

Leelanau Conservancy

Conserving the Land, Water and Scenic Character of Leelanau County

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Leland Township and Conservancy Team up to Protect Spectacular Property with Both Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau Shoreline

Director Brian Price that one of the things he loved most was to drive over to what was then known as Cherry Pickers' Park on North Lake Leelanau. From there he had a clear view of his land across the lake and would watch the sun go down. "He loved to see that big expanse of land and how after dark there would be no lights," says Brian. "He talked about how good that made him feel, how much he enjoyed his land, and that he wanted to see it protected one day."

That day has come. Doug passed away a few years ago in his nineties, and now his only living child, Rachel, is seeing her father's wishes through.

Leland Township officials agreed in June to move forward on applying to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to purchase a spectacular piece of property two miles north of the village. The Township Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission held a special meeting on June 23 to discuss what steps needed to be taken to apply to the Trust Fund with the assistance of the Leelanau Conservancy.

The IO4.5-acre parcel of interest is sandwiched between Lake Leelanau and Lake Michigan. It features sweeping views of both lakes, and includes about 2,000 feet of frontage on each lake. "In addition to the natural shoreline on two lakes, it is one of the most gorgeous and prolific wildflower sites in Leelanau County," says Price. Tom Sleder, who as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission toured the property, commented at the special meeting that the size of the trees and luscious foliage "make this place as close to a rain forest as you are likely to find in the Midwest."

Under the Trust Fund rules only units of government are eligible to apply for grants. "I spoke with (Conservancy Executive Director) Brian Price two years ago about this parcel because it is a spectacular piece of property," said Harry Larkin, Township Supervisor.

The Conservancy has been in contact with the Crary family over the years about the land and how it might be pro-



tected one day. A recent reappraisal of the property pegs its value at \$5.8 million. The Crary family will donate 25 percent of the purchase price, providing the local match required for Trust Fund projects. "There will never be a better time to make an application to acquire such a large and valuable coastal property," says Price. He noted that recent leasing for oil and gas exploration on state lands produced a record increase in funding available in 2010 for the Trust Fund. He added that "this is exactly the type of spectacular natural land that the Trust Fund has helped local governments preserve in its 30-plus-year history."

In order to move forward, the Township will work closely with Conservancy staff to complete the application, including a site plan and proposed uses for the property, and will hold a public hearing on its amended five-year Recreation Plan. "Right now, we are only interested in passive recreational uses such as hiking trails and cross-country skiing," noted Larkin, "and that is consistent with the property's natural attributes and the wishes of the Crary family continued on page 12

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Message from our Executive Director



one of the great benefits of staying put - living in the same community and doing the same job for a couple decades - is that you get the chance to observe a long-term vision evolve and flourish over time. If you are lucky, there is the chance to help shape that vision and make it become a reality. When the Conservancy is involved, there is usually



a remarkably beautiful piece of land in the mix as well.

Two of Leelanau's unique characters have passed on, but their legacy stretches to the present day in the land that they nurtured and loved. On the surface Louis DeYoung and Doug Crary may not have had much in common, but both shared a special attachment to a unique piece of Leelanau County real estate, and put forth a vision that was acted upon eventually by their offspring.

On June 10 the DeYoung Natural Area was dedicated. This new Natural Area was over twenty years in the making, from the time that my good friend Carl Ganter introduced me to Louis DeYoung and the three of us sipped lemonade on the porch of his farmhouse on a hot summer day. Louis had lived on the same piece of ground, with nearly a mile of shoreline on Cedar Lake very close to Traverse City, since 1925. Understandably he was very attached to his farm, had nurtured his land through the Depression, raised two very accomplished children who both moved to the west coast, and now looked at the future of his land with some uncertainty. Louis judged himself a bit too old in his mid-80's to make final decisions about the I40-acre farm, but he felt certain that his son Ted would work with us after he and his sister Pat inherited the land. Louis was something of a legend in Elmwood Township, a man who lived to be 104, and reputedly included 25 pushups in his morning routine even as he approached the century mark. On June 10, I believe he was observing the festivities and enjoying the results of his labor.

A few days earlier in June, at a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of Leland Township, a discussion was held about a stunningly beautiful parcel of land that was now available for purchase to become a publicly-owned natural area, if Leland Township could mobilize quickly enough to seek a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. "Unique" may be an overused word when applied to the land-scape of Leelanau, where the uniquely beautiful sometimes seems routine. But this land — with its geographic anomaly of nearly a half mile of shoreline on Lake Michigan and on North

Lake Leelanau and its forests uncut for at least 50 years, does not overtax the word "unique." The forest, underlain by thick damp clay deposits, creates the impression of walking in the Midwest version of a rain forest.

Doug Crary was a geography professor at the University of Michigan. I like to think that his keen sense of landscapes led him to ownership of this wonderful piece of land, originally nearly 150 acres. He sold 24 acres to his friend, Harlan Hatcher, who built a summer home on the bluff overlooking Lake Michigan. Later, the remaining land was divided among Doug's four children. Dr. Crary was an occasional visitor at the Conservancy's office, back in the early days when there was only one Conservancy employee whose desk consisted of a closet door laid atop two filing cabinets. Dr. Crary was a board member of the Washtenaw Land Trust in Ann Arbor, and had been active in preserving parkland along the Huron River. He knew about ways to protect land, including the use of conservation easements. He brought copies of articles about how various communities had protected land. And Dr. Crary loved his slice of Leelanau. He knew his land was special and important because, unlike so much of the surrounding land, it was a large coastal parcel that was utterly undeveloped.

Louis DeYoung and Doug Crary were contemporaries who lived very different lives, but came to own and cherish parcels of land that are quintessential Leelanau. And they both had



The view from the Crary Property over North Lake Leelanau

children who cared enough to make sure that the land was eventually made available for preservation and public enjoyment. The DeYoung Natural Area is a reality. The Clay Cliffs/Crary property is just embarking on the process that leads to public acquisition. Another thread ties these two great gentlemen and their lands together, and that is an organization that specializes in working with local units of government and funding sources like the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. And that is, in part, why the Leelanau Conservancy is still fulfilling its 22 year mission to protect Leelanau's finest lands.



