



Door County Land Trust

# LANDINGS

Connecting You to Door County's Vital Lands & Waters

**Annual Gathering**  
Friday, August 9 • Grand View, Ellison Bay  
**Register online today! Details on back.**

Journal of the  
Door County Land Trust  
Summer 2024, Vol. 27, Issue 2



**Camp Cuesta: Land Preservation Will Protect Girl Scout Traditions**  
**Highlighting 2024 Conservation and Stewardship Projects**

**A Closer Look at**  
**New Land Protection Projects**





# Door County Land Trust

Door County Land Trust protects the wild places, scenic beauty, and ecological integrity that make the peninsula and islands so special. The Land Trust is a local, member supported, non-profit organization. It is thanks to members and donors that more than 9,500 acres are now protected.

Land Trust nature preserves, located throughout Door County, are open for hiking and other low-impact, non-motorized recreational activities—all at no charge to the public.

## Meet the Staff



Emily Wood



Jesse Koyen

**Executive Director**  
Emily Wood

**Land Program Director**  
Jesse Koyen

**Land Protection Manager**  
Brian Forest

**Conservation Easement Manager**  
Drew Reinke

**Land Project Manager**  
Carrie Ehrfurth

**Ecological Restoration Manager**  
Tina Lee

**Land Stewardship Specialist**  
Thomas Stasiak

**Community Conservation Coordinator**  
Paige Witek

**Stewardship Field Coordinator**  
Maddie Tishler

**Seasonal Stewardship Assistant**  
Emily Domnick

**Director of Charitable Giving**  
Cinnamon Rossman

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## Plan Your Legacy to Last Forever.

Members of the Legacy Circle make planned gifts that ensure their life's work helps protect Door County's vital lands and waters...forever.

Consider naming the Land Trust as a beneficiary in your will, trust, life insurance, or other accounts.

In 2024, notify us of your intent to join the Legacy Circle and \$1,000 will be donated in your honor.

Contact us at (920)746-1359 or [giving@DoorCountyLandTrust.org](mailto:giving@DoorCountyLandTrust.org). Details at [DoorCountyLandTrust.org/legacy](http://DoorCountyLandTrust.org/legacy)



## Challenge Gifts Protect Door County from Losing the Places We Love

How much of the unique Door County landscape should be protected to ensure its ecological integrity? How much natural, preserved land is needed to support the generations to come? Which types of forests and wetlands are the most important for the survival of imperiled plants and animals? These are the questions that move our mission and daily remind us of the critical importance of our work. Preserving lands strategically and intentionally now will ensure Door County's natural beauty is preserved for generations to come.

Door County is a place like no other. The ecological uniqueness stems from its diverse habitats, ranging from pristine forests and low-lying wetlands to vibrant shorelines and hundred-foot windswept bluffs. These exceptional places are home to a rich diversity of wildlife, fish, and plant species, some of which can be found nowhere else on earth.

As Door County becomes further developed, it risks losing the very qualities that make it special, becoming indistinguishable from so many other overdeveloped areas. Door County Land Trust now protects more than 9,500 acres. To put that in perspective, the county's five State Parks—Rock Island, Newport, Peninsula, Whitefish Dunes, and Potawatomi protect the same.

There's one big difference between our state parks and Door County Land Trust—and that's the community support that makes this ongoing land protection effort possible.

Protecting Door County would not be possible without community support from residents, visitors, and businesses who care about the future of the peninsula, its islands, and surrounding waters.

In this issue you'll read about the places we're protecting and caring for with our 2024 Conservation and Stewardship Campaign. These projects are far from complete.

Door County's wild lands and waters are too precious to lose. We must act before it's too late.

We're thrilled to announce that contributions to both our 2024 Conservation and Stewardship Campaign and the Land Acquisition Fund will be matched, doubling the impact of your generosity for conservation projects spanning the entire county. Your donation will play a pivotal role in protecting and caring for vital areas like Camp Cuesta, Hibbard Creek, Washington Island, Bear Creek, and more.

By supporting our efforts, you will personally become a steward of Door County's natural heritage, ensuring that these irreplaceable landscapes remain intact.

Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, we can protect the natural wonders of Door County, safeguarding them for future generations to cherish.



Emily Wood  
Executive Director



### On the Cover

Photo by Kay McKinley

Each year, 4th Grade students from Gibraltar Elementary School in Fish Creek take a field trip to visit the privately owned conservation easement adjacent to Bay Shore Blufflands Nature Preserve. Conservation easement owners Dan Collins and Nancy Aten open their property to help foster an appreciation of nature. These youth spend the day learning all about wetlands, including how to identify aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, and more. The annual field trip has resulted in remarkable findings. One class found the first-ever freshwater sponge documented in Door County!



Above: Dan Collins and Nancy Aten trek through knee-deep wetlands to care for their conservation easement property.





Amazing collaboration. Great to see the fostering of future conservationists!  
— Mike Mullen



Taking a dip to collect invertebrates with the Land Trust!!

