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**Natasha Lapinski**, *Land Protection/Development*  
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Save a Little  
of Leelanau For Me!

**LEELANAU PRESERVERS**

When you give a gift through the Leelanau Conservancy Preservers program, you can preserve land in a child's name, and instill in them at an early age that they have a stake in what Leelanau is to become. You can also give a gift to friends or family who live far away, but have Leelanau in their hearts. Or, preserve land in your own name. As a result of your contribution, your gift recipient becomes a "Leelanau Preserver." What a special way for us to work together to make sure the place we all love so much can remain just as beautiful and special for all the generations to come!

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# Leelanau Conservancy

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

Newsletter

Fall 2005

Vol.16, No.3

**LOCAL HEROES**

by Carolyn Faught

There's an ancient hemlock on the Sanborn/Robinson property that, some years back, brothers Will and Jeff could have taken a chainsaw to and turned a tidy profit on. "There was enough lumber there to frame a house," says Will Sanborn. But would they consider chopping it down then or now? "No way," says Will. "I'm waiting for a red-tailed hawk to nest there, and it's filled with porcupines too. They need a home."

Porcupines and hawks are part of the menagerie of wildlife that nest, spawn, and seek shelter in this 43-acre refuge along South Lake Leelanau near Bingham known as Birch Point. The land is largely primordial white cedar swamp with arguably six acres of developable upland. With its tangled wetlands, and diverse habitat uninterrupted by roads, the land is a critical corridor for wildlife and an important part of a giant filter that helps to keep the lake pristine.

On a gorgeous fall afternoon I walked the land with Jeff and Will and learned its history along with that of their family that has held it since 1878. Touring the land felt akin to being led through an old house or a museum. But instead of pointing out a cherished photograph here or explaining an architectural feature there, we kicked stumps that told of logging days gone by, sat on a giant boulder that whispered of the glaciers, peered into tangled woodland. If you listened hard enough, you could hear the laughter of two young boys playing hide and seek or building forts from fallen branches.

The boys and their two sisters grew up spending summers on this land, journeying to Leelanau as soon as school let out from whatever state they happened to be living in. Their father was a career naval officer and so it seemed that, more than any place, Lake Leelanau always felt like coming home.

Summers were spent largely outdoors. "If we weren't in the water, we'd be back here," says Jeff, who is drawn into the woods across the street from his lakefront home almost daily. "It helps me sort out my mind," he says. "I always come out feeling cleansed."



Brothers Will (left) and Jeff Sanborn lean on a giant boulder left behind by the glaciers. Their wish: the boulder will forever stay where nature deposited it 10,500 years ago—nor will anything else be disturbed on this 43 acres.

As for Will, who also lives nearby, his endless hours in the woods have created an avid, self-trained naturalist. I recall our director Brian Price telling me that Will was such an observer of nature that he was the first to sound the warning bell that zebra mussels had arrived on the south lake. On the day of our walk, Will is full of observations as we traverse an old power line easement through the woods. Pausing to roll a cigarette from a pouch in a vest pocket, he fingers a wild rose hip and guesses its age. He lights the cigarette, then rubs open the hip and scatters its seeds.

Next he explains how the deep pocks in the mucky soil are from cows that got loose years ago and wandered into the field, and about the clay base that underlies the field. He tells me that if I were to venture into the swamp I might find a hole deep enough to sink up to my neck. A pair of grouse flits just off the trail. We see where deer have bedded down. Before I know it, two hours have passed and I have learned about everything from vernal ponds and traveling salamanders to how the dam at Leland has raised lake levels and created the wetlands his family is now preserving.

The family history and ownership of these 43 acres is complicated, but suffice it to say that the land has been in their father's

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President's Message

THE CRYSTAL RIVER FOREVER PRESERVED

THE GREAT VALUE OF CORE SUPPORT



As the Conservancy celebrates the completion of the transfer of 104 acres and 6,300 ft. of river frontage along the Crystal River near Glen Arbor to the National Park Service, we also feel great collective relief in paying off the last of nearly 5 million dollars in loans from National City Bank and the Conservation Fund.

This event is a marquee accomplishment for the Conservancy. With tireless effort and support from the "Friends of the Crystal River" and Conservancy staff and supporters, we have preserved "a local treasure, as well as a globally rare piece of our environment."

As I look back on the complexity and enormity of this accomplishment, it is clear to me why the Conservancy was able to pull this off.

The pure determination of our Staff and Board was a significant factor. But, the ability to borrow millions of dollars was the vital component of the purchase of the Crystal River property for resale to the National Park Service.

How does a non-profit organization of moderate size borrow \$4.85 million? Not easily. Lenders are accustomed to borrowers with profits, significant assets, substantial income, and a credit history that most successful businesses can demonstrate. The Conservancy has a small operating fund, an endowment fund, and 15 natural areas and preserves that we never have borrowed against.

What the Conservancy does have is a large and growing membership of 2,800 individuals and families, as well as 382 Sustainers who have pledged at least \$500 a year to support our operations. Moreover, with this support, we have raised multiple millions of dollars over the last 10 years for many meaningful projects and conservation easements.

As we negotiated with various banks it was apparent to me that banks had difficulty in understanding our charitable land protection business and how we do our work. In the end, National City Bank, with participation of the Conservation Fund, agreed to loan the necessary money.

In my judgment we could not have won loan approval without the strength of the Conservancy's membership and Sustainers Circle. Our strong foundation of dedicated membership

support was the key factor in establishing the Conservancy's credibility to borrow the needed money.

On behalf of our Board and Staff I am proud to salute our members and Sustainers for establishing the Leelanau Conservancy as a major player in land conservation.

Craig A. Miller, President

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Dr. Kyle Carr (left) has joined our board after many years of active service on our Stewardship Committee and Volunteer Stewardship Network. He tells us that getting out into the woods to plant trees or restore native species is where he loves to be. It speaks to his roots as

an undergraduate major in biology at Indiana's Wabash College. Kyle later earned his medical degree at Indiana University Medical School and received post-graduate training at University of Michigan Hospitals. Kyle took a position as a pathologist at Munson Medical Center in 1996. He and his wife, Betsy, live near Suttons Bay.



Sally Viskochil (left) is a longtime supporter who lives in Omena and is the owner of the Tamarack Craftsman Gallery there. She was born and raised in Traverse City. After graduating from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in Sciences and Fine Arts, Sally and her late husband David spent three years in the

Peace Corps in Thailand before moving north and opening their gallery in 1972. Sally has served as a Parent Aid with the Department of Social Services, been active in the Northport school system and is the president of a civic women's group, Club 21. She has one daughter, Sarah (pictured here), who teaches in Williamsburg, Virginia.



HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

(Continued from page 15; Received between 6/20/05 and 10/24/05)

**IN MEMORY OF PEGGY LIND KLARR**  
Robert T. Wilson & Sandra Smith

**IN MEMORY OF ROSS LANG**  
Mrs. Joy L. Lang

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN LINDQUIST**  
Col. Brian Bishop and Mrs. Linda Lindquist-Bishop

**IN MEMORY OF MARGE LITTLE**  
Jim and Kay Rogers

**IN MEMORY OF JOSEPHINE LORA**  
Mr. Michael W. Lora

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID MANN**  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl B. Headland  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Wellborn

**IN MEMORY OF MARYANN MASTERSON**  
Ms. Madeline Masterson

**IN MEMORY OF JOYCE MCKAY**  
Dr. and Mrs. Donald B. Carlsen

**IN MEMORY OF JACK MEANWELL**  
Mrs. Rosemary R. Bennett  
Mrs. Molly M. Harrison  
Mrs. Joan H. Searby

**IN MEMORY OF GIANNI MONTEZEMOLO**  
Birchwood Shores Preservation Assoc

**IN MEMORY OF GORDON B. MOODY**  
Karen Chase and David Bellizi

**IN MEMORY OF LARRY PARKS**  
William and Nancy Allen  
Mr. Donald B. Enderby  
Ms. Suzanne L. Hoff  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth P. Hurlin

