



Door County Land Trust

Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters...Forever

# Landings

News  
Splash

Fall 2020

News from the Places You Protect: A Newsletter for Door County Land Trust Members

Thank you for  
protecting these  
wonderful lands for  
future generations.

Without you, Door County's  
exceptional lands and waters  
would not be protected for  
everyone to explore and enjoy.

#### Conservation Stories: Thanks to You...

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# Our Conservation Family Story

It takes a lot of love to protect Door County's exceptional lands and waters!  
Send your notes and stories to [giving@doorcountylandtrust.org](mailto:giving@doorcountylandtrust.org)

WASHINGTON ISLAND

Roy Lukes enjoying the Flowering Catalpa Tree outside of the Jens Jacobsen museum on Washington Island. He led and lectured a Door County Land Trust hike through the Little Lake nature preserve in July 2013.  
- Bruce J Urbanik

We would like to thank you for all the great work you do!! Myself and my two children just finished exploring all 14 of your preserves yesterday. We made 4 trips to Door this Spring and enjoyed them all!!  
- Mark Carroll



STURGEON BAY SHIP CANAL, winter 2019

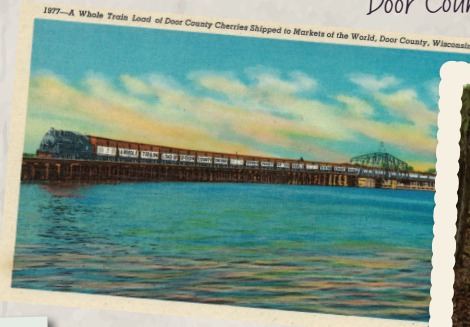
Our grandchildren have spent the majority of their summers with us in Door County. Through the eyes of these children and young adults, the land and water, are resources they feel a need to take care of. Grandson Jack was Papa's GPS inputter while developing a trail at Three Springs Preserve. His outdoor experiences have created a concern for human impact upon the earth. He finds his experiences of the places he visits here a great escape from reality (Pandemic). Grandson Joe says the value of preserving land is to prevent it from being destroyed. And Granddaughter Mae says she is proud to be a member of the Door County Land Trust to protect land for her future.  
- Jack Finger



A note of thanks and appreciation for the time and effort you have contributed to the many trails you have created. During this particularly difficult year, we have hiked every path you have created! This has lifted our spirits. We look forward to many more hikes and continuation of our membership. Thank you, Randy and Karen

I don't always take landscape views, but the scenery at Bay Shore Blufflands is breathtaking and expansive and I love the Niagara Escarpment. The field of common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is promising to see for the future of our Monarchs. I really appreciate having so many places to go to thanks to Door County Land Trust and seeing nature be a priority in Door County.  
- Tawnie Perkins

At my age, 92, my hiking days are over, but I can still enjoy all else that Door County has to offer. My parents, Edgar H. and Zita, who lived in Green Bay, loved the Door County scenes and went up as often as they could. They brought me and my sister to Peninsula Park back in the 1930's, and starting then she and I have loved Door County as much as my parents did. Once on a trip from South Bend to the Twin Cities, I went by way of Ellison Bay so I could pick up some cherry pies from Seaquist to bring along with me. I'm happy to be a member of the Land Trust now.  
- Edgar Berners  
P.S. I'm attaching a bit of Cherryland history for you. Here's a 'whole trainload of cherries' on the old Ahnapee Rail bridge in Sturgeon Bay.



Magnificent, magical adventure on the trails. We LOVE Door County Land Trust and all you do. Katie, Ben, Finn and Genevieve Vandenberg, we live in Tremont, IL but our hearts are in Door County :)  
- Katie Vandenberg



Here is a photo from a "mushroom hike" with Charlotte Lukes in 2018 that my daughter and I went on--so much fun! It was fun to do a more unique hike! Thanks for all you guys do!  
- Inger Wilkerson

The Solomon kids- Gabi and Malachi- enjoy the Door County Land Trust trails. Three Springs was one of our favorite hikes. We love how the trails are pet friendly.  
- Sande

# thank you!

for being a part of our conservation family.  
you protect Door County!



