



Leelanau Conservancy

*Conserving the Land, Water and
Scenic Character of Leelanau County*

Newsletter

Fall, 2006

Vol.17, No. 3

PRESERVING FARMLAND—OUR PERSPECTIVE

On Election Day, Leelanau Conservancy members have what could be a one-time opportunity to support the preservation of the rural and scenic character of Leelanau's family farms, with their voices, and many with their votes. We sat down with Brian Price, the Conservancy's Executive Director since its founding in 1988, for a candid conversation about the critical importance of supporting farmland preservation in Leelanau County.

Q The Leelanau Conservancy is a nonprofit, nonpartisan charity —is the Conservancy backing the 0.5 mill/15-year "Proposal to Preserve Leelanau Farmland" on the November ballot?

BP: Yes. Absolutely. Between now and Election Day, you may hear many things about this issue, but farmland preservation really is a nonpartisan effort. Wherever you travel, you will see that people of every political bent, every socio-economic background have supported the hundreds of successful farmland preservation programs throughout America. Sure, there will always be a few people that won't back anything remotely like this no matter how smart an investment it is to preserve the County's beauty and the way of life enjoyed here for many generations. You know, the Conservancy's Board and Staff also come from all different backgrounds too, yet we are unanimous in endorsing this farmland preservation proposal.

Q Couldn't the work of farmland preservation be accomplished without public dollars?

BP: In my opinion – no. I'll tell you why. In at least two instances, involving very visible and important farms, we had a good chance of saving the farm by buying the development rights. In both cases, we needed time to raise the money, but developers were there with cash. Both farms were sold for development. Timing and certainty are all-important, and we couldn't guarantee that funding would be there.



"Over the past couple of months I have been talking with farm families, and I can guarantee that if this millage is approved, beautiful, productive farms that people really care about will be protected forever." -- Brian Price

Q Aren't there private dollars available instead?

BP: From the funding side, we have had really substantial conversations with large foundation funders that want to support farmland preservation, but they always want to see that the community is committed up front. Why should they help us preserve farmland when we're unwilling to help ourselves?

Q But the Conservancy has been a leader in farmland preservation in Leelanau for well over a decade. Why can't we just keep working on this in the way we have all along?

BP: Simply put, the challenge is too enormous for just the Leelanau Conservancy alone. For more than ten years, the Conservancy has been working hard to preserve Leelanau's family farms, and we've had some wonderful successes. But to put it in perspective, we have been able to preserve just 1,000 acres in 10 years, even with
(continued on page 2)



President's Message

SUPPORTING MILLAGE FUNDING FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO

Asphalt, steel, concrete, brick, vinyl, and resulting sprawl converts agricultural lands forever. Farmland is a commodity that cannot be reproduced. It is an asset essential to feeding the world and locally is a critical component of the rural character and scenic splendor of Leelanau County.

The backbone of Leelanau's economy is tourism and agriculture which produces over \$130 million in revenue annually for the peninsula. Moreover, Leelanau's working farms account for more than 1,200 full and part-time jobs for our residents.

The Land Information Access Association has determined that Leelanau County lost 20% of its active farmland in the decade following 1990. If this trend continues Leelanau's scenic beauty and economy will be irreparably harmed.

In 2003, the Leelanau Conservancy's Board adopted a strategic plan to preserve 10,000 acres of farmland by the end of 2006. Unfortunately, to date, we have protected only approximately 1,000 acres. Though we have raised over \$1 million of State and Federal funds for this effort, our ability to raise the necessary private funds required to qualify for matching funds has proven very difficult.

Likewise, Leelanau County's inability to fund its own Farmland Preservation Program has resulted in the inability to protect a single acre of farmland since being established in 2002. Public support is clearly required to leverage additional foundation, federal, and state dollars for farmland preservation. A public/private partnership facilitated by adopting a millage to support farmland preservation is a major part of the solution. We must act to protect our natural lands and our tourism/agriculture based economy. Over-development and sprawl do not represent intelligent growth.

The Leelanau Conservancy's Board of Directors is 100% behind the farmland preservation millage ballot initiative. It is the right time to act and the right thing to do.

Craig Miller, President



INTERVIEW WITH BRIAN PRICE (continued from page 1)

\$1 million in state and federal funds. Compare this with the minimum 3,500 acres that a millage can protect—and if we leverage our public funds we could preserve twice that much and maybe more through a millage. The pressures that are threatening to fragment and obliterate our working farms are too great and the window of opportunity to act is too narrow. Of the hundreds of farmland preservation programs in the U.S., we don't know of any that have been successful without some public investment to leverage the state, federal and private foundation dollars to make a real difference.

Q What happens to the Conservancy's activities if voters approve funding?

BP: Like we've always done, we'll work with farmers and other landowners to make sure they understand their options. We'll step in, like we did with the Crystal River, to make funds available when situations arise that demand quick action. And we'll continue to fundraise to bring additional private matching dollars in to enhance the millage dollars. Over the past couple of months I have been talking with farm families, and I can guarantee that if this millage is approved, beautiful, productive farms that people really care about will be protected forever (like the one on our back cover). And the Conservancy will be a big part of making the program work.

Q So, is this really a one-time opportunity to save Leelanau's farmland?

BP: Could be. It's hard to even think about what could happen if the November proposal does not succeed. We've been relying on business as usual in this county for decades...and we've lost over 10,000 acres of active farmland in the past 15 years. There is no dispute about that. We can make a statement and say that in Leelanau County we value our farming heritage, we want to invest in this segment of our economy, and we know that preserving the scenic qualities of our landscape are essential to our future. Or we can stay on the same

course, which will lead to continued loss of all of those. Frankly, it took about five years of solid work by a whole lot of people to get the issue in front of the voters. I'd hate to think what will happen to our farmland (continued on page 3)



INTERVIEW WITH BRIAN PRICE (continued)

and our agri-tourism economy if we have to wait another five or six years to try again. By then, we could be beyond the point of no return. If you love Leelanau, this issue is critical to who and what we are as a community. My sincere hope is that our members will seriously consider voting yes to preserve farmland in Leelanau on November 7th.

An Ultimate Tax Savings

Don Coe of Black Star Farms has an answer for those voters who are afraid of higher taxes: vote yes for Farmland Preservation. Taxes are much higher in developed and populated areas than they are in rural areas because of the need for things like roads and rescue services. If the farmland in Leelanau County turns into resorts, condominiums and golf courses, by all means, taxes will rise — and much more than \$28 per year.

"No one likes taxes. But if you don't like taxes, then this is exactly what you should vote for. Farmland Preservation is not an *anti*-growth movement. It intends to seek a balance between the inevitable growth and inevitable taxes, by creating a vehicle to keep farming active." *Excerpt from Glen Arbor Sun, 9/15/2006*

1-2-3: The Return on Your Investment

1. Passage of the ballot proposal to preserve Leelanau County farmland will fund a County program that has been on the books since 2002, but has yet to preserve a single acre of farmland due to a lack of funding.
2. Even without any additional source of funding, the ballot proposal will permanently preserve about 3,500 acres of prime Leelanau Farmland.
3. Used as local match, the levy will likely preserve from 8,000 to 10,000 acres and possibly more, by leveraging available state, federal and foundation dollars that the County has been unsuccessful in capturing without local investment from the public.

A Farm Family's Perspective

Why Save Farmland Now?

1. Agriculture and agri-tourism is Michigan's and Leelanau's second leading industry, but Michigan has lost 1.5 million acres of farmland to development since the mid-1980s; Leelanau alone has lost over 10,000 acres since 1990, which equals over 20% of our active agriculture.
2. The average age of Leelanau's farmers is above 55. Many are considering their retirement options, and without a funded County farmland preservation program, their main option is to sell for development.
3. Many young farmers cannot afford to buy farmland because land values are so high, so funding the difference between agricultural value and development value solves two problems—retiring farmers have something to invest and young farmers can afford to buy. The immense benefit to the rest of us is the permanent preservation of those working farms, which contribute greatly to Leelanau's scenic beauty and everyone's quality of life.

Jeff and Juanita Send own a 160-acre cherry farm south of Suttons Bay. They say a millage is a tiny price to pay to keep Leelanau's pastures and rolling hills locked up in agriculture at a time when downstate developers are offering millions of dollars to build homes on real estate with mouth-watering views.

"We have to act now," says Jeff. "Time goes by fast. If we don't pass this initiative, within a few years from now the land all around us will be condominiums, and we will have lost what this land was all about ... forever."

Jeff Send admits that the temptation for a farmer to sell to a developer is growing, especially since small farmers are having trouble competing with corporate farms elsewhere in the country, not to mention food being imported at rock bottom prices from elsewhere in the world. Furthermore, many local farmers are finding a lack of interest from their kids in continuing the family tradition.

