



Leelanau Conservancy

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

2013 Annual Report and Spring 2014 Newsletter

Leelanau Forever: Protecting This Place We Love

In late November, the Leelanau Enterprise featured our Clay Cliffs Natural Area project on its front page. The Conservancy, along with Leland Township, had just finalized the purchase of this unbelievably beautiful 104-acre property, with 1,700 feet of frontage on both Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau. We loved the Enterprise story headline which shouted, "Ours!" along with a beautiful photo.

When you think about it, the word "Ours" pretty much sums up all of the natural areas we have preserved for public enjoyment. Houdek Dunes, DeYoung, Chippewa Run, the Lake Leelanau Narrows, Swanson Preserve, Crystal River just to name a few...and now, Clay Cliffs. These special places are all collectively "Ours." They are ours to enjoy, to find wonder in, to explore with our families.

In our 25-year history, we have also protected thousands of acres of private lands and working farms with a legal tool called a conservation easement. We can't call these places "Ours," but there's no denying that everyone who loves Leelanau is the beneficiary when important farm and natural lands are protected. Private protected lands give us some of the most stunning roadside views, they protect our water quality and wildlife, and they produce the local foods we all adore.

Finalizing the Clay Cliffs purchase was just a part of a record-breaking 25th Anniversary year. In 2013 we protected an impressive 912 acres, bringing our 25-year total to nearly 11,000 acres. Public support was at an all-time high, with over 4,000 donors. More people went on docent-led hikes and participated in workbees than ever before. We're grateful that we had the opportunity to celebrate our 25th milestone with many of you at these events as well as our Speaker Series and the Annual Picnic—attended by over 800 people.

What follows (on page 4) is a summary of our 2013 accomplishments. Together, our Leelanau Conservancy staff, board, volunteers and generous donors are ensuring that the natural lands and working farms that define the essence of Leelanau will endure. Thank you for helping to ensure that the Leelanau you love will remain for future generations.



Our newest and, some would say, most spectacular Natural Area—Clay Cliffs!



Chairman's Message

I met Gene Strang for the first time in December, at a title company office in Suttons Bay. I was there representing our Leelanau Conservancy, to sign documents. Gene was there to sell a conservation easement over the major portion of his property in Elmwood Township. More than a decade ago the Conservancy and Gene started working to protect the land he cherished. It took a long time – Gene had health issues that delayed things, the real estate market drop and recovery played a part in the timing, and the Conservancy had to figure out how to fund the project.



Chairman Larry Mawby addresses Sustainers at a January gathering

This all began during the time I served on the Land Protection Committee of the Board. I knew of Gene's land from photos, maps, descriptions by the staff, and was told that Gene was a dedicated steward of these 80 acres who wanted to assure that his land would be taken care of properly in the future. But it wasn't until that day in December that I actually met him.

We spent an hour or so together along with Conservancy staff, title company people, Gene's attorney Ellen Fred and his close friend John Roe.

I cannot say that I know Gene well, but I do know that I felt his quiet caring for the land. I sensed his satisfaction, once we signed everything, that he had successfully ensured the protection of his property.

I did almost nothing myself, but I still felt a real sense of accomplishment. I felt that we, the Conservancy, had given this man peace of mind about the future of his property, and I knew that the Conservancy was capable of stewarding it for the future. Just as Gene wished.

We are able to do this chiefly because of people. We have a professional, dedicated staff who can work over many years with land owners to accomplish our conservation mission and satisfy the landowners' desires. Our fund raising staff and you, our members and supporters, give us the financial resources needed to take on this stewardship responsibility, and to fulfill it into the future.

Last year we celebrated 25 years of doing this, and now we look forward to continuing our service to Leelanau, caring for the land and water, all of us—members, volunteers, contributors of all kinds—nurturing this organization, making it stronger, better able to provide service to our community.

Larry Mawby
Chairman of the Board

Save these dates!

Speaker Series Part Three: Northern Hardwoods, Past, Present and Future
Saturday, May 3rd, 3-5 pm, Free

Earth Day Greenfire Movie
April 22nd, 7 pm, Old Art Building in Leland, Free

Sustainers Circle Summer Gathering
Wednesday, July 2nd, Location TBA

Annual Friends Picnic
Thursday, August 7th
Gregory Farm Top of the World, near Suttons Bay

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Thoughts From Our Executive Director



Mid-Winter Reflections

- 2014

Yesterday evening I returned home to do what I have seemingly done countless times this winter: I plowed the driveway of its accumulating snow, then I loaded a ladder on to the back of my pickup intending to spend the last half hour or so before nightfall shoveling the roof of one of my farm sheds.



My lumber shed is perhaps eight decades old. It's a low-slung affair, made of timber and rough hemlock siding that clearly was harvested off the farm, or at least very nearby. Nearly four decades ago now my brother and I noticed that the accumulating weight of late winter snow had depressed the roof to the point that the collar ties had broken free and were no longer holding the sides together. Roof collapse was imminent. We shored this old building up with cables, cleared the roof of snow, and then added new collar ties made of brand new two by sixes.

The shed is not worth much in dollars, but to me it matters. Not only because shoring up this building was one of the first projects that my brother and I tackled after buying our farm back in 1975, but also because the disorderly piles of lumber that are stored here are a record of our occupation of this place since then. There is aspen and black locust, red oak and white cedar, even some walnut and a dwindling supply of my favorite cherry.

As I worked my way across the roof, first the back side and then the front, removing only the top couple feet of snow and sliding it over the edge, I calculated that there was perhaps upward of ten tons of snow on the rickety old shed. Sliding sedimentary layers of month-old snow off the roof, I imagined the old building groaning under all that weight. A crescent moon hung in the sky, and it was getting much darker. From where I stood, there were no lights visible, only the hill rising behind the shed, and the incredibly sharp shadows cast by the

moonlight over deep snow.

In this old-fashioned winter it is not too difficult to connect with what Conservancy founder Ed Collins once called the "peninsular mindset." For me, having just returned from a five-day swing through southern Florida—a place very much concerned with today's world with today's problems and today's fashions—the feeling was more acute than usual. In Leelanau we are of both worlds, brushing off the satellite dish and turning on the iPad after we come in from shoveling snow from roofs that have miraculously withstood the snows of 80 winters.

The sense that Leelanau is something of "a place apart" is easier to grasp in February than it is in July. Here, the past is closer to the surface of everyday life. We see and cherish the long view across water, the same night skies, the barn that has survived decades of punishment from the elements. Familiar landscapes occupy a unique and comforting place in our lives. The preservation of such landscapes has informed a large part of the mission of the Leelanau Conservancy. And it is fitting, after 25 years in pursuit of that mission, to reflect on the long-term consequences: what is the greater meaning of our work, and how will the Leelanau Peninsula be different because we are doing this work?

The answer lies in those things you can quantify and those you can't. Interestingly, our two upcoming Speaker Series will explore the concrete world of northern forests and the more elusive topic of Community, and our role in it. (See page 17.) On the one hand, we can measure things like acres protected,



nutrients that remain locked in the soil rather than entering our pristine lakes, or how many rare plants exist on a given property. Grounding our efforts in science has always been the foundation of our work and it informs every page of our Strategic Land Conservation Plan.

But increasingly I think the impact of conservation is also about its effect on the lives of people who

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2013 Year In Review

Clay Cliffs Natural Area Becomes a Reality Already a Popular Destination

Leland Township's newest natural area offers breathtaking views and features one of the most exquisite wildflower locales in the county. It is also home to nesting bald eagles. When we announced at year end that Clay Cliffs was now open to the public, people started calling to learn how they could access the property.

