



Leelanau Conservancy

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

Newsletter: Summer, 2012

Vol.23, No. 2

Third Year Running: Conservancy Partners with 3 Families for Farmland Protection

For the third year in a row, the Leelanau Conservancy has successfully partnered with three new farm families to successfully apply for funding to conserve their farms. What's more, the Conservancy has received an unprecedented percentage



Egeler Farm – Leland & Suttons Bay Twps
116 acres



Esch Farm – Leland Twp 115 acres



Kelenske Farm – Centerville Twp 151.5 acres

of funding—more than \$1.1M in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP). That equals one-half of all the funding available from FRPP for the entire State of Michigan. This new grant will add 383 acres to our growing total of over 4,000 acres of permanently-protected family-owned farms.

These three farms include 151 acres of the Jerry & Anna May Kelenske farm in Centerville Township, which features over a half-mile of frontage along scenic French Road. The rich soils here currently produce row crops and hay as forage for the Kelenskies' heifers. The 115-acre Larry & Jan Esch farm, located along

Horn Road is in Leland Township. It features sweeping views of Lake Leelanau and Lake Michigan and is a prime fruit-

growing site. The 116-acre Egeler Brothers Farm straddles the Leland and Suttons Bay Township line. This farm is contiguous to two other protected farms—45 North Winery and the Bardenhagen Berry farm. Also a prime fruit-growing site, the Egeler farm adds to a substantial block of protected farmland in the East Leland-Suttons Bay Fruit Belt area. The Conservancy works with willing farmers and landowners who wish to permanently preserve their lands. For farm families, the program can be a great tool to help the older generation prepare for retirement and enable the next generation to take over the farm. One of the key barriers to young farmers is the cost of land. Too often, farmable acreage is too expensive to cash-flow a crop due to the desirability for second-home development. The FRPP program helps resolve this issue by paying the owner to remove the "development premium" on the land, making the acreage more affordable for beginning farmers.

Although the right to future residential development is extinguished, the family continues to own the land and to have the right to farm it. The property also remains on the tax rolls. At the community-level, it helps keep the agricultural economy and the business environment for farming strong by protecting larger blocks of intact farms.

This FRPP award of \$1,152,000 will cover half the cost of protecting these three family farms. The Leelanau Conservancy will need to raise 25% of the needed funding—\$623,900. Each farm family will also donate 25 percent of the appraised value necessary to complete the projects.

Overall, this award brings the number of successful FRPP applications to 14 in the last 11 years, with 9 successful federal projects since 2010 alone. Donations to the Leelanau Conservancy's Community Farmland Fund are reaping great rewards. When these projects are completed we will have protected 14 farms with a fair market value of \$17.4 million and nearly 2,500 acres of family-owned farmland through the Federal Farm & Ranchland Protection Program alone. This is but a subset of the nearly 4,000 acres *continued on page 2*

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Message from our Executive Director



The Seasons of Clay Cliffs

The creation of the Clay Cliffs Natural Area (CCNA) is one of the most exciting opportunities for the Leelanau Conservancy, and for project partner Leland Township, to come along in a many years. We have spent over two decades working to protect the places that define what the Leelanau Peninsula means to its many admirers. Clay Cliffs, with its 1,700 + feet of frontage on both Lake Leelanau and Lake Michigan, its spectacular scenery and array of native forest plants, would be on anyone's short list for places that should be preserved for future generations to enjoy.



In mid-summer of 2012 we are finally at a place in the acquisition process where the end game is in sight. And because we are so close and this place is so special, a lot of people want to know what the timeline looks like. Specifically, how long before we can open the long-anticipated Clay Cliffs Natural Area for public use?

First, let's step back a moment and recount what has already been accomplished. In December of 2011, Leland Township secured a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund that will provide ½ of the estimated funds necessary for purchase, a little over \$2.9 million. The seller has generously offered to discount the purchase price of the property by 25%. That leaves 25% to be raised by the Conservancy. Our role is to raise the matching funds necessary for the purchase, work with the Township on a Management Plan for the CCNA, then put in the needed improvements and manage the property. All together, we have pegged the Conservancy's fundraising goal for the project at \$1.8 million, covering both the local share of acquisition costs and the improvements.

So far so good. We received our first large gift toward the property purchase even before the Trust Fund's approval. Since the beginning of 2012 two important Michigan-based Foundations have stepped in to make very significant contributions: \$250,000 each from the Carls Foundation and the Herbert and Grace Dow Foundation. By mid-summer we are more than halfway toward our fundraising goal, with plans to reach many more potential donors before the end of the year.

There has been one delay that we want to explain. In virtually every year since the Trust Fund was founded in the late 1970's, the legislature has passed its bill appropriating funding for approved projects in a fairly timely manner, often in the first quarter of the year, but always before the summer recess. This year, the appropriations bill got caught up in

political wrangling about how and where the Michigan DNR will spend its share of land acquisition funds. Local projects, such as Clay Cliffs, were not part of the legislative dispute. And we have been assured that by the time you read this column the legislature will have passed the bill at its one-day session on July 18. Within a week of passage, the acquisition process for Clay Cliffs will move into its final phase.

Here is a general timeline for the next 18 months:

- July 2012 – Trust Fund money is appropriated and project agreements mailed
- September-December 2012 – Conservancy and Parks and Recreation Committee of Leland Township finalize Management Plan
- July-December 2012 – Local fundraising continues, with a goal of having funds in hand by year end
- Jan-May 2013 – Appraisals, title work, and all other project agreements for transfer to Leland Township are completed and approved
- Early Summer 2013 – Expected completion of purchase by Leland Twp. Property should be open for public use, with only rudimentary trails and access
- Fall 2013-Spring 2014 – Trail work, observation platform, parking, and other improvements completed
- Dedication sometime in early summer 2014

The Clay Cliffs Natural Area is one of the largest and most important projects in the Conservancy's history. We still have work to do, but we have nearly assembled all of the funding pieces, and we expect to have this wonderful area open for public enjoyment by this time next year. In the meantime the seasons come and go, the ancient trees on the bluff grow a year older, the rich array of forest plants go through their annual cycles of flowering and fruiting. Birds return to nest, fledge their young, and head south again in the fall. There is still work to do, but we look forward eagerly to the day when everyone can enjoy this spectacular place.

