



Leelanau Conservancy

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

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Glen Noonan Protects 506 Acres and Beloved Family Lands

~ Carolyn Faught

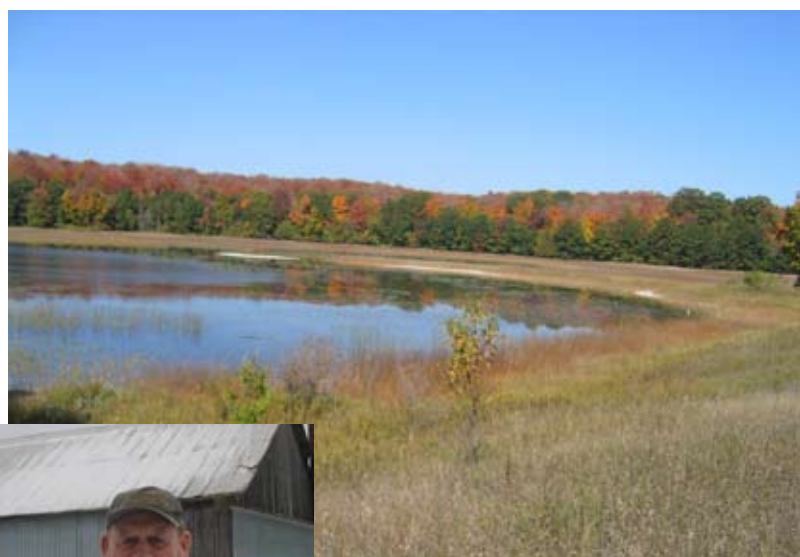
When I first moved to Leelanau County 25 years ago, one of the names I kept seeing in the newspaper was Glen Noonan's. At the time, he owned Glen's landfill, a gravel pit, and a whole lot of farmland. I got the impression that if Leelanau County had a patriarch, this guy would certainly be in the running. Forty-two years serving on the County Road Commission and his role as a founding member of the Cedar-Maple City Lions Club gives him an iconic status.

Here at the Conservancy, I often hear him referred to as "a farmer's farmer." I recall that at the public forum about the farmland millage in 2006, all heads turned and a hush came over the Suttons Bay Auditorium when Glen stood up to speak his mind.

And so as I drove out one day to hear his story about why he was protecting a significant portion of his land with a donated conservation easement, I didn't know quite what to expect. I'd been told that he was a shrewd, successful businessman; that he could be blunt. Both of those things are certainly true. But what is even truer is that underneath that exterior is a fascinating, sweet guy who is passionate about keeping his family lands intact. "The good Lord has been awful good to me and my family," he says. "I love this property—it's very dear to my heart, and I'm very proud to have turned it over to the care of the Leelanau Conservancy to make sure it is always protected."

With the preserving of his 506 acres, Glen has become the single largest conservation easement donor in the history of the Leelanau Conservancy. No single landowner has protected more acreage to date. While the Conservancy does not own the land—the Noonan family does—the conservation easement ensures that Glen's wishes for the property will be adhered to in perpetuity.

Two separate parcels have been protected. The first is 200 acres in Empire Township, known as the "kettle hole property." It contains a unique geological feature, a 100-foot deep conical depression in the earth caused by the melting of a buried block of glacial ice. Many local geologists consider it to be one of the largest and best preserved geologic kettles



above: Glen Noonan's beloved Polack Lake property in Kasson Township
left: Glen, in front of the barn where, at age 5, he milked the family cows

in Michigan. Also present on the land is 700 feet of Hatlem Creek frontage and 132 acres of hardwood forest. A forest management plan will allow the Noonan family to sustainably harvest trees from the property and continue to farm the tillable acreage.

The second parcel on Polack Lake in Kasson Township is the one that Glen is most attached to. He grew up in a house near the property and although his family did not own the land, as a young man he vowed that someday he would. Glen is one of 11 children whose mother died when he was just seven. He recalls gathering firewood and gooseberries with his father, watering cattle at Polack Lake as a young man and later, hiking and fishing there with his own family. Today, the land is the site of huge family reunions and Glen also generously allows the Boy Scouts to camp there. The Lions Club, of which he is a founding member, holds a Christmas tree *continued on page 3*

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Message from our President



As I travel around the Leelanau Peninsula, I am constantly amazed at the beautiful views. A number of years ago, it dawned on me that orchards, vineyards or open farmland are a significant part of many of my favorite vistas. Those farms are a critical component of why Leelanau is such a special place, not just for the views, but for the economic health of the region.



Protecting farmland has been a major element of the Conservancy's focus for over a dozen years, but five years ago, we undertook a study to determine the state of farming in Leelanau County and how we could be most effective helping to preserving our local farms. Between 1990 and 2000, 10,000 acres, approximately 20% of the county's farmland, had been taken out of production. We listened to long time farmers who were concerned that they would be the last to work their land. Young farmers told us they were not able to afford to buy productive farmland. Helping farmers to keep farming in Leelanau County became a key theme.

In response, we created FarmAbility, a program to conserve farms for 10 years and provide farmers with a path to permanent protection for their land if they choose that option. Farms placed in the FarmAbility program provide farmers with nominal annual payments and give the Conservancy the right of first refusal to purchase the land if it is being sold to a developer. In addition, FarmAbility supports financial and estate planning for farm families who participate.

FarmAbility was launched in 2009, with initial funding to support 5,000 acres. We did not know what the reception would be in the farm community. But, within 60 days, 28 Leelanau farm families enrolled 5,016 acres. Since then, 924 of the original 5,000 acres have been permanently protected, and other farmers have told us that if funding were available they would protect their farms as well. Permanently protected land is less costly to buy, making it easier for young farmers to get started. Farm families have been very effective stewards of their land for generations. By working collaboratively with the agriculture community we help ensure that farming remains viable in Leelanau which supports the local economy and preserves the character of the peninsula.

