



# **Door County Land Trust**



#### On the cover...

Violet and Lily Seiber explore the upper loop of the Bay Shore Blufflands Nature Preserve trail, Spring 2021

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# WHERE DO THE WILD THINGS GO WHEN WE'RE ALL OUTSIDE?

Dear Friends,

Aldo Leopold said, "There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot." Evidenced by the high volume of foot traffic on our nature preserves throughout the pandemic, clearly, many of us cannot live without wild things and wild places.

For so many of us, escaping our homes to explore nature has never been so vital. What does that mean for Door County Land Trust? It means we must do our level best to ensure that our visitors experience nature at its finest, but our mission extends far beyond the trails.

Door County, Wisconsin, is a place like no other. Here, where land meets water, every harbor has its distinct ecology. The number of rare plants, birds, insects, and animals found on the Door Peninsula, its islands, and surrounding waters is truly remarkable. Our land protection work does so much to preserve these natural wonders, as well as the beauty and wilderness of the county, but it is far from over.

With nearly 30 miles of rustic trails to explore and more folks than ever discovering the joys of the great outdoors, preserving Door County's wilderness areas is more important than ever. Door County's wild things deserve a place of their own, uninterrupted by our presence.

Back when I was the family birddog, my dad would remind me that there was only one animal that walked through the woods without stopping. He, of course, was referring to me.

As you explore the Door Peninsula and its surrounding islands, I ask you to please be mindful that we are visitors in nature's home. I ask that we tread carefully as we experience our incredible plant and animal communities. And I especially ask that we STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN. That is when you see and hear Door County's wildest things.

On behalf of its Board of Directors and dedicated staff, we thank you for making our work possible. We have accomplished so much, and with your continued support, we will continue working to protect and nurture wild places for wild things.

Tom Clay
Executive Director



Bur 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

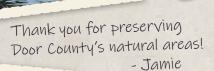


Photo by Luca Fagundes

My favorite thing about Land Trust preserves is the peacefulness.

- Amy Gamble

what would we do w/o the wonderful Land Trust trails, woods, creeks,

grasslands and lakes! We love them all! Thank you for all the good work you do to preserve these sacred, natural places for us and for future generations.

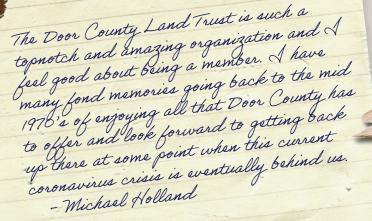
- Judy and Ken Mueller

My favorite thing about Land Trust preserves is the fact that they're protected. - Jane Whitney

We hiked six of your preserves in a day and enjoyed them. Thank you for all the great work you do! - Marie Clossou

We have really enjoyed exploring local Land Trust properties while we were "Safer at Home." Thank you for that opportunity.

- Anne and Rob Kifer









Hiker at Three Springs by Judy Peterson



I love that there are so many preserves around and the walking trails are all so fun! I love taking my toddler there to explore.

- Cady Paschke

My favorite thing about Land Trust preserves is no cost, dogs allowed, and they give me a reason to be outside. - Dave Heilman



Thank you all at Door (ounty Land Trust for working to save special lands of the county. We're delighted about the Ephraim Swamp protection for its extensive habitat!

- Ned and Natalie Nedderson



Love the peacefulness of Door (ounty Land Trust preserves. Often don't see any other people.

- Lynn Daul

A love the wildflowers of Land Trust nature preserves. - Lyn Therese



It sure has been a
Privilege to experience the
evolution of the Oak Road
Preserve over the Past
decade Plus. Thank you
for having the vision...

Jeff Ewaskowitz

Thank you for your hard work to save and preserve our natural resources. Please continue to work hard at this mission. What you are doing is very worthwhile and important.



thank you!

# PROTECTING LANDS AND WATERS, PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Door County Land Trust's mission to preserve the peninsula and islands' exceptional lands and surrounding waters is unwavering. The actions we take on land (and not just the Land Trust's preservation efforts, but all of our human actions) will fundamentally affect the water in our wells, the health of our streams, lakes, and shorelines, and the beauty of this place we all love. Door County's coastal wetlands are a primary focus of our efforts because these wetlands are home to remarkable species and play a significant role in filtering both ground and surface water. During 2020, Door County Land Trust completed permanent land protection in the following places:

- Land donation of cedar forest at the edge of Kellner Fen Natural Area
  Kellner Fen Natural area is home to numerous species that could be considered the rarest of the rare precisely because they make their home in the nutrient-rich, wetland sedge mat. This 40-acre donation preserves forested wetlands and a part of the floating sedge mat at Kellner Fen while protecting water quality and important wildlife habitat.
- Conservation easement along a wetland corridor, west Baileys Harbor
  Conservation-minded landowners protected 40 acres located along the forested wetland corridor connecting Ephraim and Baileys Harbor.
- Cedar forest wetlands, Gibraltar-Ephraim Swamp Natural Area
  Three properties, totaling 105 acres, are now permanent additions to the protected natural area in this significant coastal wetland. Species here include rare and threatened Ram's head lady's slipper and the red shouldered hawk.
- Coastal wetlands and forest, Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area
  Two properties, totaling 40 acres, were added to the Big and Little Marsh State
  Natural Area, protecting coastal wetlands and rare species within.
- 8 Upland buffer area along coastal wetlands, Coffey Swamp Natural Area
  This 12-acre upland forested area within the Coffey Swamp State Natural Area helps
  to filter water flowing into the rare coastal habitat.

