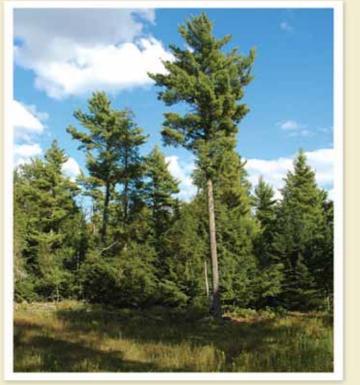


# Wildness & Beauty

### Two Historic Land Deals Showcase Land Trust Mission



483-acre Shivering Sands Property



Grand View Property in Ellison Bay



#### **Board of Directors** Tim Stone, President Beth Coleman, President Elect Andy Coulson, Treasurer Jean Barrett, Secretary

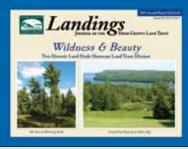
Tom Blackwood Mike Brodd Dave Callsen Sharon Donegan Jack Finger Cathy Fiorato

Jon Hollingshead Jim Lester Judy Lokken Bryan Nelson Kathy Wolff Karen Yancey

#### Staff

Dan Burke, Executive Director Terrie Cooper, Land Program Director Laurel Hauser, Development Director Tara Jensen, Summer Intern Jodi Milske, Stewardship Director Kristi Rice, Office Manager Julie Schartner, Project Manager Bobbie Webster, Stewardship Field Coordinator

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Cover: Photos by Julie Schartner

Design & layout of "Landings" by LfpDesign!



Dear Land Trust members,

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Landings; we hope you enjoy reading all about the latest land conservation news in Door County! Inside these pages you'll find the Land Trust's 2011 Year in Review highlighting the major land protection and stewardship accomplishments of this past year and the people who helped make these projects a reality. And, as the cover intimates, this issue also profiles two momentous and historic land

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

purchases recently completed by the Door County Land Trust - the Grand View property in Ellison Bay and the 483-acre Shivering Sands property near Whitefish Dunes State Park.

In my 16-year tenure with the Door County Land Trust, I cannot recall working simultaneously on two projects that better exemplify the mission of the Land Trust than the Grand View and Shivering Sands purchases do. Twenty-five years ago, Land Trust founders charged us with protecting Door County's scenic beauty and ecological integrity. Their reasoning was simple; there are few places in Wisconsin as beautiful as Door County and fewer still that rival its ecological abundance and diversity.

If you were to consider all the properties that showcase Door County's scenic beauty, you would be hard pressed to find one that outshines the 16-acre Grand View property. From the top of this wind-swept hill, you are treated to a view that's far superior to any picture postcard you could hope to find. Now, after nearly 7 years of hard work, the Land Trust has preserved this vista for all of us and future generations to enjoy... forever!

Just as Grand View is the ideal poster child for the "scenic beauty" arm of the Land Trust mission, Shivering Sands exemplifies the "ecological integrity" arm. These 483 acres are nothing short of pure wilderness; they are home to a myriad of rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals. This area drew the attention of President Theodore Roosevelt over 100 years ago and has remained at the top of the wish list for land conservationists ever since.

Shivering Sands plays an integral role in supporting the rich diversity of life found in Door County and we are thrilled to have helped protect it.

I believe our founders would be proud of the fact that 25 years after they penned our mission statement, this generation of Land Trust staff, board and supporters has preserved two properties that so vividly embody it. We sincerely thank each and every one of you for keeping our mission alive and well!

Warm spring wishes,

Dan Burke, Executive Director

P.S. With these two historic purchases in 2012, the Land Trust surpassed 6,000 acres protected...Thank you!



Members of the Land Policy Committee tour Shivering Sands.



### Land Trust Purchases Iconic Grand View Property in Ellison Bay; Announces Plans to Create Scenic Overlook and Park

The Door County Land Trust announces that after nearly seven years of work it has completed the purchase of the iconic Grand View property along Highway 42 at the top of the bluff in Ellison Bay. This purchase permanently protects a popular scenic vista that has recently been threatened by development.

Although enjoyed by the public as a defacto scenic overlook, the Grand View property has been under private ownership. When a large-scale condominium and residential project was approved for the property in 2006, the Land Trust expressed its interest in protecting this land and the scenic views it provides. In 2010, the Land Trust entered into a purchase agreement with the owners of the property and began efforts to raise the \$1,190,000 needed for the purchase and short-term land management activities. The Land Trust secured over \$900,000 in grants from the National Highway Department's Scenic Byways program and Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and received over \$250,000 from private individuals. The effort culminated with the purchase of the 16-acre property on March 7th, 2012.

"This property is near and dear to people's hearts," states Terrie Cooper, Land Program Director for the Door



The Door County Land Trust's purchase of the Grand View property in Ellison Bay protects one of Wisconsin's best views.



The new 16-acre Grand View Scenic Overlook and Park includes two picturesque ponds.

County Land Trust, "and we're thrilled with the support we've received. Many people stepped forward with contributions to make this purchase a reality – everything from five dollar gifts to much larger gifts. We also received many heartfelt notes of thanks. The Grand View evokes a lot of fond memories and we're happy that it will continue to do so."

#### Establishing a Scenic Overlook and Park

The Land Trust plans to establish the Grand View Scenic Overlook and Park and to ultimately turn the property over to the Town of Liberty Grove for ownership and long-term management. According to Terrie, "We have been working in partnership with the Town of Liberty Grove to create a 'win-win' scenario. The partnership will ensure that the Land Trust's protection and ecological restoration goals are met and also that the Town's goal of providing a safe, first-rate, destinationstyle park is met. The Grand View Scenic Overlook and Park will be an asset to the community and showcase just what a special place Ellison Bay is."

The Land Trust and the Town of Liberty Grove will establish hiking trails, install educational signage, and implement habitat restoration activities on the lower section of the park along Hillside Drive. The park will be open to the public for sightseeing, hiking, picnicking and other low-impact recreational uses. (See page 4 for information regarding the grand opening.)