Today, approximately 40,000 acres of farmland remains in Leelanau County. Of that cultivated land, about 10% has been permanently protected and an additional 4,092 acres remain

in the FarmAbility program. Since 2010, we have permanently protected 1,225 acres of farmland. We recently launched Phase II of FarmAbility with a goal of enrolling an additional 5,000 acres. (see page 8)

Many of us are unaware that the views we cherish from our favorite lookout points include significant acres of farmland. I am reminded every spring when the cherry trees are in bloom that parts of the view that just look like vegetation the rest of the year are row upon row of fruit trees. Permanent protection of these working farms, enabling farmers to continue farming is important for both the economic health and to preserve the unique character of the Leelanau Peninsula.

Warren Watkins, President



Common Goals

Tribal Chairman Derek Bailey, of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, stopped by the Conservancy office and met with Brian Price and John Erb last December. The Grand Traverse Band and the Conservancy have long cooperated on projects such as water monitoring, reintroduction of wild rice to the Cedar River Natural Area at the south end of Lake Leelanau, and cormorant population control at Gull Island in Northport Bay. Bailey pointed out that Native Americans stress decision-making that will provide benefits for "seven generations." With our mutual interest in long-term conservation of land and water, there will be plenty of room for cooperation between the Conservancy and the Band in the years to come.



Noonan Land Protected

(continued from page 1) sale here annually, and the Noonan family donates the trees.

Glen's first love has always been farming, a vocation he has doggedly pursued all his life. After graduating from high school, his one goal was to save enough money to buy a piece of land in Leelanau. He tried to enlist in the army but a childhood injury that left him without the use of two fingers on his right hand caused him to be rejected. He ended up joining the Merchant Marines, which took him to places like Russia, Turkey and the Black Sea.

After that he and a friend headed west, looking for work. An uncle in Nebraska had a potato farm, where they worked for a bit. Word of jobs harvesting wheat drew them to Kansas, then to Idaho to labor in sugar beet fields. His travels gave him the perspective that "Leelanau County is one of the most beautiful places in the world as far as I am concerned. I don't think there is any place to compare to it. It's the beauty that attracts people and I think that through zoning we can make sure things stay the way we want them to."

While out west, he met Ella, his wife of 62 years, who worked at a bank. "I would always try to have an excuse to stop in at the bank," he says. "But really, it was just so I could keep track of her." He brought her home from a dance one night—and ultimately to Leelanau County once he had saved enough money to buy his first 80-acre parcel.

He found out, however, that he couldn't make a living just on farming; thus his forays into the tavern and landfill busi-

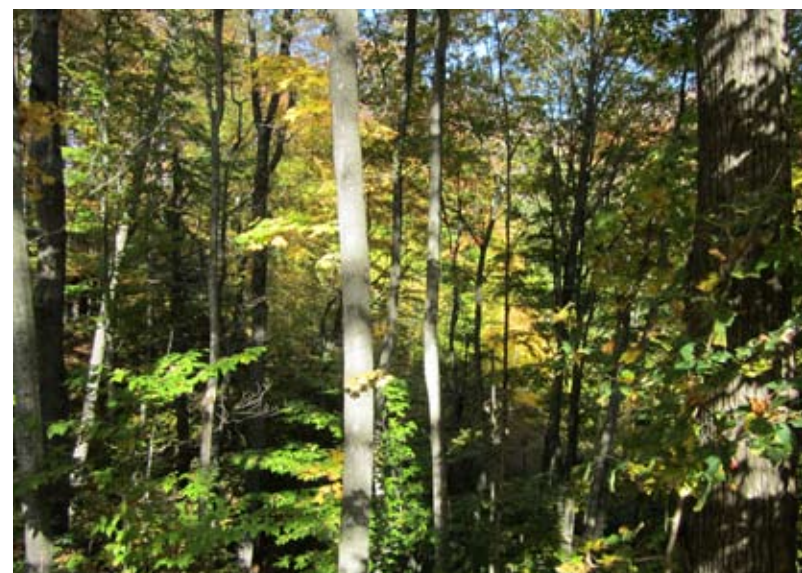
nesses. He describes himself as a risk-taker who goes with his gut. "I've never taken two or three days to make a decision," he says. "Never have, never will."

"Whenever you can make permanent impact by protecting large swaths of natural land, and in doing so you can help guarantee someone's legacy for their land, I feel like you're providing them with what I call the ultimate property right," says Matt Heiman, Director of Land Protection for the Leelanau Conservancy. "You are having a perpetual say in the condition of your land."

nesses. He describes himself as a risk-taker who goes with his gut. "I've never taken two or three days to make a decision," he says. "Never have, never will."

Preserving his land through a conservation easement, he says, was one of those gut-level decisions that he knew was the right thing to do. "No matter who owns the land it will be kept intact," he says. "It's a beautiful piece of property and they aren't making any more of it."

Two of Glen's seven children—twins Roger and David—are passionate about carrying on Glen's farming legacy. Together they farm 1,200 acres, including portions of the now



Sloped hillsides are part of the geologically unique Kettle Hole Property

the agricultural fields will always be available for farming.

Roger, who was the one who urged his father to contact the Conservancy, says "My dad always wanted to get this done. I would give praise to Tom and Matt*; they made the process a lot easier. They were very up front with no hidden agenda. They are the kind of people we like to work with. A lot of people think that the Conservancy has a hidden agenda. With us there was NOTHING on that order and we're very happy with our experience." (*Tom Nelson is the Leelanau Conservancy's Director of Farm Programs; Matt Heiman is the Director of Land Protection.)