**IN MEMORY OF ED PAWLICK**  
Lime Lake Association

**IN MEMORY OF RUBY L. PECK**  
Mr. and Mrs. David Clark

**IN MEMORY OF JAMES PORTER**  
Michael Busch and Daryl Allison-Busch  
Mr. and Mrs. John Brabenec

**IN MEMORY OF DR. MARIANN LENGYEL REED**  
Dr. and Mrs. Steven P. Lengyel

**IN MEMORY OF HEBBY RICHARDSON**  
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Buchanan

**IN MEMORY OF GORDON ROBERTSON**  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl B. Headland

**IN MEMORY OF BRIAN SICHLER**  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Pool

**IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY SIMPER**  
Mr. John H. Hoppin, Jr.

**IN MEMORY OF FRED AND DOROTHY SIMPER**  
Mrs. Amy Chatfield

**IN MEMORY OF HENRY "HANK" SMOLENSKI**  
Mr. and Mrs. Milford J. Schuette

**IN MEMORY OF BILL STAFF**  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Gallup

**IN MEMORY OF DENNIS STUDER**  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Pool

**IN MEMORY OF DR. JOHN SUELZER**  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Collins  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl B. Headland  
Mrs. Anne G. Kinzie

**IN MEMORY OF MILIE TAGLAUER**  
Ms. Bonnie M. Taglauer

**IN MEMORY OF MELINDA THOMAS TAVENER**  
Ms. Gabriella T. Maloon  
Ms. Mimi Mullin  
Mr. and Mrs. S. Harley Wheeler

**IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM THOMAS AND DOLLY DISNEY**  
Mr. William W. Thomas III

**IN MEMORY OF LOUISE THOMPSON**  
Mr. and Mrs. Norville Hall

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Mrs. Amy Chatfield  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Collins  
Mrs. Jane W. Domke  
Mrs. Cathleen C. Fisher  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey E. Fisher  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan E. Hartwick  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl B. Headland  
Ms. Mary Lou Ingwersen

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Pitcher  
Mr. Peter A. Richardson  
Mrs. Paula M. Robertson  
Mr. and Mrs. James N. Shad  
Mr. and Mrs. Leo G. Shea  
Peggy and Fred Stoepel  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary B. Twomey  
Mr. and Mrs. William VanWesten  
Mrs. Jacqueline Verdier  
Mrs. Joan L. Workum

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Mr. and Mrs. Mark Veenstra

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID VISKOCHIL**  
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Ms. Patty Pelizzari  
Ms. Margaret E. Goebel  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Schleeff  
Mr. and Mrs. Hamish Small  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Williams

**IN MEMORY OF SUZANNE WILSON**  
Ms. Irene S. Hathaway

**IN MEMORY OF MARY JOAN WOODS**  
Mrs. Susanne E. Rose Kraynak

**IN MEMORY OF DAVID WORKUM**  
**Brooke A. Nash & Bruce Fulford**  
Mr. and Mrs. James N. Shad

CORRECTIONS TO OUR ANNUAL REPORT

We left off the last name of Michael and Patti Chetcuti, who have nearly 1/5 acre of land preserved in their name.

Macy Mitchell's name was listed incorrectly as Mitchell Macy.

Bernadette A. Pelland contributed to our Tip of the Peninsula fund to help protect Lighthouse West.

We are sorry for these errors and omissions!





## HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

(Continued from page 15; Received between 6/20/05 and 10/24/05)

### Memorials

#### IN HONOR OF RICHARD PORTER

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Porter

#### IN HONOR OF BRIAN PRICE

Mr. and Mrs. Roger H. Fitch

#### IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAYS OF MARYLOU AND ROBB RIDAY

Jack and Barrie Riday

#### IN HONOR OF CHUCK RYMAL'S BIRTHDAY

Ms. Rebecca Perczyk

#### IN HONOR OF THE MARRIAGE OF IRA SANBORN AND JACLYN MIELUKEN

Ira Sanborn and Jaclyn Miel-Uken

#### IN HONOR OF DAVID & ANNE SHANE

Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Korb

#### IN HONOR OF MARY ANNE TAYLOR

Mrs. Ginnie Glidden

#### IN HONOR OF THE CAROLAN BOYS

Mr. and Ms. Scott Beall

#### IN HONOR OF THE VISKOCHIL FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Phillips

#### IN HONOR OF THE WEDDING OF SARAH VISKOCHIL

Ms. Patty Pelizzari

#### IN HONOR OF MR. AND MRS. GRAFTON (MAC) THOMAS' 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Glen A. Dugger

#### IN HONOR OF TUCKER JAMESON TRIMBLE'S 50TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. and Mrs. James N. Shad

#### IN HONOR OF GEORGE AND SARA WELLMAN

Ms. Elizabeth R. Neidhardt  
Ms. Bernadette A. Pelland

#### IN HONOR OF LUKE BRACKEN WIESE

Mr. and Mrs. J. Frederic Wiese, Jr.

#### IN HONOR OF KRISTEN ZIMMERMAN AND CHRISTOPHER GREEN'S ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Zimmerman

#### IN MEMORY OF GERALD AND GERMAINE BAILIK

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce D. Ragan

#### IN MEMORY OF GEORGE H. BARKER

J. Kay Johnston & J.F. Sanborn

#### IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR & LAURA BASCH

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Schneider

#### IN MEMORY OF GEORGE BERRY

Mrs. Patricia J. Berry

#### IN MEMORY OF JO BOLTON

Ann Rogers

#### IN MEMORY OF IRENE BOOTH

Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Collins

#### IN MEMORY OF D'ANNE BRAMER

Mr. Todd C. Bramer

#### IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH BRITTON

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Britton

#### IN MEMORY OF ERVIN BURMEISTER

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Burmeister

#### IN MEMORY OF RACHEL CATE

Mr. Lowell C. Cate

#### IN MEMORY OF PETE & MARIE CHANDLER

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Chandler

#### IN MEMORY OF CAROLINE CORY

Mrs. Mary Scott Johnson  
Mr. John B. Watkins

#### IN MEMORY OF DENNIS COTCAMP

Ms. Christine Tiderington

#### IN MEMORY OF PETE ELIFRITZ

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Mrs. Molly M. Harrison  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard R. Hatt  
Mr. and Mrs. Leo J. Hughes  
Mrs. Anne G. Kinzie  
Ms. Theresa W. Mulcahy  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Pool  
Ms. Elodie Sauer  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Turner  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary B. Twomey  
Mrs. Betty J. Waite  
Mr. and Mrs. Leon A. Whitney

#### IN MEMORY OF MARION EVANS

Tom and Gretchen Dunfee  
Mrs. Mary Scott Johnson  
Mrs. Barbara Loftus  
Mr. John B. Watkins

#### IN MEMORY OF GERALD H. FORD

Little Traverse Lake Property Owners Assoc.

#### IN MEMORY OF KATIE GILLIGAN

Mr. and Mrs. Eric E. Grombala

#### IN MEMORY OF ROBERT R. GOLLNITZ

Mrs. Pauline V. Gollnitz

#### IN MEMORY OF CAROLYN GOODE

Mr. and Mrs. Leo G. Shea

#### IN MEMORY OF LUCY ROWE WOOD GOULD

Mr. and Mrs. Mark E. Carlson

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Mr. and Mrs. Mark E. Carlson

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Mr. and Mrs. Ron Green  
Ms. Lori Patton  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Rothaug

#### IN MEMORY OF NED HENDRICKSON

Ms. Ellen K. Cotterman

#### IN MEMORY OF DR. BOB JOHNSON

Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Collins  
Mr. and Mrs. David Grath

#### IN MEMORY OF WANETTA KELLEN

Mrs. Cathleen C. Fisher

#### IN MEMORY OF BRIAN J. KILINSKI

Ms. Sandra K. Kilinski

#### IN MEMORY OF ANN KIRBY

Mr. Paul T. Kirby



## Happenings

### MARIO BATALI COOKS FOR CONSERVANCY

By now you probably know that famed chef Mario Batali offered a dinner along with a wine tasting and cooking lesson for 12 as a part of our 2005 Picnic and Silent Auction. What you may not know is that bidding was fast and furious at the Picnic, with many parties vying for a chance to both dine with Batali while supporting the work of protecting Leelanau. Ultimately, the dinner went for \$25,000. The high bidders, who wish to remain anonymous, said they had a great time made all the better knowing it was benefiting the Conservancy.