# You've Helped Protect Another Rare Wetland!

Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area, by Joe Taylor

## DOOR COUNTY'S WILD THINGS THANK YOU!

Thanks to strong support from members like you, Door County Land Trust is closer to fulfilling our land protection vision for 2020! You helped complete the acquisition and protection of two 20-acre properties—and all the wild things living within—at the Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area. Protection of coastal wetlands like those found at Big and Little Marsh rank as top priorities of conservation partners within the Great Lakes region.

## VISION: COMPLETING A CONSERVATION CORRIDOR

Protection of this property marks an exciting conservation milestone for Washington Island. This newly protected land connects other conservation land to the east and west, forming a protected corridor of high-quality forest and wetland habitat. Permanent protection of connected natural lands helps to preserve the health of forests and promotes biodiversity by ensuring wildlife the ability to move freely between protected habitats.

Stories of the lands you help protect may be found at [www.DoorCountyLandTrust.com/Vision](http://www.DoorCountyLandTrust.com/Vision).

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP DONATION AT WORK

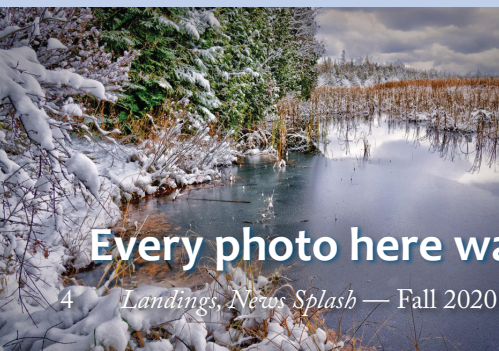
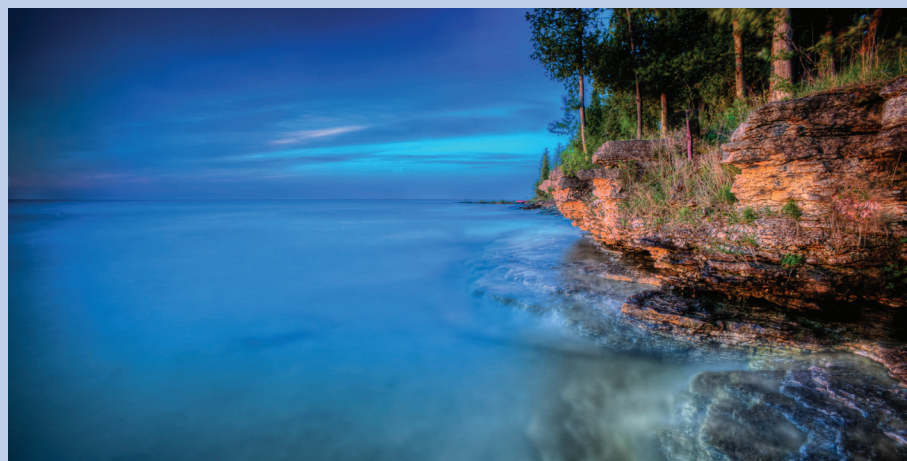
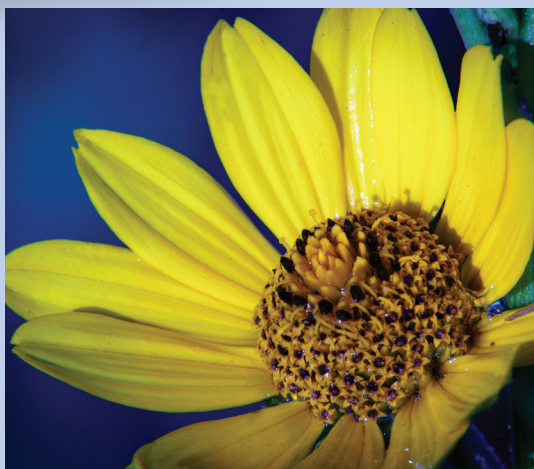
### Members Steward Door County Lands 'Round the Clock

Thank you for loving Door County's wild things and wild places! Your membership donation is being put to good use as a match for federal and state grant funding for land acquisition—but there is more work yet to be done. When it comes to taking care of protected lands (maintaining trails, monitoring boundaries, conducting 'wellness' check-ups) members and donors make a difference! Your memberships, donations, and planned legacy gifts are the largest source of funding to make sure protected lands are... protected!




# The Places You Protect

Photos by Dave Heilman



Every photo here was taken on land you've helped protect. Thank you!





