



Leelanau Conservancy

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

Newsletter: Fall, 2011

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Farm Families Protect Prime Fruit Growing Locale

In a world where optimism seems to be in short supply these days, it was heartening to sit down with fruit farmers Jeff and Nita Send and their partners, Scott and Penny Emeott. The Suttons Bay farmers had taken a break from apple picking on a steel-grey October day to talk about the future of farming in Leelanau, as well as the reasons why they are preserving some of their best fruit growing acreage for future farming generations. "We're more hopeful now," says Nita Send, sitting at her butcher block table in a kitchen decorated with cherry motif touches. "The industry is on an upswing."

Through a purchase of development rights (PDR)*, the partners will permanently protect 145 acres they own jointly along Center Highway. The land is in the heart of an agricultural corridor where approximately 800 acres of neighboring farms have already been protected by PDR and nearly 500 more acres are currently enrolled in our Farm Ability Program. Under PDR programs, farmers are paid a portion of the difference between what their land would be worth as a residential subdivision and its underlying value for farming. (see page 4)

The partners say protecting this particular 145 acres was "a no brainer." "The height, the way it rolls," explains Jeff, "Well, let's just say if there aren't cherries there, there are no cherries to be had. It always produces, no matter what. Besides that, there are enough damned subdivisions already."

This sort of love for the land and respect for its global importance is part of what defines the Send-Emeott partnership. "There's no other place in the U.S. that is so perfect for growing tart cherries," says Nita. "If the country loses that, it's gone forever. This is the perfect spot and that's why we're protecting it so that the land will always be available." As Nita talks, Scott and Penny nod their heads in agreement.

All four were born and raised in either Suttons Bay or Lake Leelanau. The Emeotts are younger by about 15 years. They got to know each other when Scott took a job working for Jeff just out of high school. He drove a High Low at the Send's receiving station—a place where fruit is weighed and graded and then sent on to a processor. A year or so later, Scott purchased his grandfather's farm.



Partners in protection and farming, l-r Jeff and Nita Send and Penny and Scott Emeott

He was just 19, and looked to Jeff for advice and respected his years of experience. Jeff, in turn, liked the way Scott came up with new ideas. "There was a lot of difference in age," says Scott. "But that's a good thing because we each bring something different to the table."

As it turns out, the mutual support was especially needed that first year that Scott owned his farm. Cherry prices hit an all time low, yielding just 5 cents a pound. He recalls lying awake at night, "wondering what in the heck have I done," he says. "Thank God I had another job." His family owned Morey's Grocery in Suttons Bay, where he did everything from run the cash register to stock shelves.

Those were some of the most challenging times for Leelanau fruit farmers. "There were years when you wondered how you would make it; years when you were awake for every storm, knowing that if the crop went bad there would be no way to pay the bills," says Nita.

Within a few years, Scott and the Sends had formed a partnership and were buying and leasing *continued on page 4*

Message from our Executive Director



We've protected 24 farms with over 2,500 acres

Farmland Preservation in Leelanau – Time for a Reassessment

In the fall of 2006 Leelanau County voters were asked to do something they had never done before: tax themselves voluntarily to preserve farmland through a county-run program. The campaign leading up to the vote had been hard-fought and sometimes vitriolic. In some cases it pitted farm family members against each other, and neighbor against neighbor. Arguments were made on both sides, but in the end enough people had doubts about the proposed program that it was soundly defeated at the polls.

Now some five years later farmland preservation work is going stronger than ever in Leelanau County. This is due in part to private initiative and farmer support, but perhaps most importantly, the availability of federal dollars through the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP).

How did this happen? First the supporters of preserving family farms accepted the voters' decision and went back to the drawing table. With a grant from the Kellogg Foundation, the Conservancy hired Dan Scripps to research best practices of privately funded farmland preservation. A full year of exploration confirmed that private funding sources had not anywhere in the country provided sufficient revenues to protect large blocks of working farms. As Dan reported "there are successful farmland preservation programs, and there privately-funded programs, but there are no successful privately-funded programs." In the end, we proposed a program that relied on private donations coupled with outside dollars.

Our working group concluded that private funding could still protect farmland if sufficient funds could be raised as local match to access existing federal funding for Purchase of Development Rights. In the summer of 2008, the Board of Directors of the Conservancy approved a program that relied almost equally on contributions from private individuals, on federal and state programs, and on participating farmers.

The program the Conservancy settled on was a hybrid: a "Farm Ability Program" that protected enrolled lands over a ten-year period while giving the farmers needed breathing room. We renewed our commitment to track down and apply for matching funds to permanently protect farms. We work in partnership with the Leelanau Conservation District, MSU Extension, and the MSU Horticultural Research Station.

What's happened since 2007? Working with willing farmers, the Conservancy has permanently protected 1,311



acres of farmland in 15 separate projects. Pending projects, which have committed funding from the FRPP program and will likely close within the next few months include six more farms comprising a total of 950 additional acres. In addition, three pending conservation easements are expected to protect an additional 200 acres of working farmland. Counting both closed and pending projects, *we've protected 24 farms with over 2,500 acres*, an enviable record that would match any publicly-funded program in Michigan.

