



# Leelanau Conservancy

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

2012 Annual Report and Newsletter

## 25 Years...Thank you!

Twenty five years ago the Leelanau Conservancy opened its doors with a big dream and a small group of individuals dedicated to the idea that the Leelanau Peninsula is a place that deserves our best efforts to protect its unique landscapes. We believed that with commitment and hard work, we could be successful in harnessing the love that people have for Leelanau into finding ways to protect land forever. Thus, the Leelanau Conservancy was born.

This year we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and invite everyone who loves Leelanau to participate. While this will be a year of celebrating all the work we have done together, we will also take this time to focus on the important work that lies ahead. We hope you will participate in this yearlong celebration. Plan to attend our Speaker Series (see article on page 14). Join us for a hike or workbee, where we will capture your photo (like this one!) and pass along a meaningful gift. Submit a photo and a thought about the Conservancy to our Why Leelanau Blog. Come to the Annual Picnic on Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, where we promise to entertain you with an unforgettable program. Visit our website to see photos of all the hikes we've held so far this year, view our 25-year timeline and be wowed by all the amazing work we have done together. Thank you for being a part of our first 25 years!

Our work is far from over, and your support is needed more than ever. What do we envision for the future?

- Landscapes, views, farms, and Leelanau's environmental integrity preserved for future generations.
- A vibrant year-round economy driven by our natural assets.
- The Leelanau community united in a shared mission of celebrating and protecting that which makes our special peninsula unique and our quality of life so high.

Read Director Brian Price's column for an in-depth look at how we'll continue to preserve the best of what you love about Leelanau and why our work matters to the community. Many thanks to our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sponsors, Northwestern Bank



*The sun shone on 24 hikers at Houdek Dunes on one of our first Docent-led hikes of our 25th Year*

and Idyll Farms (see page 19), for their help in funding our year-long celebration. Finally, nearly 12,000 people have made over 83,000 gifts to the organization at one time or another during the last 25 years. We could not have reached this milestone or preserved over 10,070 acres without our donors, volunteers and visionary board members. Thank you.

### 25 Years—Together We Have...

- Preserved 10,070 acres of natural lands and family farms
- Protected 35.4 miles of shoreline, river and stream frontage
- Created 22 Natural Areas for public enjoyment
- Completed 145 Conservation Easements with private landowners to protect cherished family lands, with projects in all 11 townships



# Chairman's Message

It seems fitting that the first group of hikers to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January was this adorable class of kindergartners from Suttons Bay's Leelanau Montessori School. Staffer Jenée Rowe led the group up Whaleback—including her son Kai—pausing along the way to hug trees and look for animal tracks. When they reached the viewing platform, and posed for this photo, Jenée told the kids that we were celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. "Wow," piped up one of the kids. "You are old!"



We don't feel old; and in fact in many ways we feel like we've only just gotten started. While we have much to celebrate from the past 25 years, rest assured that your Board of Directors always has its eyes on the future. Part of what guides our work is asking "What will Leelanau look and feel like when these children are "old" too? How will the work we are doing now matter to them?"

As your Chairman, I am confident that the strategic plans we work to accomplish every day provide the best chance for ensuring that the Leelanau these children inherit will look and feel much the same as we know it today. Executing those plans will continue to take our best collective efforts. I hope we can count on you to continue to drive our work going forward and that you will participate in our anniversary celebration as

2013 unfolds.

We've planned a year-long birthday party to mark this milestone and you're all invited: Come on a hike or take part in a workbee and you'll leave with a gift I know you will appreciate. In May, we'll hold the first event of our Speakers Series, where our goal is to engage the community in a meaningful discussion about topics that matter to the future of Leelanau. Check out the 25 Years tab on our website and view a timeline of projects that I find so inspiring. At our August 1<sup>st</sup> Picnic, I promise we'll have an unforgettable program.

Thank you for being a part of our mission and for helping us to protect Leelanau's unique landscapes and pristine waters--places like the Crystal River, Houdek Dunes, the Swanson Farm and the Lake Leelanau Narrows. All of us together are making a difference! I was astounded to learn that during our first 25 years 11,915 donors had made 83,104 gifts making these projects possible. We owe our past and future success to you, your love for Leelanau, and your enduring support.

Twenty five years from now—when we turn 50 and are REALLY old-- I can picture one of the kids in this photo returning to Whaleback as a young adult. Maybe they will remember this kindergarten hike, maybe they won't. Maybe they'll have a baby of their own in tow, or will be home for a vacation from their first job out in the big world. For these children, their lives ahead hold untold promise and opportunity. But one thing they can be sure of is our promise that places like Whaleback and the view from its bluff will always be there to welcome them home.

John Erb, Chairman



*All smiles: Kindergartners from Suttons Bay's Leelanau Montessori after climbing the Whaleback Trail*

## INSIDE:

Executive Director's Message	Page 3
Project Updates	Page 10
Protected Lands Maps	Page 7
Speaker Series	Page 14
Hikes and Events	Page 16
Heritage Society	Page 20
Founders Society	Page 21
Donors	Page 22
Volunteers	Page 31



# Thoughts From Our Executive Director



In January nearly 100 members of the Leelanau Conservancy Sustainers Circle gathered at the Glen Arbor Township Hall. The topic for our program was a brief retrospective of our first 25 years. We tried to show what our Founders envisioned, how we evolved and grew in our thinking since 1988, and how those changes in thinking have influenced the types of projects that we have done and will do in the next 25 years.



It is true that past is prelude. That means we will continue to protect wonderful natural land and some of the most scenic and productive farmland on the Leelanau Peninsula. But beyond that, what does the Conservancy's leadership envision for the next 25 years? In what ways, however subtle, will our emphasis differ from the first 25 years? John Erb, in his Chairman's column, talks of a group of kindergartners who hiked to the top of Whaleback. John asks, "What will Leelanau look and feel like when these children are 'old'?" This is basically the same question that a number of our Sustainers asked following our winter gathering. How will the work we are doing right now matter to our current Sustainers, and also to our children's children?

Abraham Lincoln reportedly used to say "The best way to predict the future is to create it yourself." While our Founders, Ed and Bobbie Collins, never referenced Honest Abe directly, they clearly believed in the principle he espoused. This organization is all about creating a better future for the Leelanau Peninsula, and doing it by taking action to harness the talents of many people in a way that allows them to accomplish much more than any one well-meaning individual could ever accomplish alone. So let's try to answer John's question in the most forthright way that we can.



## The Past Really is Prelude

In 1993, Ed Collins, in writing about our first five years, stated the reasons that he and his wife, Bobbie, founded the Conservancy. "Any person who has lived or vacationed in Leelanau County, no matter how short a time, becomes

somewhat fused to this special place. All that seems required is brief contact with the gentle curve of the glacial landscape, the dramatic vistas over water and our small, distinctive villages. When we leave, we long to return." Ed added that this longing and the desire to protect such beauty was the motivating principle behind the founding of the Conservancy.

The affirmation that the Leelanau Peninsula is a special place, and especially deserving of thought and care in its growth and development has been a theme that is echoed by virtually all of our publicly adopted planning documents, by our Leelanau Chamber of Commerce, and by those charged with mapping out a strategic plan for economic development.

We don't need public documents to tell us how much Leelanau means to each of us. To get a sense of what Leelanau means to people just take a look at the "Why Leelanau" blog on our website. Consider the fact that on an average day hundreds of people scattered across the globe wake up and check the Leland Report. They get a look at our weather and maybe a



spectacular view of a familiar landmark. These are only two of the websites that keep people in touch with this place that they love to think about even when they are far away. Consider how many Leelanau devotees have a room or a wall set aside in their home in St. Louis or Phoenix or Tampa, with family photos taken in Leelanau, artwork depicting favorite places like Fishtown or the view from Empire Bluffs.

How much does it mean? Recently we asked Larry Webb, an Ohio insurance executive and strong Conservancy supporter, to speak to a group in Cincinnati. Larry said, "The house where I grew up in Lima, Ohio, has been sold. The first house I bought myself has been sold. But I don't remember a time when our family didn't come up to the cottage on Good Harbor Bay. It's the place that we make family memories, and that we plan to always return to."



