



Leelanau Conservancy

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

Our 20th Year!

Newsletter: Spring, 2008

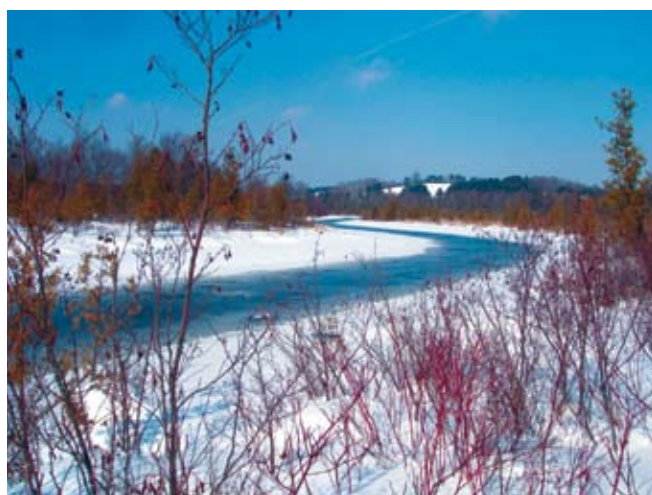
Vol.19, No. 1

River Lands Near Cedar Forever Protected

Victoria Creek, known by most locals as the Cedar River, is a majestic looping thread of sluggish blue water winding through Leelanau County's most scenic and ecologically important wetland complex. With the March 21 purchase of 100 acres of forested and open wetland straddling the river, Victoria Creek now provides a connection between the very first, and the most recent, conservation acquisitions in the 20-year history of the Leelanau Conservancy.

Nearly 20 years ago the Leelanau Conservancy, in establishing its very first natural area, purchased 120 acres along the Cedar River at the foot of Lake Leelanau. The land included several stream connections along with the mouth of river, where it empties into Lake Leelanau. This spring, we had the opportunity to buy the last remaining privately owned land that straddles the upstream portion of the river, and we jumped at the chance. To date, the Conservancy has acquired a total of 300 acres and over two miles of Lake Leelanau shoreline and connecting channels along the waterways within the Solon Swamp wetland complex.

Purchasing the property was like putting in a key piece of a puzzle. Now, both banks of the Cedar River, from the village of Cedar all the way down to Lake Leelanau, are owned by



The new acquisition will give the public access to 275 acres of State Forest land that were previously inaccessible on foot.

either the State or the Conservancy and open to the public to explore and enjoy. The new acquisition is strategic for another reason: the property includes about eight acres of dry upland along Co. Rd. 645, just east of Cedar. This will be the first access point along a public road north of the Cedar River and only the third road-access point into about 1,500 acres of Pere Marquette State Forest. Conservancy ownership of the 100 acres will allow the public to directly access 275 adjacent acres of State Forest which were previously inaccessible on foot because of the river.

The forested wetlands on the property are thick with northern white cedar, hemlock and spruce. A large pocket of mature tamaracks is present on the 24 acres south of the river. The new acquisition has tremendous ecological value. While a complete inventory of plant and animal species is yet to come, nearby land within the Cedar River Natural Area contains over 100 species of plants. Among such gems is the carnivorous yellow pitcher plant. The new land is part of a very large and diverse complex of forested swamp, cattail marsh, and freshwater fens, all connected by stream corridors.

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President's Message



We will soon be ready to unveil a new plan that should result in major preservation of working farms...

I love all the seasons in Leelanau County and now it is time to say goodbye to winter, shedding that big winter coat, boots and the many layers of clothing. At this time of year, my thoughts are drifting towards when I will see the first cherry blossom, the nodding yellow trout lily or the delicate hepatica popping up through the forest floor. I also enjoy walking outside and listening to birds that I have not heard from since fall and seeing the animals stir in anticipation of a new season.



We have not been hibernating at the Conservancy this past winter. On the contrary we continue to preserve land at a pace that we have rarely seen in recent years, thanks to your support and willingness to embrace the Conservancy mission. Spring stirs thoughts of new projects and plans whether they be personal or broader in scope. We are working on two very important projects this season that will most certainly affect the Conservancy's impact on preserving the land, water and scenic character of Leelanau County.

The first is a massive effort to update our Strategic Land Conservation Plan. This plan was last updated in 2003 and has served the Conservancy well. It was produced in response to our need to identify and rank those lands that, through a variety of tests, resulted in our ability to identify those areas most urgently in need of preserving.

The new plan will do much the same, except we will be using vastly improved technology procured through a contract with The University of Michigan. We are collaborating with other organizations such as Land Information Access Association, the Conservation Resource Alliance, county and Grand Traverse Band planning staffs, and science staff of Northwestern Michigan College to bring together the best minds available. This exciting project will guide our work in the coming decade and will also be useful to local governments and others in preserving and maintaining our special place.

The second major project for this year is to craft a new farmland preservation program. As you all are aware we have devoted much time and resources in the past to insuring that farms and the farming life style remain an important part of life in Leelanau County. As of this writing we have successfully preserved over 2,000 acres of working farmland through the use of Conservancy funds as well as state and federal farmland preservation programs. Currently our needs exceed our resources. We must look outside our traditional sources of funding. In 2006 we secured grants through the Kellogg & Esperance Foundations to study ways to further preserve

farming in Leelanau County. These grants allowed us to devote much energy and time to studying ways to accomplish this task. We will soon be ready to unveil a new plan that should result in major preservation of working farms now and for future generations.

So as you can see, your Conservancy has not been hibernating. On the contrary, we continue to leverage your trust and support into new and better ways of preserving this special place now and well into the future.

Tom Dunfee

Tom Dunfee, President

The Cedar River Natural Area (see cover story) is a popular destination for kayakers, canoeists & bird-watchers



Message From Our Director

We want our members to know that in March, for the first time in 20 years, we were obligated to file a preemptive lawsuit in order to prevent logging on a property that did not comply with the terms of the conservation easement over the property. You should know that this action was taken as a last resort, after efforts to resolve the issue short of legal action had failed. You should also know that the proposed logging would not have resulted in a minor or technical violation of the conservation easement, but rather, in our judgment, would have resulted in damages to the conservation values of the property that would have taken decades to heal. The landowner has since responded with a counter suit.

The public trusts us when we say that, when we have forever protected a tract of land, we mean forever. Otherwise, we would not be fulfilling our mission. A lawsuit was required, in this case, by our fiduciary and legal duty to defend the terms of our conservation easement on land adjacent to the Whaleback Natural Area. If you have any questions about this, please call Brian Price (231) 256-9665.

His mother wanted to be sure he knew that a piece of Leelanau would be saved forever in his name



Project Updates

The Jeff Lamont Preserve: A Special Way to Remember

Late last summer, staffer Gayle Egeler received a very sad phone call, but one that ultimately left her and her fellow co-workers inspired. Longtime Conservancy member Bridget Lamont had called to say that her nearly 21-year-old son, Jeff, lay dying after battling cancer for the last six years. Bridget and her husband, Tom, wanted to donate to our Leelanau Preservers program so that a tile in Jeff's name could be mounted in our Village Green. It was Bridget's hope that Jeff would live to see his 21st birthday, and she also wanted to show him a photograph of his tile. "His mother wanted to be sure he knew that a piece of Leelanau would be saved forever in his name," says Gayle. Little did we, or she know that this Preservers gift was just the beginning.

Gayle quickly had a picture of a tile taken, and sent it off Priority mail. Jeff, who loved Leelanau County, did live to see his 21st birthday, and the tile photo, but died three weeks later.

