



Door County Land Trust

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Partners in Preservation



Detroit Harbor Nature Preserve

Photo by Dan Eggert

*The mission of the
Door County Land Trust
is to preserve, maintain,
and enhance lands that
contribute significantly to the
scenic beauty, open space,
and ecological integrity of
Door County.*



On our cover: Sunlight filters through the towering hardwood forest at the new Boo's Bluff Nature Preserve on Washington Island. Photo by Dan Eggert

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Office: 23 N. Fifth Avenue
Mailing: PO Box 65, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Phone: (920)746-1359 • Fax: (920)746-1024
Email: info@doorcountylandtrust.org
www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 2014 Annual Report! This report is filled with inspiring stories about the many ways people work together in the effort to protect and care for Door County's exceptional lands and waters. All these stories help to illuminate the fact that it is the power of people and partnerships that informs our work and fuels our success.

The importance of partnerships was on clear display one afternoon last summer when, after a board of directors' meeting, staff and board members met several generations of the Erskine-Winneman family at the beautiful property they had just donated to the Land Trust. We went that day thinking we would be the ones thanking them for gifting such a special place and for entrusting the Land Trust with property that had been in their family for many generations. We, of course, did convey our sincerest gratitude, but what made this meeting so inspiring is that they had come with intentions of thanking us as well. They eloquently spoke about the deep-rooted memories this property held, the connections that their parents and grandparents had with this property, and their gratitude that the Land Trust is able to protect this place that has meant so much to their family. We left that small gathering with a more profound awareness that we truly do need one another if we hope to succeed in preserving this special corner of the world we call Door County.

The need for partnerships is also clearly evident when it comes to the care of Land Trust protected lands. Our staff develops land management plans for each Land Trust nature preserve, but we rely on a dedicated corps of volunteers to help carry out the plans. Dozens of men and women meet regularly to help construct and maintain hiking trails, plant trees, erect trail signs, remove invasive plants, and monitor Land Trust properties. In the words of one of our land stewardship volunteers, "the work of creating a nature preserve is never finished."

It is the efforts of all our partners—from volunteers willing to roll up their sleeves out on the land and in the office, to visionary landowners like the Erskine-Winneman family, to our generous members and supporters—that make the work of the Land Trust possible. If there is one theme this annual report tries to convey, it is this: to truly protect the essence of Door County requires a team of people who view land and water as a vital community asset and who work together to ensure that succeeding generations will enjoy its benefits.

Thank you for being a partner in this rewarding endeavor! Enjoy reading about the news you helped to create.

Sincerely,


Kathy Wolff
President


Dan Burke
Executive Director



*Door County Land Trust President Kathy Wolff (left)
and Executive Director Dan Burke (right).*

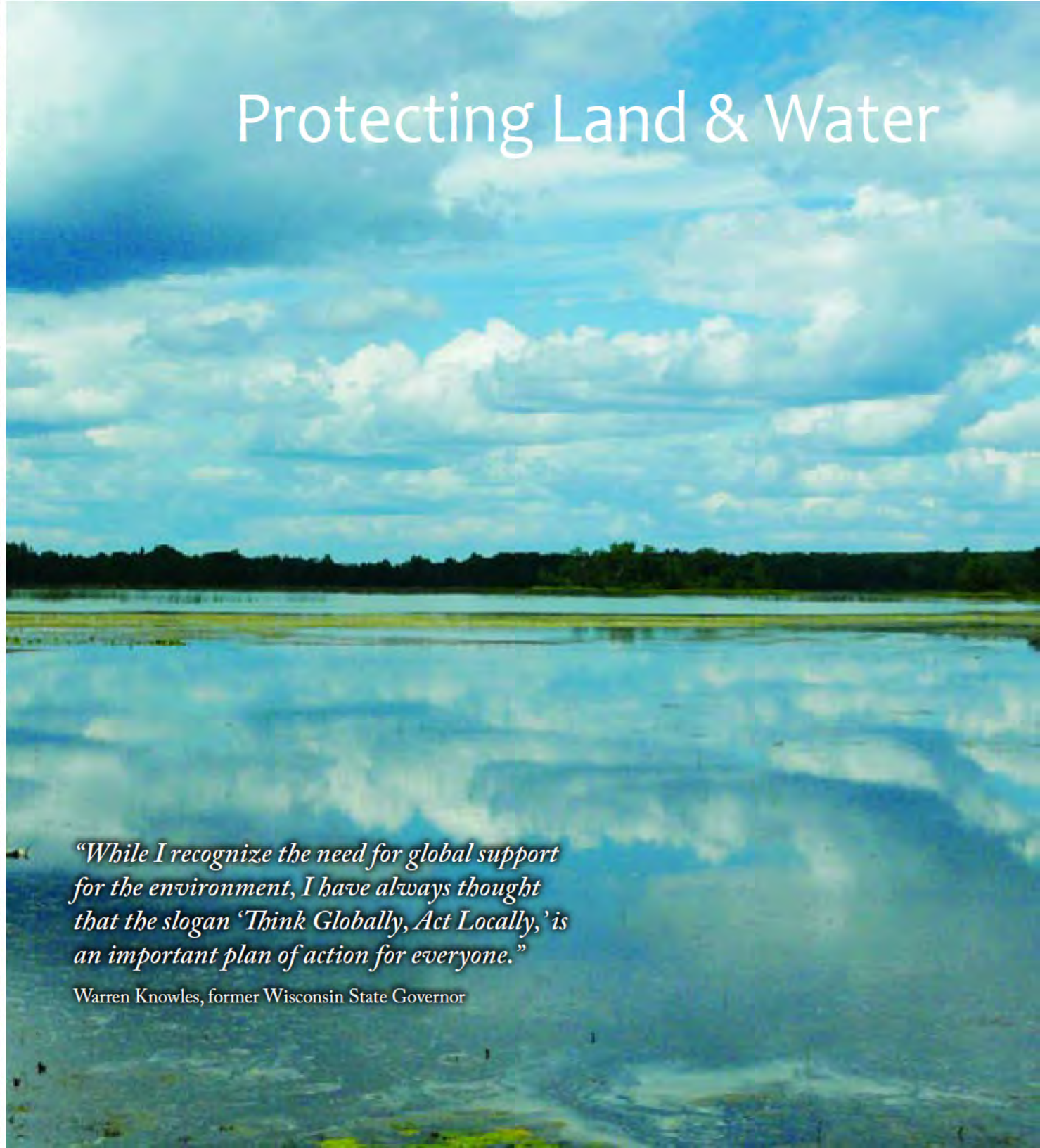


Photo by Dan Burke



Photo by Dan Burke

Protecting Land & Water



"While I recognize the need for global support for the environment, I have always thought that the slogan 'Think Globally, Act Locally,' is an important plan of action for everyone."

Warren Knowles, former Wisconsin State Governor

For the Love of the Land

The Door County Land Trust will long remember 2014 as a year of landowner generosity—a generosity that led to the establishment of a number of new nature preserves. It was also a year of honoring family history, continuing a land ethic that began generations ago, and sharing conservation values by working with the Land Trust to permanently protect special family lands for all to enjoy. The following stories illustrate just a few of the family connections to the lands that have been protected in 2014.

