



Leelanau Conservancy

Conserving the Land, Water and Scenic Character of Leelanau County

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Palmer Woods: A Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity

The first thing you notice at the proposed Palmer Woods Forest Reserve is the peace and quiet. Towering hardwoods climb the steep slopes, which are blanketed under layers of tawny-colored leaves. Stand still and you'll hear trees creaking in the wind, or the rustle of a chipmunk, or cardinals singing.

Imagine that we could, together, protect this largest contiguous remaining privately-owned forest land in Leelanau County—700 acres in total. Imagine spending an entire day out here, hiking or cross country-skiing, where you would be hard pressed to cover the same trail twice in a day. Where getting from one end of the property to the other and back is a four-mile trek, with beautiful side loops that are seemingly endless. Gently rolling hills, with miles and miles of trails, beckon the four-season outdoor enthusiast. Everyone who ventures forth is guaranteed to come away filled with awe, peace and perspective.

The Ki Corporation owns this stunning land and has practiced sustainable forestry here for decades. Twenty-two separate parcels were acquired over 40 years by Dr. Dan Palmer and his family and make up this ridge and glacial valley complex that lies just beyond Miller Hill and east of Glen Lake. The 14 parcels that the Conservancy proposes to protect could easily have been subdivided.

The family is ready to sell the land, and has given the Leelanau Conservancy the first opportunity to purchase it—with a deadline of exercising an option to purchase by July 21st. This is the largest project in the Conservancy's 27-year history. The total project cost - including land purchase, timber management planning, initial trail development and funding our stewardship responsibilities is \$4.1 million. No public monies are available for this project. We are using some funds from the Leelanau Forever Campaign and private foundation grants, as well as individual and family contributions from committed donors. We are excited to announce that three-quarters of the needed funding is in hand in either cash or pledges. Our next challenge: we must raise over \$500,000 by July 21st to exercise our option to purchase.



"We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect this intact forest and beautiful example of Michigan's natural heritage," says Executive Director Tom Nelson. "We have been talking to the family for over two decades about the land (see page 3) which has long been a priority for permanent protection because of its size and importance to Glen Lake's water quality." The land lies within both the Glen Lake and Good Harbor watersheds and provides a critical water-filtering function. The land also adjoins the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and provides a two-mile long buffer to the park, adding to an extensive wildlife corridor.

Our dream, if we can acquire the property, is to make Palmer Woods a premier four-season quiet recreation destination. We envision—perhaps with other organizational partners—groomed ski trails and an extensive hiking trail system.

Another one of our dreams is to use the property to demonstrate sound forest management. The Conservancy will continue to harvest timber here in *continued on page 4*

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Message from our Executive Director

I have a confession to make. It was within mere weeks of being appointed as the Conservancy's second executive director since 1988 that a stark realization took a hold of me. The considerable task of shepherding our Palmer Woods Project—the biggest, boldest and arguably most complex and expensive undertaking in nearly three decades of Leelanau Conservancy history—would be my first test as a leader. Check that—as *the* leader of an organization with a national reputation for doing the right thing and a legacy of unqualified success. Daunting? Oh yes. Very.



No doubt about it, the Palmer Woods Project is a once-in-a-lifetime-opportunity. Since the Conservancy's very beginnings, protecting this largest private tract of beautiful northern hardwood forest has been among the highest priorities in our conservation planning. We have been talking with the Palmer Family for over two decades, hoping to have the chance to keep this forest intact. To their credit, the family came to us before anybody else, and we're grateful for it. We've never had the opportunity to do landscape-scale conservation like this. Landscape-scale wildlife habitat in an ecologically-managed working forest. Immense watershed-level protection for the pristine waters of the Glen Lake and Good Harbor Bay Watersheds. And, an array of four-season recreational activities as well as educational opportunities on a scale that our community can't currently experience. At Palmer Woods, it's all right there, just waiting for us. This is truly amazing stuff. It's breathtaking, awe-inspiring.

We're just coming off our five-year Leelanau Forever campaign. And, while I may have been a part of the team at the Conservancy for more than a decade, I am the new guy at the helm. Imagine, you've been given your dream job, and then your organization is immediately handed an opportunity of monumental proportions. If you're being honest with yourself, you have to ask whether we are prepared to attempt it, whether we can actually make it happen. Well, I'm certainly human. Despite my complete conviction that preserving Palmer Woods is the right thing to do, it was truly a gut-check moment for me.

I took a deep breath, and the honest answer was: Yes, we should. Because a challenge like preserving Palmer Woods is

precisely why the Conservancy exists. If we don't accept the challenge, there's no one else waiting in the wings. And yes, we certainly can do it. The Conservancy's mission is not about any one person—of course. It is about all of us. It's the whole team, the whole community, pulling in one direction. We are all in this together. And together, we can do the extraordinary. After 27 years of success, we must remain undaunted. Palmer Woods—this wonderful and worthy 700 acres of our precious Leelanau—is absolutely deserving of the best we have to give. Let's make Palmer Woods happen!

Tom Nelson
Executive Director

PALMER WOODS CHALLENGE!

*Each dollar you donate will be matched
dollar for dollar - up to \$265,000!*

We have until July 21st to raise over \$500,000 in cash and pledges to purchase the 700-acre Palmer Woods Property.

