

Volunteer Steward Newsletter

Issue VII,
Spring 2005

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

Preserve Monitor Profile

Kenyon & Sally Stebbins
Stutsmanville Bog, Emmet County

Growing up in southern Michigan, both Sally and Kenyon have long-standing affection for nature. Sally's hometown of Holland provided a perfect place to appreciate the birds in her wooded backyard, as well as the magnificent sandy beaches and dunes of Holland State Park on Lake Michigan's shoreline. Although Kenyon grew up on the Grand River in Lansing, his ties to northern Michigan span his entire 56 years, thanks to his grandparents' decision to build a cottage in Roaring Brook in 1902.

Having met on the campus of Michigan State University in 1983 at the library where Sally worked, they celebrated the com-

pletion of Kenyon's PhD in cultural anthropology with a nine-week camping trip to Alaska, with highlights including hiking the historic Chilkoot Trail, and spending a week at Wonder Lake in Denali National Park in a tent at the foot of Mt. McKinley.

They eventually moved to West Virginia where Kenyon taught anthropology at West Virginia University and Sally presided over the Mountaineer Audubon Society. During those years, Kenyon's research interests took them both to Mexico several times, and also to South America for a three-month sabbatical, where they explored some of that continent's most spectacular national parks, both high in the Andes and low in the

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Sally & Kenyon Stebbins at Stutsmanville Bog





Thank You Picnic Outing

Your efforts in helping the Little Traverse Conservancy care for the wonderful nature preserves we've been entrusted with has been invaluable. We want to offer our thanks! This year, we'll be hosting a thank you event and we hope you can join us. (Watch for an invitation with more details coming in the mail.)

When: Saturday, June 25 11:30 am
Where: The Headlands, near Mackinaw City



Special thanks to project volunteers Larry Rychlick and Dave Young and to the Lake Superior State University Fish and Wildlife Club for their efforts to help us build the trail at the Round Island Point Nature Preserve. Look for a list of summer preserve projects in the June issue of the Little Traverse Conservancy newsletter.

Nature Preserve Statistics 1972-2005

County	#	Acres
Charlevoix	36	1,506.1
Cheboygan	23	1,233.3
Chippewa	14	1,790.4
Emmet	76	2,734.7
Mackinac	15	1,217.0
TOTAL	164	8,482

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Amazon region.

They have also traveled a fair bit within the U.S. in pursuit of their "state summit" hobby, and have reached the highest point in each of 42 of the 50 states. In doing so, they were privileged to experience some of our nation's most precious natural areas. But the Stebbins' hearts have always been in Michigan. "While we were living away, we visited our home state as often as possible, and in 2001, we jumped at an opportunity for early retirement, and became year-round residents of Emmet County," Kenyon said.

Since moving up north, Sally and Kenyon have enjoyed exploring most of the LTC preserves. "When we learned of LTC's preserve monitor program, we naturally wanted to help out, and were pleased to learn that the Stutsmanville Bog was available. We have a special affinity for wetland habitats, and the birds that they support," Sally explained. Kenyon's ties to the Stutsmanville area go back to 1954, when his father (an LTC member since 1972) purchased 75 acres along Stutsmanville Road.

The Stutsmanville Bog Preserve has been especially fun for the Stebbins because of the surprises that they've encountered

there. In addition to the many bird species they've seen there, one day the couple heard the croaking of a frog. "We followed the sound, and soon found that the frog was being swallowed by a snake!" said Kenyon. "We were amazed to watch the frog disappear right before our eyes. We are grateful that LTC has preserved such places where we can watch 'nature in action' so close to home." In addition, the Stebbins have enjoyed helping with maintenance duties at the preserve, including spreading woodchips at the parking lot, weed-whacking the trails, and destroying an illegal deer blind.

Despite their many travels (Antarctica last year, Costa Rica this year), Sally and Kenyon agree that there is no place more special than northern Michigan. They are truly thankful that this region has such fine organizations as the Little Traverse Conservancy, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, SEE-North, and the Petoskey Regional Audubon Society (PRAS). They are especially involved with PRAS, where Sally serves as Field Trip Coordinator, and Kenyon acts as President. As Sally says, "There is no place I'd rather be than out birding. We hope to see you on the trails of any of LTC's preserves, and would love to share our bird sightings with you!"

Staff Update

This summer, our stewardship staff will be joined by Lauren Ice, a senior at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Lauren is majoring in environmental studies and art. She is especially interested in environmental education, but also looks forward to having a “hands-on” experience doing stewardship work. In addition, we welcome Andrew Dawley on board as a seasonal staff person helping with our many field projects. Andrew is the third of the Dawley brothers who has worked with the Little Traverse Conservancy in seasonal stewardship positions. His older brother, Charles, now works with us as a GIS Specialist and is responsible for the many updated and highly accurate maps that we are now using in our project documentation, publications, and web site. The Dawley brothers have a lot of experience in construction, along with many other useful stewardship skills, as their dad keeps them busy with renovation and gardening projects at their Petoskey home.