The earliest childhood memories Suzanne Fletcher and her sisters have of Chambers Island are of helping their parents build, brick by brick, their modest island home and of spending time exploring the island. Even after they grew up, Suzanne and her two sisters managed to get back to Chambers for a few days each summer. Suzanne and her husband, Bob, now spend most of their summer on the island. She said, “When you experience a place as a very young child, and you go back year after year, it seeps into your deep consciousness.” When islanders like Suzanne and her family recognized that a generational change was coming, the idea of protecting the island’s vast woodland took hold.

Suzanne and others quickly mobilized, and they called on the Land Trust to help make their vision of a 1,000-acre public nature preserve a reality. In 2014, work on this vision began as the Land Trust acquired three parcels totaling 115 acres, and purchase agreements were secured for the eventual acquisition of another 250 acres. This initial success is proof of what can be accomplished when families and neighbors unite to protect a place they love.

Families whose ties to Door County date back over 130 years know just how special this place is and how much it has changed. MaryEllen Erskine Rothwell’s family is a typical example. Her great-

grandfather purchased 80 acres along the banks of Hibbard Creek in the late 1800s. He and his family used it to pasture cows, pick berries, make maple syrup, and cut cord wood and fence posts. Her mother, Leone, was a teacher who placed high value on “keeping things in their natural state.” Mary Ellen said, “She was knowledgeable about everything on the property and knew every plant and its characteristics. It was a treasure for her.” By donating a portion of this land to the Land Trust in 2014, the Erskine family honored past family members and ensured their beloved land will be kept in its natural state forever as the Erskine Woods Natural Area.

When you speak to Peter Hirthe, who spent his childhood days investigating the woods and caves on his family’s property on North Bay, you instantly recognize his deeply felt connection with the land. As kids, he and his siblings explored the impressive rock walls and caves. Peter said, “I would be the one lowered in—mischief in the caves! We really enjoyed our time out there.” Experiences such as this shaped Peter and the Hirthe family’s land ethic and prompted them to work with the Land Trust in 2014 on a bargain sale that led to the creation of the Walt’s Woods Natural Area. The name honors Peter’s father.

The rich human stories these properties tell will live on, thanks to the Land Trust and these families. So too will the beautiful scenery and the impressive diversity of plants and animals that call these lands home.

Top Left: WI Department of Natural Resources staff tour the new Walt’s Woods Natural Area near Baileys Harbor.

Bottom Left: A rare wood lily found at the shoreline of the Walt’s Woods Natural Area.

Near Left: Land along a stretch of Lake Mackaysee, the inland lake on Chambers Island, will be protected thanks to three Door County Land Trust purchases made possible by the generosity and support of islanders.

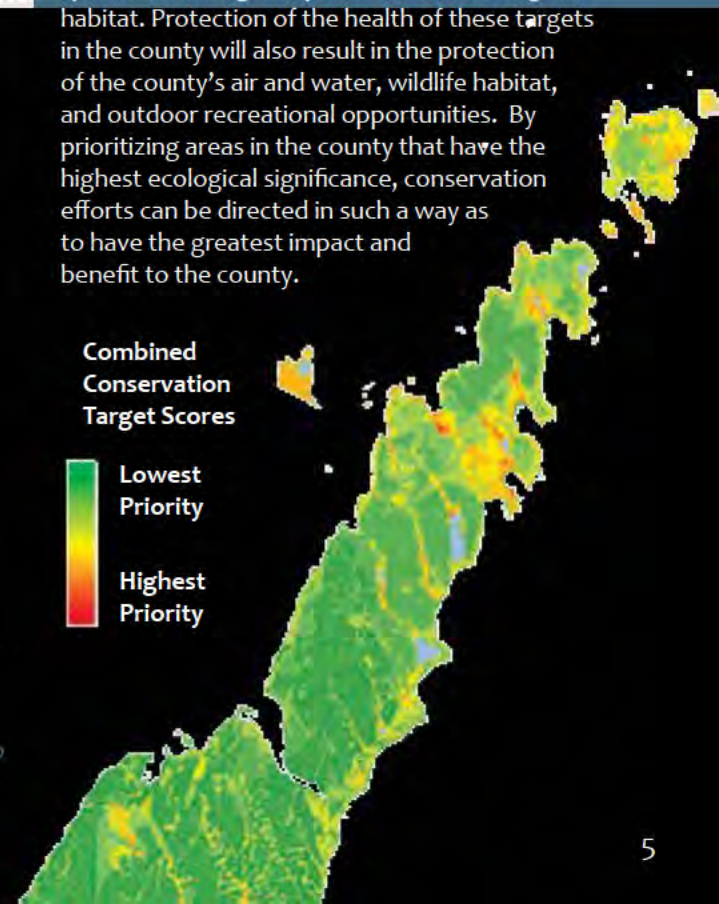
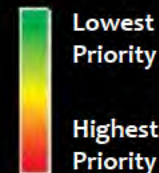
Selected Highlights

Protecting Land & Water in 2014

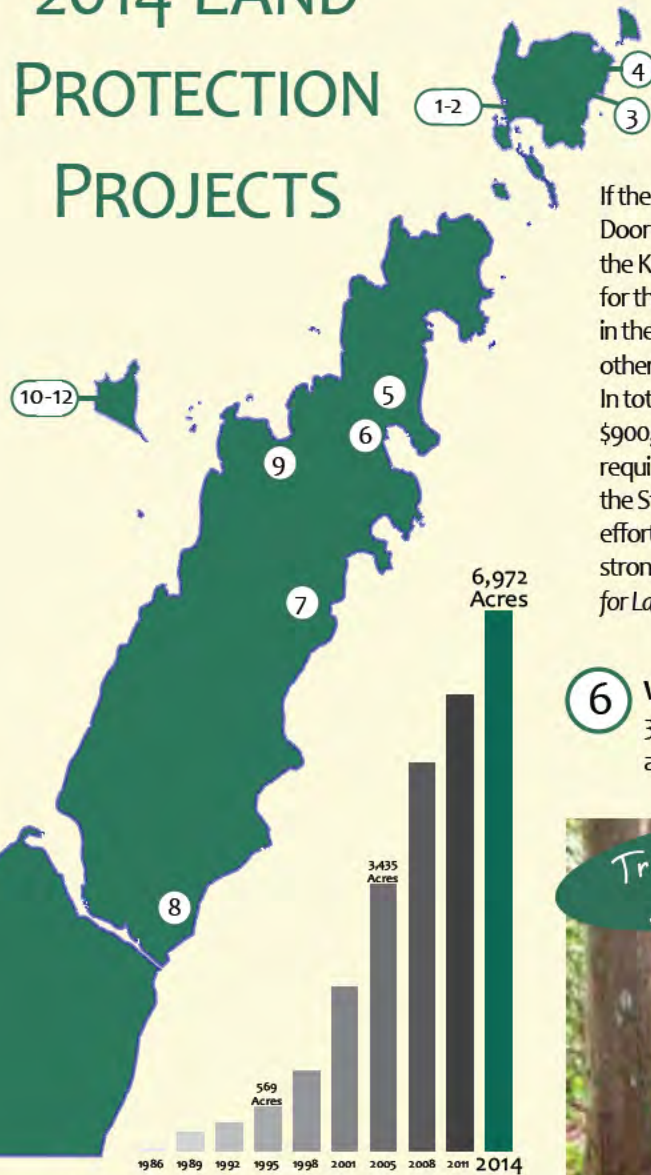
A New Door County Conservation Plan Created in Partnership with The Nature Conservancy

In 2014, The Nature Conservancy spearheaded a planning effort with conservation staff from the Door County Land Trust, The Ridges Sanctuary, US Fish & Wildlife Service, WI Department of Natural Resources, the Door County Soil & Water and Planning Departments. Together, these professionals identified the most important ecological targets in the county and their presence was mapped and ranked by quality. These targets included native forest, Niagara Escarpment, fish habitat, wetlands and groundwater recharge areas, Hine’s emerald dragonfly habitat, shoreline systems, and migratory and colonial nesting bird habitat. Protection of the health of these targets in the county will also result in the protection of the county’s air and water, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreational opportunities. By prioritizing areas in the county that have the highest ecological significance, conservation efforts can be directed in such a way as to have the greatest impact and benefit to the county.

