



Leelanau Conservancy

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

25 Years: Celebrating Our Living Legacy

Newsletter: Summer, 2013

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Egeler Farm Protected: 116 Acres of Prime Fruit Growing Land

It wasn't easy to arrange a meeting with farmers Mike and Jeanette Egeler. Both work seven days a week, most days well into the evening. Between their cherry farm, Mike's excavating/snowplowing/firewood business and Jeanette's exercise studio in Northport they're pretty darn busy.

We settled on a Saturday night in late May. I arrived at their spectacular farm, a rolling 116 acres tucked away down a gravel road off of Eagle Highway. Mike, 55, grew up in the area, and went to work in farming right after graduating from Leland High School. "I never wanted to do anything else," he says, gazing toward the rows of cherry trees, their blooms nearly past. He loves being out in the open, and says he could never "sit and do an inside job."

Mike worked under the tutelage of his dad, who passed away in 1991, and his uncle, Marvin Egeler, who still lives on the farm and was part owner of the land until just recently. He is optimistic about the future of the farm—and about the cherry



industry as a whole. That's one reason that he and Jeanette decided to forever preserve their land through a sale of development rights. (see box on page 3) The Conservancy was able to obtain a \$1.1 million grant

from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) in 2012 to help protect the Egeler farm as well as two others (the Kelenske and Esch farms). These three farms total 383 acres, adding to our growing total of over 4,000 acres of permanently protected protected family owned farms.

This spring, all the paperwork was in order so that the Egelers could receive their FRPP funds—the end to a process they began thinking about in 2011. "Some of our motivation was to help the farm to get back into the black and to buy out my uncle," says Mike. "Working with the Conservancy has given me the chance to farm the land in the way it's supposed to be



Mike and Jeanette Egeler stand in their field where new trees will soon be planted

farmed and to take a little of the worry away." Jeanette laughs and says that the Mike's frown lines on his forehead have not gone away entirely, but they have certainly faded some.

Among the things that the FRPP funds are helping to finance: 2,600 new trees. Names like Emperor Francis, Napoleon and Montmorency roll off Mike's tongue. "I can't wait for the next few years down the road," he says, pointing to a vacant field. "This whole thing will be cherries. That's what you gotta do. Keep planting, keep rotating. We had so many old trees that needed to go, but my dad and uncle just couldn't afford to replant."

He's also been able to purchase some needed equipment, such as a wider mower that covers double the ground in half the time. He replaced an ancient tractor/sprayer with one that has an air conditioned cab, which means he no longer has to drive with the door open, inhaling pesticides. A brush chopper, which grinds old trees into mulch, was also purchased. "We are practicing good conservation, by putting the carbon back into the soil instead burning the trees,"

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Message from our Executive Director



Farming With a Sense of Optimism

2002 was locally infamous as a “year without cherries.” As it turns out, the dreaded recipe for fruit crop failure – a week or more of t-shirt weather in March followed by a return to the seasonal norm (nights in the 20s, days in the 40s, lest you forget) – revisited the region exactly 10 years later. Total crop failure, something that popular wisdom among farmers said would visit each generation only once, sent farmers reeling again in 2012. But while the fact pattern was the same, the response of farmers was nearly the opposite: despair a decade ago has been replaced by a widespread sense of optimism about the future of farming.

Soon after the crop failure in 2002 I was asked to join a group composed of farmers, fruit processors, academics, and alternative agriculture types who were assembled to consider the future of farming in light of the disaster. How could markets be expanded? Would crop diversification be the answer? How about new varieties of fruit or the emerging market for wine grapes? Since we all know that necessity is the mother of invention, I was expecting a lively discussion and some really good ideas to emerge.

But by the close of our first meeting, one of the assembled farmers said, (paraphrasing here) “If you are really serious about helping farm families, you’d be putting farmers in touch with really good real estate advice. What we need is help in subdividing and selling the farm, not trying to make a living the way our parents did.” That one comment sent the group off in a completely different direction. Not crops and new product development, but rather subdivision design, zoning, and land-planning advice. I remember how disheartening it all was. My hope was to chart a new course for farming in the region, not to figure out profitable ways to dismember the family farm.

In 2013, just 10 years later, if you assembled the same group you’d hear all about new crops, new technology, the continued rise of the grape industry and emergence of hops, community supported agriculture, and the local foods movement. In short, the solutions we failed to talk about in 2003 have come to pass. A sense of optimism is in the air.

What has changed so much? The same problems are still with us. Farmers are worried about pests and diseases, the cost of technology, the availability of farm labor, and the high cost of land. Farmers, as keen observers of weather and climate, know in their bones that we have a changing climate and that



their chosen profession, a giant crap-shoot in the best of times, will in the future be more challenging than ever.

