

SUMMER 2019 Volume 71  
**landscript**



Love the land. *Pass it on.*

Lower Woodcock Lake –  
A Gem in the Platte Watershed  
A New Preserve on Torch Lake  
Arcadia Marsh UA Trail Open

PHOTO BY DREW SMITH

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





## A Letter from Glen Chown

### FRIENDS,

Not long ago, I came across a quote from the legendary naturalist Sir David Attenborough that really stuck with me: “No one will protect what they don’t care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced.”

As we continue to make great progress with our ambitious *Campaign for Generations* goals, I feel overjoyed at the truly remarkable projects we’ve completed, and soon will complete, with your ongoing support. One important dimension of this campaign that I am particularly proud of is how we have so successfully ratcheted up our engagement efforts with thousands of people in deeper and more meaningful ways out on our growing portfolio of protected lands.

What does this effort look like? For starters, more people are utilizing our growing number of trail systems across the region than ever before, and more people are volunteering, so much so that total accumulated hours are staggering. We are conducting more educational field trips, many of them led by talented volunteers, including our butterfly ID classes (page 4) and forest bathing experiences (page 24). And then



there are the organized trail-building work days at places like the newly opened Maplehurst Natural Area where people joyfully contribute sweat equity to make a tangible impact.

Since the beginning of the campaign, our dedicated staff and board have worked hard to make sure that our supporters, partners, and the general public have opportunities to develop a deeper appreciation for both the places we protect and our work to protect them. And while words and pictures can convey a lot, nothing beats a boots-on-the-ground experience, out in nature, that provides an

enduring and personalized connection.

That’s why we continue to push ahead with universal access projects that enable people of all ages and abilities to access nature, people who, in many cases, simply wouldn’t have this opportunity if projects like these didn’t exist. The heartfelt testimonies we receive about what these new universally accessible features mean to individuals with mobility issues is an aspect of our campaign that I am most proud of.

We are setting a new standard of excellence in design and quality of construction that is exemplified at places like Arcadia Marsh (page 20). And there is a deeply spiritual dimension to “access to nature” investments that I did not fully anticipate when we envisioned this campaign. I will never forget the comment of one dedicated supporter after stepping onto the marsh boardwalk for the very first time. “I feel like I am walking on water. What the Conservancy has done here is truly miraculous,” she exclaimed, her face radiant. My response was, “Not the Conservancy; it’s what WE have accomplished together by being bold and not settling for the status quo.”

Be sure to take a close look at our *Campaign for Generations* update (page 6) to see where we stand with this monumental effort. While we continue to make great progress, the hardest dollars to raise are the last dollars, and we’ll need all hands on deck to finish strong.

In the meantime, thank you again for all that you do to support our work. As always, none of this would be possible without YOU.

Sincerely,

**Glen Chown**, GTRLC Executive Director







PHOTO BY ANGIE LUCAS

## On the Fly

### BUTTERFLY IDENTIFICATION AND OTHER EVENTS KEEP PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH PROTECTED LANDS

“I found a butterfly! Right here!”

Ethan Miseta’s exclamation, brimming with excitement, temporarily ended the calm of an unspeakably beautiful June day along the beach at the Maple Bay Natural Area. About a dozen people attending Erwin “Duke” Elsner’s butterfly hike gathered around for the first sighting on what had been (up to that point) a relatively butterfly-free day.

Elsner, still 10 or so paces out, studied the small orange butterfly as it flitted about along the sand. It was, he declared, a Northern Crescent – not particularly rare in our region, but still a delight to see.

As one of the most respected butterfly authorities in the region, Elsner was the perfect person to host two butterfly identification sessions at Maple Bay this year. Each session began with a detailed PowerPoint presentation of dozens of local species

and was followed by quality time out in the field looking for live specimens to examine.

“We always want people to be deeply engaged with our protected areas, and events such as these give people another great reason to take interest in land protection,” said Jon Throop, GTRLC volunteer and events program manager. “The Conservancy is very lucky to have a volunteer of Duke’s caliber willing to share his knowledge.”

Elsner put in nearly 30 years with the Michigan State University extension teaching horticulture and entomology before retiring this year. Butterflies are a personal passion, something that was evident during his presentation in the historic Maple Bay farmhouse.

“Identifying butterflies can be very tough. There are no handy vocalizations as there are with birds. You are dealing with silent creatures that like to hide when they are resting,” he said.

A Red Admiral butterfly

What’s more, some are so similar that it’s functionally impossible to differentiate them out in the field, Elsner said. Some are indeed so incredibly similar that it’s even hard to confirm the identities of pinned, displayed specimens – something that was comforting to casual naturalist Erika Schick, who came to the event with her daughter Elise, 11.

“It really helps to hear from an entomologist that even *he* has trouble identifying them sometimes,” she said with a laugh.

But that shouldn’t take away from the fun. Elsner implored those gathered to not take it too seriously. Sometimes it’s just a matter of heading out and seeing what you can find, even if you can’t tell the difference between a Northern Spring Azure and a Cherry Gall Azure.

“Basically, just keep your eyes open and look for activity,” Elsner said as the group ventured into the lush green forest between the parking lot and the water. “This is a fabulous habitat, and lots of interesting things live here.”

Elsner is glad to take the time for such identification sessions.

“Sometimes we do inspire people to become regular observers of butterflies, and they report to us information on range, seasons and other factors,” he said. “But I’m mostly interested in simply spreading general public knowledge about how butterflies

Participants look for butterflies along the beach at Maple Bay.



PHOTO BY ART BUKOWSKI

Duke Elsner inspects a butterfly.

and other insects interact with everything else in nature. Every little piece counts when you educate someone in that direction, especially in matters of pesticide reduction, natural plant maintenance and invasive plant control. I’d love to have an attitude shift in the general population.”

He’s also glad to help out the Conservancy in particular, in part because he strongly believes in its mission. Protected land is not only important for wildlife habitat, he said, but for its role in inspiring people to care about conservation.

“It goes way beyond the acreage the Conservancy actually owns or manages,” he said. “People learn from that acreage. They come away from the land and the programs and spread the knowledge, spread the interest. That’s fabulous.”

Check out GTRLC’s events calendar (events are held all year long) at [www.gtrlc.org/recreation-events/events](http://www.gtrlc.org/recreation-events/events).





# Campaign Roundup

*The proposed Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve.*

As the *Campaign for Generations* continues, GTRLC is busy protecting critical new parcels and tending to those we've recently acquired or protected. The past few months along with the near future have a heavy focus on stewardship, as there is much to be done at several properties you've helped us protect since the campaign began in 2015.

As of July, we had raised about \$68 million in cash, pledges, planned gifts, public funds and land donations. Our goal is \$71.4 million by the time the campaign concludes in the summer of 2021.

Read on for updates on a handful of key *Campaign for Generations* projects. As always, head over to our website at [www.gtrlc.org/campaign-for-generations](http://www.gtrlc.org/campaign-for-generations) for a more comprehensive list and additional project details. Look throughout this issue of *Landscript* for full stories on other projects not mentioned here and check out the detailed project map beginning on page 12.

## Upper Manistee Headwaters: The Milock Family Preserve

Plenty of important work continues at this 1,288-acre gem, truly one of the Campaign for Generation's signature properties. After Richard and Diana Milock's conservation loan that helped secure this property and their incredibly generous unrestricted gift of \$1 million to the campaign, GTRLC has decided to name this property in their honor.

The goal is to have this preserve open to the public as early as the summer of 2020, and most work is focused on preparing the property for public

use and getting a better handle on the biological diversity of this amazing place. Fundraising is also ongoing, with \$1.5 million still needed.

The second and final phase of demolition of camp buildings is set to be completed by this fall, leaving a select few buildings standing for stewardship purposes. In a bit of exciting news, we were awarded a National Civilian Community Corps team to help us complete trail work. They will be on site in September and October building several miles of trail and assisting with construction of a parking lot and trailhead.

In addition to several other tasks tied to public access, including sign production and installation and development of a volunteer group, we are also in the midst of discovering more about the property via a series of biological surveys. A herpetological survey was underway and a mussel survey was scheduled to begin as of this writing. For more on the herpetological survey, see the full story on page 39.

GTRLC also will have many exciting volunteer opportunities at this proposed preserve in the near future. For more information, contact Jon Throop at [jthroop@gtrlc.org](mailto:jthroop@gtrlc.org) or (231) 922-1259.

## Maplehurst Natural Area

This natural area has been buzzing with activity since it officially opened to the public earlier this year. More than a mile of trail has been hand-built by volunteers during trail building days throughout the summer, and nearly two additional miles have been completed by a professional contractor. Another half mile of trail is planned as part of the first phase of trails at Maplehurst.

Aside from the actual work being completed, the trail building days have been a wonderful demonstration of the local community's enthusiasm about Maplehurst. Nearly 150 volunteer hours were invested by 35 individuals, mostly from the immediate area, suggesting that this property will be highly used and valued for years to come.

GTRLC staff also installed a parking lot, kiosk and the first phase of signage to help people better engage with the property. We will continue to assist Milton Township with recreational planning for the natural area, as the goal is to develop additional recreational opportunities in the coming months and years.

## Mitchell Creek Meadow Preserve

The latest in many years of tremendous support from Don and Jerry Oleson came in the form of a \$1.1 million gift to purchase the former Mitchell Creek Golf Course along Three Mile Road in East Bay Township. Now, GTRLC is in the early stages of transforming the old course into the Mitchell Creek Meadow Preserve.

This 166-acre property presents an exceptional opportunity to protect vanishing wildlife habitat, provide valuable recreational opportunities and preserve open space in an area that has long faced substantial development pressure. Above all else it is a top priority parcel in terms of water quality protection, as it includes not only 6,000 feet of frontage on tributaries to Mitchell Creek but also substantial acreage of high quality wetlands that serve to filter surface runoff.

The Olesons, who have been instrumental in various GTRLC projects for years, were glad to provide assistance to an organization they've long appreciated.

"The Conservancy has done so much for our area over the years, sometimes I can't believe what they've been able to accomplish," Don said. "It's just wonderful to just save these places for our kids and our grandkids. We just love it."



PHOTO BY JACQUELINE SOUTHBY

*GTRLC staff celebrates with Don and Jerry Oleson (flanking Glen Chown at center).*



## The Gorge Nature Preserve

In a fantastic twist for an even more fantastic property, a local family has offered to match gifts to this project dollar-for-dollar, up to \$30,000!

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.

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.

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 built to facilitate regular access.

If fundraising is successful, GTRLC will upgrade all infrastructure at the property and ensure that it will always be open to the public.

## The Mary Behrens Sorrell Trail at St. Clair Lake-Six Mile Lake Nature Preserve

With friends and supporters looking on, GTRLC formally dedicated the Mary Behrens Sorrell Trail at one of our oldest and most beloved nature preserves on August 3.

The new universal access (UA) trail replaces outdated infrastructure and marks the latest in a series of UA opportunities at GTRLC preserves and natural areas, including the Overlook Trail at Arcadia Dunes at a UA trail at Arcadia Marsh that opened in July (see full story on page 20).

The trail was named for Mary Behrens Sorrell, a longtime volunteer who loved St. Clair Lake-Six Mile Lake and worked hard to make it as beautiful as possible.



Cliff Sorrell cuts the ribbon at the dedication of the new Mary Behrens Sorrell Trail.

## Petobego State Game Area Addition

This critical 47-acre addition to the Petobego State Game Area was on GTRLC’s radar for quite literally 25 years before it was finally protected in the early stages of the campaign.

This was the last unprotected piece of a larger complex that includes an increasingly rare Great Lakes Coastal Marsh, mixed forests, a large stretch of undeveloped beach and other elements of ecological significance. Permanent conservation of this addition fills the last hole in a large, contiguous swath of protected land that includes the Maple Bay Natural Area and Farm, the existing state game area and Whitewater Township’s Petobego Creek Natural Area.

Now, we are in the process of restoring critical wetland habitats by removing invasive buckthorn while assessing habitat suitability for the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (EMR). In addition to habitat improvement, an outcome of this work is to provide the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which now manages the property, with management recommendations to best protect EMR and other threatened wildlife.

## Acme Bayside Park

The newly revamped Acme Bayside Park is now open!

Friends and supporters were on hand in May for a formal dedication of the latest phase of this years-long community improvement project. The warmth and energy was tremendous as those gathered were able to collectively revisit the dreaming, dedication and teamwork that made this multi-phase project a reality. The latest phase involved several improvements to the park, including new gardens, parking lots, updated restrooms a playground, beach enhancements and more.

Beginning in 2007, Acme Township partnered with GTRLC for a bold and ambitious plan to create a large shoreline park along the bay. In all, a total of about six acres of land and 1,500 feet of shoreline were opened for public use by 2013. Several structures – the largest and most notable of which was the old Mountain Jack’s restaurant building near the marina – were demolished to make way for the new parkland. GTRLC also helped Acme

secure about \$5.7 million in Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants for the project.

GTRLC stands at the ready to protect more land in Acme Township, should it become available. Meanwhile, Acme Township plans even more improvements and amenities at the park in the coming years.

## Torch River Nature Preserve

GTRLC is in the early stages of planning for the property’s public use and will be working with key neighbors and others with knowledge of the property to determine which trails will be appropriate and viable to maintain as cross country ski trails. The stewardship team is also in the process of determining if there will be separate trails for hiking or if it will all be one system. We’re also of course actively working to raise the remaining funds on this project (about \$1.2 million was still needed as of early August).

The property is in decent shape with respect to invasive species, but we have a little bit of autumn olive and honeysuckle to tackle. There is a fair

A view of the Petobego State Game Area addition.







An aerial view of the proposed Torch River Nature Preserve, looking southeast, with Lake Skegemog in upper right.

amount of scotch pine located on the upper shelf that will likely be removed.

