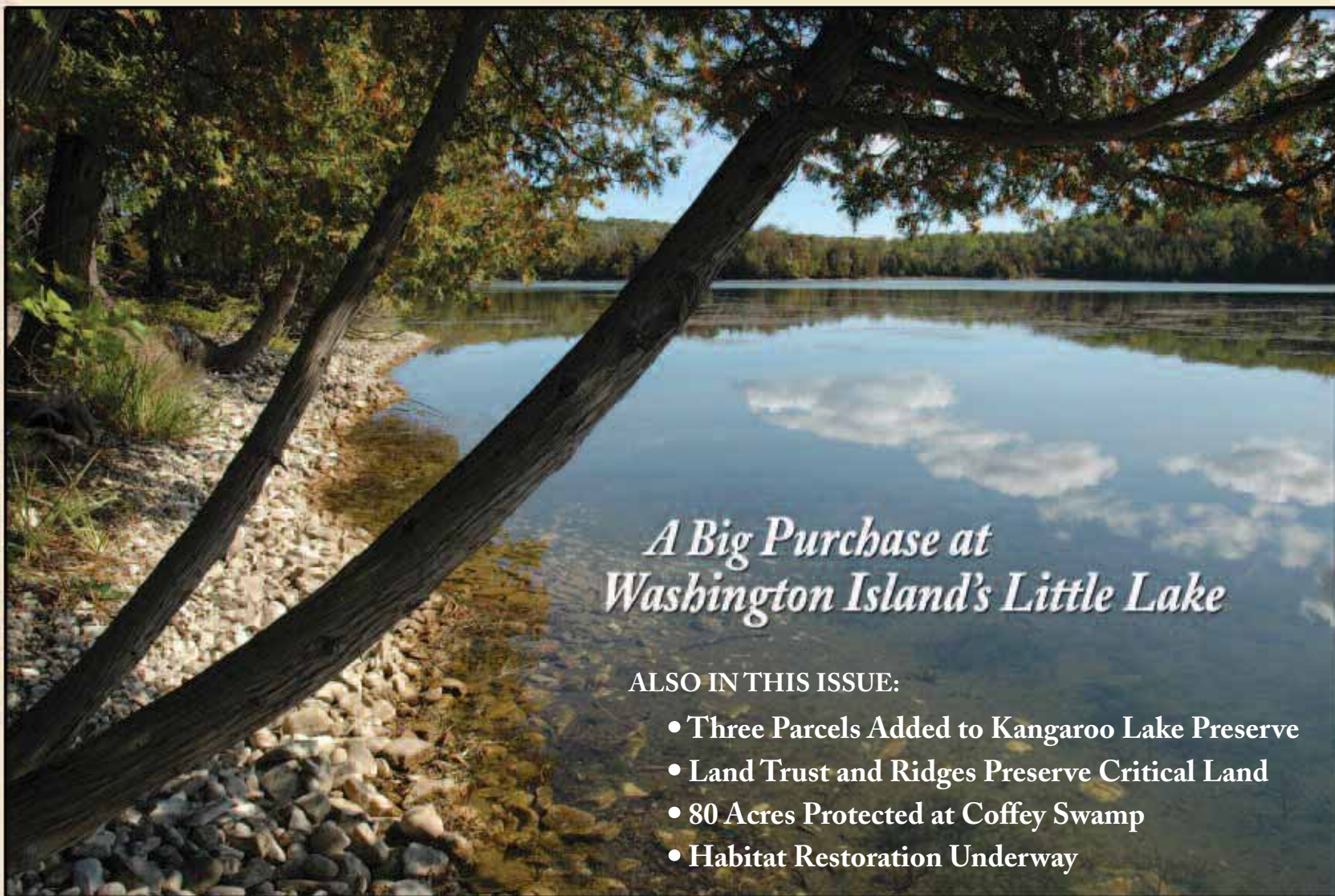




Fall 2007, Vol. 10 Issue 1

Landings

JOURNAL OF THE DOOR COUNTY LAND TRUST



A Big Purchase at Washington Island's Little Lake

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Three Parcels Added to Kangaroo Lake Preserve
- Land Trust and Ridges Preserve Critical Land
- 80 Acres Protected at Coffey Swamp
- Habitat Restoration Underway



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Cover photo: Little Lake Preserve on Washington Island,
photo by Julie Schartner



Design & layout of "Landings" by *LfpDesign!*

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome to *Landings*. I hope this holiday season finds you and your family well and in good spirits. We here at the Land Trust certainly have a lot of holiday cheer to share with you as evident by the beautiful cover photo of our newly-protected property on Washington Island's Little Lake. The announcement of our exciting purchase of thousands of feet of pristine shoreline at Little Lake is but one of the many land preservation success stories we will share with you in this issue of *Landings*. The special places that are profiled in these pages capture the true essence of Door County and their protection serves as a reminder to us all of the important and lasting work we are accomplishing together.

In October, while attending the Land Trust Alliance's national conference in Denver, Colorado, I was again reminded of the importance of our land preservation mission and the sense of urgency that underlies our efforts. This conference brings together over 2,000 fellow colleagues working or volunteering for local land trust organizations throughout the country. There are over 1,700 land trusts at work in the United States and this gathering provides an ideal format to view our local conservation work here in Door County in a broader, national context.

It is so inspiring to know that the accomplishments we are realizing in Door County are being replicated in communities throughout the United States. For example, on the eastern shores of Lake Michigan, just 70 miles from Door County, our friends at the Little Traverse Conservancy, Grand Traverse Regional Conservancy and Leelanau Conservancy have preserved thousands of acres of lakeshore, sand dunes, forests and bucolic open spaces throughout northwest Michigan. When you put together the successes of the Door County Land Trust with those of these three organizations, you gain a better appreciation for the ability of community-based land trusts to protect open space and critical wildlife habitat on a regional scale. On a national level, land trusts have now conserved over 37 million acres!

Encouraging news? Absolutely! But these accomplishments must be tempered by the fact that our mobile, ever-expanding human population is putting an unprecedented strain on the ability of communities to preserve their rural character, scenic beauty and ecological integrity. Here in Door County where there are more rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals than any other county in Wisconsin, we still have an opportunity to preserve precious lands that sustain and nurture our economy, our ecosystems, and our souls. As Land Trust members and supporters, you play an integral role in helping us make the most of this opportunity. Our children and grandchildren deserve to know Door County for what it is today – an inspiring landscape of unequalled beauty and ecological abundance. Please know that we appreciate all your support and do take comfort in knowing that what we're doing together in Door County is being done all across America. Wishing you and yours all the best this holiday season!

Sincerely,

Dan

Dan Burke, *Executive Director*

Mission Statement

*To protect, preserve,
and maintain lands
that contribute
significantly to the
scenic beauty,
open space, and
ecological integrity
of
Door County.*



Little Lake Preserve, Washington Island

photo by Laurel Hauser



The Places We Protect: **BRUSSELS HILL PRESERVE**

Land Trust Easement Expands Southern Door Preserve

I know of no other place in the Midwest where one's identity is so connected to the end of the county – north or south – they call home. Door County is a narrow but long spit of stone with a more or less north-south orientation. About sixty miles of land separate the southern Door-Kewaunee county border from the peninsula's northern tip. Distinct characteristics have come to be associated with both areas. Some of these associations are accurate, others are not.

If one's knowledge of "Southern Door" is limited to views seen along the highway from the car window, it's understandable to associate the area with agriculture. After all, Southern Door supports many scenic, family-run farms, in part because it has much deeper and richer soils than its northern counterpart. However, to see Southern Door only in this light would fail to capture the rest of the story. Southern Door should also be recognized for the significant contribution it makes to the ecological integrity of Door County as a whole. A case in point is the rugged and varied terrain of the Brussels Hill area.

Situated between the town of Brussels and Sturgeon Bay, Brussels Hill is arguably the most recognizable landmark in Southern Door thanks to the fact that Highway 57 currently crosses this scenic wonder. (The new highway, due to be completed in 2008, will bypass the Brussels Hill.) The Door County Land Trust, in partnership with the Bissen family, is dedicated to protecting the unique geographical features and the unique habitat of this hill.

In 2004, the Door County Land Trust began working with the Bissen family to permanently protect their 415-acre property with a conservation easement agreement. This was an exciting venture for the Land Trust as it was the largest contiguous parcel ever protected. Although impressive in size, the scope of this project was equaled by the impressiveness of the land itself. Hidden within the Bissen property are features not seen from the highway – fissures, sinkholes, deep ravines and pit caves, all formed as part of the Niagara Escarpment. Ivan Bissen described it this way many years ago, "On the southwest side of our property is a deep draw that's

been eroded out over the eons. You can stand there and look and think about how nature keeps working and changing things – very slowly, but it keeps working." All types of native plants and wildlife thrive here, including the state threatened Red-shoulder Hawk, the long-spurred violet and handsome sedge, globally rare snails, and spawning fish.

If it can be said that the Bissen property has its back to the Brussels Hill, then its feet are squarely planted in the headwaters of Kayes Creek. Kayes Creek forms on the northern edge of the Bissen property and sets off on its seven-mile journey through the Gardner Swamp State Wildlife Area to Little Sturgeon Bay, one of the most important aquatic habitats in the lower Green Bay ecosystem. But before it leaves the Bissen property, Kayes Creek fills large wildlife ponds that on any given day provide refuge to hundreds of sandhill cranes and a myriad of other waterfowl species.

As exciting as the 415-acre conservation easement was, it is also exciting to know that the partnership with the Bissen family continues and is resulting in even more protected land. Recently, a key 40-acre parcel was purchased by the family and connects parcels they already own. Soon after the purchase, Ivan and JoAnn contacted the Land Trust about placing a conservation easement on this new property as well. The agreement was finalized this past winter.

"Naturally, all of us at the Land Trust were thrilled with yet another opportunity to partner with the Bissen family," states Dan Burke, Executive Director of the Land Trust. "Protecting one of Southern Door's most important scenic and ecological areas is an honor for the Land Trust and we can't thank the Bissen family enough for their land ethic and for having confidence in us to oversee the terms of these agreements."

