



Leelanau Conservancy

Conserving the Land, Water and Scenic Character of Leelanau County

2011 Annual Report and Newsletter

What a year...What a Community!

Like the waves that pound our shores or the winds that shape and reshape the dunes, the Leelanau Conservancy is also a constant force on our beloved Peninsula. As we enter our 24th year, there is no denying that, together, we are making an impact on what Leelanau will look like in the future. You have helped us to protect treasured shoreline, wetlands critical to the health of our lakes, and farmland that is an economic engine of our county.

This year in particular brought astounding accomplishments in spite of an uncertain economy. The reasons for our success? Groundwork laid years ago in the form of a science-based strategic plan, an ongoing ethic that our work must benefit the land and the landowner, and your steadfast support. We celebrate a record-breaking year in land protection, punctuated by our largest conservation easement donation, and the saving of some of the most spectacular landscapes yet. A total of 1,397 acres were protected in 2011. We added 211 acres to our own natural areas and worked with landowners to protect an additional 1,185 acres of private farm and natural lands with conservation easements. Perhaps the biggest news of the year: we set the stage with Leland Township to create the Clay Cliffs Natural Area which will be among the most spectacular projects to date for the Leelanau Conservancy.

Clay Cliffs—Our Most Dramatic Project Yet

The *Leelanau Enterprise* called it a “miracle present” when Leland Township was approved for a \$2.9 million Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to purchase this unique 104 acres with 1,700 feet of frontage on both Lake Michigan and North Lake Leelanau. While this project is still a work in progress, the award of the Trust Fund grant received at year end brought us closer to our dream of making this majestic spot into a natural area owned by Leland *continued on page 5*



Bird's-eye view of Clay Cliffs - an area the Conservancy is working to protect in partnership with Leland Township

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Chairman's Message

What a terrific year. This Annual Report is packed with stories, each involving a magnificent property and a wonderful family. But, you may ask, where do we go from here? Well, it occurred to me that you may be interested to know that for a good part of the last year the staff, committees and Board of your Conservancy have been working diligently to develop an overall Strategic Plan as a road map for the entire organization. So let me outline the highlights of what we hope to accomplish over the next five years:



CONSERVE LAND:

- Based on the priorities identified in our comprehensive Strategic Land Conservation Plan, protect 5,000 acres of Natural Lands and at least 3,500 acres of Farmland.
- Build on the success of our highly touted FarmAbility program by enrolling another 10,000 acres in the program.
- Continue to innovate, promote partnerships and identify new opportunities to work with landowners to protect their land.

STEWARDSHIP:

- Manage our Natural Areas to protect conservation values while also providing opportunities for outdoor recreation, and inspiring conservation practices among private landowners.
- Protect the conservation values of each conservation easement we hold.

FUND DEVELOPMENT:

- Secure financial resources to ensure the Conservancy's current and long-term capability to accomplish its mission.
- Continue to reach out to our donor base through personal visits, events and other programs.
- Grow the Heritage Society into a vibrant and engaged presence in the Conservancy.

OUTREACH:

- Broaden support and understanding of the Conservancy mission through a comprehensive communication system, including a new website, emails, newsletters, social media, volunteer opportunities and events.
- Listen to our constituencies and develop new methods to reach our 'constituency of the future'.
- Increase public support for the Conservancy.

ORGANIZATIONAL:

- Ensure a highly functioning organization with a continuous improvement process for Board and Staff.
- Position the organization for successful Board and Staff Leadership transition.
- Achieve Land Trust Alliance accreditation renewal in 2013.

Are these stretch goals? Sure. Can we achieve them? With your help, certainly. Have we thought of everything? Unlikely. I vividly recall, as a relatively new Board member, working diligently on our last multi-year Strategic Plan. It was carefully thought out, analyzed and thorough. And we have accomplished virtually all of the major goals we set. But we also completely missed several of the most significant events and developments that no one saw coming, for example:

The need to develop, adopt and fund a unique, first-in-the-nation, privately funded Farmland Preservation Program which now serves as a model for other land conservancies;

A worldwide economic calamity that has been dubbed "The Great Recession" with its impact on asset valuation and personal wealth;

National accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance and our desire, consistent with our culture, to be in the first group of land protectors ever to be so recognized.

So will there be developments beyond our control or foresight over the next 5 years? Without a doubt and that is why we must be flexible, nimble, creative, and ready to adapt to anything that may come our way.



The Conservancy has enjoyed a great many successes over the last 23 years. But it has not been by luck or chance. You are all familiar with the saying: "Luck is where preparation meets opportunity." Thanks to you we have had many, many wonderful opportunities. The least we can do is prepare as best we can. You deserve nothing less.

See you on a trail.

