



# *Landings*

JOURNAL OF THE DOOR COUNTY LAND TRUST

## *Protecting Our Islands: Door County's Crown Jewels*



### Also in this Issue:

- **2007 Annual Report to Our Membership**
- Grants Awarded to Protect Coastal Wetlands
- Land Donation Protects Scenic Entry into Fish Creek
- Land Donation at Woods at Monument Point





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**Inside cover:** Clockwise: Full moon rising over Plum Island, photo by Jim and Donna Janning; Aerial view of Detroit Island, photo courtesy of The Nature Conservancy; Aerial view of Washington Island, Detroit Harbor and Detroit Island, photo by Roy Aiken



Design & layout of "Landings" by LfpDesign!

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Land Trust Members,

Welcome to springtime in Door County and to this issue of *Landings*. Hold onto your reading glasses! In this special issue, we will whisk you away on an island adventure, bring you in on some incredibly exciting news from our friends at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and recap the land preservation successes from last year in the enclosed *2007 Annual Report to our Membership*.

Not all the news inside is devoted to the land and water we've protected. Several pages are dedicated to thanking everyone who has helped the Land Trust in the past year through their time, talent, and donations. I personally would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank *you* for *your* support. I am honored that the Door County Land Trust provides you with a way to be personally involved in the preservation of our beautiful landscapes.

I'm sure you've heard the old adage - it takes two to tango. Well, this certainly applies when it comes to the business of land preservation, a business that could not exist without strong partnerships. Consider what *our* partnership has achieved. Together we've established nearly two dozen nature preserves throughout Door County, protected thousands of scenic acres along our county's highways and rural roads, and provided inspiring places for thousands of children, parents and grandparents to hike, hunt, and explore.

None of this could have been accomplished working alone. Our success depends on a network of strong partnerships - from the support of many individuals, foundations and agencies, to the cooperation of visionary landowners who provide the Land Trust with the opportunity to preserve the beauty and ecological diversity that make Door County such an inspiring place to live and visit.

So, it's in this spirit of partnership and collaboration that I invite you to sit back and enjoy reading about the remarkable places you've helped protect. Have a wonderful spring and we'll see you out on the land.

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.*



*Dragon's Mouth orchid*

Photo by Julie Schartner



*Nodding Ladies Tresses orchid*

Photo by Julie Schartner



*Pitcher Plants*

Photo by Julie Schartner



# US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE GRANTS AWARDED TO PROTECT COASTAL WETLANDS

What does Door County have in common with Hawaii, Alaska, and the coast of California? In the opinion of our United States government, namely the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Door County's land and water resources rank right up there in terms of national importance with that of our salt water friends out west.

No, you will not catch a glimpse of barking sea lions basking in the sun off Chambers Island or a pod of humpback whales cruising though Death's Door, but the rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals that call Door County home are making quite an impression at the national level. Door County's reputation as an "ecological powerhouse" grew this past winter with the news that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded two land acquisition grants to the Door County Land Trust and the State of Wisconsin.

These are no ordinary grants. They are highly competitive with applications coming in from the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the Gulf of Mexico, and even the Caribbean. The fact that one small county in Wisconsin received two of these grants speaks volumes about the critical habitat Door County possesses and the important role the Great Lakes play in maintaining America's ecological integrity. It also, to toot our own horn, speaks volumes about the professionalism of the Land Trust



Land Trust staff and local conservation partners hosted twelve US Fish and Wildlife Service employees from all over the country on a tour of Door County natural areas to showcase the importance of coastal wetland sites.

Photo by Julie Schartner

grant-writing staff – most notably Terrie Cooper, Julie Schartner and Jodi Milske – and the partnership-forging abilities of the organization as a whole!

In announcing the grant awards, Department of the Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne commented, "By tapping into the power of partnership through these grants, we are joining with states, local governments, conservation organizations and other partners across the country to conserve and restore our vitally important coastal wetlands."

Each of the two grants awarded provides up to \$1 million for land purchases. Each will be matched dollar for dollar by grants from the Knowles-Nelson State Stewardship Fund. The Land Trust is also required to provide a significant monetary match in the form of private donations. *When it's all said and done, the Land Trust and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will have over \$4 million to use in acquiring and preserving some of Door County's most scenic and ecologically important wetlands, lakeshore and wildlife habitat!*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife grants are awarded for use in specific areas. One grant will enable the Land Trust and the DNR to partner in protecting nearly 200 acres of high quality wetland ecosystems on Washington and Detroit Islands including 6,500 feet of shoreline. The other grant is available to help protect approximately 440 acres of coastal wetlands along the Lake Michigan shore near the City of Sturgeon Bay.

When learning of the awarded grants, Governor Jim Doyle remarked, "Caring for our lakes and lakeshores is an important part of maintaining our quality of life in Wisconsin, and I am pleased that these funds will help so many valuable projects preserve our heritage."

Dan Burke, Executive Director of the Land Trust, explains that although news of the grant awards is exciting, there are many challenges ahead. "It is important for our members and the community at large to understand that these grant monies are only available for the actual purchase of land. All the staff time and most associated



Photo by Julie Schartner

Ridge and swale wetlands near the Lake Michigan shore southeast of Sturgeon Bay

costs including appraisals, surveys, and legal fees, must be paid for by the Land Trust. In addition, we are required to provide a match in excess of \$150,000. We will be asking the community for its support, but we are confident that once people understand and appreciate the incredible opportunity these grants provide, the monetary support will be forthcoming."

With the grant awards secured, attention now turns to working cooperatively with the landowners of the properties we hope to protect over the next two years. We will, of course, keep our members up-to-date on any and all land protection successes that result from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants. And, remember, before traveling off to the rugged coast of Maine or to the blue waters along the Texas coast to witness our country's beautiful coastal wetlands, don't forget to pay a visit to Detroit Harbor, Kellner Fen, Little Lake or the Sturgeon Bay Shipping Canal property – all right here in splendid Door County!





# *The Places We Protect:* **DOOR COUNTY ISLANDS**

## **Protecting Door County's Crown Jewels**

One of Door County's most unique and important natural treasures is the beautiful chain of islands that grace the waters around us. These islands add interest and depth to our vistas, their very remoteness

sparks romantic notions of serenity, and the stories told about them depict a wilder time and a tougher existence. The Door County Land Trust has taken an active role in preserving these special places.



*The Grand Traverse Islands dot the waters between Wisconsin's Door Peninsula and Upper Michigan's Garden Peninsula. Satellite image courtesy of the Environmental Remote Sensing Center University of Wisconsin-Madison <http://www.ersc.wisc.edu>*

## **How These Islands Were Formed**

It all began 450 million years ago. At this time, Wisconsin was located 10 degrees south of the equator and warm seas covered the area. These seas were home to coral, brachiopods, trilobites, cephalopods and snails. Their calcium rich bodies formed the dolomite bedrock that underlies the Door Peninsula and all of the Grand Traverse Islands.

The dozens of islands that stretch from Green Bay and the northern tip of Wisconsin's Door Peninsula to the southern tip of Michigan's Garden Peninsula are known as the Grand Traverse Islands.

