



landscript

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Protecting Significant Natural, Scenic & Farm Lands, & Advancing Stewardship, Now & For All Future Generations



OUR SUMMER ISSUE:

REMEMBERING BETTY MITCHELL 

SUCCESS FOR
TIMBERS RECREATION AREA

*Water Trail
Momentum*





Dear Friends,

One of the most gratifying aspects of my job is working with so many caring supporters who give from the heart. The successful Timbers fundraising campaign was yet another reminder of the depth of commitment people feel to leave a legacy for future generations through land preservation.

We are so touched and awestruck by the community's response. Unforgettable moments include:

Jerry and Don Oleson. They spoke at our annual Preservation Celebration about their early childhood memories of growing up on the Timbers property and, gave us the gift of time with an interest free loan that made the two-year campaign possible. When they thanked the community for rising to the challenge to save the property, there was not a dry eye in the crowd.

Timbers Girl Scout alumnae. They moved beyond their sense of loss that their Council had to sell the property, instead focusing on how they could support our efforts to preserve the land for all time. They raised well over \$100,000, and now they are forever part of the tale of this heroic campaign. We on staff laughed and cried right along with them hearing story after story about the impact Timbers had — and continues to have — on their lives.

We worked with Walt and Inge Kraimer and their children as they designated Timbers for memorial gifts so that Inge, in her last days, could appreciate knowing that her family's deep love of Long Lake could play an important role in saving something that will outlast all of us. In moments like these, we are all one big Conservancy family.

Increasingly we hear about people searching for a sense of authenticity in their day-to-day lives. At GTRLC we are truly blessed to experience daily these gifts from the heart. As long as northern Michigan continues to be a place where stunning beauty, natural resources, and agricultural vitality define our very identity, we really don't have a problem finding authenticity.

The strong commitment that underpins your gifts is making a difference all across our region. Thank you for caring so much about this place and for making our mission such a significant priority in your philanthropic support!

Glen Chown, GTRLC Executive Director

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A FOUNDING FRIEND'S FAITH IN THE "LONG VIEW":

GTRLC Celebrates Betty Mitchell's Legacy



A fledgling nonprofit often emerges in answer to a community need that is urgent. As that new organization begins to address this need, resources offered by engaged donors are put to immediate use, propelled by the founding urgency. When GTRLC was founded in 1991 through a Rotary Charities initiative, the race was on to protect precious regional landscapes that were on the verge of disappearing forever. Early Conservancy staffers and supporters focused successfully on the here and now. In the organization's first year of operation, a solid financial launch came from 3-year start-up grants provided by Rotary Charities and five foundations reflecting the philanthropic values of regional families: Biederman, Borwell, Grainger, Oleson, and Seabury.

That initial grant from the Chicago-based Seabury Foundation was championed by the late Elizabeth "Betty" Seabury Mitchell, a steadfast Conservancy friend who passed away last fall at the age of 99. As GTRLC Executive Director Glen Chown notes, the Seabury Foundation "went on to make a number of other important grants, including \$100,000 toward securing an option for the first Railroad Point purchase in 1997."

Betty grew up in suburban Chicago, the daughter of insurance executive Charles Ward Seabury, founder of the Seabury Foundation. Beginning when Betty was three years old, her family summered at a cottage in northwest lower Michigan, on Benzie County's Crystal Lake. According to Betty's son Barry Hibben, Charles Seabury was particularly devoted to the wonders of Benzie County and promoted their value to future generations. He took his family on daily drives through northwest lower Michigan's coastal countryside, ensuring that his children and grandchildren came to know and love this region.

"My grandfather," asserts Hibben, "instilled in us a strong sense of stewardship of the land." Hibben fondly recalls summer outdoor adventures with Charles Seabury around Crystal Lake and credits his grandfather with leaving a legacy of love for the region's lakes, rivers, and streams.



Betty Mitchell with Glen Chown, 1992

"The Seabury Foundation," says Hibben, "can continue to perpetuate its founder's love and devotion for this part of the world. My mother, who also loved northwest Michigan, felt good about working with GTRLC's staff, and was very proud of her association with the Conservancy as a Partner in preserving precious and beloved landscapes."

Chown notes that Betty Mitchell "was one of the first Benzie County summer-resident philanthropists to whom Mollie Rogers and Ted Curran introduced us at the Chimney Corners 'High Tea' during GTRLC's first summer. Betty was part of the group of women—including Nancy Brickman, Juli Grainger, and Naomi Borwell—who made leadership gifts and introduced us to their friends in our formative years."

In addition to making introductions and making and influencing key gifts and grants, Betty Mitchell looked beyond the immediately urgent to a sustainable future for GTRLC's mission of land protection and stewardship. In 1992, only the second year of the organization's operation, Betty entrusted and honored GTRLC with our first-ever planned-giving commitment, becoming a founding member of the Vanguard Society.

Betty's commitment came to GTRLC through the gift of her Crystal Lake house, conveyed to the Conservancy with a "reserved life estate," meaning that Betty would reside in and maintain the home until her death, at which time it would pass entirely to the Conservancy.





