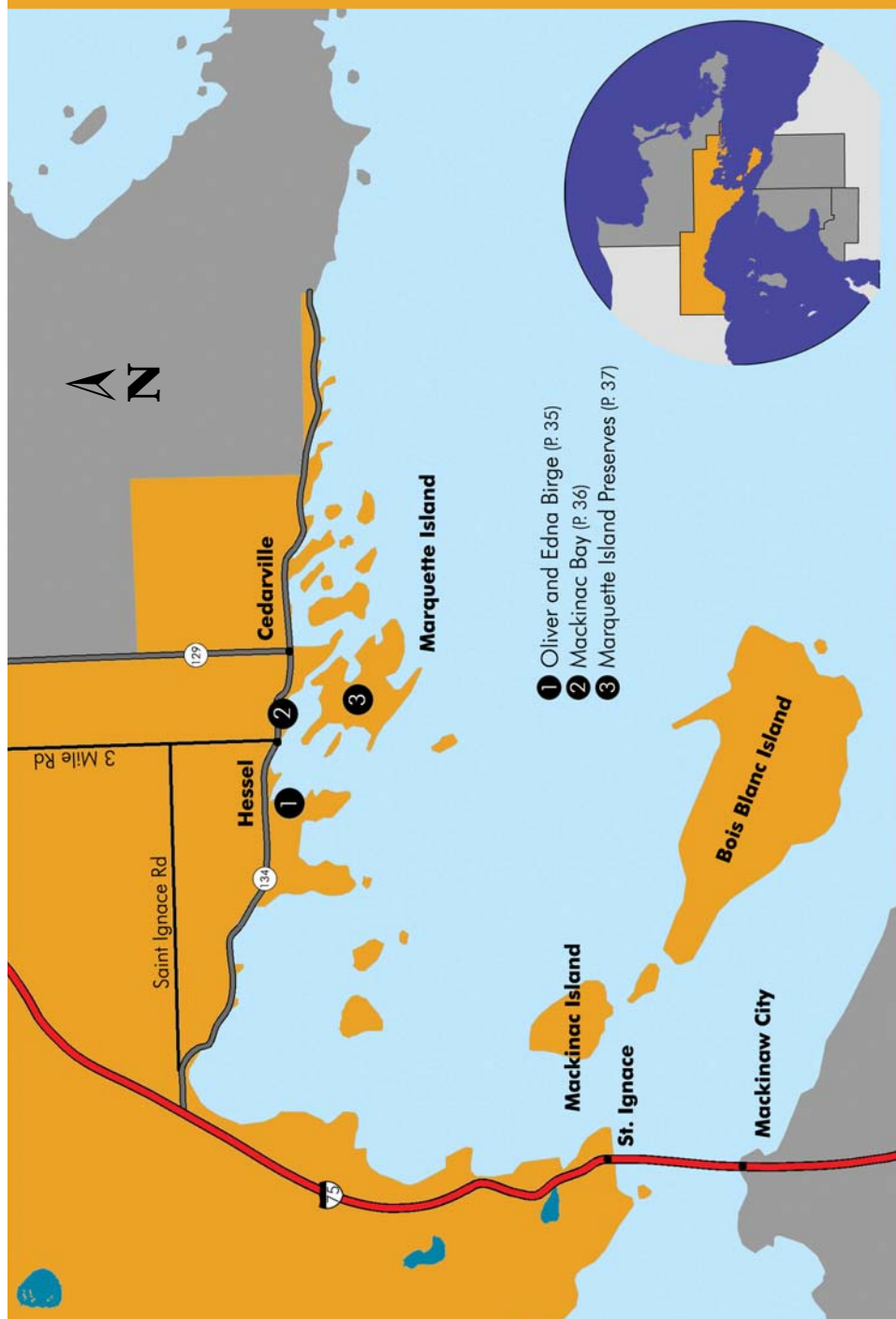


MAP OF
MACKINAC COUNTY PRESERVES



Oliver and Edna Birge Nature Preserve



Size: 435 acres

Frontage: 1.2 miles
frontage Lake Huron

Land Description:

The Birge Preserve includes an impressive complex of cedar wetlands, hardwoods, a small lake, and more than 6,400 feet of frontage on Mismar Bay. The northern Lake Huron shoreline is some of the most biologically productive habitat in Michigan. A short trail to Loon Lake provides opportunities to see beaver, bald eagle, osprey, and many other mammals and birds. Abundant native wildflowers including orchids, lady slippers, gentian, asters, marsh marigold, Indian paintbrush, and iris can be found throughout the property.