The next time you are traveling the highway through the pastoral farmlands of Southern Door, keep in mind that there's more to this part of the county than meets the eye. If the Land Trust hopes to preserve the ecological integrity of all of Door County, then we must work to establish more partnerships like the one we have with the Bissen family throughout Southern Door. We hope to report on more successes here soon!



photo by Julie Scharner

Land Trust members hike the Brussels Hill Preserve at Annual Gathering Celebration



The Places We Protect: **KANGAROO LAKE PRESERVE**

Two Donations and a Purchase add 90 Acres to Preserve

Crossing the Kangaroo Lake causeway can be a memorable experience. There's almost always a fisherman or two casting out a line or a kayaker paddling by. On chilly mornings when the mist rises from the lake, the low road seems to disappear completely giving one the illusion of being suspended on water. This phenomenon has caused some locals to refer to this stretch of road as the "Jesus Causeway." First built as a narrow corduroy 'bridge' constructed of tethered logs, the causeway is now more modern. It still, however, traverses an area of ancient and inspiring beauty.

The northern half of Kangaroo Lake is home to the *Kangaroo Lake Preserve* and is one of Door County's crown jewels when it comes to scenic beauty and eco-

logical importance. Spring-fed waters, dense forest and rocky outcroppings provide a haven for wildlife. Bald eagles, osprey, Caspian terns, and waterfowl of all sorts grace the waters and fill the skies above while forested bluffs rising from the lake's western shore serve up some of the most spectacular scenery Door County has to offer.

The Kangaroo Lake Preserve represents the efforts of an impressive coalition of partnering organizations, agencies and individuals who love this remarkable area and are at work preserving it. The Door County Land Trust has teamed up with The Nature Conservancy, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Kangaroo Lake Association, and many individuals to

ensure that the lake remains an area of beauty and inspiration forever.

Since these partnerships were formed over 10 years ago, many accomplishments have been realized. Nearly 600 acres are permanently protected, including the majority of lakeshore surrounding the north end of Kangaroo Lake. While this is a remarkable feat, critical conservation work remains to be done to protect the water quality, wildlife habitat, and rural scenery of this area.

"We are proud to report that due to the vision and generosity of three special individuals, the Door County Land Trust has recently protected an additional 90 acres at the Kangaroo Lake Preserve," states Land Trust Executive Director, Dan Burke. "This area holds a special place in the collective heart of our organization. The first land purchase we ever made was here on the west side of the lake back in 1995. It was a milestone for us and it's great to see the work continued."

The Olson Land Donation

"We don't let the grass grow under our feet." Bruce and Carol Olson chuckle at the way they've made some of the major decisions in their lives. "We met each

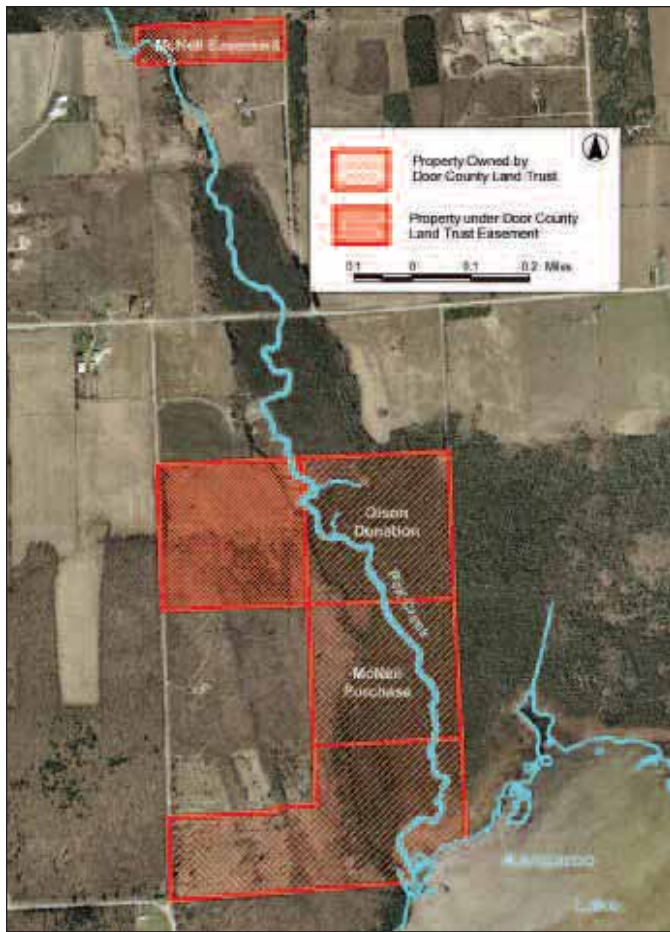
other eight years ago in August and were married in December. We've never had a major fight...we just knew what was right for us," says Carol. Bruce agrees. "I guess we know what we like and when we see a win-win situation, we act on it."

Last December, the Olsons acted on another win-win situation, and this time the Land Trust was the beneficiary. "We had received a packet of information from the Land Trust explaining the different ways people could help protect property," Bruce recounts. "I read through it and learned that by donating a parcel of land, we could receive a tax deduction for the full appraised value. The Land Trust could not only realize their protection objectives on that property,



Carol and Bruce Olson

photos by Julie Scharner



Land Trust-protected lands at Kangaroo Lake

they could also use the value of our donated parcel as a match for state and federal grants when purchasing other property in the area.”

Carol adds, “This is one of the things that attracted us to the Land Trust in the first place. We see a commitment to smart use of funds, to leveraging our dollars to maximize land protection. That’s something extremely important. We’ve also met some of the nicest, down-to-earth people we know at Land Trust events! We can honestly say it’s a large part of what we value about Door County.”

To make a short story even shorter, Bruce called the listing agent on a 40-acre parcel he had been eyeing along Peil Creek, just north of where it empties into Kangaroo Lake’s north end. “I told him that we wanted

to put an offer in, to then donate the land to the Door County Land Trust, and to close within two weeks because we were heading out of town. If I remember right, his exact words were ‘No way!’”

To the listing agent’s surprise, the initial offer was accepted and the purchase papers drawn up. Prior to the Olsons’ decision to pursue this purchase, they had contacted Terrie Cooper, the Land Trust’s Land Program Director, and found that not only was the property of interest to the Land Trust, it was, in fact, the priority tract in the Kangaroo Lake area. “It was at the top of our wish list, explains Cooper. “We have a protection plan for all our project areas and we prioritize the parcels of land within each of these areas by asking this question: If we have a willing seller and if we have funds, what property is the most critical to preserve? Many things go into this equation, but the property the Olsons purchased is key to maintaining the ecological integrity of Kangaroo Lake. It also connects other properties we had already preserved here and thus creates a protected corridor. The Olsons’ land donation was made in late December, and it was the best Christmas gift we could have received!”

The Olsons owned their 40 acres for less than 15 minutes – the time it took to accept ownership and then to make their donation to the Land Trust. Their gift, however, will last into perpetuity. Even though the grass doesn’t grow beneath their feet, it will continue to grow undisturbed along the banks of Peil Creek for generations to come.

The McNeil Properties

Dr. Dean McNeil’s history with Door County goes back half a century when, on the advice of a friend, he brought his family north for a visit. That was the beginning of a long and varied relationship with Door County. For many summers,

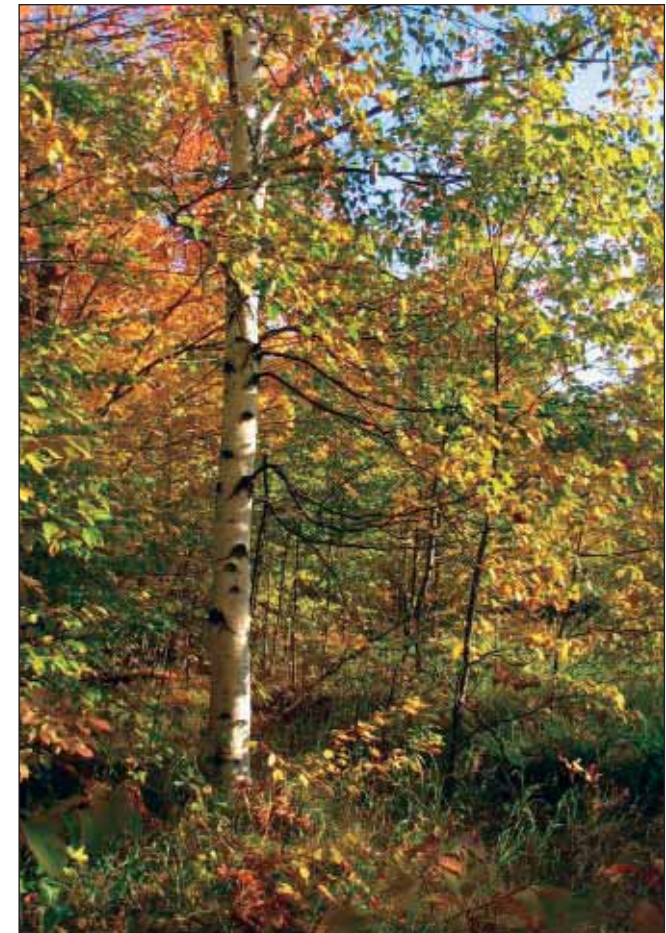


Peil Creek on a winter day

photo by Lucy Klug

Dean and Evadne McNeil and their four children made the trip back and forth from Glen Ellyn, Illinois where he practiced dentistry, to Ephraim, Wisconsin. They first stayed in rented cottages in Ephraim and eventually, for 8 summers, on their boat. They then added another chapter to their Door County story by buying the Hillside Resort in Ephraim. As McNeil recounts, “Our kids learned how to do roofing and painting and carpentry and the resort was eventually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We ran the Hillside from Memorial Day through Labor Day for many, many years. Our son, David, and his wife, Karen, eventually took over the day-to-day management until we sold it a few years ago.”

continued on page 8



Autumn colors transform the woods at Kangaroo Lake

photo by Julie Scharner



The Places We Protect: **LITTLE LAKE PRESERVE**

Northern Half of Washington Island Lake Protected

Every story begins somewhere. The story of one of the Door County Land Trust's newest and most inspiring preservation successes began five to eight thousand years ago, give or take a few. It is the story of Washington Island's **Little Lake Preserve** and it began long before appraisals were conducted or purchase offers written or fundraising entreaties made. This story began, as so many do, when the indomitable forces of wind and water collided. The setting is Washington Island's northwest shore where a massive 200-ft vertical limestone bluff (now known as Boyers Bluff), towers above the formidable glacial lake,

Nippising (now Lake Michigan). Over the course of thousands of years, the windswept waves of Lake Nippising tore away at Boyers Bluff causing it to shed small pieces of itself into the turbulent waters below. Waves tumbled the rocks until they became smooth, baseball-sized cobblestones. Eventually, these cobblestones were pushed southward, closing off the opening to a small bay. The banked rocks formed a narrow strip of land and, in doing so, created what is now known as Little Lake, Washington Island's only inland lake.