Two Grants Key to Future Stewardship

We were elated to receive two grants this spring that will take our Stewardship efforts to a new level of caring for our protected lands.

A two-year National Fish and Wildlife Foundation "Sus-



tain Our Great Lakes Grant" will help us to remove/manage seven major invasive plants such as the pharagmites, garlic mustard and bladder campion. These culprits are threatening sand dunes, coastal wetlands and coastal forest commu-

nities along the full eastern Lake Michigan shoreline. The grant will expand an ongoing multi-partner program that coordinates surveys, eradication, and monitoring areas for infestations.

We're proud to say that we are a year ahead of organizations in other parts of the state regarding eradicating invasives

and in obtaining these grant funds to help with the work. We owe great thanks to dedicated volunteers who helped map and survey 39 miles of shoreline in 2009.

Much of the work to be done in the coming months will be overseen by Fields Ratliffe, a skilled biological technician who will be with us for 18 months. (See related story on Fields on page 5.)

A second one-year Coastal Management Program Grant will help us to achieve long-term stewardship planning for two pilot areas in Leelanau: the Tip of the Peninsula and the Cedar River Natural Area. Under this grant we will conduct flora and invasive species assessments that will help guide restoration work and new trail placement. We will also create maps to share with other land managing partners. What follow are two stories illustrating the work that has already begun, thanks to these two grants!

A Natural Plan

onservancy Board Member Greg LaCross is a self-described introvert. And so navigating through forested wetlands for hours at a time or paddling a kayak down the Cedar River to catalogue the plants in our natural area is, to him, pure joy. We are fortunate to have Greg volunteer his time and expertise this summer helping to create a longterm management plan for some of our natural areas that is based on sound science. Through Greg's assessment of rare or endangered plant communities at places like Lamont and the Cedar River, we will be better able to plan for restoration, new trails and other uses of the property in the future. He will also help us prepare two pilot Conservation Stewardship Plans for those areas to share with our conservation partners. We received a Coastal Management Planning Grant to assist us with this goal, and because of Greg's contributions, the grant will go that much farther.

As head of Northwestern Michigan College's Biology Department, Greg couldn't be a more qualified Board Member! Greg has taught at the college since 1995. He holds two graduate degrees; one in Biochemistry from Boston College and the other in Ecology from Penn State.

On a beautiful day in late May I met Greg out at our Jeff Lamont Preserve where his plan was to traverse the 40-acre property several times, making sweeping loops north and south through the land. Of the 250 or so species he estimates are present on the land, he knows many of them, but not all, by

sight. Like anything else, he says, plant identification is about practicing. "The more you can visit a site, the more likely you are to find some species you wouldn't otherwise see," adds Greg.

As we step over rotting



Board member Greg LaCross identifies one of the many fern species found at our Lamont Preserve

stumps and under fallen trees, he jots down plant names on a clipboard, stopping every now and then to take a cutting to be identified later. When he gets back to his home in Empire, he'll spread the specimens out on his picnic table that sits in the shadow of the National Park, his two husky dogs lying at his feet. There, with his plant guides and his microscope, he'll make the final determinations.

He is full of information. Plucking a sedge, he points to their trademark three-sided, triangular stems. A bird calls and he pauses. "Black-throated blue warbler," he murmers, looking skyward. We find something that looks continued on page 5

Project Updates



Tackling Invasive Species With Help of Grant

It is mind boggling to think about the damage a single invasive garlic mustard plant can do to a forest full of native wildflowers. Just one mature garlic mustard plant will produce thousands of seeds. Scattered on the wind, it can generate a crop that will take over a forest, choking out beauties such as trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit and hepatica.

"But there is hope for reining in invasive species like garlic mustard, bladder campion and baby's breath, if you attack them early," says Conservancy Stewardship Director, Jenee Rowe. This summer, with the help of a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation "Sustain Our Great Lakes Stewardship Grant", she and her staff and volunteers will be working to do just that.

"You start with an ecosystem that is strong and resilient enough, that can fight back, and then give it some help by intervening early," says Jenee. "We're working on the perimeter of properties, where invasives get their start—I tell our volunteers it's a little like zone defense." Her goal is to pull the plants before they go to seed, making this project both active and preventative. On a sunny day in May I joined Lindsey Fox, our Stewardship Intern, and a group of YouthCorps members on the Crary property (see cover story), where garlic mustard is starting to spread. After a brief introduction to what garlic mustard looks like (and tastes like), we set out to remove the invasive specie from the beautiful woods filled with trillium and other wildflowers.

Garlic mustard is a tall plant with heart-shaped leaves and small white flowers. By tugging on the base of the stem, I was able to remove the plants quite easily, although I did not have a good eye for it like the rest of the group. Garbage bags full of the noxious weed were disposed of at the end of the day and we were all left with the satisfied feeling that we helped to protect a beautiful place.

On another day, our crew headed over to Houdek Dunes Natural Area, which has a large amount of bladder campion that has spread over the sand. Bladder campion is not usually considered a problem because it tends to grow in low quality areas, such as gravel pits and the sides of roads, but it also flourishes in the sand dunes, which is a problem for the native habitat at Houdek. "Our strategy is to start in those places where we have the most to lose—places where the infestations are not so great that we can go in now and make a big difference in the long run," says Jenee. Bladder campion spreads quickly; each plant carries up to 20,000 seeds. The plant prevents the natural shift of the sand dunes and interferes with the growth of native dune grasses. Bladder campion is much more difficult to remove than garlic mustard; it has long, carrot-like



Fields Ratliff, Biological Technician, inspects the two-foot long tap root that makes bladder campion difficult to eradicate.

roots that extend deep into the ground. Shovels and spades are required to remove it properly. YouthCorps groups from Suttons Bay and Traverse City have been most helpful in the struggle against this invasive, preventing it from spreading to an overwhelming amount.

