



# 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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PHOTO BY JOHN ROBERT WILLIAMS

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## THE PROMISE OF FOREVER

### NEWS & EVENTS

Perhaps because the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy turns twenty next June, I have been reflecting upon what is probably the boldest claim we make as a land trust: we protect land forever. Not for just twenty years, or even for a hundred years. "In perpetuity" is the timeframe and standard of permanence that is our obligation.

Recently I hiked to the Green Point Dunes overlook and viewed the spectacular vista of Lake Michigan, dune shoreline, and coastal forest aflame in the reds, yellows, and oranges of our autumn splendor and thought of how different it would be had the once-proposed development taken place. Fortunately, we'll never know.



Glen Chown,  
GTRLC Executive Director

Each time I pass by the former site of the Smith Barney building at Traverse City's Open Space, I am gratified to see people enjoying that land. Similarly, I am almost giddy with excitement thinking about opening up a one-mile stretch of shoreline in Acme so that everyone can have access to East Bay's magnificent sandy beaches forever.

The magnitude of permanence is not something we take lightly as we embark on the work of protecting significant lands. Our decisions are made carefully, as they must be, so that the lasting impact we have is one that we can be proud of; one that future generations will be thankful for. I am exceedingly grateful that you – our generous friends and supporters – are committed to preserving our region's unparalleled beauty. Now and forever.





PHOTO BY TODD CHIBCH

# A CONSERVATIONIST’S FAMILY LEGACY

LAND PROTECTION

Contributed by  
Cara McDonald

From the sweeping fields near his family’s farm house, Jerry Heim can gaze out at the land that is his birthright. The rolling parcel south of Traverse City was once farmed by his grandfather, Ernie Heim, who joined the soil conservation movement back in the 1940s, and instilled in his family a deep love of the landscape—and passion for protecting it. **The Heim family’s land rambles over 130 acres, patchworked by wetlands, meadows, and northern mesic hardwood forest. Through it all runs a sparkling 3,330 foot ribbon of the Boardman River.** It’s a family treasure, but the Heims needed

to ensure it was protected, and that its growing value wouldn’t become an impossible financial burden for the family. **Choosing to put their farm into a conservation easement allowed the Heim family to keep the family land in tact, preserving vital habitats and wildlife corridors, and ensuring that Jerry’s kids, nieces, and nephews would always know their family’s roots.** With help from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and a Clean Michigan Initiative grant, the easement on the farm was purchased this summer. The Heims reside on their adjacent acreage and still farm the fields and ramble the woods

that have nurtured their family for generations. **“I’d hope that my kids would want to settle here,” says Jerry. “This is what they know is home. That’s what grandpa would want.”**







"Michigan's Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore" by Diana Wege

## WHERE ART AND CONSERVATION COME TOGETHER

### NEWS & EVENTS

Contributed by  
Cara McDonald

Diana Wege has dedicated her life to preserving landscapes in her own way—by capturing them on paper and canvas, and inspiring others to join in their protection.

A graduate of Syracuse University, Diana studied under abstract painter John Walker at the Vermont Studio Center. Her work appears in collections at the U.S. Department of Interior Museum, The Wilderness Society, and has been included in exhibitions at the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

GTRLC Board member, Royce Ragland worked with staff to co-host a reception for Diana honoring her latest show, "The Land America Leaves Wild," August 12th, 2010 at the Dow Center for Visual Arts building at Interlochen. The exhibit featured collected works from Wege's body of landscape paintings of conservancy or national park properties. It's not just a celebration of wild lands, but also of the American spirit of preservation.

“ ”

Great art like this inspires exploration and awe for the land, and instills in us an awareness of our own role in taking care of it.

— GLEN CHOWN, GTRLC Executive Director

This love of preservation runs in the family—Diana's father, Peter Wege, founded the Wege Foundation in 1967 with the belief that a healthy economy depends on healthy ecology. The Wege family has been instrumental in their funding and advocacy for restoration of the Great Lakes. "Diana and her family are both visionaries," says GTRLC executive director Glen Chown. "Great art like this inspires exploration and awe for the land, and instills in us an awareness of our own role in taking care of it."