To help with this ambitious effort, The Brookby Foundation, The Homestead, Cherry Republic and an anonymous donor have offered to match all donations to the Palmer Woods Project - dollar-for-dollar - up to \$265,000! When the match challenge has been completed - we can buy the property and create an incredible, four-season, quiet recreation area and forest reserve. It's a win for the entire community.

To help us meet the challenge and preserve this special property, go to leelanauconservancy.org/Palmerwoods or mail a check in the enclosed envelope and earmark your check for the Palmer Woods Challenge.

Thank you.



A Family's Legacy

Dr. Dan Palmer grew up in Frankfort, and enjoyed camping out on the dunes north of town in a place called Devil's Armchair and on the Sleeping Bear dunes. His daughter, Bridget Holthus, says she imagines him lying under a star-filled sky, dreaming about his future and filled with wonder about the universe. It is Dr. Palmer's unending curiosity, she says, rather than ambition, which has propelled him to accomplish so much in his 85 years—from a distinguished medical career to publishing a renowned book on the ferns of Hawaii and writing a Michigan fern and lycophyte flora book (not yet published) to amassing the largest privately owned forestland in Leelanau. (see cover story)

"His was not an easy life," says his daughter Erin Palmer. "His father died when he was very young and his family had limited means, but he had, and still has, such a sense of wonderment about the world." He went off to the University of Michigan where he met his wife, Helen, who was in pharmacy school with him. He later earned his M.D. in Ann Arbor and after a stint in the Air Force and at the Mayo Clinic, he and Helen moved to her native Hawaii, where they raised four children and he enjoyed a busy and rewarding dermatology practice.

It was on visits back to Frankfort to see family that he began to acquire forestland, first in Benzie County and later, near Glen Arbor. Over 40 years, on trips back, he steadily acquired 22 contiguous parcels just beyond Miller Hill.

"I've always liked forestland. Even when we lived in Rochester, I was always out in the woods," says Dr. Palmer. "Mrs. Palmer and I have seen forestry practices over much of the world—in Malaysia where they were cutting the trees down to grow palm oil and rubber trees, and in the Soviet Union and Soviet-occupied Hungary when forests were poorly managed, where they cut every good tree and left the junk. The northern hardwood forest we have in this part of the world is unique in that the native trees are growing faster than they are being harvested and they are now spreading back in areas they previously covered."



Dr. Palmer shows samples of ferns he has collected for a book on Michigan ferns and lycophyte flora.

The Palmers winter in Hawaii, but come May, Dr. Palmer,



"Putting together large contiguous acreage like this in Leelanau County will surely never happen again," says Dr. Dan Palmer (l) pictured with his wife, Helen.

84, can be found buzzing around the family's forest in his ATV. He stops often to check on his trees or the lycopodiums and ferns he finds along the way. "My parents have spent decades stewarding this land," says Erin. "My dad has treated it like a garden and he is the world's most patient gardener," says Bridget.

Dr. Palmer has practiced sustainable timber harvest methods with the help of forester Dick Cooper. Done responsibly, he says, this yields a healthy and beautiful forest. He proudly points out once-barren areas that are now filled with towering maple and cherry trees. "He's in it for the long haul," says Erin. "He's nurturing trees that take 80 years to mature—trees that neither he nor I will ever see reach full growth."

Often one or more of Dr. Palmer's seven grandchildren accompanies him on his forays through the woods. The Palmers spend their summers here, and their home off Wheeler Road—designed by Erin, who is an architect—is where their far-flung family connects. Two of the siblings live in Honolulu; two live stateside in Seattle and Minneapolis.

Those connecting visits are also rejuvenating. "To be in Michigan is so relaxing," says daughter Bridget Holthus. "I have my most quiet, restful sleep there." She talks of standing under the stars last summer with her Dad at two in the morning, looking for a meteor shower.

"Other memories include spectacular firefly shows just out the back door, Mrs. Palmer's delicious meals made from freshly gathered ramps and morels, campfires and scavenger hunts where Dr. Palmer would hide caches of old coins, collected over decades, in hollow trees for

continued on page 4

Project Updates

The Palmer Legacy (continued from page 3)

grandchildren to find. Without this land, Erin adds, cousins would not have gotten to know each other so well.

Because none of the children plan to live in Michigan, the time has come to decide what to do with the land. Erin said the family has considered everything from residential development to a golf course. But in the end, no one could bear to see that happen.

The family decided to work with the Leelanau Conservancy to find a way forward that would be good for both the land and those who own it. "We are so impressed with the Palmer family's stewardship of this beautiful land and grateful to them for giving us the chance to forever protect it," says Tom Nelson, Executive Director.

"I'm really happy to see where it's going," says Erin. "I'm just so grateful that the property where our kids walked with parents and grandparents will be there for generations to come. And it's wonderful that something my parents built

over decades will remain and endure with the help of the Leelanau Conservancy."



Steep slopes and valleys at Palmer Woods were formed by glaciers

Palmer Woods Project (continued from cover story)

a responsible and sustainable fashion in order to continue to pay local property taxes and to provide income to help manage this new natural area. Careful management of Palmer Woods— everything from reintroducing native wildflowers to ensuring young saplings take hold—could make this proposed reserve a sort of demonstration project and important resource that would be unique in the state of Michigan. Palmer Woods could serve as an outdoor classroom for students of all ages as well as for private landowners who are trying to understand and manage the threats to their own forests. "Northern hardwood forests are under siege by disease, pests, invasive species and climate change," adds Nelson. "Between the ash and beech tree losses, we stand to lose some of the essential elements of our northern hardwood forests." Over-browsing by deer also threaten forest regeneration.