We thank the following partner organizations and agencies for their support of our current land acquisition and stewardship projects:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy,
Migratory Bird Joint Venture-Great Lakes Restoration
Great Lakes
Initiative Funds

Fox River & Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council

County of Door, Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant
WI Department of Natural Resources, Knowles-Nelson

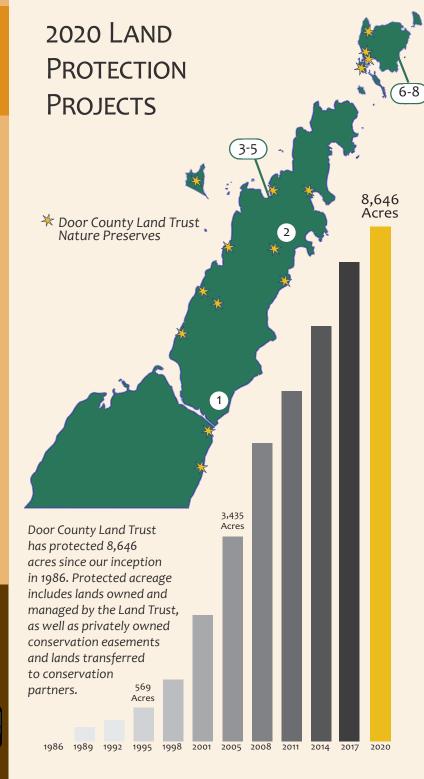
Stewardship Program

Great Lakes
RESTORATION

The Nature 🐼









# A Legendary Gift of Land at Kellner Fen Natural Area

Just in time for Christmas, Door County Land Trust received a wonderful gift of land at the Kellner Fen Natural Area. In 2005, two parcels in the Kellner Fen area were available for sale, but Door County Land Trust didn't have the resources to purchase them at the time. Neighbors Donna and Jim Janning (Jim served on the Board of Directors at the time) acted as conservation buyers and purchased two parcels in the natural area with the intent of holding them until Door County Land Trust could purchase the land. In 2012, the Jannings sold one property to the Land Trust. In December 2020, they gifted the other 40-acre parcel to the Land Trust. Door County Land Trust wishes to thank Donna and Jim Janning, two wonderful and extraordinarily generous supporters, for helping to preserve the legendary Kellner Fen Natural Area. Read the full story, "Wild Wetlands: Legends, Landowners, and Loving Door County" at www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org/Legends.



# **Connecting Protected Lands near Baileys Harbor**

Door County Land Trust completed a new conservation easement agreement on lands along the western edge of the Ephraim-Baileys Harbor Swamp corridor.

Tom and Cynthia Wolfe purchased the 40-acre property in 1981 and set out to rebuild a native forest. The land was historically part of a 160-acre dairy farm, before being used for crops and then left fallow. In 1981, after the 40 acres were purchased by the Wolfe family, they began to remove invasive species and replace them with native trees and shrubs. Since then, the Wolfes have planted hundreds of trees annually and will continue to expand the forest by planting tamarack and white willow trees this year. As the forest matures and grows, it provides habitat for native wildlife and improves both water and air quality.

About the Wolfe's desire to protect and reforest their land to help combat development and climate change, Tom said, "With climate change accelerating, conservation of nature must also accelerate to try to mitigate its deleterious effects. To quote fellow Wisconsinite John Muir, 'Anything that is dollarable is not safe' – meaning not safe from development."

One corner of the Wolfe conservation easement connects to the internationally designated "Door Peninsula Coastal Wetlands," an extensive wetland complex of regional and global importance. The Wolfe conservation easement will help to preserve open space and wildlife habitat, while protecting the ecological integrity of the connected landscapes.



# Gibraltar-Ephraim Swamp Natural Area: Creating a Coastal Sanctuary

Door County's coastal wetlands are among the highest priorities for land protection on Lake Michigan, and for good reason. Coastal wetlands like the Gibraltar-Ephraim Swamp Natural Area provide enormous benefit to the water quality of Lake Michigan. These coastal wetlands provide filtration as rain and snowmelt travel from upland areas, through the wetlands, and eventually into Eagle Harbor and Green Bay.

Not surprisingly, Door County is home to a number of coastal wetlands that provide these significant benefits to Lake Michigan and, with its position along Green Bay waters, Gibraltar-Ephraim Swamp has the added benefit of providing habitat for a number of rare species too. Its forest of northern white cedar, tamarack, and eastern white spruce attract a number of rare and threatened boreal birds, as well as the Red-shouldered hawk. Even the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly has been sighted foraging in the area. The threatened Ram's head lady's slipper orchid is also found here.

Protecting the key lands both in and around Gibraltar-Ephraim Swamp—nearly 1,600 acres—is among Door County Land Trust's priorities. Over the past few years, a combination of diligent land priority planning, outreach to local landowners, and strong partnerships with state and federal funders has resulted in the protection of 393 acres, including our 2020 land protection efforts: the addition of three parcels totaling 105 acres!

