



Leelanau Conservancy

Conserving the Land, Water and Scenic Character of Leelanau County

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FarmAbility Program Well Received: 5,000 Acres in Less Than 60 Days!

Q. With limited resources and the high cost of land, how do you protect 5,000 acres of farmland in less than 60 days?

A. FarmAbility!

“I’ve always been a supporter of the Leelanau Conservancy and efforts to preserve farmland in Leelanau County,” said Leelanau farmer, Keith Parker. “The people who thought up this program are definitely on the right track!”

Regular readers of the Conservancy’s newsletter will recall the recent launch of our new FarmAbility Program, devised with the help of Conservancy Board Member Jim Nugent, who is the former Director of the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station, as well as freshman State Representative from Leelanau County, Dan Scripps. The effort was the culmination of more than two years of research and coordination with local farmers and our partners—the Leelanau Conservation District, Michigan State University Extension and the Horticultural Research Station. It is the first privately-run program of its kind in the U.S. and offers non-governmental financial incentives to family farmers in return for signing a binding agreement to farm their lands for a 10-year period. These incentives include per-acre cash payments and cost-sharing for workshops designed to enhance profitability as well as estate planning to assist in transferring these farms to the next generation of farmers. The program also gives the Conservancy a right of first refusal if a farm enrolled in the program goes up for sale.

Resounding Success

The response has been nothing short of tremendous. It took just a few short weeks to surpass our goal by signing up 5,078 acres of family farms to 10-year conservation agreements. And, it is our intention to continue the FarmAbility Program by enrolling an additional 10,000 acres by 2013. It should be underscored that the overarching goal of our



Keith Parker (left) and son, Wes, of Cedar, wholeheartedly endorse the new FarmAbility conservation agreement approach

Farmland Preservation Program is and always will be the permanent protection of the land-based agricultural resource for future generations. In the interim, helping to keep family farms in production through 2019-2023 will enable everyone who cares about farming—farm families, citizens, scholars and legislators alike—some breathing space in which to craft new and innovative methods to ensure that Leelanau County farms are permanently protected in the coming years. “There is no question in my mind that momentum to protect farmland is building at all levels,” said Tom Nelson, the Conservancy’s Director of Farm Programs. “Whether it be for local food production or food security nationwide, funding levels for farmland preservation are slated to grow in the coming years at the state and federal levels.”

Various farmers have observed that FarmAbility, with its custom-made approach, matches the uniqueness of agriculture on our peninsula. As farmer Mark Drake says, “We have some very unique farmland with the soil and the climate and the water that we have around us. I think it’s really critical that we

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Dick Ristine's Legacy (or just a small part thereof)



In June, the Leelanau community lost Dick Ristine to cancer. As many of you recall, Dick was the very definition of an engaged citizen, and he loved everything about Leelanau County. Dick delighted in telling people that he first traveled to Leland when he was just five years old, a journey from Indiana that, in his telling at least, often took at least three days. He championed causes and poured himself into a range of organizations here and in Indiana. Among many other things, Dick was a key player in Conservancy successes since our founding in 1988. He served nine years on our board, serving as chair for his final two years, and continued with committee and volunteer work long after his board service was completed.

Dick's greatest gift to the Conservancy might be the example that he set for fledgling board members. I first met Dick in 2000, when I was looking for new challenges, following my retirement from medicine. We were introduced at the International Coffee Club in Leland where we instantly found common ground, having both an Indiana heritage, a shared devotion to civil war history, and a healthy interest in the political climate at all levels.

It was not long into my early years first as a Conservancy Docent and then as a board member, that Dick became my role model and mentor. He took me along on visits to our supporters and showed me that fund development could be both fun and fulfilling, not only to the organization and its representative, but also to the prospective donor.

Dick had a gift for bringing people into the Conservancy family, and our friendship evolved and became a warm personal relationship that expanded to include spouses, friends and family members.

In May when Dick shared the news of his terminal illness, our friendship continued to grow. He asked me to counsel him on his diagnosis and prognosis; and what to expect. Over the short months of his illness, he never lost interest in the causes he held most dear, and he never wavered in his commitments. For example, he continued to edit written materials for the Conservancy right up to the last week of his life because he enjoyed helping us frame our message, and he delighted in knowing that he could still contribute.

Dick was instrumental in the development of our Heritage Society and he believed passionately in the power of giving, especially the power of planned gifts and bequests. In the days preceding Dick's passing, the Conservancy staff and board searched for a fitting memorial to Dick's legacy with our organization. Accordingly, from now on our Heritage Society, which includes all of our supporters who have made either a planned gift or who have included the Conservancy in their wills, will be renamed the Richard O. Ristine Heritage Society. We think this is a fitting tribute to Dick and his contribution to the Leelanau Conservancy.

The last time I saw Dick, I asked him if we could name the Heritage Society in his honor. He was thrilled. His last words to me five days before his death are worth reporting to you: "Heritage Society members will live forever." Dick Ristine certainly will.

Tom Deuffer



Dick Ristine, working our booth at the Village Green Plant Sale, helped in every way he could, from stuffing envelopes, to serving as our board chairman, to passionately and eloquently encouraging supporters to include the Conservancy in their estate plans. His boundless enthusiasm for preserving his beloved Leelanau County was an inspiration to us all. Our Heritage Society, which recognizes those who have made plans to make a bequest to the Conservancy, has been renamed the Richard O. Ristine Heritage Society—a fitting tribute to one of Leelanau's heroes.