Thanks to funds the Conservancy raised during its four-year Leelanau Forever Campaign—and to new gifts from several donors, we have secured \$3.5 million toward the \$4.1 million dollar goal. Everyone on the Conservancy Board and Staff has already made a gift to the project. To ensure success, four generous donors, The Brookby Foundation The Homestead, Cherry Republic and an anonymous donor, and will match all donations to the project (up to \$265,000).

"We realize that Palmer Woods comes on the heels of our four-year capital campaign, which protected Clay



A sunlit path through hemlock trees at Palmer Woods

Cliffs, the Swanson Preserve, 25 family farms, and more," says Chairman Larry Mawby. "We realize that we are asking a lot of our supporters. But we cannot control the timing of opportunity. I think our members expect us to take on these sorts of challenges and to find a way to get them done. In this instance, we have this one opportunity to purchase this property because the owners are ready to sell. And, after all, preserving a place like Palmer Woods is why the Leelanau Conservancy exists."

An Addiction to Leelanau County

Jack and Gretchen Boyd bought a condominium in Traverse City three years ago and moved from their home in southern Michigan to be closer to their grandchildren. At the time, they knew nothing about the Leelanau Conservancy, and very little about Leelanau County.

Both are retired: Gretchen was a psychologist and Jack a dentist. They had vacationed for years at their cabin on Sugar Island along the St. Mary's River. They never thought they would sell it, but when a friend approached them about buying it, they thought, why not. Going back and forth was wearing on them and so they agreed to sell. Jack, however, is a longtime hunter and fisherman, and soon began surfing the web, looking for vacant land. He wanted a place they could run their dog, Basil, and enjoy being outdoors.

"But the per-acre prices out in Leelanau were pretty expensive," says Jack. And then he stumbled upon a Leelanau Conservancy conservation buyer listing called "Cedar Run Creek."

The Conservancy had purchased the 30-acre parcel in 2014 to protect 1,300 feet of pristine frontage along Cedar Run Creek, a primary tributary flowing into South Lake Leelanau. The land also features numerous groundwater springs and upland forest with towering hemlock and white pines.

On occasion, the Conservancy will buy a property like this and re-list it, conditioned on the new owners placing a conservation easement on the property at closing. (In this case, the easement calls for one home site away from the creek.) By reselling the land to conservation-minded buyers like the Boyds, it keeps land on the tax rolls, in private hands, and allows the Conservancy to reinvest funds in other projects. "It's a win win," says Matt Heiman, Director of Land Programs. "We protect the conservation values and the new owners have this beautiful, pristine place in which to enjoy nature."

"I started reading your website and thought it was such a neat concept," says Jack. "We loved that this sort of thing was possible." The land, as it turns out, is just six miles from their condo. They toured the Solon Township property with a Realtor and fell in love with it.

The Boyds visit the property often with their daughter, Sara, husband Peter Payette, and three grandchildren. Gretchen created the signs that are nailed to a few trees that say "Unplugged Area." "When we're here, phones and tablets get put away," she says. "We look up at the trees, not down at our phones."

While he was still working, Jack often fished on Black Creek, a tributary of the Raisin River in Ohio. "It was once clear, but is now nothing but a pothole, ruined by runoff from



Jack and Gretchen Boyd love to wander down to the stream on their Cedar Run Creek land with their grandchildren and dog, Basil.

nearby farms," he says. "When I walk out here, and see these well springs feeding Cedar Creek, well it doesn't get much better than that."

There is an old log cabin on the property that the family may use as a sort of bunkhouse. Debra Benton, whose family once owned this land, is thrilled to see the property has been preserved. "It was in my family for generations," she says. "I would never want to see it any way but in its natural state." When she was a little girl, her family vacationed in the tiny cabin, coming north on U.S. 27 from Detroit. Her father, a construction worker, built the porch addition and she recalls helping to strip the logs.

Jack says he's amazed that such a place exists just a short drive from their condo. And he's amazed by Leelanau County in general. "I love it," he enthuses. "I call it my addiction. There's so much scenery with the hills, the spring blossoms. To me it's a breathtaking place. I had no clue. Look at all you can do—kayak, sail, fish, hunt, go to the beach...it's just a very unique area."

Community Minded Conservationists: Ben and Cynthia Weese

Ben Weese spent all of his childhood summers at his father's log cabin, located along 1,000 feet of Glen Lake, purchased in 1927 for a mere \$1,000. Although his family still owns half of that land, Ben and his wife, Cynthia, have put down roots not on Glen Lake but instead in Empire. "It's a special community, with wonderful people, and very egalitarian," reflects Cynthia, who has been coming here for over 40 years.

The couple's affinity for the village began in 1970. They came up from Chicago to stay with friends and spent a glorious winter weekend snowshoeing around Empire, enjoying the small town charm and walkability. Soon they began looking for a place of their own where they could bring their two young children year round. Their friends alerted them to a shed for sale on the corner of Niagra and Front.

They bought it and drew up plans that would right the listing structure and turn it into a cozy two-story house. Their riotous street side garden delights passersby bound for Empire Beach. "Gardening wouldn't be nearly as interesting or as much fun if it were just for us," remarks Cynthia.

Both are architects; Cynthia served as Dean of Architecture at Washington University from 1993 to 2005. In 1977 together they founded their award-winning firm best known for non-profit and educational projects with an emphasis on historical appreciation and preservation.