PHOTO BY KATHY PARTIN

Railroad Point on Crystal Lake

“It seemed a very natural thing for me to leave my house to the Land Conservancy,” Betty explained in 1997. “It was a little like having your cake and eating it too. I love this region and was alarmed at the rapid growth, and I liked the way the Conservancy was going about with its planning to buy prestigious land to be preserved for generations to come. Instead of worrying about all of the areas being bought up for commercial use, why not become part of the solution? I would leave my house in good hands. In the meantime, I will live in my home as long as I wish to.”

“Betty had a remarkable vision for the future,” says Chown, “and her gift of a reserved life estate of her cottage served as an example to inspire others to make planned-gift commitments. We feel honored that Betty trusted us with her house on Crystal Lake, which she intended for us to sell, using the proceeds in support of our mission.”

“With the money the Conservancy receives from the purchase,” Betty predicted, “they will be able to buy some beautiful property or those necessary wetlands.”

Indeed, when Betty passed away in Arizona last fall, GTRLC began to prepare for the house’s sale, just as Betty had envisioned more than 20 years earlier.

Proceeds from the sale of the house, when realized, will be allocated in a way that reflects Betty’s values, including her love of our region’s waterways.

Portions of the proceeds will:

- ✎ augment the general Land Fund, to protect parcels that are instrumental in preserving water quality across the region and to leverage public and private grants and gifts for land protection
- ✎ help further the protection of the Arcadia Marsh and fund universal accessibility at Arcadia Dunes
- ✎ be incorporated into projects and programs in Benzie and Manistee Counties that advance GTRLC’s Strategic Plan and enhance organizational stability and sustainability
- ✎ be invested like endowment corpus in GTRLC’s Long-Term Fund

“The Seabury family has grown over the generations,” notes Hibben. “It’s wonderful that we have this opportunity to see the values of both Charles Ward Seabury and his daughter reflected in my mother’s planned gift to the Conservancy.”

Chown adds, “Betty Mitchell could see the ‘long view’ of why GTRLC’s mission is so important to the future of our region. We are so grateful for her life, and for the legacy that she leaves behind.”



North Carolina resident Tom Robinson didn't tell us about his love for GTRLC's Arcadia Dunes preserve until he was ready to update his will. "Arcadia Dunes is the most beautiful place on Earth," Tom declared in that first conversation with us, a couple of years ago. When he bequeathed to GTRLC two rental properties that he owned in North Carolina, Tom said he relished the thought of how, when the time came, proceeds from those properties could further our work in the Arcadia area. He recalled fondly his enjoyment of kayaking on Bowen's Creek, which flows through Arcadia Marsh, and was especially gratified by the idea that his bequest might help establish universal accessibility for visitors to natural assets around Arcadia. Tom Robinson passed away in early 2014, leaving behind his first-ever gift to the Conservancy, assets that he committed to serve the "forever" of land protection in a beloved spot for a lasting personal legacy.



PHOTO BY JIM GIBSON

"I am so glad that Tom took the initiative to let us know about his plans," comments Diane Dupuis, GTRLC's Planned Giving Program Manager. "We had a chance to get to know him and learn about his connection to our work. Most important, we were afforded the opportunity to thank Tom for making such a beautifully personal and meaningful decision to fund a Conservation legacy in our region. We are forever grateful."

Everything that we accomplish at GTRLC is made possible by your support, which can take many forms. When you tell others about your commitment to land protection and stewardship in our region, and about why it matters to you; when you volunteer your time, or bring friends out to enjoy GTRLC's trails and vistas; and when you give voice to your values by contacting local, regional, and state officials—all of these actions support the work of GTRLC, and we accept these gifts with the deepest gratitude.

Annual, unrestricted gifts to the Conservancy Fund allow GTRLC to explore and pursue protection opportunities, which are often years in the making, and to monitor and take care of land already protected. These gifts can be made in the form of cash as well as gifts

of securities, real estate, or tangible personal property such as artwork or collectibles, and intangible personal property (examples of intangible personal property include copyrights, trademarks, and patents, from which fees and royalties can be derived to benefit GTRLC).

Structured gifts, strategic gifts, planned gifts: these are all terms to describe gifts that will benefit GTRLC at a future time. Assets involved in planned gifts range from simple cash bequests, to Charitable Gift Annuity arrangements, to beneficiary designations on insurance policies or retirement accounts. Planned gifts can also be conveyed through trusts, stock transfers, and, as with Betty Mitchell's or Tom Robinson's forethought, a gift of real estate.



PHOTO BY JIM GIBSON



HOORAH! TIMBERS PROTECTION FINAL

*Success follows years
of work, has built
strong partnerships*

As ownership of Timbers Recreation Area is set to officially transfer to Long Lake Township at the end of summer, a celebratory spirit infuses the community. At the core of the 10-year transition of the property from Girl Scout camp to recreation area was tenacity — and a level of community caring, engagement, and support that inspired all involved.

Timbers is special for many reasons. It encompasses a variety of habitats in one place: meadow, forest, a wild inland lake, and more. It shelters 9,000 feet of shoreline on three lakes, and while it's a mere 10 minutes from downtown Traverse City, it's a place many have never visited until now.

"The property was such a mystery," says Glen Chown, executive director of GTRLC. "So many people around the lake had never set foot on it because it was a camp, and they respected the privacy of the Girl Scouts." Those who had seen the camp from the water for decades are now walking the property for the first time, amazed at its diversity of features.