“This fits in really well with the Conservancy’s goal of protecting viewsheds from the road”



Historic 88-Acre Telford Farm Near Cedar Protected

The children growing up on Telford Farm near Cedar have a big back yard to play in. Eighty-eight acres, to be exact. Fort building is popular and imaginary play runs rampant in the woods and fields where video games and TV can’t intrude. Every spring, they roam the forest in search of wild leeks, onions, and morels for an annual feast. With their parents, the children also help tend a community garden and six-acre vineyard.

“The kids’ play time is dominated by being outside, at all times of the year,” says Kate Fairman, mother of three of the 14 Telford Farm children, ages one to 17, who are part of this “intentional community.” Kate and her husband, Bill Queen, were among the first three families of the group to build here five years ago. Together with their neighbors, the group has donated a conservation easement on 42 of the acres to ensure the land will forever be protected.

The project has been nearly 15 years in the making. It began when the late Gordon Robertson, and his wife, Paula, put the land on the market. Zoning would have allowed for 44 houses here, but Gordon, who was one of the Conservancy’s earliest chairmen, wanted to sell to a buyer who would keep the property’s beautiful rural character intact.

Joan Ursu saw the for-sale sign while driving by and was intrigued. What if she could get a group of like-minded people together who wanted to establish a community where they would share costs and benefits of such a large parcel? She talked about it at work, and with friends. One thing led to another, and as neighbor Jeff Anderson says, “It went viral.”

Joan met with Gordon at a small café in Suttons Bay. “He really didn’t want to see the land split, and neither did we,” she says. “He was very clear about his wishes.” He offered land contract financing and a deal was struck. “There was a lot of mutual trust there,” adds Joan.

Ultimately, nine families bought into the project which called for just 10 clustered home sites. So far, six homes have been built. All were sited for maximum solar exposure and four are “green” homes that feature a clay-and-straw insulation structure. None can be seen from County Road 651 or Schomberg Road, which form a large V around Telford Farm. All six homes were deliberately kept off the ridgelines. “This fits in really well with the Conservancy’s goal of protecting viewsheds from the road,” says Ellen Fred. She and her husband, Bob Martel, recently built a home which overlooks the vineyard and beyond that, our Cedar River Natural Area.

For Ellen, an attorney who herself specializes in land conservation law, living at Telford Farm is a dream-come-true. She has been interested in communal living since her early 20s,



Left to right Bob Martel, Bob’s wife, Ellen Fred, holding their son Jackson Martel, Jeff Anderson, Joan Ursu, daughter Maggie and Kate Fairman.

when she took a road trip to explore similar communities across the country. After the trip, she was sold. “I knew this was the way I wanted to live,” she says. “On a community farm, the work gets done faster and is a lot of fun.” She recalls growing up in a close-knit neighborhood on Old Mission. “I wanted to recreate that for my children,” she says.

Until the mid-60s, Telford Farm functioned as a working dairy farm. Its history is told in a classic old barn, chicken coop and granary clustered near the homes. Chickens cluck nearby; each family has an “egg day” where they clean the coop and feed the chickens. In exchange, they tote home a basket of fresh eggs. Behind the barn, members tend a community vegetable and flower garden.

Finalizing the details of the conservation easement took a number of years as the group was still evolving. Joan Ursu says it was important to complete the agreement to honor Gordon’s wishes, and to ensure that their initial dreams for the property became official. Through the last decade they consulted with the Conservancy a number of times. “We got great advice and counsel on how it could work best,” says Joan.

Gordon Robertson passed away in 2004 after a courageous battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease.) “We’re so pleased that Gordon’s legacy lives on with the completion of this conservation easement,” says Director Brian Price. “Gordon loved Leelanau County and worked tirelessly for the betterment of the community.”

More information and photos of Telford Farms: theconservancy.com



American redstarts sing and goshawks nest amid the many little springs in the now-protected wetland.

Natural Partners

Tom and Alice VanZoeren are the kind of people who work at preserving things that otherwise might slip away. Piping plovers. Port Oneida history. Ridgeline views seen from Glen Lake.

The Burdickville couple, who are naturalists in profession as well as in spirit, have permanently protected 20 acres near Glen Lake through a bargain sale of development rights. At the same time, Tom's brother, Doug, also protected his adjacent 10 acres. The Van Zoeren complex takes in part of the Hatlem Creek Watershed as well as a ridgeline that can be seen from Glen Lake. Habitat surrounding their home includes a fern-filled wetland, open farm field, and both moist and dry hardwood forest. Even better, their land backs up to Chip and Shirley Hoagland's 47 acres of protected land along Bow Road, making for a 77-acre swath within the Glen Lake Watershed.

Protecting their land was a natural choice for Alice and Tom, who have spent their careers helping others to appreciate the joys and wonders found in the great outdoors. Tom is a retired Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore park ranger. And Alice has long worked in interpretation for both the Park and Glen Lake Schools. Conservancy members have been the beneficiaries of Alice's vast knowledge, especially her knowl-



edge of birds. She has led many hikes at our Natural Areas in her role as a Conservancy Docent.

Alice's work now has taken her to the shoreline of North Manitou, where she backpacks in to monitor the endangered piping plover nests and fledglings on the island. Alice's work and that of other scientists has helped to dramatically increase plover populations.

Since retiring from the Park, Tom works as a volunteer to record the history of settlers at Port Oneida, both in written and oral form, for Park archives. "It would be a shame to have preserved the place, but lose the history," he says. His own history in the area goes back to his childhood. "I have

extended family all around the lake," he says. "Our family has been summering on Glen Lake for generations." Retirement has also allowed him to expand his organic garden and he sells the overflow under a tent along Bow Road.

The tent is just a stone's throw from the protected wetland, where American redstarts sing and goshawks nest amid the many little springs. "The wetland is pretty intact with native vegetation and not a whole lot of invasives. That's kind of special in this day and age," says Alice. So, we might add, are the VanZoerens.