Batali echoed the sentiment. "The dinner was a blast—the people who came were my kind of people—fun, relaxed and into food and wine. I made it a point to toast the Conservancy right off because the bottom line is that the reason I was there, and they were there, was to support this great cause." Mario and his family spend a good part of their summer in Leelanau.

"In support of the Leelanau Conservancy" was the first line on specially printed menu cards, which detailed a mouthwatering array of courses. Among them: "Eggplant Involtini with Ricotta and Scallions," "Marinated Grilled Quail with Sweet Corn and Vin Cotto," and "Peach Crostata with Balsamic Vinegars." Guests walked away stuffed and happy, toting Babbo shopping bags filled with olive oils, cookbooks and other culinary gifts.

Cammie Buehler of Epicure Catering, who lent her kitchen and her help that evening said, "It was amazing to watch a master at work."

When we arrived to take some photos, Batali was missing in action, having run to Hansen's in Suttons Bay for fresh mozzarella balls. While we were waiting, Dave McCool, Mario's fly fishing guide and waiter for the evening told us, "Mario is very into what the Conservancy is doing. He's always pointing out your projects to me when we are out fishing."

The Leelanau Conservancy is very grateful to Mario Batali for lending his time and his name to furthering our cause. "We were not only able to raise a large amount of money for land protection, Mario's association with our organization brought us a lot of great press and created tremendous excitement," says Brian Price, executive director. "We are very lucky to have him as a supporter and to have him take on our mission so sincerely and so personally."



### 675 ATTEND ANNUAL PICNIC

It poured buckets the morning of our Annual Picnic and Silent Auction on August 4 when volunteers were busy setting up. But by evening spectacular skies emerged over the beautiful site we'd chosen for this year's event: the Olsen Farm

within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

People kept coming and coming! We were thrilled that so many turned out to hear our message and celebrate all the great things we have achieved together. Our board and staff feel so supported by our membership and the enthusiasm at the event for our organization was palpable!

The focus was on local foods; we served 6 appetizers prepared by local chefs and volunteers (we've had rave reviews on this addition) as well as a dinner featuring area meats and produce. Silent Auction items along with other proceeds raised



\$67,000 for land protection. We entertained nearly 100 children in our Kids Tent. By the time the evening was over, over 200 people had helped to make it happen, from farmers to underwriters to auction item donors to

committees to field trip leaders and other volunteers who helped to set up, tear down, serve wine, and anything and everything else we asked of them!

Members and others who attended heard breaking news from Congressman Dave Camp: \$5.3 million appropriated for the purchase of the Crystal River had been approved.

We're already planning for more of everything next year. We hope you'll put this event on your calendar: it's always the first Thursday in August, and if you'd like to get involved, please email [cfaught@theconservancy.com](mailto:cfaught@theconservancy.com). We have jobs aplenty!



Project Updates



“A POWERFUL TOOL”

By Holly Wren Spaulding

In 1999, my partner, Robert Bartle, and I were missing good air and our beloved lakeshore while living in one of Europe's grittier cities. We decided that we wanted to be closer to my family, to return to Leelanau, and to begin after many years of shifting addresses and continents, to call a place home. We didn't look for too long before we found a lively piece of land above a fertile swamp in the hills near Cedar. The zig-zagging stream reminded me of one I knew well while growing up in the Jordan River Valley; the wilding fruit trees, roty wetlands, pair of red shouldered hawks, numerous hummocks and nooks amounted to a place where we could feel at home.

From the earliest days we have regarded ourselves as caretakers of this piece of land. We watched the trees mature and old cattle paths grow over, and have always been aware that we were being circled by a complex community of life that assured us of high quality drinking water, shade in summer, firewood in winter, an uninterrupted view of the night sky and an acute sense of the seasons as the food that grew on the land blossomed, bore fruit, and died back in a perfect cycle. All the while the road off which we lived, and the county generally, has endured constant development. Trees are being hauled off, farm fields planted with condos, and ridgelines punctuated with metal pole barns and expansive second homes.

The fact is, Robert and I both share a discomfort with the very concept of property ownership. We are aware of the indig-enous history of this peninsula and live with the knowledge that



The permanent preservation of this 43 acres near Cedar is part of our Lake Leelanau Watershed Initiative (see page 5). What happens here ultimately affects the health of Lake Leelanau.

we weren't the first ones to be on this land, nor will we be the last. It is important to offset our ecological impact on the earth by making choices that have respect for future generations. We have committed this piece of land we call home to a Conservation Easement so that it will remain intact, in perpetuity, for all of the species inhabiting this place.

The need to respect both the ecology and the quality of life that open space provides is a deeply held value for us both. Working with the Leelanau Conservancy to protect the land where we live has provided us with a powerful tool for putting our ethics into action.

SANBORN FAMILY PROTECTS SOUTH LAKE LEELANAU PROPERTY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

family since 1878. At one point, the Sanborns and their relatives owned 640 acres along Birch Point. The 43 acres under conservation easement were preserved in two stages: a decade or so ago their mother, at Will's urging, preserved the first 14 acres with a donated easement, saving out one acre for use with the lakefront home.

When a paternal aunt passed away in 2001, the remaining 30 acres were bequeathed to Jeff and Will, along with their sisters Lucinda Willis and Peggy Irving. Because they all wanted to see this land preserved too, the siblings entered into a bargain sale with the Conservancy this summer. They were compensated for restricting development to a one-acre homesite on the upland portion. The Sanborns were taking advantage of a one-time opportunity to sell a conservation easement through the Lake Leelanau Watershed Initiative (see related story on pg 5). The family's agreement to sell the easement for less than appraised value helps us to stretch our

funds and protect more land.

The family can keep the land and it will continue to grow in value for their heirs. In the meantime they can enjoy it or sell it if need be, but the restrictions remain no matter who owns the land.

A heroic act: leaving money on the table, and personally ensuring these 43 acres will remain wild and free forever. "We could have made a lot more money if we had chosen to develop it," says Jeff. "But Will and I love this property so much that there is no way we would have done that. To get paid for something we wanted to do anyway is a bonus. So we see it as a win-win."

We are standing under a canopy of mature trees. "We wanted to keep all of these beautiful beech and hemlocks," adds Jeff, his arm sweeping around to take in the forest. "so all the other people who come after us can enjoy them too."



HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

(Received between 6/20/05 and 10/24/05)

If you would like to remember someone special or celebrate an occasion, what better way to do so than by helping to protect the beauty and natural treasures of Leelanau? We welcome donations in memory of loved ones as well as donations to honor birthdays, graduations, marriages, anniversaries or any other reason you can think of! The honoree or their family will be notified of your gift, so please include a clearly written address. You may make donations online at our secure website ([www.theconservancy.com](http://www.theconservancy.com)), over the phone with credit card (231-256-9665) or by mail: PO Box 1007, Leland, MI 49654.

IN HONOR LOU AND DIANA AUG  
Mr. Eric Dolson

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAYS OF  
JEANNE AND RAY BEIGHTS  
Mr. and Dr. Stephen R. Beights

IN HONOR OF THE MARRIAGE OF  
LAURA AND SPERRY BROWN  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben A. Tefertiller, Jr.

IN HONOR OF STEVE CAIRD'S 50TH  
BIRTHDAY  
Ms. Christine Tiderington

IN HONOR OF ANDREW AND  
RACHEL CARMAN  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Carman

IN HONOR OF DAVID CASSARD  
1031 Exchange Alternatives

IN HONOR OF MASYN BRYN LEE  
COLE  
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Gilbo

IN HONOR OF BOBBIE COLLINS'  
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Mr. and Mrs. David M. Cassard  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffry Corbin  
Tom and Gretchen Dunfee  
Gayle E. Egeler  
Carolyn and David Faught  
Mrs. Mary E. Lyons  
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Miller  
Brian and Susan Price  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard O. Ristine  
Mrs. Paula Robertson  
Mrs. Jacqueline Verdier  
Dick and Betsy Wilson

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM DELANEY  
Ms. Maureen J. Delaney-Lehman

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF  
MAUREEN DELANEY-LEHMAN  
Ms. Mary Linton

IN HONOR OF THE 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY OF  
BARBARA FELD  
Gerald Levine and Sarah Pokempner  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Samberg

IN HONOR OF JOHN AND JANICE  
FISHER'S 65<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND  
JOHN FISHER'S 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY  
Mr. and Mrs. Karl H. Bahle  
Ms. Susan J. Finke  
Mrs. Cathleen C. Fisher  
Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred J. Larson  
Mrs. Joan L. Workum

IN HONOR OF GERI AND HAROLD  
GALFANO  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beuerle

IN HONOR OF ZACH GOLDSTEIN  
Mark Cantrell & Kathy Rymal

IN HONOR OF RICK AND ENID  
GRAUER  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Baum, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Driker  
Mr. and Mrs. Julian Greenebaum  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Kraft  
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Mellow  
Mary R. Nave and Dave Hennes  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Segar  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Siegel  
Mr. and Mrs. Norm Ziergerman

ANNOUNCING COLLINS  
INTERNSHIP FUND

In honor of the contributions that Ed and Bobbie Collins have made to the Leelanau Conservancy, the Board of Directors has established a new fund in their name. The Edward and Barbara Collins Internship Fund will support paid summer internships at the Leelanau Conservancy. Summer interns perform many tasks, from event planning to graphic design to stewardship work outside in our natural areas. Each spring we will accept applications for internship positions, and name a Barbara Collins Intern.

