



Volunteer Steward Newsletter

Issue VI, Spring 2004

a newsletter for Preserve Monitors,
Trail Stewards, and Project Volunteers of
the Little Traverse Conservancy

Preserve Monitor Profile

Bridget and Joe Cadreau

Muir Woods Nature Preserve, Chippewa County

Bridget Cadreau shares some of the special aspects of the Muir Woods Preserve, located near Trout Lake in southwestern Chippewa County.

Muir Woods Nature Preserve acreage was originally owned by Phil DeGraffe, who once owned much of the property around the lakes. He operated Phil DeGraffe's Lodges on Frenchman's and Wegwas Lakes. Joe managed the resort for DeGraffe for many years.

Emery Muir purchased the Mud Lake property from DeGraffe in the 1960s. Emery was a direct descendent of the naturalist John Muir. He donated the preserve land to the Little Traverse Conservancy in 1986 and sold the adjoining acreage to us in 1987. He was aware of our appreciation of nature and felt that we would preserve the integrity of the land.

Muir Woods is a peninsular ridge, approximately 65 acres, mostly populated with birch, tamarac, poplar and a variety of evergreen trees. Much of the shoreline is comprised of bog vegetation, with pitcher plants and smooth roses being plentiful. The Carp River flows along the eastern and northern borders of the preserve, and Mud Lake, a headwater of the Carp, provides the southern border. The preserve is best appreciated from a canoe or kayak.

We became preserve monitors in 1991. We believe it is imperative for

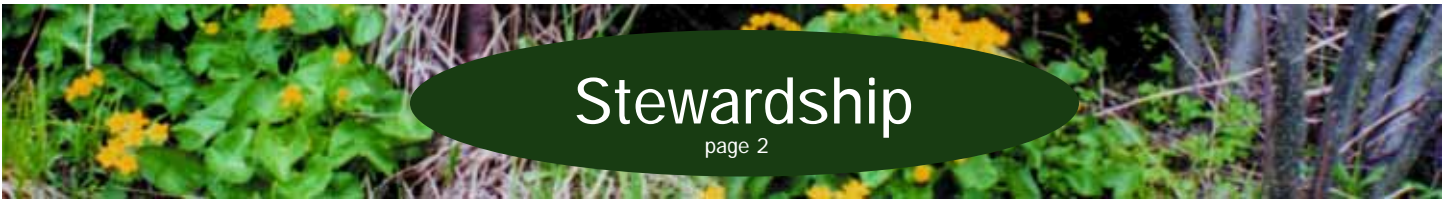
humans to act as stewards and protectors of our planet, and we appreciate that these preserves are set aside for future generations of a variety of species. Volunteering as monitors has been an enjoyable task, and we hope to continue our commitment for many years.

We are able to observe a variety of wildlife from our home on Mud Lake and while paddling the river. A family of otters lives in the river and visits the lake regularly all year long. One spring, we watched a parent leading its pups to a hole in the ice then diving in, leaving the pups looking into the hole after it. As the pups stared down into the hole, the parent popped up from another hole a short distance behind them, slid up behind them, and startled them into the first hole. We watched their antics for most of a morning.

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Muir Woods Nature Preserve, Chippewa County





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Another time, six eagles landed on the ice of the lake. They looked as if they'd flown through an ice storm. Their feathers were all spiked out and ruffed, as if frozen in place. We were able to watch them for some time as they rested and groomed themselves before taking flight again.

This winter, we observed two otters sliding across the lake on the snow. They would "run" a few steps, then glide on their bellies, all the way across the lake. We've been out in kayaks on the lake with the entire otter family fishing nearby, keeping a safe distance from us, and occasionally popping up to chirp at us to keep our distance also.

Every year, Caspian Terns and Osprey return to fish in the lake and the river. We often get close-up or binocular views of the osprey perching atop a dead tree to eat its catch. Fox and deer use our yard as a shortcut, as our brave watchdog sleeps soundly on the upper deck. We've seen a huge snapping turtle bask on our dock - an unusual sight, since we don't usually see much of the snappers. There is even a huge soft shell turtle in residence, no doubt an import released into the lake years ago, since they are not known to inhabit the upper peninsula. And, of course, there are usual ducks, geese, heron, cormorants, and a variety of smaller turtles and birds and other creatures.

