
 Tallberg Chevrolet

**Project Gifts**

**MIKKELSEN PROPERTY on MARQUETTE ISLAND**  
 in memory of  
**CHARLES WEISS**  
 LesCheneaux Foundation

in memory of  
**HALBERT GILLETTE**  
 LesCheneaux Foundation

**SUSAN CREEK PROJECT**  
 in memory of  
**JAMES P. (BUCK) BUCHANAN**  
 Debby Buchanan and children

**In honor of**

**CHRISTINE BOMMARITO**  
 Adult Learning Institute at  
 Oakland Community College

**MARY and MIKE CURZAN'S 40th Wedding Anniversary**  
 Elisabeth and Earl Zimmerman  
 Anne Curzan  
 Kate and Marin Gjaja

**ANNE KENAN and DAVID PERRIN'S MARRIAGE**  
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 Mr. and Mrs. William J. Howell

**TOM and ANN MCCLEARY**  
 Ms. Georgiana Richner

**INGE MILLER'S 30TH BIRTHDAY**  
 Sally and Ian Bund

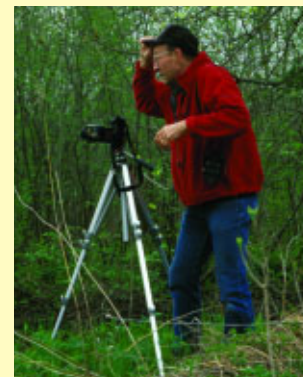
**DANIEL K. and PAMELA SANQUISTS' BIRTHDAYS**  
 Mr. Frederick E. Sanquist

**GEOFF HAYBALL and ASHLEY PATTERSON'S MARRIAGE**  
 Paul and Denise and  
 Matthew Geno

**SARANE ROSS' 70TH BIRTHDAY**  
 Ms. Virginia B. McCoy

**In grateful memorium...**

A life lived in celebration of nature leads to depths of wonder and inquisitiveness that are often contagious. Such was the way that Gary Williams affected those of us who worked with him here at the Little Traverse Conservancy. Gary would quietly come in and offer his talents toward land conservation and environmental education. More recently, Gary was someone we would call on when we needed photographs of a property or advice in setting up our photo archiving system. Among the many ways that Gary contributed to his community, we are grateful to have been included and to have had the chance to work with and learn from him.



## Donated Easement Protects Harwood Lake Property

While “up North” visiting her parents, Janet Vadnais discovered a beautiful property on quiet Harwood Lake. “We bought the property in 1987 intending for it to be our future retirement home,” said Marc Vadnais. The land includes nearly 21 acres of rolling northern hardwoods and 720 feet of meandering lake frontage. Janet and Marc spent as much time as they could over the next 12 years at the lake property, hiking, biking, fishing, camping, and holding family gatherings.

The couple’s future plans together were cut short when Janet lost a battle to breast cancer in 1999. This loss helped inspire Marc to protect the land. “I know this place will always be the way it was when we enjoyed it together,” he said.

A Conservancy member, Marc had been reading the stories of others who had protected their land. “I’ve had wildlife sightings on the lake and in the woods here that I’ve never experienced anywhere else. The conser-



*Janet and Marc Vadnais (inset). A view of the Harwood Lake shoreline from an old dock on the property.*

vation easement seems to fit right in with my tenor.”

Marc described the process of donating a conservation easement as easy, with no pressure, and he encourages others to look into it if they are interested. “The options are all yours.”

## ‘In Town’ Nature Preserve Established by Local Resident

**H**aving lived in Petoskey for 45 years in a house perched above a sweeping view south of the city of Petoskey, Sally Clark has seen many changes occur in the landscape. “When we moved here, there were only two restaurants to go to: The Perry and a restaurant where La Senorita now is. And that was enough!”

Realizing the good fortune that she and her late husband John (“Jack”) had in purchasing and living at their property, Sally knew she wanted to do whatever she could to ensure the land stayed in its natural state. Her home is

situated within Petoskey city limits, just off of Jennings Street and adjacent to land owned by North Central Michigan College.