Farmland Projects (continued from page 1)

of family farms permanently protected since the late 1990s. But most important is the fact that these 14 farms spanning 6 townships demonstrate the crucial importance of Leelanau's agricultural heritage and economy.

"We are extremely proud of these farm families," said Nelson. "They have been tremendous stewards of these lands for generations, and we're thrilled to partner with them, as well as the Natural Resources Conservation Service which administers the federal program, and all of our donors and supporters. Together we are ensuring that these farms are available to future generations to produce food locally and continue a way of life that is uniquely Leelanau."



Clay Cliffs Natural Area Project - Successes and Challenges

We are working with Leland Township to preserve one of the most spectacular landscapes in Leelanau County—the Clay Cliffs property, which features 1,700 feet of shoreline on both Lake Michigan and North Lake Leelanau. This land—destined to become the Clay Cliffs Natural Area—is not yet open to the public. But we are taking selected groups to tour the property (example: a two-hour hike is offered as part of our pre-Picnic field trip choices on August 2nd).

The Clay Cliffs Natural Area project has been full of challenges and successes (Learn more by reading Brian Price's Executive Director column on page 2.). We were thrilled to receive the news early this month that the Herbert and Grace Dow Foundation had awarded \$250,000 toward the project. Our goal is to raise the remaining \$680,000 by year end.

Helping us to reach our goal is the "Clay Cliffs Action Team"—a group of neighbors and Conservancy friends who are passionate about the Clay Cliffs project. On a beautiful day in early June, Brian Price led some of the members of the Team on a hike through the property.

Brian led everyone up into the meadow to see the views of Lake Leelanau. He told the group that the prior owner, the late Doug Crary, loved to drive over to what was then known as Cherry Pickers' Park on North Lake Leelanau. From there, Doug had a clear view of his land across the lake and would watch the sun go down. "He loved to see that big expanse of land and how after dark there would be no lights," said Brian. "He talked about how good that made him feel, how much he enjoyed his land, and that he wanted to see it protected one day."

As the group entered the woods, Brian talked about the Conservancy's plans for hiking trails on the property. "We have a fair amount of experience in planning and building hiking trails. We try to make use of existing trails and features, but also route trails to take advantage of scenery and unique



Director Brian Price points out one of the over 70 species of wildflowers and plants that have been identified at Clay Cliffs. He led the Clay Cliffs Action Team on a hike; the group is helping the Conservancy to raise the needed funds.



The group gazes out at Lake Michigan; the view from the top of the cliffs is amazing!

features. At the same time, we usually try to steer clear of truly sensitive or easily disturbed environments."

One thing Brian always talks about when he leads hikes at Clay Cliffs is how "incredible" the wildflowers are here. "We've already identified over 70 species and we haven't even gone through a full season," he said, pointing out zig zag and blue stem goldenrod, elderberry to meadow rue, among others. "Clay Cliffs is a great place to learn your wildflowers."

Brian explained that one reason some places are devoid of wildflowers is because cattle grazed and trampled many hillsides in Leelanau. A large portion of Clay Cliffs, however, has a lush, undisturbed understory. We learned that ants carry trillium seeds, that maple seedlings will spring up by the hundreds but eventually crowd one another out, and that dappled sunlight in the woods is created when old trees fall down.

When the group made their way to the top of the bluff, where an observation deck is planned, everyone was silent, awed by the panorama. "There is no place with bigger clay cliffs around here," Brian told the group. Other shoreline bluffs may contain 20 to 30 percent clay—"not enough for the bank to stand up to erosion or 'slumps' that are caused when groundwater seeps down the face," explained Brian. "These are 90 percent clay, and 250 feet tall."

As the group made their way back down the trail, everyone talked about what an amazing place Clay Cliffs is, and how happy they are that it is being protected. "A few days later I was driving by the property and thinking about the hike and how wonderful it is that this is going to be preserved," says Team Member Leslie Schmid. "And I thought, 'It's a privilege to be a part of making this gem available to everyone.'"

~ Carolyn Faught



Swanson Farm: Accomplishments and Dreams

The old wooden flats Sonny Swanson used to start his seeds in found new life this spring. Ben Brown, the young farmer who is leasing the Swanson farmstead from the Conservancy, unearthed the weathered boxes from the barn last winter. In dusting them off, he discovered Sonny's faded markings on the boxes that seemed like a whisper from the grave: In this one, plant kale, that one, cabbage.



Ben Brown shows off his garlic crop

And so he did. On the day I visited with Ben in early June, the first radishes and salad mix had made their way onto the yellow farm stand, along with fresh eggs. Cars were stopping to peruse what was available. Days earlier Ben says he'd sold asparagus from a reclaimed patch Sonny once picked from. Out in the field, broccoli, onions, tomatoes and other vegetables had just been planted on a one-acre plot, surrounded by an electrified deer fence Ben had constructed himself.

For those readers who are unfamiliar with the story of the Swanson Farm, this historic, ecologically significant 90-acre parcel was purchased by the Conservancy in 2010. In addition to the 1,500 feet of natural shoreline that protects Little Traverse Lake, the Preserve also includes a 15-acre farmstead. One of the Conservancy's goals for the land was to see agriculture revitalized. To fulfill that goal, the Conservancy heard proposals from farmers interested in working the land. Brown, 28, who earned a degree in Ecological Agriculture from the University of Vermont, was chosen. This is Ben's second summer on the land. Last year he focused on establishing a small pastured poultry operation, which set the stage for this year's vegetable production. "Chickens are nice income but I enjoy growing veggies and I want to be diverse," says Ben. "The two can work really well together." The poultry sales financed building the fence, repairing Sonny's old greenhouse and purchasing a used cultivator. But perhaps even more important, the movable poultry pens—with their manure byproduct—enriched the soil. A winter rye cover crop tilled in this spring added more nutrients to the sandy soil where his vegetables are now planted. "The goal is every year to put more into the land than you take out of it," says Ben.

Feeding the soil is just one element of the sustainable farming methods Ben is committed to. He won't use any pesticides, no matter what. "I'm not going down that road because there's no going back," he explains. "Pest insects develop resistance and so you have to apply more and more pesticides. It's a downward spiral."