# We protect these places because they are the essence of Leelanau

## Thoughts from Executive Director, Continued



## Toward a Vision of the Future

The Founders' vision of protecting beauty is as valid today as it was in 1988. Over the years the Conservancy has worked to make sure that our definition of beauty is expanded to include the overall health of the landscape, a concept first proposed by Aldo Leopold in essays written in the 1930s. Our Board of Directors was in large part inspired by Leopold's rule: "The first principle of intelligent tinkering is to save all the pieces." Leopold's Rule guided us when we identified the lands that best represent the natural communities of the Leelanau Peninsula. Those essential "pieces" included large tracts of waterfront wetlands like Mebert Creek, the Cedar River, or the DeYoung Natural Area; coastal dunes including Houdek Dunes and Cathead Point; and signature coastal bluffs like Whaleback and Clay Cliffs. We protect these places because they are scenic and represent the essence of Leelanau to us, but also because we understand that these types of environments must be preserved in order to have a functioning landscape where wildlife populations, healthy forests, and clean waters abound.



Increasingly as we enter our second 25 years a further motivation is at work. Research on successful communities throughout the nation has shown that in today's world the competitive advantage has shifted to places that can attract the best talent. Quality of life – things like good schools, scenery, local foods and restaurants, and access to recreational amenities of all types – these are becoming the building blocks of any successful strategy to attract and retain employers. Key

infrastructure used to be transportation networks which provided access to markets. Leelanau's own Economic Development Corporation has increasingly stressed internet connectivity coupled with a clean and safe environment as the lynchpins in bringing jobs to the county. Instead of working to provide what we don't have (such as rail connections or mass transit) the new model says we should focus on what we do have, and use that to drive growth.

What Leelanau has in spades is something that so many communities in the country would die for. Chip Hoagland, long-time Chair of the Leelanau Economic Development Corporation, says, "Leelanau should be the breadbasket and playground of the Grand Traverse region, then we can build from there." We have world-class scenery, a vibrant agricultural sector based on locally produced fruits and vegetables, and access to outdoor recreation in all four seasons. We have clean water, safe communities, and



small local schools with great reputations. In short, we don't need freeway interchanges to be successful.

Long ago Leelanau's Chamber of Commerce and many of its supporters realized that attracting tourists involves much more than marketing. Being successful entails making our villages more vibrant, preserving our scenery, protecting our lakes, and making these resources available for people to enjoy. In a world where a person dropped along the roadside in any given American city (whether tourist destination or not) would not know where she was because it all looks the same, Leelanau will be successful only if it protects the unique charm and distinctiveness of the community. The key is "authenticity," that unique blend of history, culture and landscape that makes newcomers want to come back again and again.

## The Conservancy as both Protector and Economic Driver

The Founders knew from the beginning that a healthy environment and preserved landscapes don't suppress economic growth, rather these qualities fuel a thriving economy.



# There is an explicit role for the Conservancy to play in building a vibrant local economy



Our natural resources are the things that bring people here, and keep them coming back. Conserving our clean water, working farms and unique natural lands makes more sense than ever before.

As the Great Recession of 2008 slowly recedes, there is an explicit role for the Conservancy to play in building a vibrant local economy that keeps faith with our original vision. Increasingly we will now be asking ourselves: how

can we help our local communities capitalize on their assets, and play a greater role in creating a vibrant economy within the context of a healthy environment?

By partnering with local communities we can achieve significant conservation and enhance the attractiveness of our towns as places to do business. Look for these types of projects to increasingly be a big part of our future.

**Protecting Natural Land:** We have protected some of the most ecologically rich lands on the Leelanau Peninsula. There is much more to do, especially in making sure that we preserve the connections between protected natural areas, regardless of whether owned by the Conservancy or a unit of government. Connecting the dots will require the voluntary cooperation



of private landowners and the expanded use of conservation easements.

**Farmland Protection:** Farming and food processing along with the interest in local foods and value-added products is a bright spot of our local economy. We have unique microclimates to grow high-value crops, and we increasingly have young



entrepreneurs that want to turn the fruits of our soil into products that can compete with any in the world. The Conservancy's unique role is to provide expertise and access to capital that can permanently preserve family farms.

**Restoring Land Health:** Increasingly, we will be devoting resources to restoring land to a healthier condition. We should not resist spending time and money on this effort, because the 2,000 acres currently owned or managed by the Conservancy represents some of the finest examples of our native heritage, and we should embrace the opportunity to improve the resilience and health of these lands. By doing so, we lead by example, and can influence management decisions on many thousands of acres of privately-held lands. The rise of invasive species like garlic mustard in our woods or Phragmites on our shorelines, are challenges that the Conservancy faces, as do scores of private landowners. We will struggle with forest diseases that destroy ash trees and beech trees and challenge our ability to continue the healing of lands that were decimated by wholesale clear-cutting more than 100 years ago. But in restoring native landscapes we honor Aldo Leopold's vision of the expanded and "healthy biotic community" and his definition of "conservation as a state of harmony between men and land."

## **Access to Recreation:**

Working with local communities, we can assist in the expansion of parks and trails. This is valuable because it helps to create the livable, walkable communities that are increasingly the places that young (and older) professionals are drawn to live and work. We can't do most of this work alone, but only by working in concert with units of government.







## Beauty, heritage and environmental quality are good for business

Thoughts from Executive Director, Continued

**Projects that preserve community character:** The Conservancy helped Leland Township when it sought to expand public access to Van's beach while at the same time preserving the south flank of Fishtown at Hall Beach. We protected the Gateway to Empire, and over 3,000 feet of the Crystal River as it runs parallel to M-22 at Glen Arbor. These types of projects help to define the edges of our compact coastal villages.

**Partnerships of all types:** We will increasingly pursue projects with existing community groups. School groups will use our lands for study and field trips. Experimentation with new types of agriculture will be part of the mix at the DeYoung farmstead. We will work with hunting and fishing interests to enhance access to recreation land. And Saving Birds Thru Habitat is already a strong non-profit partner in restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat in our Natural Areas and Preserves. Watch for a new mobile device APP that we are collaborating with other non-profits to produce. The APP will guide visitors to recreational areas all over the region.

The Leelanau Conservancy was birthed as a response to what in the 1980s we thought would be inevitable growth. As was stated by guest columnist Ed McMahon in our 1994 summer

newsletter: "Growth is inevitable. The ugliness and destruction of community character that so often accompanies growth is not. Community can grow without destroying the things people love.

Beauty, heritage, and

environmental quality are good for business."

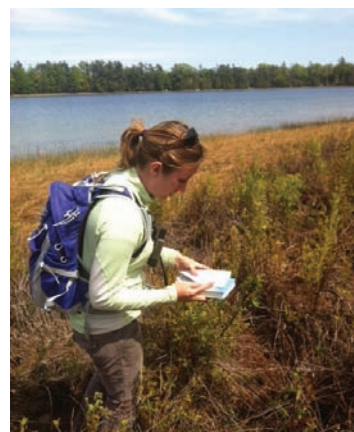
Our challenge for the next 25 years is to demonstrate that preserving the things we love can actually fuel growth and stabilize a sound and diversifying economy, while continuing to make strides in building the state of harmony between humans and land that Leopold envisioned some 80 years ago. It will be a challenge to build a community that preserves its uniqueness and authenticity while growing. We will do all this by harnessing the talents of the many people who care about our special peninsula. We will, as Abe Lincoln would have suggested, predict the future by creating it ourselves. ~ Brian Price



*Cherry Bay Orchards protected 107 acres of prime fruit growing land along the County Road 633 corridor this year. Emily and Mark Miezio, with Sam and baby Amelia are part of the next generation of farmers. Also protected this year- the 172-acre Stanton fruit farm in Centerville Township.*



