



Leelanau Conservancy

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

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Challenge Grant for Clay Cliffs: Help us Cross the Finish Line!

One of the highlights of our year has been showing off the Clay Cliffs property on a number of special outings. We offered a hike to about 80 of our picnic attendees, toured the property with potential donors, and even took an enthusiastic group by the Clay Cliffs on the Mishe-Mokwa for a beautiful evening cruise. Invariably, the reaction is always the same: "Spectacular!"

We have high hopes of opening the land up to the general public in late 2013 if we can raise the last \$600,000 needed to finish the project. We have a great opportunity to do just that, thanks to a generous family's Challenge Grant that will double all donations up to \$200,000, made by December 31, 2012. "We can't wait to be able to welcome everyone onto this incredible piece of property," says Director Brian Price. "Securing this match would really help us to near the finish line."

Hopefully by now you are as excited about the creation of the Clay Cliffs Natural Area as we are. For decades, the Cray Family has stewarded their land north of Leland with care and respect and now the Leelanau Conservancy and Leland Township are in the process of permanently protecting this land.

As you may have read in our past updates, this stunning 104 acre property is truly a special piece of Leelanau. It is a pris-



tine and awe-inspiring landscape of steep slopes, hidden valleys, open meadows, and delicate wetlands. Wildlife—such as white-tailed deer, bears, eagles, and wild turkeys—and native plants, like jack in the pulpit, ostrich fern, tall meadow rue, and trillium, thrive in these diverse and quintessentially Northern Michigan habitats. The property is bordered on the east by North Lake Leelanau and on the west by Lake Michigan, with over 1,700 feet of frontage on each lake. The high ridges and open meadows afford breathtaking views of North Lake Leelanau. The sheer clay bluffs that tower above Lake Michigan at the forest's edge provide magnificent views of the Manitou and South Fox Island. Fifty-eight acres of mature northern hard-



All gifts made by 12-31-2012 (up to \$200,000) to our Clay Cliffs Natural Area will be doubled by a generous family. There will never be a better time to donate to this incredible project!

wood forest tower above the two lakes. Much of the forest has not been logged in over 80 years, allowing the trees the rare opportunity to approach their maximum size.

Leland Township will ultimately own the Natural Area and visitors will be welcome to bird watch, hike, cross country ski, and enjoy the land in its natural state. The Conservancy will steward and manage the property through a long-term agreement with the township that will allow hikers to enjoy this treasure while protecting its natural features.

This unprecedented project will cost almost \$6.2 million to complete. Many pieces of the puzzle have already fallen together, with the landowner agreeing to sell the land below market value and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund committing to a 50% grant.

In addition to managing the Natural Area, the Conservancy is also responsible for raising a total of \$1,776,500 to complete the project—no small goal! With help from a dedicated group of volunteers, the Conservancy has been hard at work this past summer spreading the word *continued on page 3*

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Message from our Executive Director



This fall the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) awarded its National Excellence Award to two Northern Michigan Conservancies, your Leelanau Conservancy and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. In choosing our two neighboring organizations from among LTA's 1,700 members nationwide, Rand Wentworth cited the close collabora-

tion, quality of our innovations in protecting working farms and forests, and our willingness to use our local experience to help key legislators in Congress understand how to deliver conservation results in communities throughout the country.

This award is a real honor in the truest sense. Both organizations strive to deliver on the promise of private land conservation in our local communities by the daily pursuit of excellence in our governance processes, in our community engagement, and in our land transactions. We don't speak of it often, but both organizations were among the first accredited land trusts in the country.

Delivering on the promise of private land conservation in our home community means much more than simply doing things the right way—it means constantly innovating and adapting our approach to try to stay abreast of changing needs of our private land owners. It means responding to local conditions and the aspirations of our members.

It's been said that everybody in Leelanau County is a conservationist, and there is a great deal of truth to that view. The Leelanau Conservancy is not the only voice for sensible growth and an economy built on sustainable use of our landscape's bounty. But the Land Trust Alliance, in recognizing the work of the Grand Traverse and Leelanau Conservancies chose to highlight our work outside the boundaries of our service area, the work we have been able to do with key legislators like Representative Dave Camp and Senator Debbie Stabenow to help set the table for policies that can benefit private landowners throughout the country.

What is it that we uniquely bring to the table in these discussions? Our only real expertise is that we know and



The Conservancy accepts the Land Trust Alliance's Excellence Award. I-r Board Chairman John Erb, LTA President Rand Wentworth and Director Brian Price.

work daily with hundreds of owners of important farmlands, forestlands, and wetlands. What we can share with our elected representatives in Washington or Lansing is a comprehensive understanding of what works in creating a climate where private landowners will be able and willing to make choices that result in stronger, more stable economies, and in a healthier environment overall. We don't try to understand all the positions of various interest groups on the big stage, we only know what motivates a family like the Olsen Family to protect their farmland in the scenic Bohemian Valley, or what motivates a landowner to protect wetlands along a Grand Traverse Bay tributary stream. It's this type of knowledge that is a precious commodity when decisions are being made.

John Erb, the Chairman of our Board of Directors, accepted the National Excellence Award from the LTA in Salt Lake City. In his remarks he acknowledged the power of collaboration, but also emphasized the importance of our strong base of support on the Leelanau Peninsula. Our members and donors give us the latitude to innovate, and to share our experience with conservation partners. This award, therefore, belongs to all of us.

Conservancy Welcomes New Board Members

We're pleased to welcome Leslie Schmid and Linda Proffitt to our Board of Directors. Leslie has been active on our Auction and Fund Development Committees, working hard to raise funds for Clay Cliffs. She, along with her husband Walter, were the ones who came up with the Mario Raffle idea that was such a huge success this year. The Schmidts live in Leland and Chicago.

