



There's no place like *Leelanau*.

Conserving the Land, Water and Scenic Character of Leelanau County

2022 Fall Newsletter

Letter from the Executive Director

**I believe the world is incomprehensibly beautiful
— an endless prospect of magic and wonder.**

—Ansel Adams

View the remarkable images in this newsletter by our 2021 Volunteer of the Year, Mark Smith, or take a drive down Leelanau roads, especially during our glorious autumn to affirm the words of famed landscape photographer Ansel Adams. I'm betting that if Mr. Adams had ever visited this stunning peninsula, he might never have left.

The past three years have taught us the world is changing, and we aren't insulated from external forces—the pandemic, the economy, real estate markets, socio-political division, and climate volatility. Nevertheless, in the face of all these things, we remain steadfast and deeply committed to protecting this peninsula.

Because of you, your Conservancy keeps protecting protecting more land (16,000+ acres and counting). We continue to uphold our promise to steward the lands we've protected together forever. We've made remarkable progress on nearly 20 new projects that are in the works this year. The most recently completed is the iconic Shimek sweet corn farm on M-72 in Kasson Township—an excellent partnership with Tom and Linda Shimek and their family you can read more about on page 6.

Situated amid an expanding sand and gravel mining district, this beautiful working farm will never be destroyed for mineral extraction. This is such an enormous victory, thanks to the Shimek Family, and you!

The not-so-well-kept secret is that we should rename our farm conservation program to include forests, wildlife, and water quality. These are all the

co-benefits of permanently preserving farmland in Leelanau County. In the last several months, we have worked hard to keep pace with this exceptionally competitive real estate market. We have partnered with farm families in seven different townships to preserve 13 farms, collectively over 1,600 acres. And there are more to come. Not to be outdone by our farm conservation efforts, we are diligently working on ten more projects to protect forests, wildlife, and watersheds, which you will be hearing more about in the coming months.

If that sounds like a lot, we have also engaged in a great deal of planning for the future. Our supporters know better than anyone that all of this great conservation work is not done haphazardly. It's done according to some very meticulous groundwork. In the last 18 months, we have completed three very substantial planning pieces crucial to our current and future success.

First, our staff and board completed a two-year effort to update our Strategic Land Conservation Plan. This GIS-based plan helps us identify all properties of high-conservation value in Leelanau, including those that protect Leelanau's lakes and streams, productive farmland, habitat and wildlife corridors, climate-resilient lands, and much more.

We also completed an extensive Member and Community Survey. The Survey results demonstrate an extraordinary level of positive support from our community, including members and non-members alike. Not only did the survey affirm that our community appreciates what we do to enhance their quality of life, but you are also overwhelmingly urging us to continue conserving as much of Leelanau as possible. I want you to know that we hear you loud and clear.

Our Board and Staff collaborated on a new organizational Strategic Plan that prioritizes:

1. Our continuing mission to protect Leelanau's special places.
2. Upholding our promise to steward well the lands and waters we've protected.
3. Keeping our commitment to welcoming everyone who loves and enjoys Leelanau.

Thanks to you, we have been increasing the pace of our conservation efforts now and in the coming years. We're strategically selecting projects with high biodiversity, watershed protection, scenic value, and preventing further fragmentation of farmland. We are providing more access to nature through recreational trail opportunities. We're also working hard to protect our water quality and build climate resilience on a landscape scale.

And so, we are profoundly grateful for your commitment to this mission and call to action to protect this special place on Earth. Together we will ensure that Leelanau continues to be incomprehensibly beautiful — as endless prospect of magic and wonder.



Volunteer of the Year

Ben Laird has been volunteering with the Leelanau Conservancy for the past six years. This year, we were thrilled to honor his work by naming him our 2022 Volunteer of the Year.

Ben has spent most of his life close to Leelanau. Raised in Traverse City, he attended Northwest Michigan College's Great Lakes Maritime Academy after graduating. "One of my classmates was from Suttons Bay, so we would go hang out there, and I remember feeling what it was like to be in the county." It was the late '70s, and Leelanau felt like a secret place shrouded in beauty and seclusion.