Combined Conservation Target Scores



2014 LAND PROTECTION PROJECTS



Twelve properties, totaling 259 acres, were protected by the Land Trust in 2014, bringing the total number of acres protected by the Door County Land Trust to 6,972.

2014 land projects were made possible by grant funding partners, donations of land, and bargain sales. See page 15 for details.



Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

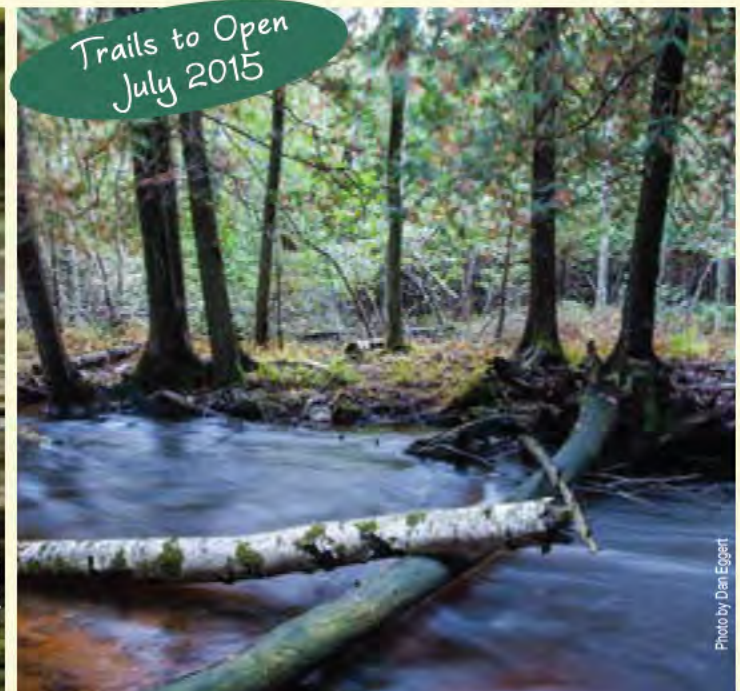
If the above logo is placed on a photo here, it indicates that the Door County Land Trust applied for and received a grant from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program (Stewardship Fund) for this project. Stewardship Fund grants are awarded to help in the creation or expansion of public parks, nature preserves or other nature-based recreational lands throughout Wisconsin. In total, the Land Trust applied for and was awarded over \$900,000 in Stewardship Fund grants in 2014. The Land Trust is required to match grants dollar for dollar. To learn more about the Stewardship Fund, its impact to land and water conservation efforts, and steps people can take to help keep this vital program strong into the future, visit *Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts* website at www.GatheringWaters.org.

- 6 Walt's Woods Natural Area, Baileys Harbor**
330 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline, ancient sea caves, and a majestic old growth Boreal forest now protected



- 1-2 Detroit Harbor Nature Preserve, Washington Island**
Two tracts were added to this preserve, protecting a forest for migrating warblers and songbirds and pristine springs that feed into Detroit Harbor's small mouth bass nursery

- 7 Erskine Woods Natural Area, Jacksonport**
15-acre land donation protects a pristine stretch of Hibbard Creek, wooded dunes, and old growth pines





3 **Big and Little Marsh, Washington Island**
Purchase protects over 200 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline and one of Door County's most impressive bedrock beaches featuring ancient sea fossils

8 **Kellner Fen Natural Area, Sturgeon Bay**
Purchase adds 40 acres of forest, wetlands and critical habitat for the endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly to this nature preserve



Photo by Dan Eggert

4 **Boo's Bluff, Washington Island**
Land donation establishes a new nature preserve and protects beautiful rock bluffs and boreal forest along 500 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline

9 **Gibraltar-Ephraim Swamp, Ephraim**
10-acre purchase of high quality cedar wetland helps to purify water that flows into the nearby waters of Green Bay



Photo by Janna Cooper



5 **Three Springs Nature Preserve, Sister Bay**
Preserve expanded by 40 acres, including springs and wetlands that are important to Lake Michigan's North Bay fish habitat

10-12 **Chambers Island Nature Preserve**
Three separate purchases, with over 110 acres of Lake Mackaysee shoreline and towering forests, form the nucleus of the new Chambers Island Nature Preserve



Photo by Dan Eggert



Selected Highlights

CARING FOR THE LAND IN 2014

Landscape Scale Conservation: Bay Shore Blufflands Area Plan

If you're a homeowner, you know first-hand the challenges of developing and carrying out a landscape plan and vision for your own property. Well, imagine having to do this for a seven mile stretch of land encompassing more than 4,000 acres! That was the challenge facing Land Trust members Dan Collins and Nancy Aten as they set out to create a land management plan to benefit a large area of forest, wetlands, fields, and Niagara Escarpment surrounding three Land Trust nature preserves south of Egg Harbor. They started by partnering with the Land Trust to obtain a grant from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program to bring together experts and local professionals from a variety of disciplines to study this grand landscape. The results from these studies guided development of goals, education, and land stewardship projects that will enhance this region and heighten neighborhood awareness for this special place. Some projects, like planting native fruiting Juneberry trees along public roads in the neighborhood, were implemented in 2014 while others await additional research or funding.


Restoring the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve

The Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve is a rich mixture of diverse habitats, including ridges and swales, hemlock forest, lakeshore, cedar swamp, and grassy dunes. More than half of the preserve's 442 acres consists of important wetlands that provide vital migratory and breeding habitat for many bird species. But, when the Land Trust acquired the property in 2010, it was threatened by a rapidly spreading infestation of woody invasive plants that were literally choking out the native vegetation. In 2014 the Land Trust, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, applied for and was awarded a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service North American Wetlands Conservation Act for the removal of invasive plants throughout the preserve. The goal of this ambitious restoration effort is to bring this important shoreline property back to optimal health for our feathered friends and the many people who visit and appreciate this preserve.

Monitoring the Nature of Door County

Students, researchers, and volunteer citizen monitors are studying Door County Land Trust nature preserves to better understand the unique ecology of the county. A citizen monitoring project to count the little brown bat population at the Three Springs Nature Preserve revealed 2014 to have the highest bat population on record, and one of the largest bat populations in Door County. At Peil Creek, the creek that winds through the Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve, stream monitors record dissolved oxygen, aquatic invertebrate populations, and other indicators that show the health of the surrounding wetland. At the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve, researchers and graduate students annually monitor the population of the federally endangered Pitcher's dune thistle, which has increased in population since the Land Trust acquired the property in 2010. Also at the Ship Canal Nature Preserve, breeding birds are surveyed annually. By comparing data from these annual surveys, the Land Trust will be able to track the rate at which bird populations increase in response to habitat improvements.

