



landscript

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

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CELEBRATE SUCCESS

NEWS & EVENTS

Thanks to all of you – our generous donors, our talented volunteer corps and countless others who contribute time, gifts, and support – we have a lot to celebrate this summer!

Raising funds and completing important land protection projects, such as Elberta Dunes South, Phase One of the Acme Shoreline Park Initiative, and the Arcadia Marsh has always been key to our mission. In this issue of *Landscript*, you will also get a glimpse of recent successes as well as some of the other work that is made possible through your unrestricted gifts.

Your generous gifts enable our skilled staff to dedicate themselves to land protection and the hundreds of details that go into each project. After a successful preservation effort, they continue to work tirelessly alongside our volunteer corps to manage and maintain land that has been strategically protected. You can feel good about all of this, and proud of what your support makes possible.

We thank our many friends, supporters, and volunteers who put their backs, literally and figuratively, into specific land protection projects and appreciate all of you who help keep the day-to-day business of land preservation going!





Photo by Angie Lucas

LEAP OF FAITH!

LAND PROTECTION

The Acme Shoreline Park grew by 4 acres, with 540 feet of Lake Michigan frontage, thanks to everyone who took a leap of faith to make it happen!

A Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant of over \$3 million was the perfect start. Foundations including the Oleson Foundation, the Biederman Foundation, Rotary Charities of Traverse City, The Carls Foundation and the Consumers Energy Foundation led the charge in completing the campaign. Their support inspired over 200 gifts from individuals. Steve Perdue, a long-time friend of the Conservancy, supported the project, saying, "As a long-time resident of Acme and someone who has been using East Grand Traverse Bay since I was a kid, I just can't think of anything better that could happen."

Nearly \$4 million dollars was raised in support of this shared, community vision for a wondrous, shoreline park at the gateway to our region. Thank you to everyone who supported this project. See you at the beach!

"We enjoy being part of this community and recognize the benefits the shoreline park will bring. We enjoy living here, as do our kids, and our choice to help create a great beach, rather than to build condos here, makes us feel great."

– The Saco Family, owners of the Sun and Sands Hotel, part of Phase Two of the Acme Shoreline Park initiative.

Phase Two has already begun! To learn more about the mile-long vision for the shoreline, or to donate to the project visit our website: www.gtrlc.org or contact Megan Olds at 231.922.1270.



THESE DUNES ARE YOUR DUNES!

LAND PROTECTION

Balmy temperatures and clear skies greeted nearly 100 passengers in Frankfort as they boarded for a two-hour celebration cruise along the Lake Michigan shore past Elberta Dunes South to Arcadia Dunes and back. Marveling at the miles of shoreline that are now permanently protected, guests enjoyed great food, great company and a fabulous sunset. Thanks to the many generous donors and volunteers, the \$2 million dollar Elberta Dunes South project forever protects 58 acres of dune and ¼ mile of shoreline.

It took a willing landowner, a dedicated local governmental partner, a tremendous grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, 270 project gifts from foundations and individuals, numerous unrestricted gifts, in-home gatherings where old friends encouraged new friends to “join the cause”, and frequent hikes – most led by dedicated volunteers with a true love for these dunes – to permanently protect Elberta Dunes South.

We extend a heartfelt thank you for the 270 donations designated specifically to Elberta Dunes South to provide the private monies needed to bring this important project to a successful ending. In addition to gifts designated to these dunes, countless other unrestricted gifts provided the necessary support of our ongoing land protection and stewardship efforts. Dedicated volunteers made it possible for dozens of people to experience the wonder of the dunes firsthand by leading informative hikes. It took all of this to protect these stunning dunes – Thank You!



Photos by Jenika Cruzen Burden

HELP US PROTECT A VITAL SECTION OF THE COURSE

The Iceman course, the VASA main trail and single track are the backbone of some of the best riding in this state, no doubt about it. It's about getting outside, getting dirty and connecting with nature in a way you can't find anywhere else. What would mountain biking be like in the Grand Traverse Region without access to the miles and miles of amazing trails in the state land between Kalkaska and Traverse City?