A house on the property is currently being used for our seasonal crews. It, along with the remaining buildings, will eventually be removed with a parking lot/trailhead to be located near the old house.

### Farmland

The Conservancy continues the important work of protecting farmland in the region. A pillar of the *Campaign for Generations* is farmland protection, and GTRLC's goal is to protect 2,000 acres of additional fruitbelt farmland by the time the campaign wraps.

Some recent highlights include the Bluewater Farm conservation easement, which protects a landmark 69-acre farm on the Old Mission Peninsula with a rich farming legacy. This property represents a portion of one of the largest remaining unprotected farms on the entire peninsula. Because of its East Bay water frontage and access, the parcel was extremely desirable for development. It is an active cherry and apple farm, and the new owner plans on expanding the farming operation by working with neighboring farmers.

In addition, we're excited about the Bagley Memorial conservation easement. This 42-acre farm in Peninsula Township's Agricultural Protection Zone (APZ) is nearly surrounded by farmland protected through the Township's purchase of development rights (PDR) program. The property was a high priority for GTRLC due to its proximity to these protected farms, soil quality and cropland suitability.

For more on another critical farmland protection project, see the story about Wilson Orchards on page 36.



# CAMPAIGN FOR GENERATIONS UPDATE



## Campaign Projects

● board approved/  
currently fundraising    ● funding  
complete

Total Project Cost

- 1 BETSIE RIVER OXBOW EASEMENT** **\$519,852**

This 184 acre property has diverse habitats from fallow field and mesic hardwood forest uplands to wetlands and rich conifer swamplands. The property also includes 1.5 mi shoreline including 4200 feet on the Betsie.
- 2 BLUEWATER FARM EASEMENT** **\$1,072,703**

69.5 acre property with views of East Bay is one of the largest remaining farms on Old Mission. It is an active orchard and includes a 5-acre wetland and ephemeral streams draining into East Bay.
- 3 BOARDMAN RIVER BEND EASEMENT** **\$ 22,806**

21 acre property includes .27 mi shoreline on the Boardman River. Protecting riparian frontage and wetlands protects water quality and provides critical habitat for wood turtles and other species.
- 4 CAP & TRIANGLE FARM EASEMENT** **\$ 371,000**

This 98 acre property once known for cherries now produces corn and sunflowers. Of particular interest is the fact that the property includes more than 30 acres of forested wetlands.
- 5 HOLIDAY WOODS RECREATION AREA** **\$878,457**

195 acre property with .35 mile on Bakers creek (coldwater tributary to East Bay) protects habitat and water quality while providing recreation opportunities in a heavily developed residential area.
- 6 INTERMEDIATE LAKE SANCTUARY NORTH** **\$77,589**

19 acre property with .28 mile on Intermediate Lake includes riparian wetlands which are key for water quality and habitat for animals and birds, particularly Loons. It is also highly visible from Intermediate Lake.
- 7 INTERMEDIATE LAKE SANCTUARY SOUTH** **\$280,739**

86 acre property dominated by white cedar with .53 mile of undeveloped shoreline on Intermediate Lake is a protection priority for water quality (Intermediate Lake and entire Chain) and Loon habitat.
- 8 INTERWATERS FARM EASEMENT** **\$ 596,000**

This 152 acre property is a multigenerational farm that grows high-density apples, cherries and peaches, is adjacent to Petobego Creek Natural Area and connects vital wetland corridors.
- 9 LOWER BEAR CREEK EASEMENT** **\$731,694**

321 acre property with 2.3 mi shoreline protects a federally-designated Scenic River while connecting two parcels of Manistee National Forest land and protecting habitat for at least four rare wildlife species.
- 10 LOWER WOODCOCK LAKE PRESERVE** **\$2,495,254**

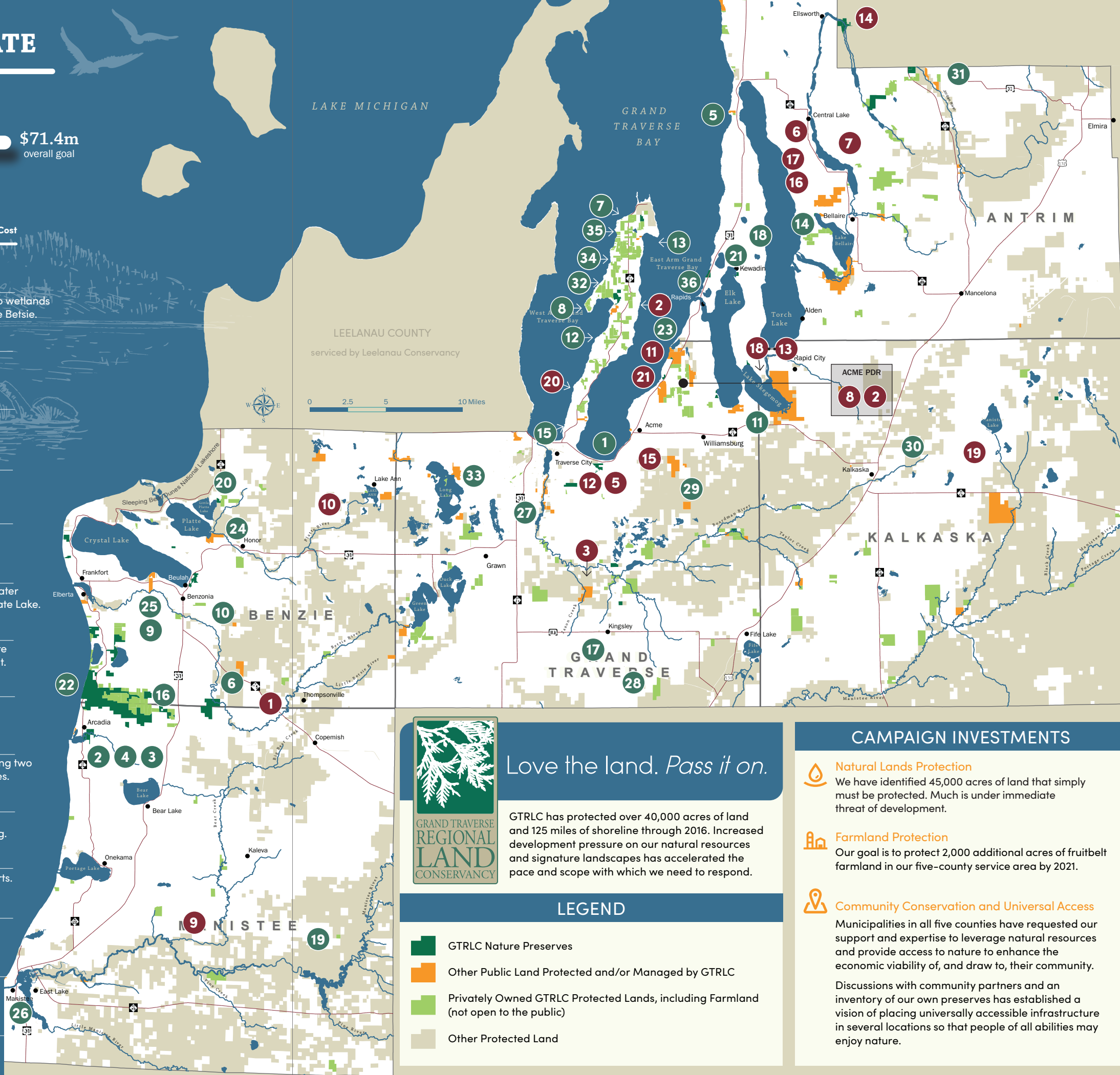
230 acre property including 1.5 mi shoreline on Platte River, unnamed creeks and the entire Lower Woodcock Lake. The opportunity to preserve an entire lake in its natural state is particularly exciting.
- 11 MAPLE BAY FARMHOUSE RENOVATION** **\$287,175**

Highly visible and functional facility helps GTRLC with important outreach and land protection efforts.
- 12 MITCHELL CREEK MEADOW PRESERVE** **\$ 1,477,359**

166 acre former golf course property including 1.1 miles of shoreline on two branches of Vanderlip Creek. Key for water quality, wildlife habitat, and rec. opportunities in an area under dev. pressure.
- 13 SCHULER FARM EASEMENT** **\$2,553,248**

211 acre property with .43 mi shoreline including Lake Skegemog frontage and a lake tributary. Connects Torch River Preserve to North Skegemog Nature Preserve for nearly a mile of protection.
- 14 MARY BEHRENS SORRELL UA TRAIL @ ST. CLAIR LAKE - SIX MILE LAKE** **\$ 435,673**

Provide quality of life opportunities for people of all fitness and mobility levels with UA trail design.



Love the land. Pass it on.

GTRLC has protected over 40,000 acres of land and 125 miles of shoreline through 2016. Increased development pressure on our natural resources and signature landscapes has accelerated the pace and scope with which we need to respond.

### LEGEND

- GTRLC Nature Preserves
- Other Public Land Protected and/or Managed by GTRLC
- Privately Owned GTRLC Protected Lands, including Farmland (not open to the public)
- Other Protected Land

### CAMPAIGN INVESTMENTS

- Natural Lands Protection**

We have identified 45,000 acres of land that simply must be protected. Much is under immediate threat of development.
- Farmland Protection**

Our goal is to protect 2,000 additional acres of fruitbelt farmland in our five-county service area by 2021.
- Community Conservation and Universal Access**

Municipalities in all five counties have requested our support and expertise to leverage natural resources and provide access to nature to enhance the economic viability of, and draw to, their community.

Discussions with community partners and an inventory of our own preserves has established a vision of placing universally accessible infrastructure in several locations so that people of all abilities may enjoy nature.



# Campaign Projects

board approved/  
currently fundraising

funding  
complete

Total Project Cost

<b>15</b>	<b>THE GORGE NATURE PRESERVE</b>	<b>\$138,668</b>
18 acre property is visually stunning and ecologically critical. It includes 600' (.1 mi) shoreline along a branch of Acme Creek that emerges from a ravine and spills through undeveloped woods.		
<b>16</b>	<b>TORCH LAKE NATURE PRESERVE</b>	<b>\$346,727</b>
96 acres including hilly forests adjacent to other protected lands, important for water quality, habitat, and suitable for recreation trails.		
<b>17</b>	<b>TORCH RIDGE FARM EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$1,046,034</b>
431 acre ridgetop farm protects viewsheds and water quality in Torch Lake.		
<b>18</b>	<b>TORCH RIVER NATURE PRESERVE</b>	<b>\$2,215,593</b>
290 acre property is one of the largest undeveloped properties on Torch River including .27 mi of frontage. Includes diverse habitats, is important from water quality standpoint and has great recreation potential.		
<b>19</b>	<b>UPPER MANISTEE HEADWATERS PRESERVE</b>	<b>\$3,943,275</b>
1,280 acre property includes many habitats and 5.87 mi. of shoreline on several lakes and North Branch Manistee River.		
<b>20</b>	<b>WILSON ORCHARDS FARM EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$1,041,374</b>
40 acre farm is highly visible and is prime orchard land within Old Mission Twp's farmland protection zone.		
<b>21</b>	<b>WINTERGREEN WOODS NATURE PRESERVE</b>	<b>\$341,770</b>
22 acres of pine forest adjacent to Saylor Park including .06 miles of shoreline on Yuba Creek.		
<b>TOTALS</b>		
<b>3,929.5 acres</b>		<b>\$20,806,990</b>
<b>14.56 miles shoreline</b>		

<b>1</b>	<b>ACME BAYSIDE PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>\$635,000</b>
Universal access to shoreline and beaches, further protect water quality of East Grand Traverse Bay.		
<b>2</b>	<b>ARCADIA MARSH INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>\$1,492,533</b>
Provide quality of life opportunities for people of all fitness and mobility levels with UA trail design.		
<b>3</b>	<b>ARCADIA MARSH ADDITION - PELTZ</b>	<b>\$180,029</b>
19.5 acre addition for preserve management improvement & access; enhancing wildlife and biodiversity.		
<b>4</b>	<b>ARCADIA MARSH ADDITION - ST. PIERRE CORNER</b>	<b>\$104,509</b>
12 acre addition includes critical grassland bird habitat and extends the preserve to Glovers Lake Rd providing access for boundary monitoring and invasive species management.		
<b>5</b>	<b>BAY HARBOR CLUB WEST EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$32,650</b>
1.16 acres of perched coastal wetland provides unique habitat for shoreline birds and other animals and acts as a natural buffer between Bay Harbor Club and Torch Bay Natural Area.		
<b>6</b>	<b>BETSIE RIVER STATE TRANSFER</b>	<b>\$55,072</b>
13 acres of mesic northern hardwood forest and a strip of hardwood-conifer swamp on .27 mile of Betsie River surrounded by state land and other large high-priority private parcels.		
<b>7</b>	<b>BAGLEY FARM EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$406,338</b>
42 acre farm is high priority due to its proximity to other protected farms, soil quality, cropland suitability and viewshed protection.		
<b>8</b>	<b>BOY'S HUT EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$2,052,646</b>
7.2 acres including critical coastal forest community surrounded on 2 1/2 sides by protected land and one side by .12 miles shoreline on West Grand Traverse Bay.		
<b>9</b>	<b>CHARLIE KEHR MEM. TRAIL CONNECTOR AT RAILROAD POINT</b>	<b>\$136,550</b>
Connects the popular Betsie Valley Trail with trails at Conservancy-protected Railroad Point Natural Area by way of a short trail, footbridge, and stairway to views overlooking Crystal Lake.		

