

Landings

Journal of the Door County Land Trust



Door County Land Trust

Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters Forever

2016 — A BANNER YEAR FOR LAND PROTECTION

An American white pelican in flight along the shoreline of Chambers Island, a critical stop-over habitat for migratory birds.

Photo by John Van Den Brandt



Door County Land Trust

Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters Forever

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Office: 23 N. Fifth Avenue
Mailing: PO Box 65, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Phone: (920)746-1359 • Fax: (920)746-1024
Email: info@doorcountylandtrust.org
www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org

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Cover photo by Dan Eggert

Björklunden The shoreline at Björklunden, an adult education and graduate student retreat facility owned by Lawrence University, is now protected by a conservation easement with the Door County Land Trust.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

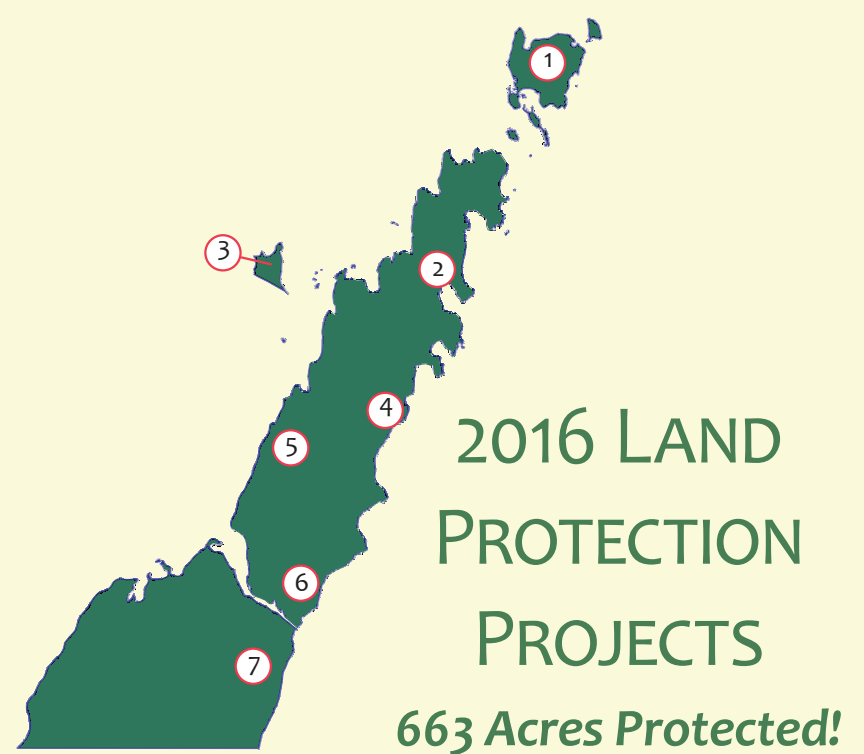
I am so honored and humbled to serve as your new executive director. As I've told our board of directors and staff, when I announced my departure to Door County, Wisconsin, not one Illinoisan asked me what or where is Door County? Indeed, Door County, Wisconsin, is an international treasure that's known far and wide by its rugged beauty. To be working for an organization whose mission is to permanently protect this iconic landscape is an absolute dream come true. In the following pages you will read of Door County Land Trust's latest land protection successes. From critical wetland habitat, hemlock forests and the Niagara escarpment, the Door County Land Trust and its dedicated members and volunteers work to protect, nurture and sustain these amazing places. Equally important, we open our lands to the communities of Door County and to nature lovers, researchers and conservationists throughout the world. Because of our work people of all ages can strap on their boots and explore this incredible place, seeing through their own eyes what attracted ancient peoples here and what continues to draw so many here today.

As I reflect on my first month as your executive director, I remain astonished by the talent, professionalism and passion of Door County Land Trust's board of directors and staff. What this organization has accomplished over the past 30 years is nothing short of amazing. And, with your continued support, we shall continue to seize land protection opportunities throughout the beautiful and fragile environs of Door County, Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Tom Clay
Executive Director



- ① **Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area** 20 acres of critical wetland habitat for the Hine's emerald dragonfly.
- ② **Three Springs Nature Preserve** A 12-acre parcel protecting a portion of Three Springs Creek has been added to the preserve.
- ③ **Chambers Island Nature Preserve** Three purchases, totaling over 241 acres, have been added to the preserve, which now totals more than 370 acres.
- ④ **Björklunden Conservation Easement** Lawrence University has placed 305 acres including forest, shoreline and Niagara escarpment into a conservation easement.
- ⑤ **Lautenbach Woods Nature Preserve** A 10-acre wooded parcel adjacent to the preserve protects a stretch of Niagara escarpment and hemlock forest.
- ⑥ **Kellner Fen Natural Area** Acquisition of a 40-acre parcel within the wetland complex expands protection of the fen.
- ⑦ **Private Conservation Easement** Landowners in Southern Door protect a 35-acre parcel teeming with diverse wildlife through a conservation easement agreement.