Bridget had told Gayle that Jeff loved Lake Michigan, and was a wildlife enthusiast who had a passion for walking in the woods. A few weeks later, land protection specialist Tom Nelson received a call from Jeff's uncle, Jeff Later. Jeff explained that as the family began processing his nephew's death, they had conceived of an idea to celebrate Jeff's life beyond a Preservers tile. They wanted to buy a 40-acre woodland near the family cottage on Cathead Bay that Jeff had enjoyed walking on. Their idea was to then donate the land to the Conservancy and preserve it forever in Jeff's honor.

As it turns out, the land, owned then by Sam and Debbie Middleton of Northport, has all the qualities that the Conservancy looks for when prioritizing land projects: excellent wildlife habitat and a variety of trees, flora and terrain. The family approached the Middletons. A deal was struck, and fundraising began for the \$140,000 piece of property.



Jeff Lamont's cousins, including 10-year-old Phil Later, collected coins to help offset the cost of the sign for the new preserve.

"People said we would never raise that kind of money," says Jeff Later. He and his family wrote 500 letters. "The donations starting flowing in," he says. "What a shock it was to see so many gifts from so many people, and some who never knew Jeff." A friend of Jeff's launched his own 500-letter appeal.

Since then 420 gifts have been given in Jeff's name, and nearly three quarters of the needed funds have been raised.



The Jeff Lamont Preserve features scenic stands of old maple, beech and hemlock, delightfully dense wetlands replete with cattails over six feet, and verdant meadows where dozens of does and their fawns come to bed nightly.

The Conservancy made up the difference from donations to its Land Acquisition Fund, and in January, purchased the 40 acres. The dream of a Jeff Lamont Preserve became a reality.

One of the donations came from Al and Sue Manson of Springfield Illinois. The Mansons are close friends of the Lamont family and own a home near Northport. "We watched Jeff grow up and at 15, commence a six-year fight against cancer," says Al. "He was a brave, brilliant and remarkable young man. Leelanau County was his light and refuge in the darkest days. Jeff's family and friends are truly, truly grateful for the Conservancy's efforts."

Plans for the Preserve call for a sign, small parking area and a simple trail. The Preserve will close in hunting season, an agreement critical to Sam Middleton. He had concerns over public access, because he hunts on his own land that is adjacent to the preserve. "Tom Nelson was real nice to work with," he says. "He showed concern for what I wanted. It was a positive experience. I'm glad the land will stay as it is; a wildlife refuge and a place for deer to over winter."

"This project has flourished and has been one of the most satisfying things I've ever been involved in," says Jeff Later. "Unfortunately, it all centers on Jeff's death but helps us deal with his loss."

"The Lamont family story is incredible," says Brian Price, Conservancy Director. "The preserve is a reflection of Jeff and his family's deep love for Leelanau and the natural world. It is this sort of emotional response that has fueled our work for 20 years. We're amazed and inspired by what has been accomplished." A dedication is planned for June 27th at 4 pm.



"It's a great opportunity.. to make sure that the land is preserved for future generations"

4 Farms, 480 Acres Forever Protected

For everyone who loves sweet, local strawberries and honey crisp apples, take heart in knowing that two farms that are major producers of the fruit have been forever protected. We signed agreements last December that will protect 480 acres and four farms. All of the land is within a six-mile radius; one farm has frontage along M-204 near Suttons Bay and the other two are in nearby East Leland.

"It's been a long, arduous road, but it's truly been an honor working with these growers who are absolutely committed to doing their part to ensure that our agricultural heritage lives on in Leelanau," says the Conservancy's farmland protection specialist Tom Nelson. "Two of these farm projects have been in the works for nearly four years, and the other two came to us just last year. Together these farms tell the story of what is happening in Leelanau County farming today and also are a great start toward protecting the rich agricultural heritage in the M-204, East Leland area."

Conservancy Helps Bardenhagen Families Pass Farming Torch to Next Generation

One of the oldest farms in the county—and one that produces our much-celebrated local strawberries—has forever been protected. Gary and Christi Bardenhagen's rolling, 184-acre property is located along Horn Road, where they also grow cherries and blackberries.

Christi's great-grandfather, Johann Bremer, homesteaded the land in 1865. The Bardenhagen's son Steve, 38, who will



The Gary, Steve and Christi Bardenhagen farm in East Leland produces the much-loved local strawberries—soon to be found in area grocers.

take over the farm soon, is the fifth generation to work this beautiful land.

"I'm excited," says Steve. "It's a great opportunity and what I want to do—to farm, and to make sure that the land is preserved for future generations to farm it as well." The family says it could not have made the generational transfer of land without the help of the Conservancy, receiving compensation in exchange for agreeing not to develop the land. Basically, under such agreements known as "purchase of development rights," farmers are paid the difference between what their land is worth for agricultural use versus its worth as residential land.

"It's a win-win," says Gary. "We get income for our retirement and can now sell the land to Steve at a price that he can afford and that we think will cash flow for him." And the rest of us get to enjoy the wonderful fruit—and the scenic views--this farm produces.

Funding for this farm project came in part from state and federal farmland protection funds obtained through the Conservancy. Our donors, along with \$27,464 in donations that had been directed to the now defunct Leelanau County Farmland Protection Program, made up the difference.

The going price per acre for farmland in the county now (about



(l - r) Jan, Jim and Chris Bardenhagen



(l-r) Gary, Steve & Christi Bardenhagen

It was her father's dream that the land would always stay in farming.



Farm Projects

\$6,000) is a far cry from the days when Christi's great grandfather, Johann Bremer, made the first generational transfer of the entire 184 acres for a mere \$1,500 to his son, John. Bremer was a German immigrant who served in the Civil War. He homesteaded the land soon after, and built the old weathered barn and nearby farmhouse that Steve now lives in.

One of the treasured artifacts of the farm is a framed contract of that first \$1,500 sale from Johann to his son, John. Along with the money, Johann required annually three bushels of flour, 10 cords of wood, and fruit from 15 trees—to be selected by him. Johann also bound his son to care for his medical needs and keep his clothing in good repair until his death.

The land then passed to Christi's father, Edwin. It was her father's dream, says Christi, that the land would always stay in farming. But it wasn't until she had a family of her own that she considered taking over the operation.

"Both Gary and I were raised on farms, and after graduating from Leland, we wanted out," she says. Gary earned a degree from MSU and went to work for IBM in New York. But, when faced with their third company move in five years, and young children to consider, Christi says the couple's priorities shifted. "We wanted to stay in one spot," she said. Leelanau County



seemed like the right place. "At the same time, my dad was getting ready to retire, and offered to sell us the farm."

None of her four siblings were interested, but Christi and Gary were. They wanted to come home and discovered that the price her father had asked for the 184-acre farm was the same as buying a small piece of land

and building a house. They signed a land contract and the farm was theirs. That was 1973. Gary took a job in Traverse City and they moved in to the old farmhouse. "We thought we would be able to run the farm on weekends, and in our free time," she laughs. "We were so wrong." After about a year, Gary gave up his day job.

Steve has followed a similar path. After earning an electrical engineering degree from MSU, he also left the area. But like his parents, Steve returned, drawn by the pull of the land. "He started helping us and gradually he's realized that he wants to be here. He hasn't looked back," says Christi. Steve's two children Nick, (17) and Megan, (11) are the sixth generation, descended from Johann Bremer to work on the farm.

"My dad would be so pleased," says Christi. "He felt strongly about keeping the land in farming and was very

committed to it. He influenced our path."

