



Leelanau Conservancy

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

25 Years: Celebrating Our Living Legacy

Newsletter: Fall, 2013

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The Esch Farm Preserved: An Essay on Faith, Hope & Charity

by Tom Nelson, Director of Farm Programs

This is the story of a journey—one bound by the timeless virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

Driving out into the verdant hills of East Leland to the cherry farm owned by the Esch Family has always been a treat. I've made this trip maybe a half-dozen times since early 2011, but the trip I made in September felt different. For once, it was not about navigating the agency paperwork necessary to preserve their land; we were done with that. No, I was coming to talk with Larry and Jan Esch about their farm. I wanted to hear about their experiences working the farm and what it has meant to them to preserve it. As important, I was coming to express what is unfailingly hard to put into words: thank you.

Checking the time, I realized I was going to arrive early, so on a whim I turned into the little sugar maple-lined cemetery at the edge of the farm. I remembered that the cemetery's location had actually helped us when we applied to the federal program for match funding. Farms get a higher score if they're next to already-preserved land. And, what land could be considered more protected than a cemetery? Thankfully, the government agreed.

As I walked through this quaint old cemetery it dawned on me that I was traveling through a veritable historical register of East Leland farm families. I lost count of all the family names, but what struck me most was how many I had come to know personally and had already worked with to preserve their own farms. There were generations of Bardenhagens, Egelers, Eschs, Spinnikens, and more. I can tell you that there is something deeply moving about working with an old-time Leelanau family who is committed to keeping the farm—well—a farm. I can't help but come away feeling a bond that stays with me. Standing in that tiny graveyard in the middle of thousands of acres of orchard lands, it felt a little like coming home.

Knowing that I was about to meet with Larry and Jan Esch, I tried to find the oldest family plots in the cemetery. I finally arrived at the stone for Larry's grandparents, both born little more than a decade after the Civil War. I wondered what Theo-



Larry and Jan Esch have preserved 115 acres of their beautiful Leland Township farm.

dore & Rose Esch would think of their farm being preserved for all time, and I couldn't help smiling a little at the thought. But my mood became somber when I observed the grave of Brian Esch. I then recalled hearing about Larry and Jan's son who tragically passed away in 1994. I wondered whether I should ask the Eschs about Brian's connection to the farm. It seemed important somehow, but I worried that asking might be insensitive. As it turned out, I needn't have been concerned.

The moment I arrived at the Eschs' door, they welcomed me warmly. We could bask in the moment, finally. The farm had recently been preserved, and we shared a feeling of deep satisfaction in the accomplishment. The Eschs had made a commitment to preserve the farm, and the Conservancy and the community helped them carry it through. Larry and Jan knew I was there to hear about their journey and encouraged me to inquire about whatever I wanted to know. I asked them to start by helping me understand their connection to their farm.

"I wasn't always this mellow," said Larry, chuckling. Then, his voice turning more serious, he said "I knew what I had, and I wanted to be in control." He recalled the early 1990s when the township began thinking about changes in *continued, pg 4*

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Message from our Executive Director



In Praise of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

At this writing a closing date has been set for Leland Township's acquisition of the 105 acres of coastal property that will soon become the Clay Cliffs Natural Area. This achievement was preceded by decades of discussions between the Crary family, which owned and cared for the property, in dialogue with township officials and staff at the Conservancy. In the truest sense, the protection of this wonderful community asset would not have happened without the steadfast commitment of all three parties.



Photo by Ken Scott

But there will be a fourth party at the table at the creation of the Clay Cliffs Natural Area. Fully 50% of the funding for this project will be provided by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). And it's fair to say that this project, along with thousands of other conservation and parks projects in Michigan, would not have happened without this unique funding source.

The seeds for the creation of the MNRTF were sown back in the mid-1970s when oil and gas in large quantities was discovered in the Pigeon River State Forest. Much of this land had come into state ownership in the first half of the 20th century, as logged-over parcels had reverted to public ownership for non-payment of property taxes. Over the decades, second-growth forest returned and trout streams were restored, elk were re-introduced, and the Pigeon River State Forest became one of the few prized blank spots on the map that could lay claim to being a genuine wilderness.

Oil and gas exploration under vast stretches of state land precipitated a classic battle between the industry and a newly energized environmental community. At the end of the day, drillers and environmentalists, the Milliken administration, and

key members of legislature all signed on to a grand compromise: drilling would be allowed with stringent safeguards, but the proceeds from all royalties would flow into a fund to be used to buy land for conservation and recreation, and to develop public parks for people to enjoy. In effect the grand bargain was very simple: a non-renewable resource owned by the people (oil and gas) would be exploited and sold, but the proceeds of sale would be invested in another non-renewable resource (conservation and recreation land).

Since the 1970s the voters of Michigan have protected this fund by enshrining it in the State Constitution, and have on two occasions approved measures to further protect and strengthen the MNRTF. And later this year, the MNRTF will have spent over \$1 billion dollars to acquire conservation and recreational lands within the state.

We, in Leelanau County, have benefited greatly from the existence of the MNRTF. At the end of last year, over \$14 million had been spent on projects as small as Hall Beach (0.7 acres with 450 feet of frontage on Lake Michigan); or as large as North Fox Island (848 acres with five miles of frontage). Leelanau State Park, to name just one revered local destination, would hardly exist if not for the Trust Fund.