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has a unique opportunity to permanently protect the small piece of land in Kalkaska shown on the map (below) – on the race course of the Iceman Cometh. Future development of this land could significantly re-route the race course – and impact the gateway to miles of existing trails and potential new trails for all types of recreational enthusiasts.

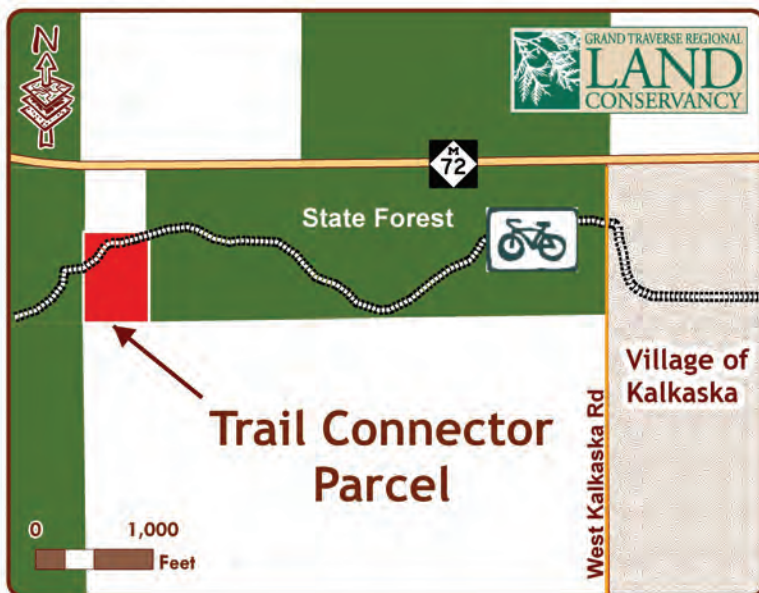
We need to raise \$25,000 by the end of the year, to seal this deal. Steve Brown, founder of the Iceman Cometh has generously offered to match all gifts up to \$10,000 to help us reach our goal.

Your generous donation will help protect this beautiful connector, preserving it for public use for all to enjoy.

To donate to this project, visit the Conservancy's website at www.gtrlc.org and select "Kalkaska Connector" on the donation page. If you have questions, please contact Matt McDonough at 231/922-1245. You can help us make this happen.



Steve Lagerquist, GTRLC Land Steward, racing the '09 Iceman Cometh. Like the Conservancy jersey? Get yours at gtrlc.org.





PERSISTENCE LEADS TO MAJOR VICTORY

STEWARDSHIP

Some of the things we love the most about our region – the diversity of wildflowers on a forest floor, the plants and animals that make their homes in forests and on unique, world-class dunes, and our freshwater lakes and rivers – are threatened by invasive species. But we have great news regarding one particularly nasty invasive – Garlic Mustard.

Garlic Mustard, originally from Europe, was most likely brought to the United States for culinary uses. In Europe, it co-exists with a multitude of vegetation in a harmonious balance. In our forests, though, it has no predators and spreads rapidly, wiping out most vegetation in its path. The effects of this virtual monoculture created by Garlic Mustard threaten our woodland butterflies, salamanders, and large canopy trees, and other important aspects of healthy forests.

Conservancy staff and volunteers have made a concerted effort since 2002 to defeat Garlic Mustard, all the while protecting more properties which also need monitoring and invasive species removal. Our strategic, dedicated program has been extremely effective. In fact, we are happy to share

that our protected lands in Benzie County are Garlic Mustard free as of this year!