Partial funding of the purchase of these conservation lands was provided by two grant awards from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Migratory Bird Joint Venture with one of these grant awards applied for in partnership and administered by The Nature Conservancy and additional contributions from Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, Fox River and Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council and the Bock Foundation.

Funding for additional acquisition costs and the long-term care and management of these lands is provided by Land Trust members like you. Thank you!

Video of the Gibraltar-Ephraim Swamp Natural Area project is available online at www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org/GESwamp.

Right: DCLT Land Stewardship Program Director Jesse Koyen; WI-DNR Knowles-Neslon Nonprofit Grant Manager Pam Foster-Felt, WI-DNR Community Services Specialist Faith Murray, and DCLT Land Protection Director Julie Schartner tour Gibraltar-Ephraim Swamp Natural Area; Wetlands at the heart of the swamp







# Washington Island: Coastal Wetlands at the Big and **Little Marsh and Coffey Swamp State Natural Areas**

Coffey Swamp State Natural Area stretches across the northern third of Washington Island, and the Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area parallels the Island's eastern shoreline. Each of these extraordinary natural areas is listed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI-DNR) as a globally significant conservation area in the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (2015-2025). During 2020, Door County Land Trust protected 40 acres at Big and Little Marsh and 12 acres at Coffey Swamp.

Protection of these coastal wetlands helps to preserve the integrity of North America's Great Lakes ecosystem. These natural areas support habitat for the federally threatened dwarf lake iris, as well as more than 30 bird species listed as rare, threatened or of special concern. Both areas are considered coastal wetlands and each benefits water quality and fish by preventing pollution and runoff into the Great Lakes.

Additionally, the newly protected land at Big and Little Marsh protects ground water for critical breeding habitat used by the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly and connects other conservation land that lies 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.

Funding to protect these lands is provided by Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and the Fox River and Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council. The permanent protection and care of these properties was made possible through a bequest from the estate of Barbara Mendius, as well as support from Door County Land Trust members.



### Southern Door Creek Beds and Watersheds

The habitat surrounding Southern Door's creek beds and watersheds plays a critical role in the ecosystem of Green Bay. The waters around Sawyer Harbor and Little Sturgeon Bay are critical sites for fish spawning and provide habitat for young fry and mature fish. Land protection in and around Southern Door's watersheds provide filtration of sediments before rain and runoff enter Green Bay. According to a recent report from the Lower Fox River and Green Bay Natural Resource Trustees Natural Resource Damage Assessment, "In this area, poor water quality has compromised musky eggs in Sawyer Harbor, while natural walleye reproduction has disappeared from Little Sturgeon Bay. The land acquisition would protect habitat for Green Bay fisheries, such as musky and walleye, as well as other fish that spawn in both areas, including smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, northern pike, and yellow perch."

The Door County Land Trust is working with Southern Door landowners to conserve priority conservation lands focusing on the protection of stream corridors, wetlands, and shoreline areas that contribute to the health of the waters and fisheries of Green Bay. With the support of grant funding from the Lower Fox River and Green Bay Natural Resource Trustees, we aim to implement a targeted conservation approach to protect Southern Door creeks and watersheds.

# CARING FOR THE LAND

### Pond Restoration at Grand View Scenic Overlook and Park

One of Door County's most iconic views, the 'Grand View' from the top of Ellison Bay Bluff, was protected through a partnership project in 2012—and that partnership continues strongly today. When the opportunity to protect the property arose, Door County Land Trust helped raise the funds to purchase the land. Once permanently protected, ownership of the land was transferred to the Township of Liberty Grove to be maintained as a town park. The partnership ensured that the 'Grand View' would never be obstructed and would remain accessible to all—but it also ensured that habitat for wildlife would be improved.

During 2020, restoration efforts focused on caring for the prairie plants installed the previous year and introducing native shrubs around the ponds at the base of the hill. This project is part of a larger effort to improve habitat for birds and pollinators and to restore biodiversity to this once-manicured area. The newly planted shrubs, five different species, will provide avian nesting habitat and shelter around the ponds. The plants help to filter rain and melting snow before it enters the ponds, ensuring healthy habitat for amphibians too!

The restoration is supported through the US Fish and wildlife Service who donated seeds and assisted with planting. Dan Collins and Nancy Aten of Landscapes of Place assisted with the initial restoration planting. Shrubs were provided by Door Landscape & Nursery and through a donation by Land Trust Board member Mark Holey.

#### Get to Know Your Invasive Plants: Garlic Mustard

Garlic mustard is an invasive species that packs quite the punch considering its diminutive size. Standing less than 18" tall when full grown, this plant has devised a few strategies to knock out its competitors before they can even put up a fight. Garlic mustard sprouts up early in the spring, before other plants break their winter dormancy. It will quickly leaf out and shade any other seedlings. And, it has a secret weapon within its roots: a toxin that can disrupt fungi, and the trees and plants that rely on these fungi in symbiotic relationships. Where garlic



mustard grows, it creates a monoculture in which tree and plant seedlings just can't compete. What's more, all these effects are exacerbated as the climate changes. Garlic mustard is adapting faster than native plants.

