

# Weekend Weather

## Friday

Partly Cloudy  
High: 75° / Low: 57°



## Saturday

Mostly Sunny  
High: 74° / Low: 58°



## Sunday

Partly Cloudy  
High: 77° / Low: 65°



## Beyond the Gates – Charles A. Ransom Nature Preserve

This week, John Deane will be a guest writer for the article. Thanks, John, for the contribution!  
-Frazer

Next up for the Beyond the Gates is an inbound, guest writer suggestion that takes us to the east side of Lake Charlevoix to a view and hiking gem called the Charles A. Ransom Nature Preserve. Easy to get to and with an important connection to the Belvedere Club – the 80-acre site was donated to the Little Traverse Conservancy in 1976 by Woodbury and Christiana Ransom in memory of their son, Chipper.

Mary and I have enjoyed outings here for many years. The preserve boasts both one of the most spectacular views in northern Michigan from its elevation of 320 feet above Lake Michigan (on a clear day you can see Lake Charlevoix, a broad expanse of Lake Michigan, four islands, and the distant Leelanau Peninsula) and a fun hike down and up ancient dunes now covered with Michigan hardwoods (we recommend taking the trail counterclockwise and with plenty of bug spray). The trail is about 1 ½ miles long with some steep parts near the beginning. A spring hike will include a large expanse of trillium and an autumn one loads of fall colors.

All-in-all, a great choice to enjoy the splendor of northern Michigan with near total quiet. And, it is always fun to debate its location across Lake Charlevoix from the Belvedere Beach!

To get there from Charlevoix, take US 31 north towards Petoskey and then right on the Boyne City Road to a left turn on Quarterline Rd (just past Susan Lake), follow Quarterline Rd north to a T-intersection with Maple Grove Road, and turn left again. The road ends about ¾ mile at the preserve's parking area.

Best regards,  
John C. Deane

