



Leelanau Conservancy

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

Newsletter: Spring 2011

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Kehl Lake Natural Area Expands by 52 Acres

When Marcia Boynton and Karl Wisniewski's children were young, the Kehl Lake Natural Area was a favorite hiking destination. Marcia says that family treks through the natural area invariably led her children to compare Kehl Lake's surroundings "to a time when dinosaurs roamed the earth."

"The ferns, the cedars, the cool, moist smell, the rotting logs with moss all over them – there was so much for the kids to see! And, the trail was just about the right length for them," she adds.

Their children are now grown, but everyone in the family still spends as much time in the summer as possible in Northport. Marcia and Karl, who are still working and living in Novi, own some rental properties in the area as well as a beautiful bluff lot north of Peterson Park. They plan to one day build a home there.

The couple purchased the 52 acres off Kilcherman Road in 2000, "primarily because there are so few acreage parcels of this size north of the village," adds Karl. They thought they might one day put a horse barn on the land.

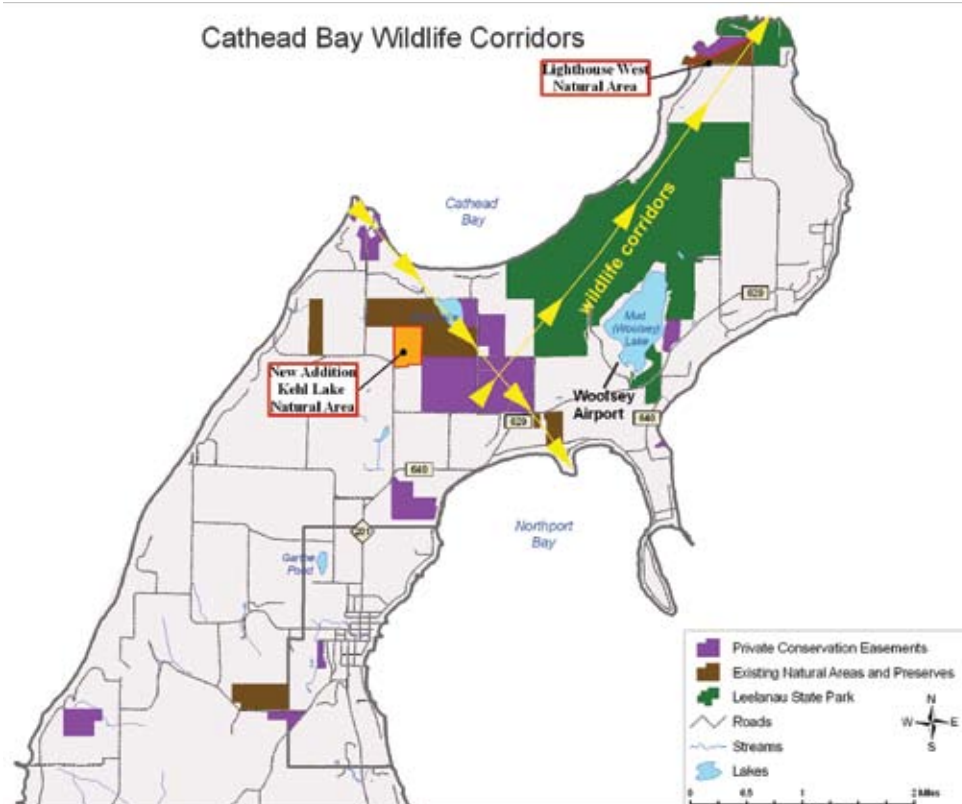
Last year, the couple re-evaluated their plans. They contemplated selling a conservation easement. But in the end, after considering options presented by Land Protection Specialist Yarrow Wolfe, they decided to sell the land outright to the Conservancy. "We admired the impact that Marty Scott and other landowners had on that whole area near the airport when they protected their lands," says Karl. "Although our original plan was to keep this parcel indefinitely, to see it expand the Kehl Lake Natural Area pleases us very much. Once we made our

decision based on our options, we were able to close within 30 days. The process was rather straightforward."

The Conservancy took ownership at year end. Yarrow Wolfe, the lead Land Protection Specialist for this project, and Jenee Rowe, Stewardship Director, led the rest of the staff on a tour on a brilliant sunny day in February. Crunchy snow made it easy to cross the big open field visible from Kilcherman Road.

As we ducked into the woods and hiked past fallen trees, Director Brian Price and Jenee Rowe's excitement built about future trail possibilities. They pointed out natural wonders along the way. Among them: the linear pecking of a sap sucker on a decaying log and an ice crystal-

continued on page 2



The new Kehl Lake addition expands a growing wildlife corridor at the tip of the peninsula

Message from our President



I truly enjoy the excuse to walk through the dunes where we used to play as kids

As I write this in mid-February, I am looking out my window at a snow-covered forest landscape; a place that I treasure. I was fortunate to have grown up a few hundred feet from where I live today, in a thickly wooded area on the shore of Lake Michigan. I have been a part-time resident



of the Leelanau peninsula my whole life. As kids, my brothers and I spent hours roaming the woods behind our house climbing the steep hills, knocking over rotten tree stumps, tracking deer and countless other adventures. We built forts in the cedars near the shore with driftwood walls collected from the beach. We learned early how to identify poison ivy and stay away from it.

We also explored the sand hills where Charlie Houdek kept his cattle by climbing through the old barbed-wire fence between his property and ours. We learned that dried "cowpies" soar like Frisbees. That property is now known as the Houdek Dunes Natural Area and one of my roles with the Conservancy is serving as a trail steward there. The trail steward responsibilities are not too daunting. I walk the trails several times a year to make sure the signage is in place and not worn, to check for fallen trees, washouts or other obstructions and report what I find. Recently, I have been helping plan a new trail loop which we will build this summer with the help of volunteers (see workbee schedule on page 10.) I truly enjoy the excuse to walk through the dunes where we used to play as kids and see what has changed and, most importantly, is very much the same.