Here at the Conservancy, we are proud of our role in helping farm families protect over 4,000 acres of farmland through the purchase or donation of permanent agricultural conservation easements. Our role is to explore the options with families, provide access to the available programs and hold the conservation easements. With your help, we have brought \$9.15M into the farm community since 2001. The Egeler family (see cover story) is a great example of how that money is reinvested in farm operations, and why it is one important component of the sense of optimism that farmers have.

All the potential ways to improve farm profitability have been explored by local farmers. But I think this sense of optimism is really based on something more subtle. Over the past 10 years the larger community has demonstrated to farmers how it really values the work that they do. We do that by our interest in trying new products, shopping at farm markets, talking to our friends about the glories of Leelanau in the blossom-time or taking along a five-pound box of dried cherries when we visit Florida. We do it by buying the local wine and eating at restaurants that increasingly feature local foods. It all adds up to a sense that farming as a profession is getting the respect it deserves. When people value your work, you are motivated to overcome obstacles and you feel better about the future. And based on conversations with young farmers, the next generation of farmers is interested in continuing this burst of innovation and investment.

Apples and cherries are shaping up nicely. Weather has been good so far. Farmers have their fingers crossed and are willing to roll the dice again.



Mario Batali (center) is one of our biggest supporters of farmland preservation. He and his family spent a morning touring three farms with Director Brian Price (left.) They visited Gene Garthe’s farm (right), one of the farms we are working to permanently protect right now.

"No matter what happens, it will always be a farm"



Project Updates

Egeler Farm Protected, (continued from cover page)



Mike points out green buds amid fading blossoms - the "shuck-split stage"

says Mike. As we drive past a field planted to improve bee habitat, Mike says that like most farmers, he never counts his cherries before they are harvested. "I've got my fingers crossed and you never know, you could get a heavy rain

or something, but the market is absolutely going to soak up the cherries," he says. "With all the good press on the health benefits of cherries, it's only going to get better and better."

The farm off Eagle Highway adds to a substantial block of protected farmland in the East Leland-Suttons Bay Fruit Belt area. It is contiguous to two other protected farms—45 North Winery and Steve & Pam Bardenhagen's farm, where those much loved strawberries and more are grown.

The Egelers, who live in Northport, have two grown children as well as three grandchildren. Son Jacob has a job in the tech world, but his heart, says Jeanette, is still on the farm where he toiled throughout high school and college summers. Maybe he'll take over one day, she says.

Mike nods. "I want to be able to hand the farm over to

the kids after we're gone, and now we'll be able to do that," he says. "They know our wishes are that it always be a farm. Now, no matter what happens, it always will be."

Conservancy Farmland Program

The Conservancy works with willing farmers and landowners who wish to permanently preserve their lands. The program can be a great tool to help the older generation prepare for retirement and enable the next generation to take over the farm. One of the key barriers to young farmers is the cost of land. Too often, farmable acreage is too expensive to cash-flow a crop due to the desirability for second-home development. The FRPP program helps resolve this issue by paying the owner to remove the "development premium" on the land, making the acreage more affordable.

Although the right to future residential development is eliminated, the family continues to own the land and to have the right to farm it. The property also remains on the tax rolls. At the community-level, it helps keep the agricultural economy and the business environment for farming strong by protecting larger blocks of intact farms.

FRPP awards cover half the cost of protecting family farms. The Leelanau Conservancy must raise 25% of the needed funding and each farm family also must donate 25% of the appraised value necessary to complete the projects.

Clay Cliffs: Two Steps Closer

Leland Township and the Leelanau Conservancy have moved two major steps closer to closing on the Clay Cliffs Project. Last month, the State approved appraisals of the property, which finalizes the amount of grant money awarded to Leland Township from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. "We're happy to have passed this important hurdle with the State, but we still have a way to go until closing," says Matt Heiman, Director of Land Programs.

The Township and the Conservancy have also recently agreed to a Management Plan for the property, which outlines the permissible activities

and intended uses within the grant application and use guidelines. The plan was created after extensive consultation and input from the Leland Township Parks and Recreation Committee and Conservancy Stewardship Committee.

Over the next couple of months the Conservancy will work with the landowner to help structure closing documents and prepare for transfer of ownership this fall. If closing goes as planned, The Conservancy plans to have one trail open in the fall and a parking lot and more extensive trail system open to the public by the Spring of 2014. Stay tuned!



The 104-acre Clay Cliffs Property will be a stunning Natural Area, with 1,700 ft of shoreline on both Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau. Leland Township will own the property, and the Leelanau Conservancy has agreed to manage it, under the terms of the recently approved management plan.