With names like Hog, Gravel, Pilot, Plum and Detroit, the islands are as unique as their names. A few, such as Chambers and Washington, have a rich and storied human side to them that continues today, while others have become home to only "the birds" as is the case with Pilot Island whose ghost trees support an amazing cormorant rookery.

The islands do have one big thing in common, however. They all were formed in much the same way over hundreds of millions of years and are all part of an island ecosystem that provides critical habitat to an impressive number of rare plant and animal species.



Photo by Jim and Donna Janning

*A full moon rises over Plum Island*

As the North American plate moved north over millions of years, uplifting occurred, and much of the northern Michigan and central Wisconsin bedrock buckled up and tilted down towards the state of Michigan. This tilting resulted in high cliffs along the western side of the islands and the Door and Garden peninsulas and low wetlands and stretches of sand beach along the east. Preglacial rivers flowed off the uplands scouring out deep river valleys. When the glaciers arrived, they widened these river valleys forming the lakes and deep bays we see today. When the glaciers melted thousands of years ago, Lake Michigan and Green Bay water levels were hundreds of feet higher than they are now with only the highest points of land

rising out of the lake. *Some of our favorite landmarks – Brussels Hill, Potowatomi and Peninsula Park bluffs, Mountain Park on Washington Island, the bluffs at Sister Bay, Ellison Bay and Rock Island and the Door Headlands Park were all islands at one time!* As lake levels continued to recede, the landscape we know today came into being and our off-shore islands were created.

## The Door County Land Trust is Working to Protect These Natural Treasures

The unique features and biological diversity of Door County's islands have long been seen as treasures. In fact, in the mid-1970's there was an effort by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to partner with the State of Michigan to establish a bi-state Grand Traverse Islands State Park. Although this grand plan did not come to fruition, the Door County Land

Trust has picked up where the states have left off. To complete land projects on several of Door County's islands, the Land Trust has applied for and received competitive state and federal land acquisition grants reserved for the most ecologically critical coastal regions in Wisconsin and the United States. (See page 3.) Over the past seven years, these grants have helped the

Land Trust partner with the DNR and the Washington Island Project Committee to protect over 500 acres on Washington and Detroit Islands. And our island work is expanding!



Chambers Island

## CHAMBERS ISLAND

### Land Trust Begins Protection Work on Chambers Island

The Door County Land Trust is pleased to announce a land preservation success story on another island. Thanks to help from a small group of concerned landowners and the DNR, the Land Trust has purchased and preserved its first land on Chambers Island.

Chambers Island is the island most easily seen from the villages of Fish Creek and Egg Harbor. Of Door County's islands, it is second in size only to Washington Island. In 2005, a group of Chambers Island property owners formed the Chambers Island Land Preservation Committee as part of the Chambers Island Association. Suzanne Fletcher chairs the committee and explains that it all began with a hike and a little bit of education. "A group of us went on a walk led by Mike Grimm, conservation ecologist with The Nature Conservancy. We discovered things we had never known about our island – amazing things about Rhinoceros beetles and hemlock groves and other natural features most of us didn't know existed. It was so inspiring to learn about these things. Once we learned about them, it reinforced in our minds that what we have here is really a jewel. And, in order to protect what we all love, we needed to act. We asked every property owner on the island to help and we raised enough money to match a State Stewardship Grant. This enabled the Land Trust to acquire and preserve its first property on Chambers. It's been a real pleasure to work on this project."

Recently designated a State Natural Area, Chambers Island boasts many significant natural features. One is the 374-acre Lake Mackaysee. The Island's largest lake is home to an excellent population of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike and some bluegill and yellow perch. Lake Sturgeon are still occasionally

reported. Lake Mackaysee is also home to nesting bald eagles.

Another important feature of the island is its healthy canopy of second-growth sugar maple, beech, red oak and hemlock. Most significant is the hemlock. In addition to being aesthetically pleasing, hemlocks provide important nesting habitat to neotropical passerine species – i.e. migratory songbirds such as warblers, vireos, thrushes, orioles and tanagers. During spring migrations, these birds move north in a broad band over Green Bay in such huge numbers that they will appear on radar images. These birds seek a place to land after a long night's travel. Chambers Island is strategically located and provides the cover, food and protection from predators that is critical.

Another natural feature found on Chambers Island is the little known muskeg – the only muskeg found on any of the Green Bay or Grand Traverse Islands. Muskegs are large raised bogs formed by accumulated

*Islands article continued on page 6*



Sunlight dapples Chambers Island's second growth forest.

Photo by Terrie Cooper



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peat deposits and are known to provide important habitat for land snails, moths, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians and birds.

While Chambers Island's natural history has been millions of years in the making, its human history is comparatively brief. Still, it has been the site of many human ventures. Some of its earliest inhabitants were the Potowatomi. They called the island Nakomah and left behind burial mounds as evidence of their stay. Early European voyagers and missionaries also used the island, mainly as a stop-over on their routes. In 1816, the island was christened "Chambers" in honor of exploratory officer, Captain Talbot Chambers. Chambers Island's first white settler, a Quaker named Stephen Hoag, didn't arrive until decades later, sometime before 1849. Soon after his arrival, others followed and, by 1858, settlers petitioned the county to create the Town of Chambers Island.

1860 to 1890 marked the "hey day" of the island. In their book, *Door County Stories*, Paul and Fran Burton describe life on Chambers Island during this period. "Slowly the settlement grew and by the 1860s it had

become a thriving village of 250 people with a post office, school, sawmill, and small shipyard. The austerity of the early days eased, and residents had time for tea parties, sewing circles, and dances. In 1868 the U.S. Government recognized the importance of Chambers Island when it constructed a lighthouse." The lighthouse, still standing today, was constructed on land purchased from sawmill owner, Lewis Williams. Williams and his wife Ann, Hoag's daughter, became the first lighthouse keepers and raised eleven children in the living quarters.

As busy as it became, Chambers Island never supported a store; settlers made the water voyage to Green Bay or Milwaukee for their supplies. According to historian H. R. Holand, this was never considered a hardship as folks living in Sturgeon Bay and Menominee had to do the same! By the 1890's, however, rudimentary road construction on the mainland was opening Door County up to a larger world and residents of Chambers Island wanted to be part of it. The population of the village dwindled and eventually disappeared.

Chambers Island was to be the repository of many grand schemes and dreams in the next half century. Leatham Smith, Sturgeon Bay's most famous shipbuilder, purchased a good part of the island and harvested more than 20 million board feet of white pine. This was used in

constructing the original Sturgeon Bay bridge. Smith sold his holdings to Fred Dennett who eventually owned almost the entire island and aspired to create an island paradise. When he died in 1922, his daughter inherited the island and operated a summer girls' camp there for several years.

The island was soon after sold to a group of Chicago investors, the Chambers Island Company, who planned to develop an exclusive resort featuring an airfield, golf course, yacht harbor, game preserve, clubhouse and network of roads. Several large homes were built during this time, but the advent of the Great Depression marked the end of the Chambers Island Company.