If you have not had an opportunity to hike the trails in our Natural Areas recently, you are missing out on one of the advantages of living or spending time in Leelanau County--access to the land. Spring is a great time to explore the Natural Areas; any season is great for hiking to the lookout on top of Whaleback. The birds will be passing through Lighthouse West in May and topography of that area is spectacular. The showy pink lady slippers will be out at Houdek Dunes by early June. Our docent led hikes (see page 10) are a great way to familiarize yourself with a Natural Area and you may learn something new.

Houdek Dunes was one of the Leelanau Conservancy's early large projects. It was purchased in 1997 and is a truly unique environment. The land next door, where my brothers

and I played as kids, has been permanently protected for over 15 years thanks to three forward-looking couples who donated conservation easements. I hike that land as often as I can. It is an ever-changing forest environment and a wonderful habitat for any number of animals and always will be—thanks to your Leelanau Conservancy.

Warren Watkins
President



Staff members Jenee Rowe, Yarrow Wolfe, Sara Michael and Anne Shoup enjoy a recent staff outing to the new addition to the Kehl Lake Natural Area.

Kehl Lake Addition (continued from cover page)

edged blow hole on top of a snowy mound no doubt created by the breath of some hibernating creature. Staff talked about how much fun Conservancy docents would have leading hikers through this new addition.

About 31 acres of wetland are present on the new addition. Kehl Lake Natural Area now takes in a total of 232 acres. "It is part of a larger wildlife corridor we have been working to protect since we opened our doors in 1988," says Price. (See map on cover page.)

All told, the Leelanau Conservancy has protected over 700 acres north of the village of Northport in the Cathead Bay to Lighthouse Point area. "This property is an integral piece to our Kehl Lake Natural Area and will continue to provide undisturbed wildlife habitat along the protected corridor near the tip of the peninsula," says Yarrow Wolfe "This acquisition will also allow us to expand our trail system, giving hikers a new and unique experience."



Swanson Farm Purchase Completed!

It's official! The Leelanau Conservancy took ownership in March of the 90-acre Sonny Swanson farm with its 2,000 feet of natural shoreline. "The Swanson Farm is both a well-loved landmark and critically important to the water quality of Little Traverse Lake," says Director Brian Price. "Protecting the farm and the wetlands is a dream come true."

Since announcing the project last year, the Conservancy has raised \$799,050 of the needed \$900,000. "We had to tap into our Land Protection Fund to close on the project and meet the deadline," says Price. "Donations are still needed and appreciated and will help us to move on to new land protection projects."

Plans for the property are still being formulated. In February, the Conservancy met with prospective farmers to review proposals for restoring the historic farm to its former productivity. "Ideally we'd like to have someone working the land during the coming growing season," says Price.

Also on tap for the property—future hiking trails for the public to enjoy. The Conservancy's Wildflower Rescue group will also use a portion of the site to pot up and store its plants.

"We're grateful to the 174 donors who stepped forward to make it happen," says Price. "I think Sonny would approve of the steps we have taken to protect this special place and to make sure his fields will be farmed again."

Since announcing the project, the Leelanau Conservancy has been the grateful recipient of many emails and phone calls from people remembering Sonny and the farm. The following letter (and photo) from Carol Benner is representative of the sentiments people have shared.

I have intended for some time to contribute to the Conservancy, but your intention to preserve the Sonny Swanson



Carol Benner and grandson, Evan McClain, visited Sonny's farmstand a few years before it closed.



The 90-acre farm also included 2,000 feet of shoreline on Little Traverse Lake, as well as wetlands critical to the health of the lake.

Farm has prodded me into action.

We have vacationed in the Glen Arbor area with our family for more than 30 years. For the years our children were growing up, trips to the "vegetable man" for corn, tomatoes, and other delicious additions to our table were a highlight. They always marveled at his "honor system" and always liked to poke the money in the box. We were always excited when there was a bucket of fresh gladiolas for it was one of the few times I could afford them.

Then, when my grandchildren came along, we still made many trips to the stand for vegetables. In fact, my oldest grandson went to his very first pumpkin patch at Sonny's roadside display, where pumpkins were all of 50 cents or 25 cents.

It's funny, but sometimes you don't miss something until it's gone. The year the stand closed was a sad one for us. Although we didn't personally know Sonny and he never knew what part he played in our lives, his stand was meaningful to us in a special way we can't really explain. We hope the Conservancy can raise the money to buy and preserve his property. Thus our contribution.

The tranquility of Leelanau needs to be preserved—so we don't have to miss it when it's gone.

Sincerely,

Carol Benner, Somerset, NJ

PS We have enjoyed fishing from the floating dock on the DeYoung property.



The idea that the entire shoreline has been protected, with these properties put together is pretty incredible

It's Official! Land Along Narrows Forever Protected

Lovers of the Lake Leelanau Narrows will be happy to know that the Leelanau Conservancy has officially taken ownership of an embattled 2.25 acres and 430 feet along the eastern shoreline. Once the center of controversy, this land is now protected and will continue to preserve the water quality and scenic value of Lake Leelanau.

For the past five years, the Lake Association had sought

thousands of boaters who annually traverse the Narrows. Wetlands here also provide fish nesting habitat and a home to a great diversity of wildlife.