Though he studied to be a sailor, Ben found that it wasn't his ideal career. Instead, he worked in education, specializing in teaching children with disabilities. His nephew Sam Plotkin once worked as a farmland protection specialist at the Conservancy. As Ben neared retirement, Sam urged him to use some newfound free time to volunteer. DeYoung Natural Area had been purchased a few years before, in 2006. "They were in the early phases of what they planned on doing with the property, so I've seen this place grow."

Ben volunteers as a Trail Steward. Our natural areas have assigned Trail Stewards, who assist with trail maintenance and other miscellaneous property management. "My job is to look at the property and assess what needs to be done. You know, is the trail clear? Is the parking lot in good shape? The signage? Are there areas that need to be mowed?"

A particular contribution Ben made to DeYoung was suggesting that a mower be purchased for the property. The historic farmstead needs regular mowing, and the stewardship staff was lugging a mower over to the farm and back for a time. Ben noticed it wasn't time efficient and cut into staff time that could be spent stewarding other properties. "I said, 'If you buy a mower and leave it

here, I can do all that mowing.'" A mower for DeYoung was purchased, and it's been a welcome help to the stewardship team for the past two years.

"Ben is a true example of everything we hope for in a trail steward. His attention goes beyond the trail—he is a natural area steward. He consistently mows the farmstead and trails, pulls garlic mustard and wild parsnip, informs us when items need addressing and is a great ambassador to hikers on the trails," says Director of Natural Areas and Preserves Becky Hill.

Those enjoying a walk on the trails are appreciative of Ben too. He's chatted with regulars and travelers alike, all curious and grateful, though if it's a busy day, he'll slip under the radar. "I enjoy meeting people but also the peace and quiet. I'll keep my nametag and hat on if I'm in the mood to chat. I won't do that if I've just gotten out here and I'm not feeling very chatty. Whenever I'm out here, I see people I've never seen before, and then I see people who come out four times a week. It's part of their routine, much like it's part of mine."

The Leelanau Conservancy has been graced with so many wonderful volunteers over the years. We're continually humbled by the time and passion they bring to the Conservancy. We would love to have you join us if you're interested in helping further our mission. Contact Events & Volunteer Manager Lindy Kellogg to get involved at lkellogg@leelanauconservancy.org



What is a Conservation Easement?

A Conservation Easement is a perpetual legal agreement between a landowner and the Conservancy. These agreements are created on a completely voluntary basis and provide permanent protection of private property to safeguard unique conservation values, while also providing a variety of public benefits. These conservation values can often include the protection of scenic character, water quality, wildlife habitat and connectivity, local farms and agriculture.

Landowners who wish to permanently protect their land do so for a variety of reasons. Some may want to protect their land in order to plan for the future, with the intent of passing on their treasured natural lands and farms to the next generation. They may also want to take advantage of certain tax benefits. Others simply sleep better at night knowing that their property has a legal conservation agreement in place, shielding it from any unwanted development in the future. All conservation easement landowners, both present and future, retain certain reserved rights. These rights are designed by the owner of the property and are created in tandem with the stated conservation values, in order to keep the property in its desired state.

The Leelanau Conservancy currently holds over 200 conservation easements, totaling more than 11,000 acres in Leelanau County. Every year we work with each landowner to answer questions, review requests for reserved rights, offer advice, and provide resources on a variety of issues ranging from invasive species to estate planning. Our landowner partners are important to us, and we do our best to accommodate their wishes while protecting the conservation values of each conservation easement.

As the Conservancy's manager of this vital land protection program, I really do enjoy this important work. I have the unique privilege of working with landowners from all walks of life, each of whom carry their own unique perspectives and experiences. To me, a conservation easement is not just a legal document, but a permanent partnership between landowners and our Conservancy. Every year more landowners entrust us with the forever protection of their beloved land in Leelanau, and we do our very best to uphold their wishes long after they are gone.