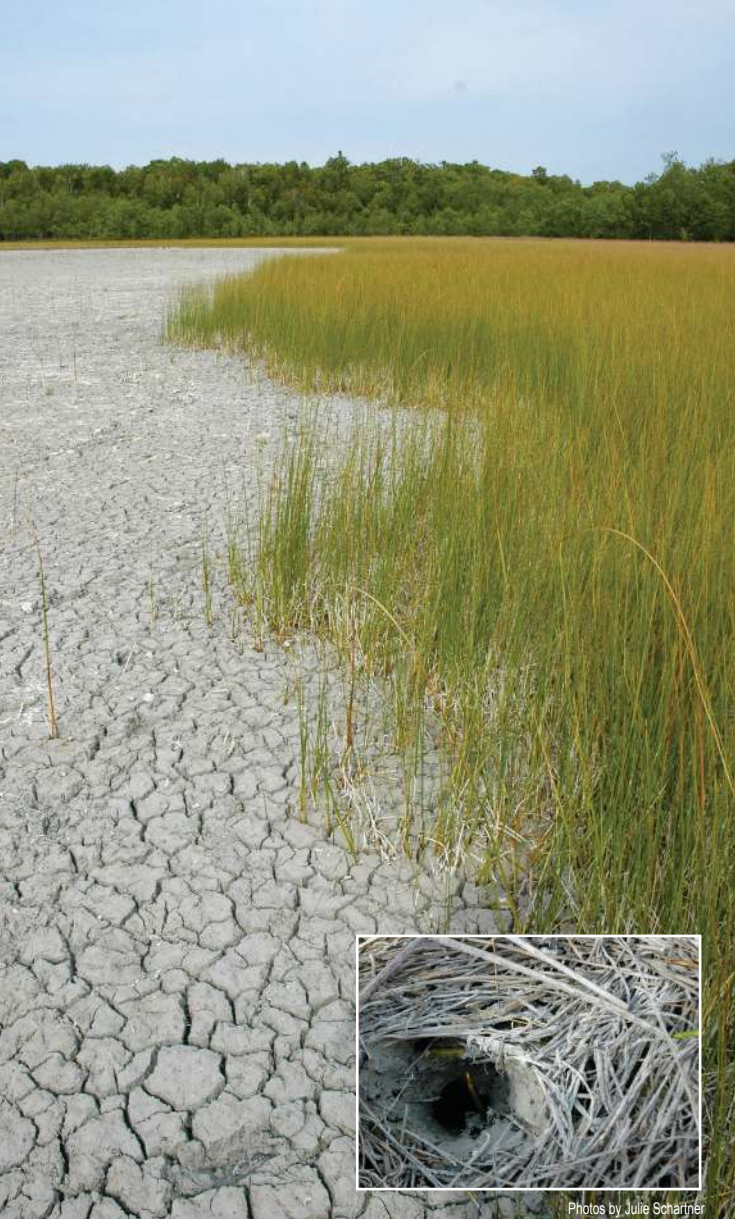


Photo by Barb Siebel



Photo by Julie Schartner



Photo by Julie Schartner

PROTECTING WETLANDS FOR GREEN-EYED DRAGONFLIES

Three Land Purchases Ensure Protection of Water and Wetlands

By Julie Schartner, Land Project Manager

Once believed to be extinct and now found in only four states, the Hine's emerald dragonfly is among the most endangered dragonflies in the United States. The largest population is found here—in Door County, Wisconsin. Through land purchases at three preserves, the Door County Land Trust recently protected 72 acres of important wetland habitat for the Hine's emerald.

The Hine's emerald is a habitat specialist, living in areas of groundwater-fed wetlands over limestone bedrock, and is very sensitive to environmental changes. They spend up to five years in the larval or nymph stage of their life cycle in the cool, shallow, flowing water of calcareous¹ wetlands such as marshes, sedge meadows and fens. Adults live only a handful of weeks, and generally spend the majority of their time roosting and foraging in the woodlands, fields and open areas surrounding these wetlands.

The habitat found in Door County for this

dragonfly is so important that out of a total of eleven sites in Wisconsin, the US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) designated ten sites in Door County as “critical habitat.” These are specific geographic areas that contain features essential for the conservation of a federally endangered or threatened species and that may require special management and protection.