This project is not short term, "You can't just pull and walk away," says Jenee, "We're in it for the long term and that means going back to check the following year, keep an eye on it. I think we can do it." Invasive species in Leelanau County present an ongoing battle for conservation. Garlic mustard and bladder campion are just two of the several invasive species threatening Leelanau. The Conservancy plans to attack invasive plants in the highest quality areas.

You can help too, by pulling invasives from your own property (pick up a helpful guide to invasives at our office). Or attend one of our Wednesday Workbees and give our Stewardship Staff a hand. See page 5 for Workbee details.



Meet Fields

Hello, My name is Fields Ratliff. I am the new Biological Technician. I grew up in Antrim County on the south end of beautiful Torch Lake, and have been enjoying camping and hiking in Leelanau since grade school. In 2008, I graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Studies from Western Michigan University. Since



then, I have had the opportunity to work abroad and apply my education to preserving natural resources and teaching others about conservation.

Every time I return from a trip abroad, I am amazed by the beauty and truly unique landscape of northern Michigan.

As the biological technician, I will be surveying areas throughout Leelanau County for invasive plants and managing the removal of the problem species. This requires a strong relationship with volunteers, contractors, and youth programs in order to effectively control the spread of invasive plants in some of our most ecological valuable coastlines and natural areas.

I feel lucky to live in this area and am very excited to be working at the Conservancy. For the next 18 months, I have the opportunity to help protect an area I truly admire while gaining important skills that are essential for continuing my career in conservation.

Greg Lacross, continued

like a very miniature pine tree and that leads him to muse about the Carboniferous Period. In this forest he can read the history of the last 100 years or the last 300 million, before trees even existed. We talk about invasive species and he explains how some are more of a nuisance than others, and why.

Within just a few minutes, we are deep into a cedar swamp. When I look around, I can't see a way out and have no idea which direction we came in from. I have a terrible sense of direction and am in awe of people who do. But Greg insists a good compass, and trusting it, is why he never gets lost.

He makes this trek every three weeks or so. "To obtain the information needed to create a proper management plan, you should visit a site that often," explains Greg. It's easier to identify plants when they're blooming, and the three-week cycle pretty much guarantees the forest or wetland will look different every time he goes. Before the summer is out, he'll likely log hundreds of hours on our lands.

Why does he do it? "It's my way of giving back," says Greg. "The Conservancy has done an amazing job in protecting places like this for future generations. I'd like to do my part in making sure that their ecological integrity is also protected or even enhanced based on the planning we are doing now." —Carolyn Faught

Workbee Wednesdays - Volunteers Needed!

Summer is here and the stewardship department has a growing list of things to do to help maintain our most precious properties. That is why we are asking people who want to volunteer and lend a hand to join us for our biweekly "Wednesday Work Bees." The Work Bees will include a variety of tasks such as transplanting trees, mulching, invasive plant removal, and general trail maintenance. The possibilities are endless!

Want to join this hardworking crew? Get on our list by contacting Conservancy Biological Technician Fields Ratliffe (231-256-9665) or email fratliff@theconservancy.com.

In general, participants need to be available from around 9am until noon on the dates listed here. We will either carpool from our office in Leland or meet participants at the week's site if it's closer to your home. Fields

will email/communicate with volunteers more details as the workbee draws nearer, from where we'll be working to the nature of the work to what you might need to bring.

Mark Your Calendars Now for Work Bee Wednesdays

> July 21 August 4 August 18 September 1 September 15 September 29





DeYoung Dedication Celebrates Partnerships, Volunteers and Donors

reat conservation projects make great stories," Conservancy Director Brian Price said in his opening remarks at the DeYoung Natural Area dedication on June 10. "And great stories are about people." More than 75 people gathered on a breezy day to thank donors, volunteers and public officials involved in making the DeYoung Natural Area a reality. Prior to the dedication visitors took guided hikes that included a look into the historic farmhouse, classic period barns, and the powerhouse that experts consider to be of national historic significance. Docent Ann McInnis led a children's hike that highlighted the different critters that live in a habitat like DeYoung and also included her pet snake.

Stewardship Director Jenee Rowe described the DeYoung property as having "all the quintessential aspects of Leelanau." Cedar Lake access, woodland areas and historic structures make DeYoung a unique Conservancy property.

Carol Simon, a 40-year resident of Elmwood Township, was among the crowd. "I'm excited that this is part of where I live," she said. "I did know the DeYoung family, but not well. I think the Conservancy has done marvelous things." Carol took the historical buildings tour and learned about moving artifacts from the now-empty farmhouse to local museums and historical organizations. Several neighbors to the farm and Roland DeYoung, a cousin of Louis DeYoung, also attended.

Jack Kelly, Elmwood Township Supervisor, told the crowd, "You don't have to live in a place for a long time to love where you live." He commended Conservancy staff and volunteers and spoke about the partnership between the township and the Conservancy and his excitement about what lies ahead.

Conservancy Director Brian Price said, "There is going to be change...a big vision will unfold, but the work is going to be almost all fun from this point on." Long-term goals for the property include adaptive reuse of the buildings and an agricultural component. For now, the property is open for guided hikes, as well as public access, and the Leelanau bike trail runs directly through it. The Eastern Michigan University Historic Preservation Program has also partnered with the Conservancy and will be conducting continued research and restoration work at the farmhouse and powerhouse (see article on page 7). Brian also revealed a mock-up of a plaque that will be placed on a large boulder recognizing donors to the project.

The dedication of this natural area is important both for the people who remember the DeYoung family and the younger generations who can use the property into the future. Thanks to the generosity of so many people, the DeYoung Natural Area will be a source of beauty, education and recreation for all ages for generations to come.