The ingredients that have made this possible are:

- 1) Willing farmers who want to protect their land
- 2) Access to federal dollars through the Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program
- 3) Ability to raise local matching funds from private donors.
- 4) Expertise of staff to conduct negotiations, raise funds, and navigate public funding programs such as FRPP.

Considering where we started from in 2007 there is no question but that the Conservancy's efforts at farmland preservation have been a huge success. But the future is very uncertain. The biggest uncertainty is about access to federal matching dollars. At this writing the 2012 Farm Bill is being drafted. No one knows whether FRPP will be part of a final Farm Bill and, if so, how much funding will be available. Without access to some type of public matching funds, only a relative handful of farmers will be able to protect their family lands.

Flexibility will remain a hallmark of any successful program going forward. Over the past five years strong relationships have been built across the farming community and we have proven that more farmers will want to work with us when it makes good business sense to do so. We have also proven an ability to raise private funds, especially when we can appeal to donors that their gifts will be matched with other funding. What is not clear is what state or federal funds will be available.

We have come a long way since 2006. The farm economy and public support of farming as one of the pillars of the local economy has never been stronger. The failed election in 2006 sparked a valuable debate and a search for creative alternatives. That search is not over.



A Natural Choice

Long before the local foods movements swept the nation and the words'sustainable agriculture'infiltrated our vocabulary, Jayne Leatherman Walker was devoting her life to these causes. Now, as she looks toward the close of her time on Earth, Jayne wants to make sure that her legacy furthers the movement.

To that end, Jayne has donated a conservation easement on 40 acres in Bingham Township that is surrounded by development. Her dream is that the Eco Learning Centers she established here in 1999 will continue. And that her land will welcome 30 families to tend garden plots here, feeding them physically as well as spiritually. Her passion has revolved around restoring fertility depleted by years of monoculture farming.

"My goal has been to demonstrate what it means to live a sustainable lifestyle," says Jayne. "And to teach people that they are part of nature—another species in the whole network."

A stage 4 lung cancer diagnosis last February has made her even more acutely aware of that network—and of the preciousness of place. It has also fueled her desire to make a difference. You'd never know she is battling this disease; with her long blonde hair and trim figure, she looks far younger than her 70 years, and has an energy level to match. On an overcast afternoon, she offers an enthusiastic hug and celebrates the view with a sweep of her arm.

The land, along Bingham Road just off M-22 has a commanding vantage point of Power Island and Grand Traverse Bay from its ridgeline. "It would be an ideal condo site," says Jayne, who bought the land after moving to the area in 1983.

Since then, Jayne says "I learned to love the land as passionately as you can love a person. Everything I know about life I have learned from this land." With the help of a small inheritance, she began the Eco Learning Center. At one time she had interns, employees and a CSA that fed 20 families. Living on the West Coast for years introduced her to sustainable agriculture practices. She has been an avid student of such things as soil microbes and beneficial insects, and how to farm so that wildlife corridors are respected. "I've always grown things and am a big picture thinker," she says.

Indeed. Walking the upland reveals old greenhouses, a chicken coop and a solar shower. There is even a metal sculpture fashioned from old stainless steel sinks—the byproduct of a woman's welding class.

Months of cancer treatment has forced Jayne to abandon farming and halt the activities of the Eco Learning Center. But these once-busy remnants of her vision rise from the tall grass and weeds, whispering of possibilities.

Jayne doesn't know if one of her offspring will pick up where she left off. She says she donated the easement because



Jayne Leatherman Walker shows off her 40-acre Bingham Township property which she has protected with a donated conservation easement. From the ridgeline are spectacular views of Power Island and Grand Traverse Bay.

"I believe in community and I am not about money. If it's always about money we will never get past any of the big things."

Had she sold the land and split the proceeds between her heirs, it wouldn't reflect what she really wants to pass on to them. "What better modeling can I do than to show them how important place is?" she asks.

For whoever stewards this land after Jayne, the conservation easement will allow for one home site and 51% of the 40 acres to be farmed and for structures to be maintained.

"This was a unique, meaningful project," says Conservancy Land Protection Specialist Yarrow Wolfe. "It allows for the continued agricultural use on the property in specific areas, while ensuring the steep slopes, scenic views and beautiful northern hardwood forest is protected. Carrying out Jayne's legacy and seeing her vision through the permanent protection of her property was very special for me."

Walking back along the winding road that intersects a beautiful hardwood forest, Jayne says she can imagine herself as a tree out there one day. She reflects on how things have changed since she first moved to Leelanau County. "The Conservancy has made quantum leaps in the last ten years, the way they have tried to create wildlife corridors and to find a way to preserve farmland," she says. "I'm at peace, knowing that I've tried to stand on the shoulders of those who came before me and to visualize what will be for the next generation. The land brought me to help it so I know that it will also find the right person to create their own mission, within the framework we've created."