Throughout the months that the Noonan family and the Conservancy were working out the details of the easement, Ella's health was in decline. She died in September. Glen recalls how hard she worked to take care of their large family, how she helped to milk the cows and kept the milk tanks "super clean." "She always liked to have a good garden, canned a lot of fruit and tomatoes, and helped to write the history book about Kasson Township," he adds. "She loved Polack Lake too."

At her service, he told Farmland Programs Director Tom Nelson that in his mind, he was dedicating the preservation of the property to Ella's memory. "It was an honor for us to work with the Noonan Family," says Tom. "It was clear from the start that they see this land as an extension of themselves. As such, it's a big part of their identity as a family. And, just like their family, their love of this land runs deep."



Clay Cliffs Natural Area—An Exciting Challenge!

In December we announced some great news that brought us two steps closer to realizing the dream of preserving the spectacular Clay Cliffs: 1) The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) awarded up to \$2.9 million to Leland Township for the \$6.2 million project; and, 2) the Carls Foundation awarded the Leelanau Conservancy a \$1 million challenge grant,

the last remaining, significant stretch of undeveloped and unprotected Lake Michigan coastline on the Leelanau Peninsula. Located near the north end of Lake Leelanau, this unique property includes over 1,700 feet of shoreline on both Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau. (See facing page to learn more about Clay Cliffs.)

Leland Township and the Leelanau Conservancy are partners in securing the funding necessary to create Clay Cliffs and in creating a plan for the future management of the Natural Area. Leland Township secured the MNRTF grant toward purchasing the land. The Conservancy is responsible for raising the required, local matching funds in order to complete the purchase. Ultimately, Leland Township will own the property, and the Conservancy will manage the land to provide opportunities for quiet recreation, while protecting the significant natural features of the property. Both partners are excited to protect the land and to provide visitors with a chance to experience its beauty and serenity.

"This is great for Leelanau County and for our township," says Harry Larkin, Leland Township Supervisor. "Our economy is closely tied to the beauty and recreation this area offers. Having public access to Clay Cliffs for hiking, bird watching and other quiet recreation will add to the mix, offering a unique

experience to all who visit it. The community wholeheartedly supports this acquisition, and our Parks and Recreation Committee is really looking forward to working with the Conservancy staff to develop a great management plan for the property."



The Clay Cliffs: \$1.8 million must be raised to create a fantastic public natural area. Photo by Keith Burnham, Leland Report

a portion of which may be used to help fund the Clay Cliffs project. When the Conservancy raises the remaining \$1.8 million needed to finish the project, this property will become a public natural area for all to enjoy. It's an ambitious goal, but one well worth achieving!

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to preserve this shoreline while also giving the citizens of Leelanau and everyone who visits the chance to experience one of the most beautiful places on our peninsula," says Conservancy Director Brian Price. "But amidst all the excitement it's important to realize that we still have a lot of work to do to raise the \$1.8 million needed to finish the project."

Until that happens, the property remains in private hands and is not open to the public. With the owner's permission, we may offer the chance to see the property with a staff member this summer. We encourage those who are interested in contributing to the project to call the office to learn of planned hikes.

The proposed Clay Cliffs Natural Area would protect



Learn more about the Clay Cliffs Property, and this exciting opportunity to create a spectacular natural area, on our website.

To make a gift to the project, please contact Anne Shoup (231-256-9665) or visit the Conservancy's secure website at www.leelanauconservancy.org.

Rarely does the opportunity exist to protect such a large, relatively unfragmented and highly diverse forest tract



Project Updates

Get to Know Clay Cliffs

The Clay Cliffs Property is a pristine and awe-inspiring landscape of steep slopes, hidden valleys, alkaline seeps, open meadows and old-growth forest.

CLAY CLIFFS

Forming the western border of the property, clay seepage bluffs are rare landforms that occur in only a few locations along the shores of the Great Lakes. This harsh, beautiful terrain features assemblages of plants that can tolerate wild extremes and constant disturbance. Hot sun bakes the clay face in summertime, while rain and groundwater seeps soften and destabilize the surface throughout the year. "Slumps" occur when saturated clay gives way in large sections, exposing new sections to be colonized and stabilized by plants. The result is an environment that harbors rare plants that only thrive in unstable conditions. Bank swallows nest in the near-vertical cliffs.

OLD-GROWTH FOREST

At the top of the bluff, a unique old-growth remnant forest covers the rugged terrain. Underlain by thin soil over a mass of clay, this forest features wetland pockets with small streams, often with plant communities typical of moderately dry woods only a few feet away. Uncut for at least 80 years, towering maple, cedar, and beech trees offer a glimpse of the primeval hardwood

forests that trimmed much of the shoreline of the upper Great Lakes. The extreme variations of slope, soils, and sunlight create a patchwork of plant microclimates. The overall effect is of a uniquely diverse forest carpeted by wildflowers such as jack-in-the-pulpit, tall meadow rue, ostrich ferns, and trillium. So far, over 130 species of plants have been identified in this relatively small area.

MEADOWS AND WILDLIFE

The eastern half of the property consists of primarily old agricultural fields and steep-sloped woodlots. Open meadows harbor ground-nesting birds such as bobolinks. Steep northward-facing slopes, with seeps and springs, and forests reclaiming small meadows are ideal habitat for resident wildlife such as white-tailed deer and wild turkeys. A pair of bald eagles return every year to nest near the edge of the clay bluff. These birds successfully fledged two young eagles in 2011. When we complete the project (est. 2013), hikers will be treated to spectacular views of Lake Leelanau from the farm fields, and of Lake Michigan (including the Manitou and Fox Islands) from the edge of the clay cliffs.



This site provides a glimpse into Michigan's ancient past and supports an abundance of wildlife. Rarely does the opportunity exist to protect such a large, relatively unfragmented and highly diverse forest tract linking adjacent natural land and two significant bodies of Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau."