- Chase Heise, Conservation Easement Program Manager

Meet a Landowner

Bill Olsen has two Conservation Easements with the Conservancy. Born on the farm he still farms on today, Bill has a lot of love for the place he calls home. Bill Olsen, pictured left with Conservation Easement Program Manager Chase Heise.



The Shimeks Protect 232 acres of Fourth Generation Family Farm

Photos by: Mark Smith



The Shimek family, minus granddaughter Liliana who is pictured on page 9.

If you've driven around Leelanau, you've likely passed the Shimek farm. A quintessentially Leelanau picture, the farm stand, red barn, and silos at the bend of M-72 have inspired painters and photographers for decades. We're thrilled to announce that this beloved view will forever be an inspiration and a farm. With support from the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and thanks to donors like you, we've successfully protected 232 acres of the Shimek family farm with a conservation easement.

Tom and Linda Shimek are the second generation to farm this property. Tom's parents, Charles and Antoinette Shimek, bought the property in the '40s and farmed potatoes and dairy. Their roadside farmstand used to be a farmhouse and Tom's first home. "That house had been built in the 1860s," Tom explained. "So, there was no insulation, no plumbing, only a hand pump in the kitchen to get water. We had a Michigan basement where we stored the potatoes." In 1957 the family moved next door into a modest ranch home built for their family of six and an uncle that lived with them until his passing in 1957. It's the same home Tom and Linda live in today and where they raised their children.

As farm kids, Tom, his brother Chuck, and sisters Jane and Grace learned how to milk a cow, bale hay, and do other farm chores. Growing up, however, Tom aspired to attend college and become a state policeman. Tom played football while attending Glen Lake High School. His high school football coach helped him secure a scholarship to Ferris State and instructed him to train hard so he would be ready for the university's football season.

Another future was about to unfold for Tom. Adjacent to the farm fields is dense woodland. While training, he would run through the forested, hilly terrain. "Back then, the cows roamed all over, and they'd go into the woods. They wore a path down smooth, so I'd run it, and it was like running on concrete." A month before leaving for

Ferris, Tom's father suffered a heart attack. Watching his weak and worried father in the hospital made Tom make a life-changing decision. "I said, 'Dad, don't worry about anything. I'll stay home.'"

Though he was a new dairy farmer, Tom was no stranger to the ropes. He knew how to operate farm equipment and what daily tasks needed to be done—but taking over as the principal farmer made him seek out how to be better and learn more. "There was a magazine called Hoard's Dairyman, and I would read that every month. I learned a lot in those articles," he said. "I also had an easy way with mechanics, so when equipment broke down, I could fix it." In between becoming an excellent dairy farmer, Tom attended social

events in the county. One evening, a familiar face caught his eye at a friend's wedding. "We both graduated from Glen Lake," Linda said. "He was a few years older, but I was a cheerleader and would see him at events, church, and dances. My mom and dad also met at a dance," she smiled. The two danced at their friends' wedding and went on to get married in 1973.

Though most of her work life has been spent working alongside Tom on the farm, Linda worked for the Department of Social Services until their firstborn daughter Amie was born. She and Tom have three children: Amie, TJ (Thomas James), and Liz (Elizabeth). Over time the Shimeks



An iconic view of the Shimek farm.

streamlined their dairy farming with equipment that made milking more efficient. They also started expanding sweet corn acreage. “When Amie was little, she used to sell sweet corn in a bushel basket,” Tom smiled at the memory. “I think it was a buck and a quarter for a dozen.”

Life on the farm was idyllic and quiet for a time. Known for being gravel rich, a ‘gravel district’ was created for Kasson Township in the ‘80s. This district includes the Shimek farm. Two nearby gravel and sand companies keep a steady flow of large, rock-hauling trucks passing by the farm. And while Tom and Linda acknowledge gravel’s necessity, they feared for the future of their farm. “It’s nice that there’s a financial benefit to protecting the farm, but that wasn’t our motivation. We wanted to be sure this would always be a farm. The gravel industry didn’t use to be as prevalent as it is now. Because we’re on so much gravel here, it could be sold and mined. That was the last thing I wanted to happen,” Linda said. “The farm, the woods, it could all be gone.”