EMU Field School Returns to DeYoung Farmstead

magine standing underground in a three-foot-wide damp hole, holding up a shop light for 90 minutes, trying to train it on a spot the size of a deck of cards. Stewardship Director Jenee Rowe had exactly that job in May, when she and Gregory Musser spent a morning trying to decipher a serial number on the waterwheel under the old powerhouse at the DeYoung Natural Area. As Gregory gently scrubbed at the metal plate that was caked with grease and calcium carbonate, he relied on Jenee to light the way.

The effort to document the wheel's origin and make was part of year two in Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation Field School. Like last year, two dozen graduate students spent a week sorting and combing through artifacts as well as making improvements to structures at the farmstead.



Louis DeYoung installed this waterwheel along a diverted stream and used the power it generated to do everything from blacksmithing to powering some of the first residential light bulbs in the area.



One great thing that we resolved at the Field School is that the Power House foundation can be repaired and does not need to be totally replaced.

"Historic preservation is an exact and painstaking science," says Jenee.

Work on the powerhouse was one of the focal points of this year's EMU Field School. Dr. Ted Ligibel, longtime director of the program, says the building has "national historic significance." One of his students is working full time to get the site listed on the National Historic Register. Others spent time cataloging and documenting some 3,000 tools and parts stored in the powerhouse and used by Louis DeYoung, who installed a water wheel along a diverted stream to create the power needed to run his farm. "The building tells a great story and is a wonderful example of farmer ingenuity," said Dr. Ligibel. "Here you have a farmer who brought nature and agriculture together in a sustainable fashion, which is so topical for the direction we're trying to go in today."

This year the group assessed the powerhouse's foundation and determined it could be repaired (great news!) versus replaced. The porch on the old farmhouse was primed and would have been painted if rain had not gotten in the way. And they cleaned out the old carriage house, making plans as well to shore up the leaning building.

"Year two has brought new challenges and new opportunities," added Dr. Ligibel. "We're building on last year's progress where we got a good handle on the house and its contents. We're taking a systematic approach, going building by building. It's a phenomenal project and we're thrilled to be back."



Summer/Fall 2010 Hikes 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!) advance registration by calling 231-256-9665 or email nthomas@theconservancy.com. 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 weeks notice to plan. School groups also may be accommodated with enough notice.

July

Wednesday, July 21st 9:30 – 11:30 Stewardship Wednesday Workbee

See page 5 for workbee details; locale of workbee will be determined closer to the date.

Saturday, July 24th 10am Ecology and Geology at Houdek

Discover some of the ecological and geological changes that have shaped Leelanau Peninsula and Houdek Dunes in particular, during the past 1,000 post-glacial years with docents Ann McInnis, Judy Smart and Ed Reinert. Have fun learning the connection between plants, animals and the habitats they call "home" as well as strategies they have evolved to survive in this natural area.

Sunday, July 25th 8-10pm Full Moon Kayak/Canoe Trip at Cedar River Natural Area

Take a relaxing paddle on the slow-moving Cedar River with docents Alice VanZoeren and Sharon Oriel. We'll leave in the evening, watch the sun set and moon rise (if the clouds allow) and return by moonlight. Along the way we'll pause to notice the wetland flora and fauna. Must provide your own kayak or canoe and PFD. Be prepared for the possibility of some mosquitoes after dark. Meet in Cedar in the parking area near the ball diamonds.

August

Wednesday, August 1st 2pm Whaleback

Join Docents Roland Drayson and Holly Pharmer for a hike at Whaleback, an outstanding natural feature of the Leland area. On the hike we will discuss how it was formed by glacial action and what the area looked like some 4000 years ago, when the lake level was more than 30 feet higher than today, as well as implications of future climate change. We will be looking for summer wildflowers, invasive species and seeking ripe thimbleberries.

Wednesday, July 21st 9:30 – 11:30 Stewardship Wednesday Workbee

See page 5 for workbee details; locale will be determined closer to the date.

Wednesday, August 4th 9:30 – 11:30 Stewardship Wednesday Workbee

See page 5 for workbee details; locale will be determined closer to the date.

Thursday, August 5th 5pm Annual Picnic and Auction! See story on page 10.

Sunday, August 15th 2pm Birdology 202—Raptor Rapture at Lighthouse West

Migration season for raptors begins now, and—if the weather conditions are just right—we should

see a multitude of hawks near Lighthouse West. Learn about the ultimate remote control, the Photoperiod, and the mystery of "Zugen rune" with docents Bobbie Poor, Ann McInnis, and Holly Pharmer.

Wednesday, August 18th 9:30 – 11:30 Stewardship Wednesday Workbee

See page 5 for workbee details; locale will be determined closer to the date.

Saturday, August 21st 10am Teichner Preserve

Limin'g in Leelanau! Come join Ann Mason, Holly Pharmer, Roland Drayson, and Sharon Oriel as we visit the Teichner Preserve on Lime Lake. The cardinal flowers should be in bloom. We may see the restoration work to reconnect wetlands which were disturbed by a road. Learn a bit of history of the area while soaking up the quiet ambience of this magical place. Bug spray will make the walk even better.

Sunday, August 22nd 2pm The Biodiversity of Kehl Lake

What is biodiversity? Why is it important? Make first-hand observations of a complex, healthy, diverse forest ecosystem and contrast that with a recovering formerly-farmed homestead ecosystem. What's the problem with non-native species? Learn the important role played by fungi in a healthy forest from mushroom expert Ed Reinert who will join docents Ann McInnis and Dave Amos for this hike.



Saturday, August 28th 10 am The Fruits of Summer at Chip Run

Come and enjoy a leisurely hike through the fields and forests at this natural area in Empire. We will look for ways in which the plants of summer exhibit themselves by displaying their fruits. Who knows what other wonders will be revealed to us at this diverse property? Docents Jack Schulz, Ann Mason, Holly Pharmer, and Roland Drayson will lead the way.

September

Wednesday, September 1st 10am Birdology 203—Family Matters at Kehl Lake

Peek into the fascinating and diverse lifestyles of some of the birds who call Kehl Lake "home." Docents Bobbie Poor and Judy Hoeffler will share some avian profiles as we watch for resident birds going about their family business.