"It's so close to Traverse City and yet it's real wild country. Fern Lake is entirely encompassed by the property, and there is not a single structure on it," says Chown. "When you hear loons calling standing on that shoreline, you

might as well be in the remote regions of the U.P. or Canada, and yet you're minutes from downtown Traverse City."

The celebration of the permanent protection of Timbers has been a long time coming. Discussions about preserving it began in 2004, with negotiations to purchase the property from the Girl Scout Council starting five years later. Interim buyers Don and Jerry Oleson bought the property in 2012, holding it while the Township awaited a decision on a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant request, which the Conservancy helped to submit. The \$2.1 million grant was announced at the end of 2012, pending a required \$891,300 to be raised from local partners by the end of June 2014 — and, hoorah, we raised it!

Along the way, GTRLC strengthened partnerships with Long Lake Township, which will own and maintain the property as well as the Long Lake Association and the Long Lake Foundation. Girl Scout alumnae held a reunion and yard sale with huge support from former scouts, who travelled from as far away as Alaska to support the conservation of the property.

"When this campaign was in its infancy, there were questions on whether we could pull it off because it was a pretty big goal," recalls Chown.

“Girl Scout alumnae dove in head first and helped create that early momentum, which was really important to the final success.”

Along with the Girl Scout efforts, a portion of the proceeds of the sale of the old troop house located on the property contributed to funding. Also, in early May 2014, a long-time supporter who wishes to remain anonymous made a \$150,000 campaign close-out challenge grant. Funds raised from May through June were matched dollar-for-dollar by the donor.

Long Lake Foundation and Long Lake Association members played a significant role in inspiring final gifts, writing personal letters to neighbors and encouraging friends to contribute to the project.

That significant peer-to-peer leadership from around the lake helped the campaign come to a close successfully.

Awareness of the Conservancy is at an all-time high around Long Lake and in the watershed. Residents are not only grateful for the conservation of Timbers, but also the protection of five islands on the lake and other tracts in the watershed.

“I’m really proud of the strong partnerships that have not only been formed, but have really been advanced around this project,” says Chown. “That bodes well for the future of taking care of this property now that it’s protected, because I think it’s going to get a lot of use.”

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy staff members extend a sincere thank you to everyone who supported the conservation of Timbers Recreation Area. We are proud to live and work in a caring community that sees value in the work we do, takes an active role, and shares our joy in successes like these. Thank you!



TIMBERS RECREATION AREA

The following donors made gifts or pledges to this project through July 11, 2014. We are so grateful to everyone who helped make this project a success.

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VOLUNTEERS ELEVATE CONSERVATION WORK, HELP IN MEANINGFUL WAYS

Without the help of volunteers, the volume and diversity of GTRLC's accomplishments would be greatly hindered. Just as important, the reach of our work would also be adversely impacted because the Conservancy has a limited number of paid staff to cover our vast, five-county service area. Volunteers are the eyes and ears of staff members who are not always able to be physically present; they represent the Conservancy in their communities, they nurture relationships, and they make things happen.

Nate Richardson, GTRLC's communications and volunteer program specialist, says that before deciding to involve volunteers, the Conservancy strives to ensure each project is vital to the organization's mission. "This way we get necessary work done, and volunteers know they have helped in a meaningful way."

There is no need to invent conservation projects to keep volunteers busy; as land acquisitions and protection activities grow each year, so does the need for volunteer assistance.

Richardson says that the volunteer program is not about putting a value on volunteer hours (although volunteers contributed more than 3,100 hours in 2013 with a value of \$70,000).

"It's about providing relevant opportunities for people to work toward shared goals to preserve our area's natural beauty," says Richardson. "We believe in investing in people who are passionate about our work and want to help. Volunteers become invaluable not just for their gifts of time and talent, but also because they are knowledgeable advocates for GTRLC in their respective communities."

Gary Stauffer of Elk Rapids has been volunteering at the Conservancy since 2008. He was first assigned to the Bauer Preserve near Bellaire. As preserve steward, he helped to ensure that the trails were uncluttered and clear and helped build new trails. In more recent years, he's been involved with projects at Maple Bay Farm and Natural Area.

Working with staff and other stewards in a learning environment reinforces Stauffer's interest and motivation. While he has learned about land protection, native and invasive plants, chainsaw safety, and trail building, among many other topics, Stauffer says, "I especially enjoy feeling as though I



Volunteers and staff gathered in April, 2014 to learn from each other and share their experiences.

am part of the team. They [staff members] listen and request my input on decision making." (For more on Gary Stauffer's volunteer experience, see *Landscript*, Volume 61, summer 2013.)

Volunteers come to GTRLC for different reasons, at different stages in their lives; their impact is deep and runs across the entire organization. From handling office work, to pulling garlic mustard, to painting a sugar shack, volunteers give of their time in the name of conserving the places they love.

"We want folks to be able to volunteer as their lives and interests allow, whether it's a single work day or a 10-year commitment in a leadership role," says Richardson. He recently developed, with input from volunteers, a volunteer-specific series of events where participants learn from staffers and each other.