Because the wetlands where they live are often ephemeral², many were filled and developed in the geographic region where the dragonfly historically lived, such as near Chicago. The most significant threats to the existence of this dragonfly species have been identified as habitat destruction and contamination. To help their chances for survival, the Door County Land Trust is working at several places to directly protect Hine's emerald habitat as well as protect areas nearby that contribute water to feed wetlands critical for breeding and larval development. Protecting the wetlands crucial for the survival of the Hine's emerald dragonfly also benefits our human communities by protecting the quality of our drinking water.

Funding for these three recent land purchases was provided by a USFWS Endangered Species Act Section 6 Grant, WI-DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Grant and contributions from Door County Land Trust supporters.

Above: To survive periods of drought, Hine's emerald dragonfly larvae often live in crayfish burrows (inset), where they try to avoid becoming a meal for their hungry roommates, the Devil crayfish. Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area during a dry summer. Top left to right: Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area during a wet season; two views of the addition at Three Springs Nature Preserve; two views of Kellner Fen Natural Area; Federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly.



Photo by Julie Scharfner



Photo by Jeff Davis



Photo by Paul Burton

Big and Little Marsh Natural Area

The Door County Land Trust purchased 20 acres within Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area on Washington Island, bringing the total acres protected by the WI Department of Natural Resources (WI-DNR) and Door County Land Trust at this site to approximately 373 acres. Big and Little Marsh features a complex of boreal³ rich fen, forest and a large emergent aquatic marsh on marl⁴. This newly acquired parcel provides habitat for adult Hine’s emerald dragonflies and contributes water to nearby wetlands used for breeding.

Three Springs Nature Preserve

The Door County Land Trust has added 12 acres to the Three Springs Nature Preserve near Sister Bay. Three Springs Creek runs through a portion of this forested wetland property that borders County Highway ZZ. When the waters are high in the spring, Three Springs Creek hosts northern pike, white suckers and other native fish. This new property buffers the area that contributes groundwater to the Hine’s emerald breeding site located nearby in the heart of the Three Springs Nature Preserve.

Kellner Fen Natural Area

The 40-acre addition to the Kellner Fen Natural Area near Sturgeon Bay contains boreal rich fen, open water and a cedar and hemlock forest. The fen is covered by a floating mat composed of sphagnum⁵ moss and peat that supports unique, acid loving plants including pitcher plant and sundew, and a wide variety of sedges. This new addition to the preserve is part of the area designated by USFWS as “critical habitat” for the Hine’s emerald dragonfly and also contributes groundwater to the breeding habitat.

Definition of terms

- ¹ Calcareous means calcium-rich or growing in limestone conditions.
- ² Ephemeral describes seasonal wetlands that may last for only a short period of time and leave no permanent trace.
- ³ Boreal describes a region that has a northern temperate climate, with cold winters and warm summers.
- ⁴ Marl is a naturally occurring fine crumbly mixture of clay and limestone, often containing shell fragments and sometimes other minerals.
- ⁵ Sphagnum is moss growing in wet acid temperate regions that decays and becomes compacted to form peat.

The following was excerpted from USFWS Federally endangered Hine’s emerald dragonfly fact sheet <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/>

Why Save a Dragonfly?

Dragonflies play an important role in nature. They catch and eat small flying insects, including mosquitoes, biting flies, and gnats. In its immature stage (nymph), a dragonfly is an important food source for larger aquatic animals such as fish. They serve as excellent water quality watchdogs, are part of our nation’s natural heritage and add beauty to our world.

Why Is The Hine’s Emerald Dragonfly Endangered?

Habitat Loss or Degradation The greatest threat to the Hine’s emerald dragonfly is habitat destruction. Most of the wetland habitat that this dragonfly depends on for survival has been drained and filled to make way for urban and industrial development.

Pesticides and Other Pollutants Contamination of wetlands by pesticides or other pollutants also poses a threat. The dragonfly depends on pristine wetland or stream areas, with good water quality, for growth and development.

Changes in Ground Water Development that decreases the amount or quality of ground water flowing to the dragonfly’s habitat threatens its survival because it depends on spring-fed shallow water to breed.



Photo by Dan Eggert

BJÖRKLUNDEN: LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY COMMITS TO CONSERVATION

By Rick Peterson

Mark Breseman was an 18-year-old college student who had just completed his freshman year at Lawrence University when he first discovered the beauty of Björklunden, a then-pristine 325-acre parcel of lakeside Door County that had been bequeathed to the Appleton college in 1963. It was the summer of 1975 and Breseman was hired as the property's first student "grunt" to help the groundskeeper with general maintenance.

"I was completely enthralled with the place," said Breseman. "I would spend off-work hours walking the trail along the Lake Michigan shore, going up in to the fields to sit in the trees or on the rocks along the lakeshore just enveloped by its sense of pure tranquility. Björklunden left an indelible imprint on me."