If you have received a personal thank you call in the last couple of years, you have likely talked to Linda Proffitt. Linda and her husband, Max, are constants at our Picnic check-out table as well. Linda serves on our Outreach Committee and is currently working to document the Conservancy's history, creating a 25-year timeline to help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary. She and Max live on Old Mission Peninsula. You can read more about Leslie's and Linda's professional backgrounds on our website: leelanauconservancy.org. Click on About Us, Board tab.

This area is a priority because of its ecological value.



Project Updates

Cedar River Preserve Grows to 438 Acres!

The ecological powerhouse that is our Cedar River Preserve got bigger this year with the completion of two projects. Why does it matter? The Cedar River Preserve and its extensive undisturbed wetland complex provide not only a home for a vast array of wildlife, they also filter water entering Lake Leelanau and are a crucial hedge against pollution. If you enjoy the pristine water of Lake Leelanau, know that this area is helping to keep it that way.

"It's all about protecting water quality and wetland habitat in the Solon Swamp," says Yarrow Wolfe, Conservancy Conservation Easement Program Manager who worked on the projects.

In the first project, we swapped an 80-acre property in the swamp's interior for 60 acres and 5,470 feet of frontage at the mouth of the Cedar River on South Lake Leelanau. One of the ways that the Conservancy works to protect land is to buy available parcels and hold them until the State of Michigan can channel funding toward a purchase. This is called "Transfer and Assist." We purchased the Ansorge property, which is surrounded by state-owned lands in 2005, with the hope that the State would acquire the property when funds became available. As it turned out, we were able to swap the land with the State and thereby increase management efficiency by consolidating some of our holdings. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to protect and manage all the land at the mouth of the Cedar River.

"Now when you fish or hunt this whole stretch of shoreline, you can be sure that the Conservancy will continue to manage the area in the wild and natural state it has always been," says Jenee Rowe, Director of Conservancy Owned Lands.

The second project was the purchase of a 44-acre prop-



All of the shoreline at the mouth of the beautiful Cedar River, where it joins S. Lake Leelanau, has been protected by the Leelanau Conservancy.

erty, which lies just south of 100 acres near Cedar we protected in 2008 (HSH property). Like the HSH land, this property provides a second dry-land access to state lands and keeps the railroad corridor open for hiking and cross-country skiing.

"I'm very glad that the Leelanau Conservancy has opened up the area," says Tim McNeil, 23, who has hunted in the swamp for the last two years with his dad, Tim Sr. "I see more white-tailed deer down there than I've ever seen anywhere. It's a really nice, beautiful area to hunt."

"We have, since the very beginning, made this area a priority because of its ecological value," says Brian Price, Conservancy Director. "We have a great relationship with the State of Michigan and are working together to protect as much land as possible in the entire Solon Swamp."

Clay Cliffs Challenge (Continued from Page 1)

about this great project. In addition to the hikes mentioned earlier, we held two neighborhood gatherings for people who live near the proposed natural area and have met with numerous people one on one. We have made great progress toward the goal, but still must raise \$600,000 by December 31 to be able to close this project next year.

Please join us by making a meaningful contribution in support of this important project. With your help, we can make a real and lasting difference for the community.

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a beautiful natural area for quiet public recreation, while protecting the landscape and wildlife that so many of us enjoy.

Please join us TODAY and help make the proposed Clay Cliffs Natural Area a reality.



The Oleson Foundation has been a generous supporter of many Conservancy projects. Visiting Clay Cliffs Natural Area this summer are I-r Ginny and Don Oleson, Director Brian Price, Jerry Oleson and Marty Oleson Watts.



Suttons Bay's Gregory Family Looks to Future

The year was 2005. Emily Gregory and Mark Miezio had been dating for just about four months. They were living in Chicago where Mark consulted as a civil engineer and Emily worked as an oncology hospice nurse.



Emily and Mark Miezio with Sam and baby Amelia—part of the next generation of farmers.

The couple decided to head north for the weekend to the Suttons Bay farm where Emily grew up. She is the youngest child of Don and Ann Gregory who are part-owners of Cherry Bay Orchards. It was May; the cherry trees were in full bloom. "I can remember driving along M-22," says Mark, who had grown up in a Chicago suburb. "It was breathtaking. Simply breathtaking." Once back in Chicago, they spent the next Saturday morning "talking about what we wanted out of life," says Emily.

Emily had always dreamed of coming back to the farm but never thought she would find someone—especially living in Chicago—who would share that dream.



Don and Ann Gregory just before grape harvest in the vineyard.

But after that May weekend, Mark was hooked. They saw the farm operation as a great opportunity and an ideal lifestyle for raising the family they both wanted. "We sold my condo across from the Sears Tower, quit our jobs, got married and came home for the summer to work cherries," recounts Mark. In the meantime they applied to grad school at MSU and in the fall moved into married housing to pursue advanced degrees they felt would add value to the farm. Mark earned an M.B.A.

and Emily a nurse practitioner license.

Seven years later, the old farmhouse where Emily grew up is now home to the Miezos and their three young children. The house is just a stone's throw from the office where Mark and the patriarchs of the business—Don and his brother, Bob Gregory—talk over everything from brown rot to high-tech solutions for cooling cherries.

This is a story about a big farm, and a big family. It's about the next generation stepping up and the values they have

in common with their elders. Values such as family and community and preserving land for future generations—including 107 acres of prime fruit growing land along the 633 corridor preserved this year.