Thoughts From Our Executive Director



The Economics of Conservation (and Even More Important Stuff)

We are undoubtedly living in tough times, a time when frivolous expenditures of all types are frowned-upon, at least publicly. Metrics and dashboards are used to gauge the success of the policies that are meant to rebuild our state's economy. Certainly the implication is that things which cannot be measured accurately literally cannot be valued.



The conservation community in Michigan, and elsewhere, is not exclusively motivated by the economic values that accrue to the community from the preservation of land. We believe in preserving and managing land in such a way that we improve its beauty and its overall health. And yet, the work that we do has been shown time and again to be essential to the economic well-being of the community.

The economic benefits of open space, farmland preservation, and recreational facilities have now been catalogued over several decades. Consider the following examples:

- A review of over 60 studies on the impact open spaces have on residential property values shows that home prices increase based on its proximity to a park or recreational area, and to the size of that area. Most studies find a "premium" on home values when located near a park, and conclude that larger parks and natural areas are more valuable to nearby residents than small parks. For instance, the authors of a study conducted near Portland, Oregon, which reviewed some 16,400 home sales, concluded that the optimal size of parks and natural areas is similar to that of a golf course.



Lighthouse West Natural Area

- Because access to parks and natural areas increases nearby property

values, local governments often reap proportionately higher property tax revenues. For instance, a study conducted in three Maryland counties calculated the economic benefits of preserved agricultural land to homeowners. The study concluded that in Calvert County, preserved open space increased total housing values within a one-mile radius by \$251,674 – enough tax revenue to purchase an additional 88



Swanson Produce stand

acres of parkland in one year.

- Access to connected open space, such as greenways or trails, has a particularly high impact on property values. For instance, a study of the Monon trail in Indianapolis found that average property price premiums for 1999 home sales conferred a net present recreational benefit of \$7.6million.



Teichner Natural Area

Another way of looking at the value of open space has been pioneered by the American Farmland Trust in its widespread "Cost of Community Services" studies. Such studies, conducted in far flung locations across the country, have consistently shown that certain types of land uses actually not only pay for



Economics of Conservation, continued



Whaleback Natural Area

themselves but they subsidize residential uses. Time and again, after a careful accounting of both tax revenues generated and the services required from different classifications of land, these studies have shown that farmland and forestlands generate much more in tax revenues than they require in services. The old adage that “cows don’t go to school” and “cherry trees don’t call 911” is as true in Leelanau as elsewhere.

In fact, since we have a multiplicity of taxing jurisdictions in Leelanau (11 Townships), a review of local millage rates plotted against population density reveals that in fact the highest local tax rates are invariably levied to supply services to our most densely-developed townships. The two townships with the lowest overall population density, Cleveland and Centerville, also assess the lowest millage rates.

A third category of economic benefits that flow from preserving land falls under the heading of “ecosystem services.” Scientists who work in the this field strive mightily to place a value on such things as the ability of wetlands to soak up heavy rains, therefore alleviating flooding; the ability of bees and other beneficial insects to pollinate important food crops; and the ability of forests to remove impurities from the air and store carbon.

While it may be difficult to parse out these numbers exactly, no one seriously doubts the validity of the claim: these lands and the wildlife they support provide valuable services that

we can’t replace with any amount of technology.

All of these types of studies do in fact give some sense of the economic benefits to the community of preserved open space, but the numbers they generate are almost certainly grossly underestimated because they exclude “nonmarket values associated with passive uses, such as just knowing that open spaces exist.” There is plenty of evidence for this. Consider: what price can we assign to the overall health (think obesity reduction, for instance) that comes from a daily walk in a natural area? What price can be assigned to the joy of watching bald eagles soaring overhead, and knowing that those eagles nest successfully near your home? What of the chance to catch fish in a stream that you can walk to with your grandchildren?

Nearly 100 years ago Aldo Leopold crafted his Land Ethic:

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.

It probably doesn’t even need to be pointed out that careful economic analysis didn’t give rise to the Leelanau Conservancy some 23 years ago. The desire to preserve beauty did, pure and simple. What motivates us today is the same as it was in 1988, and it would provide sufficient reason to band together to preserve our Clay Cliffs, our Sonny’s Farms, and our Kehl Lakes even if it didn’t seem to make economic sense to do so. Wild things and wild places exist for their own sakes, not just for our pleasure. But isn’t it great to know that we are on the right side of the “metrics” as well?



Cedar River Natural Area

“No matter who owns it in the future, it will remain intact and protected” - Glen Noonan



Year in Review, continued

Township. Creation of the Clay Cliffs Natural Area is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve this shoreline while also giving the citizens of Leelanau County and everyone who visits the chance to experience one of the most beautiful places on the peninsula. We still have work to do, however: \$1.8 million must be raised to complete the project. We hope that Leland Township can take ownership in the spring of 2013; in the meantime we are working on plans for managing the area, which include building trails, a parking area and a viewing platform.