At a kick-off meeting in April, Conservancy updates were shared, and volunteers participated in two educational break-out sessions; volunteers, new



and old, mingled with each other, learning about experiences in other parts of the region, from trail building and care at Glacial Hills to cleaning up the grounds at Misty Acres.

In the fall, we will invite volunteers to one of the regional thank you events in honor of the work they do throughout the year.

For more information on volunteering, contact Nate Richardson, nate@gtrlc.org, or 888-929-3866. Sign up online at www.gtrlc.org.

The Value of the Nonprofit Sector and Volunteers

Michigan's **42,389** nonprofit organizations employ **438,000** individuals, who, in turn, fuel the economy. That's one of every 10 Michigan workers. These nonprofit employees collectively earn **\$4.9 billion per quarter** and generate additional jobs through their **\$80 billion in yearly spending**.

Michiganders generously support nonprofits, seeing the value they bring. **Four-fifths of Michigan residents donate cash, goods, or services annually**, and the value of volunteering in Michigan is calculated at **\$5 billion**, a clear indication of the value of volunteers in supporting the nonprofit sector.

Hats off to GTRLC volunteers and donors who contribute their time and dollars to regional conservation.

Source: Economic Impact of Michigan's Nonprofit Sector (2014 and 2013 reports)

PHOTOS BY GARY L. HOWE

Scenes from our Preservation Celebration

July 17TH, 2014



*From national to local,
from informal to strategic:*

GTRLC IMPACTS POLICY

Land conservancy work does not happen in a vacuum. It takes a combination of generous private support, robust volunteerism, and public policy initiatives that together protect and preserve our natural resources in perpetuity.

A look at Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy's involvement in educating legislators to advocate for critical federal and state policies illustrates how important that public link is to conservation work right here in northwest Michigan.

RESPECT AND WEIGHT ON CAPITOL HILL

Over the past decade, Glen Chown, executive director of GTRLC, has developed close working relationships with Michigan's federal legislators, including Senator Debbie Stabenow, Congressman Dave Camp, and Congressman Dan Benishek, to provide education and feedback on issues affecting land preservation.

Chown has known Stabenow and Camp for 14 years. As a "go to" representative of land conservancies for legislators wanting to learn how land and water asset protection issues impact their constituents and the state economy, Chown is sought out and appreciated for his expertise.

"These legislators know our work. They've toured properties that we've protected. They've met the farmers and partners we work with," says Chown. "It's not an abstract concept for them. It's very tangible. They also know conservation is a bipartisan issue. It's good for everybody."

The Conservancy's work to advance relationships with policymakers is helping to move the conservation agency forward. Also fortuitous: Michigan legislators are currently serving in key leadership roles. Stabenow is Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry (responsible for the Farm Bill);



PHOTO BY GARY L. HOWE

Senator Stabenow visited area farms and farm families with Glen Chown while working on the 2014 Farm Bill

Camp is Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means; and Benishek is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture and House Committee on Natural Resources.

Because of his long-term relationship with Stabenow, Chown was able to provide legislators with valuable education, suggestions, and feedback on agricultural land easements that were reflected in provisions of the 2014 Farm Bill (signed into law in February). These provisions will help GTRLC and other conservancies permanently protect priority farms, like those found in the west Michigan fruit belt, and especially those that have important characteristics for water-quality protection.

Policy change is happening through other channels as well. In May, Dave Camp marked up a bill to make enhanced conservation easement tax incentives permanent.

"Michigan's congressional delegation is really providing a lot of important leadership nationally on land conservation policy, whether it be the Farm Bill, the enhanced conservation easement tax incentives, or the recent designation of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore as a national wilderness area on the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act," says Chown. "It's been a big year for federal activity already."

As a result, the Great Lakes region will be a focal point for federal conservation programs, spurring innovation on a scale not seen before on the west side of Michigan.

The Farm Bill authorized the USDA to create a new initiative, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which will competitively award funds to conservation projects within designated “critical conservation areas” designated by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. The Great Lakes region is one of just eight of these areas from across the country.

The Conservancy will be partnering with the Conservation Resource Alliance, the Leelanau Conservancy, and others to focus on the west Michigan fruit belt, along Lake Michigan. The partnership will convene, create strategic goals, and submit a proposal over the summer. If selected, it will implement a comprehensive farmland conservation program with a bold vision.

Support from local donors allows the Conservancy to put resources toward building crucial relationships with policymakers that impact public decision making and, in turn, make the region a better place to live, work, invest, and play.

A SEAT AT THE TABLE IN LANSING

At the state level, the Conservancy is focusing on educating legislators and state officials to advocate for two major projects: protecting and strengthening the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and working on a statewide Farmland Protection Program.

Last year alone, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund granted \$5.1 million for land acquisitions in northwest Michigan. Anything that jeopardizes this level of financial commitment would be detrimental to regional conservation.

“There have been efforts to raid that fund, divert it to other non-natural resources, like fixing roads or to fund other short-term needs,” says Chown. “We’re looking at ways to strengthen it through Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy, our statewide policy organization for land trust in Michigan.” Chown is on the board of the center and serves as Policy Committee Chair.