Cherry Bay Orchards is arguably one of the most successful farming operations in the state. It owns or leases 2,600 acres of orchards. Emily and Mark are just part of the next generation working in the business.



Bob and Dianne Gregory in the orchard show their cherry spirit.

Bob's son Andrew—who also grew up pruning and shaking cherries—earned a business degree from Calvin College. He works for Shoreline Fruit, a cherry marketing business partially owned by Cherry Bay. He and his wife, Julie, live in Leelanau and just had their second child. Shoreline Fruit captivated Andrew's interest because "it's another piece of the pie—where everything goes after it is pitted and frozen," he says. His responsibilities take in sales and information technology for the entire operation.

Cherry Bay also has part ownership in Great Lakes Packing, where fruit from all over the region is pitted and packed. Two years ago, the family also purchased a winery called Chateau de Leelanau. It includes 27 acres of grapes and a tasting room at Hilltop Corners. Andrew's brother, Matt, runs the tasting room.

The ownership of Cherry Bay extends beyond the Gregory family. Norm Veliquette is president of Great Lakes Packing, while his family and other key employees at Cherry Bay also have ownership in the business.

Along with the dedication of all these individuals, diversification and vertical integration have been keys to Cherry Bay's success. "I don't know that had we not been vertically integrated we might not be here today," says Bob. "We've been able to move cherries closer to the market and to glean margins all the way through." An oversupply of cherries in past years was "turned into dollars by moving into the emerging markets of dried cherries and concentrate," he adds.



The 107 acres along Co. Rd 633 that has been protected: a prime fruit-growing locale.

Both Bob and Don credit the younger generation for helping them to move forward. Don appreciates son-in-law Mark's business acumen, especially in matters of finance. Mark's engineering background also helped to implement a new system for cooling cherries that increased processing capacity, reduced handling and cut water usage in half.

Whatever Mark could not foresee in choosing the farm life, Emily certainly could. "She understands the seasonal workloads and being at the beck and call of nature," says Don. "She knows it is not an eight-to-five job and understood what she was choosing."

Emily says it took a while to convince the family that she and Mark were here to stay. "When we said we were coming up I think my Dad thought, 'OK, let's see if this is really going to happen,'" she laughs. "It took two years before he and Uncle Bob thought, 'Okay, they're committed.'" She feels lucky to be able to stay home with her three children, to have Mark nearby for kid hugs and coffee breaks. She looks forward to "being at the school every day to volunteer the way that my mom was. I can't tell you how many friends we have who visit and say they would do anything to live in this area."

Emily's appreciation for the farm life, says Don, was enhanced by leaving it for a time. "We really encouraged our kids to get away and go off to college before making a conscious decision to be a part of the operation so that they never felt like they were being forced," says Don. "Farms that are put together that way often fail."

Both Don and Bob seem to enjoy keeping their hand in the game yet also letting go of the reins just a bit. "The younger generation brings a lot of energy to the table," says Bob. "They are good thinkers and have ideas they are willing to try. We get a little bit passive and yet they are willing to listen to the experi-

ence factor that Don and I have about making decisions."

One decision they all agreed on—even the siblings who are not involved in the farming operation—was donating the development rights on 107 acres of some of their best fruit growing land to the Leelanau Conservancy. "One of our philosophies is that even though our name may be on the deed to the property, we're here on earth for a very short period of time," says Don. "We want to leave the land in as good or better shape than when we took it over. The Leelanau Conservancy fits with our personal ideals. We felt we could do this for the community without it jeopardizing the farm operation."

The parcel adjoins other protected farmland along 633 (the Rex Dobson and Core farms), adding to a large agricultural corridor. "It was the right thing to do," adds Bob. "Arable land is a limited resource and needs to be available for the next generation. Nobody is creating any more farmland. In Detroit they are working to reclaim land but it's difficult. In Suttons Bay the failed Bay View development has destroyed prime farmland that would be virtually impossible to reclaim because of all of the infrastructure up there."

Adds Don: "Bob, Dianne, Ann and I all feel very blessed with having been not only able to live here in Leelanau County but also able to raise our families in a farm setting where we are all able to work together on a daily basis. We pray that the opportunity will be available for generations in the future."

Protecting Farmland: Why It Matters

- The Lake Michigan microclimate and Leelanau's well-drained soils combine to enable successful fruit-growing found elsewhere in only a very few places on Earth.
- Fragmentation of farmland by non-agricultural uses threatens the economic sustainability of farming in the region.
- Nearly half of all the cherries grown in the region are grown in Leelanau County; our farmland is a globally rare resource.
- Agriculture contributes as much as \$97.7 million annually to the local economy in the form of agricultural products sold.
- The region's farming operations employ more than 2,000 farm proprietors with a net earning of \$6.6 million and more than 3,000 workers with a total payroll of \$12.8 million.



Superior Stanton Fruit Land Forever Protected!



The Stanton farmhouse sits amid 172 acres of superb fruit growing lands near Overby Road in Centerville Township.

It's a brilliant September day as I climb into Terry Stanton's Jeep, vibrating outside the office. We are headed out to see the farmland that Terry and his family have recently protected through a purchase of development rights. Plastered on the side of the Jeep is a giant cherry graphic accompanied by the words "Cherry Russo." I later learn that it is the name of a cherry concentrate that Terry is marketing. A retired ad executive turned farmer, Terry has been involved with cherry marketing efforts in the region for years—as was his father, Earl, before him.

