

SPRING 2019 Volume 70

# landscript



Love the land. *Pass it on.*

## OUR ANNUAL REPORT

*Campaign for Generations Progress*

A Ribbon of Protection

Exciting Opportunity for Mitchell  
Creek Watershed

PHOTO BY PHOTO BY ANGIE LUCAS

*Showy orchids covered in dew.*

Protecting significant natural, scenic and farm lands — and advancing stewardship — now and for future generations.



# A Letter from Glen Chown

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## DEAR FRIENDS,

What a whirlwind it's been since we publicly launched the *Campaign for Generations* in August! While careful study convinced us of the need for this momentous effort and thoughtful planning allowed us to design a campaign that's sure to have the most impact throughout our service area, what we couldn't be sure of is how the general public would react when we went public and made our case.

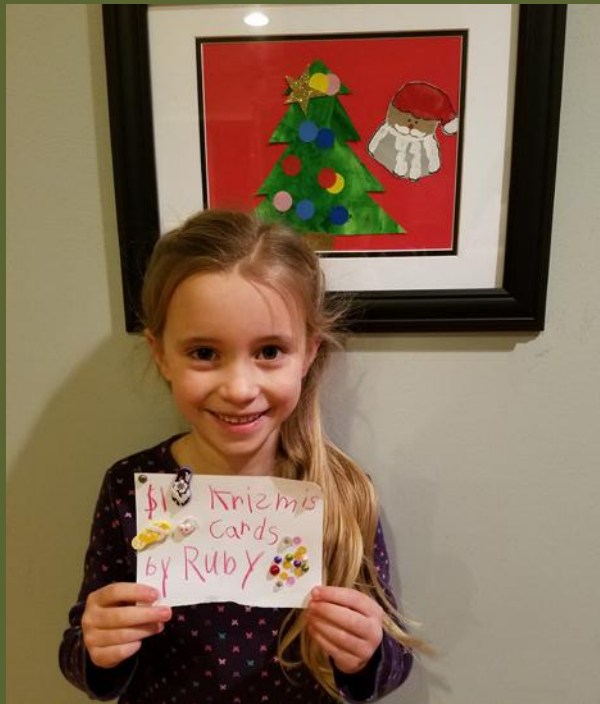
In short, the reception has been both heartwarming and invigorating. Across hundreds of emails, phone conversations and in-person chats, it's evident that the campaign's message and urgency has resonated with all of you. Your support has truly lifted us up as we continue the hard work ahead.

I'd like to share a story with you that warmed my heart over the holidays. In late December we had a visitor at the Conservancy office — a 6-year-old girl from Traverse City. She extended her hand with a gift of \$100—her first ever investment in land protection. I shared my

gratitude and was frankly blown away by the moment. I asked her what the gift was for and her parents chimed in to share that it was to help permanently protect the “Gorge.”

They went on to say that when their daughter learned of the Conservancy's efforts to protect a stunningly beautiful 18-acre gorge near her

home, she decided she wanted to raise \$100 to help protect this land. And the story gets better...she created lovely hand-made holiday cards and sold them to friends and family members to raise the money. She did it! What a special gift from a child inspired by a deep love for the land. She became the first donor to this project and showed us all, in such a heartfelt way, the true meaning of the *Campaign for Generations*.



*Our young donor shows off her handmade cards.*

Likewise, your love and inspiration for the land led to a banner year for land protection in northern Michigan. Your investment in this work is helping to protect some of the most exceptional remaining natural and farmlands in our region while providing improved and new access to nature opportunities. In this issue of *Landscript*, you'll read about some familiar projects and learn about some very



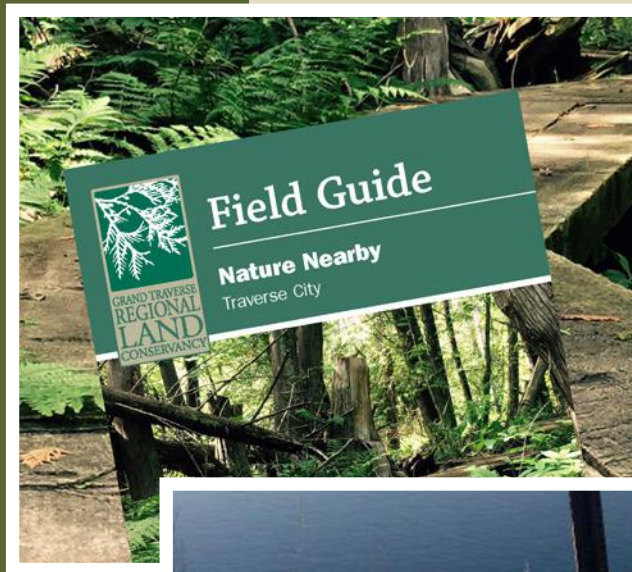
special new efforts. There's much to celebrate, including the project fundraising completion and opening of the Maplehurst Natural Area (see page 22) and the ongoing construction of our latest Universal Access project at Arcadia Marsh (see page 28). And what a wonderful feeling it is to know that a long-awaited "ribbon" of protection along a vital Chain of Lakes corridor (see page 14) is so much closer to completion.

The urgency that necessitated this campaign very much remains, and we have much work left to do in the final two years of this six-year marathon effort. New projects continue to come online, and we simply cannot afford to slow down now. To those who have made gifts, we can't thank you enough. To those of you considering a donation, please know that leaving a legacy of land protection in this once-in-a-lifetime campaign is an irreplaceable gift sure to be appreciated for generations to come.

Enjoy the breadth of what we have accomplished together that is highlighted in the following pages, and thank you for believing in our mission!



**Glen Chown**, GTRLC Executive Director



## Field Guides

Did you get these Field Guides? If not, you're probably not subscribed to our new email list. Subscribers get the first look at new hike guides, field notes, videos and other fun and useful information.

**Sign up today at [www.gtrlc.org](http://www.gtrlc.org) and be sure to receive our upcoming birding and botany guides!**





# Campaign Roundup

PHOTO BY DREW SMITH

*Proposed Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve.*

## **Campaign for Generations Update**

There's been a great deal of excitement, momentum and good news since GTRLC entered the public phase of the *Campaign for Generations* in August. This multi-faceted campaign is designed to protect some of the finest remaining natural, scenic and farm lands in our region, provide unparalleled access to nature for everyone and strengthen GTRLC's ability to forever care for the land it protects.

As of early February, we had raised more than \$60 million in cash, pledges, planned gifts, public funds and land donations. Our goal is \$71.4 million by the time the campaign is set to finish in the summer of 2021. Read on for updates on a few of our current projects and details of newly announced projects. For more details and the real-time fundraising status of individual projects (or to donate!) visit [www.gtllrc.org/campaign-for-generations](http://www.gtllrc.org/campaign-for-generations).

## **Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve (proposed):**

**Fundraising 61 percent complete,  
\$1.53 million still needed**

A variety of work continues at the largest and one of the most alluring properties in the campaign, the 1,288-acre former Camp Tapico. A management plan is complete, and most work now focuses on getting the property ready for public use. Depending on successful fundraising, the preserve could be open to the public as early as the summer of 2020.

Crews have completed removal of several dozen buildings as the transformation from camp to natural area pushes ahead. More buildings are scheduled to be removed, though a few that will be used by GTRLC to care for the preserve and engage visitors will remain.

If fundraising is successful, GTRLC plans a robust trail system at this preserve. Several miles of trail



would be built (mostly utilizing old Boy Scout paths), including a wide path designed for family-style biking. The stewardship team also hopes to build a picnic area and is exploring concepts for fishing piers and an overlook platform that would allow visitors to better view the Manistee River floodplain.

Currently ongoing are a variety of biological surveys, which have already revealed the proposed Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve to be incredibly rich from an ecological standpoint.

**Charlie Kehr Memorial Trail Connector:**  
**Fundraising COMPLETE!**

Following a formal dedication in October, GTRLC opened the Charlie Kehr Memorial Trail Connector in November. This stairway connects the Mary Margaret Johnson Trail in Railroad Point Natural Area with the Betsie Valley Trail, which passes a short distance below the natural area's spectacular overlook of Crystal Lake.

Despite their close proximity, there was previously no way to get from one trail to the other. The connector allows people to easily move back and forth between

these two very popular attractions, boosting recreational opportunities for residents of and visitors to the Crystal Lake region of Benzie County.

**Maplehurst Natural Area:**  
**Fundraising COMPLETE!**

This much-anticipated natural area is now open! See the full story on page 22.

**The Gorge Nature Preserve (proposed):**  
**Fundraising beginning,**  
**\$137,000 still needed**

If you mention this project to former GTRLC board chair Wayne Kladder you'll watch his eyes light up, and that's because Wayne — also a former Acme Township supervisor — knows just how important it is to the local community.

Long known to locals as "The Gorge," this 18-acre property is equal parts visually stunning and ecologically critical. An ice-cold branch of Acme Creek emerges from a slope in the depths of a roughly 100-foot ravine, spilling through an undeveloped forest of hemlock, pine and hardwoods.

*The Charlie Kehr Memorial Trail Connector at Railroad Point.*



PHOTO BY JACQUELINE SOUTHEY



Of the six branches of Acme Creek, three arise on already protected land owned by the state. Protecting this additional branch would be a tremendous step toward further safeguarding water quality in East Grand Traverse Bay, the local source of public drinking water.

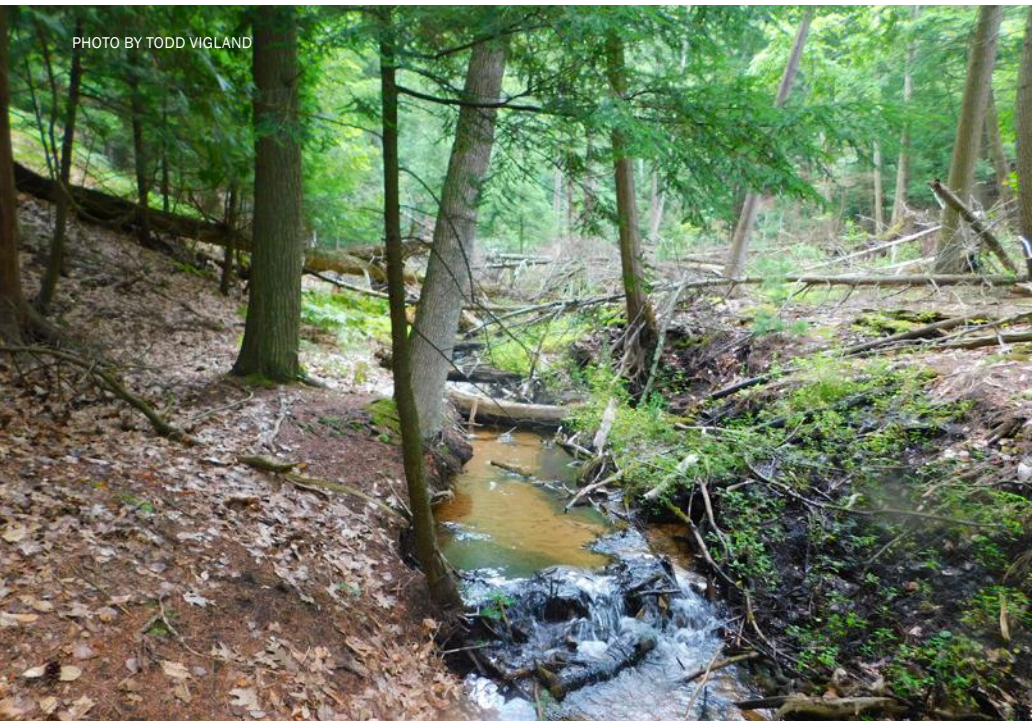


PHOTO BY TODD VIGLAND

*A branch of Acme Creek flows through the proposed Gorge preserve.*

In addition to providing substantial water quality benefits, this project would protect land that is of tremendous value to the surrounding community. While the land is privately owned and not formally open to the public, locals have visited for many years and consider it special. Limited infrastructure, including a trail and railing down into the ravine, was even built to facilitate regular access.

While the ultimate goal is to protect the Gorge parcel along with an adjacent property that includes yet another branch of Acme Creek, the Gorge property came on the market and must be secured while discussions tied to the second piece continue.

#### **Timbers Universally Accessible (UA) trail:** **Fundraising COMPLETE!**

Two pieces of fantastic news on this front: GTRLC finished fundraising for the latest UA trail on

Conservancy-protected lands, and the trail is scheduled to break ground this fall!

In late 2017, GTRLC helped Long Lake Township secure a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant to build a UA trail at the popular

Timbers Recreation Area on Long Lake. GTRLC agreed to raise about \$77,000 to cover a match to the MNRTF grant and other costs.

Plans call for an out-and-back trail that will begin at the parking area and go down to Long Lake, then over to the south end of Fern Lake, ending at a small overlook and fishing platform. As with other such trails, care will be taken to make the path barrier free and within the grade required by UA guidelines, utilizing switchbacks where necessary. In addition to taking visitors down to the water and through the woods, the trail

will go right by the striking stone and wood barns that date to when the property was a large vacation estate owned by the Chicago-based Armour family.

Depending on weather and other factors, it is possible that trail construction will wrap before the end of the year. GTRLC is actively involved in the process.

The Conservancy is also underway with construction of a UA trail at Arcadia Marsh. For more on that exciting project, see the story on page 28.

#### **Sand Lakes Trail Corridor:** **Fundraising COMPLETE!**

After GTRLC swooped in to protect this vital recreation corridor in early 2017, we've now competed fundraising and are preparing to transfer the property to the state of Michigan.

When Grand Traverse County put this 160-acre Whitewater Township property up for sale, many



were concerned about the potential loss of public access. The land had been used for decades by the enormously popular Iceman Cometh mountain bike race and by thousands of individual cyclists, hikers and others.

GTRLC stepped in and made an offer that was accepted by the county (over a higher bid) after many in the cycling community rallied in support of GTRLC's purchase. Though from the onset the plan was for GTRLC to hold the land and sell it to the state, the Conservancy still needed to raise money to cover property taxes, interest on the loan used to acquire the property, appraisal and environmental due diligence work as well as title and transactional work.

Now, thanks in large part to a \$20,000 dollar-for-dollar challenge grant issued by Iceman Cometh race, GTRLC has reached its fundraising goal.

## **Farmland Protection:**

### **Fundraising ongoing**

Farmland continues to be a major focus as the campaign forges ahead. We are actively fundraising to purchase conservation easements on three important Old Mission Peninsula farms — the 95-acre Twin Maples Farm, the 40-acre Wilson Orchards farm and a 70-acre portion of another prominent farm.