Happy to Be Here



If you ask 11-year-old Tanna Windham what she likes most about having moved to her grandparents' land near Suttons Bay last year, the first thing out of her mouth might surprise you. Is it the beaches? The Dune Climb? Playing in the woods on the beautiful 80 acres that comprises her new backyard? No. "When I go to sleep," says Tanna, "I don't hear all the cars like I did in Grand Blanc. It's more quiet."

Tanna's parents, Nona and Jay Windham, along with her

aunt, Julie Windham, inherited the 80 acres of wetland and rolling hills when their mother, Barbara, passed away in 2007. Last fall, in a bargain sale, the Conservancy purchased development rights over 60 of the family's 80 acres with the help of a Clean Michigan Initiative Grant and a generous donation of a portion of the land value by the Windhams. The other 20 acres remain unrestricted and are located on higher ground. By this action, Julie says they have honored her mother's dying wish, and their own as well. "None of us would ever want to see this land changed in any way," says Julie. The full story of the Windham family and their land that is part of the Lake Leelanau Watershed can be viewed on our website <http://www.theconservancy.com/Land%20and%20Water%20Protection/windham.html>.



Stewardship Volunteers Make Big Progress on Natural Area Projects

A Song In Their Hearts

In June, 45 people from the 2nd Presbyterian Church High School choir traveled north from Illinois and donated their time and effort at the Lighthouse West Natural Area. Composed of mostly teenagers, the group worked on installing trail posts, planting rescued ferns, general trail clean up, and protecting newly planted trees.

The day finished with an impromptu performance by the choir group. "Many hands made light work," says Stewardship Director Jenee Rowe. "As we wrapped up the day, the choir sang us a lovely hymn in the woods. It gave me goose bumps."



Focus on Lighthouse West

Annually, the Conservancy chooses one natural area to focus on for improvements. As a result, we are able to accomplish big things with the help of our fantastic volunteers. This year, our focus is preparing Lighthouse West Natural Area for visitors. It has been a huge task and required lots of planning. Thanks to Ed Ketterer and Matt Posner who helped organize our work.



Eagle Scout Project Leads to Trail at Lighthouse West

Frank Leahy of the Boy Scout Troop 115 of the Scenic Trails Council began planning in February for his Eagle Scout Project in which his troop constructed the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile trail at Lighthouse West Natural Area along with Conservancy staff. Frank did an exemplary job as a leader on the trail workbee. "I think Frank did a great job planning, and that's why it went so well," said Mike Leahy, Frank's dad.

Thanks to Troop 115 for your 160 hours of labor. Thanks also to Blue Star Landscape Supply for hardwood bark, Professional Landscaping for your tractor to move mulch and to Hansen's, who donated foot-long subs for dinner after the work day.

Earth Day Endeavors

Sixty-four students from Leland High School and Suttons Bay Elementary School along with six Conservancy stewardship volunteers planted nearly 1,000 cuttings from the Champion Black Willow on Earth Day along the Lake Leelanau Narrows and other sites. The event was fun, meaningful and a simple way to ensure the superior genetics of this Champion Black Willow will continue to clean our watershed for centuries to come.





“This is one of the most important sites in the region, and, in my opinion, is as good as it gets.”

EMU Grad Students Celebrate and Protect Treasures From DeYoung Farmstead

When Louis DeYoung locked the door behind him and moved into a nearby assisted living facility in 1998, he left a home full of history. A decade later, during a sunny week in June, two-dozen graduate students from Eastern Michigan University’s historic preservation program and their professors carefully removed and documented artifacts and treasures from

good as it gets. The whole farmstead is intact and the things that are here speak volumes about the early history of both Traverse City and Leelanau County.”

The Leelanau Conservancy’s permanent protection of the 145-acre DeYoung farmstead began in May 2006 when we purchased the land and began a three-year quest to raise the needed \$2 million to secure the property. The roof on the house was caving in, the porch was rotting and water damage and mold threatened the home’s future. While funds were limited, we put on a new roof on the house and water wheel building, rebuilt the porch and took other measures to stabilize the farmstead buildings and barns. “Our first order of business was to pay for the land,” says Stewardship Director, Jenee Rowe, who worked with the EMU team and oversees the caretaking of our natural areas. “Beyond stabilizing the buildings, we couldn’t even think about restoring these historic buildings. Really, their future depends on finding funds and partners to restore them for adaptive reuse.”

Rotary Charities of Traverse City funded the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Assessment conducted on-site by EMU. The “HAER” is an important step that helps to lay the groundwork for preservation and eventual use of the farmstead buildings. The Conservancy will first seek grants and private donations to restore the water wheel building, which captured the attention of the experts on site in June because of its unique history. It is here that Louis DeYoung installed a water wheel on a diverted stream and used the power it generated to do everything from blacksmithing to powering some of the first residential light bulbs in the area. “This building tells a great story and is a wonderful example of farmer ingenuity,” says Dr. Ligibel. “Here you have a farmer who brought nature and agriculture together in a sustainable fashion, which is so topical for the direction we’re trying to go in today.”