Instead, chickens and barn swallows help to keep insect pests in check. Finally, a pair of pigs eat all the unsold produce—nothing is wasted here!

Over the course of the last year, like any farmer, Ben has learned a thing or two. Like watering at night to cut down on evaporation—a real challenge given his sandy soil. He's pleased that solar power kept his baby chicks warm in the greenhouse so that he had to run the heat lamp only at night.

In addition to fixing up Sonny's greenhouse, Ben also re-roofed the carriage house. This year he hopes to get a coat of paint on the carriage house and a new roof on the farm stand. Some days, the work can seem overwhelming. "I don't want to get burned out," he says. "I realize that I can't make this place into what I want it to be all by myself." He hopes to be able to hire some help in the future. In the meantime, family, friends and his dog, "Sonny,"—named for the man who tilled this land before Ben—lend a hand. The working Great Pyrenees keeps predators away from his chickens.

At the moment, Ben is utilizing just 25 percent of the available land. His goal is to use it all. Already tan from working the fields, Ben says "I feel good about the past year. Every day I feel a little more at home. My accommodations are pretty rustic (he lives in a trailer on site). An incentive for me is to position myself so that in five years I could have a year-round life here. Sonny never lived here full time but I sure would like to." ~ Carolyn Faught



These handmade flats are the same ones used by Sonny Swanson; note how he labeled them. The squash seedlings are just one of many vegetables Ben is growing on a one-acre plot this year.

This early detection method serves to combat future spread - stopping invasives before they get out of control.



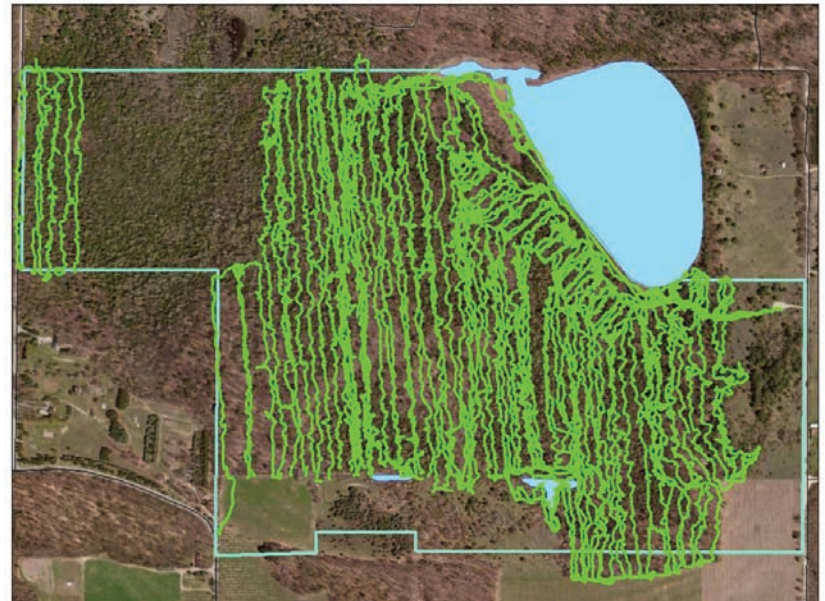
Project Updates

A Day With the Early Detection, Rapid Response Crew

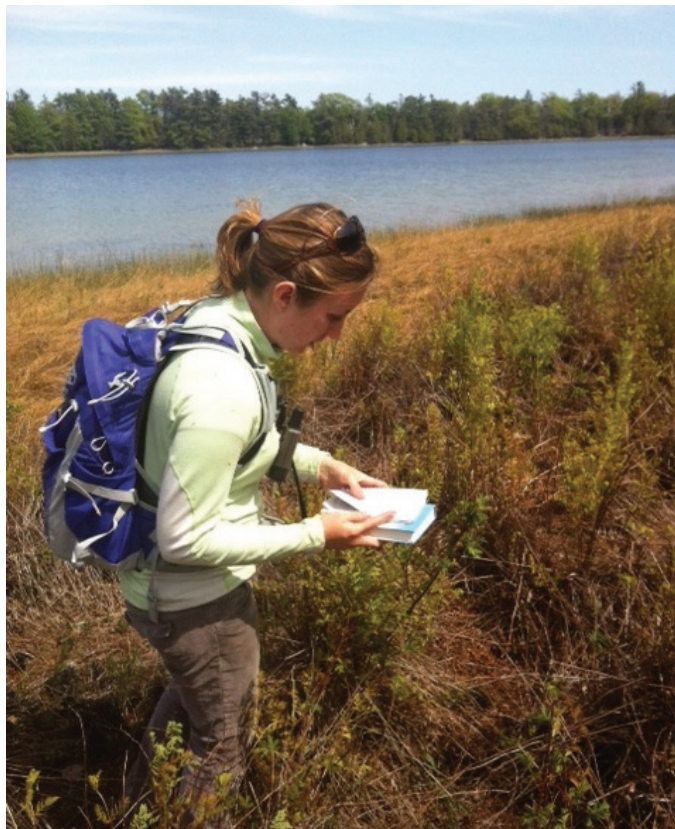
by Taylor Jolliffe, Outreach Intern

May 17, 2012—I have to admit that I wasn't paying too much attention to the street names as I drove up through Northport towards Cathead Bay. It was finally sunny and pleasantly warm—a combination that had been oh so elusive here in Northern Michigan this spring. I was on my way to Lighthouse West Natural Area in the tip of the Peninsula, and I'm proud to say that I only got lost once on my way to the 45-acre expanse of woods, old farmland, bluffs, and shoreline. The day was just too nice to look at directions. Thankfully, the members of the Early Detection, Rapid Response crew that I met up with were armed with GPSs and an extensive knowledge of the landscape.

The EDRR crew, made up of three specialized botanical surveyors, was off to inspect the high fields of the natural area for early-stage invasive species. Their job, as suggested by their crew name, is to sweep loose transects of Conservancy Natural Areas and Preserves for early signs of non-native, rapidly spreading plant species—responding by either enacting immediate removal/treatment, or recording coordinates of the affected area for later treatment if the species permeates a



These squiggly lines actually represent the crew walking up and back through the woods, surveying for invasive species. A GPS unit tracks their movements and was used to create this map of their day at Kehl Lake Natural Area.