Door County Land Trust is battling garlic mustard at several nature preserves. During 2020, significant work was continued at Heins Creek Nature Preserve and Richter Community Forest Nature Preserve where removing this invasive species will ultimately help restore diversity to the forest.



At left, a typical Pitcher's dune thistle takes 5-7 years to reach maturity and bloom. Once seeds are dispersed, the plant dies. Mature thistle leaves are dead and, in the open sand, the tiny leaves and light green foliage of younger thistle plants is barely visible. Walking in dune thistle habitat can easily kill off seedlings and spread invasive seeds.

# Stay off the Dunes! Protect the Pitcher's Dune Thistle

Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve is home to a healthy list of rare plants and animals, but among the rarest is the federally threatened Pitcher's dune thistle. This plant is found only in sandy dunes around Lake Michigan—the very same places that we humans like to bask on the beaches. Habitat loss from development and the recent high lake water levels, combined with invasive weevils, make healthy populations of this plant ever more difficult to find. At Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal the Pitcher's dune thistle population is permanently protected from development, but still faces the threat of weevils and erosion of the dunes where it grows.

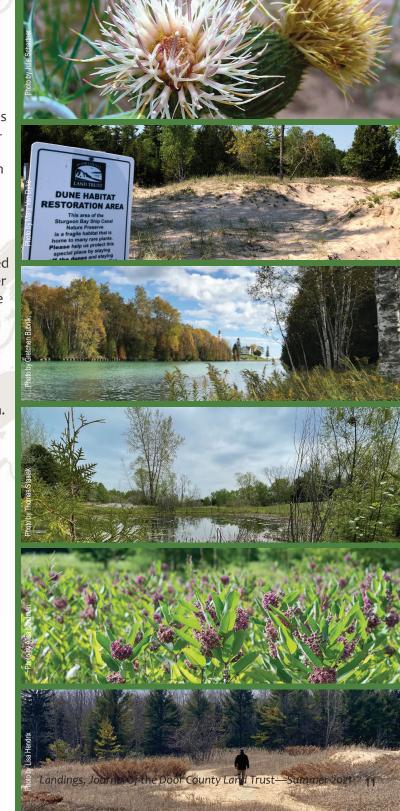
In a partnership with Chicago Botanic Garden, Door County Land Trust helped to collect and propagate seeds of plants that provide a pollinator buffet after invasive species are removed. The partnership aims to restore Pitcher's dune thistle at the nature preserve, but also to work with interested shoreline landowners to improve the habitat on their land for the coastal dune community, including Pitcher's dune thistle. Look for these fuzzy thistles on your property and contact us to learn more about the project.

Funding for this project is provided in part by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through US Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Coastal Program.

# Brush Your Boots! Keep Exotic Hitchhikers Off the Trails

Door County sees some truly exotic hitchhikers from around the world—and they're the kind that settle in and make themselves right at home! No, we're not talking about your second cousin coming to visit. We're talking about the weed seeds that can be carried from one destination to another on the soles of shoes, on the fur of a pet, or clinging to clothing. In an effort to keep these weed seeds from ever making it onto the trails, more than 20 new boot-brush stations were installed at the trailheads of Door County Land Trust nature preserves over the spring and summer of 2020.

Look for these new boot-brush stations the next time you hit the trails, and take a moment to give them some good use. Each station holds a different sign noting the exotic invasive species that are a problem at that preserve, as each nature preserve is a little different. That's a good reason to brush your boots before and after every hike.



# STRONGER TOGETHER: COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

# Safe Distancing Found on Land Trust Trails

The numbers are in: During 2020, in nearly every way imaginable, more people were outside. More state park stickers were sold than ever before. Sales of fishing and hunting licenses were up. Phone apps for birding and plant identification were downloaded at a record pace. Counters on bike trails marked near-double use over the previous year. And in Door County? Well, cars lined the sides of the roads once parking lots filled. No doubt, Door County Land Trust nature preserves were busier than ever as people sought ways to safely distance and get outside.

Over the past year, we received so many notes of appreciation from folks who enjoyed time spent on our trails! We've shared some of them on the first few pages of this newsletter, but there just isn't room for the countless comments that poured in. Whether trekking solo or meeting safely with friends and family, for exercise or a chance to commune with nature, we heard words of gratitude. Many recognized that these places are protected thanks to members like you, so we want to pass that recognition for safe outdoor places right to you—the members who helped protect these remarkable nature preserves.

From one member to another, thank you!









# Stuck on a Great Idea: Magnets for Members!

A great idea struck photographer David Heilman in the fall of 2020. What if he were to donate photo magnets—one of his best selling photo products—to help support the Land Trust? Could it benefit conservation in some way? Absolutely! The Land Trust began offering this incentive to prompt members to increase their donation by \$50 or more. The Land Trust ended up giving away nearly 500 magnets in December and January. All that equals a lot of love for Door County Land Trust—and more land protected in the future.

The Land Trust will continue to give away magnets in 2021. When you make your membership renewal this year, increase your annual donation by \$50 or more, and you'll receive a magnet to keep your fridge happy, as well as all the satisfaction of knowing you've helped protect more of the peninsula and islands that we all love!