# THE GRAND VIEW, continued

Ellison Bay resident and Door County Land Trust board member, Dave Callsen, and his wife, Vonnie, are extremely pleased with the preservation of the Grand View property. "This project exemplifies the important role a local land trust plays in a community. Because we have a strong land trust and because our community supports our land trust, we have a tool to protect places that mean the most to us, like Grand View," Dave said.



#### **Scenic Byway**

The Grand View Scenic Overlook and Park is the first project along the newly-designated Door County Coastal Byway to be funded through the federal Scenic Byway grant program. In April of 2010, a 66-mile stretch of highways 42 and 57 north of Sturgeon Bay was officially declared a Wisconsin Scenic

Byway. The *Wisconsin Scenic Byways Citizen Handbook* states that designated routes "support tourism and economic development...strengthen civic pride, and make communities more attractive places to live and work."

#### Thanking our Many Partners

The Door County Land Trust sincerely thanks the nearly 500 individuals, families and organizations that contributed over \$250,000 to the purchase and permanent protection of the Grand View property. This was truly a community effort!

In addition to providing monies for land purchases, Door County Land Trust membership contributions support the professional staff needed to apply for and receive competitive state and federal grants. In the case of the Grand View project, the Land Trust worked long and hard to acquire two large grants that provided 80% of the funds needed to complete the Grand View purchase. We sincerely thank Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for helping us secure a Federal Highway Association National Scenic Byways grant.

A special thanks also goes out to the Town of Liberty Grove, the Liberty Grove Historical Society, and Baylake Bank for their vision, professionalism and cooperation in creating the Grand View Scenic Overlook and Park. These partnerships have resulted in something Ellison Bay and Door County can be proud of for many years to come.



### Come Celebrate a Grand Occasion!

Please join us for the grand opening and dedication of the GRAND VIEW SCENIC OVERLOOK AND PARK on Saturday, June 23 at 4:00 p.m. as part of the Olde Ellison Bay Days festivities. We'll gather at the top of the Niagara Escarpment on the south end of Ellison Bay to admire the view, share some commemorative words, and celebrate as a community the preservation of this very special place. Following the dedication ceremony, the Land Trust will lead hikes and tours of the newly-preserved property.

If you plan to join us, please r.s.v.p. to info@doorcountylandtrust.org. Reservations are appreciated for planning purposes, but are not necessary.



### The Grand View - Constant Yet Always Changing

Preserving land is often inextricably tied to preserving stories of the land, and the Grand View property is no exception. **Frank and Jan Forkert** live on Hillside Road, just a stone's throw from the newly-preserved Grand View property. They shared the following stories, both historical and personal, with the Land Trust.

The Grand View is a story of permanence; the magnificent view and the uplifted karst of the Niagara Escarpment that provides it, are unchanged and unchanging. While a geologist might beg to differ, any change to the bluff itself has occurred in geologic, not human, time.

Changes around it, however, have occurred at a rapid pace. While stolid and staid itself, the Grand View has witnessed many transformations.

The paved road that now runs along the north side of the Grand View property, Hillside Road, was, at one time, a well-travelled footpath. The footpath was created by Native Americans who lived near what is now Cottage Glen and Mink River Basin; they used the trail to travel back and forth to the bay. That trail joined another that led north to Harvey Olson's dock and beyond that to The Clearing Folk School. Jan recalls that when she moved to Ellison Bay in the 1970s, the path was still visible.

When European settlers arrived in Door County and began clearing land, the foot path became a logging road named Hoagsville Road. Between 1880 and 1930, it was used to carry lumbermen to the Hoagsville Hotel, a wood frame lumber camp located at the bluff's edge, built to service the thriving logging industry of the day. A zigzag path, still evident, led from Hoagsville Hotel to the top of the Ellison Bay bluff where the logging took place. Freshly-felled timber was fed into a log chute that ran straight down the bluff. The timber was dumped directly into Green Bay where ships waited at a large dock to load. The dock, as well as an unfortunate ship that succumbed to strong tailwinds, is now underwater. So thorough was the logging in the area that, according to Frank, you didn't see many trees bigger than 2 inches around when he first visited this area in the 1930s.

#### How a View Can Change a Life

When Frank was a boy, he was given the opportunity to spend a week, two summers in a row, in Ellison Bay. He came north from Evanston, IL in 1937 and 1938 with his Sunday School teacher, Maude Bayless. Maude, a self-determined woman and Christian Science practitioner, was building the first home on Garrett Bay-one bay to the north of Ellison Bay-and Frank's job was to move rocks to create pathways from the house to the



The Grand View Scenic Overlook and Park will be open to the public for sightseeing, hiking, picnicking and other low-impact recreational activities.

water. It must have been hard work, but Frank remembers it fondly, in part because Maude, knowing Frank

Photo by L anne H anse

Frank & Jan Forkert

loved boats, arranged for local legend, Gus Kleinke, to leave a row boat for the boy's use.

Ellison Bay was a long way from Evanston, especially in the 1930s. Frank may never have returned to Door County if not for a life-altering view. When Frank's parents came to collect him at the end of the week, his father stood on the Grand View property overlooking Green Bay. The grandeur of the scene reminded him poignantly of his boyhood home in Zurich, Switzerland. On his 80th birthday, Frank's father still remembered clearly the power of that view. It led him, eventually, to purchase three cottages on Garrett Bay. The cottages were named Forkert's Frolic and Frank would return many times to spend summers at these cottages with his own family. Life took Frank to many parts of the country, but he always returned eventually to Ellison Bay. His home is now not far from the stone paths he created as a boy and the view that changed his family's life.

In the process of preserving the Grand View property, many people expressed the love they feel for this piece of land. As one woman described, "It was the constant. Years would go by when I wouldn't get back to Door County, but when I did, no matter how much I had changed and Door County had changed, this view remained the same. When I saw it, I knew I was home." With the Land Trust's recent purchase, the Grand View property will remain "the constant" that has enhanced, and even altered the direction of, many lives.



### Land Trust Purchases One of the Most Ecologically Complex Landscapes in the Great Lakes Region

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is... an area where the earth and community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Excerpted from the Wilderness Act of 1964, written by Howard Zahniser

Door County, when compared to the vast forestlands of northern Wisconsin or the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, may seem like a pretty tame and settled place, a place free of wildness. And while it's true that most of Door County has been greatly altered through agriculture and development, pockets of viable wilderness remain, places only lightly touched by human hands. There is perhaps no better example of largely unadulterated



The 483-acre purchase protects an upland forest dominated by white pine, white cedar, hemlock, white spruce and balsam fir, and an extensive lowland forest dominated by white cedar.