PHOTO BY TODD L. CHURCH

Diana Wege and Glen Chown

# LAND PROTECTION

Once upon a time, the idea of this mile-long shoreline park seemed like an impossible dream. Thanks to the leadership and support of many, the momentum continues to grow. The vision is becoming a reality!

Acme Shoreline Park will help match this challenge and will have a lasting impact on the gateway to our region and the way that people experience the Grand Traverse Bay forever!

We have \$335,486 left to raise for Phase Two by June 1, 2011. Please consider making a secure gift online [www.gtrlc.org](http://www.gtrlc.org), or enclose a gift in the reply envelope. To discuss giving options, including gifts of stock, please contact Megan Olds at 929-7911 or by email at [molds@gtrlc.org](mailto:molds@gtrlc.org).



“

The work that the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy is doing is essential to regional prosperity efforts. In the emerging Green Economy, conservation is an economic development strategy.

- DR. SOJI ADELAJA, Director,  
Michigan State University  
Land Policy Institute



## WHAT'S YOUR SHORELINE STORY?

In the 1920s, Ernest Hemingway was challenged by friends to write a complete story of his life in just six-words. The result was something Hemingway considered his best work. We consider the protection and stewardship of land across our region our best and most important work.

Today we want to hear your story - your Acme Shoreline story that is. **In just six words, tell us about your most tranquil morning kayak on East Bay, a day at the beach with your family, a sunset hike or sail, a kiteboarding ride - your most vivid and cherished experiences on these beautiful miles of shoreline, or a vision of what you'd like that experience to be.** We hope to share your story with others who enjoy and want to create a new Acme Shoreline Park - now and for future generations to enjoy. Submit your six-word story online at [www.gtrlc.org](http://www.gtrlc.org).



PHOTO BY ANGIE LUCAS



PHOTO BY ANGIE LUCAS





*Al and Julie Hurd*

“ ”

We are so blessed to have people like Al and Julie Hurd enter our world. We couldn't do what we do without the support of the many far-from-ordinary people, like the Hurds, who come to us because they care about the land and make extraordinary commitments of their time, talents and generous financial support to help us preserve and take care of it forever.

– MEGAN OLDS, Associate Director

## “ORDINARY PEOPLE.” EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP.

### GIVING

In March of 2007, Al Hurd saw an article about the Sevald property in his local paper, the Antrim Review (see accompanying story). He contacted the Conservancy and talked at length with Land Protection Specialist Todd Vigland and others about the project. Concerned about increasing development in the area, Al and his wife, Julie, decided to pledge \$200,000 toward the purchase, ultimately covering nearly 100% of Antrim County's match requirement for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant which was later secured.


Al and Julie met in high school, married while in college and eventually bought 20 acres of the original Ellison homestead near Shanty Creek in 1976. They used the old farmhouse as a vacation retreat for a number of years. They built a new house in 2003, complete with a studio for Julie, who is an accomplished fiber artist, extensive landscaping beds, and a large garden where they grow organic produce. They lived and worked in the Chicago area, retiring to Antrim County in 2005.

“We have always been avid out-of-doors people,” says Julie. Both enjoy gardening, skiing, snowshoeing and hiking, and are active volunteers. Julie leads

wildflower hikes at Grass River Natural Area and Al is a very active volunteer with the Conservancy, dedicating hundreds of hours as a preserve, trail and lead shop steward, among other projects.

“Both Al and I know the value of giving, since we both worked in the nonprofit and academic worlds. It's a great feeling knowing we could afford to do this. In a way it was blind luck that we became aware of the Conservancy's efforts to protect the Sevald property right around the time our accountant was explaining to us the tax benefits of making a significant gift. It was a perfect match with our own values.”

Their generous gift made it possible to create what will now be known as the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area.

“We'd like people to know that you don't have to be a trust fund baby or a captain of industry to make a significant difference to a project you care about. Al and I have lived comfortably, but frugally, our entire lives and are now enjoying the satisfaction of supporting some of the organizations that have enriched our lives.” 