This major accomplishment is due to the leadership and dedication of our volunteers, the flexibility and determination of our stewardship staff, and effective partnerships with groups like Great Lakes Ecological Management (GLEM) and our preserve neighbors. Of course none of this work is possible without the financial support of public agencies and private donors. A Sustain Our Great Lakes grant award along with unrestricted donations to the Conservancy provided critical support this season.

This accomplishment took support, perseverance and creativity, but it's rewarding to know that our forests will continue to flourish, providing habitat for flora and fauna, and resulting in an enjoyable experience for all who visit.



IT'S FOR THE BIRDS!

STEWARDSHIP

There are many projects underway as we continue our grassland restoration and management at the Dry Hill grassland area located in the eastern portion of Arcadia Dunes Nature Preserve. The 300 acre grassland is home to many declining species of grassland birds, some of which are of special concern in Michigan, such as the northern harrier and grasshopper sparrow. To create a more desirable habitat for the birds, the area is undergoing a gradual transformation from fallow fields into native grassland.

This project will require ongoing stewardship including selective shrub removal, cover crop plantings, and installation of

native plants. Partners supporting our work include Vern Stephens of Designs by Nature and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Defenders of Wildlife-Living Lands Project, Michigan DNRE/Landowner Incentive Program, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Some of the projects completed by volunteers and staff so far this summer include:

BIRD COUNTS Grassland birds are surveyed to track changes in breeding bird populations using the Point Count method. Volunteer birder Carl Freeman began doing these counts in 2005 making this the 6th season of point count records at the grassland.

VEGETATION MONITORING

Each grassland bird species has a particular range of habitat conditions to which it is well suited. Some birds like short, sparse grass while others like taller, thicker vegetation. Some bird species like large, open fields while others prefer some scattered trees and shrubs. So that we can effectively manage the grassland for native birds while controlling invasive species, GTRLC staff and volunteers spent a few days this summer measuring the vegetation height-density, litter depth, and woody vegetation. Many thanks to Paula Dreeszen for coordinating the project, and to Sue Waltz, Alison Heins, and John Ester for your help with monitoring this year!



OTHER FUN STUFF Thank you to Kay Charter from Saving Birds Thru Habitat—she gave a wonderful presentation at our open house in April about the importance of creating grassland habitat for birds. We'd also like to welcome our new grassland preserve stewards: John Ester and Keith Westphal, both active members of local Audubon Clubs. Their birding expertise, along with reports from Paula Zenker and Brian Allen, are a great benefit to the project as we record which birds arrive and when. A special thank you to Jim Moxley for his dedication to the project. Happy travels—we'll miss you Jim!

Stay tuned for future events at the grassland including wildflower seeding and seed collection in the fall!

Welcome our new grassland preserve stewards: John Ester and Keith Westphal, both active members of local Audubon Clubs.