Today, Chambers Island is home to a retreat center for the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay, seven miles of town roads, a new marina, the original lighthouse (made electric in 1961), and about 70 private residences. The Holy Name Retreat Center is serviced by the Quo Vadis ("Where are you going?") ferry, but all other access to the island is by private boat. Those interested in visiting Chambers Island may use one of the transient slips at the new marina on the east side of the island. A one mile hike down Island Drive leads visitors to the Chambers Island lighthouse.

*Islands article continued on page 7*

*Background image: Just prior to the Great Depression, a group of Chicago investors mapped out their plans for an exclusive Chambers Island resort.*



*Chambers Island lighthouse, circa 1914*

Photo courtesy of John Thenell



*Ice boaters on the east side of Chambers Island, circa 1910  
The trees in the photo depict the post-1890's virtual clear cutting of the island.*



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## WASHINGTON AND DETROIT ISLANDS

### Land Trust Successes Continue on Detroit and Washington Islands

Detroit Island has seen two important parcels protected recently. This past winter, Liudas and Dahlia Slenys donated a pristine shore property to the Land Trust and

this spring the Land Trust purchased another key lakeshore parcel with the help of state and federal grants. Together these lands protect over 700 feet of shoreline and bring the

Washington Island

Rock Island

Plum Island

Detroit Island

total lands protected in the Detroit Harbor State Natural Area to over 130 acres. Detroit Harbor hosts northern Lake Michigan's most productive smallmouth bass nursery and protection of these lakeshore parcels from residential development is critical to maintaining the water quality of this important fishery.

Donald Young and Shirley Weese Young also preserved a piece of Washington Island placing a no development conservation easement on their 42-acre parcel of land on the southeast corner of Washington Island in December 2007. Their property hosts beautiful wetlands, woodlands and sand dunes adjacent to the Town of Washington's Sand Dune Park.

### "No Island is an Island"

Terrie Cooper, land program director for the Land Trust, explains the importance of protecting Door County's islands. "When evaluating the ecological benefits of preserving an island, it's fair to say that no island is an island. All of our islands are part of a connected ecosystem. When we protect wildlife habitat on one, we are also enhancing the ecological integrity of Green Bay as a whole, mainland Door County, and the other island communities nearby. They are all part of a larger puzzle. We've had the good fortune to work closely with island landowners, the DNR, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to preserve this critical habitat for our migrating birds. We are all committed to this effort."

The Door County Land Trust thanks all of the landowners and agency partners who have been instrumental in preserving our "crown jewels."

*Aerial view of Washington Island with Detroit Harbor and Detroit Island in foreground.*

## Islands Showcase Door County's Biodiversity

More rare plant and animal species exist in Door County than in any other county in Wisconsin. We owe this biodiversity to the interaction between three key players – the alkaline dolomite bedrock, the water, and the moderating affect of Lake Michigan's cooler summers and warmer winters. This interaction has allowed southern species to survive further north and northern boreal species to survive further south than they otherwise would.

Many Door County islands historically contained upland forests of sugar maple, beech, basswood, hemlock, white pine, aspen and birch. Rock Island is the best example of this type of old-growth. Other islands (Washington, Summer, and Poverty) had poorer, wetter soil and were dominated by boreal forests of white cedar, balsam fir, and white spruce. Door County hosts the most southern boreal forest communities found in the state. Outside of Door County, these conifer-dominated boreal forests are found along the shores of Lake Superior and northward into Canada.

In addition to the forest communities, our islands are home to unique coastal wetlands. These wetlands were formed thousands of years ago when old Lake Michigan bays were closed off by large sand deposits brought in by strong lake currents. Washington Island's Little Lake, Coffey Swamp, and Big and Little Marsh and Chambers Island's Lake Mackaysee are examples of these embayment lakes and wetlands. They provide a home for a host of rare wetland-dependent species such as the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly, dwarf lake iris, dune's thistle and over thirty species of birds.



# The Places We Protect: FISH CREEK SCENIC CORRIDOR

## Approaching Fish Creek

An important part of the Land Trust's mission is the preservation of open space. The inauspicious stretch of old field south of Fish Creek between the clock maker's cottage and Welcker Cliff Drive is not, in and of itself, of high or special ecological value. There are no wetlands, no rare plants or animals. However, for many people, this undeveloped juniper-strewn field heralds the descent into the quaint village of Fish Creek and their arrival into the heart of northern Door County. And just as the anticipation of an event can be half the fun, the approach to a special place is special, too.

Thanks to Candy and Ron Dammon and Candy's sister, April McDaniel, the southern approach to Fish Creek along the east side of highway 42 will remain open land forever. In late 2007, they donated twelve acres of land (four

buildable lots) to the Door County Land Trust.

Candy and Ron live nearby on Welcker Cliff Drive and can attest to the daily displays of nature. Candy explains, "We enjoy watching all the wildlife that surrounds us. It feels good to know that, by making this donation, we can protect a little bit of their habitat."

*"These upland fields act as the water filtration system for the village below." – Terrie Cooper*

Candy led a walk through the property on a chilly day in December. A red-tailed hawk circled overhead and a flock of less graceful wild turkeys lumbered away in an awkward group. Candy remarked that a red fox is also known to make an occasional appearance. The old field these animals occupy is classic Door County. It is sprinkled with junipers, the first sign that nature is at work slowly transforming the field back to forest. The prickly shrubs protect small white aspen, pine, cedar and birch saplings from browsing deer and allow them to establish their roots.

Candy and April also have roots in this area. In the late 1800's, their grandfather and great uncles, all physicians, emigrated to the mid-west from Germany. Two of the three brothers, Herman and Kurt Welcker, found their way eventually to the largely wild Door County peninsula. Their great uncle Herman, a virologist, and his wife, Elsie, opened Welcker's Resort. The original buildings still stand and are now known as the Whistling Swan and the White Gull Inn, landmarks in Fish Creek.

"There are still people in the area who remember our father, Victor, and our uncle Fred. Our grandparents, Kurt and Hedwig, owned the land in town that runs

along the creek. They spent summers in the Bonnie Brook Cottage, later the Bonnie Brook Hotel. The gardens behind Bonnie Brook were the site of "Theatre in a Garden" – the birthplace of the Peninsula Players. The property is now the Fish Creek Park. In the 1930's, our grandmother Hedwig purchased property on top of the bluff and for decades, it was the only home built there. We have many



*The 12-acre donation lies along Highway 42 just before it dips down into the village of Fish Creek.*

childhood memories of long hours playing along the creek and in the woods and orchards beneath and above the bluff."

According to Terrie Cooper, land program director for the Land Trust, the open fields above Door County's villages may appear to be rather plain – especially when compared to the dramatic bluffs they border. However, they are an important part of the area's watershed. "These upland fields act as the water filtration system for the villages below. More and more we are learning that by preserving the lands above, we're protecting the quality of our drinking water, the health of our beaches and of the bay itself. We shouldn't take these fields for granted."

The Door County Land Trust sincerely thanks Candy and Ron Dammon and April McDaniel for their generous donation of land and for preserving a special part of the Fish Creek landscape for all to enjoy.