Only units of government are eligible to apply for MNRTF dollars, but often land conservancies have teamed up with local government units to protect valuable community assets. In Leelanau, such collaborations began with the creation of the Mebert Creek Natural Area in Bingham Township in 1992. Clay Cliffs is only the most recent of nine collaborative efforts where the Conservancy has supported units of government in

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Leelanau County Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects with assistance from the Leelanau Conservancy

	Year	Acres	Water FF	MNRTF\$*	LC\$*	Total Value*
Mebert Creek NA	1992	140.0	4,000	\$ 75	\$ 25	\$ 100
Addn to Mebert	2000	16.0	0	\$ 27	\$ 8	\$ 35
Mud Lake	1993	20.0	640	\$ 120	\$ 0	\$ 120
Hall Beach	1994	.7	450	\$ 100	\$ 50	\$ 240
Nedow's Bay Addn	1997	1.0	163	\$ 202	\$ 48	\$ 500
Lighthouse West NA	2004-05	42.0	640	\$ 990	\$ 810	\$ 1,800
Addn to Lee St Park	2006	51.0	1,400	\$ 2,043	\$ 30	\$ 2,230
DeYoung NA	2007	60.5	4,500	\$ 910	\$ 910	\$ 1,800
Clay Cliffs NA	2011	104.5	3,500	\$ 2,933	\$ 1,310	\$ 5,225

9 projects
11 grants

415.7 acres 2.8 miles \$ 7,464 \$ 3,231 \$12,050

* in thousands



Project Updates

Executive Director Message, continued

acquiring the natural assets that define our peninsula. In all cases, we bring expertise and relationships with the Recreation Grants Division of the DNR and we bring our experience in site design and management of natural areas. Perhaps most importantly, we have always been able to raise the required match that allows the local government unit to tap the Trust Fund dollars. Nearly \$7.5 million has been spent on such collaborative projects involving the Leelanau Conservancy, and we have raised \$3 ¼ million as match.

In some quarters, the concept and practice of compromise has gotten a bad rap lately. But there is always a place for smart compromise that is a win-win for everybody. That type of bargain no doubt seemed out of reach back in 1976, but with Clay Cliffs and countless other treasures as evidence, it has been and will always be worth the effort.

Brian Price, Executive Director

The Fab Four-Celebrating 25 Years

On the official day of our 25th Anniversary, October 9th, we invited all of our board and staff, past and present, to help us celebrate. We can't recall who said it, but we all



agreed with the statement: "This feels like family." The evening ended when our Founders, Ed and Bobbie Collins and our "First Leadership Team," Brian and Susan Price, were presented with surprise tiles that will soon fill up the last space on our Preserver wall at the Leland Village Green. These four have been with us from the beginning and we honor and salute them. L-R: Brian and Susan Price with Founders Bobbie and Ed Collins.

Conservancy Partners with Four More Families to Protect 688 Acres of Farmland

Great news! Four additional farm families will be working with the Leelanau Conservancy to conserve their farms, with the help of \$1.8M in funding from the U.S. Department of



Agriculture Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP). Once completed, these four farms, which total 688 acres, will be permanently conserved for agricultural use. Nearly 5,000 acres of farmland have already been conserved by the Leelanau

Conservancy (such as the Esch Farm—see cover story).

The newest farms to join the program include the 216-acre Hohnke & Sons Farm in Centerville Township, 200-acre Gene & Kathy Garthe Farm in Leelanau Township, 149 acres of the Mike & Janet McManus Farm in Leland Township, and 120 acres of the Tom & Marie Korson Farm in Suttons Bay Township.

This FRPP award will cover about half of the cost of protecting these three farms. The Leelanau Conservancy's match will require approximately 25% of the needed funding—nearly \$1.02M. Each named farm family will also donate more than 25% of the appraised value necessary to complete these projects.

"These four farms, as well as those that have already been preserved through the program, scored high in criteria that is set by FRPP," says Tom Nelson, Director of Farm Programs. "And just as important, our supporters are passionate about farmland and step up with the 25 percent required match time after time. We are able to leverage this important resource because our supporters continually back us up."



Esch Farm Preserved

Continued from Front page

the agricultural districts. The planning commission had been considering allowing fewer land divisions and requiring much larger minimum lot sizes. The aim was to ease the development pressure in farm country by limiting incompatible development.



But at the time, the proposed changes were viewed by many farmers as lowering their land values. The county had been witnessing a development boom, and big landowners concluded that if a lot of residential development was inevitable, the resulting conflicts with new homeowners would make it harder to farm. So, conventional wisdom said it would be wise to hedge their bets.

Thus, in 1991 the Eschs split their farm into 19 residential-sized parcels. You'd never know it by driving by the farm, but it would surely stand out if you looked at a parcel map of East Leland. "Were you thinking about getting out of farming?" I asked. "No," Larry answered quickly. "But we knew our land was valuable, and we just felt that for our family's sake we needed to keep our options open. We wanted to call the shots."

Faith "So, you wanted to keep farming then?" I asked. "We enjoyed farming," Jan said. "And so did our son, Brian." I asked them if they wouldn't mind telling me more about their children. "We have two sons, Brian and Kevin. Kevin is a people-person, and he enjoys the city life." Larry went on, "Brian loved the farm. He had already begun farming it with us. He had his hands in the dirt and life by the tail."

Larry paused. "He was 22 when God called Brian home. And that's when I realized that God calls the shots."

The Eschs were devastated by Brian's untimely passing. To make matters worse, if that was possible, it was harvest time—a grueling, all-hands-on-deck slice of the year even in the best of situations. "What did you do?" I said, almost afraid to ask. With a catch in their voices, Larry and Jan related how the farming community instantly rallied. As if by instinct, farm families from all over East Leland began arriving at the Esch Farm. Never mind their own harvest—that'd have to wait. They came to put their backs into the Eschs' harvest first. "It's just what people do here," they told me. Misty-eyed, the Eschs spoke of a kinship and a spirit of generosity among the families in this community. "We are forever grateful to them. Our tears are of love and joy," Larry said.

Needless to say, a lump had formed in my own throat, "And how do you think Brian would feel if he knew that the family farm will never be sold for development, that it is now preserved forever?" Larry simply replied, with Jan nodding, "Brian would be pleased. Very, very pleased."

Charity

A stillness saturated the room. I fiddled with my notes, a little lost as to how to begin again. I cleared my throat. "Well," I said. "You know, I've always been curious about how you arrived at the idea of working with the Conservancy." Jan took the lead. "There was a time years ago when it didn't seem like the Conservancy's goals and ours lined up too well. We weren't sure how much faith we had that the Conservancy was really interested in farmland. But we've loved this place as much as anybody."