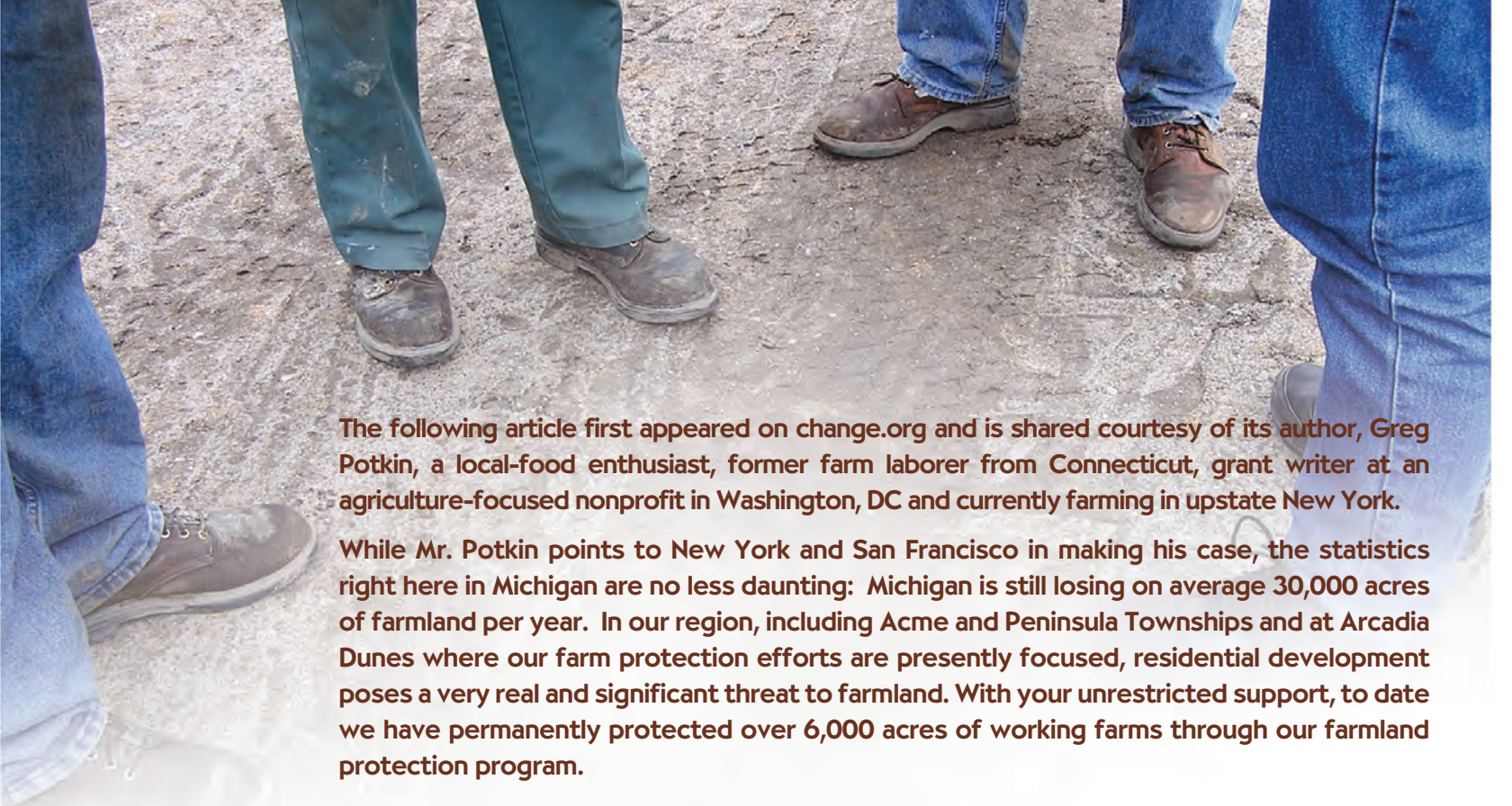
BUCKET BRIGADE RESTORES OLD BALDY!

VOLUNTEER COLLEAGUES

In April and July roughly 70 volunteers came together and formed two bucket brigades to lift sand up the south entrance hill to Old Baldy sand dune at Arcadia Dunes: The C.S. Mott Nature Preserve. After about three hours of work each day, the hill profile has been restored to approximately what it had been previous to heavy erosion. Thanks to YouthBuild Northwest/Manistee, TCAPS Youth Corps, the Young Professionals, Conservancy volunteers and stewardship staff for working hard and all the while having fun!

Following the bucket brigade, cable suspension stairs were installed. These stairs, similar to those at Sleeping Bear Dunes, will help prevent erosion while also improving access for visitors.





The following article first appeared on change.org and is shared courtesy of its author, Greg Potkin, a local-food enthusiast, former farm laborer from Connecticut, grant writer at an agriculture-focused nonprofit in Washington, DC and currently farming in upstate New York.

While Mr. Potkin points to New York and San Francisco in making his case, the statistics right here in Michigan are no less daunting: Michigan is still losing on average 30,000 acres of farmland per year. In our region, including Acme and Peninsula Townships and at Arcadia Dunes where our farm protection efforts are presently focused, residential development poses a very real and significant threat to farmland. With your unrestricted support, to date we have permanently protected over 6,000 acres of working farms through our farmland protection program.