"The Narrows have long been a priority for the Conservancy," says Matt Heiman, Director of Land Protection. "Many uses for the Narrows have been proposed over the years that have threatened its ecological integrity. Dredge spoils were dumped into wetlands in the 80s, marinas were proposed in the late 90s and again in the last few years. A couple of years ago Consumer's Power was ready to put a new power line across the Narrows which would have mowed down a swath of vegetation 100 feet wide but we were able to convince them to move it. This project is the culmination of efforts by local property owners, the Conservancy, the Lake Association, and other willing partners to acknowledge just how important a healthy and intact Narrows wetland complex is to the whole community."

With the help of generous members, the Conservancy successfully raised \$150,000 toward the \$250,000 purchase price. The Lake Association pledged to raise the balance of \$100,000. John Fitzpatrick, past president of the Lake Association and Campaign Chairman for fundraising, says that \$65,000 in cash and pledges has been raised to-date, with another \$35,000 needed to achieve their goal. He expects more donations in response to a recent mailing to association members and property owners along the lake.

"The idea that the entire shoreline has been protected, with these properties put together, is pretty incredible," says Fitzpatrick. "It's been a good and fair outcome for everyone concerned and cements our relationship with the Conservancy, which has always been a strong one. Our members are thrilled. Their response upon hearing the news has been surprise, relief and joy."



A 2.25 acre parcel and its 430 feet of Lake Leelanau shoreline is the third project to be completed in the Narrows over the last 10 years. A total of 68 acres and a half mile of frontage now make up this beautiful natural area.

to prevent docks from being built along this fragile shoreline. A DEQ approved plan would have allowed a 250-foot broadside dock with 22 boat slips protruding into the narrow channel. Plans for development were dashed in part by the souring real estate market. Also, the property changed hands in 2009 and new owners, Egan McGlynn and Tim Cypher, wished to see the land remain natural. After months of negotiations and fundraising by the Lake Leelanau Lake Association and the Leelanau Conservancy, McGlynn and Cypher sold the land to the Conservancy. The Lake Association took on the role as partial funder and holder of a conservation easement. It took until early December to close on the project.

The land, which has been the subject of paintings and countless photographs taken from the M-204 bridge in Lake Leelanau, is adjacent to already protected land known as the Conservancy's Leugers Preserve at the Narrows. It is the third key parcel along the shore to be protected in a 10-year period. A total of 68 acres along the Narrows and 2,875 feet or about a half-mile of frontage now make up this beautiful natural area.

This latest expanse of scenic shoreline is treasured by

WANT TO SELL YOUR PICKUP TRUCK?

Our Stewardship team is looking to purchase a used pickup truck to help us with our many projects this summer.

Whether we're hauling tools and equipment to our workbees, or invasive plants away from our natural areas, a pickup truck will be invaluable to our efforts.

If you are interested in selling your truck, please call Jenée Rowe, Stewardship Director: 231-256-9665.

I can take you on a virtual tour of this delicate 66 acres via a drop of water



Family Hunting Lands Preserved Near Northport

A family's reverence for a 66-acre tract of land north of the Village of Northport has translated into its permanent protection. Joe Dlugopolski and his four children have placed a conservation easement* on this multi-faceted piece of land through a bargain sale of development rights.

"The conservation value of this large, undeveloped land is quite significant," says Yarrow Wolfe, Land Protection Specialist with the Leelanau Conservancy. "The high quality wetland helps contribute to the protection of the Grand Traverse Bay watershed and provides important wildlife habitat too."

Joe, a life-long hunter who has been coming to the area from his home in Midland for 35 years, calls the land "a good place to watch nature." He and his late wife, June, and their grown children have many happy memories of time spent in Leelanau. Joe's son, Randy, who lives in Gladwin but comes to Leelanau as often as possible, gave us his unique perspective on his family's land:



"Grandpa" Joe Dlugopolski with grandchildren David and Nicky.

"Thank you, Leelanau Conservancy, for partnering with us to protect and share in the management of our family's unique and varied tract of land.

Although we are not natives of Leelanau County, we might as well be. My first memories of Northport started as a child of 12. We stayed at the little red cottage on Northport Creek behind

the old firehouse. We fished the creek and pond and rode bikes and played tennis next door. (If any of you can remember the tennis courts.) Later, our parents purchased a cottage on Northport Bay which allowed my sister to work at the Leland Lodge and the three "boys" to work as security guards at the Northport Cottage owners Association. The wonderful people and places of this beautiful county kept us coming back as often as possible.

I can take you on a virtual tour of this delicate 66 acres via a drop of water. Imagine that drop first landing at the foot of an apple or cherry tree on the Proust and Kilcherman farm next to our land, then heading south across Hwy. 201 toward our acreage. The drop would meander by a huge stand of red



Joe Dlugopolski (center) flanked by his four children (l to r) Joe Jr., Laurie Poppelman, Robert (R.J.) and Randy.

pinus and remnants of an orchard. Next stop on the journey would be a hardwood forest and then a visit to an impenetrable cedar swamp.

The drop would then travel into a large meadow and ridge originally used to graze cattle or grow corn. Along the way this little droplet would also spot a small logging road and a deer blind tucked into the brush. I imagine it resting a while in a natural duck pond surrounded by dense trees and brush. Its journey would continue through two more small hardwood ridges that house coyote and fox dens. Then this drop of water would settle out in a vast tall-grass and tag-elder area with evidence of massive cedar trees that existed before the logging era. Picking up speed on its race towards the lake, the drop would traverse a steep ridge only to emerge in a natural spring on the side of the hill. Finally the little droplet would cross the Mattson property, also protected by a conservation easement, and past our family cottage, and make its way to bask in the deep blue waters of Lake Michigan.

We have so many memories of our family adventures in Leelanau County. Our use and enjoyment of this little peaceful tract of land abound so that I will write a book some day titled *A Little Lad in the Lovely Lands and Lakes of Leelanau!*

~Randy Dlugopolski

* A conservation easement is a legal agreement: protecting the natural qualities of land by restricting development. Each agreement is tailored to meet the needs of landowners. The land stays in private ownership and is not open to the public. Such agreements can result in income tax deductions and reduced property and estate taxes.