My love of photography began in my preteen years doing chores on the family dairy farm in Clay Banks in Southern Door County in exchange for the money to pay for film and processing. This led to a 30+ year career as a professional photographer. Nature and wildlife photography being something I did as time allowed.

When given the opportunity to return to Door County to take on the responsibility of restoring the nearly 200-acre former dairy farm that has been in my wife's family for nearly 150 years, we both took early retirement to accomplish this.

Although the last several years have kept us very busy with building projects, I have had time to explore and photograph familiar and not-so-familiar areas of my beloved Door County. Since I firmly believe that anyone who engages in nature photography has an obligation to support the groups that work so hard to preserve our wild and natural areas, I have had a keen eye out for the various groups in Door County that undertake that task.

I am impressed by the sheer scope and volume of the work they do, the number of areas they protect, the various ways you can turn land over to their care, and their proactive approach when they see an opportunity to protect an area. I am most impressed with their goal to keep a large percentage of their properties open to public use. Even more critical to me is that the trails are well marked, but done so in a way that blends well with the environment. There are no unnecessary signs and placards that interfere with the natural beauty of the area, yet even an inexperienced hiker can remain confident that they are on the correct path. The fact that they do so with no financial requirements or arbitrary restrictions is even more impressive. This is why I chose to support the efforts of Door County Land Trust both with my money and time, and I strongly encourage you to do likewise in any way you can.

Dave Heilman

See more of Dave's photos at:



@DoorCountyLandTrust





# New Feathered Friends visit Washington Island



*SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER*



*LITTLE BLUE HERON*



*FORSTER'S TERN*



*SUMMER TANAGER*

**“I am always birding and I always have a camera.”**

## CITIZEN SCIENCE TAKES FLIGHT ON WASHINGTON ISLAND

Earlier this summer, birders throughout the Great Lakes region went out and kept watch with steady binoculars and hopeful hearts looking for wayward birds that may have been carried off course. Melody Walsh is one of those birders, though she prefers to skip the binoculars in favor of her camera.

Walsh lives on Washington Island, one of the best birding hot spots in the state. Every year she records new feathered friends on their migration journeys north and south. When faced with strong headwinds, these birds will stop over where the habitat is favorable and safe for them to rest and refuel.

Washington Island is an ideal stopover spot for many birds seeking reprieve from their long journey. Door County Land Trust protects land that provides crucial habitat for these birds—and citizen scientists like Melody record bird sightings that give insight into where greater land protection and habitat restoration are needed.



**All bird photos by Melody Walsh.**



To those who share a love of Door County,

Frequently people arriving in Door County head for what they deem as excitement: the rush of parasailing, the speed of the go-carts, the noise and gusto of jet skis. In a short time, the thrill is over and the memories fade. Take a friend on a nature walk and the memory will last forever: the smell of the forest, the sweet song of a chickadee, a chorus of frogs croaking, a peek at Sand Hill Cranes on an early morning search for seeds, spotting a fox on the prowl, learning about Door County's connection to Niagara Falls via the escarpment, watching a sunset from an open bluff, learning about the wetlands as habitat or sanctuary for many birds, animals, and flowers, to name a few.

The most wonderful thing about Door County is people's commitment to preserving and protecting land and nature. Although population growth and development continue, concerned individuals, many of whom are members of the Door County Land Trust, have been robust in stepping forward to nourish Door County's commitment to conservation and all things natural. Seeing children experience such joy when discovering rare flowers, finding the remnants of old homesteads, observing stars in almost nonexistent ambient light are true treasures. These are the memories that will linger forever. I can strongly attest to that.

I have always been impressed by the Land Trust's unique capacity to serve as a catalyst for bringing people together to accomplish what, at times, seemed to be impossible goals. In addition to preserving natural lands, it is remarkable to be a part of a community-based organization that provides opportunities for people across the life span as leaders, planners, and learners, whether they are donors, hike leaders, bat counters, trail blazers or maintainers, or students of all ages - the field is wide open to enjoy.

I have been coming to Door County my entire life. I am always deeply grateful for the role the Door County Land Trust plays in helping nature lovers make certain the true wild side and real thrills of "the Door" continue. Throughout the years, I have been a consistent contributor to the Land Trust. It seemed obvious that I should arrange a Legacy that would continue supporting the efforts of Door County Land Trust for generations to come. After I made that decision, the Door Country sunsets seem even brighter and the stars are definitely more twinkly. Why not consider making a similar commitment?