"This has been my most treasured experience as a volunteer in any capacity"

Meet Julie Baran, Super Volunteer

Having hiked many trails in Leelanau County, I signed up for hikes sponsored by the Leelanau Conservancy in 2012. It was during my first hike to Kehl Lake when the docents pointed out wildflowers I had never seen before including starflowers, pink orchids and bearberry. It was also during this hike when I first learned of the Conservancy Wildflower Rescue group. In that it was late spring, I made a promise to myself to participate with that team for the next year.

As fall led to winter, and 2012-13 was a very long winter, I signed up for a workbee at the DeYoung Farm to develop a trail. Arriving with snowshoes, I met a team of people who shared my mindset of the need to work outside and transform but still maintain land in all its integrity. This team included Conservancy staff and volunteers. Despite the hard work, all team members approached it with humor and a sense of camaraderie I had not enjoyed in any other volunteer experience. This compelled me to sign up for more workbees and this group of unpaid workers solidified into a true team. I now count these people as friends I can rely upon.

As winter slowly melted into spring, I kept my promise to



myself and joined the Wildflower Rescue group, which rescues wildflowers from lands slated for development. There is nothing more breathtaking than a brisk spring morning and seeing a sunstreamed hillside filled with hepatica, bellwort, trillium and bloodroot. These volunteers climbed the woods with their shovels in hand as they instructed us newbies on how to dig and pot these beauties up. The reward was raising money through the Annual Plant Sale on the Village Green.

As the spring slowly eased towards summer, I signed up to work as a coastal monitor for invasive species along the beach. Not only did I learn to view the beach with a more discerning eye, I was also introduced to spans of the lakeside I would have never seen but for this opportunity. My experienced partners pointed out sites and history of areas adding to my sense of amazement. To walk along "the backside" of Clay Cliffs and Whaleback Point, I felt privileged to be part of a group that wants to maintain the natural integrity of areas I simply love-simply.

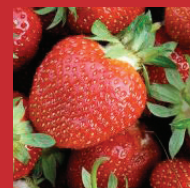
During these ventures, I continued my workbee commitments to trail-build at Krumwiede Forest Reserve and the Swanson Preserve. It is the sense of being part of a team of good people with no expectation of rewards except a shared view and value of preserving beauty in land so all may enjoy Leelanau's natural gifts that keeps me volunteering.

There is not one part of my volunteer experience I could place over any other-each one is different but the same-working with others and seeing an end result of beauty. I can truly state that this has been my most treasured experience as a volunteer in any capacity. Thank you for the opportunities and a new stash of friends and memories. ~ Julie



Our first trail building training at DeYoung Natural Area on a snowy March Saturday taught attendees about trail design, layout, and the skills and tools necessary to build a trail.

A big thank you goes out to all our dedicated



volunteers from the past 25 years. We celebrated our volunteers this summer at our first Strawberry Social on the Village Green. We couldn't do it without you!



Volunteering Matters

Trainings and Workbees

We accomplished a huge amount this spring, with numerous workbees and 5 trainings. Volunteers not only helped us build trails and monitor invasives, but also received some hands-on instruction about trail building, chainsaw use, and invasive species. Watch for more trainings next spring!

Tom Maiolani attended all the trainings offered. He reflected, "I always learn something at a workbee or training session, whether it be from another volunteer or the LC's knowledgeable staff. This year, the trail-building series was especially helpful for me. An invasive species update always keeps that battle in perspective, and, of course, the review of chainsaw basics and safety serves to keep body and soul together!"



Local arborist Bo Burke spent the day at Swanson Preserve with staff and volunteers teaching the basics of chainsaw safety and use.



(l-r) JoAnne Gerben, Patty Shea, and Jill McFarlane were on hand during the annual Wildflower Rescue Native Plant Sale at the Village Green. After a cold and snowy start it was a busy spring for the Wildflower Rescue group as they continued to preserve some of the most interesting and beautiful wildflowers found in our county.

The Next Generation of Conservationists!

This spring we have been busy engaging local youth through personalized workbees and presentations! We love having students spend time on our properties learning about new ways to get outside and have fun. We welcome groups of all ages to schedule a personalized workbee on any of our properties. Call or email Sarah Cook for more information.



The Suttons Bay Vacation Bible School invited Conservancy staffers Sarah Cook and Andrew Milliron to spend the day with them to teach the importance of caring for land and water in Leelanau County. Al-

most 100 students learned about streams and lakes on our properties and played fun food web games.



Local Cub Scout Pack 111 out of Empire celebrated Earth Day on Sunday afternoon at the Leelanau Conservancy's Swanson Preserve with Conservancy staff and resident farmer Ben Brown.

The pack helped clean up trash, learned about tracking and farming, and walked the new trail being built on the property. The Scouts also enjoyed practicing turkey calls with Conservancy staffer Andrew Milliron.



Stewardship Matters



Starting in early spring, our Stewardship staff and hardworking volunteers have been in full swing on our Natural Areas and Preserves. We are grateful for the energy and enthusiasm that our community has for these beautiful protected lands. Thank you one and all!