We are avid paddlers and are able to enjoy almost year-round paddling on the Carp River. The upper river is open much of the winter, and we snowshoe through the woods to our winter "boatyard" to launch for a trip upriver along Muir Woods Preserve. The river, the land, and its various inhabitants are always changing, and even after hundreds of trips upriver, there is always something new to be observed. A perfect way to spend any day.



courtesy Bridget Cadreau

Bridget Cadreau and Wolf. Wolf's "pet name" is "Cleopatra of the Carp" as he generally assumes the lounging position while Bridget and her husband Joe paddle the Carp River and monitor the Muir Woods Preserve.



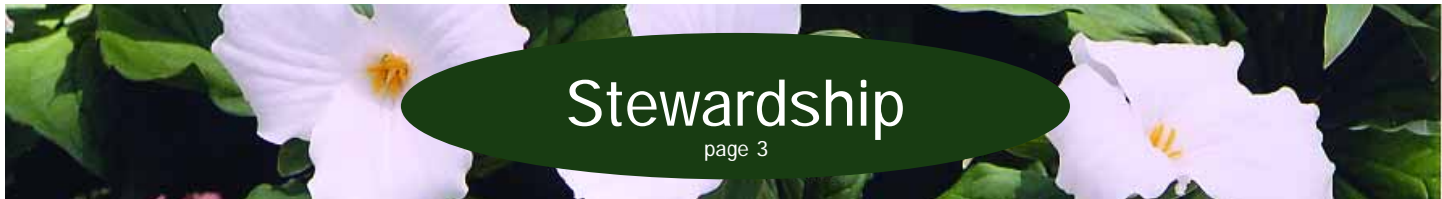
Meet Your New Stewardship Specialist

Cindy Mom, the Conservancy's new Stewardship Specialist, is the most recent addition to the Conservancy staff. A native Michigander, Cindy grew up in southeast Michigan, and also enjoyed many vacations and visits with friends and family in northern Michigan. She studied art, theatre, and environmental studies at Kalamazoo College and Western Michigan University, finally earning a degree in film and video from Columbia College in Chicago.

For the last six years, Cindy worked at Essex County Greenbelt Association, a land trust in northeastern Massachusetts. While she loved living in the seaside towns of Gloucester and Rockport, Cindy always felt homesick for Michigan.

Cindy looks forward to getting to know this part of the state better, and especially having the opportunity to learn about Michigan's native flora and fauna.

Cindy on the Grewingk Glacier in Kachamak Bay State Park near Homer, Alaska.



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Preserve Profile: Fochtman Nature Preserve - Emmet County



Gregory M. Nelson



Round Lake loon on nest.

Size: 243 acres and more than 1/4 mile Round Lake frontage as well as 1/2 mile frontage on US-31.

Characteristics: The Fochtman Nature Preserve was acquired in 2001 at a significant bargain sale from Fochtman Realty Company. Located between Petoskey and Conway, this preserve consists mostly of wetlands and provides habitat and water quality protection for the headwaters of the historic Inland Waterway. A stream that connects Round Lake and Crooked Lake meanders through the property. The North Country Trail traverses the property parallel to Hiawatha Trail Road and a rustic 1/4 mile trail follows along the wooded Round Lake shoreline.

Accessibility: Direct access to the preserve is off of Hiawatha Trail

Directions: From US-31 on the north end of Petoskey, turn left on M-119 heading toward Harbor Springs. Travel approximately 2 miles and turn right on Powell Road. Powell Road dead ends on Hiawatha Trail. Take a right and the preserve is immediately on your right.

2004 Summer Preserve Projects

The following preserves will have new preserve location signs installed this summer:

Charlevoix County
Dressel
Susan Lake
Weislik

Cheboygan County
Bear Saw Creek
Pigeon River Wildlife
Sturgeon Bay
former Busch property - (name to be determined)

Chippewa County
Cook Island
Muir Woods
Round Island Point

Mackinac County
Catherine Seiberling Stewart
former Les Cheneaux Club - Les Cheneaux Foundation
property on Marquette Island - (name to be determined)



Upcoming Major Projects Include:

Charlevoix County

- *Site restoration at the Balsam Creek Preserve
- *Site restoration, bridge improvements, and establishment of parking area at the Rufus Teesdale Preserve

Chippewa County

- *Complete clearing and marking and construct bridges and boardwalks for new trail.