Caring for the Land

A photograph showing three people walking through a field of tall grass. In the foreground, a woman in a red long-sleeved shirt and black pants is walking towards the camera. Behind her, two other people are walking away from the camera towards a body of water in the distance. The sky is overcast.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

A Community Effort

If you were to look at a map of Door County's land parcels, you would see a tapestry of lands protected by the Door County Land Trust and other conservation partners. But you would also see that the vast majority of Door County lands are under private ownership. Thus, to truly protect and care for our nature preserves requires the participation of many landowners and of entire neighborhoods. Nature knows no property lines after all. The winds blow seeds from one parcel to another. Water flows from one property to the next. We're all connected!

The Land Trust views its protected lands as a community resource and relies on area residents to steward these special places. Neighbors to our Bay Shore Blufflands Nature Preserve, Dan Collins and Nancy Aten, led projects in 2014 to create awareness of neighborhood concerns and inspire landowners surrounding the nature preserve to participate in healthy land and water protection projects. Dan says, "Once they put their boots on the ground, they'll end up owning a piece of the project." To improve the health of the Bay Shore Blufflands Nature Preserve, the Land Trust demonstrates to landowners best-practices for eradicating invasive plants found in the neighborhood.

Another very special group of dedicated people partnering with the Door County Land Trust are Preserve Stewards. Preserve Stewards are Land Trust volunteers who often live near our nature preserves and hike these protected lands on a regular basis in order to identify and address concerns. In the area surrounding our Three Springs Nature Preserve, many residents are seasonal or "weekenders," according to one of our Three Springs Preserve Stewards, Ralph Blankenburg. Ralph works to involve more neighbors and hikers in projects at the preserve. "Some of our neighbors, including the 'weekenders,' will drop in for a land stewardship work party. They even call us to find out when and where to meet." Participating in work parties at the preserves is a true community effort.

Community partnerships are vital to protecting Door County's interconnected landscape. Land Stewardship Manager, Jodi Milske, says, "The heart of land stewardship is based on partnerships that allow us to pool and leverage our organizational resources." Through these partnerships the Land Trust is able to inspire more people in the community. After all, one inspired landowner engaging another landowner is the Land Trust's greatest tool in protecting and restoring the health of Door County's land and waters.

Left: High school students from Milwaukee Lutheran High School installed a new wood foot path at the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve. The path keeps visitors away from fragile sand dune habitat for the federally endangered Pitcher's dune thistle.

Top Right: Participants in a dragonfly workshop led by Land Trust member Paul Burton learned about the importance of wetland health in protecting the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly. The workshop was one of over fifteen "shovel-ready" projects developed during creation of the Bay Shore Blufflands Master Plan.

Bottom Right: Nest boxes were installed at the Legacy Preserve at Clay Banks and at the Oak Road Nature Preserve to attract breeding pairs of kestrels, the smallest member of the falcon family. Sturgeon Bay Utilities donated the poles, equipment, and labor. Land Trust Preserve Steward Tom Mabbott built and attached the nest boxes.



Photo by Nancy Aten



Photo by Christen Roseman



Selected Highlights

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THE LAND IN 2014

Hike Leader Education

Why are the soils so shallow in Door County? How did the bluffs of Door County's Niagara Escarpment form? To find out these answers you may want to ask one of Door County Land Trust's volunteer hike leaders. Each year, hike leaders for Land Trust *Explore the Door* outings participate in ongoing education at Land Trust nature preserves. In 2014, hike leaders participated in a tour by renowned geologist Roger Kuhns where they learned about the Silurian Sea that once covered this area over 420 million years ago and that led to the formation of the karst bedrock beneath Door County. Hike leaders look forward to sharing their knowledge with *Explore the Door* hikers in the coming year!

My Healthy Wetlands: A Workshop for Wetland Landowners

In October, the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, the Door County Land Trust, and other conservation partners held a joint workshop for landowners of wetlands to learn about best practices in caring for their land and increasing the quality of the water and wildlife habitat on their property. Over a dozen landowners participated. Workshops like these increase the scope and impact of conservation work throughout Door County, especially on privately-owned lands.



Connecting People with the Land

"It's not just the spotted owl that is endangered in nature; it's the human child. And if children aren't going outside today, who is going to care about the spotted owl fifteen years from now?"

Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods*

May We All Learn from the Mystery of Nature

There is tremendous value to experiencing the natural wonders of the outdoors first-hand. In fact, author and educator Richard Louv has even coined the term 'nature deficit disorder' to describe the psychological effect that results when we become too disconnected from the outdoors. The Land Trust is fostering a connection with nature by establishing miles of rustic hiking trails on its preserves and by providing a variety of outdoor experiences through the *Explore the Door* hike and outing series. Land Trust *Explore the Door* hike leader, naturalist, and educator Marilyn Hansotia believes that we can all experience the physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits by being "a part of the mystery that we call nature."

Marilyn's approach to leading a Land Trust outing is to share what can be seen and experienced. Marilyn leads an evening hike each spring to a protected wetland to listen to spring peepers and other frogs. Amidst the cacophony of frog sounds, she talks about the fragility of the species, quality of the wetlands, and the importance of monitoring frog populations as an indicator of the health of the land and water. Marilyn says this nighttime experience, and the overwhelming sound of the frogs themselves, is far more memorable than reading from a textbook. "You don't have to be a great student in the traditional sense. You just have to be present to experience it." When asked who would benefit most from nature-based outings such as these, she swiftly answered,

"children." She says connecting the next generation to the land, "gives our youth a life-long gift to appreciate the simple things around us, and a reason for us to work to protect the land."

Talk to any of the Land Trust's volunteer hike leaders, and you'll learn immediately what sparks their interest in giving so much of their time. Jack Finger is another *Explore the Door* hike leader who sees the impact and value of outdoor experiences. "Sometimes, people make decisions about the land based on dollars and cents, and this can often lead to negative consequences. People who enjoy our nature preserves or who join us on our hikes come away more knowledgeable about how our natural systems are connected." Jack says that understanding these connections is crucial, that the decisions we make for the lands and waters today will affect the health of our community for generations to come.

In 2014, the Land Trust led over 40 hikes with over 1,000 participants of all ages. Children from Gibraltar Area Schools and the Sturgeon Bay YMCA participated in hikes and workshops which built on classroom lessons and offered unstructured explorations at the nature preserves. Connecting these young conservationists to the land and waters in their own neighborhood will have a lasting impact in the future, when protecting Door County is in their hands.

Far Left: Students from Gibraltar Area Schools learn about insects and invertebrates that inhabit high-quality wetland areas near the Bay Shore Blufflands Nature Preserve.

Left: Land Trust member Dan Collins holds a western fox snake (aka pine snake). Researchers and students from the Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee conducted a small mammal survey at the Bay Shore Blufflands Nature Preserve to gauge the health of this area, better understand how mammals use this landscape, and inform habitat improvements that may be needed.

Selected Highlights

BUILDING A STRONG ORGANIZATION IN 2014

Accreditation: Earning a Seal of Approval

The Door County Land Trust is pleased to announce it will be going through the process of accreditation in 2015. Land Trust members and partnering organizations can be assured that once awarded accreditation, the Door County Land Trust will be an even stronger and more effective organization. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission reviews policies and programs of land trusts across the country and awards accreditation to land trusts meeting high-quality standards and practices. The Door County Land Trust dedicated considerable time in 2014 to improving operations, policies, and procedures that guide our work. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments relating to how the Door County Land Trust complies with national quality standards. To learn about these standards and how to submit a comment for record, please email info@doorcountylandtrust.org.