Excerpt from Glen Arbor Sun, 9/15/2006





PROGRESS REPORT ON DEYOUNG : WE'RE HALFWAY THERE!

In December of last year, the Conservancy put down \$50,000 and signed an option to purchase the 145-acre DeYoung property on Cedar Lake. Though it's hard to believe, ten months have already passed, bringing many exciting and wonderful developments! The natural features inventory and property management plan have been completed, first partnerships established, and – after a strong show of public financial support – we secured a loan to close on the property on May 30, 2006.

The total cost of the project is \$2 million, of which we aim to raise \$1 million from individuals and foundations. On

nearly three-quarters of the riders paused to grab a drink and learn about the project. (See photo on page 5.) The volunteers were in rare form, cheerfully hailing riders, taking photos, offering water, and – of course – talking about our plans for the Natural Area!

As August began, we hosted 800 people at DeYoung for our Annual Friends Picnic. 125 of the attendees participated in hikes of the property, learning about the landscape, lakeshore, streams, and historic farmstead. Later that month, the Conservancy made its debut at downtown Traverse City's Friday Night Live, sharing news of DeYoung as a tremendous local resource, just three miles up the TART Trail from Front Street. Our friends at the "Listening to the River" project joined us, as some of their important work teaching local students about the watershed will be hosted at DeYoung this fall. NMC professor, Greg LaCross, will also bring his Field Studies students to the property this season.

This project continues to be a source of excitement and inspiration for many... we invite you to hike, volunteer at a Work Bee or become involved in countless other ways! (Call Anne Shoup - 256-9665 or email ashoup@theconservancy.com) If you are planning your year-end giving, please consider a generous contribution to the DeYoung Natural Area on Cedar Lake. There couldn't be a better time, as each gift is still being matched, dollar for dollar, by the Edmund and Virginia Ball Foundation. Know that your help will get us off to a roaring start in 2007!

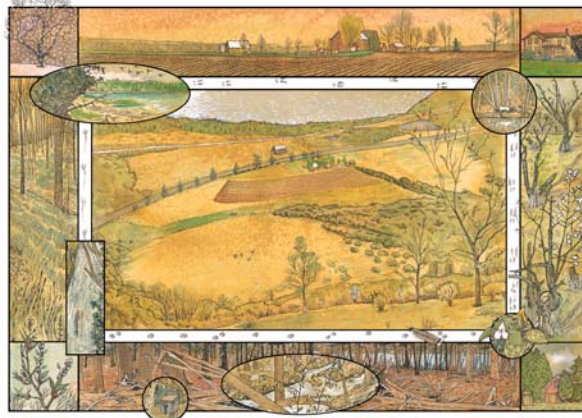


the day this newsletter went to press, we had secured \$539,269 in gifts and pledges toward that \$1 million goal. At the end of June, we were delighted to announce a Challenge pledge from the Edmund and Virginia Ball Foundation. The family promised to match each dollar raised up to \$50,000, ultimately helping create \$100,000 in new funding for the project. The community responded with enthusiasm, and we are more than four-fifths of the way to completing the Ball Challenge. Though project fundraising will continue through next year, now is a great time to help us capture those remaining Challenge dollars!

Summer means busy schedules for everyone, and we are grateful to those folks who contributed generously of their time to keep the DeYoung project in the public eye. Thanks to the docents who led tours every two weeks. A big thanks to Mark and Lori Leugers, Pam and Russ Kirt and Dave and Sharon Lund, who hosted informational gatherings for many of their neighbors.

At the end of July, volunteers transformed DeYoung into a water stop for the Tour de TART, an annual biking event that hosted 440 riders this year. As the day was unusually hot,

Glenn Wolff giclees and posters are in!



Donors of \$1,000 or more will receive an 18" x 24" limited edition giclée print of the pen & ink DeYoung watercolor drawing by renowned local artist, Glenn Wolff. Donors of \$500-\$999 will receive an 11" x 17" signed, limited edition poster. The original painting, which sold at the Conservancy Picnic in August, was generously underwritten by Conservancy board member Sally Viskochil.



TRAILS AND OTHER PLANS FOR DEYOUNG UNDERWAY

The Management Plan* for the DeYoung Natural Area is complete! Thanks to generous grants from the Oleson Foundation and Dole Family Foundation, we'll be able to begin implementing our vision for this great place right away. We applied for the Oleson grant (\$35,000) in partnership with TART Trails and a portion of the Oleson funds will be used for amenities that will benefit both organizations. Details follow on what's in the works, now and in the future for this spectacular new Natural Area.

Fall '06

- Route, and carefully clear a quarter-mile trail loop through the mature cedar forest along Cedar Lake with help from volunteers.
- Construct a small parking area and information kiosk behind the historic hay barn off Cherry Bend Road. The Cedar Lake trail mentioned above will be accessible from this new parking area and from TART's Leelanau Trail.



TART bikers stop at our water station at DeYoung in July. We're excited about our partnership with TART Trails! The first joint project at the DeYoung Natural Area will be a drinking fountain near the TART trail for bikers and hikers.

- Install bike racks and signage to encourage TART Leelanau Trail users to explore our trails on foot.
- Install a hand-pump near the new parking lot so that visitors can fill water bottles and use a drinking fountain. TART will oversee and manage the hand-pump.
- Replace the porch of the farmhouse following a historical assessment of the entire farmstead. This assessment, which includes drawings of the original structures, is under the direction of Architect and Historic Preservation specialist Ken Richmond, and is now in progress.

Spring/Summer '07

- Construct a lakeshore fishing and viewing platform. Stand by with those binoculars and fishing poles! A platform is on tap that will be reachable from a spur off the new Cedar Lake loop mentioned at left.
- Host a trail opening party! Stay tuned!



A fishing and wildlife observation platform will give visitors a chance to get down to the shore of Cedar Lake

*What is a Leelanau Conservancy Management Plan?

In a nutshell, we write a well-thought out plan for every Conservancy Natural Area or Preserve. The plan serves as a blueprint/rule book for each property. Plans route trails away from ecologically sensitive features, detail what activities are best suited to each place, and lay out goals for restoration and care. The DeYoung Management Plan, for example, was written with help from Elmwood Township, community members, other non-profits that are involved in agriculture and nature education and our own Stewardship Committee. The DeYoung Natural Area Management Plan was written with assistance from a grant from Rotary Charities of Traverse City.



The historic DeYoung Farmhouse received a new roof this summer. The porch will be restored next.



EXPLORE KEHL LAKE'S NEW TRAIL!

Our "Old Birch Trail" at Kehl Lake Natural Area (KLNA) is completed! This summer, the Stewardship crew and volunteers cleared a beautiful new three-quarter-mile trail at our 180-acre KLNA, located just north of Northport.

A bit of background: We've owned much of this land since 1990, and acquired an additional 40 acres just a few years ago. The older trails here are gentle and meandering—great for an easy hike or cross-country ski. Wildlife abounds at this Natural Area because of its outstanding habitat. Lowland coniferous forest, northern hardwoods, open fields, wetlands and 2500 feet of shoreline on Kehl Lake itself provide rich homes for deer, amphibians and fish. Kehl Lake's close proximity to Lake Michigan makes it an important piece of a critical flyway for migrating birds crossing to and from the upper peninsula.

In order for the public to access and enjoy more of this Natural Area, careful trail design was necessary to limit impact on wetlands. "Using soil maps, GPS, and much on-the-ground exploration, we came up with a trail loop that will allow the public to visit previously unseen parts of this amazing landscape," says Stewardship Director Jeneé Rowe. This new trail

features moderate, winding terrain. A hand-built bridge brings visitors from the lakeshore trail across the wetlands feeding Kehl Lake and into the hardwoods and fields in the upland sections of the property. Other sections of the trail were cut into the slope of the hill by



our hearty volunteers to prevent erosion (see photo).

Conservancy Docents will lead a snowshoe hike on the new Old Birch Trail this winter (see calendar on page 10). Look for a large map located in the kiosk at the trailhead. The new trail is marked with green markers and signs to help visitors find their way. We hope you can visit soon!

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Earlier this year we told you that our focus for 2006 would be the Kehl Lake Natural Area. Next year we key in on upgrading and improving Chippewa Run Natural Area near Empire. Check out all of the things we marked off our to-do list—thanks to the help of so many volunteers, who logged an impressive 133 hours helping with all of these tasks. Thanks!!!