Until trails are blazed beginning this spring, one of the best ways to see Clay Cliffs is on a docent-led hike. We were amazed to have so many people strap on snowshoes and join us for tours offered this winter (see photo). Over 50 people trekked up the bluff in mid-January; even more turned out for a holiday hike.

We think Clay Cliffs will become a prime destination for nature lovers and consider it to be one of our flagship properties. The project has raised awareness of our work and had a wide appeal; over 600 people made a donation to see it saved.

Like Whaleback, Hall Beach and Lighthouse West, the planned overlook here promises to be a majestic place to see the sun go down. The first trail and parking area will be in by summer (volunteers are needed!). Work on the overlook will be coordinated around the eagle nesting season. Watch our website for news as our plans progress, and check out the hike/workbee schedule on page 16.



Elmwood Ridgetop Parcel Preserved

In her role as Trustee of her dear friend Andy Kiselius' estate, Nancy Gallagher donated a conservation easement on a 41-acre ridge-top parcel overlooking Grand Traverse Bay. Read more about this unique friendship and how Nancy has used a portion of Andy's estate to further the mission of the Leelanau



Protecting Victoria Creek is important to preserving the water quality of Lake Leelanau.

Conservancy on page 11.

108 Acres Along Victoria Creek Preserved

A conservation easement will protect 108 acres in Centerville Township. To protect water quality, the plan calls for limiting activity within a 50-foot buffer of both Victoria Creek and an unnamed perennial stream channel. "The landowner talked about how important and special the high quality natural habitat of the property is to him and his family, who have owned the land for quite some time," says Matt Heiman, Director of Land Programs. "In particular, the valley is a very active and important wildlife corridor that he is concerned about protecting for future generations."

80 Acres near DeYoung Natural Area

Gene Strang's 80 acres near our DeYoung Natural Area helps to protect the water quality of Grand Traverse Bay. The natural ridge that is part of Gene Strang's land will remain undisturbed, therefore views of the ridge from the road and Grand Traverse Bay will also be preserved. Read about this project on page 12.

Four Family Farms Protected in 2013

2013 was an outstanding year for preserving our farming heritage. We completed four farm projects totaling 383 acres and secured funding as well in 2013 that will help to protect four more farms totaling an additional 688 acres! To date, nearly 5,000 acres of farmland have been conserved by the Leelanau Conservancy. This work ensures that our vibrant farm economy will endure and that this globally rare resource will be here for generations of future farmers.

Egeler Farm

Mike and Jeanette Egeler's beautiful 166 acres of orchards off Eagle Highway are a good example of how the purchase of development rights program helps farmers to keep farming. "Working with the Conservancy has given me the chance to farm the land in the way it's supposed to be farmed and to take a little of the worry away," says Mike, who grew up working this land.



"I want to be able to hand the farm over to the kids after we're gone, and now we'll be able to do that," says Mike Egeler. "They know our wishes are that it always be a farm. Now, no matter what happens, it always will be."

He's been able to finance the planting of 2,600 new fruit trees and to purchase needed equipment. "It also helped us to get back into the black and buy out my uncle," he adds. Mike says he is optimistic about the future of his farm, which adds to a substantial block of protected farms in the East Leland-Suttons Bay Fruit Belt area.

Esch Farm

You might remember reading Tom Nelson's heartfelt essay about Larry and Jan Esch in our fall newsletter which profiled this family and their deep roots in Leelanau. Their 115-acre farm, located along Horn Road in Leland Township, features sweeping views of Lake Leelanau and Lake Michigan and is also a prime fruit growing site. It took a few years, says Larry, for them to decide to conserve their land. "We've seen how committed the Conservancy has been in working with local farmers," he says. "The light just came on for us. We'd always believed in being good stewards of the land. We felt a responsibility to the community to take care of this land and pass it on, and we realized that the Conservancy could help us do that."



"We really want to thank all those who contributed, large or small, to saving the farm," says Larry Esch. "Every bit helps to keep these beautiful lands in farming."

Kelenske Farm

Jerry and Anna Kelenske have preserved 151 beautiful rolling acres—much of it planted in corn and hay—in Centerville Township. The three Kelenske parcels that have been protected are part of an agricultural hub; they abut Bodus and Hohnke Roads, and include over a half-mile of frontage along scenic French Road. The Kelenske's beautiful land provides uninterrupted countryside views and is adjacent to land that



For years, Anna May and Jerry Kelenske raised milk cows on their land. An in-depth story about this family will appear in our summer newsletter.

has already been protected. The land also acts as an important buffer to protected wetlands.

Korson Farm

Blaise and Sarah Korson were one of the first families to sign up for the innovative FarmAbility Program in 2009—a 10-year conservation agreement launched by the Conservancy and partners. And now they are one of the first to step beyond that temporary agreement and permanently protect their 153-acre farm. The views of the Manitou Passage from their cherry orchards are nothing short of spectacular. "The farm has been in the family since the 1870s when my great-grandfather farmed



Six generations of Korsons have worked this beautiful land since the 1870s. The 153-acre Korson Farm is located near our Houdek Dunes Natural Area.

here," says Blaise Korson. His 18-year-old grandson, Brandon, represents the 6th generation to work the land. "It's nice to think about future generations of Korsons farming this place," adds Blaise.

"We're honored to work with these landowners," says director Brian Price. "Each one of them has a unique story and a deep love for their land. It's very gratifying to be able to preserve these great places while also tailoring our agreements to fit the goals and dreams each landowner has for his or her property. One of our guiding principles has always been that a good conservation transaction must be good for both the land and the people involved. 2013 certainly fits that bill."

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2013 Year in Review

Volunteers are the Best!

Thanks to our many volunteers who joined us in our 25th year for almost 3,500 hours of volunteering! These wonderful people of all ages dedicated enough time in 2013 to equal 1.75 extra staffers, helping us to do our work. Because of our dedicated volunteers, we built a beautiful boardwalk at Swanson Preserve, and a new upland trail at DeYoung Natural Area. We were able to monitor



Dedicated stewardship volunteers Al Swiderski and Dave Coyne hard at work on the Swanson Preserve boardwalk.

the Lake Michigan shoreline for invasive species, assess our stream quality, mail our members important information, plan our Annual Picnic and Auction, lead hikes on our natural areas, and much more. We are looking forward to another

year of projects and are excited to start building trails at the new Clay Cliffs Natural Area, with, of course, the help of our volunteers!

Stewardship Roundup

2013 was a busy and groundbreaking year of stewardship on our Conservancy properties! We completed two new trails at DeYoung Natural Area and Swanson Preserve that give our community access to Little Traverse Lake and the DeYoung upland and farmstead. We are excited to provide these new opportunities and are also hard at work to ensure our properties are maintained for visitors and ecologically protected now and in the future. We conducted botanical surveys at Teichner, Whaleback and Houdek Dunes Natural Areas last summer. Documenting our diverse ecological plant communities is an important step in managing for their long term sustainability. We also surveyed and treated invasive species on 21 of our properties as part of our larger goal to promote native plants

2013 summer stewardship staffers Emily Douglas and Derek Shiels working hard at plant identification.



and protect our unique habitats. We surveyed nearly 2,000 acres and treated more than 75% of the early detection invasives found. Summer 2014 will be busy with trail construction at Clay Cliffs Natural Area and continuing our botanical surveys and invasive species work.