Fast forward 41 years and Breseman looks

The Björklunden conservation easement protects a diverse wildlife habitat and migratory flyway along the lakeshore south of Baileys Harbor.

excitedly to creating similar touchstone moments for future generations of Lawrence students. Since 1997, when he returned to his alma mater as director of Björklunden, Breseman has served as Lawrence's chief steward and cheerleader of the estate, which has grown to 441 acres since he first stepped foot on it.

He also has been at the forefront of efforts to preserve and protect the natural beauty and ecological integrity of the property that culminated November 17, 2016, with a conservation easement signing ceremony at the Björklunden lodge between Lawrence officials and Door County Land Trust representatives. The agreement secures 305 acres of the estate from future development that would degrade the conservation values described in

the terms of the agreement.

"My dream has long been to have as much of the Björklunden property put in conservation easement as possible so it would never be sold for development," said Breseman. "The agreement sends a clear message to the Door County community that Lawrence is not going anywhere. We're going to be here forever and keep this wonderful property in its beautiful, natural state."

Representing 10 percent of the Door County Land Trust's total conservation easement acreage, the Björklunden easement is the organization's 70th conservation easement protected parcel and its largest in the past five years. It includes the most shoreline of any of its conservation easements.

"A decade ago, a seed was planted by a visionary group of leaders from Björklunden, Lawrence University and the Door County Land Trust," said Terrie Cooper, the Land Trust's director of land programs. "Now that seed has come to fruition with Lawrence entering into a conservation easement with the Door County Land Trust to forever protect 305 acres of the Björklunden property from future development or subdivision.

"Björklunden's conservation easement protects in perpetuity more than one-half mile of Lake Michigan shoreline, boreal forest, migratory bird habitat and wildlife habitat, and an expanse of open space along Highway 57 south of Baileys Harbor," said Cooper. "The partnership with Björklunden sets a precedent for other conservation-minded organizations and is such a gift to the Door County community and future

generations. The Door County Land Trust is honored to assist Björklunden and Lawrence in realizing their vision and upholding forever the terms of their conservation easement.”

The one-time summer retreat of Donald and Winifred Boynton of Highland Park, Ill., Björklunden vid Sjön — Swedish for “Birch Grove by the Lake” — was bequeathed to Lawrence in 1963 by the Boyntons with the understanding that it would be preserved in a way that would ensure its legacy as a place of peace and contemplation. Winifred Boynton referred to her beloved summer residence as a place “far removed from confusion and aggression, it offers a sanctuary for all.”

“Our agreement to preserve natural habitat at Björklunden underscores our commitment to Donald and Winifred Boynton who generously gave us these lands close to 50 years ago,” said Mark Burstein, president of Lawrence University. “We are grateful for the partnership we have established with the Door County Land Trust which makes this agreement possible.”

Michael Cisler, a member of the Lawrence Board of Trustees and chair of its buildings and grounds committee, said the easement agreement between Lawrence and the Door County Land Trust ensures Björklunden “will always be the sylvan setting that the Boyntons treasured.”

“The easement also connects Lawrence to the larger Door County community with a shared commitment to the conservation of our natural resources, the preservation of our cultural past and a responsibility for a sustainable future,” Cisler added. “The arrangement



secures wild spaces that will forever be a valuable part of the quality of life and appeal of Northeast Wisconsin.”

According to Drew Reinke, land protection specialist for the Door County Land Trust, the protected property contains a variety of habitat types resulting from Lake Michigan’s influence.

“A long list of terrestrial species inhabits the property and the shoreline serves as critical stopover habitat for migratory birds,” said Reinke. “Its forest is one of the most southern extents of boreal forest in Wisconsin with mature to near old growth characteristics. This large tract of land can easily be identified by boaters on Lake Michigan as it is the largest block of forest just south of Baileys Harbor with no development.”

Lawrence has conducted an adult, non-credit summer seminar program at Björklunden since 1980. The construction of a new lodge in 1996 opened up the property to additional weekend seminars for Lawrence students. During the 2015-16 academic year, nearly 2,000 Lawrence students, faculty, staff and guests participated

The natural surroundings at Björklunden act as a living laboratory and retreat for seminar and university students.

in a weekend seminar.

Stephanie Vrabec, a member of Lawrence’s Board of Trustees and current president of the board of the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust, said protecting the property in its natural condition provides unique open space to support Lawrence’s educational mission.

“The Björklunden property is a place where students can ‘retreat’ to learn and grow,” said Vrabec. “It is a working laboratory space for those who gain inspiration and learning from nature. Setting aside conservation land of this significance shows a commitment to long-term environmental sustainability.”

A land trust provides the most common way to protect the conservation values of private land. With approximately 5,000 acres nationally lost to development every day, Vrabec says the establishment of the Björklunden conservation easement “is the right thing to do.”