*Early Fish Creek settlers,  
Kurt and Hedwig Welcker*



*Candy Welcker Dammon  
as a small child at her  
grandmother's blufftop  
property*



# DOOR COUNTY LAND TRUST

## *Preserving Our Finest Open Spaces & Wild Places*



## 2007 Year in Review

An Annual Report to Our Membership

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The Land Trust board and staff are proud to share with you our *2007 Annual Report to our Membership*. It reflects many successes thanks to your loyal support.

I am honored to be the new president of your Door County Land Trust Board of Directors. Some fine presidents have preceded me, most recently Lucy Klug, a dedicated, hard working leader whose term expired in January. The entire organization is grateful to Lucy for her leadership. She'll be a hard act to follow.

These are exciting times in land preservation as we have many opportunities on our plate. Pursuing every desirable project is a daunting challenge and we usually have only one shot at securing land before it is lost forever. As long as you, our members, support our work, we will forge ahead preserving the best of the best of Door County's beautiful landscapes.

My wife, Vonnice, and I have owned a business in Door County for over 20 years. As a businessman, land preservation means more to me than just keeping our county open and natural. Sustaining a healthy environment is critical to the business community and all residents alike. If Door County loses its appeal as a top destination in the Midwest, we all lose. Maintaining our status requires, first and foremost, holding on to what brought most of us here to begin with - scenic open spaces, protected bluffs and shorelines, ready access to a variety of outdoor activities, peaceful glades and places in which to get lost. Protecting our open spaces protects our quality of life. It is my hope that this quality of life will attract younger adults to visit and live here, too. We need youth to replenish the energies and ambitions essential to maintain a balanced community.

On behalf of the entire board of directors, I thank you whole-heartedly for your support of the Door County Land Trust. We have a beautiful county to enjoy and it's up to us to protect it. As Henry David Thoreau so aptly put it, "A man is rich in proportion to the number of things which he can afford to let alone."

Dave Callsen  
President, Board of Directors



Outgoing president, Lucy Klug, and her successor, Dave Callsen, hold up the cow bells traditionally used to call Board of Directors meetings to order.

## WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The Door County Land Trust sincerely thanks *you*, our dedicated volunteers. The ways you help are innumerable. You plan our events, pull invasive species, lead hikes, prepare and serve meals, help at the office and, in many other ways, give generously of your time and talents. We couldn't do our work without you!



Naomi Carlson (left) helps members at the popular merchandise table at the Annual Gathering.



Diane Finger helps serve hors d'oeuvres at the 2007 Annual Gathering.



Our dedicated Board of Directors

From left to right, front row: Judy Lokken, Bryan Nelson, Jean Barrett, Cathy Fiorato  
Middle row: Ollie Skrivanie, Lucy Klug, Mary Standish, Fran Burton, Karen Yancey  
Back row: Dave Callsen, John Turner, Jim Janning  
Not pictured: Nancy Aten, Rob Van Gemert

Photos by Julie Schartner



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*Events Chair,  
 Judy Lokken,  
 thanks her  
 hard-working  
 committee at the  
 Annual Gathering.*

If you are interested in volunteering for the Door County Land Trust, please call our Sturgeon Bay office at (920) 746-1359 or e-mail [info@doorcountylandtrust.org](mailto:info@doorcountylandtrust.org) for more information.



*Invasive Species Demonstration Day at Land Trust's Bay Shore Blufflands Preserve.*

Photo by Jodi Miliske



The Land Trust prides itself on being a stickler for details, but there are times when we fail in this. If you volunteered your time in 2007 and your name doesn't appear on the list above, please contact our office so our records may be corrected and we may thank you.

2007

# LAND PRESERVATION SUCCESS

In 2007, the Door County Land Trust continued its commitment to use member donations wisely and effectively in protecting our finest open spaces and wild places. Nine land projects were completed this past year representing nearly 300 acres throughout the county. Grants from the Knowles/Nelson State Stewardship Fund, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Door County Green Fund were matched by member donations to enable the Land Trust to purchase three properties. In addition, two properties were generously donated by landowners and four others permanently protected through conservation easement agreements with the Land Trust. Here is a summary of the places you helped protect in 2007:

## 1 Little Lake Preserve: Washington Island

In 2007, the Land Trust completed one of its most ambitious projects to date when it purchased a small stretch of land between Little Lake and Green Bay from the Eichelberger family. The land includes over 3,200 feet of undeveloped shoreline. Combined with a 2005 purchase, the Land Trust has now protected the entire northern half of this pristine lake.

## 2 Washington Island's South End

The southern portion of Washington Island is home to beautiful forests, fields and sand dunes that provide habitat to many rare plants and animals including dwarf lake iris. The Land Trust completed its first project here in 2007 when it entered into a conservation easement



*Washington Island's Little Lake*

agreement with Shirley Weese Young and Donald Young, owners of 43 acres along South Shore Lane. (See page 7.)

## 3 Woods at Monument Point Preserve: Carlsville

Located about one mile northwest of Carlsville, this Land Trust preserve is home to a diverse and healthy forest community. The preserve was expanded in 2007 with the donation of a conservation easement agreement from Craig and Sandy Shultz that will permanently protect their beautiful forest.

## 4 Kangaroo Lake Preserve: Township of Baileys Harbor

The pristine waters of Kangaroo Lake and its surrounding wetlands and forest comprise one of Door County's most scenic and important wildlife areas. The Kangaroo Lake Preserve is a cooperative effort between the Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy. It boasts over 600 protected acres, including the 2007 purchase of a key 40-acre parcel along Peil Creek from the McNeil family.

## 5 Fish Creek Scenic Corridor

The southern approach to Fish Creek along highway 42 will remain open land forever thanks to Ron and Candy Dammon and April Mc Daniel who donated four undeveloped parcels on the east side of the road. This



*Washington Island Committee Members join Terrie Cooper at Coffey Swamp*

Photo by Steve Waldron

juniper-laden stretch of open space will help maintain the scenic integrity of the descent into the village of Fish Creek. (See page 8.)

## 6 Mud Lake State Wildlife Area: Between Baileys Harbor and Sister Bay

In 2007, the Land Trust continued its work protecting wildlife habitat between Baileys Harbor and Sister Bay when it entered into a conservation easement agreement with John Wilson, Jr. that permanently protects 42 acres along Grove Road. The Wilson property borders the Mud Lake State Wildlife Area and is adjacent to another 40-acre tract under Land Trust protection.

## 7 The Ridges Sanctuary: Baileys Harbor

The Ridges Sanctuary is a 1,500-acre nature preserve of national significance. In 2007, the Land Trust was



*Peil Creek flows into Kangaroo Lake*

Photo by Terrie Cooper





Photo by Julie Scharmer

*Woods at Monument Point*

instrumental in adding 60 acres to the Sanctuary by writing and accepting a conservation easement agreement. This agreement will permanently protect three ancient Lake Michigan shorelines and 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.

## 8 Detroit Harbor Preserve: Washington and Detroit Islands

Forest, springs, wetlands, and miles of pristine Detroit Harbor shoreline characterize this Land Trust preserve located on Detroit and Washington Islands. A land donation on Detroit Island by the Slenys Family in

## 2007 GIFTS OF LAND AND DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

### Land Donations

Ron and Candy Dammon and  
April McDaniel  
Liudas and Dahlia Slenys

### No Development Conservation Easements

George and Sharon Cobb  
Craig and Sandy Schultz  
Donald and Shirley Weese Young  
John Wilson, Jr.