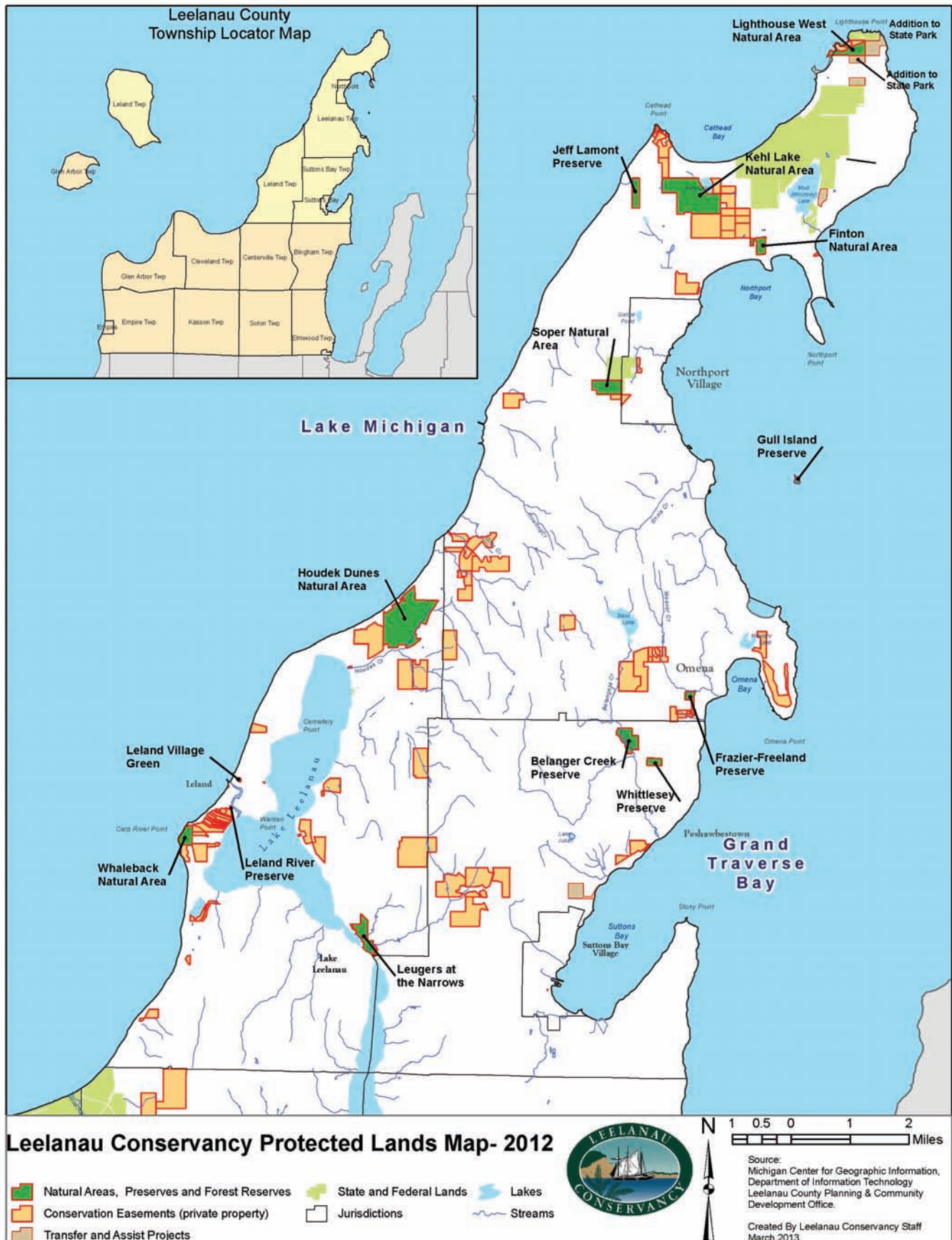
*Our Docents led over 500 people on hikes this year, introducing visitors to the ecological wonders and the most beautiful features of our natural areas.*



*With the completion of two projects in 2012, the Cedar River Preserve has grown to 438 acres -- and is now the largest of our 22 Natural Areas.*

*Our Early Detection, Rapid Response crew leader Sarah Cook surveys shoreline at Kehl Lake. The EDRR team made great strides in locating and eradicating invasive species, preventing degradation of habitat.*