## WHEN PERSEVERANCE PAYS OFF—BIG

### Glacial Hills Dream is Finally Realized

#### LAND PROTECTION

Contributed by  
Cara McDonald

#### **The acreage had been in the Sevald family for years—**

hardwood forest, wetland habitats, mesic forest and shrub thicket, spread out like a blanket around the town of Bellaire. Here great horned owls and eagles nest, and threatened red-shoulder hawks wheel and glide above the 345 acres of critical habitat right in the heart of the Chain-of-Lakes. When William Sevald passed away in 2003, his son Mark

Sevald approached GTRLC: The family's wish, and first choice, was to generously offer the land for conservation purchase.

#### **That was seven years ago.**

Since then, what's now called the *Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area project* has taken plenty of twists and turns. "Those of us who work in land preservation know how much patience, diligence, and waiting this takes," says Matt McDonough, Director of Land Protection for GTRLC. But for an anxious public and enthusiastic

donors, the delays can seem endless and frustrating. Why do land deals sometimes stretch on, even when donors, local government, and community are all on board? "A majority of our land acquisition deals do not end up as Conservancy-owned nature preserves—they are community-assist projects and involve governmental partners," McDonough says. "We often handle the negotiations with the landowners, coordinate the appraisals, environmental assessments, complicated

*Continued on page 8*



title work. We also help write the grants—both to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund and private funders—and draft property management plans,” he explains. “We can spend 30 to 40 percent of our time any given year working with local governments, helping them preserve land. Those deals can take an incredible amount of time because of the necessary bureaucratic processes involved.”

**In the case of Glacial Hills, the deal became sweeter—but much more complicated**—when an opportunity arose to involve both Antrim County and Forest Home Township in ownership, and to consolidate the Sevalds’ land with other fragmented holdings into a contiguous 763-acre publicly owned block.

**Added to the multiple ownership factor were delays at the state level.** “We do spend a lot of time navigating approvals – grant approvals, legislative appropriations, State approval of all the paperwork including the appraisals and title work; the list goes on,” says McDonough. And with recent cuts and staffing

reductions at the DNR, major delays ensued—the necessary title work took sixteen months to be reviewed and approved.

**The good news? After seven years, the deal is all but done.**

The county’s portion of the sale is closed, with the township’s portion set to close by the end of the year. Now, within a mile of the town of Bellaire lies more that 700 acres of gorgeous rolling forest open to the community. “It’s a place to walk, hike, go out and run your dog,” says McDonough. “This can be what the VASA is to Traverse City—the community can host a ski or bike race, and those events can be economic drivers.”

**The results are more than worth the sometimes rocky road to completion.** “It’s important to keep perspective,” McDonough says. “At the end of the day, we have a 100% success rate securing trust fund money to make deals like this happen. And through deals like this we’ve brought more than \$50 million of trust fund moneys into our community. We always get it done.” 🍀



PHOTO BY JOHN ROBERT WILLIAMS

## GIVING

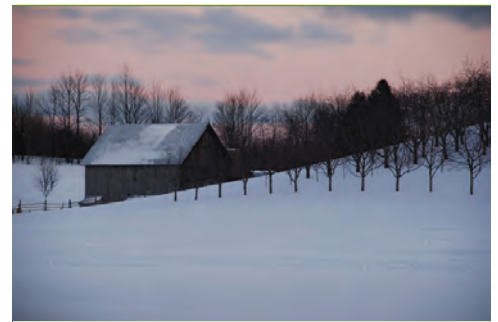


PHOTO BY DAGMAR CUNNINGHAM

*“While restricted gifts for designated projects are in some ways easier to justify from an emotional standpoint, we have chosen to continue our unrestricted gift in these difficult times because we have come to realize that the ‘showpiece’ projects don’t happen by themselves. If the Conservancy is unable to survive and thrive, the projects themselves won’t happen or will wither on the vine. We cannot tell you how impressed we have been with your efforts – in fact, we have never met a Conservancy employee that did not impress and deliver beyond expectations. We want you to be able to continue your efforts to preserve all that makes this region so special – those efforts require “unrestricted” gifts and gifts to projects. We want you to know we will continue to be there for both.”*

- Kathleen and Bob Garvey





## 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	Josephine "Jody" Marquis
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\*New Land Champions

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FIRST-TIME DONORS

We extend a heartfelt thank you and grateful welcome to the following individuals and organizations who became new donors to the Conservancy between July 20 and October 30, 2010.