Photo by Roy Aiken

*Detroit Harbor Preserve*

2007 protects several hundred feet of shoreline and connects land and lakeshore already protected by the Land Trust. (See page 7.)

## 9 Coffey Swamp State Natural Area: Washington Island

The Coffey Swamp ecosystem serves as the principal watershed for much of Washington Island. Rainwater from the center of the island empties into Coffey Swamp where it is filtered only to return to the island's fragile groundwater system or to Lake Michigan. In 2007, the Land Trust purchased 80 acres here from the Ulm family and then transferred the land to the State of Wisconsin for long-term stewardship.

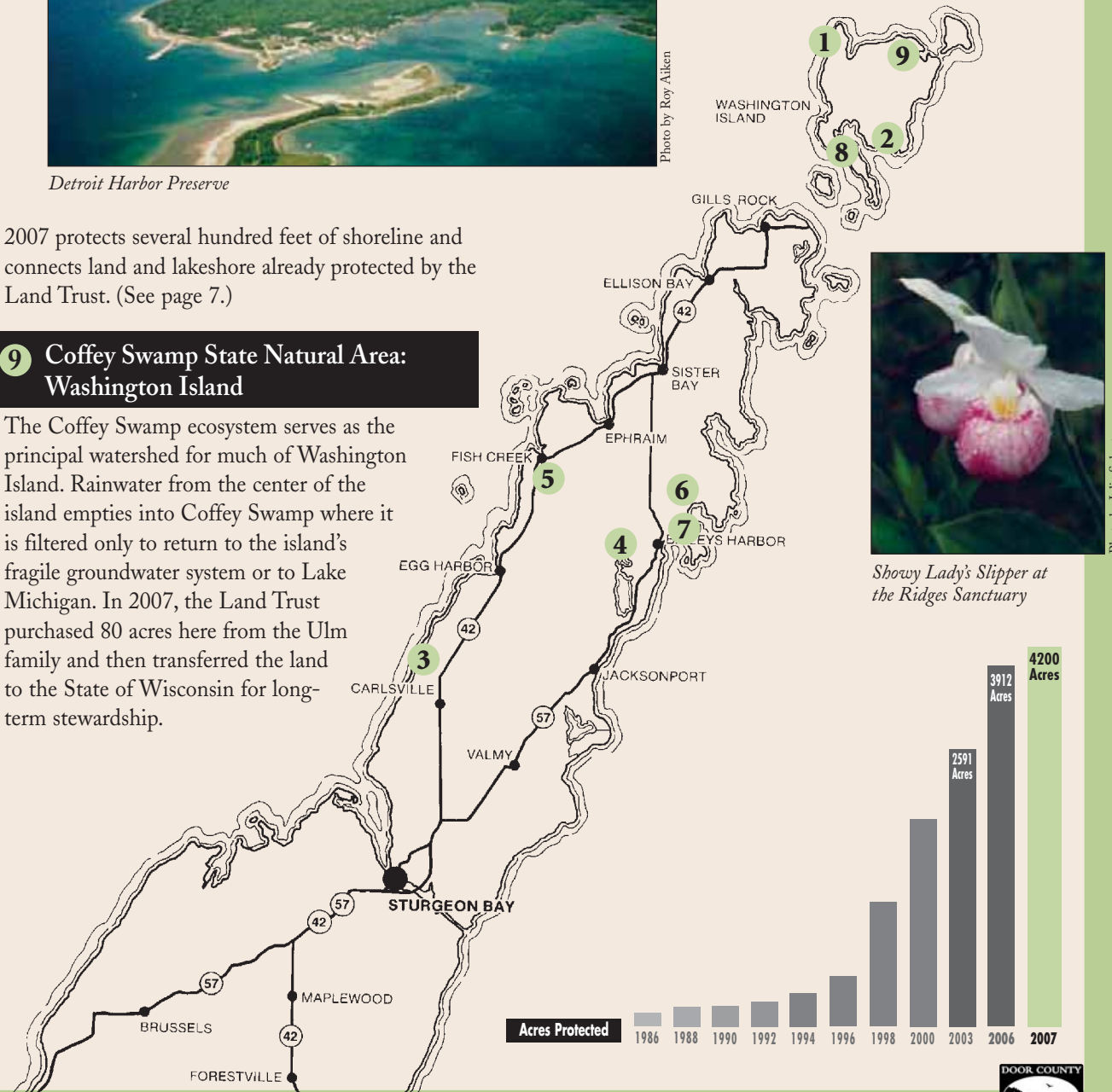


Photo by Julie Scharmer

*Showy Lady's Slipper at the Ridges Sanctuary*

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Total cash gifts received during 2007

We thank the following who provided financial support in the form of cash donations to the Land Trust.

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Photo by Julie Scharner



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Virge Temme Architects, Inc.  
Jim and Sue Workman

*Your gift deserves to be acknowledged.  
If we made an error, please notify us so  
we can correct it for future publications.*



Photo by Carrie Hauser

*Caribbean Beach Party, Dining for Open Spaces, 2007*

*Thank you to  
our 2007  
Hosts and  
Co-hosts!*

**Dining for  
Open Spaces**



The Door County Land Trust sincerely thanks our Dining for Open Spaces, 2007 hosts and co-hosts for their generosity and their hours in the kitchen! **The dollars spent hosting these events are appreciated contributions to the Door County Land Trust.**

Jean Barrett and  
Dave Nevalainen  
Katie and Chris Callen  
Vonnice and Dave Callsen  
Vicky and Sam Carmen  
Sandy and Russ Dagon  
Sharon Donegan  
Diane and Jack Finger  
Cathy and Tony Fiorato  
Carrie and Dick Hauser  
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Patti Podgers and Jim Johnson  
Judy Samida and Guy Fortin  
Barb and Bill Siebel  
Mary and Mike Standish  
Sue and Jim Workman  
Sylvia and Ron Zigler

## 2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2007

## ASSETS

## Current Assets

Checking/Savings Accounts	
Brokerage Account	164,718.14
Checking Accounts	117,824.54
Legal Defense Fund	17,020.89
Money Market Account	314,403.77
Petty Cash	900.00
Total Checking and Savings Accounts	614,867.34

Other Current Assets	
Pledges Discounted	-97,960.00
Pledges Receivable	767,495.00
Prepaid Expenses	2,313.37
Total Other Current Assets	513,382.00

**Total Current Assets** 1,286,715.71

## Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets	
Accumulated Depreciation	-18,171.21
Fixed Assets	31,474.60
Total Fixed Assets	13,303.39

**Total Fixed Assets** 13,303.39

## Other Assets

Earnest Money	2,200.00
Property Owned	
Bay Shore Blufflands Preserve	2,339,089.00
Reserved Life Estate Property	1,200,000.00
Kinsey Bay Shore Property	210,000.00
Ephraim Preserve at Anderson Pond	381,350.00
Hibbards Creek Preserve	106,800.00
Kangaroo Lake Preserve	311,810.00
Kellner Fen Preserve	328,000.00
Lautenbach Woods Preserve	810,000.00
N. Michigan Drive	1,800.00
Oak Road Wetlands Preserve	713,000.00
Old Stage Property	48,000.00
Gilson-Peterson Forest	300,000.00
Picha Forest Preserve at Thorp Pond	136,000.00
Sturgeon Bay Ridge-Swale Property	134,100.00