Full-time staff Melissa Hansen and Cindy Mom remain our core year-round stewardship staff. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of them at (231) 347-0991 or melissa@landtrust.org and cindy@landtrust.org.



Lauren Ice



Charles Dawley



Andrew Dawley

Current Preserve Monitors

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

New Preserve Monitors

Matt Blandford - Marx
 Dave Cummings - Five Mile Creek
 Barbara, John, and Bill Danly - Horton Creek
 Mike Dow - Undine
 Jim and Judy Eddy - North Branch Boyne River
 Kelly Joyce - Kuebler-Trippe
 Roger Knutson - Haggerty
 Kip and Linda Linklater - Fisk
 Carl and Diane Meyer - new unnamed preserve in Sault Ste. Marie
 Al and Jean Moberly - Wendy O'Neil
 Ted and Pam Newcomb - Mulberry Farm
 Pat Nows - Bryan Wildlife
 Jeff Pagel - VanTreese
 Gerald and Patricia Rintamaki - Badgley, Pompadour Bay, Tamlyn
 Glen Schmiede and Lynne Petersen - Sugar Island Preserves
 Paula Wellmers - Scollin-Lee and Wellman

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 · Judy Harvey · Steve and Jane Horn · Chuck and Margy Murray · Kenyon and Sally Stebbins · Mike Supernault · Steve and Connie Vorencamp · Jim Ward



Staff Note: Our stewardship staff has become increasingly aware of new diseases that currently pose very serious threats to our forests. The Little Traverse Conservancy's service area is a "gateway" for spreading or stopping these diseases to the Upper Peninsula and through to the western states. Above all, the most important thing that you can do to help stop the spread of all tree disease is **do not move firewood of any kind**. A proposal currently exists to revise Michigan Act 189: Insect Pests and Plant Disease, which would create heavy penalties for moving firewood across the Mackinac Bridge. See below for information about three diseases that are currently affecting forests in our area.

EMERALD ASH BORER

In July 2002, a new exotic insect species was discovered in southeast Michigan. The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a wood-boring beetle from Asia that kills ash trees. Larvae tunnel beneath the bark and feed in the cambium between the bark and wood. The tunnels eventually girdle and kill the tree. More than 700 million ash trees are at risk in Michigan alone. As of March 2005, EAB had been discovered as far north as Emmet, Cheboygan, and Presque Isle counties. EAB attacks all ash species including white, green, and black ash. Mountain ash is not affected. For more information, visit: www.emeraldashborer.info.



The Emerald Ash Borer (above). Damage from the larvae of the Emerald Ash Borer (left).



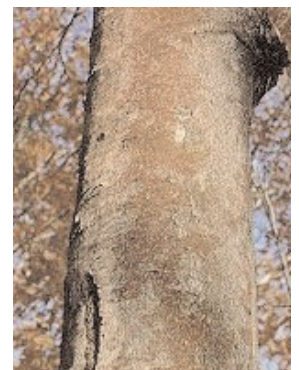
Oak Wilt on Red Oak, the most susceptible species in Michigan.

OAK WILT

Oak wilt is a major disease of oaks that has been found in both the lower and upper peninsulas of Michigan. A fungus causes the disease by entering the water conducting system of the tree through wounds in the tree's bark. The pathogenic (disease) fungus causes the leaves on the tree to wilt. Wilting is followed by rapid death of trees in the red oak family. In the white oak family, death is usually limited to one or more branches of a tree. Oak wilt in Michigan may infect red, black, scarlet, and pin oaks in the red oak family as well as white, swamp, and bur oaks in the white oak family. **PREVENTION:** Avoid pruning, climbing with climbing irons, posting gates, clearing trees, or other activities that would cause wounding of oaks (making them more susceptible to the disease) from **mid-April through June**. For more information about oak wilt and other diseases, visit: www.for.msu.edu/extension/extension.htm

BEECH BARK DISEASE

Beech bark disease refers to a complex that consists of a sap-feeding scale insect and at least two species of *Nectria* fungi. The disease begins when the tiny scale insects, found on the tree trunk and branches, feed on sap in the inner bark. White wax covers the bodies of the scales and when trees are heavily infested, they appear to be covered in white wool. Minute wounds and injuries caused by the scale insects eventually enable the *Nectria* fungus to enter the tree, killing areas of woody tissue and sometimes creating cankers on the tree stem and large branches. If enough tissue is killed, the tree will be girdled and die. In Michigan, the disease has been detected in the Ludington area, Emmet County, and the eastern Upper Peninsula. It has already had a devastating effect on the beech forest at Tahquamenon Falls State Park and could seriously impact the beech tree populations in our area if it continues to spread. For more information about the disease, visit www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fids/beechbark/fidl-beech.htm.



Beech Bark Disease