Early Detection Rapid Response crew leader Sarah Cook surveys the shoreline at the Kehl Lake Natural Area for invasive plants. Kehl Lake and several other Conservancy properties at the tip of the peninsula will be surveyed by the EDRR crew in 2012 and 2013.

larger area. The crew is funded by a 2012-2013 Grant entitled SOGL—Sustain Our Great Lakes. The grant itself is through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a non-profit that seeks to preserve and restore our nation's native wildlife species and habitats. This is not just an individual mission; the Nature Conservancy, Grand Traverse Regional Conservancy, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, Land Conservancy of Western Michigan, and the Leelanau Conservancy are all partnered under the SOGL grant, working together to improve the resilience of Eastern Lake Michigan shoreline and prevent further degradation of said habitat from invasive plants.

Sarah, Kendra, and Ryan planned to work with the higher grounds of the area that day. They had already surveyed the higher quality environment of the lowlands the day or so before, commenting that some ecosystems take priority in our natural areas. In the case of Lighthouse West, some of the higher grounds were once farm fields, which allowed for unnatural manipulation of the native plant species. Abandoned farm fields are usually amok with already known invasives, requiring intensive treatment. The EDRR focuses more on early detection—identifying new species that threaten to overtake natives. Their reasoning for surveying the lower quality ecosystem of the fields that day was to make sure invasives couldn't spread to high quality areas—a preventive measure. This early detection method serves to combat future spread—stopping things before they get too out of control. *continued on page 7*



Stewardship Staff and Volunteers Caring for our Protected Lands

Summer is the time when we execute our carefully laid plans for taking care of and improving the lands we have protected. Our staff and wonderful volunteers have been busy removing invasive species, making our natural areas more enjoyable for visitors and planting native trees and shrubs. If you would like to volunteer with our Stewardship Network, please call Fields Ratliff at the Leelanau Conservancy (231-256-9665) or email fratliff@leelanauconservancy.org. Getting outdoors and working in these beautiful places is immensely rewarding!



Some young visitors enjoying the boardwalk at our Teichner Preserve. "My 3 kids walk or bike down to the Teichner Preserve at least once a week," says Latisha VanderZon.



Stewardship staffers Jenee Rowe (l) and Robin Ostrowski install our new sign at the Leugers Preserve at the Narrows Natural Area on Lake Leelanau. The Conservancy has permanently preserved 66 acres and 1,500 feet of shoreline in this beautiful, ecologically sensitive iconic area. Thanks to Narrows Passage Bait and Tackle for loaning their pontoon boat and tools to the crew.



AmeriCorps volunteers helped the Conservancy at the DeYoung Natural Area by planting over 75 native plants and shrubs. Over 300 AmeriCorps volunteers from around the state came to Northern Michigan and participated in a variety of projects in the Grand Traverse Bay Area.





Stewardship Updates



Students from the Traverse City West Middle School take a break after planting trees at the DeYoung Natural Area. 50 students helped Conservancy staff plant, water and mulch over a 150 trees!

Tom Maiolani and Al Swiderski helped install a trail marking post during a workbee at the Lighthouse West Natural Area near the Leelanau State Park.

Early Detection Rapid Response Team (continued from page 5)

Sarah Cook, the crew leader, explained that invasive species crowd out native ones because they bloom earlier or leaf out sooner, and can grow in a wide range of habitats, creating advantages over their local counterparts.

But what's the harm with a few pretty, exotic plants being introduced? Some non-natives don't spread rapidly enough to be considered a threat (like the beautiful lilac bush, for example). Others like the prickly Japanese barberries, the herb garlic mustard, aromatic sweet woodruff, and the sprawling honeysuckle grow quickly and don't interact with the insects and animals of the ecosystem like natives do, failing to return the same nutrients to the soil as well. A lot of stores in the area even sell these invasives, oblivious to the fact that they can wreak havoc on the local ecosystem if left uncontained.

I followed the team around for about 2 hours, distracted more than once by trying to write, take pictures, and wrestle with thick bushes and unruly thickets that were almost impossible at points for my awkward limbs to navigate. The crew was at home in the natural area though; they spaced themselves

out in a line and went forth into the woods, fields, and brush without fear. Many Conservancy ecological communities were previously mapped out, allowing the EDRR to prioritize in terms of narrowing down possible species and figuring out what should and shouldn't be there. They would stop to debate about a weird vine or point out invasive species—a honeysuckle here, an autumn olive there—noting the spread and density for future references and data compilation.

Every so often the three would realign and sweep out a different area, eventually looping back on their original path, making sure to keep in line with their GPS and compass. I shadowed behind, enjoying the fields of oak saplings, young strawberry plants, and even enjoying the white-flowering trees which hummed with bees. I started getting slightly sunburned and decided it was time to hop back in my car and find my way back to Leland anyway. The crew would continue after I left; more daylight to work with. I waved goodbye to their parting words: "Just don't make us seem too weird in your story."



Wildflowers, Warblers and Wonder

by Taylor Jolliffe, Outreach Intern

Kay Charter claims not to be a bird expert. Now, I don't claim to be a bird expert either, but she's definitely a lot closer to claiming that title than I ever will be. Kay, who co-founded Saving Birds Thru Habitat, makes her skills apparent before we even leave the parking lot at Leelanau Conservancy's Lighthouse West Natural Area. She casually picks up different bird songs around her like it's instinctual; a Scarlet Tanager there, a Gray Catbird over there. She gives a little background on the area, which used to be old fields from a dairy and sheep farm, and we head off on a winding trail surrounded by tall grass and wildflowers.

The group has about 15 people, both young and old, all with a pair of binoculars slung around their necks and enthusiasm in their faces. We don't get too far down the trail before a huge tree offers us several Cowbirds, Cedar Waxwings and Eastern Wood Pewees. People point and chat excitedly, steering others to the best specimens. "The key is no big, sudden movements," Kay says, "Talking is fine, they just don't like a lot of commotion." This lends itself to a very social, yet still educational experience.