Wilson Orchards, located within the southern end of the township's Agricultural Preservation Zone (APZ), has long been a high priority property for both GTRLC and Peninsula Township. Sitting atop a high ridge with close proximity to both bays, this farm is an ideal cherry growing site. The farm, which has been in the same family for over 100 years, contains considerable frontage along Wilson road and provides extensive views of both East and West Grand Traverse Bay.

*The Wilson farm is an iconic Old Mission property.*



Twin Maples is an iconic piece that contributes to Peninsula Township's scenic and rural character. As with Wilson Orchards, this property has been a top priority for GTRLC for some time. Because of its outstanding scenic values (including an extensive view of West Bay), it has been identified as one of the most critical viewsheds for preservation. Adjacent to other protected farmland, it has a long history of productive fruit farming and contains prime farm soils.

The third farm provides excellent views of East Bay and is also adjacent to protected farmland. We are working with a conservation buyer who will purchase a critical and productive 70-acre section of the farm and then sell us a conservation easement.

We also continue to work hard to protect more farms through the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs in Acme and Peninsula townships. We recently closed on a 55-acre farm in Peninsula's program and continue to work on applications with Acme's program.

**Torch River Nature Preserve:**  
**Fundraising 32 percent complete,**  
**\$1.5 million still needed**

Along with the historic Schuler farm conservation easement, this property is a key part of a "ribbon" of protection in a vital Chain of Lakes corridor. See full story on page 14.

**Mary Behrens Sorrell Trail at St. Clair Lake-Six Mile Lake:**  
**Fundraising underway**

This project will provide a wonderful opportunity for universal access at one of GTRLC's oldest and most cherished preserves.

Much of the current infrastructure at the St. Clair Lake-Six Mile Lake preserve is roughly 25 years old and needs to be replaced. We were scheduled to complete these upgrades in 2022, but a tremendous gift from a longtime supporter has enabled us to complete this in 2019.

Following the very well-received UA trail at Arcadia Dunes and a similar trail now under construction

at Arcadia Marsh, upgrades to infrastructure will follow UA standards where possible. A new trail, boardwalk, parking lot and river overlook deck will adhere to UA guidelines. The existing kayak launch will also be upgraded, but due to space constraints will not be universally accessible. This will be our first UA trail in the northern region of our service area and among the first on the Chain of Lakes water trail.

Construction is expected to begin this spring and conclude sometime this summer. We co-own the property with the Little Traverse Conservancy, but we are the lead manager and are primarily responsible for infrastructure.

**Mitchell Creek Meadow Preserve:**  
**Fundraising beginning,**  
**\$1.65 million still needed**

This 166-acre proposed preserve in the heart of the Mitchell Creek watershed would protect water quality and wildlife habitat. See full story on page 18.

**Proposed Torch Lake Nature Preserve**  
**Fundraising beginning,**  
**\$79,992 still needed**

This project would preserve exceptional land within the Torch Lake watershed and provide a high quality trail system that would boost recreational opportunities in the area.

This 95-acre property is notable from a conservation standpoint for a variety of reasons. It is adjacent to the proposed Torch Ridge conservation easement, and as such successful completion of this project would build upon protected land. It also contains a portion of the headwaters of an unnamed tributary of Torch Lake and protects scenic views from Torch Lake, SE Torch Lake Drive and Robinson Road.

The forested, hilly topography is suitable for an excellent trail system with access from Robinson Road. Although the property is heavily forested, fantastic views of Torch Lake could be provided with minimal disturbance.







# CAMPAIGN FOR GENERATIONS UPDATE

Love the land. *Pass it on.*



## FUNDRAISING COMPLETED\* FOR:

\*as of February 7, 2019



### PUBLIC ACCESS

5

#### new parks and other projects

- Charlie Kehr Memorial Trail Connector
- Maplehurst Natural Area
- Platte River Park
- Milton Township Beach
- Sand Lakes Trail Connector

4

#### property additions

- Arcadia Marsh Nature Preserve
- Petobego State Game Area
- Railroad Point Natural Area
- Wilcox - Palmer - Shah Nature Preserve

1

#### new nature preserve

- Wintergreen Woods Nature Preserve



### UNIVERSAL ACCESS

3

#### universal access projects

- Acme Bayside Park Improvements
- Overlook Trail at Arcadia Dunes
- Timbers Recreation Area trail

1

#### universally accessible water access point

- Milton Township Beach



### PRIVATE LANDS PROTECTION

10

#### natural land easements

6

#### farmland easements

## TOTALS



land

2,154.62

acres protected



water

5.85

miles of shoreline protected



Tremendous generosity from thousands of supporters has empowered the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy to raise \$60 million in support of the Campaign for Generations. The campaign goal of \$71.4 million is in sight, but the hardest money to raise lies ahead. Please consider the role you can play by stretching your support over the next two years. Together, we can open new nature preserves and universal access trails, protect iconic fruit farms and steward these protected lands for future generations to enjoy.

To discuss multi-year pledges or other forms of support, contact Anthony Rupard, Director of Development, at 231-929-7911 or email [arupard@gtrlc.org](mailto:arupard@gtrlc.org).



## PIPELINE PROJECTS

**14**

additional projects including a mix of farmland, private and public natural lands, expected to be board approved in the coming months

## ACTIVELY FUNDRAISING FOR:



## PUBLIC ACCESS

**5**

### new nature preserves

- Torch Lake Nature Preserve
- Mitchell Creek Meadow Preserve
- The Gorge Nature Preserve
- Torch River Nature Preserve
- Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve

**2**

### sanctuaries

- Intermediate Lake Sanctuary - North
- Intermediate Lake Sanctuary - South

**2**

### property additions

- Arcadia Marsh Nature Preserve
- Medenbrook Nature Preserve



## UNIVERSAL ACCESS

**2**

### universal access projects

- Arcadia Marsh Preserve Trail
- St. Clair Lake - Six Mile Lake Preserve Trail



## PRIVATE LANDS PROTECTION

**5**

### natural land easements

**4**

### farmland easements



## TOTALS IF SUCCESSFUL†



**3,228.13**

additional  
acres protected



**12.58**

additional  
miles of shoreline  
protected

†totals do not include pipeline projects

# For Land and Water

## STORIES OF SUPPORT

Rolling farm fields loaded with cherries, apples and grapes. Peaceful forest paths. A residual small town charm that remains despite continued growth. All of these things and more have deeply endeared the Grand Traverse region to Bob and Pauline Young.

But if pressed to pick something they couldn't live without, their thoughts would likely drift to the clean, sparkling waters of West Grand Traverse Bay. It was there that their now-grown children spent so much of their time, swimming or racing across the wind-whipped surface in small sailboats as their parents looked on.

The water was in some form or another the backdrop for countless hours of Young family adventures. It also provided peace, relaxation and the very essence of home. Bob and Pauline have been substantial donors to GTRLC over the years, in no small part because they're keenly aware of the link between land protection and the preservation of water resources.

"One of the big things is water quality," Pauline said. "That's always been very much on our mind. We've always had such a focus on the water."

Bob and Pauline married after meeting while students at Michigan State University. Bob founded the R.M. Young Company — a worldwide leader in the making of precision weather instruments — in 1964. The couple and their three sons lived and worked in Ann Arbor for several years while regularly heading north for vacations. They were in the process of planning for a cottage in the region when they decided to take the plunge and move their home and business to Traverse City full time in 1971.

They settled near the base of Old Mission Peninsula, which was a lot quieter in those days.

"You could roll a bowling ball down the middle of

Peninsula Drive and not even think twice about it, especially in the winter," Bob said. "Now, we can barely get across the street to get our mail."

Bob and Pauline made their first donation to GTRLC only a few months after the organization was founded in 1991. The couple was "immediately taken" with the idea of taking action to protect land and water resources, especially in the face of an ongoing development surge.

"We could see the growth, especially on Old Mission Peninsula. It was increasing exponentially," Bob said. "The idea of preserving farmland, and especially waterfront, really appealed to us."

Much more recently, Bob and Pauline were among the very first to give a major gift to the *Campaign for Generations*. Among other factors, they were moved by the fact that many projects included in the campaign present rare chances to protect some of the region's most special places.

"These are one time opportunities," Bob said. "Once they're gone, they're gone."

The Youngs have given generously to many charitable causes over the years, and like most philanthropists, they donate to causes that deeply inspire them.

**"We were so fortunate to have that access, but we realize that not everybody has that privilege," Bob said. "Preserving that access for people is incredibly important."**

GTRLC's track record gives them confidence that their money is going to not only a good cause, but to an organization equipped to

deliver on its promises.

"The Conservancy has had a lot of success to this point, and that's encouraging. There are plenty of opportunities available, all you need is the funding," Bob said. "We really want to see the Conservancy continue to be as successful as it has been in the past, and even more so."

Bob and Pauline consider preserving the Grand Traverse region's quality of life and community character a very high priority, and they believe the Conservancy's work has helped on those fronts. They are also appreciative of GTRLC's continued efforts to protect shoreline, which preserves (and in many cases provides) opportunities for locals and visitors to fully enjoy water resources.





*Pauline and Bob Young on a winter hike at the proposed Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve.*

“We were so fortunate to have that access, but we realize that not everybody has that privilege,” Bob said. “Preserving that access for people is incredibly important.”

Bob, who grew R.M. Young into a very successful and respected company right here in Traverse City, also believes that land protection can boost the local economy by maintaining and improving the region’s appeal for prospective workers, business owners and more.

“I think there’s a trend country wide where people are not only attracted to certain business, but certain locations,” he said. “That can be very high on the priority list.”

Conservancy staff are glad to count the Youngs among the thousands of people who have helped

grow GTRLC into what it is today — and those who will help propel it to greater heights throughout the *Campaign for Generations* and beyond.

“I am incredibly fortunate to have known Pauline and Bob for many years, and our organization is stronger as a direct result of their support,” said Kate Pearson, charitable giving specialist. “All of us are thankful that they continue to help make our important work possible.”

For more information about giving to GTRLC, please contact Development Director Anthony Rupard at (231) 929-7911 or [arupard@gtrlc.org](mailto:arupard@gtrlc.org). For more Stories of Support, visit the “Publications and Stories” page at [www.gtrlc.org](http://www.gtrlc.org).



# Worth the Wait

## LANDSCAPE-LEVEL EFFORT PROTECTS MORE THAN 500 CRITICAL ACRES IN THE CHAIN OF LAKES WATERSHED

In the silence and piercing stillness of a subzero night, Bill Weiss often strapped on his skis and took to the land. If clouds were scarce, he needed only the moonlight that shone down through bare trees to guide his way.

It's a different feeling, being out there in that kind of cold and that sort of darkness. But life was present in this seemingly barren landscape, if one knew where to look. Sometimes it was the flutter of a scared partridge or the whoosh of a hunting owl; on more than one occasion, it was the faint shadow of coyotes moving silently along a ridge.

For years, Weiss soaked in as much of this as he could. The land – his since about the time he began shaving – became an extension of his being. The winding trails through hardwood forests became as familiar as a well-worn path from a front porch to the mailbox.

“If you spend time out here the way I did, you get to know every bit of it, every curve in the trail, every turn, every tree,” Weiss said. “All of it.”

Immediately west of Weiss' mostly wooded 295 acres sits land that's been in Vicki Jacobs' family for four generations. It was this tapestry of forest and fields that fostered in Jacobs a deep and unshakable connection with both the land and her family. As it did with her parents, Vic and Betty Schuler, her love of this place runs deep.

“I have wonderful memories of mushrooming in the woods, or my mom I and going to look for moss to make terrariums,” she said. “My parents always instilled in me such an appreciation for nature, and the ability to appreciate the simple things; ordinary things – the beauty of nature.”

GTRLC is currently fundraising to purchase the Weiss property, which if successful will be opened to

*The proposed Torch River Nature Preserve has been many years in the making.*

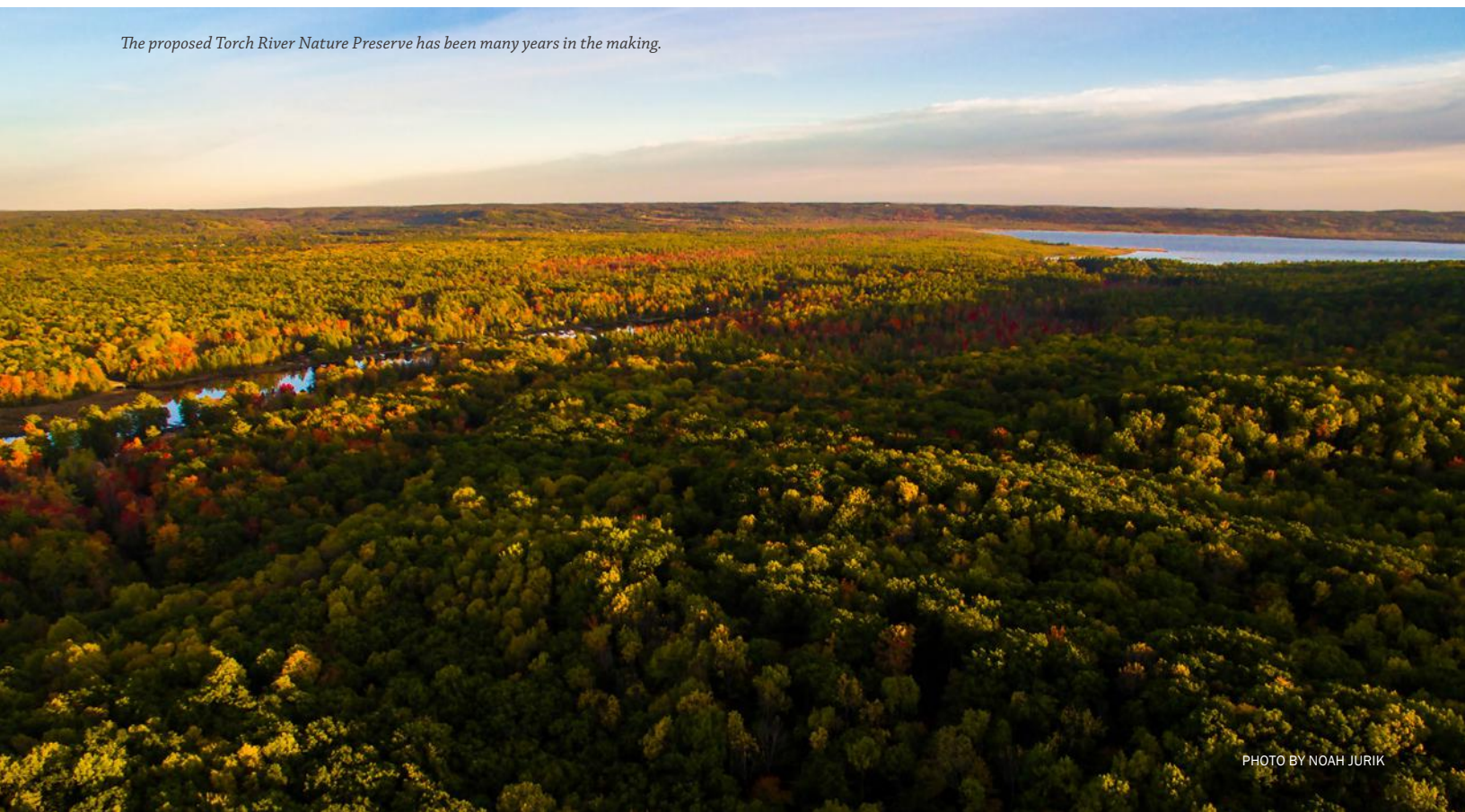


PHOTO BY NOAH JURIK



the public as the Torch River Nature Preserve. Meanwhile, GTRLC is purchasing a conservation easement on 211 acres of Jacobs' land, known as the Schuler Farm. These properties join the previously protected North Skegemog Nature Preserve, which sits just west of the Schuler Farm.