When H.R. Holand wrote his history of Door County, "Old Peninsula Days," he recognized the

unique character and beauty of Little Lake. "The little bay became a little lake, and the stormwrought belt of beach stones that closed it in became a dense belt of woodland. Now the little lake lies peacefully embosomed by steep hills...Among all the scenic delights of Door County this little lake is well toward the top."

Little Lake is indeed a 'scenic delight' and is much the same today as when it caught Holand's eye in 1959. Tucked into the northwest corner of Washington Island, its beauty is quiet and serene. Yet, standing on its west shore, one has only to look over one's shoulder to see the crashing waters of Green Bay not more than a stone's throw away. The thin strip of land separating the two bodies of water is fewer than 15 acres in size but possesses 2,000 feet of Little Lake shoreline on one side and 1,200 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline on the other.

After 18 months of writing grants, raising private funds to match the grants, and working with the Eichelberger family (owners of the tract), the Door County Land Trust was finally able to successfully purchase this one-of-a-kind property. "There are so many people who helped make this tremendous acquisition a reality," states Dan Burke, Land Trust Executive Director. "The grants we received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Knowles-Nelson State Stewardship Fund, and the Door County Green Fund were definitely instrumental. But without the many member donations to our 20th Anniversary Capital



photo by Julie Schartner



photo by Julie Schartner

Cedars surround the tranquil waters of Washington Island's Little Lake

Campaign we would not have had the match monies these grants required. Although we still have just under \$50,000 left to raise to cover expenses we incurred, this purchase is a shining example of how a community of supporters can make a lasting difference.” (Please see box below to find out how you can help.)

Although a shallow lake (maximum depth 5.5 - 7 feet), Little Lake has deep ecological significance. Fed by groundwater springs and surface run-off water, it supports a productive population of perch, rock and smallmouth bass. It also is part of a wetland complex that hosts a variety of rare boreal-rich plants such as the northern bog sedge, showy-lady’s slipper orchid, lesser fringed gentian, and dwarf lake iris. It also hosts old growth white cedars and stands of hemlock and provides critical habitat for a large number of migrating and nesting



Thorstein Veblen

birds including bald eagles, white pelicans, osprey and great blue and black-crowned night herons. Its location provides an ideal resting point in the annual avian migratory trip to Canada from points south.

In addition to its ecological import, the Little Lake area has significant historical value as well. It was once home to a large Native American village and was the site of early French missionary efforts. The Jens Jacobsen Museum on the southwest end of Little Lake showcases a large collection of artifacts found in the area dating back some 3,000 years. An Archeological Preservation Covenant with the Wisconsin State Historical Society protects the integrity of the village site.

More recent events add another layer of cultural significance to Little Lake. In 1915, Thorstein Bunde Veblen (1857-1929), one of America’s most famous economists and social theorists, purchased the property just acquired by the Land Trust. Veblen is perhaps best known for his treatise, “The Theory of the Leisure Class,” and for coining the phrase “conspicuous consumption.” According to “Washington Island’s Thorstein Veblen,” written by Islander Esther Gunnerson, Veblen first visited Washington Island in the early 1900s to learn and speak the Icelandic language with its inhabitants. He soon fell in love with its quiet beauty and

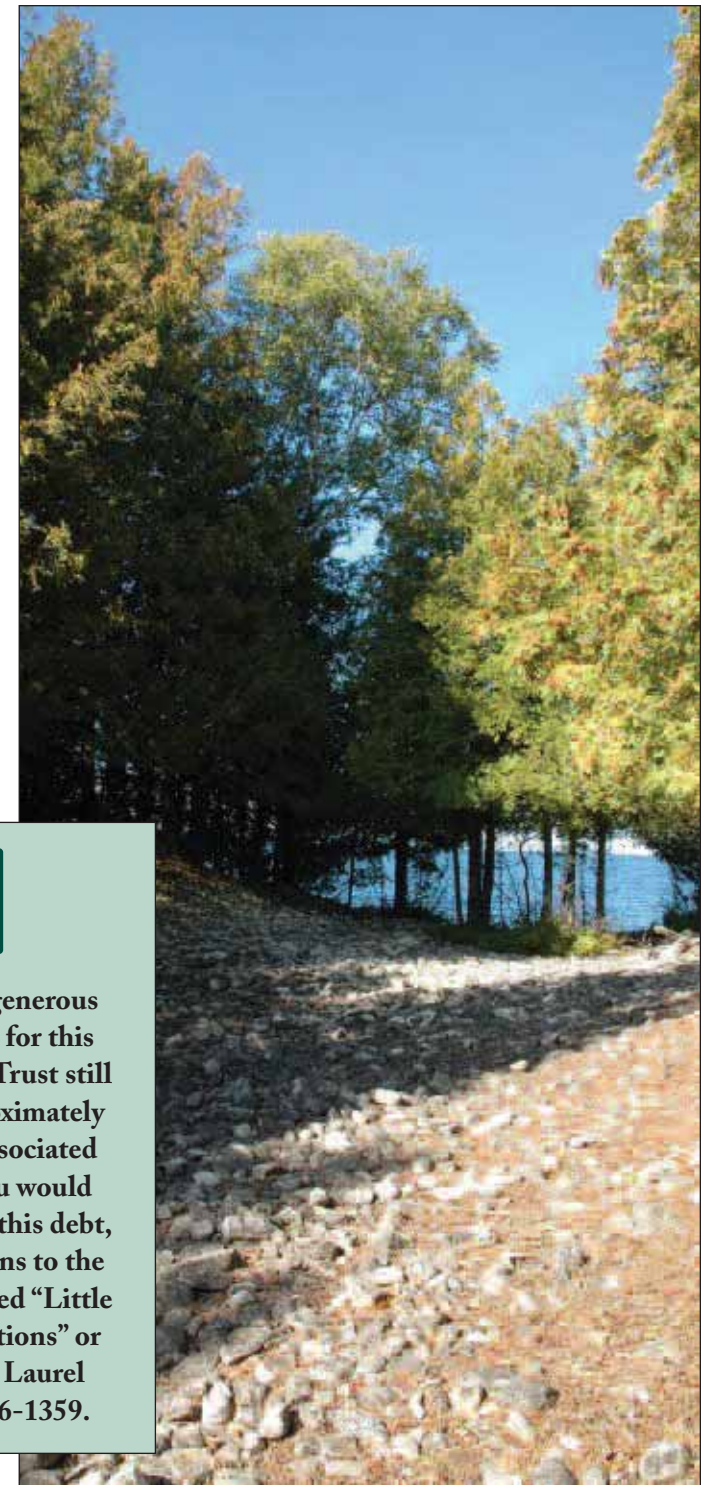
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Land Trust-protected lands at Little Lake Preserve



Despite the many generous donations received for this purchase, the Land Trust still needs to raise approximately \$48,000 to cover associated project costs. If you would like to help us erase this debt, please send donations to the Land Trust earmarked “Little Lake Land Acquisitions” or call Dan Burke or Laurel Hauser at (920) 746-1359.



A narrow belt of cobblestones separates Little Lake from the waters of Green Bay

photo by Julie Scharner

Little Lake, continued from previous page

purchased the Little Lake property for \$300 in 1915 for use as a summer retreat. Older residents of the Little Lake area recall Veblen rowing across Little Lake with his stepdaughters each morning in a home-made skiff to purchase milk and butter from a nearby Icelandic farm. Veblen's stepdaughters inherited the Little Lake property upon Veblen's death and eventually sold it in 1943 to the Koyen family, ancestors of the Eichelbergers.

Few places in Door County can outshine Little Lake for its scenic beauty, ecological importance, and cultural and historical significance. It is the Door County Land Trust's wish to continue to protect the health of the Little Lake ecosystem by preserving the lands around it. "This purchase and another done here in 2005 are incredibly important to the successful preservation of Little Lake," states Land Program Director Terrie Cooper. "In the past two years, the Land Trust and its supporters have been able to protect the entire northern half of Little Lake which includes nearly a mile of pristine shoreline. We are grateful to the Eichelberger family for working with the Land Trust and especially to all the private donors who have contributed and continue to contribute to this effort."



photo by Julie Scharfner

The rock-strewn shores of Green Bay hug the west side of newly preserved property

Kangaroo Lake Preserve, continued from page 5

About the same time they purchased the Hillside Resort, the McNeils began purchasing land around Kangaroo Lake in Baileys Harbor. "We bought 80 acres of farmland on the corner of Plateau Road and EE where we eventually lived. We bought the land from Elsie Peil. Over the years, neighbors approached us about purchasing more and more property." The McNeil holdings in the Kangaroo Lake area grew to over 300 acres.

For the McNeils, owning farmland led eventually to farming and they donned yet another hat. They did fieldwork and milked cows on a couple of hundred acres. From the late 1980s to mid 1990s, the McNeils' daughter, Diane, and her husband ran the farm. When the dairy operation ceased, the McNeils used the land for grazing steers. Neighbor and long-time Land Trust member, Karl Klug, often helped move the Australian-style pasturing fences. "Twice a day we moved 100 yards of fence across the fields. I enjoyed working with Dean. I really respected the care he took with his land. He used very progressive farming measures and was a terrific steward of his property. In his quiet way, he set an example of how to thoughtfully maintain working lands." Karl's wife and Land Trust board president, Lucy, concurs. "For thirty years, Dean has protected the Peil Creek watershed and we are indebted to him for that."