When Sally started asking around for help in protecting her land, everyone told her to contact the Conservancy. And after talking with executive director Tom Bailey, Sally chose to donate five acres of

**I wanted to do everything available to make sure it stays the way it is.**

*- Sally Clark*

natural land as a nature preserve. To doubly ensure the land’s protection, Sally had a conservation easement placed on the property. “I wanted to do everything available to make sure it stays the way it is,” she said.

“Sally has given a marvelous gift to the Petoskey community,” said Bailey. “This land lies within a region that is being rapidly approached by expanding development. Instead of private development, Sally has expanded the boundaries of protected land that exists for all to enjoy.”

*Sally Clark has donated five acres of land shown here beyond her yard. The new nature preserve abuts property owned by North Central Michigan College and is within Petoskey’s city limits.*



## A man of varied roles Frank Ettawageshik

**P**otter, advisor, trustee, legislator, tribal chair, father, husband...these are some of the varied roles filled by Conservancy trustee and community leader Frank Ettawageshik.

Born and raised in Harbor Springs, Frank tells a story of his childhood that demonstrates his philosophy toward many aspects of life. As a young boy, Frank was bothered by the trash that he would find while walking in the woods. At first he began to pick up one piece of garbage every time he was out. On later trips he collected as many pieces as he could carry. Soon, he found himself taking garbage bags out with him until he realized he wasn't really enjoying his walks in the woods anymore.

"My father told me it was important to leave every place you visit a little cleaner, but that it wasn't my job to clean the entire thing. I try to keep this story in mind as I approach most things in life, whether it is a piece of legislation or even a meeting."

Frank's interests include creating traditional woodland Indian pottery using the same techniques used 500 years ago. For 20 years, Frank co-owned and ran the Pipigwa Pottery Shop in Karlin, south of Interlochen. It was during this time that he became involved with township government, serving as zoning administrator

and chair of his local zoning board for many years. There he worked on a lot of land issues and became interested in pursuing appropriate and land-friendly means of development.

From 1991-1999, Frank served as Tribal Chair for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. After leaving that position, he planned to serve as an elder and otherwise retire. A few years later, however, he was recruited to run for the position again, and in 2003 was elected for a new four-year term.

In addition to the Conservancy, Frank is on the board of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and the Crooked Tree Arts Council. He is one of Michigan's

two advisors to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"When the tribe talks about the future, we talk about seven generations. I think this approach fits well with the Conservancy's philosophy," Frank said. "I appreciate the work of the organization's founders who wanted to provide an alternative to litigation and instead help guide development in a positive way."

Of his many accomplishments, Frank is proud of his daughter who works as an environmental engineer on water issues in the Washington, D.C. area, and his son who graduated from Michigan State University's turf management program (known for its environmentally responsible practices) and is an irrigation technician at Bay Harbor.

Before Frank makes a piece of pottery, he digs the clay from the earth. After removing the clay, he leaves tobacco. In this way, he gives back to the land – and gives thanks. The ideas of giving back and of gratitude permeate all of the work Frank does, whether it is in government, the arts, or historic preservation.



*Tribal Chair and Conservancy trustee Frank Ettawageshik stands in front of the Tribal Center office near Harbor Springs.*

**"I appreciate the work of the organization's founders who wanted to help guide development in a positive way."**

*- Frank Ettawageshik*

# Summer Nature Program Series

All **Summer Nature 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 Alison or Marci at (231) 347-0991.

## Wildflower Wonders

Wednesday, June 23, 1-3 pm

McCune Nature Preserve, near Petoskey

Wildflowers are more than just a pretty addition to the forest floor. They are some of the best tricksters in nature. We will use a field guide to identify and learn how flowers outsmart other creatures. Bring along your nature journal (or borrow one of ours) to capture these inspiring plants and their creative ways.

## Going on a Bug Hunt

Wednesday, June 30, 1-3 pm

Goodhart Farms, near Goodhart

Explore bugs that live in a pond and bugs that live on land and learn about the different tools they use to survive where they live. Find out how unique these little critters are and why they are important in nature.



*What can we find? Youngsters try to catch aquatic insects at a local natural area.*

## Sand Dune Journey

Wednesday, July 7th, 1-3 pm

Northpoint Nature Preserve, Charlevoix

Lake Michigan has the largest stretch of freshwater dunes in the entire world! From shipwreck stories to fun facts, beetles to butterflies, and antlions to ancient creatures, dunes have some of the most fascinating ecology to explore.