The stream on the Weese Property empties into nearby South Bar Lake

Their interest in historic preservation also prompted them to rescue a number of condemned houses from national parkland. They relocated them to Empire, believing that they would enhance the Village's character. And when the Chipewewa Run Natural Area was forming, the Weese's led the charge on fundraising. They loaned money to jumpstart the "Gateway to Empire" project and also made significant contributions to acquire the land.

But perhaps their greatest community contributions lie in preserving land. The Weeses have donated a conservation easement on a 50-acre farm and woodland property along Hlavka Road in Cleveland Township. And they donated a seven acre wetland near their home to the Nature Conservancy (before our time), which turned it over to the Village, and today that seven-acre parcel is part of Empire's Johnson Park.



Cynthia and Ben Weese are restoring a stream bed across from their home in Empire with native plants

Most recently, the Weese's conservation interests have turned to ecological restoration of a two-acre parcel across from their home—also preserved with a donated conservation easement to the Leelanau Conservancy in 1988. Ben describes the land, which adjoins the Johnson Park donated parcel, as "a window to downtown Empire."

The restoration project began with the removal of a colony of invasive black locust trees. The Weeses hired a SEEDS crew to harvest and mill the trees into lumber. An interesting aside: Some of the weather resistant locust was used to build the beautiful boardwalk at Swanson Preserve. Removing the locust has made way for native species to thrive in the area.

Phase two of the project entailed hiring restoration ecologist Michael Ulrich. Decades of storm water runoff has covered a gravel stream bed present on the property with sediment and grasses. Plans call for halting further sedimentation and excavating to expose the existing gravel bed, so that the stream may flow more freely into nearby South Bar Lake. Native wildflowers were planted along the stream bank last year and this spring.

"Cynthia and Ben have the patience and long-term vision required to implement something of this scale. Where most people see the current grassy swale, they see a pristine wetland," says Ulrich, also an Empire resident. "What (cont. on next page)



has long been an overlooked asset in the heart of town will be a gorgeous landscape with great biodiversity and ecological function.”

As always, the Weeses have the community in mind. “When people go down to the beach they should enjoy a nice view as they go by,” says Cynthia. “We want people to see something that is restful and serene and lovely*.”

Founding Executive Director Brian Price has known the couple since the Conservancy’s earliest days. Making a difference is what the Weeses do, he says. “A couple of times a year I make an excuse to visit with Ben and Cynthia because they are always full of ideas and attuned to what’s going on,” says Brian. “And it’s refreshing to talk to a couple who consistently has the community’s best interest in mind.”

**Please note that this land is privately owned and not open to the public, although the view from Niagra Street is one everyone can enjoy.*

Putting Invasive Garlic Mustard to Use!

Garlic mustard is a tasty, yet invasive, species that the Conservancy works tirelessly to remove from our properties across Leelanau. But we can’t possibly eat all the pesto our removed garlic mustard would create. A partnership with Paperworks Studio



in Traverse City is turning this unwanted plant into recycled paper. Paperworks employs individuals with disabilities and disadvantages to produce this exquisite paper and turn it into handmade greeting cards sold nationwide -- making an unwanted invasive-species into something beautiful.

Founding Conservancy Director Brian Price Receives Two Prestigious Awards

In March, Michigan’s Department of Natural Resources honored former Executive Director Brian Price with its Partners in Conservation Award at a meeting in Roscommon. Al Ammons, the lead park ranger at Leelanau State Park, who has also just recently retired, nominated Brian for the award. The two worked together for over two decades on projects at the tip of the peninsula.

But the award is about more than just the projects that added land to the Leelanau State Park, says Al. “As a longtime supporter of the Conservancy, I’ve watched Brian persevere on projects all over Leelanau. We have done great work together at the tip of the peninsula, to be sure. The award is meant to recognize all the work that’s been done throughout the peninsula by Brian and the Conservancy. To me Brian epitomizes all that is good about a land conservation organization. I have the utmost respect for his professional demeanor and ability to bring people around the table.”

“This prestigious award to Brian for his leadership is something that I hope our members will all be proud of,” said Tom Nelson, Executive Director. “I certainly am. The work we have done together has made a significant difference in the future of Leelanau. We are excited to carry on his legacy of preserving this beautiful peninsula.”

In April, Northwest Michigan Environmental Action Council (NMEAC) also presented Brian with the Clarence Kropp Lifetime Achievement award. The award is inscribed: “For



l-r: DNR Chief Ron Olson, Susan Price, Brian Price, DNR Director Keith Creagh, Al Ammons, Tom Nelson and Commission Chairman Matonovich

many years of outstanding environmental work in preserving thousands of acres of land as well as numerous shorelines in Leelanau County. This is a very special award given only to those who have worked exceptionally hard to preserve large areas of Northern Michigan for future generations.”

Ann McInnis, a longtime Leelanau Conservancy docent, attended the awards dinner and in an email, lauded Brian for “his inspiration and leadership for a quarter century. We are proud to be a part of such an amazing organization with so many amazing people.”

Board Chairman Larry Mawby also claimed NMEAC’s Environmentalist of the Year – Agriculture – Award for L. Mawby Vineyards. This award is given for “all things local, organic, sustainable agriculture.”

Welcome New Staff!