West Grand Traverse Bay Protection Project Wrap Up

Great news: The Conservancy has wrapped up its West Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Project (WGT-WPP) one year ahead of schedule!

If you are wondering what that project entails, here are the basics: In 2009 we received a \$418,000 grant from the Michigan DEQ to purchase conservation easements from willing landowners within a 68-square-mile portion along the east side of Leelanau County that makes up the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed. Conservation easements are legal agreements where the landowner restricts portions of his or her land from development, and may receive compensation or tax benefits in doing so. The land is private and not open to the public.

The result? Three separate conservation easements established under the grant permanently protect 175 acres. The 12.5 acre Goss conservation easement on Cedar Lake protects 1,335 feet of shoreline and extensive wetlands. The Dlugopolski conservation easement near Northport covers 66 acres and contributes to an important wildlife corridor that contains pocket wetlands (see story on page 5). Finally, a 96-acre conservation easement near Omena (landowner wishes to remain anonymous) preserves a diverse assemblage of wetland communities that buffer over 1,870 feet of shoreline on both banks of Belanger's Creek, a designated MDNR Type I Trout and Salmon stream.

This tremendous success was in no small part due to the willingness of conservation committed landowners to sell conservation easements below fair market value. Additionally, the expertise and skill of the DEQ's water bureau staff

was instrumental in helping meet some of the tight timeline constraints requested by landowners for tax purposes at the end of 2010.

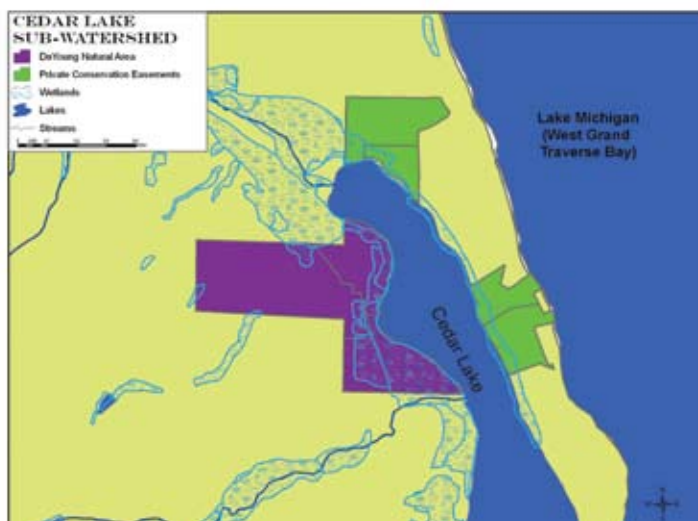
In addition to significant water quality and wildlife habitat protection, we were able to stretch the grant funds thanks to landowners who sold easements for less than full market value. They contributed \$280,381 more than the required local match of \$433,863.

The three easements are identified as High or Highest Priority Land Protection Parcels in the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Project. These priority protection parcels were submitted for funding based on their ability to reduce nutrients and sediment flowing into the bay, and to prevent habitat loss. The three easements prevent over 12 tons of sediment, 506 lbs. of nitrogen and 47 lbs. of phosphorus from loading into the Bay every year by preventing poor land management practices or conversion of the land to residential use.

More good news: the enthusiasm of landowners who took part in this first project has led to signed letters of commitment from two neighboring landowners who wish to sell permanent conservation easements as soon as funds are available.

The Leelanau Conservancy would like to thank the DEQ Nonpoint Source Program and all others involved in helping to make these funds available to permanently protect the high water quality of West Grand Traverse Bay.

What's next? We have applied for a Phase II grant and hope to protect more land in the Grand Traverse Bay watershed.



The Conservancy, working with private landowners (green), and Elmwood Township (DeYoung NA in purple) has protected nearly 1/3 of the Cedar Lake Shoreline.



Protected lands in the Belanger Creek Watershed include privately owned lands with conservation easements, along with our Belanger Creek Natural Area and the Mary Frazier Freeland Natural Area.



Cedar River Natural Area Expands by 115 Acres

Super canopy pines loom above the rich conifer swamp while wildlife meander their way through the matrix of wetland communities on a 115-acre parcel in the Solon Swamp that the Conservancy acquired earlier this year. The acquisition is the 5th parcel to be added to our Cedar River Natural Area, which now totals 415 acres.

We purchased the mostly wetland parcels from a landowner who wishes to remain anonymous. One corner of the land touches the vast Pere Marquette State Forest, and its acquisition will provide additional access to state lands, particularly for hunting, as well as permanently protect high quality wetland plant communities.

Yarrow Wolfe, Conservancy land protection specialist who worked on the project says, "The property and its surrounding area have great conservation value, not only as a scenic area for the enjoyment of the public, but these parcels contain unique wetland habitat and are home to a diversity of plant and wildlife species."

The Cedar River Natural Area is home to the finest wetland complex in Leelanau County. Much of the Solon Swamp is a considered a northern fen, which is a "quaking mat" of intertwined vegetation over open water. The Solon Swamp hosts a wide variety of wetland communities, has extremely



This new addition to our Cedar River Natural Area links to state-owned lands.

high floristic quality and traps and filters pollutants that might otherwise enter the lake.

"Protection of this sensitive area has been one of our top priorities in our long term strategic plan," says Brian Price, Director. "The area is integral to the health of Lake Leelanau and is just an incredible place we need to protect."

