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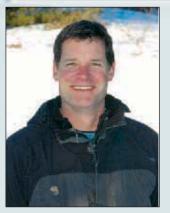


Cover: The Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve blanketed with a fresh coat of snow on the morning of the winter solstice. Photo by Laurel Hauser.



Design & layout of "Landings" by LfpDesign!

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Land Trust Supporters,

Welcome to *Landings* and to the New Year! The first few months of the calendar mark the time when we wrap up the old and usher in the new, when we reflect on the "year that was" and look ahead to the year unfolding in front of us. For the Door County Land Trust, we look back with pride on many accomplishments in 2010 including the preservation of another 300 beautiful acres throughout Door County! You'll read all about these newly-protected lands within this edition of *Landings*. We look ahead into 2011 with a heightened sense of excitement as we prepare to celebrate our 25th year of preserving Door County's finest open spaces and wild places!

Looking ahead is something the Land Trust has done a lot of lately. In 2010, we put the finishing touches on a new five-year Strategic Plan that will guide our work through 2014. During the strategic planning process we asked ourselves many questions in order to determine how best to carry out our mission. One central question we delved into was: What is our vision for Door County 25 years from

now and how can our work help shape the county's future? Our response to this question is found in a vision statement we formulated for the Strategic Plan. The following is an excerpt from our vision statement:

"The lands we protect represent Door County's irreplaceable treasures. From small nature preserves hidden within our villages, to miles of scenic open space along our rural roadways, to thousands of acres of critical wildlife habitat, these are places we simply cannot afford to lose. By protecting them, we not only act as responsible stewards for future generations, we also care for our own clean air and water, safeguard Door County's biological wealth, protect our quality of life, and strengthen the very foundation on which our tourism economy rests. Twenty five years from now, we envision:

- A Door County community united in the noble and vital effort to preserve and care for the best of its diverse and inspiring natural landscapes.
- Over 10,000 acres throughout the county permanently protected by the Door County Land Trust.
- Land Trust nature preserves located in every region of the county that serve to intimately connect people to the land and provide the public with areas for recreation, contemplation, ecological preservation and scenic enjoyment."

It's a tall task, but if we continue to work together, this vision will become a reality.

For the past 25 years, the Door County Land Trust has been dedicated to preserving our natural heritage and to protecting the quality of life we enjoy in Door County. We look forward in 2011 to continuing this meaningful work in partnership with all of you, our members. After all, what we accomplish today will have a profound effect on what kind of place Door County will be 25 years from now.

Thank you for all your support and enjoy reading about the places you've helped to protect.

Sincerely,





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The Places We Protect LAUTENBACH WOODS NATURE PRESERVE

A Study in Contrasts

Purchase Adds Expanse of Scenic Roadway to the Lautenbach Woods Nature Preserve

The Land Trust has "added on" and we're building ■ something truly special! The "building site" is our Lautenbach Woods Nature Preserve located a few miles south of the village of Egg Harbor and the new addition consists of 50 acres of beautiful open space along County Road G.

The Lautenbach Woods Nature Preserve, situated along the bluffs of the Niagara Escarpment, has always been a place of many contrasts. This becomes evident the moment you leave the sun-drenched parking area and step foot onto the shaded nature trail. When you enter the dark hemlock groves that envelop much of the

preserve, you can't help but feel you have entered sacred grounds, a peaceful cathedral only Mother Nature herself could design. In this deep forest, all sounds from the outside world are absorbed and filtered by leaf and limb leaving you with a sense of what the world and Door County must have been like generations ago in quieter times.

But this wonderful old-growth forest and the tranquility it imparts are only part of the story of the Lautenbach Woods Preserve. The Land Trust's most recent purchase here adds a half-mile stretch of bucolic open space right along County Road G.

"Protecting these 50 acres along the roadway helps



Travelers along County Highway G south of Egg Harbor will continue to enjoy this pastoral scene thanks to a newly-protected, half-mile stretch of roadway.

preserve the rural quality of this entire neighborhood," explains Dan Burke, executive director of the Door County Land Trust. "This parcel had been subdivided into 11 residen-



tial lots which, if developed, would have greatly affected the ecological integrity of the preserve, brought additional traffic to the area and diminished the aesthetic quality of one of Door County's most scenic roadways. Protecting the scenic beauty of Door County is an important part of the Land Trust's mission and this purchase helps fulfill that goal."

The Lautenbach Woods Nature Preserve was established in 2003 with an initial purchase of 76 acres and a land donation from members of the Lautenbach family. In addition to the recent 50-acre parcel, four properties were added to the preserve in 2009 bringing the total number of protected acres at the Lautenbach Woods Nature Preserve to 140.

Funds for this most recent purchase were provided by Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and the Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Private donations from Land Trust supporters and preserve neighbors also helped make the purchase possible.

Burke adds, "The Lautenbach Woods Preserve is a little-known Door County treasure. It has a marvelous hiking trail system showcasing the wooded bluffs of the escarpment. Ephemeral wildflowers are prolific in spring and the many varieties of mushrooms are magnificent in the fall. We encourage folks to visit and experience for themselves why this is such a special place and why we're so excited about our new addition!"

The Places We Protect Kellner Fen Nature Preserve

A Fen by any Other Name

Purchase Expands Kellner Fen Nature Preserve

Home to carnivorous plants, floating sedge mats and deep, stagnant waters, fens are mysterious places. Derived from the Old English *fenn*, the word still has an old-world ring to it. "Old world" as they sound, fens do still exist and the Door County Land Trust is working hard to protect one of great significance. The Kellner Fen, located 4 miles northeast of Sturgeon Bay just inland from Lake Michigan, is a vibrant, thriving 400-acre wetland complex complete with insect-devouring plants, numerous rare orchids and a "bottomless" inner lagoon.

The word *fen* is often used interchangeably with *bog*, *swampland*, *mud*, *marsh*, *moor* and even *quagmire* (which contributes to its aura of mystery.) A fen called by any other name, however, is still a fen and has its own distinct attributes.

Water chemistry is one of the determining factors in what makes a fen a fen, and water chemistry is largely determined by water source. Fens are either neutral or alkaline while bogs are acidic. Bogs are fed largely by surface water (rain and snowfall, which are slightly acidic), while fens add ground water into the mix and are, therefore, nourished by minerals that seep from the soil. Here in Door County, the alkaline karst bedrock is loaded with calcium and magnesium which neutralizes the acidic surface water and creates nutrientrich fens rather than bogs. Depending on the water chemistry, fens and bogs host a variety of plant species. The Kellner Fen is home to a number of orchids such as the dragon's mouth and carnivorous plants such as sundews



This aerial view of the Kellner Fen looking north shows its close proximity to Lake Michigan.

and pitcher plants. It is also a breeding ground for the federally-endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly and nesting ground for Sandhill Cranes.

One of the most notable features shared by fens and bogs is the thick layer of sphagnum moss that "floats" on the surface of the water. This floating sedge mat is alive on top but sits on dead or barely decomposed organic material.

Recognizing the ecological value of the Kellner Fen area, the Door County Land Trust began purchasing land surrounding the open waters of the fen in 2003. This past fall, the Land Trust was able to purchase the 40-acre tract at the very center of the fen itself bringing the total number of protected acres here to nearly 150!

"We're thrilled to have had the opportunity to protect this very special place," states Dan Burke, executive director of the Door County Land Trust. "The Kellner Fen was



The federally-endangered Hine's Emerald Dragonfly

Preserving the Fen

"Donna and I first learned of the Kellner Fen when

a deal could not be struck at the property could be sold and Trust. To prevent that, Donna

the Land Trust asked us and our neighbors to help fund their first purchase here in 2003. We had no idea places

such as fens existed anywhere and certainly not in Door County.