Sherry Smith and Forest Gunderson spent the morning at the new Clay Cliffs Natural Area (slated to open this fall) removing invasive garlic mustard.



Dr. Bill Scharf made the annual spring trip to Gull Island Preserve with staffer, Jenée Rowe and two biologists from the Grand Traverse Band. Select eggs of colonially nesting herring gulls are measured with a micrometer. Sampling on Gull Island has been ongoing since 1962.



Students from TC West High School visited DeYoung for the day to help mulch growing trees, learn about permaculture and livestock, and explore. The students worked alongside Conservancy staff and farmer Samantha Graves to learn about how recreation and farming intersect on the DeYoung property.



Herring gull eggs are colored and patterned to blend into the rocky shoreline and increase the chances of survival. Under a research permit, Dr. Scharf collects herring gull eggs to test for the bioaccumulation of chemical toxins. From observing the thinning of the shells and measuring levels of DDT, PCBs and other toxic

substances in the yolk, researchers can gauge the health of the surrounding aquatic ecosystem. Herring gulls are some of the top predators in the aquatic ecosystem eating fish that accumulate toxins in their fatty cells.



Local Greenagers from TC West helped DeYoung farmer Samantha Graves move duck enclosures into the farm field. They loved learning about the chicken and ducks pasturing and fertilizing in the field.



Stewardship Matters



Volunteer, Al Swiderski mentors Niles Segerlind in drilling the boardwalk at the Swanson Preserve.



Samantha Graves of Healing Tree Farm welcomed participants for the spring workshop on reviving old apple trees. The Graves are the new farmers at the DeYoung Natural Area. Keep an eye on the schedule as they have been hosting free workshops on everything from permaculture apple orchards to spinning locally grown wool.

Trilliums rescued from Whaleback Natural Area returned home this spring to re-populate areas treated for invasive sweet woodruff.



Workbee volunteer Joanne Gerben helped measure wood for the new boardwalk being installed at the Swanson Preserve. The boardwalk is being constructed from black locust wood and each piece cut to size.



Pat Ligibel and EMU graduate students scraped and repainted the historic DeYoung farmhouse its original mustard yellow at this year's Historic Preservation Field School. "The house hasn't look this good for 40 years," said neighbor Meeghan Siera.

Go Beyond Beauty in Your Garden

The Leelanau Conservancy is a partner in something called the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (ISN), a multi-organizational effort to prevent the spread of invasive plants such as garlic mustard and sweet woodruff.

The ISN has created a new website (www.HabitatMatters.org) and a program called Go Beyond Beauty. The program recognizes those area nurseries who have committed to NOT sell high threat invasive ornamental plants. Half of the invasive plants that are compromising our lo-

cal natural areas arrived originally by way of our gardens. So gardeners are a part of the solution and the website teaches them how they can create beauty AND a healthy landscape all at the same time. Participating nurseries for 2013 are: Bellwether Gardens, Garden Goods, Greystone Gardens, Green Lake Gardens & Goods, Northwoods Landscape & Nursery, Misty Ridge Greenhouse, Four Season Nursery, and Pine Hill (Village Garden and Kewadin locations). Learn more at HabitatMatters.org and click on "Go Beyond Beauty."



Leelanau: Looking Ahead: Speaker Series Updates

Our May 4th Water and the Future of the Great Lakes program was a resounding success! We received excellent feedback on our two keynote presentations: Patrick Doran from the Nature Conservancy and Tom Nalepa from the Graham Institute. One attendee said, "I was on the edge of my seat!" The speakers were followed by a panel discussion featuring Carl Ganter from



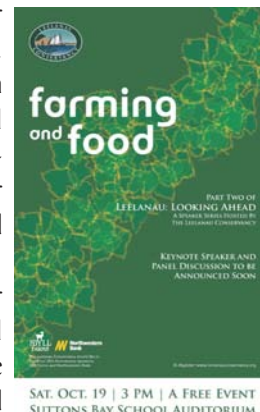
Circle of Blue; Tom Kelly from Inland Seas Education Association; Andy Knot from the Watershed Center; and Brian Price. (pictured) The panelists answered questions and elaborated on the issues raised. If you missed the event, watch it on our website (just put speaker series into the search box.)

We couldn't answer all of the thoughtful audience questions during the panel discussion. Thanks to Tom Nalepa for providing in-depth responses to those questions which can be found on our website. Finally, many attendees asked, "What more can we do?" Thanks to The Watershed Center, we present

25 Things You Can Do to Improve and Maintain Water Quality. Here are our top five; please visit our website for the full list!