Our 25th year was a memorable one for so many reasons. It was also a year where we made tremendous progress in preserving the beautiful mosaic that is Leelanau. We owe our success to you—our donors and volunteers. Thank you.

Conservancy Helps Ensure Strong Conservation in Farm Bill

The Farm Bill is one of the nation's—and Michigan's—most important sources of funding for soil and water conservation. You may remember in 2012 the Leelanau Conservancy and the Grand Traverse Regional Conservancy were lauded nationally for our joint efforts to advocate effectively for conservation policies within the federal government. We reached out to policy makers repeatedly for good reason: since 2010, the Conservancy has successfully leveraged nearly \$6M in Farm Bill funding to conserve 1,871 acres of family-owned farms in Leelanau County—a ratio of \$4 of conservation for every \$1 we raise.



Sen. Debbie Stabenow (3rd from right) visited the area last summer and met with (l-r) Leelanau County farmer, Jim Bardenhagen, Leelanau Conservancy Director of Farm Programs, Tom Nelson, Brian Bourdages of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Acme farmer Ken Engle and Glen Chown, Director of GTRLC.

So it is with considerable elation that we announce that a nearly three-year effort has resulted in a brand new Farm Bill that maintains a tradition of strong conservation programs. It should be noted that Michigan's Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, proved to be a persistent and outspoken champion for both Michigan's farmers and its conservation community. Her steady bipartisan leadership in passage of this legislation cannot be overstated. Senator Stabenow and her staff have our respect and gratitude. The 2014 Farm Bill is a well-earned victory for Leelanau and everyone across America who believes that food and farming are vital for our future.

Executive Director Message



Thoughts from Executive Director, Continued

appreciate this place, sometimes above all other places.

People who love Leelanau seem to have a particularly keen sense of landscape, and a heightened appreciation of the beauty in nature. Landscape is often thought of as connoting fixity, scenery, a static and immobile beauty. In the words of the nature writer Robert MacFarlane, this view of landscape harkens back to the original meaning in 16th century Holland of the word “landschap,” which was strongly associated with the Dutch school of painting. MacFarlane believes that landscape should be considered in a broader context well beyond its “painterly” origins. Rather than being static and unchanging, landscapes should be thought of as “dynamic and commotion causing, it sculpts and shapes us not only over the courses of our lives but also instant by instant, incident by incident.”

It seems to me that people who care deeply about a place are more fully human than the harried and hassled multitudes in our society. I have many times heard of the rituals performed by our summer residents as they return each year from the places where they live and work. They push through some boundary in the return to the familiar scenery and familiar routines of summer. They may always follow the same route to the family place, whether or not it is still the quickest way, always pausing to admire the distant view of the lake. Or they may, upon arrival, always follow the same footpath to a spring in the woods, dip their toes in the lake, or watch the sunset over the lake from the same spot where they have watched hundreds of sunsets. I believe the meaning of our work is somehow wrapped up in a simple proposition: we are better people when we care about and take care of a place that has great meaning for us. And we feel better about ourselves if we take care to gain some measure of influence over how these cherished landscapes evolve into the future, despite the inevitable hubbub and commotion of the ever-changing landscape.



MacFarlane is right that landscapes are not cherished works of art that hang on the wall. We are at our best when we work together to preserve the beauty and integrity of places that have great meaning in our lives, working together to manage and deflect the flow of inevitable change. The work of the Conservancy can be quantified in the language of science, and it should be. But the meaning of that work is better told in the story of the impact of landscape on a little girl finding her way in the world (see Zane Schwaiger's article on page 10), in the careful husbandry of productive land by generations of farmers, or in the crescent moon rising above a silent snowscape.



Brian Price
Executive Director



Every Number Tells a Story



4,511 is the number of "views" we've had on YouTube of our beautiful and moving 25th Anniversary video. Haven't yet seen it? Visit leelanauconservancy.org.



199 private landowners like Mike and Jeanette Egeler have worked with the Conservancy to preserve cherished family lands. 7 conservation easements were completed, bringing our total easements to 152.

5 trainings were held for our volunteers to learn everything from chain saw use to invasive species identification.



SAT. MAY 4 | 3 PM | A FREE EVENT
SUTTONS BAY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

2 Speaker Events drew hundreds of people of all ages to learn about Water and the Future of the Great Lakes, and Farming and Food. Check out the May 3rd event centered on northern forests on page 17.



311 people spent 3,500 hours volunteering in 2013 for the Leelanau Conservancy, including Carrie Sharp who helps with new member mailings.



22 new species were documented on our properties, including the rare *Berula erecta*, found at our Swanson Preserve.



12 people, including Chris Armbricht (r) and Betsy Biggs, wore costumes at our Picnic, helping to promote trips and entertainment offered in our Auction.

20 is the number of years that our Wildflower Rescuers have been hard at work, saving plants before the bulldozers get there and selling them at their annual Memorial Weekend Plant Sale.



910 boards were laid by staff and volunteers during construction of the beautiful Swanson Preserve boardwalk.

3,473 people made a gift to the Leelanau Conservancy, including Tom and Joan Knighton of Blustone Vineyards, who brought in a check at year-end and said, "We had a great year and wanted to share some of our profits."

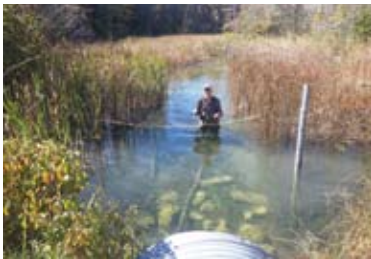


Every Number Tells a Story



210 local school children visited our natural areas with our stewardship staff, learning about these special places.

10 volunteers including Dennis Armbruster monitored 15 streams, measuring total flow and phosphorus.



1 fabulous speech by Martha Teichner brought nearly 300 people to their feet at our summer Sustainers gathering. Many wiped away tears as they learned about Martha's family story and our Teichner Preserve.



18 Docents like Lou Ricord led over 500 people on 43 hikes, showing them the wonders of our natural areas.

130 people or businesses donated items to our Silent Auction. Susie Oliver puts the finishing touches on a gorgeous display.



44 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline were surveyed by our coastal monitors, who are trained to recognize and record high-risk invasive species.



2,000 acres of our natural areas, preserves, and forest reserves were surveyed by our Early Detection Rapid Response crew for invasive species. Pictured: a map that details their footsteps.



480 Leelanau Preserver gifts were given this year with friends and family celebrating the season by symbolically preserving 13,248 acres in the name of someone they love, raising \$65,740 for land protection projects!

3 natural areas were the focus of botanical surveys this year: Houdek and Whaleback Natural Areas and Teichner Preserve.



912 acres were protected in 2013, bringing our total number of acres protected to nearly 11,000.



2 new trails totaling 1.75 miles opened at Swanson Preserve and DeYoung Natural Area, giving visitors more opportunities to explore these beautiful places. We now have 17 miles of trails to discover!





There was little I loved more than my dog and the woods

Why It Matters

by Zane Schwaiger

I'm sure each one of you has your own Leelanau Love story. I would like to share mine with you.

My parents met at The Homestead in the summer of 1970. My Mom was from Cincinnati and my Dad was from East Lansing, and they were both "up north" to work for the summer. Their love story started in Leelanau -- and perhaps because of that, after they were married they always wanted to move here for good. But it took them a while to realize their dream. Although they came up on summer vacations for many years, it wasn't until 1992 -- twenty-two years after they'd met -- that they bought a home overlooking Good Harbor Bay. My parents had settled in Leelanau at last; they were here to stay. And so they gave us, my siblings and me, the gift of growing up in Leelanau.