The fen has a mystical appeal. It changes dramatically with the seasons and constantly surprises us. It is barren, nearly frightening, in the winter, yet full of life in the summer. It's a wild place where plants are the carnivores and animals never more than visitors.

Donna & Jim Janning than visitors.

Several years ago, the owner of the

Several years ago, the owner of the 40-acre tract in the center of the fen wanted to sell his property. The Land Trust wanted to purchase it, but negotiations stalled and

a deal could not be struck at the time. We feared that the property could be sold and lost forever to the Land Trust. To prevent that, Donna and I bought the 40 acres for the purpose of stewarding it until such time as the Land Trust could secure funds and purchase it back. We are very glad that this has now happened and that the property will be preserved forever.

Kellner Fen crept into our life story and we are proud to be a footnote in its protection. How much do we really love the fen? Ask us sometime to show you our tattoos!"*

Jim Janning, Land Trust board member and Kellner Fen neighbor

* In honor of their wedding anniversary, Jim and Donna proudly sport handsome, matching tattoos of Hine's emerald dragonflies on their ankles!

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Door County's eco-

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Kellner Fen, continued



The carnivorous pitcher plant, found in abundance at the Kellner Fen.

The Kellner Fen is one of Door County's many "embayment lakes." Embayment lakes were once a part of Lake Michigan and are easily identified along the east side of the Door County map. Thousands of years ago, water currents and shifting sands closed these bodies of water off from the larger lake creating separate and unique microcosms. From south to north, Kellner Fen, Clark Lake, Kangaroo Lake, Mud Lake and Europe Lake are some of Door County's embayment lakes. Kellner Fen differs from the others as it had

no natural outlet to Lake Michigan and was completely isolated by natural sand deposits until man-made ditches were dug to the lake.

Aside from its geological history and outstanding ecological attributes, the Kellner Fen also has a rich cultural history. The fen once housed a small cranberry operation; a manmade drainage ditch and dam allowed flooding of the fields for harvest. The fen was also home to a frog farm in the first part of the 20th century, a time when frog legs were a popular item on restaurant menus.

Lore and legends attach themselves to hidden places and the Kellner Fen has had its share of dramatic tales over the years – the sputtering plane that disappeared over the open waters of the fen never to be found again and the failed attempts to measure the "bottomless" lagoon with a 40' pipe. The depth of the fen remains unknown to this day.

According to Jodi Milske, stewardship coordinator for the Door County Land Trust, the remoteness, wildness and unique habitat of the Kellner Fen are the very attributes that put it high on the Land Trust's wish list of places to protect. "Remote as it is, the fen has not escaped invasion by nonnative plant species like glossy buckthorn and *Phragmites*. One of the things we'll be working hard on in the coming months and years is the eradication of these invasive species."

Funds for this 40-acre purchase were provided by a National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Private donations from Land Trust supporters also helped make the purchase possible.

Woods at Monument Point Nature Preserve



Strong Landowner Partnerships Help Preserve Majestic Forest

The Door County Land Trust is a stickler for staying focused on its highest priorities and that means working hard to preserve special places that possess exceptional scenic and ecological value. The Land Trust's Woods at Monument Point Nature Preserve near Carlsville is certainly one of these places. It is considered by conservationists to be one of the highest quality forests in all of Door County.

"There are challenges inherent in preserving the integrity of this majestic forest," explains Dan Burke, Land Trust executive director. "When the Land Trust first began work here, much of this area had recently been subdivided into small, residential lots. We knew starting out that if we hoped to achieve any significant preservation success, we would need the cooperation and generosity of the new owners of these small parcels. We're pleased to report that this generosity has been forthcoming!"

Since 2000, the Land Trust, with invaluable help from The Nature Conservancy, has worked with willing landowners to purchase key tracts of land here. Additionally, several landowners have entered into conservation easement agreements with the Land Trust that permanently protect large swaths of forest from future development. Landowner partnerships continued to grow in 2010 when Anna Pepelnjak and Gary Buerstatte

became the latest landowners to enter into a conservation easement with the Land Trust.

"Discovering that our property is home to rare plants and animals was an unexpected delight and the decision to work with the Door County Land Trust to place a conservation easement on our property was an easy one," explains Gary and Anna. "We are familiar with the Door County Land Trust and have a great amount of respect for it."

Anna noted, "Placing the six acres we own in a conservation easement means that, together with our neighbors, more than seventeen contiguous acres of beautiful Door County woods will be protected forever." Add these seventeen acres to the other lands protected and the number of protected acres here now stands at over 90.

"The Woods at Monument Point Nature Preserve is an inspiring example of what can happen when landowners develop a greater appreciation and understanding of

how their property is connected to the larger landscape," states Burke. "We owe a great deal of thanks to landowners like Anna and Gary who express their conservation ethic by working with the Door County Land Trust."



The Places We Protect Little Lake Nature Preserve

A Little Lake Holds Big Surprises

Land Trust Completes Washington Island Nature Preserve

Washington Island's Little Lake has been the source of some big surprises for the Door County Land Trust.

Dan Burke, executive director of the Land Trust, recalls the day he first learned about Washington Island's only inland lake. "Kurt Meyer, a property owner in the area, contacted us in 2002 about Little Lake and urged us to consider protecting this area. At the time, it wasn't even on our radar screen. After hearing what Kurt had to say, we were intrigued. After all, when an island has only one lake, it's worth looking into! We did some research and found Little Lake to be one of the island's ecological treasures."

Located on the far northwest side of the island within 250 feet of Lake Michigan, Little Lake was created thousands of years ago when glaciers washed gravel and cobblestones across a shallow bay. As the gla-

cial waters receded, a narrow ridge was formed isolating the shallow bay and creating Little Lake. Little Lake supports a productive fish population, is part of a wetland complex that hosts a variety of rare plants, and provides critical habitat for a large number of migrating and nesting birds.

Burke continues, "In 2004, the Land Trust purchased a property at the north end of the lake with 1,000 feet



of shoreline. That was our first purchase and the beginning of the **Little Lake Nature Preserve**. As we've continued our work there, we've found that this little lake has held many surprises."

The first surprise came when the Land Trust learned that Little Lake had once been home to a significant Woodland Indian settlement. Archeological studies done around the lake have unearthed 3000-year-old artifacts, some of which may be viewed at the Jacobsen Museum on Little Lake's south shore. Much of the land that hosted this Indian settlement, including a burial ground of the Potawatomi, has now been permanently protected by an Archeological Covenant with the State of Wisconsin Historical Society.

A second surprise came in 2008 when the Land Trust purchased an 11-acre stretch of narrow land separating Little Lake from Lake Michigan on the west. "We purchased the land for its ecological value and for the 3,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline, but the land included a cabin," states Burke. "Little did we know that a section of the cabin was hand-built nearly one hundred years ago by Thorstein Veblen, one of America's most famous economists!" Veblen, author of "Theory of the Leisure Class," purchased the Island property in 1915 for use as a summer retreat. He was known to row across Little Lake with his step-daughters in a homemade skiff to purchase milk and butter from a nearby Icelandic farm. The Veblen cabin was recently relocated to the grounds of the Jacobsen Museum by the Island Heritage Conservancy.



Washington Island's Little Lake is a peaceful oasis steeped in history. A recent purchase completes the Land Trust's vision for this Nature Preserve, which protects 5,546 feet of shoreline and 33 acres of land.