Washington & Detroit Islands	
Detroit Harbor Preserve	1,045,674.00
Domer-Neff Nature Preserve	76,500.00
Indian Point Forest Preserve	66,000.00
Little Lake Preserve	1,419,000.00
Mostek Forest Preserve	97,500.00
Richter Community Forest	711,000.00
Washington Harbor View	87,500.00
White Cliff Fen and Forest	1,018,859.00
Woods at Monument Point	327,000.00
Total Property Owned	11,868,982.00
Stewardship Endowment Trust	532,210.48
Stewardship Truck	21,112.79
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>12,429,805.27</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS** 13,729,824.37

## LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY

## Liabilities &amp; Equity

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	14,357.13
Other Current Liabilities	
Federal Withholding	6,414.65
Accrued Wages	17,624.45
Prorated Property Tax Credit	2,169.43
State Withholding	1,043.61
Total Other Current Liabilities	27,252.14

**Total Current Liabilities** 41,609.27

**Total Liabilities** 41,609.27

Equity	
Retained Earnings	11,068,875.45
Net Income	2,619,464.17
Total Equity	13,688,339.62

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** 13,729,948.89



Photo by Julie Scharner

## Endowment Trust Fund

as of December 31, 2007

The Land Trust's Endowment Trust is a segregated fund designed to provide long-term financial stability for the organization. Because only the interest and gains from the Endowment's investments can be made available to the Land Trust, the fund's permanent viability is ensured.

Asset Type	Market Value	% Portfolio
Cash	\$50,118.96	1%
Bank Deposits	\$7,334.38	2%
Equity	\$272,480.78	63%
Fixed Income	\$209,610.74	34%
Value as of 12/31/07	\$532,201.48	100%

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

•Dave Nevalainen, Chair	•Jim Kinney
•Mary Standish, Secretary	•Rob Van Gemert
•Tony Fiorato	•Jim Workman
•Richard Hauser	

**If you are interested in making a donation to the Endowment, please contact Dan Burke at the Land Trust office.**

\*This is a preliminary pre-audit Financial Statement. If you are interested in obtaining our 2007 Audited Statement, we will be happy to provide you a copy upon the audit completion.



# LEAVING A LEGACY

## Planned Giving – An Important Way You Can Help the Door County Land Trust

*“I want to control my property while I’m alive and well, take care of myself and loved ones if I become disabled, and then give what I have, to whom I want, when I want and the way I want, all at the lowest cost to me and my beneficiaries.”*

Door County Land Trust board member and retired attorney, **Oliver “Ollie” Skrivanie**, shared the above personal definition of estate planning with Land Trust members at an Estate Planning seminar held at Bjorklund Lodge in Baileys Harbor last January. Ollie was joined by attorney **Richard Hauser**, trustee of the Land Trust’s Stewardship Endowment Fund. Together they presented advice on estate planning and charitable giving to over 40 participants.



Photo by Laurel Hauser

*Land Trust members negotiate the finer points of Estate Planning with help from Richard Hauser and Oliver “Ollie” Skrivanie.*

Those who attended learned that making a planned gift is an important way to help the Door County Land Trust. It is our hope that *you* will consider including the Land Trust in *your* estate plans. By naming the Land Trust as a beneficiary in your will or other estate planning documents, you will help leave a legacy of protected lands for others to enjoy – forever. With your help, Door County’s unique and treasured open spaces will stay just the way they are far into the future.



Photo by Paul Burton

*Charlie and Emily Burton, grandchildren of Sustainers Circle members, Paul and Fran Burton, enjoy some serious tree frog hunting at the Ephraim Preserve at Anderson Pond. Support from our Sustainers Circle ensures that places like the Ephraim Preserve will be available for their children and grandchildren, too!*



*Clouds illuminated at sunset over Kangaroo Lake*

Photo by Julie Scharfner

If you have already named or intend to name the Door County Land Trust as a beneficiary of your planned giving, please let us know so that we may thank you and welcome you to the Sustainers Circle!

If you would like more information on the various ways you can make a planned gift to the Door County Land Trust, please email Laurel Hauser at [lhauser@dcwis.com](mailto:lhauser@dcwis.com) or call the Land Trust office at (920) 746-1359.

## SUSTAINERS CIRCLE

We thank the following individuals who have joined our Sustainers Circle by including the Door County Land Trust in their estate plans.

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
James and Barbara Blanton  
Paul and Fran Burton  
Ken and Mary Bussard  
Ardis Cermak  
Dan Collins and Nancy Aten  
Lyn Dimberg  
Ron Klimaitis and Gloria Dougherty  
Susan Duffy  
Phil and Marilyn Hansotia  
Edward and Janet Heveran  
Albert and Cynthia Johnson  
Wally and Dottie Klepp  
Karl and Lucy Klug  
Ron and Judy Lokken  
Don and Lynne Luker  
Roy and Charlotte Lukes  
Dave Nevalainen and Jean Barrett  
Rich Propsom and Jane Bruesch  
Jim and Judy Schwengel  
Tom Seagard and Brigitte Kozma  
Michael and Mary Standish  
Lee Traven  
Dale Vanden Houten and Richard Scott  
John and Karen Yancey  
Bob and Charlotte Yeomans

## Thank you for these Special Gifts !

### Donated Items

AMO Gallery  
Dave Smith Appraisal Services  
Sturgeon Bay Visitor and Convention Bureau  
Don and Brigid Krutek

### Book Proceeds

*Wildflowers of Door County*  
Paul and Marilyn Mahlberg  
*Door County's Wildflowers*  
Francis M. Burton and Aurelia M. Stamp

### We Care Program

Roundy's Supermarkets, Inc.

### Dollars for Open Spaces

The Blacksmith Inn  
The White Gull Inn

### Feast by the Fire, 2008

*The Mission Grille*, Sister Bay  
*Café Launch*, Sturgeon Bay  
*Sister Bay Cafe*, Sister Bay  
*The Blue Horse Bistro*, Fish Creek  
*The Linen Press*

### Company Matching Gifts

QuadGraphics  
Beth Danielson  
BorgWarner  
Mary Brevard  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
Grace and Glen Rossman  
Alliant Energy  
Pamela Wagner

# TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

Gifts received in 2007

## Tribute Gifts

*In honor of*  
**John Bacon**  
Leland & Inge Bacon

*In honor of*  
**Bill & Mary Bassett**  
Leland & Inge Bacon

*In honor of 35 years with*  
*Northwestern Mutual*  
**Barry Brezan**  
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*In honor of*  
**Don & Louise Buchholz**  
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*In honor of*  
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**The Garden Lady**  
Beth Coleman

*In honor of*  
**Christine Croy**  
Leland & Inge Bacon

*In honor of*  
**June Ellis**  
Leland & Inge Bacon

*In honor of the 90th birth-*  
*anniversary of*  
**Oliver & Sheldon Fardig**  
Paul, Steve, Peter & Tim Fardig