As we began planning last year's events, it became abundantly clear that there were few events that could remain the same. In fact, the only things we knew for sure were that the flowers would bloom, the migratory birds would return, and the Hine's emerald dragonflies would emerge. Aren't these just exactly the kind of events that we all look forward to anyway?

The first-ever Door County Land Trust phenology calendar included 18 months of nature's events so members like you would have something to remember Door County by—no matter where you are. Compiling the calendar was a group effort that involved many staff members, experts and partners from other conservation organizations, and some incredible 'citizen scientists' who have been tracking cyclical natural events for years.

The result is a work of art that weaves beautiful photographs taken by Land Trust members and volunteers with daily facts about birds, blooms, insects, animals, historic events, and more.

Send in your photos for the next calendar! Door County Land Trust will produce a 2022 calendar this fall and will accept photo submissions until September 15. Upload your photo submissions at www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org/photos.

A calendar for every member! Consider renewing your membership by October 31st this year in order to receive your calendar before January 1, 2022. Your membership must be current to receive a calendar.

| lay                              | Nove<br>Tuesday   | ember 2   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| jth spurs<br>er rut<br>begin     | Door County Land Trust<br>creates the Grand Peninsa<br>and Northern White Ceda<br>Giving Grides to enable<br>greater land protection<br>and stewardship efforts<br>(2012) | Brown trout begin entering creeks to spawn  Coho salmon spawn in creeks  Taurids mete peaks after n |
| Iragonfly<br>to crayfish<br>iter | Pygmy shrews forage for insects and feed non-stop throughout the winter   | Look for wildlife tracks in fresh snow  First of the D storms begin Midwest (19                     |

# Dining for a Cause... Choose Your Own Adventure!

Gosh, we sure miss seeing members! But we've put events on hold til the end of 2021. In lieu of our regular hikes and events, we strongly encourage you to make your own adventures! To recreate a Land Trust experience, take a hike with friends, get together for a locally-harvested meal, or simply call a fellow member just to say, "hello." Wherever your adventures lead you, be inspired by the great places that Land Trust members helped to protect over the past 35 years.

Let us help connect you with fellow members or plan your own adventure to benefit the Land Trust. Contact Director of Charitable Giving Cinnamon Rossman at (920) 746-1359 or giving@doorcountylandtrust.org.





# Benefit Concert with Last Man Standing Friday, July 9, 7pm • \$20 tickets

Purchase tickets by calling Woodwalk Gallery at (920) 629-4877

Classic and not-so-classic bluegrass music, Door County style. Their toe-tapping, danceable, catchy music is a joy to listen to! Each year, Last Man Standing has provided live music to benefit the Land Trust, whether at our volunteer appreciation parties or as a benefit concert. This year, Last Man Standing will donate all proceeds from this concert to benefit Door County Land Trust's land protection and stewardship efforts!

# 2020 Financial Report

As a community service 501(c)(3) organization, the Door County Land Trust depends on the generosity and contributions from members and supporters to finance our conservation work. 2020 audited financial statements and our Federal Form 990 are available by request.

#### Net assets as of December 31, 2020 (pending audit)

| Ctowardship Endowment Fund 1                              | \$ | 2 000 929  |
|---|----|------------|
| Stewardship Endowment Fund <sup>1</sup>                   |    | 3,900,838  |
| Land Acquisition Fund <sup>2</sup>                        |    | 437,383    |
| Legal Defense Fund <sup>3</sup>                           | \$ | 249,876    |
| Cash restricted for current land acquisition projects     |    | 414,994    |
| Working capital and operating reserve                     |    | 923,794    |
| Investment in property and equipment                      |    | 177,617    |
|   |    |            |
| Net assets excluding land                                 | \$ | 6,104,502  |
| Value (at time of purchase) of land held for conservation |    | 27,645,860 |
|   |    |            |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS  | \$ | 33,750,362 |
| Change in net assets versus 2019                          | \$ | 1,300,268  |
| ,   | ,  | ,,,,,      |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1 2 3</sup> The Stewardship Endowment Fund, Land Acquisition Fund, and the Legal Defense Fund consist of donor contributions restricted by the donor, or restricted or designated by the Board of Directors.

#### **Stewardship Endowment Fund Trustees**

The Endowment is managed by Legacy Private Trust Company and is governed by the following Board of Trustees:

Peter Deschler Jim Lester
Tony Fiorato Bob Ling

Bill Schaars



The Door County Land Trust is working with Southern Door landowners to conserve priority conservation lands focusing on the protection of stream corridors, wetlands, and shoreline areas that contribute to the health of the waters and fisheries of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Stony Creek is home to river otters and spawning fish. The forest along the river offers critical habitat for nesting and migratory birds, as well as important water filtration that helps to minimize nutrient runoff as waters flow into Lake Michigan.