<b>10</b>	<b>CHERRY BROOK EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$120,654</b>
89 acres of northern hardwood forest, mixed wetland, and open field. Viewable from the Betsie Valley Trail.		
<b>11</b>	<b>COPELAND FARM EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$245,438</b>
179 acres adjacent to DNR's 3,300 acre Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area includes farmland, high quality habitat supporting many wildlife species with .19 mi on Skegemog Lake and .09 mi on Barker Creek.		
<b>12</b>	<b>CRAIG WOODS EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$328,810</b>
31.5 acres of northern hardwood forest adjacent to two protected farms on Old Mission where natural lands are limited and residential development makes farming more difficult.		
<b>13</b>	<b>FARMLAND EASEMENT - V</b>	<b>\$316,903</b>
36 acre farm in the Peninsula Twp's Agricultural Protection Zone is a priority property due to its proximity to other protected farms, soil quality, viewshed protection and cropland suitability.		
<b>14</b>	<b>FARMLAND EASEMENT - VII</b>	<b>\$159,665</b>
130 acre property is largely in agriculture and is proximal to three other farm easement properties. It drains through woodlands and wetlands into two critical lakes— Lake Bellaire and Torch Lake.		
<b>15</b>	<b>FARMLAND EASEMENT - VIII</b>	<b>\$1,726,847</b>
Highly visible 20 acre farm including a productive vineyard in southern Peninsula Twp. where development pressures are high.		
<b>16</b>	<b>HERRING RIDGE EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$129,222</b>
This 120 acre property consists of high rolling hills with mesic hardwood forest on sandy soils. The site is an important groundwater recharge area and includes habitat for the state threatened plants.		
<b>17</b>	<b>HILL NATURAL LAND EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$480,303</b>
479 acres of excellent diverse habitat with state land on two sides includes 1.36 mi frontage on two creeks. Property will be used and owned by Kingsley Public Schools.		
<b>18</b>	<b>MAPLEHURST NATURAL AREA</b>	<b>\$3,869,624</b>
389 acre future park includes meadows and forests draining into 60 acre Lake Maplehurst with 1.1 miles of shoreline and into Torch Lake.		
<b>19</b>	<b>MARILLA HILLS EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$68,059</b>
40 acres of dry-mesic forest surrounded by the Huron-Manistee National Forest and undeveloped land used by bats from nearby Tippy Dam, a known hibernacula.		
<b>20</b>	<b>MEDENBROOK NATURE PRESERVE - ADDITION</b>	<b>\$50,847</b>
5.63 acre property with .05 mile on Platte Lake provides additional lakeshore and habitat protection and continues the creation of a protected wildlife corridor connecting Sleeping Bear Dunes and State land.		
<b>21</b>	<b>MILTON TOWNSHIP BEACH</b>	<b>\$782,292</b>
.66 acre parcel with .03 mile frontage adds to an assemblage of properties creating a 10 acre park with 400' on Elk Lake.		
<b>22</b>	<b>OVERLOOK TRAIL AT ARCADIA DUNES (UA)</b>	<b>\$606,259</b>
Provide quality of life opportunities for people of all fitness and mobility levels with UA trail design.		
<b>23</b>	<b>PETOBEGO ADDITION</b>	<b>\$2,187,927</b>
48 acres including a rare Coastal Marsh, forests and .83 miles of shoreline on East Arm Grand Traverse Bay and Petobego Pond.		
<b>24</b>	<b>PLATTE RIVER PARK</b>	<b>\$323,774</b>
52.1 acres including .29 miles of shoreline on the Platte River for a municipal park including river access.		
<b>25</b>	<b>RAILROAD POINT ADDITION</b>	<b>\$125,081</b>
5 acres adjacent to Betsie Valley Trail includes .04 miles of shoreline on a creek flowing between Crystal Lake and the Betsie River.		
<b>26</b>	<b>RED APPLE NATURAL LAND EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$110,807</b>
78 acres of coastal forest. Provides habitat for many animal and plant species including Alleghany plum, a State Species of Special Concern.		
<b>27</b>	<b>ROBBINS CREEK EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$256,947</b>
55 acre property encompasses upland, forest, creek corridor and wetland habitats including .45 mile frontage on Robbins Creek, tributary to Boardman River, which helps ensure water quality.		
<b>28</b>	<b>SAND CREEK EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$69,327</b>
80 acres including a mix of rich conifer swamp, wet meadow, northern mesic forest, early successional forest, pine plantation and .13 mile frontage on Sand Creek, a Manistee River tributary.		

<b>29</b>	<b>SAND LAKES TRAIL CORRIDOR</b>	<b>\$331,092</b>
159 acre property surrounded by the Pere Marquette Forest is popular with several recreation groups (hikers, cyclists, hunters etc.) and hosts popular trails including Iceman Cometh mountain bike race route.		
<b>30</b>	<b>SELKIRK LAKES EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$228,600</b>
63 acre property adjacent to state and county protected land includes multiple high quality habitat types and 1 mile of shoreline on four separate water bodies.		
<b>31</b>	<b>SEVERANCE CREEK EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$161,358</b>
79 acres of forest land and .47 mi shoreline on Severance Creek, a tributary to the Jordan River. Both are state designated "Wild and Scenic" rivers.		
<b>32</b>	<b>STANEK FARM EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$253,751</b>
29 acre scenic property is entirely dedicated to agricultural use and adjacent to two other protected farms within Peninsula Twp's Ag. Preservation Zone.		
<b>33</b>	<b>TIMBERS IMPROVEMENTS (UA)</b>	<b>\$340,100</b>
Provide quality of life opportunities for people of all fitness and mobility levels with UA trail design.		
<b>34</b>	<b>TWIN MAPLES FARM EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$959,270</b>
95 acre farm on Old Mission adjacent to other protected farms with a long history of productive fruit farming on prime farm soils. Ranked as one of the highest view sheds to preserve in Peninsula Twp.		
<b>35</b>	<b>WEATHERHOLT FARM EASEMENT</b>	<b>\$481,000</b>
55 acre farm with productive orchard lands within Peninsula Township's Agricultural Protection Zone.		
<b>36</b>	<b>WILCOX-PALMER-SHAH PRESERVE ADDITION</b>	<b>\$37,217</b>
17 acres of swamp adjacent to existing preserve provides avian habitat including Red Shouldered hawks (State Threatened species), improves water quality and preserves scenic view along US-31.		
<b>TOTALS</b>		
<b>2,342.09 acres</b>		<b>\$16,940,370</b>
<b>6.15 miles shoreline</b>		

### CAMPAIGN PROJECTS SUMMARY

<b>FUNDRAISING COMPLETE* FOR:</b>	*as of July 2019	
<b>PUBLIC ACCESS</b>	<b>UNIVERSAL ACCESS</b>	<b>PRIVATE LANDS PROTECTION</b>
<b>6</b> new parks and other projects	<b>6</b> property additions	<b>4</b> universal access projects
<b>1</b> new nature preserve		<b>1</b> universal access water access point
<b>2,342.09</b> additional acres protected	<b>6.15</b> additional miles of shoreline protected	
<b>BOARD APPROVED &amp; ACTIVELY FUNDRAISING FOR:</b>		
<b>PUBLIC ACCESS</b>	<b>UNIVERSAL ACCESS</b>	<b>PRIVATE LANDS PROTECTION</b>
<b>6</b> new nature preserves	<b>2</b> new sanctuaries	<b>1</b> universal access project
		<b>4</b> natural land easements
		<b>6</b> farmland easements
<b>3,929.50</b> additional acres protected	<b>14.56</b> additional miles of shoreline protected	
<b>PIPELINE PROJECTS</b>		
<b>17</b> additional projects including a mix of farmland, private and public natural lands, expected to be board approved in the coming months		





PHOTO BY ART BUKOWSKI

Jack Robbins on his property.

## A (Creek) Runs Through it

### GTRLC SECURES KEY CONSERVATION EASEMENT IN BOARDMAN RIVER CORRIDOR

Jack Robbins, 88, stood in the front room of his old farmhouse and gazed down across Cass Road to a treeline that hid the curves of the Boardman River. He began to discuss planned renovations to the road when he was interrupted by a massive bird slowly cruising over the river below.

“Oh look up there! Look!” he said, pointing out a large window at a particularly majestic-looking Bald Eagle. “Can you see the white on it?”

Eagles love to patrol the river, Robbins explained, probably looking for food. He’s seen them from that same front window for decades, and seeing them still hasn’t gotten old. It probably never will.

“Beautiful birds,” he said. “Beautiful birds.”

Robbins’ property is special, to say the least. He has 55 acres that sit along Cass Road right before it curves to the east and passes over the river. Many know it for the iconic Robbins Farm Market that Jack and his late wife Lucille ran for many years, selling tomatoes, raspberries and various other

produce they grew in a small plot near the house.

Aside from healthy stands of hardwood forest, a few small pockets of wetland and some upland areas, the property contains about 2,400 feet of frontage on Robbins Creek, a designated coldwater tributary of the Boardman River. A full tree canopy, stable stream banks and prevalent riffle habitat make this stretch of creek suitable for various trout species.

It also is across the street from the largest portion of the Grand Traverse County’s 505-acre Natural Education Reserve, which protects vital habitat along the river. Because of this proximity, Robbins’ property provides a vital extension of quality habitat to that already protected within the reserve.

Now, Robbins’ land will be forever protected with a conservation easement he donated to GTRLC. He’s keenly aware that his land might be targeted for housing at some point after he’s gone, and he’d much rather nip that in the bud and keep his land beautiful for generations to come.

“This would all be destroyed,” he said. “I hate to think of it.”

Robbins was born and raised less than a mile from his property. While he was away in the service in the early 1950s, his father learned that the property he now lives on was for sale, so he bought it with the intention that his son could make a home there when he returned. When Robbins got out of the service he did just that, marrying Lucille in 1956 and raising four children there.

Over the years, his bond with the land grew strong. He walked it, cared for it, grew connected with it.

“The wife and I put our heart and soul into this place, we really did,” he said. “We planted trees, we farmed it. It becomes very special and near and dear to your heart. We were dedicated to the land.”

Lucille died in 2010, and Jack spent many years thinking about the fate of his land. He eventually sat down with the Conservancy, and after some back and forth, he decided to donate the conservation easement. He knows that means he’ll

never cash in by selling the land for development, but he’s not the least bit bothered.

“People might say, ‘Well, why are you giving all of that money away?’ But I don’t see it that way,” Robbins said. “I’ve come to really realize how important it is to save good land.”

GTRLC Farmland Protection Specialist Laura Rigan said the Robbins Creek Easement is a project worth celebrating.

“This is an important easement for a variety of reasons – water quality, wildlife habitat, open spaces and so much more,” she said. “We’re so grateful that Jack has decided to save his land, and more grateful still that he is donating this easement to us. Across 28 years, none of our work would have been possible without landowners like Jack who share our vision.”

If you are interested in learning more about protecting your land, contact Land Protection Director Chris Sullivan at [csullivan@grtlc.org](mailto:csullivan@grtlc.org) or (231) 929-7911.



PHOTO BY LAURA RIGAN





## Double the Support

MOYER FAMILY GIVES BOTH TIME AND MONEY TO FURTHER GTRLC'S MISSION

PHOTO BY ART BUKOWSKI

Paula and Paul Moyer at their home on Birch Lake.

There it was again! A logo for some organization called the “Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.”

Paul and Paula Moyer saw it on the kiosk at the Pelizzari Natural Area on Old Mission Peninsula a few years back as their daughter, who lived in Traverse City, prepared to take them on a hike. They had previously noticed it on the kiosk at the Wilcox-Palmer-Shah nature preserve, a favorite shoreline spot of theirs not far from their home on Birch Lake near Elk Rapids.

It was enough for Paula to go online and learn more about the organization that laid claim to protecting such beautiful places. What they found was an interactive map of more than 40 preserves and

natural areas to explore. And what they made was a plan: Hike every one of them.

“We make the Conservancy properties a daily destination, or at least we try,” Paul said. “The night before or the morning of, it’s: ‘Where’s our hike today?’”

They’ve gotten to most by now, and are already going back for seconds (and thirds, fourths and fifths) at some of their favorite places. Their enjoyment of GTRLC preserves and natural areas is the main reason why they started volunteering for GTRLC.

“Retirement is about having the time to do things that matter to you personally, and we really feel strongly about giving back to the community,”

Paula said. “And because we feel like we get so much out of the Conservancy, it really was an easy choice at the top of our list when it comes to giving back.”

The Moyers first started coming to Birch Lake while Paul worked for Dow Chemical Company in Midland. A friend at Dow had a place on Birch, and they fell in love with the lake and region. They came up all the time in the summer, of course, and even for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

“We hated leaving on Sunday. It was getting harder and harder,” Paul said.

“And we’d find ourselves getting up here earlier and earlier on Friday, and then Thursday. The pull got stronger and stronger as we got older.”

But work kept getting in the way. Paul was transferred to Houston, then made his way to Philadelphia and Memphis. By 2016, they put pen to paper and decided enough was enough. A Michigan retirement was always in the books, and it was time.

“Michigan was calling,” Paula said. “Truly it was.”

But retirement didn’t necessarily mean slowing down. They wanted to stay active, particularly within the boundless natural beauty of the Grand Traverse Region.

“When we retired here full time, we sort of made this vow that we’re not going to just sit around,” Paul said.

So far, the Moyers have helped GTRLC with its annual Maple Sugaring Day – both the lead-up to and the day of – and helped with a series of hikes at the new Maplehurst Natural Area. They’re also helping to build trail at Maplehurst and hope to devote much more time there as volunteer stewards.

“It’s a good way to get out and do something, first

of all, and it gives us exercise and fresh air, and all of that. But this is also our own way of giving back,” Paul said. “We really get more than we give, I think.”

Paul and Paula have also stepped up to financially support GTRLC. They provided a generous dollar-for-dollar matching challenge gift for Maplehurst designed to elicit support from their fellow Birch Lake residents.