Glen Noonan Family's Donated Conservation Easements--Largest in our History

Glen Noonan has donated conservation easements on two parcels of land totaling 506.9 acres. The first, 306.9 acres on Polack Lake in Kasson Township, is land that Glen grew up on. Here he gathered firewood and gooseberries with his father, watered his cattle at Polack Lake as a young man and later, hiked and fished here with his own seven children. Today, the land is the site of huge family reunions. Glen also generously allows the boy scouts to camp here and the Lions Club, of which he is a founding member, to hold events here.

“The Good Lord has been awful good to me and my family



Glen Noonan's Polack Lake family lands in Kasson Township



and this property is pretty near and dear to my heart,” says Glen. “No matter who owns it in the future it will remain intact and protected.” In addition to 3600 feet of natural shoreline on undeveloped Polack Lake, the land also features 13 acres of wetlands and a 185-acre beech-maple forest. The Polack Lake easement alone is the single largest in our history.

A second 200-acre donated easement in Empire Township

also has significant ecological and geological features. Hatlem Creek crosses the northern corner of the Noonan land, with a combined 1,400 feet of frontage along this important tributary of Glen Lake. Also of note: the property features a forested 2.6 acre “kettle hole” which is a 100-foot deep conical depression in the earth caused by glaciers. Part of the land is also actively farmed.



Farmer Ben Brown talks to visitors about sustainable agricultural practices at the Swanson Farm

Swanson Farm and Preserve—A Beloved Landmark Protected Forever

This farmstead and its associated 90 acres of wetlands and

2000 feet of shoreline on Little Traverse Lake officially became ours in 2011. Since then, the place known as Sonny's Farm has been buzzing with activity. Under a carefully thought-through lease agreement, a visionary young farmer named Ben Brown began working the land. Sonny Swanson's beloved



farm stand received a fresh coat of paint and for the first time in years, produce filled the shelves. Meanwhile, Wildflower Rescue found a new home to store and care for plants sold at our annual plant sale. Our docents—along with Ben Brown—led hundreds of people on tours of this special place. Visitors have learned about the land's past and its future, which includes being a model for sustainable agricultural practices. All the while the precious wetlands that are critical to the health of the lake remain undisturbed—and will for generations to come.



Juliet Sprouse says she hopes that her conservation easement will encourage others to think about protecting their land

Farmland Protection—A Winning Program

It's been a great year for protecting Leelanau's working farms. Four Farmland purchased conservation easement projects, totaling 665 acres, were completed in 2011. We wrapped up the 268-acre Olsen Farm conservation project in the beautiful Bohemian Valley in Cleveland Township where Bill Olsen hopes his grandson will one day farm. Jean Sedlacek preserved her 80-acre cherry farm overlooking the Manitou Passage in Leelanau Township. We also closed the books on the Spinniken cherry and apple farm - 172 acres on M-204 (a State-designated Scenic Heritage Route) in Suttons Bay Township. Finally, we worked with the Send & Emeott families to protect 145 acres on Center Highway in the heart of the Bingham Township cherry and wine-grape district. The families call its protection "a no brainer" and its locale "the perfect spot for growing cherries." It was the right thing to do, they said, to make sure the land will always be available for fruit growing.

Playing an ever-increasing strategic role in permanent protection projects is our innovative FarmAbility program. As examples, the Noonan and Olsen permanent conservation

projects started with 10-year FarmAbility agreements. These agreements also give the Conservancy the first right of refusal if the farmer wants to sell. As of January 1, 2012, owners of more than one-third (over 1,700 acres) of the lands enrolled in 10-year FarmAbility agreements have told us they want to permanently conserve their land. To date, we've enrolled over 5,000 acres in our FarmAbility Program and have permanently protected nearly 3,000 acres of Leelanau family farms.

Hatlem Creek Wetlands—"Incredibly Important Habitat" Preserved

Juliet Sprouse says she hopes that her 18-acre conservation easement will encourage other people to think about protecting their land too—because, in her words, "We are so blessed to live in a place like this." Juliet owns land in the sensitive Hatlem Creek watershed and sold an easement that will forever protect



wetlands along 1,400 feet of the creek. The federally endangered Michigan monkey flower is present here, along with other wetland plants that nourish a wide variety of birds and other wildlife. The creek is the only major tributary feeding into Glen Lake, entering on its south shore. It is a significant source of fresh water and has long been a high priority area for the Leelanau Conservancy.