Gary's brother, Jim, has also protected his 80-acre farm on Pertner Road where they grew up. The two farms are just a few miles apart, which allows them to share equipment and work crews—

and to carry on the long-established tradition of family helping family during peak harvest times.

And, like Gary and Christi's farm, Jim and Jan Bardenhagen's place also has a rich history. The brothers' great-great grandfather homesteaded the land about 125 years ago and his great uncle built the farmhouse. With its wide-plank floors and massive kitchen table, the house is a favorite gathering place for extended family.

Jim's path to farming parallels Gary's. He, too, left the state after graduating from MSU with a degree in marketing. But 12 years later he returned to help his dad on the farm. He juggled farming and his job as extension director for MSU. During this same time, the family sold off 90 of its 170 acres—a move Jim regrets. Even though the land he sold is still in farming, he says he is now looking for more acreage to grow more unique crops.

Jim's 36-year-old son, Chris, also wants to carry on the family farming tradition. He and his young family live just up the road. And as a licensed mechanic, Chris services the farm machinery. He also helps to grow and harvest the sweet, tart and balaton cherries, the popular honey crisp apples, table grapes, currents, new potatoes, and just recently, organic free-range poultry. Jim says that Chris is challenging him to move in new directions. Chris is shifting more toward the growing and profitable organic market.

"I enjoy the science of sustainable agriculture and that's what's making me excited about being in farming right now, instead of doing the same old thing," says Chris. "Leelanau is a great area to live in and I like being outdoors working with the land and the equipment. It would have been much more difficult to do it without the help of the Conservancy. What the Conservancy is doing in general is really great, but the development rights program in particular will help me take over the farm in a reasonable way and make a decent living."



On the Jim Bardenhagen farm, new crops for the local market, such as table grapes, are being planted



The stream and the wetlands on the property are all part of an ecosystem we are trying to protect

4 Farms, 480 Acres, Continued

100-Acre Farm Adjacent to New Courthouse Permanently Protected

Steve Grossnickle's family has been vacationing in the Little Traverse Lake area for the last 40 years. He says his love for the peninsula is what inspired him to want to permanently protect a 100-acre farm along M-204 that he purchased in 2006. "Leelanau is beyond spectacular," he says. "It should remain pristine, as it is." Grossnickle and his wife, Lori, will open a new winery here called 45 North in June.

The couple began working with the Leelanau Conservancy soon after the land purchase to donate a conservation easement on the land. The easement will restrict the land from development and keep it in farming while providing tax benefits to its new owners. In addition to its agricultural and scenic values, the Grossnickle farm also has 2,200 feet of frontage on the north branch of Beaudwin Creek. "The water in that creek ends up in Lake Leelanau and in our Leugers Preserve at the Narrows," says Land Protection Specialist Tom Nelson. "The stream and the wetlands on the property are all part of an ecosystem we're trying to protect. There's a whole lot of conservation value in this land. We're grateful to the Grossnickle family for helping to protect the rural character of Leelanau County."

An ophthalmologist from Indiana, Grossnickle's passion for wine and Leelanau County are being played out on the newly planted vines off Horn Road. Fifteen acres are already in production; 30 more acres will be planted in the next two years. He's hired longtime Leelanau winemaker Shawn Walters, who has won numerous awards for vintages produced during his 16-year tenure at other county wineries.

Walters is overseeing the 8,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art production facility that Grossnickle built on the property. One hundred tons of local fruit were processed through the building in 2007. Plans for 2008 call for doubling that amount. Walters projects that the farm will likely employ six people year round and up to 20 on a seasonal basis.

While waiting for their own vines to produce, 45 North is purchasing grapes from other Leelanau growers to make their own private-label wines. They are also making wines to order for other wineries, and are even producing one for a California winery that wants to carry a Leelanau vintage because of the area's growing notoriety in the wine world.

In fact, it is Leelanau's increasingly fine reputation for wine making that convinced Grossnickle to make a substantial investment in the land and the new processing building. Grossnickle's best friend is a prominent California wine judge,



Protection of the 100-acre Grossnickle farm helps to preserve the scenic views along M-204.

who encouraged him to follow his passion. "He'd come out here to visit and say, 'Hey, this wine is really getting good,'" says Grossnickle.

Plans also include rescuing and moving an old barn that will serve as a tasting room. "The barns and farmsteads of Leelanau County, as architectural forms in the landscape, are critical components of agri-tourism here," says Nancy Kotting, a professional preservationist and owner of N.L. Kotting & Co based in Leland (www.nlkotting.com). "Their preservation is often directly connected to their economic viability. Making them economically viable either for agricultural purposes or adaptively reused for residential and commercial purposes is an accepted and proven practice by professionals in the field of preservation and conservation. Throughout England, barns are routinely converted in high tourism areas and are highly coveted as homes, restaurants and Inns. I am very proud of the Grossnickles for having the vision to bring this concept to Leelanau Wine Country. This tasting room, coupled with the conservation easement, solidifies their commitment to what so many of us hold near and dear to our hearts about this place. They are leading by example."

News just in! At the Pacific Rim Wine Competition, the Forty-Five North Dry Riesling was voted "Best White Wine" in category and that the judging of best of categories placed it second overall in the competition of 2800 judged wines. The Riesling was voted double gold, first on every judge's card. Forty-Five North had two other best of classes, double gold for the Cabernet Franc and Pinot Noir Rosé, silver for the Pinot Gris, 45 White, and Late Harvest Vignole, and a bronze for the Pinot Noir.



Another M-204 Farm Forever Protected

One couple's drive around the county last summer led to the purchase and protection of a 120-acre farm along M-204. Longtime Conservancy Sustainers Roger and Coco Newton said, "We couldn't believe how many large tracts of farmland were for sale. It shocked us and made us sad." One parcel, locally known as the Spinniken farm, was in close proximity to the new courthouse and seemed particularly vulnerable to development, says Roger. The Ann Arbor couple worked with the Conservancy to purchase the land and hopes to one day grow grapes there. In the meantime, the Newtons are working with the Spinniken family to keep the current orchards in production. The farm will be the locale of our 2008 picnic.

The Newtons have placed a "conservation easement" on the land, which restricts the 120 acres to two home sites. In return for their donated easement, which lowers the value of the property, the Newtons receive tax benefits.

But the tax breaks, says Roger, are not the motivation behind their purchase. "There are lots of other ways to get tax breaks," he says. "This property has been farmed for well over 100 years. We'd like to see the land used for what it was meant to be used for...and that's farming."

Roger envisions that one day the hillsides will be covered in grapes, not houses. Because of its topography, the land is well suited to red grape varieties that need a longer period of time to ripen, like those used in making "ice wine." He views grape growing as one of the long-term solutions to preserving farmland, because of increasing demand.

The Newton family has also preserved a 90-acre farm along Jelinek Road. Roger works with the prior owner there as well to keep the land in agriculture. "We love Leelanau County," says Newton, "and we feel best there than any other place in the world. It gives us some sense of relief to have protected over 200 acres of farmland in two different townships."



Our 2008 Annual Picnic /Auction will be at the M-204 Newton Farm, Aug. 7th.

Happy Trails!

Our Chippewa Run Natural Area trail system will be extended, thanks to the generosity of adjacent landowners Bronwyn Jones and Joe VanderMuelen. The couple donated a conservation easement on their 26 acres, which borders our 111-acre natural area.