Trails: A quarter mile trail and boardwalk leads to Loon Lake.



Directions: From the Mackinac Bridge, follow I-75 north about 14 miles to M-134. Take M-134 east 9½ miles. From Hessel take M-134 west roughly 2 miles to Point Brulee Road. Follow Point Brulee Road ¼ mile. The preserve is on both sides of the road. Parking is at the logo sign on the left, about 100 yards south of the trail entrance



Marked
Trails

The Conservancy received the original 171-acre preserve on Point Brulee as a donation from long-time Hessel residents Oliver and Edna Birge. According to Oliver Birge, the old wheel road that crosses the property is a section of the oldest road in the area. In 1998, 1999, and 2005, three additions were purchased with donated funds.

Mackinac Bay Nature Preserve

Size: 22 acres

Frontage: 1,320 feet
Lake Huron

Land Description:

This northern section of Lake Huron coastline is some of the most biologically productive habitat found in the state.

Freshwater marshes play a pivotal role in the Great Lakes ecosystem by storing and cycling nutrients and organic material. The marshes

throughout the region sustain important populations of bird, mammal, herptile, and invertebrate species. Recent research has shown that aquatic midges from these marshes provide a major food source for neotropical migratory songbirds. Most of the Great Lakes' fish species depend on the coastal wetlands for some portion of their life cycles.

Trails: A parking area is directly off of M-134, providing a handicap accessible marsh overlook.



The Mackinac Bay Preserve consists of 22 acres of land that will never be developed. Its 1994 protection occurred through a partnership of the Les Cheneaux Foundation, Little Traverse Conservancy, and the Michigan chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Management of the property is supported by the Les Cheneaux Advisory Committee.

Directions: 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 ½ mile past Hessel on the right side.



MACKINAC COUNTY

Marquette Island Preserves



Sizes:

Leopold Preserve - 1,202
Sheppard-Hardy - 21.4
Seiberling-Stewart - 192

Frontages:

Leopold Preserve - 3.45 miles
Sheppard-Hardy - .25 mile
Seiberling-Stewart - 1.25 miles

Land Description: In 1993, the northern shore of Lake Huron was designated a “Last Great Place” by The Nature Conservancy, a global leader in natural lands conservation. The Les Cheneaux region is at the very heart of this “natural wonder of the world.”

Trails: These island preserves are accessible only by boat (or by travel over the ice in winter). They provide opportunities to explore along the shoreline, bushwack through dense conifer forests, or, in a few limited circumstances, travel along footpaths or two-track roads. However, please note that there are no formal hiking trails and visitors are asked to not trespass on adjacent property without permission.

None of the Marquette Island preserves would have been made possible without the generosity, perseverance, and love of the islands shown by many residents including George Covington, Bonnie Mikkelsen, Katherine Sheppard, the Ayres, McMillan, and Williams families and many others. Significant funding for the purchase of the Seiberling Stewart Preserve was provided from a grant through the North American Wetland Conservation Act Program.



Directions: From the Mackinac Bridge, follow I-75 north about 14 miles to M-134. Take M-134 east 13 miles to Hessel. You can reach the islands from launches in Hessel or further east in Cedarville. Only accessible by boat.



MAP OF CHIPPEWA COUNTY PRESERVES



Bailey-Lagerstrom Preserve - Sugar Island

Size: 362 acres

Shoreline: 1.9 miles combined of St. Marys River/Lake Superior and inland lake shoreline

Land Description: The Bailey-Lagerstrom Preserve is one of our largest, most wild, and remote nature preserves. Located within the St. Marys River migration corridor, its pristine wetland and shoreline habitats make it important for migratory birds and wildlife.

Trails: Despite its remoteness and lack of “traditional” trails (2007), this preserve is relatively easy to access. From the parking area, hike in on an old road to the shore. When the road curves to the left near the shore, you can cut west through the woods to the rocky Lake Nicolet shoreline, or continue walking south on the old road. Both routes lead to a large beaver pond in the south part of the preserve.



Glen Schmiege

Acquired in 2004 as three separate projects, the purchase of this nature preserve was funded by the J.A. Woollam Foundation, the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) program, and Michigan Audubon. The preserve was named in honor of Tom Bailey and Tom Lagerstrom, Little Traverse Conservancy's long-time Executive Director and Associate Director.