FOR LOCAL FOOD, WE NEED LOCAL FARMLAND

WORKING LAND

Urban farming is a great way to meet an increasing demand for local food and to move towards a more efficient and sustainable food system.

But growing food on small plots of land in cities like New York and San Francisco does not make up for the production that is lost when farmland in surrounding areas is lost to development.

by
Greg Potkin

In a recent *Wall Street Journal* article, Justin Scheck makes this point by showing that despite a strong interest in urban food production, farmland located in the counties surrounding San Francisco – responsible for a vast majority of the food consumed in the Bay Area – continues to be developed at rates that will make it increasingly difficult to feed the city’s appetite for local food.

This is a problem that American Farmland Trust also documented in its San Francisco Foodshed Assessment that was released in September 2008. While investigating the feasibility of San Francisco

feeding itself exclusively with food grown within a 100-mile radius, the assessment found that 12 percent of the city’s foodshed is already developed – and that if current trends continue, another 800,000 acres of farmland in the area will be lost by 2050.

These findings highlight a huge problem within the local food movement: While we value the food and, for the most part, value the farmers, the land itself is not always seen as the essential piece of the local food puzzle.

When you also consider that 86 percent of the country’s fruits and vegetables – and 63 percent of its dairy products – are produced in significantly urbanized areas where development continues apace, this lack of love for the land becomes even more problematic.

Unless we begin to integrate land protection priorities into the local food agenda, it’s very possible that the movement itself may be in jeopardy of becoming a passing fad, unable to sustain itself because of a lack of local farmland available to serve consumers’ demand for local food.





"Our interest in the PDR program grew as we learned more about it from some of our grower friends on the Peninsula. We've developed a lot of respect for the farmland preservation program and the farm community's dedication to it."

– Nels Nyblad

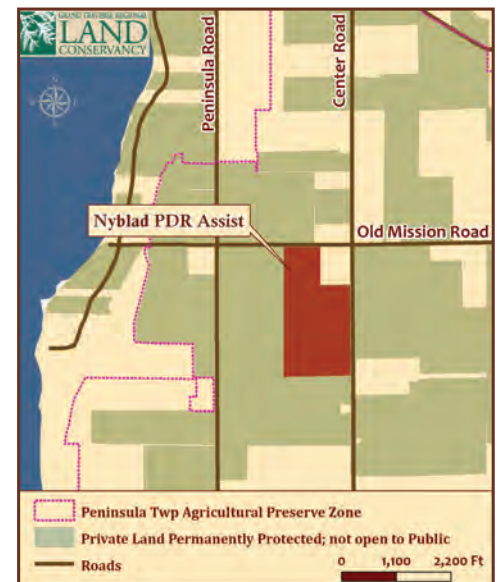
PROTECTING OLD MISSION FARMLAND

Final Farm Added to Largest Block of Protected Farmland on Old Mission Peninsula

WORKING LAND

Another seventy acres of prime farmland on the Old Mission Peninsula has been added to the growing number of working farms permanently protected through the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. The property, located on Old Mission and Center Roads, is the last farm in the largest block of protected farmland on the Peninsula to be protected. Owned by the Nyblad family, who are one of the largest producers of apples in Michigan, the property produces tart cherries and borders roughly 300 acres of protected farmland.

"Our interest in the Purchase of Development Rights program grew as we learned more about it from some of our grower friends on the Peninsula. We've developed a lot of respect for the farmland preservation program and the farm community's dedication to it," said Nels Nyblad, one of the six family members who own the property. "We certainly appreciate Peninsula Township for their program and we also know that our project would not have been completed were it not for the dedication and diligence of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and their farmland protection specialist, Brian Bourdages, who worked with us for over a year to get our land protected."