Taken together, the conservation impact is massive: Nearly 550 contiguous protected acres that stretch more than a mile from the shoreline of the Torch River on the east side of the Weiss property to the shoreline of the North Skegemog Nature Preserve.

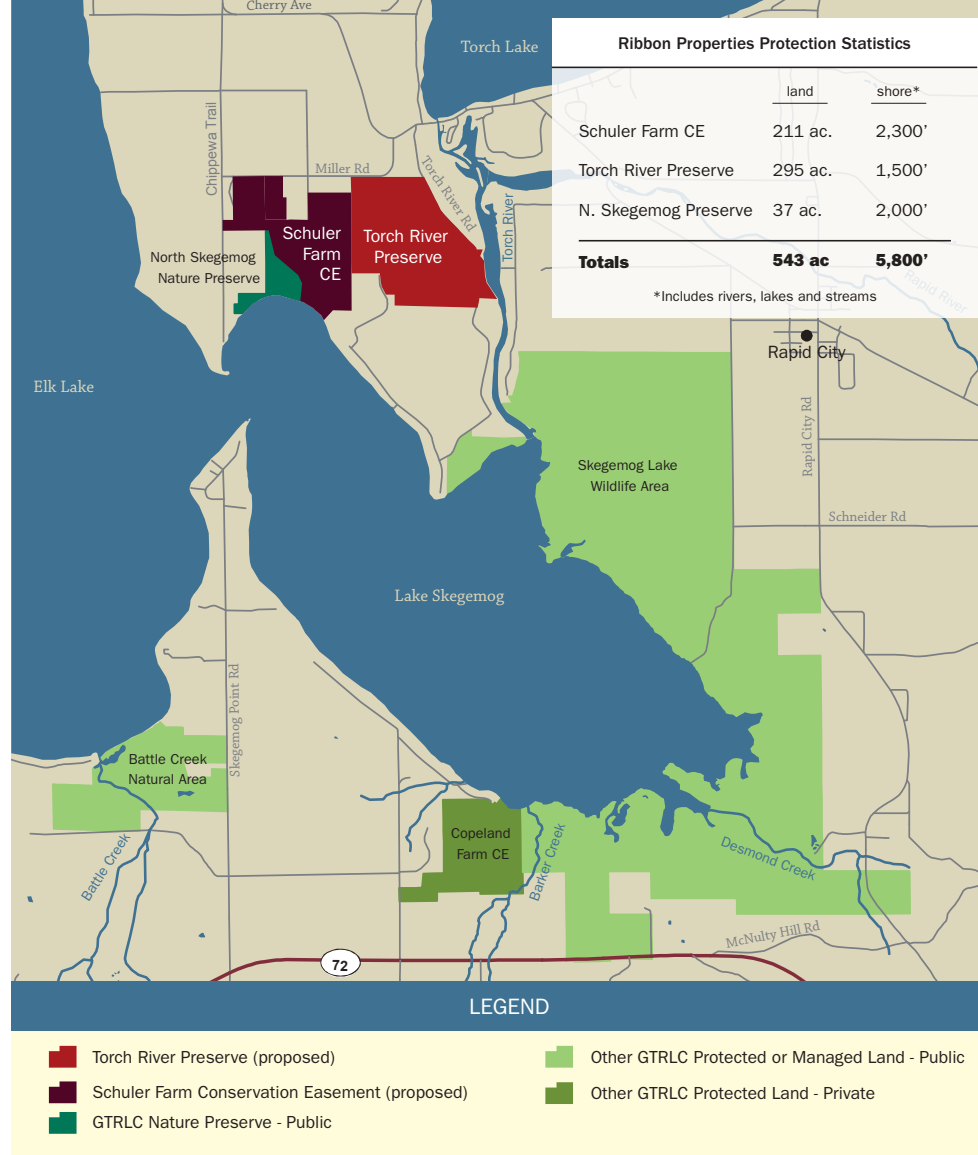
"This is a big-picture effort, a landscape-level effort. This connects the dots," GTRLC Executive Director Glen Chown said. "These two projects together are without question one of the capstone efforts in the *Campaign for Generations*, and it speaks to everything the campaign is all about."

### Three jewels, one crown

From a conservation standpoint, these projects offer a truly rare opportunity to group large, contiguous parcels of land into a corridor that packs a punch in terms of benefits to water quality, wildlife and scenic views.

The Schuler Farm easement has nearly 1,000 feet of undeveloped frontage on Skegemog Lake, which augments the nearly 2,000 feet of undeveloped frontage contained in the contiguous North Skegemog Nature Preserve. In addition, it has about 1,300 feet of frontage on an unnamed tributary to Skegemog and significant chunks of both forest and high-quality wetlands.

The proposed Torch River Nature Preserve is bursting with critical ecological features, not the least of which is its 1,500 feet of undeveloped wetland frontage along the Torch River. This pristine frontage provides a welcome contrast to the heavily developed stretch of river that lies just to the north.



Much of the property includes a prominent, steeply sloping ridge that runs north to south, parallel with the river. This steep ridge includes several east-west "fingers" of premium northern hardwood forest, and numerous slopes also contain hemlock groves. Multiple cold-water seeps originate in the hillside. An island of stately white pines is found along the southern portion of the property.

These two new pieces join the North Skegemog Nature Preserve, created in 1993 and greatly expanded a few years later when Vic and Betty Schuler sold GTRLC nearly 30 acres of their property.

"While each of these properties is amazing in its own right, this is an example of the whole being more than just the sum of its parts," Chown said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a ribbon of protection like this, and it continues the tremendous legacy of the trailblazers who made the Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area possible more than 40 years ago."

## Deep roots in the land

Weiss, 71, first began visiting the area as a boy. His grandfather had property on Torch Lake, and Weiss, who grew up in Indianapolis, vividly remembers his time in the clean, clear environs of northern Michigan.

Though his grandfather's property was sold after his death, a teenage Weiss struck up a deep friendship with family acquaintances Lloyd and Martha Aemissegger, who had 170 acres of land. As legend goes, it had been completely clear-cut in the late 19th century to supply the roaring furnaces of the Dexter & Noble iron foundry in Elk Rapids.

But it had bounced back wonderfully by the mid-20th century, with beautiful rolling hills blanketed in hardwoods. Weiss badly wanted to buy it, knowing he had some inheritance money coming once he turned 18. So he and Lloyd sat down at the kitchen table and put it to paper – no attorneys necessary.

"It was just one sheet of paper, a gentlemen's agreement," Weiss said. "I just needed to get old enough."



Bill Weiss on the proposed Torch River Nature Preserve.

Weiss, who went on to work as an engineer and environmental consultant, purchased those first 170 acres and eventually built a cottage there in 1971. He added on to the land over the years, notably through an 80-acre chunk owned by Milton Township native and longtime Elk Rapids fixture Ivan Hooper.

Over at the Schuler farm, the personal roots go back even further. According to family lore, Vicki Jacobs' great-grandmother, Louisa Schuler, purchased the first parcel of what became the Schuler farm after the untimely death of her great-grandfather, Casper Schuler, sometime around the dawn of the 20th century. The land was added to and farmed for years by Jacobs' grandparents, Gust and Rhea Schuler. Jacobs, who grew up right down the road, visited her grandparents on the farm constantly.

"I adored my grandparents, in particular my grandfather," she said. "He was just this warm, loving man with a little twinkle in his eye. We'd go over to the barn and gather eggs, and he used to have a little lamb that followed us around. As a young girl it was just such a special place."

Add to that memories along the shores of Lake Skegemog, the setting for many adventures during Jacobs' youth. She and her brother, Jack, spent countless hours down by the water.

"It was wild, it was rustic," she said. "We just had so much fun down there, so much fun."

But despite these good times, it was inevitable that Jacobs felt the need to spread her wings. She met her husband Bruce and eventually moved to central Ohio for many years, raising three children. It wasn't long before her childhood home pulled on her heart.

"When I was 17 and I thought I had it all figured out, like most 17 year olds, I couldn't wait to get away from here. I wanted to go to the big city, to get away," she said. "Then, of course, I spent 30 years trying to get back here. You don't know what you have until it's gone."

Jacobs eventually returned full-time to help care for her mother after her father died, and she now makes her home on the family property.

## A path to protection

Conversations with Weiss and the Schuler families began more than two decades ago. As has been the case many times over the years, it took years of kitchen table conversations before the time and circumstances were right for protection.

"This is just another example of the importance of maintaining good relationships with landowners,



especially priority property owners,” Chown said. “We’ve been talking to the Schuler family for 25 years. We’ve been talking to Bill since quite literally the beginning of the Conservancy. Sometimes it takes time, but look at what we’re accomplishing together – it’s well worth the effort and the wait.”

For Weiss, the decision to sell was bittersweet. He’d like to stay at the property until his death, but at his age he’s losing the ability to care for the land the way he once did. He’s keenly aware that GTRLC’s *Campaign for Generations* marks a “once in a lifetime” opportunity for the conservancy to acquire his land, and he knows that’s the best way to keep it wild and pristine.

“I just didn’t want to see this place developed. I’ve seen it all over the country,” he said. “If I don’t sell it to the Conservancy, it will just eventually turn into hundreds of home sites. I’m sure people would love to live here, but I don’t need to look up here and see twinkling lights in the hills.”

Weiss has let various friends and family members use his property over the years, and he takes solace in the fact that the property becoming a preserve means their – and his – access will remain.

“The good news is my hunters can still hunt, my walkers can still walk, my skiers can still ski, and I can come out here with my grandkids,” he said.

In the back of her mind, Jacobs always knew she didn’t want to see her land developed. That conviction grew stronger in recent years, and land protection discussions that began with her parents were finalized under her watch.

“If I hadn’t had the appreciation for the land and nature handed down to me, I really might not care that much, or maybe it wouldn’t be as important to me,” she said. “But it is, and the time was right.”

Jacobs’ thoughts drifted to the past when she weighed the decision to place an easement on her land.

“I think my parents would be very pleased, and I think my grandpa Gust would be also,” she said. “They always instilled in me that love for nature. I want to honor their legacy in any way I can.”

But the future, of course, also was on her mind. Her four grandchildren come to visit “Grandma Camp”



Vicki Jacobs holds photos of her parents and grandparents on her land.

every summer, and she wants to know that they – and indeed their grandchildren – will always be able to soak up the wonder that she did as a child.

“I have a vision of them being able to be at the lake like we were when we were kids. Of being able to do the same things that we did, like walking in the woods, and being able to enjoy this place just the way it is,” she said. “The fact that they’ll be able to do that is another thing that I think would really please my dad, knowing that all future generations will be able to enjoy it.”

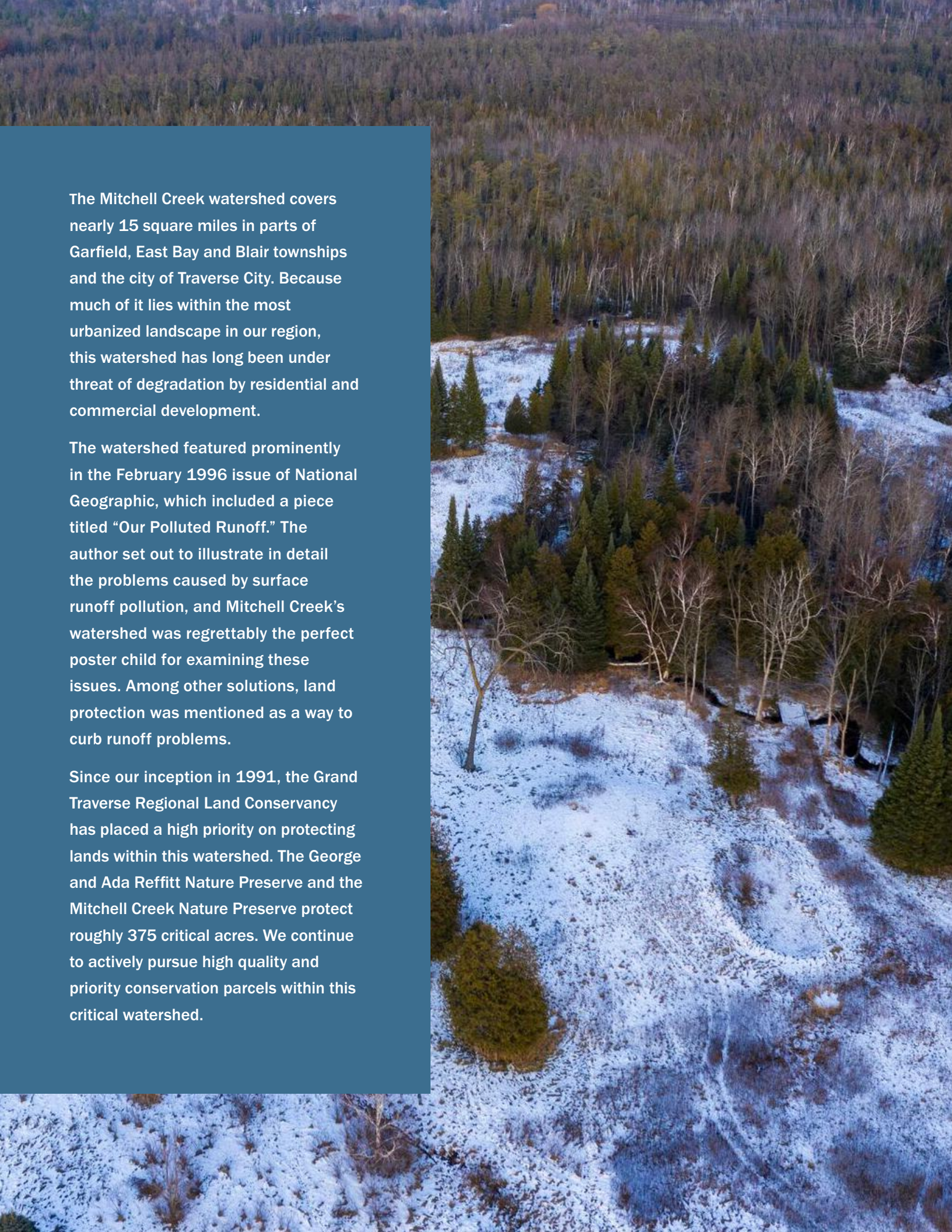
GTRLC worked closely with Jacobs to craft an easement that would allow home sites for her children, who hope to one day return to the property. Back and forth negotiations made sure to preserve conservation values while allowing for Jacobs’ wishes.