~ Phyllis Higman - Senior Conservation Scientist, Michigan State University Extension



A 2,000 pound eagles nest sits atop a 100-foot tall mature ash tree near the edge of the Lake Michigan cliff. (Photo by Trish Petrat)



Invasive Species: Keeping Up the Fight!

Spring is here and the trees and flowers are starting to bloom. Although we usually invite plants to display themselves this time of year, not all are welcomed with open arms. Invasive species are emerging as well which means eradication and restoration efforts will begin in order to control unwanted species on our natural areas and preserves.

Just like native plants, invasives have a unique growing cycle. Critical times within that cycle include the weeks when the plant flowers and seeds. Our eradication efforts are

of sweet woodruff was found at the trailhead. The patch was treated immediately which will help ensure the species will not spread to the interior of the natural area and become costly to remove down the road.

Garlic mustard is widespread in southern Michigan, taking over large areas of forest understory. The plant now has a strong foothold in Northern Michigan as well, including many areas in Leelanau. A small infestation was spotted two years ago at the Lighthouse West Natural Area. Since then we have worked to eradicate the species from the (northern) tip of the peninsula.

The Conservancy has hired a three-person Early Detection/Rapid Response Crew (EDRR) to survey and treat these species. This EDRR team will spend time surveying for garlic mustard and sweet woodruff as well as other species on the



Garlic mustard, pictured above, has small white 4-petal flowers that are in bloom from April to June. The plant will out-compete many tree seedlings and other native vegetation if it becomes well established.

conducted when a plant is in the part of the cycle that is most susceptible to control measures.

During the late spring and early summer, the Conservancy focuses on several plants for eradication - particularly garlic mustard and sweet woodruff. These plants pose a threat due to their ability to spread fast and crowd out native plants such as trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit, and lady slippers.

One of the Conservancy's long-term ecological goals is to prevent the establishment of these plants in high quality, undisturbed natural areas - such as protected land at the tip of the peninsula. Sweet woodruff, which is quite pervasive at the Whaleback Natural Area near Leland, is not well established at the tip so we are working hard to prevent its spread. Last year, during a survey at Kehl Lake Natural Area, a small infestation



Sweet woodruff plants have clusters of small, white star-shaped flowers and whorls of lance-shaped leaves. The flowers are in bloom from May to June and are known for their vanilla-like fragrance. Some area nurseries still sell this plant. Please don't buy it.

"watch list" that have not yet been found in Leelanau but have been recorded in surrounding counties so they can be expected to appear soon.

This fall, plans call for treatment of other invasives, such as Phragmites. If you would like to learn more about these plants or want to report sightings, please contact the Conservancy by emailing fratliff@leelanauconservancy.org.

To learn more about invasive species, or to report sightings, please contact Fields Ratliff, Leelanau Conservancy BioTechnician, at 231-256-9665, or fratliff@leelanauconservancy.org



Thanks, Volunteers!

In February, the Conservancy held a volunteer appreciation event at the Houdek Dunes Natural Area. The event was held to honor those who have helped the Conservancy with a variety of tasks- everything from helping to build our public trails to stuffing envelopes. Twenty-five people joined staff for two hikes that displayed the new trails at the natural area. Staff, volunteers, and the SEEDS Youth Corps helped create two miles of new trails last summer for recreational enthusiasts to enjoy. SEEDS Youth Corp also brought their Mario Batali portable brick pizza oven and prepared delicious pizzas made from local ingredients.



Plant Heritage Week—Get Out There!

From May 5th to May 13th, get outside and get exploring with Plant Heritage Week! There are more than 30 events over the course of nine days—including hikes at our natural areas. These outings are aimed at fun, education, and dirt-under-your-nails experiences. There will be programs that everyone can get excited about - from guided wildflower and birding hikes to tall ship sailing and a morel/leek hunt, and much more! We'll discuss the importance of plants to our local environment and economy with the help of more than 20 regional partners across the five-county region. Check out the Plant Heritage Week website to learn about events going on in Leelanau and the surrounding Grand Traverse region. <http://natureiscalling.org/invasive/plant-heritage-week/>





FarmAbility II – Helping to Keep Leelanau’s Agricultural Sector Vibrant

The first decade of the 21st century was a time of great uncertainty for the future of the Leelanau Peninsula’s rich agricultural heritage. First, crop prices for both apples and cherries were volatile and usually too low to make a profit. Add to that the “cherryless” summer of 2002 and severe frost damage to other fruit crops. Farms were going up for sale, and it seemed safe to assume that subdivisions would continue to supplant orchards on the ridgelines of the peninsula. In 2006 voters rejected a millage to help fund farmland preservation, and soon after Leelanau County repealed its Farmland Preservation board and ordinance.

But behind the scenes several trends suggested that it would be unwise to bet against Leelanau County farmers. Not only were we seeing the rising interest in fresh locally-grown food, but worldwide shortages in agricultural commodities began to relentlessly drive up prices. And perhaps most importantly, greater numbers of people in Leelanau were recognizing that farming was and is a pillar of what makes Leelanau one of the world’s truly great places.

The Conservancy had long made protecting family farms a central element of our mission. First and foremost, we’ve kept on permanently protecting family farms—over 3,000 acres now after a record-breaking 2011. And, the first round of our FarmAbility in 2009 resulted in over 5,000 acres enrolled in this 10-year conservation program. “I still remember wondering whether we would get many takers when we launched the program in 2009,” said Tom Nelson, the Conservancy’s Director of Farm Programs, “but we’d done our homework and it showed.” Not only did the farmers quickly enroll, but owners of nearly 900 of those acres have since either permanently conserved their lands or are well on the way. And, many more are coming to the same conclusion: Fundamentally, farm conservation is a smart move. “If we could raise the funds, we could do even more permanent farm conservation,” says Tom. “The interest is definitely there.”