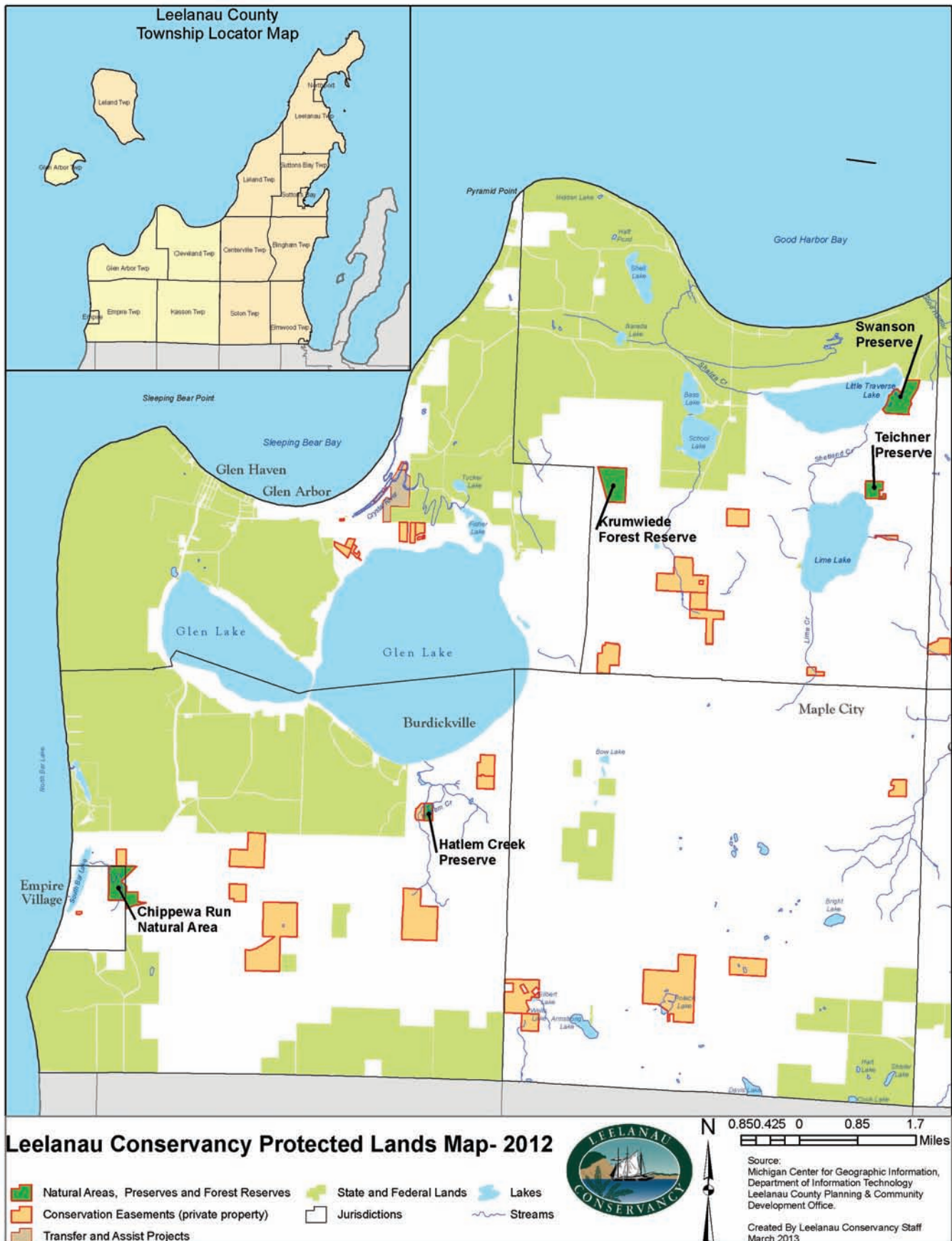
# Conserved Lands Northern Leelanau





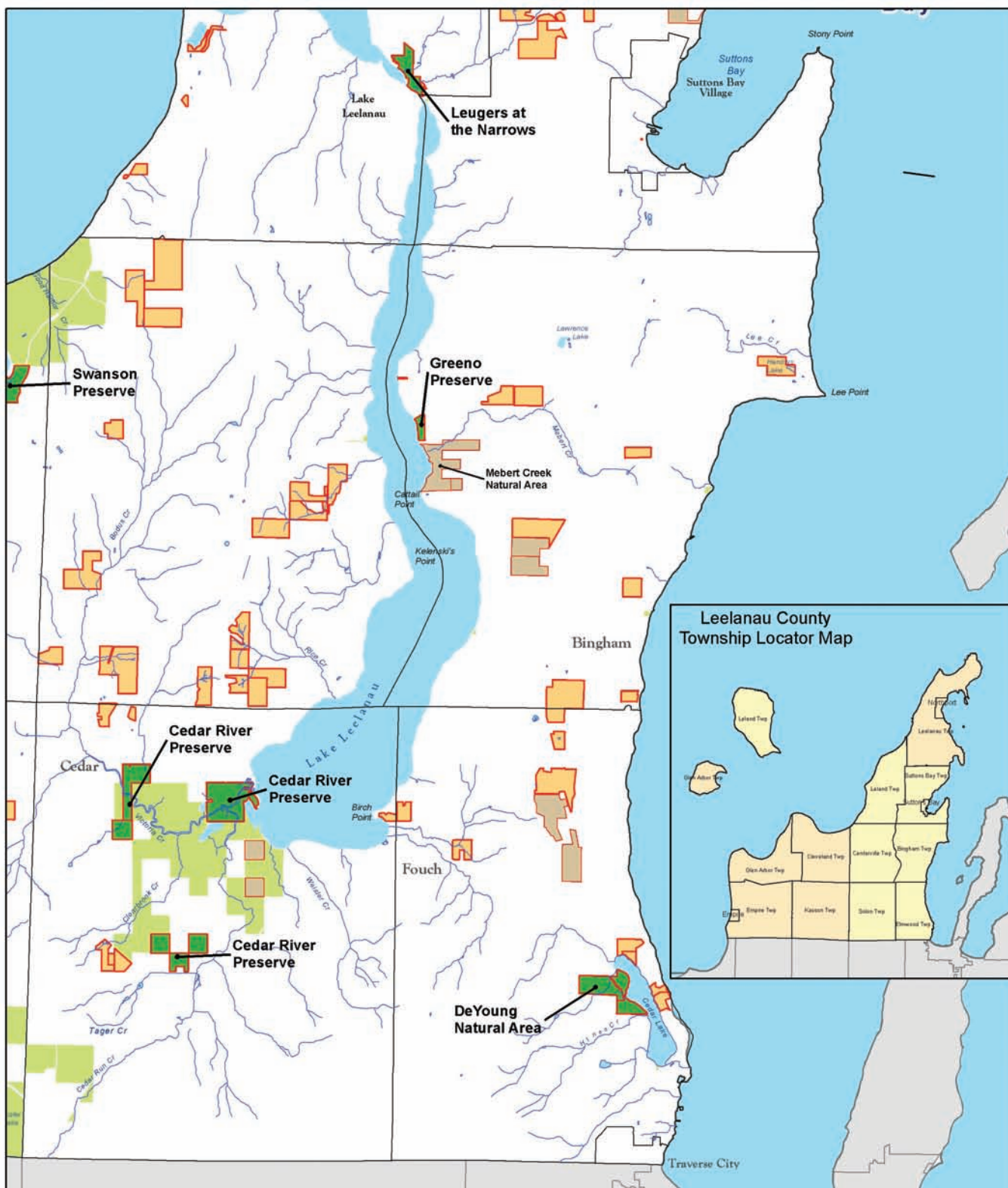


# Conserved Lands Southwest Leelanau





# Conserved Lands Central/East Leelanau



**Leelanau Conservancy Protected Lands Map- 2012**

- Natural Areas, Preserves and Forest Reserves
- Conservation Easements (private property)
- Transfer and Assist Projects
- State and Federal Lands
- Jurisdictions
- Lakes
- ~ Streams



N 0.8 0.4 0 0.8 1.6 Miles

Source:  
Michigan Center for Geographic Information,  
Department of Information Technology  
Leelanau County Planning & Community  
Development Office.

Created By Leelanau Conservancy Staff  
March 2013



## Clay Cliffs: We are hopeful that we will open a trail for you in the fall

### Clay Cliffs: Moving Forward!

The Clay Cliffs Natural Area will become a reality this year, thanks to the 573 families and individuals who made a donation to help us meet our fundraising goal at year end. One of those donations came in at 11:52 pm online! While champagne corks were popping and the ball was dropping, these donors wanted to make sure that their gift would be doubled by our Challenge Grant—which expired December



31<sup>st</sup>! We are grateful to the anonymous family who offered the challenge grant that inspired so many to give from all over the county and the nation. We are thrilled to be in the position of partnering with Leland Township to protect this coastline jewel for all time.

The collective excitement about a Clay Cliffs Natural Area has us all looking toward the future with anticipation. In February, Leland Township and the Conservancy

Board approved the Management Agreement for the property, which takes us one step closer to completing all the steps necessary for the Township to assume ownership. While we can't be certain when the Township and the State will complete their transaction, we are hopeful that we will open a trail for you in the fall. This summer, a workbee is planned at Clay Cliffs to help eradicate the invasive garlic mustard. Those who help out will get to see a part of this beautiful property. Learn more about the workbee on page 16 and watch our website for more details about Clay Cliffs as the project moves forward.



*Overlooking Clay Cliffs: Anne Shoup and Brian Price take a minute to celebrate having met our fundraising goal for this incredible place.*

*Bob Gluszewski (right) of Consumer's Energy presents a check for \$20,000 to Chairman John Erb for our Clay Cliffs Project. Thank you, Consumers Energy!*



### Houdek Dunes Natural Area Grows

A small but significant two-acre parcel has been added to the Houdek Dunes Natural Area that includes 400 feet of frontage along Houdek Creek. The creek is the principal tributary that flows into Lake Leelanau and the rich conifer swamp present on these two acres helps to filter and protect the water entering the lake.



"The property also adds to a vital corridor for wildlife and fronts M-22, helping to preserve its scenic values," says Matt Heiman, Director of Land Protection. "Little parcels can add up to big ecological protections."

There is a small, older mobile home on the property that will be removed. "We'll be putting that job out for bids in the spring," says Jenée Rowe, Director of Conserved Lands. "Some of the contents—such as a working wood stove—will be sold on Craig's List. We'll recycle and repurpose as much of the material as possible." For more info on house contents and materials contact Jenée Rowe: 231-256-9665 or email [jrowe@leelanauconservancy.org](mailto:jrowe@leelanauconservancy.org).



# From mid-April to mid-May it's one of the most fantastic birding spots anywhere



## Leelanau State Park Expansion: For the Birds!

This winter my husband, Dave, and I noticed several cars coming and going at the end of our road. We live along M-22 in Leelanau Township, just south of Omena. Turns out an eagle and two of its young had taken up residence in a treetop at the edge of Omena Bay. The trio took turns diving into the shallows off our beach and we could only assume that a fishing lesson of sorts was in progress.



*Snowy owls are just one of many bird species spotted at the tip of the peninsula*

That same week, I received some of the most amazing photos of snowy owls taken this winter by Sheen Watkins. Sheen had spotted the owls in an open field further north in Leelanau Township at the tip of the peninsula.

Leelanau Township—particularly its northernmost reaches, contains some of the most outstanding bird habitat in Michigan. Thousands of birds pass through the tip during migration.

“From mid-April to mid-May, it’s one of the most fantastic birding spots anywhere,” says Ed Ketterer, an avid birder and Conservancy Board Member who is helping to organize the 2013 Leelanau BirdFest. (See pages 16 and 17 for a list of spring birding opportunities.)