Wednesday, Sept. 1st 9:30 -11:30am Stewardship Wednesday Workbee

See page 5 for workbee details; locale will be determined closer to the date.

Saturday, September 4th 10am Explore Lighthouse West

Why is Lighthouse West a birder's hot spot? Join docents Ann McInnis and Judy Smart and hike ancient glacial beaches to reach the modern Lake Michigan Beach while keeping an eye out for migrating raptors and songbirds heading South for the winter. This former farmland is being restored, ecologically, in order to improve habitat especially for birds and other native wildlife.

Sunday, September 19th 1pm Waltz into Winter on the Village Green

A long, cold winter lies ahead; the perfect season for some great fireside reading. Cozy up to some favorite books about our natural world that are shared with you by Bobbie Poor and fellow docents as we gather where Conservancy

successes all began, our much-loved Village Green. Each of us will give a brief summary of one or two of our favorite nature books—field guides, essays mysteries, novels, you name it! There is SO much to share. If it rains, we'll meet inside the Conservancy's offices just down the street.

Sunday, September 12th 1pm What's Blooming at Chippewa Run?

Let's talk about goldenrod. The Chippewa called it gizisomukiki or 'sun medicine'. It helped calm stomachs, cure wounds, and relieve sore throats. Did you know there are at least 11 goldenrod species that bloom in Leelanau? Goldenrod has a bad reputation, but it is not the pollen source that stirs up your fall allergies. Join docents Lou Ricord and Ann Mason on their trek to locate and catalog the many species of goldenrod and other late summer wildflowers here. We'll also keep an eye out for wild birds during our hike; bring binoculars.

Wednesday, Sept. 15th 9:30-11:30am Stewardship Wednesday Workbee

See page 5 for workbee details; locale will be determined closer to the date.

Saturday, September 18th 2 pm Tamaracks, Chestnuts, and More at Teichner Preserve

Enjoy an early fall outing at the northeastern corner of Lime Lake with docents Jack Schulz and Dave Amos as we look for one of Leelanau's largest American chestnut trees. We'll also see some large tamarack trees as well as little ones striving for their place in the sun on our way to the shore of Lime Lake. The red maples may well be on display in the wetlands. We'll be on high ground all the way.

Tuesday, September 28th 10am Fall Mushrooms at Kehl Lake Natural Area

Join Ed Reinert and Judy Hoeffler for a look at fall fungal activities here. Ed is the local mushroom expert and, if the conditions are right, hikers will get a close up look at the different species of mushrooms that grow around Kehl Lake.

Wednesday, Sept. 29th 9:30-11:30am Stewardship Wednesday Workbee

See page 5 for workbee details; locale will be determined closer to the date.

October

Sunday October 10th 2pm Houdek Dunes Natural Area

Coyotes, Cougars, and Bears, Oh My! What are some of the magnificent animals that called Leelanau "home" before people did, and are they still here? Explore the different ever-changing wildlife communities in this 330 acres with docent Ann McInnis and discover what preparations the inhabitants are making for winter.

Saturday, October 16th 10am Fall Colors at Chippewa Run Natural Area

Why do leaves turn colors and ultimately fall to the ground? Did you know leaves have a natural sunscreen? Bug repellant? Docents Lou Ricord and Judy Hoeffler will discuss these and other fall color topics as we explore these 110 acres of wetlands, streams and ponds, old fields, red pine and spruce/fir stands, hardwoods, and an old apple orchard. We'll also keep an eye out for wild birds so bring binoculars.

Sunday, October 17th 2pm How Many Colors Can We Find at Teichner?

Are we having an early fall or a late fall? Either way, come see the colors of Lime Lake and the fall shades in the wetlands with special plants and trees. Then we will cross the road to check on the health of a magnificent old chestnut tree and its colorful supporting cast of maples and oaks. Docents Sharon Oriel and Jack Schultz will guide you on this colorful afternoon amble. We may also see the results of the Conservancy's work to reconnect wetlands. And that is another story!



It's Picnic Time!

We've got a great Picnic on tap once again!
Come help us celebrate all the great things we have accomplished together. This year's Picnic will be held on Thursday,
August 5th at the Newton Farm on Jelinek Road. Captivating pre-



picnic field/bike trips are on tap. The evening begins with appetizers prepared by area chefs using local foods (see our flier for details.) Dinner will feature a local foods menu too. As you drink, dine and bid on over 100 unique

auction items and Leelanau experiences, the view overlooking the Manitou Islands, forever protected by a conservation easement, is the real star of the evening!

A short program featuring our annual volunteer and business partner of the year awards will be followed by our exciting live auction. On page II are some of the great things our members have donated to raise funds for our cause.

Bids are now being taken online via our website (www.

the conservancy.com), and if you can't make it to the picnic, we are happy to "proxy bid" for you.

Thanks to our appetizer chefs, underwriters, auction donors and hard-working volunteers who make this event a success! By now, you should have received our flyer in the mail. If you haven't, please call and we will send you one, or you can download it off our website.

President's Paddle Raise

This year, the Live Auction will feature a new element called the President's Paddle raise. It is specifically to raise funds for the protection of farmland or natural lands. Paddle Raisers will be invited to a special gathering with our President, John Erb, and our Director, Brian Price. The President's Paddle Raise takes place right before the final auction item - the Mario Batali dinner. So be prepared. John will ask for a show of paddles to support our land protection efforts. Those who raise paddles signal their intention to donate \$500 to either our farmland or natural lands preservation funds—you choose which matters most to you! Can't attend? You can raise a paddle online and we'll have a volunteer represent you in person. This is a meaningful way for you to demonstrate your love for Leelanau County and inspire others too!

Kids Tent and Special Hike on Tap

The Kids Tent is one of the most popular features of our annual picnic with both children and their parents. Sue Corbin, a retired elementary principal runs the tent and has recruited other educators to help. The quality of the experience is pretty wonderful for both kids and parents.