Summer interns for the Conservancy gain invaluable experience in non-profit organizations, in conservation work. "It is our hope that this fund will encourage young people to pursue a career in the conservation field," said Bobbie Collins. "After all, they are the future stewards of our earth."

IN HONOR OF EDWARD AND JOAN  
HANPETER  
Ms. Karen L. May

IN HONOR OF TESS CATHERINE  
HOLLOWAY  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard O. Ristine

IN HONOR OF MARGARET AND  
ELIZABETH HOLT  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Holt, III

IN HONOR OF DEBBY IGLEHEART'S  
75TH BIRTHDAY  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Collins

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM JACOBY  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald S. Fleming

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH OF ANGUS  
J. JOHNSON  
Mr. and Mrs. Jay S. Johnson

IN HONOR OF JUDY JORGENSEN  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward D. Francis

IN HONOR OF RICHARD AND NANA  
KENNEDY  
Mr. and Mrs. David D. Magrini

IN HONOR OF REBECCA LEE'S  
BIRTHDAY  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey S. Lee

IN HONOR OF THE ANNIVERSARY  
OF CURT AND JUDIE LEECE  
David Leece and Kathleen Brewer

IN HONOR OF MARY C. LINTON  
Ms. Maureen J. Delaney-Lehman

IN HONOR OF ELIAS T. MAJOROS'  
BIRTHDAY  
Mr. and Mrs. Themistocles L. Majoros

IN HONOR OF BEN  
MOTHERSHEAD'S 12TH BIRTHDAY  
James Duvall

IN HONOR OF CHRIS NASH  
Brooke A. Nash & Bruce Fulford

IN HONOR OF MIDGE OBATA  
Kiku Obata



# LEELANAU PRESERVERS- A GIFT THAT LASTS FOREVER

## Need a great gift that's meaningful too?

When you give through our Leelanau Preservers Program, you can preserve land in a child's name, and instill in them at an early age that they have a stake in what Leelanau is to become. You can also give a gift to friends or family who live far away, but have Leelanau in their hearts. Or, preserve land in your own name. As a result of your contribution, your gift recipient becomes a "Leelanau Preserver." Over the years, we'll keep track of the total acres that have been preserved in their name. We'll send a beautiful card acknowledging your gift. Remember, giving to the Land Preservation Fund isn't just limited to the holidays. You can begin or add to a loved one's acreage any time a special occasion arises, like a birthday or anniversary. Together, we can preserve our natural treasures while there's still time.

### Leelanau Preservers Gift Order

I would like to preserve:

- |                                                 |                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 270 square feet \$30   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/10 acre \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 450 square feet \$50   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 acre \$1250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 900 square feet \$100  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 acre \$2500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2250 square feet \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 acre \$5000   |

in the name of \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ My recipient is a child whose age is \_\_\_\_\_ \*
- ☐ This gift is a memorial
- ☐ send packet to me. ☐ send packet to my recipient.
- Card to read \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please note: Gift packets for children age 10 and under will include The Young Preservers Exploration Kit.  
For additional gifts, attach a separate sheet of paper.

From: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount of order: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check enclosed ( payable to Leelanau Conservancy)

☐ Charge to VISA/MASTERCARD

# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send order form and payment to: Leelanau Conservancy, P.O. Box 1007,  
Leland, MI 49654, or order online: [www.theconservancy.com](http://www.theconservancy.com)

## NEW THIS YEAR - COMMEMORATIVE TILES

**M**ilestone Recognition!  
Many Conservancy supporters have been buying Preserver gifts since the program's inception in 2002 and we've kept track of each gift recipient's accumulated acreage. When they reach the 1/10 acre milestone (\$500) a beautiful personalized hand-made tile created by Suttons Bay artisan Leif Sporck will be mounted on our Preservers Circle in the Leland Village Green. And we'll continue to recognize new acreage milestones. A new tile will be mounted every time someone reaches 1/10 acre, 1/4 acre, 1/2 acre, 1 acre and each additional acre.



## ALSO NEW THIS YEAR- JUST FOR KIDS!



Created by our own Ms. Wizzle ( Conservancy Docent Ann McInnis), and recommended for kids 10 and under, this kit includes:

☆ 20 hand-sketched stickers of wildlife and other natural wonders to look for at Conservancy Natural Areas.

☆ A booklet where Young Preservers match up the stickers to compelling questions that will teach as well as entertain.

☆ Once your young explorer visits four Conservancy Natural Areas and matches the stickers to the questions, he or she will be eligible to claim a finger puppet of their choice in our office. (The animals represented will be native to our lands!) In the process, you'll be cultivating both their love of nature and knowledge of all of its wonders.

☆ They will also be recognized in our newsletter as part of the Young Preservers Club. When kids are not on the trail, they can email Ms. Wizzle as well as receive regular updates from her about all that is going on in our Natural Areas throughout the year. Plus, she'll invite them to a special summer hike - just for the Young Preservers!



## Project Updates

### WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT A LAKE WE LOVE

Where did the money come from for us to forever preserve the Bartle/Spaulding (page 4)and Sanborn (cover story) properties? Late in 2003 we received a \$723,800 Clean Michigan Initiative grant designated for protecting wetlands and ground-water recharge areas in the Lake Leelanau Watershed.

The funds have allowed us a one-time opportunity to purchase "conservation easements" on several parcels in the Lake Leelanau watershed. The Sanborn family, Holly Spaulding and Robert Bartle all protected their land with this conservation tool.

A conservation easement is a voluntary, legal agreement between the landowner and the Leelanau Conservancy that permanently limits a property's uses in order to protect its



Executive Director Brian Price and Development Coordinator Natasha Lapinski presented a program on the Lake Leelanau Watershed Initiative to the Lions Club in Maple City.



The Lake Leelanau Watershed Initiative: Working to ensure the health of Lake Leelanau by protecting the surrounding land and encouraging good stewardship.

who care deeply about the lake. Many people (see box below) opened their homes and cottages—and in one case, their winery!—hosting gatherings where we could explain our projects and spread the word about just how important it is to continue to protect our Watershed!

Throughout the summer, momentum has grown. Just this week, East Leland Property Owners Association issued a challenge pledge. The next \$1,000 given to the Lake Leelanau Watershed Project will be matched, dollar for dollar!

If you are planning your year-end giving; please consider a generous gift to protect Lake Leelanau. We're grateful to one and all for contributing to our success!

conservation values. The Conservancy can either buy or accept a conservation easement as a donation. In the case of the landowners mentioned above, each was paid for their development rights, but less than appraised value. For this, we are grateful. These two projects are among 12 either already completed or in the works—and the whole of it encompasses our "Lake Leelanau Watershed Initiative."

Although we only needed \$241,000 in matching funds to claim the \$723,800 state grant, we saw a much bigger opportunity to protect the lake if we could somehow double the state's award. It was a lofty goal to set our sights on completing a total of \$1,500,000 in land protection projects, but we knew the commitment to the lake is strong and that if we worked hard enough we could do it. Today, thanks to a lot of amazing and generous folks we are most of the way there with just \$171,000 to raise to reach our goal.