I'm not quite sure why, but Terry, 73, drives just 25 mph along M-22, pulling over often to let cars pass. Along the way, I learned that Terry's great grandparents homesteaded here and that he had spent summers working cherries on his relatives' farms. He and his cousins lived in what was once the Omena Bar, now the tasting room of Leelanau Cellars. His grandfather was a Methodist minister who traveled between Northport and Suttons Bay. "I heard three sermons, every Sunday," says Terry. "All of his sermons were parables and at the end he always would ask me what I got out of it."

As we turn on to Overby Road, any doubts I had about the Jeep's road worthiness are dispelled. The diesel engine roars as we climb the hill into Stanton Orchards. Passing row upon row of trees, Terry hangs a right and keeps climbing until the Jeep comes to rest on what feels like the top of the world. When the leaves fall, Terry says he can look down on Sugarloaf and stunning views of Lake Michigan. The best fruit sites also make some of the best home sites, notes Terry.

His father, Earl, found this spectacular site after scouring the county's topographical maps. "Earl certainly chose that outstanding site extremely well," says Jim Nugent, a fellow farmer, Conservancy Board member and retired Coordinator of the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station. "It is one of the best fruit growing spots in the county."

Earl bought the land in 1960. He had just retired from a successful marketing career at Libby Fruit Co. in Chicago. He had watched the shelf space for canned fruit dwindle and knew long before other farmers did that the cherry dessert market was in decline. That knowledge informed many of his decisions.

Before planting, Earl brought in bulldozers to level the land. When a nearby sawmill was about to close because it had no place to dispose of its sawdust, Earl had 10 truckloads a day hauled up Overby Road. He spread the sawdust, mixing it with nitrogen, to enrich the soil.

Earl thought that the future was in fresh cherries and traveled the country in search of promising varieties. Seven years later he was producing over 200 tons of cherries on 125 acres, about 20 percent of them in sweets. He and Terry began marketing the "table cherries" to retail outlets. They made headlines one year when they drove a truck full of sweet cherries down to Chicago, parked in front of the Wrigley Building and passed out free bags to office workers on their lunch breaks.

"Both Earl and Terry were innovative thinkers," says Jim Nugent, "I give them a lot of credit for trying new things."

Fifty-some years later, Terry, who inherited the farm in 1979, is making certain that the site will always be available for growing fruit. This fall he and his family put 172.5

acres into a conservation easement. Terry's son, Greg, now runs the farm, and 10 grandchildren enjoy helping out. Terry is convinced that the health benefits of cherries will propel the industry forward and is optimistic about the future of farming.



Terry Stanton, long-time supporter of farmland preservation efforts.



Project Updates

He says he had long followed the Leelanau Conservancy's efforts to protect farmland. "My wishes are for preservation," he says. "I think my kids would have done it but I had to do it to be sure it was done. We have all of our life trusts set up now, so now is the time. I've been a supporter of farmland preservation from the beginning and it's always been my ambition to participate."

Of the Stanton Farm project, Tom Nelson, the Conservancy's Director of Farm Programs, says, "It's never easy to describe what goes into the decision to preserve these superb working lands. The Stantons, like other families who partner

with us, are motivated by smart business decision-making, a love of the land and creating a lasting legacy. It is certainly all of these things, but after nearly 10 years of working with these families, it's very evident that there's something deeper going on there that eludes definition." He adds, "Maybe what it comes down to is an act of faith—faith in the future of this beautiful county and, just as much, in the hands and hearts of the generations to come. Whatever it is, it is clearly something very profound." ~ Carolyn Faught



U.S. Senate Staffers Tour Leelanau's Preserved Farms

It's not every day that you get to spend some time in a room with folks from the halls of Congress. It's rarer still to spend the whole afternoon with them, touring our magnificent Leelanau farm country. But this past August, I had the privilege to participate with regional farming leaders in talking with Senator Debbie Stabenow, her staff, and staff of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

In 2008, Sen. Stabenow, as Committee Chairwoman, authored and achieved passage of the first Farm Bill in history to recognize the importance of specialty crops, including cherries, apples and other fruit for which our local growers are world-famous. Recognizing that agriculture and agri-tourism, along with tourism generally, make up the backbone of our regional economy, Sen. Stabenow added a significant investment to support specialty-crop grant programs, pest and disease prevention and organic research.

Sen. Stabenow has also been a passionate advocate for the federal programs enabling farm conservation. Of the nearly 4,000 acres of Leelanau family farms the Conservancy has protected to-date, almost 2,500 acres were conserved utilizing Farm Bill conservation funding. Due in large part to the work of the Senator and her staff, the bi-partisan effort that produced the Senate version of the 2012 Farm Bill continues to include strong funding for farm, forest and grassland conservation. Although the full House of Representatives has not yet acted on the 2012 Farm Bill, many in the land trust community and elsewhere are hopeful that a strong and reform-minded 2012 Farm Bill will ultimately be enacted.

So, with the only dedicated funding source for farmland preservation in Leelanau County hanging in the balance, perhaps you can imagine what an honor and pleasure it was for me to accompany two members of Sen. Stabenow's senior staff on a tour of several of Leelanau's conserved farms and in-

troduce them to our local growers. Both Chris Adamo and Tina May (pictured) have been integral to shaping the conservation components of the next Farm Bill. An enormous thank-you also goes out to Jeff and Nita Send, and to Alan Spinniken, for being such gracious and knowledgeable hosts on the farm tour.

One could imagine it might be a stretch for someone from inside the D.C. Beltway to fully absorb the nuances of, say, cherry and apple farming in Leelanau County, but Tina and Chris were already there. I was impressed with their knowledge of farming, as well as how crucial conservation funding can be to enable the transfer of family farms to the next generation. It was gratifying to observe how clearly eager they were to use their experiences here to help craft strong, common-sense ag policy back in Washington. And, I think they too were pretty impressed, not only with our gorgeous orchards and resplendent crop- and pasturelands, but with the quiet, workman-like success of the Conservancy's farm conservation efforts as well. ~ Tom Nelson



Members of Sen. Debbie Stabenow's senior staff Tina May and Chris Adamo.