“Beside preserving the property in a natural state forever, the benefits of conservation lands extend beyond the property boundaries,” said Vrabec. “This agreement underscores our commitment to honor the intentions of the Boyntons and demonstrates our commitment to protect Door County’s incredible natural history and unique environmental quality.”

Rick Peterson is the manager of media relations at Lawrence University and has participated in several summer seminars at Björklunden.



Photo by Dan Eggert



Photo by Julie Scharner



Photo by Julie Scharner



Photo by Dan Eggert

UNDERSTANDING ACCREDITATION



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

The Door County Land Trust embarked on the process of becoming accredited nearly five years ago. On August 18, 2016, the Land Trust was awarded the seal of accreditation—a recognition of the quality of land protection work since the Land Trust’s inception in 1986. Preparing for the application and review of the Land Trust’s work required the skill and dedication of many board members and staff. To understand the significance of this new designation, we asked them what accreditation means for the Land Trust.

What is the significance of accreditation? How does it affect the governance of the organization?

CATHY FIORATO, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SECRETARY
 First off—what does accreditation mean? To continue to be a respected and integral

part of the nation’s conservation work, land trusts must uphold the public’s trust in the permanence of their conservation efforts. To this end, an independent organization, the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, has established a process to confirm that land trusts conform to the Land Trust Standards and Practices developed by the Land Trust Alliance as the guiding principles for the operation of land trusts. The Standards and Practices are ethical and technical guidelines intended to strengthen the credibility and effectiveness of individual land trusts and the land trust community as a whole. To maintain accredited status, land trusts provide evidence of continued adherence to the Standards and Practices to the Commission every five years.

For the board of directors, the Standards and Practices provide structure and guidance in the effective conduct of the board’s key governance responsibilities: strategic planning and evaluation, ethics and managing conflict of interest, oversight of finances and operations, and legal compliance. They require a systematic process for recruiting, training, and evaluating board members who have the skills and commitment to undertake these responsibilities.

These requirements have helped the Land Trust’s board to adopt and operate by policies and procedures that support an active, engaged and informed board focused not only on today’s acquisitions, but also on the sustainability of our land management efforts and our organization itself.

The Land Trust’s work has been guided by a thorough land selection and acquisition process designed to last in perpetuity. How will accreditation ensure we uphold our conservation values and that our land protections are permanent?

TERRIE COOPER, DIRECTOR OF LAND PROGRAM
 Accreditation means that landowners, supporters and the community at large can be assured that every decision made to protect a piece of land by the Door County Land Trust is solidly based in our mission, thoroughly vetted, and that all land transactions are being conducted to the highest possible ethical standards and practices. We are in this business forever. Accreditation means we are worthy of your investment, we are a strong, proven organization that meets national standards for excellence, upholds the public trust, and can ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

Conservation easements offer landowners a way to permanently protect their property with the Door County Land Trust. What impact does accreditation have on the Land Trust's conservation easement program?

DREW REINKE, CONSERVATION EASEMENT SPECIALIST
Having surpassed 3,100 acres protected under conservation easement this fall, accreditation provides us with the reassurance that we are following standards that will ensure that the intent of conservation easement grantors lasts in perpetuity.

One of the most frequently used phrases at Land Trust meetings is, "In the interest of continual improvement..." In what ways has accreditation improved our recordkeeping?

JULIE SCHATNER, LAND PROJECT MANAGER You may have heard the Chinese proverb, "The faintest ink is more powerful than the strongest memory." One of the important take-aways we learned from becoming accredited is that it is not enough for an organization to have developed good policies and diligently follow their procedures. We must provide evidence we have followed them through documentation. The process of accreditation gave us the opportunity to take a comprehensive look at our recordkeeping systems, how we document our work and the best practices for safe, long-term storage of important information. Time was spent "extracting" information from people's heads, old emails, and dusty file boxes to organize and store it in a way that will help us preserve our institutional memory over time. The procedures we've put in place combined with a continued organizational focus on

recordkeeping supports the permanence of our conservation work.

Protecting and caring for Door County's most special places requires a foundation of financial support from the community. What assurances does accreditation offer to our community of supporters?

SUSAN GOULD, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR It is important that Land Trust members and donors feel certain they are investing in an organization that can achieve its mission of protecting the lands and waters that they as Land Trust supporters value so much. In addition to our accomplishments in purchasing and caring for the land, accreditation represents yet another piece of evidence that the Door County Land Trust is truly worthy of their support.

We live in one of the state's most biologically rich counties, and we are dedicated to protecting lands and waters in the county so future generations will reap the benefits of clean air and water, a diversity of biological wealth, inspiring natural places to visit and enjoy, and a strong economy that is sustained by land and water protection efforts.