Hikers counted 32 species of birds at Lighthouse West

A couple of Bluebirds fly overhead as we make our way towards some old knobby apple trees. A tiny Least Flycatcher pokes out from among the apple blossoms, its comically large eyes and beak becoming a point of conversation. It seems that every step offers a new bird species to observe. In fact, so many different species congregate at Lighthouse West for a very specific reason. Neotropical migrant birds from South and Central America make their way north for the summer to find cooler climates. They put off flying over bodies of water like the Great

Lakes for as long as possible, funneling instead into areas like Lighthouse West, which is located just north of Northport. The habitats of these peninsulas become very important places for these migrating songbirds and also offer a large variety of species. At the end of our outing we counted 32 different species of birds, amazingly.

One of the main stars of the morning was a Common Yellowthroat, a small warbler spotted in a black cherry tree. The tiny bird was throwing its head back and singing its little heart out—it was like it was putting on a performance for all the lucky birders that morning. You could see his distinctive, brilliant yellow chest and black bandit eye-coloring. He is soon upstaged though by the Catbird, whose pretty songs mixed with the sounds of crickets around us.

We make our way past hummingbirds, swallows, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Two small warblers are spotted—the mustard-colored Palm Warbler and the shockingly yellow Nashville Warbler. The Palm Warbler is known for its characteristic tail-pumping and nest-stealing reputation. As I was told, the Palm Warblers used to move around with buffalo for food purposes, making it difficult to establish a new nest with such migratory habits. They evolved a system where they take over existing nests of other birds and convert it into their own, saving time and work. Who knew such little birds could be so crafty?

Another star of the show was definitely the Scarlet Tanager, which is known for its fiery red plumage. One sits in the upper branches of a tree, looking "just like a Christmas ornament," one hiker remarks. An Indigo Bunting flits past, its bright blue wings shimmering in the sun. Eventually we enter the bluff region of the natural area and are greeted by the cool shade of the maple trees. A Black and White Warbler makes an appearance (for some) before going back into hiding in the canopy to join the Red-eyed Vireo spotted earlier. After nearly two hours we arrive back at our cars safe and sound, although I will say that an encounter with a rogue milk snake was harrowing. All in all, the snake was a small price to pay for a perfect day of birding.

Note: The 45-acre Lighthouse West Natural Area was acquired in 2004. With its 640 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline, trails, and viewing platform, Lighthouse West has become one of the Leelanau Conservancy's most popular natural areas.





Happenings

Guided Walks, Event and Workbee 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 late summer/fall 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.

ANNUAL FRIENDS

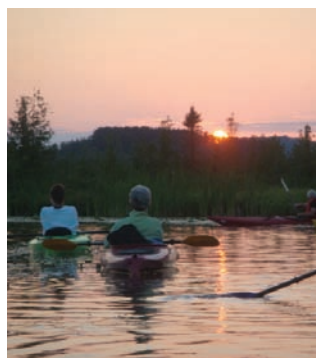
PICNIC—Thursday, August 2nd—Newton Farm overlooking the Manitous.

WORK BEE—Wed., August 8th 9:30-11:30am
Lighthouse West Natural Area

PROGRAM—Wed. August 15th 2pm,
I'd Fly a Million Miles For One of Your Smiles, Baby!
(Location: Saving Birds Thru Habitat in Omena)

GUIDED WALK—Sat., August 18th 10am,
Swanson Preserve

GUIDED WALK—Sun., August 26th 10am,
Teichner Preserve



EVENING PADDLE—Fri., August 31st 7-9pm
Cedar River Natural Area.
Must provide own kayak, canoe and pfd.

GUIDED WALK—Sun., September 2nd 1pm
DeYoung Natural Area

GUIDED WALK—Sat., September 8th 10am
Swanson Preserve

WORK BEE—Wed., September 12th 9:30-11:30am
Chippewa Run Natural Area

EVENT—Sat., September 15th 10am-2pm
Leland Heritage Day Children's Event



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, sunscreen 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.

GUIDED WALK—Sat., September 22nd 1pm
4th Annual Goldenrod Hunt at Chippewa Run

GUIDED WALK—Sat., September 29th 10am
Kehl Lake Natural Area

GUIDED WALK—Sat., October 6th 10am
Lighthouse West Natural Area

GUIDED WALK—Sat., October 13th 10am
Whaleback Natural Area



GUIDED WALK—Sun., October 14th 2pm
Finton Natural Area

WORK BEE—Wed., October 17th 9:30-11:30am
DeYoung Natural Area

GUIDED WALK—Sat., October 20th 1pm
Chippewa Run Natural Area

GUIDED WALK—Sun., October 21st 10am
Lamont Preserve

GUIDED WALK—Sat., October 27th 10am
Houdek Dunes Natural Area

GUIDED WALK—Sun., October 28th 10am
Teichner Preserve





Meet Our Summer Staff

Our summer staff and interns always bring us so much joy. The energy, enthusiasm and knowledge they demonstrate always helps to advance our mission. This year's crew is no exception. When you read about each of them and their connection to nature and to Leelanau, we hope you will be as impressed as we are with these young people.



Full of energy and enthusiasm: Standing l-r: Kendra Luta, Ryan Vlietstra. Seated l-r: Taylor Jolliffe, Robin Ostrowski, Sarah Cook

Sarah Cook

I am returning to the Conservancy this summer for a third year to lead the Early Detection/Rapid Response invasive species crew. I spent my formative years in Cedar exploring the woods and water of Leelanau County and attended the University of Michigan where I received a B.A. in Program in the Environment. In 2007 and 2008 I was a stewardship intern for the Leelanau Conservancy and a natural areas intern at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum in 2009. After college I returned to Northern Michigan to run an after school program for SEEDS in Benzie County fostering relationships between youth, their communities, and the natural world. Most recently I have been traveling, both in the U.S. and abroad. This summer I hope to expand my knowledge of natural communities and native plants while we survey and remove invasive species from some of the most beautiful and untouched places on our lovely peninsula.

Ryan Vlietstra

Growing up near Grand Rapids, most of my life was spent without much exposure to the outdoors. It wasn't until my sophomore year of college at Grand Valley State University that I had my first major exposure with a friend introducing me to backpacking as a hobby. Since then, the outdoors has become a central part of my life. I've served two summers working in natural resources. First, in 2010, I volunteered full-time surveying vegetation for the Bureau of Land Management in Ely, Nevada. Then, in 2011, I served as a backcountry steward intern in the Adirondack Park in New York. There, I spent 5 consecutive days each week in Siamese Ponds wilderness improving trails, educating the public, and monitoring campsites.