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Little Lake, continued

"Another pleasant surprise at Little Lake has been the speed at which our protection goals here have come to fruition," states Terrie Cooper, Land Program Director of the Door County Land Trust. "Soon after the first purchase in 2004, our staff developed an ambitious plan for protecting the entire north half of the lake. This past spring, just 6 years from our initial purchase here, we completed this plan by protecting the last undeveloped parcel situated on the north end," marvels Cooper. "That's something none of us would have predicted. It's surprising and very gratifying."

The 2010 purchase was a small piece of land, 1.38acres, but it came with 200 additional feet of pristine shoreline. A total of 5,546 feet of shoreline and 33 acres now comprise the Little Lake Nature Preserve. This purchase would not have been possible, however, without the help of neighboring landowners, Tom and Margaret Keller.

When this stretch of lakeshore was put up for sale, Tom Keller contacted the Land Trust. The Land Trust shared a strong desire to see the land protected, but



Tom Keller shares a love of Washington Island with granddaughter, Hannah.

could not act quickly enough for the sellers. That's when Tom and his wife, Margaret, offered to purchase the property outright and hold it until the Land Trust had secured the necessary funding and was able to purchase it back from them.

According to Dan Burke of the Land Trust, "The Kellers were very patient and their coopera-

tion and understanding provided us the time we needed to make the protection happen. In the end, we were able to purchase the land after obtaining grants from

the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and the Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council."

Tom and Margaret Keller were happy to be of help. "Washington Island has played a big part in our lives," explains Tom, a radiologist practicing in Manitowoc. "In fact, when I finished my medical training at the University of Pittsburgh, we considered setting up practice in various locations around the country. We took a map and drew concentric circles around northeast Wisconsin. One of our key criteria was how close we could get to Washington Island!"

Tom began visiting Washington Island when he was ten or twelve years old. What began as trips to see relatives led, decades later, to the purchase of property on Washington Harbor and to the eventual building of the home he and Margaret will live in more permanently when Tom retires. "Our children have inherited the same strong connection we have to this island and return each summer from Washington State and Florida. We hope our grandchildren will feel the same way someday."

In addition to their shared love of Washington Island, the Kellers share the strong feeling that its most special places need to be protected. "I am a Thoreauvian," explains Tom. "Thoreau taught that land ought to be set aside in its natural state. Our family adheres to that and that's why we are so drawn to the Land Trust's mission.

"The property around Little Lake is so significant both historically and environmentally that we felt it needed to be protected. Although change is inevitable, it's important that some places, the important places, remain the way you remember them."

Cooper of the Land Trust concurs. "Few places in Door County can outshine Little Lake for scenic beauty, ecological importance, and cultural and historical significance. By preserving the land surrounding the lake, the Door County Land Trust is protecting the health of the Little Lake ecosystem far into the future. We thank the Kellers, our granting agencies and all of the partners we've worked with over the years who have helped us complete our vision here."

Other Island Happenings...



Washington Island Land Tour, 2010

Tach August, the Washington Island Committee of Lethe Door County Land Trust invites Island members to tour a protected property. This past August, the group hiked land owned by Shirley Weese-Young and preserved through conservation easements donated to the Land Trust. After the hike, Land Trust members Rich and Melissa Walker hosted a lunch at their home with the help of Lucia and Pete Petrie.

Little Lake Preserve Dedication

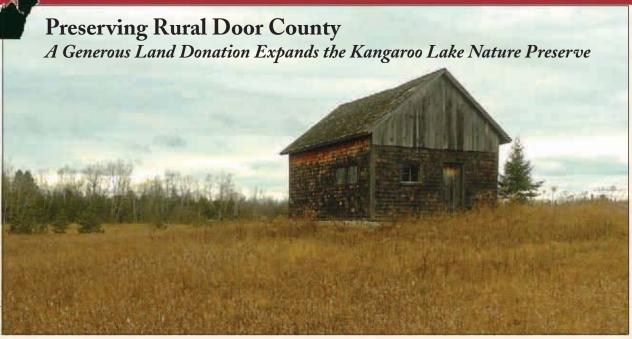
The Washington Island Committee of the Door

■ County Land Trust celebrated the Land Trust's most recent purchase and the completion of the Little Lake Nature Preserve with a preserve dedication ceremony in October. The event was attended by over



50 islanders and visitors and featured hikes on the newly-created trails. For directions to the Preserve or to download our new "Guide to the Washington Island Nature Preserves of the Door County Land Trust," visit our website: www.doorcountylandtrust.org.

The Places We Protect Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve



A weathered barn stands as a reminder of earlier times on a recent land donation near Baileys Harbor.

Tf you close your eyes and visualize a classic Door LCounty scene, you might conjure up a stone fencelined meadow rolling gently down to a cedar-lined creek. You might even throw in a hundred-year-old farm building or a picturesque grove of gnarled lilacs, just for effect.

The scene you just visualized was protected forever last November thanks to a generous and anonymous land donation. The Door County Land Trust was honored to be the recipient of a 56-acre parcel situated in the Township of Baileys Harbor just east of the corner of County EE and Maple Road.

Along with classic rural Door County ambiance, the predominate feature of this property is Piel Creek. A long stretch of the spring-fed creek meanders its way through a stand of cedars and hardwoods to the north end of nearby Kangaroo Lake. The recently protected land and the long stretch of creek are the newest

additions to the Door County Land Trust's Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve.

"We were thrilled to receive this donation," states Terrie Cooper, land program director of the Land Trust. "Protection of this property has long been a priority of ours, not only because it is a beautiful stretch of rural Door County countryside, but also because it is an ecologically critical piece to the entire Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve. By protecting such a large section of Piel Creek, we are also protecting the water quality of Kangaroo Lake."

The Kangaroo Lake neighborhood holds a place of special significance in the Door County Land Trust's history. In 1995, the Land Trust was given a bequest, the first significant funds it had ever received, that allowed for the purchase of 57 acres bordering the lake just a stone's throw south of the recent acquisition. Since this

initial purchase, the Land Trust has received three conservation easement donations, was the recipient of another land donation, and



purchased a 40-acre tract of land. In addition, The Nature Conservancy has permanently protected hundreds of acres here. All told, the Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve now boasts over 700 acres!

Laurel Hauser, development director of the Land Trust, explains, "the Land Trust could not have protected such a special place like the north end of Kangaroo Lake without the vision of many generous people. The donor of the Land Trust's first bequest probably never imagined where her gift would lead. Her generosity and that of many others is being carried forward by this recent land donation. Although the family that donated these 56 acres has



asked to remain anonymous, they have given Door County and its future residents a verv valuable gift that will be long appreciated. We're grateful for the vision they

have for Door County and that they chose to work with the Land Trust to achieve it."



Conservation Ethic Has Deep Roots

Growing up in a small town allowed for outdoor play all four seasons, all the time. My Dad and his two brothers taught me the joy of nature with sunrises, sunsets, flora, and fauna. My family was into conservation and preservation long before it was fashionable; Dad's older brother even served on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress for many years. I spent summers on dairy farms and learned to appreciate the soil, the hard work and the spirit of community among neighboring farmers. The background for my love of nature was there.

My wife and I drive County Highway EE often. When we saw land proposed for residential development at one of our favorite spots, the purchase process began. We took our children and grandchildren to see the property over the July 4th holiday in 2009. Everyone agreed to proceed with the purchase and then to donate the land to the Door County Land Trust. Thankfully, the property owners accepted our offer and they are delighted that the land is now protected as part of the Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve."