We're excited to welcome two new permanent staff members and a great new seasonal crew who will be caring for our trails, removing invasive species, repairing boardwalks, making signs, working with our awesome volunteers, communicating with our members and helping to plan and organize our annual picnic and auction. This group is bringing so much great energy to our organization—if you see them out at our natural areas or in the office, say hi! We know you will enjoy meeting and talking with them about their work and their passion for nature, Leelanau and the great outdoors.

Seasonal Staff:

Ana Wodek, Summer Stewardship Intern I am a senior at Michigan State University majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife, with a concentration in Water Science. I attended Suttons Bay High School and am a proud local of Leelanau County. In my free time, I love spending time with my family, fishing on the Great Lakes and enjoying the outdoors as much as possible. I am passionate about conservation, the environment and I am very honored to be given this opportunity working with the Leelanau Conservancy.

Nathan Burns, Property Maintenance Specialist Nathan is an outdoor recreation enthusiast and explorer with a passion for photography as well as trail construction and maintenance. Born in Traverse City, he returned to the area in 2004 to work construction. In 2006, he headed west to Redwood National Park (CA) to work on the trail crew for eight seasons. He built, maintained, and oversaw work projects throughout the park and unified work crews of international volunteers, youth conservation groups, crew members, and park staff. Nathan has been an avid backpacker and volunteer most of his life. His endeavors have taken him to work on trail projects in North Carolina, Chilean Patagonia, Costa Rica, and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. He is excited to share his trail and property maintenance skills with the Conservancy and Leelanau County residents and visitors. He looks forward to being back in northern Michigan and to becoming involved in the community and enjoying the bounty and beauty Leelanau has to offer.

Chase Heise, EDRR Crew Member Chase is a Michigan native and a graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife, concentrating in Conservation Biology and Environmental Law Enforcement. He has worked with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources division of Parks and Recreation in Presque Isle, MI while attending



Our talented and hardworking seasonal staff, l-r: Nathan Burns, Chase Heise, Ana Wodek and Maia Hausler

school. Chase has had a deep respect for the outdoors since a young age, growing up hunting and fishing in northern Michigan with his grandfather. His studies at Michigan State solidified his desire to make a difference and he has since developed a passion for the conservation and protection of our natural resources. Chase has resided in northwestern Michigan since graduation and has fallen in love with Leelanau County. In his spare time he enjoys hiking, hunting, fishing and is also a certified scuba diver. Chase hopes to continue his career in further helping to educate the public on natural resource issues.

Maia Hausler, Seasonal Communications Assistant

Maia is a Lansing, Michigan, native and joined our staff in March 2015. She is an illustrator and photographer and loves to treat Leelanau as her muse. Maia attended Western Michigan University where she pursued her passions; earning degrees in Art and Environmental studies. After graduating she served as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in Racine, Wisconsin, where she worked with several organizations on sustainable food systems projects. She has also worked in communications, event planning, graphic design, environmental education, and freelance writing and is excited to bring her skills to the Leelanau Conservancy where she will be assisting with communication and the planning of the Conservancy's Annual Friends Picnic and Auction. An avid traveler, Maia is always looking for ways to inject herself into new communities but finds herself pulled back to Leelanau by its intrinsic beauty. After six months spent working on farms across Europe last summer she has returned and is thrilled to be spending a Michigan summer amidst the forests and beaches of Leelanau County.

Our New Natural Areas Team



Becky Hill, Natural Area and Preserves Manager

Becky (left) joined our team in April 2015. She has been working in the conservation/environmental stewardship field for nearly 15 years, the last six years as a Biological Science Technician with Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (SBDNL). Becky has extensive experience addressing invasive species, planning and directing work crews and volunteers. She has been a liaison to partner organizations and landowners, as well as a spokesperson. She, her husband Jason and sons Fen and Ira are residents of the Maple City area and are very familiar with the Conservancy, our lands and our work.

Emily Douglas, Land Steward Emily (right) joined the Stewardship staff in April. Her environmental passion and outdoor skills have been building since she was young, always working someway with plants. After a year at Michigan State University, she caught the bug for adventure and headed to the Southwest. She fell in love with the desert landscape while earning a degree in Botany from Arizona State University. She spent four years exploring the west and eventually working with Grand Canyon National Park as a Rare Plant Intern. She set the foundational work for the recovery plans of the endangered *Astragalus cremnophylax* var. *cremnophylax* and led rare plant surveys on the north and south rims of the canyon. Missing the water brought her back to Michigan where for the past two years she has done invasive plant work with the Leelanau Conservancy. She's most recently worked with Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore as a Biological Science Technician undertaking aquatic surveys. She lives with her husband, Blaise and son, Lennon, in Cedar. In her spare time she relaxes on the beach, camps and canoes, and helps Blaise run his art studio.

Universal Access Trail Coming Soon to DeYoung Natural Area!

We're thrilled to show off the work happening now on a new Universal Access (UA) trail at DeYoung Natural Area. Come summer, people in wheelchairs or pushing strollers will be able to enjoy the beautiful quarter-mile loop near Cedar Lake. This winding trail takes visitors through a majestic, mature cedar forest full of songbirds. It ends at a popular UA fishing and wildlife viewing deck, where visitors can take in nearly a mile of natural shoreline that has been protected at this natural area. The 480-foot boardwalk pictured was built by the SEEDS Youth Conservation Corps.

The boardwalk is just one part of the new UA trail.



We hope by the end of June to complete a smooth surface path leading from the parking area to the boardwalk. The path, like the boardwalk, meets standards for people with disabilities. "It will be treat to have a trail like this on one of our properties that will give more people access," says Stewardship Staffer Emily Douglas.

