

Volunteer Steward Newsletter

Issue VIII
Spring, 2006

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



Mackinac Bay Nature Preserve & Overlook

by Susan Rutledge Mackinac Bay Preserve Monitor, Mackinac County

Side Note: In 1994, the acquisition of 22-acres around the Mackinac Bay Overlook was the first cooperative project among the three conservation organizations working in the Les Cheneaux Islands region: Little Traverse Conservancy, the Michigan Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and the Les Cheneaux Foundation. While the land is now owned by Little Traverse Conservancy, its protection was made possible with technical and financial assistance from the other two groups. Located just east of Hessel, the parcel is flourishing with birds and other wildlife. Many unique and interesting species of birds, including the yellowthroat and song sparrow, have been found there. Also known to frequent the property are muskrats, mink, weasel, deer, woodcock, and ruffed grouse. Preserve monitor Susan Rutledge explains more below.

"I was born and raised in the Les Cheneaux region and consider it 'God's Country.' There is no place I'd rather live.

I became involved with the Little Traverse Conservancy when they acquired the land around the Mackinac Bay Overlook. My committee, Les Cheneaux Advisory (Beautification) Committee (LCAC), decided at that time to turn the overlook over to LTC. We do still, however, maintain it.

"I have been an active member of LCAC for over 20 years,

and have held the office of treasurer for most of that time.

Over the years we have had a number of community projects. Among them are: gazebos at the Cedarville and Hessel waterfronts, welcome signs on M-129 and M-134, cemetery pavilion, residential and commercial Christmas Decoration Contest, Mackinac Bay Overlook, Community Christmas Party, exercise park, wooden street signs for the community, and flowers

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The Mackinac Bay Nature Preserve & Overlook is a stopping point along the Great Waters Lake Huron Trail. For more information about the trail, visit www.greatwaters.net.



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and beds at Hessel and Cedarville corners.

“The Mackinac Bay Preserve is a special spot. It is conveniently located, right on the highway, with a fantastic view of Mackinac Bay. The wildlife that can be viewed is varied and diverse. From beavers to ducks, geese, blue herons, swans and sand hill cranes. In the spring as many as 21 eagles have been spotted at one time! A picnic table is on site for those who want to sit and enjoy. The wooden viewing platform also has seating. Plaques have also been put up with pictures and general information on the various wildlife that can be seen.

“It’s quite a thrill to watch osprey fishing. And of course there are deer also. It is a very peaceful and relaxing spot.”

Directions to the Mackinac Bay Nature Preserve:

From the Mackinac Bridge follow I-75 North about 14 miles to M-134. Take M-134 East 13 miles to Hessel. Continue east on M-134. The preserve is less than 1/2 mile past Hessel on the right side. Visit www.landtrust.org for more information.

The Les Cheneaux Islands area is one of the few remaining Great Lakes shoreline regions with a wealth of coastal wetland acreage that has been left mostly intact. Designated a “Last Great Place” by The Nature Conservancy, a world leader in natural lands conservation. The Les Cheneaux Area is at the very heart of this “natural wonder of the world.” This section of Lake Huron coastline is some of the most biologically productive habitat found in the state, and the following are either directly - or indirectly - dependent on the protection of these shores:

- 9 globally rare natural communities,
- 13 federally-listed, threatened, or endangered species,
- 21 globally-rare species of plants and animals, and
- 60 state rare species

Would you like to receive your preserve report forms and volunteer steward newsletters via email? Please send your email address to cindy@landtrust.org



SUSAN CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

Charlevoix County

Looking for a new place to explore? Last summer and fall, the stewardship crew and volunteers worked hard to complete 1.5 miles of new trails at the Susan Creek Nature Preserve, located about 4 miles east of Charlevoix along US-31. The 223-acre preserve has been acquired during the past five years as part of the Conservancy’s US-31 Scenic Corridor Protection Program. An adjacent 55-acre parcel is owned by the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians and will be managed as their Taimi Hoag Nature Preserve. The tribe and the Conservancy have worked together to design additional trails to link the two properties and the tribe plans to complete their trails in the near future.



Save the Date

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Your efforts in helping the Little Traverse Conservancy care for the wonderful nature preserves we've been entrusted with has been invaluable and we want to offer our thanks! We hope you can join us for this year's volunteer appreciation luncheon. We'll begin with a short program, have lunch, and then - if you want - join us for a hike at the college trails. (Watch for an invitation with more details coming in the mail.)