"It's to give something back," says Bronwyn. "Back in 2000, when we heard that the old orchard (now part of Chippewa Run) was for sale, and that the Conservancy had gotten that land, it meant a lot to us. Now, we want to extend that gift."

The land has been in Bronwyn's family since the 1930s, when her grandfather, Paul "Van" Jones purchased 200 acres in the Empire area. Plans call for extending our current trail loop, leading hikers to higher ground and spectacular views, particularly when leaves are off the trees.

The land has significant upland forest habitat, and is located below the scenic turnout on M-22 in Empire. It also contains a small wetland complex and a red pine plantation. "Its preservation will help to halt the continuous threat that conversion of buildable land to residential development poses to the ecological, scenic and passive-recreational values," says Tom Nelson, land protection specialist. "Bronwyn and Joe are such class acts. They truly exemplified the concept of a 'team effort' involved in our conservation projects. From the start, it was abundantly clear that they loved their land and wanted to protect it."

Bronwyn says she and Joe feel fortunate to be able to donate the easement. "I have great empathy for people who must develop land to finance their retirement," she says. "A lot of people also look at land as a legacy for children, and that can mean selling and dividing. I realize there are a lot of people who can't donate a conservation easement and I understand that. But I hope that people who can do so will, because it adds to the quality of life for all of us."

While out walking at Chippewa Run one day, she says she ran into a couple enjoying the trail. "They were positively gleeful about having this place to come to," she says. Thanks to Bronwyn and Joe, there will be more at this natural area to be gleeful about!



Bronwyn Jones and Joe VanderMuelen



Two Important Glen Lake Area Preservation Projects

Hoaglands Donate Conservation Easement



John (Chip) and Shirley Hoagland's conservation easement donation is a great first step toward protecting the stunning forested ridgelines in private ownership overlooking Glen Lake. The couple made their donation on 47 acres along Bow Road, land they had fallen in love with and purchased in 2003. Chip and Shirley worked with Land Protection Specialist

Matt Heiman to create a conservation easement agreement that will help them meet their goals for the property. Among them: sustainable management of high quality hardwoods, protecting the critical views seen from Glen Lake and retaining a spot to build a secluded home in a wooded valley off the ridgeline.

"We believe that you can build with great views without having to site on top of a ridge," says Chip. "We have a dream of demonstrating how this special landscape can be preserved while in private hands, and hope to set a good example."

Much of the land is comprised of high quality northern hardwoods, including several impressively large, mature white oaks. The agreement also protects seven acres of wetlands, part of the Hatlem Creek wetland complex. This special area is home to a healthy population of the endangered Michigan monkey flower. Under the conservation agreement, all of the wetlands will remain undisturbed to protect water quality and these sensitive ecosystems. Over time, the forested portions of the wetland will develop into pockets of old growth.

Another important feature of this land is that it makes up a large part of a prominent ridgeline overlooking Big Glen Lake. The eastern property line lies just 30 feet below the fabled 'Top of the World' historical landmark, which is documented in local history books as a scenic look out. Protecting the forested slopes along the ridgeline will compliment the National Lakeshore property that lies across the lake.

A forest management plan, approved by the Conservancy directs when and where the woods can be cut to maximize the health of the forest. The conservation easement protects this diverse hardwood forest's scenic and ecological values while also promoting a sustainable harvest. "We know that good stewardship of forested uplands is critical to maintaining high water quality throughout the watershed," adds Chip.

Seward Family Protects 17 Acres Near Crystal River

A globally rare dune and swale wetland near the Crystal River has been forever protected. We purchased a conservation easement on 17.5 acres from the Rich Seward family that will restrict development in this delicate wetland.

"We're grateful to the Seward Family, who worked with us on a plan that will greatly minimize the impact of any future development," said Matt Heiman, Land Protection Specialist. "Every piece of land and every landowner agreement we work on is different. In this case, we wanted to see the wetland remain undisturbed, so there will be no tree cutting or vegetation removed. In fact there will be no activity at all in the wetland."

Rich has been coming to Glen Lake since 1959. He says his family is "all totally in love with Leelanau and all it represents. I've spent every summer of my life here and now I'm enjoying having guests and getting them hooked on Leelanau."

This is the first project that utilizes grant funds we received through the Clean Michigan Initiative program for the Glen Lake/Crystal River watershed. The grant and matching funds we raise will be used to protect lands in the watershed that are important to maintaining high water quality.

The private land is adjacent to the Sleeping Bear Dunes and is not open to the public. But the project yields immense public benefit. "This

wetland helps to filter water that enters the nearby Crystal River, which we worked very hard to protect," says Heiman. "It also shelters an abundance of plant and animal life."

Seward says that he'll use the funds gleaned from this project to buy more land, and protect that too. He views himself as a "catalyst" and hopes others will follow suit. "I had a wonderful experience with the Conservancy," he says. "Matt in particular...I applaud him for his patience in going through the whole process of figuring out tax deductions. He went to extreme lengths to make sure everything was done correctly, and I really couldn't give him any higher marks."





What's New at DeYoung Natural Area

DeYoung Fundraising Update: Seeking the Last Ten Percent!

We have so much good news to report since the Fall 2007 newsletter. As you may know (since we celebrated so loudly with emails, telephone calls and press releases!), the long waiting period is over: on December 5, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund awarded \$910,200 to the DeYoung Natural Area. Executive Director Brian Price was in Lansing for the award meeting and phoned the news to elated staff and board members in Leelanau. What a terrific way to launch the holiday season!

We are also deeply pleased and appreciative to report a number of generous year-end gifts to the project. We owe great thanks to the Oleson Foundation for their second contribution to DeYoung. As we have reported previously, the Foundation's first gift provided for the installation of the parking lot, initial trail system, hand-pump water source, and ADA-accessible fishing pier. The second gift helped us significantly on our journey toward the 90% mark of our \$2 million fundraising goal. Thanks, also, to our friends at the Mahogany Foundation for their second generous gift!

Since November, 91 other donors also lent their financial support to DeYoung—and thanks to their help, we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel! With about \$250,000 left to raise, we continue to appeal to foundations and families alike in the hope of constructing a final challenge grant to complete the project.

Stay tuned! We're getting there—and we cannot wait to cross the finish line and celebrate with all of you.

What We Need and How You Can Help

- Donations, large and small: help us raise that final ten percent!
- Material and labor to repair the machine shop roof
- Shade trees for drinking fountain area
- \$100/\$500 gift card for work bee tools
- Trail utility vehicle
- Trailer (even to lend when needed)
- Donation of pickup truck

Coming soon...Springtime at DeYoung!

Check the calendar on page 11 for hike dates and scheduled visits by the ultra-cool raptors of Rebecca Lessard's "Wings of Wonder" education program.



The invasive autumn olive in this photo has since been removed. In April, students and adult volunteers planted over 1,000 native trees and shrubs here to benefit wildlife.

A Natural Plan Unfolds for DeYoung NA

Our efforts to restore the DeYoung Natural Area's upland have begun to pay off. We kept our promise to neighboring farmers and removed old cherries trees, in order to stop the spread of pests and disease to nearby orchards. And in the process, we were able to tackle acres of a pesky plant called autumn olive, which had invaded the orchard. Thanks to KAL Excavating and our volunteers for their terrific help in accomplishing this work.

Walk the upland this summer and you'll discover large lovely oak trees standing tall amidst a sea of newly planted oats and Canada wild rye. The oak trees have been obscured the last 30 years by old trees and autumn olive. The new cover crop was planted to hold the soil while we manage the autumn olive. By next spring you will start to see the perennial rye grow tall and some native wildflowers reappear.