1. Leave natural vegetation along the shoreline. Trees, shrubs, flowers, and intact native ground cover provide important habitat and reduce sediment and nutrient inputs.
2. Discharge boat bilge water completely upon take-out. Empty recreational vehicle waste only at approved disposal locations.
3. Clean up pet waste within 50 feet of the shoreline and dispose of it in trash.
4. Plant native plants, which have longer roots to absorb more runoff and pollutants, reduce erosion, and decrease pesticides and maintenance.
5. Keep storm water away from your septic system and drinking water well. Excessive runoff can interfere with drain field operation or seep down the well shaft and contaminate your drinking water. Properly operate and maintain your septic system, which should be pumped every 2-4 years.

Save the date for Part Two of our Speaker Series! "Farming and Food" will be held on Saturday, October 19th at the Suttons Bay Auditorium. We look forward to another engaging afternoon together.



Conservation Buyer Program

Do you know that on our website we have a page of properties that are listed for sale? Six of those properties are permanently protected by the Conservancy. Other properties are not protected, but have conservation potential. All range from 20 to 80 acres. Each listing includes Realtor info and MLS number. Find the page by typing "conservation buyer" into our home page search box.

The Conservancy has a unique knowledge of the lands of the Leelanau Peninsula. Through this program, our goal is to connect conservation properties to conservation-minded buyers.

Conservation buyers are asked to work with us to permanently conserve the property within a year of purchase. Buyers



Conservation property on Cathead Bay is currently for sale

may become eligible for tax benefits which may offset the costs of acquisition. Note: Private property under a conservation easement with the Leelanau Conservancy remains private. The agreement does not require public access to the property, and the property remains on the tax rolls. Although we serve as an information resource, we are not Realtors or brokers. Our interest is solidly rooted in permanently protecting land in private ownership. As such, we accept no fees or commissions in bringing together conservation-minded buyers and sellers. There may be other properties for sale worthy of conservation that we have simply not yet heard about.

Do you own a property you wish to sell that possesses significant ecological, scenic and/or agricultural features and is at least 20 acres? Are you a conservation easement landowner who wishes to list your property on this website? Contact our Conservation Easement Program Manager, Yarrow Wolfe, to learn more. Phone: (231) 256-9665, Email: ywolfe@leelanau-conservancy.org



Meet our Great Summer Staff

Andrew Milliron I am a graduate of Grand Valley State where I earned my degree in Parks and Natural Resources. I have a passion for being outdoors whether it is archery practice in the backyard to hiking in the lakeshore or setting up on a strutting tom in the spring. My drive for the outdoors led me to work for Great Lakes Ranch where I worked with alpacas and yaks and helped maintain the ranch. I have always considered a teaching degree so I substitute taught first through twelve grades this past winter and it was a blast. I may further my education with a teaching degree in the near future. My time here with the Conservancy has been great and I have met many people while continuing to grow as I take steps toward my career goals. I want to manage natural resources either through an organization or a new business that I create. The outdoors calls to me all day and every season and I know it is the place I want to be rain or shine. I would love to stay here in Leelanau where I grew up with my wife Tesha; so my future children can experience the same wonders that I did in the woods and on the water.



Interns Adrian Mapes-Riordan and Andrew Milliron

Adrian Mapes-Riordan I am a current student at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin and honors graduate of Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago, Illinois. As each school year would come to a close I looked forward to a summer away at the Interlochen Arts Camp as well as with my grandparents who summer in Leelanau. While up north I could enjoy family, as well as a much quieter and cleaner environment than the one I enjoyed back home. I have not been able to attend Interlochen for a few years and have missed the quiet and clean summers I had enjoyed previously. Growing up in Chicago but spending my summers in Northern Michigan has given me a diverse impression of the benefits to both ways of life. This summer as the Outreach Intern I hope to enjoy Leelanau County as I had previously and continue the great work being done at Leelanau Conservancy ensuring that I will be able to come back here many decades into the future.



EDRR crew Emily Douglas and Derek Shiels

Derek Shiels joined the Conservancy staff this May as a member of the Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) crew to help monitor our natural areas for invasive plants. Derek's love for plants is evident; he will pass an orchid to get to a nearby sedge and he just wrapped a thesis research project at Central Michigan University on the systematics of a group of sedges, the bulrushes (*Schoenoplectus* sp.). Derek's passion for the natural world is not restricted to plants. Derek also completed a Master's degree at Taylor University where he studied landscape ecology; he has worked in Missouri where he crawled, rappelled, and canoed into caves to survey endangered gray bats and other rare cave biota; he has led wilderness trips from Maine to Wyoming, spent a semester backpacking, climbing and white-water rafting with NOLS, and he has climbed Mt. Rainier. Derek loves to experience the out-of-doors with his wife and four-year old daughter, loves to read, write and hopes to one day live in a world where with every purchasing decision there is a fair and ethical option.