Recently, Dr. McNeil donated a no-development conservation easement on a 10-acre portion of his original homestead north of EE. Spring-fed Peil Creek flows through the property before it empties into Kangaroo Lake. "This is a special place for my family. As a memorial to my wife, I moved a large stone from the farm up to the top of the hill. It sits on a platform with a bench and a small fence around it. It's a comfort to know that because of the Land Trust's work, this land will stay the way it is, nothing will happen to it."

More of the McNeil family land will be protected by year's end when the Land Trust completes the purchase of a 40-acre parcel sandwiched between 136 acres already protected by the Land Trust. "This key purchase helps further protect the ecological health

of Kangaroo Lake and the surrounding watershed and connects lands own," states Dan Burke, Executive Director of the Land Trust. "We're very grateful to Dr. McNeil for his vision and dedication to land preservation."

It is because of people like Bruce and Carol Olson and Dean McNeil that we can point to the Kangaroo Lake Preserve as a shining example of how an entire community can come together to preserve a place of such importance. Other Door County neighborhoods can look to the Kangaroo Lake area for the inspiration and insight needed to protect lands important to their region.



photo by Julie Scharfner

Olson land donation at Kangaroo Lake Preserve



The Places We Protect: THE RIDGES & MOONLIGHT BAY

Partnerships and Generosity Help Preserve Key Parcels

One of the strengths of the Door County Land Trust has long been our ability to find creative solutions to conservation challenges. Another strength is the close working relationship we enjoy with our fellow conservation organizations. Over the years, the Door County Land Trust has worked closely with The Ridges, The Nature Conservancy and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to help further our collective mission of preserving the county's ecological treasures.

The Ridges Sanctuary is located just north of Baileys Harbor on highway Q. If you haven't yet paid it a visit, doing so should be on the top of your Door County "to do" list. Its claim to fame is its low, sandy ridges alternating with wet areas called swales. The ridges (ancient shorelines) run parallel to the shoreline of

Baileys Harbor, and extend inland about a mile.

This spring, The Ridges Sanctuary had the opportunity to purchase a 37-acre property on the Sanctuary's northwest border. The property is also within the boundary of the Mud Lake and Moonlight Bay State Natural Areas. Its protection is of particular interest as it hosts many of the groundwater springs that feed into the fragile ridge/swale complex.

The Ridges had secured just over half of the money needed for this purchase from the Knowles-Nelson State Stewardship Fund (SSF) and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Wetlands grant. The SSF provides up to 50% of funds needed for acquisition projects; the additional 50% must come from the non-profit applying for the grant either in cash or in the value of other lands in the area that the non-profit agrees to permanently protect.

One of the primary land protection tools used by land trusts is the conservation easement, a permanent agreement with a landowner that restricts the type and amount of future development allowed on the property. The owner retains ownership of the land and the Land Trust promises to uphold the terms of the agreement into perpetuity. In areas of Door County that are eligible for SSF grants (like The Ridges Sanctuary), the value of a donated conservation easements, as determined by a certified appraisal, can be used to "match" SSF grants on

other land purchases within these eligible areas.

Knowing this, two generous landowners contacted The Ridges. Very much wanting to see The Ridges' purchase of the 37 acres come to fruition, they donated a conservation easement on their nearby 22-acre property. The Ridges used their easement value to match grants already secured, thus enabling the purchase to be completed.

Since The Ridges lacks a comprehensive program for writing, accepting, monitoring and enforcing conservation easements, the Door County Land Trust helped The Ridges complete the conservation easement. In the coming months, The Ridges will transfer the easement to the Land Trust for permanent oversight.

According to Terrie Cooper, the Land Trust's Land Program Director, this conservation easement not only helped fund The Ridges' purchase of a critical 37-acre property, it has permanently protected a property with enormous ecological value. "The 22 acres covered by the conservation easement are entirely wooded, they border the Mud Lake State Natural Area, and they contain three ancient Lake Michigan shorelines created over the last 3,000-5,000 years when postglacial lake levels were much higher than they are today. This is prime habitat for Hine's emerald dragonflies, bald eagles, osprey and a variety of plants including dwarf lake iris, purple fringed orchids, fringed gentian, and striped coral root. It's wonderful to have these acres protected."

Cooper goes on to say, "This entire project is a great example of the strength of partnerships. Through generosity, cooperation, and a shared vision, 59 critically important acres have been protected in Door County. The Land Trust is honored to have worked with The Ridges and these generous easement donors to make this happen."



Lesser fringed gentian

photo by Julie Scharmer



photo by Terrie Cooper

22-acre donated conservation easement property near Mud Lake State Natural Area

TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

Tributes

In honor of
Bob Davis

Anne & Richard Egan

In honor of
Joyce Hothan

Anonymous

In honor of
Sandy Place

Lisa Schab & Bernd Harrer

In appreciation of
Ken & Chris McLeish

Mr. & Mrs. Victor Temple

In recognition of
Charles Twichell

Prince Charitable Trusts

In recognition of
Benna Wilde

Prince Charitable Trusts

In honor of the
50th Anniversary of
Bob & Sara Larsen

Peter & Gloria Sigmann

In honor of the
50th Birthday of
Gretchen Schmelzer

Paul & Deborah Gorski
Thomas & Claire Minahan
& other friends of Gretchen's

In honor of the
80th Birthday of
Robert Schoof

Tamara Burks

In honor of the
80th Birthday of
John F. Wilson

Dan & Pat Kiehna

Consider making a gift to the Land Trust in honor or memory of a friend or family member. It's a great way to celebrate a life or the events that mark our lives!

Company Matching Gifts

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Delores Kaiser
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UBS
Maureen McCormick

Memorials Gifts

In memory of
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John & Betty Ames
Lois & Jack Bauer
Andy & Sherren Berg
Jack Birr
Lois Ebert
Bob Forbes
Susan Hidalgo
Marty & Mary Krueger
John & Marietta Landwehr
June Long
Carol & Paul Muckerman
Patricia, Lori, Nancy & Susan Nevins
Raymond & Gloria Paul
Annie Royal
Mr. & Mrs. R.O. Sandow
Margaret Schmitt

In memory of
Russ Brown
Anonymous

In memory of
Donald O. Hodges
Lois Seiler

In memory of
Shirley Johnson
The Simons

In memory of
Peg Nelson
The Arneson Family

In memory of
Bob and Elaine Oeflein
Keith & Katherine Lindstrand

In memory of
Marilyn Schoof
Walter Schoof

In memory of
Howard and Rosemary Timian
John & Karen Timian
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In memory of
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In memory of
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Thank you for these Special Gifts !

Art Proceeds

Randy Richmond
Shirley Weese-Young
Whitefish Bay Farm Gallery,
25th Anniversary Season

Dollars for Open Spaces
Blacksmith Inn, Baileys Harbor

Book Proceeds

Fran Burton, Aurelia Stamp
Paul & Marilyn Mahlberg

We Care Program
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Kayak Symposium

Rutabaga Paddlesports

Grand Opening Proceeds

Liberty Square, Egg Harbor

Concert Proceeds

Highland Road Musicians
White Gull Inn

Proceeds from Outings

Washington Island Bird Festival

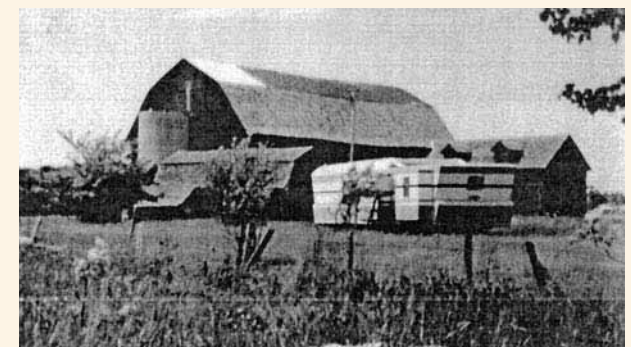
Land Trust Receives Gifts in Memory of Howard & Rosemary Timian

Dear Door County Land Trust,

More than 40 years ago, my parents had to be persuaded to purchase an abandoned farm without a house, in the middle of nowhere. It was indeed desolate that winter so many years ago. We all fell in love with the property as soon as that massive amount of snow melted; the wildlife emerged and beautiful views became apparent. We had a pine plantation planted, and had a mobile home delivered to the site from Milwaukee. The house had burned years ago. My father fished in Hibbard's Creek, visited all of the neighbors, and always told at least 2 jokes. Just recently we heard he had become known as "2 joke Howie." My Mom dove into chores while my Dad was out and about. Most weekends were spent at the farm and some weeks too, sometimes enduring white-out conditions on our way to the outhouse. My parents have both passed away but their legacy continues in our generation and that of our daughter. We all enjoy the serenity of the Hibbard's Creek Preserve. It is a place to nourish our souls and re-energize our batteries.

On behalf of the families of John and Karen Timian, and Dan, Marjorie and Richelle Andrae we thank you for your work towards land preservation.

Marjorie Andrae



The Howard & Rosemary Timian farmstead near Hibbard's Creek, Jacksonport

An Option for Giving Pension Protection Act Set to Expire December 31, 2007

As of press time, the Pension Protection Act (PPA) of 2006 will expire December 31, 2007. The PPA allows donors 70½ or older to contribute to a qualifying public charity directly from their IRA and exclude those contributions from their taxable gross income.

Those who act before the end of the year can use their traditional IRA for charitable contributions of up to \$100,000. For those 70½ or older, this is a great way to make your end-of-the-year contribution to the Door County Land Trust. Discuss with your tax advisor the wisdom of accelerating charitable pledges and/or designing future gifts to take advantage of this brief opportunity.

Please call Dan Burke or Laurel Hauser at (920) 746-1359 if you have questions about naming the Door County Land Trust as the recipient of an IRA contribution. The Land Trust thanks you for considering this giving option to benefit land preservation in Door County.

Estate Planning Seminar for Land Trust Members

The Land Trust invites you to a very special event on **Monday, January 21st, 2008**. Land Trust Endowment Trustee, attorney **Richard Hauser**, and Land Trust Director, retired attorney, **Oliver Skrivanie**, are offering a free estate planning seminar to members of the Door County Land Trust.