I was 10 years old when we moved. There was little I loved more than my dog and the woods.

My parents owned a modest two acres at the base of the hills. But our land was surrounded by hundreds more acres of wild places. And pretty much as soon as we'd settled in to our new home, my brothers and I started to explore.

There was the meadow in front of our house that stretched down to orchard land; there was the National Park land beyond that; and, of course, there was the beach.

But for me it was the woods. The woods held the greatest appeal. I could walk behind our house, disappear up the valley into the woods, and explore for hours. Day after day. While my brothers climbed trees and built forts, I walked up and down the hills with my dog, following the ridge lines . . . learning my way back home from every direction.

On top of the tallest hill in the area there were incredibly tall beech trees, with their smooth gray trunks reaching up into the blue sky. Arms of branches waving up so very high. They had the best view, I thought: Sugar Loaf Mountain; Little Traverse Lake; Pyramid Point, and the Manitou Islands beyond. I didn't know the names of anything then, but I liked to lie beneath the trees and look up, imagining what they saw, looking out.

One summer day when I was wandering through the woods, I followed an old logging trail farther south than I had ever walked. I went down a trail, in the cool, dark shade of ancient oaks . . . and then came to the forest edge, where the trees ended abruptly. I stepped out into a clearing and stood quiet while my eyes adjusted to the light. What I saw then took my breath away. I was standing on the edge of a farmstead that looked as if it had been frozen in time. A massive barn stood in the center surrounded by smaller outbuildings and a house nestled at the base of the hills behind. Immaculately tended



Zane's daughter, Amabel, enjoys the land Zane knew as a young girl.

gardens lined the rock walls and the edges of the house. The fields were newly mowed and the gravel drive well maintained. It was picture perfect and so very still.

It was as if I had stumbled upon the scene of a favorite childhood story . . . and I was completely taken.

After my first glimpse of the farm, I went back again and again -- lurking on the edges, wondering who lived there and hoping I'd find clues. Then one morning, as I stepped out of the forest darkness into the clearing, I saw a man on a tractor, mowing.

I waited until he saw me and then I waved. He waved back and cut the motor. I walked toward him as he climbed off the ancient machine and then he greeted me by gesturing toward my dog as he said, "Now who is this fine meat hound?"

And that is how I met Ted Lanham. Ted introduced me to Tali, and the two of them welcomed me to explore their land -- a ten-year-old girl and her dog given free reign over some 200 acres . . . and the only place I was instructed not to go was Ted's workshop.

So began my friendship with Tali and Ted Lanham.

As I became acquainted with them and their land, they shared their love for their home with me and my family. They told us which ski hills were best in the winter (and which to avoid); they shared their names for the trails and the meadows; they told us the story of the old seep where a farmer had watered cows decades ago; and they shared dreams for the flat field above the house where Ted wanted to land his airplanes. They even gave away some of their favorite spots for spring wildflowers and morel mushrooms.

Their land became woven into my childhood and into my

Knowing that the land I so loved would remain wild --
was a joy and a peace that is impossible to put into words



adolescence. When I needed to think, to pray, I went to those woods. They were as much my home as any place ever had been. They were a place to be quiet, reverent. In them I felt



Ted and Tali Lanham: Conservation heroes.

small and yet completely held in something much greater. And Ted and Tali were the generous caretakers, who opened up this wild place to me. Because of Ted and Tali, I always felt welcome in the woods.

In the spring of 2000, I graduated from Leland High School. Tali

and Ted came to my graduation celebration and they gave me a gift.

Tali told me that she and Ted had decided to donate a conservation easement on 167 acres of their land to the Leelanau Conservancy. I was stunned. At the time, I didn't fully understand what a conservation easement was, or what a complex process they had committed to -- I just knew that their land would remain wild and undeveloped. And I was incredibly moved. It was the best "gift" anyone could have given me, and it was especially meaningful coming from Ted and Tali.

The gift wasn't really for *me*, of course. But Tali and Ted's decision made a tremendous impact on what I decided to study in college and, in effect, what I've come to value most in my life.

Because it wasn't just the idyllic Lanham Land that I walked on as a child.

To the north of my family's home was another stretch of forest ridgeline with incredible views of Lake Michigan. I walked there as well when I was young. My dog and I watched from a distance as those 40 acres were bought by a developer. We watched as the land was stripped of its trees. We watched as a wide, paved road was put in. We watched as electrical boxes hummed to life. There were no houses then. Just infrastructure. Building sites. And a view.

The story of those 40 acres of stripped forest land lived in my consciousness; but the story of the Lanhams' land was stronger. Much stronger. And to go away to college, knowing that the land I so loved would remain wild -- well that was a joy and a peace that is impossible to put into words.

So I went off to college. I studied French and Environmental Science and Sustainable Agriculture. Then I got married and moved to Pittsburgh with my husband Jeffrey. We said we'd return home to Leelanau in a year.

Seven years and two little girls later, we did move back. And now when we go to visit my parents, my daughters' Grandmommy and Grandfather, we all walk together in Ted and Tali's beautiful woods. My daughters know the land that I knew. They walk where I walked when I was a girl.

And I am so grateful. I am so grateful for Ted and Tali Lanham; for the Leelanau Conservancy; and for all the people—all of you—who love this part of the world and support the work of this organization. Thank you.

41 Acre Ridge-Top Woodland Near TC Forever Preserved

Andy Kiselius put his trust in his friend, Nancy Gallagher, to do what she thought was right with his estate after he was gone. It's a responsibility that has both kept her up at night, and brought her great joy. "I've tried hard to listen to my gut and to honor his unspoken wishes," says Nancy. The exceedingly frugal bachelor died in 2007 and since then, acting as his trustee, Nancy has made two significant gifts to the Leelanau Conservancy. That's where the joy part comes in.

The first gift came in 2008, when we were raising funds for the DeYoung Natural Area. Nancy had read about the land, its history, and about a Carls Foundation matching grant that was due to expire at year end. She had spent time at DeYoung with her children on a school outing and fell in love with the property. So that the Conservancy could move forward with the project, she stepped in with a donation from the estate that would finish the challenge match.

At that time, Nancy told us, "My heart tells me that Andy would love this. Helping preserve the DeYoung property, and

what I think of as the Gateway to Leelanau County, seems a fitting way to not only honor the land, but also my friend."

Five years later, almost to the day, Nancy was back in our office again, signing papers that would forever protect Andy's beautiful 41 acres near Traverse City. The land is an oasis in an area of ridge top homes.

It's also close to protected farmland. "The wildlife habitat and forest will remain intact, and the views people see of his ridgeline while out on West Bay will never change," says Yarrow Wolfe, Conservation Easement Program Manager for the Leelanau Conservancy.

Read more at www.leelanauconservancy.org





I wanted to take steps now
to make sure it always stays the same

One Good Turn Deserves Another

Gene Strang, 77, carries a little pocket notebook with him wherever he goes. In it, he has written down details of his life that can momentarily elude him: the town in Florida where his sister resides, the name of the assisted living facility that he just recently moved into in Traverse City, or the year that he had his stroke (2006).

When it comes to talking about the beautiful 80 acres he has recently preserved, however, the notebook gets pushed aside and the words flow, unimpeded.