- Richard & Marion Arps

Charles & Sally Black

Dolores Bonner

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PHOTO BY MARY VAN VALIN

*“Stanley and I are both firm believers in the importance of permanently restricted endowment funds which become a base of support for an organization. That is why, as we considered our estate plan some years ago, we included a provision that will leave a gift to the permanently restricted general endowment fund of GTRLC.”*

*It is personally satisfying to know that our gift will be there forever, spinning off its income to support the work of GTRLC, whose vision for land protection is forever, long after we are both gone.”*

*- Betsy Dole, Vanguard Society Member*

HONORARIUMS

<b>Paul G. Brennan</b> Neil & Merrie Brennan	<b>Bonnie Jane &amp; Ken Greene</b> Marsie & Charlie Martien	<b>Linda Mulder</b> Amy Blair	<b>Dori Turner</b> Amy Anderson & Tracy Drier	<b>Chelsea Wentworth Fournier</b> Joanna Tombs-Wentworth
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			Molly Phinny	
			Wendy Gerber	
			<b>Bruce &amp; Julie Walker</b> Mark Nadolski, Coldwell Banker Schmidt	



## VANGUARD SOCIETY

**Vanguard Society members are those whose future plans include gifts through their estates, trusts, annuities, insurance policies and other planned giving options.**

<i>Hal &amp; Kathryn Armstrong</i>	<i>Wendy MacGaw</i>
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<i>Robert &amp; Nancy Baglan</i>	<i>Kent &amp; Barbara Manning</i>
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	<i>Birgit Yetter</i>
	<i>Ron &amp; Marty Yocum</i>

*\* New members of the Vanguard Society*

## GIFTS-IN-KIND

*Thank you to:*

**MARK JAEGER** for the waders.

**RAY AND KAREN CALOIA** for donating two 14' kayaks, three sets of paddles, storage stands, and a roof rack adaptor.

**DON OLESON** for sharing his pontoon boat and his time, allowing us to monitor Long Lake Island conservation easements.

**BILL AND KATHIE HALBERT** for the wooden dock donation.

**DAVE GALLIGAN** for skillfully videotaping the Acme Shoreline Phase I Celebration.

**PAULA DREESZEN** for creating and producing the first "Preserve Steward Handbook" to guide, inform and help direct the work of 80+ Preserve Stewards throughout our 5-county service area.

**TO THE HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEER COLLEAGUES** who donated their time, talent and vision to helping meet our stewardship goals for the 2010 field season and by accomplishing work plans at all levels of the organization from staff support to board governance.

**BOB AND KATHLEEN GARVEY** for hosting our farmland event and for the use of their incredible barn.

For supporting our many outreach events and celebrations, thank you: **SHORELINE FRUIT** for packaged chocolate covered cherries; **THE SEND BROS.** for the 25# bag of sunflower seeds; **KILWIN'S CHOCOLATES** for the salt water taffy; **DOROTHY DUNVILLE** for the 200 "Acme Shoreline 2010" wine glasses; **GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY AND THE SEND BROS** for delicious corn; **EDMONDSON ORCHARDS/FRUIT DOCK** for the donation of apples.

**JIM BARNES/CRYSTAL LAKE CATERING COMPANY** for a fabulous luncheon at our staff training.

**ABONMARCHE** for providing drafting services to create concept drawings for the Arcadia Marsh project.

To talented photographers **DAGMAR CUNNINGHAM, JOHN ROBERT WILLIAMS, TODD L. CHURCH, MARY VAN VALIN** and **ANGIE LUCAS** for providing the photos for this issue of Landscript.