Lake

wildness in Door County than the Shivering Sands area, located about 10 miles northeast of Sturgeon Bay along the coast of Lake Michigan, bordered on the east by Glidden Drive. It is here that the Door County Land Trust recently made history by completing the largest land conservation project in its 26-year existence and the largest conservation purchase in Door County since 1967 when 1,300 acres were added to Newport State Park.

The Shivering Sands complex is a biologically-rich jewel. At over 4,000 acres, it is an exceptional site both in regard to its size and the diversity of natural communities it hosts. It is one of the most ecologically complex landscapes in the western Great Lakes region. Naturalist Henry Nehrling visited the site in the early 1900s and had this to say: "It is the prettiest, wildest, weirdest, most unique conglomeration of paradise and perdition I have found in Wisconsin." So impressive is this area, in fact, that it was recommended for preservation in 1905 in a study commissioned by President Theodore Roosevelt.

The presidential recommendation was never acted upon, but over the years several organizations, most notably The Nature Conservancy and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), have realized significant successes in keeping this area wild. These successes were expanded when the Door County Land Trust recently purchased 483 acres in the heart of the Shivering Sands ecosystem. This Land Trust purchase includes portions of two wild lakes, hundreds of acres of forest, and numerous spring-fed seeps and creeks.



View of Schwartz Lake. The recent purchase protects significant shoreline along two undeveloped wild lakes.

"A project of this magnitude would not have been possible without a lot of people coming together and working toward a common goal," states Dan Burke, Door County Land Trust Executive Director. "The Land Trust had the backing and support of the DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, the Town of Sevastopol, many sporting organizations and the Glidden Drive Association. Most importantly, the families that owned the land displayed an extraordinary amount of patience as this purchase took over three years to complete. Without their vision and perseverance, this land would not have been protected."

Dick Baudhuin is one of these landowners and he suspects his family's long history with this property is one reason it is now permanently protected. "My brother, Don, and I first acquired land out here in 1962," Dick recalls. "We owned a car business, and a customer who owned 80 acres of wetland at Shivering Sands needed a car. We all got to talking and decided to do a swap. She walked away with a new car, and Don and I were new owners of our first tract of land at Shivering Sands."

As new opportunities arose, Dick and Don, along with family members and friends, continued to acquire parcels here, including the 483 acres sold to the Land Trust. It was the love of nature that drew them to this place. As Dick explains, "Buying pristine land and keeping it intact was our main interest because we simply enjoyed being on the land and seeing it remain like it is."

They could not have picked a better place to enjoy nature. The property now protected by the Land Trust features Schwartz and Arbter lakes. They, and the large white cedar forest surrounding them, form a core rich in biodiversity. All told, nineteen natural landscape types are represented at Shivering Sands. They provide habitat for unique plants such as dwarf lake iris, tussock bulrush and coast sedge. They also provide habitat for an impressive list of animals including otter, fisher, mink, weasel, badger, fox, sandhill crane, bald eagle, one hundred plus other species of breeding birds, and the federally-endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly.

The Land Trust purchase means the public will now



have the opportunity to experience and appreciate the beauty and diversity the Baudhuin family has long enjoyed. For Dick Baudhuin, ensuring that this property is available for hiking, hunting, and other nature-based activities was a motivating factor for selling to the Land Trust. "I feel strongly that this land be open for the public to enjoy and that

sustainable timber management continues. I want this to be a place that brings the community together, a place where people who appreciate nature can share their common interests" explains Dick. "When we all share the same land, barriers and preconceived notions of another person's activities, whether it is hunting, hiking, fishing or skiing, begin to dissipate. It is important that all of us who enjoy nature, no matter what draws us in, respect one another, for this will only serve to strengthen the conservation cause."

The purchase of the Baudhuin property began as a partnership of several organizations, and this spirit of cooperation will continue now that the purchase has been completed. The Door County Land Trust plans to transfer ownership of the land to the DNR which will manage the property as a State Natural Area. The DNR, with likely assistance from the Land Trust and volunteers, will establish and maintain hiking trails, eradicate invasive non-native plants, and manage the health of the upland forest community.

#### "So impressive is this area, in fact, that it was recommended for preservation in 1905 in a study commissioned by President Theodore Roosevelt."

Funds for this purchase were made possible through generous grants from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund of Wisconsin and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetland program. The Land Trust extends its thanks to The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin for its invaluable help in securing grant funds and to members of the Land Trust for providing the private funding needed to make this historic project a reality.





# 2011 Year in Review An Annual Report to Our Membership

### Letter from the President

### Dear Friends,

We are all in this together...Whether you are a true Door County native, you've chosen to live here, or you are a smitten visitor. We all wish to save Door County's scenic and ecological treasures. The Door County Land Trust has an incredibly talented staff and a deeply committed Board of Directors. However, we could not be successful without your support in sharing your time, your talent and your resources.

2011 was an incredible year for land preservation. Over 400 acres were permanently protected this past year, from scenic farmland in Southern Door to wetlands on Washington Island. And, in early 2012, you may have heard a little noise about our successes at Shivering Sands and at the Grand View in Ellison Bay! After a long process, the 16-acre Grand View and 483-acre Shivering Sands properties belong to everyone. They are now preserved forever for you, your children and your grandchildren to enjoy.

It might be easy to rest on one's laurels after the Grand View and Shivering Sands. Not so! There are numerous other properties deserving protection, and once a purchase is made or a land donation is received, we have just begun. Land stewardship is critical in maintaining and restoring, if necessary, the land in our care.

The Grand View dedication is scheduled for Saturday, June 23rd as part of Olde Ellison Bay Days. Come one, come all and let's celebrate...We are all in this together!