Send and Emeott Families Protect their Farm (continued from front page)

property together. One day, they met with a farmer named Morio about buying his farm—whose daughter happened to be Penny. She had just graduated with a degree in education, and would soon take a job at Suttons Bay. Scott and Penny were married soon after Jeff and Scott bought her father's farm. "I guess I did that totally backwards," says Scott. "You're supposed to marry the farmer's daughter, and then get the farm."

Two decades of sharing equipment, work crews and know-how has helped the Sends & Emeotts weather the storms. Together they farm about 1,100 acres at 22 different locales. "It makes sense to spread the costs of equipment over many acres," says Scott. "It's foolish to buy a \$15,000 piece of equipment and use it only on just a few acres."

Both couples say that the funds they receive from the purchase of development rights will help them to pay down debt, invest in the farm, and make it possible for them to pass the land on to the next generation. "The passion for us is to preserve farming acreage—we don't really want to see the land used for anything else," says Nita. "It's the right thing to do while also being a really smart business decision." All four are optimistic about the future of farming in Leelanau.

"The marketing initiatives have created more awareness and a demand for the product," says Penny. Dried cherries are gaining in popularity, and cherry concentrate is even hotter. It is being touted for its "muscle recovery" benefits.

"Supply and demand of cherries are close to being in balance which will help too," adds Jeff. "We no longer have a big backlog of product, which will help future prices."

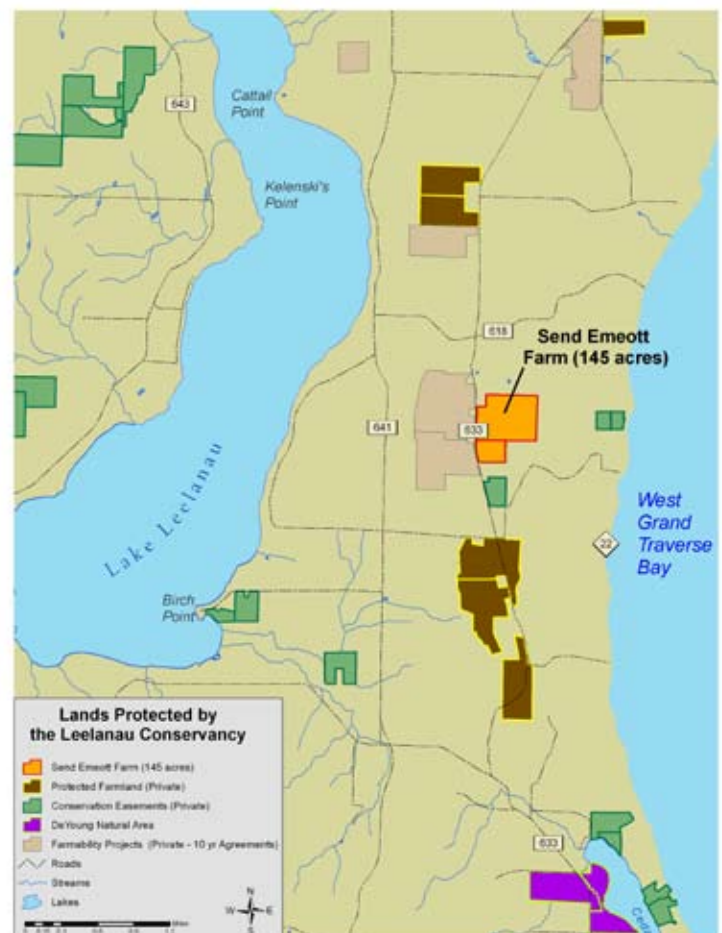
The partners see conservation as just another tool in the toolbox—one that is becoming more appealing to the farm community as a whole. "The majority of farmers don't want to see their land turned into housing," says Scott. "But if nobody in the family wanted to take over, their options were limited. There was no way farmers' kids could afford to buy the farm at development prices. What a PDR does is to get the land down to a price where a family member or another farmer could afford to buy it."

"Any tool that you can find to help you sustain the farm we are going to look at," says Nita. "But when it comes right down to it, farming has never been about the money for us. It's not a job, it's a way of life because your whole family life revolves around the farm. We love it because it's directly connected to nature and to creation."

"Preserving farmland is a pretty smart business decision, and experienced growers like the Sends and Emeotts prove the point," says Tom Nelson, the Conservancy's Director of Farm

Programs. "In fact, we've been working with these folks to try to protect this farm ever since they supported the farmland preservation ballot effort in 2006. That initiative wasn't successful, but this project with the Sends and Emeotts will be—and that speaks volumes about their commitment to the future of farming in Leelanau."