The Shimeks first contacted the Conservancy about ten years ago. Tom Nelson was heartbroken to tell them that their land didn’t meet the protection criteria for the available funding source. At the time, land with water or shoreline was highly prioritized for grant-funded dollars. “That doesn’t mean you’re not on our radar,” Nelson assured. “We would love to see this land preserved.”

Years passed, and the hope to preserve lingered in the back of Linda’s mind. During that time, Tom Shimek fielded offers and opinions from both sides of the line. Leelanau’s farm community is tight-knit, and the Shimeks have other farm friends who have protected their farms, including an adjacent 305-acre farm. On the other hand, Tom has friends with vested interests in expanding the gravel pit, who would regularly drop him hints about the perks of selling.

A little over two years ago, Linda phoned the Conservancy to see if they would consider looking at the farm again. Her concerns about succession planning and the gravel pit expansion were growing. Together, the conversation of protection was reopened. When friends in favor of the gravel pit visited again, Tom had to tell them, “I’m going to be upfront with you, the family wants to put this place in Conservancy. They were nice about it,” he nodded. “And still come to visit.”

Farm Protection Director Kim Hayes is pleased that the farm will remain. “Growing up in the area, the Shimek’s farm was a driving landmark and a place to get delicious corn and other goodies. It was an exciting moment for me that in part of my work life, I was at the family dining table with Linda, Tom, and a few of their kids discussing permanently protecting the farm with a conservation easement,” she said. “The threats the land faced and the meaning the farm has for the Shimeks were both palpable. Knowing now that the farmland and beautiful hardwood forest are permanently protected is a celebration- both for conservation purposes and for this kind and hard-working family.”

Tom and Linda decided to protect their cherished farm with the next generations in mind. Daughter Liz Moeggenberg is a local legend for an outstanding basketball career at Michigan State and was inducted into the MSU Hall of Fame just last year. She’ll be managing the farm full-time when Tom is ready to retire. She’s pulling her weight daily on the farm while Grandma Linda watches her toddler daughter Oaklyn. Tom and Linda are proud parents to Amie and Michael Valkner, TJ and Christina Shimek, and Liz and Luke Moeggenberg. They’re joyful grandparents to Liliana, Eleanor, Contessa, Leo, Lamdin, Fletcher, Cade, and Oaklyn. All the kids and grandkids have their homes adjacent to the new conservation easement. Seeing fourth-generation Shimeks grow up on the family farm

has been a special kind of wonderful for Tom and Linda. “They’ll remember playing with the chickens,” Linda said. “They’ll remember raising steers. They’ll have memories they can pass on for years and years to come.”

Shimek sweet corn is beloved county-wide and beyond. Shimek corn is picked by hand, and though the grandkids aren’t being put to work now, Linda suspects that there is already interest in farming from the younger generation. “They love being out here. They drive around, explore, ask questions. One of my granddaughters is at Michigan State studying biosystems and agricultural engineering. The whole family has a connection to this land. We’re excited about the future.”

Right now, the family is in their busy time of year, harvesting the field corn that passersby watch grow all summer. This corn is what fills the silos that are seen from the roadway as you drive by. Tom’s mornings during harvest season start before the break of dawn and continue until the last stalk is chopped.

The Shimeks can’t predict what the future will bring, but they rest easy knowing that they can always count on family, farming, and the land that made it all possible, to remain unchanged.

Learn more about the financial and ecological benefits of protecting your farm with a conservation easement by contacting Farm Protection Director Kim Hayes at khayes@leelanauconservancy.org. Special thanks to the Shimek family for protecting their land, the Natural Resources Conservation Service for providing funding through their Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and a group of supporters passionate about Leelanau farmland protection.