Mario Batali's Big Apple Idea



Mario Batali is cooking up an awesome new twist for our 2011 Auction (August 4th). Instead of a Sunday dinner in Leelanau, Mario invites highest bidders to "A Molto Big Apple Weekend for 8." Winners will fly to New York and eat their way through a mutually agreed upon weekend at three of Mario's restaurants. Private tastings, behind the scenes tours of Eataly and time with

the famous (and very nice) chef are also on tap. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting package on our website.

Partnership with SBTH



We've always enjoyed a great partnership with Saving Birds Thru Habitat but made it official by signing a "Memorandum of Understanding." The memo details how we will work together to promote our common goals. L-R: Gina Erb, (President of SBTH), Kay Charter, (Director of SBTH), Brian Price (Conservancy Director) and John Erb, past President and current Conservancy board member.



Traverse Magazine Event to Benefit Conservancy

Imagine the best food, wine, and music of Northern Michigan all under one roof! Over 8,000 votes were cast and three finalists from each of the 100 categories in *Traverse Magazine's* Red Hot Best of Northern Michigan were chosen. On Tuesday, May 17th at the Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel in Acme, *Traverse Magazine* will host an event from 6 - 9 pm where they will unveil the winners in each category. The Leelanau Conservancy has been chosen as a benefactor of the event and proceeds from ticket sales will go to support our organization. To order tickets, go to www.mynorth.com/ticket.

Banking on It!



Northwestern Bank supports the Leelanau Conservancy in a number of ways. They have helped to sponsor our events, including our Picnic, as a Gold Level sponsor. The bank also has donated funds when Conservancy supporters open new checking accounts or "go green," opting for paperless statements. In this photo, VP Susan Tarczon stopped by to present a check to Conservancy Finance Director Susan Price. Thank you, Northwestern Bank!

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. Sincere thanks and a warm welcome to the following people have joined since publication of our last newsletter:

Dennis and Erika Ferguson
Nancy Gallagher and Kevin Weber
Jeff and Georgia Gietzen
Bradley and Terri Hanpeter
Douglas Hollowell & Linda Cipriani
Halley and Kate McDonald
Bob and Kate Potvin
Vance and Catherine Querio
Quinn Raftery (The Raftery Family)
Deborah Rettke & Linda Branstetter
Vickie Smith - Wildlife and Wetland Solutions

Meet Jeff and Georgia Gietzen



"Relatively new to the area and now business owners of Northwoods Hardware in Glen Arbor, we cannot think of a place on the planet that we would rather be . . . we are simply enchanted with the Leelanau Peninsula. Organizations like the Leelanau Conservancy whose mission is to help bring

awareness about the importance of good land and water stewardship in an area beloved by so many is critically important. Preservation of this beauty will not happen over the long term without such organizations like the Leelanau Conservancy. We all need to be good stewards and participants in helping – financial support is part of that, and we're pleased to be able to help further the work of the Conservancy. And by the way . . . if anyone wonders "WHY" – I would encourage them to check out your link <http://www.theconservancy.com/whyleelanau/> . . . pictures are worth a thousand words."

Jeff and Georgia Gietzen



A Special Tribute to Some of Our Earliest Volunteers

In 1988, the year the Conservancy opened its doors, we began working to protect an open space in Leland that is now a beloved little park, a peaceful open space where residents read their mail, enjoy the lovely gardens, or walk around the large center maple tree, reading the many tiles recognizing gifts that have helped preserve land all over Leelanau County.

A project like this doesn't happen without the help of many dedicated individuals, particularly at that time, when we had just one staff member and were truly a fledgling organization. In many ways, the evolution of the Leland Village Green is a representation of the progression of this organization itself, starting with an idea, and growing and changing, thanks to the energy and intellect of many dedicated and caring individuals.



Elizabeth (Dee) Glass, Sylvia Merz, and Sue Olenzak stepped up early on, volunteering to design, plant and care for the gardens at the Village Green, transforming a relatively spare open space into the beautiful, warm and serene park

that exists today.

This was a project of true dedication. After the basic landscaping was completed, with trees planted and walkways laid down, Dee and Sylvia formed the Leland Dirt Club and went to work. On Memorial Day of 1993, the group planted 1,400 perennials, wildflowers and herbs in the newly formed gardens. The group met regularly over the years to maintain the gardens, a considerable amount of work. Sue Olenzak stepped forward to plant and maintain the beautiful rose garden at the corner



This photo of the "Leland Dirt Club" was scanned from our 1993 newsletter. This intrepid group designed, planted and maintained the beautiful gardens at the Village Green for over 20 years.

of Main and Pearl Streets. Her expertise has made this special rose garden a favorite, peaceful, often photographed oasis.

When the workload of maintaining the extensive gardens grew too much for an all-volunteer effort, Dee and Sylvia started the annual perennial plant sale, held every Memorial Day. Later, when the Wildflower Rescue group formed, rescued wildflowers were added to the sale. The sale has become a well-loved tradition, and proceeds support the maintenance of the gardens.

After nearly 20 years of commitment, Dee, Sylvia and Sue have decided to focus their considerable energies on new projects within the community. The Conservancy's Board, Staff and members sincerely thank them for their generous gift of many years of dedication. Please thank them personally when you see them, for their efforts have inspired many, and the work they have done here will live on as future generations enjoy the beauty of the Green.

Deerings Donates Tree Service at Leland Village Green

Thanks so much to Deering Tree Service of Maple City for their expert care of our large trees at the Leland Village Green. In March their arborist and crew worked high in the tree tops, pruning for safety and the health of our giant white pine trees, towering tamarack, and our beloved maple tree at the center of the park. Their large donation of services is greatly appreciated.