Have questions about why the Federal Farm Bill is crucial to our work? Contact our Director of Farm Programs, Tom Nelson at tnelson@leelanauconservancy.org.

Stewardship Matters



As usual, it was a busy summer for our Stewardship staff and hardworking volunteers. We are grateful for the energy and enthusiasm of our summer staff and wonderful volunteers who span the gamut from cub scouts to retirees. Thank you one and all!

William Chippewa, a Suttons Bay student volunteered as part of his senior project to remove two old hunting blinds and other garbage deep in the forest at Kehl Lake Natural Area



Fitz Seymour (l) and Diego Noonan of Cub Scout Pack 111, carry the native black willow trees, provided by Archangel Ancient Tree Archive, down the bank to plant them in the stream valley at Chippewa Run Natural Area. The troop also cleaned up litter as they worked towards their "Leave No Trace" badge.

Docent Lou Ricord spends time talking with Cub Scout Pack 111 out of Empire about the Chippewa Run Natural Area. The troop planted black willow trees here on Earth Day 2012. Weekly, pack leader Greg Ames and his Cub Scout sons walked the trail to do maintenance and clean up.



Seasonal staffer, Ryan Vlietstra, helps secure an erosion control blanket on the steep slope around the new parking area at the Teichner Preserve to prevent erosion and facilitate the growth of native plants such as wild strawberry, Canada wild rye, bottlebrush grass, goldenrod and more.



Seasonal staffer Kendra Luta worked on our invasive species Early Detection Rapid Response Team. Here she examines a large thistle, taking note of characteristics that differentiate it from our native swamp thistle.



Isa Fiebing, from West Middle School, waters a seedling planted at the DeYoung Natural Area during her class' community service day. The students have been riding their bikes along the Leelanau Trail to keep an eye on and water the trees they planted.



Stewardship Matters



Staffers Jenée Rowe and Sarah Cook (l) install a new sign at the Cedar River Preserve. Thanks again to Narrows Bait and Tackle for the use of their pontoon boat!



This Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*) was found on the new addition to the Cedar River Preserve. This 2-5 inch frog was once the most abundant frog in Michigan, but has declined drastically since the 1970's.



Lisa Genesen (l) and Marcia Strobel dug holes and installed new posts at the DeYoung Natural Area parking lot. Thanks to these great first time workbee attendees!



The Carpenter family helps out at our new Krumweide Forest Reserve. A few years ago the group spent a day working at our Chippewa Run Natural Area. The Carpenters contacted us ahead of time to set up a “personalized” workbee and you can too! Just call Stewardship staffer Sarah Cook (231-256-9665) or email scCook@leelanauconservancy.org to plan a rewarding day for your family or group.

Staff and Volunteers Matter



Thank You, Water Quality Volunteers!

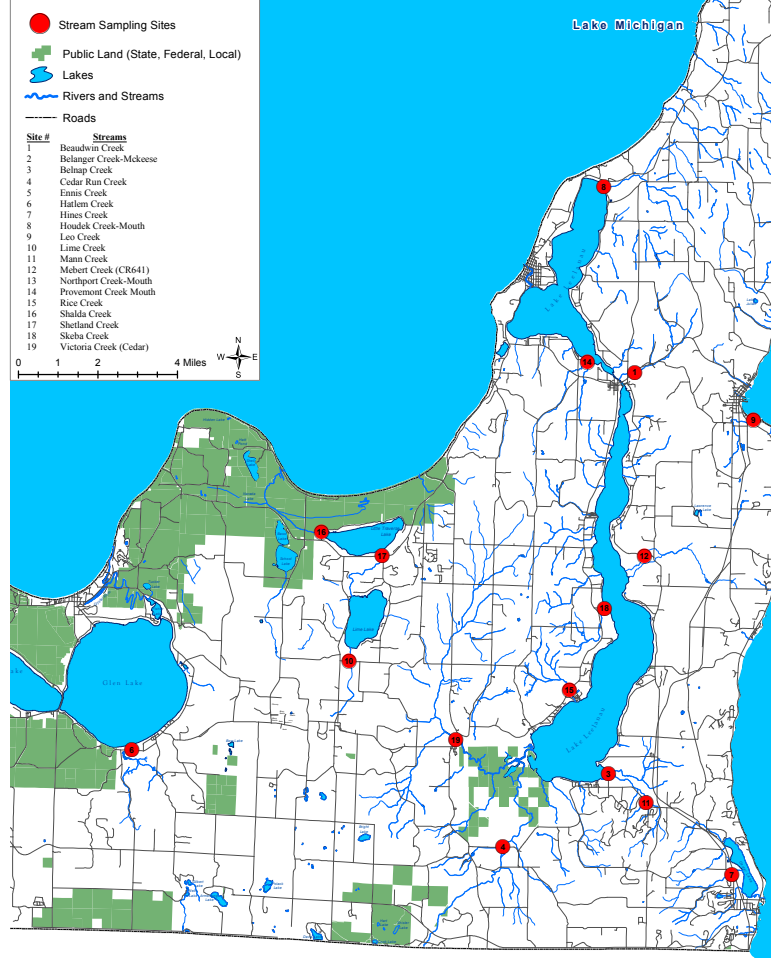
Our 2012 Stream and Lake Sampling program was a huge success this year thanks to over 15 volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped us to collect water samples around Leelanau County. We could not do this work without the dedication of our many volunteers. This is part of an ongoing water quality monitoring program that has been gathering basic water quality data on the major lakes and tributaries since 1990. To learn more about our water sampling program and see reports on the results please visit our website: <http://leelanauconservancy.org/land-protection-and-stewardship/water-quality-program/>. We also have information on watershed planning efforts in Leelanau County and historic water quality reports on our website.