> - Anonymous Donor of 56 Acres in Baileys Harbor Township

The Places We Protect Mud Lake State Wildlife Area

It Runs in the Family A Third Member of the Wilson Family Protects Mud Lake Property

There must have been something in the water at the ■ Wilson household when Nick and his brother were growing up. This summer, Nick became the third member of the Wilson family to enter into a conservation easement agreement with the Door County Land Trust! Nick's brother, John, and their father, John Sr., have also entered into conservation easements with the Land Trust. The latest Wilson conservation easement permanently protects 40 acres abutting the Mud Lake State Wildlife Area near Baileys Harbor.

Conservation easements are one of the primary land protection tools used by the Door County Land Trust. A conservation easement is a permanent agreement between the landowner and the Land Trust that restricts the type and amount of future development that can take place on the property. With a conservation easement, the owner retains ownership of the land and the Land Trust agrees to uphold and enforce the terms of the agreement into perpetuity.



A donated conservation easement agreement protects woods within the wild Mud Lake State Natural Area north of Baileys Harbor.

The Land Trust holds over 60 conservation easements throughout the county that protect more than 2,500 acres. Terrie Cooper, Land Program Director, explains that "each conservation easement is unique, written to reflect the needs of the individual landowner. The Wilson easement was designed to allow for a small work studio on the property but ensures that the rest of the property will remain forever in its undeveloped, natural state."

Kept in its natural state, Nick's property is in tune with its surroundings. It borders the untamed Mud Lake State Wildlife Area, a 2,290-acre preserve that feels far away from civilization. This area provides spawning grounds for trout running up Reibolts Creek from Lake Michigan and is used by waterfowl and nesting birds such as the American bittern, common golden eye, and wood duck. Mud Lake and its surrounding wetlands also provide critical habitat for the federally-endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly, a species that depends upon high-quality ground water to survive.

> With his agreement, Nick joins twelve other property owners in this area, including his brother and father, who have partnered with the Land Trust to permanently protect their properties with conservation easements.

> "Through the partnerships we have in the Mud Lake area with private landowners like the Wilsons, we have been able to protect some of Door County's most ecologically important treasures, a task that the Land Trust could not hope to accomplish alone," states Cooper. "We are thankful to Nick for his land ethic and for continuing what has become a fine family tradition."

The Places We Protect STURGEON BAY SHIP CANAL NATURE PRESERVE

Land Trust Purchase Protects Key Natural Area in City of Sturgeon Bay and Expands New Ship Canal Preserve

ooking toward shore from the waters of Sturgeon LBay near the entrance to the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal, one notices a tranquil, tannin-colored stream meandering its way through a field of grass to the bay. This is Strawberry Creek. This creek and the 112 acres surrounding it were part of a very exciting purchase by the Door County Land Trust last fall.

The **Strawberry Creek property**, as it is affectionately called, lies within the city limits of Sturgeon Bay about two miles southeast of the city's downtown. While close to city streets and city sites, water is definitely the predominate feature here! The Land Trust's recent acquisition boasts

nearly 2,000 feet of Sturgeon Bay shore frontage, a 3-acre wildlife pond and almost all of Strawberry Creek itself.

While relatively small in size, Strawberry Creek plays a vital role for the Lake Michigan fisheries. The creek is home to the first stocking and egg collection site for Chinook salmon in Wisconsin and continues to be Wisconsin's primary source of Chinook salmon eggs for Lake Michigan(see page 11). The protection of Strawberry Creek helps ensure that this initiative can continue.

Adding to the excitement over this recent purchase is the fact that the Strawberry Creek property shares a border with the Door County Land Trust's newly established

Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve (see the Spring, 2010 Landings edition). The Land Trust established the Ship Canal Preserve in December of 2009 with the purchase of 332 acres and 750 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline along the south side of the ship canal. With the addition of the Strawberry Creek property, the total number of protected acres at the preserve now stands at nearly 450.

"The Land Trust is very excited about acquiring the Strawberry Creek property because its protection will have so many positive and lasting impacts for our community," states Land Trust executive director, Dan Burke. "Those



who love to fish will be thrilled to know that Strawberry Creek is protected. Boaters will continue to enjoy the property's long stretch of undeveloped, scenic shoreline and wildlife enthusiasts will celebrate the expanded protection of one of Door County's most important nature preserves."

"Those who love to fish will be thrilled to know that Strawberry Creek is protected."

The protection of this land also ranks high with the Asher family from whom the Land Trust purchased the property. "These 112 acres have been in our family for over 40 years and the land holds a lot of sentimental value for us," explains Steve Asher. "My parents acquired the property in 1968 and we kids grew up exploring the lands and waters here. We couldn't be happier that the Door County Land Trust is now the steward of this special place."

Funds for this purchase were provided by a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund grant, a National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and donations from private individuals. Private donations are still being gratefully accepted to cover remaining project costs including restoration activities and the removal of invasive species such as Phragmites that threaten the ecological integrity of the Sturgeon Bay shoreline. Donations may be sent directly to the Land Trust office or made online at www.doorcountylandtrust.org.



This newly-protected stretch of Strawberry Creek meanders its way to Sturgeon Bay providing passageway to Lake Michigan for Chinook salmon fingerlings released at the nearby WI-DNR spawning facility.

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What Came First, the Salmon or the Egg?

Tn Strawberry **I**Creek, the answer is the salmon! The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources first introduced Chinook salmon into Strawberry Creek in 1969 when 65,000 fingerlings were released to boost the predator fish population and control an exploding invasion of alewives in Lake Michigan.

Strawberry Creek continues to be the primary source of Chinook salmon eggs for all of Lake Michigan. Each fall, during an eight week run, mature salmon return to the creek from which they were released to spawn. Their eggs are collected, fertilized and transported to hatcheries around the state. Each

spring, an average of 200,000 fertilized eggs is returned in the form of fingerlings. Although the initial objective in stocking Chinook salmon was to control the alewife population, the primary objective today is to provide recreational fishing for anglers on Lake Michigan.

The Strawberry Creek Salmon Spawning Facility is a fascinating place to visit and a popular place to take kids and

grandkids. The Chinook harvest occurs from late September through early November with the peak of the run happening in early October. The facility is located next door to the recent Door County Land Trust acquisition and is open to the public whenever DNR staff is present, typically during the spring and fall. For more information, visit:

http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/hatchery/strawberrycreek.html

Directions: Just south of the Sturgeon Bay highway bridge, turn off of Highway 42/57 onto County Highway U. Follow County Highway U for approximately one mile. Turn left (east) on Strawberry Lane. Follow Strawberry Lane for approximately one mile. The facility is on the right (south) side of the road.

While you're in the neighborhood, stop by and hike the new trail system at our Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature **Preserve.** From the intersection of County U and Strawberry Lane, continue on County U one half mile to Lake Lane. Follow Lake Lane about two miles to the parking areas.

CREATING A PRESERVE

There are times when a happy ending is really only L the beginning. Here's an example: after years of effort, the Land Trust succeeded in protecting a large and spectacular parcel of land, the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal property. Staff, board and supporters celebrated! Then, just as the last toast was given, the Stewardship crew rolled up its sleeves and began the process of turning a property into a nature preserve.

The tremendous community support we received for purchasing the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal property also generated eager anticipation to explore and enjoy this newest Land Trust preserve. So before the ink was dry on the closing papers, the stewardship staff was busy planning for both public use and ecological restoration - on a larger scale and shorter timeline than we'd ever faced! The task list was daunting; it would take an unprecedented army of volunteers to make it happen.