2011 Schedule of Hikes, Work Bees and Events

Hikers Take Note: We are pleased to offer this schedule of outings at no charge led by our knowledgeable volunteer docents. Do dress according to weather. So that we may provide the best experience possible and be fully prepared, we require (and appreciate!) advanced registration by calling 231-256-9665. Most hikes last around two hours unless otherwise noted. Directions (both written or via our Google mapping feature) can be found on our website. Learn about our natural areas and the docent leading your hike at www.theconservancy.com. If your schedule does not mesh with ours, or you have a special event such as a

family reunion or wedding, our docents may be available to lead groups of five or more if given two week's notice to plan. School groups also may be accommodated with enough notice.

Worker Bee Basics: If you are interested in participating in any of the projects below or want to learn more about volunteer orientation and training sessions please contact Fields Ratliff at fratliff@theconservancy.com or call the Conservancy office at 231.256.9665. Unless noted, volunteer work days are from 9:30am to 11:30am and we usually meet at the site location.

April

Wednesday, April 13th 9:30-11:30am

Workbee at DeYoung Natural Area

Help restore habitat and prevent the spread of invasive plants by planting a variety of native trees at the DeYoung Natural Area. Meet in the parking lot by the big barn.

Saturday April 16th

2pm

Kettle-ling Raptors and Avian

Migrants at Lighthouse West

Join docents Ann McInnis and Judy Smart along with birders Ed and Linda Ketterer in hopefully sighting raptors and other early migrating birds as they prepare to fly across Lake Michigan to the U.P. Lighthouse West is part of the critically important avian flyway that provides migrating birds with opportunities to rest and feed while waiting for best winds to cross the big water. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather.



Wednesday, April 20th 9:30-11:30am

Workbee at Swanson Farm Property

Celebrate Earth Day (even though its two days before!) by helping Conservancy staff clean up debris. Work will include carrying and loading a variety of items into a dump trailer so it can be disposed of properly. We may also have a chance to explore this beautiful property!

Sunday, April 24th

2pm

Easter/Earth Day at Kehl Lake

Add new meaning to Earth Day on this Easter Sunday by discovering the incredible marvels of nature in the biologically diverse habitats at Kehl Lake Natural Area. Join docents Ann McInnis and Marsha Buehler in visiting meadows, old growth woodlands, wetlands, lakes....all will reveal spring surprises.

Wednesday April 27th 9:30-11:30am

Workbee at Teichner Preserve

Help stewardship staff complete the final stages of our new boardwalk. Volunteers will transplant trees, carry materials and nail down surface boards to complete the boardwalk.

May

Saturday, May 7th

8am

Spring Birding at Chippewa Run

Join birding experts Alice Van Zoeren and Don McNew for our annual spring birding expedition at Chippewa Run. This Natural Area is outstanding for spotting a great variety of birds because of its diverse habitats. Bring binoculars. Beginning birders welcome. This is a fun and educational event for the whole family. Docent Lou Ricord will provide an introduction to this Natural Area and answer questions along the way.

Saturday, May 7th

10am

Wildlife Mother's Day at Kehl Lake

Learn about non-people moms and their activities to insure their own species' future. Join docents Ann McInnis, Marsha Buehler, and Ed Arnfield in discovering fabulous springtime

animal activities, woodland wildflowers, nesting birds, and much more while learning about the new addition to this unique natural area.



Saturday, May 14th

2pm

Wildflower Hunt at Chippewa Run

Join Docents Lou Ricord, Ann Mason, and Dave Amos as they wander in search of spring wildflowers. Diverse habitat makes this an excellent area for wildflowers. Last year's list included trillium, violets, spring beauty and others. Also, there will be many birds to spot so bring binoculars.

Sunday, May 15th

2pm

Spring Beauty at Belanger Creek

The striking beauty of a northern hardwood forest with its understory of lovely spring wildflowers will entice you at Belanger Creek before we climb the ridge and descend to the bottomland alongside the creek. Fascinating green-and-white trilliums should be in abundance. Join docents Jack Schultz (the "Tree Guy"), Judy Smart, and Holly Pharmer for this exploration of one of our most beautiful preserves.

Tuesday, May 17th

6-9 pm

Traverse Magazine Event to Benefit the Conservancy.

See page 8.



Hikes and Events

Wednesday, May 18th 9:30-11:30am **Workbee at Krumwiede Reserve**

Help clean up old house debris at the beautiful Krumwiede Forest Reserve. Assist staff and other volunteers with removing a variety of items off the property by loading up an on-site dump trailer. Meet along Wheeler Road near Glen Arbor, 3/4 mile off M-22.

Saturday, May 21st 9am **Warblers, Wildflowers Water, and Wonder at Lighthouse West!**

What an amazing time of year spring is.... with nature alive with activity just ready to be discovered by outdoor enthusiasts. Migrating warblers and other birds will be gleaning newly emerging insects to fuel their flight across Lake Michigan or feed their already hatched hungry youngsters. Wildflowers will be blooming in profusion to entice pollinators while Lake Michigan waters will be hosting new generations of fish along with hungry shore birds. Join docents Ann McInnis and Sharon Oriel along with guest birders Ed and Linda Ketterer. Binoculars recommended.



Friday, May 27th to **Sunday, May 29th** **(Memorial Weekend)** **Wildflower Rescue** **Plant Sale (See back cover)**

Saturday, May 28th 1 pm **Birdology 201 at Saving Birds thru Habitat**

Docents Bobbie Poor and Ann Mason will host "Romance in the Air, on the Ground, in the Bush ... Wherever" at one of the properties the Conservancy has protected by a conservation easement—Saving Birds Thru Habitat lands near Omena. What ignites passion in our feathered friends? From the ho-hum to the bizarre we will peek into the love life of birds. This program is suitable for adults. SBTH is located on Putnam Road near Tatch Road, Omena. For info call 271-3837 or visit savingbirds.org.