Tom and Linda Shimek on the farm.



Daughter Liz Moeggenberg is the next generation of the Shimek family to manage the farm.



Granddaughter Liliana Valkner studies bio-systems engineering at Michigan State University and is interested in pursuing a career in farming and agriculture.



While mom is at work on the farm, Oaklyn Moeggenberg goes for a ride through the farm fields and woods with Grandma Linda.

What We've Been Up To

1. Whaleback Natural Area is one of our most visited natural areas. The 1-mile hike has become more adventurous over time as thick tree roots protruded more and more from the ground. Our stewardship team installed long, wide crib steps filled with dirt and gravel to make the walk less hazardous. These steps are safer and prevent the trail from growing wider.
2. We look forward to visiting with our members every year at our summer Sustainers Circle events. Pictured is a warm summer evening at The Ridge at Verterra in Northport. Our program included a staff Q&A where members asked questions about stewardship, current projects, and future plans.
3. A new Conservancy-driven, young leaders group, the LC Collective, hosted their first event at the DeYoung Farmhouse in September. Harvest Moon: A Celebration of Art and Music was a night filled with fellowship, old friends, and new friends. We loved seeing so many young families connecting with the Conservancy community. Stay tuned for more about the LC Collective.
4. A cool, damp forest in autumn is the perfect time to hunt mushrooms, especially after recent rain. Oyster mushrooms are safe to eat. They have a soft, chewy texture and earthy, slightly sweet taste. Besides their taste, they're good for you and fun to find! This one was found at Palmer Woods.
5. AmeriCorps members Emma Somers and LeighAnna Peck were a joy to have this past season. They've both done a fantastic job helping us steward Leelanau. From leading classes on invasive species to capturing some great shots in the field (Emma took many of these photos), they've done a lot! Here they are at Dow Gardens during an AmeriCorps celebration.



6. Lake Leelanau Lake Association took some of our stewardship staff out to get a look at Eurasian milfoil. The team learned what Eurasian milfoil looks like up close and looked at the burlap being used to smother spots of infestations.
7. A hot day spent working on the trails calls for a treat. Raspberries and blackberries grow wild all over the county in the summer and can be found at many of our natural areas. A collection basket in the form of a baseball cap is what we call quick thinking.
8. Pictured is a fern planting at the Palmer Woods Forest Reserve's Fern Garden. We have over 40 species of ferns on display in the garden. A boardwalk guides you through the garden, and an adjacent stream provides all the soothing sounds.
9. Earlier this year, we told you about a project to repopulate Leelanau's Showy Lady Slipper orchids. A summertime visit to some of the cultivated and transplanted orchids showed that they are standing strong. Land Steward Emily Douglas and Conservancy members Chuck and Janet Dickerson have led this project and made great strides.
10. A monarch butterfly at the Village Green feeds on milkweed. Unfortunately, the western world's monarch butterfly population has plummeted by around 80% in the last few decades. Pollinator gardens are a beautiful way to help support them, especially milkweed. November is a great time to plant milkweed in Michigan, just before the ground freezes. A winter of dormancy will prepare them for germination when warm weather returns.

Forever Forestland

Is there a bigger star of Autumn than the trees? With their vibrant seasonal color change, the trees of Leelanau put on a crimson, orange, and gold show that is undeniably beautiful. Folks come from near and far to delight in the colors and enjoy the start of a slower season.

We've protected thousands of acres of forestland and numerous farms laced with forestland. As leaf colors change and fall, we're reminded that forests are always in a state of transition. We have a lovely variety of trees throughout our natural areas. As time passes, some species have grown, and others have dwindled.

In conservation work, the words 'in perpetuity' and 'forever' are used often. In a world that is everchanging, what does forever look like? Under the watchful care of our stewardship staff, the future looks bright.