The Conservancy also is leading work educating and encouraging state officials to advocate for the creation of a State of Michigan Farmland Protection Program. Staffers have drafted a white paper and made presentations to state officials, including the governor and his Quality of Life Cabinet.

“We are presenting the work in northwest Michigan as an example of what could be and should be on a statewide level,” says Chown. “And we’re asking the State of Michigan to invest in that program, which also will help leverage federal dollars.



Congressman Dave Camp meets with GTRLC Board Member, Ken Engle, and Glen Chown

”GUIDANCE AND EDUCATION FOR COUNTIES AND TOWNSHIPS

At the local level, the Conservancy has built relationships with numerous public decision-making bodies, serving as advisor and guide for conservation work in the five-county area. As local units of government compete for recreational and conservation grants — such as Grand Traverse County with the Maple Bay Farm and Natural Area or Acme Township with the Acme Shoreline and Park project — the Conservancy often helps to steer the process.

One of the Conservancy’s roles is to technically assist on the transaction side (securing options, arranging appraisals, conducting environmental due diligence work, etc.), sometimes raising all or a portion of the required local match for assist projects with local units of government.

“At a local policy level, we’re really educating community leaders, providing education and guidance as to where leaders direct investments, building coalitions, sharing research, and advocating for environmentally sound decisions,” says Chown. “The Acme shoreline, Timbers Recreation Area, Old Mission Peninsula, and the west coast of Benzie and Manistee counties, are just a few examples of the sort of partnerships we nurture.”

From the local level up to Capitol Hill, the Conservancy educates legislators and government officials and advocates for ideas that positively impact the environment here in northwest Michigan — protecting the farms, woodland, and watersheds that make our corner of the state so lovely. Donor gifts to the Conservancy’s general operating fund are the sole source of support for this critical work.



WATER TRAIL MOMENTUM BUILDS AS GRANT ENDS

Local units of government keep project moving forward

Just over one year ago, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy received a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Coastal Zone Management Program to begin water trail planning. While other grantees are focusing on the Great Lakes shoreline, our project is unique in that it involves the inland Chain of Lakes and East Grand Traverse Bay.

As the grant wraps up, we'd like to re-cap the project's successes and let supporters know what lies ahead for the communities involved in the project.

The first stage of the project involved gathering geographic data on existing public sites along the waterways that could be potential non-motorized water trail access sites. With this information

in hand, GTRLC created a draft map with 150 points representing potential access sites; however, not all of those points will be future launch facilities.

Meanwhile, the Conservancy kicked off the planning process, working with local units of government, stretching from the Village of Ellsworth at the north end of the Chain of Lakes (close to the Conservancy's St. Clair Lake-Six Mile Lake Natural Area) down to the Village of Elk Rapids, on to Acme Township, and along the coast of East Bay.

The project has helped the communities come together around the Conservancy's mission to protect natural scenic areas and connect people to places that have been protected along the waterways.

The work has provided both the energy and the framework for communities to work together, and since these are small communities with few resources, the process has been invaluable.

The Village of Ellsworth, the Village of Bellaire, and the Village of Elk Rapids have been active partners.

The Village of Ellsworth has included a water trail in its local plans for the last ten years, but was without the staff or the capacity to plan outside of their borders.

Elk Rapids, located where the Elk River Chain of Lakes meets East Grand Traverse Bay, has a commitment to ensuring that everyone — residents and visitors alike — are able to share and enjoy the waterways, says Michael Spence, assistant manager of the Village of Elk Rapids.

"The first step toward stewardship is an appreciation of these resources that can only come through access," says Spence. "It goes without saying that projects like that water trail have a significant impact on our physical, environmental and economic well-being. So, it's a no-brainer that we're diving in."

Acme Parks and Recreation became involved because the project was in sync with its goals to protect open space for residents and park visitors and to bring economic growth to the community. "The water trail offers an opportunity for our township to achieve both," says Marcie Timmins, Acme Township Parks and Recreation committee chair.

Timmins says that the trail could not be a success without all of the partners. "Together we can create tangible benefits for all the communities along the trail and establish permanent wild spaces to maintain a balance between nature and development."

Communities along the trail are now talking and planning together as a result of this project.

“The Conservancy is really fulfilling a planning role and a networking role,” says Megan Olds, Associate Director of GTRLC. “We’re helping to connect the dots between these places and these parks.”

GTRLC has shared the draft access map with local units of government that own or manage the launch sites, some of which are located in established parks, while others are simply at the end of county roads. Communities are considering which sites they want to promote as part of a water trail.

The final map, which will be produced by GTRLC, will feature around 30 access points. Since the Conservancy will not be involved with managing those sites, local units of government that agree to putting a dot on the map will be responsible for signage and maintenance as part of the project.

GTRLC developed design guidelines for signage and promotion so that wayfinding along the water trail is consistent.

While each community will be paying for and installing its own signage, they’ll be doing it under a set of branding guidelines that are universal to the trail.

“So if you’re a user traveling between access sites and communities, whether in Bellaire or Ellsworth, there will be some standardization,” says Olds.

Along with providing new connections for recreation, the work also has potential to boost commerce, bringing people who are paddling, canoeing, or kayaking the water trail into downtowns and villages.