“The Conservancy has been wonderful, and they’ve been very understanding of what I need to be able to do this,” Jacobs said. “We’ve been able to talk back and forth, to understand each other and what our needs and goals are, and I’ve really appreciated that.”

To Chown, Weiss and Jacobs are nothing short of “conservation heroes.”

“These are two of the most developable properties in the entire Chain of Lakes, and developing them would have tremendously negative impacts on water quality, wildlife corridors, scenic views, you name it,” Chown said. “I am incredibly thankful that Bill and Vicki are willing to put their trust in us and that they share our long term vision and passion.”



An aerial photograph of a winter forest landscape. The ground is covered in a layer of snow, with patches of brown vegetation visible. Numerous evergreen trees are scattered throughout the scene, some standing alone and others in small clusters. The background shows a dense forest of taller trees. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is positioned on the left side of the image, containing white text.

The Mitchell Creek watershed covers nearly 15 square miles in parts of Garfield, East Bay and Blair townships and the city of Traverse City. Because much of it lies within the most urbanized landscape in our region, this watershed has long been under threat of degradation by residential and commercial development.

The watershed featured prominently in the February 1996 issue of National Geographic, which included a piece titled “Our Polluted Runoff.” The author set out to illustrate in detail the problems caused by surface runoff pollution, and Mitchell Creek’s watershed was regrettably the perfect poster child for examining these issues. Among other solutions, land protection was mentioned as a way to curb runoff problems.

Since our inception in 1991, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has placed a high priority on protecting lands within this watershed. The George and Ada Reffitt Nature Preserve and the Mitchell Creek Nature Preserve protect roughly 375 critical acres. We continue to actively pursue high quality and priority conservation parcels within this critical watershed.





# Mitchell Creek Meadow Preserve

## PROPOSED PRESERVE CONTINUES LEGACY OF MITCHELL CREEK WATERSHED PROTECTION

Because of increasing development activity in the immediate vicinity of Traverse City, large open spaces are getting harder and harder to come by. This is especially true of parcels within the ecologically significant Mitchell Creek watershed.

A new GTRLC project within this watershed presents an exceptional opportunity to safeguard water quality, protect vanishing wildlife habitat, provide valuable recreation opportunities and preserve open space in an area that has long faced substantial development pressure.

The Conservancy has an option to purchase the 166-acre former Mitchell Creek Golf Course east of Three Mile Road in East Bay Township. We are actively fundraising for this important property as part of the ongoing *Campaign for Generations*.

Since the closing of the nine-hole golf course (and later a wedding venue), the impacted portions of this parcel have already begun to revert back to a natural state. Fairways have begun the transition into wet meadow, the perfect habitat for sandhill cranes and many other species. Large swaths of rich conifer swamp, largely untouched by earlier use of the property and the remnant of much larger dune-and-swale complex that once lined the south end of the bay, add to the ecological value of this special place.

Of all the reasons to protect this property, water quality protection is first and foremost. The parcel contains more than 6,000 feet of frontage along two branches of Vanderlip Creek, which feed into Mitchell Creek just north of this property. These cold branches feature spawning brook trout and provide a considerable volume of water to Mitchell Creek. While protection of their undeveloped shorelines is paramount, that's only part of the water quality story here.

The wetlands and forest complexes of this property serve the critical role of filtering surface water runoff that enters the creek. Protecting this collection of natural features from impending development preserves an immensely important natural filter in an area where such filters are scarce and under increasing threat.



Development plans previously prepared for the property show the potential for more than 150 home sites, and another plan submitted involved construction of an automobile race track. Both uses would have resulted in substantially negative environmental impacts.

From a recreational and community standpoint, the property offers other potential benefits. Once protected, it could be one of the best birding spots in

**Once protected, it could be one of the best birding spots in town.**

town. It has one of the largest stretches of herbaceous wetland in proximity to Traverse City, offering scarce habitat to scores of bird species.

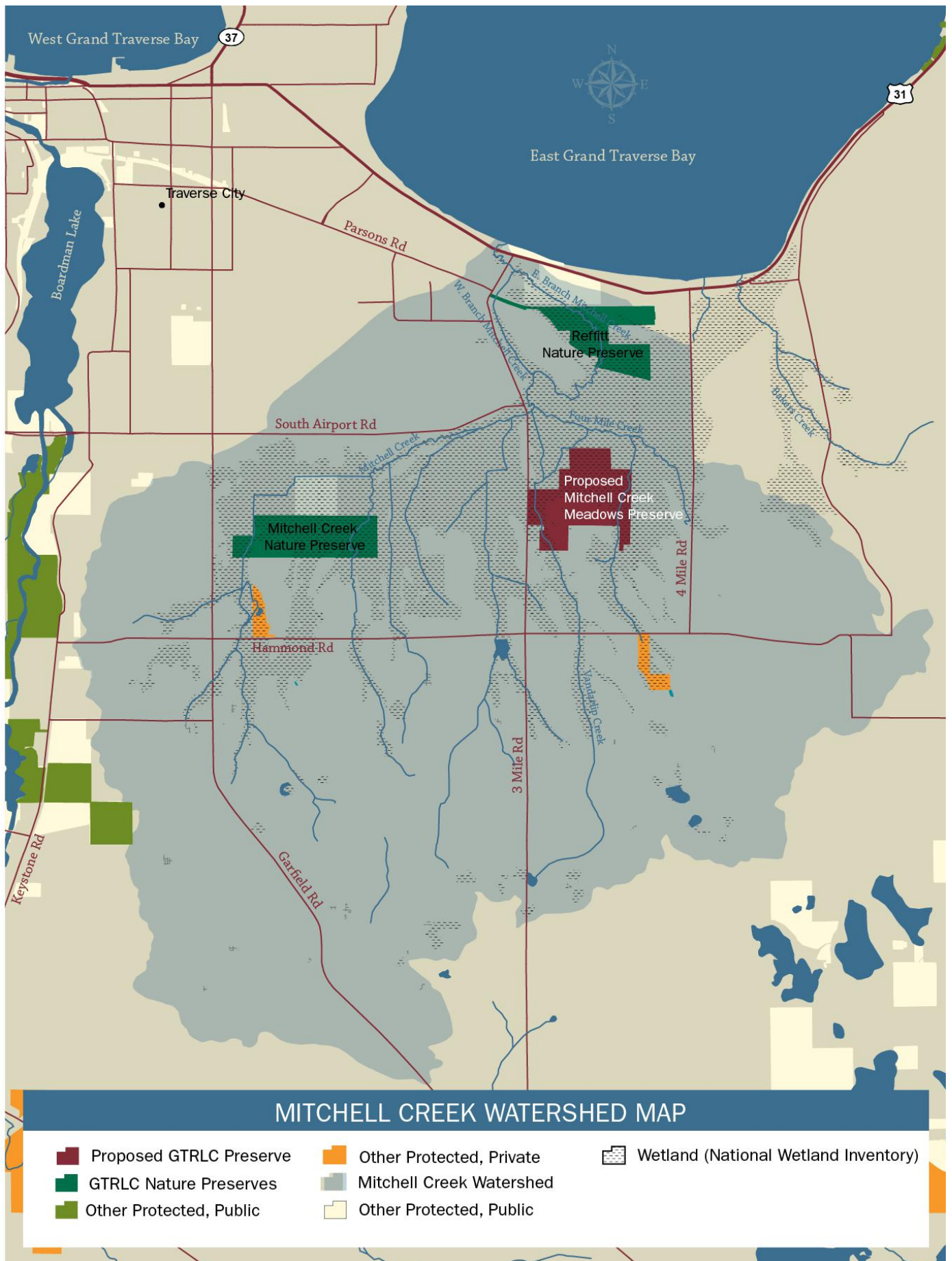
Old golf course water traps that have begun conversion into natural habitat already are used by a variety of waterfowl. There is also excellent potential for a series of trails that highlight important critical habitat types, including the potential for Universal Access (UA) opportunities.

*The proposed preserve has significant frontage on Vanderlip Creek.*



PHOTO BY NATE RICHARDSON







# The Maplehurst Natural Area is Open!

## GTRLC TRANSFERS PROPERTY TO MILTON TOWNSHIP AFTER SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING EFFORT



PHOTO BY LAURA RIGAN

*Maplehurst offers a beautiful hiking experience through hardwood forests.*

Fundraising for one of the most visible and anticipated projects in the ongoing *Campaign for Generations* is complete, marking a major cause for celebration as the campaign steams ahead.

GTRLC successfully finished fundraising for the Maplehurst Natural Area late last year and transferred the property to Milton Township in December. The 389-acre property near Kewadin is now open to the public while planning for recreational opportunities and amenities at the new natural area is ongoing.

“We’ve had this property on our radar for many years, and it’s such a great feeling to be able to say that it is now protected forever,” said GTRLC Executive Director Glen Chown.

**“We are extremely excited to preserve Maplehurst, and to leave its almost 400 acres unspoiled is monumental.”**

“I can’t say enough thanks to the hundreds of donors who supported this project and helped us get it to the finish line.”

The Conservancy helped the township secure a \$1.9 million Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

Grant in late 2016, then helped fundraise about \$1.9 million more to cover a match to the trust fund grant, demolish or remove several buildings and establish an endowment for the property’s care, among other expenses.

Township officials were thrilled to finally acquire the property, which is one of the largest remaining intact and undeveloped parcels in the immediate vicinity of Torch Lake.

“We are extremely excited to preserve Maplehurst, and to leave its almost 400 acres unspoiled is monumental,” said Milton Township Treasurer and Parks & Recreation Committee member Liz Atkinson. “We recognize the importance in preserving what is special about our region for future generations, with the added bonus of supporting the economic health of our community.”

Atkinson thanked GTRLC for its support throughout the process of acquiring the property. This is GTRLC’s second project in Milton Township in recent years, following the conversion of the former Water’s Edge Resort in Kewadin to a new township waterfront park.



“A project the size of Maplehurst would have been impossible for us to handle on our own,” Atkinson said. “Many of us have enjoyed the results of GTRLC’s many previous conservation initiatives, and we have been extremely happy to collaborate with GTRLC so future generations will have access to the natural habitats that surround us.”

In addition to 150 acres of hardwood forested bluffs that drain into Torch Lake, the property offers open, rolling meadows and the entirety of Lake Maplehurst, a 60-acre spring-fed gem.

From 1955 until 2011, the land was home to Camp Maplehurst, a summer camp beloved by generations of campers and counselors. After the former owner closed the camp and listed it for sale, the township asked GTRLC to help it acquire the land for use as a public natural area. Many features of the former camp property — including the potential for wooded trails, water access and more — made it highly desirable for this purpose.

Aside from handling the MNRTF application and raising an additional \$1.9 million, GTRLC coordinated the demolition or relocation of about 30 buildings on the property in preparation for the transformation from camp to natural area. The Conservancy also coordinated cleanup/remediation of several environmental concerns and held a series of public hikes attended by hundreds of people, including local residents, former campers and project supporters.

Fundraising for the project also included a

\$50,000 payment to Milton Township for its upcoming initial work on improvements to the natural area and \$100,000 for a Maplehurst-specific endowment at the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation to make sure the natural area is cared for well into the future.

GTRLC will play an ongoing role as the Maplehurst Natural Area continues to take shape. In partnership with the township, the Conservancy will develop a

management plan for the property and head the planning of roughly six miles of trail (likely to occur in phases), which will begin as soon as weather allows.

“While the township has valued our partnership with GTRLC in the early stages of opening the natural area to the public, we look forward to further collaboration as

we continue to improve the property by adding hiking and biking trails and other amenities,” said township Parks & Recreation committee member Bob Kingon.

This project would not have been possible without a \$2.8 million loan from longtime Conservancy supporters Don and Jerry Oleson in December 2016. This loan allowed GTRLC to pre-acquire Maplehurst and hold it until MNRTF money was available (a process that often takes many months after a grant is approved.)

“We can’t thank Don and Jerry enough, and this is yet another example of how we often have to move very fast when it comes to land protection,” Chown said. “This is why building a Quick Strike Fund is an integral part of the *Campaign for Generations*.”



*A visitor admires Lake Maplehurst on a late winter's evening.*

PHOTO BY DEKE LUDWIG







# Healthy Land, Healthy People

## LAND AND WATER PROTECTION PLAYS BIG ROLE IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Protecting land has always been about health. Health of our ecosystems. Health of our wildlife. Health of our local land and water resources. The list goes on.

But what about the health of the people who use these protected lands? With all of the positive ecological aspects of land protection, it might be easy to overlook the impact this work has on human health and wellness. These benefits are diverse and substantial, and they're starting to attract more attention across the country as communities work on initiatives designed to boost fitness and well-being.

"Our work has long been recognized for its diverse ecological benefits, and we've seen these impacts repeatedly on projects throughout our service area," said GTRLC Land Protection Director Chris Sullivan. "We're very pleased to know that land protection is now increasingly viewed as a key component in the health and wellness of our local communities."