# Trail Mix

We love to get away from the crowds for our morning hikes in White Cliff Nature Preserve. The hiking trail is easy enough for Katharine and me and challenging enough to give our dog, Bernie, a good workout.  
— Katharine & Andrew Dennee



↑  
Bernie  
↓



Thank you so much for all your hard work (hand pulling invasive forget-me-nots)!  
— Julie Grant



Congratulations. Mother Nature thanks you.  
—Marjorie Andrae

I've been coming to Door County since my wife first brought me here when we married 35 years ago. I see the huge difference you folks have made. Keep up the good work. Cheers, Joel



Dear DCLT folks,  
Thank you so much for everything you do! I especially enjoyed hearing about all the recent land acquisitions—woohoo! I'm so grateful that I can be a very small part of protecting a place that means so much to me.  
—Sonia Olsson



# Protect the lands and waters you love with a gift for land protection.



**Give today and your donation will be  
matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000.**

**With a love of the land at heart, John Gosney  
& Eleanor Dean invite you to join their  
challenge by making a donation to the 2024  
Conservation and Stewardship Campaign.**

A deep concern for losing Door County's wild places to development has led Eleanor Dean and John Gosney to put forth a challenge to fellow members to match their \$25,000 gift to the Land Trust. They'll match donations to the '2024 Conservation and Stewardship Campaign' through September this year.

"Protecting land is a subject that's near to our hearts," John said. "We are in favor of preserving our county, our land, and keeping it free from development."

Eleanor adds, "Door County is a special, unique place. I've been coming up here for about 50 years and the changes are dramatic."

Hailing from Chicago, Eleanor's parents purchased a Door County cottage in 1972 while she was away at college. For her, the attraction to the county was immediate and strong. "When I got up here to see the cottage, I fell in love with the place and hoped that someday I'd be able to live here," she said.

That dream came true eight years ago when Eleanor and John remodeled her parents' summer cottage so they could live there full time. Their life today on the shore of

Lake Michigan is immersed in nature with a front row seat to the happenings of wildlife just outside their door.

**"What do you think Door County will be like in 20 years if we don't preserve as much of the land as we can? Once land is gone for another use, we're not going to get it back—that's not going to happen." -Eleanor Dean**

"We just love watching the critters," Eleanor said. "We've had a family of groundhogs, and a red fox comes through occasionally. We have a Bald Eagle that goes by once

in the morning going north and once in the evening going south. The view out our window is constantly changing. It's a beautiful movie of birds and critters and waves. The sound of the waves outside my window at night is hypnotic."

When asked what she would say to someone considering a donation, without hesitation Eleanor posed a question in return. "I would ask, 'What do you think Door County will be like in 20 years if we don't preserve as much of the land as we can?' Once land is gone for another use, we're not going to get it back—that's not going to happen."

**Now through September 2024, John and Eleanor will  
match your donation—Now your donation will be  
doubled and will help protect twice the land!**

**Make your donation today at [DoorCountyLandTrust.org/donate](https://DoorCountyLandTrust.org/donate)**



# Camp Cuesta:

## Protecting Land, Preserving Tradition



'Cuesta' is Spanish for a ridge or hill with a slope on one side, which perfectly describes the exposed Niagara Escarpment behind the Girl Scout Troop house.

Local Girl Scout Troop Co-leaders Sarah Martin and Anna Knapp call Camp Cuesta, a Girl Scout Camp in Baileys Harbor, their “happy place,” a place to take in the calm and wonder of nature. When word of the sale of Camp Cuesta became public, the camp’s future looked anything but happy. Rather than being sold on the open market, the Great Lakes Girl Scout Council reached an agreement to sell the land and camp to Door County Land Trust. “We are thrilled to work with the Girl Scouts to preserve a beloved camp and protect an ecologically significant piece of Door County. We’ve had a productive and positive collaboration with them because we share the common goal of preservation. Organizations and communities working together like this can make great things happen,” said Emily Wood, Executive Director at Door County Land Trust.

For the Girl Scouts, the Land Trust’s possible purchase of the camp means extending the generations-long local tradition at the camp, which was built in the early 1960s. For the Land Trust, the aim is to preserve wildlife and their habitat by protecting the undeveloped land adjacent to its Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve. Among the preserve’s wild residents are bald eagles, osprey, panfish, and various species of waterfowl.

“The Camp Cuesta property is a key piece of conservation land,” said Land Program Director Jesse Koyen. “Its protection ensures that the hardwood forest and quiet open space will remain wild in perpetuity and be enjoyed by current and future

generations of Girl Scouts and the community.”

Martin and Knapp attended the camp as Girl Scouts from Gibraltar Area Schools in the 1980’s and 90’s. The tradition continues with their daughters, who began Girl Scouting in kindergarten and are now entering their eleventh year in Girl Scouts. As high school juniors, they intend to remain in the program.

“It’s unheard of for a troop of 11 girls to stick together this long,” said Knaap. “The girls just gel as a group at Camp Cuesta. It’s different from how they are in school. They’re in different friend groups, but when we’re out there, we’re all one unit. It’s like magic.”



**“If there was anybody the Girl Scout Council was going to partner with to maintain the property, I think the Land Trust is a great match.” - Sarah Martin**

Martin attributes part of the magic to the unspoiled nature of the land. “Over the years, thousands of girls have had time on that property,” she said. “When you’re there you feel removed from everything else—it’s secluded and quiet and pristine. Discovering the importance of nature was a huge part of the time we spent at Camp Cuesta.”

“Cuesta gave them a place to think about their role in nature,” Knapp said. “We spent a lot of time taking care of the trails and the buildings.”