Invasive black locust harvested from the National Park was used to construct the boardwalk. Black locust crowds out native trees but as lumber, it's super durable, and rot-resistant.

Hikers who happen upon the boardwalk crew are really excited about the improvements, says Emily. "Families and friends will have an easier time pushing strollers and wheelchairs down to this great fishing and wildlife viewing spot," she says. Please note that the UA trail is still a work in progress; look for a late June opening. We are grateful to the Oleson Foundation, the Andy Kiselius Trust and the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation for helping to fund this great new improvement!



Hikes and Events

Summer & Fall 2015 Hikes and Events Schedule

Below is our summer and fall schedule of Docent-led hikes, events, and workbees—additional late summer and fall events will be posted on our website, Facebook and in our weekly emails. (Not on our list? Join by contacting cfaught@leelanauconservancy.org.) Full descriptions of each event and a sign-up link can be found at <http://leelanauconservancy.org/events/hikes/>.

- Hikes last about two hours
- Please dress according to the weather, wearing sturdy boots
- Please register so that we may plan for best experience possible.
- Dogs are not allowed on docent led hikes but are welcome on leashes at our natural areas any other time

- There are no restrooms at our natural areas

For questions about workbees and to get involved, contact Emily Douglas at edouglas@leelanauconservancy.org or call 231-256-9665.

The complete fall workbee, hike, and event schedules are not yet set; please check our weekly emails and website for fall dates as they become available. Hope to see you there!

HIKE – Saturday, June 13 at 10:00 am – June is Busting Out All Over at Kehl Lake Natural Area

WORKBEE – Thursday, June 18 at 10:00 am – Trail Maintenance at Clay Cliffs Natural Area

HIKE – Saturday, June 20 at 10:00 am – Solstice Hike at Clay Cliffs Natural Area

HIKE – Saturday, June 20 at 1:00 pm – Crystal River Amble

EVENT – Saturday, June 27 – Conservation Easement Landowner Event – time and location TBA

EVENT – Thursday, July 2 at 5 pm – Summer Sustainers Gathering location TBA

HIKE – Saturday, July 11 at 10:00 am – Lighthouse West Natural Area

HIKE – Saturday, July 18 at 10:00 am – Whaleback Natural Area

EVENT – Wednesday, July 22 at 11:00 am-2:00 pm – Leelanau Collective Artisan Show and Luncheon to Benefit the Conservancy, Leland Lodge

WORKBEE – Thursday, July 23 at 10:00 am – Trash Pick-up at Hatlem Creek Preserve

WORKBEE – Saturday, July 25 at 1:00 pm – Pre-Picnic Clean-up at Chippewa Run Natural Area

HIKE – Saturday, August 1 at 10:00 am – Hatlem Creek Preserve

ANNUAL PICNIC & AUCTION – Thursday, August 6 at 5pm – Chippewa Run Natural Area near Empire. Pre-picnic field trips. See back cover.

HIKE – Saturday, August 8 at 1:00 pm – DeYoung Natural Area

PADDLE – Saturday, August 29 at 7:00 pm – Cedar River Preserve Moonlight Paddle

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU – Thursday, September 3, time and location TBA

HIKE – Saturday, September 5 at 10:00 am – Explore Houdek Dunes Natural Area

HIKE – Saturday, September 19 at 10:00 am – Swanson Preserve

HIKE – Saturday, September 26 at 10:00 am – Fall Color Tour of Krumwiede Forest Preserve

HIKE – Saturday, September 26 at 10:00 am – Fall Color at Clay Cliffs Natural Area

HIKE – Saturday, October 3 at 10:00 am – Why are there fall colors? – Kehl Lake Natural Area

HIKE – Sunday, October 4 at 11:00 am – Jeff Lamont Preserve

HIKE – Saturday, October 10 at 10:00 am – Belanger Creek

HIKE – Saturday, October 10 at 2:00 pm – DeYoung Natural Area

HIKE – Saturday, October 17 at 10:00 am – Fall at Krumwiede Forest Preserve

HIKE – Sunday, October 18 at 2:00 pm – Fall Colors of Houdek Dunes Natural Area

HIKE – Saturday, October 24 at 6:00 pm – Sunset and Moonrise Hike at Clay Cliffs Natural Area

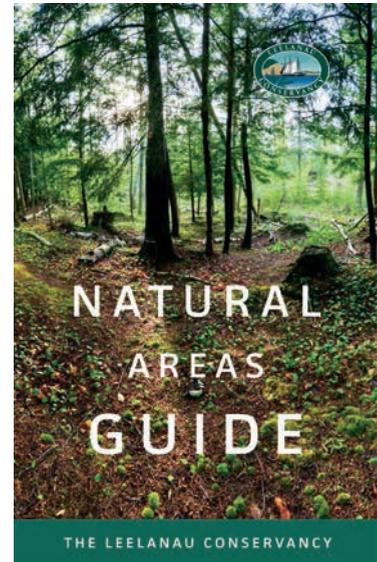
Heritage Society Designating a Beneficiary

A very simple way to include the Conservancy as part of your legacy is to designate the Leelanau Conservancy as a beneficiary of one of your accounts, such as a bank account, retirement account, or life insurance policy. We'd love to know if you've included us this way, and would like to recognize your planned gift by including you in the Heritage Society. Pictured: Longtime Heritage Society member and former board member Annette Deibel, with her dog Maya, also known as the Mayor of Omena! Annette was one of the Conservancy's first Heritage Society members. She invites you to join this important group.