"I've always wanted to preserve it," says Gene of the land, homesteaded by his grandparents and located near our DeYoung Natural Area. I met Gene at a coffee shop in Traverse City, along



Gene's protected 80 acres are part of the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed and are located near our DeYoung Natural Area.

with his friend and advisor, John Roe, to talk about the project. Gene beams as he describes the 50,000 trees he has planted over 10 years and how a pristine stream on the land flows into Cedar Lake. He recounts how developers have knocked on his door over the years: majestic views of Grand Traverse Bay from his ridgeline make it a developer's dream.

"I never wanted to see anything built there, but I don't think my heirs feel the same way," says Gene, who never married and has no children. "I wanted to take steps now to make sure it always stays the same."

When the Conservancy acquired the DeYoung Natural Area, Gene says he was thrilled and more certain than ever that he wanted to follow in the DeYoung family's footsteps. He had known Louis DeYoung his entire life and greatly admired him. "He was a fantastic man," says Gene.

Gene's friend John has helped him to realize the dream of protecting his land while also watching out for his friend's financial interests. They met years ago while working in retail in Traverse City. "We both had German shepherds and we were always talking about our dogs," says John.

One day John, then 29, was bemoaning the news that

his landlord was selling just as summer was coming on. He was looking for a place to park his camper. Gene offered his land.

John was grateful. "I woke up every morning to a million dollar view," he says. When fall arrived, Gene offered to rent him a room and the two hauled firewood for the coming winter. This arrangement went on for three years until John met his wife, Rachel and moved out.

Gene says that John is like the son he never had. After his stroke, he asked John to serve as his power of attorney—a role that John takes very seriously. Although John shares Gene's love for the land he wasn't sure that selling a conservation easement on it was in Gene's best interests at the time. "Gene kept talking about it, but I saw the real estate market dropping," says John. "I wanted to honor his wishes but also to look out for his finances. We decided to wait, but we kept on talking about it."

This year, the time seemed right. Funds from the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Initiative, used to protect land that protects the water quality of the Bay, covered 50% of the project cost while the landowner must donate 25% of the land value and the Conservancy provides a 25% match. "The appraisal came in right where I had hoped it would," says John. "I'm happy with the funds Gene received in exchange for restricting the land. Matt Heiman was great to work with."

Gene retains ownership of the land. He will earn income from a farmer who will lease a portion of the 80 acres. "It could be a great microclimate for grapes or hops," says John. "The easement makes it more appealing to farmers to lease and down the road the easement also makes the land more affordable for a farmer to buy it. It's a win win."

As we finish our coffee, I mention the philosophy that guides our land protection work: *A good conservation transaction must be good for both the land and the people involved.* "That certainly is the case with us," says John, looking at Gene, who smiles and nods.

With that we put our coats on and drive over to Strang Road for a photo. The snow keeps us from reaching the highest spot and so we park near the old barn. Because the ground is uneven, John wraps his arm around Gene's shoulders. As I watch them make their way toward the spot I have asked them to stand, I think about the definition of family, and how it isn't always about who you are related to. ~ Carolyn Faught



Gene Strang (r) with friend and advisor John Roe, who helped him to realize his dream.

Gull Island Memories Circa 1937

When you look out on Gull Island—forever preserved by the Leelanau Conservancy in 1995—it's hard to imagine that someone once lived there. Dorothy Mays Ives, 95, recorded her memories of a 1937 summer spent on the island when she was 19. She was hired by a Harvard Professor named Ustick to help with household chores at his home on Gull Island. What follows are some excerpts. Visit leelanauconservancy.org to read the entire piece.

We drove out from Cambridge in two cars with one pulling a rowboat. The trip took several days. There were no motels; we stayed in cabins along the road or rented rooms. I felt lucky to have a job during the Depression.

Once in Northport we rowed out to the mooring of the family boat, brought it back to the dock and then made several trips transporting our belongings and supplies.



The kitchen was at the back of the house. There was no electricity or running water; cooking was on a kerosene stove and there were kerosene lanterns to light the house. There was a cistern for water and of course an outhouse.

A vivid memory is making cherry pies. The Ustick family would bring cans of processed cherries from a mainland cannery. The kerosene stove had a portable oven that could be placed over the top for baking. I tried very hard to make sure the juice from the pies did not run over onto the stove. I didn't mind making the pies or preparing muffins for breakfast, but I did not like to cook the large lake trout that the family brought to me from fishing expeditions, perhaps because I had no experience.



The shoreline of the island was covered with rocks and there wasn't a beach area. A plank of wood led across the rocks from the house to the dock. People would have to use the dock to dive into the water. I could not swim, and on my days off I would walk to another part of the island to read or write letters. There were two daughters. The older daughter would be taken to the mainland by boat so she could attend dances at the yacht club.



There were frequent visitors, some from Harvard, who would go out fishing with the professor. We would sometimes boat over to the mainland with a picnic and drive across the peninsula. There we came to a sandy shore that went on for miles, and I remember tall dunes and something called the "singing sands."

I have a memory of doing some outdoor chore, and having gulls swoop down on me. They seemed to have built nests everywhere, and you had to be careful where you stepped.



Ben shares our conservation goals for the land

Young Farmer Makes Swanson Farm His Life's Work

Farmer Ben Brown often thumbs through a stack of photos given to him by a farm stand customer. The photos were taken in 2005, at a time when the iconic yellow farm stand was overflowing with Sonny Swanson's fresh produce. "Sonny was doing a lot of things right," says Ben, who took over farming the land in 2011.

For those readers unfamiliar with the Swanson Farm and Preserve, here's the background. At the time the Conservancy purchased the 96-acre Swanson property in 2010, we had two goals. One was to protect the 2,000 feet of natural shoreline on Little Traverse Lake and the fragile wetlands here. We set aside 83 acres for the Preserve, and last summer welcomed visitors to explore a gorgeous trail and boardwalk that leads to the lakeshore.

The second goal was to revitalize the adjacent 13-acre farmstead. The yellow farm stand and the man who once tended it for decades—the beloved Sonny Swanson—were integral to the scenic character and local history of the Little Traverse Lake neighborhood.

To restore farming to "Sonny's Farm," in the winter of 2011 a special committee established by the Conservancy Board asked for proposals from local farmers interested in carrying on the land's agricultural legacy. The committee evaluated those proposals and chose Ben Brown, 30, who had a strong business plan and a degree in Ecological Agriculture from the University of Vermont. He had also worked on a number of farms. "It was a hard decision," Director Brian Price said at the time. "But Ben's credentials and his philosophy of small scale sustainable agriculture really fit with our mission."

Ben was granted a three-year lease, with the option to buy the farmstead for its appraised value after three years if both parties were agreeable. That time has come, and Ben has exercised his option with our Board's approval. The purchase of the 13-acre farmstead was finalized in late January. "I'm feeling great about it," says Ben, who raises pastured poultry, pork, eggs, vegetables and flowers on the land. He's excited about adding a family dairy cow to the farm this spring.

This May marks three years since Ben moved a camper onto the property and began to bring the farm back to life. Since then, with the help of the Conservancy, he has stabilized the barn and sugar shack and installed a well. Also accomplished: painting and re-roofing the vegetable stand, installing a deer fence, and re-roofing the carriage house. All while putting in a vegetable crop and tending to his chickens.