“Wanting to protect Camp Cuesta from development and having the funds to protect it are two very different issues,” said Wood while talking about the steps to completing the purchase, “but we know there is a deep love of this place by the community. We’re counting on their support.” The Land Trust must raise \$420,000 through community donations to purchase





**Top:** Gibraltar scouts learn about composting from the Climate Change Coalition of Door County this past fall.

**Below:** Gibraltar Troop 369 at the starting line for a wheelbarrow race, circa 1987. Standing second from left is Land Trust Director of Charitable Giving Cinnamon Rossman. Standing second from right is current Gibraltar Girl Scout Co-Leader Sarah Martin.



the property. The Land Trust is calling on the community and their deep attachment to this landmark with an invitation to donate toward a \$50,000 matching gift challenge offered by a generous Land Trust supporter.

Camp Cuesta's positive influence extends deep into the community, including two former Camp Cuesta Girl Scouts closely connected with the Land Trust. Cinnamon Rossman, Director of Charitable Giving, and member of the Land Trust Board of Directors, Meredith Coulson-Kanter, understand firsthand the dual purpose of preserving the camp property—as scouts who attended the camp during the 1980s and 1990s, and by actively working toward its protection today.

"Exploring the woods and rock ledges at Camp Cuesta shaped my love for nature," Rossman said. "Working with the Land Trust to help protect the camp as a place for Girl Scouts, hike leaders, and those who want to appreciate nature—it's a love of land and nature coming full circle."

Coulson-Kanter said, "Through working on the Camp Cuesta project, I've seen a community-wide, multi-generational reminiscence of the adventures many of us shared. The opportunity to protect it from development indefinitely while partnering with the Girl Scouts so the legacy of creating memories on the land can continue, is truly poetic."

Martin and Knapp continue the tradition of fostering a love of nature and creating memories with today's Girl Scouts. "The girls would go outside to catch frogs—and they weren't afraid to pick up a snake," Martin said. "They've had hands-on experiences that you could never have watching a documentary on TV."

Knapp said that Camp Cuesta left indelible memories for the troop and its co-leaders. Knapp described a particularly memorable evening when the Brownie Troop became Junior Scouts. "We were sleeping in the troop house and had the girls go out to the pavilion after dark with flashlights," Knapp said. "We took part in a very solemn ceremony by candlelight. Camp Cuesta facilitated that kind of experience for us. It felt special every time we were out there."

Martin and Knapp can look forward to creating meaningful memories in the future thanks to the Land Trust's pending purchase. "If there was anybody the Girl Scout Council was going to partner with to maintain the property, I think the Land Trust is a great match," Martin said. "We've partnered with the Land Trust on numerous activities, and it's always been successful. I am hopeful that this partnership will keep the camp available to our Girl Scouts for generations." Knapp added, "The Land Trust is valued in our community and is an organization that people trust."

**Wanted: Scout Stories** Do you remember Camp Cuesta? Share your Girl Scout and Camp Cuesta memories by emailing [photos@doorcountylandtrust.org](mailto:photos@doorcountylandtrust.org)

## Earn Your Land Protection Merit Badge...


### Donate to Protect Camp Cuesta

It's quite an achievement to have your donation dollars **DOUBLED**. Give a donation during the matching gift challenge and we'll mail you your merit badge! All donations received by September 30 will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to the first \$50,000. Make your donation in the enclosed envelope or online at

**[DoorCountyLandTrust.org/CampCuesta](http://DoorCountyLandTrust.org/CampCuesta)**







# For the beauty, land, water, and wildlife.

## For the countless reasons you love Door County, make your gift today.

### Your Donation Supports the 2024 Conservation and Stewardship Campaign

#### **Camp Cuesta: Merit Badge for Preservation**

**Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve,  
Baileys Harbor**

Camp Cuesta is a key property abutting the existing preserve. This property provides a buffer of wildlife habitat that enhances water quality and keeps native forests intact. Your donation helps protect wildlife habitat—and the Girl Scout camp tradition. Pages 6-7.

#### **More to Love at Grand View**

**Grand View Scenic Overlook Area, Ellison Bay**

You know the view at the top of the hill, but beyond the park boundaries Door County Land Trust aims to protect the forest at the base of the Niagara escarpment. Property owners are donating half the cost and your support is needed to finish.

#### **A River Runs Through It**

**Hibbard Creek Natural Area, West Jacksonport**

Your gift helps protect two new sites in Hibbard Creek Natural Area, which once completed, will safeguard a mile-long stretch of creek where fish spawn. Porcupines, fishers, mink, otters, birds, and waterfowl all need the creek for their survival. Page 12.

#### **Going to the Source**

**Three Springs Nature Preserve, Sister Bay**

The Land Trust purchased a key property at the headwaters of Three Springs, and now several new opportunities near the core nature preserve are underway. Your donation protects North Bay land and water, and all the fish, birds, mammals, amphibians, and insects that call this refuge home.

**By enclosing a gift or donating online,  
you ensure places like these will be protected forever.**





## Two ways to have your donation DOUBLED by September 30th:

### ☐ 2024 Conservation and Stewardship Campaign

Your gift helps complete all of the Land Trust's conservation work, including stewardship, land protection, and programs. Read the Challenge Gift story on page 5.