Explore, Hike, Discover with Our New Natural Areas Guide

We hope you love our new Natural Areas Guide as much as we do, full of beautiful Ken Scott photos and info about all the places you have helped us to protect. If you did not get one, please let us know! Many thanks to Zane Schwaiger for her hard work on this piece and to Jennie Berkson and David Edelstein for underwriting the cost of the printing. Our wish is that you will use it to explore these beautiful and inspiring places.



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.

Lianne Somerville moved to Suttons Bay from Indianapolis on Labor Day week-end in 2010. Her career path in Indianapolis took her from retail store owner to youth development director at a statewide organization to the executive director position of a large transitional housing program for female victims of domestic violence and their children.

Lianne has volunteered in the Conservancy's information booth at events, helps with Outreach office tasks, and serves on the Picnic and Auction Committee (photo: in costume at the 2014 Picnic, helping to promote auction items.) "I have been a regular visitor to the county since 1974 and can't imagine a better place to retire," says Lianne. "Supporting the Leelanau Conservancy and its mission is important to me. They are preserving the land,



water and scenic character that I fell in love with many years ago. I enjoy working with the staff and many dedicated volunteers I have met. What they have accomplished together in the first 27 years is amazing! And the Conservancy's Evergreen monthly giving program makes it easy for me to spread my donation over the year."

If you would like more info on joining the Sustainers Circle, 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 the publication of our last newsletter. Thank you!

- Suzanne Albrecht & Steve Reding
- Sally S. Appel
- Mark and Lindsay Bibler
- Peter and Ruth Brooke
- John Chapman & Candance Daley
- George and Barbara Cochran
- Sherry D. Edwards
- Janice Fleming
- Jim and Sally Friend
- William Gebo
- Jeff and Ilze Hammersley
- Tracy Harrison and Victor Peterson

- James and Diana Huckle
- Mike and Linnea Keen
- James and Linda Kemper
- Andrew and Janet Miller
- David and Catherine Miller
- Jim Nugent and Toddy Rieger
- Lisa Rudgers and Len Niehoff
- James and Susann Schaberg
- Tom and Nancy Shepherd
- Lianne Somerville
- Dan and Sue Tobin
- Jim and Kathy Westlake
- Peter Wolcott

Happenings

Auction: Let the Bidding Begin!

We're looking forward to another great Picnic and Auction. This year it will be held at our Chippewa Run Natural Area in Empire.

We will have over 100 fantastic Auction items, from unique Leelanau Experiences that you just can't buy anywhere else, to wonderful dinners, artwork and great gifts. All of the items that have been donated so far can be viewed online where you may also place a bid. If you can't attend the Picnic, but would like to win one of the Auction items, we can provide a proxy bidder who will represent you at the event. (Contact Carolyn Faught to arrange: cfaught@LeelanauConservancy.org or 231-256-9665.) To view the auction, follow the link on our Home Page at LeelanauConservancy.org.

Below is just a sampling of what you'll find!

- **One week stay for up to 6 in St. Andrews Scotland: the "Mecca of Golf"**
- **One week at a lake house at Crystal Downs Country Club with a round of golf for three**
- **Dinner for 6 at Mario Batali's Babbo Restaurant in New York City**
- **Guaranteed entry tickets to the 2016 M22 Challenge: beat the rush**
- **A Glen Arbor Adventure Day package: kayaking, biking, and wine tasting**
- **Air tours over Leelanau County**
- **Labor Day Week cottage rental on Lake Leelanau**
- **Farm to Table dinner from Epicure Catering at Cherry Basket Farm**
- **Mediterranean cooking class for 12 with Martha of Martha's Leelanau Table**
- **One year supply of Stone House Bread**
- **Morel hunt for 12 with mushroom hunter Leif Sporck**
- **Quilts, jewelry, home decor, art, Leelanau gifts, and much more...**



Epicure Catering and Cherry basket Farm is again offering a fantastic auction item - see our bidding website for more details

M22 Gives Back

We've been collaborating with Matt and Keegan Myers of M22 on a membership campaign, with a goal of raising awareness with the next generation about the mission of the Leelanau Conservancy. We're grateful to them for sending a membership appeal to their list on our behalf. In addition, they've donated M22 stickers to all new members this year, who will also receive our new Natural Areas Guide (current members were mailed the guide in mid-May—if you did not get one let us know!). Matt and Keegan have been strong supporters since 2008, when they began donating 1% of M22's annual gross sales. Matt is on the left, and his baby Julien—the next "next generation" is presenting this year's check to Executive Director Tom Nelson!



Leelanau Collective Local Artisan Show Will Benefit Conservancy

A group of Leelanau women business owners have been brainstorming for months to create an event to showcase unique locally made products, while also giving back to the Leelanau they love. On July 22nd from 11 am - 2 pm, they will host a trunk show and luncheon at the Leland Lodge, and 20% of the gross proceeds will be donated to the Leelanau Conservancy. To secure tickets for this fun unique event, see our website or the Leelanau Collective Facebook Page.

Honorariums & Memorials

Why We Joined



I wanted to be a member of the Leelanau Conservancy because Leland has become a second home to me, and I wanted to find a way to give back to a place that has such a special place in my heart. It's a gathering place for my family and we've created long lasting traditions and memories. I had my wedding on my family's cherry farm and it was wonderful. We took pictures on Lake Michigan and danced the night away on a perfect summer evening. My "something blue" was a beautiful Leelanau blue stone from Becky Thatcher and I wear it with so much pride and affection, not only to remember the day but to remember the peninsula when I'm not there.