In addition to working on the house and its contents, students also crafted new windows for the waterwheel building under the guidance of Jeff Weatherford. A graduate of the program, he now owns a company in Tecumseh, Michigan that specializes in architectural repair and replication. The hope is that funds can eventually be found to continue the field school and restore the water wheel building while engaging the students in hands-on learning over several years. Ligibel



Two dozen EMU graduate students in historic preservation and their professors spent the week at this historic farmstead carefully removing, documenting and storing treasures and artifacts found in the house and waterwheel building. Area museums will be the beneficiaries of this preserved history and the student’s work, which was funded in part by Rotary Charities of Traverse City.

the mustard-colored farmhouse on Cherry Bend Road. Among the finds: made-in-the-U.S.A. toys from the early 20th century, a homemade cherry-motif dress that had been worn in the National Cherry Queen Pageant, pocket watches, a 1936 Sears & Roebuck Jubilee Catalog, boxes full of hand-penned letters and much more. The treasures were packed up and given to local museums for safekeeping and eventual display.

“Years down the road, people are going to be so happy that the Conservancy not only protected the land here at the DeYoung Natural Area, they saved this whole historic site, which is just amazing,” says Dr. Ted Ligibel, longtime director of EMU’s Historic Preservation Program. “This is one of the most important sites in the region, and, in my opinion, is as

and other experts who were on site predict that the building could become a tourist draw because of its history and rarity in the state. Plans call for EMU to return again next June to carry on with the project if funding can be secured.

“We’ve been acquainted with Dr. Ligibel and his program for years,” says Brian Price, Executive Director. “And we’ve always been aware of the fact that history and culture, and how earlier generations adapted to the land, is important and fascinating to many of our members. The DeYoung farm project gives us a chance to collaborate with true experts in the field of historic preservation.”

The 20-year-old program at EMU has won numerous awards including the American Association of State & Local History’s coveted “Certificate of Commendation” for 10 years of nationally recognized performance within the field of historic preservation education.

Meanwhile, items that the museums did not want, such as vintage linens and a wicker desk, will be featured in our auction at our picnic on August 6. To learn more about DeYoung Natural Area and the EMU project, visit our website.



Over 1,000 artifacts and treasures were carefully removed from the DeYoung home and donated to area museums for safekeeping and display, so that the tale of Louis DeYoung and early Traverse City farming history can be told throughout the area.

Missing Our Cornerstone

The cornerstone from the big barn at DeYoung Natural Area went missing in early June, leaving a gaping hole in the foundation where it was removed. The stone measures about 10 by 14 inches and is made of limestone. The year is 1894. Any information about the stone should be reported to the Leelanau Conservancy (231-256-9665) or the Leelanau Sheriff’s department.



Lovely Ladies Show Their Stuff

Pink lady slippers wowed visitors at our Houdek Dunes Natural Area in June. You can help make sure these lovely ladies stay in the woods where they belong by spreading the word that digging them up will only kill them. They cannot be transplanted because of a unique symbiotic relationship the plants have with the soil they live in. But do mark your calendars and get out into the woods next June to enjoy their show.





2009 Schedule of Hikes, Work Bees and Events

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

Worker Bee Basics: Workbees are fun and a great way to get exercise, fresh air and meet new people. Please bring a water bottle, sunscreen and bug spray along. Directions (both written or via our Google mapping feature) can be found on our website. If you have questions about the planned work or want to learn more about upcoming stewardship volunteer opportunities, email Sonya Fowler at volunteercoordinator@theconservancy.com or call 256-9665 ext # 20.

Thursday, August 6th 5 pm
Annual Friends Picnic

The event of the summer! Join hundreds of Conservancy Supporters at our Chipewewa Run Natural Area for field trips, local foods, volunteer awards and a thrilling auction to support our important work. See back cover for details.

Tuesday, August 11th 1-3 pm
Work Bee - DeYoung Natural Area

Help restore a stream corridor where invasive glossy buckthorn has been removed by planting native trees. This work will discourage glossy buckthorn from reentering this area, and will provide the shade needed to cool the stream for the benefit of aquatic organisms. Bring a small shovel and work gloves.

Saturday, August 15th 10 am
Kehl Lake Magical Mystery Tour

Join Docents Judy Smart and Roland Drayson for a "Magical Mystery Tour" of nature around Kehl Lake and through the woods, filled with beautiful ferns and hardwoods. Enjoy the morning hike and the peacefulness that surrounds it. What a wonderful way to start the day!

Sunday, August 16th 2 pm
Get to Know Lighthouse West

Join Docents Bobbie Poor, Ed Arnfield, Dave Amos and Holly Pharmer for a hike at this tip of the peninsula jewel. Learn why the cobble shore is so important to our migrating birds and how glaciers shaped the upland.

Saturday, August 22nd 3pm
Belanger Creek: A Truly Special Place

Want to see what one of the Conservancy's really special places looks like in the summer? Join Docents Jack Schultz, Dave Amos and Holly Pharmer at the Belanger Creek Preserve to wander through a cool, northern hardwood forest, a breezy ridgetop with huge aspen trees, and down into the moist bottomland surrounding Belanger Creek. Only docent-led hikes are allowed at this preserve, so don't miss out on this. Directions: From Peshawbestown go about 2 miles north on M-22. Turn left (west) on Putnam Road. Go for about a half mile and then turn left onto Peshawbestown Road. Go west for about another half mile and then park on the right-hand side of the road just before it crosses Belanger Creek. Look for Docent cars and park behind them.



Tuesday, August 25th 1-3pm
Work Bee at Kehl Lake Natural Area

We will paint markers along the trail and prune the trail. This will encourage use of the trail and help keep natural areas unharmed. Bring loppers, pruners and work gloves.

Thursday, August 27th 5-9pm
Exhibit Opening Benefits LC

Meet painter Greg Sobran and photographer Grace Dickenson at a special exhibit inspired by the beauty of Leelanau. The exhibit, held at The Dickinson Gallery,

features Sobran's paintings as well as photographs by Dickenson and her late father, Frederick Dickenson. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Conservancy. 7545 W. Glenmere Rd, (M-22), across the street from Little Glen Lake. More info at 917-584-8585.