### ☐ Land Acquisition Fund

Your gift helps complete the purchase of Camp Cuesta and other lands. Read the Camp Cuesta and challenge gift story on pages 7-8.

## Your Help is Needed to Protect and Care for These Places

### A Fen-tastic Habitat for Rare Species

#### Kellner Fen Natural Area, East of Sturgeon Bay

Your donation helps connect protected lands in a large wildlife corridor filled with rare plants adapted to unique ecological conditions on the fen's floating sedge mat. Waterfowl, migratory birds, and multiple mammal species all find refuge within this protected landscape. Page 13.

### Rare Birds, Indeed

#### Gibraltar-Ephraim Swamp Natural Area, Ephraim

Your donation helps protect the wetland basin around the Village of Ephraim with another 20-acre property in the core of the swamp. Habitats of countless rare and threatened birds located within the basin will be protected.

### New Trails for a New Nature Preserve

#### Bear Creek Nature Preserve, Southern Door

This new nature preserve property is now owned by the Land Trust, but the work has only just begun! Your donation will be used for planning trails and beginning restoration work at wildlife observation areas. This new preserve improves habitat for grassland nesting birds and protects a half-mile stretch of Bear Creek where several species of fish spawn. Page 11.

### Protecting an Irreplaceable Island

#### Two Washington Island Natural Areas

Your donation protects a key access point and a 20-acre forested wetland that benefits migratory birds, several rare plants, the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly, and so much more.

[DoorCountyLandTrust.org/donate](https://DoorCountyLandTrust.org/donate)



# Stewardship: The Key to Healthy Habitats



Volunteers plant trees at Oak Road Nature Preserve. Photo by Kay McKinley

**W**ildlife, especially rare and threatened species, depend on the Land Trust to aid their survival. Through land protection, their habitats are preserved. The Land Trust's Stewardship Team and volunteers care for more than 5,200 acres, which include public nature preserves and natural areas. Thanks to this team, healthy habitats are restored and maintained for a full range of wildlife. Read on to discover this year's efforts.

**Grassland Prairie Expansion is For the Birds** — Loss of habitat is a primary cause of decline for many grassland birds. To increase their chance of survival, the Land Trust is in the process of expanding prairie habitat where grassland birds are known to nest. Prairie restoration work is ongoing at Oak Road, Legacy at Clay Banks, and Bear Creek Nature Preserves, as well as Stony Creek and Oak Bluff Natural Areas.

**Restoring Forests for Wildlife** — This spring's tree planting at Bear Creek and Oak Road Nature Preserves will help connect fragmented forests. When forests are connected, important corridors are created that provide shelter for wildlife and safe movement across the landscape.

**Defending Native Plants** — Whether innocently spread from the soles of shoes or car tires, the seeds of invasive plants threaten native habitats if left unchecked. The Land Trust and its volunteers continuously defend and restore native habitats where they create the greatest threat—in preserves from Washington Island to the southern county line.

## Research Partnerships Inform Stewardship



A Volunteer monitors Pitcher's dune thistle plants for pollinators at Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve. Photo by Paige Witek

**Monitoring Life Within Water** — Land protection has a direct impact on the quality of the water both below and above ground, that eventually becomes our drinking water. In partnership with The Ridges and Crossroads at Big Creek, the Land Trust is providing sites for collecting water quality data at several wetland and stream locations. The gathered data is part of a larger collaboration with Water Action Volunteers.

The Shedd Aquarium's ongoing white and longnose sucker monitoring on Land Trust preserve and natural area streams provides insight into their migration. The success of migration is a barometer for good water quality.

**Studying Birds and Bats on the Fly** — To protect and improve habitat for birds and bats, the Land Trust is partnering with the Lake Michigan Bird Observatory by adding to their chain of Motus telemetry tracking stations along the

western shore of Lake Michigan. Currently hosting a station on Washington Island, the Land Trust will be adding two more in the upcoming months. Data collected from Motus antennas reveals how species are moving throughout the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Flyway, leading to more targeted conservation for birds and bats.

**The Buzz on Pollinator Research** — Through volunteer observations of pollinator insects at Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve, the Land Trust, Chicago Botanic Garden, and others are discovering what plant species are favored by various insect species. In harsh landscapes like the sand dunes at Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal, observations like these are helping to ensure continuous food sources—never-ending plant blooms—that fuel the insects needed to pollinate and re-seed the federally threatened Pitcher's dune thistle and other rare dune plants.



# Bear Creek Nature Preserve:

## View Nature's Gifts in Abundance



The panoramic view from the upper field includes the mowed trail. Photo by Thomas Stasiak

If you haven't yet visited the new Bear Creek Nature Preserve, we highly recommend a walk around this beautiful, newly protected property! From the parking area and upper field visitors may now enjoy a panoramic view of the historic lake plain. Forests and grasslands teem with birds and wildlife.