We tackled the fundraising challenge in many ways—direct mail appeals, raising awareness through newspaper articles and the like. But much of our success came in talking to those

### Thanks to our LLWI Gathering Hosts



Jeff and Susan Green invited their friends and neighbors to their home this fall to learn about the Conservancy's efforts to protect the Lake Leelanau Watershed.

#### LLWI HOSTS

Martha Baker  
Bel Lago Winery  
Gil and Anne Bogley  
Deborah Wyatt Fellows and Neal Fellows  
Susan and Jeff Green  
Jim and Mary Jo Grogan  
Betsy Holt  
Mary and Pete Taylor  
Colleen and Preston Moose  
Richard and Patty Rossman  
Ross and Kerry Satterwhite



## Happenings



### A PASSION FOR FIELDWORK

Jenée L. Rowe has joined our staff as the new Stewardship Director charged to grow and nurture the Volunteer Stewardship Network, manage Conservancy properties and assist Land Protection efforts. She worked for two years at Columbia University's Biosphere 2 Center as an earth system science teaching assistant before returning to the Great Lakes bioregion to work with Inland Seas Education Assoc., NMC's Water Studies Institute and the Benzie Conservation District. Jenée has a B.A. in Geology from Wisconsin's Lawrence University and a passion for fieldwork.



Jenée, son Niles and husband Adam (not pictured) enjoy a leisurely Sunday afternoon walking our Kehl Lake Natural Area.

"I enjoy creating innovative avenues to involve youth outdoors," says this avid outdoor enthusiast who is a certified Wilderness First Responder and a Leave No Trace Master Educator. She leads training sessions on low impact recreation techniques through discussion, hiking and practicing remediation. As a young mother, she is soaking up her son Niles' wonder in the quaking leaves, crunching pebbles and the blowing wind, which renews her own awe in her home, Leelanau County.

Through Jenée's stewardship work, she wants to give back to the land and community where she was raised. Her parents were long-time fiber artists who actively involved their children in the family business and community. Their weavings drew inspiration from the changing view of Lake Leelanau out their window and Leelanau's landscapes. Growing up in a creative and environmentally conscious household gave Jenée the space to explore her artistic passions through pottery and watercolor painting. You may find her any given day sitting alongside the trail or amidst a beautiful view painting in her field notebook or digging her hands into the soil to test it for clay.

### FUTURE STEWARDS

Throughout the summer of 2005, school age children from the Leelanau Children's Center visited three Natural Areas.

"We are very fortunate to have the Conservancy protecting lands for our future," says teacher Kristy Fisher. "We wanted to expose children to the natural wonders of the County. The children made observations and collected natural materials." They



later created three trail marker posts with their treasures.

On a beautiful day in mid-August, the children helped Conservancy Director Brian Price to install the markers at our Leland Village Green. Be sure to stop by and see the markers that showcase bits of nature collected and appreciated by little hands and eyes, and the wonderful flags the children created to identify each marker. "We think the staff of the Children's Center's efforts to involve children in nature appreciation activities is just great," says Brian Price. "They are, after all, the future stewards of our County."

### NORTHPORT POINT TEENS: TERRIFIC!

For the youth that spend part or all of their summers on idyllic Northport Point, participating in an annual Triathlon to raise funds for the Leelanau Conservancy has become a tradition. This summer was the fifth year for the event, which has kids swimming 1/2 miles across Northport Bay, biking six miles to Woolsey Airport and running 1.5 miles around the Point.

All that exercise has generated nearly \$10,000 over the last five years in pledges and donations solicited and collected by the teens. The Conservancy is grateful to these teens and to all who supported them.

"We love Leelanau," says Lauren Randall, a high schooler from Cincinnati who presented an envelope full of checks to Brian Price at our Picnic. "We can't imagine not helping out."



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome new members! This list reflects 59 individuals/families who have joined between June 23, 2005 and September 16. It may also include returning or lapsed members. The following people signed letters to friends and relatives asking them to join our ranks, helping to make this list as long as it is: Charlie Boesel, Larry Mawby, Mike & Sarah Litch, Frank & Barb Siepker, Chad Dutmers, Molly Harrison, Dave & Cara Cassard, Janice Bobrin and Gary & Liz Elling. If you would like to do the same, call Carolyn Faught or email: cfaught@theconservancy.com.

Mr. and Mrs. David Ager	Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Gillis	Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lanthorn	Mr. Robert Sawyer
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barnes	Frannie and Julian	Mr. Calvin R. Little	Mr. and Mrs. David Shiflett
Ms. Helen Bradley	Greenebaum	Little Bear Deli and Catering	Bob and Randi Sloan
Mr. Todd Bramer	Mr. Charles Haberlein	Mr. and Mrs. James A.	Mr. and Mrs. Laurence
Mr. and Mrs. George R.	Mr. Michael Hall	Mackin	Stawick
Bunn, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. John Habermann	Ms. Gabriella T. Maloon	Ms. Carol Stetter
Mr. and Mrs. John	Mr. Paul Hanpeter	Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Mellow	Ms. Elizabeth Sweet
Chamberlin	Ms. Sheryl Havered	Mr. Doug Moser	Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Van Dam
Mr. Michael Chiarappa	Tom Moore and Katy Hayes	Loretta Ames and Mike Novak	Peter and Karen Van Nort
Mr. and Mrs. Bret Crimmins	Mrs. Caron Heimback	Tom and Peggy Pierson	Mr. and Mrs. David K.
Mrs. Paula S. Crimmins	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ingold	Ms. Susan Pocklington	Watkins
Mr. Rodger Davis	Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Janko	Mr. Larry Price	Mr. and Mrs. Edward Weller
Mr. and Mrs. Gadis Dillon	Dr. and Mrs. Dick L. Kamps	Mr. and Mrs. Clayton A.	Mr. Jason Wilson
Mr. Jason Dunn	Dr. and Mrs. Charlie Kehr	Prugh	
Dr. James Fadely	Mrs. Barbara Kish	Mr. and Mrs. Des Rafferty	
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Flaska	Larry and Bonnie Koskela	Mr. Robert Rebaut	
Mr. Austin Garfield	Mr. and Mrs. Philip Kraft	Mr. Shawn Ricker	
Mr. Ed Gill		Mr. Ted Riley	

### HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Let your holiday gift giving reflect your love of Leelanau! Need a hostess gift? Why not choose a bottle of Conservancy wine from one of five available (a portion of sales benefits Farmland Preservation.) Or, stuff a stocking with a hat, t-shirt, water bottle, mug. For a complete look at what's available, visit: [www.theconservancy.com](http://www.theconservancy.com). Click on the About Us section on the opening page to reach our Online Store. You can also access info about Conservancy wines and links to area vintner websites.







### Honoring Our 10-Year Sustainers

This group joined our Sustainers Circle in 1995 and was celebrated for their commitment at a Sustainer gathering held at Gills Pier Winery in July. We are grateful to our Sustainers Circle, who provide stability to the operations end of our organization.



L-R: Jon and Diana Sebal, Paula Robertson, Treva DeJong, Patricia and Glenn McNett, Gil and Annette Deibel, Carol Bowen, Laura Deibel, Lee Bowen. Unable to attend were: James and Katherine Bulkley, Randy and Joanie Woods, and John and Jenny Kinsella

### New Sustainers since last newsletter

Frank and Janet Andress  
Stephanie Clark  
John and Leontina Elder  
Paul and Mary Finnegan  
Ms. Dorothy Hanpeter  
Cecily Horton  
Judy Jorgenson  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Lauterbach  
Mrs. Marlis Mann  
Doug and Ann McInnis  
Mimi Mullin  
Robert and Jacqueline Pool  
John and Mary Stanley  
W. Richard and Joyce Summerwill  
Mrs. Laura Swire  
Mr. Michael Walstrom  
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde M. Webb

Sustainers gathered at Cherry Basket Farm in Omena for dessert and wine in August (right) and at Gills Pier Winery (below) in July for the unveiling of our 2005 Conservancy Wine



### Sustainer Profile

Mimi Mullin of Columbus, Ohio, spent her childhood summers on North Lake Leelanau. She is passionate about protecting Leelanau to the point of getting teary eyed when she came into our office this summer to join our Sustainer's Circle.