*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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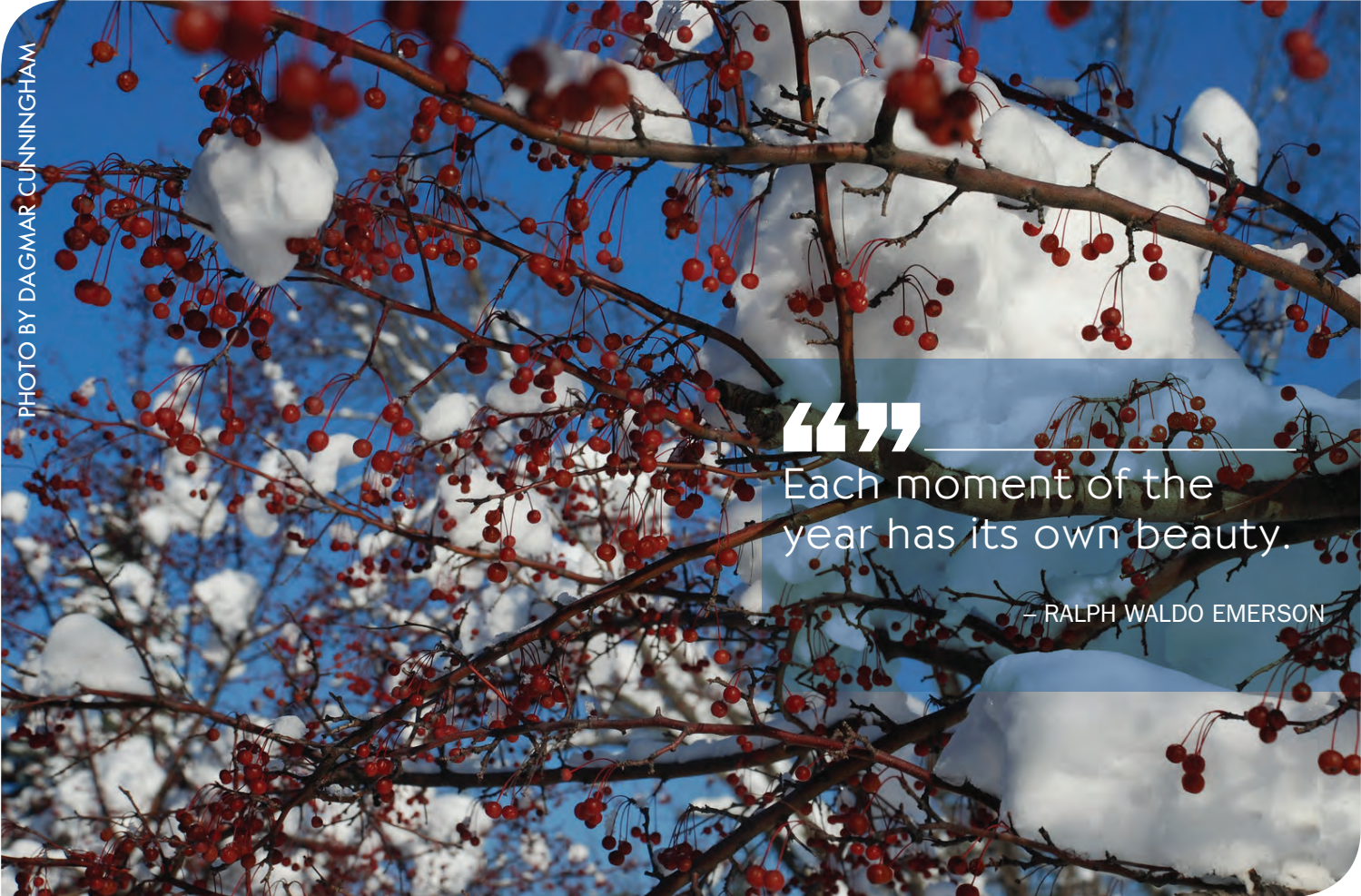


PHOTO BY DAGMAR CUNNINGHAM

“ ”

Each moment of the  
year has its own beauty.

— RALPH WALDO EMERSON