Our call for help brought a response that was nothing short of amazing! Through the collective efforts of more than 50 volunteers, in just a few short months the "canal property" was transformed into the Sturgeon Bay Ship **Canal Nature Preserve.** It is a true example of what we



Sturgeon Bay Utilities, former owner of the Ship Canal Preserve property, helps remove tons of illegally-dumped debris.

call a Land Trust "Signature Preserve," a place that welcomes the community to come and experience its splendor while at the same time preserves the unique habitats and rare species that are the very reason for its protection.



- Several dump-truck loads of refuse were removed from more than 20 trash piles found throughout the preserve, thanks to Jim Stawicki and his crew from Sturgeon Bay Utilities.
- Construction of 2 ½ miles of hiking trails was completed, with directional markers and "You Are Here" maps installed at intersections.
- A new parking area was located at the main trailhead off of Lake Lane and delineated with wooden posts and nautical rope.
- Two information kiosks were installed, one at the main trailhead and one in the beach area.
- A Leopold bench was installed at the top of the scenic overlook trail, providing a panoramic view of the shipping canal and Sturgeon Bay.
- A new pedestrian walkway system was laid at the beach to protect the fragile habitat of the federallyendangered Pitcher's Dune Thistle.
- The first annual "dune thistle count" was conducted and will be used to monitor the population of this very rare and unique dune species.
- The first newly-designed "Signature Preserve" sign was installed at the main trailhead parking area.

Our heartfelt THANK YOU to the many people who generously gave their time and talents to make this nature preserve a reality. We are most grateful to the members of the South Lake Michigan Drive Property Owners Association who provided unwavering support throughout every phase of the Ship Canal preservation project and who continue their involvement through ongoing stewardship efforts.

THE MANY WAYS YOU SUPPORT OUR WORK

In addition to annual membership contributions (for which we are always grateful), the following are just some of the many ways you help us preserve a county we love!

Annual Event Sponsorships

The Door County Land Trust holds many events during the course of a year. As our Annual Event Sponsors, the following businesses help underwrite our events so that the dollars raised can go directly to land protection. Please support these businesses that support land preservation and when you do, please thank them for supporting the Land Trust.





Washington Island Folk Fest

Irish music was the theme for last summer's 10th Annual Washington **Island Folk Fest**. A good time is always guaranteed at this Island event and proceeds benefit the Land

Trust. (If you're into the simple pleasures of life, this is one to put on your bucket list!) The Door County Land Trust thanks the following sponsors: Fiddler's Green, The Island Outpost, Mann's Mercantile, The Red Barn and John and Karen Yancey.

Going to a Garden Party

Doug and Barb Henderson are famous for their gardens. The gardens are so impressive that the occasional



bus tour stops by to visit them. Last summer, the Hendersons donated proceeds from a tour to the Land Trust. They spoke so eloquently about the mission of the Land

Trust to the group that several of the participants made additional donations! Thanks, Barb and Doug.



The Sturgeon Bay High School Ecology Club presents a donation to Land Trust staff.

Sturgeon Bay High School **Ecology Club** Makes Gift to the Land Trust

After a long career as a Biology teacher at Sturgeon Bay High School, Carl Cochrane retired last year. Mr. Cochrane was also the staff advisor to the **Sturgeon** Bay High School Ecology Club which has provided invaluable help to the Land Trust over the years through work it has done clearing trails and identifying invasive species at the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal property. At the end of the school year, the Club chose to donate proceeds they raised at fundraising events to the Door County Land Trust for continued work at the Ship Canal Nature Preserve and elsewhere. Thank you Ecology Club and thank you, Mr. Cochrane!



Feast By The Fire

The Door County Land Trust thanks the Inn at Cedar Crossing, T. Ashwell's and Mr. Helsinki for providing the feast for the 2011 Feast by the Fire.

We also thank Cathy and Tony Fiorato, Lucy and Karl Klug, Judy and Ron Lokken and Sue and Tim Stone for providing fine wines to accompany the meal.

Pretty as a Picture

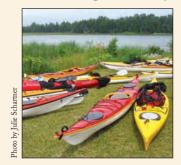
Each spring, Door County Living features a donated



painting on the cover of its Philanthropy issue and auctions it to the highest bidder. The high bidder not only receives the artwork, they also designate a local non-profit organization or organizations to receive the donated dollars. It's a win-win scenario. As high bidders of last year's cover art, Bryan and Diane Troutman received Judi

Ekholm's beautiful original oil painting, A Whispered Invitation, and chose to share a large portion of the purchase price with the Door County Land Trust! We are grateful to the Troutmans, to Door County Living and to contributing artist, Judi Ekholm.

Paddling Sea Kayak Symposium



There's no better way to see many of Door County's most wild and pristine places than from a kayak. Last summer, Rutabaga of Madison once again held its annual Door County Sea Kayak Symposium. The symposium is designed for every

skill level and according to the Door County Land Trust's most seasoned paddler, Terrie Cooper, "it's an outstanding experience!" Join Terrie and others at this year's Symposium in July (see Upcoming Events insert or the Land Trust's website.) The Land Trust sincerely thanks Rutabaga for generously donating proceeds from the Symposium so that we can continue to protect Door County's shorelines and waterways.



Support the Land Trust ONLINE. **Every Contribution Helps!**

To make a gift in someone's honor... To say thank you after you've hiked a preserve... To renew your annual membership contribution... Or whenever the spirit moves you...

Visit our website www.doorcountylandtrust.org and make an online donation of support.

We promise to put your contribution to the best use we know how protecting Door County's open spaces! Thank you!



Thank you to our 2010 Dining for Open Spaces Hosts and Co-hosts!

From a Cape Cod-style lobster boil to a Tuscan-inspired picnic dinner to a cruise through the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal, the Land Trust held fifteen *Dining for Open Spaces* events in 2010 and welcomed over 350 diners!

The Door County Land Trust sincerely thanks our Dining for Open Spaces, 2010 hosts and co-hosts for their generosity and their hours in the kitchen! The dollars, effort and time spent hosting these events are appreciated contributions to the Door County Land Trust.



Guests enjoy fabulous food and each other's company in a luscious garden setting at the Dining for Open Spaces, "Secret Garden Party."

Judy and Mike Brodd Sheila and Gary Cadwallader Vonnie and Dave Callsen Amy Jo and Curt Campbell Jan and Andy Coulson Barb and Dick Craig Sandy and Russ Dagon Amy and Gary Delzell Gloria Dougherty and Ron Klimaitis Suzanne and Bob Fletcher Carol and Dick Grelck Laney Gunnell

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Calling Prospective Hosts!

We are always in need of Hosts and Co-hosts! If you are interested in hosting or helping host a Dining for Open Spaces event, please call our office. We'll be glad to answer any questions you might have.

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DCLT volunteers gather to inventory the endangered Dune Thistle at the Ship Canal Preserve.

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Sneeberger, Marion

Soffa, Marguerite



Yocum, Kay

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Zehner. Diane

7muda Joe

Zuehlke. Helen

Zwicky, Tom

Youngsteadt, Duane and Leslie

Zaug, Jerry and Joan

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Wulle-Dugan, Kathy

Yeomans, Robert

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- Bough denotes Arbor Vitae Society (AVS) members.

Zuckerman, David and Judy Madsen

Zwick, Kenneth and Carol Hollar

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 2010.

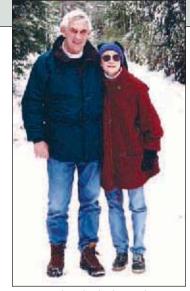
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CELEBRATING THE People and Events of your Life

Herbert C. "Bud" Humke

It is with tremendous love that we remember our late father, Hebert C. "Bud" Humke (July 20, 1934 -December 23, 2009), and the indelible mark he has left on his family, friends and the greater Door County community.