When: Saturday, July 15 11:00 am

Where: North Central Michigan College

Current Preserve Monitors & Trail Stewards

Daniel Adams · Jim and Sue Adams · Joey Arbaugh · Robert and Debbie Archer · Les Arnold · Gary Barfnecht · Phil Becker · Matt Blandford · Curtis and Katherine Bosket · Eric Brown · Mike and Bonnie Brunett · Craig Burke · Michael and Tammy Buttigieg · Joseph and Bridget Cadreau · Nadine Cain · John Campbell and Carson Whitley · Dave Cummings · John and Gene Ann Cansfield · Susan Carson · Diane Conn · Dr. Allen and Jane Damschroder · Marilyn Damstra · Barbara, John, and Bill Danly · Jack Dean and Family · Stan Dickinson · Gretchen Dorian · Mike Dow · Jim and Judy Eddy · Lorraine Edwards · Joel Evans · Sharon Gerlach · Lois Graham · Judy Harvey · Roger Heimbuch · Steve and Jane Horn · Kelly Joyce · Ken Kelsey · Roger Knutson · Barbara Kurtz · Kip and Linda Linklater · Dr. Hugh and Beverly Lockhart · Ric and Lisa Loyd · Kristin Majkrzak · C.T. Martin · John Maximiuk · Marge May · Bill Mayhew · David McCauley · Harriet and Vaughn McGraw · Charles and Norma McKinley · Betty Menzi · Carl and Diane Meyer · Bonnie S. Mikkelsen · Al and Jean Moberly · Chuck and Margy Murray · Ted and Pam Newcomb · Jim and Anne Oleszek · Jeff Pagel · Jeannine Palms and Dale Petty · Mike Parrott · Dean Pollard · Arch Reeves · Diane Rekowski · Gerald and Patricia Rintamaki · Barbara Rivard · John Rohe · Susan Rutledge · Glen Schmiege and Lynne Petersen · Scott Smith · Stanley and Marilyn Smith · Tom Stanley · Kenyon and Sally Stebbins · David Stepanovich · Mike Supernault · Bernie Tillson · Dave Treglown · Mary Jane Ulrich · Jean VanDam · Steve and Connie Vorencamp · Dr. Edward Voss · Jim Ward · Paula Wellmers · Pat Wilson · Ron Winchester · Ken Winter

Volunteer Stewardship Work Days: Garlic Mustard Control

Meadowgate Preserve, Harbor Springs

Friday May 19 – 12 noon - 3 pm

Saturday May 20 – 12 noon - 3 pm

Garlic mustard is a non-native invasive plant that has dramatically spread throughout southern Michigan, but has not yet made a big impact in our area. It readily invades forested habitats, threatening native spring wildflowers (trillium, trout lily, solomon's seal), and disrupting the life cycles of timber regeneration, butterflies, salamanders, and fungi. You can help control this plant by simply cutting or pulling out the stems. Call or email Cindy (231-347-0991 or cindy@landtrust.org) for details on where to meet and what to bring.

For a list of other field trips and outings sponsored by Little Traverse Conservancy, visit www.landtrust.org.

New Preserve Monitors

Sharin Clairmont – Bear Saw Creek Preserve
 Bill Horntvedt – Gauthier Preserve
 Don LeClair – Stony Point Preserve
 Kip & Linda Linklater – West Wequetonsing Preserve
 John Taylor – Ransom Preserve
 Jim & Betty Vosper – Vosper Preserve

Nature Preserve Statistics

1972-2005

County	#	Acres
Charlevoix	37	1,518.5
Cheboygan	25	1,291.3
Chippewa	15	2,010.4
Emmet	80	2,813.0
Mackinac	17	2,319.9
TOTAL	174	9,953.0



2006 Nature Preserve Projects

Charlevoix County

- **Little Sand Bay** - Boardwalk will be repaired/repaired.
- **Ransom** - The house has been removed. We will be evaluating the home site, trail end, and view maintenance plans. Trail maps will be installed.
- **Rufus Teesdale** - The cabin will be removed and a parking area defined.
- **Susan Creek** - Trail maps will be installed.

Logo signs will be installed at the Oyster Bay and Undine preserves. Parking areas and trails will be periodically mowed at Ransom, Raven Hill and Raven Ridge, and Susan Creek.

Cheboygan County

- **Helmer's Dam** - A parking area will be established.
- **Chaboiganing** - We will continue Autumn olive removal

Logo signs will be installed at the Andreae, Bear Saw, and Gauthier preserves. Interpretive signs will be placed at Andreae and Chaboiganing preserves. The parking area and trails at the Chaboiganing Preserve will be periodically mowed throughout the summer.



New interpretive signs will be installed at the Birge, Andreae, and Chaboiganing Preserves this summer.

Chippewa County

- **Bailey - Lagerstrom** - A parking area will be established.
- **Pickering Hay Point** - A parking area will be established.

Logo signs will be installed at the Bailey-Lagerstrom, Hobbins-Meyer, and Pickering Hay Point preserves. A new brochure has been created for the Round Island Point preserve.

Emmet County

- **Goodhart Farms** - We will continue the trail system project; parking areas, gates, signs, etc.
- **Meadowgate** - Garlic mustard removal will occur.
- **Stutsmanville Bog** - A parking lot boundary fence and gate will be installed.

Logo signs will be installed at the Black Hole, Kinglet, Kuebler-Trippe, Sharkey, and Sims-Moffat preserves. Directional signs will be placed at the Oden Island Preserve. Parking areas and trails will be periodically mowed at Stony Point and Stutsmanville Bog.

Mackinaw County

Logo signs will be installed at the Aldo Leopold, Catherine Seiberling Stewart, and Vosper preserves. Interpretive signs will be placed at the Birge Preserve.