"We've got a little bit of everything," Land Steward Caleb Garone said. Standing at the trailhead in Palmer Woods, he motioned upwards. "Hemlocks, oak, cherry, basswood, maple, sugar and red." Dr. Palmer visited the woods on the first day of fall, joining the land stewards in coring a tree. He donated a tool called an increment borer to the staff a few days prior. The tool extracts a small cylinder of wood from the trunk so rings can be counted, and age determined. Dr. Palmer instinctively

knew that the sampled Hemlock would be around 70 years old, "I know a little something about these woods," he winked.

While still under his ownership, Dr. Palmer managed the woods well. Piecing together 21 parcels, he oversaw a working tree farm using sustainable forestry practices. "He'd leave the best cherries, the best oaks so that those genetics would re-seed into the forest," Caleb explained. Dr. Palmer was thinking about longevity long before the forest became a Conservancy property in 2016.

Since the '50s we've lost many of three foundational Michigan forest species; elm, ash and are now amid a mass die-off of beech. Emerald ash borer is an invasive beetle that has almost entirely wiped-out ash trees, and beech is succumbing to Beech Bark Disease, which results from an invasive insect and a native fungus intermingling. Our stewardship staff are currently focused on conducting surveys for Hemlock Wolly Adelgid and Oak Wilt, with the hope of early detection and rapid response to help mitigate the impact if either of these forest health issues is found on Conservancy land.

Many will remember the windstorm in 2015. The storm accelerated ash and beech loss at Palmer Woods. The Palmers harvested the salvage, and later in 2017, when the property was under the Conservancy's ownership, we did a timber harvest that removed dead and dying beech trees. While needed, the harvests left the forest with some bald patches. Time and again, scientists predict that the climate will get drier and warmer as years pass. Always thinking about what's to come, the Conservancy acted in accordance.

The U.S. Forest Service founded the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) in 2009. NIACS collaborates with the Forest Service, conservation organizations, universities, landowners, and the forest industry to develop strategies to help forests adapt to change. One of those strategies is assisted range migration, which introduces trees that only grow part way up lower Michigan. The thought behind bringing the state's southern species in is that they'll thrive in years to come as temperatures get warmer.

Palmer Woods isn't the only property where we're building resiliency. "Earlier this year, we planted seven species of trees at Whaleback; two of those are climate migration species, white oak, and shagbark hickory," said Caleb. "By adding species diversity, we are working to make our forests more resilient. Though, any time we add species to an ecosystem, we want to tread lightly, blending them with species that are already present within the forest. We want to have a light touch and let nature do the work." He and the rest of the stewardship team are also getting ready to plant over 200 trees at Clay Cliffs this fall. "It's ash and beech heavy, so we're going to lose a lot of trees there. We're working to fill in some of those gaps, improving species diversity, and helping to keep a closed forest canopy that will continue to support springtime ephemerals at Clay Cliffs; an extraordinary place in the spring."

While the world constantly changes, our commitment to Leelanau remains the same. As always, we're working with nature to ensure our protected lands remain wild, whimsical, and resilient – forever.



Land Steward Caleb Garon uses an increment borer to remove a small sample of the hemlock's core.

Dr. Palmer and some Conservancy staff find a hemlock tree to core.

Sustainers Circle Spotlight

Over the last 11 years of living in the county, life has been good to Tom Balazs and Liz Ketterer. Their connection to Leelanau and the community grows deeper with every passing year. “My family has always been involved in the mission and vision of the Conservancy. My parents brought us to events the Conservancy hosts and properties we all love to hike,” Liz said. “My dad is a docent, and the Conservancy has just become part of our way of life. We wanted to give back.” In 2018 the couple became Sustainers Circle members. “When we were still in California, part of the high cost of living is the abundant recreation,” Tom explained. “I consider our contribution to the Conservancy as a way to conserve and maintain all the beautiful outdoor places we like to go.”