Joined by Land Trust staff, Hauser and Skrivanie will present information on general estate planning, charitable giving strategies, and how land preservation fits into creating the legacy you want to leave for future generations.

Invitations will be mailed in December. Participation is limited. We will meet at Bjorklunden Lodge in Baileys Harbor from 9 – 11 am. Key elements to good estate planning will be provided in abundance – great information, great food and coffee, and great company – and maybe a few stories and jokes to lighten up a serious topic. This promises to be an informative and enjoyable morning. We hope you can join us!



photo by Jack Finger

The Door County Land Trust sincerely thanks our *Dining for Open Spaces, 2007* hosts and co-hosts for their generosity, their loyal support and their hours spent in the kitchen!

Jean Barrett and Dave Nevalainen
Katie and Chris Callen
Vonnice and Dave Callsen
Vicky and Sam Carmen
Door County Land Trust Staff
Sandy and Russ Dagon
Sharon Donegan
Diane and Jack Finger
Cathy and Tony Fiorato
Carrie and Dick Hauser
Laurel and John Hauser
Barbara and Doug Henderson
Dee and Arthur Hopper
Donna and Jim Janning
Linda and T.C. Johnson
Lucy and Karl Klug
Estella and Chuck Lauter
Judy and Ron Lokken
Beverly and Dean Lueking
Joel Lueking
Linda and Maury Mussa
Patti Podgers and Jim Johnson
Judy Samida and Guy Fortin
Barb and Bill Siebel
Mary and Mike Standish
Sue and Jim Workman
Sylvie and Ron Zigler



photo by Julie Scharner

Shoreline at the Detroit Harbor Preserve

9TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP GATHERING CELEBRATION HELD

The Door County Land Trust went south for its **9th Annual Membership Gathering** to the land of red brick farmhouses, roadside votive chapels, booyah, and Belgian pies – Southern Door County. Land Trust members Ivan and JoAnn Bissen hosted the event and welcomed over 200 Land Trust members for a celebration of the successes of the past year. The 455-acre Bissen homestead, protected with a conservation easement, sits at the base of Southern Door's most recognizable landmark, the Brussels Hill.

To start the day, Land Trust members hiked the rugged face of the Niagara Escarpment and returned to enjoy Belgian Ale, wine, hors d'oeuvres and a lot of conviviality. The large white dining tents nestled in the wide-open yellow and green fields presented an impressive sight. As guests gathered beneath the tents to hear welcoming remarks by host, Ivan, a cacophony of bugle calls silenced the crowd and all eyes turned skyward to view hundreds of circling sand-hill cranes. Annual Gatherings typically open with inspiring remarks, but none have been as eloquent as Ivan's and the cranes!

Following a delicious dinner, the Land Trust's Executive Director, Dan Burke, gave a State of the Land Trust presentation outlining the accomplishments of the past year, including the successful completion of our 20th Anniversary Capital

Campaign and the protection of 12 additional properties throughout the county. All in all, the Land Trust has surpassed 4,000 acres of protected land and enters its third decade well prepared to face future challenges and opportunities.

The Land Trust honored several of its members with awards.

LaVonne and Dave Callsen and **Bryan Nelson and Joan Holliday** were recognized for their years of commitment and leadership to the Land Trust and its mission and were presented **Distinguished Service Awards**. **Carol and Bruce Olson** received the **2007**



Dan Burke (left) and Terrie Cooper (right) present the Ruth Neuman Award to Bruce & Carol Olson

Ruth Neuman Landowner of the Year Award for their generous donation of 40 acres in the Kangaroo Lake Preserve (see page 4). Special recognition was also given to the chairs of our major events, **Jean Barrett, Donna Janning and Kathy Wolff**. All recipients received a round of enthusiastic applause for their contributions.



LaVonne & Dave Callsen, Distinguished Service Award Recipients

The evening ended with a brief but rollicking live auction. A tour of three local private wine cellars; a wildflower, fungus and fauna hike; a staffed paddle and tour at the Little Lake Preserve; and a family apple-picking excursion raised many dollars for land preservation work. Well-fed and feted members left as the sun set over the fields of Southern Door and brought to a close another successful gathering of our members.



Joan Holliday & Bryan Nelson, Distinguished Service Award Recipients



2007 Annual Gathering held at Bissen Homestead in Southern Door County

photo by Julie Schartner



The Places We Protect: MUD LAKE STATE WILDLIFE AREA

Easement Protects 40 Acres at 1,000-Acre Preserve

Last spring, John Wilson, Jr. joined a growing number of his Liberty Grove neighbors in protecting his ecologically significant property from future development. In April, Wilson donated a no-development conservation easement to the Door County Land Trust on 40 acres along Grove Road.

The Wilson property abuts the 1,000-acre Mud Lake State Wildlife Area that is home to several rare plants and animals including the Hine's emerald dragonfly and dwarf lake iris. In fact, it is part of the wetland ecosystem that feeds into Mud Lake and supports critical breeding habitat for the world's largest population of the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly discovered along Lime Kiln Road.

"The discovery of the Hine's emerald dragonfly breeding grounds is significant because it indicates an overall healthy environment worth protecting," explains Jodi Milske, Land Stewardship Coordinator. "Habitat

restoration is extremely expensive and not always 100% successful. It's important to maintain the healthy wildlife habitat that exists. The cedar swamps, hardwood forests and open fields of the Mud Lake State Wildlife Area support all sorts of wildlife including bald eagle, osprey, Caspian terns, woodcocks, turkey, black bear, beaver and others."

With his donation, Wilson joins 11 other property owners in this area who have partnered with the Land Trust to permanently protect their properties through conservation easements.

The Land Trust holds over 60

conservation easements throughout the county totaling more than 2,000 acres. Property protected by easements remains under private ownership and on the tax rolls.

Terrie Cooper, Land Program Director, explains that "each conservation easement is unique, written to reflect the needs of the individual landowner. This easement was designed to exclude a 2-acre parcel on which Wilson built a solar-powered and energy efficient home. The remaining 40 acres of the property will remain forever in their undeveloped natural state. This is significant considering that under current zoning, this property could have been subdivided into 4, 10-acre buildable lots."

"The partnership we have in the Mud Lake area with landowners, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy and the Ridges Sanctuary has resulted in over 3,600 acres of ecologically significant land being protected from inappropriate development," states Cooper. "Together we have been able to protect some of Door County's most ecologically important treasures, a task that is much greater than any group or individual could accomplish alone."



40-acre Wilson conservation easement



Showy Lady-slipper orchid



Yellow Lady-slipper orchid

Photos by Julie Schartner

A Victory for Conservation State Stewardship Fund Reauthorized

The Knowles-Nelson State Stewardship Fund (SSF) was established in 1989 as a source of consistent funding for the state to purchase key lands for recreation and preservation, and to provide matching grants to local governments and non-profit organizations to do the same. It was named to honor two former Wisconsin governors, Gaylord Nelson and Warren Knowles, whose contributions to conservation set a standard for bipartisan governmental involvement in environmental protection.

SSF plays an instrumental role in the level of land protection work the Door County Land Trust can accomplish. We apply for SSF grants when purchasing lands of ecological and scenic significance to Door County and the State of Wisconsin. To receive grants, the Land Trust must match grant funds dollar for dollar with private donations. This is one reason why support from our members is so crucial!

As part of the 2008 budgeting process, the state legislature has reauthorized the State Stewardship Fund through the year 2020 (it was set to expire in 2010) and, beginning in 2011, increases its annual funding from its current \$60 million level to \$86 million, a 40% increase. Also beginning in 2011, \$12 million of this annual \$86 million will be earmarked specifically for non-profit land trust organizations throughout Wisconsin. This is a 50% increase over current levels.

Although details of the fund have yet to be worked out, it is fair to say that the Door County Land Trust has an important funding source lined up through 2020. With help from our members, we will continue to put SSF funds to good use in Door County! The Land Trust thanks everyone who wrote letters of support, attended public hearings, and contacted their government officials. Also, hats off to Gathering Waters Conservancy in Madison for spearheading this reauthorization effort on behalf of all the local land trusts throughout the state!



artwork by Lynn Gilchrist



The Places We Protect: WASHINGTON ISLAND'S COFFEY SWAMP

Where Wildness and Legends are Preserved

You can still get lost in Washington Island's Coffey Swamp. A biologist studying various flora in the swamp in the 1990s came out shaking with relief after being disoriented for hours by the fallen cedars, according to the late Muriel Gunnlaugsson, who lived on the edge of the swamp for more than 40 years.

Like Gunnlaugsson, many islanders have spent their entire lives connected to the swamp in some way, either by hunting it or listening to the stories that surround it. And because of its dark interior, its dense floating sedge mat and its fallen cedars, the swamp has spawned more than a few legends. There are stories of horses sinking into its "quicksand," Native American bodies floating up from the deep, and cattle disappearing into the swamp, never to be seen again. At night, in the fallen logs of an old Dutch fishing village at the swamp's east end, strange flickers of light have been reported.

Jim Olsen, whose ancestors lived on the edge of the swamp, describes its effect on the Island residents in his essay in the "The Nature of Door":

"The possibility of a hideous sinking death served to draw a Greek line around the swamp and leave it, then drained to a manageable level, to heal its wounds. The life and history of Washington Island grew up around it; a grid of roads, schools in each quadrant, churches, stores, docks, ferries, icehouses, taverns, even a bowling alley. The lives of the Islanders as for us all were both rooted in and defined by these developments: rationalist. A difference, by reason of isolation, was that the Island retained a remnant of the ancient cultural tradition of oral history... stories surrounding the swamp were often tinged with bitterness."

It was this mysticism surrounding the swamp that, in part, drew members of the Door County Land Trust's

Washington Island Project Committee to make protection of the swamp a top priority. "Coffey Swamp is still so wild that it appeals to both the imaginative and the more practical side of the conservation-minded," said Karen Yancey, head of the 10-member Washington Island Committee to provide local support to the Land Trust's land protection efforts here.