Spending the past few summers away from home, I wanted to spend this one closer to home, and what better place than beautiful Leelanau County. I'm excited to be part of the ED/RR team, not only to apply previous experience and pursue career goals, but to help keep Leelanau beautiful for others to enjoy in the future.

Kendra Luta

My whole life I have been interested in the natural cycles of ecosystems and how we, as stewards of the land, respond and adjust to changing environmental factors. Growing up in Lancaster, PA I was continually faced with the issues of a rapidly growing population and watched many acres of farmlands and forests be replaced by subdivisions and shopping centers. I quickly realized that we were not only losing valuable land resources but also the chance of showing the next generation some my favorite places. This desire to help preserve and maintain natural areas was the driving force in attaining a B.S. in Environmental Biology from Millersville University in 2009.

While in college I worked for the Lancaster County Conservancy as a member of a stewardship crew and after I graduated I worked as a stewardship assistant at Natural Lands Trust. Both of these positions focused on land management and early detection and removal of invasive plant species.

My husband and I moved to Leelanau County from Pennsylvania in the fall of 2010 and couldn't feel more welcomed by the community. As a member of the Early Detection/Rapid Response crew I hope to contribute my knowledge of southern invasive species and environmental biology to the team so we can continue to preserve the ecological integrity of this beautiful area.



Happenings

Taylor Jolliffe

Leelanau County will always have its very own spot in my heart. I was born and raised here, just three miles south of Leland on beautiful Lake Michigan. How many other people can say they live surrounded by crystal clear water, gorgeous beaches, and towering sand dunes? Not that many. When I went away to study English at the University of Michigan, I realized how much I missed the starry nights, the sweet-smelling pine tree, and the miles upon miles of beaches that were sorely lacking in a city like Ann Arbor. So I keep coming back.

Having just finished my sophomore year, I'm excited to trade in my homework assignments and essays for work that truly has implications outside of the classroom: helping in the effort to conserve our unique area. As the Outreach Intern, I am looking forward to helping keep our home beautiful for genera-

tions to come. I can't wait to learn more from the wonderful staff and the volunteers here throughout the summer. Positive energy goes a long way.

Robin Ostrowski

Hello, I am very grateful to be with the Leelanau Conservancy two summers in a row. I have lived in Leelanau County my whole life and enjoy the chance to help steward some of the most beautiful places in the county. I just graduated from Northern Michigan University with a BS in Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management. With this degree and experience from working with the Conservancy, I hope to hone my knowledge and use the art of interpretation to help others connect and become inspired by the beauty and wonder found around us.

A Natural Education

Our Docents are amazing volunteers who dedicate themselves to at least 40 hours of training. We have seven new docents who will graduate from the training program this year. Hats off to their dedication! Look for them as assistants on guided walks this summer and fall. Our training program this year was rich due to our excellent natural resource professionals. We hope you are inspired to join our docents out on the Conservancy's Natural Areas and Preserves this year. Try to visit a place you have never ventured into.

Thank you to all of our dedicated docents and welcome to our new docents: Candy Gardner, JoAnne Gerben, Ed Ketterer, Mary Petterson, Mary Smart, Janet Ward and Peter Woolcott.



Above: New docents Janet Ward (left) and JoAnne Gerben (right); Group gets a lesson on identifying changes in forest types from board member and biologist Greg LaCross at Teichner Preserve

Training was coordinated and conducted by Jenee Rowe, Director of Conservancy Owned Lands. Special thanks to our educators and naturalists listed at right:

Chip Francke Ottawa County Parks Coordinator of Interpretive and Information Services

Dick Cookman, Retired Professor of astronomy, geology and environmental science at NMC and owner of Enerdyne.

Hank Bailey, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chipewewa Indians, Natural Resources staff and tribal elder

Jenee Rowe, Director of Conservancy Owned Lands, Leelanau Conservancy

Greg LaCross, Board member and professor at NMC teaching ecology, botany, and vertebrate natural history.

Duke Elsner Ph.D. MSU Extension

Dr. Ted Ligibel, Professor Nancy Bryk of Eastern Michigan University

Brice Price, Executive Director of Leelanau Conservancy

Phyllis J. Higman, Senior Conservation Scientist – Conservation Education Lead from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Suzan L. Campbell, Conservation Educator and Invasive Species Specialist from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Daria A. Hyde, Conservation Planner & Educator – Zoologist from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory

And our amazing existing Docents who assisted in so many ways.

THANKS!!





DeYoung Farmstead: Taking Care of its Treasured Structures

Every summer when our partners from Eastern Michigan University arrive at the historic DeYoung Natural Area Farmstead, amazing things happen. Discoveries are made. Treasures are archived. Structures are restored. History is preserved. This year was no exception.

"The two biggest things that happened were the final cleaning of the house and the foundation work on the lower barn," says Jenée Rowe, Director of Conservancy Owned Lands. The lower level of the house can now be used for meetings with partnering organizations and those who tour the house with our Docents no longer need to step over falling plaster.

"I think what is made clear at DeYoung is that we are an organization that finishes what we start," continues Jenée. "The lower barn is a perfect example of that. The first year we repaired siding and put on new doors. The next year we fixed the roof. This year we're tackling the foundation and we'll pretty much be done. Our priority has been to stabilize the buildings and we have been more concerned with structure than aesthetics. We've spent a lot of time and thought planning and being strategic about how best to use our limited resources. By far the biggest bang for our buck has been using it for structural improvements."



One of the major tasks accomplished this June was shoring up the foundation of the big barn on the west side of Cherry Bend Road. Barn expert Steve Stire was on hand to direct the student's work. Anna Kindt (l) and Lindsay Zaremski scraped and chiseled out the old mortar and replaced it on the spot, using the sand from onsite and mixing it with lyme to replicate the mortar that was there before. What's next? Replacing the cornerstone that was stolen. "This is a wonderful barn that's basically in incredible shape," says Steve. "It's also very unusual because it's framed symmetrically on the inside, but asymmetrically on the outside. It's an unusually well built barn and with the work that's been done on it, this barn will last forever if it is taken care of."



Student Sarah Marson wields a putty knife to clean 70 years of grease off the antique cook stove in the kitchen.