And now, here comes FarmAbility II—the second round of this popular program. Continuing to partner with the Leelanau



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

Conservation District, MSU Extension and the MSU Horticultural Research Center, our shared goal is to enroll 5,000 more acres of family-owned farms for another 10-year period. The difference this time? We know farmers like the program, and if FarmAbility I is any indication, a lot of this acreage is likely to end up permanently protected long before 2022. By 2015, we hope to offer a third round and reach our goal of enrolling 15,000 acres in FarmAbility.

Our partners agree. “We felt beforehand FarmAbility would be a ‘no-brainer’ for area growers,” said Buzz Long, Executive Director of the Leelanau Conservation District.

Dr. Nikki Rothwell of the MSU Horticultural Research Center says, “We couldn’t be more excited about a second round for such a ground-breaking conservation program. We have seen tremendous benefit from participating growers.”

Private dollars, including an additional grant from Rotary Charities of Traverse City, pay 100% of the necessary funding. Each 10-year conservation agreement grants the Conservancy a right of first refusal should the family need to sell and a buyer would develop the farm.

The program has certainly been popular; the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, the Grand Traverse Conservation District and others are slated to offer FarmAbility in several townships later this year.

FarmAbility, along with permanent conservation of family farms, and strong partnerships, is helping to ensure that farming will remain strong in Leelanau for a long time. In short, it is another important tool to keep Leelanau one of the world’s truly great places.

FarmAbility is a voluntary program. Its incentives include annual cash payments of \$10 per-acre for active agricultural land, \$5 per-acre for non-ag land, as well as cost-sharing benefits. The current round features a new benefit which can help defray the cost of the USDA’s GAP Audits. For more information: call Tom Nelson (256-9665)

DeYoung Historic Waterwheel Building Gets a Lift!



Work continues at the landmark powerhouse building, constructed around 1880 at the DeYoung Farmstead. Deitz House Moving Engineers, a fourth generation house moving company, lifted the powerhouse off its foundation in early March. This was done in order to facilitate the inspection and restoration of the natural and Portland cement foundation around the perimeter as well as the interior masonry of the powerhouse. The building was securely cribbed and fenced, providing necessary access to the foundation for thorough examination and repair over the next few years.



Our primary partner, Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation Program is directed by Dr. Ted Ligibel. "EMU students will continue their involvement in high-quality, ongoing research, documentation and recordation, historic inventory, and hands-on restoration techniques," says Dr. Ligibel. Staff and professors will work with EMU graduate students in late May to investigate how the waterwheel (in the center of the photo) is supported by the masonry and what repairs need to be made.

Save the Date!

Our Annual Picnic and Auction will be held on Thursday, August 2nd, 2012 at the spectacular Newton Farm on Jelinek Road overlooking the Manitou. The Picnic begins at 5pm, with pre-event hikes held in the afternoon. Watch our website for more info. If you would like to help sponsor this "event of the summer" or donate an item to it, contact Carolyn Faught (231-256-9665).





Welcome New Board Members!

We're fortunate to have these three individuals who joined our board last November. They are already making great contributions to our organization!

Bob Gilbert

Bob Gilbert and his wife, Debbie, live on Good Harbor Bay. Bob has been coming to the region since he was two months old and he and Debbie have had a second home in Leelanau County since 1975. Recently, Bob has worked on the Conservancy's farmland protection initiative.

Bob received both his BA and his JD from the University of Michigan. After serving as Chair and the first CEO of Michigan's largest and oldest law firm, Bob happily retired to Of Counsel status and Leelanau County became his primary residence. Among other charitable activities, he has been active with a number of land conservancies and has served on the board of Ann Arbor's Legacy Conservancy. He feels "privileged to be able to serve on the board of one of the country's most successful land conservancies."



Ed Ketterer

Ed Ketterer and his wife, Linda, live at the tip of the Peninsula on Grand Traverse Bay. Ed holds BS and MS degrees in electrical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University, and a JD degree from George Washington University. He practiced intellectual property law for over 30 years, heading the IP departments at Whirlpool Corporation and then Steelcase Inc.

While living in southwestern Michigan, Ed headed an environmental organization in Berrien County that was responsible for preserving the sand dune/lake complex that is now the Grand Mere State Park, and served on the board of directors for the Sarett Nature Center. Ed and Linda have had a year-round home in Leelanau for 17 years, and became full-time residents in 2010. Ed is a member of the Stewardship Committee and is a Trail Steward for the Lighthouse West property. He currently serves on the executive committee of the Traverse City chapter of SCORE (small business counselors) and maintains an intellectual property consulting business serving clients across the country.



Julie Weeks

Julie R. Weeks is a long-time Leelanau Lover, having visited her Up North grandparents every summer of her childhood, lived in Glen Haven during her high school years, and graduated from the Leelanau School in 1975.

Weeks is the President and CEO of Womenable, a for-profit social enterprise that works to enable women's entrepreneurship worldwide by improving the systems that support women's enterprise creation and growth. She has served in a number of positions including Executive Director of the National Women's Business Council in Washington DC and the Deputy Chief Counsel for Statistics and Research at the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Weeks has a BA and MA from the University of Michigan in Political Science with a concentration in research methodology. She serves on the board of the Global Banking Alliance for Women, and is board chair of the Association of Women's Business Centers. She lives in Empire Township with her husband Walter Hoegy.



Opt In—Help the Conservancy Save Time and Money

We've launched a new way for you to renew your membership/support that will save trees, time and postage. If you would like to receive your membership renewal notices electronically, email donations@leelanauconservancy.org to "opt in." You will receive an e-renewal notice at the same time you would normally receive your first renewal notice. With a few clicks, you can renew your support on our super easy new website forms. No need to find a stamp or stop



at the post office.

If we don't receive your renewal via email, we will follow up a few weeks later with snail mail. With first class postage having just risen to 45 cents, we hope members will help us both save money--and use the savings to protect more of the land you love. We hope you will opt in. If you have questions regarding any donation we are happy to help. Just call! 231-256-9665. Thanks!