Aside from their on-the-ground enjoyment of GTRLC’s preserves, the Moyers were compelled

to support GTRLC with their time and money because of the Conservancy’s track record of vigorously pursuing land worth protecting.

“What really impressed me is that the Conservancy has gone

through this region and scientifically determined the most critical pieces of property that are not yet protected,” Paul said. “It’s impressive not only that they have that data, but that they don’t just sit and wait – they’re proactive and approach the owners to see if they’d be interested in protection.”

“I love the fact that the Conservancy swoops in to these properties and protects them forever,” Paula said. “Not just for a few years, but forever.”

GTRLC is fortunate to count the Moyers among its supporters, said Charitable Gift Specialist Kate Pearson.

“Paul and Paula have had a tremendous positive impact on the Conservancy in the relatively short time they’ve been involved,” she said. “We can’t thank them enough!”

Interested in volunteering for GTRLC? Contact Volunteer and Events Program Manager Jon Throop at (231) 922-1259 or [jthroop@gtrlc.org](mailto:jthroop@gtrlc.org)



# Arcadia Marsh UA Trail is Open!

An abundance of tears, smiles, laughter and hugs mixed with a profound sense of accomplishment under crisp blue skies as the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy officially dedicated the new Universal Access Trail at Arcadia Marsh in late July.

About 200 people came to see the latest UA trail in the *Campaign for Generations* officially opened to the public. This roughly ¾ mile trail makes this special place accessible to people of all ages and abilities, a key component of the Campaign.

“We believe strongly that lifelong access to nature shouldn’t be a luxury,” GTRLC Executive Director Glen Chown told the crowd.

Along with many individual donors, the trail received support from the C.S. Mott Foundation

and the Manistee County Community Foundation, which provided the first gift from its Minger Family Endowment Fund for this trail. MCCF Executive Director Laura Heintzelman thanked Forest R. Minger Jr., whose gift established the fund, and GTRLC during her remarks to the crowd.

“Making our uniquely special protected lands like Arcadia Marsh accessible to all ages and abilities is critically important to our lives and to building a vibrant and equitable community,” she said. “This trail will soon become a place and experience treasured by people across the region, and one that we know will help bolster our local economy.”

You can learn more about Arcadia Marsh at [www.gtrlc.org](http://www.gtrlc.org).





# A New Jewel on Torch Lake

## MALONE FAMILY DONATES LAND FOR TORCH LAKE NATURE PRESERVE

A new nature preserve will boost recreational opportunities, safeguard water quality and protect wildlife habitat along beautiful Torch Lake.

The 95-acre Torch Lake Nature Preserve sits adjacent to the south edge of the 430-acre Torch Ridge conservation easement, secured by GTRLC in 2016 in the early stages of the *Campaign for Generations*. The new preserve was made possible by the Malone family, who bought the land and donated it to GTRLC.

Terry Malone, a longtime Torch Lake fixture, was instrumental in helping GTRLC protect the Torch Ridge property. It was he who notified GTRLC that the land was up for sale, and in addition to donating money for its protection himself was active in helping solicit support from others.



Denny and Terry Malone

In 2016, Terry bought the land that became the Torch Lake Nature Preserve from Charlie Hibbard, whose family had owned the land since 1928. Terry wanted to make sure it would not be developed into lake view lots, something that almost assuredly would have happened had a property of its location and topography been

left unprotected. Charlie shared that desire.

“We had an ongoing friendship for probably 50 years, ever since my wife and I started coming up here,” Terry said. “I’d always told him that if he ever wanted to sell that property, I’d be interested. When Charlie was ready to sell, he came to me.... he didn’t want to see it developed either.”

As with the neighboring Torch Ridge easement, Terry was acutely aware of the potential negative impacts to both water quality and scenic views had the 95-acre property been developed. The Malone family settled on donating the property to GTRLC instead of placing a conservation easement on it specifically out of a desire to give people a safe and beautiful place to hike.

“We wanted to protect it from ever being developed, but we also wanted to have it available so people didn’t have to walk out there on East Torch Lake Drive,” he said. “To be able to walk through the woods looked to us like it would be a big plus for people in the area, or anybody who wants to use it.”

The property is now open to the public, though signs are not yet in place and will be completed



PHOTO BY ANGIE LUCAS



PHOTO BY MARISSA GARROCK

Preserve Steward Steve Lagerquist leads a hike at the proposed Torch Lake Nature Preserve.

in the coming months. A roughly 1.5-mile trail consists of two connected loops and is mostly flat as it meanders along the top of the ridge that runs north south within the preserve.

The trail offers an interesting array of plant communities at this preserve and fantastic views of the series of valleys that fall away from the ridge down to Torch Lake. The trail head is on Robinson Road approximately a quarter mile from South East Torch Lake Drive.



# Healing Among the Trees

## FOREST BATHING AT GTRLC-PROTECTED LANDS PROMOTES HEALTH AND WELLNESS

As the “talking stick” passed from hand to hand, each visitor gathered for a forest bathing experience at the incomparable Seven Bridges Natural Area spoke about what they observed during a 20-minute stint of silent contemplation.

The assignment for that particular session of contemplation was simple: Observe the water. Don’t just *look* at it, directed forest bathing instructor Don Schuster. Use each and every one of your senses to absorb all aspects of it. Listen, feel, see. Can you sense its presence on your tongue, even?

After participants spent their time focused on the gurgling, shimmering, rushing presence of the Rapid River, there was much to share. One visitor who lives on a lake said she was amazed at how similar the river sounded to the action of waves along a lakeshore. Another drew inspiration from the fact that the river flowed over or around any obstacle in its way, unstoppable in its journey.

When the talking stick came to Karin Wolfe, the Elk Rapids resident paused, emotion evident on her face. Her time in quiet communion with nature gave her an overwhelming sense of what she’d been missing.

“A couple of times I got teary eyed,” she said. “I got the distinct sense that I need more of this type of connectivity.”

The Seven Bridges gathering was the third forest bathing event in a series (the first two were at Maple Bay and Pyatt Lake) offered by Schuster during GTRLC’s summer events calendar. Schuster is a retired mental health counselor and executive who has long had an interest in mindfulness-based stress reduction as a path toward better physical and mental health.



Participants forest bathing at Seven Bridges.

Schuster is particularly devoted to the Japanese concept of *Shinrin-Yoku*, roughly translated in English as forest bathing. It was developed there in the 1980s when Japanese public health officials were alarmed by high rates of depression, anxiety, suicide and other problems. Japanese researchers were able to demonstrate marked reduction in mental health issues after time – even brief time – spent in nature.

After countless sessions in the woods, Schuster firmly believes in the tangible, medicinal aspects of spending time in the forest or other natural environments. Some of this is rooted in the realm of the scientific – such as studies that show boosted immune system function and cognitive improvement – and some lies in

the realm of the spiritual. Regardless of how you classify it, the power is there.

“The bottom line is, a whole bunch of really cool things can happen to us,” he told participants before the event. “I just come out here to feel better.”

While Schuster offered guidelines and general topics to ponder, forest bathing by definition is something that each practitioner will do in his or her own way, with their own unique results.

“Each experience is really up to you. It’s not about how much you can see, it’s not about how far you can go,” Schuster said. “It’s just about paying attention.”

**“I’ve been forest bathing my whole life, I just didn’t know the term,” said Lorie Wheldon, of Williamsburg. “There’s a sweetness and connectivity that you get in a group setting that you can’t get by yourself, and I really, really, really love it.”**

At Seven Bridges, the day began with a grounding exercise intended to better connect participants with the physical space, then a series of sessions in which Schuster gave participants something to ponder or observe as they sat or stood quietly alone in a place of their own choosing. Then came

time for each person to share an observation or two from their time alone. The session closed with a tea ceremony and the parting of new friends.

While it might seem counterintuitive to conduct such deeply personal exercises with others instead of in solitude, everyone gathered seemed to thoroughly enjoy each other’s company and perspectives.



"I've been forest bathing my whole life, I just didn't know the term," said Lorie Wheldon, of Williamsburg. "There's a sweetness and connectivity that you get in a group setting that you can't get by yourself, and I really, really, really love it."

Some left inspired to try forest bathing anywhere and everywhere – even at their own homes.

"I feel very relaxed, and this has given me the idea that I really need to do this more. And while a place like this is definitely gorgeous, I feel like I could try something like this in my backyard," said Traverse City resident Priscilla Walmsley. "I'm really grateful for the experience."

GTRLC hopes to have Schuster lead forest bathing exercises and mindfulness hikes well into the future.

"We protect land for wildlife habitat, clean water and various ecological benefits, of course, but we also protect land for people," said GTRLC Executive Director Glen Chown. "We are so lucky to have someone of Don Schuster's background and experience to show us how unspoiled natural lands can truly heal the body and soul."

Schuster will lead another forest bathing event at Misty Acres: The Borwell Preserve on Sept. 14. For many more GTRLC events, visit the events calendar at [www.gtrlc.org](http://www.gtrlc.org)

The Seven Bridges forest bathing experience offered participants a chance to deeply connect with nature.



# Investing in Future Generations

## ANN ARBOR COUPLE ACTIVE SUPPORTERS OF GTRLC'S WORK

For many years, life seemed to move a mile a minute for Max Wicha and Sheila Crowley.

Max, a respected oncologist and professor at the University of Michigan, logged long hours in research, patient care and administration in Ann Arbor. Sheila, an oncology nurse at the university's hospital system, likewise busied herself tending to patients and administrative duties.

Add in volunteer hours, regular attendance at the university's athletic events, community arts programs and raising two children, and daily life often became a dizzying blur.

While it could at times be stressful, their busy life and careers had a way of making their precious down time even sweeter. And for Max and Sheila, there was no better place for that down time than the shores of beautiful Torch Lake. Relaxation often set in on the drive up, they said, and had fully taken hold by the first glimpse of the impossibly blue water of one of the region's most beloved lakes.

"Coming up here was always the respite," Sheila said. "By the time we arrived, it was all about taking that deep breath."

Though they've since built something a little more spacious for their growing family, the first ten years of regular trips to the lake had the family in a 900-square foot, 1930s-era cottage near where the Clam River spills into Torch Lake. The kids,

both under eight when trips began in 1989, were in the lake from first thing in the morning until sundown, then from the lake to their pajamas – with perhaps an ice cream cone in between.

"It was just...home. Everybody was quiet, everyone could breathe, everybody slowed down," Sheila said. "It really was the way you hear some people describe it: 'Up North' is not just a place, it's a feeling."

Max and Sheila are newer donors to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, brought into the fold during the ongoing Campaign for Generations. They are no strangers

to philanthropy, having been heavily involved in raising funds for cancer research, the arts and education, among other causes.

But after spending so many years experiencing the restorative power of nature and building a deep appreciation for the region's natural beauty, they've been very enthusiastic about adding GTRLC into their philanthropic portfolio.

"Protection of the landscape and environment is absolutely vital, and donating to the Conservancy is just one of the best returns on investment that you can make," Sheila said.

Max is still working and Sheila recently retired. Their kids – Jason and Allyson – are now grown and have their own children and busy careers



Max, Sheila and the children up north in 1992.



Max and Sheila on the shores of Torch Lake.

in Chicago. Coming back to the cottage gives the grandchildren a chance to dive into nature, and Jason and Allyson the opportunity to fully understand what this place meant to their parents.

“Now with both of them married and with their own careers, they experience the respite part that Max and I really were able to appreciate earlier in our lives,” Sheila said. “They see it and feel it firsthand.”

Keeping the regional surroundings of the family’s gathering place healthy and beautiful for years to come is a key driver in the decision to support GTRLC’s work. They’re aware that Old Mission Peninsula, for example – one of their favorite places – stands in stark contrast to much of the landscape in Max’s native New York, in large part because of dedicated and concentrated conservation designed to protect the peninsula.

“We just love the idea that a lot of a place like that has been protected. You see clearly on the east coast on how development can change an area and very much detract from its natural beauty,” Max said. “But here you have a beautiful open space with farms and wineries, rolling hills, scenic beauty you can see from the road.”

Their first major gift to GTRLC was to help secure a conservation easement on Torch Ridge, a 431-acre parcel with a mile long ridge that looms over Torch Lake.

“Again, it’s the vistas. When we’re out in the boat, you look up and see this beautiful ridge,” Sheila said. “It was an easy ‘yes’ in terms of contributing to that project.”

They are also supporting the proposed Torch Lake Preserve, a nearby project made possible by fellow GTRLC supporter Terry Malone, who donated the land (see story in page 22).

“Terry’s generous philanthropy over the years has been a major inspiration in our giving,” Sheila said.

Like anyone else who parts with their resources, Max and Sheila needed to have full confidence in the organization to which they’re giving. They’ve been impressed with the track record, communication and professionalism of GTRLC, and in particular are very glad the Conservancy sets aside long-term funds for the perpetual care of each *Campaign for Generations* project.

“This is a good model that sets up a long-term plan for quality care of all these places; it provides real, true longevity for maintaining the vision that the Conservancy and the original donors had,” Max said.

Max and Sheila also view giving to GTRLC as taking personal action in the wake of continuing regressions in environmental protection at the national level.

“Environmental regulations, whether it be in regards to clean air, clean water or other areas, have really improved so much in our lifetime. We are concerned when philosophies change and drift away from that,” Sheila said. “So we feel like we need to do our part to keep land for future generations that is unspoiled and beautiful and maintained so they can thrive and live their best lives.”

GTRLC’s team is glad that Max and Sheila share in the long-term vision of protecting our region’s most special places.



PHOTO BY ART BUKOWSKI

“We’re so grateful for both the passion and support of folks like Max and Sheila,” said GTRLC Fund Development Director Anthony Rupard. “Without people like them who believe in the importance of our mission, none of this work would be possible.”