In 1922, our grandfather (and Bud's father), Herbert S. Humke, built a small cottage on South Lake Michigan Drive, just miles from the Sturgeon Bay farm he called home and just down the road from what is now the Land Trust's Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Preserve. Herbert went on to become a lawyer and moved to Sheboygan to start his own



Bud & Elizabeth Humke

family. Our father, Bud, enjoyed carefree summers at the cottage as a child with his sisters, Ginny (Froehlich) and June (Jochimsen). He helped tend to his Uncle Doc's Dutch belted cattle and fainting sheep, and he worked summers in the cherry canneries as a teenager. Bud went on to marry Elizabeth "Betty" Lione, raise four children and rise to prominence as one of Wisconsin's most respected attorneys. He, too, made Sheboygan his home, but the cottage in Sturgeon Bay remained his playground. It is where we annually tramped through the woods for days on end to find the perfect Christmas tree, and where he taught us and many of our cousins how to drive, stir a mean Manhattan, what constitutes appropriate "two-hole" outhouse etiquette, and the best time to "raid" Knaapens Bakery in downtown Sturgeon Bay for warm elephant ears (turns out it's usually between midnight and 5:00 a.m.). The "Bide a while," as our cottage is known, is where we grew to know our cousins as if they were siblings and our aunts and uncles as second parents. There is still no place that makes us feel more hopeful about life and its joys than our cottage.

On behalf of the Humke-Froehlich-Jochimsen families, we thank the Door County Land Trust for working so hard to preserve a place that meant so much to a man we love so dearly. It will forever hold great memories for us and generations of our family to come. Betty, Herb, Jen, Joe and Liz Humke

The Humke family made a gift to the Land Trust in memory of Herbert "Bud" Humke. Consider making a gift in honor or in memory of a friend or family member. If you include a short statement about your loved one and their love for Door County and space allows, we'd be happy to share it in an upcoming issue of Landings.

Memorials, Tributes & Special Gifts

Gifts received between February 1, 2010 and February 1, 2011

The connection between people and the places they love is strong and enduring. I 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.



Memorial Gifts

In memory of **Nancy Chapman** Leslie Helpern & Anne Seefor

In memory of **Bernal Chomeau**

Kathy Andrews Doug Chomeau Dottie Klepp **Robert Mevers**

In memory of Mary Ellen DelCore Gloria Eckman

In memory of

Stanley R. Gabert

Dept. of Advanced Clinical Practice, Duke University Carvl Fulcher Bruce & Kristine Gabert Jeanne Gabert Gabert, Williams, Konz & Lawrynk, LLP Chester & Helen Johnson Ronald & Margaret Troyan Helen Zuehlke Family

In memory of **Lynne Hayes** Sharon Donegan

In memory of **Anne Hauser** Beverly Branson Coggin Heeringa Alice Lewis Sally Tolan

In memory of **Herbert Humke** Daniel Cimarosti Elizabeth Humke Jen Humke I.C. & B.K. Leverenz Elizabeth Watson

In memory of **Heinz Kepper** Ann Aswegan

In memory of

Wally Klepp Betty Aik Dan Burke Mary & Bill Hartman Laurel Hauser Paulette & Gary Jensen Dirk Madson Deborah Saitta Carl & Ruth Scholz Dan & Marie White

In memory of Francis R. Lesica Tom & Mary Jo Albrecht Mike & Julie Lesica

Joe Skaleski & Bonnie Splitt Joseph Worachek Family

In memory of **Nancy Lewis**

Lee & Inge Bacon Dave & Vonnie Callsen Bill & Cheryl Chaudoir Rudy & Arlene Cherkasky Douglas & Sherry Coerper Lvnn Coilson & Pete Salm Carleton & Kathleen Davis Steve & Carol Davis Michael Dockry Gloria Drummond John & Judy Ellington Raymond & Beverly Gauthier Loretta Gierhahn Lvnne Gordon & Jack Kennedy Robert & Bessie Greenberg Gary & Joyce Haen Colleen & Harold Hahn Pat & Pat Hitt Richard & Marie Holt Greg & Mary Holub Susan & William Jacobs Mary Lou Kuske Daniel & Brenda Leist James & Andrea Lombard Peter & Debra Mancuso John & Patricia Martin Joseph & Judith McMahon Darlene & Don Mulock Bob & Lou Ann Roloff Betsy Rosen Henry & Carolyn Saperstein

continued on page 19



Nancy Lewis Memorial, cont. Robert & Patricia Scieszinski John Short Elmer & Shirley Tanck Arnold & Judith Utzinger Jeannine Viste Keith Wickert Christine Zietlow

In memory of Harriet Meissner

Gene & Carmen Witt

In memory of **Dale Murphy** Robert & Margaret Agnew

David & Jeanne Aurelius Harold & Catherine Gerdmann John & Nancy Sargent Laraine Taylor Chuck & Lana Tencate Mary Zaborski

In memory of

Marion Burkart Pederson

Teresa Burkart

In memory of

Martha Sauter

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In memory of **Mabel Roberts**

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In memory of

Marilyn Schoof Walter Schoof

In memory of

Kate Rohrer Sterrenberg

Dorothy Klepp Karl & Lucy Klug Agnes Kubicz Rov & Charlotte Lukes

In memory of **Ied Weldon**

Jock & Karen Wilcox

Tribute Gifts

In honor of

Terry & Ginny Foster Jeannie Kokes

In honor of

Nancy Aten, Dan Collins, Lucy Klug, Laurel & Svlvia Hauser & friends

Deborah & Dennis Conta

In honor of the birthday of

Marion Bezold

Tamara Burks

In honor of Terrie Cooper &

Mike Schneider The Clearing's Off The Beaten Path Class 2010

In honor of the birthdays of **Harold & Regine Deutsch** Tom & Betty Kroll

In honor of

Terry & Ginny Foster

Jeannie Kokes

In honor of the 50th anniversary of

Barbara & Don Fuhrmann

Chuck & Estella Lauter

In honor of the 85th birthday of

Earl Hevrman Rebecca Cleveland

In honor of the 40th birthday of

Joel Lueking Mary Olson

In honor of the 90th birthday of

Yvonne Olson Carmen & Gene Witt

In honor of **Sandy Place**

Lisa Schab

In honor of the 25th anniversary of

Al & Sue Radtke Sharon Donegan

In honor of the birthday of **Robert Schoof**

Tamara Burks

In honor of the birthday of

Walter Schoof

Tamara Burks

In honor of

Tim & Sue Stone Wayne & Julie Kudick **Company Matching Gifts**

Bruce & Helen Ambuel -Mead Witter Foundation, Inc.

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Henry Scheig - Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Greg Vichick - Leo Burnett Company Charitable Fndn.

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"Dollars for **Open Spaces**" Gifts

Blacksmith Inn The White Gull Inn

"Thanks for doing a good job keeping one of our favorite places special!"

- Steve and Becky Kismohr

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

You can help us leave a legacy of protected lands for I 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 call 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 **Jean Barrett** Iames and Barbara Blanton Richard & Dorothy Burkhardt Paul & Fran Burton Ken & Mary Bussard Ardis Cermak Dan Collins & Nancy Aten **Jerry Cross & Javne Steffens** Lyn Dimberg Susan Duffy Llovd & Dottie Gerrits Phil & Marilyn Hansotia Edward & Janet Heveran Albert & Cynthia Johnson Dottie Klepp

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John & Karen Yancev



EVENTS IN REVIEW

12th Annual Membership Gathering Draws a Crowd!

early 400 Door County Land Trust supporters attended the 12th Annual Membership Gathering held last August near the Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve. The event was held under white tents on the Ed and Stevie Ritger property located north of Kangaroo Lake.