Thank you,

TIM STONE

Tim Stone, President, Board of Directors





### Share the Door County Land Trust with your Organization

Would your civic organization, church group, neighborhood or condominium association be interested in knowing more about land preservation in Door County? A member of our *Speakers Bureau* would be happy to give a presentation on the Door County Land Trust, the places we protect, how and why we protect them, and where to find them. To make an appointment, please call our Office Manager, Kristi Rice at (920)746-1359 or email info@doorcountylandtrust.org.

### Get Breaking News!

Share your email address with us and we'll keep you 'in the know' on the latest breaking Land Trust news including recent land preservation successes. We promise not to overload your inbox, but we'll let you know when good news happens...so you can celebrate with us!

To receive Land Trust news sent via email, please call (920)746-1359 or email info@doorcountylandtrust.org.

### 2011 FINANCIAL STATEMENT of the Door County Land Trust

#### BALANCE STATEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011\*

#### ASSETS

#### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Assets		
Checking/Savings Accounts	485,234.67	
Legal Defense Fund	88,285.26	
Other Current Assets		
Misc. Current Assets	38,746.08	
Pledges Receivable, Net	93,907.38	
Total Other Current Assets	132,653.46	
Total Current Assets	706,173.39	
Total Fixed Assets	210,444.64	
Other Assets		
Nature Preserve Properties	19,587,811.00**	
Stewardship Endowment Fund	807,390.40	
Village of Egg Harbor Life Estate Residence	1,058,799.00	
Total Other Assets	21,454,000.40	
TOTAL ASSETS	22,370,618.43	

\* This is a preliminary pre-audit Balance Sheet Statement. If you are interested in obtaining our 2011 Audited Financial Statements, we will be happy to provide you a copy upon the audit completion.

Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	6,242.82	
Other Current Liabilities	40,462.55	
Total Current Liabilities	46,705.37	
Long Term Liabilities		
Note Payable to Endowment Fund	92,279.06	
Total Long Term Liabilities	92,279.06	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	138,984.43	
Equity		
Retained Earnings	21,429,407.79	
Net Income	802,226.21	
TOTAL EQUITY	22,231,634.00 22,370,618.43	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		

**\*\*** Nearly all our Nature Preserve acreage is permanently protected through deed restrictions. Thus, the value of these lands as indicated in this financial report is the appraised value of the parcels at the time the Land Trust acquired these properties.

### Stewardship Endowment Fund

#### AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011

The Land Trust's **Stewardship Endowment Fund** is a segregated fund designed to provide long-term financial stability to the organization. Because only a portion of the investment returns is available for use, the principal remains intact and will continue to generate funds for the Land Trust far into the future.

Asset Type	Market Value	% of Portfolio	The Endowment is managed by Baylake Bank and is governed by the following Board of Trustees:
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 33,188.63	4.1%	Tony Fiorato Jim Janning Jeff Ottum
Fixed Income	\$306,964.23	38.0%	Richard Hauser Jim Kinney Mary Standish
Equities and Alternatives	\$467,237.54	<b>57.9</b> %	If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to
Value as of 12/31/2011	\$807,390.40	100%	the Endowment, please contact Dan Burke or Laurel Hauser at the Land Trust office, 920-746-1359.

### **2011** Membership Support by the Numbers

- 250+ individuals volunteered their time leading hikes, taking care of our preserves, helping with mailings, serving on committees and doing the myriad of other tasks needed to keep the Land Trust going!
- 1,456 households made a financial gift to the Door County Land Trust in 2011.
- 326 households made their *first* gift to the Land Trust in 2011.
- **101** gifts were made online, on our website, in 2011.
- 17 households launched our new Recurring Gift Program. (See page 21 to join them!)
- **\$44,339** dollars were raised at Land Trust events throughout the year. These gifts directly benefit our land preservation efforts.
- The Land Trust received nearly \$300,000 in bequest/planned gifts in 2011. These gifts will help strengthen the Land Trust's Stewardship Endowment Fund for the long-term care of the places we preserve. (See page 21 for more information on including the Land Trust in your planned giving.)

# 2011 Land Preservation Successes

In 2011, the Land Trust permanently protected the following properties *totaling* 462 acres of forest, escarpment, wetlands and farmland! In addition to completing these land projects in 2011, the Land Trust secured purchase agreements and began raising the funds needed to preserve nearly 700 additional acres in 2012.

#### 1 Lautenbach Woods Nature Preserve, Egg Harbor



oto by Zak LaCross

The Land Trust expanded its Lautenbach Woods Nature Preserve with the purchase of two tracts at the top of the Niagara Escarpment. The additions bring the total protected acres at the preserve to 150! The recently purchased tracts host a healthy northern hardwood forest dominated by sugar maple, red oak, beech, white birch, red maple, hemlock, white cedar and white ash. The forest understory hosts a rich diversity of spring wildflowers including hepatica, spring beauty, Dutchman's breeches, trillium, hog peanut and wild sarsaparilla. Grant funding for these purchases was provided by the Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council, James E. Dutton Foundation, and Wisconsin Land Fund.

#### 2 Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area, Washington Island

Located on the east side of Washington Island, the Big and Little Marsh coastal wetlands are historic embayment lakes; they were once part of Lake Michigan itself. They now lie within 1,000 feet of the lake and remain connected by a small outlet stream. This unique wetland area has been designated critical breeding habitat for the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly and also supports a population of the federally threatened dwarf lake iris. In 2011, the Land Trust was able to purchase the central portion of Little Marsh. After acquiring this tract, the Land Trust transferred the property to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for long-term management. The Door County Land Trust and the DNR have partnered in protecting over 300 acres at Big and Little Marsh.

Grant funding for this purchase was provided by Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetland Program.



#### 3 Binard Conservation Easement, Forestville and Brussels

The Land Trust entered into two conservation easement agreements with the Binard family of southern



Door County; together, the easements permanently protect 270 acres of bucolic, scenic open space. The first conservation easement protects productive farmland along Old Highway 57 in the Town of Brussels. The second easement protects the stretch of countryside that is bisected by Highway 42 at the Door and Kewaunee county line just south of Forestville. This property serves as the entryway to Door County, welcoming visitors and returning residents with a stretch of the rural landscape southern Door County is famous for. "The decision by the Binards to keep their properties free from future development helps preserve Southern Door's agricultural heritage and beauty," states Terrie Cooper, Land Program Director for the Land Trust. "The Land Trust is honored to have worked with the Binard family to protect these highly visible properties and thanks them for their vision and conservation ethic."