**A federal program—the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)—contributes up to 50% of this value, and the Conservancy must raise a 25% match. The farm family is also required to forego 25% or more of the acreage's cash value—this is considered a charitable donation for which there are federal tax incentives as well. Thereafter, the legal right to develop the land is extinguished forever, keeping the land available for farming for future generations. The land stays in private hands, remains on the tax rolls and no public access is required.*



This map shows at a glance all of the properties along the Co. Rd. 633 corridor that the Conservancy has either permanently protected or has 10-year conservation agreements in place through our FarmAbility program.

Grant Will Help Restore Natural Areas and Shorelines

Over the last several years the Conservancy has increased the number of restoration projects that focus on invasive plant management. Most of our efforts have focused on protecting Lake Michigan coastal habitats as well as our natural areas. As we look back on our efforts and towards our goals for the future, we reflect on why we took on this challenging task.

According to the Michigan DNR there are approximately 2,600 plant species in Michigan. About 800 or 30% of those plants are not native. Of these 800 non-native plants, only a fraction of them have the potential to cause serious and long lasting impact on our native habitats.

Generally, these plants originated in landscapes far different than Michigan's. In these plants' original landscapes, insects, geography, and local flora and fauna keep them in check. But in Leelanau these invasives have the advantage because the natural confines of their native habitat are not present. Thus they can thrive and propagate rapidly.

What, if any, are the consequences of invasive species on a given natural system? Once established, some invasives out-compete native species for resources. Prime examples are phragmites and autumn olive, which can reduce diversity and alter entire habitats. They also do not support native insects which birds, fish and other animals depend on. Invasive phragmites, which the Conservancy and its regional partners have worked hard to control along Lake Michigan, supports 170 native insects in its original habitat in Europe and Asia. Here in North America the plants support only five native insects. If we want to protect and restore valuable habitat throughout Leelanau, cultivating native species is critical.

In 2010 and 2011, the Conservancy used funds from the *Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant*, (SOGL) funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to help restore natural areas and shoreline affected by invasive species. Projects focused on areas moderately to heavily populated with invasive plants but still maintaining high conservation value. Such larger projects are time consuming and success is never guaranteed, but with resources and partnerships we have the ability to make a difference. Although the first round of SOGL is coming to a close, the Conservancy will continue to work on managing invasive species in areas started under the grant until restoration goals are fully reached.

The Conservancy has recently been awarded with another round of SOGL funding for 2012 and 2013. Unlike the last round, the focus will shift from larger invasive removal projects to "Early Detection/Rapid Response." This new strategy will increase chances of success by attacking invasive species early in our most high quality, protected ecosystems. Rapid Re-



This photo was taken of a phragmites stand just south of the Conservancy's Whaleback Natural Area in September 2010 one month after control efforts were completed. The stand was quite dense and had little or no native plants growing within it. The yellow discoloration displayed in the photo is a side effect that occurs after the plant is treated with herbicide.



This is a photo of the same location as the picture shown above but was taken in September 2011. The density of the phragmites was greatly reduced which will encourage native beach grass and other shoreline plants to grow in its absence. Treatment of this spot occurred in 2010, 2011 and will see an additional follow up treatment in 2012. All treatments are funded by the Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant.

sponse to small infestations will increase chances of complete eradication, saving time and resources down the road. We'll concentrate on areas at the Tip of the Peninsula which have high conservation value and are still relatively unscathed by large invasive populations.

By and large, invasive species management is one critical tool in our restoration toolbox necessary for protecting and maintaining our lands forever. Without it we run the risk of losing what we set out to protect.



Work Bee volunteers at the DeYoung Natural Area use specialized applicators to apply a concentration of herbicide to a recently cut autumn olive stump. Several years of treatment of the invasive shrub along the streams and fields have allowed native plants to reestablish themselves in the area.



Stewardship volunteer Keith Johnson hauls away some glossy buckthorn from a stream corridor. Buckthorn was originally brought to North America as hedge in the 1800's but has made its way into wild habitats throughout the US. If left uncontested, the shrub can easily take over a variety of habitats in a short period of time including wetlands.



(Left): This picture was taken at the Whaleback Natural Area in August of 2010. The widespread green plant on the right side foreground and background is sweet woodruff. In less than 20 years this plant has taken over large portions of forest understory on the property, crowding out native plants.

(Left, bottom): This picture was taken from the same location as the photo above it in September 2011. The Conservancy contracted a professional to treat the large patches of sweet woodruff in 2010 and 2011 to help restore the area. The goal is to control the plant and allow native plants like trillium and jack-in-the-pulpit a chance to thrive again. The plants on the right side of the photo are native to the area.



During a docent-led hike at the Swanson Preserve, the group takes a moment to check out a massive white pine.





Stewardship Updates

While working on the new trail at the Houdek Dunes Natural Area, Conservancy Intern Taylor Smith discovered a black bear paw print in the sand.



New stairs were recently added to the Lighthouse West Natural Area thanks to Rick and Enid Grauer in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. The stairs will protect the bluff from erosion and make access down the steep bluff easier. On a docent-led exploration in October, over 30 people made use of the new stairs.