- ✓ Repaired boardwalk trail
- ✓ Built $\frac{3}{4}$ mile "Old Birch Trail"
- ✓ Widened trail through the field
- ✓ Marked all trails with blue markers
- ✓ Installed Adopt-A-Natural Area posts and plaques
- ✓ Sanded and varnished directional signs
- ✓ Removed invasive species in the marsh, and will monitor it next year!
- ✓ Restored forest understory with 600 rescued wildflowers
- ✓ Re-graded the parking area
- ✓ Repaired the information kiosk
- ✓ Updated the trail map (new loop in yellow)



GOOD NEWS FROM WASHINGTON: TAX BREAKS FOR CONSERVATION DONATIONS

If you have ever thought about donating a conservation easement but put it off thinking you couldn't take full advantage of the tax deduction, you should think about it again.

On August 17, the President signed into law new tax incentives for land conservation. The new law, by encouraging private conservation of important resource lands, enjoyed bipartisan support. Congressman Dave Camp, who played an instrumental role in the Leelanau Conservancy's efforts to preserve the Crystal River, stepped up again through his leadership on the House Taxation Committee to ensure that the conservation provisions were passed.

The changes apply to gifts of both fee-simple interest in land for conservation purposes and also conservation easement donations. The new tax incentives should be of particular interest to people of modest income who wish to protect valuable conservation land.

Under the "old" law, an individual could deduct the value of a conservation easement donation of up to 30% of the donor's adjusted gross income (AGI) for the year, with a five-year carry forward of any unused amount. Also, under the old law, corporations that donated a conservation easement could deduct only up to 10% of the corporation's taxable income for the year. These restrictions in effect made it virtually impossible for some conservation easement donors to get the full value of an available deduction. This happened primarily when land was held in a corporation, or when the conservation easement had a high appraised value, but the donor had a relatively low income. In effect, individuals who might want to protect important family lands were sometimes penalized if they fell into the "land rich/cash poor" category.

Good news: under the new rules almost any potential conservation easement donor will find that their gift will be fully deductible. First, the "new rules" allow for the value of a conservation easement to be deducted up to 50% of an individual's AGI for the year of the gift. Second, there is a 15-year carry forward (up from 5 years) of any unused deduction. Third, corporations are treated under the new rules the same as individuals. And finally, a "qualifying farmer or rancher" (individual or corporation) can deduct up to 100% of their AGI for a qualifying conservation easement.

Matt Heiman, Land Protection Specialist with the Conservancy, says the new rules should prove beneficial to a wide array of potential conservation donors in Leelanau County. "Because of skyrocketing land values, many easement donors found that they couldn't deduct full value of a conservation gift within the required six-year period. There were some ways to deal with that problem: either break the entire donation into

several phased gifts six years apart, or wait until a taxable event provides extra income and a need for a larger tax deduction. So the old rules often affected the size and timing of conservation gifts. Now if you want to protect your land, I think it will be pretty hard to find a donor who can't take full advantage of the tax benefits."

It is very important to note that any conservation gift still must protect significant conservation values, as defined in IRS regulations. That rule has not changed. Also, importantly, these new incentives apply to conservation gifts made in 2006 and 2007. If Congress fails to extend the incentives, they will sunset December 31, 2007. And most importantly, as always, it is important to get good individualized tax advice to know for sure how these additional incentives might apply to a particular situation.

Heiman says the bottom line is this: "If you've been thinking of exploring a gift of a conservation easement on land you own, there has never been a better time to contact us. These new rules eliminate a lot of issues about structuring easements to take full advantage of deductions, and they virtually do away with timing issues."

Contact either Matt Heiman or Tom Nelson to find out more of what this can mean to you: 231-256-9665.

"POP-UP TAX" ON CONSERVATION LANDS TO BE ELIMINATED!!

At press time, we got the good news that the Michigan Legislature added a huge new incentive to spur the donation of conservation easements in the state. The so-called "pop-up tax" kicks in when land is transferred within a family or is sold. At that time the Taxable Value of property becomes the same as the State Equalized Value. The Pop-Up Tax has children or new owners of conservation land paying as much as quadruple the taxes their parents or former owners did once the land is transferred to them.

That will change with the elimination of the Pop Up Tax on land protected by conservation easement. Championed by Leelanau's Senator Michelle McManus and Representative David Palsrock, with overwhelming support in the legislature, the bill awaits the expected signature of Governor Granholm. Once made law, donors of conservation easements will be able to guarantee that their commitment to conservation in perpetuity will be rewarded by locking in the lower Taxable Value rate for those who take over stewarding the land after them.



MORE LAND PROTECTED IN THE LAKE LEELANAU WATERSHED! 2ND GRANT WILL FUND FUTURE PROJECTS

In August the Conservancy purchased a conservation easement that will permanently protect another 55 acres containing sensitive wetlands in Centerville Township. The 55-acre parcel belongs to Benjamin Bowmaster, and is part of a grow-



The view from on high at the Bowmaster Property

ing corridor of properties that serve as an important buffer for Lake Leelanau.

If this is the first time you are reading about our "Lake Leelanau Watershed Initiative (LLWI)," the aim is to protect the lake's surrounding land and encourage good stewardship. We wrote a grant and in 2003 were awarded \$723,800 from the Michigan DEQ Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI). The grant required matching funds, and many residents around the lake stepped up to help. We had already permanently protected 13 properties totaling 688 acres in the watershed through conservation easement before receiving the grant. But the CMI funds enabled us to purchase 7 more conservation easements. Now, with Bowmaster's included, these 7 projects protect an additional 321 acres.

We're grateful to Ben and his neighboring landowners who, together, have forever protected wildlife habitat, wetlands and streams critical to the health of the lake and the quality of life it provides for so many.

There is still \$84,000 left from the 2003 CMI grant that must be used by the end of November. It's earmarked for a 40-acre easement purchase now in the works.

The news gets better.

Our land protection specialist, Matt Heiman, who wrote the 2003 CMI grant, just landed a second one for \$447,500 to continue our LLWI work. We'll again purchase conservation easements on critical wetlands that are identified in the Lake Leelanau Watershed Management Plan. We wrote this

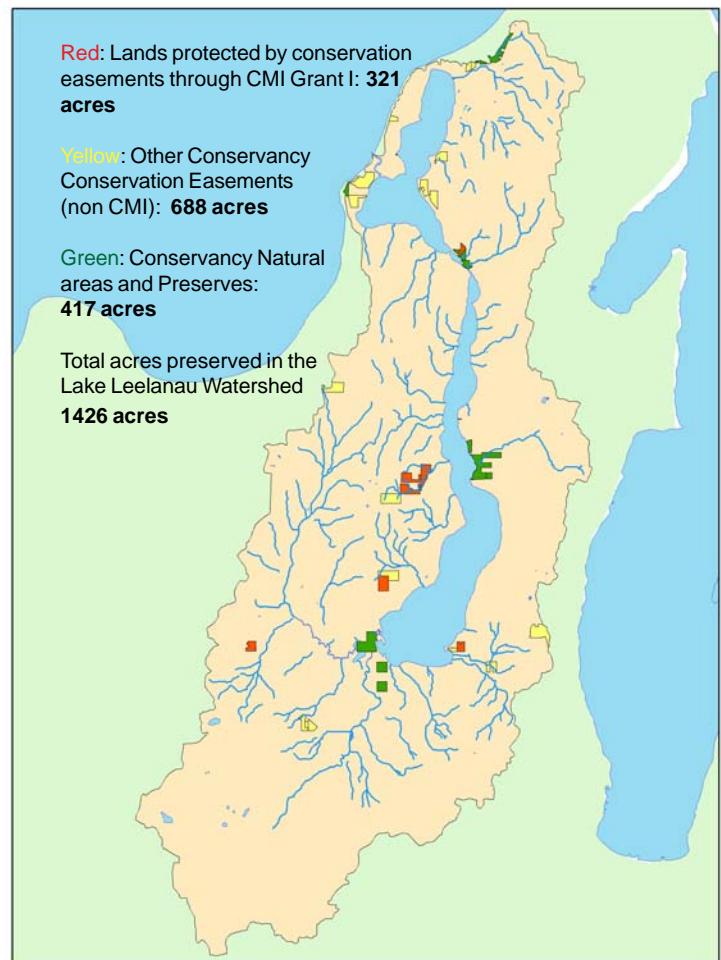
plan in partnership with the Lake Leelanau Lake Association.

According to Heiman "the tremendous success of the LLWI so far can be credited in part to a good science-based plan, but the real credit goes to caring landowners." He estimates that at least 220 more acres can be protected with the added funding.