*Spinniken Farm in Suttons Bay Township
172 acres preserved*

*Send/Emeott Farm in Bingham Township
145 acres preserved*



*Olsen Farm in Cleveland Township
268 acres preserved*



*Sedlacek Farm in Leelanau Township
80 acres preserved*



Good news: monitoring reports show 90% of phragmites has been eradicated in treated areas



Stewardship—Great Strides in Caring for the Lands We Have Protected

Thanks to a great crew of volunteers and grant funds, we were able to accomplish many projects long on our work plan.



Intern Robin Ostrowski clearing a trail.

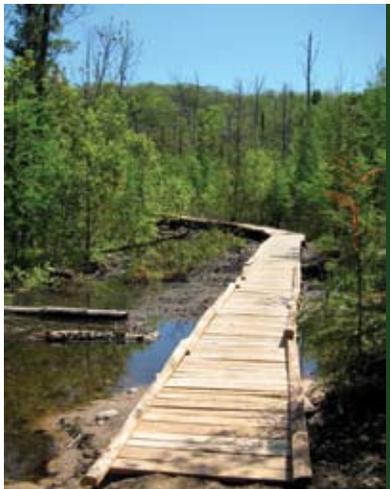
Among them: largely eradicating phragmites from our shorelines. Our early intervention paid off and prevented a much more expensive and overwhelming situation from taking hold. This year's monitoring reports indicate an overall 90 percent success rate. Continued vigilance will help to keep it that way.

We also made headway in removing invasive garlic mustard and the deep-rooted

bladder campion from Houdek Dunes and other locales on the Peninsula. Some 200 garbage bags were filled and hauled away.

Volunteer work crews are the backbone of our stewardship efforts. Volunteers wood chipped trails and helped to restore the natural stream channel at DeYoung Natural Area, cleaned out the barns at Swanson, blazed new trails at Krumweide

Forest Preserve and at Houdek Dunes. We unveiled a new viewing platform by the creek at Houdek Dunes as well, thanks to the generous and hardworking Houdek families. A new set of stairs at Lighthouse West Natural Area will protect the bluff from erosion and allow visitors to access the fantastic views found here. Finally, removing a roadbed at our Teichner



New boardwalk at Teichner Preserve.

Preserve and installing a beautiful boardwalk pleased no end of visitors to this preserve. The boardwalk allows hikers to immerse themselves in wetland habitat without disturbing it, and was made from local black locust, an invasive species that happens to be a very durable building material.

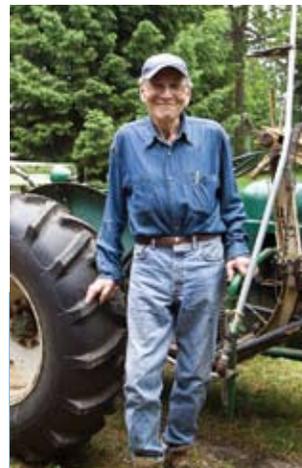
Celebrating our Conservancy Family

We held a number of events throughout the year to bring our supporters closer to our shared mission of conserving the land, water and scenic character of this place we all love so much. Over 400 people put on their hiking boots and joined our docents on the beautiful trails that showcase our natural areas. Nearly 800 people attended our Annual Friends Picnic and Auction at the Rex Dobson Farm, the first farm we ever protected. On a personal note, we are so glad to have held the event at Rex's beloved farm this year;



Co-founder Bobbie Collins tells members how much they are appreciated at our Annual Picnic.

soon after our event Rex passed away, but our evening spent with him and his 800 "picnic guests" is fondly remembered. Finally, 3,410 people made a donation to one or more of our funds to help protect the natural lands and working farms that make up Leelanau's unique character. We are grateful to have



grown our membership base in 2011—engaging more people overall in our mission.

Rex Dobson was the first farmer to protect his land in Leelanau, and offered his beautiful farm for the site of our 2011 picnic.





Every Number



84 people attended Conservancy events held in 3 cities—New York, Chicago and St Louis—to learn about our strategic plan for protecting the Leelanau Peninsula. Among our hosts were Maria Gotsch of NYC and her mother, Elizabeth Gotsch, of Northbrook. Thanks, Maria & Elizabeth! Great thanks also to Kim & Bruce Olson and Jack & Betsy Biggs for hosting in St. Louis!

66 photographers from nine states (and Canada!) submitted one or more photograph for Why Leelanau in 2011. Lisa Meil's scarlet tanager photo is one of over 600 on the site which has had 43,235 visits as of January.



7 is the number of years that Mario Batali has been involved with our Picnic and Auction; raising nearly \$300,000 in total to help the Leelanau Conservancy.



196 donors helped us to purchase the Sonny Swanson Farm and its 90 acres along the shores of Little Traverse Lake. One farm stand came back to life.