So, what changed their minds? "It wasn't really one thing," Larry chimed in. "It took a few years, but we've seen how committed the Conservancy has been in working with local farmers. The light just came on for us. We'd always believed in being good stewards of the land. We felt a responsibility to the community take care of this land and pass it on, and we realized that the Conservancy could help us do that."

Remarkably, the Eschs' commitment to the community didn't stop with preserving the farm. They've also done something quite unique in the annals of farm preservation—something with an even greater ripple-effect. "One day, I was listening to Lew Gatch on the radio," said Larry. Gatch has a call-in radio program on WTCM on Saturdays when he talks about estate planning. That particular morning, Gatch was talking about

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Esch Farm, Continued



charitable remainder trusts and how both the community and landowners could benefit. "We thought," Larry recalled, "wouldn't it be something if we could do even more good beyond preserving the farm?"

That's when they called Steve Francis, an estate planning lawyer with the Salvation Army. Steve remarked, "It was a rewarding process seeing the Eschs' vision of caring for the land, their family, their church, and selected charities take shape through a charitable remainder trust. Larry and Jan have given everyone a wonderful gift."

"God has truly blessed us," said Larry with Jan nodding solemnly. "We really want to thank all those who contributed, large or small, to saving the farm. Every bit helps to keep these beautiful lands in farming."

Hope So, the next time you're out and about in Leelanau, take a good look around. Permeating those deep green hills of orchards and fields, the impossibly blue hues of lakes and sky, are countless family journeys—the lore of generations—inexo-

rably rooted in this miraculous landscape.

For the Esch Family, during a life of good, hard work, their lands were split into 19 pieces as a hedge against what seemed like the farm's all-but-inevitable end. Their young son, poised to don the boots as the future patriarch in a long line of Esch farmers, was lost before his time. And yet, the Eschs persevered. Their unshakeable faith and deeply-rooted sense of charity and gratitude has given us another reason for hope. Thanks to them, the 'inevitable' has shifted and the farm has been made whole again for good.

How could I say thank you to the Esch Family and have it mean as much as I wanted it to? I honestly didn't know. I only hope Larry and Jan could tell by the look in my eyes. Like many of you, my gratitude to the Eschs—and all the families who have saved their farms—simply emanates from the heart.

And so, this Leelanau journey, that started with Theodore & Rose Esch and on down through the generations to Larry, Jan, Kevin and Brian, is bound to keep going forever, no matter whose hands will be in that wonderful, lovely East Leland dirt. And when it comes to farming in Leelanau, I can't imagine a more hopeful sign than that.

To All Persons of the Leelanau Conservancy:

Three Augusts have passed since my partner Joe and I purchased the Buffum Farm off of French Road. The reality of owning over 80 acres in Leelanau County is finally settling in and I would like to take a moment to share my experiences and gratitude with you.

With a maiden name of Fouch, my roots go back to the beginning of Leelanau and its farm heritage. It is with this name that I take much pride in the county of Leelanau. When I stand on Fouch Hill and overlook the housing development of the old homestead, my heart aches. As I see the winding trail of Lake Leelanau disappear into the horizon, I cannot help but wonder what I would be looking at if the Conservancy had been around in the late 60s when my Great Grandmother sold her 100+ acres.

A widow then, my Great Grandmother, with eight grown children, detesting the poverty of the potato farmer, had no choice. She sold the hill, the farm land and the views to a developer who turned it into what it is now. You have seen it, form your own opinion.



Shari and her partner Joe Lanzesira.

I think, "What if? What if she was able to sell the development rights and would have been able to keep the farm?" The south end of Lake Leelanau would be this beautiful picture of rolling hills, trout streams, trees and daydreams of a time passed by. Now, you would never know it was there, a farmhouse, a barn and outbuildings with a family. Now, you would never know it had a history.

This is what intrigues me so much about the Buffum Farm. I feel so lucky to be able to own a piece of homesteaded history. The old barn, the moss covered steps that lead up to an old foundation, a newspaper found between boards decreeing the Bartholdi Statue—a gift from France was placed in New York Harbor, yes...the Statue of Liberty. This was a family, with a history, this was worth preserving. I cannot wait to dirty my hands and start my own story, to pick up where they left off.

The Conservancy Picnic was a wonderful event. I stood in the crowd at the age of 42, and I finally GOT IT! It truly is about preserving and conserving the Leelanau that we love, so one day; others can enjoy the same experiences. Together, we protect, together we create a history...one worth preserving. I am looking forward to working with the Conservancy in the future. I am really pleased with its message and I will continue to support all it stands for.

Thank you,
Shari Fouch Prevost 10/1/13

Volunteering Matters



Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers! We couldn't complete all our projects without you! We had a lot of new families and volunteers get involved this year and hope to continue seeing new faces throughout the winter. Call or email us for more information about becoming a volunteer!



The Webb family spent the morning with us at the Swanson Preserve helping to complete our new trail and boardwalk. Creating a personalized workbee for a family is fun and we couldn't have finished our project without them! If you are interested in a personalized workbee, contact Sarah Cook: scook@leelanauconservancy.org.



Each year, staff trains our wonderful docents to lead hikes on lands we are working to protect like the Clay Cliffs. When you join them for a hike in 2014, ask them about the importance of naturally wooded shorelines like the one here along Lake Leelanau.



Our President Steve Martineau (R) and emcee Larry Mawby keep watch on those who raised a paddle during our President's Paddle pledge. 117 people participated and over \$64,000 was raised to fund land preservation projects. A generous anonymous donor challenged the crowd with a \$20,000 match. Everyone who raised a paddle took home a pie, thanks to the very generous Grand Traverse Pie Co.



Our August 1st Picnic was a fitting celebration for our 25th Anniversary. Over 800 attended. We are grateful to our Auction Committee, who worked all year to make this night a success. Shown above is the group who set up the fabulous displays spearheaded by the very creative Barbara Winkelman and Susie Oliver.