Just as in Round One, in order to utilize these funds, however, the Conservancy must match grant dollars one for one through private donations and/or from landowners willing to sell for less than full market value. "This is quite a challenge," says Matt. "But the success of our first CMI grant and the enthusiasm it created for more projects has given us the confidence to move forward."

To learn more about conservation easements, visit our website: www.theconservancy.com

CONSERVANCY LAND PROTECTION PROJECTS IN THE LAKE LEELANAU WATERSHED





MARIO LOVES LEELANAU FAMOUS CHEF AND 123 AUCTION DONORS HELP TO RAISE \$75,000

-- by Carolyn Faught

If you were one of the nearly 800 people who attended our Annual Picnic & Auction on August 3, then you probably already know that a lunch for 12 offered by famed chef Mario Batali went for \$42,000. To say that we were all stunned and thrilled was an understatement. The bidding was lively, with four serious parties vying for the opportunity to spend an afternoon cooking, wine tasting and eating with Mario.

By the time the sun was sinking behind the Picnic tents, nearly all of the 800 picnic-goers had gone home. A few staff and board members lingered, doing the last of the clean up and winding down with a glass of wine. We reveled in all the good things that had happened that day and talked about what the Mario offering—and for that matter the proceeds from ALL the other 100-plus items—would mean to us in the coming year. Brian Price, our director, commented about the work we have on our plate right now—12 projects in progress totaling in excess of \$4 million and many more on the horizon. And that only time and money are keeping us from accomplishing everything we can and want to do.

What Mario and so many other donors did for us that day was to help us in our efforts to protect this place we all love.

A few weeks after the picnic, the Sunday of the big Mario event dawned bright and clear following a rain-filled Saturday. I was told that Mario would arrive at Cherry Basket Farm around 11:30 a.m. to prep for the day. So, after picking two Mason jars full of flowers for the tables—my small contribution to the day—I headed over to Omena.

Pulling into the Cherry Basket driveway just ahead of me was a modest blue sedan. I wondered if that could be Mario. Sure enough, the car door swung open, and a signature orange-clogged foot appeared from out of the car. With Mario was his good friend and gallery owner Pier Wright, who would help prep and serve the multi-course meal.

I carried in the flowers and checked in with Cammie Buehler of Epicure Catering, who would assist Mario and lend her kitchen at the farm. She was scrubbing a sauté pan as Mario and Pier hauled in a huge cooler. “Buenos sera,” Mario said, and kissed my hand. He opened the cooler and began to unload it. I left and headed for the beach with my family.

As I relaxed and watched the waves roll in at Good Harbor, I thought about Mario—who was supposed to be vacationing here in Leelanau, not working. Instead, he’d left his own family for a good part of the day to help our cause. I thought about how lucky we are that Mario and so many others are willing to give time, talent and energy.

That evening I got a hint of how the day had gone, when I drove past the farm and saw the cars still there at 8 p.m. Later, the buyers of the lunch, who wish to remain anonymous, said, “It was a wonderful feast and a lot of fun. Mario Batali is a lovely man, very gracious and down to earth...and treated us to a truly unforgettable afternoon of great food, wine, and laughs.” While they were thrilled with the lunch, the bidders, who are also Conservancy Sustainers, said it was

doubly great that they could get something they dearly wanted while also helping an organization they revere.

As for Mario, he had a great time too. “Just cooking at Cherry Basket Farm with and for a bunch of cool like-minded people is fun enough,” said Mario. “But to do that and raise both money and awareness for the Leelanau Conservancy makes the whole thing twice as tasty. This is my favorite fund raiser all year because it is more fun than work.”



The life of the party: Mario Batali entertains his guests at an extended Sunday lunch for 12



Artwork, unique experiences, handmade crafts and destinations donated by 115 individuals or businesses made for an interesting auction. Thanks to everyone who donated and bid on these wonderful items—your generosity will help us to protect this place we all love.



2006/2007 FALL AND WINTER HIKE AND EVENT SCHEDULE

Important Note: We are pleased to offer this schedule of hikes and programs, led by our knowledgeable volunteer Docents and staff. Do dress according to weather. So that we may provide the best experience possible and be fully prepared, we require (and appreciate!) advanced registration. Most hikes last around two hours unless otherwise noted. Please call: 231-256-9665 to register and if you have further questions about directions. Want to learn more about the Docent who will be leading your hike? Visit our website and read about their background, interests and teaching style. www.theconservancy.com

October

Thursday, October 12th 10 am

The Tall Plants of Whaleback

While viewing Leelanau's spectacular colors discover how trees work



and why they are shutting down their food production factories. How can trees and their dropped leaves be important to forests and their critters? What preparations are animals making for the cold season ahead? Discover the answer to these and more with Docents Ann McInnis and Marsha Buehler from exploring different wildlife communities while ascending the Whaleback moraine for a spectacular view of Lake Michigan.

Saturday, October 14th 2 pm Leaves and Breezes of the Houdek Dunes Natural Area

Come and enjoy the remaining October hues during a refreshing hike at the Houdek Dunes Natural Area north of Leland. Conservancy Docents Tom Dunfee and Ceil Kadrovach will lead you through this precious and unique natural area and help you to appreciate the end of fall in Leelanau County.

Saturday, October 21st 10 am The New Addition to the Teichner Preserve

The lingering colors of fall will be resting at the top of the trees and crumbling under your feet as you hike through the Hans and Miriam Teichner Preserve on Lime Lake with Docents Tom Dunfee and Ann Mason. This area is open to guided tours only, so this is the perfect opportunity to view another portion of Leelanau's tucked away beauty.

Saturday, October 21st 1 pm A Toolkit for Restoring Old Fields

Learn about America's prairie ecosystem with prairie specialist Vern Stephens, when he returns for a collaborative presentation between the Leelanau Conservancy and Saving Birds Thru Habitat. Old growth prairie is North America's most endangered ecosystem. Comprised of dozens of grass species and hundreds of wildflowers, it is also one of the most beautiful and fascinating. Although prairie was not one of northern Michigan's habitats, many prairie plants were found here in the dunes and in small, scattered pockets. Consider creating a pocket prairie in your yard by purchasing some of the plants offered for sale following Vern's presentation. Our own Stewardship Director Jenée Rowe will be on hand to answer questions too. Place: Saving Birds Thru Habitat Discovery Center, 5020 North Putnam Road, Omena. Questions: 271-3738.

December

Friday, December 29th 2 pm The Treasure of Winter at DeYoung Natural Area on Cedar Lake

Winter solitude is a treasure to behold. Join Leelanau Conservancy Docent Jack Schultz for a snowshoe hike at the beautiful DeYoung Natural Area where you celebrate the uniqueness of this incredible land. You must provide your own snowshoes.



January

Saturday, January 6th 9:30 am Winter Wildlife at DeYoung Natural Area on Cedar Lake

Come explore the wintry wonderland of this historic farmstead and 145 acres of varied terrain and habitat. Conservancy Docent Pam Schmidt explore the area for signs of wildlife. We'll visit the majestic cedars along Cedar Lake, making our way across farm open fields, and into hardwood forest habitat. Please dress accordingly. Boots or snowshoes welcome.

Thursday, January 18th 10 am Hike or Snowshoe at Kehl Lake

Depending on our snow cover, we'll hike or snowshoe Kehl Lake's trails with docents Ann McInnis and Marsha Buehler. Discover strategies wildlife use in the winter to survive. We'll look for clues such as tracks, trails, traces, etc. to help tell wildlife's stories.



February

Sunday, February 11th 2 pm Experience the Chippewa Run Natural Area by Snowshoe

Weather depending, Docent Jack Schultz will guide you on a fun and adventurous snowshoe trip through the Chippewa Run Natural Area in Empire. He will lead you past the roaring brook, into the old orchard and through the pine forest. Jack has spent a lot of time learning and discovering new things about this wonderful natural area and is anxious to share his knowledge with you. You will need to provide your own snowshoes.



FALL/WINTER 2006/2007 HIKES/EVENTS

Saturday, February 17th 10 am Track and Tale for Families

Bring your kids (ages 4 & up), and be prepared to have some fun, exploring the wild places of the DeYoung Natural Area on Cedar Lake! We'll follow in the footsteps of wildlife and let our imaginations help tell their stories. Led by Conservancy Docent Pam Schmidt.



Saturday, February 17th 6:30 pm 2007 Blues at the Bluebird

For years, the Blues at the Bluebird has been a way for Conservancy supporters and blues lovers to get together in the winter for a great evening supporting a cause dear to their hearts. This year's event will feature the Leo Creek Blues Band. Their lively renditions of the blues are sure to have the audience tapping toes and wiggling in their seats, not to mention dancing the night away. The Bluebird Restaurant in Leland will provide a delicious buffet dinner. This popular event is guaranteed to sell out, so get your tickets early. Tickets are \$30 which includes the music and dinner. You can order tickets by calling 256-9665 or emailing gayle@theconservancy.com.