If you are interested in volunteering to help us gather stream data in 2013, please call the office and talk to Yarrow or email her at ywolve@leelanauconservancy.org.



Training day for water sampling volunteers on Lake Leelanau I-r: Wayne Swallow trains Carol Ritter, Tom Dunfee, Kathy Kushner, Charles Knapp.

Water Quality Monitoring Stream Sampling Stations Leelanau County, MI



Each red dot on the map represents a water sampling site.

Staff News

Sarah Cook, Assistant Land Steward, joined our staff in the fall of 2012 to organize Conservancy volunteers and steward Natural Areas and Preserves. Sarah spent her formative years in Cedar exploring the woods and water of Leelanau County. She attended the University of Michigan where she received a B.A. in Program in the Environment, a minor in Geology, and spent two summers at the U of M Biological Station. Her practical natural resources management experience comes from the Matthai Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum in Ann Arbor and past years as both an Intern and Invasive Species Crew Leader at the Leelanau Conservancy. Sarah returned to Northern Michigan to run a SEEDS after-school program in Benzie County fostering relationships between youth, their communities, and the natural world. She has a passion for working with people and expanding her knowledge of ecology and land management. You can often find her working outside with Conservancy volunteers to protect and steward the most beautiful places in Leelanau County. Sarah replaces Fields Ratliff, who is off to New Zealand with his young family!





Happenings

Hike Schedule for Fall 2012

GUIDED WALK—Saturday, December 29th, 10am,
Kehl Lake Natural Area

GUIDED WALK—Sunday, January 20th, 2pm,
Chippewa Run Natural Area

GUIDED WALK—Saturday, January 26th, 10am,
Houdek Dunes Natural Area

GUIDED WALK—Sunday, February 3rd, 1pm,
DeYoung Natural Area

GUIDED WALK—Sunday, February 17th, 2pm,
Kehl Lake Natural Area

For hike details visit Leelanauconservancy.org



Leelanau Preservers: Give a Gift That Lasts Forever

When you give a Preservers gift, you can preserve land in a child's name, and instill in them at an early age that they have a stake in what Leelanau is to become. You can also give a gift to friends or family who live far away, but have Leelanau in their hearts. Or, preserve land in your own name. As a result of your contribution, your gift recipient becomes a "Leelanau Preserver." All Preservers gifts fund Land Protection. Leelanau Preserver givers and their recipients also receive our newsletters, a car decal, and E-News. We keep track of acres preserved and send a beautiful card acknowledging your gift. Many Conservancy supporters have been buying Preserver gifts since the program began in 2002. A few years later we began a milestone recognition tile wall at our Leland Village Green. We're happy to report that the tile wall is nearly full! Only a few spaces remain in the one-half and one-acre plus area but you can still receive a tile to keep at home, and be a part of our virtual tile wall! We will list your name on our website when you reach acreage milestones. We will provide a gift certificate for you to choose a tile from a selection that tile artisan Leif Sporck will have on display in his shop in Leland. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this program!



Hunting: Info You Need to Know

Deer hunting season is upon us and the Leelanau Conservancy allows hunting for white-tailed deer with written permission from October 1st - December 30 on most of our natural areas, forest reserves, and preserves. Please use caution when hiking during hunting season, wear orange and keep dogs on a leash. We allow deer hunting to reduce an unnaturally high deer population. Too many deer threaten wildflowers and tree seedlings. The only natural areas and preserves that are closed to deer hunting are Teichner, Jeff Lamont, Whaleback, and the lakeshore section of DeYoung. If you want to request written permission to hunt, look online at our website or stop by our office in Leland.

Snowplowers Needed

If you own a snowplow and would like to help keep our Natural Area parking areas free of snow this winter please let us know! Those who live near Whaleback, Houdek Dunes, or DeYoung Natural Areas please consider donating your time to help us and your neighbors. Even an offer to occasionally help clear a parking lot before a hike is helpful. If you don't own a plow but love to visit these areas in winter you can also help by making a donation to our Stewardship Fund. Contact Sarah Cook at 231-256-9665 or scook@leelanauconservancy.org.



Mario thanked our members for helping to preserve Leelanau.

2012 Picnic

Our Annual Friends Picnic in August was a wonderful success. Over 750 Conservancy supporters gathered to celebrate our collective love for Leelanau. We all enjoyed delicious local food and wine and terrific jazz from the Paschke Trio. \$181,000 was raised to help us move forward with the many land protection projects we have in the works. The Roger and Coco Newton Farm—forever protected with a conservation easement—provided a gorgeous setting. Thanks to everyone who attended and to those who donated and bid on the wonderful auction items and participated in our President's Paddle Raise.

And finally, thanks to Mario Batali (right), who arrived in time to draw the winning raffle ticket for his fabulous Molto Big Apple Weekend. Laura Deibel was the lucky winner. The raffle raised \$100,000 for farmland protection. These funds will help tremendously; a total of \$1.1 Million local match is required to claim federal grants and to complete the five current farm projects.

Mario thanked Conservancy members for helping to protect Leelanau—a place he and his family love. He called Leelanau his second home and his family's sanctuary away from their hectic life in New York City. An appreciative crowd responded with a standing ovation.