Emily Douglas joined the EDRR crew in May 2013. Her passion for conservation was conceived after growing up around Omena and falling in love with Leelanau County. After high school she moved to the southwest to explore the land of the desert, hiking through canyons and finding water anywhere she could. She received a B.S. in plant biology from Arizona State University and fine-tuned her taxonomic and naturalist skills working with an endangered plant species at the Grand Canyon. In June of 2012 she moved back to Michigan with her family and planted herself in Cedar. When she isn't trying to identify native plants or remove invasive ones she is out rock hunting with her partner and two year old son.

Hikes and Workbees



Summer and Fall 2013 Event Schedule

What a great time to get out into the woods with one of our docents or lend a hand at a workbee. Full descriptions of these events are on our website under the Events tab. Clip and use this schedule as you make your summer and fall plans! Hikes and workbees generally last about two hours. Please register ahead of time so that we may plan for the best experience possible: 231.256.9665 or online (click on the purple sign up button under each event.) Questions about workbees? Email Sarah Cook scook@leelanauconservancy.org or call 231-256-9665. Please bring a water bottle, sunscreen and bug spray along to the work bee – as well as work gloves. All other tools will be provided. Directions and maps to our natural areas can also be found on our website under the Natural Areas tab. Please note: there are no toilet facilities at most Conservancy natural areas.

HIKE- Sun. July 21, 2pm Lighthouse West

ANNUAL PICNIC AND AUCTION- Thurs. August 1, 5pm Ruby Ellen Farm

SWANSON TRAIL DEDICATION and HIKE- Wed. August 7, 4 pm. Join us to formally open the new trail, with a staff-led hike following.

EXHIBIT- Thurs. August 9-11. Painting Leelanau, Old Art Building, portion of proceeds benefits Leelanau Conservancy. (See pg 11)

HIKE- Sun. August 11, 2pm "All Things Are Connected," Kehl Lake Natural Area

HIKE- Sun. August 18, 2 pm Swanson Preserve

HIKE- Sat. August 24, 10am, DeYoung Natural Area

WORKBEE- Sat. August 24, 1 pm, Whaleback Natural Area: Wildflower Planting

HIKE- Thurs. August 29, 10am Whaleback Natural Area's Woodland Wonders

WORKBEE- Thurs. September 5, 10am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area

WORKBEE- Sat. September 7, 1 pm, Clay Cliffs Natural Area

PROGRAM- Sat. September 14, 10am, Indoor program at Saving Birds

HIKE- Sun. September 15, 2pm, "Cougars, Coyotes and Bears, Oh My!" Lighthouse West Natural Area

WORKBEE- Thurs. September 19, 10am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area: Trail Building

HIKE- Thurs. September 19, 7pm Cedar River Preserve

WORKBEE- Sat. September 21, 1 pm, Clay Cliffs Natural Area: Trail Building

LEELANAU HERITAGE CELEBRATION- Sat. September 21, Learn about Volunteering and the History on the Leland Village Green

HIKE- Sun. September 22, 2pm, Explore the Swanson Preserve

HIKE Sat. September 28, 10am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Inaugural Walk: "Spectacular Nature Communities."

HIKE- Sat. September 28, 1pm, Get to Know Chippewa Run Natural Area

WORKBEE- Thurs. October 3, 10 am, DeYoung Natural Area: Trail Building

DEYOUNG UPLAND TRAIL OPENING AND

HIKE—Friday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m. DeYoung Natural Area; New Trails and more

HIKE Sat. October 5, 10am, Explore Clay Cliffs

WORKBEE- Sat. October 5, 1 pm, Clay Cliffs Natural Area: Trail Building

WORKBEE- Thurs. October 10, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area: Trail Building

HIKE- Sat. October 12, 10am, "Nature Gets Ready for Winter," Houdek Dunes Natural Area

HIKE- Thurs. October 17, 10am, Explore Clay Cliffs Natural Area

WORKBEE- Thurs. October 17, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area: Trail Building

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION- Sat. October 19 Suttons Bay School Auditorium. Time TBA

SPEAKERS SERIES FARMING AND FOOD- Sat. October 19 Suttons Bay School Auditorium. Time TBA

HIKE- Sun. October 20, 2pm, Hike Krumwiede Forest Reserve

Planting Seeds

Leelanau Conservancy
Our Gift To You
Coreopsis, Lanceleaf (lanceolata)



25 Years: Celebrating
Our Living Legacy

As a part of our 25th Anniversary, everyone who attends one of our hikes or events has received a packet of native coreopsis seeds. If you would like to bring your packet to plant it at one of our natural areas, come to one of our fall hikes, where Docents will show you where and how to plant them. Or, if you come to one of our natural areas on your own, feel free to plant them around the perimeter of the parking area. Scatter the seeds on the soil surface or up to 1/8 inch deep. Gently press seeds into the soil surface. Everyone who attends a fall hike will be given a packet of seeds to help plant at the start of each hike. We are all excited to see what happens in a few years as a result of our collective seed planting!