Sunday May 29th 2pm **Pink Lady Slippers at Houdek Dunes**

Don't miss this Memorial Weekend hike when pink Moccasin flowers will be at their showiest,

attracting special pollinators. Houdek's varied habitats reflect the slowly changing nature of dunes and Leelanau's glacial history. Wildlife viewing opportunities abound too! Join Docents Ann McInnis, Ed Arnfield and Dave Amos.



June

Wednesday, June 1st 9:30-11:30am **Workbee at DeYoung Natural Area**

Help maintain the popular trail on Cedar Lake. Trail stewards and staff will be putting down a fresh layer of wood chips and need help. Work will mostly include filling wheelbarrows with chips and spreading them throughout the 1/4 mile trail.

June 1-5th **Leelanau Peninsula BirdFest** See box on page 12.

Saturday, June 11th 10am **Nature Stories for Children on the Leland Village Green**

Docents Bobbie Poor and Ann Mason will host "Bushy Tails, Green Tales" and encourages parents to switch off the TV and Ipod, get outdoors to hear tales with a green theme. Recommended for children ages 4-8 with their well-behaved adults.

Saturday, June 11th **M-22 Challenge**

Registration is closed but spectators are welcome and volunteers are needed at this triathlon in Glen Arbor where competitors bike, run and paddle. Part of the proceeds benefit the Leelanau Conservancy. Learn more at m22challenge.com

Sunday, June 12th 2pm **Nature's Library of Flora and Fauna at Lamont Preserve**

Check out this 40-acre jewel of mostly native woodland and wetland species of flora and fauna with docents Ann McInnis, Marsha Buehler, and Jack Schultz. Due to a young boy's love of Leelanau and his visionary-thinking friends

and relatives, this important connection with the Conservancy's peninsula wildlife corridor project will insure a safe haven in perpetuity for a myriad of creatures in his memory.

Wednesday, June 15th 9:30-11:30am **Workbee at Kehl Lake Natural Area**

Assist staff and trail stewards in repairing and replacing old boardwalk sections. This is a great opportunity for volunteers with carpentry backgrounds or chainsaw experience to help us maintain a great and scenic trail! Meet in the Kehl Lake parking lot.

Saturday, June 18th 10am **Canopy Capers at Lighthouse West Natural Area (raindate Sun. 6/19)**

The view from the top trail at this beautiful natural area at the Tip of the Peninsula is amazing. Come for some leisurely, lazy birding as we perch in our lawn chairs at canopy level for serious warbler watching. Bring a lightweight lawn or beach chair, binoculars and bug spray.

Sunday, June 19th 2-4pm **Wetland Restoration at Teichner**

Come see the NEW Teichner: wondrous wetlands re-connected; a new boardwalk; and the healing of the land. Bring Father along to explore this special place with docents Judy Hoeffler and Ann Mason. Depending on the weather, you might want to bring insect repellent. Definitely bring your keen eyes as we look for yellow iris and evidence of thriving transplanted native trees and plants.

Tuesday, June 21st 8pm **Solstice Hike at Whaleback**

Treat Dad and the whole family to a post Father's Day evening hike up Whaleback to celebrate summer's official beginning. Enjoy a breathtaking view of Lake Michigan, wildflowers, trees, birds, geology and wildlife with docents Ann McInnis and Marsha Buehler.





Saturday, June 25th 9am
The Quietude of the Cedar River

Come dip your paddles with us for a leisurely float down the Cedar River (and back) at the time when thousands of unique pitcher plants will nod their purple flowers at us from the floating mat of plants through which we'll paddle. We'll jump ashore to look at the insect-eating sundews also, along with other interesting plants that grow in this special environment. Docents Jack Schultz, Lou Ricord, and Sharon Oriol will lead this trip for kayakers and canoeists. Provide your own equipment and PFD. Bug spray, water bottle, and sunscreen recommended. Meet in the parking lot near the ball fields in Cedar.

Wednesday, June 29th 9:30-11:30am
Houdek Dunes Trail Workbee

Learn the latest trail building techniques and help staff construct a new trail using a variety of tools. Learn how and why we create trails on our natural areas! Meet in Houdek Dunes parking lot.



July

Saturday, July 2nd 10am
Cathedral Woodland at Finton

Take a magical walk through this regenerating woodland while learning about its role in the Conservancy's trans-peninsula wildlife corridor project. Join docents Ann McInnis and Marsha Buehler to discover the diversity of living organisms that make up this unique natural community.

July 3rd 1pm
DeYoung Natural Area Farm Tour

Visit the Cedar Lake and walk inside the old farm buildings, including the house. We will make sure everyone can see the whole house and out buildings. You'll hear the DeYoung story (and the Campbells before them) and learn how plans for the farm are progressing. Meet Docents Dave Amos and Ann Mason in the parking lot by the barn.

Wednesday, July 13th 9:30-11:30am
Workbee at Lighthouse West

Help protect Lake Michigan shoreline and native plants by removing invasive autumn olive. We'll provide tools to cut and haul brush to a designated area as well as use PVC applicators to apply herbicide to the stumps. Meet at Lighthouse West parking lot.

Saturday, July 16th 10am
Cultural and Natural Features of Kehl Lake

Discover some of Leelanau's cultural and natural history with Grand Traverse Light House Director Stef Staley along with docents Ann McInnis, Marsha Buehler, and Ed Arnfield. Have fun learning the inter connections between the human history of this area with the natural community of plants, animals and their habitats.

Saturday, July 23rd 10am
Be First to Explore Swanson Preserve

The Swanson Preserve is more than just Sonny Swanson's historic farm and produce stand. The 90 acres include 2,000 feet of Little Traverse Lake shoreline. The wonderful wetlands are critical to the health of the lake. We will tread lightly on this special preserve while learning about the plans for the property. Join Docents Sharon Oriol, Jack Schultz, Judy Smart, Ann McInnis and Ann Mason on this inaugural walk.