*In honor of*  
**Margaret, Kirby &**  
**Lydia Foss**  
Mary Lou Shadle

*In honor of*  
**Lucy Klug**  
Members of the Door County  
Land Trust Board of Directors  
& Staff

*In honor of their*  
*60th anniversary*  
**Itsie & Janet Krause**  
Marge & Dave Bultman  
Karen & Chuck Dare

*In honor of*  
**Brigid & Don Krutek**  
Dick and Mary Fish  
Paul & Fran Krutek

*In honor of*  
**Lawrence Campbell**  
**Mendius**  
Mary Lee Greenfield  
Jean Kokes

*In honor of*  
**Nancy Shanahan**  
Margaret & Harry Ritchie

*In honor of*  
**Mary Standish**  
Abraham & Ginka Cohn

*In honor of*  
**Dr. William Urbrock**  
The Wesley Foundation of  
University of Illinois

*In honor of*  
**John Wilson, Jr.**  
Hygienic Fabrics & Filters, Inc.

## Memorial Gifts

*In memory of*  
**Janet Chomeau**  
Kathy Andrews

*In memory of*  
**Laura "Sue" DeLong**  
Gwynne Barba  
Andrew & Lisa Gifford

*In memory of*  
**Louise Donovan**  
Bill & Wilma Dotter  
Eugene W. Rzym  
Wyndemere Staff

*In memory of*  
**Virginia Groh**  
Vernon & Lillian DeWitt  
Denton Engstrom  
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Sandi & LeRoy Peterson

*In memory of*  
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Cami Lee Greenfield

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Robert Richards

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Katherine Deutsch  
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Susan B. Dick  
Chuck & Rene Hollencamp  
Irene Jacowski  
Ann Jerdee  
Fred Lockwood  
Peg Sankey  
Jeannette Schnedler  
Gerry Thornton

*In memory of*  
**Cpl. Joseph E. Stevenson III**  
Steve & Laurie Hess



# Memories: JANE SOWERS RICHARDS

*The Door County Land Trust extends its sincere thanks for memorial gifts made to the Land Trust in honor of Jane Sowers Richards.*



*Win and Jane Richards*

I'm sure my mother had plenty of reasons to marry my father; one of them surely was his log cabin on the Lake Michigan shore in Door County! From that cabin, our family came to enjoy and appreciate all that the county had to offer.

Jane Sowers grew up down the street from the Benjamin Richards family in Kenilworth, Illinois, and in 1941 married Winthrop, one of the seven Richards children. The Richards family enjoyed vacationing in Door County; it reminded them of Cape Cod, where they had vacationed until they moved from Massachusetts. Benjamin and Margaret (my grandparents) and their children stayed at the Bay Shore Inn, fell in love with Door County and decided to become permanent seasonal residents. In the late 1930s, Grandpa Richards and his son Winthrop (my father) bought adjacent swampy shore lots on what would become North Lake Michigan Drive.

It is now 70 years later, and many things have changed, yet much has not. There are still five homes along the lake owned and loved by members of the Richards family. For five generations, our family has made castles in the same sand, watched the same waves roll in, hiked the same trails and appreciated the wonder

that is Door County, even though we are now spread from Alaska to Alabama including both coasts and many places in between. We all cherish the memories of this special place we have been blessed to enjoy. It has been the special magnet attracting all of us together from wherever we now may live.

Each year, when we were little kids in Northbrook, Illinois, my brothers, Don and Bob, and I would count down the number of days remaining until we could go to Sturgeon Bay. Mom would pack us into our aging 1937 Cadillac, and after various stops to refill the radiator, an occasional stall in the middle of an intersection, a cruising speed limited to 45 mph, and a picnic by the band shell in Port Washington, we would finally reach our destination and pull into the cabin driveway prepared to battle the mosquitoes hungrily awaiting our arrival. We couldn't wait to jump into the lake, which is hard to imagine now that we are older and the lake seems to have gotten colder over the years!

Even after Mom and Dad moved from Northbrook to Winfield, Kansas in 1971, they continued to vacation at the cabin. After Win died in 1994, Jane continued to make the 900 mile drive alone from Kansas until she was in her mid-80s to spend the summer at the cabin. Foreshadowing today's GPS, she taped 3x5 index cards to the dash with the route directions to guide her throughout the trip. Upon arriving in Door County, she enjoyed the peace and memories of the cabin and the joy of more than 30 relatives passing through during each of her summer visits.

Although Jane, who passed away in 2004, and Win are no longer among us, their spirit and love of Door County lives on in all of us. We are thankful for the Door County Land Trust and appreciate its efforts to help preserve this special place that our family has enjoyed for the last 70 years. My cousins Barb Kanzler, Bill Orner, and Pat Overton are also DCLT members and we all are honored to help in the preservation of the county for future generations.

Jim Richards

## *Celebrate the People & Events of Your Life*

The connection between people and the places they love is strong and enduring. The open fields, cedar forests and craggy shorelines of Door County are the backdrop to the shared experiences that shape our lives. They are near and dear to our hearts and they say something about who we are – just like our families and friends and the events of our lives do.

When you make a gift to the Door County Land Trust honoring a friend, family member, special event, or life of a loved one, your gift lasts as long as the land does – forever!

The Land Trust will send all honorees (or their family, in the case of memorial gifts) a special note informing them that a gift has been made in their name. Honorees will also receive a copy of the Door County Land Trust journal, *Landings*.

All gifts will be published in *Landings*. If you'd like, please feel free to attach a photo and a few words, simple or profound, about the person(s) or event you're commemorating and we will share with our members as many stories as room allows!



*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!*

# GOOD FELLOWSHIP AT THE MIDWINTER'S FEAST BY THE FIRE



*Land Trust members enjoy each other's company at the Feast by the Fire.*



*Volunteer Carolyn Rock cheerfully serves the Sister Bay Cafe's famous lemon bread pudding.*

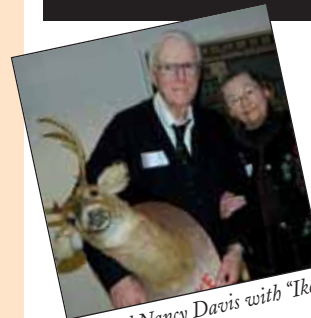
Photos by Julie Scharfner

## You've Heard of "A Movable Feast"?

A good old-fashioned Door County blizzard played havoc with this year's **Midwinter's Feast by the Fire**. But rather than cancel a much-needed chance to get together, our volunteer committee made a lot of phone calls and sent a lot of e-mails and moved the Feast! Over one hundred Land Trust members joined together on the rescheduled date for food, fun and fellowship and the opportunity to raise funds for land preservation. We thank our event chairs, Judy Brodd and Sharon Donegan, and their crew for their superb efforts.

A wonderful dinner was provided by **The Mission Grille** (Sister Bay), **Café Launch** (Sturgeon Bay), and the **Sister Bay Cafe** (Sister Bay). We thank these establishments and all of the many volunteers who added warmth to a cold winter night and made the **7th Annual Feast by the Fire** a resounding success.