Congrats to our Volunteer of the Year, Leif Sporck, and to our Business Supporter of the Year, Dave Monstrey. We appreciate everyone who helped to put on this big event—over 100 volunteers made it happen. We couldn't do it without you!



Clockwise, starting with center photo of Mario Batali. Guests enjoyed the spectacular views from the Roger and Coco Newton Farm; parent Susan Schrimpf said, "We come to the Picnic because of the Kids Tent! We have fun and the kids have even MORE fun."; Northport Point Teens help out with parking again this year; Martha Pierce won the Local Foods Doorprize Heads and Tails game; our board members greet guests as they arrive.



Conservancy Founders Honored

Our beloved Founders, Ed and Bobbie Collins, were awarded the Rotary Club's "Owen Bahle Award for Service." They were honored for their contributions to the Leelanau community on November 2nd at a dinner and program held at Black Star Farms. We're very proud of them and their incredible vision that began the Leelanau Conservancy nearly 25 ago. It led to the creation of 24 Natural Areas and the protection of over 9,000 acres.

Ed and Bobbie founded the Leelanau Conservancy in 1988 after becoming increasingly concerned by the growing development pressure upon the land and water of our beloved Leelanau County. With the help of the late attorney Larry Verdier, and the advice of the venerable Brandywine Conservancy in Pennsylvania, they formed a 501(c)3 corporation and purchased our building on First Street in Leland which they donated to the fledgling organization. The dedication on October 9, 1988, attended by many supporters which included the late Harlan Hatcher, past-president of the University of Michigan and internationally-renowned conservationist, who was the Conservancy's Honorary Chairman until his death.

Ed received his MBA from Stanford University and was a successful small business owner in the Detroit area for many years before moving to Leelanau County in 1979. In 1980, he and Bobbie purchased and renovated the Riverside Inn in Leland and owned it until 1988. Ed has served as President and Chairman of the Board of the Leelanau Conservancy. Bobbie has served as Treasurer, President, and Chairman. They have mandated from the beginning the importance of excellence and integrity in all aspects of the work of the Conservancy. Bobbie and Ed have given of their time and energy to other organizations as well. (See our website for more info.)

"Ed and Bobbie Collins are pretty modest people, but what they accomplished in launching the Leelanau Conservancy and seeing it

through its formative early years is pretty extraordinary," says Director Brian Price.

"They very deliberately chose to apply a lifetime of experience, wisdom, and business skills to an all-out effort to do everything possible to preserve the finest aspects of a place that they truly cherished, the Leelanau Peninsula. Founding the

Conservancy was an act of great selflessness and optimism, as Ed and Bobbie knew it would be costly in every sense of the word, but they felt there were people of good will throughout the county who would rise to the occasion if only presented with a way to channel their efforts. In retrospect they were absolutely right, and the organization they founded is a lasting tribute to their love of this place and this community."

"I've been coming to Leelanau County since 1937, first as a summer kid at my grandparents' cottage on Little Glen Lake, then moved with Ed to Leland permanently in 1979," says Bobbie. "Ed and I are so grateful that so many have joined in making the Leelanau Conservancy the success it is and find, as we do, this way in which to 'give back' for the great blessing we all share for the privilege of living and working here."



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!

Gary and Judy Anderson
Gregory and Suzanne Besio
Brig and Merrill Buettner
Richard and Barbara Foster

Gail and Bob Hetler
Mark and Lynn Laughlin
Bob and Arden Schlueter



Pictured is our 2012 summer gathering at Brengman Brothers Crain Hill Vineyard in Bingham. Ed Brengman leads a group of Sustainers through the beautiful vineyard where they learned about new harvesting techniques and which varieties grow best in Leelanau.

Honorariums & Memorials



Honorariums & Memorials

7/6/12 through 10/30/12

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

Loren R. Becker

Susan Sides

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boles

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert A. Bogley

Carrico/Reinhard Wedding Guests

Kate Carrico and Adam Reinhard

Ed and Bobbie Collins

J. Richard Emens & Beatrice E. Wolper

Mr. and Mrs. Brian R. Price

Curry-Edwards Wedding Guests

Rebecca and Matt Curry-Edwards

Seiji Matthew Ginsburg

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ginsburg

Gary and Susan Hosking

Stevie Sims

Katherine Kacin

Jim and Cindy Kacin

Declan Kahn

Ms. Marjorie Smith

Peg Later

Ms. Edith Webber

Livvy AnnMarie Marble

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Visser

Ann McInnis

Mr. and Mrs. John McInnis

Eleanor Moody

Karen L. Chase & David Bellizi

L. J. Noling

David Noling and Victoria Bailey

Lou & Kathy Ricord

Anonymous

Tour de Glenn Cyclists

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Van Otteren

Sheen and David Watkins

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beuerle

Winning the Excellence Award - Brian Price

Katherine and Eric Hall

Happy Birthday

David Edelstein

Gershon and Suzanne Berkson

Olivia Fellows

Kurt and Eleanor Luedtke

Joy Ham

Mr. David A. Ham

75th Birthday – Ann Mason

Rhys VanDemark & Kathi McGookey

Wedding Wishes

Courtney and Matt Font

Enid and Rick Grauer

Happy Anniversary

50th Anniversary – Charles & Barbara Krause

Nancy R. and Berkley W. Duck

Memorials

David Atha

Black Star Farms, LLC

Owen Bahle

Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Biskupski

George and Pat Berry

Gregory and Patti Ramah

Maury Bolmer

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Peace

James Bulkley

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Bobbs

Robert Burchfield

Sandra Applegate, Susan Applegate, and Amanda Rutledge
Mrs. Carol P. Burchfield
Dr. and Mrs. Donald B. Carlsen
Mr. and Mrs. George I. Liljeblad
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Peace
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Stewart, III