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan, for instance, recently granted Milton Township \$15,000 for trail building at the Maplehurst Natural Area. GTRLC and the township will begin trail construction at this recently opened natural area — protected by GTRLC — this spring.

"Grants like this show that local health authorities are serious about investing in outdoor recreation as a means to improve well-being," Sullivan said. "More protected land means more opportunities for people to get

outside and experience the full range of benefits tied to outdoor activities."

Of the more than 41,000 acres of land protected by GTRLC, about half is open to the public. Included in those public lands are more than 80 miles of trail — that's the distance from Traverse City to the Mackinaw Bridge! What's more, these trails are diverse in both location and size, offering something for everyone throughout our five county service area.

Jesse Wolff is a senior advisor for healthy communities for the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation. In that position he runs Accelerate: The Movement for Well-Being, an

initiative dedicated to improving health in local communities by building a culture of well-being for all. He believes the Conservancy's work plays a "profound" role in these efforts on a variety of fronts.

"With thousands of acres of nature preserves and open spaces, the Conservancy has carved out excellent opportunities for people to connect with nature," Wolff said. "This access to some of the most beautiful areas in Northern Michigan is essential to our health and well-being."

Folks at Accelerate and at healthy community initiatives across the country understand that shifting the focus from screens to physical activity — especially activity in calming, restorative outdoor environs — is crucial for long-term health goals.

"The challenge for today is developing strategies to encourage people to get out in nature. The competition with technology is real, and younger generations especially are not necessarily outdoor

**"This access to some of the most beautiful areas in Northern Michigan is essential to our health and well-being."**

**"It is imperative that access to nature and outdoor recreation remain as a basic lifestyle choice for our region."**

oriented," Wolff said. "In this age of constant focus on technology, the benefits to our mental, physical and even spiritual health by breaking away for a walk in the woods has been extensively researched."

"40 percent of our health is determined by our lifestyle and the choices we make that affect our health," Wolff continued. "It is imperative that access to nature and outdoor recreation remain as a basic lifestyle choice for our region."

Wolff also pointed to the importance of water resource protection. Major water problems have cropped up across the state in recent years, from lead in Flint's drinking water to carcinogenic industrial contaminants in Kent County well water, making clean water a top-of-mind issue for communities.

"GTRLC has been at the forefront of strategically preserving the essential wetlands, headwaters, rivers, streams and lakes to protect our water. This investment in precious water resources is a significant contributor to our health, from clean drinking water, to recreation access, fishing and more," Wolff said. "It contributes to the natural beauty of the region, in and of itself a factor contributing to our collective well-being."

Wolff is also impressed with GTRLC's ongoing focus on creating Universally Accessible (UA) opportunities at its protected areas. The "power of accessibility" is immense, he said, not only for people with disabilities, but also a booming population of retirees who call the region home.

"As our region's population ages, the Conservancy's work is a key ingredient in providing access to nature for older people," he said. "It serves to reduce social isolation for some of these folks, along with the other health benefits that go along with it."

For more on GTRLC's UA efforts, see the [Campaign for Generations](#) update on page 3 and the story about the Arcadia Marsh UA trail on page 28.









# Marsh Trail Underway

## LIFELONG INCLUSION THE GOAL OF UNIVERSAL ACCESS PROJECTS

When it comes to Arcadia Marsh, Charlie Ganss has always been on the outside looking in.

Ganss, 70, has been in a wheelchair since he broke his back in a fall about 20 years ago. As such, the Manistee County resident has gotten used to accepting the many barriers that present themselves in his daily life. These barriers are especially prevalent in the outdoors, where he often can't rely on a wheelchair to take him over the winding, uneven terrain of most hiking trails.

At places like Arcadia Marsh, he'll pull off along the side of the road to get a look. Sometimes, if he deems it safe enough, he'll wheel himself out and sit by the roadway. But that's about it. It can be an incredibly isolating feeling.

"To get a feel for it, if you see a place that maybe you'd like to explore or investigate, just stop right there," Ganss said. "Just deny yourself the opportunity to do it. That's what it's like for those in a wheelchair."

At Arcadia Marsh, things will soon change. A universally accessible trail at this ecologically significant preserve will be open in just a few short months, allowing people of all ages and abilities to immerse themselves in the sights and sounds of nature's beauty.

"I will be very, very enthused," Ganss said of the trail. "I take that drive up M-22 as frequently as anybody, and the opportunity I'll have now to go through the marsh will be fabulous."

**"To get a feel for it, if you see a place that maybe you'd like to explore or investigate, just stop right there," Ganss said. "Just deny yourself the opportunity to do it. That's what it's like for those in a wheelchair."**



Fresh on the heels of a well-received UA trail at Arcadia Dunes: The C.S. Mott Nature Preserve, crews broke ground last October on a UA trail a short distance down the road at the marsh. When

finished, the roughly  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile trail will extend from the existing parking area along M-22 to a new parking area off St. Pierre Road.

"As with the Overlook Trail at Arcadia Dunes, this project is really all about inclusion and lifelong access," said GTRLC Executive Director Glen Chown. "It's important to us





that everybody, regardless of their physical ability, gets to fully enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of our region.”

If all goes according to schedule, the new trail will be open in June. Manistee County-based Swidorski Bros., which built the Overlook Trail, is building the marsh trail as well.

“Construction has been going well, and we’re hoping to get people out there enjoying this trail by summer,” said Steve Lagerquist, GTRLC preserve steward. “This is really going to make the overall experience better for everyone who visits the marsh, but we’re obviously most excited about making this preserve accessible for people who have mobility issues.”

The elevated boardwalk trail will follow and extend upon the existing footpath, which was prone to getting so muddy in spots that it was nearly impassible. Tall plants along the existing trail also made it hard for visitors to see their surroundings, especially in the warmer months.

A series of bumpouts with benches, multiple elevated observation decks (Arcadia Marsh is developing a reputation as one of the preeminent birding spots in the entire state) and two small fishing piers will add to the experience. Interpretive signs are also planned, allowing visitors to better understand the ecosystem around them.



**"It's been clearly demonstrated that when you design something with UA standards, it improves access for the general population as well as those with mobility issues."**

Although the entire trail will be designed to UA standards, everyone who uses the marsh will benefit from the new trail. Studies have shown that such trails are useful not only for people with mobility issues, but also for families with young children in strollers and people who for a variety of reasons aren't comfortable on uneven terrain.

"It's been clearly demonstrated that when you design something with UA standards, it improves access for the general population as well as those with mobility issues," said David Foote, GTRLC's director of stewardship. "Outdoor recreation can and should be a key component of healthy, active lifestyles for everyone, and the hope here is that these types of UA opportunities encourage people to get out on the land."

This is the latest of GTRLC's foray into UA opportunities, and it won't be the last. The Conservancy recently helped Long Lake Township secure a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for a UA trail at the Timbers Recreation Area and is also planning to break ground on a new UA trail at the St. Clair Lake-Six Mile Lake preserve this year.

"These types of opportunities are critical, and it's why we incorporated them into the *Campaign for Generations*," Chown said. "We're going to continue to pursue UA projects where appropriate because we believe that everyone should have access to nature's beauty."

The marsh trail and its amenities will allow visitors to enjoy a very special preserve that protects one of the last



*The trail will improve access for everyone who visits the marsh.*

remaining Great Lakes coastal marshes. These marshes are nearly as productive as tropical rainforests in terms of biomass per acre, offering habitat for scores of threatened and rare species. It's estimated that as much as 80 percent of this type of habitat that once existed throughout the Great Lakes basin has been destroyed.





PHOTO BY STEVE LAGERQUIST

GTRLC's stewardship team, in partnership with several other organizations, has completed extensive restoration work at the marsh since acquiring it more than a decade ago. Aside from substantial invasive species remediation, one most important restoration efforts at the marsh involved

routing Bowens Creek from an old ditch back into its original, meandering channel. This added more than 3,700 feet of riverine habitat and also dropped the temperature in the creek by 10 degrees, improving habitat for trout, sculpins and other cold-water species.





*Former AmeriCorps member Michelle Jacokes speaks to campers at the Maple Bay farm.*

## Growing Awareness

### HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPERS LEARN ABOUT FOOD AND FARMING AT MAPLE BAY

“What’s a radish?”

The question, fielded by AmeriCorps member Michelle Jacokes as she worked with local campers at Maple Bay farm, could be easily forgiven. It’s not the most familiar of vegetables, especially to a young person.

But for those involved in agriculture, the question represents a larger and growing disconnect between people — particularly children — and the food they eat every day. The reasons for this disconnect are many, but perhaps the most significant is that the transition from smaller, family-run farms to larger corporate operations has made farms and food production less accessible to the average person.

That’s why it was exciting for everyone involved when busloads of kids from YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha

campers got down and dirty in the Maple Bay volunteer garden the past two summers. More than 100 total campers ranging from the second grade through early high school joined Jacokes at the farm for weekly sessions. While there, they practiced cultivation techniques and learned about pests, farm operations, plant identification and more.

“I liked to see their eyes light up as they learned something they didn’t know before. This stuff was fresh to a lot of them and they’d get really excited,” Jacokes said. “You pull a cucumber off the vine and slice it up for them, and they’ll tell you they’ve never had anything like that off the plant before. It was just really cool.”

Jacokes also made a point to talk to the campers about sustainable and organic agricultural practices, stressing the relationship between a farm and the natural environment.

“It’s important to show them these things at a young age, because that’s where a lot of our inherent decisions come from,” she said. “In order for them to learn a lot about different agricultural practices, it really helps to have hands on experiences like



this, and hopefully it will help shape the decisions they make about their food choices in the future.”

Leaders at Hayo-Went-Ha were thrilled to partner with GTRLC.

“We like to show our campers a working farm,” Camp Director Amanda Macaluso said. “I would say many of our campers had not ever visited a farm before, so this was the first opportunity they had to really see how food is produced.”

Macaluso said Jacokes was the perfect person to lead the program.

“Campers really enjoyed working with Michelle. She was excited to show the campers around and explain the details about working a farm,” she said. “She related well with the campers and always had fun activities for them.”

Vic Lane is senior conservation projects manager for GTRLC, and in this position oversees Maple Bay. The partnership with Hayo-Went-Ha is an excellent way for the Conservancy to build deep, meaningful relationships with the communities it serves, he said.

“As the Conservancy looks to go beyond just protecting land and becoming more community

**“You pull a cucumber off the vine and slice it up for them, and they’ll tell you they’ve never had anything like that off the plant before. It was just really cool.”**

oriented, we have to look at what community services are needed — and there’s definitely a need to get kids out learning on the land,” he said. “This is also a great opportunity for the Conservancy to connect more with the community and show how relevant our work is.”

Lane said the camper sessions are another example of the value added by GTRLC’s work with Huron Pines AmeriCorps. Jacokes was one of six AmeriCorps members who helped the Conservancy with a host of tasks last year, including invasive species removal, trail building, habitat improvements and much more.

“One of the goals with AmeriCorps and our organization is to leverage additional work that we otherwise wouldn’t be able to do,” Lane said. “The only reason we were able to have campers there is because of Michelle’s hard work.”

For more about Maple Bay and what’s going on there, contact Lane at [vlane@gtrlc.org](mailto:vlane@gtrlc.org) or (231) 929-7911.

*Campers had the opportunity to get their hands dirty while learning about agriculture.*





# On the Front Lines

## DAVE MATHEWS SPENDS TIME ERADICATING INVASIVE SPECIES FOR GTRLC AND OTHERS

Asked why he's dedicated much of his free time in recent years to eradicating invasive species within our region, Dave Mathews got a twinkle in his eye and began to pull up his sweater.

Under this sturdy black garment was a bright blue tee shirt emblazoned with the phrase "Habitat Matters," the slogan of GTRLC's partners at the Invasive Species Network (ISN). Reminiscent of Superman baring his emblem, Mathews is indeed a superhero to local conservation groups for his unwavering persistence in removing the many damaging species that don't belong in our forests and fields.

"That really says it all in two words," he said of the slogan. "Everything's connected, and when you start throwing a monkey wrench into things, everything gets out of kilter. We need to work to fix it."

Mathews, a Traverse City native and courier for a medical supply company, has been volunteering for GTRLC, ISN, the Grand Traverse Conservation District and more groups for several years. While he got into conservation-related volunteering out of a pure love for his natural surroundings, he got a real fire in his belly when he learned about

the threat posed by dozens of invasive species throughout the region.

"I had always had an interest in land and water, but I didn't really know much about invasive species," he said. "I had no idea how pervasive the problem was, how many species and how extensive they are."

So when the call goes out for help with yanking baby's breath on Elberta beach, ripping out garlic mustard at Arcadia Dunes or eradicating spotted knapweed and bladder campion at Maple Bay, Mathews is usually there, ready to lay waste to as many invasives as he can get his hands on. Often times it's quite a drive from his Traverse City home, but he's not too worried about the commute.

"The work is there to be done. Someone asked me about it not too long

**"This is local, and you have to start where you're at."**

ago, and I told him I felt like one of nature's janitors," he said. "Humans dragged this stuff in here, and it's really messing up habitats. So I like the satisfaction of going out there and knowing that I made a difference, even if it takes some years to see it."

Plus, it helps Mathews feel like he's making a difference amid the cloud of troubling news — especially on a national and global scale — regarding the environment.

"In the huge scheme of things, I suppose you could look at the big stuff, industrial pollution, global warming, stuff like that and just (throw up your hands)," he said. "But I live here, so I do this work

### A word from Jon Throop, GTRLC's new Volunteer and Events Program Manager:

"After spending 6 years as a preserve steward with the Conservancy, I'm thrilled to continue stewarding our beautiful preserves and natural areas alongside our incredible volunteers in my new role. I've always relished time spent in nature, and working with passionate people who dedicate their lives to its protection has been a new source of inspiration for me. I truly believe the mission of the Conservancy to protect natural, scenic, and farm lands and advancing stewardship belongs to all of us and I'm looking forward to fostering the connections between people, land, water and stewardship in any way I can."

**For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact Jon at [jthroop@gtrlc.org](mailto:jthroop@gtrlc.org) or (231) 929-7911.**





*Dave Mathews (far left) after pulling baby's breath at Elberta Beach.*

here. I know I'm not making much of an impact on those great big issues, but again, this is local, and you have to start where you're at."

GTRLC is fortunate that Mathews took a shine to invasive species work, said Jon Throop, the Conservancy's volunteer and events coordinator.