Clara Deck uses a hair dryer to soften the original linoleum so that it can be glued back on the kitchen counter.



Just outside, EMU's Professor Nancy Bryk helps students sort and analyze scraps of wallpaper, which are clues to what part of the house was built when. All museum-grade artifacts have been removed from the buildings and distributed to area museums.



Mario Raffle: Molto Big Success!

We're thrilled to report that as of press time, we have only a handful of Mario Batali Molto Big Apple NY Weekend for 6 Raffle Tickets left to sell. We fully expect to be sold out by the time the winning ticket is drawn at our Annual Friends Picnic on August 2nd. What an exciting moment that will be for the winner, who, along with five friends will be treated to a culinary weekend of a lifetime. Tickets were purchased by book groups, three-couple syndicates, six girlfriends getting together, families, businesses and individuals. "Everyone loved that for \$167 a person, you could get into the game," says Carolyn Faught, Communications Director. "And we told all the buyers good luck, but even if you don't win, you're still a winner because you're helping to protect farmland with your participation."

Tickets were offered exclusively to Conservancy donors for the first two weeks. Pictured at right is longtime Conservancy Sustainer Karl Marsh, who bought the first raffle ticket when they went on sale June 12. He arrived in our office 45 minutes ahead of the official 10am start time—at the request of his wife, Barbara. "She was highly interested in obtaining a ticket

and is out of town, so she sent her chief delegate—me!" said Karl. It was an exciting morning—phones rang off the hook.

Thanks to Live Auction Co-chair, Leslie Schmid, who with her husband Walter, came up with this brilliant raffle idea. And a huge thanks to Mario Batali and his wife Susi, who care so much about our cause. The raffle will raise \$100,000 for farmland preservation—minus the \$6,000 that goes to the winners to defray travel costs.

"Michigan is my second home – my sanctuary away from my hectic life in New York City," says Mario. "My family and I are in love with the land, the lakes and the farms of Leelanau and I'm honored to help raise money to help it stay protected and beautiful so that future generations can enjoy it as much as we do now."



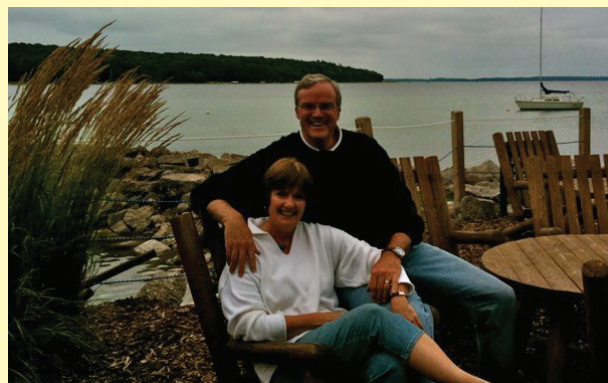
Welcome New Sustainers

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!

Susan Cocciarelli &
Dean Manikas
William C. Connelly
Bob and Barbara Featherly
James and Kathryn Fonte
Jeff Gibson
Janet E. Goettle
Steve and Cheryl Grossmann
Mary Helmick
Janet Ward & Patrick Kernaghan
Steven and Shira Klein
Dick and Sherry Koenig
Joe and Kim Leugers

Barbara and Thomas Littlefield
Judy Oetinger
Michael Ouzounian
Michael and Nancy Plessner
Doug and Beth Reid
James and Carla Sedgwick
Sally B. Smith
Perry and Mary Tresh
Kathy M. Tuckerman
Tim and Sue Unger
Dr. Michael Wiater &
Mrs. April Wiater
Pauline and Robert Womac



Pictured are Tom and Joan Knighton, who joined the Sustainers Circle at the end of last year. "At the urging of friends we discovered Leelanau over 30 years ago," says Joan. "Now that it's our home, we delight in sharing its natural beauty with our family and friends. Their response is always the same... 'I had no idea...'"

Honorariums & Memorials



Honorariums & Memorials

4/5/12 through 7/3/12

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

Larry and Jan Esch
Ms. Mimi Mullin

Carrie Evans
Mollie and Chuck Hall

Sydney Shureb Higdon
Justin and Paula Higdon

Anne Kinzie
Mr. William Y. Gard

Marshall Logan
Mrs. Mary E. Lyons

The Jerry Lubanski Family
Ms. Kathleen Lubanski

Rory James Mogle
Nancy and Jim Mogle

Halley and Kate McDonald
Randy and Deb Roody

Janet Pepler
Terry and Susan Sutherland

Eleanor Stephenson
Mr. Sydney Carlock

Mother's Day

Judie Leece
David Leece and Kathy Brewer

Ann McInnis
Mr. and Mrs. Edward McInnis
Mr. and Mrs. John McInnis

Irene Scott
Mr. Justin Scott

Joanie Woods
Stephanie and Mark Duckmann

Father's Day

Joseph E. Faggan
Jerry and Mary Faggan Churchill

Hank Holt
Margaret and Eron Thiele

Doug McInnis
Mr. and Mrs. Edward McInnis

Mr. Lawrence J. Noling
David Noling and Victoria Bailey

Robert Risbridger
Ms. Julie Willis

Wedding Wishes

Dr. James Reindel and Bethany Bernthal
Ms. Barb Bierlein

Sarah and Steve Lutke
Peter Leabo and Kathleen Smith

Happy Anniversary

50th Anniversary – James and Jane Fotopoulos
Mr. and Mrs. Themistocles L. Majoros

50th Anniversary – David and Sharon Lund
Mrs. Shirley Wagner

50th Anniversary – Bob and Jane McElroy
Ms. Dori Turner

Happy Birthday

Aaron Ellenbogen
Bob and Judee Sternberg

Austin Fellows
Kurt and Eleanor Luedtke

William Y. Gard
Mrs. Anne G. Kinzie

65th Birthday – Chip Hoagland
Mrs. Nicole Emens

Judie Leece
David Leece and Kathy Brewer

Mary Lyons
Mr. and Mrs. Kent N. Holton

Janet Shroyer
Mrs. Bette M. Puschel

New Baby

Walter Jesse Penninga
David and Suzanne Alpers

Memorials

Maury Bolmer
Mr. and Mrs. Lee A. Bowen
Mr. and Mrs. Peter S. Burr
Ms. Susan J. Finke
Mr. and Mrs. Richard R. Hatt
John and Elizabeth Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. Leo G. Shea
Mr. John B. Watkins
Mr. and Mrs. Warren H. Watkins
Mrs. Alice B. Weaver