Fun activities are planned for kids age three to 12. Evy Sussman, who for years ran the craft program at Shady Trails, will offer craft projects. Coloring projects, games, and the ever popular Lego building will round out the activities.

While kids are kept happy and entertained, parents can socialize, listen to jazz standards provided by the Pashke Trio and bid on auction items. Sue asks that anyone who leaves their child with her brings a cell phone and provides their number.

Prior to the picnic, there is also a Kids Nature Hike with Docent Ann McInnis, a retired science teacher who never fails to

captivate the younger set.

See our picnic flyer or website for more details and dinner options for children.



Mario Cooks Again!

 ∏ario Batali and his family love Leelanau County. And that is why he is offering his help for the 6th year in a row to our 2010 Auction. In 2005 he began offering a spectacular dinner for 12 that also features wine tasting and a cooking lesson. Since then, funds raised from Mario's efforts now top \$250,000! We are grateful that Mario takes part of his family vacation time to help—and for all that he does to raise awareness about farmland preservation and our cause. We're



also grateful to those who bid because they're not just buying dinner with Mario—they're helping us to complete projects and further programs we could not do without this unique auction item! (More info at theconservancy.com).



Duren Landscape of Picnic Site Offered as Auction Item

One of our more unique auction items this year is a painting of the Newton Farm (this year's picnic site) by renowned plein air painter, Stephen Duren. Stephen came north in May to capture the landscape and view from this prized conservation easement, which overlooks the Manitou Islands.

"Leelanau County is one of my favorite places to paint," says Stephen. "It's very much like that unique region north of San Francisco, where I grew up. I worried when I returned to paint that area of my youth that it would have all changed. But, like here, it has stayed pristine, because a bunch of farsighted people got together and worked to protect it. I'm forever grateful to those people and to the Leelanau Conservancy, which is working to preserve the character of this peninsula."

While here, he painted five different views from the farm and the process was videotaped. The high bidder may choose his or her favorite from the "Suite of Five" and a copy of the videotape will be included. All five paintings may be seen on our website, viewed in person (during July) at the Tamarack Craftsman Gallery in Omena, and at the picnic. Tamarack Craftsman Gallery is underwriting the cost of framing for the auction painting.

Mr. Duren was born, reared, and educated in California, and moved in 1978 to Grand Rapids where he taught for 6 years in local colleges before settling into his full-time vocation as a painter. He continues to dance between ab-



stract and realism, and favors working outside directly from nature. He gains inspiration from European artists from the 1800s as well as American painters such as Albert P. Ryder and Edward Hopper, and the abstract expressionists from the San Francisco Bay area. For more info visit stephenduren.com

We're grateful to Stephen for capturing the essence of the Newton Farm and donating his work. "It's important to me that we don't lose contact with an agrarian way of life, and that we maintain a healthy balance between nature and man's seemingly unquenchable need to grow and spread and develop," adds Stephen. "These "saved" lands help to keep us in touch with some important basics and offer comfort, education and edification to everyone, not just artists."

A Sampling of Auction Items

LIVE AUCTION

- Cooking class, dinner & wine tasting for 12 with Mario Batali
- Guided morel hike with Leif Sporck, plus Epicure Catering meal using fresh morels.
- 3 nights for 4-6 at a Manhattan penthouse overlooking the Empire State Building
- Original Steven Duren painting of the auction site, plus video of painting in progress
- Four VIP tickets to Jimmy Buffet concert in Chicago with roundtrip twin-engine plane transportation, plus margarita maker

SILENT AUCTION (a sampling of the 120 items)

• One week at fabulous Breckenridge ski chalet. Sleeps 8-10, mountain setting

- Twin engine flight for up to 4 to Mackinac Island with lunch & tour
- 18 holes of golf at Manitou Passage golf course for 8, plus dinner at Nonna's Restaurant and wine tasting
- 1 week summer stay in a Fishtown shanty for 5-7 people on the Leland River
- Grand Traverse Pie Co. pie per month for 1 year
- 3 night weekend stay in highrise condo in Grand Rapids overlooking the city and the Grand River
- "Stanley Steamer" gathering with Bob & Kathryn May for 12 with wine and hors d'oeuvres
- 2 night stay at Chicago's luxury Elysian Hotel, complete with dinner for 2 and massages

Project Updates



Crary Project, continued

as well." The application deadline is August 3.

The Leelanau Conservancy has offered assistance in drafting the application, has agreed to provide up to \$290,000 (5%) as additional local match, and to consider managing the property for the Township if both entities approve a management agreement. If approved this arrangement would be similar to the Conservancy's agreement with Elmwood Township on the DeYoung Natural Area Lakefront parcel.

Although some property tax revenue would be lost, Larkin said, "The benefits outweigh the losses. This is our one and only shot at this property. I think we should take it."

This property is the largest and most diverse remaining privately owned coastal property on the mainland of Leelanau County. High ridges offer views of Lake Leelanau and the Lake Michigan frontage is made up of sheer, clay bluffs that provide a magnificent view of the Manitou Passage. Cleared hayfields, open meadows and a northern hardwood forest that borders the clay cliffs makes up the interior. Steep slopes, hidden valleys

and a delicate wetland ecosystem provide a diverse habitat for wildlife, including a pair of nesting eagles. All in all, this is a GREAT opportunity to protect one of Leelanau's last remaining Jewels.