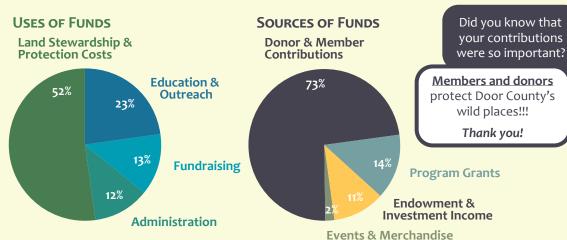
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The Stewardship Endowment Fund provides annual revenue to the Land Trust to care for its lands, while at the same time growing to provide sustained funding to fulfill the obligation of caring for the lands long into the future.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The Land Acquisition Fund provides a ready source of dollars to respond quickly to opportunities to purchase and protect properties of high ecological and scenic value. The fund supports the acquisition of lands at times when grant funding is not available or grant funding is delayed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The *Legal Defense Fund* provides funding as needed for use in defending and enforcing Land Trust conservation easement agreements and in resolving encroachments or vandalism issues that may arise on protected properties.



# 2020 Annual Operating Revenue and Expenses



The Door County Land Trust spent \$1,032,673 on the activities listed above.

The Door County Land Trust raised \$1,193,472 from the sources listed above.

Door County Land Trust's annual operating budget includes the programs, supplies, and administrative costs to carry out the mission to protect and care for our protected lands. From funding simple things like light bulbs to carrying out landscape-wide land restoration, the largest portion of our annual revenue comes from donor and member contributions. More than 1,800 households and individuals contributed to the mission to protect and care for Door County's exceptional lands and waters in 2020. Thank you!

Door County Land Trust maintains an operating reserve fund designed to sustain core operations and uphold our commitment to land protection for perpetuity. \$160,799 was invested in the operating reserve fund to cover potential future conservation obligations.

### **2020 Land Acquisitions** (Purchases, Bargain Sales, and Donations)

Sources of funds for land acquisitions completed in 2020 In 2020, \$798,250 was expended to acquire 7 properties, totaling 197 acres! 84% 16% **Funded by Land Protection Grants Funded by Donor and Member Contributions** 

As you might imagine, land conservation can be a very expensive endeavor. Three separate sources help the Door County Land Trust establish new nature preserves or expand existing preserves. In most years, the largest source of funds for the Door County Land Trust's acquisitions are obtained through grants that we applied for and secured from state, federal, and other agencies. During 2020, we received one land donation from generous property owners. Donations of property may be used as a match for leveraging grant funds.





# **Shoreline at the Edge: Door County's Lakeside Forests and Wetlands**

Door County's beauty inspires the imagination. In a new book, titled "A Shoreline at the Edge: Door County's Lakeside Forests and Wetlands," photographer Paul M. Lurie captures the imagination with a series of stunning aerial photographs taken from Lake Michigan. His photographs show the transition from forest to farm field, from wilderness to development. And, upon closer look, they show where Door County's dark conifer boreal forests hug the cooler climate areas of the shoreline.

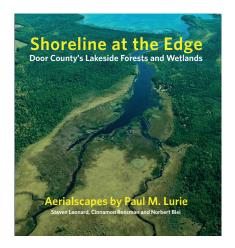
Paul Lurie's photographs beg the question of how to protect the uniqueness of Door County as we lose wilderness habitat to development and as our boreal forests are visibly transitioning in response to climate change. Former executive director of The Ridges Sanctuary, Steve Leonard, and Door County Land Trust's director of charitable giving, Cinnamon Rossman, co-authored the narrative and captions that accompany Paul Lurie's photographs. They narrate Lurie's photographs with history that spans from geologic times to present, adding ecological and scientific facts throughout.

The final result is a book that will deepen an appreciation for the Door Peninsula, its islands, and surrounding waters. Ultimately, it serves as a call to action—for the preservation of Door County's remarkable wilderness and forests, and for taking bold action against climate change that threatens these lands.

Photographer Paul Lurie, along with co-authors Leonard and Rossman, created the book as a volunteer effort to help further land conservation across the peninsula. Thanks to a significant contribution from Paul Lurie and a grant from a private foundation, Door County Land Trust is able to offer

Hardcover with dust jacket, 105 pages, 10 1/4" x 11 1/4" x 3/4"

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the book to the general public upon request, at no charge, except \$7.00 shipping and handling.

**Reserve your free copy today!** To reserve a book, please visit www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org/Book or call the Door County Land Trust at (920) 746-1359. A limited number of books are available and requests will be fulfilled on a firstcome, first-serve basis. One book per household, please. Additional books may be purchased through The Ridges Sanctuary's Nature Store and local bookstores.

Publishing Events In partnership with WriteOn Door County and the Climate Change Coalition, Door County Land Trust will host readings, Q&A, and signing with the photographer and authors.

Tuesday, August 10, 4-6pm, Woodwalk Gallery, Egg Harbor Tuesday, August 17, 4-6pm WriteOn Door County, Juddville For more information, visit

www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org/Book.

The writing, creation, and publication of this book is thanks to the generosity of Paul Lurie. Book fulfillment services are generously donated by the volunteer program of Sunshine Resources, a Sturgeon Bay non-profit organization providing services and employment to Door County's special needs residents and their families.



# Plan a gift through your will, trust, retirement accounts or life insurance

The future of the peninsula and islands we love may be uncertain, but you can depend on the Door County Land Trust to protect the exceptional lands and waters we all love.

With your help, we can make a lasting difference for Door County's open spaces and wild places. Together, we can pass on a legacy of protected lands.

Consider making a gift that can last forever. 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.