Stream sampler Dennis Armbruster wades through the reeds at Shalda Creek to measure total phosphorus and flow (discharge).



Volunteering Matters



The Redfield families got a much deserved break on the new bench they installed at Teichner Preserve. John and Matthew Redfield, and Gordon and Natalie Redfield-Gale generously used part of their vacation visiting their aunt and uncle to help us install the bench. Thanks to their aunt and uncle, Jean and Dave Redfield, for thinking of such a creative way for their family to have fun and learn about Leelanau!



Our coastal monitors walk 28 miles (2 times!) each summer checking our shoreline for invasive species. These volunteers walk below the high water mark observing species, like phragmites, and reporting back to the Conservancy so we can contact local landowners. Thanks to Julie Baran, Nancy Miller, Tom Maiolani, Ed Ketterer, George Carpenter, and Jane Damschroder for keeping our coast and dunes healthy. The purple line denotes their route.



This was our first time marching in the Glen Arbor 4th of July Parade, thanks to board members Julie Weeks (right) and Sharon Oriel (left) who coordinated the effort! Thanks also to Bill and Jeannie Dennler who head up the Leland Parade every year.



Jan Bauer, a regular on our mailing crew, helps with a fall mailing.



Former Stewardship Intern and current volunteer Abby Strietmann tackled a dirty job and helped clean the Village Green preserve tile wall this fall.



The new DeYoung upland trail weaves from Strang Road across two streams, through a beautiful open field and to the DeYoung historic farm buildings. Our dedicated workbee volunteers put the finishing touches on the trail and kiosk to prepare for the trail opening this fall.



Cause for Celebration: New Trail Dedication at Swanson

Retired Conservancy Chairman, Tom Dunfee, cuts the ribbon at our Swanson Preserve Trail Dedication, attended by over 80 people. Tom lives on Little Traverse Lake and was instrumental in our fundraising efforts. "I know how critically important those 2,000 feet of frontage and their associated wetlands are to the health of the lake," says Tom. "I'm personally so grateful to the 188 families and individuals who stepped up to the plate." Thanks also to the 50 volunteers who spent 220 hours creating this trail, laying wood chips and building the boardwalk and bridge.

Guests hiked the beautiful new trail, designed to follow old two tracks and ancient lake levels. It showcases the preserve's natural features without disturbing them, winding through forests, wetlands and over a gorgeous stream. The trail ends at the natural wooded shoreline of Little Traverse Lake, near the mouth of a stream edged with watercress. With a generous

grant from the Oleson Foundation, staff and volunteers built the rustic boardwalks and a bridge. "This trail promises to be stunning in all seasons and is already popular among families who are looking to get their children out into nature," says Jenee Rowe, Director of Conservancy Owned Lands.



Rare Michigan Plant Found at Swanson Preserve

Our staff was pretty excited this summer when botanist Derek Shiels, one of our seasonal invasive species crew,



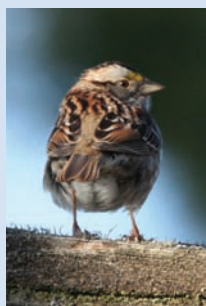
found a threatened Michigan species at the Swanson Preserve. *Berula erecta* (cut-leaved water parsnip) grows in cold, spring-fed streams. Leelanau County is the northern-most limit

of this plant's range; it was collected here in 1952, but hasn't been identified since. This finding brings the total to 207 species identified at Swanson Preserve, making it one of our most ecologically diverse properties. (Cedar River tops the list with 290!)

The Conservancy hires qualified botanists to survey our natural areas and compile plant inventories – we cannot conserve that which we don't know exists. While we have many goals that vary from one property to the next, conserving biodiversity is a common goal among all of our lands. The health of our natural systems are intimately tied to biodiversity and protecting a rare plant like *Berula erecta* helps to ensure a richer existence for us all.

LHW: For The Birds

Dr. Gregory Butcher, International Migratory Bird Species Coordinator for the US Forest Service, went birding at the Leelanau Conservancy's Lighthouse West Natural Area with Jim and Kay Charter during a recent visit to Leelanau County. He was in Leelanau to speak at Saving Birds Thru Habitat's anniversary celebration. Greg found what he called a "fantastic flock of migrating birds," at LHW. Included were warblers, vireos and flycatchers, which took 15 minutes to identify, says Kay. This was Greg's second visit to Lighthouse West.



White throated sparrow nests along the upper trail at LHW

Got 36 Seconds? Take a Virtual Tour

Want to take a virtual paddle on the Cedar River, or quick visual hike at Lighthouse West or DeYoung Natural Area? Thanks to some talented area students who filmed these places for the Northwest Michigan "231" recreation APP, you can do just that! Visit these beautiful places no matter where you are. All three videos can be found on our website; just go leelanauconservancy.org, click on the News tab or you can also just search "36-second video." Enjoy!



Martha Teichner: “Land Conservation is About Much More Than Land”

We were honored that Martha Teichner helped celebrate our 25th Anniversary by speaking to our Sustainers at a July gathering. Her inspiring talk drew tears and brought the crowd of over 300 people to their feet in a standing ovation.

Martha Teichner is a voice of CBS Sunday Morning and authors stories from around the world. Her bio is long and impressive, and her work has brought her seven Emmy Awards.

She grew up on the land that is now our Teichner Preserve. In 1996, she gave 20 acres—her family’s land—to the Leelanau Conservancy to honor her beloved parents, Hans and Miriam.

Then in 2005, when an additional 13 acres and 200 feet of shoreline on Lime Lake became available, Martha helped us to acquire it by taking out a \$200,000 home equity loan on her New York apartment—covering half the cost of the project. “Borrowing \$200,000 just to give it away was frightening, but I did it with great joy and no hesitation,” Martha told Sustainers. “If I had turned my back on the opportunity to preserve land that is so much a part of who I am, I don’t know how I would have been able to live with myself. I believed that the Leelanau Conservancy had the know-how and the integrity to do right by my gifts, to respect their value. It was that word ‘trust.’”