Max and Sheila couldn’t be happier to help out.

“We feel so fortunate for the lives and opportunities that we’ve been given in the state of Michigan, both in Ann Arbor and up here, and we are big believers in giving back to the communities

that we live in,” Sheila said. “We believe strongly that it’s our responsibility to give back and invest as much as we possibly can for the benefit of future generations.”

Interested in supporting GTRLC’s work? Contact Fund Development Director Anthony Rupard at (231) 929-7911 or [arupard@gtrlc.org](mailto:arupard@gtrlc.org).





## A Rare Opportunity

### PROPOSED LOWER WOODCOCK LAKE PRESERVE CHECKS ALL THE CONSERVATION BOXES

As the *Campaign for Generations* rolls on, GTRLC is thrilled to announce the latest project that has the office buzzing with excitement.

For many reasons, protecting the proposed Lower Woodcock Lake Preserve would be a home run for conservation. The first of which is that this 230-acre property contains the entirety of undeveloped Lower Woodcock Lake, a picturesque 22-acre lake that's in the upper reaches of the ecologically significant and much beloved Platte River watershed.

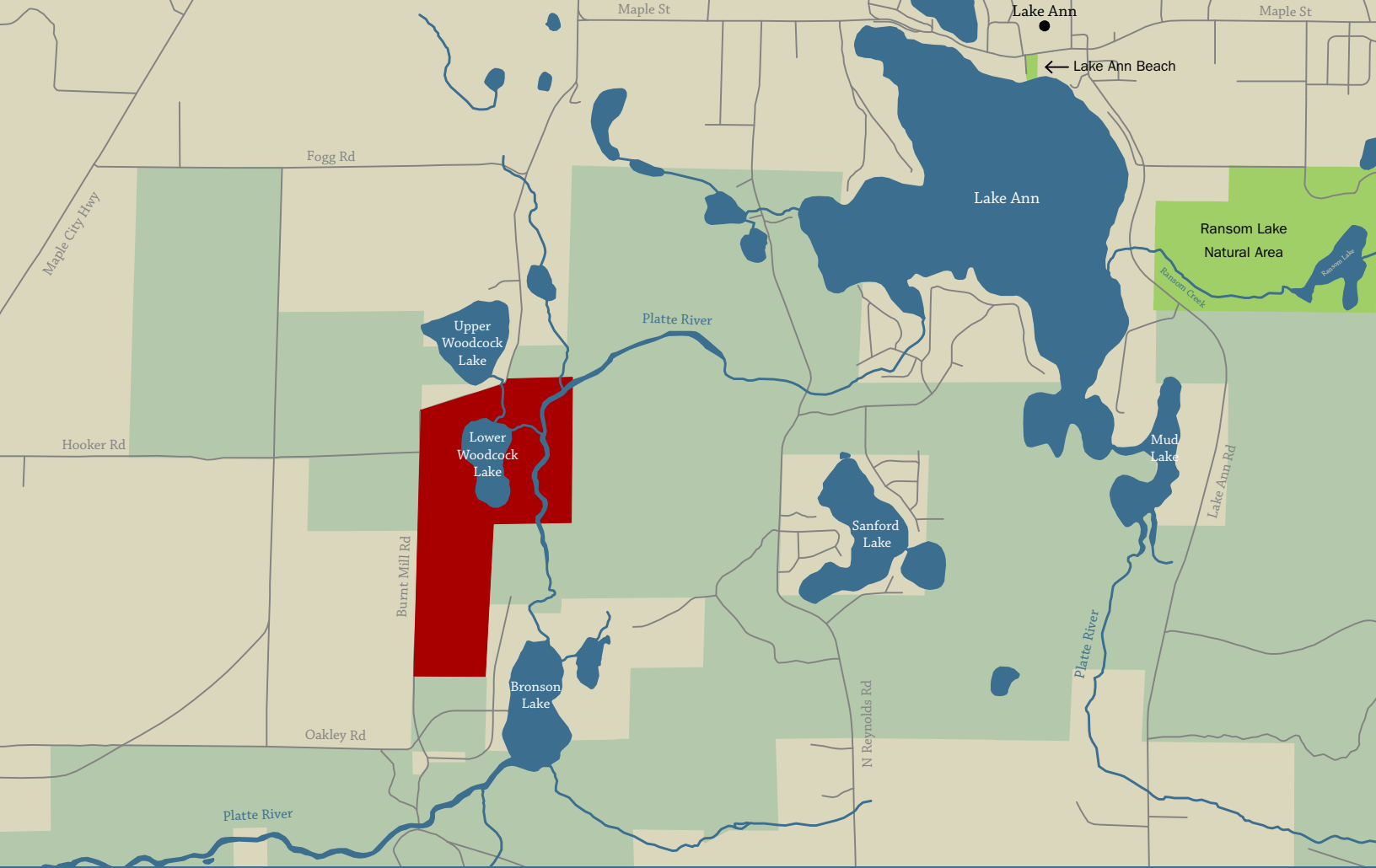
GTRLC has completed hundreds of land protection projects, with dozens having appreciable portions of shoreline on lakes of various sizes. But the list of projects with entire undeveloped lakes is very short. Lower Woodcock Lake would join the Timbers Recreation Area (Fern Lake) and fellow *Campaign for Generations* marquee projects Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve (Grass Lake) and Maplehurst Natural Area as the only GTRLC protected lands that include an entire lake of 15 acres or more.

"We've been doing this a long time, and we rarely have the opportunity to protect a whole lake of this size," said GTRLC Land Protection Director Chris Sullivan. "This is a fantastic opportunity."

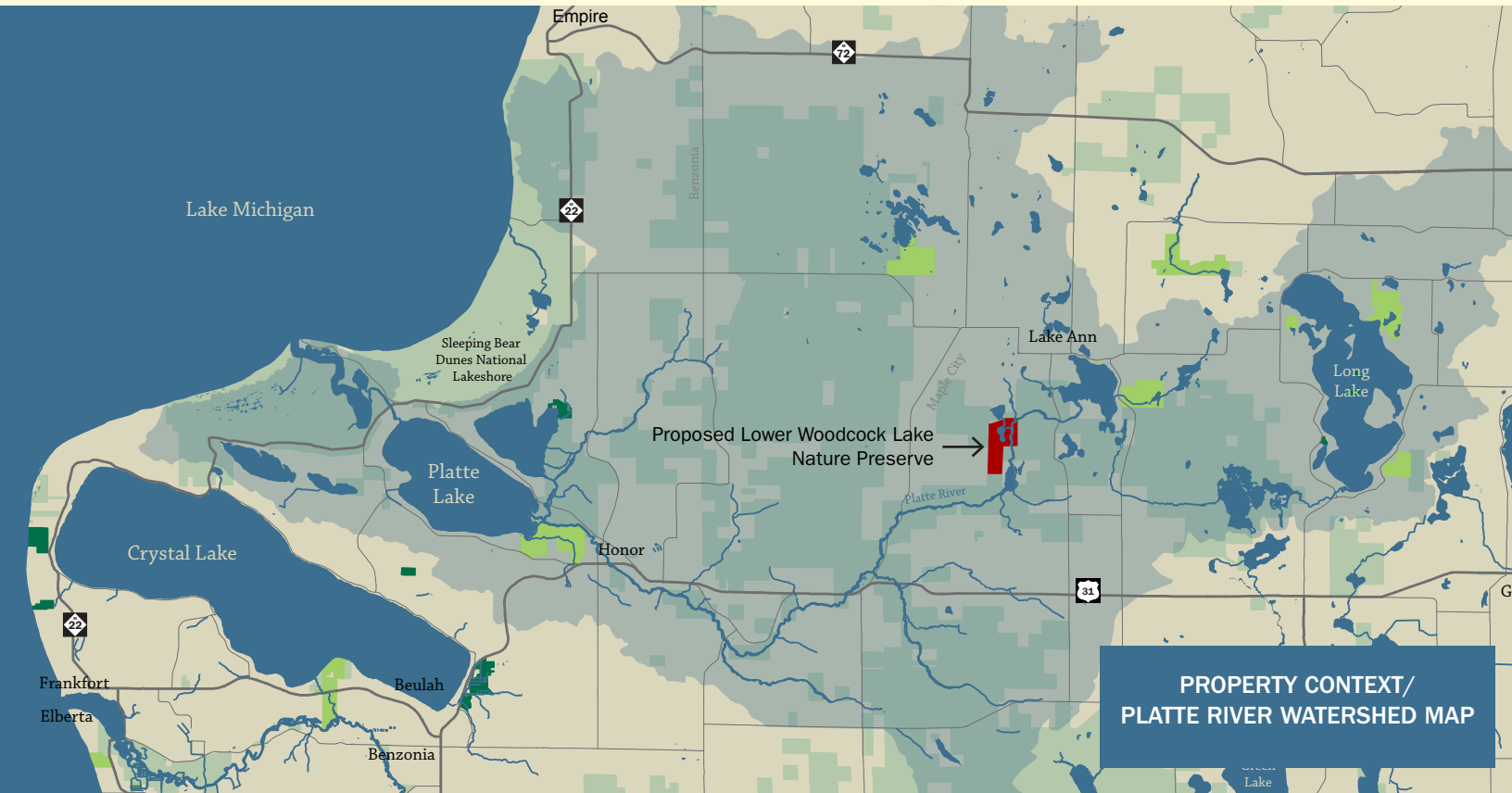
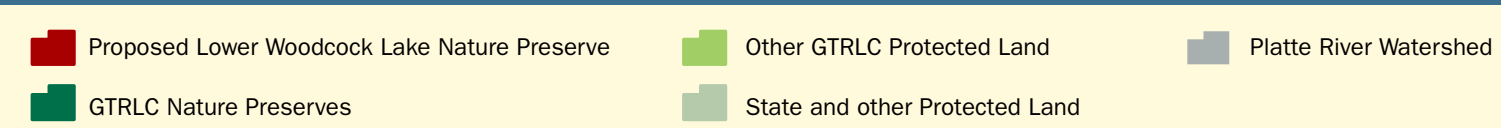
The conservation qualities of this proposed preserve don't stop there. It also contains most of a small unnamed stream that flows from Upper Woodcock Lake to Lower Woodcock Lake, the entire stretch of another unnamed stream from the lower lake that feeds into the Platte River and a full half mile of frontage on the Platte River itself.

"There's only a handful of private properties left that have even a quarter mile of undeveloped frontage on the Platte," Sullivan said. "This is one of the most important watersheds in our service area, and having the opportunity to protect a half mile of frontage is very exciting."





**PROPOSED LOWER WOODCOCK LAKE NATURE PRESERVE MAP**



**PROPERTY CONTEXT/  
PLATTE RIVER WATERSHED MAP**

**'LOWER WOODCOCK LAKE PRESERVE' (CONT'D)**

There's even more to get excited about. While not completely surrounded by state land, about 70 percent of the property – including portions of all four sides – borders state forest. Such contiguity is critical for wildlife corridors, recreation and other factors.

“Studies have repeatedly shown that small, isolated blocks of habitat are not nearly as useful as larger swaths of quality land,” Sullivan said. “For that reason, we’re always looking to protect land that has some connectivity with other protected land.”

Between this property containing an entire lake, possessing impressive Platte River frontage and its connectivity with existing protected land, it's easy to see why it's tied for 3rd of all the parcels scored in GTRLC's Priority Land Atlas (PLA). The PLA, developed by GTRLC's land protection and stewardship teams, uses scientific conservation criteria to score all the remaining unprotected land in GTRLC's five-county service area.

“This property has been a very high priority for many years, and it's very, very exciting to have the opportunity to protect it,” Sullivan said.

The proposed preserve was owned for many years by an investment group whose members used it for camping, fishing and hunting. It is a mix of northern hardwood forest, rich conifer swamp and pine plantation. Common loons, a state-threatened species, have been documented on the lake, and the property provides

excellent habitat for red-shouldered hawk, another state-threatened species. Future surveys will shed more light on its biological diversity.

Longtime GTRLC supporter Tripp Amdur provided enough support for GTRLC to purchase this property. He considers it “truly an honor” to help protect this special parcel.

“It is increasingly rare to find a place like Lower Woodcock Lake. Although not very large, it is a body of water where you can paddle a canoe without seeing any houses or signs of permanent human presence; a wilderness experience that is easily accessible,” Amdur said. “It is also very important ecologically. By supporting the GTRLC,



PHOTO BY NATE RICHARDSON



this land and water can be preserved and enjoyed by countless families for generations to come.”

Amdur hopes others continue to support GTRLC’s work as the *Campaign for Generations* pushes ahead. He never gave much thought to land protection, he said, until GTRLC’s Coastal Campaign of 2003-2005, when the much younger and less established GTRLC pulled off a seemingly impossible feat by rallying enough supporters to save Arcadia Dunes: The C.S. Mott Preserve and other coastal properties.

“From that moment on I realized that if I want my kids and grandkids – and lots of other people’s kids – to enjoy these places in the generations ahead, we all need to step in and contribute what we can,” he said. “So, when the GTRLC

commits itself to preserve a special place, I think it is super important that the people with the strongest personal connections to that special place get involved in its protection.”

There is still much to be done before the property can be opened to the public. GTRLC must raise enough money for designated long-term stewardship funds – a vital component of all *Campaign for Generations* projects – develop a management plan and build trail and other infrastructure. To make a gift, please visit [www.gtrlc.org/campaign-for-generations](http://www.gtrlc.org/campaign-for-generations).

Stay tuned for updates on this project via email (if you haven’t already, head to [www.gtrlc.org](http://www.gtrlc.org) to sign up for our email communications), Facebook and future Landscript publications.