Volunteer trail steward Chuck Whetsel takes a break after clearing a downed tree from the trail at Kehl Lake Natural Area. Chuck built four new benches for the natural area and helped Work Bee volunteers and Conservancy Staff install them along the trail earlier this summer.



After a Work Bee at DeYoung Natural Area: Staffer Fields Ratliff and volunteers Mike Kane, Dennis Bushey, Keith Johnson, and Ben Smith. Want to help? email fratliff@theconservancy.com



A group of volunteers use tools to construct a new trail at the Krumwiede Forest Reserve. The tool being used is a McLeod which is often utilized in constructing trails on rough or uneven terrain. The trail is still under construction and will not be open to the public until summer 2012. Stay tuned for updates on what promises to be a great new trail.



Conservancy Friends Celebrate, Learn, Raise Funds at Annual Picnic

One of the best things about our Annual Picnic is the chance to get our supporters out on the lands we have protected. While we can write about places like the Rex Dobson Farm in our newsletters, or post photos on our website, there's nothing quite like "being there."

As the cars streamed in along Rex's hilly two-track that afternoon, they lined up on freshly cut hay fields framed by giant windrows of native pine trees that Rex planted decades ago. Many arrived early to tour this working farm and learned how its

permanent protection in 1999 set the stage for our farmland programs that followed.

It was a great night. Together we raised \$145,471 to help us move forward with the many land protection projects we have before us now.

This event could not happen without the overwhelming generosity and caring that has come to define this annual event. Thank you to all our volunteers and donors!

Some highlights: nearly 800 attended; 179 came early to attend one of the eight field trips offered. 50 people raised a paddle to support land protection and stewardship projects for a total of \$22,400. Mario

Batali's weekend for six in New York made for exciting bidding, going finally for \$61,000 to an anonymous phone bidder. Mario directs proceeds from his efforts to farmland preservation; a good thing, especially this year since we need to raise a \$1.52M local match to claim federal grants and complete the five farm projects on the docket now.

"As a long-time part-timer resident and fan of northern Michigan, I am always happy to help the Leelanau Conservancy and am ecstatic to hear the huge success of this year's auction," said Mario. "It goes to show that even in tough times, Americans, in this case Michiganders, are willing to go to great lengths to chip in to save the natural beauty as well as farm functionality of their magnificent state."

Congrats to the Conservancy Volunteer of the Year—our wonderful Conservancy Docents. We paid tribute to these invaluable hike leaders, past and present, who do so much to communicate our mission and spend countless hours in their role. Kudos also to our Business Partners of the Year. Epicure Catering owners Cammie Buehler and Andy Schudlich were recognized for their many contributions along with Tom and Marsha Buehler, owners of Cherry Basket Farm and Cammie's parents, who have hosted many of our events at the farm.



Conservancy President, Warren Watkins during the Paddle Raise: 50 people raised a paddle to help with our land protection efforts



Pre-Picnic canoe trip at the Lake Leelanau Narrows in the Maritime Heritage Alliance's 25' canoe



Business Partners of the Year: Epicure Catering and Cherry Basket Farm

Volunteers of the year: our wonderful docents. Get to know each of these dedicated volunteers on our website — or on a hike!





Good Harbor Bay Watershed Planning

The Little Traverse Lake Association (LTLA), the Lime Lake Association (LLA) and the Leelanau Conservancy are embarking on the development of a Good Harbor Bay Watershed Protection Plan. This is one of the few watersheds in Leelanau without an approved watershed plan. The final plan will be approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). An approved watershed protection plan opens a number of funding sources for watershed protection and serves as an important resource and guide for watershed users. Glen Lake/Crystal River, Grand Traverse Bay and Lake Leelanau have approved watershed protection plans and have been able to secure grant funds for watershed protection and water quality monitoring. During the planning process, the steering committee will be developing a public input survey.

The purpose of a plan is to evaluate the current status of water quality in the watershed and to determine appropriate steps that should be undertaken to maintain, restore or enhance the water quality. The Good Harbor Bay Watershed includes the areas that contribute water to Lime Lake (Kasson and Cleveland Townships); Little Traverse Lake (Cleveland and Centerville Townships); School, Bass and Shell Lakes (Cleveland and Glen Arbor Townships); and areas that flow directly into Good Harbor Bay in Glen Arbor, Cleveland and Leland Townships.

This fall two meetings were held to invite interested parties to join in the process, help form the Good Harbor Bay Watershed Steering Committee, initiate the planning process and start to establish goals and objectives for the watershed plan. The plan development process is expected to take about 12 to 18 months. The public is welcome to attend all meetings. More

info: Yarrow Wolfe (ywolfe@theconservancy.com)



Going With The Flow



In late October, stream monitors Jeff Green (in water) and John Fitzpatrick visited five streams to collect water samples and measure velocity and temperature.

The 2011 waters sampling program was completed in October thanks to many dedicated volunteers. A total of 11 streams and seven (7) lakes were sampled 3-4 times from June to October.