9 people joined our Richard O. Ristine Heritage Society this year, which recognizes the 106 members who have shared that the Leelanau Conservancy has been included in their estate plans.



15 Docents, including Judy Smart, and Guest Experts led 36 hikes this year, showing and teaching the 404 participants about the wonders of our Natural Areas.

1,171 acres of working farmland was protected in 2012, bringing our total number of farmland acres protected to nearly 3,000.



202 miles were covered this year by our dedicated Stewardship Monitor, Rick Halbert who visited all of our protected properties in 2011 to ensure the terms of our conservation easements are upheld.

2 miles of new winding trails were constructed at the Houdek Dunes Natural Area. Seeds Youth Corps students, volunteers, and Conservancy staff helped to build this beautiful new trail.



7,500 feet of surveying and invasive plan management occurred along the shoreline of protected inland lakes at our Kehl Lake, DeYoung and Narrows Natural Areas.

8 volunteers assisted staff in surveying 27 miles of the Lake Michigan shoreline, scoping for high risk invasive species as part the Conservancy's Coastal Monitoring Program.



Tells a Story



14 students from the Traverse City High School Green Team helped put down new mulch on the trails at the DeYoung Natural Area.

212 hours were contributed by 44 community members volunteering at Stewardship Wednesday Work Bees doing everything from cleaning up the Swanson farm to putting up fences.



200 garbage bags of invasive Garlic Mustard were removed by hand from high quality coastal forest.



4 new benches were constructed and installed at Kehl Lake Natural Area by volunteers and the property's dedicated Trail Steward Chuck Whetsel.



513 native tree, shrubs, ferns, and flowers were planted at the Teichner Preserve as part of a wetland restoration project. Volunteers Erika and Dennis Ferguson cared for the plants all winter prior to the planting.

1,556 non-native phragmites infestations were treated along the Lake Michigan shoreline in 2011 which included in Bingham, Elmwood, Leland, Suttons Bay, and Leelanau Townships.



263 water samples were collected from 11 streams and 7 inland lakes to monitor for water quality.

435 feet of beautiful board walk now winds to Lime Lake at the Teichner Preserve, replacing a road that once cut off the water flow between the wetland. The



281 Leelanau Preserver gifts were given this year with friends and family celebrating the season by symbolically preserving land in the name of someone they love.



boardwalk is made from invasive Black Locust trees, removed from other protected land, milled and installed by SEEDS Youth Corps. The project earned our local SEEDS Youth Corps a national award.



16 Wildflower Rescue dig workbees were held this year with an

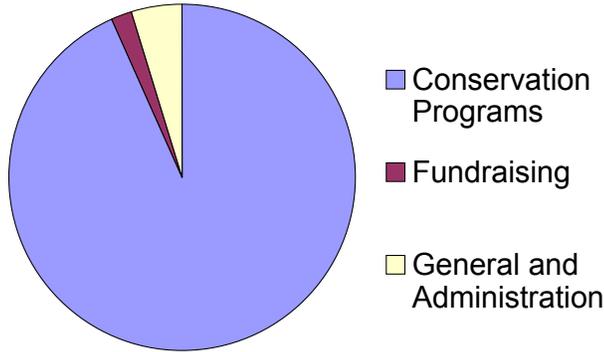
average of 10 volunteers working each day to dig and pot up wildflowers that would otherwise have been lost to development. Hundreds of pots, including 1800 trillium plants, were sold at the group's Plant Sale on the Village Green.



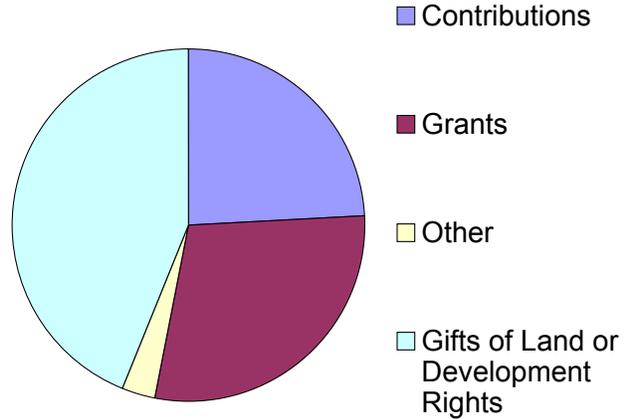


2011 Financial Overview*

Uses of Funds



Sources of Funds



*Our audited Financial Statements will be available upon request in late April

2011 Volunteers

Our volunteers are amazing and we could not be nearly as successful as we have been without their help. From back-breaking trail work to creating beautiful videos, from committee work to setting up our auction at the picnic, their contributions are endless. We thank everyone for their help and hope we have captured all of you. If we have somehow missed listing your name, please let us know and realize that we are no less grateful for your help.