#### Planning your gift today can make a lasting difference in Door County tomorrow...and forever.

Give us a call to start the conversation. No matter the size of your gift, we can help you create your legacy. Call Director of Charitable Giving Cinnamon Rossman or Executive Director Tom Clay at (920) 746-1359.

Door County Land Trust is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Their validation confirms Door County Land Trust operations meet the standards of sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance, and lasting stewardship.

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New members of the Legacy Circle are listed in **bold** type.

Youell, Sylvia

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Have you included the Land Trust in your planned giving? If so, please inform of us of your intent so we may thank you and include you in our Legacy Circle listing.

# **Celebrating A Life Lived Deliberately and** Generously

Stories from a conversation with Mary Lee Greenfield and Jeannie Kokes, in memory of their sister Barbara Mendius. Door County Land Trust was one of several conservation organizations selected by Barbara to receive a bequest to support her love of the environment.

In the late 1920s, young Martha Mendius, who was Jeannie and Mary Lee's aunt, had the great fortune to accompany her friend Louise Wagner Erickson to

Barb Mendius, ca. 1980

Washington Island. Years later, Louise would become an avid birder and conservationist who helped to protect the Jackson Harbor Ridges Preserve. In their teenage years they were avid swimmers and tennis players. Martha fell instantly in love with Washington Island. For more than five generations, the Mendius clan spent several weeks each summer on the island, staying at West Harbor Resort when it was first owned by the Sorensons, and then in 1947, by the Gibsons.

Jeannie, recalling memories of their family vacations said, "The island became something we all loved—our home away from home."

Barbara, or Barby as family called her, was the baby of the family. Mary Lee recalled one summer visit in 1952 when Barby was just 2 ½ years old. Her parents, Lee and Ed, were visiting on Gibson's porch on a beautiful July day when Mary Lee, in charge of her siblings, realized Barby had disappeared. Jeannie and her brother Larry did not know where she was, but soon she was found. She had wandered off in her little blue corduroy jumper and was near the pier picking wild raspberries.

"That was the last summer she was able to walk." That fall, Barby contracted polio and spent her third year in an iron lung to help her breathe and stay alive. Over the next two decades, the family was able to come to the island every summer except when Barby was undergoing medical treatments to help her remain as mobile as possible.



In 1969, Ed Mendius built the family cottage on West Harbor of Washington Island. He was looking for a place where Barby could have wheelchair access to the water and was close to West Harbor Resort. The family was committed to creating a normal life for Barby and supported her independence and love of nature. Ed planted a raspberry patch for Barby and raspberries soon became her symbol. Later, when she moved across the country to Portland, Oregon, Barby planted raspberries among the native plants surrounding her home.

In an essay titled, "Out of Reach", published in The Sun magazine in 2004, Barby wrote about her experience being in a wheel chair where often her access to things and experiences was limited. Barby wrote, "I remember virtually nothing of the time when my body was normal, and I'm sure this has made adapting to wheelchair life much easier. I was one of those fiercely independent polio survivors: went to public school, college, graduate school; drove convertibles for two decades; lived alone; moved across the country by myself; built a house and grew a garden around it."

Barby's love of the outdoors and her formal education in biology and neuroscience led to a remarkable career and commitment to advance science. Underneath it all, her love of Washington Island never waned. When asked about conversations the sisters had about the island, Mary Lee said, "We were all saddened by areas of the island that we used to go to that are now in private hands."

Jeannie describes Barby's passion for the environment as that of a 'severe' conservationist: recycling bins for zero to #9, carefully evaluating what she bought and each choice in her life. Her Portland home, which she designed using recycled windows and doors, was awarded a Silver Star by the Portland Oregon Audubon Society for its native biodiversity that attracted birds, insects, and wildlife. "Barby was committed to making a positive impact on earth," said Jeannie. "She lived what she believed. Barby put her own funds into lands that could be preserved for future generations."

Door County Land Trust is pleased to honor Barby's memory and generosity with a legacy of permanently protected and well-cared for lands on Washington Island. Barby's generosity helped to support recent land purchases on Washington Island, as well as the long-term care of all the Land Trust's Washington Island nature preserves. Barby's Legacy Circle gift ensures that everyone may experience the wonders of the island and its special places.



Gibson at Gibson's West Harbor Resort, ca. 1955

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Gifts received between January 1, 2020 and February 15, 2021

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Several wonderful friends and members have recently passed away. Gifts in memory of the following beloved members will be acknowledged in the 2021 Annual Report:

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Welcome to our new supporters! Donor names listed in bold type made their first financial contribution to the Land Trust in 2020.