"I want my grandchildren to be able to always 'have a little piece of Heaven' each summer, so I am EVER so grateful for the Conservancy and plan to make all future contributions to only you," Mimi wrote in an email after her visit and sent this photo of her grandchildren gathered around her in a beloved spot.

In her email Mimi also said that the swing they are all sitting on is now gone. It was on an old friend's property that passed away. "The land was sold, divided and now has a \$5 million-plus home and guesthouse on it," Mimi wrote. "Many trees were demolished to build these two homes and it is such a change from what I remember."



Left to right: Leah Mullin, Dylan Neff, Logan Neff, Mimi, and Olivia Mullin.



## Project Updates

### FARMLAND UPDATE—JUST THE FAQs PART II

Because so many people are asking questions about farmland preservation, with this issue we continue the second installment of a series of articles attempting to provide some answers to those frequently asked questions or "FAQs."

**Q:** Why can't we preserve farming with zoning, which doesn't cost us anything?

**A:** Zoning can and does change, while farmland preservation is a permanent solution. Look almost anywhere in Leelanau County and you'll see recent construction in places that used to be farmed. Zoning districts can change over time. (A lawyer can sometimes convince a township board to rezone a farm property in a single meeting.) Most townships have agriculturally-zoned districts. But these zoning districts typically allow residential development on smaller lots, such as one home per 10, 5 or even 2 acres. Once farms—and the globally important agricultural soils they possess—are split into lots of less than 40 acres and sold for residences or vacation homes, they are usually no longer economically

viable for farming. In these situations, it doesn't make economic sense to maintain the expense involved in a full-blown farming operation for a parcel too small to provide a decent return. In effect, these lots are often too small to plow and too big to mow. Also, as more farms disappear and more homes are built on or near farmland, more conflicts can occur between farmers and their neighbors over the noise and smells of the farming operations, which are usually not compatible with quiet residential living. And, as farmland is sold off for development, there are fewer farmers that can rely upon each other for help in a pinch, like when equipment breaks down or an extra helping hand is needed. As a result, when a farm becomes surrounded by new development, farming is often a more expensive and risky proposition. Farmers then may become more likely to sell, with the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses being the typical result. This cycle of farm isolation to non-ag conversion can be slowed or even halted with a strong PDR program using a mix of local, state and federal funding.

### PRESERVING THE ABILITY TO FARM

You may remember a few years back when a sign advertising a 14-home subdivision went up on this land, located near Crain Hill Road on County Road 633 in Elmwood Township. Then part of the nearby 4<sup>th</sup> generation Stanek farm, the family had optioned the land to raise capital for their farming operation. The land is part of an area known as Leelanau's "Gateway to Agriculture," where soils and terrain are ideal for fruit growing, and orchards seem to go on for miles.

"...what you guys are really doing is preserving the ability for someone to get into farming."

Long story short, the development never happened. The Stanek family chose to sell development rights on 230 acres, protecting farmland while providing needed cash for investment in farming operations. With the help of state and federal farmland preservation funds, the Conservancy also purchased the land threatened by development—90 acres in total. We did so with intentions of reselling the acreage to another farmer or a "conservation buyer," someone willing to buy land that is restricted for conservation purposes.

Enter brothers Robert and Ed Brengman of Traverse City, owners of the new Crane Hill Vineyards. "Land in Leelanau has gotten so darn expensive that it seemed impossible for us to



follow a dream of growing grapes and opening a winery some day," says Robert. "But with the development rights removed, it allowed the land to go up for sale at an affordable rate. I give the Conservancy a lot of credit because what you guys are really doing is preserving the ability for someone to get into farming." Or stay in farming. Either way, precious ag soils are protected.

A similar scenario took place on the other 45 acres across the road, where lavender is being planted. Our agricultural heritage remains intact, and in the meantime these two enterprises will no doubt contribute one day to Leelanau's emerging agri-tourism industry. And that's good for everybody.



## Program Schedule



### 2005 WINTER HIKEs AND EVENTS

**Important Note:** We are pleased to offer this schedule of hikes and programs, led by our knowledgeable volunteer Docents and staff. Do dress according to weather. So that we may provide the best experience possible and be fully prepared, we require (and appreciate!) advanced registration. Please call: 231-256-9665 to register and if you have further questions about directions.

**Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

#### Snowshoe Hike at the Houdek Dunes Natural Area

Join Docents, Tom Dunfee and John Bull, for a snowshoe exploration trip through the incredibly beautiful 330-acre Houdek Dunes Natural Area. This tract contains forested and open dunes and a wide array of wildlife habitat. Dress accordingly and you will need to provide your own snowshoes.



**1 pm**

**Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### 2006 Blues at the Bluebird

For years, the Blues at the Bluebird has been a way for Conservancy supporters and blues lovers to get together in the winter for a great evening supporting a cause dear to their hearts. With the difficulty of finding acts willing to travel here in the winter for an affordable price, last year we announced the end of this long running event.



**6:30 pm**

**Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**

#### Animal Tracking at the Teichner Natural Area

This quiet peaceful Natural Area is open to guided tours only. Explore its beauty, while learning more about winter ecology. Docent Alice Van Zoeren is an expert at identifying animal tracks and will help you discover signs of creatures that inhabit this beautiful preserve. Bring your own snowshoes and appropriate winter clothing. Registration is required and space is limited. To find out where to meet and to register, call the Conservancy: 256-9665.

**10 am**

**Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Volunteer Expo



Do you have a desire to get involved with the Leelanau Conservancy and learn more about volunteer opportunities? Here's your chance to find out about all the options available to you. Our Stewardship Director, Jenee Rowe, will talk about outdoor projects she has planned and what sort of people power is needed, from eradicating invasive species to maintaining trails. From mailing crews to booth keeping to rescuing wildflowers to working on our auction committee, there is a job for every age, interest and ability. Even if you are already a seasoned volunteer for the Conservancy, please come to learn more about all we have planned and how you might help.

**1 pm**

**Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**

#### Winter Wonderland at Chippewa Run

Join Docent, Jack Schultz, for a guided fun and adventurous snowshoe trek through this gorgeous Natural Area in Empire. Jack will lead you past the roaring brook, into an old orchard and through the pine plantation. You must provide your own snowshoes. If there is a lack of snow at this time, plan on hiking the area instead.

**2 pm**

**Wednesday, March 9**

#### All about Purchase of Development Rights

Everyone seems to want to save our beautiful farmland and agricultural heritage. But there's ongoing debate about the best way to do so. Purchasing a farmer's development rights is one sure way to preservation, but funds to accomplish it on a large scale are scarce. What is the future of farmland preservation and how does a PDR program fit into the solution mix? If you are confused and would like to learn more from our own farmland protection specialist, Tom Nelson, and Scott Everett of American Farmland Trust, plan to attend this informative seminar.

**1-4 pm**

## Volunteer Thanks!



Our volunteer ranks are growing! We're grateful to each and every one of you, for jobs large and small. The Conservancy's success depends on volunteers. If you would like to get involved, please call 256-9665 or send an email to [cfaught@theconservancy.com](mailto:cfaught@theconservancy.com)

☆ **Docents** who led hikes this summer: Ann McInnis, Jack Schultz, Mary Lyons, Marsha Buehler, and Tom Dunfee. Thanks also to Ed Reinert who held a mushroom workshop at our office this fall and Kay Charter who helped with bird hikes.

☆ **Office recycling:** Joy Lang, Dennis and Ericka Ferguson

☆ **Brochure distribution:** Marsha Buehler, Carl Hammond

☆ **Wildflower Garden planters:** Our office now has its very own wildflower garden thanks to Liz Porter, Paul Kieren (pictured) Patty Shea, Joanie Woods, Carol Bowen and Erika Ferguson. Thanks to Joy Lang for donating her hand-crafted bird bath.



Wildflower rescue volunteers planting wildflower garden at Conservancy office

☆ **Booth keepers:** Barbara Abbott, Annette Deibel, Paul Howes, Barbara Nelson-Jameson, Ben Hitz, Allan Smith, Carol Lund, Mary Lyons, Molly Harrison, John & Carol Peterson, Leon & Folly Michael, Charlotte Read, Carol Wyman, Mary Russell, Jim Saffel

☆ **Office help:** Judy Frederick, Lou Ristine. Thanks also to Ann McInnis for her adorable drawings that will be a part of our new Young Preservers kit.