Hike/Work Bee Schedule

What a great time to get out into the woods with one of our docents or lend a hand at a work bee. Full descriptions of these events are on our website (leelanauconservancy.org) under the Events tab. Suggestion: clip and use this schedule as you make your spring and summer plans! Hikes and work bees generally last about two hours. Please register ahead of time so that we may plan for the best experience possible: 231.256.9665 or cfaught@leelanauconservancy.org. Questions about work bees? Want to help but these dates don't work for you? Email Fields at fratliff@leelanauconservancy.org or call 231-256-9665 to get on his volunteer list. Please bring a water bottle, sun-screen and bug spray along to the work bee – as well as work gloves. All other tools will be provided. Directions and maps to our natural areas can also be found on our website under the Natural Areas tab. Please note: there are no toilet facilities at most Conservancy natural areas.

HIKE—Sun., April 22th 2pm,
Earth Day and Raptors at Light-
house West Natural Area

HIKE—Sat., April 28th 10am,
Discover Teichner Preserve

HIKE—Sat., May 5th 10am,
Swanson Preserve Exploration

PROGRAM—Thur., May 10th,
10am, How Landscapes Impact
Birds, Butterflies, and Other Wild
Creatures (Location: Leelanau
Government Center)

HIKE—Fri., May 11th, 10am,
Spring at Kehl Lake Natural Area

HIKE—Sat., May 12th at 2pm,
Discover Belanger Creek Preserve

HIKE—Sun., May 13th 2pm,
Houdek Dunes: Wildlife Mother's
Day Special

HIKE—Sat., May 19th 8am,
Spring Birding at Chippewa Run

HIKE—Sat., May 19th 9am,
Lighthouse West Warblers, Wild-
flowers, Water, and Wonder!

HIKE—Tues., May 22nd 1 pm,
DeYoung Natural Area and historic
preservation efforts.

WORK BEE—Wed., May 23rd
9:30am-11:30am, Lighthouse
West Natural Area

PLANT SALE—Fri. - Sun., May
25-27, Wildflower Rescue Sale

HIKE—Sun., May 27th 2pm,
Houdek Dunes' Profusion of Pink
Lady Slipper Orchids

BIRDFEST—May 30th-June 3rd.
For more info visit the Leelanau
Chamber of Commerce website.

HIKE—Sat., June 9th 10am,
Lamont Preserve, Nature's Library
of Flora and Fauna

WORK BEE—Wed., June 13th
9:30am - 11:30 am, Teichner
Preserve

HIKE—Sat., June 16th 10am,
Lighthouse West Natural Area: A
Walk Back In Time

HIKE—Sun., June 17th 10am,
Teichner Preserve Exploration

HIKE—Sat., June 23rd 1pm, Early
Wildflower Hunt at Chippewa Run

HIKE—Sat., June 30 10am,
Kehl Lake Natural Area: Discover
Nature's Richness

HIKE—Sun., July 1st, 1pm, DeY-
oung Farm—Inside and Outside!

HIKE—Sun., July 8th 2pm, Swan-
son Preserve Exploration

**SUSTAINERS SUMMER
GATHERING**—Thurs., July 12

HIKE—Sat., July 14th, 10am,
Houdek Dunes: Coyotes, Cougars,
and Bears, Oh My!

WORK BEE—Wed., July 18th
9:30am-11:30am, DeYoung Natu-
ral Area

HIKE—Sat., July 21st 10am, Kehl
Lake Natural Area's Cultural and
Natural History

**LEELANAU CONSERVANCY
ANNUAL FRIENDS PICNIC**—
Thurs., Aug. 2, 5pm



Charitable Gift Annuities

Here's a wonderful way to increase your annual spendable cash, cut your taxes, and at the same time, make a significant gift to the Leelanau Conservancy to help preserve the unique beauty of Leelanau for future generations. If you need income for a lifetime and also wish to help the Conservancy, the charitable gift annuity enables you to accomplish both goals.

You exchange a gift of cash, property (real or personal) or securities to the Leelanau Conservancy for a guaranteed, fixed income each year for the rest of your life. A large part of what you transfer will be a deductible charitable gift. Further, with a gift of securities (e.g., appreciated mutual fund or common stock holdings), you minimize capital gain taxes and a portion of the payments you receive (annual, semiannual or quarterly, if you prefer) constitute a tax-free return of principal.

Current Gift Annuity Rates (single life):

Age	Payout Rate*
90	9.0%
85	7.8%
80	6.8%
75	5.8%
70	5.1%
65	4.7%

*The "effective rate" of return would actually be higher than the payout rate if you take into account your charitable deduction tax savings and the benefits of tax-free income. The Leelanau Conservancy adheres to payout rates established by the American Council on Gift Annuity. The above rates are effective beginning January 1, 2012.



Enid & Rick Grauer with their daughter, Diane.

"We decided that a charitable gift annuity was a very effective way to support an organization about which we care a great deal, while doing something smart for our retirement planning. With today's uncertain financial picture, we welcome a regular income, and have the satisfaction of knowing that at our passing, the body of the annuity goes to the Conservancy. In this way, we will have made a lasting impact on our favorite organization." ~ Enid and Rick Grauer

Welcome New Sustainers

Conservancy Sustainers provide the lion's share of our operating support and are a big part of our success. Giving levels start at \$500. Benefits include special recognition in our publications, and two events per year where Sustainers can meet our staff and others who share their commitment to our work.

Want to join? Call Gayle Egeler: 231-256-9665. The following people have joined since publication of our last newsletter: Thank you!

Ron and Peggy Creten
William E. Drozdalski
James and Joan Fleser
Sandra Gianturco &
William Bradley
Bob and Darlene Martin
(we regret spelling error in last newsletter!)