Auction Committee

Marsha Buehler
Nancy Duck
Gina Erb
Larry Mawby
Karen Mulvahill
Kate McDonald
Ann Nichols
Mary Petterson
Christina Pfeufer
Shawn Ricker
Kathy Ricord
Kathy Rymal
Leslie Schmid

Leif Sporck
Laura Swire
Ann Watkins
Barbara Winkelman

Board of Directors

Our Board are "super volunteers" who put in countless hours serving on committees and guiding our organization. In addition, many of them also work on trails, lead hikes, and work at events. Board members are listed on the back cover, but many of them also appear below in

other roles. We are grateful for their inspiring dedication to conservation and Leelanau County.

Booth Volunteers

Cherryll Frick
Lianne Somerville
Roberta Williams

Clothing Design Committee

Tom Hamer
Nancy Miller
Sharon Oriel

Coastal Monitors & Assistants

Dennis & Betty Bushey
George Carpenter
Kendra Carroll
Ed Ketterer
Nancy Miller
Caitlin Rhodes
Jo Walker

Docents

David Amos
Ed Arnfield
Marsha Buehler
Roland Drayson

Judy Hoeffler
Ann Mason
Ann McInnis
Sharon Oriel
Holly Pharmer
Bobbie Poor
Ed Reinert
Lou Ricord
Pam Schmidt
Jack Schultz
Judy Smart
Alice VanZoeren



Kids marching in Fourth of July parade



Kathy Rymal and Barb Winkelman setting up auction tables



Northport Point Teens Parking Crew



Wildflower Rescuers dig ostrich ferns

2011 Volunteers



Farmland Committee (non-board members)

Jim Bardenhagen
Dick Brant
Ed Collins
Ron Rhoades
Wes Parker

Fund Development/ Investment Committees (non-board members)

Craig Miller

Event Hosts

Jack and Betsy Biggs
Tom and Gretchen Dunfee
Jonathan Feld and Shelly Longmuir
Elizabeth Gotsch
Maria Gotsch
Don and Ann Gregory
Kate and Halley McDonald
L. Mawby Vineyard
Craig and Nancy Miller
Bruce and Kim Olson
Shawn Ricker and Steven Cacossa
Leslie and Walter Schmid

Investment Committees (non-board members)

David Cassard

July 4th Parade Marchers

David Amos
Amanda Childress
Katie Childress
Bill Denner
Jeannie Denner
Cindy Jacobs
Dick Jacobs
Barb Krause
Pat and Ted Ligibel
Maxi Neugebauer
Brooke Shelby
Emma Shelby
Riana Wilson

Mailing Crews

David Amos
Jan Bauer
Matthew Bechtel
Dottie Bergman
Treva DeJong
Bob Elliott
Ruth Elliott
Jan Emerson
Candy Gardner
Hilary Gessner
Bart Ingraham
Gail Ingraham
Monica Larsen
Lyn Motlow
Unis Southwell
Jordan Wurm

Outreach Committee (non-board members)

Marsha Buehler
Annette Deibel
Molly Harrison
Linda Proffitt

Photography

Why Leelanau Photographers
(see www.leelanauconservancy.org)

Picnic & Kids Tent

Christine Armbrecht
BAIRD Employees

Pat Barry
Amber Bingham
Marsha Buehler
Tom Buehler
John Bull
Kyle Carr
Sally Casey
Micki Davis
Alice Debo
Berkley Duck
Nancy Duck
Dan Edelstein
Gina Erb
Cherryll Frick
Lee Gardner
Candy Gardner
Bob Giles
Carey Grant
Jason Grant
Susan Green
Rick Halbert
Chris Halbert
Anka Harkness
Jackie Hernandez
Art Hernandez
Walter Hoegy
Hester Hull
Heather Jordan
Chad Jordan
Franc Krebs
Mary Ann Krebs
Bridget Lamont
Lori Lisuk
Dan Lisuk
Vance Marshall
Steve Martineau
Deb Martineau
Larry Mawby
Halley McDonald
Kate McDonald
Courtney Miller
Nancy Miller
Lynn Motlow
Bill Mudget
Dorothy Mudget
Karen Mulvahill
Eric Munson
Annette Munson
Ann Nichols
Barb Nowinski
Jim Nugent
Sharon Oriel
Christina Pfeufer
Mary Petterson
Mary Povolito
Linda Proffitt
Max Proffitt
Reyhl Family
Kathy Rymal
Ross Satterwhite
Walter Schmid
Leslie Schmid
Carrie Sharp
David Shelby
Frank Siepker
Liane Somerville
Leif Sporck
Evy Sussman
Laura Swire
Brian Tennis
Amy Tennis
Connie Thompson
Phyllis Foley Wanroy
Harvey Warburton
Margaret Weller
Milton Weller
Torrey Wigfield
Barbara Winkelman
Ann Watkins