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between the landowner and the Land Trust that permanently restricts the type and amount of development activities that can take place on the property. In the case of the Binard conservation easement, the property may continue to be used for agricultural purposes but residential and subdivision activities are prohibited. With a conservation easement, the land remains under private ownership and may be sold and/or passed on to heirs. Conservation easements are an ideal way for landowners to protect private lands of scenic significance.

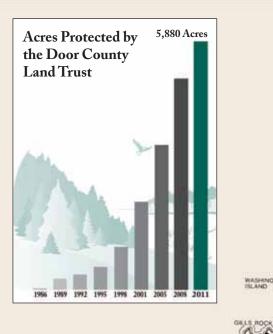




### Binard Conservation Easement - Forestville 4 Solitude Nature Preserve, Jacksonport

The Solitude Nature Preserve was a gift from the late Kate Sterrenberg-Rohrer. The Land Trust received these 140 beautiful, wooded acres located along Highway 57 and Logerquist Road between Jacksonport and Baileys Harbor. This property that Kate owned and loved features ancient Lake Michigan shorelines, a pristine forest and wetlands and is aptly named Solitude. The Land Trust is honored to be entrusted as the custodians and stewards of this very special place.





APLEWOOD

FORESTVILLE

### **2011** Land Preservation by the Numbers

- 6 properties were preserved by the Land Trust in 2011 totaling 462 acres.
- **1 land donation** helped create a new nature preserve near Jacksonport.
- 1 property was purchased on Washington Island and transferred to the WI-DNR for long-term management.
- **2 properties** were purchased to expand the Lautenbach Woods Nature Preserve.
- 2 conservation easement agreements protected a total of 270 acres of scenic southern Door County farmland.
- By the end of 2011, the Door County Land Trust had protected a total of **5,880 acres** throughout Door County!
- Of these total **5,880** acres protected:
- 2,855 acres are protected through conservation easement agreements
- **2,826 acres** are owned and managed by the Land Trust, and
- **199 acres** were protected by the Land Trust and transferred to other conservation agencies for long-term management.



STEW\*ARD\*SHIP (stü-ərd-ship) – the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. <stewardship of natural resources>

Protecting, maintaining and restoring natural communities on nearly 3,000 acres of Land Trust-owned property and overseeing nearly 3,000 acres protected by Land Trust conservation easement agreements is no small feat. Thanks to dozens of volunteers, professional staff, and supporters who provide the funds needed to carry out this critical work, the Land Trust's Land Stewardship program is meeting this challenge.

Much of the Land Trust's stewardship work is done by the Door Stewardship Alliance (DSA), a committed cadre of Land Trust and Nature Conservancy volunteers that meets Tuesday mornings at preserves throughout the county. If you're interested in rolling up your sleeves and getting your hands dirty, please call Land Stewardship Field Coordinator, Bobbie Webster, at (920)746-1359 for more information.

Land stewardship takes many forms. The following are just some of the stewardship activities Land Trust staff and volunteers engaged in in 2011.

#### **Restoring the Land:**

Non-native plants are a constant threat to the ecological health of Land Trust preserves. In 2011, volunteers, staff and contracted land restoration professionals were able to remove a considerable acreage of non-native, invasive plants including honeysuckle, autumn olive and buckthorn from nine different Land Trust preserves. This work was especially significant at the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal and Bay Shore Blufflands Preserves.

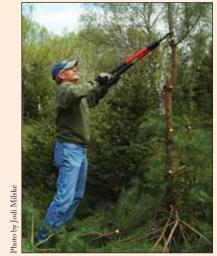
#### Monitoring the Land:

In 2011, staff and volunteers spent hundreds of hours monitoring and inspecting the properties under our protection – both lands we own and manage as well as private properties protected by conservation easement agreements. Annual inspections of our owned lands are important as they help to detect and resolve issues such as vandalism, dumping of trash, trail damage, non-authorized off-road vehicular use, and the presence of non-native, invasive plants. Wildlife observations are noted and restoration progress is checked on these visits, too. Private lands protected by conservation easement agreements are required, by law, to be monitored annually. On these visits we inspect the property to document that the terms of the agreement are being adhered to by the landowner.

### Preparing the Land for Public Use:

Properties owned by the Land Trust are open to the public for hiking, hunting and other low-impact, nature appreciation activities. In 2011, staff and volunteers created and maintained miles of hiking trails, posted new trail markers and maps, erected educational kiosks, and installed benches at our nature preserves throughout the county. They also constructed a viewing platform at our Oak Road Nature Preserve. These amenities are provided to encourage the public to experience and enjoy nature on the Door Peninsula. *Trail maps, directions and information about hunting at Land Trust nature preserves can be found on our website: www.doorcountylandtrust.org.* 

"When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." - Aldo Leopold, 1949



While Scotch pine are beautiful, impressive trees, they are not native to North America. They can alter the ecology of forests by aggressively crowding native trees, and contributing to the spread of certain insect and disease infestations which affect native trees. Tom Blackwood removes Scotch pine saplings at the new Solitude Nature Preserve north of Jacksonport.



Each of the Land Trust's 67 conservation easement-protected properties must, by law, be monitored every year. Volunteer monitors, Jim Bunning, Bryan Troutman and Barbara Bunning, visit the Aten-Collins conservation easement property located within the Bay Shore Blufflands State Natural Area.



The Oak Road Nature Preserve is a hub of activity each spring. The wetlands here, which flood in the spring, attract sandhill cranes, mallards, blue winged teal, greater yellow legs, and a variety of other wildlife. The grassland and former fields, now planted with seedlings, host eastern bluebirds and northern harrier hawks. Land Trust volunteers Jack Finger, Guy Fortin, Bob Judd, Tom Mabbott, Ron Maloney, Ed Miller, Bruce Olson, and Rob Watson, spent several days constructing a viewing platform. The platform is a great place to listen to the cacophonous symphony of spring peepers and the impressive calls of sandhill cranes.

The Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve was the site of the Land Trust's first purchase. It has now grown to over 700 acres. Rob Watson and staff member, Bobbie Webster, are part of the crew that worked to welcome visitors to the preserve by installing new signage and trail markers.





Woody invasive plants are sometimes hand-pulled, but in most areas there are too many plants or they are too large to make this method effective. The most effective method for controlling woody invasives such as exotic honeysuckle, buckthorn, autumn olive, etc. is called cut-stump treatment. The stem is cut low to the ground and then dabbed with a solution of herbicide. The herbicide is absorbed into the roots, thus killing the plant. This method can be used almost year-round except for the early spring when sap is rising. Rita Doyle and Glenna Peters work in tandem to thwart the spread of honeysuckle at the Ephraim Preserve at Anderson Pond.

Thank you to all of our talented and dedicated Stewardship Volunteers! We couldn't accomplish this important land management work without your help.

### **Door County Land Trust Staff**



#### Welcome to... **Bobbie Webster**

Bobbie joined The Door County Land Trust's land stewardship staff in May 2011 after working for a wide range of organizations including The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Applied Ecological Services, and the UW-Extension.

She graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a MS in Natural Resources Management in 2008. Some of Bobbie's favorite ways to spend free time include hiking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to help protect the diversity of natural communities on the Door Peninsula and to work with all of the fantastic Land Trust volunteers.



#### Welcome back... Tara Jensen

We are very pleased that our 2011 summer intern, Tara Jensen, will be joining us again this summer. Last summer, Tara got a taste of the wide variety of projects being juggled and the fast pace of a busy non-profit conservation organization, which

she fondly described as "organized chaos!" This summer she will mainly focus her efforts on our recordkeeping system and projects aimed at helping us prepare for becoming one of the select "Accredited" land trusts in the country. Tara is from Libertyville, IL, and has spent a lot of time in Door County. It has a special place in her heart since her family first brought her here at six weeks old! Tara is currently a sophomore at Lawrence University in Appleton.

# **2011 FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS**

#### 🗮 – Denotes Arbor Vitae Society (AVS) members.

AVS members support the Door County Land Trust at the level of \$500 or more per year and provide the consistency needed to ensure our long-term goals.

Welcome to our new supporters! Donor names listed in **bold type** made their first contribution to the Land Trust in 2011.

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As part of its 25th Anniversary celebrations, the Land Trust announced its goal to gain the support of 250 new households. We're pleased to report that that goal was met and exceeded. In 2011, 326 individuals, families and businesses made first-time contributions to the Land Trust! Those who did were eligible for a sporty Door County Land Trust hat. We welcome all our new members. "Hats Off" to you for joining our efforts!

The Land Trust continues to welcome new members. Please share this newsletter with a friend who's not yet a member. Or, consider giving a gift membership to someone you know who loves Door County. Good, old-fashioned word of mouth is still the most effective way to share the Land Trust mission!

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**Please note:** The Land Use Forum contributed \$500 to the Land Trust in 2010. They were inadvertantly not included in the 2010 list of donors. The Land Trust sincerely apologizes for the oversight.

#### 2011 Company Matching Gifts

Anonymous Bruce and Helen Ambuel – Mead Witter Foundation, Inc. Tom and Kathy Bullermann – Ace Charitable Foundation Jon and Beth Danielson – Windhover Foundation Ron and Pam Maloney – Grainger Kristin Lauter – Microsoft

#### 2011 Special Gifts

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2011 Annual Membership Gathering chair, Chris Movall, and co-chair, Mary Dunworth

Mark Lecy – ITW Kristine Lynch – First Data Corporation Peter Mazza – McDonald's Corporation Henry Scheig – Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Greg and Wendy Vichick – Leo Burnett Company Charitable Foundation Kenneth Zwick – Kimberly-Clark Foundation

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### Join us in thanking our Annual Business Sponsors!

What's good for our environment is also good for our economy. Preserving the natural beauty visitors and residents enjoy makes good business sense. The following businesses generously support the Door County Land Trust at our Business Sponsorship levels.

Please support these businesses that support land preservation. And, when you do, please thank them for supporting the Door County Land Trust!



Associated Bank Bay Shore Outdoor Store Brown County Graphics Cellcom Door County Eye Associates Door County Ice Cream Factory Door County Nature Works Door Landscape & Nursery Eagle Harbor Inn EcoDoor LLC Ecology Sports & Base Camp Coffee Fish Creek Kite Company The Garden Lady, Beth Coleman Gills Rock Stoneware of Ellison Bay Jane's Clothing & Accessories LfpDesign! - Pete & Carol Schuster Peninsula Vision Care Premier Properties of Door County Raymond James Ross Estate Planning Savory Spoon Cooking School The Shoreline Restaurant Staudenmaier Chiropractic Wellness Center Sunnypoint Landscape, LLC TR Pottery Virge Temme Architecture, Inc.

Young Automotive



Dining for Open Spaces events raise important dollars for land preservation. The Door County Land Trust sincerely thanks our Dining for Open Spaces hosts, co-hosts and hike leaders for their generosity and their hours in the kitchen and on the land! The dollars, effort and time spent hosting these events are appreciated contributions to the Door County Land Trust.

Nancy Aten and Dan Collins Iean Barrett Maryann and Tom Bast Kathleen and Ralph Blankenburg Barbara Bock Judy and Mike Brodd Fran and Paul Burton Sheila and Gary Cadwallader Vonnie and Dave Callsen Kathy and John Campbell Deborah and Dennis Conta Victoria Dirst Sharon Donegan Gloria Dougherty and Ron Klimaitis Diane and Jack Finger



Thank You to our 2011

**Dining for Open Spaces** 

Cathy and Tony Fiorato Nancy Goldberg and Iim Hoehn Dolores and John Hermann Judy and Jon Hollingshead Donna and Jim Janning Lucy and Karl Klug Ieannie Kokes Pam and Jerry Lecy Bev and Tom Lisle Judy and Ron Lokken Charlotte and Roy Lukes Barb and Mike Madden Pat and Myron Marlett Chris and Ed Movall Pamela Murphy and John Verbeten

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**Calling Prospective Hosts!** We are always in need of future hosts and co-hosts. If you would like to help support the Land Trust by hosting or co-hosting a *Dining for Open Spaces* event, please call our office at (920)746-1359. We are happy to help with ideas or to answer questions. Thank you!