In 1994, Peninsula Township residents created the Midwest region's first local Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. Supported by local tax dollars established by two votes of Township residents, the township developed a voluntary program to buy residential development rights from local farm families. The purchase of development rights ensures the land is protected for farming in perpetuity through the granting of a conservation easement. The program supports the creation of a long-term business environment for agriculture. The funds the landowner receives provide a tool that can assist growers with investing in farm operations and transferring their farm to the next generation.

FEDERAL FARM AND RANCHLANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM LENDS A HAND IN ACME

WORKING LAND

\$611,421 is finding its way to our region thanks to the Federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program (FRPP), the first outside matching funds to come to Acme's Farmland Preservation Program. The grant will help complete three Purchase of Development projects underway, permanently protecting another 392 acres of farmland.

These properties, owned by the Send, Engle and Veliquette families, contribute to the more than 1,000 acres of public and private land already preserved in Acme Township, including the Deepwater Point Natural Area, Yuba Creek Natural Area, Petobago State Game Area, Maple Bay Natural Area, and the Acme Shoreline.



DID YOU KNOW?

The grape and wine industry alone contributes \$790 million to Michigan's economy

Provides 5,400 jobs

Over 800,000 tourists visit Michigan's wineries each year

To learn more about our farm land preservation work, visit our website: www.gtrlc.org or call Brian Bourdages, Farmland Preservation Specialist, 231-929-7911

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS

A tribute to our volunteer colleagues from Michigan's Governor

VOLUNTEER COLLEAGUES

This summer, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy was nominated and selected as a finalist for the 2010 Governor's Service Awards in the category "Outstanding Volunteer Program" and additionally recognized during an "Evening with the Stars" ceremony at the Gem Theater in Detroit on June 24th.

A certificate of tribute was presented by Governor Granholm to Rolf vonWalthausen, Volunteer Program Coordinator, during the ceremony. It states: "This Certificate of Tribute is given to those organizations who show exceptional accomplishments through volunteerism, and exemplary efforts to improve the lives of others.

As a recipient of this acknowledgement, this organization is truly deserving of special recognition by all the citizens of Michigan. Rarely does an organization demonstrate, in such a definitive manner, the honor, dedication, leadership, and integrity required to take on such an initiative, and for doing so, we offer our thanks."

This honor is not ours – it belongs to all of our volunteer colleagues whose donation of time and talent has resulted in such state-wide recognition of accomplishment. You are truly outstanding!

A photograph of a forest path in autumn. The path is covered in fallen leaves and leads into a dense forest. The trees have vibrant yellow and orange foliage, with some green still visible. The lighting is soft, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting.

“

There are some who can
live without wild things
and some who cannot.

— ALDO LEOPOLD

LAND CHAMPIONS

Providing reliable resources that allow us to fulfill our mission, Land Champions make convenient, monthly donations by credit card or through a checking account. Their continual commitment and generosity helps ensure consistency in our work to preserve the very best of our region. Thank you Land Champions:

Joannie Abbott	Gregory & Audrey Landsfeld
Erin Anderson	Josephine "Jodi" Marquis
Joe & Kathryn Anderson	Michael McCrary
Robert & Nancy Baglan	Jane McKune*
Marcia Bellinger & Irv Stoner	Thomas & Judith Mich
Warren & Barbara Berthelsen	Eileen Milner
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Karl & Lauri Brockmiller*	Megan & Andy Olds
Jo Bullis	Steve H. Perdue, Grand Traverse Industries
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*New Land Champions

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Charley & Sharon Trense
Susan Arnold & Ralph Poelling
Beth & Paul Olin*

JIM TOTTEN

Ed & Marge Grabowski

FAYE WILDIE

Avace & Bruce Wildie

PETER WOLFE

Shirley Wolfe

FIRST-TIME DONORS

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you and grateful welcome to the following individuals and organizations who became new donors to the Conservancy between January 1 and July 19, 2010.