Directions: From downtown Sault Ste. Marie, travel east to the Sugar Island ferry. Once on the island, drive 3.7 miles east on 1 ½ Mile Road. Turn right on Brasser Road. Drive 11 miles south on Brasser (which turns into Homestead Road after about 4.5 miles). The parking area is on Homestead Road on the right at a big curve. Give yourself at least 15 minutes to get back to the ferry. The ferry returns to the mainland on the hour and half hour.



Jinny Palms Nature Preserve

Size: 360 acres

Land Description: Situated a mile inland from Lake Superior, this preserve borders the Michigan Nature Association's 370-acre Lake Superior Preserve. The northwest portion of Chippewa County is the wildest and most remote land in LTC's service area and contains some of the largest blocks of unfragmented landscape within the Conservancy's preserve system.



Trails: Sandy roads provide access to the southwest and southeast corners of the preserve and old logging roads provide easy paths for foot travel, but no designated trails exist. This preserve is remote and may be difficult to find if you are not familiar with the area. A four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended and be sure to take a map with you.

This preserve contributes to some of Michigan's most significant wildlife habitat. The land is located approximately nine miles north of Tahquamenon Falls and 11 miles west of the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory near Paradise.

The protection of the Palms Preserve was made possible with a donation from Jeannine Palms who named the preserve in memory of her mother, Jinny.



Directions: From Paradise, go west on U.S. 123 toward Tahquamenon Falls for about 4½ miles. Turn right onto Farm Truck Road (also marked as designated snowmobile route #452). Go north on Farm Truck Road about ½ mile and go left at the fork, staying on Farm Truck. Go 4 miles then turn right at the fork onto Mapleblock Road (still marked as #452). Go north on Mapleblock 5.4 miles and at a log landing area, go right following signs for #452. Go about 1 more mile and the preserve entrance is on the left.



Trails
Not
Marked

Round Island Point Nature Preserve



Size: 1,024 acres

Water frontage: 9,000 feet Lake Superior

Land Description: This large block of protected habitat in the Upper Peninsula provides excellent wildlife habitat for black bear, wolf, moose, bobcat, and others. The property lies within a major flyway for migrating waterfowl and other birds. This is the Conservancy's second largest nature preserve.

Trails: While much of this preserve is rugged and difficult to access, a paved road bisects the property and takes you within a short distance of the lake. (There are no established trails that lead directly to the lake.) A 1½ mile long inland trail and viewing area are available.

The original 460 acres of the preserve was donated to the Michigan chapter of The Nature Conservancy by the Finlayson family. In 2000, The Nature Conservancy transferred the land to Little Traverse Conservancy and LTC has fundraised to purchase several additions.

Directions: From Sault Ste. Marie, head south on Hwy. 75 to exit 392. Travel approximately 1 mile and turn left (south) on 20th Street (S. Bakerside Road) and travel 3 miles. Turn right on 6 Mile Rd. Go 5 miles and turn right (north) on Birch Point Rd. (east loop). Go ½ mile and look for logo and directional sign on right. Turn right onto paved road. Follow one mile to parking and trail head at end.



CHIPPEWA COUNTY
NEW ACQUISITION AT **Vermilion Point**

Size: 175 acres

Water frontage: 9,240 feet Lake Superior

Land Description:

This preserve is defined by the majesty and moods of Lake Superior and its remote location.

It contains a wide sandy beach, low shore dunes, upland forest, old cranberry bog wetlands, and a stream. Ecologically, the land is known habitat for the federally endangered piping plover.



Trails: No established trails but a dirt road takes you to a parking area where easy access to the beach is available.

This spectacular property was protected in February 2007 thanks to a bargain sale from Evan Noyes and his Wildshore Foundation and grants from the J.A. Woollam Foundation and the North American Wetland Conservation Act Program. Historically, this property and its associated buildings were a life saving station first built in 1847. Years of neglect and harsh Lake Superior weather have taken a toll on the buildings which are being restored. Researchers from Lake Superior State University, The Nature Conservancy, and Michigan Audubon use the property to study the piping plovers as well as other birds, and the wetlands.



Todd Parker

Directions: From Paradise, head north on Whitefish Point Road approximately 5 miles. Turn left on Vermilion Road (near Andrus Lake campground). The road will quickly become gravel and sand. Four-wheel-drive is highly recommended. Travel roughly 7¼ miles until road veers north. (Be careful not to go onto 452.) Continue north on Vermilion Road for more than a mile. Two parking options are available.