The Crary Property is outlined in red

A First Timer Enjoys Hike at Whaleback

aving spent the last 20 summers in Leelanau County, I am amazed that I have never discovered the Whaleback Natural Area trail before. In May, I went on my first Conservancy hike with docents Judy Smart and Marsha Bue-



hler. They led a group of seven hikers up the winding woodland trail at Whaleback, giving history and plant facts along the way. I realized that I had little knowledge of the plants and trees that I see everyday. While the hike was not intensely instructive, it was quite informative. Judy and Marsha took time to stop and point out native plants, as well

as invasive species. They talked about the different uses of specific plants and the reasons they were good or bad for our environment. For instance, I learned that hemlock trees "wait for the opportunity" to grow and prosper, according to Marsha. She said that hemlocks can stay small for years before they find optimal conditions in which to grow, unlike

maple or beech saplings. I also learned that, while sweet woodruff is pretty and sweet-smelling, it spreads through the forest and suffocates native plants, taking away the natural and familiar habitat of the insects. We even spotted a few morel mushrooms on the trail (although we "left them as we found them").

After the 90-minute walk I asked my fellow hikers about why they came along that day. Some are new to the area and want to familiarize themselves with their surroundings. Others just enjoy the time outdoors. Linda Proffit said, "I enjoy the quiet; getting away from the outside world and it's relaxing." It was very quiet up in Whaleback, except for our footsteps and the birds chirping.

Another hiker, Jerry Sura, said, "It's motivation to get outside. I go because it's being offered by the Conservancy." When I asked myself the same question I came up with a very similar answer: Why not? When we are surrounded by beautiful natural areas there is no reason not to spend time in them, especially when experienced guides are offering to lead. This summer will be full of fieldtrips and hikes all over the county and I strongly recommend the experience to everyone. All ages can enjoy a little nature education and some time outdoors. See page 8 for our full schedule!

~~Leah Williams, 2010 Summer Outreach Intern



Heritage Society Members Help Conservancy Care for Leelanau

Tim and Sharon Stein's bond to Leelanau County happened instantly and on accident. In 1989 the couple ventured northwest from their home in Thomas Township near Saginaw. On their way up M22, to what they though would be a quiet night in Leland, they passed a for-sale sign on Little Traverse Lake. Sharon made Tim turn the car around and they found their future home.

The following year Sharon moved to Leelanau and quickly bonded with the community. Tim wasn't far behind and by 1992 the couple became permanent members of the Leelanau community. They still live in their home on Little Traverse Lake that initiated their passion for Leelanau and have never looked back. Sharon is a volunteer at the Leland Library and a choir member and bookkeeper at the Leland Methodist Church and Tim is the current Supervisor of Cleveland Township.

Tim and Sharon were early supporters and are generous promoters of the Conservancy. They can be seen at many Conservancy events, like our annual Blues Fest and Picnic, where you may see them playfully bidding at our live auction. Tim can also be found exploring Conservancy natural areas at least two or three times a week. There isn't a day they don't reflect

on how lucky they feel to be able to take advantage of all our county has to offer.

They began giving to the Conservancy as a way to give back for all they get from Leelanau County. They believe in giving the Conservancy a strong financial base as a way to steward their beloved Leelanau. When they



created their estate plans, they both decided to name the Conservancy as a beneficiary because they see our organization as a good venue for carrying out the duty of caring for Leelanau. As members of the Heritage Society, they stand alongside other generous members who have also helped the Conservancy plan for the future by making us aware of a future gift that supports Leelanau County. Thank you, Tim & Sharon!

Please join us! To learn more about the Heritage Society, please contact Anne Shoup at ashoup@theconservancy.com or 231-256-9665.

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

Bud and Nancy Liebler joined our Sustainer Circle this spring. Here's why: "The Leelanau Conservancy does fabulous work! We feel strongly that our home here is for our children and grandchildren as much as it's for us. We want Leelanau to remain pristine for them—and supporting the Conservancy is one way to ensure that." -- Bud & Nancy Liebler

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:

David and Jacqueline Amos George and Jane Bunn Mike and Tedi Collier Vincent & Barbara Engerer David S. & Penelope P. Gordon David Williams & Kim Herbert William and Suzanne Hoff Catherine Irwin Nancy and Bud Liebler Theresa M. Maday R. Duncan McPherson Peter Phinny Donn and Kathleen Piatt Pete and Mary Taylor

Bert and Helene Rabinowitz Bruce Randall and Jeanine Griswold David Reinisch & Julie Kiefer William G. Rosenberg Ross and Kerry Satterwhite Daniel and Elizabeth Schleef Patricia Sharpnack Steven and Cynthia Sheppard Tom and Sue Trumbull Allen and Jennifer Weaver Martha C. Welch Gregg and Marilyn Zank



Our Stellar Summer Crew!

We welcome our talented and energetic summer interns who lend so much to our efforts. This year, we are fortunate to have three interns - one provided by our Barbara Collins Intern Fund, which provides funds for young people to get valuable experience, learning about non profits and conservation work by spending a summer working for the Conservancy. Our Stewardship Interns were hired through the The Northern Michigan Summer Associate VISTA Program.

Leah

Hello, my name is Leah Williams and I am the new outreach intern this summer. I am originally from Grand Rapids, but my family has owned a home on South Lake Leelanau for longer than I can remember. My summers have always been filled with Leelanau beaches, woodlands, and lakes. I just graduated from Michigan State University with a B.A. in English after only three years and I plan to go on to graduate school in library science.

I feel extremely fortunate to be working at the Conservancy because of the fantastic experiences I am having interacting with the staff and volunteers. Planning the auction is a whirlwind experience and I am having fun and keeping busy. I am realizing just how important it is to conserve this land, and how hard the members of the Conservancy work at protecting it. I look forward to another summer of Leelanau beauty!

Philip

My Name is Philip Young and I am one of the summer interns for the Leelanau Conservancy. I was born in Detroit and graduated from College of the Atlantic with a B.A. in Ecology. Much of my past experiences have been water based. I have been part of a group performing benthic surveys on the coral reefs around Turks and Caicos Islands, I have interned at MOTE Marine Aquarium in Sarasota Florida with the Dolphin Biological Research Institute, and I have done field work for the Belle-Isle Aquarium in Detroit. During my time at College of the Atlantic I did several projects for the Acadia National Park Service that included building maps that they could use for future conservation efforts.