You will see the efforts of our hardworking Volunteer Stewards and the Youth Corp team who will plant 1,300 native trees and shrubs along the edge of the stream. This wildlife hedgerow will provide food and shelter all year long and help us widen the native vegetation buffer along the stream. The buffer will help keep the stream cool and healthy as it flows into Cedar Lake.



What's Ahead For Lighthouse West Natural Area

Exciting things are ahead for this new natural area, which will be our stewardship focus for the coming year. That means that much of our time, energy and volunteer hours this summer and fall will be focused on making this property publicly accessible. We'll build a new trail through the upland. Want to help? See page II for a calendar of work bees.

In August, we also plan to start eradicating a small foothold of the invasive phragmites plant along the shoreline. This tall invasive looks like giant wheat and is growing rampantly downstate along all the highways. Our hope is to one day build a staircase leading down a short bluff to the water. We have the plans all drawn up—all we need are the funds! If you are interested in helping to fund this stairway, please call our Director of Charitable Giving, Anne Shoup for details (256-9665).



One of our goals for Lighthouse West is to have this property listed as an Audubon Society "Important Bird Area." (IBA) In June, we'll take a giant step toward that when Dr. Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Conservation with the Audubon Society, comes to lead a hike and conduct an official migratory bird inventory there. (See page II for more details on this event, and how you can be a part of it.) Being recognized as an IBA would help us with future funding for habitat restoration as well as funding for additional preservation projects in the area. It would also raise awareness worldwide about just how critical the tip of the peninsula is to our migrating birds, and foster ecotourism in Leelanau County.

Cedar River, continued from page I

This project that adds to our Cedar River Natural Area is just one aspect of our commitment, along with such partners as the Michigan DNR and the National Park Service, to protecting the best remaining wild areas in Leelanau. One of the great things about the land conservancy approach to protecting the environment is that ability to take the long view. Twenty years ago the Solon Swamp was absolutely a top priority for protection because of its diverse, pristine wetlands. It still has that quality and importance today. The fact that this area is also sacred ground to so many people, from birdwatchers and kayakers to hunters, fishermen, and even snowmobilers, just makes it that much more important.



Thousands of migrating birds rest and feed on the cobble beach before making the flight over the big water

Welcome New Sustainers!

We now have over 460 individuals/families that make an annual pledge of \$500 or more to support the operations of the Conservancy, giving us the consistency we need to insure we meet our long-term goals for protecting this very beautiful place. Sustainers are special people with special events held in their honor. To learn more about joining the Sustainer's Circle, call Gayle at 256-9665 or email her at gayle@theconservancy.com. Thanks to all our loyal Sustainers. Your support is critical to our ongoing success.

Ian & Nancy Ashken	David Kam & Lori Nall
Steven Cacossa & Shawn Ricker	Randall & Paula Mays
J.M. Dankovich	Courtney M. Miller
Robert Foster & Valarie Miner	Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Moore
Rick & Chris Halbert	Jim & Alexis Reid
	Justin & Kaylyn Shelby
	Harry Ziccoli & Darlene Stanley



2008 Spring and Summer Events

Important Note: We are pleased to offer this schedule of hikes and programs, led by our knowledgeable volunteer Docents. Do dress according to weather. So that we may provide the best experience possible and be fully prepared, we require (and appreciate!) advanced registration. Most hikes last around two hours unless otherwise noted. All hikes are free unless noted otherwise in this calendar. Please call 231-256-9665 to register and for questions about directions. Want to learn more about the Docent who will be leading your hike? Visit our website and read about their background, interests and teaching style.

May

Saturday, May 10th Blossom Day Tour

11 am - 3 pm

Join us for a bus tour on a route that will take you past some of the most beautiful farms and orchards in Leelanau County, all awash in spring cherry blossoms. Buses will leave in 20-minute increments from the Connie Binsfeld center in Lake Leelanau to make one-hour trips through Leelanau's orchard country. We'll stop twice for spectacular photo opportunities and to meet with a local farmer. Afterward, stick around for a cherry brat lunch. It's all free, sponsored by the Leelanau Conservancy, the *Leelanau Enterprise* and the Leelanau Conservation District. First bus leaves at 11 a.m.; last bus around 2 p.m. Please let us know if you are coming so that we can plan for enough busses.



Saturday, May 10th Leland Village Green Garden Clean Up

10 am

Help at a work bee to clean up the Village Green with members of the Wildflower Rescue Committee and Village Green Gardeners. Rain date Sat. May 17. For more info, and to get involved contact co-chairs Joanie Woods, 256-7154 or Patty Shea, 256-9249.

Sunday, May 11th Wings of Wonder Raptors at DeYoung Natural Area

1 pm - 2:30 pm

Learn about the work being done by Wings of Wonder, hear some interesting and fun stories about raptors, and have the opportunity to meet several raptors up close. Owl pellets will be available to those who wish to do some investigative

work and find the hidden "treasures." A \$5.00 donation is suggested. Please call or email Wings of Wonder to reserve your spot! 231-326-4663, wow@wing-sofwonder.org

Tuesday, May 13th Birds and Wildflowers at Kehl Lake

10 am

Morning is the prime time to see and hear the wonderful birds of Leelanau – and to enjoy dew-covered wildflowers lining the trails. Join docent Mary Lyons and special guest Norv Hall on a hike to identify many species of birds from their song and flight.



Saturday, May 17th Bird Songs/ Wildflowers at Whaleback

10 am

Take a hike with docents Ann McInnis and Marsha Buehler to learn bird songs, view spring wildflowers, look for evidence of wildlife and much more while hiking up this glacial moraine. A spectacular view of Lake Michigan awaits at the top for ardy hikers.

Sunday, May 18th 4th Annual Nature North - Traverse City Civic Center

10 am - 4 pm

Bring kids for hands-on nature activities with the Conservancy's own Ms. Wizzle, docent Ann McInnis. Many other nature organizations will also be on hand with nature-related info and activities.

Tuesday, May 20th Plug into Nature's Top 10 at the Houdek Dunes Natural Area

10 am

Docent Bobbie Poor will clue you into "Nature's Top Ten" as you cruise the trails at this wonderful 330-acre natural area between Leland and Northport. Bring binoculars to search for avian songsters.

Friday, May 23rd to Sunday, May 25th (Memorial Weekend)

Wildflower Rescue Plant Sale

The 15th Annual Plant Sale on the Village Green in Leland is coming! Last fall and this spring our Wildflower Rescue Committee spent hours digging,



potting and moving native wildflowers out of the path of impending development. Now is your chance to purchase unusual natives like ferns, jack-in-the-pulpit and trillium, along with a huge selection of nursery perennials. Hours: Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday noon to 3 p.m. All proceeds help maintain the Conservancy's Leland Village Green. For more info on helping to rescue wildflowers or if you know of a site where wildflowers might be saved, or are planning to excavate your own property, contact co-chairs Joanie Woods, 256-7154 or Patty Shea, 256-9249.

Saturday, May 24th Spring Hike at Chippewa Run

1 pm

This natural area in Empire offers an array of scenic beauty along newly constructed trails. Join docents David Harris and Ann Mason for a hike along a stream, through the old orchard and into the pine plantation to see some of this area's natural beauty.

Saturday, May 24th DeYoung Natural Area Tour

1 pm

Join docent Dick Fidler for a hike around this historic farmstead near Traverse City. You'll view the historic buildings on the property followed by a hike along the Cedar Lake Trail which leads to the lake and fishing pier.