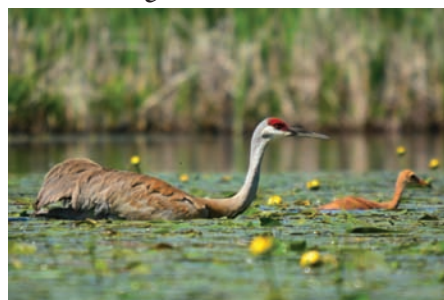
Director Brian Price, Martha Teichner, Chairman John Erb

The full text of Martha’s unforgettable talk is on our website (type ‘Martha Teichner’ into the search box on the home page.) . Thank you Martha, for making the trip to Leelanau and inspiring us all! And thanks to LaBecasse for hosting a dinner afterward.

Bucket List Feedback



In our July newsletter we introduced our 25th Anniversary Bucket List, and shared four of the 34 ideas on the list. We asked you to send in photos as you explored our list and to email thoughts of what we might add to it. Thanks to everyone who has responded. Anne G. suggested, “Watch a killdeer protect her nest by pretending to have a broken wing and making you follow her.” Mike Davis wrote, “Volunteer at a school garden. It’s a joy to help kids learn where vegetables come from and how to grow them.” Dick Ristine Jr. recommends “experience underwater history and learn of the perils of the Manitou Passage by diving around the shipwreck SS Francisco Morazan, a Liberian freighter off Manitou Island.”



We loved getting this amazing photo from Sandy Bodjack who kayaked the Cedar River Preserve this summer. “We saw this sandhill crane family crossing the creek,” wrote Sandy. “As they got across, a pair of red-winged blackbirds started dive-bombing them; pretty exciting!”

Our aim in creating the Bucket List was to spark new exploration and create lasting memories. We hope you will get out there and, like Sandy, share what you see and do! Email cfaught@leelanauconservancy.org. Learn more about the Bucket List at leelanauconservancy.org (search Bucket List).

Heritage Days

Suttons Bay’s Tyra John wowed a crowd at Leland’s Heritage Day in September with her hoop dance. Tyra was one of many dancers from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians that the Conservancy hosted on the Leland Village Green in conjunction with the Leland Chamber of Commerce. “Megwetch (thank you in Anishinaabemowin) to Pat Putney, Elders/Cultural Department Manager of GTB for making this day happen,” says staffer Jenee Rowe. “I was moved to learn about the rich cultural traditions that connect people in our community so deeply to Leelanau.”





New Trail at DeYoung Natural Area

Our new 1.5-mile winding trail at DeYoung Natural Area is open!! The trail takes you through farm fields, past 30-year-old heritage-variety apple trees and over a small stream (see bridge picture). From the trailhead off Strang Road, you can enjoy the wide sweeping views of the farm and Cedar Lake. This trail is unique because it travels through lands being farmed by Christopher and Samantha Graves of Healing Tree farm. They have livestock on the farm in movable fences in order to allow animals to rotationally graze and build the



soil up with nutrients. Dogs present on the upland trail must be on a leash to protect the livestock here and because FDA farm rules require it.

In the spring, look forward to watching the Graves plant heritage apple tree varieties. (Several years from now, we hope you'll be buying apples from the farm!) In the late summer, look for wild blackberries and grapes to nibble from the vine. "This hike is like a foraging walk," says Samantha. Come winter, enjoy a peaceful, un-groomed cross country ski on the new trail. Here's to hoping for good snow!



Summer Invasive Species Crew

The EDRR crew wrapped up an incredible season this October. Derek Shiels and Emily Douglas surveyed over 1800 acres on 17 of our natural areas and preserves along with Leelanau State Park and a few of our conservation easements. We estimated that they spent 318 hours surveying some of our most unique habitats for invasive plants. The crew also spent a significant amount of time treating those early stage invaders and were able to treat 90% of early detection species they found.



Winter 2013 - 2014 Hikes and Events Schedule

Please Note: Full descriptions of each hike and a signup link can be found at <http://leelanauconservancy.org/events/hikes/>.

- Hikes last about two hours
- Please dress according to the weather, wearing sturdy boots
- There are no rest areas at our natural areas
- Dogs are not allowed on docent led hikes but are welcome on leashes at our natural areas any time
- Please register at leelanauconservancy.org or call 231-256-9665 so that we may plan for best experience possible

Guided Walk/Snowshoe - Friday, Dec. 27, 1pm, Kehl Lake NA

Guided Walk/Snowshoe - Sunday, Dec. 28, 10 am, Swanson Preserve

Guided Walk/Snowshoe - Sunday, Jan. 12, 1 pm, Clay Cliffs NA

Guided Walk/Snowshoe - Saturday, Jan. 18, 10 am, Houdek Dunes NA

Guided Walk/Snowshoe - Sunday, Jan. 19, 2 pm, Lighthouse West NA

Guided Walk/Snowshoe - Saturday, Jan. 25, 1 pm, Chippewa Run NA

SUSTAINERS CIRCLE WINTER GATHERING TBA

Guided Walk/Snowshoe - Saturday, Feb. 15, 2 pm, DeYoung NA

Guided Walk/Snowshoe - Sunday, February 16, 2 pm, Kehl Lake NA

Guided Walk/Snowshoe - Sunday, February 22, 1 pm, Houdek Dunes NA

Winter Workbees: Our winter workbee schedule will be finalized after the first of the year, but we are already planning projects on our natural areas and your help is needed! Workbees will be posted on the hikes and events page of our website <http://leelanauconservancy.org/events/hikes/> and we will also announce in our weekly emails as well as on Facebook. For questions about workbees and to get involved, contact Sarah Cook at scook@leelanauconservancy.org or call 231-256-9665.



Photos above and below by Ken Scott



Stewardship



In July, eight student interns from the Lake Forest Openlands Conservancy visited from Chicago area to explore the ecosystems of Lake Michigan. While in Leelanau, they worked with our staff restoring vegetation and clearing a trail at Swanson Preserve. The group also kayaked the Crystal River with staff, biologists and ornithologists.