Margaret Allee	Charles & Mary Dove
American Express Gift Matching	Stewart & Anne Dunn
Ann Arbor Community Foundation	Essex High School
Arcadia Lions Club	Cathy Ferguson
Barbara Bailey	Edith Filliettaz
Art and Theresa Bak	James Flory
Kimberly Baker	Ellen Fred
John C. Bamford	Thomas Gennerman
Price & Marge Banks	Linda & Lee Gerard
Julia Bartholomay	Janet Goodman
Nancy Belton	Rick Grauer
Ron & Stacey Bing	Albert & Lyda Green Foundation
Marjorie Blass	Gundrum Insurance & Investments
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Ann and Fred Cook	Walter & Elizabeth Holt
Nancy Cook	Patricia Hubner
Donald & Beverly Cox	W. P. Hypes
Cathy Day	ITW Foundation
Elizabeth DeLaRossa	Cindy Janecke
Lindsey & Rob Dickinson	Linda Jones

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT
JIM AND DIANA HUCKLE – longtime donors
We're sorry we missed you in the Annual Report

John and Carla Olds	Keith Sturdevant
Marjorie Owens	Robert & Janet Swanson
Eleanor Pennington	Steve Tebo
Norma Lou Perry	Sally Stearns & Raymond Thomas
Miles Peterle	UBS Employee Giving Program
Ferguson Peters	Stephanie & Phillip Van Winkle
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T. Schleede	Crystal Yarlott
Eleanor Sexton	
Charles Shaw	
Jason Stephens	

"I see and appreciate the work that the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy does every day in the effort to keep our area one of the most beautiful in the world. We are very fortunate to have this organization working so hard for us, for the environment, and for future generations."

– Julie Clynes, Land Champion

HONORARIUMS

Grandchildren - Madeleine, Forrest, Nick, Julian, Gabriel, Brandon, Kimberly, Deirdre, Zachary Barbara Bailey	Troy & Dinah Doucette Shawn Smith, Coldwell Banker Schmidt Realtors	David & Louise Ihm Shawn Smith, Coldwell Banker Schmidt Realtors	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Ohrnberger William & Pamela Vredevoogd	Dr. & Mrs. Richard Varley Catherine & Joseph Varley
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Vanguard Society members are those whose future plans include gifts through their estates, trusts, annuities, insurance policies and other planned giving options.

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Estate of Oscar H. Kraft	Gloria Whelan
Edith A. Krause	Birgit Yetter
	Ron & Marty Yocum

* New members of the Vanguard Society

GIFTS-IN-KIND

Thank you to:

AL HURD for the significant Board Room upgrades, the energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs for the office, the locally-sourced wood for three new shelving units for the office and the replacement parts and maintenance items for mowers, weed-whips, tractor and brush hog.

JIM MOXLEY for the really cool plant and bird identification books and journals.

SUE WALTZ for the chainsaw.

GREG HOLMES & KATHERINE ROTH for a subscription to *Sun Magazine*.

SHIRLEY & DICK MCNALLY for the framed pictures.

L. MAWBY VINEYARDS, BLACK STAR FARMS, and CHATEAU GRAND TRAVERSE for donating wine to our summer festivities.

JENIKA BURDEN for photographing the Elberta Dunes celebration.

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES BOAT CRUISES for their stellar service at the Elberta Dunes celebration.

ANDY GALE/BAY AREA RECYCLING FOR CHARITIES – for the large container for metal recycling.

ANGIE LUCAS for the framed photographs of GTRLC preserves.

ED MOEHLE for the electrical materials.

JOE BROOKS for photography and **TOM FORD** for penning the poetic descriptions that made lovely gifts at our Arcadia Marsh celebration.

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It is our hope to acknowledge all of our supporters, and we apologize for errors of omission.

Please let us know if you discover an error.

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format of Landscript and
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