2008 Spring and Summer Schedule of Events

Sunday, May 25th **2 pm**
Explore the Old and New at Kehl Lake
 This 210-acre natural area features meadows, old-growth woodland, water, shoreline habitats and lots of unique wildlife species. Join docents Ann McInnis and Marsha Buehler for a hike through this large, multi-faceted natural area near Northport.

Thursday, May 29th **1 - 3:30 pm**
Work Bee at Lighthouse West Natural Area

Help build a new trail, care for hundreds of newly planted trees for wildlife and restore habitat for the amazing migratory birds at the new Tip of the Peninsula natural area. Meet at the corner of Cathead Bay Rd. and Lighthouse Pt. near Leelanau State Park campground and the Lighthouse. Please register for the work bee so that you may learn about the projects on tap for the day and what tools to bring by calling Stewardship Director Jenee Rowe at 256-9665.

Saturday, May 31st **1 - 3:30 pm**
Work Bee at Lighthouse West Natural Area
 See May 29th for description.

June

Tuesday, June 3rd **1 - 3:30 pm**
Work Bee at Lighthouse West Natural Area
 See May 29th for description.

Wednesday, June 4th **10 am**
The Pink Lady Slippers of Houdek Dunes

Explore woodlands, dunes and meadow habitats along with pink lady slippers as you hike this amazing 330-acre natural area with docents Ann McInnis and Ann Mason. Learn



how glaciers shaped Leelanau County and Houdek Dunes. Look for tracks and trails of secretive animals that are known to inhabit this part of the county.

Tuesday, June 10th **10 am**
Spring Show of Wildflowers at the Kehl Lake Natural Area

Join Leelanau Conservancy Docent Bobbie Poor and others on the trail at the Kehl Lake Natural Area for a leisurely stroll to enjoy spring's show of wildflowers. Listen as the birds enlighten your day with their songs of spring.

Tuesday June 10th **1 - 3:30 pm**
Work Bee at Lighthouse West Natural Area
 See May 29th for description.

Friday, June 13th **10 am**
Kehl Lake – A Very Special Nature Area

Wildflowers, trees, mammals, birds, frogs, bugs, and many other inhabitants of this very special natural area are very busy this time of year. Join docents Ann McInnis and Marsha Buehler as they explore the wildlife action at this 210-acre natural area.

Saturday, June 14th **1 pm**
Hike the Chippewa Run Natural Area

Join docent David Harris for a hike around this special piece of land in Empire. Come explore the new trail system that will take you to the stream, through the old orchard and into the pine plantation to see some of this area's natural beauty.

Saturday, June 14th **1 - 3:30 pm**
Work Bee at Lighthouse West Natural Area
 See May 29th for description.

Sunday, June 15th **2 pm**
The Wildflowers of the Teichner Preserve
 Join docents Ann Mason and Ann McInnis for a guided hike around the incredibly

beautiful Teichner Preserve located on Lime Lake. Wetlands, wildflowers, Lime Lake and their wildlife all await your discovery.

Saturday, June 21st **8 am**
(\$20 per person, this is a fundraising event)

Bird Hike at Lighthouse West with Dr. Gregory Butcher

Dr. Butcher is Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society, and works out of the Audubon's Washington D.C. office. As Director of Bird Conservation, Dr. Butcher works with the State of the Birds reports, the Watch-List of birds of conservation needs and more. He and Kay Charter, Director and founder of Saving Birds Thru Habitat, will lead this bird hike at our Lighthouse West property at the tip of the peninsula—a key spot along the migratory bird route. This hike is a joint fundraiser (\$20 per person) between the Leelanau Conservancy and Saving Birds, with proceeds going toward improving bird habitat at Lighthouse West. Dr. Butcher will also hold a talk on Sunday, June 22 at Saving Birds Thru Habitat in Omena. Time TBA. To learn more and to register for either event, call Kay Charter at Saving Birds Thru Habitat: 231-271-3738. www.savingbirds.org



Sunday, June 22nd **9 am - noon**
Photography Class with Live Raptors
 (\$35 per photographer)

Come learn about photography while using live raptors as models. Wings of Wonder will host this class at the DeYoung Natural Area in partnership with Scott Tompkins. Learn great photographic techniques and interesting ways to capture wildlife, and specifically raptors, from Scott, a well-known professional photographer and teacher. This unique class, for most ages and abilities, will give everyone the oppor-



Hikes, Events

tunity to photograph live raptors up close and in a natural setting. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Must pre-register by June 16th. Participants must be at least 10 years old and all children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Class fee is \$35.00 per photographer. Family discounts available. To register/more info: 231-326-4663 or wow@wingsofwonder.org.

Thursday, June 26th 7 pm A Twilight Prowl at Houdek Dunes

Go on a twilight prowling with docent Ann McInnis to discover wildlife activity close to the summer solstice. Tracks, trails, traces, sounds, animal communications all help in telling nature's story. Bring bug spray just in case.

Saturday, June 28th 1 pm Get to Know DeYoung Natural Area

This 145-acre historic farmstead in Elmwood Township has so much to offer everyone of all ages. Docent Dick Fidler will lead you on a tour of the property surrounding the historic buildings and along the beautiful Cedar Lake Trail.

July

Thursday, July 3rd 10 am Read, White and Blue at the Kehl Lake Natural Area



Join Docent Bobbie Poor to watch for the colors of the Stars and Stripes as you walk along the trail to the overlook where you will share inspiration in the reading of the Declaration of Independence. The Conservancy will provide a copy for you.

Thursday, July 3rd 10 am Leelanau Preservers Tile Dedication and Morning Coffee at the Leland Village Green

Come by for coffee and see all the new and old Leelanau Preserver tiles installed at our Leland Village Green. If you have given a gift of a tile, or are a Leelanau Preserver tile



recipient, please come and see your tile and meet our tile maker, Leif Sporck. Everyone is welcome at this wonderful celebration and expression of love for Leelanau. The Conservancy staff looks forward to meeting you!

Friday, July 4th 3 pm Leland Fourth of July Parade: March for the Conservancy!

March with our super volunteers and parade marching coordinators, Bill and Jeannie Dennler, as they carry our banner and dress up as the flora/fauna from our natural areas. You can be a part of the fun too! It's a blast-and you get applause and cheers all along the route. Find out how to be a part of it by contacting Jeannie Dennler: Work: 419-893-3003; Home: 419-893-2728; Email: drjeannie1@aol.com



Tuesday July 8th 1:30-3:30 pm Work Bee at DeYoung Natural Area

Witness the comeback of the native species in the areas we began restoring last year! Now you can see the huge healthy oak trees towering over the fields. Help us to reveal more natural treasures as we remove invasive species in the upland portion of this property. Please call the office for details on the techniques we will use and how you may be able to help. These work bees require physically fit folks, who can lift 30 lbs, drag brush and use a brush cutter.

Thursday, July 10th 1:30 - 3:30 pm Work Bee at DeYoung Natural Area

See July 8th description

Saturday, July 12 - 10 am Finton Natural Area and McInnis Conservation Easement

Explore the wildlife communities found within this part of the Conservancy's Cathead Bay Wildlife Corridor Greenway Project. Learn of efforts underway to save and restore interconnected quality wildlife habitats within this important bird migratory flyway. This hike will begin at the Finton Natural Area.