I intend to work as hard as I possibly can because conservation is something that is very important to me. I am very excited by the prospect of working for the Conservancy, and look forward to what the summer has to offer.



Happy to be here: I-r: Philip Young, Leah Williams, Lindsay Fox

Lindsay

As I have grown up in Leelanau County, I have developed a love of the landscape both for its preserved natural areas and its irreplaceable meaning of home. Through many experiences involving fort building, dune climbing, painting, hiking, plant collecting, and drawing, I have developed a relationship with this place that has affected the way I think and perceive the world around me. Much of my artwork focuses upon my appreciation and spiritual connection to the land I cherish.

After graduating from Interlochen Arts Academy with a concentration in fine arts, I have gone on to study Art and Environmental Studies at the University of Michigan to further pursue the connection of the two intertwined disciplines. As a Stewardship Intern here at the Conservancy for the summer, I have been working primarily with the Youth Corps crews to address our invasive species problems such as garlic mustard and bladder campion. I am thrilled to be able to more actively participate in the preservation of Leelanau County and also share the wonder of place with the staff and volunteers of the Leelanau Conservancy.

Wish List

Digital camera 5 megapixels and greater Small refrigerator Outdoor table/chairs for office Canoe



Honorariums & Memorials

HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

(Received between 4/27/10 and 6/30/2010)

Ms. Melanie Vecore

In Honor of

Ann Mason Rhys VanDemark & Kathi McGookey

Brienne, Devin and Keely O'Donnell Jan Garfinkle and Mike O'Donnell

Cary Roloson Gasner Mrs. Sarah F. Roloson

Deborah Somerville Mr. Robert Chambers

Joanie Woods Stephanie and Mark Duckmann

Joseph E. Faggan Jerry and Mary Faggan Churchill

Ned Roloson Mrs. Sarah F. Roloson

L. J. Noling
Mr. David E. Noling

Howard C. Mueller, V Riley A. Pickenpaugh Mrs. Susan Mueller

Mother's Day

Ann McInnis
Mr. and Mrs. John McInnis

Frieda Putnam Mrs. Helen A. P. Bradley

Janice Fisher
Joan and Randy Woods

Judie Leece David Leece and Kathy Brewer

Mary Lyons Mr. and Mrs. Kent N. Holton

Father's Day

Al Thomas Mr. and Mrs. Michael Oliveri

Doug McInnis
Mr. and Mrs. John McInnis

Michael Oliveri Sam and Annie

Norman Campbell Mr. Robert Radaz

New Baby

Karsten Langweg
Nancy and Jim Mogle

Happy Birthday

Anne Kinzie Mrs. Mildred Hurley

*J. Richard Emens*Mrs. Anne Miller

*Lee J. Workum – 80th*Brooke A. Nash & Bruce Fulford

Mary Lyons
Michael and Debbie Lyons

David C.R. Feld Jonathan Feld and Shelley Longmuir

Happy Anniversary

John and Gina Erb – 40th Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey E. Fisher

Peter and Kristen Race – 40th Mr. and Mrs. David L. Banks

Wedding Wishes

Pat Pollock-Mark Rodak

Mrs. Treva N. DeJong Mrs. Angela E. Maleski Dale and Kit Whalen Mrs. Elisabeth Heikel

Friends, Family and Wedding Guests of Craig and Lindsay Hine

Craig and Lindsay Hine

Tom Nelson-Stephanie Berger Ms. Gayle E. Egeler Mr. and Mrs. Warren H. Watkins Nancy Gallagher & Kevin Weber Gina and John Erb

In Memory of

Barbara Owsley
Mrs. Joan L. Workum

*Brad Perzanowski*Ms. Heather Parslow
Joe and Lynda Bozin

Tim and Jody Seefried

Ms. Margaret McIntyre Ms. Virginia Sadocha William and Nancy Buchanan Dennis and Maria Sullivan Mr. and Mrs. William A. Goodfallow Rick and Lori Lozen Joseph and Lindsay O'Connor Bev and Gary Clark Ms. Denise A. Calisi Ms. Jana McDonald George and Dorann Anargyros Ms. Kristen Saldana Ms. Kathleen G. Goodfallow Mike and Carol Meloeny Mr. Doug Goodfallow John and Lisa Wichmann Ms. Suzie Sebastian Mike and Brandie Leich Co-Workers of Nancy Perzanowski Ms. Helen Brett Henry and Chloris Sadocha Hedwig, Lester and Tina Perzanowski Tony and Lisa Seefried Mrs. Beatrice Hobert Mr. Norman Dodt Leo and Patricia Sosnowski Ms. Lisa Vecore Fred and Nancy Perzanowski Ron and Dianne Kerner

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Deborah Bunn Alley

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Helen Rogers

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Dorothy Lind

Emily Wilson-Tobin and Jack Richardson

Jim and Sandy VanEenenaam

Martha VanEenenaam-Iwanicki and Tom Iwanicki

Linda Mann

Phil and Kathy Scherer

Pat Williams

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Peggy Klarr

Emily Wilson-Tobin and Jack Richardson

Thomas Ashley

Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Ashley Mr. and Mrs. Peter S. Burr



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Don't miss our Annual Friends Picnic
Thursday, August 5th
Newton Farm, Overlooking the Manitou Islands

2:30-5pm Pre-Picnic Field Trips. Choose from 7 fun and informative options for all ages that highlight our work. Check out all the trips online at www.theconservancy.com

5 pm The Main Event Begins!

- Social hour
- Silent Auction bidding: check out over 100 items online
- Leelanau Wine and Beer
- Appetizers utilizing local produce created by seven area chefs/caterers. Taste the local foods difference!
- Kids Tent with activities for children 3-12

6 pm Picnic Dinner featuring local foods

7 pm Short program with Volunteer and Business Partner of the Year Awards

7:20pm President's Paddle Raise and Live Auction, with five fabulous items, including Mario's evening of hands-on cooking lesson, wine tasting featuring a local foods menu!

Leelanau Conservancy

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