PHOTO BY NATE RICHARDSON

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# Protecting Wilson Orchards

## GTRLC WORKS TO SAFEGUARD STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT OLD MISSION PENINSULA FARM

PHOTO BY NOAH JURIK

Looking north over the square-shaped Wilson Orchards property, which fills the lower right corner of this photo. Contiguous farms to the west and north are also protected.

When asked why the Wilson Orchards property is special, Joe Riley gestured to a tall line of mature maple trees on the east edge of the orchard. Take your clubs over there, he said, and you could drive a golf ball into East Grand Traverse Bay.

That in and of itself isn't all that remarkable. But now look at a similar row of trees on the western edge of the orchard. Walk over there with your clubs, he said, and a solid drive will put you in or darn near close to west bay.

The orchard's position at the narrowest portion of the entire Old Mission Peninsula made it one of the most consistently productive orchards on the peninsula for decades, Riley said, producing bumper crops of tarts and sweets even when other orchards suffered frost-related crop damage. That's because the moderating effects of the bay that benefit all Old Mission farmers are most pronounced at that particular location.

"This is probably the best spot in the entire world to grow cherries," Riley said. "It might sound crazy

to say that, but that's how it is."

The 40-acre orchard, farmed for nearly 150 years by many generations of the Wilson family, received Centennial Farm certification in the 1970's. It was notable in recent years for a U-pick cherry operation and has long been a top protection priority for both GTRLC and Peninsula Township.

Now, this remarkable orchard is protected forever via a deal that involved Riley, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and Isaiah Wunsch, himself the latest in several generations of Old Mission farmers. GTRLC purchased a conservation easement from Riley, who then sold the property to Wunsch.

The entire deal was possible because a conservation easement extinguishes the property's development rights and consequently lowers its market value. After GTRLC paid Riley for the easement, Wunsch was able to buy the farm from Riley at about half of its pre-easement value.

"There was just no way that Wunsch farms or myself would have been able to purchase this farm at full market value," he said. "If it had gone on the market it almost certainly would have been developed into a subdivision, but with the conservation easement we were able to put into place with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, we were able to come in and buy it as a working farm."

Wunsch, who comes from a multi-generational farming family with deep roots on the peninsula, has been active in farmland preservation for several years. For him, protecting Wilson Orchards is about more than having another good spot to grow cherries for personal gain.

"From a strategic farmland preservation standpoint, this is also the southernmost commercial fruit farming operation on the Old Mission Peninsula," he said. "So not only was it very attractive for us to purchase this farm because of its agricultural attributes, but it also supported our philosophy of maintaining a strong environment for agriculture on the Old Mission Peninsula by preventing further sprawl."

About 5 years ago, Wunsch purchased the 80-acre Zientek/Kroupa farm just north

of Bowers Harbor under a nearly identical arrangement. In that deal, GTRLC purchased a conservation easement from the Zientek family, protecting the property and simultaneously making it affordable for Wunsch.

Wunsch is grateful that GTRLC is actively working to protect farmland on Old Mission as a supplement to Peninsula Township's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program.

"It's gone a long way towards allowing us to continue to make strategic investments in farmland preservation as a community," he said.

Contributions from GTRLC would not be possible, of course, without the support of people and organizations who believe in the Conservancy's mission. One such person is Dan Bailey, who through his family's Warrington Foundation has supported this and other Old Mission farmland protection projects.

Dan and his wife Fran are longtime Neahtawanta summer residents who live full-time in Cincinnati. Farmland contributes tremendously to the beauty that his family so cherishes on every trip north.

"We're up here for a short time every year, and Old Mission Peninsula is so pretty, probably the



Isaiah Wunsch and Joe Riley



# Farmland PDR Millages Rejected

Voters in two Antrim County townships rejected purchase of development rights (PDR) programs, leaving the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy as the lone resource for farmland protection in those communities in the foreseeable future.

Identical ballot proposals of one mill each for 10 years failed in both Milton and Elk Rapids Townships in the August 6 election. The money raised would have allowed the townships to purchase and extinguish farmers' development rights, preserving open space and scenic character. Successful programs of this nature exist in Grand Traverse County's Peninsula and Acme Townships.

Had they been successful, both programs likely would have been able to leverage substantial federal dollars for farmland protection, much like neighboring programs in Grand Traverse County.

The *Campaign for Generations* includes a goal of protecting an additional 2,000 acres of fruitbelt farmland, and GTRLC has passed the 1,000 acre mark since the campaign launched. GTRLC Executive Director Glen Chown said the millage failures make the Conservancy's mission of protecting critical farmland throughout the region even more important.

"For our organization, what this means is that we're going to have to press on with protecting critical farmland in those townships without the support of PDR programs," he said. "Without these programs in place, private fundraising for farmland protection is critically important."

To learn more about how you can help, contact GTRLC Director of Development Anthony Rupard at (231) 929-7911 or [arupard@gtrlc.org](mailto:arupard@gtrlc.org).

'PROTECTING WILSON ORCHARDS' (CONT'D)

prettiest spot in all of Michigan," he said. "I feel really fortunate that we're able to come up here. I have five kids, and for the sake of the future, I'd like to keep it as well-preserved as possible."

But it's not just about the views and scenic character, Bailey said.

"At the same time, (farmland protection) is adding value. It's not just pretty land, it's usable land," he said. "Farmland is very important, and we need to preserve as much as we can."

Longtime GTRLC supporter Monnie Peters also said her desire to protect local farmland transcends the purely aesthetic aspects. She looks around the country and sees climate-related droughts, wildfires and other problems causing catastrophic damage to agricultural regions.

"Over the last couple of years in particular, I've been fully appreciating the advantages that the Old Mission Peninsula has, as does Leelanau and really the whole Western Michigan fruit belt," she said. "As the rest of the country gets hotter and drier, we have all of this clean, fresh water and temperatures moderated by the lake. This is a special place and it must be protected."

GTRLC hopes to protect 2,000 acres of fruitbelt farmland as part of the *Campaign for Generations*, and we still need money to achieve this goal. For more information about supporting GTRLC's farmland protection programs, contact Anthony Rupard at [arupard@gtrlc.org](mailto:arupard@gtrlc.org) or (231) 929-7911.

PHOTO BY ART BUKOWSKI



A large female bullfrog.

## Where the Wild Things Are

### HERPETOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PROPOSED UPPER MANISTEE HEADWATERS PRESERVE REVEALS MANY SPECIES

Spring, it seemed, had *finally* arrived to the proposed Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve as David Mifsud and crew did a final equipment check.

After a long, cold winter that seemed to linger forever, shining sun and reasonable temperatures made for an excellent day to poke around outside for a herpetological survey in early June. But what's reasonable for a person can still be quite chilly for a frog or a snake.

This meant the green frogs sunning themselves on a submerged section of old boardwalk weren't too quick to hop away as Mifsud wandered near. And the first painted turtle the crew encountered tried to get away, of course, but it was pretty sluggish in its efforts.

"Everything is going to be moving a little slower today," Mifsud remarked as he slowly moved

through thigh-deep water and scanned the surface for more signs of life. "Everybody's cold."

Mifsud's credentials are voluminous. He is a certified professional wetland scientist and ecologist who has long been a recognized authority in Michigan on the conservation and management of amphibians and reptiles. He administers the Michigan Herpetological Atlas and chairs the Michigan Chapter of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (MIPARC).

Through his company, Herpetological Resource and Management (HRM), Mifsud inventories, monitors, manages and assists with the conservation of amphibians and reptiles in Michigan for a variety of clients, including non-profit organizations, private companies and



governmental agencies. On this day he was on the job for GTRLC, taking part in a multi-day survey of several habitats at the 1,288-acre property.

In only about four hours of surveying while GTRLC Communications & Outreach Specialist Art Bukowski tagged along, Mifsud and two coworkers found 13 species and heard at least two more. That day's survey included various bogs and wetlands, where spotted salamander egg sacks and various species of frogs, turtles and snakes were encountered.

"These wetlands function sort of like an apartment complex – there's not a ton of surface area, but vertically, there's really a lot going on, and many species can coexist," Mifsud said, prodding around the water with a probe. "These types of wetlands are critical to conservation."

It helps that Mifsud knows exactly where to look. In between one wetland and the next, he stopped along some large downed trees. Peeling back the rotting bark, he found several ring-necked snakes. He explained that the heat and moisture created the perfect spot for these strikingly beautiful

snakes to rest in between meals.

"It's a upland forest specialist, very gorgeous, that specializes on amphibians – particularly red-backed salamanders – as their prey item," Mifsud said of the ring-necked snake. "Their presence

is an indication of good forest ecosystem quality because red backs themselves are an indicator of good forest ecosystem quality."

Mifsud's findings – to be delivered in a formal report to GTRLC – will be useful on a number



PHOTO BY ART BUKOWSKI

*A small painted turtle.*



*Mifsud and crew survey a wetland at Upper Manistee.*

of levels. First off, they will demonstrate in no uncertain terms how special the property is from a biodiversity and critical habitat perspective. Many of the specialized species uncovered in Mifsud's surveying reveal that the proposed Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve – already off the charts from a botanical diversity standpoint – contains extremely important reptile and amphibian habitat worth protecting.

"We judge the quality of the habitat based on the species we find. Some species are bioindicators and have various degrees of sensitivities to landscape changes. Some require large mosaics of habitat," Mifsud said. "Finding them here can demonstrate to the general public the value of protection of places like this."

Several things about the property impress Mifsud, who made several trips in order to examine as much of the landscape as possible.

"This has been one of our most fun places to survey. Each time we come out we're finding new species, and there's the beauty of the fact that this place is

relatively unspoiled. You don't see that very much in Michigan anymore, and to have a landscape that's so contiguous still...has been exciting for us."

The overall massive size and location of the proposed preserve are also fantastic, he said.

"It's great to preserve any piece of land anywhere you can, but the larger and more complex it is, the greater the overall value. Preserving large tracts of land like this is incredibly important," he said. "And when you have the opportunity to protect the headwaters of a system, preserving the heart and soul of a watershed, you can't get much better than that."

His report will also help GTRLC as it works to develop a management plan for the preserve.

"We always value biological inventories because they give us concrete data regarding the location of species that might be extra sensitive," said David Foote, GTRLC stewardship director. "Our goal is to develop management plans that allow visitors to best engage with the land while simultaneously protecting wildlife."

In addition to inventory work going on at the proposed Upper Manistee Headwaters Preserve, a grant from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Coastal Program allowed GTRLC and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to work with HRM to survey and inventory amphibians and reptiles at Petobego State Game Area and Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area. Both properties were protected by GTRLC and are now owned by the state.

As part of this project, HRM and GTRLC co-hosted four "Herpathon" events this year to collect amphibian and reptile data. Such events garner broad volunteer support and provide outreach and education opportunities about the species found in these areas, why they are unique, and how to best protect them in the future. As part of these events, Mifsud and other experts from HRM and volunteers worked together in the field to collect as much data on amphibians and reptiles as possible, data that will be used to help provide management recommendations to the state.



PHOTO BY ART BUKOWSKI

*A ring-necked snake.*



## 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.

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## LAND PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION PROJECTS

**JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30, 2019**

Your gifts directed to the specific projects below help protect the most significant places in our region. You are strengthening and enhancing our communities as we work with landowners to preserve land privately, acquire high-quality natural lands to create Conservancy-owned preserves and assist local governments in creating or expanding public parks and natural areas that result in enhanced access to nature and improved recreational opportunities.

### Acme Bayside Park Improvements

Paul and Amanda Brink  
Norm and Mary Anne Frey  
Michael and Jean Johns  
Oleson Foundation

### Universally Accessible Trail at Arcadia Marsh Nature Preserve

Jannine Baker and Craig Locke  
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### Arcadia Marsh Nature Preserve Additions

Tripp and Chia Huei Amdur  
John and Marilyn Brickler  
Melba and Paul Panhorst

### Benzie County Fund

Tripp and Chia Huei Amdur  
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Paul and Ingrid Turner

### Chain of Lakes Fund

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### Charlie Kehr Memorial Trail Connector at Railroad Point

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### Proposed Gorge Nature Preserve

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### Land Acquisition Fund

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### Lower Woodcock Lake Preserve

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### Maple Bay Farm

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### Maplehurst Natural Area

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Bill and Sandy Derman  
William and Ginny Dorner  
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Morrissey Equip Corp  
Morrissey Family Foundation

### Medenbrook Nature Preserve Addition

Tripp and Chia Huei Amdur



**Misty Acres: The Borwell Preserve**

Naomi Borwell Trust

**Mitchell Creek Meadow Preserve**

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**Petobego State Game Area**

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**Platte River Park Project**

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**Schuler Farm Conservation Easement**

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**Skegemog Wildlife Area**

Community Foundation Evelyn A. and Charles H. Drummond Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area Education Endowment

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**Proposed Torch River Nature Preserve**

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**Twin Maples Farm Conservation Easement**

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**Wilson Orchards Conservation Easement**

The American Online Giving Foundation  
 Gretchen Deo ◇

**LAND CHAMPIONS**

**JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30, 2019**

Monthly gifts from Land Champions 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. It is evident that you care deeply about protecting and stewarding northern Michigan’s natural resources in order to preserve these precious resources for future generations to enjoy.