Wednesday, February 28th 2 pm A DeYoung Snowshoe Excursion

Join Conservancy Development Director Anne Shoup for an afternoon of snowshoeing at the DeYoung Natural Area on Cedar Lake. Anne will guide you along the newly created trail. She will also give you a bit history about this fabulous natural area and tell you about our plans for the future. You will need to provide your own snowshoes.

March

Saturday, March 31st 8 am Spring Birds at Chippewa Run

Spring is in the air! And so are the birds heading home to Leelanau. Join Docent Alice VanZoeren for an amazing hike through this Natural Area in Empire. This time of the year finds many species of birds migrating north from the warmer climates. Alice, an expert birder and nature enthusiast, will be able to help you identify many of our fine flying friends both by sight and sound.

April

Sunday, April 15th 2 pm Spring Awakening at Whaleback

Spring is in the air. The trees are beginning to wake up from winter dormancy. Forest critters are emerging from hibernation. Now is the perfect time to experience the Whaleback Natural Area near Leland. Docent Jack Schultz will lead you on a hike up the mountain to the scenic look-out where the views of Lake Michigan and the islands are outstanding. This is a hike that the whole family will enjoy.

DIRECTIONS TO NATURAL AREAS

CHIPPEWA RUN NATURAL AREA

There is currently no trail system here, but you are welcome to explore the property via deer trails or find your own gaps in the grasses. From the intersection of M-72 and M-22 in Empire, head north on M-22 about seven tenths of a mile. The parking area is located on the left, or northwest side of the street just south of the creek.

HOUDEK DUNES NATURAL AREA

There are two loops here totalling 1.25 miles that traverse gentle, but sandy terrain. Steep steps lead you from the parking area to the trailhead. Beginning in Leland, drive north along M-22 approximately 5 miles to County Road 626. Proceed another $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north along M-22. A sign on the west (left) side of the road marks the entrance to the parking area. PLEASE NOTE: The sign is located parallel to M-22 so it can be hard to spot.

DEYOUNG NATURAL AREA

Unless otherwise specified, DeYoung hikes last about two hours and are fairly rigorous. Some bushwhacking, negotiating uneven terrain and traversing short but steep slopes is in order.

FROM TRAVERSE CITY: From intersection of M-72 and M-22 in Traverse City (Tom's West Bay) go north on M-22 1.2 miles, turn left onto Cherry Bend Rd. Go 2.0 miles down Cherry Bend Rd., and look for the big lower hay barn on your right. Pull into the parking area by the barn.

FROM LEEANAU COUNTY: From CR 641 and Cherry Bend Rd. intersection, go towards Traverse City on Cherry Bend Rd. about 2.1 miles, look for big lower hay barn on your left. Pull into the parking area next to the barn.

KEHL LAKE NATURAL AREA

The Kehl Lake Trail is approximately a 1 mile loop that meanders along the lake and through the forest. Although this hike is relatively easy, hiking shoes are necessary. Beginning from the junction of M-22 and M-201 (south of Northport), take M-201 through Northport. At 1.5 miles, M-201 ends and CR 640 begins as you follow the curve to the right. Follow 640 for 1 mile to Snyder Road and turn left. Follow Snyder Road for 1.5 miles to the parking area on the left. Kehl Lake is shown as Leg Lake on some maps.

WHALEBACK NATURAL AREA

The Whaleback trail is well-groomed and easy to follow, however, the trail quickly gains in elevation which can be rigorous at times. Wear shoes suitable to hiking. Beginning from the junction of M-22 and M-204 (3 mi S. of Leland), take M-22 north approx. 1 mile. A sign on the west (left) side of M-22 marks the entrance to the parking area. Continue straight for a few hundred feet on the gravel road entrance to the parking area. PLEASE NOTE: If you approach from the North, the sign is difficult to spot, so look carefully as you approach 3 miles south of Leland.

TEICHER PRESERVE

There is short trail down to the lake but much of this tangled wetland area is best viewed on a guided hike. From Leland, head south on M-22 about 8 miles and turn left on South (East) Lime Lake Rd, near the SW corner of the King's Challenge Golf Course at Sugarloaf. Once you turn off of M-22 onto Lime Lake Rd, it is just a short distance—about a mile—to the Preserve. Look for a fence on the right and park there.

For a complete look at all our Natural Areas and Preserves, refer to our Natural Areas Guide or our website: www.theconservancy.com



HERITAGE SOCIETY: LET'S STAND TOGETHER!

The Heritage Society recognizes donors who have shared in the mission of the Leelanau Conservancy by making a gift through a will, bequest, trust, annuity, insurance or other planned or deferred gift. Approximately sixty individuals and couples have notified the Conservancy that they have made such a commitment.

Since 1988, the Leelanau Conservancy has worked tremendously hard, and with great success, to conserve 5,000 acres and 9.5 miles of shoreline. As land prices escalate and critical areas of the County confront difficult choices, however, the Conservancy faces many more conservation opportunities and challenges. Also, as the legal steward of the lands it protects, the Conservancy must ensure adequate management and protection of the lands in its care... forever.

The current work of Conservancy friends, staff, volunteers and donors will benefit many generations to come – that is one of the great rewards of our efforts. Through wills, bequests, and other estate planning, however, Heritage Society members ensure that their support will not end after their lifetimes.

While supporting the Conservancy's future, planned gifts can also serve the donor in important ways. For instance, a deferred gift can help minimize the tax liability of heirs. Some estate planning instruments can even create secure, annual in-

come for donors right now, during their lifetimes. As one Heritage Society member likes to say, "It's a win-win-win: for us, for our family, and for the Conservancy."

To recognize the substantial impact that Heritage Society members will have on the organization's future, the Conservancy recently set aside a portion of the DeYoung Natural Area on Cedar Lake for a "Heritage Society Grove" of hardwood trees. Located in the upland half of the property, the grove will be bordered to the west by a stream and, to the south, by an upland trail. We hope to transplant the first maples, cedar and other hardwoods to the plot in the fall of 2007.

As a living legacy rooted firmly in the ground of Leelanau for many years to come, we hope this grove will represent an ever-growing group of likeminded people who stand together for the long-term conservation of Leelanau County.

To learn more about planned giving opportunities at the Conservancy, please contact Anne Shoup at ashoup@theconservancy.com or 231-256-9665.



A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE GIFTS FROM IRAS

Congress has enacted legislation as part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, which offers charitably minded individuals a golden opportunity to make gifts from their IRAs and exclude the amount of their gifts from gross income. To qualify:

- The donor must be 70.5 years of age or older; The transfers must go directly from the IRA to qualified charities;
- Gifts cannot exceed \$100,000 per taxpayer per year; and
- Gifts must be outright.*

**Transfers to donor advised funds, supporting organizations, and charitable remainder trusts and for charitable gift annuities do not qualify.*

This opportunity is available only for 2006 and 2007, and no charitable income-tax deduction is allowed.

Until now, individuals withdrawing \$100,000 from their IRAs and contributing it to charity would have had to include the \$100,000 in their income and would have been allowed a federal charitable income tax deduction of up to \$100,000 (subject to limits of deductibility) to offset the inclusion. Ostensibly, the net result was zero tax implication - a "wash" for all practical purposes. But for those taxpayers unable to use some or all of the charitable deduction, the new law presents a significant opportunity.

Who benefits?

- Individuals who are required to take minimum withdrawals but don't need additional income can satisfy this requirement with a transfer to the Conservancy
- Individuals who usually give up to 50% of their adjusted gross income - the ceiling on the allowable charitable deduction for any year - can now give up to \$100,000 more from their IRA accounts, which is not subject to this limitation or taxed as a distribution. This could enable taxpayers to avoid up to \$35,000 in federal income tax on IRA distributions in each year.
- Individuals who are subject to the 2% rule, which requires that itemized deductions be reduced by 2% of AGI in excess of \$150,500 for this year.
- Individuals who do not itemize and who make a charitable gift in an amount less than the standard deduction will benefit from a transfer directly from their IRA to the Conservancy.
- Individuals whose major assets reside in their IRAs can make direct transfers to charity from their IRAs without the hassle of reporting the transfer on their income tax return.