What a wonderful time we had this past Sunday at the Houdek Dunes. My husband, nephew and I would like to thank Ann (McInnis) for sharing her knowledge with such clarity and enthusiasm. The knowledge she imparted will forever change the way I look at what I have casually seen hundreds of times in the past, but never understood. ~Sue Svensson



Happenings

Painting Leelanau Exhibit to Benefit Conservancy

An exhibition of landscape paintings of Leelanau County by artists Anne Corlett, Royce Deans, Angela Saxon and Lynn Uhlmann will be shown at the Old Art Building in Leland. The exhibit will feature many works painted on properties preserved by the Leelanau Conservancy.

"As landscape painters, we share many similar goals with the Conservancy," says painter Angela Saxon. A portion of sales from this exhibit will be donated to the Conservancy.

Show hours:

Friday, August 9 from 3-9 pm

Saturday, August 10 from 10 am - 9 pm

Sunday, August 11 from noon - 4 pm

Join the artists for receptions Friday and Saturday evenings from 6-9pm.

For more information: www.paintingleelanau.com



Kehl Lake Hike

Spring wildflowers were the highlight, with a carpet of them along the trail at several points. It was a very enjoyable hike.



We saw apparent evidence of a bear on the property. At one point along the trail there is a large dead white pine where the first several inches of old, rotted wood have been recently scraped away. This extends about 5½ feet up from the ground, which is a height a black bear can easily reach when standing on its hind legs. This

would be a logical place for a bear to be searching for insect larvae. ~ Ed Ketterer, docent and LC Board Member

25th Anniversary Bucket List



In celebration of our 25th Anniversary, our staff has compiled a 'Leelanau Bucket List.' (See the list at leelanauconservancy.org.)

We'd love for you to share photos as you explore our bucket list. Or, if you experience something you think should be added to our list, share that with us too. We hope our list will spark new exploration and create lasting memories. Below: four of our favorites; check out 34 more on the web!

1. **Experience a shower of tamarack needles** - try an autumnal hike to Houdek or Teichner when the tamarack trees lose their yellow needles. Magical.
2. **See the sand hill cranes**—there's nothing quite like these creatures that inhabit the Cedar River Preserve
3. **Hear trees talk**- try a silent snowshoe beneath the towering old growth white pines at Kehl Lake Natural Area. If you go- you'll know what we mean.
4. **Experience the kettles of migrating birds**—head up to the Tip of the Peninsula, where we have protected 625 acres and over a mile of shoreline for migrating birds. Public areas include the Leelanau State Park as well as Lighthouse West and Kehl Lake Natural Area.

Recreation in Northwest Michigan? There's an App For That!



The Leelanau Conservancy has collaborated with six other organizations to create a new App called "Experience 231." Our partners include Grand Traverse Conservation District, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, TART Trails, Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes, Grand Traverse County Parks & Rec and Charter Township of Garfield to create a new APP. The App guides smart phone/mobile device users to 30 recreation destinations and 300 experiences in northwest Michigan—including some of our Conservancy properties.

This unique app helps you find outdoor experiences that fit your time frame, location, activity and other parameters. Got two hours? Want to find a great place to birdwatch in Leelanau? The App will get you there. "The aim of the App is to showcase the five-county Grand Traverse Region as one of the top places in the country to explore the great outdoors," says Tree Sturman, who developed the concept for the App and is Executive Director of the Grand Traverse Conservation District.



"Being associated for the past 25 years has been a gratifying experience"

A Legacy for Leelanau: IRAs



Cara and Dave Cassard, Heritage Society Members

My wife, Cara, introduced me to Leelanau County 40 years ago. It only took me one visit to see that all the natural beauty she had boasted about was really here. I was hooked. As we aged we realized we wanted the beauty and way of life of Leelanau to be present for our children and grandchildren to enjoy hundreds of years from now. The Leelanau Conservancy is fully engaged in the process of making that happen.

As we considered all the ways we could contribute to the work of the Conservancy financially, we decided that naming the Conservancy as a beneficiary of my traditional IRA account made great sense. It was easy. All I had to do was fill out a change of beneficiary form. Making charitable gifts from a traditional IRA is also tax efficient as it avoids the payment of income taxes that would otherwise be owed on distributions. Lastly, the account will continue to earn income on a tax deferred basis during my life. I can make withdrawals if we need the cash to support ourselves or leave all but the legally required distributions in the account to provide a larger charitable gift when I am gone.

We are very pleased to support the work of the Leelanau Conservancy in this way.