## THE LUCKY WINNERS...



*Bob and Nancy Davis with "Ike"*

Remember the buck featured prominently in the Land Trust's first logo? For unknown reasons, he became known as "Ike." When a real (mounted) Ike mysteriously appeared in our office a few years ago, we knew he needed to be shared. At the end of the Feast by the Fire each year, a ceremonial drawing is held to see who will receive Ike – the embodiment of the Land Trust spirit – for the coming year. Bob and Nancy Davis, shown here, were the "lucky" winners of the 2008 drawing, taking over for Sarah Naber who faithfully cared for Ike the previous year!

## *Good Fellowship at Bjorklund Hearth*

Gather we here again,  
as the earth rounds the bend  
and heads back toward warmer days.

One of us brings coffee, one brings wine.  
One brings a friend  
who pushes a broom at night's end.

We have firmly planted our sturdy boots  
on this narrow spit of land  
and prepared our shoulders for the load made light  
by good friend and glad hand.

Here in this place of borrowed marsh and wood,  
this place that knew us, long before we stood.

With shovels and pens, emails and mallets,  
we pour ourselves onto the ground  
that it may be left just as it was found.

So tonight we clasp hands and hearts to celebrate our last  
and to plan our new  
While outside, dark-day skies twinkle  
and inside, eyes shine anew.

*Land Trust member, Dan Collins, opened the Feast by sharing his original poem.*





# CONSIDER JOINING THE ARBOR VITAE SOCIETY!

The Door County Land Trust is pleased to introduce the *Arbor Vitae Society*. The *Arbor Vitae Society* is composed of those members who support the Door County Land Trust at a level of \$500 or more per year.

Just as *arbor vitae* translates, in Latin, to the *tree of life*, our *Arbor Vitae* supporters are our “trees of life.” The *arbor vitae* (known locally as the white cedar), is synonymous with Door County. It grows thick in our marshy wetlands, hangs

tenaciously from our rocky bluffs and its flat, aromatic leaves remind us of this place we’re working to preserve.

*Arbor Vitae Society* members are special people who provide the consistency we need to insure our long-term goals. To show our gratitude for their support, the Land Trust will host a special event in their honor this summer. Over 200 individuals and families belong to our *Arbor Vitae Society*. We hope that you will consider joining them!



Photo by Julie Scharfner

Door County's ubiquitous *arbor vitae*, the “tree of life”

## Please Join Us...

*Sue and I both grew up in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Our parents did not have to entertain us. When not in school, we played outdoors all four seasons of the year. The Carnation Company whistle at 12 noon and 5 pm was our signal to come home for a meal! We literally lost ourselves in the great outdoors. That can still happen today in Door County – for kids and adults – thanks to the work the Door County Land Trust is doing to protect our wild places.*

*My father and my uncles were into conservation long before it was the thing to do. They took me fishing, hiking, hunting and exploring. Thanks to them, I further developed my deep and enduring passion for the outdoors and the importance of leaving it in its natural state.*

*When Sue and I bought our property on Moonlight Bay back in 1980, we were attracted to Door County's abundant natural beauty. We are surrounded by Dwarf Lake Iris, Yellow Lady's Slippers, Showy Lady's Slippers, Gaywings, Starflowers, Bunchberries, etc. We do not have a lawn – what grows grows and we enjoy it all!*

*We are deeply grateful to the Door County Land Trust for the work it's done, is doing, and will continue to do to preserve the beauty and uniqueness of Door County for future generations. By becoming a member of the *Arbor Vitae Society* and supporting the Land Trust at the \$500 level and above, we are showing our commitment to preserving this county we love.*

*Please consider becoming a member of the *Arbor Vitae Society* and helping the Land Trust continue its important work.*

Tim & Sue Stone  
*Arbor Vitae Society Members*



Tim and Sue Stone

Photo by Julie Scharfner

# The Places We Protect: WOODS AT MONUMENT POINT

## Part of a Larger Effort

A bicycle ride can get you thinking – at least if you're Tom and Maryann Bast. As they cycled near Lake Michigan's Cave Point one day last summer, they noticed the large number of real estate signs on wooded lots and started talking about the delicate act of balancing land conservation and development. "We enjoy the natural beauty of Door County. It's what drew us here in the first place and we started to wonder what part we could play to help preserve some of it."



Tom and Maryann Bast

Not long after that bicycle ride, Tom and Maryann happened to meet realtor Connie Erickson while volunteering at a Birch Creek concert. "We asked her, if a person wanted to purchase a property for conservation, how would it be done?" Connie suggested they talk with the Door County Land Trust.

While the Land Trust works throughout the county, its primary focus is preserving lands within areas possessing exceptional scenic and ecological value. Door County Land Trust executive director, Dan Burke, explains. "When there is an opportunity to protect a property in one of these identified areas, we are very interested in seeing it preserved. However, we don't always have the needed funds. State Stewardship grants are often available for a portion of the purchase price, but the Land Trust must provide matching funds and cover our organizational costs."

When Connie described a wooded parcel for sale within the Land Trust's *Woods at Monument Point Preserve*, the Basts became interested in working with the Land Trust to protect it. Tom recalls, "We were sold on the idea that this relatively small purchase would be part of a larger preserved area, part of a

larger effort." The Basts made a donation that covered half the purchase price of the property; State Stewardship Funds provided the balance.

The Woods at Monument Point Preserve has been

*"We asked...if a person wanted to purchase a property for conservation, how would it be done?"* – Tom & Maryann Bast

identified in many ecological studies as one of the highest quality forests in Door County. Over the last ten years its continued health has come into doubt with the establishment of several small parcel subdivisions. Burke explains, "In many ways our upland forests are some of the most endangered areas in the county. They are highly desirable, easily developed, and more affordable than shore frontage. When the Basts contacted us about adding a property to our Woods at Monument Point Preserve, we were very excited about the prospect of working together to help save this healthy forest."

The Woods at Monument Point Preserve contains a mix of hemlock, white pine and other hardwoods that provide important habitat for a number of birds including the Red-shouldered Hawk and a variety of

woodland warblers and thrushes. Since 2000, the Door County Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy have partnered together to protect over 70 acres here. "The goal is to preserve the integrity of this forest," explains Burke. "Once you begin poking holes in a contiguous forest, the whole ecology of the area changes. For instance, many of our migratory song birds need the protection of interior woods to nest. As their habitat is compromised, like a blanket that's shredded, there are fewer interior spaces. The birds are forced to nest on the edges of the forest where they are vulnerable to the raider birds who take over their nests."

Aldo Leopold, one of Wisconsin's most admired conservationists and author of *Sand County Almanac*, spoke often of a "land ethic." When asked about the genesis of theirs, Maryann explains, "We've been fortunate to live for many years within the

Arboretum in Madison. Tom's uncle was a horticulturist and he had two lots there, one of which became ours. I guess we've just grown up with the idea that you take care of things. It makes sense to us."

The Door County Land Trust is grateful to Tom and Maryann Bast for their initiative and generosity in preserving a piece of Door County for future generations.



The Woods at Monument Point's forest canopy provides vital habitat for migratory song birds.

Photo by Julie Scharner