*TERRIE COOPER
DIRECTOR OF LAND PROGRAM*

How does accreditation assure that the policies and procedures that govern the finances of the Land Trust are sound?

KRISTI RICE, OFFICE MANAGER Accreditation requires us to follow many financial and ethical practices. We are required to comply

with state charitable solicitation laws, maintain our records with a GAAP compliant system, and ensure that our board of directors provides proper oversight of our finances. A policy of internal controls and accounting procedures for proper handling of our funds is required, as well as an annual financial audit conducted by an independent and qualified entity.

Directly related to our land acquisitions, we are required to determine the immediate and long term financial needs for our conservation work.

How will accreditation affect the Door County Land Trust's work in the coming years?

TOM CLAY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR For me, being accredited is comparable to land restoration and stewardship. We acquire land and work hard at weeding out what doesn't belong and we work equally hard to maintain diverse and hearty native landscapes. But, as so many of us know, unless we remain vigilant our hard work can quickly slip away. As an accredited land trust we demonstrated that our business is rock solid. However, unless we stay vigilant and adhere to the highest standards of best-practice business management, we too can lose our organizational foothold. Five years from now we will seek renewal from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Between now and then, we will continue working to remain rock-solid and highly respected by our members and by this nation's land trust community.

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

The Chambers Island Nature Preserve is the culmination of broad support from donors both on and off the Island. Together, they have helped to purchase more than 370 acres of the envisioned 1,000-acre nature preserve that will forever protect the core of the island.

Krause Family's Foresight 40 Years Ago Changed the Future of Chambers Island

By Barbara Frank and Mary Brevard, Chambers Island Committee

Reinhart Krause, best known to islanders as Reiny, first came to Chambers Island in 1948 to check out the timber. That was the beginning of the Krause family's story on Chambers, and it continues today.

Owner of the Algoma Lumber Co., Reiny bought 640 acres, including the south point area. "In 1950, he logged pine and hemlock with horses and rafted the logs to Berns Brothers Lumber Co. in Sister Bay," according to his son, Jeff Krause, now a co-owner of Algoma Lumber and manager of the logging operation on the island in 2015. The Krauses also logged Chambers in 1967, 1983 and 2000 along with other logging families, including the Theises, Kruegers and Sperbers.



The Krause family has played a significant role in preserving Chambers Island in its natural state. In the 1970's, Reiny received an attractive offer for his land from someone who wanted to build a resort on the island. "Dad didn't usually ask our opinions about business decisions, but in this case, he asked all of us over for a family meeting to discuss the offer," Reiny's daughter Sharon Krause Busch remembers. "We all wanted to keep the island as it was, so he turned it down."

We have Reiny Krause and his family to thank for their foresight in protecting the island's largest interior chunk of property. It is becoming the core of the Chambers Island Nature Preserve. This decision was consistent with Reiny's attitude toward the land. In 1994, he received the "Award of Excellence in the Wood Industry for Responsible Utilization of our Renewable Resource" from the Lake States Lumber Association.

Reiny was a friend to many on the island and at one point served as president of the Chambers Island Association. "Dad was very friendly," said Sharon. "He was soft-spoken. I don't think I ever heard him raise his voice. We all respected him." Jeff remembers good times on Chambers hunting and fishing with Reiny, who "also enjoyed playing piano, guitar, mandolin and harmonica and, of course, puffing on a good cigar." Later in life, Reiny took up running and won the "Oldest Runner" award in the 5K Chambers Walk/Run. Organized by Cindy Lardinois and Sig Weber, the race celebrated its 40th year in 2016.

Great grandchildren Nora, Cooper, Rex and Lexi carry on the Krause fishing tradition



Reiny Krause with his ubiquitous cigar

Lake MacKaysee
and its two
interior islands



Photo by Drew Reinke

Reiny had a big impact on the younger generation as well. Jeff's son Josh said he and his young family love the island and cherish their friendships there. "When I was younger, I really valued spending time fishing with Grandpa and three months in 1998 building our cabin. Now that I'm older, I enjoy spending time logging on the island with my Dad and brother Ryan, and bringing my family to the island. My children love Chambers much like I did at their age."

Reiny passed away in 2011, and his wife Virginia in 2004, but the Krause legacy continues with the three more generations of their family who have cabins on the island. Sharon started coming to Chambers more frequently after she married her husband, Moss, in 1970. An Algoma Lumber Co. employee, he often worked on the island. (By the way, Moss'

nickname comes from C.W. Moss, getaway driver in the movie "Bonnie and Clyde," whom he resembles.)

Jeff and his wife Terri, and Moss and Sharon plan to be on Chambers for many years to come. Their children enjoy Chambers and come whenever they can. Jeff and Terri are taking over the two family cabins on Lake Mackaysee, one of which formerly belonged to Gene ("Sox") Sperber. Moss and Sharon have a beautiful cabin on Baseline Road across from the barge dock.