Emmet County

- *Establish trails at the Good Hart Farms Preserve
- *Establish parking area at the Oden Island Preserve
- *Reroute trail at Stutsmanville Bog Preserve

Little Traverse Conservancy will have two seasonal workers to help with stewardship projects this summer.

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Little Traverse Conservancy's

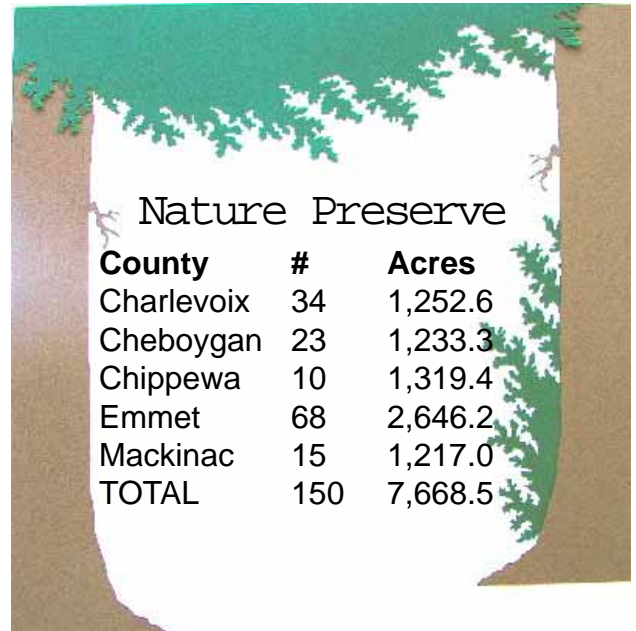
Volunteer Preserve Monitors

Our volunteer preserve monitors save us hundreds of hours of work every year. We are enormously grateful for your help in ensuring that the nature preserves stay protected and user-friendly. Thank You!

Jim and Sue Adams · Joey Arbaugh · Robert and Debbie Archer · Les Arnold · Gary Barfnecht · Curtis and Katherine Bosket · Mike and Bonnie Brunett · Craig Burke · Michael and Tammy Buttigieg · Joseph and Bridget Cadreau · Nadine Cain · John Campbell · John and Gene Ann Cansfield · Susan Carson · Diane Conn · Dr. Allen and Jane Damschroder · Marilyn Damstra · Stan Dickinson · Lorraine Edwards Dick and Diane Elliot · Joel Evans · Sharon Gerlach · Lois Graham · Judy Harvey · Lucy Hartlove · Roger Heimbuch · Steve and Jane Horn · Ken Kelsey · Barbara Kurtz · Ric and Lisa Loyd · C.T. Martin · Marge May · John Maximiuk · Bill Mayhew · David McCauley · Harriet and Vaughn McGraw · Charles and Norma McKinley · Betty Menzi · Dr. John and Maxine Noll · Dr. and Mrs. Tim O'Conner · Jim and Anne Oleszek · Mark Paddock · Jeannine Palms and Dale Petty · Arch Reeves · Diane Rekowski · Barbara Rivard · John Rohe · Mr. Bernard Roy · Susan Rutledge · Stanley and Marilyn Smith · Scott Smith · Tom Stanley · David Stepanovich · Bernie Tillson · Dave Treglown · Dean Pollard · Mary Jane Ulrich · Jean VanDam · Dr. Edward Voss · Jim Ward · Ron Winchester · Ken Winter

A special thank you to the following individuals who are moving on from their volunteer monitor positions. We have greatly appreciated your donation of time and energy to help us ensure the continued protection of Conservancy preserves.

Bill Glass - Cranmer Nature Preserve, Emmet County
Rufus Teesdale - Horton Creek Nature Preserve, Charlevoix County



Nature Preserve		
County	#	Acres
Charlevoix	34	1,252.6
Cheboygan	23	1,233.3
Chippewa	10	1,319.4
Emmet	68	2,646.2
Mackinac	15	1,217.0
TOTAL	150	7,668.5

THANK YOU to the Little Traverse Conservancy Trail Stewards:

Daniel Adams · Curtis and Katherine Bosket · Phil Becker · Mike and Bonnie Brunett · Nadine Cain · Gretchen Dorian · Joel and Nancy Epstein · Judy Harvey · Steve and Jane Horn · Chuck and Margy Murray · Kenyon and Sally Stebbins · Mike Supernault · Steve and Connie Vorencamp · Jim Ward

*And also thank you to volunteers
Larry Rychlick and Dave Young*

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