Unprecedented Gift Prepares Land Trust for the Future

In 2007, long-time Land Trust members, Richard and Dorothy Burkhardt, made stipulations to deed their waterfront residence to the Door County Land Trust upon their deaths. Their intent was to have the Land Trust then sell the residence and use the proceeds to further its conservation mission. With Richard and Dorothy's passing in 2014, the residence was sold and the opportunity to better prepare the Land Trust for the future was at-hand. The Land Trust Board of Directors directed the majority of sale proceeds to increase the Stewardship Endowment Trust, a fund designed to provide a permanent, steady stream of income for the monitoring, restoration, and care of 7,000 acres of permanently protected lands. The Board also used proceeds to establish a new Land Acquisition Fund to better enable the Land Trust to take advantage of opportunities to purchase and protect lands of exceptional scenic beauty and ecological integrity. The Land Trust will be forever grateful to Richard and Dorothy and their family for providing this unique and unprecedented gift that allows us to prepare for the future.

Times, They are a Changing: New Staff Join the Land Trust Team

You may have noticed a few new faces around the Land Trust office lately. With the departure of two long-time staff members in 2014, Laurel Hauser and Bobbie Webster, Susan Gould was hired as our new Development Director and Drew Reinke returned to his home state of Wisconsin to work with landowners as our new Land Protection Specialist. In addition to Susan and Drew's arrival, Amanda Pyke joins the team as our Land Stewardship Assistant to coordinate and manage the care of our nature preserves, and Amy Dwyer is our new Administrative Assistant who will ensure that our record-keeping is sound. Together, the Land Trust's staff of ten is a dedicated, talented, and professional group committed to protecting and caring for the lands and waters that make Door County the inspiring place that it is.

Stronger Together

*"Wilderness is not a luxury
but a necessity of the human
spirit, and as vital to our lives
as water and good bread. A
civilization which destroys
what little remains of the
wild, the spare, the original,
is cutting itself off from its
origins and betraying the
principle of civilization
itself."*

Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*

A Foundation as Solid as Bedrock

Since the first parcel of land was protected in 1986, the Door County Land Trust has flourished, thanks to the strength and leadership of highly skilled staff and board members, a committed base of annual supporters, strong conservation partners, dedicated volunteers, and an engaged community that values the protection of Door County's most scenic and ecologically valuable places. While financial contributions, sound policies, and a solid mission are integral, the core strength of the Land Trust lies in people and the enduring partnerships that have shaped the organization.

When asked what made the Land Trust's Board of Directors successful, Tim Stone, past-president of the board, replied, "There has to be a balance of people from all walks of life. A board consisting solely of passionate conservationists or of business owners would not be balanced. Everything has to come into play to be successful." Tim commented that the board was able to navigate through a series of challenging decisions in 2014 due to this diversity of perspective and through considerate discussion.

Volunteers with complimentary and varied skills are just as important to the Land Trust's success. Projects from data entry and record-keeping, highly-specialized scientific monitoring, to leading *Explore the Door* hikes show the breadth of skills volunteers

offer. Dolores Hermann, volunteer coordinator of the *Explore the Door* program, works with volunteer hike leaders whose past professions run the gamut, and thanks to their diverse backgrounds, the hikes offered reflect the various interests of these volunteer leaders.

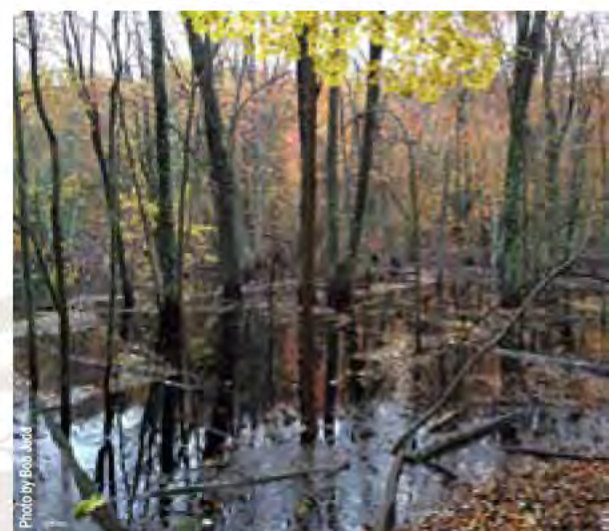
Families and members who lend their financial support to the Land Trust show their strength in numbers. Each year, the number of Land Trust members rises, which is a testament to just how deeply our community cares about protecting the beauty and character of this special place. Community conservation, land protection projects for the people and by the people, would not be possible without this dedicated support. Permanently protecting important landscapes and preparing for the future is an endeavor too large for a single organization. Landscape scale protection can only be completed by working together. Kathy Wolff, President of the Board of Directors, defined the Land Trust's commitment to the community by saying, "We see our organization as greater than the sum of its members. We see our work from a county-wide perspective. Our strength comes from the support of the entire community. The whole community is embracing the work to protect this county."

Left: This aerial photo is taken just north of the Sturgeon Bay shipping canal and features the open waters of Kellner Fen, part of a 185-acre Land Trust nature preserve. This biologically rich site is home to an impressive diversity of rare and unique plant and animal life.

Upper Right: Heavy rains in 2014 resulted in a colorful eruption of fungi, including these mushrooms found at the Heins Creek Nature Preserve northwest of Jacksonport.

Center Right: The Ephraim Preserve at Anderson Pond filled after heavy rains in September and October.

Lower Right: An activity booklet with projects for children was developed in spring of 2014. Here, two children explore at the Bay Shore Blufflands Nature Preserve.