Liz grew up in Grand Rapids, and Tom in Chicago. They met in Chicago while attending film school and began dating before graduation. “We both got jobs in the film industry and moved to Los Angeles after school,” Liz said. “And then we kind of moved around California for a bit.” Liz and Tom spent their mid-20s moving around the golden state, but as they got older, found themselves feeling rootless. “We already had to save money to fly home for Christmas every year, and it cost so much it was the only time we could afford to go home,” said Tom. “If we stayed, we would be lifelong renters, so we started looking at other places we wanted to go.”

In Leelanau, when we think about home, we think

about happiness. Liz’s parents, Ed and Linda Ketterer, bought property at the tip of the peninsula when Liz was a child. The family camped on the property in the summertime before building the home that Ed and Linda would eventually retire to.

Tom’s first few experiences in Leelanau were in winter. “While we were still in college, I had come up here with Liz a few times in the winter. Of course, it was beautiful.” Fast forward to the couple living in San Francisco. It was July, and Tom decided to fly from California to Liz in Leelanau, who was enjoying time with family at a reunion. With only winter experiences in his mind, he was dazzled by summer. A sunset spent watching Liz’s nieces and nephews frolic on a beach north of Northport would be a memory they revisited later when contemplating where to put down roots.

After getting home to their San Francisco apartment one night, Liz saw Tom browsing Leelanau real estate on his laptop. It was 2011, and Liz’s parents were ready to retire fully to their Leelanau home. “We just grew more and more curious about making the change,” Liz said. “We moved to Leelanau exactly one week before we got married at my parent’s house.”

Some might say that home is where you grew up or spent the most time. Tom and Liz have never felt more at home than they do in Leelanau. “There’s something

about here that you always want to get back to,” she said. “It’s not like any other place in the world. Being members of the Conservancy helps make us feel connected to our home.”

You can join the Sustainers Circle today! A Sustainers Circle membership of \$500 or more annually provides foundational support to ensure Leelanau is protected now and in the future. Sustainers Circle members receive invitations to special events, recognition in our annual report, and insider updates about how you are helping preserve Leelanau. Please join the over 600 families making a collective impact on the Leelanau you love. For more information about the Sustainers Circle, don’t hesitate to get in touch with Development Director Paris Morse at pmorse@leelanauconservancy.org



Leelanau Conservancy
105 North First Street
P. O. Box 1007
Leland, MI 49654
231-256-9665
info@leelanauconservancy.org
www.leelanauconservancy.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Traverse City, MI
Permit No. 29

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Edward & Barbara Collins,
Founders

Jim Nugent **Board Chair**
Amy Tennis **President**
Cammie Buehler
Vice President

Kathy Garthe **Vice President**
Bill Witler **Treasurer**
Alison Horton **Secretary**

Mary Cusick
Gina Erb
Rick Gans

Susan Green
Art Kubert
Cam Lanphier

Nick Loud
Pamela Lysaght
Steve Martineau
Roger Newton
Nancy Popa
Mike O'Donnell
David Schimmel



STAFF

Executive Director
Thomas Nelson

*Finance &
Administration*
Kathy Birney
Molly Crimmins

Charitable Giving
Paris Morse
Stacie Longwell
Sadowski
Sara Michael
Gayle Egeler

Communications
Claire Wood
Brigid Driscoll

Land Protection
Matt Heiman
Kim Hayes

Stewardship
Becky Hill
Emily Douglas
Chase Heise
Chad Jordan
Katelyn Maylee
Caleb Garone

Volunteers and Events
Lindy Kellogg

AmeriCorps Members
LeighAnna Peck
Emma Somers



Support Leelanau – Donate Now

Want to be a part of protecting Leelanau County's special places? Your financial contribution will support the Conservancy's efforts to conserve the land, water, and scenic character - now and in perpetuity. Whether through a cash gift, stocks, land, or estate planning, there are a variety of options for you to participate in a way most meaningful to you. Share in the work of keeping Leelanau's beauty and serenity intact for future generations.

Donate today at leelanauconservancy.org or by mail to Leelanau Conservancy, P.O. Box 1007, Leland, MI 49654