Saturday, August 29th 10am
Hike at Lime Lake Teichner Preserve

Wander the old two-track through the wetlands to Lime Lake, then climb the hill to hug the 100-year-old American Chestnut tree. Docents Ann Mason and Sharon Oriel will help you identify both wetland and upland trees. We are hoping to see cardinal flowers in bloom. Insect repellent recommended!

Sunday, August 30th 2pm
Discover the Jeff Lamont Preserve

Check out this little 40-acre jewel of mostly native woodland and wetland species of flora and fauna with Docents Ann McInnis and Bobbie Poor. Due to a young man's love of Leelanau and his visionary friends and family, this important connection with the Conservancy's Trans-peninsula Wildlife Corridor Project will ensure a safe haven in perpetuity for a myriad of creatures while also serving as a living library of high quality information on historic Leelanau habitats.

September

Saturday, September 5th 10am
Kehl Lake Natural Area

Why is biodiversity important? Observe, first-hand the fascinating and complex



Hikes, Work Bees, Events

diversity of life that can exist in an old-growth forest ecosystem. Meanwhile, the slowly recovering, formerly-farmed Kehl homestead provides an interesting contrast as it returns to a northern hardwood forest. Kehl Lake's 1,700 feet of pristine frontage hosts many species of native aquatic flora and fauna. Join Docents Ann McInnis, Jack Schultz, and Holly Pharmer in sharing years of accumulated nature information. Guest mushroom expert Ed Reinert will also contribute interesting information on fall mushrooms and their role in a healthy bio-diverse ecosystem.



Saturday, September 12th 10 am **Hike Lighthouse West Natural Area**

Hike ancient glacial beaches to reach the modern Lake Michigan Beach at Lighthouse West while keeping an eye out for migrating birds heading for their southern winter homes as far away as Argentina. This former farmland, with new ecological restoration in progress, is quickly becoming an important area for native wildlife. Along with the adjacent State Park and a Conservation Easement, it ensures safe habitats year round, as well as during the migratory seasons, for numerous species. Join Docents Ann McInnis, Bobbie Poor, Judy Smart, Ed Arnfield in exploring the early fall season at Lighthouse West.

Sunday, September 13th 1pm **What's Blooming at Chippewa Run?**

Did you know there are at least 11 goldenrod species that bloom in Leelanau County? Join Docents Lou Ricord and Ann Mason in their trek to locate and catalog the many species of goldenrod and other late summer wildflowers at Chippewa Run.

Saturday, September 19th 10 am **Hike at Houdek Dunes**

Join Docents Judy Smart, Ed Arnfield,

Dave Amos and Holly Pharmer for an early fall hike through our largest natural area. Come enjoy an early fall hike through dunes, hardwood forests and savannah-like meadows filled with bracken. This special area of diversity awaits you. Experience Nature at its finest and most pristine!

Saturday, September 19th 1-3 pm **Work Bee at Whaleback Natural Area**

We will be planting ferns rescued by our Wildflower Rescue Volunteers around the improved parking area. Bring a small shovel and work gloves.

October

Saturday, October 3rd 1-3 pm **Work Bee at Teichner Preserve**

We will be improving the trails at Teichner Preserve by narrowing the old two-track and pruning a short spur trail. Each year our small efforts help naturalize the old two-track to the lake.

Saturday, October 3rd 10 am **Houdek Hills and the Sound of Music!**

The rustling leaves of the aspen trees in the autumn wind provide delicate bars of music as hikers walk with Docents Judy Hoefler, Holly Pharmer and Sharon Oriel along the colorful leaf-strewn paths of Houdek Dunes. Pause under the giant pair of grand maples midway through the hike and witness the majesty and rhythms of nature.

Saturday October 10th 10 am **Fall in Love with Finton NA**

View Leelanau's spectacular fall colors in this enchanting woodland setting while discovering how and why plants go about shutting down their food factories. Learn what preparations animals are making for the cold season ahead. Join Docents Ann McInnis, Marsha Buehler, and Ann Mason in discovering how the adjacent wildlife easements and restoration projects, which are part of the Conservancy's Wildlife Corridor project, enhance the future for Leelanau's wonderful wildlife.

Sunday, October 11th 1pm **Fall Colors at Chippewa Run**

Check out some of the early fall colors with Docents Lou Ricord and Jack Schultz.

Chippewa Run is unique because of its diverse habitats. Within its preserved 110 acres, Chippewa Run has wetlands, streams and ponds, old fields, red pine and spruce/fir stands, hardwoods, and an old apple orchard to explore. Let's see how many colors we can find.



Saturday, October 17th 10am **Hike at Kehl Lake**

Join Docents Judy Smart, Holly Pharmer and Sharon Oriel for a hike along this beautiful, undeveloped lake. Fall colors should be at their peak as you wander along the lake, into the woods and out onto a wildlife viewing platform.

Saturday, October 31st 10 am **The Ghosts of Whaleback**

Hikers beware! On the bewitching morning of Halloween, the ghosts of Whaleback past join you on the high-rounded back of this giant whale from the deep. Adventure to the top, if you dare, and cast your eyes out over Lake Michigan to the Manitou Passage. Hear the ghostly echoes of sailors trying to cross the Passage, never to succeed. A Halloween adventure for all ages; costumes optional. Led by Docents Judy Hoefler and Ann Mason.

Calling All Worker Bees!

More work bees than are listed here will be announced through our email listserve. If you want to work on trails, remove invasive species and help with many other projects we have planned to keep these beautiful places in top shape, please send an email to jrowe@theconservancy.com.



We'll Drink To That!