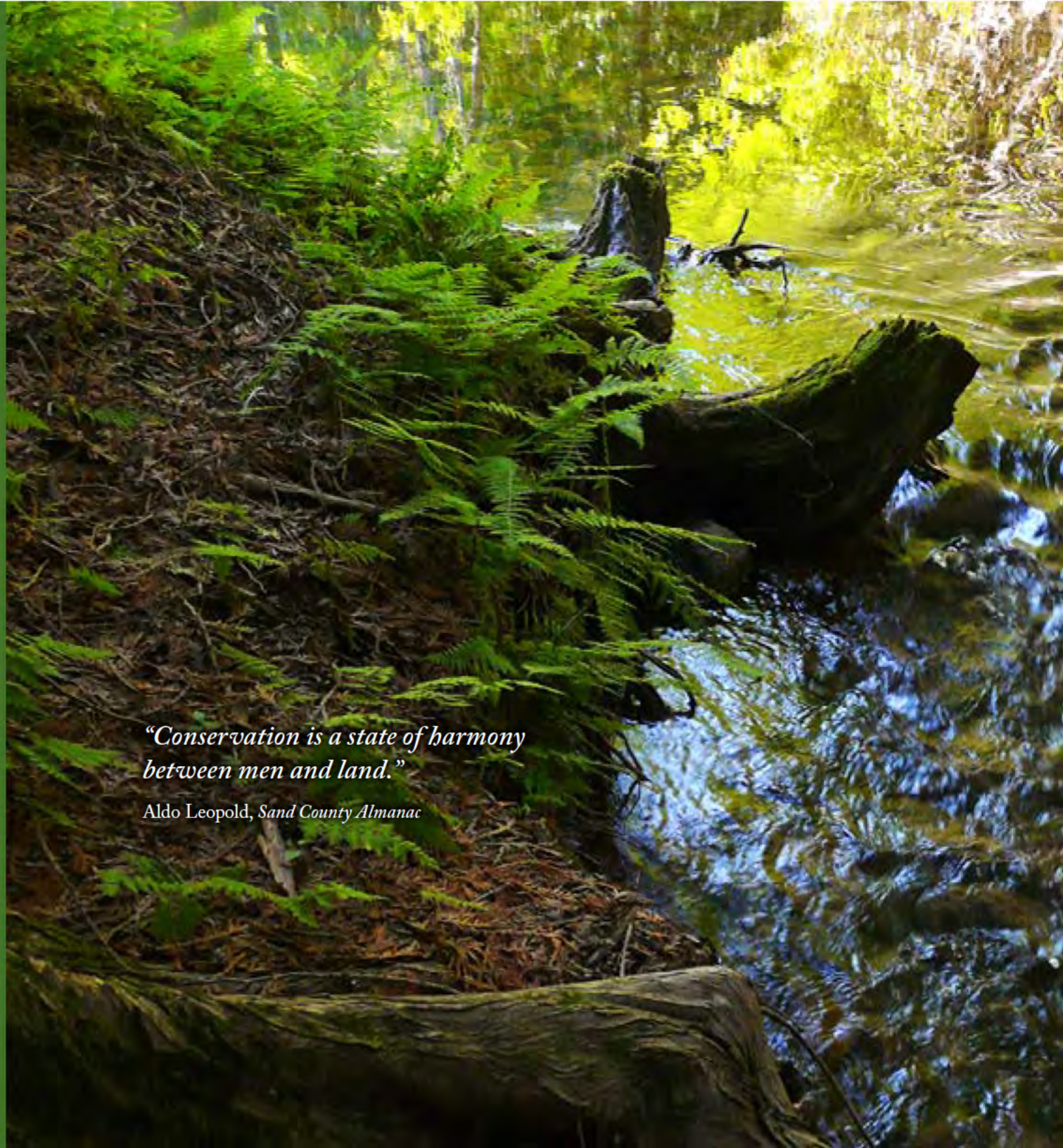


2014 Membership Support by the Numbers

- 2,234 households had memberships in 2014
- 472 households increased their giving in 2014
- 134 households made their first gift to the Land Trust in 2014
- 24 members made a contribution of \$10,000 or more
- 57 households have included the Door County Land Trust in their estate plans, becoming members of our *Sustainers Circle*, which represents a 16% increase over 2013
- 10% more funds were raised at Land Trust events than in 2013. Event proceeds directly benefit our land preservation efforts

*“Conservation is a state of harmony
between men and land.”*

Aldo Leopold, *Sand County Almanac*



2014 Financial Report

As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Door County Land Trust depends on the generosity and contributions from members and supporters to finance our land protection work. 2014 audited financial statements and our Federal Form 990 are available by request.

As of 12/31/2014, the Door County Land Trust had assets totaling \$4,228,920* and liabilities totaling \$51,605. Assets include:

Cash and 6-month Reserve Fund	\$ 1,123,792
Land Acquisition Fund ¹	\$ 250,000
Legal Defense Fund ²	\$ 161,275
Stewardship Endowment Trust ³	\$ 2,136,305
Pledges and Receivables	\$ 161,986
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits	\$ 161,735
Inventory	\$ 11,510
Office and Equipment	\$ 222,317
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 4,228,920

*In addition to the above, the Door County Land Trust owns, manages, and protects nature preserve lands with a value of \$22,938,119.

¹The Land Acquisition Fund is set aside for use in covering costs associated with land purchases.

²The Legal Defense Fund is a segregated fund for use in defending and enforcing Land Trust conservation easement agreements and to resolve encroachments or vandalism issues that may arise on Door County Land Trust owned properties.

³The Stewardship Endowment Trust is a segregated fund designed to provide a long-term stream of income for monitoring, stewarding, and restoring Door County Land Trust protected properties.

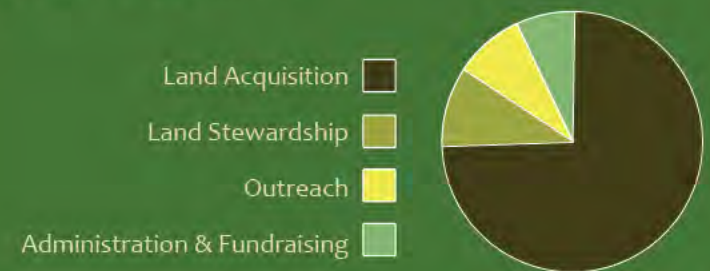
Stewardship Endowment Trust

The Endowment is managed by Baylake Bank and is governed by the following Board of Trustees:

Inge Bacon	Tony Fiorato	Jeff Ottum
Sharon Donegan	Jim Lester	Al Radtke

If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to the Endowment, please contact Dan Burke or Susan Gould at the Land Trust office, (920) 746-1359.

2014 Use of Funds



In 2014, the Door County Land Trust spent a total of \$2,580,035 on the activities described above.

How do we fund our Land Acquisition Projects?

As you might imagine, land conservation can be a very expensive endeavor. Three separate sources help the Door County Land Trust establish new nature preserves or expand existing preserves. First, we use contributions from our supporters to help pay for land acquisition costs. Second, we often receive land donations from generous property owners. In 2014, two landowners donated their lands outright (the Erskine-Winneman family and Michael Fassett) while a third (the Hirthe Family) offered their land at below market value. The third source comes from land acquisition grants that we apply for and receive. In 2014, the Land Trust worked hard to acquire land acquisition grants from Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the North American Wetland Conservation Act Grant Program, and the Lower Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council. It is the power of combining and leveraging these three sources that led to significant conservation success. We thank our members, generous landowners, and state and federal agency partners for their role in protecting Door County's special places!

We thank the following partner organizations and agencies for their support of our 2014 land acquisition and stewardship projects:

Fox River and Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council
Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program
The Nature Conservancy
US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Coastal Wetland Grant
US Fish & Wildlife Service, North American Wetland Conservation Act Grant



Planned Giving:

Where There's a Will, There's a Way

Planned giving is a great way to share your love for Door County. You can leave a legacy of protected lands for future generations by making provisions for the Door County Land Trust in your estate plans.

For more information on becoming a member of our **Sustainers Circle**, please contact Susan Gould, Development Director, at (920)746-1359. If you have already named the Land Trust in your estate planning documents and are not listed below, please let us know so we may thank you.