Door County Land Trust purchased the 75-acre property in the fall of 2023. This new nature preserve currently offers mowed trails in two loops on one side of Bear Creek. The long-term plan for the nature preserve includes footbridges that will allow visitors to hike over Bear Creek, meander through

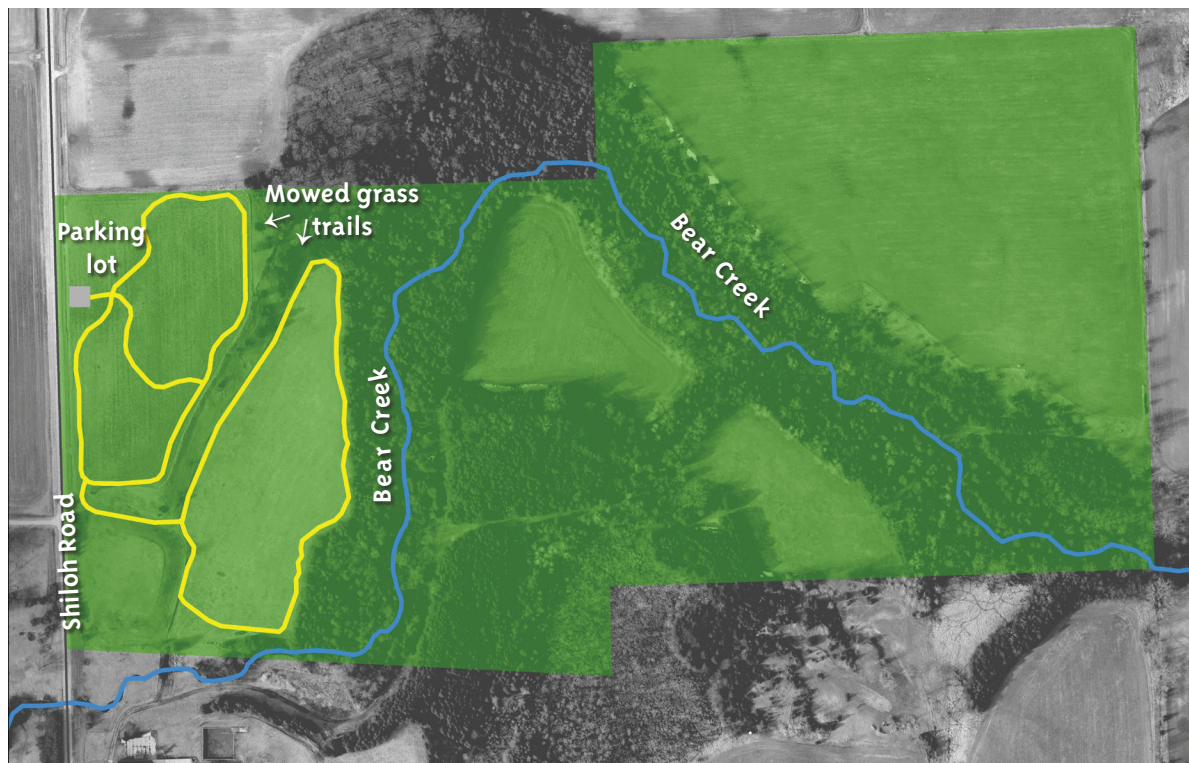
the forest, and observe wildlife on the far side of the preserve. A portion of the trails will cater to visitors who need easy terrain, with places to rest and take in the views. An overlook from the upper trail will give views of the forest, creek, and wildlife below. An overlook set along the creek will provide a close view of fish and other aquatic life.

Door County Land Trust's Bear Creek trails—and those at their 14 other nature preserves—now total more than 30 miles of free hiking that is open to the public. Creation and maintenance of trails is member supported. Donations from members and the community keep these lands open for all!

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The map at right shows current visitor amenities at the Door County Land Trust's 15th and most recent preserve—Bear Creek Nature Preserve. The protected land is located in the town of Clay Banks, just south of Sturgeon Bay.

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# A Fish Story to Believe

Spawning longnosed suckers.

Photo by Joe Taylor

**H**ibbard Creek is a vital artery for life support in Door County. The creek and surrounding watershed meander through northern Door from Fish Creek south to the mouth of Lake Michigan in Jacksonport. Wetlands around the creek are filled with thirsty cedar trees that offer an essential benefit for wildlife and people: water filtration. The forest corridor encompassing Hibbard Creek offers wildlife free-roaming habitat and fresh water. Birds, fish, and wildlife thrive on abundant food sources like insects.

Because of Hibbard Creek's significant value to ecology, Door County Land Trust is focused on protecting the critically important surrounding wetlands and forests. Through a series of land protection projects, both completed and in progress, the Land Trust is working to protect adjacent parcels around a full 1.5-mile stretch of the creek. By year's end, the Land Trust plans to complete protection of 174 acres at Hibbard Creek Natural Area.