Lori Grossnickle (right) spoke to 250 Sustainers at a July gathering at Forty Five North, the winery near Suttons Bay that she owns with husband, Steve. The beautiful vineyard made for a great setting and the Grossnickles' 100 acres that comprises Forty Five North was protected forever by a conservation easement in 2007.



Our seventh Conservancy Wine, produced by Forty Five North Winery, was unveiled at the event. Like other vintners who have participated, Forty Five North will donate \$1 to the Conservancy's farmland fund for every bottle sold.

Longtime Leelanau County winemaker Shawn Walters says the wine is a select harvest Reisling made exclusively from grapes grown in Leelanau (Forty Five North's own vines are not yet producing). "The wine is good, not because we say so, but because a panel of judges did," says Shawn. The wine took a double gold medal in at a Taster's Guild International 2009 Competition in Detroit. "Double gold means it received a gold from every judge on the panel," he adds.

"It's not cloying at all as far as sweetness goes," explains the winemaker, who has won numerous awards during his 16-year tenure in the county's vineyards. "All wine drinkers will be able to appreciate the wine, even dry wine drinkers, because it's so well balanced."

The Conservancy Wine program is the brainchild of longtime board member Larry Mawby, whose vineyard continues to produce a Conservancy wine. Funds generated from the program help to preserve farmland.

Forty Five North's unusual ice blue bottle is complemented by a beautiful painting by Leelanau artist Mary Fuscaldo. Lori and Steve's son, Eric, designed the label. With their daughter, Katie, working in the tasting room, Lori says that the winery has become quite the family affair.



The wine may be purchased at Forty Five North's tasting room on Horn Road, or at area grocers such as Hansen's and the Leland Merc. Now we have even more to thank the Grossnickle Family for: preserving their land, producing the wine, and hosting our Sustainers!



FarmAbility, continued from Page 1

protect what farmland we have left here for future generations. You just can't make farmland like this anywhere."

The 5,078 acres of family-owned farmland include farms as large as the 440-acre Olsen Farm in Cleveland Township's lovely Bohemian Valley, to the fourth generation, 115-acre cherry farm operated by the Frederickson Family in northern Leelanau Township, to the historic 10-acre Cherry Basket Farm—a specialty farm just north of the village of Omena.

Rob Sirrine, Director of Leelanau's MSU Extension says, "Revenue and funding levels are down in so many areas of agriculture, but this is a real 'win-win' for both the ag community and everyone in the county." County Commissioner Melinda Lautner, who with her husband Jim, farm 273 acres neighbor-

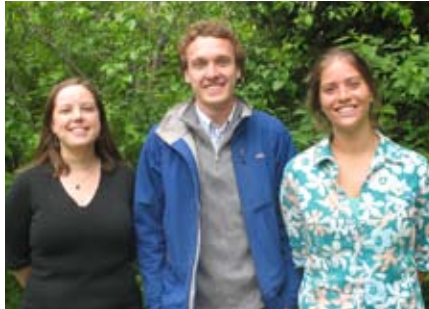
ing the Keith Parker Farm, whole-heartedly agrees. "The folks from the Leelanau Conservancy really made a good faith effort to ask farmers like us what kind of program we'd actually get behind – and then they came up with a program that we could support."

Meanwhile, the "ink" on the FarmAbility Program has been tremendous as well. In an editorial last month, *The Leelanau Enterprise* said, "The program's design has been a resounding success. To [the Conservancy's] credit, they found a new way to get the job done." We're also pleased to report interest is growing to replicate the program in other important agricultural areas of the state. For everyone who loves the farms of Leelanau County: Stay tuned!

Welcome Summer Staff!

Ellen Posner

I am thrilled to be the Conservancy's stewardship intern for the summer. I look forward to accomplishing many stewardship projects, revisiting Conservancy Natural Areas and Preserves, and discovering places I have never seen! I find it incredibly refreshing that I can still be "wowed" by the area in which I have spent 18 of my 20 years of life. As we all know with pride, the land of Leelanau is truly beautiful—I am happy to be home this summer to help keep it that way.



l to r: Sonya Fowler, Matt Voight, Ellen Posner

The two years of my life not spent here have been an adventure that has taken me half way around the world to my newest "home," the Big Island of Hawai'i. After graduating from Traverse City Central in 2006, I ventured to New Zealand, Hawai'i and Canada before settling on the Big Island to attend the University of Hawai'i and pursue a B.S. in Marine Science. As you may have guessed, I love swimming, snorkeling and hiking. I am also an ecstatic dancer and camping enthusiast.

I deeply appreciate the opportunity to maintain Conservancy lands and work with an inspiring community of dedicated volunteers. In addition to trail maintenance and facilitating work bees, I work with the Traverse City Youth Corps to maintain sites such as DeYoung and Lighthouse West Natural Areas.

Sonya Fowler

Hello. I'm the new volunteer coordinator. I grew up in Leelanau County and feel deeply connected to this area, even though my family no longer lives here. I graduated from Suttons Bay High School in 1997. I moved away to Grand Rapids in 2003, but never stopped referring to Leelanau County as my home. I recently graduated from Grand Valley State University with a B.S. in Biology, with an emphasis in plant biology. I enjoy camping, hiking, gardening, and nature in general. I am enthusiastically looking forward to spending the next four months working with the Conservancy and its volunteers to protect and enhance the natural beauty of this peninsula. I'm thrilled to start my career in conservation in a place that is so close to my heart.

Matt Voight

Hi, my name is Matt Voight, and I am the new outreach intern for the Conservancy. I recently graduated from Grand Valley State University with a B.S. in Economics.