It’s long been our goal to protect lands at the tip. Now with the addition of two 20-acre parcels purchased at year end, we have protected nearly 700 acres “for the birds” and over a mile of Lake Michigan shoreline. This corridor of protected land includes our properties, land owned by Leelanau State Park and privately owned lands protected by conservation easements.

The latest project came about when two 20-acre parcels became available from the Haverberg family. The northern parcel is across the street from our Lighthouse West Natural Area. “The views from here are spectacular; offering a panoramic look at Cathead Bay, Lake Michigan and West Grand Traverse Bay,” says Matt Heiman, Director of Land Protection. “It would have been a prime parcel for development.” The other 20-acre southern parcel abuts the Leelanau State Park near Mud Lake.

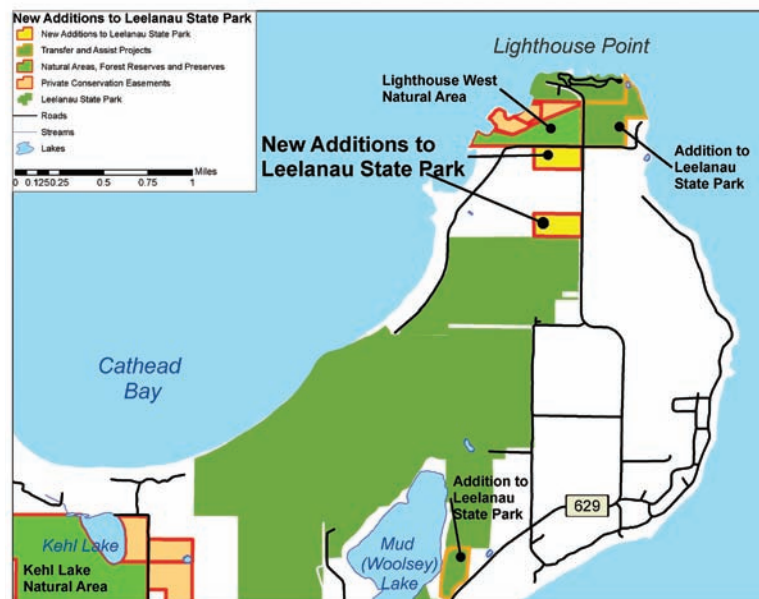
The project is one that we call a “transfer and assist” because we helped the Leelanau State Park to acquire it. The Conservancy worked with the landowner and helped with funding when it became evident that the State Park budget could not absorb the entire cost. In another project in 2008, the Conservancy helped the Park to expand by 51 acres and add

1,400 feet of shoreline by assisting with an application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Our partnership with the Leelanau Conservancy has been amazing,” says Al Ammons, Director of the Leelanau State Park. “Everyone all the way up the chain of command at Parks and Rec has been grateful for what we’ve been able to do together. We certainly could not have added these lands on our own.” The two latest additions (see map) “move the Park closer to a long-time dream of connecting its campground area to the hiking trail area,” adds Ammons.

“Without the help of the Leelanau Conservancy, the Park would be less of a wonderful place to enjoy,” continues Ammons. “We’ve seen a huge uptick in visitors—40,000 in 2012 after the Good Morning America publicity. A lot of people come to see the birds. I expect to see a lot of returning visitors, which will be good for the Park and good for the local economy.”

With places like the Park and our own Lighthouse West Natural Area so close by, I’ve often thought that if I ever retire, becoming a serious birdwatcher is in my future. I’d be joining quite a flock; a 2008 U.S. Forest Service survey reports that 35 percent of people 16 years and older participate in birding. Some 82 million people spend at least 100 days a year bird watching. Thanks to the Leelanau Conservancy, and its great partnership with the Leelanau State Park, the unique habitat at the tip of the peninsula will always provide a critical stopover point for our migrating birds, and a spectacular show for those who travel north to see them. ~ Carolyn Faight





## Listen for spring peepers and keep an eye out for salamanders using the pond for laying eggs

### Terrific New Trail at Krumwiede Forest Reserve

If you are looking for a new trail, then the Krumwiede Forest Reserve off Wheeler Road near Glen Arbor should be on your must-visit list.

The 1.8 mile trail here follows a gated forestry road and makes a gentle ascent up along an impressive ridge, looping until returning visitors to the valley below. Along the way, you'll see a working, sustainable forest that features everything from an invasive black locust grove that the Conservancy is working to eradicate to mature northern hardwoods of all ages. This is a woodland trail that is especially beautiful after a heavy snowfall, or in the fall when the colors are at their peak. One caveat; the trek down the back side is much steeper than the gentle ascent.

During a winter staff hike, we spent nearly two hours snow shoeing this beautiful loop with instructive stops along the way. Those in good physical shape could get around in less time. There is also an ephemeral pond surrounded by a northern wet meadow- listen for spring peepers and keep an eye out for salamanders using the pond for laying eggs.

Located in the western part of Cleveland Township, much of the 110-acre Krumwiede Forest Reserve consists of a



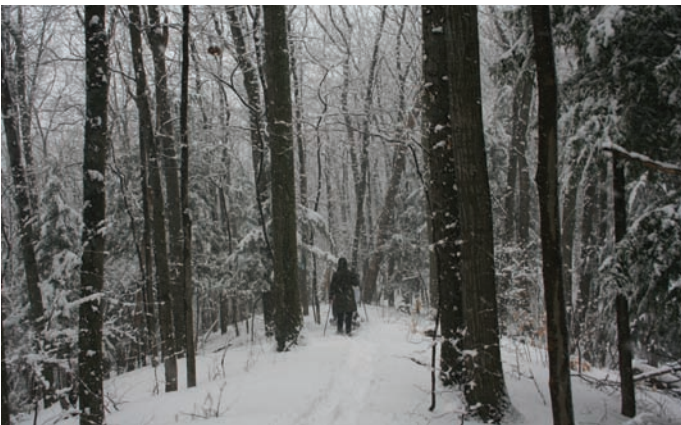
*"This property in its natural, forested condition contributes immensely to the ecological integrity of both Leelanau County and to the National Lakeshore," says Director Brian Price.*

periodically harvested for timber. Back in 1997, when Bob and Gerry Krumwiede donated a conservation easement on the land, it was the largest easement to date. The family had farmed in the valley portion of the land and recognized the importance of preserving high quality working forests. They reserved the right then to manage the forest as a commercial timberland, under a forest management plan approved by the Conservancy.

The Krumwiede family maintained ownership of the land until 2007, when they donated the land outright to the Conservancy. "Our forest reserves are managed to maintain and improve the biological diversity and forest ecosystem processes while producing timber in a manner that meets Michigan's best management practices," says Jenée Rowe, Director of Conserved Lands. "Our management will focus on protecting water quality, wildlife habitat, and restoring native ecological communities while allowing for commercial harvests that promote the concept of sustainable forestry practices and planning."

"The Krumwiedes had great forethought in preserving this land for future generations," adds Director Brian Price. "They also have helped to protect a variety of wildlife habitat and one of Leelanau's most scenic landscapes on the doorstep of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore."

Those who visit should look for the sign and parking area along Wheeler Road and visit our website for a trail map and Google mapping directions. Or plan to attend the first Docent-led hike here on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10am. See our website for more info.



*The Krumwiede trail: beautiful in all seasons.*

glacial moraine forming the high ridge between two very scenic wooded and pastoral valleys: Starvation Valley, an ancient glacial drainage channel which forms the course for Wheeler Road; and Bohemian Valley, the more fertile farmland to the east along Co. Rd. 669. The Krumwiede ridge is part of the magnificent wooded hills visible to travelers as they look south from M-22 while passing through the historic Port Oneida district.

Krumwiede is the first forest reserve for the Leelanau Conservancy. What is a forest reserve? It is land that is actively being managed as a sustainable, healthy forestland which is



“The DeYoung property is an excellent fit for what we want to do”



## Two Farming Families Continue the Tradition of Farming at DeYoung

For five years, Samantha Graves put her heart into a piece of land, establishing and growing an orchard using the innovative methods of permaculture. When life circumstances required her to leave the land, she was devastated to watch all her hard work plowed back into the earth.