"While there were many special parts of the trip to Michigan, a highlight was the kayak trip," says Youth Program Director Susie Hoffman.



"Not only did we test our skills as we meandered down the river but we had the opportunity of working with another Conservancy to learn about their work." The paddle included a stop along the river at the lovely home of Leelanau Conservancy Board member, Sharon Oriel, for refreshments (Thank you!). Director of Conservancy Owned Lands, Jenee Rowe, explained why Lake Forest and Leelanau Conservancy joined together for the day: "We both learn a lot from each other, and that is invaluable."

Cub Scout Pack 131 out of Suttons Bay visited the DeYoung Natural Area to hike the new upland trail and learn about low-impact hiking. The boys and their families tried out hand tools with Lake Ann timber framer, Joel Wright, a volunteer and father of a local Eagle Scout.



One more reason to visit the Krumwiede Forest Reserve on Wheeler Road – red-backed salamander!! This little guy is only 2.3 to 5 inches long and can be found in woodlands with leaf litter and an abundance of decaying logs or stumps. Salamanders feed on insects and are unique in that they don't need water to reproduce. Through the larval stage, the young develop in the egg.



Conservancy staff paddled the Crystal River and out into Lake Michigan on a staff trip to thank our hard-working interns. These outings are full of interesting biology, history and stories of protection—and staff camaraderie!



After the first session quickly filled up, we added a second window restoration workshop at DeYoung Natural Area in October. Local preservation master, Steve Stier, instructed attendees on ways to fix up old windows. Preserving old windows lends a priceless authenticity to an older home. It also saves windows from the dump and maximizes energy efficiency. The popularity of this workshop has us planning for another in 2014.



Leelanau Preservers: A Uniquely Leelanau Gift

John and Candy Sutfin have been giving Leelanau Preserver gifts since the program began in 2002. "We have honored three families for many years," says Candy, including five grandchildren and two nephews. The Sutfins have been coming to Leelanau since 1950, summering at Little Traverse Lake and Acadia Woods near Northport. "The Preserver program has been a great way to keep the little ones aware of the unique and beautiful place where we are privileged to spend family time regularly," says John.

All Preserver gifts fund land protection and are used where most needed at the time they are given. Places such as Clay Cliffs, the Crystal River, DeYoung Natural Area and



John and Candy's granddaughter, Maci Mitchell

our working farms have been saved with the help of Preserver gifts. Gift recipients receive a beautiful card, certificate, newsletters, Guide to Natural Areas, car decal and e-news, and we keep track of the amount of land preserved. In 2006 we began a milestone recognition tile wall in our Leland Village Green. Happily, the tile wall is full. But you can still receive a tile to keep at home once the 1/10-acre milestone is reached. You'll receive a certificate to claim a tile from a selection that tile maker Leif Sporck has on display in his Leland shop. Thanks to the Sutfins and everyone else who has participated in this meaningful and important program to help preserve land. Give online at leelanauconservancy.org.



The Many Ways They Give

Gary Schultheiss and Barbara Richman are longtime supporters; they first joined as members 20 years ago and in 2001, they donated a conservation easement on 40 acres of beautiful and ecologically significant land near Northport. Most recently they became members of our Heritage Society.

Barbara and Gary's estate plan says that if they still own their land when they die, they wish it to go to the Leelanau Conservancy for "its own good work." The Conservancy may keep the land or sell it, restricted. The conservation easement will protect the conservation values in perpetuity no matter who owns it.

Gary grew up in Flint and traveled as a child to Frankfort with his family. His grandfather especially liked the historic Mineral Springs there. In the early 70s, Gary had an opportunity to buy land in Leelanau County. He was pleased to find his perfect place—a quiet, wooded 40 acres to explore and nurture and preserve.

Gary and Barbara met at a computer programming class in Washington, DC, which was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service where they both worked. They eventually moved to Michigan, first to Mason and then to Grand Haven. Gary worked for Quality Farm & Fleet in Muskegon while Barbara worked at Steelcase in Grand Rapids. They made frequent visits to their

woodland preserve and camped on the property for several years while learning about the springs and seeps, the trees and ferns, and the birds and amphibians that live with them. They built a one-room cabin in the 80s, which grew into a lovely two-story cottage.

Barbara was born in Pennsylvania, but lived in many places across the country, including both coasts. She says there's no place she'd rather be than Leelanau. She now works as a Computer Systems Analyst for Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. Gary is retired and spends his time taking care of their 40 acres of forest, ponds and ephemeral pools.

When they have weekend guests, the guests participate in a Sunday morning tradition. They eat breakfast and then hike on a Leelanau Conservancy trail. Gary and Barbara feel lucky to live close to Houdek Dunes and Kehl Lake. Most recently they hiked the new trails at Swanson Preserve and can't wait to go back.

Gary says their number one goal is to protect their property and the wildlife. "The flora and fauna have their own value and deserve to exist," he says. "Our legacy is in the things we're passionate about, and we're passionate about this place."

"We're just regular people," Barbara adds. "You don't have to be rich to put the Conservancy in your will."

Gary and Barbara are also members of the Sustainers Circle. And they recently gave the Conservancy a truck that our Stewardship staff was delighted to receive. Says Conservancy Director Brian Price: "We are awed by the many ways that Gary and Barbara demonstrate their commitment to conservation and to our organization."





Welcome New Board Members

We are fortunate to have these three individuals join our Board. Each of them brings special skills and experience to our organization.

After **David Edelstein** and his wife, Jennie Berkson, built their home on Birchwood Shores in 2007, they fell in love with Houdek Dunes—hiking there often and helping at workbees. The couple also has a keen interest in farmland preservation, and has participated in the planning process for the use of the DeYoung Farmstead. Last year David joined our Stewardship Committee. He attended Syracuse University (and currently serves on their Board of Trustees) and Baruch College. David is retired from Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics where he ran information technology and regulatory affairs and spends time in both Evanston, IL and Leland.