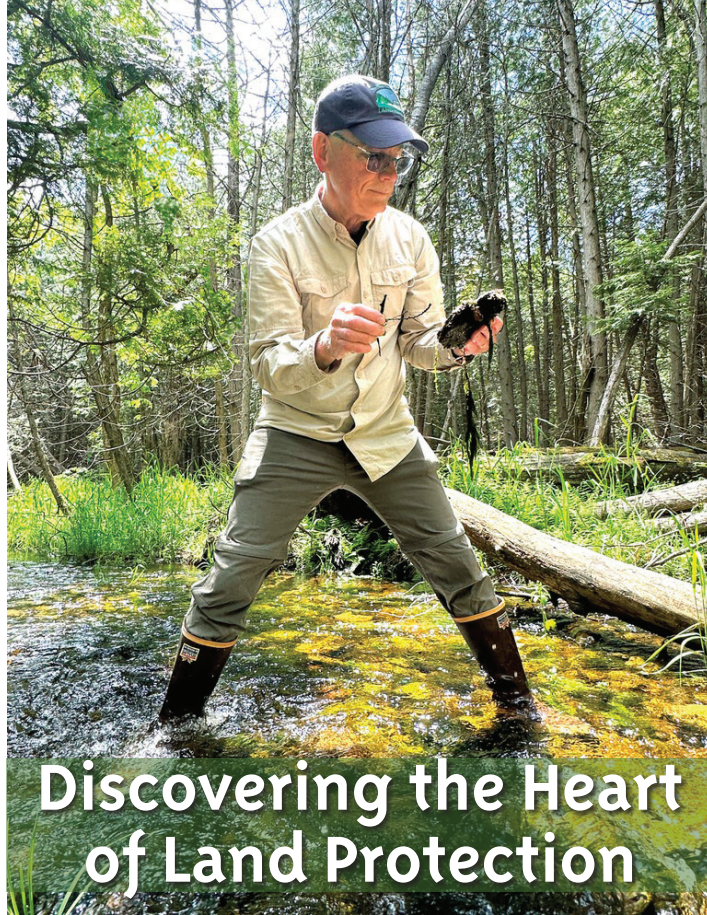
Hibbard Creek is a natural fishery where salmon, trout, and longnose suckers spawn, making its protection a highlight for Land Trust member of the Board of Directors Mark Holey.

"Despite being a small tributary, Hibbard Creek provides an environment that is critical for almost all wildlife," said Holey. "It provides a corridor for wildlife, birds, and fish, notably longnose suckers."

Holey points out that the presence of thousands of Lake Michigan's longnose suckers spawning in Hibbard Creek is key to the wildlife corridor ecosystem. "The remarkable spring run of longnose suckers adds energy to the stream," Holey said. "The fish first benefit plants and insects, which then feed larger animals."

Preservation of the wilderness around Hibbard Creek is a paramount strategy for ensuring that the natural fishery and wildlife corridor thrive in the future. The Land Trust expects to employ a variety of land protection tools that include accepting donated lands, purchasing land, or working with private landowners to create conservation easement agreements to protect lands within the new project area.

One strategy supporting conservation in Hibbard Creek is the matching challenge inviting members to give generously to the 2024 Conservation and Stewardship Campaign.



## Discovering the Heart of Land Protection

Mark Holey checks a rock from Hibbard Creek for insects.

Photo by Kay McKinley

**R**etired fisheries biologist Mark Holey believes in a heartfelt commitment to preserving land. It's a commitment he says he shares with the staff of the Door County Land Trust, as he tends to his duties as board member and the chair of the Land Policy Committee.

"People who work for a nonprofit like the Land Trust protect land because their hearts are in it," he said. "Federal, state, and local government agencies achieve conservation through specific laws and tax-funded programs. The Land Trust doesn't have those resources. To achieve conservation, it works directly with committed and willing partners to protect land—including Land Trust members and volunteers."

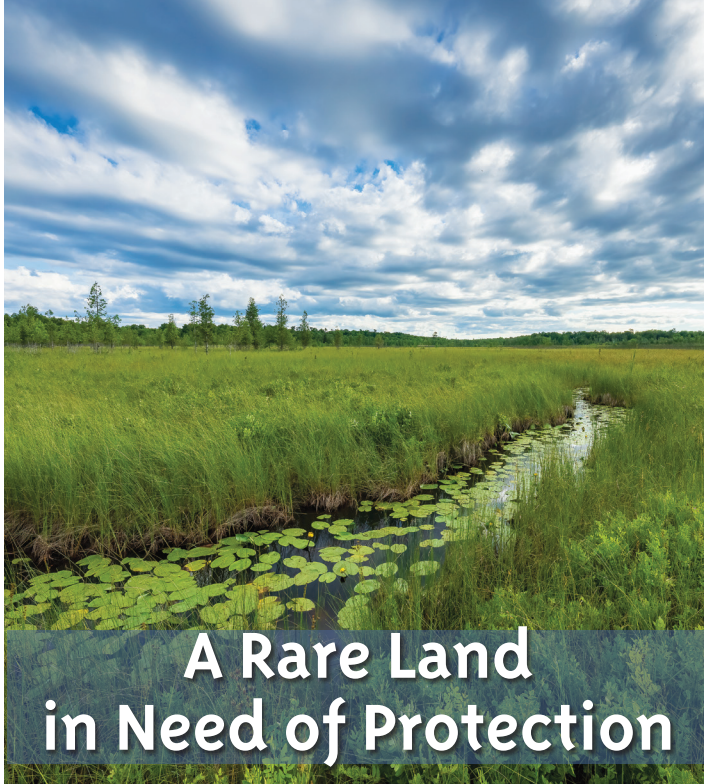
Holey knows well of what he speaks. He worked for the Wisconsin Department of Resources for 14 years and with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for 25 years. His extensive fisheries knowledge is of great value to the Land Trust, especially when dealing with Door County tributaries like Hibbard Creek. But it was his desire to learn more about land ecology and conservation in his retirement that led him to the Land Trust.

"Now I'm getting my education about land, and it's been pretty fascinating and unique to be a part of it," he said.

Looking to the future of Door County, Holey sees it as bright—if people continue to care about conservation.