As a northern hardwood swamp surrounding a rich boreal fen, Coffey Swamp serves as the principal watershed for the entire island. Rainwater from the "mountain" or high points in the center of the island travels through wetlands and via the island's only creek until it empties into Coffey Swamp where it is filtered by the swamp to return to the island's fragile groundwater system or to Lake Michigan.

"It is hard to believe that as late as the 1980s, Coffey Swamp was identified as a possible site for an island sewage treatment plant," said Yancey. "I think that a major role of our committee has been to educate islanders on Coffey Swamp's importance to the environmental health of the entire island and to build trust among the island community in the Land Trust's ability to protect areas like the swamp."

Luckily, Coffey Swamp's isolated location at the northern tip of Washington Island has kept it relatively protected from development and other human initiatives. Recent efforts by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI-DNR) and the Door County Land Trust to establish the Coffey Swamp State Natural Area are aimed at preserving this site well into the future.

The WI-DNR has already secured protection of 96 acres at the Coffey Swamp. This past winter, the Door County Land Trust had the privilege of working with two of Coffey Swamp's long-time landowners, George and Susan Ulm, in purchasing a critical 80-acre parcel in the heart of the Coffey Swamp State Natural Area.

According to Susan Ulm, the land ethic is deeply rooted across generations of the Ulm family. George Ulm first visited Washington Island in the mid-1940s on a Boy Scout outing from Chicago. He and his father were both drawn to the expansive meadows, rugged Lake Michigan shoreline, the tangled and impenetrable



photo by Terrie Cooper

swamp, and the acres upon acres of apple and cherry trees. Unlike many other places, large tracts of undivided land were still available on the island and George and his father eventually purchased over 300 acres, including the 80 acres recently acquired by the Land Trust. For many years, the Ulm family operated a fruit farm on the land and used the island property as their summer residence. When George introduced his wife, Susan, to Washington Island in the mid-70s, it was a good fit. The island life suited her. "It's a beautiful place. It's beautiful every season of the year. One of my favorite times is winter. You can walk through parts of the swamp over the ice and know that there is so much under there, layers and layers. At times you feel as if you can actually hear the aquifer."

The Ulms began talking with Terrie Cooper, Land Program Director of the Land Trust, about how they could protect portions of their property. It was determined that the Door County Land Trust would work with the Ulms on the purchase of 80 acres and, once

"It's gorgeous here every day."

- Susan Ulm

completed, the Land Trust would then transfer the land to the WI-DNR for long-term ownership and stewardship. The purchase and transfer was completed in February. The Land Trust purchase relied on grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Wetland Program and the Knowles-Nelson State Stewardship Fund. Individual donations to the Land Trust's recently completed 20th Anniversary Capital

Campaign were then used to match these grants.

Susan runs a bed and breakfast, Greengate Farm, on part of their property and George entertains his lifelong passion for ham radio with the Greengate Farm Ham Radio Station. They enjoy these enterprises surrounded by an abundance of natural beauty. "It's comforting to know that these 80 acres are protected and will stay as they are," says Susan. "Preservation was a logical progression for us. We had the land in managed forestry for years. The land ethic goes back a long way." Susan looks out across their land on one of Washington Island's perfect spring days. The sky is blue and the air cool. "I can sit here and watch pheasants, turkeys, even white pelicans, all kinds of wildlife. It's gorgeous here every day."

With the successful purchase of this 80-acre property behind us, the Land Trust, in partnership with the WI-DNR, has applied for another U.S. Fish and Wildlife Grant that will help make future purchases at Coffey Swamp possible. These grants and landowners like George and Susan Ulm make the prospect of achieving our land protection goals at the Coffey Swamp State Natural Area promising.

"The story of the protection of Coffey Swamp is really about various people working together to establish credibility with local landowners and to offer them a range of land protection options," said Cooper. "For years, local residents have wanted to see the swamp preserved but did not have all the tools necessary, in terms of grant partners and purchase options, to make it happen. This is what the Land Trust brings to the table. Our success in protecting Coffey Swamp continues to boost our activities on the island; it has become a centerpiece of our efforts there."

BAY SHORE BLUFFLANDS PRESERVE

Purchase Expands Rare Orchid Habitat

The Door County Land Trust's *Bay Shore Blufflands Preserve* is a spectacular landscape that encompasses nearly 400 contiguous acres of towering bluffs, wind-swept fields and majestic forest. Expansive as it is now, the Blufflands Preserve had humble beginnings. In 1995, the Land Trust acquired its first parcel of land here – a 2-acre property along Bay Shore Drive. While the size of this lot may not have been impressive, what we found there certainly is. Along with the now-protected land surrounding it, that first small parcel is home to several rare species including one of Wisconsin's largest colonies of the exquisite Ram's-head lady's-slipper orchid. So, when the Land Trust recently had the opportunity to once again purchase a 2-acre parcel in this area, we didn't hesitate to act.

Located 8 miles north of Sturgeon Bay along a mile of the Niagara Escarpment, the Bay Shore Blufflands Preserve is an ecologically complex site with a diversity of plant communities both above and below the escarpment bluff. The unique site conditions here support such uncommon species as climbing fumitory, mountain maple, bulbet fern, common polypody, fragile fern, rare land snails, and, of course, the Ram's-head orchid. Our latest purchase helps expand an area of the Preserve where a concentration of these rare species is found.

While the grandeur of the Bay Shore Blufflands is a testament to the success the Door County Land Trust has had in protecting this bucolic landscape, it is often small achievements, such as our most recent 2-acre purchase, that result in significant conservation. We thank the Knowles-Nelson State Stewardship Fund and donors to our 20th Anniversary Capital Campaign for making this acquisition possible.



photo by Julie Scharfner

Seasonal stream connecting Coffey Swamp to Green Bay

Stewarding the Lands We Preserve: INVESTING TODAY FOR THE FUTURE

Did you know?

Habitat loss has been cited as the leading cause of species extinction. The loss or degradation of natural areas has a direct impact on people, too. Natural ecosystems provide vital functions that sustain human life such as purification of air and water, detoxification and decomposition of wastes, regulation of climate, regeneration of soil fertility and pollination of crops.

There are two important ways to reverse the trend of habitat and ecosystem loss. One is to preserve land in its natural state. The other is to restore habitat that is degraded. Your support of the Door County Land Trust is helping to reverse the trend of habitat loss in Door County. Consider making a gift to the Stewardship Endowment Fund to ensure that long-term stewardship needs will be met for the special places we cherish. (See page 20 for more information about the Land Trust's Stewardship Endowment Fund.)

Here at the Door County Land Trust, signing a conservation easement agreement or purchasing a piece of property is only the beginning of our conservation efforts. How we fulfill our ongoing, perpetual land stewardship responsibilities will ultimately determine our conservation success. Land stewardship is the responsibility of caring for the conservation values a property possesses and ensuring that the natural resources are sustainably managed for current and future generations. The term "stewardship" entails a broad array of activities, from land management and restoration to annual monitoring and legal defense of the conservation easements we accept. The Land Trust's mission of protecting ecological integrity necessitates that we engage in stewardship activities on all of these fronts.

On these pages, you get a brief glimpse into some of the restoration projects currently underway on Land Trust preserves. Ecological restoration aims to renew a degraded, damaged or destroyed ecosystem through active human intervention. The broad scope of projects that fall within the realm of restoration includes activities such as reforestation, removal of non-native plant and animal species, revegetation of disturbed areas, reintroduction of native species, erosion control, and habitat improvement for specific species. Restoration projects require careful planning and considerable financial and human resources, and often the results are measured over a very long period of time.

Restoring a Forest at Oak Road Wetland Preserve

In January of 2006, the Door County Land Trust purchased 155 acres of farm fields and wetlands from the Tilden and Bernice Gabert family and established what is now



Planting acorns at Oak Road Wetland Preserve



"I'm really doing this for my grandkids and their children. The wellness of the land will benefit the health of future generations."

- Jack Finger, Stewardship Field Assistant

known as the **Oak Road Wetland Preserve** just north and east of Carlsville. A 35-acre conservation easement accepted in the spring of 2006 on the connecting Dennis and Deborah Conta property further expanded the size of the preserve. Beyond protecting these 190 acres from future development, an important part of the Land Trust's goals in the area include habitat restoration.

On a gray day in the middle of this past October, 20 bushels of acorns awaited their turn as frustrated but determined men huddled around a broken acorn planting machine sitting just 150 feet from where it started earlier that morning. A few hours later, the machine was back in operation and all the acorns were settled in the ground on 10 acres along the west side of Oak Road in the heart of the Land Trust's Oak Road Wetland Preserve. The brief morning setback was a reminder of what we already knew: Restoration requires time and patience.

Armed with patience, time, and a restoration plan, the Land Trust is endeavoring to restore about 150 acres of farmland to its natural pre-European settlers' state. The restoration plan was developed with the help of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist, Gary VanVreede, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Forester, Bill Ruff. A multitude of ecological factors were considered in order to create a plan that will ultimately increase the native biodiversity of the area. An array of restoration activities will be implemented over several years to restore or create habitats including upland hardwood and lowland conifer forests, prairie and wetland.

The restoration project began in 2006 with the planting of prairie grasses. Slow-growing, cool-season, native grasses were planted this summer. Work continued this fall with the acorn planting, and more acorns will be planted next fall. Over the next two years we will call upon the Door Stewardship Alliance volunteers to help plant other species of trees and shrubs. A

photo by Jodi Milske

neighboring farmer, Frank Lautenbach, has been instrumental in this restoration effort by generously sharing his time, equipment, and planting expertise. In both the literal and the figurative sense, these efforts are only “planting the seeds” for what’s to come. This restoration project will require monitoring, maintenance, and active management into the foreseeable future.

“Planting acorns, trees and shrubs isn’t the same as planting a forest,” explains Jack Finger, Land Trust Stewardship Field Assistant and coordinator of the Oak Road Restoration Project. “If an adequate seed bank exists and we’re able to control competition by native and non-native species, we could simply allow natural succession to happen. This land would eventually return to its natural state of a climax forest but it would take hundreds of years. By doing this restoration project, we are giving the land a boost toward becoming that forest. However, even if all the trees and seeds we plant survive, it will still take many years to revert to its pre-settlement condition. This agricultural field on Oak Road used to be a forest once. We hope it will be again someday with time and a little assistance from the Land Trust.”