Anne Taylor Cain

Julie R. Weeks & Walter Hoegy

Scott Casey

Ms. Connie Thompson

Evelyn K. Cogan

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Reid
Ms. Theresa Walter

Margaret Duensing

Anna and Andrew Beaser
Roschelle Bisping
Gana and Jim Dunlop
Ms. Sara Elk
Mrs. Betty Elliott
General Services Administration
Mrs. Barbara F. Gentile
Barbara and Lew Hatala
Brian Herrs
Warren Herrs
Stephen and Veronica Kepchar
Joel and Angie Rogero
Mrs. Jeanette E. Specht
Tony and Pam Turchi
Larry and Cindy Wanerman

William Elder

Mrs. Lena A. Ball
Mr. and Mrs. John Biggs, Jr.
Jean and Buzz Finke
Susan J. Finke
Mr. and Mrs. Tom H. Fox
Will and Joan Larson
Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. McConnell

Mr. and Mrs. David J. Sprout
Mr. and Mrs. Warren H. Watkins
Mrs. Alice B. Weaver
Dr. Robert L. Willard

Hildegard Fox

Ms. Jan Miller

Dale Gain

Ms. Cheryl Gain

Joseph and Ann Harrison

Ms. Tracy J. Harrison

Helen Jackson

Ms. Gail Shulman

Keith Jolliffe

Mrs. Tallara Middleton
Mr. and Mrs. John Davis, II

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Ms. Sandra K. Kilinski

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Ms. Janet W. Jenswold
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Peace
Bill and Jane Wood

Konrad Kohl

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Mr. William R. Connolly
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Holland Stitchcraft, Inc.
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Mashke
June & Cecil McDole Foundation
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Tom and Debbie Page
Tyler and Ann Perkins
Mr. Paul J. Schwab
Ms. Audrey Stroia
Roger and Corinna Weber
George and Joan Zuidema

Jeff Lamont

Mr. John Keith



Honorariums & Memorials

Thomas and Bridget Lamont
Jeff Later and Betsy Donahue
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Later
Mr. and Mrs. James Lestikow
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Passarelli
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rakers

Curt Leece

David Leece and Kathy Brewer

Sybil Mead

Robert H. and Nancy M. Giles

Dr. Richard Meils

Dr. Lisa Meils

Harold and Dorothy Morrill

Mr. and Mrs. David J. Sprout

John Myette

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Peace

Robert Nitschke

Ms. Elizabeth Ann Earl
Ms. Janet K. Kempf
Lenny and Sherry Simpson

Ted Prill

Rick and Fran Greenup

Marie Rankin

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gaziano

Harvey and Lorraine Reimink

Ed and Connie Busman
Erika and Dennis C. Ferguson

Rosie

Gordy and Jeanne Hatt

James Sedgwick

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Michael and Polly Best
Mr. and Mrs. John Biggs, Jr.
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Brian and Amy Collard
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Denali Flavors, Inc. – Wayland, MI
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Mr. Brian Garrett
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Susan and Grant Maune

Beth and Mark McCune
Arthur and Elizabeth Moran
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The Noling Kids – David, Susan
& Jaime

Jeff and Lynn Porritt
Ms. Cynthia D. Prather
Gwen and Hugh Rogers
Elliot and Nancy Rosenstock
Dr. and Mrs. William F. Sasser
Todd and Julie Schnuck
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Marni Sweet

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The Taglauer Cabin

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Dennis and Kathy Turner

Harry Wieting

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Peace

Ginny Willard

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Peace

In Love With Each Other— And Leelanau!

Thank you to Matt and Rebecca (Lockhart) Curry-Edwards, who made a heartfelt gift to the Conservancy online. "It is in honor of our wonderful friends and family who came to Northport to celebrate our (October) wedding with us. Northport point and the Leelanau Peninsula mean more to us than I could ever explain so we are thrilled to give back in any way we can," Rebecca wrote in our "reasons for your gift" comment box. Her parents, James and Claudia Lockhart and extended family are long-time donors to the Leelanau Conservancy. It's great to see the next generation carrying on!



A Meaningful Bequest

This summer Amy and Brian Tennis informed the Conservancy of their intention to donate their farm as a bequest to the Conservancy. They explained, "The agricultural focus and natural beauty of Leelanau holds our hearts captive. Crossing to the north side of M-72 immediately reduces our blood pressure and puts smiles on our faces. It is 'home' in a way that I can only describe by comparing it to comfort food and fuzzy slippers."

"The people of Leelanau are wonderful treasures. They have been so supportive and helpful as we grew our farming operation. It is our hope that the generations following us will also want to work the land and preserve its unique features. We know that the Conservancy will help facilitate this type of transition, so it was an easy decision for us to leave our farmland to them in our will to ensure this agricultural legacy continues long after we are gone."





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Clay Cliffs—Double Your Donation if You Give by 12-31-12!

All gifts made to the Clay Cliffs Natural Area by 12-31-2012 will be doubled by a generous family (up to \$200,000). Help us claim every last dollar of this grant! Give online at leelanauconservancy.org. Thank you to all who are helping to make the dream of a Clay Cliffs Natural Area come true!

“We love that place! The different terrain and field and forest --- the fantastic views of both Lake Leelanau and Lake Michigan -- the eagles’ nest --- all are major attractions. I think it’s going to be a great place for hiking!” ~ Ellen Pisor



Please help us raise the final funds needed to preserve this view—and this experience—forever! You may donate online at leelanauconservancy.org or use the envelope provided in this newsletter. Thank you to all who have donated already!