In the next few months the water quality database, which houses all the sampling results, will be available on-line in a web-based version. This will allow the public to pull up graphs and charts on the vast amount of water quality data that has been collected in major tributaries and the major lakes in Leelanau County over the last 20 years.

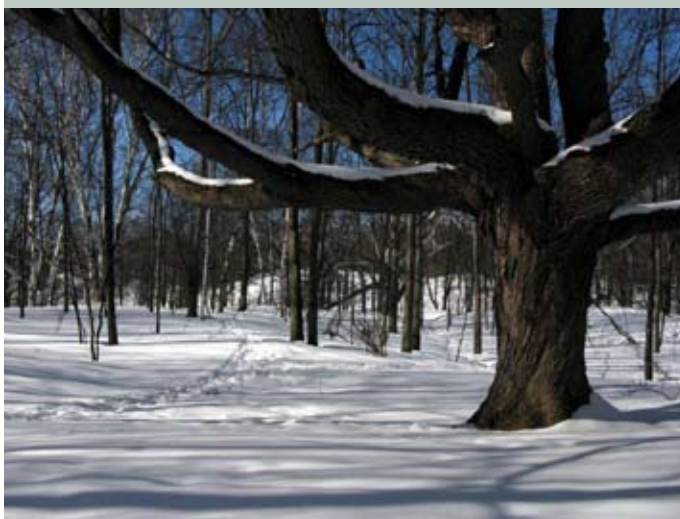
Volunteers (teams of two) are needed for streams sampling in 2012. If you would like to get outside, learn a new skill and can commit to sampling 4 times from April-October, please call the office and ask for Yarrow (231-256-9665) or email ywolfe@theconservancy.com



Winter Tips For Natural Area Visits

If you visit Chippewa Run in Empire, you'll find a great place to cross-country ski. Docent Lou Ricord, who often leads hikes there, says to watch for the beauty and diversity of evergreens planted: Red Pine, White Pine, White Spruce, Douglas Fir. Do remember to park at the recycling bins for all outings; our parking lot on M-22 is not plowed in winter. Turn onto LaCore street as if heading toward the Empire Museum. Then turn right on Fisher Street and follow signs to recycling bins. Park in recycling area near the trailhead. Also, if you are on skis, be mindful of the bridge over the stream at the bottom of the hill. The bridge is located on the larger of the two loops near the old apple orchard, just as you emerge from the evergreen trees. Also note, the banks leading to and from the stream are a bit steep.

Docent Ann Mason is looking forward to visiting the Teichner boardwalk this winter. "It would be fun to see how the wetlands do when it's snowy—is the water still moving around or is it frozen?" she says. "Houdek is also a great place for x-c skiing or snowshoeing."



Houdek Dunes Delights

If there is a more wonderful walk in Michigan, I can't imagine it. The forest inspires, the barrier dune landscape motivates geological inquiry and the "bench underneath the tree" is a unique place to calm the soul. Thank you.

— Joel Poor, Columbia, MO

Snowplowers—or Underwriters—Needed!

If you have a snowplow and would like to help keep our natural area parking areas free of snow, we would very much appreciate your help! Thank you to Jim Thomas and Rick Cross who have kept our Kehl Lake Natural Area and Jeff Lamont Preserve lots clear in the past, and to Warren Watkins who often plows the Houdek Dunes lot. These wonderful volunteers aren't always available to do the job however, and we currently have no one to keep Whaleback and DeYoung Natural Areas lots plowed. We are focusing on plowing a few select locations: Kehl Lake, Houdek Dunes, and DeYoung Natural Areas. Let us know if you can help; contact Stewardship staffer Fields Ratliff (231-256-9665) or fratliff@theconservancy.com.

Finally, if you don't own a plow, but love to visit these areas in winter and would like to ensure that parking lots are kept clear, make a donation to our Stewardship Fund!



Hunting: Info You Need to Know

Deer hunting season is upon us. Please note that many of our natural areas with trails also allow bow and firearm hunting of whitetail deer. Hunting helps to reduce an unnaturally high deer population and the threat that too many deer pose to our wildflowers and tree seedlings. The only trailed natural areas that do not allow hunting are Whaleback and the lakeshore section of DeYoung. If you are a hunter, you must contact our office to secure a signed permit. If you are a hiker who visits our natural areas, please be aware that hunters may be accessing these lands too and wear the appropriate clothing. Dates for bow hunting of whitetail deer are from 10/1 thru 11/14 and again from 12/1 thru 1/1. Firearm hunting of whitetail deer is from 11/15 thru 11/30.



Hikes and Events

Our Docents Make Dates and House Calls!

Would you like to have a docent visit your property to tell you what natural wonders are present? Arrange for a group hike or school field trip to one of our properties and have a docent lead your group? Call Carolyn at: 231-256-9665 or email: info@theconservancy.com



Cardinal flowers at our Swanson Preserve; photo by Greg LaCross

Docents on a Lighthouse West Natural Area Exploration: l-r Judy Hoeffler, Holly Pharmer, Ann McInnis, and guest birder Ed Ketterer

Hike/Work Bee Schedule Descriptions—Moved to the Web!