Christine Armbrrecht is passionate about nature and the Leelanau Conservancy. For several years she has been active on our Auction Committee, using her many connections here

and in Grand Rapids to secure lovely items for the Auction. She has volunteered with Friends of Sleeping Bear and Preserve Historic Port Oneida and recently finished her tenure on the Michigan Chapter of the Board of the Nature Conservancy. Christine and her husband, Gary, travel between their homes in Grand Rapids and Glen Arbor where they are also restoring a historic barn.

Karen Mulvahill credits childhood camping trips and a period of living in the U.P. with a lifelong love affair with the outdoors. She has served as the Chair of our Silent Auction and also as a trail steward at our Jeff Lamont Preserve. Karen is a graduate of Grand Valley and is retired from Comerica, Inc. where she was Director of Marketing. While living in SE Michigan, she served on numerous boards, including ArtServe Michigan, Lighthouse PATH, Detroit Downtown Inc., InsideOut Literary Arts, and the Comerica Foundation. Karen lives full time on Christmas Cove, with her partner, Dan Malski.

Welcome New Sustainers

Since the year we started the Sustainers Circle in 1991, Conservancy Sustainers have been integral to our success, providing stability that has made our organization thrive and given us the ability to take on daunting projects. If you would like more info on joining, contact Gayle Egeler. Annual giving levels begin at \$500. Benefits include special recognition in our publications, and two events per year where Sustainers can meet our board, staff and others who share their commitment to our work. The following people have joined since publication of our last newsletter:

Thank you!

Timothy and Sally Hanley
Barbara and Ken Melichar
David Patton
David and Lisa Schimmel
Carrie Sharp

Ken and Barb Melichar moved to Suttons Bay in 2012 from Georgia. Ken was the Assoc. VP for Academic Affairs and Planning at Piedmont College. Barb was Dean of Adult Ed at N. Georgia Technical College. Both were born and raised in Montana and moved north to be closer to their family. Barb serves on our Auction Committee and makes thank you calls to donors.

Ken grew up on a farm which guides the couple's commitment to farmland preservation. In addition, they also support natural lands preservation. "We believe in rewilding. We think it



is important to support organizations that develop and promote strategies to advance conservation and a permeable landscape for both wildlife and human civilization. The fact that we can do this in our own county is a wonderful opportunity."

A Video is Worth 1,000 Words— and More!

If you are one of the nearly 5,000 people who have viewed our beautiful 25th Anniversary video either at the Picnic or on YouTube, we'd like to introduce you to the two guys who created it for us. Pictured are Glen Petersen and Corban Shaw of Petersen Productions, preparing to film Mario Batali at the DeYoung Farmstead.

Over a year ago a small working group began collaborating with Glen, who grew up in Leelanau and whose passion for the county is evident in this work. We are grateful to Glen (right) and Corban for going above and beyond to create this 9-minute show which captures the beauty of the land we have protected as well as the people of the Leelanau Conservancy.

A link to the video can be found at leelanauconservancy.org under the 25 Years! tab. Thank you, Glen and Corban, for your artistry and hard work!



Honorariums & Memorials



Honorariums & Memorials 6/23/13 through 10/18/13

Undesignated honorariums and memorials support the George & Mary Ellen Gotshall Stewardship Fund, created to care for permanently-protected lands in Leelanau. From creating and maintaining trails to replacing invasive species with more wildlife-friendly habitat, your gift helps ensure that natural areas and conservation easements are cared for. Thank you!

In Honor Of

Rabbi Chava Bahle

Mrs. Elise I. Weisbach

Rosemary Bennett

Mrs. Jacquelyn Kellogg

David Edelstein and Jennie Berkson

The Force Family:
Tracy & Johanna Goss
Ms. Janeen Radtke

Sally and Jim Bernardo

Philip and Isabel Ward

Rocky Ford

Bobby Lanham

Mr. and Mrs. Stafford McKay

Amy Bolmer

National One Design Racing Association

Charlie and Mattie Campbell

Ms. Anne Slater

Mike Fonte

James and Kathryn Fonte

Ed and Marlene Hahnenberg

Mrs. Katherine H. Wheeler

Molly Harrison

Mrs. Lucy W. Maish

Steve Miklos

Mr. Martin S. Miklos

David and Johanna Miller

Richard and Betty Brewe

Elise Weisbach

Ms. Leslie Ram

Happy Birthday

Connie Arnfield

Mrs. Bette M. Puschel

Elizabeth Drinkaus

Mrs. Eleanor B. Stephenson

David Edelstein

Gershon and Suzanne Berkson

15th Birthday – Olivia Fellows

Kurt and Eleanor Luedtke

90th Birthday – Ellie Golden

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Appel

Ann Mason

Rhys VanDemark & Kathy McGookey

Ann McInnis

Mr. and Mrs. John McInnis
Mr. and Mrs. Edward McInnis

Cyril Moscow

Ms. Lori Langenderfer

10th Birthday – Camden Jane Nichols

Ms. Sterling H. Cole

Larry Noling

David Noling and Victoria Bailey

70th Birthday – Walter Schmid

Gina and John Erb

3rd Birthday – Zelia Sterling Stoll

Ms. Sterling H. Cole

Peter Wolcott

Lauren Asher and Winton Davies

Wedding Wishes

Margo Elliott and

Bob Pittman

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Mahany
Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Coler
Tom and Ruthie Price
Tom and Lisa Price
David and Lauren Price

Anna Varley and Thad Nation

Dr. and Mrs. James P. Varley

Miguel & Alexa Vasconcelos

Mrs. Sarah Trulaske

Happy Graduation

Julia and Bruce Olson

Mrs. Sarah Trulaske

Happy Anniversary

50th – David and Carole Shelby

Mr. and Mrs. Gary B. Twomey

41st – Peter and Ilene Wolcott

Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Ketterer
Karen Mulvahill and Dan Malski

Happy Retirement

D. Kathy Thomas

Special Friends of Ms. Dana
Katharine Thomas

Military Service

Tom Lamont, Asst. Secretary Of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs

Al and Susan Manson

Memorials

(This list includes some memorials that were inadvertently omitted from our July Newsletter. We apologize.)