I was born and raised in Leelanau County (Northport), and have always loved the area in which I was lucky enough to grow up. To have the opportunity to work with the Conservancy, and help in whatever way I can to protect this beautiful place, is something I'm very excited about. This has already been a great learning experience for me. I've learned a lot about the basic functions of an organization, and even had the chance to get out to some of the Natural Areas and get my hands dirty. The overwhelming support that the Conservancy gets is amazing, and it's great to see that so many people share the belief of protecting this place.

Fountain Point Celebrates 120 Years

Hundreds of people turned out to celebrate Fountain Point's 120-year anniversary in late June. The historic resort on Lake Leelanau opened its doors to the curious public, who enjoyed music from Song of the Lakes, wandered the grounds and took tours of the wetlands with Conservancy Director Brian Price and Board Member Greg Lacross. The day also yielded over \$500 in free will donations to the Conservancy, thanks to Fountain Point owner Susan Nichols and family, longtime supporters of the Conservancy, who made us the beneficiary of the celebration.





“it’s one place I can come back to and it’s still the same”

Newest Sustainers Circle Member is Protecting Leelanau, and Our Country

Conservancy Sustainers do just what their name implies—they sustain our organization with their annual gifts. The dependable support from this deeply committed group has allowed us to take on big projects and to hire a professional staff needed to carry out our mission. Sustainers make a non-binding commitment to contribute to our operating fund annually. Giving levels start at \$500. Benefits include special recognition in our publications, and two events per year where Sustainers can meet our staff and others who share their commitment to our work. May 1 kicks off our 2009 Sustainer campaign, where we invite current members to join this important circle of givers. If you would like to join the Sustainers Circle, or have any questions, please call Gayle Egeler: 231-256-9665.

Thanks to those who have joined this fantastic group since our Spring Newsletter:

Vicki and Peter Alpaugh	Captain Claude Lambert
Gershon and Suzanne Berkson	Thomas and Bridget Lamont
Robert and Julie Berlacher	Henry and Paula Lederman
James and Pam Brown	Bill McCrory and Leslie Maclin
David and Michele Camiener	Dr. and Mrs. Jack Mobley
Michael and Michelle Connell	Tom and Margaret Paskins
Mollie and Chuck Hall	Randall Petresh
Mr. Al Hoffman	Mark and Amy Spitznagel

Captain Claude Lambert has been a member since 2003, but this year he decided to join the Sustainer Circle because “I love Leelanau County, and it’s one place I can come back to and it’s still the same,” he says. The 30-year-old captain has done tours all over the world and stopped into our office in late June. He said he wanted to join the Sustainers Circle before deploying to Afghanistan in late July. He is with the 4th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, NC.



“Whenever we can, we come to Leelanau,” says Claude, father of two. Claude’s mother owns a house near Sugarloaf, and he and his family stay there when in the area. “I like how proactive the Conservancy has been in preserving land. I’ve also been on some docent-led hikes and appreciate that the Conservancy is educating people about nature and why we need to conserve land. I’m joining the Sustainers Circle so that the Conservancy can preserve more of it.”

Thanks, Claude, for working to make the world a better place, both locally and globally.



Parade Marchers Feel the Love

Volunteers age five to 85 marched in the Leland 4th of July Parade carrying 21 signs of our natural areas. Hundreds of people lined the streets and marchers received applause all along the way. “We felt the love,” said Chris Halbert, one of the marchers. Thanks to Bill and Jeannie Denner for organizing the group. We hope to participate in other area parades but need volunteers and someone to organize them to pull it off. If you are interested in spearheading a group to march in your town’s parade, email cfaught@theconservancy.com or call Carolyn Faught at 256-9665. More photos and a list of our marchers can be found on our website.



HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

(Received between 4/6/2009 and 7/13/2009)

In Honor of

Ralph and Sheri DeCew
Mr. and Mrs. David DeCew

Gil and Annette Deibel
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Varley

Jamie Karchon
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Scarlett

Joseph B. Kelly
Daniel Shoup & Anne Bishop Shoup

Kathryn Ligner
Ms. Deborah Cannella
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Reid

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Ms. Lisa Haffenreffer

Michael O'Donnell and Jan Garfinkle
Jan Garfinkle and Mike O'Donnell

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Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Rosemergy
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Anne and David Shane
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Keaton and Halsey Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Smith

Philip T. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Taylor M. Smith

The Stephenson Family
Mr. Richard J. Stephenson

The Visser Family
Mr. and Ms. Peter J. Visser

Happy Mothers Day

Joanie Woods
Stephanie and Mark Duckmann

Happy Birthday!

Austin Fellows - 13th Birthday
Kurt and Eleanor Luedtke

Anne Kinzie - 85th Birthday
Ms. Susan J. Finke

Judie Leece
David Leece and Kathy Brewer

Eleanor Stephenson
Mr. Sydney Carlock

Happy Anniversary

Anne Carroll and John McConnell
Mrs. Laura C. Nagy

Elaine and Eugene Driker - 50th
Mr. Stephen Driker

Rick and Sarah Straus - 50th
Mrs. Mary E. Lyons

Happy Fathers Day

Doug McInnis
Mr. and Mrs. John F. McInnis

David Noling
Mr. William Noling

Lawrence J. Noling
Mr. David E. Noling

Robert Risbridger
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Richard O. Ristine
Mr. and Mrs. Richard O. Ristine, Jr.