Duetta Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Donald K. Marik

James Bulkley
Bahle Enterprises, Inc.
Mrs. Rosemary R. Bennett
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Gross
Mrs. Harriet Harper
Mr. and Mrs. I. Gordon Odell
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Schaff
Mrs. Lucy H. Wick

Robert Burchfield
Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Address
Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Sichler

Marg Burk
Kathie and Pat Laper
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Zunk

Georgia Busch
The Herb Taglauer Family

Scott Casey
Gail and Keith Evans

Roy Church
Bill and Weenie Daniel
Louise P. Martin
Ms. Debra Burns Melican

David Dickerson
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Kennedy
Wildflower Rescue Group

Sharon Gibson
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry J. Stanek

Charles Harbottle
Walter and Ruth Bennett
Ms. Susan B. Knarr

Helen Jackson
Ms. Suzanne Bankard
Ronald and Ruth Frakes
Ms. Joyce H. Markey
Polly, Sue, Salley, Cynthia and Cliff Oberlin
Michael and Ann Trombley

Keith Jolliffe
Mr. and Mrs. John Conder
Marcia Rauch and Mary Griggs
Dr. Robert L. Willard

Brian J. Kilinski
Ms. Sandra K. Kilinski

Jane J. Klotzbach
Deborah & Rich Bardsley and family
Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert A. Bogley
Charles and Janis Bond



Honorariums & Memorials

Mr. and Mrs. Lee A. Bowen
 Michael Braden and Sharley Hower
 Ms. Joyce M. Braden
 Jack and Joan Calvin
 Bob and Allyn Kay Cornwell
 Mrs. Jean Cornwell
 Mr. John N. Dahle
 Arlene and Bob Dean
 Ms. Mary Ann Drury
 Ms. Marilyn Elhart
 Employees of Easling Construction
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom H. Fox
 Ms. Carla A. Hammersley
 Mr. and Mrs. Theodore W. Hellman
 Ms. Helen C. Jenswold
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 Mr. and Mrs. Randall Kaastra
 Lyle and Carolyn Keating and family
 Gary and Pam Klotzbach and family
 Larry and Linda Klotzbach
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 Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. O'Brien
 Robert and Ann Ogur
 Phelps Legal Group, PLC
 Mr. and Mrs. John J. Popa
 Mrs. Constance M. Sanya
 Ms. Jane D. Shilts
 Ms. Marguerite J. Stephens
 Mrs. Margaret J. Thoms
 Tim and Vicki Tilton
 Mr. and Mrs. Perry Pentiuik
 Mrs. Nancy C. Walton
 WB CPA Group PC
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 Mrs. Mary H. Wenstrup
 Ms. Patricia A. Wiley
 Dr. Robert L. Willard
 Elaine and Guy Wood
 Jane and Bill Wood and family
 Mr. Carl Young

Dr. Mary Krause

Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Potvin

Anne Jo Marszalek

Gyula Acsadi & Agnes Jani-Acsadi
 Anonymous
 Eishi Asano, MD, PhD
 David and Joyce Benjamins
 Harry and Diane Chugani
 Ms. B. Cowan Frautschy
 Ms. Beth C. French
 Ms. Camille M. Hoskey
 Ahm Huq and Fatema Serajee
 Huiyuan Jiang
 Mr. Brian Marszalek
 Ms. Sarah G. Minarik
 Dan and Mary Padilla

Robert and Kathleen Pawlik
 Michael and Ruth Roeder
 Henry and Loraine Scussel
 Ms. Lalitha Sivaswamy
 Ms. Rebecca Sparks
 George and Daniela Tapos
 Ms. Diane O. Yee

Marty and Peg McCarthy

Patrick McCarthy, M.D.

Sybil Mead

Mr. and Mrs. E. Neal Cory, II
 Marlis Mann and Tom Skinner

Kenneth Moll

Drs. Ann and Conrad Mason

Frank Pollnow

Mrs. Rosemary R. Bennett
 Mr. and Mrs. John B. Biggs, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. I. Gordon Odell
 Mr. William A. Payne
 Mrs. Lucy H. Wick

Colleen Potter

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Richard Snyder

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph von Walthausen

Hugh and Eileen Starks

Ms. Libby Starks

George Stilwill

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Carlson

Edward Turner

Clyde and Judith Sutton

Mollie Weeks

Kurt and Eleanor Luedtke

Ginny Willard

Mr. John H. Hoppin, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Sichler
 Mr. and Mrs. Warren H. Watkins

Correction from our spring 2012 newsletter:

The following listing was mistakenly listed in Memorials:

In Honor Of

J. L. Buehl, IV

Ms. Eleanor B. Stephenson

Exercise Your Will Power!



A gift that permanently protects forests, farmland, streams, prairies, dunes and waters is a powerful and lasting way to make a difference...

By including the Leelanau Conservancy in your will or estate plan, you help leave a legacy for future generations.

For more information about bequests and other planned gifts—or to notify us of an existing gift plan—please contact Anne Shoup at ashoup@leelanauconservancy.org or 231-256-9665.



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Administration
Nancy Thomas

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Be a Part of the Celebration! Annual Friends Picnic & Auction Thursday, August 2nd

Newton Farm, Overlooking the Manitou Islands

Pre-Picnic Field Trips beginning at various times. Choose from 8 fun and informative options for all ages that highlight our work. Check out all the trips online (download our flyer) at www.leelanauconservancy.org. Online registration also available too!

5 pm The Main Event Begins!

- Social hour
- Silent Auction bidding on over 120 items
- Leelanau Wine and Beer
- Appetizers utilizing local produce created by seven area chefs/caterers. Taste the local foods difference!
- Kids Tent with activities for children 3-12

6 pm Picnic Dinner featuring local foods

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

7:20 pm Local Foods Door Prize Winner, President's Paddle Raise and Live Auction, with four fabulous Items. Evening concludes with the Raffle Drawing for Mario Batali's Big Apple Weekend for 6