Tuesday, July 22nd 1 - 3:30 pm Work Bee at DeYoung Natural Area

See July 8th description

Wednesday July 23rd 10 am Painting and Drawing Class with Raptors at DeYoung Natural Area

Greg Garman, a local artist, will lead a painting and sketching class using Wings of Wonder raptors as live models. Greg has a Bachelors in Fine Arts and has been painting birds for over 20 years. He shows in galleries regionally as well as nationally. Greg will introduce a variety of sketching and painting techniques, with an emphasis on how to capture the raptors on paper. Participants must be at least 10 years old and all children under age 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring your own art supplies. Class fee is \$35.00 per person, family discounts available. Snacks and beverages will be provided. To register/more info: 231-326-4663 or wow@wingsofwonder.org.



Thursday, July 24th 1 - 3:30 pm Work Bee at DeYoung Natural Area

See July 8th description



August

Thursday, August 7th 5 pm Leelanau Conservancy Annual Friends Picnic and Auction

This event will be held at the M-204 Newton Farm, a new conservation easement property. It promises to be even more wonderful than ever this year. Local food and wine, kids tent for children ages 3-12, entertainment, live and silent auction. Pre-picnic field trips will begin around 3 p.m. Learn more on our website: www.theconservancy.com



Saturday, August 16th 7:30 pm - 10 pm A Full Moon Kayak on the Cedar River

Experience sunset and moon rise at the Cedar River Natural Area. Take an evening kayak trip (canoes are fine too) down Victoria Creek with Conservancy docent Alice Van Zoeren and paddle back under the light of a full moon. Meet in Cedar at the parking area near the ball diamonds. You will need to provide your own kayak or canoe.

Blues-Loving Crowd at 16th Annual Event

Jazz guitarist and vocalist James Armstrong played to a sold-out crowd at our ever-popular Blues at the Bluebird event. Skip and Lynn Telford and the Bluebird staff put on a fantastic buffet dinner for everyone. A great time was had by all. Special thanks to our sponsors who make this special evening happen: Biggs Construction; Dr. Russ LeBlanc; *The Leelanau Enterprise*; The Leland Lodge; Leland Cherry Company; Bahle's of Suttons Bay; The Homestead; Easling Construction Company; Peninsula Title Services; Gourdie-Fraser, Inc.; Jim & Barb Varley; Pat Ganter; and Jack & Susan Seaman.



DIRECTIONS TO NATURAL AREAS

DEYOUNG NATURAL AREA

The 1/4 mile Cedar Lake Trail is located just across the TART trail. See kiosk. It is flat and winding.

FROM TRAVERSE CITY: From intersection of M-72 and M-22 in Traverse City (Tom's West Bay) go north on M-22 1.2 miles, turn left onto Cherry Bend Rd. Go 2.0 miles down Cherry Bend Rd., and look for the barn on your right. Pull into the parking area by the barn.

FROM LEELANAU COUNTY: From CR 641 and Cherry Bend Rd. intersection, go towards Traverse City on Cherry Bend Rd. about 2.1 miles, look for the barn on your left. Pull into the parking area by the barn.

KEHL LAKE NATURAL AREA

There are 2 loops here--a 1 mile loop that meanders along the lake and through the forest and our new 3/4 mile "Old Birch" trail through the upland portion of the property, which features moderate winding terrain. Beginning from the junction of M-22 and M-201 (S of Northport), take M-201 through Northport. At 1.5 miles, M-201 ends and CR 640 begins as you follow the curve to the right. Follow 640 for 1 mile to Snyder Road and turn left. Follow Snyder Road for 1.5 miles to the parking area on the left.

TEICHER PRESERVE

There is short trail down to the lake but much of this tangled wetland area is best viewed on a guided hike. From Leland, head south on M-22 about 8 miles and turn left on South (East) Lime Lake Road, near the southwest corner of the King's Challenge Golf Course at Sugarloaf. Once you turn off of M-22 onto Lime Lake Road, it is just a short distance--about a mile--to the Preserve. the sign on the right and park there.

WHALEBACK NATURAL AREA

The Whaleback trail is well-groomed and easy to follow. However, the trail quickly gains in elevation which can be rigorous at times. Beginning from the junction of M-22 and M-204 (3 mi S. of Leland), take M-22 north approx. 1 mile. A sign on the west (left) side of M-22 marks the entrance to the parking area. Continue straight for a few hundred feet on the gravel road entrance to the parking area.

CHIPPEWA RUN NATURAL AREA

Explore a 1 1/4 mile trail here on easy terrain. From the intersection of M-72 and M-22 in Empire, head north on M-22 about 7/10 of a mile. The parking area is located on the left, or northwest side of the street just south of the creek.

HOUDEK DUNES NATURAL AREA

There are two loops here totalling 1.25 miles that traverse gentle, but sandy terrain. Steep steps lead you from the parking area to the trailhead. Beginning in Leland, drive north along M-22 approximately 5 miles to County Road 626. Proceed another 3/4 mile north along M-22. A sign on the west (left) side of the road marks the entrance to the parking area.

FINTON NATURAL AREA

This smooth, level two-track connects Northport Rd. to Woolsey Rd. From Northport, take M-201 north (changes to CR 629). Turn right on Northport Point Rd (CR 640). Look for the sign and property across from Paradesia Rd.

LIGHTHOUSE WEST

Unless otherwise specified, hikes at the Lighthouse West Preserve last about 1-2 hours and are somewhat rigorous. There is some negotiating of uneven terrain and steep bluffs in order to reach the shoreline. From Northport, head north on M-201 through the Village, taking M-201/Mill Street north out of town. M-201 becomes Co. Rd. 640/Woolsey Lake Rd. Stay on Co Rd. 640/Woolsey Lake Rd. Stay straight as Co. Rd. 640/Woolsey Lake Rd. becomes Co. Rd. 629/Woolsey Lake Rd (Co. Rd 640 splits off to the right). Continue on Co. Rd 629/Woolsey Lake Rd for approximately 3 miles when it becomes Co. Rd. 629/Lighthouse Point Rd. Continue on Co. Rd. 629/Lighthouse Point Rd for approximately 2 miles, then go left on Cathead Bay Dr. Parking is approximately 0.1 mile on the right-hand side.



Picnic/Auction 2008 Update.... Mario Batali Pledges His Help, Again!

For the fourth year in a row, super star chef Mario Batali, who loves Leelanau with a passion, says he'll offer his meal for 12 again for our 2008 Auction. The big event will be auctioned off at our Annual Picnic on Thursday August 7. The date and details of Mario's dinner are still to come; watch our website for info on this and over 100 other unique Leelanau experiences and items. We hope to begin the bidding online by May 1. We're grateful to Mario for this tremendous contribution—and for lending his time, talent and fame to our cause.



Auction Wish List

- Home or condo in a desirable locale, including Leelanau County!
- Good cooks to prepare/donate dinner for groups of 8 at homes near Conservancy preserved places like Kehl Lake and Hall (also known as "Van's") Beach
- Garden/landscaping related items or services
- Anything Mackinac Island, from ferry passes to lodging to restaurants.
- Beaver Island getaway
- Golf passes to area courses, especially Crystal Downs
- Gift certificates to area restaurants to pair with other offerings
- Tickets to sporting events, college and pro
- anything uniquely Leelanau—a special social event or excursion you just can't buy...get creative!

If you can help, please email cfaught@theconservancy.com or call Carolyn Fought, 231-256-9665.

Calling All Photographers!

Thanks to everyone who has emailed in a favorite photo for our Why Leelanau webpage. As of press time, we've posted over 115 photos—all unique, gorgeous representations of this beautiful place. Since we launched the site January 1, we've had over 5,500 visitors and over 20,500 page views! More photos are needed so please send one our way with a comment about what makes Leelanau so special for you. You can email a photo to cfaught@theconservancy.com, or do it while viewing the site: www.theconservancy.com/blog2

Also...