“As I participate in this project, my incentive is the future,” Jack said. “I’m really doing this for my grandkids and their children. The wellness of the land will benefit the health of future generations.”

Bay Shore Blufflands Neighbors Take Invasive Species Control into Their Own Hands

Last April, the Land Trust received a call from Dan Collins. He and his wife, Nancy Aten, were about to submit a proposal to the Wisconsin DNR’s recently established Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). LIP grants offer financial assistance to private landowners to protect rare plants and animals by managing or restoring habitat for at-risk species. Dan and Nancy have a conservation easement with the Land Trust on about 100 acres within the Land Trust’s **Bay Shore Blufflands Preserve** located 8 miles north of Sturgeon Bay. Dan was calling to make sure their intention to control two invasive plant species - reed canary grass

and common buckthorn - was permitted within the terms of their conservation easement. Their well-planned, 17-acre restoration project was in line with the terms of their conservation easement agreement, so they received our blessing and we wished them luck with their proposal.

Good news arrived this fall; the proposal was funded and work will begin soon on their restoration project, including 400-plus hours of new labor by Aten and Collins as their contribution. “This is really exciting for us,” states Aten. “We’ve seen how one or two inva-



Collins poses with cross-section of largest buckthorn cut from their property

sive plant species can degrade the entire ecosystem of a property. In some cases, an area once home to 20 different native plant species can become reduced to only one or two. We worried that without taking a proactive role, we would risk losing native species on our land. This grant helps us significantly increase the pace and scale of our restoration work.”

Dan and Nancy are no strangers to conservation. The acquisition of their Blufflands property saved it from impending development and the donation of a conservation easement initiated the Land Trust’s work at the 350-acre Bay Shore Blufflands Preserve. They have been volunteering for the Land Trust for over a decade and Nancy has served on the Land Trust board since 1999. Nancy is a landscape steward and designer with a Master’s Degree in Landscape Architecture and both Dan and Nancy have been proactively monitoring and removing invasive species on their land for many years.

Dan and Nancy’s efforts augment work being done elsewhere at the Blufflands Preserve. Since 2002, the Land Trust has been working to control invasive species using a variety of tools and resources. Door

Stewardship Alliance volunteers and nearby neighbors have donated hundreds of hours eradicating non-native bush honeysuckle and common buckthorn. Grant assistance has been sought to contract eradication work on a larger scale. Funding from the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund (NRDA) paid for a contractor to remove buckthorn, honeysuckle, and the wetland invader Phragmites (giant reed grass) along the north end of the preserve as part of a partnership project with The Nature Conservancy. This autumn, a grant from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program will fund a contractor to remove more buckthorn and honeysuckle along Bay Shore Drive.

The Blufflands invasive species control project is a great example of a multi-faceted restoration strategy that involves many partners including non-profit organizations, volunteers, contractors, government agencies and a variety of funding sources, including LIP. For more information about LIP, visit their website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/WLIP> or call the LIP coordinator, Christina Painter-Hodges, at 608-266-8736.



Buckthorn eradication at Kellner Fen

When the Going Gets Tough at the Fen... We Hire a Contractor!

Located within the Land Trust’s 107-acre **Kellner Fen Preserve** east of Sturgeon Bay was a seven-acre,

tangled mass of twisted buckthorn branches so thick and impenetrable it was hard to imagine anything else existing in that space. The Land Trust's Land Stewardship Coordinator, Jodi Milske, was faced with the difficult task of deciding how to best restore this landscape. She knew the scale of this project was much too large for volunteer crews alone, and she feared that contractors would bring in heavy equipment that might damage the existing native vegetation and create disturbances that could lead to an infestation of yet another invasive species. Could she find a contractor who would be willing to tackle this project using a method that wouldn't further degrade this site?

In 2005, the Land Trust secured a \$20,000 grant from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to fund contract work to control buckthorn at this and other Land Trust sites. After seeking bids from many contractors, the Land Trust hired Northern Environmental to control three of the most densely affected acres. Northern Environmental agreed to work by hand using the "cut stump" method. In the fall of 2006, a crew of a dozen men spent four days cutting the buckthorn plants off near the base with hacksaws and chainsaws. They then applied an herbicide specifically designed to focus on the target plant and cause little damage to surrounding native vegetation. The crews then stacked the buckthorn branches in piles 10 or 12 feet high. The piles provide wildlife habitat at the moment and may eventually be burned on a cold winter day.

"This was an enormous undertaking and I am really pleased with the results. I am encouraged by how tenaciously the remnants of the native plant population rebound given the chance. A year ago, this area was an ecological wasteland. Today it is a diverse community being reborn," Milske said. "This first phase is just the beginning. There is a lot more to do. The buckthorn covers many more acres and, unfortunately, Phragmites has begun to invade the western margin of the fen. The Land Trust is committed to doing all we can to protect and restore this fragile, unique and incredibly diverse wetland habitat."

THE LAND TRUST'S STEWARDSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND: ENSURING PERPETUITY

Perpetuity... this one concept guides every decision and action land trusts make. When the Door County Land Trust preserves a beautiful piece of property, we do so with the assumption that our management responsibilities extend into perpetuity. Our financial obligations, therefore, extend into perpetuity as well. To help meet these responsibilities and to ensure our organizational strength far into the future, the Land Trust established a **Stewardship Endowment Fund** in 2001. The Endowment's value recently surpassed \$500,000.

Governed by a six-person Board of Trustees, the Stewardship Endowment Fund is set up differently from our other funds. Only income generated by investing the fund's assets may be used by the Land Trust; the Endowment's principal is sacred, never to be distributed. Thus, the Stewardship Endowment Fund is built for the future... built for perpetuity.

Each year, significant funds are needed to pay property taxes and to fund invasive species removal, habitat restoration and trail maintenance on lands we own. On the conservation easement agreements we hold, there are monitoring and enforcing expenses. It is our goal to grow the Stewardship Endowment Fund to a level at which the income can cover these stewardship costs. We conservatively estimate that level to be in excess of \$3 million. We'll keep our membership up-to-date on this goal and we thank everyone who has made a donation to the Stewardship Endowment Fund over the years.

The Endowment's Board of Trustees is comprised of Tony Fiorato, Richard Hauser, Jim Kinney, Dave Nevalainen, Mary Standish and Rob Van Gemert. We thank all of them and recently retired trustee, Paul Burton, for serving the Land Trust in this important capacity.

More and more, land conservation groups around the country are realizing the implications of managing land into perpetuity. The Door County Land Trust is committed to taking an active role in stewarding our preserved land for the long-term health of our fragile environment. But the scope of this commitment is large and complex and will take strong partnerships with government agencies, private funders and on-the-ground volunteers to ultimately succeed. With habitat loss around the globe occurring at unprecedented rates, we hope the land stewardship activities of the Land Trust and its partners provide the hope and encouragement needed to further efforts to save our native ecosystems.



Aten-Collins conversation easement at Bay Shore Blufflands

photo by Nancy Aten



The Places We Protect: **THE DETROIT HARBOR PRESERVE**

Key Purchases and a Land Donation Expand Protection on Washington and Detroit Islands

Traversing “Death’s Door” via ferry is a quintessential Door County experience. The island chain off the northern tip of the Door Peninsula, consisting of Plum, Pilot, Detroit and Washington Islands, is part of a larger group of islands between Wisconsin and Upper Michigan known as the Grand Traverse Islands. In the 1970s, Michigan and Wisconsin developed plans to create state parks on many of these islands, but the political winds for such a large endeavor were not blowing favorably and the full scope of the plan has yet to be realized. The Door County Land Trust, however, has made it a

priority to work with the communities on two of these islands – Washington and Detroit – to identify and protect the most ecologically significant areas here. One such area is the recently established *Detroit Harbor Preserve*.

Encompassing the southwest tip of Washington Island and all of Detroit Island, the Detroit Harbor Preserve was established to protect several rare species of plants and animals as well as the coastal wetlands, forest resources and fisheries of this area. Within the boundaries of the Preserve are a Great Lake estuary, many small islands, thousands of feet of

undeveloped shoreline, and wetlands that provide critical habitat for a host of birds, fish and insects, as well as rare plant species. Of primary significance is the noted presence of both the federally endangered Hine’s emerald dragonfly and federally threatened dwarf lake iris. In addition, Detroit Harbor has been recognized as the most productive smallmouth bass nursery in northern Green Bay.

“...the dense forest canopy along (Lodbell) road significantly contributes to the rural, natural feel of the island.”

- Dan Burke

Since we began work to establish the Preserve in 2004, the Land Trust has received grant support from the Knowles-Nelson State Stewardship Fund and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has protected over 100 acres here. Earlier this year, the Door County Land Trust purchased two additional tracts, one on Washington and one on Detroit Island. The Land Trust also received a very generous land donation along Washington Island’s Lodbell Point Road from the Gunnlaugsson family. These purchases and donation expand the Detroit Harbor Preserve by 35 acres and add an additional 500 feet of undeveloped shoreline. This newly-protected land also helps maintain the scenic integrity of the islands.

“To be sure, these additions safeguard critical wildlife habitat and protect water quality. But the Washington Island acquisitions also preserve a large wooded corridor along Lodbell Point Road,” explains Dan Burke, Land Trust Executive Director. “Lodbell is the entryway onto Washington Island from the ferry terminal and the dense forest canopy along the road significantly contributes to the rural, natural feel of the island. The Land Trust has now protected over one mile of forest along this road and we thank the Gunnlaugsson family for making this accomplishment possible.”



An aerial view of the key lands and waters of the Detroit Harbor Preserve

photo by Mike Grimm

Help Widen the Land Trust Circle

Membership support is critical to the success of the Land Trust. Not only do our members provide much needed financial support, they also make land donations, volunteer on our preserves and at our events, act as our spokespersons in the community, serve as a continual source of inspiration and motivation and make our jobs so much more fun!

For the first ten years of existence, the Door County Land Trust was a non-membership organization. During those ten years, we protected an average of 20 acres per year. In 1996, our by-laws were changed and we began accepting annual support. Since then, the average numbers of acres we protect each year has grown to close to 400! This is how integral annual membership support is to our success.