"There really are few places like Door County in the world, especially in the Great Lakes, because of its unique ecology, environment, and economy," he said. "Protecting valuable lands is required to maintain that. If someone wants to leave a legacy or contribute to protecting valuable lands and waters, the Door County Land Trust is the best vehicle to get that done."





## A Rare Land in Need of Protection

Kellner Fen is home to many rare species.

Photo by David Heilman

**K**ellner Fen Natural Area is highly prized by conservationists for its rare, untouched habitats. This unique, wild land contains open waters surrounded by a floating mat of interwoven sedge roots and moss. A forested sand dune 20 to 30 feet high, followed by ridge and swale habitat separates it from Lake Michigan. Kellner Fen's boggy disposition and remoteness protected it from past threats of development—and now the Land Trust plays the lead in conserving the area.

“Kellner Fen Natural Area is a hotspot for the highest targets for conservation like threatened and rare species, contiguous forest, migratory activity, and connected waterways,” said Executive Director Emily Wood. “The Land Trust’s priority land protection areas follow these conservation indicators. Acting intentionally ensures that the donations entrusted to us by the community are always directed toward the highest priority land protection projects.”

Designated as a State Natural Area, the Land Trust protects more than 350 acres at Kellner Fen, with additional land protection projects underway. The primary conservation goal here is to benefit wildlife, their habitat, and greater fen ecosystem. Like all fens, this peat-forming wetland took thousands of years to develop and would be a great loss if destroyed.

Kellner Fen Natural Area meets all the criteria for urgent protection. Its dense forest is a haven for migratory and nesting birds. The wetlands provide an ideal breeding habitat for the federally endangered Hine’s emerald dragonfly, which is found only in a handful of places in the Midwest. In addition to its rich biodiversity, Kellner Fen—like all wetlands—combats global climate change by absorbing atmospheric carbon.

Donations to the 2024 Conservation and Stewardship Campaign help to complete this project and more. Neighbors to the Fen, Eleanor Dean and John Gosney are matching donations dollar-for-dollar. Read about the challenge grant on page 5.



KELLNER FEN Natural Area

## A Fen in Need Has a Friend Indeed

Tending to Kellner Fen provides stress relief for Bill Sauve.

Photo by Kay McKinley

**W**hen talking with Preserve Steward Bill Sauve, it doesn’t take long to realize that he feels a sense of ownership watching over Kellner Fen Natural Area for the Land Trust. Maybe it’s because the fen is a 5-minute walk from his home, or perhaps it’s the pride of helping protect it for 15 years. Whatever the reason, the love for Kellner Fen is there, with Sauve taking on duties that are not typical of his role. His commitment ranges from helping hunters harvest deer that drop out of sight, to mowing the trail with his own riding mower.

“I love the outdoors and being the eyes and ears for the Land Trust,” he said. “I make sure the stewardship team knows what’s happening periodically and that the property is respected as it should be. It’s a lot of fun to be part of the process.”

Another part of Sauve’s dedication is clearing the trail when branches come down or other debris cover the path, allowing visitors to safely navigate their way to explore nature.

During his tenure as steward, Sauve has seen a plethora of wildlife species, including red fox, badger, bobcats, Eastern Bluebirds, Snow Geese, reptiles, and migrating birds. He has also seen bear tracks. Sauve relishes that the refreshment he feels when in the fen’s “pristine” natural environment is conveniently steps away from his home office.

“Getting into the woods for a nice long walk clears my mind from the challenges of the business cycle,” he said. “Fresh air and exercise make you feel better about life. It’s the best way to handle stress.”

Although going above and beyond seems natural for Sauve, he is quick to compliment the efforts of his fellow preserve stewards.

“There are a lot of good volunteers who have the same respect for protecting natural resources that I do,” he said. “Each one is protecting land for future generations to enjoy.”



# Long Live Your Legacy

Door County Land Trust relies on community support to protect the beauty and ecology of the Door Peninsula, its islands, and surrounding waters. Among these generous members, there are those who have planned a gift to the Land Trust through their will or retirement account. These future gifts or bequests will help preserve a legacy of land forever.

When you name the Land Trust as a beneficiary in your will, estate plans, life insurance, or retirement account, inform us of your plans. You will be included in our Legacy Circle, and \$1,000 will be donated in your honor to the Land Acquisition Fund! This means your future commitment to saving land will also help right now. There's no better time to begin your will or refresh your existing plans by including a charitable provision for Door County Land Trust.

Join this dedicated group of land protectors today! Joining the Legacy Circle Challenge is as simple as informing us

of your charitable gift plan. To participate in the Legacy Circle Challenge, please fill out the 'Note of Intent' online at [DoorCountyLandTrust.org/Legacy](https://DoorCountyLandTrust.org/Legacy). You may choose to keep your name anonymous but informing us of your charitable gift plan allows us to thank you—and a \$1,000 donation to the Land Acquisition Fund will be given in your honor!

No matter the size of your gift, we can help you create a legacy that lasts forever. Ask us how. For more information contact Cinnamon Rossman, Director of Charitable Giving, at (920) 746-1027 or [giving@doorcountylandtrust.org](mailto:giving@doorcountylandtrust.org).