To celebrate our upcoming 20th anniversary (officially at our August 7th Annual Friends Picnic), we want to showcase photos from our 20



Bill Dennler

natural areas and preserves. We will show one gorgeous photo from each of these areas in a sign/banner display at the Picnic. We are also planning to reproduce some or all of the 20 photos into a set of note cards that will be for sale. Each photo will also appear on a 20-bottle collection of L. Mawby sparkling Champagne auction offering. Your photos may also be used on our website and in publications. Directions to our natural areas and more info can be found here: <http://www.theconservancy.com/naturalareaspres.html>

For a list of guided hikes, see page 11. Verticals, horizontals and photos in all seasons are welcome. For best reproduction, photos should be at least 300 dots per inch. Email all photos to cfaught@theconservancy.com. Questions: 231-256-9665. Thank you!



Thoughtful Gifts

We're amazed and touched by the support we get from each and every one of you. What follows are two unique expressions of support. Every couple of months, we get an envelope in the mail from Sustainer Mimi Mullin. In it, are postage stamps featuring beautiful photos of one of our natural areas or our logo. Mimi's gifts reduce our postal costs, and it's a nice touch for donors to receive a thank you letter with her

special stamp on it.

Auction quilt maker and donor Marilyn Mook made this special wall hanging to celebrate our 20th anniversary. Each row in the design represents an aspect of Leelanau: trees, trails, water. Look for two of Marilyn's gorgeous quilts in this year's auction. Thank you Mimi and Marilyn...your thoughtful gifts and those of so many others makes the Conservancy feel more and more like one big caring family all the time.



Leave a Legacy in Leelanau...

With the generous support of its members, the Leelanau Conservancy has worked for twenty years to conserve 6,355 acres and 22 miles of shoreline. The work that Conservancy friends, staff, volunteers and donors have completed together will benefit many generations to come. As the legal steward of the lands we protect, however, the Conservancy must also ensure the organization's ability to manage and protect those lands forever.

Through wills, bequests, and other estate planning, members of the Leelanau Conservancy's Heritage Society are leaving their legacy in Leelanau. The Heritage Society recognizes donors who have shared in the mission of the Conservancy by making a gift through a will, bequest, trust, annuity, insurance or other planned gift. So far, 66 individuals and couples have let us know they have made this special commitment.

This spring, as you ponder your own love for this incredible, awakening landscape, please consider leaving a legacy of your own.

- Include language in your will or estate plan that designates a gift for the Leelanau Conservancy. You can leave a designated amount or percentage—or even indicate a residual gift to be made after your family has been cared for.
- If you already have a will but would like to add a provision for the Conservancy, think about adding an inexpensive "codicil" (one-page addition) to the will.
- Consider adding the Conservancy as a beneficiary on



Bill Sonnega

your IRA or Pension Plan. Retirement plans are among the most highly taxed assets in your estate, and leaving a gift may well reduce that tax.

- Remember that gifts needn't be made in cash. Highly-appreciated assets (the ones you may be hesitant to sell due to concerns about capital gains taxes!) are often great candidates for gifting. To encourage philanthropy, the IRS provides generous incentives to reduce such taxes, sometimes completely.

By helping conserving the land, water and scenic character of Leelanau, you make a difference that will last forever. Please contact Anne at the Conservancy to learn more: 231-256-9665.

Gifts Made in Honor of....

Stephen Bahlke

Ms. Sarah E. Jacobs
Mrs. Marie E. Bahlke

Robert and Jamie Bolak

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beuerle

Mark Bosco

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beuerle

Matt Tompkins

Bruce & Andy Stewart
Scott Tompkins

Anne Carroll and John McConnell

Mike and Laura Nagy

John and Marie Christianson

Mr. Roy M. Christianson

Molly Harrison

Mrs. Mildred Hurley

Judy Hill

Ms. Mary Martorella

Dick and Nana Kennedy

Mr. and Mrs. David D. Magrini

Anne Kinzie

Mrs. Mildred Hurley

Little Garden Club

Mr. and Mrs. Keith W. Burnham

Jacob William Martin and

Lizabeth Dane Martin

Ms. Joyce L. Thompson

Midge Obata

Ms. Kiku Obata

Ed and Barbara Reinert

Ms. Marni Sweet

Kevin Rowney

Chris and Siobhan Rowney

Paul Skiem

Resurrection Health Care

David and Nancy Smith

Mr. and Mrs. David N. Shane

The Ruby Ellen Farm

Mrs. Dolores J. Scheidel

Vik and Susan Theiss

Ms. Cynthia Theiss

Grafton and Ruth Thomas

Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice B. Townsend, Jr.

David Mertz and April Stuck

Harold and Florence Van't Hof

Ms. Melissa Van't Hof

Matt Wiese and Trista Harter

Ben Fowler and Judy Jensen

Philip Williams

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. DeCook

Joanie Woods & Wildflower Rescue

Scot and Elizabeth Zimmerman

Gary C. Young

Mrs. Dorothy D. Young



Honorariums & Memorials

HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

(Received between 10/15/07 and 4/21/08)

Happy Anniversary!

Curt and Judie Leece
David Leece and Kathy Brewer

Paul and Ruth Leugers - 50th
Ms. Bee Hobert

Happy Birthday!

Maury Bolmer - 86th
Mr. and Mrs. Leo G. Shea

Keith Burnham - 75th
Mrs. Mary Curtis
Mr. and Mrs. Leo G. Shea

John Burns
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Burns

Jamie Engels
Mr. and Mrs. Howard B. Tuthill, Jr.

David C.R. Feld - 9th
Jonathan Feld & Shelley Longmuir

Austin Fellows - 12th
Kurt and Eleanor Luedtke

Peter Fellows - 14th
Kurt and Eleanor Luedtke

Christopher Greendale
Mrs Evelyn Kitzul

Charles W Kepler
Mrs. Charles W. Kepler

Al Manson
Susan Manson

Doug McInnis - 70th
Ms. Maggie McInnis

Pat Oriel
Mrs. Martha Thurston

Martha Teichner
Mr. John F. Goldsmith

Libbie Tuthill
Mr. and Mrs. Howard B. Tuthill, Jr.

Engaged!

*The Engagement of
Nicholas Johnson and
Elizabeth Macke*
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Davey

In Memory of

Jim Affhalter
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew V.
Deangelis

Dr. Richard F. Bahr
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Lorenz

Jeanne Bartlett
Mrs. Rosemary R. Bennett
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Centner
Mrs. Amy F. Chatfield
Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Coler
Mrs. Molly Harrison
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H.
Kellogg
Mrs. Anne G. Lewis
Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Ross

Eloise Basta
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Join us! 25 Great Summer Hikes and Workbees

Throughout Earth Day Week and Arbor Day activities, over 200 children and adults helped plant over 1,000 trees at Kehl Lake, the Narrows and DeYoung Natural Areas. Thanks to our partners: Grand Traverse Band, Champion Tree Project, Leelanau Conservation District, MSU Extension, Saving Birds Thru Habitat, Suttons Bay and Northport Schools, Inland Seas Education Association, and Master Gardeners. We have much more work to do this summer, from building trails to eradicating invasive species to tending the Village Green Garden. Opportunities to take a hike and learn about the natural world abound. So get out there! Plan to help or hike: see page II for our Summer Schedule.



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