## Who Lives Where?

Wednesday, July 14th, 1-3 pm

Raven Ridge, near East Jordan

Have fun as we explore a variety of habitats and try to spot signs of the creatures that live in each one. Pay close attention to the adaptations animals need to survive in their habitat. We will use craft supplies to make an imaginary creature adapted to live in one of the areas we explore.

## Get Outside and Play!

Wednesday, July 21st, 1-3 pm

Johnston Preserve, near Goodhart

Have you and your friends forgotten how to play outside? With computer games and fun TV shows, our own imaginations can be greatly distracted. Join us on this day and you'll be reminded how fun and creative playing outside can be!

## Getting a Sense of Nature

Wednesday, July 28th

Ransom Preserve, near Charlevoix

Use all your senses to explore nature on this fun, activity-filled hike! We'll sniff, look, listen, touch, and maybe even taste our way along the hiking trail as we have fun exploring our northwoods.



Want to become a Young Naturalist? You must be 8-12 years of age and live in the Conservancy's service area of Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Emmet, or Mackinac counties. 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.

## Grab Your Favorite Youngster(s) and Get Out in Nature!

*New Nature Paks Now Available!*



*The new Nature Paks are filled with items that can help outdoor explorers of all ages learn more about our natural world.*



*"You can be the heartwood!" Educator Alison Adams helps Blackbird Elementary preschoolers "build a tree" on Earth Day.*

"We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope."

- Wallace Stegner

Research has determined that healthy environmental attitudes in young people are not fostered simply by having access to outdoor areas as a child, but by having a significant adult role model to guide, explain, and share the wonders of the natural world with them. However, many adults are intimidated by the idea of taking a young person into the woods because they don't perceive themselves as "knowledgeable" about nature. The conservancy is introducing a new program to help adults feel more comfortable taking on this important role in a child's life.

Nature Paks are small backpacks filled with ideas and materials for exploring nature with children. Families can use laminated activity cards to explore and learn about the natural world together. Bug boxes, nets, and field guides will help you identify what you find and learn a bit about animal habits, nesting sites, and other fun facts. A preserve guide and preserve-specific field notes from our resident naturalists will suggest places to go and what to look for when you get there. By borrowing a Nature Pak from the Conservancy, any adult can feel comfortable exploring our beautiful northern wild areas with their favorite child or children. Remember: it's not important to know anything when teaching a child about the outdoors. Excite them with the idea that you'll be learning together as you explore, and model for them a desire for life-long learning.

Currently, the Conservancy is looking for Nature Pak sponsors. An entire pak can be sponsored for \$100, but any donation toward their development is welcome. Please contact Marci or Alison for more information at (231) 347-0991.



*Tim Leach of Raven Hill Discovery Center speaks to a group at the Young Naturalist Spring Program.*

*Seeking Volunteers:*  
**McCune Preserve  
 Stewardship Work Days**

Saturday, July 17 9 am-noon  
 Wednesday, July 28, 4-7 pm

This year, we will be holding two volunteer stewardship work days at the McCune Nature Preserve near Petoskey. Activities will include removal of young exotic Scotch pine as well as stump and brush removal. Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and gloves. Extra pruners, loppers, hand saws, and chain saws are needed. Beverages and snacks will be provided on July 17 and beverages and a light dinner on July 28. To sign up, please call the Conservancy office at (231) 347-0991.



**Summer Help is Here!**

We welcome summer stewardship staff Dawn Sarasin and Charles Dawley for our 2004 season.

Dawn is a Walloon Lake resident who was inspired to do conservation work through classes and volunteer work at North Central Michigan College. Dawn's daughter, Aria, graduates as valedictorian of Concord Academy Boyne City this year.

Charles recently graduated from Central Michigan University with a double major in Geographic Information Systems and Environmental Land Use Planning. A Petoskey native, this is his second summer with the Conservancy.



**Taking His Job Seriously!**

Four-year-old Carson Whitley is the youngest preserve monitor ever recruited for the Little Traverse Conservancy. The son of Linda and Jason Whitley of Charlevoix, Carson is concerned about litter at the Kieren Preserve on Susan Lake. He plans to take his little sister Ella, age one, to the preserve as soon as she perfects the art of walking.