### A ONE TIME TAX DEDUCTION OPPORTUNITY!

We wanted to make sure you were aware that The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 provides special incentives for charitable giving for gifts given before January 1, 2006. Under current law, individuals can deduct charitable donations up to 50% of their adjusted gross income. Deductions of charitable donations are further limited by the phase-out of itemized deductions. Under this new Act, cash donations to charities made before the end of this year are exempt from the 50% income limitation and the phase-out of itemized deductions. To learn more, consult with your tax professional.

If you have been considering making a significant gift to the Conservancy, this would be a great time to do it!

☆ **Mailing crews:** Shirley Wheatley, Marie Christianson, Penny Gordon, Treva DeJong, Erika Ferguson, Hilde Miller, Rita Dick, Lou Ristine, Bob McKelvey, Bob Hagerman, Nonny Bolmer, Julie Knode

☆ **New color logo design:** Jeff Corbin and Karin Fish from Corbin Designs for updating our logo

#### Picnic Volunteers:

☆ **Trip Leaders:** Tom Dunfee, Ann McInnis, Bobbie Poor, Dick Cooper, Casier family, Sue Pocklington of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear, Bill Herd of NPS

☆ **Auction Committee:** Judy Frederick, Kathy Rymal, Peggy Miller

(pictured at right), Laura Swire, John and Carol Peterson, Lynn Peabody, Herb & Ann Nichols, Ann Watkins, Dick & Lou Ristine, Shirlee Affhalter, Charlie Boesel, Marsha Buehler, Jack Burton, Annette Deibel, Molly Harrison



☆ **Local Foods Appetizer Chefs:** Epicure Catering, Good Harbor Grill, The Bluebird, Hansen Foods, Nancy Allen, Kejara's Bridge

☆ **Local Foods Committee/Servers:** Nancy Miller, Gretchen Dunfee, Courtney Miller, Jennifer Carlson, Moonyeen Fitch, Sue Corbin, Cheryl Donakowski, Betsy Fraker, Jayne Bull, Patty Rossman, Doug Keyes, Amber Bingham. Table centerpieces created by Gina Erb, Molly Harrison and Mary Lyons

☆ **Kids Tent Volunteers:** Evy Sussman, Leslie Buechner, Ryland Hazelgrove, Kate & Madeline Schaff, Hildi Fortin, Katelin & Lauren Randall, Neil Peck, Peter Heidrich, Taylor Smith, Johnny Ball, Annabelle Bunn, Maddy Lockhart, Mike Eversburg, Becky Ferguson, Kyle Hynden, Sam Faught

☆ **Parking:** Lee Bowen, Lee Jameson, Sheriff Mike and crew, Ellen Price, Julie Fraker, Joe Renneker, Ben & Peter Fellows

☆ **Beverage Tent/Clothing Sales/Check In:** Dan & Anka Harkness, Joe Renneker, Barbara Jameson, Carol Bowen, Deb Fellows, Julie Knode, Pauline McClure, Bob & Janet McKelvy, John Bull, Warren Watkins, John Erb, Ed & Bobbie Collins, Mary Taylor, Dick Ristine, Larry Mawby, Dave & Cara Cassard, Jack Seaman, Frank Sieper, Leon Micheal, Kyle Carr, Jeff Corbin,

☆ **Special thanks** to Dee Glass for lending her tent, Tyler Merz for helping to set it up, Marty Easling for loaning his generator, Kim Mann of NPS for prepping the site.

☆ **Food and Flower Donations:** Carlson's, Hansens, Burdette Chapman, Happy Hour, Leelanau Cheese, Leelanau Beef, Crane Hill Vineyard, Jim, Christy and Gary Bardenhagen



## Volunteer Thanks!



### VOLUNTEER AND BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Volunteers? We love 'em! And we couldn't be nearly as successful without their help. Every year at our Annual Picnic we celebrate their good work and choose one to recognize. This year Bill and Shirley Orcutt was at the top of our list. The Orcutts have been with us practically since our inception. They wandered into our offices right after they retired and bought a home on South Lake Leelanau. The Orcutts said they wanted to get involved and since then, they have been incredibly reliable and helpful. When in town, they never miss helping out with a mailing or taking a shift in our booth.

Since our beginning in 1988, the Leelanau Conservancy has been fortunate to have many good friends in the business



**Volunteers of the Year:**  
Shirley and Bill Orcutt

community as well. This year we chose The Bluebird Restaurant and the Telgard family as our Business Partner of the Year. They have been incredibly helpful and

generous over the years, hosting our Blues at Bluebird winter fundraiser since the early '90s as well as donating to or underwriting other events. Skip Telgard participated in our Community Forum last year and understands the connection between the health of his business and the beauty of Leelanau County. Bluebird chefs even prepared a Picnic appetizer. We are grateful to both the Orcutts and the Telgard family for their unfailing support over the years.



**Business Partner of the Year: The Bluebird**

### CONSERVATION ON PARADE!

For the second year, Sustainers Jeannie and Bill Dennler carried our banner in Leland's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. This year, they added a new twist: dressing up as things you might find at one of our Natural Areas. The Dennlers and friends, Dick and Faith Sanderson, marched as birch tree, Pitcher's thistle, lakeside daisy, and Whaleback bird-watcher. Jeannie's daughter Kim, who is finishing her master's degree in art therapy, designed the creative costumes.

The enthusiastic applause from spectators all along the route was inspiring. "People do love the Conservancy," says Jeannie. "The parade was the highlight of our summer!"



### WISH LIST

The Volunteer Stewardship Network needs some gear to do trail work this coming spring. Donate your old external frame backpacks and they will help us haul the tools we need to maintain and create new trails in our Natural Areas

for years to come. We need 2 men's packs and 2 women's packs. Please call if you have an item we need (231-256-9665), or take a photo of it and email to it to Jenée Rowe at [jrowe@theconservancy.com](mailto:jrowe@theconservancy.com).

### HIGH FLYING

For her nephew Zach Goldstein's birthday, member Kathy Rymal arranged for pilot Lou Aug to take Zach up in his 4-seater airplane to tour around Leelanau County.

When she asked about payment, Lou said he would not take any money, but that she could make a donation to the Conservancy instead. (Lou is the same guy who also offered an air tour that was so actively bid on in this year's Silent Auction.) In lieu of payment, Kathy made a donation to our Leelanau Preservers Program; now Zach has not only seen Leelanau from the air, he now has 900 square feet symbolically preserved in his name. Thanks to Lou!



## Special Tribute



### THE COLLINS LEGACY: A TRIBUTE TO BOBBIE

Bobbie Collins, former Board Chair, founder, super-volunteer, and inspiration to all of us over her 17-plus years of service, has completed her final term on the Conservancy's Board.

Pulling into the drive in front of the Conservancy office this morning, I was once again reminded of the effort and leadership that Bobbie has brought to the our organization. When I left the office on Friday, there was a large pile of black compost and a variety of shrubs waiting to spruce up the "alley" adjacent to our building. On Monday, thanks to Bobbie and her work crew, the dirt is spread and shrubs are planted.

I bring this up because the imprint of Bobbie and her husband, Ed, is indelibly drawn on the Leelanau Conservancy – from the landscaping to the details of board policies. Many people know that the Leelanau Conservancy grew from the original vision that Ed and Bobbie had of an organization that could harness the efforts of our community's problem-solvers in a new and non-confrontational way. Ed and Bobbie believed then, as now, that once lines are drawn and the battle is joined, that it gets very hard to achieve the best result, and even harder to keep your friends. They formed an organization that would work to preserve the scenic character of Leelanau, and that worked inclusively and proactively.

Far from just launching an organization, Bobbie and Ed saw it through the formative years. Some of our most important land acquisitions such as the Village Green, Kehl Lake, and Whaleback were only possible with the efforts of the Collins.

But on the occasion of Bobbie's retirement from the board there is much more to applaud and celebrate. Every organization has a corporate culture of sorts, a shared history and set of operating rules, often unwritten. I believe that Bobbie Collins is responsible for much of the Conservancy's corporate culture.