“We hope that as the trail becomes more frequented, Acme Township will see a growth of small local

businesses in our waterfront district that are well supported by users of the trail and parks, as well as overflow to other businesses within the community,” says Timmins.

Local chambers of commerce also hope to link up with the trail.

As part of the grant, the Conservancy contracted with the Land Information Access Association to share its expertise on “Trail Towns” with local chambers. These communities learned strategies to connect their towns to their waterways, from looking at zoning ordinances to allow sidewalk eating at restaurants to having kayak/canoe lockup stations at access sites so belongings are safe and secure while paddlers enjoy downtowns.

“Some of the communities are looking at how to integrate those ideas, especially the villages of Ellsworth and Bellaire,” says Olds.

Part of that next phase is the formation of a new nonprofit that is being created by the Ellsworth, Elk Rapids and Bellaire Chambers of Commerce and Short’s Brewing Company called Paddle Antrim. The organization’s goal will be to host events that feature the water trail and promote village amenities.

Revenue from those events would provide for both the staff coordination of the events and efforts that support the waterway, such as stewardship of water quality, treating invasive species, or the maintenance of launch sites. Paddle Antrim hopes to host a major weekend-long event in September of 2015.

While the chambers and local units of government and other municipal groups have been involved in getting plans underway for the water trail, so have volunteers.

Volunteers, coordinated by GTRLC, have helped collect data for the project, including filling out access-point forms that inventory what’s available, such as restrooms, accessible pathways, and parking. Experienced paddlers have also been recruited to fill out water trail route forms, which identify the best routes to paddle to avoid heavy motorized traffic or areas with a lot of chop — or to capture some great paddling experiences, like finding a shipwreck or spying waterfowl.

For more information...
please contact Megan Olds at
molds@gtrlc.org or 231-929-7911.

PHOTO BY NATE RICHARDSON





PHOTO BY NATE RICHARDSON

INVESTING IN LAND PROTECTION

The following donors made gifts and/or pledge payments to land protection projects between January 1 and May 31, 2014.

ACME'S BAYSIDE PARK: ALL PHASES

Art & Mary Schmuckal Family Fund
John & Sue Bolde
George Comden
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Gordon & Veronica LaPointe
Rotary Charities of Traverse City
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Gail Trill & Linda Wikle

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LAND AND WATERSHED PROTECTION-RELATED FUNDS

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Gary & Jane Stauffer

OLD MISSION PENINSULA LAND PROTECTION FUND

J. G. Marc Bertrand
Kirk Marckwald & Chris Desser
Mariel Foundation

CHAIN OF LAKES WATER TRAIL AND OTHER TRAILBUILDING

Roger & Helen Dewey
Michigan Coastal Zone
Management Program:
Office of the Great Lakes,
MDEQ and NOAA
Larry & Lauren Prentice



PHOTO BY NATE RICHARDSON

OMISSIONS IN OUR 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

The following gifts received between January 1 and December 31, 2013, were inadvertently omitted from our 2013 Annual Report donor lists. We sincerely apologize to these generous donors.

OLD MISSION PROTECTION FUND

Gifts of \$5,000 or more

David and Paula Kelley
Kathy Polk Osborne
Susan Scyphers
Shaw and Betty Walker Foundation

Gifts of \$2,500 to \$4,999

Mariel Foundation

Gifts of \$500 to \$999

Peter & Anne Magoun

Gifts of \$1 to \$249

Susan & David Williams

LAND AND WATERSHED PROTECTION-RELATED PROJECTS

Gifts of \$100,000 or more

The Carls Foundation

Gifts of \$5000 to \$24,999

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Thomas Cobb
Dole Family Foundation
Royce Ragland & Kenneth Bloem

Gifts of \$1 to \$249

Joyce Kirshner & Frances Wyatt
Michael Grusenmeyer

LONG-TERM FUNDS, ENDOWMENTS, ESTATES AND OTHER SOCIAL GIFTS

Gifts of \$5,000 or more

Anonymous

Gifts of \$1 to \$500

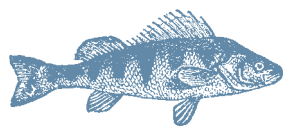
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Gifts of \$1 to \$499

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Gifts of \$1 to \$249

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Patti & Steve Shook
Audrey Thomas
Mike & Michelle Trudell



OLD MISSION PROJECTS

The following includes all donors to two special projects recently completed on Old Mission Peninsula. These donors, except those noted with an "*" (who made their gifts in 2014), were inadvertently omitted from our 2013 Annual Report donor lists. We sincerely apologize to these generous donors.

BOWERS HARBOR PARK ADDITION

As part of the campaign to purchase the 59-acre Bowers Harbor Park addition, the American Proficiency Institute issued a very generous \$100,000 challenge grant to support both the park addition and our Conservancy Fund, which supports the day-to-day needs of the Conservancy's land protection and stewardship programs. The list below includes all donors to the park addition, including those who helped us successfully meet the generous challenge.