Then last spring, Samantha and her husband Christopher Graves read about the Conservancy's call for farming proposals for the DeYoung Farm, a 145-acre Natural Area and historical farm along Cherry Bend road. The couple had been searching for the right place to begin a lasting orchard project, and the DeYoung property seemed like a perfect fit. Christopher, a graduate of The Conway School for Sustainable Landscape Design, and Samantha, a permaculture farmer and educator, shared their vision for the land with Conservancy board members and staff, and we are now pleased to welcome the Graves as our newest farmers at the DeYoung Natural Area.

Samantha and Christopher have plans to establish a permaculture demonstration orchard, market garden, and rotational pasture for small livestock (chickens and sheep) on 12 acres at DeYoung over the coming years. Samantha says, “The DeYoung property is an excellent fit for what we want to do. Because this land is owned by the Conservancy, we know that it will be preserved for generations. By farming in a publicly accessible location, we hope to encourage people to walk through our orchard and gardens—to visit, ask questions, and learn with us.”

At the heart of the farm will be the Graves' orchard, including apple, mulberry, and nut trees. A permaculture orchard includes a diverse planting of edible crops that naturally deter pests and disease, while enhancing wildlife habitat. The Graves will plant “guilds,” or groupings of plants such as perennial fruits, herbs, vegetables, and root crops designed to grow well together. These companion plants do not compete

at root level with the fruit trees but actually benefit them by suppressing grasses and deterring deer and rodents (as daffodils do) or holding nutrients at leaf-level (bee balm, chicory, and dandelion). Each plant selected for a guild must provide at least one benefit to the ecosystem and the fruit tree it supports.

Thriving guilds take years to establish and much of the Graves' work in the initial years on the DeYoung property will entail soil building through mulching, composting, and planting appropriate nitrogen-fixing and nutrient-accumulating perennials. Some apple trees will be planted the first year, Samantha explains, but the orchard will grow gradually over four years as the Graves get to know the site and enrich the soil. As well as growing produce to sell and raising chickens for egg production, the Graves plan to host workshops and tours here. To learn more, visit [www.healingtreefarm.org](http://www.healingtreefarm.org).

Cherry Bend Farmers Meeghan Siera, Andy and Chris Hutchinson, will also continue to grow vegetables on a portion of the DeYoung property. The family has been stewards of the DeYoung property adjacent to their own for decades—well before the DeYoung Farm became a Natural Area in 2006. Meeghan and her son Andy are farming partners. Andy runs the farm, growing fresh market vegetables and corn, and Meeghan manages the Cherry Bend Market and Bakery. This spring, he will plant corn on three acres of the DeYoung property. Andy and Meeghan are looking forward to continuing their relationship with the Conservancy. Andy says, “I love what I do. I'm going to be farming for as long as I can manage.”

This is a truly unique combination of farming on a beautiful piece of land. Jenee Rowe, Director of Conservancy Owned Lands, says, “We are grateful we can do our small part to continue the tradition of farming. Both of our farming families, like Louis DeYoung in his day, embody the ingenuity, resourcefulness, and resilience demonstrated by Leelanau County farmers, by balancing natural resources with human needs. We look forward to involving the community at the farm portion of DeYoung Natural Area over the coming years.”

### Meet the Farmers of DeYoung Natural Area Learn About Old Orchard Restoration

April 18<sup>th</sup> 1-2:30 p.m. Have coffee/tea with Meeghan Siera who farms a portion of our DeYoung Natural Area and also runs the neighboring Cherry Bend Farm. You'll also meet newcomers Samantha and Christopher Graves (pictured above with their children), who will conduct a workshop after coffee. Learn about permaculture and how to revive old, abandoned trees and help them thrive. The Graves will share a multi-season approach to pruning old fruit trees and talk about their plans at DeYoung.



# The Conservancy will bring in national speakers over the next two years

## Leelanau: Looking Ahead Speaker Series

At the Leelanau Conservancy we are constantly looking ahead, seeking to learn more about the environmental topics that impact our conservation work. Like so many people who love our County, we are eager to learn about ecological trends—regional and global in nature—that impact our unique peninsula. As a part of our 25th Anniversary celebration, the Conservancy will bring in national speakers over the next two years to engage members and the public on topics important to Leelanau County. The topics we have chosen are: 1) Water and the Future of the Great Lakes: water levels, and the changing food web; 2) Farming and Food: major trends in crops and climate, and the response of farmers; 3) Changes in the Landscape: shifts in forest species and climate; and 4) Community: understanding our relationship to land and how to build stronger communities. Our speakers and panelists will bring the perspective of scientists, experts, and professionals to audience members, helping us to understand how Leelanau fits into the bigger national and global picture.

*“In undertaking this speaker series, we will lay out a vision for the future that recognizes the unprecedented challenges facing us, while at the same time fostering a sense of optimism about our ability as a community to face these challenges.”* –Director, Brian Price



Our first event will be held on May 4 and the topic will be Water and the Future of the Great Lakes. Our speakers will address environmental factors stressing the Great Lakes and local panelists will focus in the discussion on current Leelanau County trends. Speakers and panelists will discuss not only large environmental changes but also positive steps we can take to meet current challenges. Come and get your questions answered and leave with a better understanding of what we can do as individuals and collectively in the places we love.

### Leelanau: Looking Ahead Speaker Series

#### Part One:

#### Water and the Future of the Great Lakes

Saturday, May 4, 2013 3:00-5:30 pm

Suttons Bay School Auditorium

#### Schedule of Events

#### 3:00 pm What's Happening with Our Great Lakes?

**Dr. Patrick J. Doran**, Director of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy in Michigan, will address effects of a changing climate and the conservation of natural capital in the Great Lakes region.

**Thomas F. Nalepa**, Research Scientist, Graham Institute, University of Michigan; Scientist Emeritus, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, NOAA, will address the role of invasive species in changing the Great Lakes food web.

#### 4:00 pm Break

#### 4:15 pm Bring Your Questions for Local Experts and Speakers

Panel Discussion Participants

**J. Carl Ganter**, Co-Founder and Director, Circle of Blue

**Andy Knott**, Executive Director, The Watershed Center, Grand Traverse Bay

**Thomas M. Kelly**, Executive Director and Founder, Inland Seas Education Association

**Brian Price**, Executive Director, Leelanau Conservancy,

**Dr. Patrick J. Doran**, **Thomas F. Nalepa**

#### 3:00 - 5:00 pm Children's Activities

Inland Seas Education Association will provide educational activities for children ages 5-12 in the Suttons Bay School Cafeteria (or outside, weather dependent). Please call the Conservancy Office at 256-9665 or visit our website to register children.

#### 5:00 Audience Reception

Enjoy light refreshments and talk with our speakers and panelists in the Suttons Bay School Atrium.

Participating Organizations: The Nature Conservancy, Inland Seas Education Association, and The Watershed Center

Sponsored by:





## Volunteers: More Important Than Ever!

We have ambitious plans for our volunteer program this spring and summer and need your help! Sarah Cook, our Volunteer Coordinator, will be leading the charge during our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. "Summer is a great time to get involved with the Conservancy, we have lots of projects both inside and outside," says Sarah. Examples: walking the beach looking for invasive species, helping plan our Annual Friends Picnic and Auction, monitoring lakes and streams, caring for trails, rescuing wildflowers, mailing our communications, or attending a workbee at one of our properties.

Volunteer trainings for trail building, invasive species

identification

and water quality

sampling will be

held this spring.

(See our schedule

on page 16 or

check the events

tab on the website,

where you can

sign up online to

attend a training

or workbee)

"Come learn the

techniques and

skills we use in

the field that will

carry you through

the summer," adds Sarah who also encourages all interested volunteers to stop in our office and pick up a volunteer handbook.

Questions for Sarah? email [scCook@leelanauconservancy.org](mailto:scCook@leelanauconservancy.org) or 231-256-9665.