The event began with hikes at Land Trust properties throughout the county followed by hors d'oeuvres, beverages and plenty of time for Land Trust members to reconnect with one another. "It's one of our favorite events of the year," states executive director, Dan Burke. "We encourage all of our members to come out and join us and celebrate as a community all of the accomplishments of the past year. We couldn't do this work without the part-

nership of our members and this is our opportunity to thank them."

The Annual Membership Gathering is

Fran and Paul Burton, recipients of the 2010 Distinguished Service Award.

2010 was presented to Shirley Weese-Young for her work protecting dunes and forested lands on Washington Island's south side. Shirley has permanently protected over 70 acres through conservation easement agreements donated to the Door County Land Trust.

The 2010 Distinguished Service Award was presented to Paul and Fran Burton, a couple who qualify individually. Among other areas of service, Paul is the Preserve Steward for the Three



Shirley Weese-Young (right) shown with Terrie Cooper, is the recipient of the 2010 Ruth Neumann Landowner of the Year Award.

Springs Preserve, has been a trustee on the Land Trust Endowment Fund board and is our "go-to" guy for beautiful photography. Fran served on the board of directors for seven years (see page 22), was instrumental in the 20th

also the time to celebrate the accomplishments of individ-

ual leaders in the land preservation community. The pres-

tigious Ruth Neumann Landowner of the Year Award for

Anniversary Capital Campaign, chaired the merchandise committee and shares her writing talents with the Land Trust. Paul and Fran, together, donated a conservation easement on property they own within the Village Ephraim.

Shirley Weese-Young and Paul and Fran Burton personally embody the spirit of land preservation. We thank them for the inspiration they provide and for their commitment to the mission of the Door County Land Trust.

Save the date! The 2011 Annual Membership Gathering will be held Sunday, August 21 with the location to be announced. Invitations will be mailed to Land Trust members in July. Come help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary!

Photo by Zak LaCrosse

The Door County Land Trust's 2010 Annual Membership Gathering overlooked the Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve.

Widening the Circle



t the height of the fall color season, the Door At the neight of the fair color county,

County Land Trust invited its newest members to a "getting to know you" hike and dinner. The afternoon began at the Lautenbach Nature Preserve with a short geology lesson from land program director, Terrie Cooper, followed by a hike through the Preserve. The hike was accompanied by a light drizzle which made the chili dinner and warm cider at Woodwalk Gallery all the more inviting! As nearly 100 guests enjoyed their dinner, volunteers and staff of the Land Trust gave a brief presentation on how the Land Trust accomplishes its work.

We thank our Membership Committee for organizing and cooking, we thank Judy and Ron Lokken for providing wine and beer for the evening and we thank Allin and Margaret Walker, owners of Woodwalk Gallery, for hosting our "Widening the Circle" event. We especially thank our new members! We could not preserve Door County's beautiful places without the support of our members!

We always welcome new members!

If you know of someone who loves Door County's open spaces and is not yet a member of the Land Trust, please let us know and we will be happy to send them a New Member packet. Or, direct them to our website: www.doorcountylandtrust.org, where they may become a member online. Benefits of membership include invitations to

Land Trust events, opportunities to hike lands not open to the public, a Land Trust window decal, our newsletter, Landings, and the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping preserve Door County for future generations.

Dedicating Our Preserves

he Land Trust is dedicated, our supporters are dedicated, the landowners we work with are dedicated and our volunteers are dedicated. At ceremonies held last year, three of our newest nature preserves were dedicated, too!

This past summer, the Harold C. Wilson Three **Springs Nature Preserve** in Liberty Grove and the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve in Sturgeon

Bay were officially dedicated. (See page 7 for the dedication of Washington Island's **Little Lake** Preserve.) Friends, family, stewardship volunteers and donors joined together to celebrate the accomplishments of the land preservation community. In



Naturalist and educator, Mike Madden, addresses a celebratory crowd at the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve Dedication ceremony.

addition to thanking the people whose hard work, vision and generosity made the preserves possible, we also shared some of the stories intertwined with the land – stories of early settlers (the mosquito-plagued Erickson



Friends of the Land Trust gather to dedicate the 421-acre Three Springs Nature Preserve as a gift to the Door County community.

family at Three Springs or the cranberry harvesters at the Ship Canal), stories of the hard work that goes into seeing a land deal through to completion (we had plenty of these!) and the stories of what "might have been" (a coal-fueled power plant, for instance, at the Ship Canal).

While the Land Trust is dedicated to our mission of preserving Door County's finest open spaces and wild places, we are also dedicated to sharing these preserves with YOU! After all, these are the lands you've helped us protect! Grab a friend or grandkid or enjoy a little solitude in the great outdoors. Maps and directions are available at our website: www.doorcountylandtrust.org.

Land Trust Members Explore Washington Island's Prehistoric Past



X / ashington Island has V been home to a variety of cultures for about 3,000 years. Last July, Door County Land Trust supporters on Washington Island were invited to explore the lands surrounding Little

UW-Milwaukee archeologists Jim Richards and Michelle Birnbaum join Land Trust members in examining artifacts found near Washington Island's Little Lake.

Lake, an area rife with Native American artifacts, with archeologist Michelle Birnbaum. Birnbaum, a doctoral candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and an archeological technician, led a tour of a past dig site in the morning and gave an evening presentation that was open to the public. The Land Trust partnered with the Washington Island Archives in offering these events.

For those interested in Washington Island's Native American past, the Jacobsen Museum on Little Lake Road is definitely worth a visit next time you're on the Island.

For the most up-to-date information on upcoming events, visit www.doorcountylandtrust.org

Land Trust members celebrate the Year of the Niagara Escarpment in 2010

ast October, as part of our 2010 "Explore the Door" Liseries, over 35 members joined Geologist Roger Kuhns and Naturalist Paul Regnier on a minibus tour celebrating the "Year of the Niagara Escarpment." Participants travelled to a series of unique geological sites

Niagara Escarpment Tour

along the peninsula to learn firsthand about the history and formation of the dolomitic bedrock that underlies Door County and

its Niagara escarpment bluffs. The unique ecology of the escarpment community and the impact of different types of development on this fragile landscape and our groundwater and lake were discussed as were techniques for creating more sustainable communities.

(See page 23 for more on how to receive "Explore the Door" event information.)

New This Year!

Door County Land Trust Speakers Bureau

X Jould your civic organi-V zation, church group, neighborhood or condominium association be interested in knowing more about land preservation in Door County? A member of our newly-formed Speakers



Bureau would be happy to give a short presentation on the Door County Land Trust - the places we protect, how and why we protect them and how the members of your group can access them. The Land Trust has thousands of acres that are open to the public for hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, photography and other low-impact recreational activities. We'd love to share these places and our mission to protect "the best of the best" of Door County's open spaces with your organization! To make an appointment, please call our office manager, Kristi Rice at (920)746-1359 or email info@doorcountylandtrust.org.

Door County Land Trust Board of Directors



Farewell to... Fran Burton

Fran Burton was elected to the Land Trust board of directors in 2003. Fran served as Secretary of the Board for three years, participated on many committees, and raised funds for every major initiative the Land Trust

embarked on during her 7 year tenure on the board. She was a driving force behind the Land Trust's successful "20th Anniversary Capital Campaign" that raised over \$2 million for land preservation efforts. Fran is a gifted writer, editor and historian and she put these skills and talents to work for the Land Trust. Fran will continue to write for the Land Trust as she is currently helping to produce the much anticipated and requested "Guide to Land Trust Protected Properties" that is due to be printed this fall! In addition to her board service, Fran, along with her husband, Paul, preserved, via a conservation easement, their own scenic property along Highway 42 within the Village of Ephraim. Thank you, Fran!