Sharon said, "We are happy that the Chambers Island Nature Preserve will keep Chambers as it is, and as nature intended it to be."

The Chambers Island Nature Preserve is an essential component of Door County Land Trust's conservation portfolio. "We spend a lot of time with local and statewide conservation partners, determining the areas of Door County where our work will have the greatest ecological impact," says Terrie Cooper, Director of Land Program. "Chambers Island's contiguous forest of hemlock, red oak and sugar maple and its 300-acre inland lake, Lake Mackaysee, are vital stopover habitat for migratory birds on the Lake Michigan flyway. Protection of the Island's biodiversity, woodlands and shorelines is essential for the thousands of birds that migrate every year from their wintering grounds in central and south America to their nesting habitat in Canada."



Temporary North Bay
logging dock in 1983



CARING FOR THE LAND THROUGH A SYSTEMS APPROACH

By Amanda Pyke, Land Stewardship Manager

To achieve restoration goals and care for land, a systems approach is necessary. Everything is interconnected – water, soils, plants, animals, people... All components of a system rely on one another to survive and carry out natural processes. Energy is transferred from the sun to plants and trees. The energy continues on through the system by eating and being eaten by other living organisms in the food web, all depending on diversity of options available to them.

When non-native species are introduced to a system, such as garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*), native vegetation is displaced and natural processes like the flow of energy are altered. Invasive species take the place of native vegetation. Where there once were spring ephemerals such as spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), and trilliums (*Trillium spp*), there is garlic mustard invading with its allelopathic chemical reaction to inhibit growth of other plants, further disrupting natural processes in the system. Garlic mustard is one of many threatening invasive species.

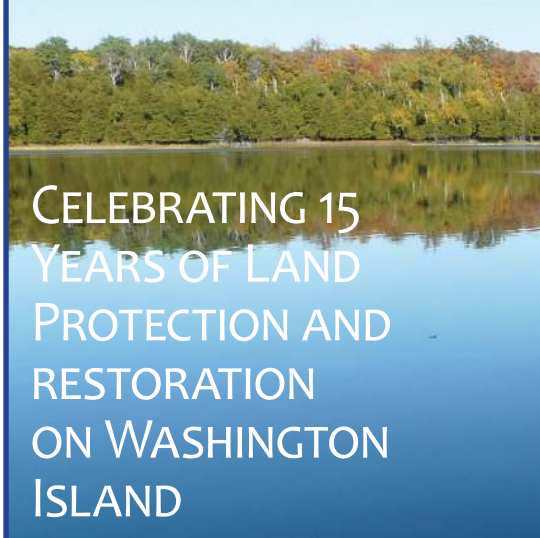
Restoration is a long-term commitment. Invasive species eradication is just the beginning! Depending on the size of the infestation, native species must be reintroduced to the system. In 2016, the Door County Land Trust planted more than 1800 native trees. This will aid in preventing new unwanted invasives from moving in and setting up shop, as well as introduce a native seed bank. Planting native vegetation is an excellent way to assist in invasive species eradication by increasing the density of native species and shading out non-native species.

Restoration efforts do not halt after invasives have been controlled and native vegetation planted. It is an ongoing effort through follow-up treatments of invasive species and monitoring to achieve desired restoration goals. Restoration planning can include an array of different goals such as improving wildlife habitat, reducing soil erosion, or water quality improvements. Biodiversity of native species to a system are key in restoration because all components of a system are interconnected and impact one another.

From top: Peter Sigmann and Rob Watson prepare for tree planting at Three Springs Nature Preserve; Deanna D’Abbraccio and Barbara Morgan remove honeysuckle at Lautenbach Woods Nature Preserve; the Stew Crew poses after removing Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris) at the Three Springs Nature Preserve; Ron Lokken prepares small trees for planting at Lautenbach Woods Nature Preserve.

Photos by Amanda Pyke

Res-to-ra-tion /restə' rāSH(ə)n/
1 the act or process of returning something to its original condition by repairing it, cleaning it 2 the act of bringing back something that existed before 3 the act of returning something that was stolen or taken



CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF LAND PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ON WASHINGTON ISLAND

By Susan Gould, Development Director

2016 Washington Island Gathering and Conversation

At this year’s gathering that was open to the local community and general public, 51 thoughtful individuals assembled at the Farm Museum barn for the annual event hosted by the Door County Land Trust Washington Island Committee. Participants enjoyed lunch and socializing while learning about recent Land Trust accomplishments and upcoming land preservation projects. However, for most of the event, attendees spent time in serious discussions, sharing their best hopes and greatest concerns for protecting this exceptional place they all value.