"Dave's passion for improving the health of our sensitive habitats in northern Michigan is unparalleled," Throop said. "He's usually the first to show up, the last to leave and works as hard as anyone I've ever seen. Most importantly, Dave's die-hard, yet positive, attitude always boosts morale on long, tough days in the field."

While others might look forward to loafing on the couch during their time off, Mathews is a different breed, Throop said.

"Last August, Dave contacted me asking if we had any extra restoration projects because he had taken a week long vacation from work and wanted to spend it killing any invasive plants he could get his hands on," he said. "True to his word, Dave spent some long days on Elberta Beach removing non-native baby's breath that had a stranglehold on an otherwise pristine dune habitat."

Mathews implores others to take up the cause — even if they're not as driven as he is.

"Just give it a try. Pick a nice day when it's offered somewhere close and go out there. If it's not your thing, just walk away. And even if you don't have the desire to do this type of work, make yourself aware it," he said. "Awareness is important."



# Protecting and Restoring Orchids

## COLLABORATION WITH NORTH AMERICAN ORCHID CONSERVATION CENTER DESIGNED TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

Bright dapples of sun danced around the forest floor as Dennis Whigham wandered through a quiet section of woods at the proposed Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve.

Whigham scanned the ground, pausing here or there as he looked at a mixture of plants. Finally he bent down next to a non-descript little plant with two rounded, shiny green leaves. It was a dormant pink lady's slipper, a type of orchid found throughout the eastern half of the United States.

Out of Whigham's faded orange fest — useful for roadside forages or during hunting season — came a folding knife, small envelopes and baggies. The goal: A sample to be studied, preserved and catalogued.

"All we need is just a little piece of it," he said as he gently sliced the tip from the end of one of the leaves. "That right there will do."

What Whigham gathered would be whisked away to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Maryland. SERC houses the North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC), a coalition of organizations dedicated to conserving the diverse orchid heritage of the United States and Canada.



*A group of showy orchids.*

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has begun collaborating with NAOCC, and Whigham, its director, was at the Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve to demonstrate proper sampling techniques. Now, genetic material from GTRLC preserves can be carefully collected and studied.

Orchids are a highly unique family of flowering plants known for their sometimes showy and often intricate blooms. Many species of these colorful plants are as specialized as they are beautiful, requiring just the right soil types and the presence of certain types of fungus and bacteria to thrive.





PHOTO BY ANGIE LUCAS

As such, they are particularly sensitive to habitat loss, degradation and disturbance. In fact, of the more than 250 native orchid species in the United States and Canada, more than half are threatened or endangered.

“The survival of orchids depends on a delicate balance within healthy ecosystems,” Whigham said. “Their decline, like the canary in the coal mine, is often the first sign of trouble.”

Aside from educating folks about orchids, NAOCC has two primary goals. First, it wants to preserve the genetic diversity of local orchid populations

by collecting and storing seeds of native orchids in regional seed banks (along with an equally important living collection of fungi that play a critical role in the life cycle of orchids). Second, it wants to assure the long-term survival of these populations by developing propagation techniques.

Even with modern science and research, the life cycle of many types of orchids is largely a mystery. Unlocking the complex roles of certain mycorrhizal fungi, bacteria and pollinators in the orchid life cycle is key to ensuring successful propagation and conservation of local populations.





PHOTO BY ART BUKOWSKI

*Dennis Whigham  
(in red cap)  
demonstrates  
proper technique  
for sampling orchids  
at the proposed  
Upper Manistee  
Headwaters  
Preserve.*



PHOTO BY ANGIE LUCAS

*Yellow lady slippers.*



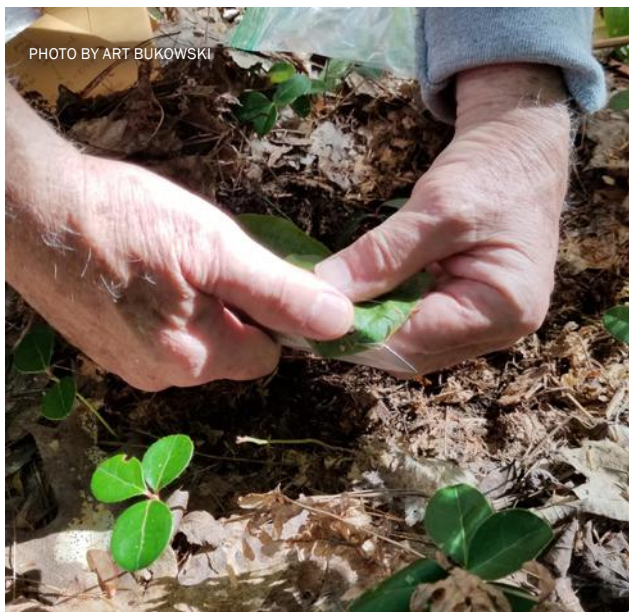
A pink ladyslipper.



“You really have to put together a puzzle in order to conserve or restore an orchid,” Whigham said.

But Whigham and his limited crew can’t do it by themselves. This is where organizations like GTRLC come into play. NAOCC needs boots on the ground across the country to help with collection of material, and partnerships with botanic gardens, greenhouses and others for help with propagation studies.

“This is only going to work if we can convince people like you across the country to join us in this effort,” Whigham said. “We certainly can’t do it alone.”



GTRLC Senior Preserve Steward Angie Lucas said the collaboration with NAOCC has multiple benefits to GTRLC. First, it will spur the Conservancy to make a detailed study of what exactly grows on GTRLC preserves and natural areas.

“We’ve found more than 20 of Michigan’s 57 native orchid species on our protected lands during botanical surveys, but we don’t have much data beyond that,” she said. “This is a great opportunity to take a detailed look at what is growing and where, and assess how they are doing.”

The long-term hope is also that research conducted by NAOCC will arm GTRLC with the knowledge needed to restore troubled populations throughout its service area.

“GTRLC will know that genetic material from species in your area is secured in regional and national seed and fungal banks,” Whigham said. “In the long term, you will be assured that you will know how to propagate all species for conservation and restoration efforts — including enabling people to establish sustainable populations of genetically appropriate plants in gardens, arboretums, and more.”

For more information, visit [www.northamericanorchidcenter.org](http://www.northamericanorchidcenter.org)



# Letter From the Board Chair

## **FRIENDS,**

This is the first annual report that reflects the tremendous positive momentum of the *Campaign for Generations*. While all gifts are important and appreciated, the Board of Directors is especially thrilled with the progress made toward our long-term stewardship goal. It is imperative that we strengthen our ability to care for our protected lands for generations to come.

Bolstered by a substantial stewardship endowment gift from the C.S. Mott Foundation, our organization is now better prepared to handle the many tasks essential to the health, beauty and accessibility of our preserves and natural areas. This work that fulfills the “forever” part of our mission has also seen great support in the form of planned gifts as part of estate planning and from gifts directly to our stewardship endowment.

The board and staff deeply appreciate all who have stepped up to support this bold and ambitious undertaking. Indeed, the time was right and the campaign is vital to the future of this region. It's clear from the response to this campaign that this urgency is understood by our supporters.

While we've made great progress — as you've seen on the previous pages of this *Landscript* — we need to keep our focus and press our efforts. The campaign goal of \$71.4 million is in sight, but the remaining need will without question be the hardest money to raise.

Thank you to all who have joined us on this journey by providing a gift. As has been the case since GTRLC opened its doors in 1991, nothing we do would be possible without YOU.

**SINCERELY,  
JOHN COLLINS**





## Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

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### Board of Directors

John Collins - Chair

Cortney Danbrook - Vice Chair

Greg Seman - Treasurer

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Betsy Calcutt

Linda Cline

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Kathleen Guy

Jim Huckle

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Chip May

Barbara Nelson-Jameson

Susan Palmer

John D. Paul Jr.

Kevin Russell

Evan Smith

Maureen Smyth

Al Taylor

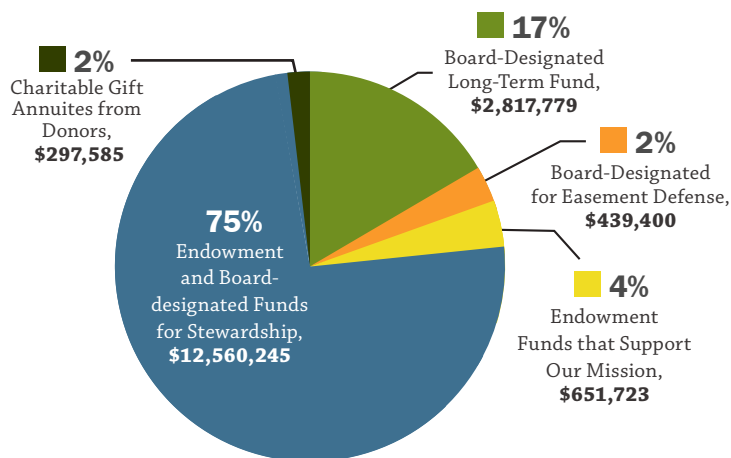
Terrie Taylor

*Conservancy Directors give hundreds of hours of their time, lend considerable life experiences to our efforts, and dedicate their contributions to the Conservancy. Learn more about the Board of Directors at [www.gtrlc.org/about/board](http://www.gtrlc.org/about/board)*



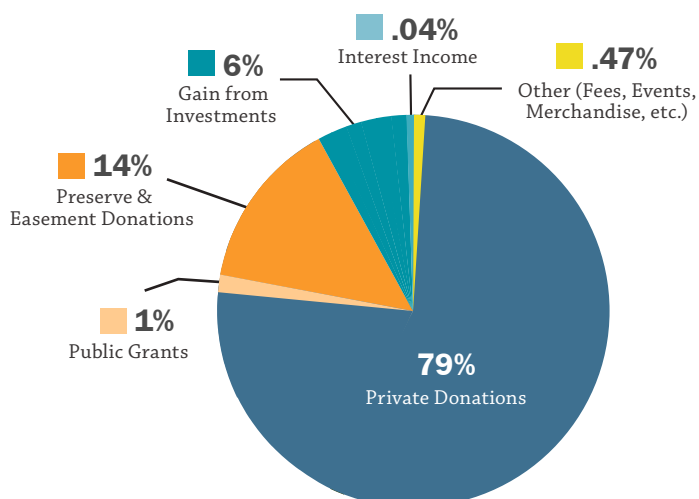
# 2017–2018 Annual Report

## GTRLC Long-Term and Endowment Funds

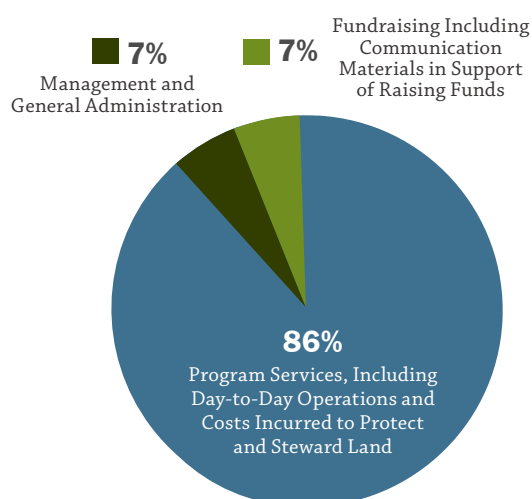


Board-Designated Long-Term Fund	\$2,817,779	17%
Board-Designated for Easement Defense	\$439,400	2%
Endowment Funds that Support Our Mission	\$651,723	4%
Endowment and Board-designated Funds for Stewardship	\$12,560,245	75%
Charitable Gift Annuities from Donors	\$297,585	2%
	<b>\$16,766,732</b>	<b>100%</b>

## GTRLC Revenue



## GTRLC Expenses





# GTRLC Consolidated Statement of Activities for the Fiscal Year

Ended June 30, 2018

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>				
Private Donations	\$1,658,391	\$8,869,355	\$4,233,561	\$14,761,307
Public Grants	53,997	46,170		100,167
Preserve & Easement Donations		2,622,650		2,622,650
Gain From Investments	250,724	826,074		1,076,798
Interest Income	5,711	971	-	6,682
Other (Fees, Events, Merchandise, Etc.)	63,089	23,963	-	87,052
Net Assets Released From Restriction:	5,363,600	(5,651,608)	288,008	-
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>\$7,395,512</b>	<b>\$6,737,575</b>	<b>\$4,521,569</b>	<b>\$18,654,656</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Program Services Including Day-To-Day Operations And Costs Incurred To Protect And Steward Land	6,201,861	-	-	6,201,861
Management And General Administration	471,175	-	-	471,175
Fundraising Including Communication Materials In Support Of Raising Funds	527,538	-	-	527,538
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,200,574</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$7,200,574</b>
<b>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</b>	194,938	6,737,575	4,521,569	11,454,082
<b>NET ASSETS</b> Beginning Of Year	4,496,687	15,461,371	18,431,159	38,389,217
<b>NET ASSETS</b> End Of Year	<b>\$4,691,625</b>	<b>\$22,198,946</b>	<b>\$22,952,728</b>	<b>\$49,843,299</b>




# Donations

Your donations to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy help protect significant scenic, natural, and farm lands from development, ensuring that the most critical lands will continue to provide local food, open space, clean water, and healthy habitat, now and for future generations. You can donate with confidence, knowing that you are contributing to an accredited, effective and fiscally responsible organization.

## A Mark of Distinction

The accreditation seal **AFFIRMS** national quality standards are met.

	✓ Sound Finances
	✓ Strong Transactions
	✓ Excellent Land and Easement Stewardship
	✓ Effective Governance



# A CAMPAIGN FOR GENERATIONS

◇ Matching gift

## JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2018

The following donors made gifts to the *Campaign for Generations* in 2018. Your investment is helping to ensure that our region remains healthy, vibrant and beautiful for generations to come. Thank you for your support as we press on with the important work of protecting significant natural, scenic and farmlands, providing access to nature for all, and advancing the stewardship of our natural resources.