Farewell to... John Turner

John Turner was elected to the board of directors in 2001. John served as Chair of the Board Development Committee for several years and played a large role in the Land Trust's effort to establish the Ephraim Preserve at Anderson Pond. John was one



of our first land stewardship volunteers and several of the informational kiosks that are placed at Land Trust nature preserves were constructed and erected by John. A bridge at the Bay Shore Blufflands Nature Preserve was also designed and built by John! In addition to board service, John and his wife, Judy, entered into a conservation ease-

ment agreement with the Land Trust that permanently protects their historic, 40-acre property along Highway 57 between Baileys Harbor and Sister Bay. Thank you, John, for nearly ten years of service to the Door County Land Trust!

Welcome to... Tom Blackwood

In 1980, Tom and his wife, Joan, came to Door County for Tom's six month management training assignment at Peninsula State Park. They never left. Tom



recently retired from his position as Superintendent of Peninsula State Park and remains committed to the preservation and sound management of the county's natural resources. Joan is retired from her position as Special Projects Coordinator for Friends of Gibraltar at Gibraltar Schools and remains committed to the county's arts community. Both love living in Door County where they engage in its unique lifestyle...when they are not traveling around the United States and Europe. Tom served for nine years on the Gibraltar School Board and is presently a member of the Gibraltar Planning Commission. He looks forward to lending his expertise to the Land Trust's Land Policy Committee, and plans to participate in hands-on stewardship activities for the Land Trust and the Friends of Peninsula State Park. After living in the state park's residence for 24 years, Tom and Joan now reside in "suburban Juddville" where they continue to enjoy the best sunsets in the Midwest. Welcome aboard, Tom!

Newly Elected! The Door County Land Trust is also pleased to announce the very recent election of Mike Brodd, Sharon Donegan and Jon Hollingshead to the board of directors. Watch for their bios in the next issue of Landings.

BAY SHORE BLUFFLANDS Nature Preserve

Purchase Expands Rare Orchid Habitat

Tn 2010, the Door County Land ■Trust added another key parcel to its Bay Shore Blufflands Nature **Preserve** when it purchased property near the shores of Green Bay eight miles north of Sturgeon Bay.

"We're very excited about the acquisition of this property," states Terrie Cooper, land program director for the Door County Land Trust. "Although it's a small tract, it connects land that Ram's head Lady-slipper is already preserved and creates a cor-



ridor of specialized habitat. The Bay Shore Blufflands Nature Preserve is home to one of the largest colonies of Ram's head Lady-slippers known to exist in the state of Wisconsin. These orchids thrive in the cool, shaded lands at the base of the escarpment and this acquisition expands the protected habitat that's available to them."

The Land Trust's work at the Bay Shore Blufflands began modestly in 1995 when the discovery of orchids inspired the purchase of a two-acre tract. (As Cooper recounts, "We thought our work here was done!") Little did the Land Trust know at the time that their work was far from finished. What began as a small purchase has now grown into one of the most impressive nature preserves in northeast Wisconsin and encompasses nearly 500 acres. Marked hiking trails maintained by the Land Trust bring visitors to the top of the Niagara Escarpment and offer panoramic views of the waters of Green Bay.

The Land Trust was able to purchase this latest addition to the Blufflands Nature Preserve with the help from Land Trust supporters and a grant from Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund.



Connecting People with Place: "Exprore the Door" Outings

The Land Trust's "Explore the Door" outings offer ■ you the opportunity to visit the beautiful places you've helped protect with trained Door County Land

> Trust volunteer hike leaders.



All "Explore the Door" outings are free of charge, but pre-registration is required. To register for the hikes/paddles listed here and to

receive notice of additional events that may be added, please email explore@doorcountylandtrust.org.

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

Harold C. Wilson Three Springs **Nature Preserve**

Snowshoe and/or Hike Thursday, March 10th - 1 pm Saturday, March 12th - 10 am

Explore the new trail system at the Three Springs



Preserve just two miles east of the village of Sister Bay. Stewardship volunteers and staff have created over 1.5 miles of trails at the preserve since the 2008 purchase of the property. We will snowshoe or hike (depending on the weather) the trails on the northwest corner of the 421-acre preserve.

Ephraim Preserve at Anderson Pond

Spring Peeper "Concert" and Hike Thursday, April 28 – 7:30 pm Saturday, April 30 – 7:30 pm



The vernal pond at the **Ephraim Preserve** teems with wildlife. Come celebrate the return of spring with the chorus of "spring peep-

ers!" Land Trust hike leader, Marilyn Hansotia, and friends will host this delightful outing at the Land Trust's smallest preserve located right in the heart of Ephraim.

Washington Island Nature Preserves

Self-Guided and Guided Hikes

Saturday, May 14 – Guided Hikes at 1 pm and 3 pm

Hikers will receive the Land Trust's Guide to the Washington Island Nature Preserves in advance and may arrive on the island at any time and spend the morning exploring on their own. Guided hikes will be offered at the



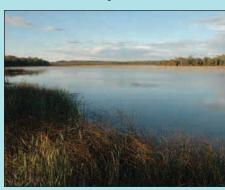
Little Lake Nature Preserve, the Richter Community Forest and the **Domer-Neff** Preserve and Bird Sanctuary. Plan your day and choose the preserves you'd like to visit most. For information on the Washington Island Ferry schedule, please visit: www.wisferry.com.

Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve

Paddle or Hike--your choice! Thursday, June 9 - 1 pm

Saturday, June 11 - 10 am

To paddle or hike, that is the question. You may choose to do either at the Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve. Paddlers will "put in" on the north side of the causeway and explore Kangaroo Lake's wild side. (Bring your own boat.) Hikers will explore the beautiful new 56-acre addi-



tion to the Preserve which features upland meadows, cedar forest and Piel Creek (see page 8.)

The Legacy Preserve at Clay Banks Hike

Thursday, July 7 - 1 pm Saturday, July 9 - 10 am

A warm July day is the perfect time to visit the 91-acre Legacy Preserve at Clay Banks located six miles south of the City of Sturgeon Bay. One of the Land Trust's most scenic preserves, the high "clay banks" offer spectacular views of Lake Michigan. We'll hike from the upper meadows down to the lake shore and experience a classic Door County land and waterscape.



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.



PO Box 65 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 www.doorcountylandtrust.org

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Protecting the "Best of the Best"

Announcing Door County's Newest State Natural Area, the Gibraltar Ephraim Swamp State Natural Area

Wisconsin's State Natural Areas (SNAs) protect outstanding examples of our state's native land-scapes. They are, in many cases, the last refuges for rare plants and animals. As Wisconsin's most biologically diverse county, Door County has almost 30 designated SNAs. The most recent area to be designated is the *Gibraltar Ephraim Swamp SNA*. Land and easement donations within this new SNA may be used to leverage the Knowles-Nelson State Stewardship Fund and increase the Land Trust's ability to protect critical land-scapes here. The Land Trust has been instrumental in identifying State Natural Areas in Door County and will be working hard to protect this newest one. This is just one of the important programs your annual membership supports! *Thank you!*

For more information on the Gibraltar Ephraim Swamp SNA and protecting lands within it, please call the office of the Door County Land Trust.