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## VANGUARD SOCIETY

**JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30, 2019**

**Vanguard Society members are making a legacy gift to the Conservancy through their estate plans including gifts through trusts, annuities, insurance policies, beneficiary designations and other planned giving options. You help to ensure that the places we protect today will be cared for far into the future, for all generations to enjoy. Your thoughtful gift is an investment in the long-term sustainability of the organization.**

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 Don Schuster  
 Eda June (Novak) Scott ‡  
 Gregory D. Seman  
 Chris and Michele Shafer  
 George E. Shambaugh, Jr. ‡  
 Colette Stanish  
 D.W. and Joyce ‡ Stibbs  
 Erik Takayama ‡  
 Ann and Allen Taylor  
 Terrie E. Taylor, D.O.  
 Herbert H. Tedder ‡  
 William and Mary Todt  
 Andrew M. Vander Molen ‡  
 Dana Vannoy  
 Suzanne J. Voltz  
 Phil and Barb Von  
 Voigtlander  
 Ralph A. ‡ and Margaret  
 von Walthausen--our  
 first annuitants  
 Lorenzo E. and Beverly  
 F. Wagner ‡  
 M. Sue Waltz  
 Anne W. Warren  
 Donna M. Weitz and  
 Bill O. Smith  
 Gloria Whelan  
 Frank and Judith Wilhelme  
 John Wunsch and  
 Laura Wigfield  
 Ron and Marty Yocum

There are many ways to support GTRLC’s mission, each with its own benefits. While numerous donors support GTRLC in their own lifetimes, others decide to name GTRLC as the beneficiary of money or other assets as they plan their estates. Those that do are considered part of GTRLC’s Vanguard Society, and their decision to name GTRLC as a beneficiary ensures that they’ll make a difference in land protection well into the future.

More than 120 individuals or families are members of this society, including four staff members. In their own words, hear why they decided to support GTRLC in this special way.

“As the first staffer hired over 28 years ago and one of the founders of the Conservancy, I am very passionate about making sure the Conservancy is truly a sustainable organization. As the CEO of the Conservancy, I have encouraged many of our supporters with whom I am close to consider making a planned gift to GTRLC. I am also a firm believer in leading by example, and that’s why GTRLC is in my estate plan. Our family – my wife Becky and our three sons – made the decision together. We all know that it will truly have a lasting impact on our region, and we know that our family’s gift will be stewarded in an exemplary fashion. Becky and I are very confident in our decision because we know the Conservancy is well-positioned for future success. We also know that our planned giving commitment will make a lasting difference and will be an important legacy for our family. Our planned gift to the Conservancy is really about future generations being able to enjoy the best of northern Michigan long after Becky and I are gone.”

**GLEN CHOWN, Executive Director**



From left to right, Jennifer Jay, Glen Chown, Kate Pearson and Birgit Yetter.



“I value the Conservancy's mission deeply and have been a monthly supporter for over a decade. The *Campaign for Generations* resonates with me, and it is so important that I knew that somehow I would increase my support during the campaign. Working for the Conservancy, I am fortunate enough to experience gratitude every single day. The heroic gifts - both large and small - that I see people making is inspiring. This summer, there were two gifts that were especially moving to me. Someone I know became a Land Champion (a monthly donor), and I know that this giving is a stretch for this individual. But they are so committed to our work that they are making it a priority. The second was Don and Jerry Oleson's gift that helped secure the Mitchell Creek Meadows. These people are my heroes and we have this shared value. It was just time for me to formalize and deepen my commitment. While the amount of my gift won't be much, it's a lot for me and I want the protection of our land and lakes to be part of my legacy.”

**JENNIFER JAY,**  
*Director of Communications*

“This organization's mission aligns with my belief that it should be our priority to protect our environment, something that should be a priority for all human beings. Even before I began working for the Conservancy, I was raised believing that environmental protection is the most important thing to do for mankind. Working here with all of these dedicated and wonderful humans just strengthened that belief.”

**BIRGIT CONWAY,**  
*Director of Finance and Administration*

“My decision to leave a gift in my estate to the Conservancy was inspired by two things: Supporting the Conservancy's work feels like part of my legacy to my hometown of Traverse City. Being able to grow up climbing in our region's big trees, eat farm-fresh fruit and vegetables, and swim in our fresh water lakes shaped my values in essential ways. Second, as a long-time Conservancy employee, I've experienced first-hand how my colleagues and our Board of Directors work hard to use the best science that they can to inform our strategic planning toward accomplishing the Conservancy's goals. I believe in the organization's ability to accomplish what it's set out to do: Protect natural, scenic and farmlands-and advance stewardship-now and for future generations.”

**KATE PEARSON,**  
*Senior Charitable Giving Specialist*

### FreeWill

To make it straightforward and easy for you to begin writing your will, we've partnered with FreeWill, a free online resource that has already helped more than 65,000 people create wills through a simple online process. This tool is free to you whether you choose to include a gift to GTRLC or not, and can be used to create a fully valid legal will or guide you before planning your will and finding a lawyer near you. Head over to [www.freewill.com/gtrlc](http://www.freewill.com/gtrlc) for more information.

“I'm one of the many people in their 50s who didn't have a will. It's a ridiculous statistic, but it's the reality. When I heard about FreeWill, I decided to give it a try. Literally within a half hour I was done and felt great about it. I ran everything by my lawyer and it all checked out and I've finally done something really important that I had delayed for far too long.” – Jennifer Jay

[www.freewill.com/gtrlc](http://www.freewill.com/gtrlc)



# HONORARIUMS

JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30, 2019

Honorarium gifts provide an enduring tribute to someone or something significant in your life. Your gifts show how much you care for the beauty and natural resources of northern Michigan. Gifts were made in honor of the names shown in bold.

**Doug, Ilene and Andrew Beers**  
John Robert Williams and Terrie Taylor

**Scott Blackhurst**  
Mary and Emmett Miller

**Lindy Brastrom and Tanner Borglum**  
Pete and Shari Clason

**Evan and Willa Cislucyis**  
John Robert Williams and Terrie Taylor

**Jane Cislucyis**  
John Robert Williams and Terrie Taylor

**Todd Clason**  
Pete and Shari Clason

**Joe and Leslie Cook**  
John Robert Williams and Terrie Taylor

**Paul and Linda Doane**  
Joe and Glenda Wierzbicki

**Randy Dykhuis**  
Faye Backie

**Phil and Florence Ernzen**  
Joe and Glenda Wierzbicki

**Mary Fairgrieve**  
Mike and Kay Lubert

**Carl Fry**  
Andrea Fry and John Floyd  
Erin Fry

**Roger Gerstle**  
John and May Gerstle

**Kima Kraimer**  
Ted and Jeanne Kraimer

**Margaret Littin**  
Haley De Korne

**Joe Mielke and Jodee Taylor**  
John Robert Williams and Terrie Taylor

**Kate Pearson**  
Gerald Jehle

**Quinton**  
Heidi and Andrew Sung

**David Sagaser**  
Carol and Danny Levin

**John Pak**  
Coldwell Banker Schmidt, Realtors

**Gary Vann**  
Catherine Wolfe

**Leo Paul Waclawski**  
Casey Ressler and James Morse

**Andrew Wilhelme**  
Douglas and Susan McDonald

**Joe Wilhelme**  
Douglas and Susan McDonald

**Colin Williams**  
John Robert Williams and Terrie Taylor

# MEMORIALS

JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30, 2019

Gifts were made in memory of the names shown in bold. Your thoughtful memorial gift is a gift of hope for the future, an investment in forever and a lasting tribute to honor lives well lived. These gifts are a part of the *Campaign for Generations* and will preserve landscapes that offer joy, recreation and solace while ensuring clean water and securing local food sources—what a legacy!

**Kirsten Ardery**  
Irene Brown  
John and Pat Metzker

**Pearl Boshoven**  
Helen and Ross Barker

**Marie Adeline Bunting and Clayton “Duke” Arnold**  
Tim Bair

**Scott A. Casey**  
Connie Thompson

**Mary Jordan Ehlert**  
Ted and Andy Ehlert

**Gerald E. Fessell**  
Brett Fessell

**Barbara Graves**  
Alan and Nancy Sward

**Jack Haddick**  
Carolyn Longmire

**George Field Hayes**  
Willa Elizabeth Hayes

**Patricia Henke**  
Cameron Henke

**Louis and Florence Honhart**  
Anne Honhart

**Bob Hopkins**  
Cynthia Hopkins

**Jean Ann Hughes**  
Anne Brasie  
John and Lynn Collins  
Nicholas and John Davis-Piotrowski  
Paul and Christine Deyo  
Kathryn Diebel  
Rachel Facundo

Margaret Fako and Michael Slawnik

James Gies  
Lisa Gies

Jennifer Jay and Evan Johnstone

Anne and Elvin Keith  
Robert and Nancy Marshall  
Matt and Ann McDonough

Susan Morrison  
Kathy Partin, Lulu and Maggie Mae

Paul and Mary Piotrowski  
Thomas and Kathy Piotrowski

Anthony and Natalie Rupard  
Gregory Seman and Tracey McVicar

Randolph and Judith Sierras  
Ann and Al Taylor  
Deb Van Zegeren

Steve and Deb Westphal  
Vivian Winn

**Gregg Johnson**  
Sue Johnson

**Charlie Kehr**  
James and Christina MacInnes

**Theodore “Ted” Klemp III**  
Joseph and Dacia Albaugh  
Anonymous

Joseph Barcheski  
Judy Bates  
Steven Bolhuis and Family  
Boulevard Used Cars, Inc.  
Dale and Jo Ann Chittenden  
Kathy and William Cleveland and Cornelia Bates

Roger and Shellie Cook  
J. Lawrence and Margaret Dannemiller

Jonelle Davidson  
James Dean

Donald and Susan Delong  
Ann Dinan  
Liza Dora

Betty and Randy Enell  
Forster Family  
David Freye

Randy Gilbert  
Paul and Joan Hill  
Diane and Greg Jenks

Joseph and Kristine Johnson  
Marcia Klemp  
George Knapp

Peter and Sheila Murdoch  
Muskegon Yacht Club  
Ron Nielsen

Claudia and Daniel Phipps  
RJ Rant  
Charley Roberts

Karl and Barb Rowe  
Michael and Jacqueline Sander  
Sarah Scheuerle

Laura and Steven Sikkenga  
Lee and Tom Stoltmann  
James Ward

Patti Wilkinson  
Vivian Wolbrink  
Barbara and Douglas Wood

Jonathan Zuidema

**Philip B. Leege**  
Douglas Panhorst

**Dot Lyon**  
Carol Gleason

**Grace MacDonald**  
Elizabeth G. and Stanley F. Dole

**John and Nancy Morrison**  
Sherri and Jeffrey Cousins  
Eric Oconnor

**John Morrison**  
Marcia Gest  
Christopher Gores

Wendy Greeley  
Ruth Hutchison  
Kelley Linzie

J. Elliot and Florence Morrison  
Linda Nanez  
Monnie Peters

Penny and Steve Staelin  
Matthew Steinmetz

**Carolyn Kraft Niebel**  
Paul and Marcia Haack  
Robert and Debra Kraft

**Stephen T. Norman**  
Boehringer Ingelheim  
Ann Norman

**Joan J. Olsen**  
Daniel and Kristine Drake  
William Olsen

**Thomas Palmer**  
Elizabeth G. and Stanley F. Dole  
Heather and Rick Shumaker

**Rick Pringle**  
Kemp Wilson



PHOTO BY NATE RICHARDSON



Memorials — Continued

**Edith Mary Rock**  
Jane Johnston

**Jim and Mollie Rogers**  
Dr. David, Kathryn  
and Keiana Snell

**Luella Rorick**  
Janet Taylor

**Val Rose**  
Georgina Hosmer

**Jo Rundio**  
Carol Rabanus  
Pug Rundio

**Diana Schmiedicke**  
Kendra Tutsch

**Ted and Pam Shultz**  
Barclay Shultz

**Virginia Sorenson**  
Dotti Clune and  
Jill Henemyer

**Mary Sorrell**  
Lee and Shirley Janssen

**John R. Spencer Jr.**  
Cathy and Paul Minster

**John R. Spencer Sr.**  
Cathy and Paul Minster

**Steven S. Spencer**  
Cathy and Paul Minster

**George Stevens**  
Ellen Kohler and  
Matt Cauchy

**Erick Takayama**  
Carolyn Hiraishi  
Diane Hong

Jim and Margaret Stuhr  
Mitz and Mary Takayama

**Arno Von Walthausen**  
Marie Plester

**Chuck Watson**  
William and Elaine Young

**Timothy Wellnitz**  
Mattea Wellnitz

**Woody Woodruff**  
Wayne Unwin

**Elinore Virginia Yard**  
Ikebana International 165  
Janice and Randall Lambirth

Charles and Sara Rodeck  
Jim and Pat Shaffer

Ann Smith  
Bethany Steffey

## BUSINESS DONORS

The ongoing support of our business community shows a commitment to northern Michigan's farmland heritage, the protection of natural lands and the preservation of clean air and water. As you make charitable gifts to the Conservancy, you communicate to your customers how deeply you value and care for northern Michigan's natural resources and the role they play in attracting and retaining talent.

Boehringer Ingelheim

Boulevard Used Cars, Inc

Bowers Harbor Vineyard & Winery

Century 21 Northland

Coldwell Banker Schmidt, Realtors

Environmental Sustainability Solutions

Gosling Czubak Engineering

Hazelnut Kids

MLC Realty, Inc

Morrissey Equip Corp

Muskegon Yacht Club

Northern Business Network Traverse City

Oleson's Food Stores

Oryana Community Co-op

Steve Perdue, Grand Traverse Industries

R.M. Young Company

Shift Chiropractic, PLC

Sleeping Bear Farms

West Front Primary Care, PC

PHOTO BY JACK HARRIS



## MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

Many companies offer matching gift programs to encourage employees to contribute to charitable organizations like the Conservancy. Most of these programs match contributions dollar for dollar, and some will even triple the amount of your gift. These companies made donations to match their employees' gifts to the Conservancy

The American Online Giving Foundation

Amgen Foundation

GE Foundation

IBM International Foundation

Illinois Tool Works Foundation

W. K. Kellogg Foundation

Monsanto Fund

Motorola Solutions Foundation

Shell Matching Gifts Program

State Farm Companies Foundation

Thrivent Financial Foundation

UBS Employee Giving Program



# PRIVATE LAND PROTECTION

More than 240 landowners have worked with the Conservancy to preserve their cherished natural lands and farms through voluntary conservation easements that restrict development in perpetuity. We monitor these properties annually, often side-by-side with the owners, to ensure that conservation values are maintained forever. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you.