"Sales are increasing every season and if I stay on this course the future is looking pretty bright," says Ben. Lush



One of our goals in purchasing the Swanson Preserve was to see farming return.

clover and grasses are replacing the invasive species that had taken over the fallow farm fields. Ben's chickens and turkeys are thriving as they graze on insects and vegetation in the fresh air in open, moveable pens as poultry manure further enriches the soil. Poultry sales account for 75% of Ben's revenue while the farm stand sales make up the balance. Last summer he hired a college intern, and employs one or two people who also help with the poultry processing part time.

What's ahead now that the place belongs to Ben? He's saved enough money to re-roof the sugar shack. And, the decision has been made to try and save the old farmhouse. His father, a licensed builder, thinks this is a "terrible idea," says Ben.

But it doesn't sit well with Ben to tear the house down. "It feels disrespectful to those who labored to build it," he says. "This is an heirloom house, and at the end of the day it's a battle between arts and culture and money. In a way it's a blessing that the house is a wreck because it takes away value from the property and makes it more affordable."

The Leelanau Conservancy retains a conservation easement that limits residential development to one farmhouse and associated farm outbuildings. The language of the easement was agreed upon when Ben was chosen to lease the property three years ago. Ben shares in our conservation goals for the land and is looking forward to starting his seeds in April. "I'm thankful," says Ben, "that the Leelanau Conservancy is able to hold the conservation easement, which allows me to afford the land and to farm here."

Read more about Ben Brown's sustainable methods of farming and the Swanson project at leelanauconservancy.org.

Watershed Plans allow stakeholders to apply for funding



Good Harbor Bay Watershed Plan: Input Needed!

The Good Harbor Bay Watershed is one of the largest watersheds in Leelanau County. It includes Lime, Little Traverse, Bass, and School Lakes as well as all streams, creeks and wetlands that eventually flow into Good Harbor Bay-Lake Michigan. The watershed does not yet have a Watershed Protection Plan approved by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Why does this matter?

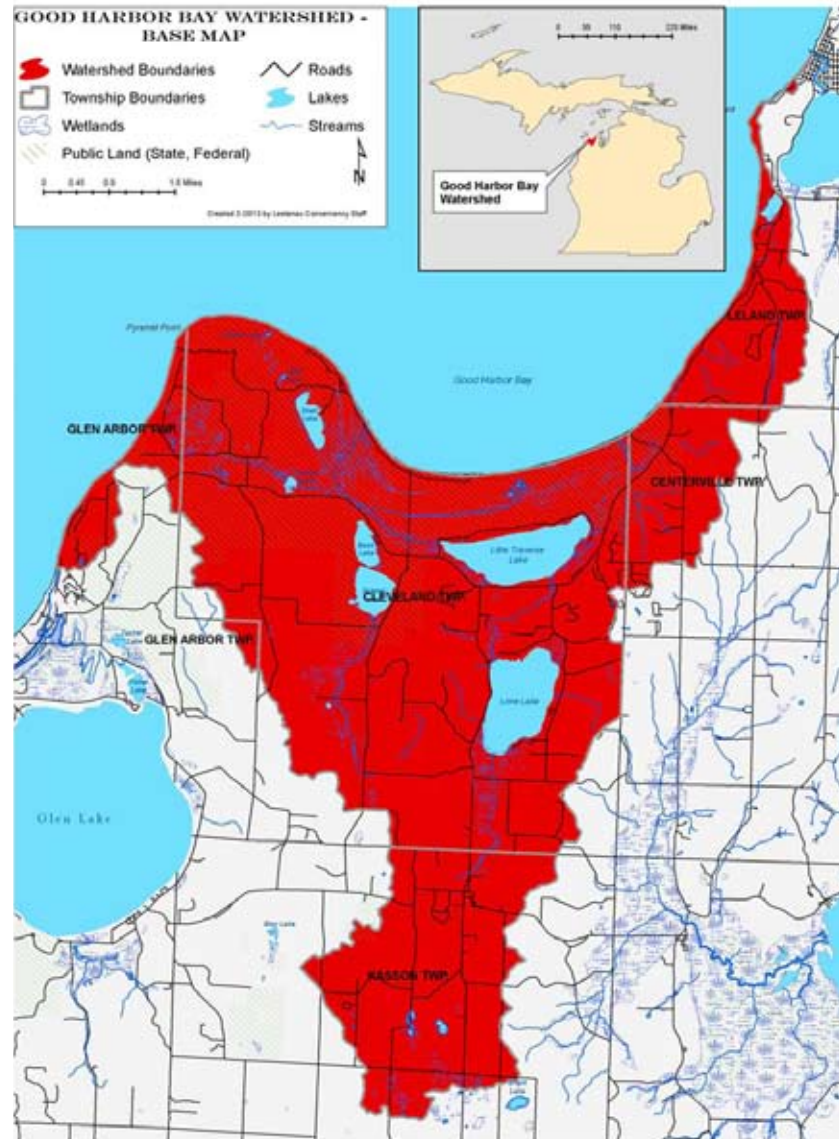
DEQ/EPA-approved watershed plans allow stakeholders and organizations to apply for funding for various tasks outlined in the watershed plan including outreach and education, best management practices, etc.

What goes into a watershed plan? The goal is to describe the watershed and to identify goals and tasks to maintain and improve watershed health for future generations. A Steering Committee was formed in 2012 and is working with multiple stakeholders (Leelanau Conservancy, National Park Service, State and Local Governments, Lake Associations, etc.) to create a viable plan that will meet both state and federal requirements.

We need your input to help set our priorities, goals and action plans. The GHB watershed committee will have a draft plan to review by early summer 2014 and hopes to submit a final draft for review to the DEQ by fall 2014. There will be a public hearing where anyone can comment or make suggestions for the final plan. Stay tuned for more info to come this spring. Want to get involved or learn more? Call Yarrow Wolfe at the Leelanau Conservancy, 231-256-9665 or visit leelanauconservancy.org and search Watershed Planning.

You can also help by filling out our survey to help us understand how the watershed is being used and what concerns users have.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6TLBDX2>



Water Quality: Get the Data!

Did you know the Conservancy has been working with partners and volunteers to collect long term water quality data on our major lakes and tributaries since 1990? We keep this data in an access database and recently designed a webpage where you can access the water quality information and use an interactive map to see the locations of where we sample around Leelanau County.

The reports will be updated yearly each April.

<http://leelanauconservancy.org/water-quality-database/>

To learn more, become a volunteer for this program or for a copy of the water quality database on a CD mailed to you, please contact Yarrow Wolfe, Conservation Easement Program Manager: ywolfe@leelanauconservancy.org



Spring and Summer 2014 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 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.

HIKE—Sun. April 13, 2 pm, Early Spring at Clay Cliffs Natural Area

WILDFLOWER RESCUE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tues. April 15, 9:30 am, Munnecke Room, Leland Library

EARTH DAY GREENFIRE MOVIE—April 22nd, TIME 7 pm, Old Art Building in Leland, Free

HIKE—Sat. April 26, 8 am, Birding at Kehl Lake

HIKE—Sat. April 26, 10 am, Geology of Leelanau County with Brian Price

WORKBEE—Thurs. May 1, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building

SPEAKER SERIES: NORTHERN HARDWOODS
Sat. May 3, 3-5 pm, Suttons Bay School Auditorium. See page 17.