### Gifts of \$25,000 or more

Tripp and Chia Huei Amdur	James and Fran Falender	Tom and Debby McMullen	Ralph L. & Winifred
Americana Foundation	Community Foundation	Phillip and Nancy Meek	E. Polk Foundation
Anonymous (4)	Grand Traverse Regional	Robert and Joyce Mims	Royce Ragland and
Brookby Foundation	Land Conservancy	Ken and Susan Morrison	Kenneth Bloem
William R. Burleigh	Endowment	Charles Stewart	Cliff Sorrell
Family Foundation	Harold S. Hansen & Naomi	Mott Foundation	State of Michigan
Carls Foundation	H. Bodenshtab Foundation	James and Debbie Norling	Department of
Robert and Lucinda	Tom and Myrna Hitchman	Oleson Foundation	Environmental Quality
Clement	Jim and Diana Huckle	Stephen Paine Family	David and Sara Taft
Consumers Energy	Family Foundation	Fund of the Community	Traverse City Tourism
Foundation	Walter Johnson	Foundation for	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Casey and Dana Cowell	Blair and Gordon Jones	Muskegon County	Lois M. Verbrugge and
Dick and Carol Crout	Thomas and Susan Kehr	Paine and McGovern	Elmer G. Gilbert
Kate and Rick Dahlstrom	Paula Kelley	Family Fund	Shaw & Betty Walker
Debbie and Daniel Edson	Kathy Magliochetti	Community Foundation	Foundation
Environmental	Manistee County	John D. and Susan K.	Warrington Foundation
Protection Agency	Community Foundation	Paul Family Endowment	John Woollam
	Minger Family	David and Ellen	Robert and Pauline Young
	Endowment Fund	Petrack Foundation	

### Gifts of \$10,000-\$24,999

American Farmland Trust	Ferson Creek Fund	The Lorimer Family	Milburn Shafer
Anonymous (2)	Alan Flory and	Charitable Fund	Jim Taup
Mack and Lorraine Beers	Monica Schultz	Terence Malone	Ann and Al Taylor
Lauren and Jesse Brill	Clifford and Norma Fox	Josephine Marquis	John Robert Williams
Paul and Amanda Brink	Carlton and Rondi Fry	McWilliams/Piraino	and Terrie Taylor
Robert Carstens	Dean and Sharon Ginther	Family Foundation	Thomas and Kathleen Volle
Cherry Republic	Gerry Hansen and Family	Richard and Diana Milock	Max Wicha and
Don and Marylou Coe	Linda and Craig Hanson	Natural Resources	Sheila Crowley
Robert and Leslie Cooper	Barry Hibben	Conservation Service	Deborah and Todd Wilson
Brian and Robin Dailey	HP Foundation	Susan and Tom Palmer	Randi and Mark
Paolo and Patty DeMaria	Al and Julie Hurd	Monnie Peters	Woodworth
Dole Family Foundation	KBRP Family Fund	Christine Petersen	Michael and Trish Young
J. Bennett and Tauna	Community Foundation	David E. Reese Family	Community Foundation
Donaldson	Charlie and Linda	Foundation	Robert and Pauline Young
Paula and Bryce Dreeszen	Kehr Fund	Susan and Michael Rontal	Family Endowment
George Fabe Fund of	Wayne and Ruthanne	Grace Rudd	Pat Zigarmi
the Greater Cincinnati	Kladder	Ms. Susan Polk	
Foundation	Roger and Ann Looyenga	Scyphers and Mr.	
		Charles E. Scyphers	



## Gifts of \$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous (2)  
Robert and Anna  
Rita Barron  
Beers Family Foundation  
Steven and Constance Benz  
Benzie County  
Donna Bowyer  
Charles and Nancy  
Brickman  
Dan and Lisa Brickman  
Gloria and Leith Butler  
Harry and Betsy Calcutt  
Chemical Bank

Dale Claudepierre and  
Melynda Bagley  
Sara Cockrell  
John and Lynn Collins  
Joyce Delamarter  
Ray and Linda Dornbusch  
Michael and Rhea Dow  
Robert and Kathleen Garvey  
Dottie Gerrity  
Lois Goldstein and  
John Heiam  
Hank and Bonnie Graff  
John Hamill and Pat Temple  
Hildreth Foundation

Iceman Promotions, Inc.  
Ellen Kerr  
Community Foundation  
The Land Use Conservation  
and Planning Endowment  
Long Lake Foundation  
Mariel Foundation  
Ann McPhail  
Morrissey Equip Corp  
Morrissey Family  
Foundation  
Nature Conservancy  
John and Theresa Pelizzari  
Gary Pomeroy

Tom and Diane Rensberry  
Scott and Jennifer Rodes  
Fred and Laraine Schorr  
Gregory Seman  
Bruce S. Shannon  
Family Foundation  
Roy and Lou Anna Simon  
Ralph and Barbara Thayer  
Jeanne Townsend  
Andrew M. Vander  
Molen Foundation  
Community Foundation  
Ronald and Martha  
Yocum Family Fund

## Gifts of \$2,500-\$4,999

Allen-Birge Charitable Trust  
Anonymous (2)  
Dick and Sue Bingham  
Jerry and Drieka Bloom  
Chris and Julie Conger  
Nancy Cotcamp  
Rich and Susan Erwin  
William Farrington  
Liz Hardy and Tom  
Kienbaum  
Mark Haynes

Catherine Hudak  
Mary and Robert Hurley  
Jackie and Bob Kunnen  
Penny and Jamie Ladd  
Ross and Cathy Lillie  
Lou Anne and Don  
Lindemann  
Jack Maddox and  
Janet Garvey  
Kevin and Sue Malone  
Robert and Nancy Marshall  
Sherry Marshall

Robert Martin  
Ottwell Mawby, PC.  
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Prevo  
Timothy and Margaret Price  
Dan Remahl  
Gary Richardson  
and Cheryl Gross  
The Edward and Elyse  
Rogers Family Foundation  
Kevin and Lisa Russell  
Matthew and  
Adrienne Russell

Richard and Linda Saslow  
William Scharf  
David Silver  
Nancy Swift  
Paul and Nancy Tousley  
Trout Unlimited Adams  
Chapter #676  
Dori Turner  
Barbara and James Van Dam  
Gloria Whelan

## Gifts of \$1,000-\$2,499

Charlene Abernethy  
and Mike Gill  
Alfie Embroidery Inc.  
Anonymous (2)  
Robert and Nancy Baglan  
Helen and Ross Barker  
Rick and Elizabeth  
Bellingham  
Bruce and Kathleen Berghoff  
Arleta Bernson  
Alison Berry  
Friends of the Betsie  
Valley Trail  
Brian Blood  
Lois Breimeier  
Norton and Mary Lee Bretz

David and Patricia Brogan  
Robert Buckner  
Bruce and Rhoda Bush  
Margaret Bushnell  
Capital Charities, Inc.  
Timothy Carroll  
Elisabeth Case  
Richard and Tracey Cassard  
Mark Cerny  
Leslie and O. Ann Chinn  
William and Edith Christoph  
Daniel and Linda Cline  
Richard and Laura Cobb  
Janet and Robert Condon  
Joseph and Leslie Cook  
William and Paula Cordes

Marcia and Ted Curran  
Molly and Jeff Dalton  
John and Edith Davies  
Charles and Janet Dickerson  
Hank Dow  
Eric and Kathie Dreier  
Cheryl and Bill Dundon  
Tom and Sarah Dunn  
Margaret Farrington  
Lois Feichtenbiner  
Michael and Mary Foley ♦  
Joanne Folsom  
Barry and Julie Foster  
Leonard and Karen Franseen  
Norm and Mary Anne Frey  
David and Claudia Fry

Stephen and Susan Fry  
Martha Garber  
James and Lauri Gartner  
Marcia Gest  
Jeremy Gibson and  
Carolyn McDonald  
Francis Gingras and  
Jacqueline Merta-Gingras  
William Gittlen and  
Sarah Campbell  
Gosling Czubak Engineering  
Grand Traverse Regional  
Community Foundation  
Thomas Greensmith  
Ward and Margaret Griffen  
Donna Hagan and  
James Heffner



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Jane Hardwicke	Pauline Lackie	William and Kathleen Parsons	Mark and Kathy Spencer
Jack and Ruth Harris	Louise Ladd	Dick and Ellie Paulsen	Linda and John Spevacek
Hazelnut Kids	Judy Leege	Karl Pearson	David and Lynn Starkey
Bill and Kirty Heald	Kathy and Tom Lehner	Ed and Patty Petrick	Peter Swartz and Lori Franz
Will Heelan	Dick and Linda Lewis	F. Verne Powell	Paul and Julie Swidorski
Luann and Klaus Heinert	Leslie Li and Brian Ahlborn	Robert and Connie Pulcifer	Phyllis Takayama
Walter Herrick	Dusty and Caitlin Lopez	Jane Purkis	Lester and Joanne Teague
Herrington-Fitch Family Foundation	Community Foundation	Anne and Joseph Purpura	John and Sandra Thorne
Jack and Martha Hicks	LouAnn's Endowment for Women's Leadership	Jeffrey Puryear and Myriam Waiser	Thrivent Financial Foundation
Thomas Hitchman and Keith Hewitt	Nancy and John Lukasiewicz	Junia and August Querio	Jennifer Tobias and Tom McCracken
Tracy Hobbs and Eddie Sullivan	Brad and Amy Lyman	R.M. Young Company	Patrick and Susie Tobin
Mark Hoffman and Sue Empson	Nancy Lyon	Carol Rabanus	Marty Tomb
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Michael and Marsha Howard	Gregory and Lissa Magel	Michael Roberts and Phyllis Laine	Sue and Norm Ulbrich
William and Janice Hudson	Denny and Deb Malone	John and Rachel Roe	Diane and John VanderVeen
The Huntington National Bank	Kenneth and Jo Marks	Dan and Martha Rogalny	M. Sue Waltz
Craig and Ginger Hupp	Jim and Louann McKimmy	John and Barbara Rothhaar	Doug and Ann Ward
J.P. Landscape & Irrigation, INC.	The Mead Family Fund	Pug Rundio	George Warrington and Drew Gores
Jennifer and Brian Jaffe	Brian and Lori Meek	Dick and Cassie Sadler	Flint Watt
Rosalind Jaffe	Cathy and Paul Minster	Diane Samarasinghe	Thomas and Jane Weaver
Linda and Greg Jaris	Susan Morley	David and Melissa Sawin	Weiner Family Charitable Fund
Thomas and Jane Jenkins	John and Nancy Morris	Pat Sawin	Kathy and Paul Weiner
Elizabeth Jessup	Jacqueline Morse	Thomas and Lisa Schermerhorn	Brian Weisman
June 8th Foundation	Paula and Paul Moyer	Don Schuster	Wallace and Gloria Wells
Elizabeth and David Karczewski ◇	Jennifer Mullan	David and Pam Seabury	Mac and Marilyn Whisner
Linda Kehr	Dave Murphy and Sue Peters	Nancy Seasholes	Avace and Bruce Wildie
Kevin Kelly	Paul J. and Mary S. Neustadt	George and Deanna Seifried	James and Gera Witte
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Marty and Anita Klein	Tye Nordberg	Matthew and Jennie Shaw	Andrew and Noelle Wolff
Paul and Diane Kolak	Stephen and Ann Norman	John and Victoria Sheagren	Mark F. Woodward
Steven Kraft and Carol Burns	Northern Michigan Mountain Bike Association	Shell Matching Gifts Program	Jan Wyckoff
Kresge Foundation	William and Carin Northway	Siebenthaler Foundation	John and Marylou Zaloudek
Karen Kuehlhorn	Lisbeth Oana	Michael and Suzette Simpson	Community Foundation
	Dennis Owens	Evan Smith and Cynthia Anderson	Frank R. and Faye M. Zimmerman Family Endowment
	Jerry and Linda Ozanne		
	Melba and Paul Panhorst		
	Cynthia and Scott Paradise		

## Gifts of \$1–\$999

Ross and Emily Abrahamson	James Acker	Mark and Karen Aepelbacher	Ronnie Alff
Dwain and Christina Abramowski	Jay Adams	Pat Ahlberg	Catherine Alfred
Community Foundation	Armand and Eileen Addonizio	Marjorie Aldrich	Jerome and Sharon Allaire
Access to Recreation Endowment	Daniel Adler	Ethel Aldridge	Jim and Julie Allaway
	Keith and Carol Adler	Frank and Lisa Alfano	Brian and Maripat Allen



## Gifts of \$1–\$999 — *Continued*

Senator Jason and Suzanne Allen	Thomas and Barbara Auer	Harriet Batson-Benson and James Batson	Eugene Berg
Judy Allen and Patrick Ginley	Bruce and Susan Auten	Community Foundation	Fred Berghoefer
Robert and Jane Allen	Avalon & Tahoe Mfg., Inc.	Charles Stephen Baum	James Bergman and Penelope Hommel
Susan Allen	Jeremiah and Kristi Avery	Endowment	Ralph and Lynda Bergsma
Lewis and Anna Allendorph	Anna and John Bachman	Joan Bauer	Marjorie Berndt
Katharine and Randall Almirall	Backcountry North	Patricia Bauer	Barbara Berry
Terry Almquist	Faye Backie	Bill and Gail Baughman	Barb and David Bersuder
Helen and Fred Altman	Sharon Bacon	Robert and Margaret Baum	Michael Berta
Alward, Fisher, Rice, Rowe & Graf, PLC	Sara and William Bageris	Donna Bauman	Warren and Barbara Berthelsen
Amazon Smile Foundation	William and Jennifer Baguley	Mark and Kathleen Baumhardt	Dayne Bess and Pam Reno
Nicoline Ambrose	Lois Bahle and Larry Mawby	Janet and Judith Bay	Caitlin Betz
The American Online Giving Foundation	Stephen Bahlke	Ruth Bay	The Beyer, Weltens, Heinze, Peterson, Lamb, and James Families
Amgen Foundation	George and Martha Bailey	Bay View Flooring	Aaron Beyette and Lisa Herkelrath
Barbara Anderson	Gary and Janet Bailod	Catharine and David Bayse	W. Dean and Carol Bigelow
Carol Anderson	Walter and Marilyn Baird	Rebecca Beach	Audra and Nathan Bildeaux
Joe and Kathryn Anderson	Betty Baker	William and Luann Beach	Dr. Charles and Mrs. Maria Bill
John and Karen Anderson	Julie Baker	Dan and Holly Beachum	Don and Bonnie Bills
John and Kristin Anderson	Karen Baker	Elaine Beardslee	Tim and Mary Binder
Richard and Linda Anderson	Nick and Shirley Baker	Lois and Wallace Beauchamp	Ron and Stacey Bing
Sallee and Thomas Anderson	Robert Baker and Kimberly Fletcher	Bill and Kathy Beck	Michael and Mindy Binsfeld
Roland and Marilyn Andreasson	Tom and Lori Baker	Ken and Pat Beck	Keith and Ethel Birchler
Janine Andrew	Dianne Baker-Hale and Calvin Baker	Anton Becker	Louise Bishop
Barry and D. Karen Andrews	Peter and Kristine Baldo	Joy French Becker	Brent and Teresa Blackwelder
Larry and Sharon Andringa	Mark Baleja	Sandra and Mike Becker	Mary and John Blanchard
Anonymous (23)	James Ball	Carl and Lisa Bednarski	Donald and Nancy Blasy
Wayne Appleton and Laura Septic	Barbara and John Ballantyne	Ernie Behnke	Donald Blewett and Ann Wilson
Arcadia House Bed & Breakfast	Nicolaas and Rhonda Ballintyn	Dan and Nancy Behring	Alan Bliss and Jan McNish
Kirsten Ardery	Carl and Nancy Ballou	Reverend Ted Beiderwieden	Peter and Eleanor Blitzer
Jon and Mary Armstrong	Bank of America Matching Gifts	Robert and Carol Beidler	Carolyn and Richard Block
Katherine Armstrong	Mark and Elizabeth Banker	Ronald and Mary Beitel	Kathleen Bloomfield
Arnold Family	Jennifer Baragar	David and Sara Belknap	Tim and Cheryl Bloomquist
James and Diane Arnold	Mark Baranoski and Emily Eby	Bell Title Lakeshore	Dale Blum
Judith Arnold	Andrew and Eunice Barbera	Norman Bell and Gail Parry	Brad Boals
Judy and Paul Arnold	Douglas Bard	Sally Bell	Clare and Connor Boals
Richard and Janice Arnold	Colleen and Robert Barker	Travis and Joan Bell	John Boals
Deanna Arntson	Jim Barnes	Marcia Bellinger and Irv Stoner	Boccia Family Foundation
Dennis Arouca and Anne Treadway	Peter and Karen Barnes	William and Sharon Bellinger	Bogard & Sons Construction, LLC
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Christine Arvidson and Henry Doss	Tom and Mary Barnes	John Bellingham	Gilbert and Anne Bogley
Randy and Peg Asmus	Donald and Anita Baron	Marc Bendick and Mary Lou Egan	Earl Bogrow and Julie Upp
Robert and Elizabeth Atkinson	Gabor Barsai	Rosemary Benedetti	Colin and Margaret Bohash
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	Anne and Dave Bartolo	Rosemary Bennett	John and Susan Boles
	Cheryl Bartz	Richard and Maria Bensel	David and Roberta Bolig
	Donald and Jeanette Basch	Roger and Kathy Benson	
		Rosemary Berardi	
		Bercini Family Foundation	