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Aaron and Susan Borgan
Donald and Carol Sanctorum

Celebrating a New Baby

Robert Helms Rolek Armbrrecht
Dr. and Mrs. Gary Armbrrecht

Happy Graduation

Jacqueline Logan
Mrs. Mary E. Lyons

In Appreciation

Docent Bobbie Poor
The Warren Watkins Family

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Patty and Dick Bach
Mr. and Mrs. George F. Carpenter
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Eskolin
Mr. and Mrs. Allan A. Petersen
Brian Wasson and Leslie Petersen

Reed Bartlett
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Norbert and Paula Gits

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Golfers Remember Libby Brydges, and Honor Conservancy With Proceeds

The Dunes Women's Golf League held their annual golf outing in June in memory of Glen Lake resident Libby Brydges who was killed in a tragic accident last year. "Libby was a fabulous lady and well-loved in this area," says event organizer Phyllis Davis.

At an organizational meeting the group decided that the Leelanau Conservancy would be a fitting recipient for the event proceeds. "Libby loved the environment, and she loved Leelanau County and wanted to see it preserved," says Phyllis, who is pictured presenting a check for \$1998 to Director Brian Price.

Forty eight golfers turned out on a beautiful day. "I think Libby had something to do with the weather," says Phyllis. "It was a fabulous day and we all just felt great about it. Libby was in inspiration to me and to many of the women in the league. At 87 she still played 18 holes of golf and stacked her own firewood. We all miss her very much."





Remembering John Fisher

John W. Fisher died on June 27 after a months-long battle with leukemia. He was nearly 94 years old. Many people in Leelanau County knew John well, and can relate stories about his various passions, which included Leland, where he and Janice were married, farming, manufacturing, aeronautics, and much more. He was a familiar sight at Leelanau Conservancy events. He and Janice were Sustainers and generous donors to the Leelanau Preservers program.

John Fisher provided critical early support to the Leelanau Conservancy when, in its infancy, the newly-formed organization could best take advantage of John's endless expertise and business acumen, his incredible generosity, and his faith in the community. John understood that a conservancy takes on obligations to care for land in perpetuity, and to help fulfill that obligation, John, along with Dick Ristine, was a founding member of our Endowment Committee.

The backing of John Fisher, along with other giants of the summer community such as Ed Ball and Bill Elder, made possible some of the Conservancy's earliest signature projects. I will never forget the day in late August of 1994 when John and Ed managed to track me down while my family was on vacation at a remote cabin on Lake Superior. Dick Ristine and I had traveled

to Muncie earlier in the summer to pitch a plan to create the Whaleback Natural Area. After thinking carefully about our plans and no doubt polling other family members, Ed and John were calling to let me know that they had decided to make leadership gifts to our campaign for Whaleback. Without that commitment, the Whaleback Natural Area would not be here today.

John Fisher played a critical role in other projects as well, such as doubling the size of Bartholomew Park on North Lake Leelanau. For over two decades, and in many different ways big and small, John Fisher contributed to the success of the Leelanau Conservancy. His family has planned a memorial reception in his honor for August 12 in Leland.—*Brian Price*.



Janice and John Fisher, strolling the beach by their beloved Leland home near Whaleback

Good Plan!

Many people own qualified retirement plans like an IRA, 401(k), or Keogh plan in which assets have been growing tax-deferred for years. Once you begin to receive payments from such qualified plans, the distributions are taxed. Such plans are also included in your taxable estate. As a result, your retirement funds may ultimately be taxed twice: first under estate tax rates, and second, under income tax rates. The combination of these taxes could reduce the value of the retirement plan assets by as much as 80%.

Retirement plans simply rank among most highly taxed assets that people hold. If you intend to leave a gift to your favorite charity as well as to family and friends, it may make great sense to talk seriously with your attorney or tax professional about how to designate assets in a manner that leaves the greatest value for each beneficiary.

For instance, charities can receive the full value of retirement plan assets without tax consequences. Retirement assets offer an unusual opportunity to reduce the taxes you pay while supporting your favorite organization with a larger gift than you may have ever thought possible.

How could I make this change to support the Leelanau Conservancy?

Since retirement account funds pass outside of your will,

you would need to name the Leelanau Conservancy on your retirement plan beneficiary designation form. Simply request a "Change of Beneficiary" form from the company who issues your plan. Complete and return the form to make the Leelanau Conservancy the testamentary beneficiary of the plan remainder.

If you'd like to learn more about planned giving opportunities like this one, please contact Director of Charitable Giving, Anne Shoup, at 231-256-9665.



"Leelanau has been important part of my life since childhood, and the work that the Conservancy has done to protect the peninsula means a lot to me. In discussing how we could include the Leelanau Conservancy in our estate plans, Ann and I settled on naming the organization as the beneficiary of my IRA. First, it was extremely

easy to do! I just filled out a "change of beneficiary" form online. Second, the change will eliminate significant taxes. And finally, IRAs are complicated assets for your heirs to receive, from a tax standpoint if nothing else. This solution addressed all those concerns, while enabling us to support the Conservancy's great work." ~Warren Watkins



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**DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL FRIENDS PICNIC
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6TH
CHIPPEWA RUN NATURAL AREA
EMPIRE**

3-5pm Pre-Picnic Field Trips. Choose from seven fun and informative options for all ages that highlight our work. Check it all out online at theconservancy.com

5 pm The Main Event Begins!

- Social hour
- Silent Auction bidding: check out more than 120 auction items online at www.leelanauconservancy.comarket.com
- Leelanau Wine and Beer
- Appetizers utilizing local produce created by seven area chefs/caterers. Taste the local foods difference!
- Kids Tent with activities for children 3-12

6 pm Picnic Dinner featuring local foods

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

7:20pm Live Auction, with eight fabulous items, including Mario's evening of hands-on cooking lesson, wine tasting and dinner for 12 featuring a local foods menu! Proceeds from Mario's dinner will be used to protect Farmland.



Leelanau Conservancy

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

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