Gifts of \$10,000 or more

American Proficiency Institute
Casey Cowell
Brian & Robin Dailey *
Louise Ladd
Ken & Susan Morrison
John & Nancy Morrison
Sladie Morrison
in memory of Harley Morrison
Mary & William Swift
David & Sara Taft

Gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999

Mr. Charles & Jeannie Chapin

Marcia Gest
Jolly Pumpkin/Mission Table
Kirk Marckwald & Chris Dresser
Monnie Peters
in memory of Jack Sweeney

Gifts of \$1,000 to \$4,999

Francie & Dan Bailey
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Nancy Hammond & Tim Wolf
Bill & Kirty Heald
Leslie Li & Brian Ahlborn
Susie Mackay
Deborah & Todd Wilson

Gifts of \$1 to \$999

Charlene Abernethy & Mike Gill
Bad Robot/Gettleson,
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in honor of Samantha Chapin
Frederick & Kathy Doelker
Newton Eye Care Center *
Dick & Ellie Paulsen
Terrie Taylor &
John Robert Williams *
in honor of Donald
& Sally Grishaw
Emily & Samuel Todd

OLD MISSION – MOORINGS PROJECT

Gifts of \$5,000 or more

John DiLorenzo
David and Paula Kelley
John and Sue Paul
John and Theresa Pelizzari



LAND CHAMPIONS

Land Champions commit to monthly gifts that support the very foundation of our mission. By supplying a steady and reliable source of income to fund the day-to-day work of the Conservancy, Land Champions allow us to plan and sustain our work more effectively. We are grateful for their commitment and generosity.

Joanie Abbott	Tom & Diane Emling*	Rita Melotti & Andrew Bishop	John & Lynn Steben
Erin Anderson	Chad & Monica Evans	Judith Mich	Jo Stevens
Joe & Kathryn Anderson	David Foley &	Anne Mudgett &	Chris & Ali Sullivan
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Thomas Crampton	Joseph Fraser	Steve & Carol Shuckra	
Carole Donaldson	Jane McKune	Jeff & Judy Spencer	

* New Land Champion

If you would like to learn more about how you can become a Land Champion, contact **Anne Brasie**, Fund Development Manager, at abrasie@gtrlc.org or 231/929-7911.

HONORARIUMS January 1 to May 31, 2014 | Gifts were made in honor of the names shown in bold.

For the honorarium gifts made to the Timbers Recreation Area, please refer to pages 7–9.

Lois Breimeier Carol Breimeier	Matt & Katie Schlomer Mark Hagan, Coldwell Banker Schmidt Realtors
Helen Campbell Carolyn H. Campbell	Mr. Send William Habich, Coldwell Banker Schmidt Realtors
Donald & Sally Grishaw (60th Wedding Anniversary) Terrie Taylor & John Robert Williams	Dr. Terrie Taylor Lou Anna & Roy Simon
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Henry Oscar Kraft Rev. Oscar & Shirley Kraft	
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Marathon Automotive

Gifts were made to the Conservancy by Marathon Automotive in honor of the following customers.

Jill Ciszewski	Joyce MacDonald
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Joe Heller	Ron Pritchard
Rick Helmreich	Lisa Ptak
Tim Hughes	Dan Stanchik, Jr
Ron Jolly	Charlotte Stevens
Rudy Kaltinger	Ed Timm
Scott Kessner	Steve Trahair
Jeff Kohl	Dirk Van Til
Vernon Lalone	Tim Weadock

MEMORIALS January 1 to May 31, 2014 | Gifts were made in the memory of the names shown in bold.

For memorial gifts made to the Timbers Recreation Area, please refer to pages 7-9.

William "Rick" Andrew

Gary Andrew
Bob Carris
William Fried
Henry & Sara Parks

Edith Blackhurst

Gayle & Stephen Stewart

Ken Breimeier

Betty Miller

John Buxton

Susanne Buxton

Jack Callahan

Carol & Patrick Conway

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Tina & Vernon Lalone
Sherry J. Lark
Don & Ginny Oleson
Glenn, Sandra, Tom &
Karen Paradis

VANGUARD SOCIETY

By making plans to benefit the Conservancy with future gifts—accomplished through estates, trusts, annuities, insurance policies, beneficiary designations, and other planned giving options—Vanguard Society members will continue to make a difference for land conservation far into the future, helping to ensure that the places we save today will be protected and cared for, forever.

Anonymous (5)

Martha Aemisegger ‡

Hal & Kathryn Armstrong

Marjorie E. Arney ‡

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Henry Doss

Robert & Nancy Baglan

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Birgit Yetter

Ron & Marty Yocum

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"Making a charitable bequest to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy provides for our children and grandchildren by strengthening their communities and passing on our most heartfelt values." —John and Nancy Morrison

THE CONSERVANCY FUND

The following donors made gifts and/or pledge payments to The Conservancy Fund between January 1 and May 31, 2014. This unrestricted fund supports our annual operating budget. Your gifts support the very foundation of our work and ensure our programs are sustainable. Please note: Pledge commitments made, but not yet received, are acknowledged when payment is received.

We deeply appreciate and depend upon your generous support.