In this photo, Carson is standing next to a pile of snail shells he discovered on the preserve. Thanks, Carson, for helping us take care of the land!



photo courtesy Bill Price

*Members of the Northern Michigan Motorsports Club organized a volunteer clean up at the 243-acre Fochtman Nature Preserve between Harbor Springs and Petoskey on May 1. The group collected and removed a large amount of garbage, including several good sized pieces. A big thank you to Joe Hayes, Dudley Marvin, PJ Daniels, Bob and Connor Buntin, Brandon, Paul and Cale Kuchnicki, and Bill, Lorie and Jessica Price.*

Land conservation is a wonderful fusion of art and science: the intricacy and elegance of natural systems fascinates and humbles the scientific mind as nature's beauty dazzles and captivates the artistic eye. Scientific journals describe nature in technical terms while many forms of art reflect – through media ranging from sculpture to paint to photographs to the written word – the beauty and wonder of nature.

Though many conservationists, naturalists and other outdoor enthusiasts tend to fall into either the scientific- or art-motivated types, there are several wonderful examples of people who seem to be able to express themselves in both realms. One of the greatest was Aldo Leopold, author of two important books on conservation. In life, he was known primarily as the pioneering scientist whose book, *Game Management*, practically invented modern wildlife management. That monumental book, still in print, is studied by biologists around the world. Leopold is also known for his wonderful essay collection, *A Sand County Almanac*. This legendary work, published just after Leopold's death, has inspired generations of conservationists, nature lovers, environmentalists, and armchair outdoor lovers.

As an admirer of Leopold and one who aspires to understand and appreciate both the art and science of conservation, I was particularly delighted to recently visit “The Shack” where the great scientist and author of *Game Management* spent his leisure time, and the literary artist was moved to write most of the essays in *A Sand County Almanac*.

An ecologist from the Aldo Leopold Foundation met our small group of Land Trust Alliance members and took us into The Shack. It was like entering a museum; as though things had been left untouched for years and years and years. On the wall was a crosscut saw, most likely the very same saw that cut through the growth rings and years in “Good Oak,” one of Leopold's most memorable essays. There was the fireplace that warmed the family on cold nights; the place where they cooked their food and sang their songs and enjoyed the warmth not only of fire but of one another. There were ashes in the fireplace that might have been from that good oak, so long ago.

Leaving The Shack, we strolled down to the banks of the Wisconsin River where Leopold taught his children to identify plants and animal signs. We talked about the timber management being undertaken on the property because trees planted by the Leopold Family in the 1930s and 40s now require thinning in order to keep them healthy and to avoid depleting the area's marginal sandy soils. We talked about the deer herd, which had grown to nuisance proportions, and about the manner in which Aldo Leopold had introduced antlerless deer hunting to Wisconsin. Science was on our minds. This place, this shrine to the principles of conservation and the wise management of natural resources, was like a conservation museum that demonstrated the scientific principles taught by Leopold.

We returned to The Shack to see smoke rising from the chimney, a fire dancing in the fireplace and the door opened wide. “Welcome, welcome,” said Nina Leopold Bradley, Aldo Leopold's daughter, smiling brightly. “It's chilly out there,” she said, “so come into The Shack; I've got a fire going to warm us up.”

It was then that I realized that something magical had happened. The Shack was no longer like a museum at all. Firelight flickered cheerily on the walls and furnishings. The pungent smell of woodsmoke hung in the air, and there was a warmth to the place

## Reflections...

### Thomas C. Bailey



that had been missing when we first glanced in. The warming fire had transformed the place – and so had Nina Leopold Bradley.

She told wonderful stories of the days when the Leopold family would journey to The Shack on weekends, and of times when the road was inundated by spring floods and they would be stuck for days – much to their mutual delight. She told of planting thousands of trees on the barren land to anchor what was left of the soil that had been depleted by cut-out-and-get-out logging, and valiant attempts to farm on ground that did not have enough nutrients for crops to be successfully grown.