Leah Williams
Nikki Williams
Julie Weeks

Picnic Appetizer Chefs

Epicure Catering
Good Harbor Grill
Hansen Foods
Sisson's Main Street Specialties
Red Path Orchards
TLC Tomatoes
The Bluebird
The Red Head's
Stone House Bread

Phone "Thank You Volunteers"

Annette Deibel
Molly Harrison
Linda Proffitt
Helene Rabinowitz

Plant Surveys

Greg LaCross

Snowplowers who keep our natural area parking lots cleared

Rick Cross
Jim Thomas
Warren Watkins

Special Project Volunteers

Jack and Betsy Biggs
Chuck and Sue Cady
David and Cara Cassard
Dick and Carolyn Chormann
Ed and Bobbie Collins
Larry Mawby
John Elder
Don and Ann Gregory
Chip and Shirley Hoagland
Larry Mawby and Lois Bahle
Craig and Nancy Miller
Coco and Roger Newton
Bruce and Kim Olson
Tom and Laura Paine
Tom Porter and Kathleen Crispell
John and Ginny Rockwood
Walter and Leslie Schmid
Dudley and Barbara Smith
Ron and Mary Tonneberger
Jeanne Trulaskie
Sally Viskochil
Harry and Susan Wiberg

Stewardship Committee (non-board members)

Bobbie Collins
Mary Lyons
Mary Taylor

Stream & Lake Monitors

Wanette Christensen
John Fitzpatrick
Jeff Green
Julie Johnson
Tim Keilly
Wayne Swallow
Bill Valpey
Mary Valpey

Trail Stewards

Dennis Bushey
Dennis & Erika Ferguson
Candy Gardner
Jim Gilbo
Ed Ketterer
Mike Kane
Karen Mulvahill

Mathew Posner
John Rentenbach
Lou Ricord
Mary Taylor
Warren Watkins
Chuck & Janet Whetsel

Video Creation

Julie Weeks

Website Work

Cathy Carter
Fred Miller
Lou Ricord
Priscilla Walmsley
Julie Weeks

Wildflower Rescue Committee and Plant Sale Workers

Shirlee Affhalter
Merry Ball
Dottie Bergman
Sally Booth
Carol Bowen
Caroline Brady
Nora Bumb
Joanne Burnham
Keith Burnham
Bobbie Collins
Michelle Connell
Paula Crimmins
Don Darnton
Janet Dickerson
Chuck Dickerson
Mary Duff
Gina Erb
John Erb
Betty Farber
Erika Ferguson
Dennis Ferguson
Candy Gardner
Ruth Geil
JoAnne Gerben
Ginny Haag
Mary Ellen Hadjisky
Gene Hadjisky
Sherrie Hardie
Logan Hardie
Anne Hartwick
Barb Hatt
Nana Kennedy
Katie Kieren
Paul Kieran
Jane Kiernan
Julie Krist
Mary Hunsberger Link
Cy Linder
Audrey Linder
Karl Marsh
Barb Marsh
Jill McFarlane
Doug McInnis
Ann McInnis
Peg Meeker
Monna Meyer
Nancy Mogle
Jeannie Muir
Jerry Muir
Ted Muir
Brad Muir
Ann Nichols
Kathryn Omoto
Ellen Pisor
Liz Porter
Ebba Raynor
Anita Risbridger
Georgia Rivers
Ken Rosiek
Cindy Rosiek

Julie Sanco
Cathy Schocker
Ed Schocker
Cathy Sehner
Claudia Shannahan
James Shannahan
Patty Shea
Jerry Shea
Kathie Snedeker
Lief Sporck
Gretchen Sprout
Jay Swink
Paula Swink
Mary Tonneberger
Trudy Underhill
Barb Varley
Barbara Vilter
Helen Wells
Joanie Woods
Randy Woods
Brian Zimmerman
Liz Zimmerman

Work Bee Volunteers

Jennie Berkson
Sam Brown
Dennis Bushey
Nick Carlson
Dorothy Carpenter
Harold Carpenter
Tim Carpenter
Ann Cibulskis
Tom Dunfee
David Edelstein
Candy Gardner
Hayden Gardner
Jim Gilbo
Forrest Gunderson
Amy Jin
Keith Johnson
Mike Kane
Emma Kelly
Bridget Lamont
Sydney Lawson
Judy & Lloyd Linder
Sheila McIntosh
Tom Maiolani
Steve Martineau
Rich Nachazel
Maxi Neugebauer
Lara Paine
Dan Palmer
Rassa Poorman
Ivy Saur
Rick Seefelt
Linda Samuilow
James Shannahan
Claudia Shannahan
Ben Smith
Tim Stein
Tom Sutter
Al Swiderski
Ann & Warren Watkins
Chuck Whetsel
Joanie Woods
TCHS Green Team