HIKE—Sun. May 4, 2 pm, Explore Clay Cliffs Natural Area

HIKE—Thurs. May 8, 10 am, Wildflowers at Kehl Lake

TRAINING—Thurs. May 8, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building Training

TRAINING—Sat. May 10, 1 pm, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building Training

WORKBEE—Thurs. May 15, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building

HIKE—Sat. May 17, 8 am, Birding at Chip Run

HIKE—Sat. May 17, 10 am, Krumwiede Nature Reserve

WORKBEE—Sat. May 17, 1 pm, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building (Families Welcome)

HIKE—Sun. May 18, 10 am, Explore Jeff Lamont Preserve

HIKE—Sat. May 24, 8 am, Birding at Lighthouse West

WORKSHOP—Sat. May 24, 10 am, Green Cleaning at DeYoung Farmhouse (for more events at DeYoung, see sidebar)

HIKE—Sun. May 25, 2 pm, Explore Houdek Dunes

WORKBEE—Thurs. May 29, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building

BIRDFEST—Thurs. May 29, 8 am, Lighthouse West Birding Hike

BIRDFEST—Thurs. May 29, 7:45 am, Cedar River Preserve by Boat

BIRDFEST—Fri. May 30, 8:00 am, Birding by Ear at Teichner Preserve

HIKE—Sat. May 31, 10 am, Explore DeYoung Natural Area

BIRDFEST—Sat. June 1, 10 am, Inland Seas trip to Gull Island

WORKBEE—Thurs. June 5, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building

HIKE—Sat. June 7, 10 am, Whaleback Natural Area

WORKBEE—Thurs. June 12, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building

HIKE—Sat. June 14, 10 am, Visit two preserves: Swanson and Teichner

HIKE—Sun. June 15, 2 pm, Tour Kehl Lake Natural Area

WORKBEE—Thurs. June 19, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building

WORKBEE—Sat. June 21, 3 pm, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building (Families Welcome)

HIKE—Sat. June 21, 7:30 pm, Sunset at Clay Cliffs

HIKE—Sun. June 22, 2 pm, Get to Know Finton Natural Area

WORKBEE—Thurs. June 26, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building

HIKE—Sat. June 28, 10 am, Explore Hatlem Creek Preserve

WORKBEE—Thurs. July 3, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building

WORKBEE—Thurs. July 10, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building

HIKE—Sat. July 12, 10 am, Explore Kehl Lake Natural Area

HIKE—Sun. July 13, 2 pm, Wander the Teichner Preserve

WORKBEE—Thurs. July 17, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building

WORKBEE—Sat. July 19, 1 pm, DeYoung Area (Families Welcome)

HIKE—Sat. July 19, 10 am, Explore Krumwiede Nature Preserve

WORKBEE—Thurs. July 24, 10 am, Clay Cliffs Natural Area Trail Building

ANNUAL PICNIC & AUCTION—Thurs. August 7, 5pm, Gregory Family's Spectacular "Top of the World" property near Suttons Bay. See page 18.



Our thanks to the Houdek family for the gift of the observation platform. Katie and I walk or most recently snowshoe out there most mornings. It's a beautiful place and of course Mary Lou and her Lab friend Sophie also enjoy. ~ Bob & Katie Roberts

SPRING WORKSHOPS AT HEALING TREE FARM

Healing Tree Farm at DeYoung is gearing up for spring planting, with the first round of apple trees, filberts, and mulberries going into the ground in April and May. Once complete, this permaculture demonstration orchard will consist of eight acres and more than 200 apple trees planted, including more than 30 hardy heirloom varieties. These trees represent a living history and where better to see them grow, than at this wonderful, historic property. Healing Tree Farm offers a wide range of classes in permaculture design, fiber art, wild edible landscapes, and food preparation/preservation. All classes are free and open to the public. To learn more and see our class listings, please visit <http://healingtreefarm.org> or email Samantha and Christopher Graves at healingtreefarm@gmail.com.

Want to Volunteer?

This summer we will need new volunteers to help survey for invasive species on our natural areas and preserves. We'll be holding trainings for invasive species identification and treatment in early June! We haven't yet set the final schedule but note that the trainings will occur on a Thursday and Saturday. We want to choose the best time for training to ensure that participants see as many plants as possible in bloom or leafing out. Learning about invasive species is a great way to prepare for volunteering as a coastal monitor or to monitor our properties. Watch for updates via email and our website.

Special Opportunities Just for Groups

Bring your office, scout pack, classroom, group of friends, or family to one of our natural areas for a personalized workbee or hike. You'll learn about Leelanau, help complete one of our many projects and become a part of something great! Contact Sarah Cook to schedule a group workbee or visit (weekend dates also available.)



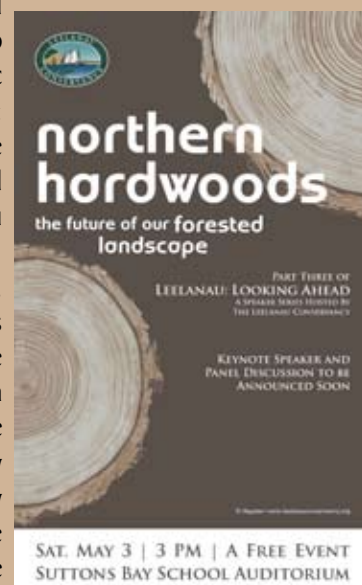
Three Glen Lake elementary classes visited the Leelanau Conservancy's DeYoung Natural Area Farmstead. "They were a great group of kids and learned a lot about the natural area, farming and the stewardship of water and land in our county" says Conservancy staffer, Sarah Cook, herself a graduate of Glen Lake Schools. The kids are standing in front of the upper barn.

Leelanau: Looking Ahead: Speaker Series #3 on for May 3rd!

We're excited to announce the third in our four-part speaker series which will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2014 at the Suttons Bay High School Auditorium from 3-5 pm. Last year nearly 400 people attended our two free speaker events which were centered on water and the future of the Great Lakes and farmland. We received rave reviews for these two events and are looking forward to exploring another topic important to Leelanau: Northern Hardwoods: The Future of Our Forested Landscape. We hope you will plan to join us!

Our keynote speaker, Jon Fosgitt of Compass Land Consultants will give an overview of northern hardwoods, including the history of our forests, how complex they are and how we can best manage these unique ecosystems. We will also look at trends in

Great Lakes forests. After the keynote speaker there will be a panel discussion with local forest experts and the audience will have a chance to ask questions. Concurrent kids activities are also on tap—so bring the whole family! A reception and refreshments will follow the event so that attendees can talk further with our staff, speaker, and panelists. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event!



Monthly Giving: Become an Evergreen Member!



Giving a small amount every month can add up in a big way, helping us to protect this place we all love. Monthly giving allows you to set up automatic monthly donations, making this program the "greenest" way to donate. It eliminates the need for checks and reduces administrative and fundraising costs

like paper, postage and time—so your donation goes even further in supporting the Leelanau Conservancy. To become a monthly Evergreen Member, just go to the Support Our Work page of our secure website (leelanauconservancy.org) and click the monthly giving option. Or, feel free to call Gayle at the Conservancy (231-256-9665) with your questions or to sign up. After you sign up, we'll send you a welcome letter and then at year end you will receive a single acknowledgement for your year of giving. We'll stay in touch as we always do, but you won't receive any more renewal letters from us!



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

Save the Date! News about our Annual Picnic

Our Annual Friends Picnic and Auction will be held on Thursday, August 7th at the Gregory Family's breathtakingly beautiful "Top of the World" property near Suttons Bay. The Picnic begins at 5 p.m., with pre-Picnic hikes and field trips held in the afternoon. Expect great local food and wine, the fantastic Kids Tent and a fun and creative Auction. 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 or call Carolyn Faught, 231-256-9665.