You'll notice something new here—or rather its absence: our hike schedule details! Look for expanded hike—or “exploration” descriptions at theconservancy.com and in our weekly email blasts. (Not on our list? Email cfaught@theconservancy.com to make sure you get the latest and greatest breaking Conservancy news and info.)

Why the change? People seem to plan their lives a day or two in advance, and sign up for the hikes by replying to our weekly emails. We thought that the two pages we usually reserve for hikes might be better used. If you don't use email or the web, and would like a paper copy of our schedule, just give us a call. In any case, clip the schedule below and post it on your fridge to save these dates. And if you do want to attend, please register so we may plan accordingly (231-256-9665 or info@theconservancy.com) See you on the trails!

Tues., Nov. 22nd 9:30am-noon, Work Bee, Swanson Preserve

Wed., Dec. 7th 9:30am-11:30am, Work Bee, DeYoung Natural Area

Wed., Dec. 21st 9:30am-noon, Work Bee, Houdek Dunes Natural Area

Thurs., Dec. 29th 10am, Explore Kehl Lake Natural Area

Sat., Dec. 31st 10am, Explore Houdek Dunes Natural Area

Sat., Jan. 14th 1pm, Explore Kehl Lake Natural Area

Sat., Jan. 28th 10am, Explore Houdek Dunes Natural Area

Sat., Feb. 4th 1pm, Explore DeYoung Natural Area

Sat., Feb. 18th 10am, Explore Chippewa Run Natural Area

Sun., Feb. 19th 2pm, Explore Lighthouse West Natural Area

Sat., Feb. 25th 9am-12pm, Invasive Species Workshop (location tba)

Wed., March 7th 9:30am-noon, Work Bee, DeYoung Natural Area





Roy Bequest Will Help Protect the Landscapes They Loved

It's no secret that Leelanau attracts famous and accomplished people. But beyond those who might immediately come to mind, there are hundreds of other fascinating and highly accomplished figures walking our beaches. It's one more thing that makes Leelanau so unique. Clarence and Ruth Roy certainly would have fit that bill.

By all accounts the Roys were as engaging as they were accomplished. Clarence was co-founder of one of the largest and most influential landscape and planning firms in the United States—Johnson, Johnson and Roy. He helped to establish the Ann Arbor firm and later opened an office in Dallas. The son of a mining engineer from Ironwood, Clarence was a U of M graduate. He was named as a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and worked on projects that received national recognition.

Ruth was equally as interesting. Born and raised in New Orleans, she enlisted in the Navy a year after Pearl Harbor was bombed, and remained until the conclusion of the war. She then attended New York School of Interior Design and moved to Dallas, where she met Clarence while working on a project. They were married in 1959 and Ruth ran her own design firms.

One of Ruth's up-north design touches was to keep a bowl of Petoskey stones in her foyer at their summer home near Leland for visitors to take away as a Leelanau memory. Once a stone was chosen, Ruth would then explain the fossil's history. She and Clarence collected the stones on daily walks along Lake Michigan.

"They loved the area," says Richard Bower, the executor of the couple's estate. "I would get jealous when they would escape the Texas heat every May. They were incredibly wonderful people yet were quiet and unassuming."

Marlys Bandy agrees. "They were delightful people and so much fun," she says. She and her husband, Mike, met the Roys on a Leelanau Conservancy birding hike led by Tom Ford, and in subsequent years, always attended our Annual Friends Picnic together. "I'm an avid birder, and they were too, so we hit it off immediately," says Marlys. The Roys invited the Bandys to dinner at their home, which was called "Aerie."

It was easy to see why. "The second story looked out onto the treetops," says Marlys. Clarence had designed the home which Marlys adds "was perfectly planned to save as many beautiful mature trees, ground cover and native plants as possible. Clarence insisted that they never plant anything non-native."

Sadly, 10 years after building Aerie, Clarence was diagnosed with brain cancer and died in 2000. Marlys recalls the last time she saw her dear friend Ruth, who put Aerie on the



Ruth and Clarence Roy, standing on the deck of their beloved "Aerie"

market after Clarence died. When it came time to fly back to Dallas that July, Ruth asked Marlys to take her to the airport. They agreed to meet up at a friend's home.

At the appointed hour, Ruth didn't arrive. "We waited and waited, and then we got worried," says Marlys. Finally Ruth appeared. They sped to the airport. On the way, Marlys learned what had happened. "Ruth had been out on Lake Michigan, scattering Clarence's ashes," says Marlys. "She wanted to do this for him, by herself."

Ruth never returned to Leelanau. "She could not bear to be there without Clarence," says Richard, their executor.