Photo by Julie Scharfner

“...a life in grateful relationship with the earth...”

The Washington Island Committee chose to use the 2016 annual gathering as an opportunity to gain insights and direction for its future work. Attendees were actively engaged in table discussions groups as they participated in a guided discussion process called “community conversation.” Questions included ...*What kind of community do you want? What kind of environment do you want? What do we need to do to achieve our visions of success?*

Participants expressed their best hopes for Washington Island as a place where environmental quality of land, water and air is maintained, open space is protected, and a healthy environment is ensured for all. Key challenges noted were the impact of economic growth and rapid development on the island community, maintaining attention on environmental issues in light of the need for expanded services and infrastructure improvements, and ensuring whole community engagement, not just the few.

Much of the discussion centered on the role of the Door County Land Trust and the work of the Washington Island Committee, a group now celebrating 15 years of efforts in supporting land protection. Participants called for the Land Trust to continue its work in land acquisitions, particularly shoreline properties, and to connect currently protected areas across the island. Further direction for committee members was to strengthen partnerships with other community groups and make sure the community is aware of the work of the Land Trust and its impact on quality of life on the island. The committee will convene this fall and winter to determine its next steps on Washington Island.

FINDING BEAUTY AND MEANING IN CONSERVATION

NEIL SHADLE, WASHINGTON ISLAND COMMITTEE MEMBER



When I first came to Washington Island in 1969 I was just becoming environmentally aware. I knew of Aldo Leopold, Sigurd Olson, and Gaylord Nelson, and at that

point thought that Wisconsin’s conservation activism had begun with them. Later I learned that Increase Lapham began raising these concerns in Wisconsin in 1836! And that “Fighting Bob” LaFollette and University of Wisconsin President Charles Van Hise were mobilizing conservation resources in the state at the turn of the twentieth century. John Muir grew up in Wisconsin and first gave voice to his environmentalist views here. It came to mean a great deal to me to be a citizen in a state with this kind of progressive legacy.

I found especially meaningful that at the heart of environmental sensibilities in those early days was the sheer beauty of the world around us. We were not yet aware of global warming as a time bomb, of the implications of fossil fuel and population growth, of the urgent necessity of saving the earth itself. It was rather the unadorned refulgence of nature, the gift of it all in full measure to human beings, and our intimate relationship with it, that inspired early preservation efforts. The deepest impulse from the beginning was to save our state’s natural landscape just for the love of it. That sense of the original beauty of this region of the earth—our home—has been and continues to be a primary meaning for Wisconsin lovers of the land, including myself.

The Door County Land Trust has given this deep impulse purposeful development. For me it has been a community of shared passion for the Wisconsin biosphere, and by implication for the natural beauty of all creation. The ultimate meaning of the Land Trust’s efforts, I believe, is that in the face of all the forces working mindlessly to destroy it, the earth yet has its loyal and redeeming friends, and that living an organically integrated, whole human life—that is, a life in grateful relationship with the earth—is still a real possibility, for me, for my children and grandchildren, for everyone.

LEAVING A LEGACY OF LAND

There are fewer and fewer places like Door County in the world. We have an opportunity and an obligation to future generations to identify, protect and care for the special places that make Door County one of the most inspiring places to live and visit. The inclusion of the Land Trust in your estate plan creates a lasting legacy.

By making a gift to the Door County Land Trust through your will or beneficiary designation, you will be welcomed into the Legacy Circle, a group of our benefactors who have indicated that the Land Trust has been included in their estate plans. If you would like more information about Legacy Circle or have already included the Door County Land Trust in your estate plans, please let us know by calling Development Director Susan Gould, (920)746-1359.



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 If we have made an error or
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Dining for Open Spaces is a series of events conceived, planned and implemented by members and for members, to raise funds for land preservation. Thank you for a fantastic and fun year!



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Photo by Pat Kaador

From top left: Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Pierhead Lighthouse; Preparing to depart for the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Adventure; The host crew for the Ship Canal Adventure Dining event; Guests prepare for the Good Ol' Road Rally by viewing Bob Hawley's classic cars collection; Last Man Standing entertains during the Sunset Passage Through Porte des Morts; Washington Island Ferry Line donated the Arni J. Richter for the event; Sunset over Death's Door; Bob Hawley's classic car collection; Plum Island Range Light; Penny Beermtsen (Sunset Passage host), Barbara Goldberg, Gina Deschler (Sunset Passage host); and Pat Kaldor (co-host and decorations).

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Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters Forever

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“We were not yet aware of ... the urgent necessity of saving the earth itself. It was rather the unadorned refulgence of nature, the gift of it all in full measure to human beings, and our intimate relationship with it, that inspired early preservation efforts.”

Neil Shadle, Washington Island Committee Member
Read more on page 13.