Luise Bolleber	Steven and Beverly Brower	Julia Caldecott	Mary and Lew Chalker
Joan and Alfred Bonney	Donald and Frances Brown	Ellen Calkins and Joseph Cipparone	Diane and Everett Chambers
Daniel and Kay Boone	The Rik and Carolyn Brown Charitable Fund	Evan and Virginia Calkins	William Champion and Beverly Pylman
Mary Boone	Lee and Richmond Brown	Stephen Calkins	Beth Chan
Norman Booth and Gail Zink	Robert L. Brown	Michael and Nancy Call	Charles and Jeanie Chapin
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Donna Boris	Cindy Browne and Neil Lau	Braun Campbell	Jan Chapman
Naomi Borwell	Eleanor Brownell	Bruce Campbell	Stephen and Jeannine Chapman
Susan Bosler	Dawn and Daniel Bruce	Bruce and Linda Campbell	Nicole Chardoul, Claire Stevens and Chris Ethridge
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Nicholas and Theresa Boudjalis	Richard and Sharon Bruner	John and Mary Campbell	Alice Chema
Gary and Susan Bowerman	Sean and Darlene Brunetti	Kathleen Campbell	Gary and Mary Chenoweth
Bowers Harbor Vineyard & Winery	Liz and Peter Bruning	Maureen Campbell	Michael and Susan Chesney
John Bowers	Michael and Kathleen Bruno	Paul and Carole Campbell	Chevron Humankind
Kerry and Thomas Bowes	Linda and Buzz Bryson	Robert Campbell	Carol and Fred Chidester
Gilbert Bowlby	Herb and Dee Bucholtz	Robert and Ruth Campbell	K. Ross and Helen Childs
Kenneth and Gail Bowman	Sandra and Michael Buhrt	Thomas and Dianne Campbell	Glen and Rebecca Chown
Jeanne Boyd	Allie and Art Bukowski	Candle Factory	Allan Chrenka
Gloria and Jerry Boyd	Bullard-Bigler Memorial Fund	Ellie Canfield	Les and Judy Christensen
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John and Linda Bozzelli	David and Ruth Bump	Thomas and Amy Capua	Kay Christian
Ed and Jennifer Bradford	Marvin and Marilyn Burdinie	David and Nancy Carey	Julie and Lonnie Christopher
Mary Bramlage	Marilyn Burfiend	John Carey and Vicki Arroyo	Norman and Laura Christopher
Marilyn and Arthur Branco	Michael and Karen Burke	Karolina Carls	Joseph and Nancy Chrzanowski
Anne Brasie	James and Barbara Burkholder	Marianne Carlson	Bill and Karin Chung
Dr. Dan and Dr. Jeri Lynn Braunlin	Craig and Martha Burns	Paul and Jean Carlson	Lou Ann and Robert Churchill
Eric Braverman	Doug and Susan Burns	Margaret Carmody	Gary and Jane Clark
Joyce and Robert Brenner	Eunice Burns and Dennis McGowan	James and Kathy Carney	Jody and E. Terry Clark
David and Julie Brewer	Jack and Susan Burns	David and Donna Carpenter	Kelly Clark
James Brewer and Leslie Littlefield-Brewer	Moirra Burns	Kathleen Carpenter	Mary Clark and Jennifer Minto Clark
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Terry Brick and Barbara Hale-Brick	Nancy Burt	Brad and Beth Carrington	Pete and Shari Clason
Tim Brick	Virginia Burt	Janice Carter	Roger Clason
John and Marilyn Brickler	Lucinda and John Burton	John and Cindy Carter	Todd Clason
Brad and Susan Brickman	Carolyn Busse	William and Sandy Cartwright	Richard and Jill Claybour
Bruce and Marilyn Bridges	James and Michele Butcko	Dean Cary	Kevin and Janell Clayton
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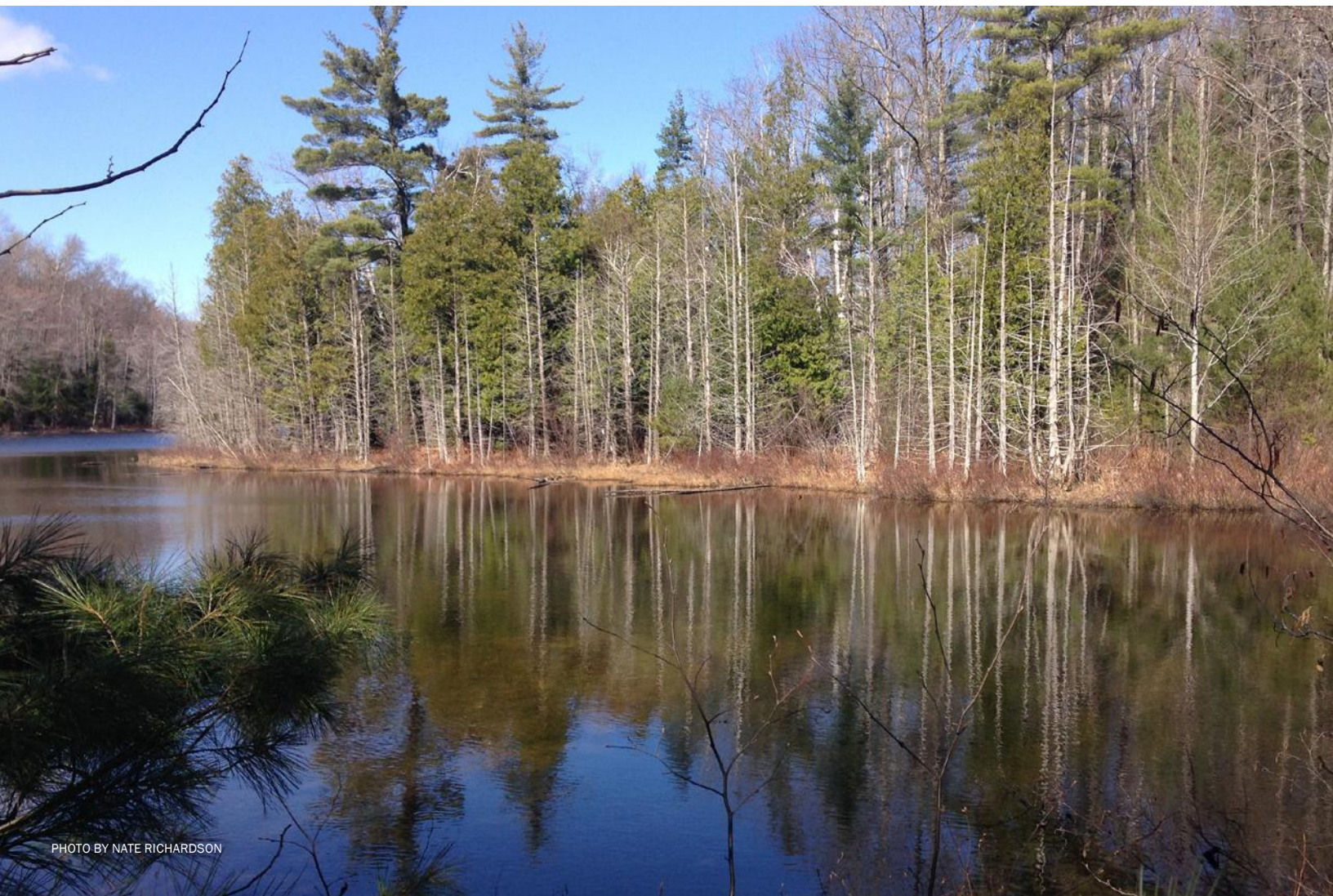
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*A dragonfly in June.*

PHOTO BY DREW SMITH



# LAND PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION PROJECTS

**JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2018**

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## Overlook Trail at Arcadia Dunes

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## Petobego State Game Area Addition

Grace Rudd

## Platte River Park Project

Sara Cockrell

Paula and Bryce Dreeszen

## Proposed Torch River Nature Preserve

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Dorothy Cole  
Peg Comfort

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Michael Berta  
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Bullard-Bigler  
Memorial Fund  
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Beth Chan  
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Gary and Carol Tasch

## Sand Lakes Trail Corridor

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## Trapp Farm Nature Preserve

Phil and Lori Wade

## Universally Accessible Trail at Arcadia Marsh

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Anonymous (2)	Larry and Diane Hughes	Paine and McGovern Family Fund	Kurt Schindler
Robert and Nancy Baglan	Manistee County Community Foundation	Melba and Paul Panhorst	Sally Stilwill and Sarah Stilwill
Alison Berry	Kat Norman		
Kate and Rick Dahlstrom			
Thomas Gast and Sue Leason			



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Cliff Sorrell

## Universally Accessible Trail at the Timbers Recreation Area

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**JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**By making monthly gifts you support the very foundation of our mission and allow us to plan and sustain our work more effectively. We are grateful for your commitment and generosity.**

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**JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**By making plans to benefit the Conservancy with future gifts — accomplished through estates, trust, 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 protect today will be cared for, forever.**

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**While the parks and nature preserves we protect are open to and enjoyed by the public, more than half of the land the Conservancy has permanently protected is private property whose owners have generously granted conservation easements. We monitor these properties annually, often hand-in-hand with the land owners, to ensure that conservation values are maintained forever.**

**We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following land owners:**

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# CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND LAND DONATIONS

Over 29,000 acres of land have been permanently protected by landowners like you who have placed permanent, deed-restricted, conservation easements on their property in order to ensure that conservation values — the health and wealth of these precious lands—are maintained forever.

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Public grants help to leverage and maximize the value of your private investment. The Conservancy is either a direct recipient or a sub-awardee of grant funding from the following:

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# VOLUNTEERS

**Every year volunteers play a crucial role in the Conservancy's mission, helping to protect and steward our region's incredible natural resources. Volunteers thanked donors, helped with mailings, built trails, planted trees, made maple syrup, fought invasive species, raised organic produce and grass-fed beef, helped care for the goats, led hikes and workdays, worked alongside us in the office and served on our board of directors. We are so grateful you help care for this land and share your love for it.**

Perry Adams  
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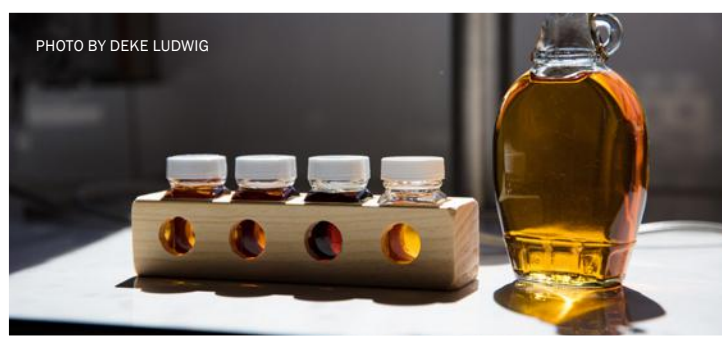




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From top to bottom: 1. Volunteers boil sap into sugar at the Maple Sugaring day.  
2. A sugar bush with many buckets. 3. The reward!

## Sweet Connections!

Come one, come all to GTRLC's annual Maple Sugaring Day at the Maple Bay Farm!

This year's fun is scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd (with an alternate weather date of Saturday, March 30th.)

This family-friendly event allows participants to learn about every step of the maple sugaring process, from tapping the trees to boiling the sap down to maple syrup. All of this takes place at the beautiful Maple Bay farm, which boasts its own charming red sugar shack used just for this occasion.

You don't need to bring anything other than warm clothes that can handle a bit of mud. This event is weather dependent, so be sure to check our website to confirm the date before you head out.

Go to [www.gtrlc.org](http://www.gtrlc.org) for more information and to sign up (click on the Events page under the Get Outside main menu item). You can also view a neat maple sugaring video from a past event at [www.gtrlc.org/publications-and-stories/](http://www.gtrlc.org/publications-and-stories/).

Please contact Jon Throop at (231) 929-7911 or [jthroop@gtrlc.org](mailto:jthroop@gtrlc.org) with any questions.