SUSTAINERS CIRCLE MEMBERS



Anonymous
Anonymous
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Sylvia Youell

BEQUESTS, MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

Gifts received between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014

BEQUESTS

Burkhardt, Richard and Dorothy
Foster, Peg

TRIBUTES

In Honor of Dick and Joan Baudhuin
Melissa Bennett

In Honor of Bev Blietz's Birthday
Jack and Diane Finger

In Honor of the Birth of Allison Rose Copans
Steven and Maia Lewis

In Honor of Paul and Lori Crittenden
Beth Coleman and Curt Wessel

In Honor of Tonya Crowell, Scattergood Siblings et al
Kirk and Donna Scattergood Family Fund of the
Greater Green Bay Community Foundation

In Honor of Donald and Marion Cushman
Susan Cushman

In Honor of Kurt and Marlene Dramm's 50th Wedding Anniversary, June 20, 1964
Hans Dramm and Sarah Keller

In Honor of Suzanne Fletcher
Michael Knowles

In Honor of Kirby D. Foss
Kirby and Margaret Foss

In Honor of Barb and Rick Frank
Mary Brevard

In Honor of Van and Hildy Gathany
Kristen Gathany

In Honor of Ed and Nancy Hamilton
William Sant

In Honor of Laurel Hauser
John and Julie Carpenter

In Honor of Laurel Hauser (continued)

Tony and Cathy Fiorato
Jim and Donna Janning
Michael and Barbara Madden
Bill and Barb Perloff
Dave Tilton and Paula Oeler

In Honor of Doug and Barbara Henderson's Kindness In Showing Their Garden
PEO Sisterhood Chapter EE

In Honor of Kathy Hubing
Dan and Marjorie Andrae

In Honor of Rev. Cynthia Johnson
Bill and Sue Jacobs

In Honor of Darryl and Dianne Johnson
Jon and Judy Hollingshead

In Honor of The Marriage of Barbara Markoff and River Kaster
Irv and Reesa Gottschalk

In Honor of Colette and David McDonough
Emilie McDonough

In Honor of Jane McKie and Dave Zuhlke
Eldon and Kathryn McKie

In Honor of Barbara Morgan and Deanna D'Abbraccio
Erion Foundation

In Honor of the Morris Families
Carolyn Fields

In Honor of Sandra Place
Bernie Harrer and Lisa Schab

In Honor of Bobbie Raymond
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In Honor of Marianne and Paul Roppuld
Judith Kalb
Maureen Riopelle and Robin Baliszewski

In Honor of Kirk and Donna Scattergood
Tad Gilster

In Honor of Pete and Carol Schuster
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In Honor of Don Sessions
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In Honor of Irma Stiemke
Dan and Marjorie Andrae

In Honor of Jock and Karen Wilcox
Jeff and Sue Johnson

In Honor of Bill Wolff
MMG Foundation, Inc

MEMORIALS

In Memory of William G Bruns
Jeanne Bruns
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In Memory of Richard and Dorothy Burkhardt
Karl and Lucy Klug

In Memory of Dick Butzlaff
Bob Spoerke

In Memory of Mary Grace Cano
Mary Brevard
Bruce and Leanne Hoppe
Karen Kant
Ben Laird and Mary Jane Rintelman

In Memory of Carl Carlson
Bob and Mary Dunworth

In Memory of Susan Casey
Bill and Barbara Urbrock

In Memory of Eleanor DeVries
Bruce and Bev Blietz
John and Kathy Campbell
Roberta Elliott
Glidden Drive Association, Inc

In Memory of Eleanor DeVries (continued)

Daniel Mcconnell
Margaret Schnackenberg
Carl and Ruth Scholz
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In Memory of Robert and Carol Farwell
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In Memory of Robert Fellman
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In Memory of Mickey Fellows and Mary Ann Miller
Keith and Katherine Lindstrand

In Memory of Polly Fosdick
Roma Lenehan

In Memory of Laverne Grzesk
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Joe and Lynda Schimberg
Neena Schwartz
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In Memory of Bonnie Hendrickson
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Lynn Coriveau
Mary Hauser
Kevin Kelly and Linda Silvasi
Marilyn McDonald
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Mark and Betty Curzon
David and Renny Lea
Martha Wagner

In Memory of Kathleen Pfister
Dan and Marjorie Andrae
Mike and Judy Brodd
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Susan and Larry Reeve

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Ned and Carol Czajkowski

In Memory of Ken Robillard
John, Denise, Kristin, Jenna and Erik Oimoen

In Memory of Jim Sargent
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In Memory of Beth Schab
Bill and Jerri Rix

In Memory of Craig "Bunky" Schuth
Grasse's Grill

In Memory of Lucy Sedar
Jo Sedar

In Memory of John Squier
Mathew and Julie Brevard

In Memory of Marilyn Stone
Phil and Marilyn Hansotia
Ron and Judy Lokken

In Memory of Ernst J and Elsa Von Briesen
Ted and Peggy Von Briesen

In Memory of Mary Julia White
David and Lynn White

In Memory of Janet Wilson
Elizabeth Sperberg

In Memory of George Wittekind
Bill and Jerri Rix

In Memory of Cynthia Young
Bob and Liz Dickson

Door County Land Trust Giving Societies

In 2013, the Door County Land Trust launched the *Grand Peninsula Society* and the *Northern White Cedar Society* as important means of securing the annual financial resources needed to protect and care for special places throughout Door County. To join these societies, individuals, families, and foundations provide the Land Trust with gifts of unrestricted, top-level contributions on an annual basis. Giving Society Members receive special recognition in print materials and have opportunities to participate in special appreciation events.

If you are interested in learning more about the giving societies and how your annual giving at these levels ensures our long-term sustainability, contact Susan Gould, Development Director, at the Land Trust office.

Grand Peninsula Society
\$10,000 and above



Northern White Cedar Society
\$1,000 - \$9,999



2014 FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Total cash gifts received during 2014

We thank the following donors who, in partnership with the Door County Land Trust, help protect the special places of Door County.

Welcome to our new supporters! Donor names listed in **bold type** made their first contribution to the Land Trust in 2014.

\$10,000 AND ABOVE

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Steffen, Michael *
Stone, Tim and Sue *
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Uihlein, Margery
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Vanderson, William and Gehrke, Christina *

* Grand Peninsula Society members.
See page 17 for details.

NORTHERN WHITE CEDAR SOCIETY \$1,000 - \$9,999

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Anonymous
Anonymous
Arey, Virginia
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Keller, Chuck and Carol
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Walker, Bill and Sunshine
Walwark, Jim and Polly
Warch, Margot
Warner, David and Rose
Watson, Rob and Picken, Judy
Weese Young, Shirley
Wenberg, David and Brenda
White Gull Inn
Widen, Arnie and Judy
Wilson, John and Karen

Wiltse, Curtis and Roxanne
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Wolff, Bill and Kathy
Yeomans Cottages LLC
Youell, Sylvia

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Andrae, Dan and Marjorie
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Anonymous
Anonymous
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Benson, Don and Mary Lee
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Brodd, Mike and Judy
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Coleman, Beth and Wessel, Curt
Conroy, Peter and Beverly Ann
Cramer, Ward and Judy
Cummings, James and Lisa
D'Abbraccio, Deanna and Morgan, Barbara
Dagon, Russell and Sandy



Door County Land Trust hike leaders hosted over 70 youth from the YMCA summer camp at Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve in August.

Derksen, Jon and Susan
 Deschler, Peter and Gina
 DeWitt, David and Julie
 DiBuono, John and JoAnn
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 Door Islands Bird Festival
 Douthitt, Jack and Zimmer, Michelle
Dramm, Hans and Keller, Sarah
 Duffin, Jacinda
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 McDonough, Dave and Colette
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 Sandlund, Dave and Pat
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 Schaars, Bill and Mary Jo
 Scholz, Carl and Ruth
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 Schultz, Craig and Sandy
 Schulze, Gary and Beverly
 Schwab, Dennis and Gail
Sedar, Jo
 Shadle, Neil and Lillie May
Sheard, Bart and Linda
 Sherman, Gerald and Lipp, Carolyn
 Shields, Walt and Tiggy
 Shoreline Restaurant

*Guests at the 'Ephraim
 Italiano' Dining for Open
 Spaces event gathered for
 cocktails and an inspiring
 ecology talk about
 the Gibraltar-Ephraim
 Swamp*



Photo by Mike McCutcheon

Hike leaders discover fossils along the shoreline of newly protected property adjacent to Percy Johnson County Park, Washington Island.