There is nothing better than watching the sunset over Lake Leelanau on a warm August night with my family around the dinner table feasting on local fare from the region. My husband and I hope to call Leelanau home one day (we're working hard in Chicago to make that happen!). Being a member of the Leelanau Conservancy gives me one more tie to Leland and gets me one step closer to becoming "a local on M22."

~Ashley Zak
(pictured with husband, Bryan)

In Honor Of

Joan Abbott

Ms. Megan Olds

Daniel Appel

Andrew and Susan Appel

Mike Arents

Adam and Mary Arents

S. Gordon Dabney, Sr.

The Dabney & Lavin Family

Joseph E. Faggan

Jerry and Mary Faggan Churchill

The Bahle Family

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Chris Grobbel

Jim and Barbie Breitenbach

Ed and Joan Hanpeter

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanpeter

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Ms. Joanie Abbott

Jackie Jones

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William Kandler

Ms. Angela Kandler

Richard and Nana Kennedy

Mr. and Mrs. David Magrini

Jim and Sue Kern

Ms. Jennifer Kern

Ed and Linda Ketterer

Liz Ketterer and Tom Balazs

Jack Krause

Ms. Cynthia Krause

William Leugers

Ms. Jennifer Leugers

Ruth Lezotte

Mr. Eric Lezotte

Mary Linton

Ms. Maureen J. Delaney-Lehman

Leon and Folly Michael

Sara Michael

Craig and Nancy Miller

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miller

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Betsy and Allan Fraker

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Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. Kenney

Ms. Barbara J. Nowinski

The Oleson Foundation

Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Palmer

Chris and Ann Stack

Mrs. Anne M. Vaughan

In Honor of Brian and Susan's

26 Years at the Conservancy

Ms. Phyllis Foley Wanroy

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Torres

Lianne Somerville

Lisa Benjamin and Tyler

Herstehagen

John Tris

Mr. Joseph Tris

Mr. David Tris

Elgin Vines

Mike and Ruth Arents

Leland Wible

Mary Cusick and David Wible

Madeleine Olivia Wolfe

Mr. and Mrs. R. John Miner

Happy Mother's Day

Harriette Ald

Mr. Steven Ald

Ann McInnis

Mr. and Mrs. Edward McInnis

Mr. and Mrs. John McInnis

Happy Father's Day

Eugene Driker

Ms. Elissa Driker

Happy Birthday

Sandra S. Buell

Mrs. Eleanor B. Stephenson

80th - Betty Clarke

Mrs. Louisa Ridgeway

Paul Cobb

Mary Cobb Rouseelot

Eugene Driker

Ms. Elissa Driker

Olivia Fellows

Kurt and Eleanor Luedtke

75th - Sandra Flemming

Mr. and Mrs. Roy B. Flemming

John and Judy Hoeffler

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Marsh

Ann Nichols

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Marsh

100th - Mim Steel

Mrs. Donna D. Burr

Polly and Jacob Stein

New Baby

Rudolfo James Ferrarese Piskor

David Edelstein & Jennie Berkson

Fritz Spinniken

David Alpers

Moses Spinniken

David Alpers

Levi David Welty

David Edelstein & Jennie Berkson

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Edmund F. Ball

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Oetinger

Frank and Rosemary Ball

Charles and Renne Ball

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Doris Blair

Tim and Doris Blair

Jon Bourdo

Jeanne and Bill Denler

Helen Brant

Mr. and Mrs. Keith W. Burnham

John Brede

Mrs. Diane P. DeHuff



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Karen and Wallace Crook
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Jean Finke

Mrs. Lena A. Ball
Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Borden
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Donatic
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Charles and Judith Connelly
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Joe and Becky Lovato
Kim and Jim Lyne
Brad Skiba and Jessica Ratliff
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Ms. Genie Swick
Mr. William C. Turner
Brian Williams & L. Fisher-Williams
Jill Zeeb and Nancy Avery

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Kathie Foster

Jacqueline Berz and Janet Stutzman

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Mr. Kevin Carlson

Patricia Ganter

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Gooden
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Susan Gotsch and Ronald Thomson
Ms. Maria Gotsch

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Kristin Zimmerman & Christopher Green

Beth Zinman

Tom Binet and Danielle Jensen
Mr. M. Richard Zinman

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Our Dog Harley

Brian Farmer & Abigail Pohlonski



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Leelanau Conservancy

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www.leelanauconservancy.org

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**Join Us for the “Event of the Summer!”
Annual Friends Picnic & Silent Auction**

**Thursday, August 6th
Chippewa Run Natural Area
Empire**

Pre-Picnic Field Trips begin-
ning at various times. Choose
from fun and informative options
for all ages that highlight our
work. Check out all the trips on-
line (download our flyer). Online
registration also available!

5 pm The Main Event!

- Social hour
- Silent Auction bidding on over 100 items (you can bid online at www.leelanauconservancy.org)
- Leelanau Wine and Beer
- Appetizers utilizing local produce created by area chefs/caterers. Taste the local foods difference!
- Kids Tent with activities for children 3-12

6 pm Picnic Dinner featuring local foods

7 pm Awards, Local Leelanau Door Prize

7:20pm Short Program and President’s Paddle Raise