David M. Cassard

Welcome New Sustainers

Back when we started the Sustainers Circle in 1991, our goal was to have 60 percent of our membership support come from Sustainers. In that first year, we had 13 couples or individuals make that pledge of support. Many of them are now gone but they inspired the start of something great...22 years later our Sustainers Circle has grown to over 500 families or individuals—a group that is the envy of land trusts across the country. Sustainers have kept their pledge and today they provide 20% of the gifts but nearly 58% of all the membership dollars we receive.

Conservancy Sustainers 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!

John and Mary Beth Balardo
Michael and Mary Barber
Carolyn D. Bennett
Page and Adele Dinsmore
Bob and Kay Doyle
Susan J. Finke
Mark and Beth Henry
Nancy Hoagland
Ann Huffman
Mark Iuppenlatz
Susan Kettering
Bill and Mary Loveless

Peter and Anne Magoun
Sacha and Jane Montas
John and Leslie Nilsson
Charles and Susan Ofenloch
Ron Paczkowski and Judy Talbott
Ray and Ricky Ross
Phil and Kathy Scherer
Alton and Katherine Smith
Bob and Jean Stoessel
Mike and Ginny Toal
Jerry and Marcia Tubergen

Carl and Dorothy Walker
David and Maureen Watkins
Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver
Elise Weisbach
Edwin and Caroline Woods
Bruce and Susan Young

From Charter Sustainers Jack & Kathie Snedeker:



Like so many of our friends and neighbors, we feel privileged to live in this very special place. A day does not go by without a new experience of enrichment and delight in the natural environment around us.

We strongly support the mission of the Leelanau Conservancy to protect and preserve the natural beauty of the Leelanau Peninsula. Being associated for the past twenty-five years with an organization that has been so successful in carrying out its mission has been a very gratifying experience.

This ongoing effort also gives us great hope for the future.



Honorariums and Memorials

Honorariums & Memorials

11/1/12 through 6/25/13

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

In Honor Of

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Glen Lake Garden Club

Lianne Somerville

Ms. Lisa Benjamin

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Lisa Benjamin

Ms. Lianne Somerville

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Ted and Missy Zettel & Family

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Doug McInnis

Ms. Maggie McInnis

Mr. and Mrs. John McInnis

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards McInnis

Jud McMillan

Emily and Jared Schroeder

65th Birthday – Suzy Reese

Mr. and Mrs. David N. Shane

97th Birthday – Marjorie Richardson

Ms. Patricia Richardson

Eleanor Stephenson

Mrs. Elizabeth Drinkaus

90th Birthday – Alice Weaver

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Biggs, Jr.

Wedding Wishes

Matt and Rebecca Curry-Edwards

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Lockhart

Happy Anniversary

25th - Leelanau Conservancy

Mr. Tom Maiolani

70th Anniversary - Jim and Carol Frederick

Mr. and Mrs. Leo G. Shea

50th Anniversary – Richard and Jane Kiernan

Joe and Mary Russo

Happy Fathers Day

Joseph E. Faggan

Jerry and Mary Faggan Churchill

Gerald Martin

Andrew and Polly Jones

Doug McInnis

Mr. and Mrs. John McInnis

Mr. and Mrs. Edward McInnis

L. J. Noling

David Noling and Victoria Bailey

Happy Mothers Day

Ann McInnis

Mr. and Mrs. John McInnis

New Baby

Clara Joy Swinger

David and Suzanne Alpers

Happy Graduation

Julia and Bruce Olson

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Annual Report Corrections

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Accreditation: Your Input Welcome

The Leelanau Conservancy was among the first group of land trusts in the country to become accredited through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. The Commission conducts an extensive review of our policies and programs to determine that we meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. We are proud to have met these standards. As an organization that works with cherished land and families who deeply care about their land and this beautiful peninsula, we feel that it is vitally important to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

We became accredited in 2008, and it is now time to apply for renewal of our accreditation. As part of this review process, the commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments. We invite you to comment, as the public comment period for our renewal application is now open. Comments must relate to how the Leelanau Conservancy complies with national land quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments will be most useful by January 2, 2014.



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Leelanau Conservancy

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Be a Part of Our 25th Anniversary Celebration! Annual Friends Picnic & Silent Auction Thursday, August 1st Rex Dobson Farm, Bingham Township

Pre-Picnic Field Trips beginning at various times. Choose from 7 fun and informative options for all ages that highlight our work. Check out all the trips online (download our flyer) at www.leelanauconservancy.org. Online registration also available too!

5 pm The Main Event Begins!

- Social hour: Leelanau Wine and Beer, Appetizers from local produce created by area chefs/caterers. Taste the local foods difference!
- Silent Auction bidding on over 120 items (bid online at www.leelanauconservancy.org)
- Kids Tent with activities for children 3-12

6 pm Picnic Dinner featuring local foods

7 pm Program, Presidents Paddle Raise and Special 25th Anniversary Presentation