Acme Township	Shirley Carris	Phil and Rita Ellington	Russell and Kay Hughes
Alan Adams	Marlene and Terry Caszatt	Jeff and Marilyn Elliott	Mark and Sharon Hullman
Dorance and Julia Amos	Cedar River Group, LLC.	Evans Brothers Fruit Company	Inn at Watervale, Inc.
Roland and Marilyn Andreasson	Mike Champion	Jim and Kari Fisher	Dean and Kurt Iverson
Anonymous (2)	Charles and Jeanie Chapin	Laura Fisher	William and Susie Janis
Antrim County	David and Jody Charlton	The Estate of Mary C. Francis	Alice Jeffers
Antrim County Conservation District	Chartwell Properties, LLC.	Alison Fredericksen	Village of Kalkaska
Baillio Company	Glen and Rebecca Chown	Chip and Terrie Frey	David Kelley
Mark and Elizabeth Banker	Tom and Janice Cook	Cameron and Dawn Fuller	David and Katy Kern
Mark and Karen Barbera	Richard Cooper and Jan Tennant	Charter Township of Garfield	Kingsley Area Schools
Bash Enterprises	Bonnie Copeland	G.D.O. Investments LLC	Tom Kladzyk
Ardis Bauer	Croft, LLC	John Gehring	Anthony Kramer and Barbara Bailey
Bay Harbor Club Association	Crystal Highlands Owners' Association	Gene Gerring	Brent and Tami Kroll
Bayshore Real Estate Associates #1	Richard and Linda Cushman	Brian and Lisa Getty	Bruce and Libby Krone
Dennis Beal	James Dalley and Lois Brennan	Jeremy Gibson and Carolyn McDonald	Margery and Laurence Kroupa
Leon and Shirley Beal	Alice and Jerry Deck	Gordon Gienow	Louise Ladd
Bill and Marti Beals	DEER Development Engineering	Judy Gienow	Cliff Larkins
Margaret Beck	G. Michael and Barbara DeGraeve	Ron and Diane Gillison	Leelanau Conservancy
Michael and Leah Bell	Michael and Claudia Delp	Matthew Godlewski and Jacob Whitman	William Lentz
Robert and Barbara Below	Michael and Ann DeVries	Gloria Goodale and Dan Wood	Joe and Kathy Lessard
Linda and Craig Bethke	Charles and Lorie DeYoung	Margo Goodale	James and Judy Leto
Roland Bielert	Harold and Edna DeYoung	Nick Goodale and Wendy Asselin	Little River Band Of Ottawa Indians
Boardman Township	Lance and Allyson Docken	James and Sharon Goodheart	Long Lake Township
Philip Bolton	Kay and Frederic Dohm	Charles and Bethany Goodman	Calvin Lutz
Dave and Jackie Bos	J. Bennett and Tauna Donaldson	Ann and Harold Gurian	Charles Lyon
Mary Ellen Boucher	Deborah Doyle	Donald and Heidi Hamilton	Susie Mackay
Matthew and Joni Brengman	Roger and Angelica Dunlap	Anne Hammond	Bob and Kris Mampe
Ruth Briggs	Earl and Susan Dutton	Thomas Hanna	Robert and Lois Manigold
Lee and Richmond Brown	Julie and Jim Dutton	Alan and Carol Hart	Francia Mann
James and Justine Buck	Martin Easling	Tom and Annette Hart	Kirk Marckwald and Chris Desser
Keith Burns	Laurie Eberhardt and Peter Martin	Jerry and Jamie Heim	Robert Marriott
Jon Bylsma and Jennifer Johnston	Kenneth Edwards	Jed and Dawn Hemming	Dirk and Mary Martin
Kathryn Bytwerk	Phil Edwards and Laura Reid	David and Barbara Henton	William and Joan McCool
Pat Capps	Ralph and Mary Ellen Edwards	Todd Herber	Robert and Joni Metiva
Archibald Carey	Russell A. and Pat Ehler	Carol Highsaw	Amy and Dan Meyer
David and Nancy Carey		Jim Highsaw and Linda Prentice	Jean Meyer
John Carey and Vicki Arroyo		Frances Housman	Philip and Connie Micklin
Andrew and Andrea Carolus			Ellen Miller
			Kelly and Debra Miller



Philip E. Miner Revocable Trust	Loy Putney	Nathan Schultz and Stephanie Woodfin	David and Sara Taft
Susan Montei	Putney Real Estate Holdings, LLC.	Mark Seasholes	Barbara Taylor
Neahtawanta Resort Association	Edith Elliott Queeny and Warner Guild Queeny	Nancy Seasholes	Barry and Arreta Thompson
Steve and Kathleen Newman	Marvin and Jodi Radtke	Send Brothers Properties LLC	Terry and Constance Timm
Scott Nugent	Charles and Abby Rammelkamp	Rick and Diane Shaffer	Jennifer Tobias and Tom McCracken
Wendy O'Brien	Eric and Joni Rammelkamp	Shaffer Family Partnership	Tosebo Clubhouse, LLC
Leonardo and Carmelita Ocanas	Ranke Family Partnership	David and Ingrid Shambaugh	City of Traverse City
OCS Watervale, Ltd.	Michael Raphelson and Carla Langerveld	George and Roberta Shambaugh	Sally Van Vleck
John O'Hair	Ray Ravary	Gary Shanker	Kenneth Vanhouten
OHK-SEK	RF Reiley Family Partners, LTD	Michael and Shanna Shea	Village Ridge Homeowners Association
Peter Ohrnberger	Rick and Kay Rieck	Hebe and Jim Shipp	Roy and Pamela Volkening
Brad Oleson	Riverview Rod & Gun Club	Virginia Shover	Randall Vyverberg
DJ and Lisa Oleson	Phyllis Robinson	Steve and Carol Shuckra	Melinda Wagner 2014 Revocable Living Trust
Oleson Foundation	Robert and Penelope Rosi	Peggy and Kimberly Simpson	Wayne and Joan Webber
Dustin and Kim Ordway	Rotary Camps & Services of TC	Richard and Diane Simpson	Wellington Real Estate Holdings, LLC.
Paradise Township	Wayne and Joan Rowe	Loring Sims	Greg White
Paul Pelica	John and Margaret Sargent	Nicklaus Slocum	John Wilkinson and Robin Silva-Wilkinson
James Petrie	The Robert L. Schiewe Living Trust	Dale and Carolyn Smith	Windward Partnership
Wesley Petrie		Julie and John Smith	John and Charlotte Wuepper
Gary Pomeroy		Donald and Glenna Southwell	Isaiah Wunsch
James and Anne Porritt		Reg Sprik	State YMCA of Michigan
Steve Pray		William Springstead	Shelby Ziegler
Brian and Dodie Putney		Laura and Chuck Stanek	
Charlotte Putney		Anne Starr and Kristin Hall	
		David Steffey	



## 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 easements on their property in order to ensure that its conservation values—the health and wealth of these precious lands—are maintained forever.

### Conservation Easement Donations

Bret L. Bachert and Sarah E. Schin Trust  
Edward R. Bagley Trust

Kay and Frederic Dohm  
Maple Ridge Hardwoods, Inc.

Jack Robbins

### Land Donations

Terence S. Malone Trust

## GRANTS FROM STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

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 these agencies and organizations.

American Farmland Trust

Environmental Protection Agency,  
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative,  
Invasive Species Network

Grand Traverse County Road Commission

Michigan Department of  
Natural Resources

US Fish & Wildlife Service-Great Lakes  
Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act

US Fish & Wildlife Service-Great Lakes  
Restoration Initiative-Coastal Program

## GIFTS-IN-KIND

We are deeply grateful to these supporters for the generous contributions of their products, goods and services.

Ken Barber

Donald and Nancy Clover

Tom Cooper

Terry Griffin

Mark Hoffman

Image 360

Joe and Bobbi Woods

## 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, built trails, made maple syrup, fought invasive species, led hikes and workdays 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

Brian Allen

D. Karen Andrews

Amy Attee

Thomas Auer

Jannine Baker

Steve Balentine

Richard Barclay

Gerald Batka

Katherine Batka

Robert Baum

Jo Ann Beemon

Norman Bell

Rick Bellingham

Audra Bildeaux

Mary Binder

Tim Binder

Chuck Blake

Brad Boals

Richard Bobian

Paul Brink

Joe Brooks

Vaughn Burden

Jay Burt

Sky Button

Betsy Calcutt

Bridget Callahan

Bruce Campbell

Marcia Carney

Sally Catanese

Daniel Choike

Lou Ann Churchill

Linda Cline

Don Coe

Doug Cook

Sally Cook

Pam Coleman

John Collins

Carey Colliver

Lela Colliver

Mike Conway

Sheila Crowley

Rick Dahlstrom

Crystal Dailey

Cortney Danbrook

Kim De Bruin

Logan Deluca

Mason Deluca

Mary Devon

Chuck Dickerson

Cavanaugh Doud

Bryce Dreeszen

Paula Dreeszen

Sylvia Duncan

Larry Dyer

Susan Easlick

Duke Elsner

Cara Eule

Nathan Eule

Noah Eule

Mary Fairgrieve

Judy Feldmann

Mary Ferens

Jim Fisher

Dennis

Fitzpatrick

Justin Florkowski

Alan Flory

Kyla Foley

Michael Foley

Linda Forster

Carl Freeman

Carlton Fry

Rondi Fry

Peter Galloup

Linda Gawel

Peter Gawel

Mike Gill

Sharon Goble

Michael Grahl

Richard Gray

Claire Gregory

John Greyzck

Cheryl Gross

Kathleen Guy

Sheridan Haack

Sophie Haas

Patricia Hager

Richard Hager

Diane Hanson

Matt Hayes

Dave Heeres

Bob Heflin

Pam Hendrick

Nick Hensler

Cheryl Hiipakka

Richard Hiipakka

Mollie Hilliard

Mark Hoffman

Cherie Hogan

Bill Holden

Jim Huckle

Marcia Inman

Dave Jackson

Deb Jackson

Michelle Jacokes

Jennifer Jaffe

Lynda Jarrold

Philip Jarvi

Joshua Jones

Peggy Kane

Rick Kane

Brian Keas

Chuck Kendall

Karen Kennedy

Garold Kneale

Sam Krause

Mark Krupowicz

Debbie Kwaiser

Michael Kwaiser

James Lagowski

Becky Lanham

Julie Lapinski

Sophie Legault-

Bradley

Craig Locke

Mike Lubert

Ben Lundquist

Sally Lundquist

Deborah Lunsford

Dave Lyon

Robert Lyon

Shane Lyons

Dan Mach

Kathy Flynn Mach

Mark Maddox

Dave Mahan

Rebecca Mang

Patrick Manke

Sally Manke

Marcella Massa

Dave Mathews

John Maxson

Chip May

Shelle McElwee

Tom McElwee

Jim McKimmy

Don Miles

Jana Miseta

Dan Mixer

Douglas Morse

Edwin Morse

Paul Moyer

Paula Moyer

Dirk Nelson

Barbara Nelson-

Jameson

Michelle Nerone

Marilyn Niebel

Homer Nye

Alex O'Brien

Vicki Olsen

Susan Palmer

Gail Parry

John Paul

Erin Paxson

Lyn Petty

William Pioszak

Lucy Polemitis

Lindsey Porter

Jane Purkis

Robert Reider

Pamela

Richardson

Greg Riley

Michael Roberts

Sawyer Robinson

Steven Ruby

Kevin Russell

Missi Sano

Erika Schick

Maryann Schmidt

Randy Schmidt

Brent Schnell

Don Schuster

Greg Seman

Dana Sholten

Frank Simkins

Michael Sipkoski

Lisa Six

Bill Skaff

Maureen Smyth

Cliff Sorrell

Gary Stauffer

Jane Stauffer

Nancy Story

Kim Stringer

David Stringer

Todd Sutton

Jeff Sweske

Al Taylor

Terrie Taylor

Brian Thelen

Laurel Truax

Cynthia Tschudy

Ron Tschudy

Barbara Van Dam

Connie Veverica

George

Voulemenous

Terry Walters

Travis Walters

Flint Watt

William Weiss

Carol Wellington

Shannon

Westgate

Steve Westphal

Angela Willis

John Willis

Holly Winter

Anthony

Wittbrodt

Kathy Wittbrodt

Gera Witte

James Witte

Rick Wojtowicz

Charlene Wylie

David Wylie

Sonya Yenser-

Hammon

Thomas Yocum

Scott Yonkers

Catherine

Zemanek



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## Celebrating Preservation

Our annual Preservation Celebration is one of the most popular events of the year, and the 2019 edition was a magnificent showcase of all the special things that make it so. Friends, supporters and partners joined GTRLC's staff and board members at the historic Maple Bay Farmhouse on July 20 to celebrate all that we've accomplished together in the ongoing *Campaign for Generations* – and get energized for all the work that remains ahead.

The weather was great, the food was even better and the positive vibes were off the charts. One of the most rewarding aspects of this annual event is hearing in person from our supporters about what our work means to them, and this year's event was another chance for our staff to connect on a deep and meaningful level with the people that make our important work possible.

To those who came out – thank you! To those who missed it, we hope to see you next year, or better yet, at one of our many events before then! Be sure to check [www.gtrlc.org](http://www.gtrlc.org) for fun events in all four seasons!