She told of how the Leopold family would all sit 'round the fire, telling stories and singing songs after a day of work and discovery. “Dad would sit there,” she said, pointing to a sling chair upon which my hand was resting. “Mother sat there,” she said, and went on to tell about how well her mother played the guitar beautifully and sang wonderful songs.

She made a point to say that the Leopold children all grew up to work in conservation or ecology – in science. Yet, she added, a brother and sister are now accomplished classical guitarists – true artists. She told of her current project to document the dates of blooming plants, migrating birds, and other natural phenomena to follow the changes that have taken place since her father recorded those same events, and how this work provides evidence of changing climate trends.

The familiar connection between science and art in conservation was reinforced. Of course children grow up to be conservationists and ecologists when they are taught about identifying plants and animals, planting trees to hold soil, and the principles of game management. And they also grow to appreciate art and beauty when they learn to make music, to tell stories by the fire, to love the glow of sunset-light, and to express their feelings in wonderful words like the Leopold children grew up to see written so eloquently by their famous father.

Just as ecology teaches us that everything is linked to everything else, the art and science of nature teach us that each needs the other for its fullest expression and in order to take on its full meaning. As we learn about nature in our science books, we must also celebrate it with poetic words, beautiful pictures, glorious music and in other ways that move the human soul.

Storytelling around the fire is at least as important to conservation as lecturing in the classroom. This is a lesson I've learned before, but one which was vividly reinforced on that wonderful, magical spring day when I visited the Leopold Shack and felt both my mind and spirit touched by the grace of Nina Leopold Bradley and the conservation knowledge and spirit which lives in her and her family.

# SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

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

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## An Introduction to Nature Journaling

**Tuesday, July 20, 4-6 pm**  
**Raven Ridge (East Jordan)**

Join a Conservancy naturalist to learn how keeping a journal has increased her knowledge of our northwoods, and learn some techniques to begin a journal of your own. No art or writing ability necessary! Bring along a notebook, pen or pencil, as we will enjoy a leisurely hike and practice several journaling techniques to find your own unique style.

## Botany of Northern Michigan

**Saturday, August 7, 9 am-4pm**  
**(Jack Pine Plains near Indian River)**

Join Dr. Edward Voss, author of *Michigan Flora*, an extensive three-volume work that is the result of nearly 40 years of research, as he leads a hike first through the jack pine plains area near Wildwood and then to an adjacent marsh. (Bring old shoes and be prepared to get a little wet!) Next we'll caravan to the picnic area of Burt Lake State Park for lunch and then to another jack pine plain nearby.

## Rehabilitating Birds of Prey

**Thursday, August 12, 6-7pm**  
**East Park (Bay Harbor)**

What should you do when you find an injured animal? How do experts determine if an animal can be rehabilitated and released? What happens to animals that can't be released? Find out the answers to these and other questions as you enjoy

## Little Traverse Conservancy, Inc.

**3264 Powell Road**  
**Harbor Springs, MI 49740-9469**  
**(231) 347-0991**

*Address Service Requested*



**web site:** [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)  
**email:** [ltc@landtrust.org](mailto:ltc@landtrust.org)

an evening by the lake with Glen McCune, an experienced local wildlife healer.

## Exploring Beautiful Five Mile Creek Preserve

**Thursday, August 26, 10 am-12 noon**

Five Mile Creek is one of the larger tributaries to Lake Michigan along Emmet County's coastline. On this outing with local wetlands expert Doug Fuller, we will explore the preserve's forest, land forms, and stream environs. Come prepared to get your feet wet.

## "Wake Up With Nature" Thursday Hike Series

Join Conservancy staff on Thursday mornings this summer for morning hikes along wooded trails, river banks, and dunes as we celebrate our beautiful north lands. These hikes are an opportunity to get outside with other like-minded individuals and enjoy the outdoors. Pre-registration not required for these hikes, but please call if you need directions. Meet shortly before 8 am at the following locations:

**June 24** - Bear River Trail (Petoskey)

**July 1** - North Point Preserve (Charlevoix)

**July 8** - NCMC Natural Area (Petoskey)

**July 15** - McCune Nature Preserve (15 minutes from Petoskey)

**July 22** - Ransom Nature Preserve (Charlevoix County)

**July 29** - Johnston Nature Preserve (near Good Hart)

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