Sincerely,

Ann Abbott



**What if you could make a gift that lasted forever? You can.**

**Turn your life's work into protected land by directing your legacy gift to the Door County Land Trust.**

You may designate the Door County Land Trust as the beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan, or include a bequest provision in your will or trust.

When you plan your bequest with Door County Land Trust, you can rest assured you're working with an accredited organization that will protect and honor your legacy forever.

**The size of your heart is all that matters.**

Everyone can plan to make a difference—no matter what size your gift. Call your friendly Director of Charitable Giving, Cinnamon Rossman, at (920) 746-1359.





# Nature Notes Calendar

**Donate** a special gift of \$20 or more and we'll mail a Nature Notes Calendar to you or a friend. Just note the address with your donation or membership gift in the enclosed envelope.

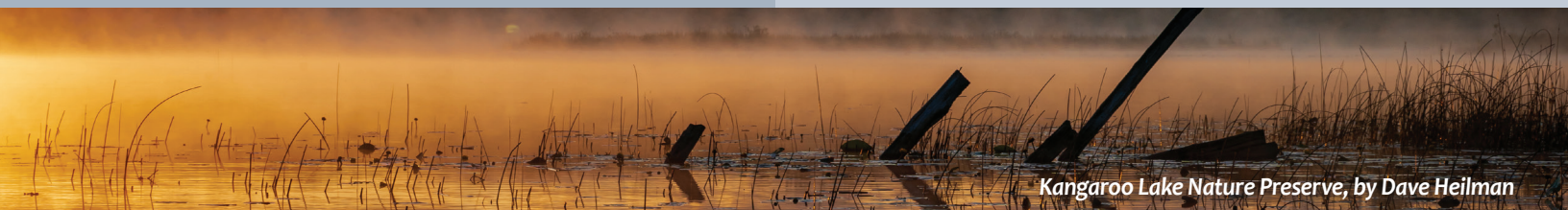
**All proceeds support conservation efforts in Door County.**

## IT'S A GREAT TIME TO GIVE!

Earlier this year, the CARES Act was signed into law to help not-for-profit organizations like Door County Land Trust weather the uncertainty of the pandemic. The CARES Act designed several incentives that benefit both the taxpayers and the not-for-profit organizations.

1. The new law allows individual taxpayers to deduct up to \$300 in annual charitable contributions (\$600 for couples) from your gross income—even if you are not itemizing your deductions. But, the contributions must be made to qualifying charitable organizations—like Door County Land Trust!
2. Individuals and corporations that itemize can deduct contributions up to 100% of their 2020 adjusted gross income on 2020 tax returns.
3. The new law waives the required minimum distribution (RMD) from an IRA until 2021, but you may still direct a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to charity this year (up to \$100,000 per individual) to reduce your taxable IRA balance.

Consult your financial advisor about these win-win tax incentives for giving. Call Door County Land Trust Director of Charitable Giving Cinnamon Rossman to learn about these and other ways of giving.



Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve, by Dave Heilman

## Join us in thanking our Annual Business Members!



Alibi Marina and Harbor Guest House  
Ashbrooke Hotel  
Blue Dolphin House  
Brilliant Marketing  
Brown County Graphics  
Door County Eye Associates  
Door County Nature Works

Door County Premium Rentals  
Door Landscape & Nursery  
EcoDoor, LLC  
Ecology  
First Light Arts, Jim Perry  
Glidden Lodge Beach Resort  
The Garden Lady, Beth Coleman  
Gills Rock Stoneware

Grasse's Grill  
Impressions Printing and Graphics  
Jack and Jill's Landscaping  
Out of the Woods Woodworking, Curt Wessel  
Pinkert Law Firm, LLP  
RentShadowLawn.com

Ross Estate Planning  
Sunnypoint Landscape  
Terra Cottages  
Dr Timothy Tishler, DDS  
True North Real Estate  
Wagon Trail Campground  
Washington Island Ferry Line  
Wickman House Restaurant

Want to list your business here? Please contact Director of Charitable Giving Cinnamon Rossman at (920) 746-1359 or [giving@doorcountylandtrust.org](mailto:giving@doorcountylandtrust.org).