### Celebrating the People and Events of your Life

The connection between people and the places they love is strong and enduring. When you make a gift to the Door County Land Trust in honor of a friend, family member, special event or life of a loved one, your gift will help preserve the places that make Door County special.

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.



Martin & Hilary Ford

#### In Honor of Martin and Hilary Ford

On August 23, 2011, my father, Martin, celebrates being 80 years young and my mother, Hilary, and he celebrate 55 years of marriage. Wow...what milestones! As I write this, many thoughts and memories run through my mind...who could ever begin to express them all?

What is easy to say is that I and all of my family are blessed and grateful to have them as our parents and grandparents. This donation to the Door County Land Trust supports a cause they strongly believe in and respectfully represents a fraction of all the many ways they have given to others throughout their years.

In 2008, Martin and Hilary moved to Ellison Bay from Walworth County, Wisconsin, where, years earlier, they enrolled eighty acres of erodible farmland in a conservation reserve program to restore native prairie landscapes. Preserving the natural environment has been important to them throughout their lives and it is why they greatly admire the work of the Door County Land Trust.

The Door County Land Trust received this note from Martin and Hilary's son, Richard, along with donations from the Ford Family. The Land Trust thanks Richard, Julie, Jasmine, Vivian, Chris, Ali, Will, Nick and Deb Ford for their donations!

Consider making a gift to the Land Trust in honor or memory of a friend, family member or special occasion.

## Memorials & Tributes

Gifts received between February 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011



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# $\frac{\mathcal{E}^{a54}}{\mathbf{Two}_{\Lambda}}$ Ways to Support the Land Trust

#### **Donate Online**

Donating online is a great way to preserve Door County! Make a gift in someone's honor, make a 'thank you' donation after you've hiked one of our preserves, or renew your annual membership. Whenever the spirit moves you, just visit our website: www.doorcountylandtrust.org and click Donate Online. You'll receive a letter from us thanking you for your gift.

Donate Online

#### Automatic Withdrawals

Our new *recurring gift option* is beneficial to the Land Trust and convenient for you. Your annual support may be split into monthly or quarterly contributions and automatically deducted from a savings or checking account or charged to a credit card. It's quick and easy to set up. Call us for more information or visit our website: www.doorcountylandtrust.org and download the "Recurring Gift Authorization Form" on the "Support Our Work" page. Thank you for considering this new contribution option.

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

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

For more information on becoming a member of our Sustainers Circle, please contact Laurel Hauser, Development Director, at (920)746-1359. If you have already named the Land Trust in your estate planning documents, please let us know so we may thank you.

#### Sustainer Circle Members

Anonymous Anonymous Iean Barrett James and Barbara Blanton Richard and Dorothy Burkhardt Paul and Fran Burton Ken and Mary Bussard John and Julie Carpenter Ardis Cermak Dan Collins and Nancy Aten Peter and Beverly Ann Conroy Jerry Cross and Jayne Steffens Lyn Dimberg Susan Duffy Llovd and Dottie Gerrits Phil and Marilyn Hansotia Edward and Janet Heveran Dottie Klepp Ron Klimaitis and Gloria Dougherty

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# **EVENTS IN REVIEW**



### 25th Anniversary Annual Membership Gathering

The Door County Land Trust celebrated its 25th anniversary in style! Last August, over 400 Land Trust members gathered at the historic Ruth Neumann property, the first property ever protected by the Door County Land Trust, to marvel at the accomplishments of the past 25 years. Guests hiked the scenic 115-acre property, listened to the blues of Mike Ammons and the Water Street Hot Shots, enjoyed abundant hors d'oeuvres and beverages, and just had a good time being together. They also watched plein air

artists, Lynn Gilchrist, Emmett Johns, Jim Leatham, Liz Maltman, Cheryl Stidwell Parker, Bonnie Paruch, Rick Risch and Rob Williams, capture the landscape on canvases for lucky winners to take home.

The Land Trust thanks Juliana Neuman and her son, Adam Dunn, for hosting the 25th anniversary Annual Membership Gathering. Thanks also goes to the 2011 chair, Chris Movall, and the co-chair, Mary Dunworth, and the numerous volunteers who made this event such a success.

Mark your calendars. The 2012 Membership Gathering is scheduled for **Sunday, August 26**. Your invitation will arrive mid-July. We hope you can join us!

### 25th Anniversary Keynote Address

The Land Trust was honored to have Dr. William Cronon, esteemed professor of History, Geography, and Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, give our 25th Anniversary Keynote Address – *"Saving the Land We Love: Land Conservation and American* 

*Values*". Birch Creek Performance Center hosted the event which drew over three hundred attendees. Among other themes, Dr. Cronon spoke of the unique role land trusts play in an increasingly polarized political landscape. He commended the land trust community for providing, quite



literally, common ground. The Door County Land Trust thanks Dr. Cronon for providing inspiring, thought-provoking comments to launch our next 25 years!

### 2012 Feast by the Fire

The Door County Land Trust thanks the *White Gull Inn, Base Camp Coffee* and *Flour Girl Patissier* for



providing the feast for the 2012 Feast by the Fire and Cathy and Tony Fiorato, Lucy and Karl Klug, Judy and Ron Lokken for providing the fine wines that accompanied it. A sincere thanks to Sue Stone and Windsor McCutcheon for chairing this year's Feast and, most especially, to the sell-out crowd of over 130 who attended and helped raise muchneeded funds for preservation. A good time was had by all!

### **Connecting People with Place:** "Explore the Door" Upcoming Outings



The Land Trust's "Explore the Door" outings offer you the opportunity to visit the beautiful places you've helped protect! All "Explore the Door" outings are *free of charge* for Land Trust members, but pre-registration is required. To register for the "Explore the Door" outings *and to receive announcements of future hikes*, please email explore@doorcountylandtrust.org. To ensure a high-quality hiking experience, registration for "Explore the

Door" events is limited. You will be emailed a confirmation of your registration and directions to the event. If you do not have access to email, please call Kristi at (920) 746-1359. All outings last approximately two hours.