First, Ed and Bobbie knew that we were going to be asking successful and sophisticated people to support this fledgling enterprise. That meant that we would be business-like in our approach, relying more on logic and consistency than shrill appeals or emotion. Bobbie has been involved in

every phase of the public face of our organization. She designed our logo, decorated our office, arranged for computers to be networked, and chose the color of our stationary.

Second, because people were entrusting the Leelanau Conservancy with protecting precious lands in perpetuity, the organization had to be built for the long haul. That meant carefully building relationships with community leaders and making sure that we had the financial resources to follow through on commitments. The Revolving Project Fund (for starting projects), the Stewardship Fund (for managing land long-term), and finally the Endowment were all conceived to make sure that our promises would always be kept.

Finally, success for our organization has always been as much about people as it has been about land. It's about building better communities, not just preserving places. And a conservation transaction not only preserves a precious resource, it has to also work for the families and individuals that care about that place. This too, is a legacy of the corporate culture established by Bobbie and Ed.

It's been 18 years since the idea of the Leelanau Conservancy was spawned during a dinner conversation amongst friends. Bobbie and Ed Collins rose from that conversation and followed through on what was undoubtedly a good idea. They



Ed and Bobbie Collins and new Conservancy Board Chairman Frank Siepker

created something where previously there had been a void, and they had the generosity of spirit to put their own time and money into an organization that benefits the whole community, not just a few. For that, and for putting the public good before personal pursuits, we are thankful.

And on a more personal note...from the time I walked into the office 18 years ago to learn more about what this new Leelanau Conservancy was all about, and walked out with a job offer, Ed and Bobbie have been an integral part of my life and the work we both believe in so passionately. I can't tell you how many projects, meetings and events we have planned together. Those stories are for another time, but suffice it to say that I always came away with an admiration for their insight, humor and wisdom. Their vision that good things can happen when people come together for a cause has never wavered. I'm proud, humbled and amazed when I think about all that we've been able to accomplish together. ~ Brian Price



## Project Updates



### VOLUNTEERS GO TO GREAT LENGTHS FOR WHALEBACK

Volunteers who were sure-footed, strong-backed, cooperative and experienced in transplanting native species came out eager to protect the bluff at Whaleback Natural Area in early October. The beautiful trees surrounding the observation deck were at risk because of use of the bluff as an access down to the beach. Our goal was to stop foot traffic by removing the trail and add a few positive touches.

Here are some steps to follow, if you were unable to join us but are curious about how to stop erosion on your own property. Finding the cause of erosion can sometimes take detective work, but in our case, the trails around both sides of Whaleback's observation deck were an obvious indicator of the cause.

Our amazing crew of volunteers embarked on some biotechnical erosion control, meaning we used the long-term stabilizing power of native trees, downed branches and trees. First, our mighty crew dragged large downed trees from a dispersed area within Whaleback. Using a system of ropes, pulleys and people power, we placed many trees to build 3 terraces on the steep slope and anchored them in place. Members of the Wildflower Rescue Team helped the goldenrod, cedar, dogwood, pine and hemlock transplants by installing a coconut fiber blanket across the upper part of the slope to hold the soil close to their roots. The coconut fiber biodegrades in 5-8 years making a great low maintenance mulch blanket. We gathered leaves, needles and downed brush, piling it densely over the anchored trees and trail to create a moist environment for our transplants



Volunteers battle bluff erosion at Whaleback.

to take root. Try this easy step to stop erosion on your own property but don't skimp, it will decompose quickly.

Many thanks to the volunteers who came out to help, learn new skills, and share their talents. There will be lots of projects coming up where we will need the various abilities of our community members to help us create healthy landscapes in our Natural Areas. Restoration can be a great way to get outdoors and be a part of a community-building event too. When the Volunteer Stewardship Network next meets, may it be outside!

Thank you Stewardship Volunteers!!



Front left to right, Jim Vachow, Tom Dunfee, Ed Collins, Gina Erb, Gary Cheadle, Ann & Herb Nichols. Front row, Jay Swink and Jenée Rowe. Not pictured Carl Headland, Tom Angus, Bobbie Collins, Nora & Charlie Bumb and Shirlee Affhalter. Thanks to Gene Hadjisky and J.PVanRaalte for materials.

### VOLUNTEER EXPO!

The Volunteer Stewardship Network is growing to meet the needs of our Natural Areas, Preserves and easements. Leelanau needs you!!! If you like to kill invasive species so native plants can thrive, maintain trails, build stuff or have a green thumb contact the Stewardship Director at 231-256-9665 or [jrowe@theconservancy.com](mailto:jrowe@theconservancy.com). Tell us with which months you are available.

Outdoor work not your thing?? We have many other volunteer opportunities - working at one of our events; being on our auction committee; manning our information booth; helping with our mailings, just to name a few. Mark your calendars for Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup> for our **First Annual Volunteer Expo** where you can hear first hand from veteran volunteers the many ways to help us achieve our mission. (see calendar on page 8.)

## Project Updates



### CRYSTAL RIVER: CLOSING REMARKS

The journey to preserving the beloved Crystal River near Glen Arbor is over. In mid-October, federal funds appropriated for the river's transfer into the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore came through. Closing documents were signed on October 20, and the river—104 acres and 6,300 feet of river frontage—is now and forever under the wing of the National Park Service (NPS).

The majority of the land and its accompanying river frontage that is being protected is sensitive "dune and swale" topography. The area is recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "globally rare habitat."

The journey to protection took nearly 20 years and had as many twists and turns as the river itself. When the Homestead Resort proposed building a golf course along the river back in 1986, a group called Friends of the Crystal River formed



Signing off: l to r, Conservancy Attorney Jack Seaman, President Craig Miller and Treasurer Frank Siepker

that would tenaciously oppose the course for nearly two decades. Many other individuals and groups joined in the effort to save the river, from politicians to units of government to the Leelanau Conservancy.

The transfer of the river was a complicated transaction that took nearly two years to negotiate and complete. Congressmen Dave Camp and Senator Carl Levin helped to pass legislation that expanded the Park's boundaries and pushed to acquire the needed funds for the National Park Service (NPS). Twenty-two acres, including one of the most scenic stretches along County Road 675, was purchased by the NPS in November 2004. Six weeks later, the NPS acquired an additional 23 acres. But because the NPS couldn't fund all 104 acres, the Leelanau Conservancy stepped in to buy and hold 59 acres until federal appropriations were available. That meant taking out \$4.85 million in loans—not an easy task, and not without substantial risk.

"It's been a group effort to protect this fragile resource," says Conservancy director Brian Price. "The Friends of the Crystal River, the Conservancy and the Park Service each had a distinct piece of the puzzle. And within each group, key individuals worked tirelessly and often behind the scenes to make sure that, one day, this stretch of the river would be protected. The Conservancy's role was to bring people and resources together to bring about this final solution."

"I didn't think I would ever say this, but seeing the last 59 acres transferred to the Park was well worth the wait," said Congressman Camp. "I can't thank the Leelanau Conservancy's Brian Price and Sleeping Bear Superintendent Dusty Shultz enough for their leadership on this effort. Their dedication to the land deal coupled with the federal funds we were able to secure in Washington guarantees this pristine tract of land will be enjoyed by generations to come. It was tough to imagine Sleeping Bear getting any better than it already was, but I have to admit that I think we improved it quite a bit."



Dave Camp, at our 2005 Annual Picnic, announces final funding has come through for the Crystal River Purchase

"The National Park Service at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is very excited that the remaining 59 acres of the Crystal River property have been acquired from the Leelanau Conservancy," says Park Superintendent Dusty Shultz. "The lands harbor a variety of habitats and species, and provide a natural setting for recreational river users. We sincerely appreciate the assistance of all who helped make this purchase happen. It is especially remarkable that the entire transaction, from legislation to receiving the funds and closing on the property, happened so quickly, thanks to the dedication and perseverance of those involved. The Lakeshore plans to schedule a spring cleanup on the newly acquired tracts."

"Friends of the Crystal River are delighted that the River is finally where it belongs, in the Park, preserved forever!" says Vik Theiss, vice president of the Friends group. "We are most grateful for the extraordinary efforts of the Michigan Congressional Delegation, the National Park Service, the Conservancy and most especially for the perseverance and dedication of our own loyal members in making this a reality. I still pinch myself from time to time to be sure I am not dreaming."



Wild and pristine, now and forever thanks to the hard work of many.