Soon after Ruth died in 2008, we received news of their bequest of \$680,000. The Roys had met with Director Brian Price in the past to discuss their options for a planned gift. At one time they had thought they might leave "Aerie" to the Conservancy in a life estate, but when Clarence got sick their plans changed. "Clarence and Ruth talked about how much their time in Leelanau meant to them, and how Leelanau's landscapes had touched their hearts," says Brian. "They felt blessed, and they wanted to make sure that they made a significant contribution to preserve the beauty of the peninsula."

"They just had that strain to want to give back," adds Richard. "They felt deeply about the organizations they gave to."

With more than \$2 million in unfunded land protection projects pending at the time, the Roys' bequest was welcome news. "Their gift will help us protect places like Clay Cliffs and three working Leelanau farms," says Conservancy Director Brian Price. "As we feel they would have wished, the Roys' legacy will live on in the sort of sweeping landscapes we know they loved."



Thanks for Taking our Survey!

If you are one of the 539 people who took the time to connect with our emailed survey link, thank you! We had a 16.7% response and are analyzing the results now. For 90 percent of respondents, land protection was their highest priority. We were surprised to learn that 89% of you have visited a natural area or preserve on your own. Of those who weighed in, 36% were year-round residents, 32% live elsewhere and 32% were seasonal residents. The many comments we received were both helpful and heartening. We'll use your feedback to guide our efforts. We hope to do more surveys in the future—in particular one about our Annual Friends Picnic, and would appreciate your participation!

Leelanau Preservers: Give a Gift That Lasts Forever

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." We send a beautiful card acknowledging your gift and keep track of the total acres that have been preserved in your gift recipient's name. When Preservers reach the 1/10 acre milestone (\$500) a beautiful personalized hand-made tile is mounted on our Preservers Circle in the Leland Village Green. To date 361 people have been honored or remembered with a tile here, which are created and installed by tile artisan Leif Sporck. Learn more about Leelanau Preservers on our website: <http://www.theconservancy.com/leelanaupreserve.html>



Welcome New Sustainers

Conservancy Sustainers provide the lion's share of our operating support and are a big part of our success. Giving levels start at \$500. Benefits include special recognition in our publications, and two events per year where Sustainers can meet our staff and others who share their commitment to our work. Want to join? Call Gayle Egeler: 231-256-9665. The following people have joined since publication of our last newsletter. Thank you!

Bill and Mary Fallon
David and Maureen Herr
Tom and Joan Knighton
Bob and Darlene Martine
Bill and Joanie McCool
Mary Pettersson
Mick Seymour
Christine Sow
Don and Tricia Stogsdill

*"For over 50 years, five generations of the Stogsdill family have enjoyed all that Leelanau County has to offer. Through the Leelanau Conservancy we want to help preserve the natural beauty of this area and continue this legacy."
-- Don and Tricia Stogsdill*





Honorariums & Memorials

7/1/11 through 10/17/11

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

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Happy Anniversary

Tom and Alma Eichstadt
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*50th Wedding Anniversary
Doug and Ann McInnis*
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Ballantyne

Happy Birthday

Olivia Fellows
Kurt and Eleanor Luedtke

75th Birthday - Bob Jillson
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Peterson

90th Birthday - Peg Later
Thomas and Bridget Lamont
Jeff Later & Betsy Donahue

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

Patty Shea
Bob and Rae Dumke
Joan and Randy Woods

New Baby

Violette Hyde Smith
Walter and Leslie Schmid

Wedding Wishes and Correction

We apologize for an error we made in listing a donation to honor the marriage of Lucy Lowe and Cory Leier. (First name was listed as Scott instead of Cory.) Lucy's mom, Mary Beth Kelly-Lowe, wrote to inform us and also to say that Lucy grew up spending summers in Leelanau and "could not imagine being married anywhere else." The couple opted for a totally local affair, added Mary Beth, "catered by Hansens with cherry mead from Acoustic Brewery in Lake Ann and a cake from Aunt B's. All the flowers were collected locally from friends' land and gardens. It lasted a week and every day was as wonderful as the next. We are thankful to Leelanau Conservancy and all the donors of land and money to save the most beautiful place on earth."



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Stephen Covey
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Honorariums & Memorials

7/11/11 through 10/17/11

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Sonny's Stand: Open For Business



It's that wonderful time of year when our beautiful roads are decorated with local farm stands filled with crisp apples and cheery pumpkins. Here at the Swanson Farm and Preserve, farmer Ben Brown has brought Sonny's stand back to life, stocking it with everything from Bardenhagen strawberries to local corn. Next year Ben, who is leasing the farm from the Conservancy, says he hopes to offer even more produce along with his pastured poultry.

The Leelanau Conservancy completed the purchase of this 90-acre farm with 2,000 feet of natural shoreline earlier this year. We could not have done it without the generosity of the 188 donors who made the purchase possible. Thank you.

To protect more places like the iconic Swanson Preserve, please make a year-end gift. We have many more great projects before us, but can't complete them without your help. An envelope is included with this newsletter, or you may give online: www.theconservancy.com. As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, we would like to say how thankful we are for your support!