INTRODUCING KENNEDY



Not afraid to dig in!
New intern,
Kennedy Sandoval

I'm excited to be interning with Stewardship director Jenee Rowe. As a CMU intern, I'm pursuing a B.A. in Outdoor and Environmental Recreation with an Earth Science minor. The next 30 weeks, my main focus and interest is the DeYoung Natural Area located in Elmwood Township. For the past four years I have been working in landscaping at a local nursery and I'm extremely eager to utilize the skills I have obtained which will be practical and accommodating for all field work. As a nature lover, I'm looking forward to seeing the DeYoung Natural Area come together, so that many will be able to utilize and appreciate this great spot.

I'm originally from Mt. Pleasant, but I've been fortunate to spend the past two and half years enjoying Northwest Michigan. Nothing compares to Leelanau County! When I'm not outside working, I'm out utilizing my athletic energy. As an avid runner, I LOVE competing in road/trail races. The passion which I have for outdoor recreation is derived from running and bicycling.

The role and impact the Leelanau Conservancy has on conserving and preserving our natural areas truly makes this a greater place to enjoy all varieties of recreation activities. As an intern at the Conservancy it will be personally gratifying to help make Leelanau County one of a kind.

ANOTHER REASON TO GET OUT THERE!

The therapeutic effects of a walk in the woods are many, but how about this one? The summer issue of The National



Arbor Day Foundation newsletter says that "Walks in the forest may be responsible for activating natural killer (NK) cells known to attack cancer and increase certain anti-cancer proteins. This is the claim of the Nippon Medical School

and the Forest Products Research Institute of Japan. Research on 12 highly stressed males showed that NK cell activity increased by 52.6 percent after just two days of walking in the woods. Additional experiments are planned."

COLLINS INTERN FUND HELPS STUDENTS GET ON-THE-GROUND EXPERIENCE

When Founder Bobbie Collins retired from our board last fall, co-founder and husband Ed suggested we create an Intern Fund in her honor. It was just one of a hundred visionary ideas to come from the Collins. Since then, and because of the generosity of many donors to the Intern Fund, last summer we were able to hire not one, but three wonderful, energetic college students who were eager to learn about our work and helped us in immeasurable ways. Our goal is to have a number of interns working year-round in different areas of our organization. Interns are a big win-win—they help to reduce our operating costs, and at the same time they get a tremendous education about conservation in the time spent here. If you'd like to make a donation to the Intern Fund, call us (256-9665), or mail it to PO Box 1007, Leland, MI 49654, or go online: www.theconservancy.com



We now have 397 individuals/families who make an annual pledge of \$500 or more to support the operations of the Conservancy, giving us the consistency we need to insure we meet our long-term goals for protecting this very beautiful place. Sustainers are special people with special events held in their honor. To learn more about joining the Sustainer's Circle, call Gayle at 256-9665 or email her at gayle@theconservancy.com. Thanks to all our loyal Sustainers. Your support is critical to our ongoing success. Welcome new Sustainers since July:

Daniel and Katie Appel
Robert and Susan Kuras
Steve and Deb Martineau,
Clayton and Hydie Prugh
Jim and Leslie Saffell



New Sustainers Steve and Deb Martineau, with Howard and Beth Dean at the Sustainers Gathering at the GL Yacht Club



SUPER VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL PICNIC

The Conservancy is fortunate to have so many willing volunteers. Each year we recognize those who have gone above and beyond. This year's Volunteer of the Year award went to Dick and Lou Ristine. "Dick is a dogged fundraiser for us, and uses all of his connections but in a sincere, passionate way," said Brian Price at the event. "Both he and Lou have been real believers in our cause and their passion has inspired others to get involved or to donate." Dick served nine years on our board and is now Honorary Chairman. He also sits on our Fund Development Committee and is a major force behind the group Save Leelanau Farmland. "He does just about anything we ask him and has



Volunteers of the Year: Dick and Lou Ristine, receiving their award at this year's Picnic.

made it his personal mission to get as many of you as possible to include the Conservancy in your estate plans," added Brian.

Lou has sat in our booth, served on our auction committee, worked in the office, hosted gatherings and, like Dick, engaged others to join us. "I don't know how many times I've heard my staff or other people involved with the Conservancy speak with admiration for the Ristines and all they stand for," concluded Brian. "They embody the term 'community servants.'" The Ristines join Jim Vachow (2002), Joanie Woods (2003), Tim Keilty (2004) and Bill and Shirley Orcutt (2005) in sharing this honor.

Grobbel Environmental was also named as this year's Business Partner of the Year. "Chris Grobbel has been incredibly helpful and generous to us over the years and his work has been essential to the creation of the DeYoung Natural Area," says Stewardship Director Jenee Rowe, who has worked closely with Chris on restoration aspects at DeYoung. "Chris has gotten us off to a great start and we know he'll be a great partner in the future." Peninsula Title (2003), Leelanau.com (2004) and The Bluebird (2005) are past recipients of the award.

OUR FAMILY OF VOLUNTEERS - THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

Hundreds of helpers make our life easier and do wonders to reduce our costs and spread our message. Thanks to one and all—and if we somehow neglected to list you here we are no less grateful for your help!

4th of July Marchers Jeanne and Bill Dennler and friends (pictured) made their second annual appearance dressed as things you might find in one of our Natural Areas, such as "100-year-old swaying trees." Here they are, swaying!



Booth Workers spent a summer helping to spread our message at events, including our own picnic. Thanks to Barbara Abbott, Jill Borre, Janet Dickerson, EJ Fitzpatrick, Ben Hitz, Nana Kennedy, Bob & Julie Knode, Franc & Mary Ann Krebs, Mary Lyons, Betty Maynard, Fred Neidhardt, Maxi Neugebauer, John Watkins, Carol and John Peterson, Sharon Oriel, Bobbie Poor, Charlotte Read, Sandy Richardson and Mary Tonneberger.

Mailing Crews and office helpers

pushed our publications out the door: Thanks to Dottie Bergman, Kathleen Cigan, Marie Christianson, Treva DeJong, Barb Hatt, Judy Komarek, Fred Neidhardt, Elizabeth Reahard, Cathy



Schocker, Lenore Suchy. Pictured: Joyce Stackable and Nonny Bolmer

Our Local Foods Committee

worked with farmers and seven area chefs to secure produce and appetizers to feed nearly 800 people! Special thanks to Nancy Miller for keeping us all on track. Daughter Courtney Miller (pictured with Eric Kowal) worked with chefs, raised underwriting funds and more. We're grateful also to Moonyeen Fitch, who ran around in 100 degree heat with Nancy to





OUR FAMILY OF VOLUNTEERS (CONTINUED)

pick up produce to hand it off to our caterer. John & Gina Erb and Molly Harrison created our lovely centerpieces. Servers and preppers Amber Bingham, David & Marcia Harris, Deb Martineau, Andrea & Mike Muladore, Patty Rossman, Val Schuette and Ann Watkins helped it all come together. The appetizers were, again, a huge hit thanks to Epicure Catering, Hansen's, Kejara's Bridge, Good Harbor Grill, The Bluebird and TLC Tomatoes.

Our Auction Committee met all year and helped us to raise \$75,000 for land protection efforts. Special thanks to Christina Pfeuffer (pictured) for her amazing display talents and to Charlie Boesel, our announcer and auctioneer who patiently drove the Mario bidding up to \$42,000. We're grateful as well to Marsha Buehler, Janet Clarkson, Annette Deibel, Gina Erb, Judy Frederick, Betsy Johnson, Julie Knode, Franc and Mary Ann Krebs, Larry Mawby, Herb and Ann Nichols, Kathy Rymal, Leslie Schmid and Laura Swire for making this our biggest and best auction yet.



Picnic workers: They parked cars, played music (thank you TC Celtic, pictured), poured wine, set up tables, snapped photos, worked registration, sold clothing, cleaned up and more. Thanks to Jill Borre, Tom Buehler, Brendan Burrows, Jack Burton, Kyle Carr, Dave & Cara Cassard, Jeff Corbin, Deputy Margaret Arena & the Jail Work Crew, Ann Derrick, Cheryl Donakowski, Tom & Gretchen Dunfee, Judy & Cliff Egeler, John Erb, Gail & Keith Evans, Deb, Neal, Ben, Peter and Austin Fellows, Andrew Fraker, Jim & Diane Gilbo, Dan & Anka Harkness, Karen Hertenstein, Rose Hollander, Barbara Nelson-Jameson and Lee Jameson, Ceil & Pete Kadrovach (pictured), Russell & Pam Kirt, Bob Knode, Marnie Kohler, Steve Martineau, Larry Mawby, David Mertz, Craig Miller, Frank Mispion, Preston & Colleen Moose, Pat & Sharon Oriel, Lynn and Chelsea Peabody, Christof Peter, Mary Povolo, Nate Price, Kathy & Lou Ricord, Dick and Lou Ristine, Kirk Rowe, Pam Schmidt, Frank & Barbara Siepker, Amelie Sterling, Mary Taylor, Mary Tonneberger, Sally Viskochil, Warren Watkins.