Beverage Tent Sponsor: Baird Kiessel Rivard Group
Local Foods Sponsor: Cherry Capital Foods



Last year New Mission Organics in Omena offered a Dinner in the Hop Yard for 12 which was one of our hottest items. Owners Brian and Amy Tennis will be offering it again! Expect more great offerings like this and watch our website for more info. Our online bidding site will go live sometime in June.

Welcome New Sustainers

Since the year we started the Sustainers Circle in 1991, Conservancy Sustainers have been integral to our success, providing stability that has made our organization thrive and given us the ability to take on daunting projects. If you would like more info on joining, contact Gayle Egeler. Annual giving levels begin at \$500. Benefits include special recognition in our publications, and two events per year where Sustainers can meet our Staff, Board and other Sustainers who share their commitment to our work. The following people have joined since publication of our last newsletter. Thank you!

Susan Bomier
Anthony Camill and Dr. Ashley Storey
Timothy Hefferon & Leeann Konrad
Mr. Drew Lipner
Ruth Lovingood-Finke
John Lund and Annie Gillette
Steve McGraw and Bobi Morey
Tom Nelson & Stephanie Berger-Nelson
Phil and Kathy Scherer
Mary Jo Schuld
Mike and Jackie Schwartz
John and Leslee Spraggins
Daniel and Debra Stricof
Andrew and Molly Watkins



"We've had a summer home in Northport for 50 years and a permanent home in Elmwood Township for 27 years. With two homes here, we thought it time to help protect our beautiful Leelanau, land of delight, by joining the Sustainers Circle."
— Ray & Ricky Ross, who joined our Sustainers Circle last September.

A tribute to Bill and Nancy Gard

Bill and Nancy Gard loved Leelanau. They also loved working hard to save their cherished Leelanau, and served as true champions for the Leelanau Conservancy. Bill and Nancy worked on some of our earliest projects – Leland Village Green, Houdek Dunes and Lake Leelanau Narrows. They also worked tirelessly to ensure the protected lands would be cared for in perpetuity, giving many gifts to the Conservancy's endowment in memory of friends and relatives, and by establishing a Charitable Remainder Unitrust to benefit the Leelanau Conservancy after their lifetimes.

In 1995, the Gards joined with John & Jean Watkins and Dr. Robert & Virginia Willard to protect over 115 acres of forested dune land in northern Leland Township. At the time, Bill Gard said, "We've had the pleasure of walking and skiing over the property for the past 35 years. We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with the Conservancy to preserve the environmental assets of the property for all time, and assure that future generations will also experience the pleasures which we have as a family, as friends, and as neighbors."

John Watkins, one of Bill's oldest friends said, "Bill was a great citizen and a wonderful gentleman. It was a privilege to know him and come to be a very close friend and business partner. We found and carefully developed a beautiful stretch of forested shoreline that is now known as Leland Woods. Most of all, Bill generously supported organizations such as the Conservancy that make the US a better place to live."

Daughter, Martha Gard Stott, reminisced about her parents' Leelanau purchasing decision: "I remember when my parents bought that land in Leland Woods, and everybody made fun of them. 'Why are you going five miles north of town? No one will come to visit you.' Which, of course, was not true!"

After Bill and Nancy created their Charitable Remainder Unitrust with future benefit to the Leelanau Conservancy, Bill



discussed their decision in a Conservancy newsletter:

"Nancy and I had just about decided we would do a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT). The benefits to us were significant: transfer low-yielding shares of stock with large capital gains into the trust, thereby avoiding the capital gains tax, and converting the low yield to a substantial monthly amount, at a lower tax rate!

All this, and make a substantial contribution to the wonderful Leelanau Conservancy. How could we not do it? So we did it!"

Nancy died in August 2010 and Bill died in January 2013. Everyone who knew them misses them greatly. The remainder from their charitable gift annuity came to the Conservancy and we are reminded again of their generosity and dedication to Leelanau. And we are honored to carry on our work in their memory.

To read more about Bill and Nancy, visit our website: www.leelanauconservancy.org



Attention Gmail Users--

If you would like to hear from us via email but are not getting our messages, please be aware that Gmail has created new categories of emails

- Primary, Social and Promotions. It appears that Conservancy emails are being diverted into the Promotions tab. If you are like many people, you may never actually look at what is in that tab and therefore miss out on all the great news about land protection projects and upcoming hikes. The fix is easy,

all you have to do is drag and drop our email into the Primary tab. Another way to do this is to right-click a message while viewing your inbox.

After you move our message into the Primary tab, a message above your inbox will ask if you want to undo that action or choose to always put messages from that sender in the tab you chose. You can also add Carolyn Faught's email address to your Contacts list, since the majority of our emails come from her address: cfaught@leelanauconservancy.org.



Bequest Intentions & Gifts of Land

RICHARD O. RISTINE HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Heritage Society recognizes donors who have shared in the mission of the Leelanau Conservancy by making a gift through a will, bequest, trust, annuity, insurance or other planned or deferred gift. This important group is helping to ensure the long term financial capabilities of the Conservancy. If you would like information about making a planned gift, contact Anne Shoup at the Conservancy.

Anonymous (23)	Jim and Sharon Doyle	Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Ketterer	Jean and David Redfield
Barbara and William Alldredge	Roland and Diane Drayson	Mr. and Mrs. Jack A. Krause	Ms. Betty V. Rhoades
Christie L. and Bruce T. Alton	Nancy R. and Berkley W. Duck	Will and Joan Larson	Mrs. Richard O. Ristine
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Barry, Jr.	Tom and Gretchen Dunfee	Mr. and Mrs. George I. Liljeblad	Gary Schultheiss and Barbara Richman
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Dr. R. John Bull	Mr. and Mrs. Tom H. Fox	Mr. and Mrs. Steven Martineau	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shupert
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Dr. Bob Willard is a new Founders Society member. You may not have noticed the Founders Society, but it is a dedicated group! Anyone who has donated a lifetime total of \$25,000 to the Leelanau Conservancy automatically becomes a member and receives recognition in our annual report. (See below)

Susan Price's book club recently read *The Story Next Door*, and Dr. Bob is featured on page 77. Bob visited the office recently and we captured a moment. Leelanau County attracts the most interesting people!

Thank you to Bob and all the other members of the Founders Society. New members welcome any time!



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Our volunteers are amazing and we could not be nearly as successful as we have been without their help. From back-breaking trail work to creating beautiful videos, from committee work to setting up our auction at the picnic, their contributions are endless. We thank everyone for their help and hope we have captured all of you. If we have somehow missed listing your name, please let us know and realize that we are no less grateful for your help. Please note: Board Members, who are our super volunteers, are listed on page 21.

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Send in your photos!

If you've taken a photo lately that answers the question "Why Leelanau?" email it to cfaught@leelanauconservancy.org so that we can add it to the Why Leelanau page of our website. We have posted over 900 images from our members that express what they think is beautiful and unique about our peninsula. We are always thrilled to receive more great photos. If you have not taken a look at Why Leelanau lately, or are far away and need a Leelanau fix, visit leelanauconservancy.org and click on the Why Leelanau tab.

"Living on the other side of the country, your Why Leelanau? feature keeps me in touch with my favorite place. This picture is special for me because I am the third generation to jump off of our dock, and these kiddos are the fifth. I am glad this area is being preserved for their future." –Dana Thomas