*Door County Land Trust has an organizational foundation for perpetuity set in place so you can trust your legacy will live on forever. Door County Land Trust is accredited by the national Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission.*

## Give Today. Become a supporting member.

Every donor is a member of the Door County Land Trust. Your donation will help to protect unique lands and waters, will preserve the rural character, and will safeguard the open spaces and scenic beauty of the Door Peninsula and its islands.

When you join the efforts to preserve Door County's lands, waters, and wildlife, you'll receive a new member packet to introduce you to the protected lands that are free and open to the public for recreation and enjoyment. You also receive the joy that comes from sharing your appreciation of Door County's cherished lands and waters.

### Donate today.

Donate with a check or credit card online at [DoorCountyLandTrust.org/donate](https://DoorCountyLandTrust.org/donate) or include a donation when you return the envelope in this magazine.

### Donate from your IRA.

If you are 70 ½ years old, giving directly from your IRA is a tax-savvy way to make charitable gifts that benefit you and Door County lands.

### Donate stock or appreciated securities.

Gifts of appreciated stocks are a tax-wise way to give. Learn how to direct a stock transfer at [DoorCountyLandTrust.org/stock](https://DoorCountyLandTrust.org/stock).

### Give from your Donor Advised Fund.

If you currently use a Donor-Advised Fund, you may direct one-time or annual donations to Door County Land Trust.

## Give Forever. Join the Legacy Circle.

The Legacy Circle is a group of visionary members who have named Door County Land Trust as a charitable beneficiary in their will, trust, life insurance, or retirement account.

A group of generous Legacy Circle members will donate \$1,000 to the Land Trust in your honor when you inform us of your intention to leave a planned gift to the Land Trust. This means your future commitment to saving land can help right now!

**Make a gift in your will or trust.** A planned gift doesn't affect your immediate finances and can be revised at a later date if circumstances change.

**Direct your retirement account, bank account, or other investment account.** Joining the Legacy Circle can be as easy as naming the Land Trust to receive a portion of your account. Ask your financial institution for a form to designate Door County Land Trust as a beneficiary.

**Direct your life insurance.** Naming the Door County Land Trust as the full or partial beneficiary of your life insurance can be a straightforward method to create a planned gift.

**Use one of your greatest assets to donate a gift of real estate.** Gifts of real estate, whether it is your residence or potential conservation land, can benefit Door County Land Trust. Gifts of real estate can create significant tax deductions as well.

Learn more at [DoorCountyLandTrust.org/LegacyCircle](https://DoorCountyLandTrust.org/LegacyCircle). No matter which method you choose when planning your gift, you'll want to inform us of your intention. Members who are planning gifts are recognized in the Land Trust's Legacy Circle.



# Free Guided Walks & Member Events

Registration required at [DoorCountyLandTrust.org/events](http://DoorCountyLandTrust.org/events)

Oak Bluff Natural Area Photo by Joe Taylor

Color Key: **\*Newly Protected Land** **Guided Walk** **Members Only Event**

July 11, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
and July 13, 9:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Creation of Bayshore Blufflands  
Nature Preserve**  
with Terrie Cooper

July 18, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
**A Conservation Easement  
Experience in Southern Door**  
with Drew Reinke & Erich Schmidtke  
Directions with registration  
Members Only

July 19, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
**Saving the Bats at  
Three Springs Barn**  
with Marilyn Hansotia,  
Terrie Cooper & Keith Lemburg

July 25, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
and July 27, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
**Discover Bear Creek Nature  
Preserve** \*Newly Protected Land  
with Brian Forest & Terrie Cooper  
Directions with registration

August 3, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
**The Buzz About Bees**  
with Emily Roedl, Jody Selenica  
& Linda Moore  
Oak Road Nature Preserve

August 15, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
**Explore Door County's Forests**  
with Roxanne Hanney &  
Rob Watson  
Lautenbach Woods Nature Preserve

August 24, 9:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Protecting the North Shore of  
Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve**  
Klug Conservation Easement  
Directions with registration.  
with Lucy Klug & Terrie Cooper

September 4, 8:45 pm - 10:45 pm  
**Tour of the Dark Sky:  
Deep Sky Astronomy**  
with James Krumenacher  
Directions with registration  
\$15, Members Only

September 7, 9:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Discover Hibbard Creek**  
\*Newly Protected Land  
with Brian Forest, Terrie Cooper  
Directions with registration  
Members Only

September 19, 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
**The Fungus Among Us: Fungi &  
Mushrooms Walk**  
with Charlotte Lukes  
Lautenbach Woods Nature  
Preserve, \$10

October 5, 9:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Creation of Sturgeon Bay  
Ship Canal Nature Preserve**  
with Terrie Cooper

October 12, 9:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Fall for Autumn Foliage**  
with Jane Whitney  
Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve



## Join us in thanking our Annual Business Members!

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Zero Sum Door County

Want to add your business here? Business membership protects Door County and offers great benefits. Email [giving@doorcountylantrust.org](mailto:giving@doorcountylantrust.org).





## Door County Land Trust

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

(920) 746-1359 • [www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org](http://www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org)

PO Box 65, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235



- Sound Finances
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Find links at [DoorCountyLandTrust.org](http://DoorCountyLandTrust.org)

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# ANNUAL GATHERING 2024

Friday, August 9, 2pm - 5pm

Grand View Park, Ellison Bay

Tickets available online at [DoorCountyLandTrust.org/Gathering](http://DoorCountyLandTrust.org/Gathering)

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