New this year for stewardship: Saturday workbees and "personalized workbees." "A personalized workbee allows your group to tackle an individual project together and determine a date and time that works best for you," says Sarah. "While family and friends are visiting invite them to a Conservancy natural area to learn more about Leelanau, the plants and animals on our properties, and to help steward our land by working on one of our many projects."

Two new trails are also on the docket this spring: a gorgeous wetland walk at Swanson Preserve that leads to Little Traverse Lake, and an upland hiking/cross-country ski/snowshoe trail at DeYoung Natural Area that will feature panoramic views. You can help make it happen!



Volunteers learn how to sample water quality on Lake Leelanau

## Annual Picnic Roundup

Our Annual Friends Picnic and Auction will be held on Thursday, August 1st at the Ruby Ellen Farm in Bingham Township. The Picnic begins at 5 p.m., with pre-Picnic hikes and field trips. Watch our website for more info. If you would like to help underwrite this "event of the summer," join our fun and creative Picnic-Auction Committee or donate an item to the Auction, email [cfaught@leelanauconservancy.org](mailto:cfaught@leelanauconservancy.org) or call Carolyn Fought, 231-256-9665.

Below are photos from two unique experiences that were auctioned in 2012. Expect similarly great offerings this summer!

*Bridget and Tom Lamont offered an insider's tour of Washington D.C. (Tom Lamont serves at the Assistant Secretary of the Army.) The lucky winners (l-r)*

*were Adam, Jennifer*

*and Judy Smart,*

*Carter and Amy*

*(Smart) Oosterhouse.*

*The Lamont's good*

*friend, Sen. Dick*

*Durbin, a frequent*

*visitor to Leelanau*

*County, arranged for*

*a private tour of the*

*White House. After*

*that came a three-hour tour of the Pentagon, lunch in the Generals' executive*

*dining room and private tours of Arlington Cemetery and the Capitol. "We had*

*an incredible time and the Lamonts were so gracious," says Judy. "The kids were*

*ecstatic. We all learned so much and got a giant history lesson."*



*Bert and Helen Rabinowitz teamed up with Guillaume Hazael-Massieux, chef-owner of LaBecasse to offer a cooking class and dinner for six at the Rabinowitz' home overlooking the Crystal River. The event took place in December. "The cooking*



*class was terrific and the setting was beautiful!" says Sue Cady, one of the attendees. "It was a wonderful evening of wine, cooking camaraderie and entertainment with Guillaume and Adam of La Becasse and Bistro Foufou."*



# Spring and Summer 2013 Event Schedule

What a great time to get out into the woods with one of our docents or lend a hand at a workbee. Full descriptions of these events are on our website under the Events tab. Clip and use this schedule as you make your spring and summer plans! Hikes and workbees generally last about two hours. Please register ahead of time so that we may plan for the best experience possible: 231.256.9665 or online (click on the purple sign up button under each event.) Questions about workbees? Email Sarah Cook [scook@leelanauconservancy.org](mailto:scook@leelanauconservancy.org) or call 231-256-9665. 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.



**WORKBEE**—Thurs. March 28, 10am, Swanson Preserve: Trail Building

**WORKBEE**—Thurs. April 4, 10am, DeYoung Natural Area: Trail Building

**WORKBEE**—Sat. April 6, 1pm, DeYoung Natural Area: Trail Building

## WILDFLOWER RESCUE COMMITTEE

**MEETING**—Tues. April 16, 9:30am, Munnecke Room of the Leland Library

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING (TRAIL BUILDING)

Thurs. April 18, 10am, DeYoung Natural Area: Trail Building (bench cuts)

## MEET THE FARMERS AND ORCHARD

**RESTORATION WORKSHOP**—Thurs. April 18th, 1-2:30 pm, DeYoung Natural Area (see page 13)

**WORKBEE**—Sat. April 20, 1pm, Swanson Preserve: Trail Building

**HIKE**—Sat. April 20, 2pm, Explore Lighthouse West Natural Area

**HIKE**—Sat. April 27, 10am, Early Spring at Kehl Lake Natural Area

**WORKBEE**—Thurs. May 2, 10am, Swanson Preserve: Trail Building

**HIKE**—Sat. May 4, 8am, Chippewa Run Annual Birding Walk

**WORKBEE**—Sat. May 4, 1pm, Whaleback Natural Area: Trillium Planting

**LEELANAU: LOOKING AHEAD: WATER**—Sat. May 4, 3pm, First in our Speaker Series—Talk and Panel Discussion (see story page 14)

**WORKBEE**—Thurs. May 9, 10am, Clay Cliffs: Garlic Mustard Pulling

**HIKE**—Sat. May 11, 8am, Explore Lighthouse West Natural Area

**HIKE**—Sat. May 11, 1pm, Wildlife at Kehl Lake Natural Area

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING (CHAINSAW)**—Thurs. May 16, 10am, Location TBD, Chainsaw Training, (registration required)

**HIKE**—Sat. May 18, 10am, Inaugural Walk at Krumwiede Forest Reserve

**HIKE**—Sun. May 19, 8am, Explore Lighthouse West Natural Area

**WILDFLOWER RESCUE PLANT SALE**—Fri. May 24 and Sat. May 25, 9 am -4 pm, Village Green, Leland (see page 17)

**HIKE**—Sun. May 26, 2pm, Spring at Houdek Dunes Natural Area

**BIRDFEST WALK**—Thurs. May 30, 8am, Lighthouse West Natural Area/Leelanau State Park (for more info. on Birdfest and registration, see box pages 17)

**BIRDFEST WALK**—Thurs. May 30, 9am, Teichner Preserve (see box page 17)

**WORKBEE**—Thurs. May 30, 10am, Swanson Preserve: Trail Building

**BIRDFEST ACTIVITY**—Fri. May 31, 8am, Cedar River Preserve by Boat (for more info. on Birdfest, see box page 17)

**BIRDFEST ACTIVITY**—Sat. June 1, 8am, Cedar River Preserve by Boat (see box page 17)

**HIKE**—Sat. June 1, 10am, Explore the Crystal River on Foot

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING (INVASIVE SPECIES)**—Sat. June 1, 10am, Meet at Conservancy Office, Invasive Species Training (registration required).

**BIRDFEST ACTIVITY**—Sun. June 2, 9:30am, Inland Seas departs for Gull Island Preserve (see box page 17)

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING (INVASIVE SPECIES)**—Thurs. June 6, 10am, Meet at Conservancy Office, Invasive Species Training (Registration Required).

**HIKE**—Sat. June 8, 9am, Discover Kehl Lake Natural Area

**HIKE**—Sun. June 9, 10am, Discover Lamont Preserve

## BIRD HABITAT RESTORATION BUS TOUR

Tues. June 11, All day tour with Brian Price and Kay Charter. See box on page 15 for details.

**EN PLEIN AIR PAINTING**—Tues. June 11 & Wed. June 12, 9am-4pm, Cherry Basket Farm (see page 17 for details, cost and registration info)

**WORKBEE**—Thurs. June 13, 10am, Swanson Preserve: Trail Building

**HIKE**—Sat. June 15, 10am, Explore Houdek Dunes Natural Area

**HIKE**—Sat. June 22, 10am, Discover Teichner Preserve

**HIKE**—Sat. June 22, 1pm, Wildflower Walk at Chippewa Run

**HIKE**—Sun. June 23, 1pm, Walk through Time at DeYoung Natural Area

**WORKBEE**—Thurs. June 27, 10am, Swanson Preserve: Trail Building

**HIKE**—Sun. June 30, 2pm, Hike Whaleback Natural Area

**HIKE**—Sat. July 13, 10am, Explore Kehl Lake Natural Area

**WORKBEE**—Thurs. July 18, 10am, Hatlem Creek Preserve

**HIKE**—Sun. July 21, 2pm, Discover Lighthouse West Natural Area

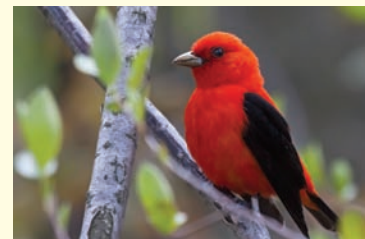
**WORKBEE**—Sat. July 20, 1pm, Lighthouse West Natural Area