Anonymous (5)	Susan Breuer
Joanie Abbott	Barbara Brewer
Joan Abbott	Pepper Bromelmeier & Thomas Brown
Jennifer Abel	Larry & Connie Brown
Jay & Shirley Adams	Jo Bullis
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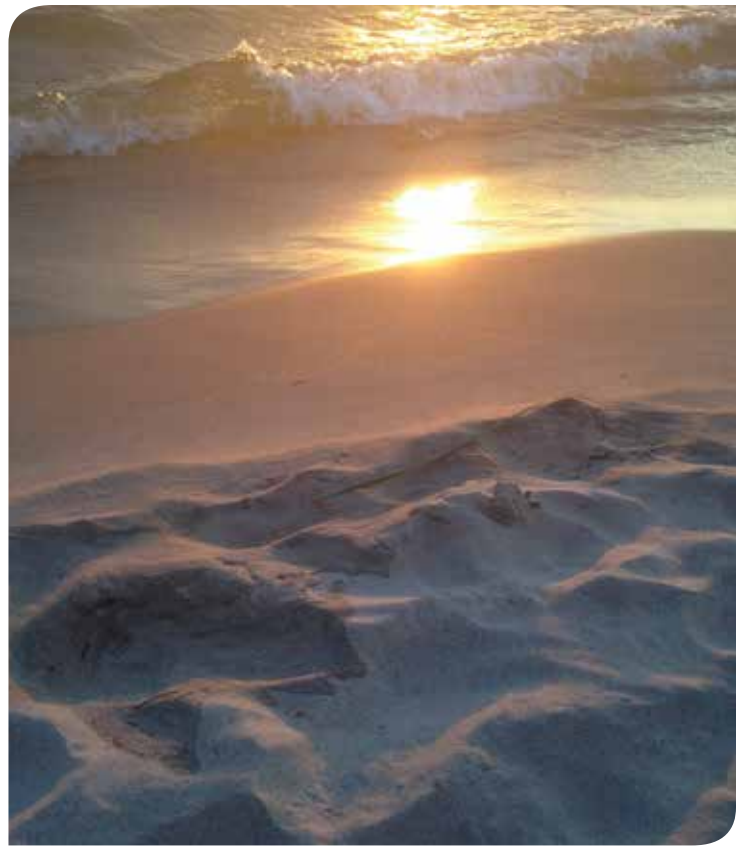
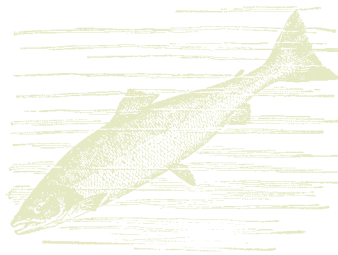


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Carls Foundation Challenge in Year Three!

Your generous gifts ensure we can follow through on our promise to protect and steward each property in our care forever.

To help us generate the financial resources needed to fulfill this promise, the Carls Foundation awarded the Conservancy a multi-year challenge grant that matches new and increased gifts — up to \$100,000 each year for five years. We have met this challenge in each of the first two years. We hope you will consider helping us meet the challenge this year, too! Any gift from a first-time donor— or an increased gift from an existing supporter— made by December 31st will be met by this generous challenge.

~ We are so thankful that you choose to support our work.



HAPPY TRAILS – ACCESS FOR ALL

People play a principle role in conservation. Beyond the significant work our staff and volunteers do to protect and take care of these remarkable lands and waters, and beyond you and other supporters making the decision to donate precious financial resources toward this mission, we all have another essential purpose to fulfill when it comes to conservation: we need to get out and enjoy it!

Our appreciation of these natural treasures is critical to the health and success of the entire ecosystem. People are as much a part of nature as the trees, birds, lakes and wildflowers we work to protect, and helping people find their place within this dynamic web is another goal we work to achieve every day.

There are two large projects currently on our docket that will provide additional types of access to some of our protected lands.

While the 10-mile mountain biking trail at St. Pierre Road offers an adventurous way to experience Arcadia Dunes, with the increased traffic at the Preserve, the need for a less challenging, more inclusive, route emerged. Our stewardship team and an army of loyal volunteers are currently working to make this a reality. Construction on a 3-mile loop trail that shares parking and a trailhead with the existing trail began last year. Due to the unique terrain in this part of the Preserve, the views and vistas will be as interesting as those on the existing trail, without that trail's degree of difficulty. This relatively flat trail will offer less ambitious hikers and beginning mountain bikers stunning views and access to the beautiful interior of the Preserve. Due to the dedication of a group of volunteers from Camp Arcadia — including teens working on their summer service project — this trail has become casually known in the community as the “camp” trail. The project is slated for completion this year.



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Moving slightly southwest within the Arcadia Dunes preserve, we come to a potential project site that will provide unprecedented access to a Great Lakes dunes landscape. Currently, the spectacular—and immensely popular—view from Old Baldy can only be experienced by those with the ability to navigate miles of twisting forest trails and arduous dune climbs.

However, fundraising efforts are currently underway that could change all that. A universally accessible, paved trail designed to accommodate strollers, wheelchairs, bikers and hikers would wind from the current Baldy trailhead on M-22 all the way to a scenic overlook where visitors of all physical abilities could observe the entire dunescape unobstructed. If fundraising efforts are successful, this trail and scenic overlook, along with benches and interpretative signs, would complete another component of the Explore the Shores initiative.

Whether your mobility is impaired, you have young children, or you prefer hiking a trail with more stable footing, the ability to enjoy this jewel of the Lake Michigan Coast will be yours.

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