Thomas Ashbury

Mr. and Mrs. John Laitala

Anne Firestone Ball

Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Coler
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Williams

Bertha C. Ball

Chris and Ann Stack

Jeanne Beights

Mr. Stephen & Dr. Nancy Beights

George and Pat Berry

Gregory and Patti Ramah

Marion Bischoff

Mrs. Janet E. Goettle

Maury Bolmer

Mrs. Cathleen C. Fisher

Fred Booth

Mrs. Sally B. Booth

Sally Bourschar

Ann Rogers

Harold Braly

Mrs. Barbara C. Braly

Richard Brant

Mr. and Mrs. James V. Bardenhagen

Mr. and Mrs. Lee A. Bowen

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Collins

Ms. Melissa M. Conroy

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Darnton

Mr. and Mrs. Howard G. Eisenhart
Mrs. Cathleen C. Fisher

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Fitzgerald

Bob and Debbie Gilbert

Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Grout

David and Betsy Hendricks

Tom Nelson and Stephanie Berger-Nelson

Jim and Marie Preston

Rosemary and Reed Tupper

Dr. Robert L. Willard

William Broecker

Mrs. Taya Workum-Byers

Robert Burchfield

Mrs. Carol P. Burchfield

Peter Burr

Mrs. Lena A. Ball

Caroline F. Brady

Chris and Cammy Caskin

Ms. Penny Channer

Mr. William G. Dakin

Mrs. Barbara F. Gentile

Dr. and Mrs. Jack W. Gottschalk

Mr. Gilbert Hudson

Mr. and Mrs. David D. Hunter

Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Kepler

Will and Joan Larson

Mr. Phillip L. Mann

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Mead

Mr. Lawrence J. Noling

Mr. and Mrs. Roger H. Oetting

Mr. Craig Pernick

Beedy Ritchie and Bruce Neiner

Mr. Markham F. Rollins, Jr.

Linda and Jim Shad

Ms. Georgiana Simmons

Mrs. Maureen L. Suelzer

Dr. Robert L. Willard

Jack Burton

Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Collins

Gina and John Erb

Gary and Karen Mills

Ms. Janice Peck

Tom Burton

Jim Nugent and Toddy Rieger



Honorariums & Memorials

Memorials, continued

Terry Carroll

Mrs. Sally Viskochil

Tom W. Carroll

Mrs. Susan Miller

Scott Casey

Mrs. Sally Casey
Gail and Keith Evans
Ms. Connie Thompson

Charles Chandler

Phil and Laura Burk

Stew and Mary Cobb

Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. Cobb, Jr.

Virginia Copus

Karen and Bruce Copus

Robert Crane

Mrs. Sharon Smith

Doug Crary

John and Marsha Chamberlin

Art Croci

Mr. and Mrs. John Biggs, Jr.

Sue Daly

Michael and Patricia Lora

Robert Darnell

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Loper
Ms. Trina Spence
Ms. Stella K. Thelen

Marvin Egeler

David and Suzanne Alpers

William Elder

Mr. and Mrs. David D. Hunter

Eloise Fahs

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Bentley

Max Finton

Bill and Marcia Gregor
Salvatore and Carole Hepper
Greg Jorjorian and Marlys Conrad
John and Janet Mattson
Mr. William G. Rockwood
Mr. & Mrs. L. James Wetherbee, Jr.
Mrs. Katherine H. Wheeler

Steve and Jo Fraenkel

Mr. Chuck Fraenkel

Deanna Fredrickson

Mrs. Avis D. Wolfe

William E. Gahlberg

Jim and Ellen McLean

John Gilligan

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Mr. and Mrs. John M. Ballantyne
Tom and Gwen Bischoff
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Dale Boone Construction
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Foresight Energy
Dennis and Sonia Ingham
Ms. Janet M. Kerr
Michael Moran and Lori Bockius
Ms. Barbara J. Nowinski
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Robert and Mary Treadway
Vicki VanAmeyden and Mr. Rowden

William Hoffmann

Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Coler

Tom Keen

Susan and John Allardice
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Barr
Marlis Mann and Tom Skinner

Brian J. Kilinski

Sandra K. Kalinski

Anne Gard Kinzie

Mr. and Mrs. George A. Ball
Ms. Sterling H. Cole
Anne and Jeffrey Grausam
Mr. and Mrs. David D. Hunter
Brian and Jennifer Jaffe
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Mr. and Mrs. George A. Ball
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Lewis Moulton

Jim and Ellen McLean
Mrs. Patricia Moulton

I. Gordon Odell

Mrs. Avis D. Wolfe

Arleen Rae

Mrs. Betty Ann White

Kelly Reeves

Mrs. Lucia Danes

Gwen Rich

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Paul Robertson

Mr. and Mrs. Kalin S. Johnson

Gerald W. Robinson

Ms. Barbara J. Nowinski

Steven Sell

Ms. Bonnie J. Hageman

Phyllis Sheppard

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Sheppard

Philip T. Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Evans

Gerald F. Stanek

Gina and John Erb
Mrs. Arlene L. Weitz

Millie and Herb Taglauer

The Taglauer Cabin

Phoebe Trezise

Erika and Dennis Ferguson

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Dr. and Mrs. Richard F. Tyler

Mary Jeanette Walker

John and Nancy Auffenberg

Robert Womac

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Roberts
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Dr. Robert L. Willard

DO YOU HAVE A WILL?

More than half of Americans do not, leaving the state to decide who gets their assets.

You can design your own legacy. Where there's a will, there's a way!

Contact Leslee Spraggins if you'd like to conserve



Drawing by Sonya Shoup

the land, water and scenic character of Leelanau as part of your legacy.

Call 231-256-9665 or email lspraggins@leelanauconservancy.org



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**Every dollar donated to
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Private donations to the Community
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Photo by Ken Scott