Stephen and Kathleen
McShane
Michael and Susan O'Riordan
Craig and Mary Rosenberg
C.J. and Betsy Schmidt
Rosalind B. Sell
Charles Silver



Pictured is our 2011 summer gathering at Snow Moon Ranch, where owner Juliet Sprouse has preserved 18 acres of wetlands along Hatlem Creek. Our Sustainers took a pre-party hike through Juliet's beautiful property and enjoyed wine and appetizers overlooking Glen Lake.



Honorariums & Memorials

10/18/11 through 4/5/12

Undesignated honorariums and memorials support the George & Mary Ellen Gotshall Stewardship Fund, created to care for permanently-protected lands in Leelanau. From creating and maintaining trails to replacing invasive species with more wildlife-friendly habitat, your gift helps ensure that natural areas and conservation easements are cared for. Thank you!

In Honor Of

Andrew and Ellwyn Borgan
Donald and Carol Sanctorum

Sandy Bracken
Elizabeth Bracken Wiese & Fred Wiese

Will Bracken
Elizabeth Bracken Wiese & Fred Wiese

Robert Brown and Brigitte Middleton-Brown
Mrs. Tallara Middleton

Ed and Bobbie Collins
Mr. and Mrs. Stafford McKay

Catherine & Tom Rehm and Christina Corey
Ms. Anne L. Hoff

David and Natalie Goran
N.J. White Associates

Don and Ann Gregory
Mr. and Mrs. David B. Howard
Larry Mawby and Lois Bahle

John and Mary Cheryl Hargrove
N.J. White Associates

Molly Harrison
Mrs. Mildred Hurley

Michael and Therese Heinonen
Edward and Joanne Heinonen

Ted and Pat Hellman
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John and Carolyn Hoagland
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John and Shirley Hoagland
Anne and Peter Magoun

Nancy Hoagland
Anne and Peter Magoun

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Ms. Megan Jamieson

Mary Jellema
Ms. Gayle L. Carpenter

Evelyn Jellema and Douglas Brown
Dick and Nana Kennedy
Mr. and Mrs. David Magrini

Anne Kinzie
Mrs. Mildred Hurley

Konrad and Barbara Kohl
Mr. Doug Kohl

Lloyd Lindner
Judy Lindner

Karen Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Pete Kohrs

Amy Middleton
Terese Durkin
Mrs. Tallara Middleton

Melissa Middleton
Wayne Morse
Mrs. Tallara Middleton

Brian and Kelly Mitchell
Sue Ann and Gary Clark

The Pritchard Family
Gary Pritchard and Chuck Novak

Marjorie Richardson
Ms. Patricia Richardson

Ken Scott
Mr. and Mrs. Randall Mays

John and Jane Shannahan
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Shannahan

Beth Sutton
Ms. Julia Stanton

Rick and Alicia Tharp
Mrs. Tallara Middleton

Tom and Sue Trumbull
Suburban Aviation

Sally Viskochil
Ms. Carrie Dolan

Paul and Kathryn Weiner
Mrs. Jeanne Townsend

Harry Wieting
Dr. and Mrs. Jack W. Gottschalk

Robyn Yates and Larry Alexander
Mr. Langley Scherer

Lianne Somerville
Ms. Lisa Benjamin

Wedding Wishes

Adam and Mary Arents
Adam and Mary Arents

Rob and Wendy Capps
Judge and Mrs. Robert L. Drake

Rainey Zeits and Matthew Eddy
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Powell
Jonah Powell and Carrie Hanson

Happy Birthday

90th Birthday - Maury Bolmer
Mr. and Mrs. Leo G. Shea

Tom Eichstadt
Alma Eichstadt

David C.R. Feld
Jonathan Feld and Shelley Longmuir

Molly Harrison
Mrs. Lucy W. Maish

William Kandler
Ms. Angela Kandler

90th Birthday - Peg Later
Steven Luebke and Sara Later

80th Birthday - Conrad Mason
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Banks
George and Mary Eggenberger

90th Birthdays - Elmer and Barbara Mathia
Ms. Lynn Mathia

Jack Mobley
Drs. John and Judy Hoeffler

80th Birthday - Roger H. Oetting
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Gale

Pat Oriel
Mrs. Martha Thurston

Patty Shea
Gina and John Erb

New Baby

Adele Johanna Swinger
David and Suzanne Alpers

Memorials

Horace and Bobby Abbott
Porter and Anita Abbott

Lee Abbott
Jim and Jayne Schafer

Charles S. Ashley
Caroline F. Brady

Gerry Ashley
Caroline F. Brady

Adrian N. Baker, II
Jennifer and Stephen Fishbein

Mildred M. Ball
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce D. Ragan

Eloise Basta
Julie Walter

Kim Biocchi
Ms. Sally A. Somsel

Dr. and Mrs. James B. Blashill
Mr. and Mrs. James G. Blashill

D'Anne Bramer
Todd, Lindsey and Ryan Bramer

Ben Bricker
Caroline F. Brady

James Bulkley
Ann Harper and Greg Nobles
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Oliver
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Williams
Miss Polly Wotherspoon

Brian Buckler
Molly Grosvenor

J. L. Buehl, IV
Ms. Eleanor B. Stephenson

Honorariums & Memorials



Memorials (continued)

Joe Burda

Mrs. Lena A. Ball

Betty Burda

Mrs. Alice B. Weaver

Marg Burk

Little Traverse Lake
Property Owners Association
Mr. and Mrs. Edward D. Schocker

John Campbell

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Peace

Scott Casey

Mrs. Sally Casey
Ms. Connie Thompson

James Catton

Carl and Marilyn Creighton

Roy Church

Mrs. June H. Atkinson
Buck and June Bennett
Church's Lumber Yard
Comfort Keepers
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Grace T. Crandell
Robert and Susan Daniels
Ms. Deborah S. Goin
John and Amy Gordon
Gary and Jeaneane Henry
Kenneth and Margie Hock
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Mr. William G. Mallon
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Marsh
Ms. Laura P. Matthews
Ed and Mary McGuire
Mr. and Mrs. William Mitselfeld
Mrs. Nancy W. Olsen
Peter Lumber Company
Larry and Susan Rotta
Mrs. Barbara A. Sander
James and Helen Van Laar
Bruce and Betsy Wagner
Bill and Doris Webb