Siegel, Catherine
Sijgers, Robert and Reid, Christine
 Stanley, Jerrel and Judy
 Stony Creek Builders
Sutra Gallery
 Sweeney, Michael and Barbara
 Szuberla, Wayne and Geri
 Temple, Vic and Ginny
 Terra Cottages
 The Garden Lady
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Thurman, Tom and Barbara
 Tishler, Bill and Betsy
 Toth, Susan and Peirce, Nancy Jane
 Tranquilli, Bill and Mary Sue
 Troutman, Bryan and Diane
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 Von Briesen, Ted and Peggy
 Vopat, James and Theresa
 Voreis, Mark and Lucia
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 Wahl, Bob and Barba
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 Walker, Richard and Melissa
 Walters, Mark and Diane
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 Whitney, John and Jane
Wienke, Jane
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 Williams, Lou and Moster, Mary
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 Wilson, Jim and Doris
 Wilson, Nick and Demoly, Marc
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 Zeller, Peter and Lisa
 Ziarnik, David
 Ziman, Rudy and Shirley
 Zimmer, John and Bernie
 Zuckerman, David and Madsen, Judy

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Ahrendt, Meg Fitzgerald
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 Ames, John and Betty
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 Cross, Jerry and Steffens, Jayne
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Dwyer, Amy Watts
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Fitzgerald, Tim
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 Gauger, Stephen and Aimee
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 Flansburg, Ron and Jean
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Annual Gathering guests gathered around the garden at the Liberty Grove Historic Society Museum adjacent to the Grand View Scenic Overlook and Park. The celebration was a reminder of the great partnership between the Township of Liberty Grove and the Door County Land Trust.

Foote, Tad and Bosey
 Ford, Martin and Hilary
 Forsberg, Bob and Margo
 Foss, Kirby and Margaret
 Fox, Robert and Michele
 Franceschi, Bruno and Shirley
 Franceschi, Laura
Frank, Peter
 Franz, Jeff and Engs, Ruth
 Frely, Michael and Donald
 Frely, Richard and Betty
 Friedberg, Gerri
Friedrich, Tom and Laurie
 Frunceck, Ron and Theresa
 Fry, Jack and Marcia
 Fuller, Dan and Lois
 Furlick, Tony and Cheryl
 Gadient, Stephen and Margaret
 Garces, Christopher and Lorrie
 Garrity, Jerry and Lois
 Gaston, Bud and Karen
 Geiger, Chuck and Cheri
 Genskow, Judy
 Gerrits, Nick and Katherine
 Gershan, Bob and Jill
 Gifford, Andrew and Lisa
 Gilson, Michael
 Gilson, Susan
 Glessner, Kay
 Goldberg, Larry and Barbara
 Goldsmith, Ann
 Goodner, Dale and Mary
Goodrich, Mary
 Gordon, Brad and Judy
Gorski, Deb Whitelaw
 Goss, Nancy
 Graboyes, Joseph
 Graef, Robert and Maude
 Graff, Jerry and Ann
Green, Andrew
 Green, Kathy
 Greene, Tad and Deb
Grishaber, Barb
 Groenfeldt, Tom and Keli

Grossman, Leroy and Marcia
 Grow, Conrad and Marlene
 Grzechowiak, Dale and Janda, Melissa
 Guilfoile, Tom and Jeanne
 Habschmidt, Jim and Paula
Hage, Eric and Denise
 Hale, Mary Jean
 Halverson, Paul and Gloria
 Hamann, Jim and Jane
Hammerberg, Lucy
 Hammerberg, Wally and Norma
 Hammond, Gary and Susan
 Hanney, Rick and Roxanne
 Hanreddy, Joe and Jami
 Hansen, Doris
 Hansen, Elizabeth
Hansen, John and Barbara
 Hagent, Stephen and Margaret
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 Hanson, Jon and Bonnie
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 Harding, Ruth and Jeff
 Harmon, George
 Hartmann, Bob and Bonnie
 Hatch, Mick and Lisa
 Hays, Bob and Donna
 Heath, Bill and Darlene
 Hebal, Bill and Katie
 Heck, Al and Fowler, Deirdre
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 Heide, Doc and Jessup, Jody
 Heidenreiter, Terrance and Rabel, Jeanne
 Heil, Richard and Carol
Hein, Marilyn
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 Hellstedt, Linda
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 Henrichs, Melvin and Ruth

Henshaw, Cullen and Sally
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 Heyer, Russ and Kay
 Higdon, Rich and Dahl, Katie
 Hilbert, Ryan and Jessa
 Hill, Kenneth and Jeannie
 Hilton, Ron
 Hitch, Gregory
 Hoard, Judith and Ringgenberg, Beth
 Hobson, Carol
 Hoelzel, Jim and Linda
 Hoft-March, John and Eilene
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 Holey, Mark and Michaela
 Hoover, Robert and Rebecca
 Hopper, Arthur and Dee
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 Horwitz, Bruce and Marla
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 Howard, Phoebe
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 Hubbard, Kenneth and Denise
 Huff, Christopher
 Hughes, George and Sue Raye
 Hultman, Marv and Barb
 Hutmacher, Michael and Carol
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 Ingerson, Katy
 Irwin, Harriet
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 Jacobs, Gail
 Jacobs, Steve and Amy
Jacobson, Tim
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 Jarvis, Eugene and Barbara
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 Jelen, Mike and Annette
 Jerdee, Ann
Johnson, Alan and Gail
Johnson, Ann
 Johnson, Bill and Cathy
 Johnson, Charles and Marilyn
 Johnson, Dale and Michele

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Johnson, TC and Linda
Johnson, Tom and Nancy
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Krause, Tim
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Krueger, Dean and Judith
Krueger, Thomas and Kimberly
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Kubitz, Jack and Nancy
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Laird, Emily and Schafer, Eric
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Lange, Jeff and Brenda
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Larson, Paul and Corky
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Miller, Marvin and Audrey
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Murphy, John and Dorothea
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Porter, Harry and Judy
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Potter, Rod and Judy
Poulton, David and Marlene



Hikers bundled up for an Explore the Door hike at the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve.

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Prindle, Peggy
Propsom, Rich and Bruesch, Jane
Protz, Jane
Protz, Janet
Prout, Steve and Susan
Quick, Doug and Karen
Quigley, Mike and Mary
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Quirsfeld, David and Kathleen
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Rosenthal, Deborah
Rothschild, John
Rowdon, Noelle
Ruggeri, Roger and Wagoner, Andrea
Rusy, Agnes
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Ryan, Bob and Sue
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Sadler, Frank and Annie
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Sandretti, Dick and Sally
Sandstrom, Karen
Sanford, Lynda
Sannes, Randy and Sandy

Santilli, Bob and Gloria
Saron, Gordon and Dianne
Sautebin, Alice
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Schaper, John and Susan
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Scheinoha, Chad and Jenny
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Schneider, Allan and Betty
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 Walsh, Jim and Ann
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