For more details on upcoming hikes, please visit our website: www.doorcountylandtrust.org.
Gilson-Peterson Forest Preserve, Ellison Bay – May 11 at 1 p.m. & May 12 at 10 a.m.
Ephraim Preserve at Anderson Pond, Ephraim – June 14 at 1 p.m.
Brussels Hill/Kayes Creek Conservation Easement, Brussels and Gardner Townships, Southern Door – June 21 at 1 p.m.
Bay Shore Blufflands Preserve, Carlsville – July 12 at 7 p.m.
Three Springs Nature Preserve, Sister Bay – August 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Shivering Sands State Natural Area, Valmy – Sept. 13 at 1 p.m. & Sept. 15 at 10 a.m.
Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve and DNR Fishery, Sturgeon Bay – October 11 at 9 a.m.
Three Springs Nature Preserve, Sister Bay – October 13 at 2 p.m. & 3 p.m.
Conservation Easement Properties
Various Locations – Nov. 8 at 1 p.m. & Nov. 10 at 10 a.m.
Legacy Preserve at Clay Banks, Southern Door – Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. & Dec. 15 at 10 a.m.

2012 "Explore the Door" Outings

22 Landings - Spring, 2012

### Door County Land Trust Board of Directors



#### Farewell to... Jim Kinney

In January, 2012, Jim Kinney retired from the Land Trust Board of Directors. He was elected to the board in 2008 and served as Treasurer and Chair of the Land Trust's Finance and Operations Committee throughout his board tenure.

Jim drew on his many years as a bank professional to successfully improve and strengthen the Land Trust's accounting system. With his wit and wry sense of humor, Jim was able to explain often complex financial concepts and accounting terminology in an entertaining, accessible way. We own Jim a great deal of gratitude for the time and energy he gave the Land Trust as a member of the Board of Directors, and we wish him and his wife, Susan, all the best in their future endeavors.

#### Welcome to... Mike Brodd

Mike and Judy Brodd have been full-time Door County residents since the early spring of 2004. Mike traces his Door County roots back four generations on both his mom's and his dad's side of the family and



has ancestral connections to the Land Trust's Harold C. Wilson Three Springs Preserve. Mike and Judy raised their three children in Milwaukee where Mike worked for the City of Milwaukee and Judy worked for the UW-Milwaukee and then UW-Madison. They spent summers north of Sister Bay. They have been members of the Land Trust since the late 1990's and have been hosts of several Dining for Open Spaces events, volunteers for the Feast by the Fire, as well as the Annual Gathering. They have been conservation easement monitors for the Land Trust, and they are trained Explore the Door hike leaders. Mike is currently on the Land Trust Membership Committee as well as a member of the Door County Green Fund Advisory Board and the Door County Maritime Museum Board.

#### Welcome to... Sharon Donegan

Sharon first started visiting Door County in the early 1980's. The county's incredible beauty quickly grabbed her heart, which resulted in increases in both the frequency and duration of her trips back. Even

though retirement was years away, Sharon knew that Door County would be her home when that day came. In 2003, she retired from the Harris Bank in Chicago and moved to the home she built in Ellison Bay. Sharon quickly became a Land Trust volunteer, serving on the Annual Gathering and Feast by the Fire committees and as an Explore the Door hike leader. She currently is a member of the Events and Finance and Operations Committees as well as the Stewardship Endowment Board of Trustees. She enjoys gardening, knitting and, of course, hiking the many amazing trails throughout the county with her dog, Molly. Sharon is honored to serve on the Land Trust Board to help continue the excellent work the organization has achieved over the past 25 years.

#### Welcome to... Jon Hollingshead

Jon and his wife, Judy, have been living in Door County since their retirement in 2001. They had lived in Jon's hometown of Zion, Illinois for 32 years. Both were school teachers. Judy taught kindergarten and

Jon, science and computer technology. Both Jon and Judy have long-time connections to the area. Judy has family roots all over Door County and Jon was active at Camp Zion north of Ellison Bay starting in the mid 1950's. They bought property north of Sturgeon Bay in 1980 and Jon started working summers building their retirement home. Jon jokes



that he is still working on it. They have always taken advantage of outdoor Door County enjoying hiking, crosscountry skiing, canoeing, bicycling, and sailing. Jon and Judy have been active in the Door County Land Trust since attending a hike at the Bay Shore Blufflands Preserve near their home. Because of that initial involvement, they have become Explore the Door hike leaders, Annual Gathering and Feast by the Fire volunteers, and sponsors of Dining for Open Spaces programs. Jon currently serves on the Land Trust's Land Policy Committee.

#### Farewell & Welcome! Jack Finger

It was with great sadness that the staff of the Door County Land Trust bade farewell to Jack Finger, fellow staff member. But, it is with equally great joy that we welcome him in his

new role as a volunteer and member of the Board of Directors. (As Jodi Milske, Stewardship Director, says, "he can now 'work' for the Land Trust without having to attend to that pesky business of picking up a paycheck!")

Jack and his wife, Diane, moved to Door County shortly

after they both retired from teaching in Waukesha, WI. Jack was director of a K-12 Environmental Education program serving 10,000 students annually. He was a charter member and served as chair of the State of Wisconsin's Environmental Education Board as well as representing K-12 Education on the State Natural Areas Preservation Council. The Land Trust lured Jack out of retirement in 2006 to work part-time as Stewardship Field Assistant for five years. Jack was instrumental in preparing many Land Trust nature preserves for public use and enjoyment. He loves sharing the land in a respectful, informative way and is famous for his moonlight hikes. Jack and Diane spend their time here walking, snowshoeing, skiing the diverse landscapes of Door County, and viewing the county from their sailboat. Both of their children and their families love to spend time here as well.



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



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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED





"The leaf was once the stone, the cloud was once the sea. The earth tells its story over and over again – the leaf will become a stone, the cloud will become the sea again...You are part of the earth's story. In your blood is iron from plants that drew it out of the soil. Your teeth and bones were once coral of the sea...Every bit of you is a bit of the earth, and has been on many strange and wonderful journeys over the countless millions of years."

- Herman and Nina Schneider, Rocks, Rivers and the Changing Earth