Even in this age of instant messaging and emails, nothing beats a conversation "over the fence post" (or, over a cup of coffee at Al's) as the most effective means



New Land Trust members hike at Lautenbach Woods Preserve

of communication in Door County. That's why we rely on you to help us spread the news about the Land Trust to friends and neighbors.

If you know of someone who loves the rural character and open spaces of Door County but is not a member of the Land Trust, please share their name and mailing information with us. We'll send them a new member packet and an invitation to join our efforts. Or, better yet, give a friend or family member a gift membership in the Door County Land Trust this holiday season (see next page). Thank you for helping us widen the Land Trust circle.

DCLT welcomes Cathy Fiorato to the Board



Longtime residents of the Chicago area, Cathy and her husband, Tony, didn't discover Door County until the early 1990s when one long weekend here led to half a dozen visits a year, and, in 2000, a home in Fish Creek. Cathy feels that her involvement in the Land Trust has enriched their lives in Door County in many ways - from the wonderful DCLT members and staff with whom they've worked and celebrated, to the

education about the environment that they've received. Cathy is retired from a career as a project manager and systems developer at Hewitt Associates in Lincolnshire and at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission in Deerfield, Illinois. With five grandchildren in the Chicago area, Cathy and Tony divide their time between Door County and Illinois, and are looking forward to spending more time in Door County now that Tony is semi-retired.

Welcome New Members!

(for first time gifts received between 1/1/07 and 11/15/07)

Ross and Julie Allen	Kim Love
John and Pat Bach/Gorence	Tim and Julie Lyons
Roy and Terri Back	Paul and Irene Mayer
David Barnes	Ken and Debra McIntyre
Dick Basham	Bill and Diane Miller
Tim and Barb Bauer	John and Jan Mueller
Bill and Donna Benson	Dale and Mary Beth Murphy
Jim and Susan Birger	Jim and Sandra Murphy
Barbara Bock	Pamela Murphy
Beverly Branson	Wally and Elaine Naleway
Kelly and Rhonda Brusky	Erica Nelson - Quest Realty
George and Judy Bush	Dan and Penny Niesen
Gary and Sheila Cadwallader	James Olsen
Ron and Carol Calabrese	Pat Olson
Dick and Jan Campbell	Ray and Carol Ann Osinski
Kathy and John Campbell	Jeff and Barb Ottum
Sam and Vicky Carmen	Pat and Wes Overton
Ardis Cermak	Charles and Patricia Oxenford
Terry and Andrea Connelly	Steve and Mary Parent
Dennis and Bonnie Connolly	Phil Passen
Darrell and Susan Conway	Peter and Sharon Peshek
Will and Ginny Craig	Lucia and Pete Petrie
Peter and Myra Cristall	Victor and Gabriele Pfeiffer
Jim and Marilyn Cushing	Jim and Marianne Porter
Sandy and Russell Dagon	Rachel Pratt
Ronald and Candace Dammon	Bruce and Nancy Raemisch
Pauline Dean	Dave and Lolly Ratajczak
Gary and Amy Delzell	Naseem and Lou Reza
Gloria and Ron Dougherty/Klimaitis	Bob Ross - Ross Law Office
Jane and David Doughty/Wood	Barbara Sajna
Tad and Andy Dukehart	Dick and Sally Sandretti
Bob and Mary Dunworth	Karen Sandstrom
Steve and Margaret Elliott	Martha Sauter
Tim and Holly Erskine	Ernie and Betty Schluter
Jeffrey Ewaskowitz	Thomas and Lorna Schroeder
Dennis and Mary Fales	Gail and Dennis Schwab
Audrey Forslund	Walt and Tiggy Shields
Nancy Freehafer	Carroll and Sharon Siefert
Gerri Friedberg	Peter and Gloria Sigmann
Dennis and Susan Garrity	Jim and Kay Smith
Hildy Grady	Richard and Mary Special
Eric and Barbara Greenfeldt	Lee Stahl
Doris Hansen	Cheryl Stevens
Earl and Agnes Heyrman	Edward and Janice Stowell
Anne Hobler	Debby Sween
Mike and Deb Holly	Steve Talbot
George and Sue Raye Hughes	Virge Temme
Ann Jerdee	Virge Temme Architecture, Inc.
Bill and Cathy Johnson	Howard and Rosemary Timian Family
David and Mel Johnson	Charles and Kristi Twichell/Torkelson
Joseph Johnson	Kenneth and Rori Uhlhorn
Donald Jones	Jim and Maryann Tyndall
Jack and Raeona Jordan	Kerry and Kathie Vavra
Allan and Sue Jurss	Shirley Vavra
Charles Kalmbach	Gordon Vieth
John and Karin Karecki	Michael and Julia Waite
John and Karen Kierstyn	Richard and Pamela Wegner
Tom and Lucy Kile	Liberty Square Shops
James Kita	David and Linn Wells
Sylvia Landin	Lee Winkler
Mitch Larson - On Deck Clothing Co.	Sherry and Rand Wolf
Martin and Diana Lash/Wallace	Karen and Lloyd Wolter
Jerry and Pam Lecy	Peter Zeller
Keith and Katherine Lindstrand	Ron and Sybil Zigler
David and Carrie Link	Stan and Pat Zyskowski
Kathleen and Steve Losekamp	

Happy Holidays!

Spread Holiday Cheer with the Land Trust this Year!



Gift Memberships

Give someone special the enduring gift of land this holiday season.

By giving a gift membership to the Land Trust, you and your recipient can help preserve Door County's most beautiful, wild, and ecologically important places – for yourselves, for future generations, forever! A one-year gift membership to the Land Trust is a great way to honor your children, spouse, friends, and even co-workers or employees – anyone and everyone you know who loves Door County. Please fill in and mail the form below. We will send the recipient notice of your gift in an attractive Land Trust notecard.

Along with the satisfaction of knowing they are making a difference in Door County's future, your recipient(s) will receive Landings, our journal of land preservation, a Land Trust decal for their vehicle, invitations to our events and hikes, and our sincere thanks. Gift memberships at the \$100 or above level will also include a packet of four beautiful notecards depicting Door County Land Trust preserves.

☐ This membership is being given as a gift from:

(Please attach giver's address and phone number to this form.)

To: Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

☐ Patron \$35 – 99

☐ Preserver \$100 – 249

☐ Steward \$250 – 499

☐ Guardian \$500 – 999

☐ Legacy \$1,000 – 4,999

☐ Heritage \$5,000 and above

Please make checks payable to:

Door County Land Trust

P.O. Box 65

Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Credit Card # _____

☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

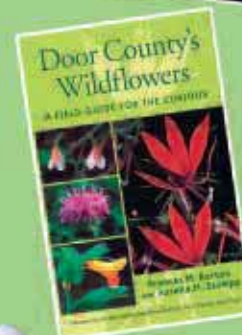
Exp date _____

Land Trust Merchandise

Show off your support of the Door County Land Trust this holiday season by giving someone you love a comfy denim shirt or handsome hat with the new Land Trust logo available exclusively from the Door County Land Trust.

To view these items and other Land Trust merchandise or to download a Merchandise Order Form, please visit our website at www.doorcountylandtrust.org.

As a present for yourself or someone you know who loves Door County, Door County Land Trust merchandise makes a wonderful gift!





The Places We Protect: WOODS AT MONUMENT POINT

Two Purchases Add 30 Acres to Preserve

Earlier this year, the Door County Land Trust purchased two properties that added 30 acres of protected land to the **Woods at Monument Point Preserve**. Located just northwest of Carlsville, the Preserve hosts a beautiful northern hardwood forest above the Niagara escarpment that provides ideal habitat for a rich diversity of bird species.

A 20-acre land purchase from Dean and Judith

Krueger and family and a 10-acre land purchase from Donald and Kayval Larson were funded by the Knowles-Nelson State Stewardship Fund as well as donations from our recently completed 20th Anniversary Capital Campaign. Each of these properties borders land already owned by The Nature Conservancy and the Door County Land Trust. To date, a total of 90 acres in the Woods at Monument Point Preserve have been protected by the Land Trust and Nature Conservancy.

The importance of protecting undeveloped forestland in Door County is critical to preserving migratory and nesting bird habitat. Historically, Door County was covered with a mix of hardwood and conifer forests. These forests offered a diverse understory of woodland plants and provided habitat to a host of woodland mammals and birds. Fragmentation of this forest has led to a decline in songbird nesting habitat for a number of species.



Door County's remaining forests along the shores of Green Bay and Lake Michigan create a critical migratory corridor and offer resting spots for thousands of neotropical songbirds moving

from Central and South America to Canada each year. In addition, the Woods at Monument Point Preserve is one of the few sites left in Door County providing nesting habitat for the State Threatened Red-shouldered hawk.

The Land Trust thanks the Larson and Krueger families for working with us to add these important forestlands to this Preserve.



Photos by Julie Schartner

Sunlight filters through dense forest at the Woods at Monument Point



Land Trust staff at new Sturgeon Bay office

Our Sturgeon Bay Office has Moved!

We're pleased to announce that after enduring falling ceilings, intermittent heat and cramped quarters, the Door County Land Trust has moved to a new office in the historic district of downtown Sturgeon Bay. We are now located at 23 North Fifth Avenue just kitty-corner from the White Lace Inn and St. Joseph's Church one block north of Michigan Street. This is the main office of the Land Trust and is generally staffed Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (Because much of our work takes place out on the land, we recommend calling to check our hours on any given day.) **We hope you'll stop in and say hello next time you're in the neighborhood!**

Our Northern Door office in Baileys Harbor is still located behind the Moccasin Shop (8099 Highway 57) in downtown Baileys Harbor and members are welcome to stop in there as well. (Again, please call before making a special trip!)

Main Office and Mailing Address:

Door County Land Trust
P.O. Box 65, 23 N. 5th Avenue
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
(920) 746-1359 • fax: (920) 746-1024
email: info@doorcountylandtrust.org

Northern Office (no mail receptacle):

Door County Land Trust
8099 Highway 57, Baileys Harbor, WI
(920) 839-9990 • fax: (920) 839-9762