Kids Tent: Under the super leadership of Sue Corbin, and Franc and Mary Ann Krebs, and the ever-popular crafts table of Evy Sussman (pictured) our Kids Tent was better than ever. Thanks also to helpers Joe & Connor Duffy, Alex Edgley, Nadine Elmgren, Sam Fought, Allie Freed, Julie Fraker, Taylor Menzter, Megan Muladore, Ellen Price, Elizabeth Reahard and Bonnie Ricord.



Picnic Hike leaders like birder Kay Charter (pictured) showed off the natural features of DeYoung. Thanks also to Dick Fidler, Brian Bourdages, Dana Goodwin, Todd Kalish, Ann McInnis and Bobbie Poor for leading hikes or bus tours of farmland.



Stewardship folks were busy at Kehl Lake (see story on page 6). After a brief lesson on trail building, volunteers helped build the Old Birch Trail. Thanks to: Tom Nelson, Kennedy Sandoval, Lisa Myers, Casey Stanton, David Lobbig, Dewey Rennela, Sarah Paulson, E. Rennela, Joe Rennela. Below, center; Maggie Lobbig holds a sweet young white pine seedling she rescued from the new trail while other plants were transplanted onsite during the work bee by these wonderful volunteers. Left to right: Sue Poirier, George Anderson, Maggie Lobbig, Casey Stanton, David Lobbig, Jane Neidhardt, Sean Harland and Peter Povolo. Thanks also to volunteers from three other trail building work bees that are not pictured: John Bull, Jim Vachow, Erica Richards, Ron Wisniewski,



Brandon Walker, Julie Sethbird, Rudy Shomin, William Chippewa, Cody Burns, Weston Babcock, Joe Povolo, Tom Mayhew, Ryan Douglass, Katelin Randall, Kristine Greiwe, Kate Schaff, Madeline

continued on page 16



OUR FAMILY OF VOLUNTEERS (CONTINUED)

Schaff, Gus Gardener, Niel Peck, Lily Downing, Luke Williams, Chris Randall, Taylor Smith, Kyle Devaney, and Ellen Cassin.

Our Docents took dozens of hikers on 14 tours of Natural Areas throughout the summer and fall to our Natural Areas. Thanks to Marsha Buehler, Tom Dunfee, Dick Fidler, David Harris, Ann Mason, Ann McInnis, Bobbie Poor (pictured) and Pam Schmidt.



DeYoung Fundraising Committee Thanks to Mark and Lori Leugers, Dave and Sharon Lund, Russ and Pam Kirt and Ed and Sharon Rutkowski for hosting gatherings in their homes. We're grateful to the following people who worked our DeYoung booth at summer events such as Tour De TART and Friday Night Live: Jackie Cantalupo, Rob Chapman, Ron and Ilse Dove, Gail Evans, Jim & Diane Gilbo, Dave & Sharon Lund, Diantha Lundin, Leon Michael, Al and Maxi Neugebauer, Sue Poirer, Anne Smith.

Bob and Meeghan Siera of Leelanau Produce grew and donated many of the fresh vegetables served at our Picnic. They have long been caretakers of the DeYoung land, and now serve as onsite ambassadors. To prepare for the Picnic, Bob planted grass and sunflowers, mowed fields and helped out at our DeYoung work bees. They even loaned their golf cart so that we could transport Picnic goers who needed a ride. We couldn't have better neighbors, and we are grateful.



Wait Staff! We hosted a party for our most generous donors at L. Mawby Vineyards in August. We're grateful to Larry (also a Conservancy Board member) and his wife, Lois Bahle, for all their help. Thanks also to board members and their spouses who donned aprons and served our guests: John and Gina Erb, Jeff and Sue Corbin, Frank and Barbara Siepker, Sally Viskochil.



TRIATHLON-ING TEENS SPREAD OUR MESSAGE



We love the teens up at Northport Point who, every August, hold a triathlon to raise money for our cause. They run, swim and bike around the Point and in the process, raise funds and awareness for our mission. This year 21 participated in the sixth annual event under the direction of Lisa Randall. In addition, some of these teens also helped us build our beautiful new trail loop at the Kehl Lake Natural Area. With youth like this caring so much for Leelanau, our beloved peninsula will be in good hands. Here's what they wrote in a thank you note to the 30 donors who supported them: "Your encouragement and cheers during the triathlon kept us motivated to follow through to the finish line in order raise money for the Leelanau Conservancy. As a result of your generous donation, the Northport Point teens raised \$2250 for the cause to continue to keep Northport beautiful for future generations." We couldn't have said it better ourselves! Thanks to the teens and to all who backed them up with donations. (\$12,000 has been raised over the last six years!) The funds will protect lands at the Tip of the Peninsula like Lighthouse West.





LEELANAU PRESERVERS: A GIFT THAT LASTS FOREVER

NEED A GREAT GIFT THAT'S MEANINGFUL TOO?

When you give a gift through the Leelanau Conservancy Preservers program, you can preserve land in a child's name, and instill in them at an early age that they have a stake in what Leelanau is to become. You can also give a gift to friends or family who live far away, but have Leelanau in their hearts. Or, preserve land in your own name. As a result of your contribution, your gift recipient becomes a "Leelanau Preserver." Over the years, we'll keep track of the total acres that have been preserved in their name. We'll send a beautiful card acknowledging your gift. Remember, giving to the land fund isn't just limited to the holidays. You can begin or add to a loved one's acreage any time a special occasion arises. Together, we can preserve the best of Leelanau.



MILESTONE RECOGNITION TILES INSTALLED THIS FALL!

Many Conservancy supporters have been buying Preserver gifts since the program's inception in 2002 and we've kept track of each person's accumulated acreage. When they reach the 1/10 acre milestone (\$500) a beautiful personalized hand-made tile is mounted on our Preservers Circle in the Leland Village Green. At press time, Suttons Bay tile artisan Leif Sporck and our Stewardship crew was busy installing nearly 100 tiles (see photo above) of those who have reached milestones from 1/10 acre up to 3+ acres! Weather permitting, we hope to have all tiles mounted soon! Stop by the Village Green and check out this beautiful work in progress. Until the circle is filled up, we'll continue to recognize new acreage milestones. Annually, new tiles will be mounted for those who have reached 1/10 acre, 1/4 acre, 1/2 acre, 1 acre and each additional acre.



SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR "CONSERVANCY KIDS"

When you give a Preserver gift to a child, along with a scenic card and certificate, they also receive a "Find Me in

Leelanau Exploration Kit." Created by our own Ms. Wizzle (Docent Ann McInnis), and recommended for kids 10 and under, this kit includes: stickers of wildlife and other natural wonders to look for at Conservancy Natural Areas and a booklet where children can match up the stickers to compelling questions that will teach as well as entertain. Once your "Conservancy Kid" visits three of our Natural Areas and matches up stickers with questions, he or she can claim a finger puppet in our office. (The animals represented are native to our lands!) In the process, you'll be cultivating nature appreciation in the child who is special in your life.



Leelanau Preservers Gift Order Form

I would like to preserve:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 270 square feet \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/10 acre \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 450 square feet \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 acre \$1250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 900 square feet \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 acre \$2500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2250 square feet \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 acre \$5000 |

in the name of _____

Address: _____

- ☐ My recipient is a child whose age is _____ *
- ☐ This gift is a memorial
- ☐ send packet to me. ☐ send packet to my recipient.

Card to read _____

* Please note: Gift packets for children age 10 and under will include The Young Preservers Exploration Kit.

For additional gifts, attach a separate sheet of paper.

From: Name _____

Address: _____

Total amount of order: \$ _____

☐ Check enclosed (payable to Leelanau Conservancy)

☐ Charge to VISA/MASTERCARD

_____ Exp. date _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Signature _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

Send order form and payment to: Leelanau Conservancy, P.O. Box 1007, Leland, MI 49654, or order online: www.theconservancy.com



HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

Received between July 3, 2006 and September 7, 2006)

Gifts In Honor of

JACK AND JANE ANDERSON
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beuerle

EMILY BEYER
Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Beyer

THE CARMAN CHILDREN
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Carman

MICHAEL AND MICHELLE CONNELL
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Mannor

GAIL AND KEITH EVANS
Ms. Mary Anne Ball

RICK AND ENID GRAUER
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Kraft

CAITLYN MILLER
Ms. Susan E. Gougler

SAM AND BEN MILLER
Mr. and Mrs. Jon M. Sebaly

MAGGIE RAE MOLTER
Konrad E. Molter & Michelle Brown

LUCILLE M. RIOPELLE
Ms. Connie L. Riopelle

ANNA, MICHAEL & MATTHEW SEBALY
Mr. and Mrs. Jon M. Sebaly

SHELLEY AND ADAM STEVENS
Ms. Velve L. Willemin

BILL AND BARB VANSTEENIS
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beuerle

HAILEY WEST
Ms. Susan E. Gougler

MATTHEW WEST
Ms. Susan E. Gougler

Happy Anniversary!