Water Quality Data Entry

Jeff Green

Website Development

Cathy Carter
Jeff Corbin
Fred Miller
Priscilla Walmsley
Julie Weeks



Leelanau Preservers: The "Forever" Gift

Our Leelanau Preservers program celebrated its 9th year and has become an annual gift-giving tradition for many people who love the Leelanau Peninsula. This year, 546 gifts were given that symbolically preserved land in the name of a loved one. Many people also preserved land in their own names. Those who reached acreage milestones this year are listed below, and tiles honoring this group were mounted on our tile wall in the Leland Village Green. As a side note and a head's up...we have reserved a generous amount of space on the Green for the 1/10 acre milestone tiles, but we WILL eventually run out of space for this level of recognition.

Leelanau Preserver Tile Recipients in 2011

2 Acre Plus

Janet Kelly

1 Acre Plus

Constance C. Jones Forcier

1/2 Acre Plus

Lou Ristine
Chris Stack
Grant and Jeannette Heidrich

1/4 Acre Plus

Elizabeth McCarthy
Paul W. Thompson
Powell Munro Holzner
Gordon Redfield Gale
Natalie Redfield Gale
The Slaters
Tom and Alice Van Zoeren

1/10 Acre Plus

Horace and Bobbie Abbott
Brenna Ald
Charles Gentry Alldredge
Eleanor Elizabeth Alldredge
Andrew-Mann-Skinner Families
James Curtis Bach
Bob and Joyce Bahle

Chris and Robin Bahle
Karl and Chava Bahle
Owen and Leila Bahle
Rich and Lyn Bahle
Mabel Elizabeth Balck
The Bennett Family
Betsy Blair & Gary Stair
Michael and Sherri Brom
Betsy Bury
Erik Jon Butt
Kelsey Anne Butt
Greg Chapman
Maureen Delaney-Lehman
John and Rita Dick
David and Mary Doherty
Kathleen Doherty
Laura Dunlop
The Norb Gits Family
Mrs. Ann G. Harrison
Senator Joseph W. Harrison
Dick and Barb Hatt
Matthew D. Heiss
Sydney Shureb Higdon
Vincent James Horning
Jim and Joan Kareck
Jeanette Kinsella
Abigail Klenke
The Lambert Family – Chicago
Lloyd and Judy Lindner

Allie Lindo
Emily Lindo
Bailey Lininger
Lauren Lininger
Ron and Cathy Mawby
Doug and Ann McInnis
Camden Jane Nichols
Jan and Mike Owens
Amanda and Matthew Patton
James Preston
Bert and Helene Rabinowitz
Emma and Jack Rafferty
Bill Rastetter and Cary Weed
Harley Rhodehamel
Ellis, Leah & Lon Rogers
Carolina and Thomas Rossman
Richard W. Scarlett, Sr.
Phil and Kathy Scherer Family
David Schwab
Dr. Clayton R. Sikes, Jr.
Zelia Sterling Stoll
Henry Vander Zyden
Lauren Vander Zyden
Grace B. Wagner
Paul and Kathryn Weiner
Deborah Wilkerson
Ethel Willis
Owen Winslow Wodarz
Joanie Woods



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Susan Green, Secretary

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Yarrow Wolfe, Land Protection Specialist
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Carolyn Faught, Communications Director
Anne Shoup, Director of Charitable Giving
Gayle E. Egeler, Membership and Outreach Coordinator
Nancy Thomas, Acctg and Admin Assistant
Sara Michael, Charitable Giving Assistant
Fields Ratliff, Biotech

A Look Ahead

With our partners, Leland Township, we will move toward making the spectacular Clay Cliffs into a public Natural Area. The challenge for 2012: raising the needed \$1.8 million to complete the project and writing a management plan for the land.

The success of our innovative FarmAbility Program has us excited to launch Phase 2 in 2012. We're currently working on 6 permanent farmland protection projects and expect to close on three or more of these in 2012.

Our Stewardship staff and volunteers will attack the top 20 invasive species, employing a strategy called "early detection-rapid response." Wiping out invaders before they have a chance to do major damage is smart and cost effective.

Plan to attend one of our docent-led hikes April through July!

Save the date:

Sustainers Circle Summer Gathering: Thursday, July 12, location TBA

Annual Friends Picnic:
Thursday, August 2, at The Newton Farm on Jelinek Road!



Conserving the Land, Water and Scenic Character of Leelanau County



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