**ANNUAL PICNIC AND AUCTION**—Thurs. August 1, Location TBA



## Birders Take Note!

The 3rd Annual Leelanau Peninsula Birding Festival is set for May 29th-June 2nd. BirdFest, an event run by the Leelanau Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, offers three days of field trips experiencing the variety of Leelanau's public lands and birding habitats during the transition from spring migration to nesting season. Conservancy properties that will be featured include Lighthouse West Natural Area, Teichner Preserve and the Cedar River. Get all the details at [mibirdfest.com](http://mibirdfest.com)



### Bird Habitat Restoration Bus Tour: Get on Board!

Join Leelanau Conservancy Executive Director Brian Price and Kay Charter, founder of Saving Birds Thru Habitat, for an all-day bus trip on Tuesday, June 11. This trip will focus on various stages of habitat restoration at Lighthouse West and DeYoung Natural Areas and Charter Sanctuary. Clay Cliffs, where restoration has not yet begun, is included in the trip. We will explore what habitat improvements are underway at each site, and what those changes mean for birds and other wildlife that use those sites. We will travel in a comfortable 23-passenger By the Bay Bus and lunch will be provided. The bus will depart from Suttons Bay (park in the farmers market lot at the base of M-204 and M-22) at 8:30 and returns at around 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The cost is \$50 per person (covers the cost of the all-day bus rental and lunch) and you must register as there are only 21 seats available. Please call Kay Charter at SBTH at 231-271-3738 to register.



### Wildflower Rescue Plant & Native Perennial Sale--Memorial Day Weekend

Friday, May 24th & Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale on the Village Green in Leland is on tap for Memorial Day Weekend! Now is your chance to purchase native ferns, trillium and more along with a selection of native trees and shrubs provided by locally owned Four Season Nursery, who will be on hand to answer questions about going native. Sale begins Friday, May 24th and runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. All proceeds help maintain the Village Green and assist with other Conservancy projects.

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



### Plein Air Class To Benefit Conservancy

Come enjoy a two-day introductory workshop on Plein Air painting at Cherry Basket Farm in Omena with Frank Speyers, artist and art professor at Calvin College! The class was a huge hit last year; this year's event will take place from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on June 11 and 12, 2013. All levels of artistry are welcome! Coffee and lunch will be provided on site. The cost of the two-day workshop is \$200

Learn More about Frank's Plein Air class here: <http://www.calvin.edu/news/2009-10/plein-air/>



## It's a win-win for the Conservancy and the Donor!

### IRA Charitable Rollover Has Been Extended

Popular since 2006, the IRA Charitable Rollover has been extended through 2013. Individuals who are at least 70½ years old can donate up to \$100,000 from an IRA to the Leelanau Conservancy or other qualified charities without having to count the funds as taxable income on federal taxes.

Known as an "IRA Charitable Rollover", the move is a qualified charitable distribution that counts toward your required minimum distribution. The funds must come from a traditional or Roth IRA and be sent directly to the charity from the IRA custodian.



For IRA holders who are required to start removing funds from their IRAs, donating those funds to the Leelanau Conservancy is an easy way to help save a place they love.

Rick & Enid Grauer share their perspective on the benefits of Charitable Rollover Gifts:

"We have found charitable rollovers to be a very advantageous way for us to support the Leelanau Conservancy. Enhancing the pleasure and satisfaction of helping to preserve the unique Clay Cliffs property, use of never-taxed individual retirement account assets as the gifting source lowered our gifting cost. Donating directly from the retirement account avoided the withdrawal being treated as a taxable distribution subject to ordinary income tax rates. For those of us over 70.5 years of age, this type of gift is credited toward the Required Minimum Distribution that must be made each year, and on which ordinary income taxes would otherwise have to be paid. It's a win-win for the Conservancy and for the donor!"

If you are 70 ½ or older, please talk to your financial advisor about this opportunity, as it may disappear in 2014! Your IRA custodian will need our official name and Federal Tax ID: Leelanau Conservancy (38-2710855). Please call Leslee Spraggins with questions: 231-256-9665.

### Welcome New Sustainers

Back when we started the Sustainers Circle in 1991, our goal was to have 60 percent of our membership support come from Sustainers. In that first year, we had 13 couples or individuals make that pledge of support. Many of them are now gone but they inspired the start of something great... 22 years later our Sustainers Circle has grown to over 500 families or individuals—a group that is the envy of land trusts across the country. Sustainers have kept their pledge and today they provide 20% of the gifts but nearly 58% of all the membership dollars we receive.

Conservancy Sustainers 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!

Rick and Sylvia Gans  
Charles and Irene Hurbis  
Dr. David Kam  
L. Craig and Nancy Martin  
Richard Potter  
David Quimby and Lori Holstege  
James and Jayne Schafer  
Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver  
Terry and Sandy Wilson

*"We are blessed to be able to live in our little piece of paradise year round, and we are also thankful for the work the Conservancy does to preserve, sustain, and improve our county. The Conservancy does a sensitive and effective job of balancing the demands of economic development and the need to maintain the "special sauce" that makes living here so compelling. We are proud to be active supporters."--Richard & Silvia Gans*





I love my home and don't want it to change.

## Staff News

Welcome to Leslee Spraggins, who joined our staff in January as Leadership Giving Officer, helping to support all aspects of the Conservancy's work. Leslee and her husband John recently moved to the Northport area after falling in love with the "land, water and scenic character" of the Leelanau Peninsula. She is ecstatic that she can work with staff, donors, and friends to help take care of this beautiful place. They have been enjoying the local food and were delighted to discover remnants of an apple orchard on their property.

Leslee worked for The Nature Conservancy for 19 years, having served as the Big Woods Project Manager in Arkansas and as state director in both Iowa and Illinois. She has also worked in planning and public relations in Texas and Tennessee, and as a recycling coordinator for the State of Arkansas. Leslee grew up in Benton, Arkansas, lived in Germany for a year, and graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Communications.



## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sponsors Share Our Vision

Thanks to Northwestern Bank and Idyll Farms for underwriting the year-long celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are grateful for their commitment to our mission and their enthusiasm about our reaching this important milestone.

"Idyll Farms is honored to sponsor the year-long celebration of the Leelanau Conservancy's 25th anniversary," says Amy Spitznagel, co-owner of Idyll Farms. "The Conservancy is a vital part of preserving the rare authenticity of our region, from its historic farms to its expansive natural beauty. At Idyll Farms, we take this authenticity to heart."

"Northwestern Bank is proud to sponsor the Leelanau Conservancy's 25th Anniversary," says Doug Zernow, Director of Marketing for the bank. As northern Michigan's largest independent community bank we strongly support the Conservancy's efforts to preserve the natural beauty and wild spaces of the peninsula for future generations."

Learn more about our Sponsors in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary section of our website.



## Setting A Great Example

A job with Boeing took Dennis Colling to Seattle but he's ever drawn to Leelanau, where he grew up. The 20-something, who designs hydraulic systems for Boeing's 737, says when he learned Boeing offered a payroll deduct program for charitable donations, he got on board. "I love the outdoors and I love my home and I don't want it to change." (Fun aside, Brian Price was his Little League coach.)

Last year Dennis, 28, was able to get home four times, and brought his girlfriend, a Seattle native, on a visit. "She can't wait to go back," he adds. One of the places they visited was the Omena General Store, owned by his grandmother, Sunny Colling.

"A lot of my friends are still living in Leelanau and I know they love it," says Dennis. "So maybe when they see what I have done that will push them in the direction to help a little bit too."



## Opt in and go Paperless!

We would like to thank the 543 members who have "opted in" to receiving their membership renewals electronically. With first class postage now at 46 cents, sending you your renewals via email is saving us postage, paper and staff time. We appreciate even more when you renew your membership promptly so that we don't have to send a second paper reminder! If you would like to "opt in" too, email [gayle@leelanauconservancy.org](mailto:gayle@leelanauconservancy.org) and let her know!