JOHN AND MARIE CHRISTIANSON'S 63RD
Ms. Pamela J. Garvey

JOHN AND JANICE FISHER - ANNIVERSARY
Joan and Randy Woods

BERNARD AND SUZANNE RINK - 50TH ANNIVERSARY
Thomas Guback & Sylvia Linde-Guback
Mr. and Mrs. Paul T. Leugers
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Rich
Ms. Ann Rogers

Happy Birthday!

FRANK ADDRESS - 80TH BIRTHDAY
Mrs. Joan L. Workum

JEANNE AND RAY BEIGHTS
Mr. and Dr. Stephen R. Beights

ANDREW BRANT - 15TH BIRTHDAY
Mr. and Mrs. Richard R. Brant

BARBARA GOODBODY - 70TH BIRTHDAY
Mr. and Mrs. J. Frederic Wiese, Jr.

BO AND STANLEY REAHARD - BOTH 60 BIRTHDAYS
Mr. and Mrs. James N. Shad

Wedding Wishes!

ADAM AND GINGER ALLINGTON - MARRIAGE
Mr. Justin Dula
Ms. Nanda Filkin
David Latchana and Kelly Collins
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Schweser
Ms. Amy Swenson

KIRSTEN HOFFMANN & THOMAS GILBERT - MARRIAGE
Kirsten Hoffmann and Thomas Gilbert

CEDAR LAKE—WHAT A CATCH!



"Chuck and I would like to donate toward your DeYoung Natural Area on Cedar Lake effort in Emily's honor. She's had a lot of fun on Cedar Lake, including landing this 19" smallmouth at age 6!"
—Amy Beyer

GREAT BEGINNINGS

Instead of giving party favors to their 200 wedding guests Steve and Sarah Rypma opted to make a gift to the Leelanau Conservancy instead. In place of a favor at each setting, they presented a raffia-wrapped Conservancy Natural Areas Guide with a gift message.

"We wanted to give something to our guests that expresses our deep love for Northern Michigan and Leelanau," says Steve and Sarah who live near Lansing. "We both grew up



on the beaches of Lake Michigan as our playground, as did many of our guests. Rather than giving a trivial wedding favor that is often left behind, our hope was to give a donation that went towards preserving the land that made both our childhood and wedding day possible." Included in their message to wedding guests is a favorite motto of the couple's: "Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time."



MEMORIALS

(Continued from page 18; Received between 7/3/2006 and 9/14/2006)

In Memory of

ROGER K. APPLEBEE
Mrs. Margaret A. Applebee

**DONALD AND PATRICE
BAILEY**
Anonymous

EDWARD L. BAXTER
Ms. Lynne Crane

LAUREL GARTHE BLACKMER
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Watson

CLYDE AND LUCILLE BOHL
Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Bohl

FRED BOOTH
Mr. and Mrs. Roderick K. Daane

TOM BOVEE
Mrs. Jeanne M Fredrickson

D'ANNE BRAMER
Mr. Todd C. Bramer

NORM BROKAW
Mrs. Phyllis Ball
Mr. and Mrs. Steven M. Ball

CAL, GUS AND DIRK
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Niles

CHARLES W. CARMAN
Ms. Charlotte Foote
Dr. and Mrs. Raymond E. Reinert

SCOTT ANDERSON CASEY
Ms. Susan Abrahams
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Bailey
Ms. Nadyne S. Balke
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Bourdo
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Bowerman
Mr. and Mrs. James Brian
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffry Corbin
Mr. and Mrs. Lance D. Dunham
Ms. Meghan Dykstra
Gail and Keith Evans
Mr. Jim Ferris
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene J. Forster
Patty Fox and Diehl Brickly
Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Gorski
Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Grant
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E.
Guetschow

**SCOTT ANDERSON CASEY
(CON'T)**
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald A. Hansen
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis A. Hanson
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Heeren and
Family
Dr. and Mrs. R. Edward Hogg
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lyon
Ms. Patricia S. Mankowski
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald T.
McClatchey
Mr. and Mrs. John R. McVey
Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Olson
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Phillips
Mr. and Mrs. Mark D. Sawyer
Ms. R. Elaine Shupe
Mr. and Mrs. David W. Smith
Ms. Alice M. Tang
Mr. and Mrs. L. Kent Walton

REGINA D. CORBETT
Ms. Cynthia Pomerleau

ANN F. ELLIOTT
Ms. Nancy J. Willyard
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. and Mrs. Stu Foster
Mr. and Mrs. Mark E. Holey
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart M. Jones
Rev. and Dr. James P. Metzger

MARION EVANS
Mrs. Marlis Mann

**CHARLES AND KATHRYN
FERRERO**
Ms. Gwendolyn Strong

JAMES FOGLESONG
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Eichstadt

DALE M. GAIN
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Lord

CHARLES HOBART
Mrs. Carolyn B. Hobart

WOODROW W. HUNTER
Ms. Vlasta Booth
Mr. Philip D. Croll
Ms. Rebecca C. Cronlund
Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph H. Everick

MARIAN JAMIESON
Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Borden
James Rae & Arleen Mitchell Rae
Mrs. Marlis Mann

JEAN LINDQUIST
Mrs. Marlis Mann

GARY LOY
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Jachalke

EVELYN MATER
Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Borden

BRUCE E. MILLER
Mrs. Nancy E. Miller

JACKSON AVERY MOLTER
Konrad E. Molter & Michelle
Brown

GORDON B. MOODY
Karen L. Chase & David Bellizi

DOROTHY MORRILL
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REIMINK**
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Mrs. Joyce H. Stackable
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert A. Taglauer
Mr. and Mrs. Gary B. Twomey

MILLICENT W. SCHMIDT
Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Mileski

JAMES SHILEY
Mr. and Mrs. James A. Ham

ELIZABETH SKINNER
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Baker
Mrs. Sally Viskochil

DAVID A.H. SMITH
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy C. Wilcox

HOLLY RENZ SMITH
Mrs. Sally Viskochil

**MILLIE AND HERBIE
TAGLAUER**
Mr. Leroy Taglauer

HANS TEICHNER
Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Bracken

LOUISE THOMAS
Ms. Cheryl A. Christy
Mrs. Nancy Elifritz
Ginger Herndon and Jane Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Hollohan
Mr. and Mrs. C. Lee Huffaker
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Mileham
Ms. Cynthia S. Shellhaas

**MARTHA WERNER
THOMPSON**
Ms. Alice Bruening; Mrs.
Elizabeth W. Gotsch

GEORGE THURNER, JR.
Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Borden
Dr. and Mrs. Jack W. Gottschalk

CHRISTINE WILSON
Little Traverse Property Owners
Assn.

CAROL WOLLEN
Mr. and Mrs. Eric V. Wollen

GENEVIEVE ZINK
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Carter

CORRECTION OF OMISSION

**IN MEMORY OF GERI
CHIPAULT**
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lamont
Mr. and Mrs. George P. Later
Jeff Later and Betsy Donahue

LEELANAU CONSERVANCY OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Edward and Barbara Collins, *Founders*
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Craig Miller, *President*
Deborah W. Fellows, *Vice President*
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Jeff Corbin	Jameson	Warren Watkins

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Jill Porter, *Accounting and Administrative Assistant*
jporter@theconservancy.com

READY TO ROLL!



We've signed an option with the Olsen Family that could permanently protect this beautiful 440-acre farm in the Bohemian Valley northwest of Maple City. Funding for preserving this farm and many others already enrolled in the county's farmland preservation program is dependent on the farmland preservation millage that is up for a vote on November 7. If the millage passes, we will be able to protect the Olsen farm and several other farms in Leelanau County.

Where Can I Learn More?

Leelanau Government & Community Center: <http://www.leelanaucounty.com/farmlandpres0002.asp>

Save Leelanau Farmland!
<http://www.saveleelanaufarmland.com/>

Michigan Agricultural Tourism Commission
<http://www.michigan.gov/agtourism/0,1607,7-220-39212-137022--,00.html>

American Farmland Trust
<http://www.farmland.org/programs/protection/default.asp>

Leelanau Conservancy



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