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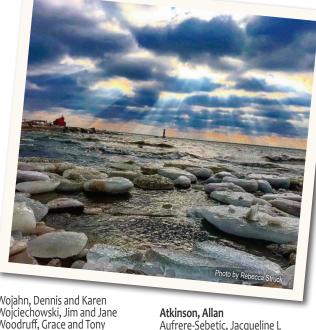
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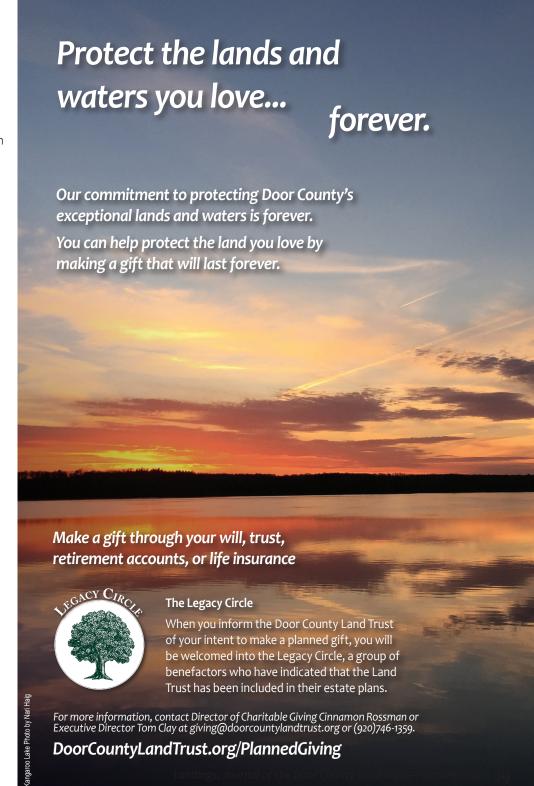
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# **VOLUNTEERING IN THE YEAR AHEAD...**

Door County Land Trust was first formed 35 years ago by a group of committed volunteers, and to this day, volunteers continue to share their commitment to the mission in profound ways. Last year, to keep both staff and volunteers safe, we had very few opportunities to work together, to build camaraderie, or to take pride in a task accomplished together.

While things are not yet fully back to normal, in the coming seasons we look forward to opportunities for volunteers to work together to restore landscapes, improve our trails and kiosks, and share stories and photographs from Land Trust members.

Volunteer for the 'Shoreline at the Edge' book project: Orders for Door County Land Trust's new book 'Shoreline at the Edge' will be packaged and handled by volunteers in a new partnership with Sunshine Resources. Beginning in mid-July, we will meet Mondays from 9am-12pm and Fridays 9am-12pm and 1-2:30pm.

Sign up for this opportunity and learn about other opportunities as they arise by visiting our website at www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org/signup.

## CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Have you noticed the incredibly gorgeous photographs on all of Door County Land Trust's publications, Facebook, and Instagram pages? All of these photos are submitted by members and volunteers just like you. If you happen to take a great photo on the nature preserves, we hope you'll send it in for one of our future publications! Here are a few tips for taking great nature photos to share with fellow members...

- 1. Set your camera or phone to the highest resolution possible.
- 2. Take multiple shots, vertical and horizontal.
- 3. Leave some extra space around the focal point so pictures can be cropped to just the right size.
- 4. Know your invasive species. We choose photos of native species first.
- 5. People pictures are always welcome! We love seeing happy hikers on the trails!
- 6. Include your name and the location in the photo file name, like "Kangaroo Lake by George Eastman."
- 7. Upload your photo directly so they aren't downsized during email. Visit www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org/photos.

# DOOR COUNTY LAND TRUST STAFF TEAM **CONTINUES TO GROW**

We often say that protecting Door County's land is just the beginning. If we want to preserve the Door County we know and love, caring for the lands under our protection is where the true effort to maintain and enhance our native wildlife habitats begins. Being good stewards of the land makes all the difference for the rare and threatened species that need our help.

Whether it is pulling invasive garlic mustard that threaten rare native wildflowers on the forest floor, or battling the thickets of buckthorn, honeysuckle, and autumn olive that quickly crowd out native plants, the Land Trust has an obligation to preserve the ecology of Door County's exceptional lands and waters. With more than 8,600 acres now under protection—and new invasive species threatening Door County—the efforts to care for protected lands are of utmost importance.

Door County Land Trust is pleased to announce our newest staff member, Ecological Restoration Assistant Tina Lee. Tina comes to us with past experience working for The Nature Conservancy and brings a wealth of knowledge that will help improve critical habitats. As the Ecological Restoration Assistant, Tina fills a critical role by



assisting with inventorying species, conducting habitat restoration, mapping, updating land management plans, and implementing other land stewardship activities. Tina has a B.S. degree in Conservation and Environmental Science from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. During her free time, she enjoys canicross, hiking, and biking. If you hike frequently, you may find Tina working at one of our nature preserves or natural areas.

Career Opportunity The Door County Land Trust now employs 10 full-time and 1 part-time staff member. In addition, the Land Trust is currently seeking applicants for a newly created position of Land Protection Project Coordinator or Specialist. This new hire will assist with all aspects of land acquisition, by assisting with real estate transactions, due diligence tasks involving surveys and appraisals, as well as ecological assessments. Applications are due by July 9. For more information on career opportunities, please visit www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org/careers.

## Join us in thanking our Annual Business Members!

































Alibi Marina and Harbor Guest House

Ashbrooke Hotel Blue Dolphin House

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Business Member donations help to protect Door County's lands and waters. And, Business Members experience great marketing visibility too! See your business logo around the county on the Door County Land Trust hiking map, Nature Notes calendar, and more. For information about business and corporate giving, please contact Director of Charitable Giving Cinnamon Rossman at (920) 746-1359 or giving@doorcountylandtrust.org.



# **Door County Land Trust**

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

(920) 746-1359 • www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org

PO Box 65, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235



- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship



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