August

Thursday, August 4th 5pm

Save the date! Our Annual Friends Picnic & Auction will be held at the new addition to our Kehl Lake Natural Area north of Northport. Watch our website and emails for more info as it becomes available.



2011 Leelanau Peninsula BirdFest

Wednesday, June 1 through Sunday, June 5

The Leelanau Conservancy is a partner in this five-day birding festival. Some of our properties, such as the Narrows Natural Area, Cedar River Natural Area and our Lighthouse West Preserve, will be featured locales in the festival's event schedule. Everyone involved hopes that this event will bring avid birders from all over the nation to Leelanau County to experience the supreme birding opportunities available here. This will be great for our local economy and ultimately for preservation of birding habitat such as Lighthouse West. Headquarters for the event is Fountain Point Resort on Lake Leelanau. Featured speaker on Saturday evening, well-known bird conservationist and author Paul Baicich, will present a program about "Our Birding Foremothers" and their influence on bird conservation. Learn more, see the schedule of events and register at Leelanau Peninsula Chamber of commerce's website. Click on the beautiful bird photo! For more info or to volunteer call Kay Charter at Saving Birds Thru Habitat: 231-271-3837.



Honorariums & Memorials

10/26/10 through 4/4/11

Unrestricted 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 in a way that honors those who helped protect them in the first place. Thank you!

Happy Anniversary

50th Wedding Anniversary

Keith and Joanne Burnham

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Burnham
Gina and John Erb
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Paine

Rick and Enid Grauer

Ms. Diane R. Lytle

Kristin Zimmerman and Christopher Green

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Zimmerman

Anne Drackett Thomas

Ms. Lianne Somerville

Jeanne and Mitch Tomlinson

Libby Keenan & David Houston

Madeleine Olivia Wolfe

Mr. and Mrs. R. John Miner

New Baby

Remington Cole

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Gilbo

Devin Bodhi Stotz-Ghosh

Drs. Ann and Conrad Mason

Roland & Regina Calnin

Randy Baidas and Will Reeves

Gayle Carpenter

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Marian Cartwright

Anne Harper and Greg Nobles

Sterling Cole

Ms. Barbara MacDougall

Catherine & Tom Rehm, & Christina Corey

Ms. Anne L. Hoff

Gayle E. Egeler

Talia Shoup

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Mr. and Mrs. James A. Fisher

Cathy Fisher

Rachel Fisher

Mike and Dawn Fisher

Rachel Fisher

Pam Fortune

Mr. Paul Okeson

Patricia M. Ganter

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First Merchants Trust Company

Karen Gilhooly

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Murphy

Their Parents & Grandparents (Charles & Isabelle)

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Lori Beuerle

Mr. Aaron Smith

Joann Green

Mr. Josh Green

Jon Haber & Susan Barmeyer

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John and Carolyn Hoagland

Anne and Peter Magoun

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Karl and Lisa Lawson

Chuck and Diana Edwards

Karen Martin

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Kohrs

John and Janet Mattson

Ms. Elisabeth Treadway

Happy Birthday

Mike Arents

Mr. Adam Arents

Sandy Bracken

Elizabeth Bracken Wiese & Fred
Wiese

Will Bracken

Elizabeth Bracken Wiese & Fred
Wiese

Isaiah Calderon

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Dyche

Marisela Calderon

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Dyche

Thomas P. Dunfee

Ms. Julie Dunfee

Annette Evans - 50th

Pat and Rose O'Neill

David C. R. Feld - 12th

Jonathan Feld and Shelley Longmuir

Eloise Lund - 95th

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Lund

Gerald Martin

Mr. and Mrs. Michael N. Doyle

Violet Pisor - 95th

Robert and Ellen Pisor

In Honor of

Lee Alig

Mrs. Charlotte Stites

Mary C. Allen

Mr. and Mrs. Mark C. Allen

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Richard and Nancy Anderson

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Randy Baidas and Will Reeves

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Peggy Bertke

Mr. Roger Favorite

Kelly and Jay Billings

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Fisher

Pam Butler

Matthew and Supapan Butler

Tim Butler

Matthew and Supapan Butler



Honorariums & Memorials 10/26/10 through 4/4/11 (continued)

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Ms. Sara Michael

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Sue Ann and Gary Clark

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Geri and Jim Musial

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John Watkins
Northwestern Bank

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Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Townsend

Kit Werbe
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Mr. and Mrs. Mark C. Allen

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Biggs

Larry Babel
Ms. Barbara J. Nowinski

Judi Bagaloff
Drs. Peter and Eleanor Blitzer
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Patty and Dick Bach

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Rachel Fisher

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Mrs. Elise I. Weisbach

"Carter"

"Molly"



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Go Native! Wildflower Rescue Plant & Native Perennial Sales Memorial Day Weekend



Friday, May 27 to Sunday, May 29

The 18th Annual Plant Sale on the Village Green in Leland is on tap for Memorial Day Weekend! Now is your chance to purchase native ferns, trillium and more along with a huge selection of other nursery perennials, trees and shrubs provided by locally owned Four Season Nursery, who will be on hand to answer questions about going native. Sale begins Friday, May 28th and runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday; Sunday noon to 4 p.m. All proceeds help maintain the Village Green and assist with other Conservancy projects.

The Wildflower Rescue Committee continually seeks new sites on which to dig. If you are building a home, driveway, addition, or know of someone who is, please contact the WRC so they may have a chance to remove these precious wildflowers before the excavators arrive! Contact Patty Shea: 256-9249 or Joanie Woods: 256-7154.

Leelanau Conservancy

105 North First Street
P. O. Box 1007
Leland, MI 49654
231-256-9665
conservancy@leelanau.com
www.theconservancy.com

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