Ernest H. Clarke

Mr. and Mrs. Keith W. Burnham
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Mileham
Roger Wallace & Mary Baughman

Evelyn K. Cogan

Loretta Ames and Mike Novak

Franklyn Collins

Ms. Carlie Anderson
Ms. Diana L. Etshokin
Ms. Julia K. Hosek

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Kohrs
Karen C. Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Scot C. Roemer

William Robert Cory

Craig and Merrell Grant

Ed and Kay Cushman

Ms. Elizabeth A. Cushman

Gil Deibel

Cherry Bay Orchards, Inc.
and The Gregorys
Nancy and Bob Heuser
Dick and Susan Lang
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Muladore
Mrs. Charlotte Read
Jack and Susan Seaman

Richard Dieterle

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Craig
Mrs. Tallara Middleton

Janice B. Fisher

Joan and Randy Woods

Jeanne Fredrickson

Ms. Patricia S. Hanson Bronson

Dale Gain

Ms. Cheryl Gain

Lois Gasteyer

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Ham

Sharon Gibson

Ms. Deborah H. Albert
Mr. Ronald Bahrie
Nick and Patricia Bellows
Brite-Lite Groupe
Ms. Jodi L. Castillo
Bob and Kristen Diefenderfer
and The Cultivation Station
Dolehanty EMS Consulting, Inc.
Mr. Scott L. Gibson
Dan and Stephanie Jacob
Rod and Dee Lertola
Ms. Kathryn W. McNenly
Tom and Martha Phillips
Helen Scott and Nancy House
Geoffrey and Brenda Seaman
Lauren and Michael Schulte
Mr. Richard T. Teneyck
Michael and Brenda Wells

James Grant

Susan and David Milne

John Hackett

Mrs. Ann T. Hackett

Charles Harbottle

Caroline F. Brady
Mrs. Cathleen C. Fisher
Thomas L. and Nancy H. Liley

Joseph and Ann Harrison

Tracy J. Harrison

Allan John Heffron

Mrs. Patricia A. Heffron

Eva Hollerbach

Ms. Elisabeth Hollerbach

Helen Horne

Jacqueline Berz and Janet Stutzman
Ms. Julianne M. Orr

Polly and Bill Hutchison

Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Silvasi & Family

Madison Iuppenlatz

Mr. Mark Iuppenlatz

Marian Jamieson

Taylor Cosentine
Nathan Heavers & Katie Jamieson
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel H. Jamieson, Jr.
Mr. Burton L. Jamieson
Ms. Megan Jamieson
Ms. Tenley Jamieson
Molly Jamieson and Tyson Eberhardt
Mrs. Julie Jamieson

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Taylor Cosentine
Nathan Heavers & Katie Jamieson
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel H. Jamieson, Jr.
Ms. Tenley Jamieson
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Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Later

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Mrs. Lena A. Ball
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Evans
Mrs. Cathleen C. Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Stafford McKay
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Oliver

Mary Jane Nicola

Ann Rogers



Honorariums & Memorials

Andrew Pfeufer
Gina and John Erb

Michael Pozsgay
Roger and Jan Bauer

William A. Pritchard
Gary Pritchard and Chuck Novak

Helen Prizlow
Mr. Alfred Prizlow

Grace Marie Rankin
Mr. John R. Axe
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Bumb
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Ms. Elizabeth Moje
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Mrs. Gwen Rich

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Reid Sikes & Barbara Macke

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Mrs. Cathleen C. Fisher

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Ralph Smykal
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Mr. and Mrs. S. Shepherd Tate
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Tonneberger

Joan Workum
Caroline F. Brady
Mrs. Avery L. Burns

David and Emily Garratt

In Memory of Pets

"Larry"
Mr. and Mrs. Gary B. Twomey

"Mindy"
"Brulie"

Corrections

We regret our error in not listing docent Ann McInnis as a volunteer at our Picnic in our Annual Report. Every year Ann leads the Kids Hike for this event and we are grateful!

We regret not listing Mrs. Josephine Jahoda in our Annual Report Donor List.

We would like to recognize and celebrate the generous lifetime giving of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Fortune, Sr., listed previously as "Anonymous" in the "\$1 million and greater" section of the Founders Society in the Annual Report.



Conservancy staffer, Jenée Rowe, accepts a \$2,500 check from Bob Gluszcwski of Consumers Energy Foundation. The grant will support our efforts to revitalize the historic DeYoung Farmstead into a community resource. Thank you!



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Leelanau Conservancy

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Go Native!

Wildflower Rescue Plant Sale Memorial Day Weekend

Friday, May 25th to Sunday, May 27th

The 19th Annual Plant Sale on the Village Green in Leland is on tap for Memorial Day Weekend! Now is your chance to purchase native ferns, trillium and more along with a selection of native trees and shrubs provided by locally owned Four Season Nursery, who will be on hand to answer questions about going native. Sale begins Friday, May 25th and runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday; Sunday noon to 4 p.m. All proceeds help maintain the Village Green and assist with other Conservancy projects.

The Wildflower Rescue Committee continually seeks new sites on which to dig. If you are building a home, driveway, addition, or know of someone who is, please contact the WRC so they may have a chance to remove these precious wildflowers before the excavators arrive! Contact Patty Shea: 256-9249 or Joanie Woods: 256-7154.

