

Landings

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

News
Splash
Winter 2020-2021

Members make a difference! Thank you for protecting the lands, waters, and wildlife that make Door County so special.

Conservation Stories: Thanks to You...

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Door County Land Trust

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

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

Our Conservation Family Story

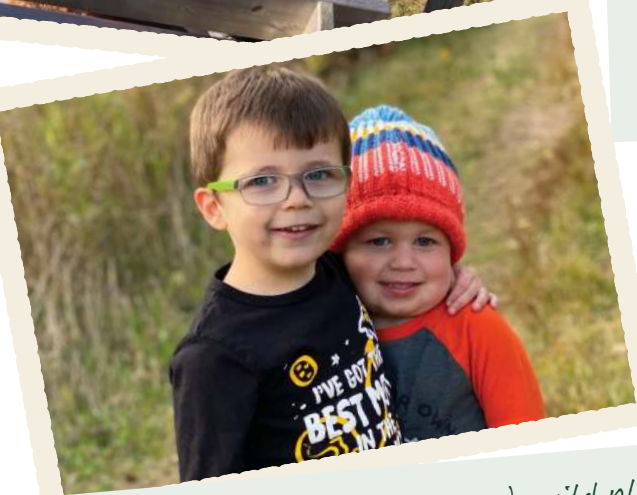
It takes a lot of love to protect Door County's exceptional lands and waters!
Send your notes and stories to giving@doorcountylandtrust.org



We enjoyed some fall colors at the Kangaroo Lake Nature Preserve. Kudos to the Door County Land Trust for all they do to preserve this beautiful land for us and future also many great hikes practically in our back yard! -Tim Markus



Took a tour of many Door County Land Trust properties last winter and had the best time! There is so much diversity, wildlife, beauty, and wonder to find while hiking your trails. So grateful for the important work you all do! - Siena Muehlfeld



I am grateful for Door County's wild places because they help me to instill a love of nature and care of the Earth to my boys. They give us family time, and time to take a break from the fast paced world around us and enjoy the moment together. Door County has many wild places and we love them all!

- The Marten Family



You make new friends while hiking Door County's wild places. Little Lake trails are my favorite!! - Janell Cleland



I'm grateful for Door County's wild places because they remind me of the nature and peacefulness we fell in love with. Thank you for keeping Door County an amazing and wonderful place. - Marilyn Marlow

A friend and I were hiking at Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve. It was so warm that the snow on the evergreens was melting and raining down on us. The drops sparkled like diamonds in the sun. - Joan Lautenbach

thank you!

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



A Vision for Door County...

In early 2020, Door County Land Trust set its sights on ambitious land protection goals! So far this year, the Land Trust has protected new parcels at Gibraltar-Ephraim Swamp Natural Area and Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area, and has created a new conservation easement to protect a crucial wildlife corridor near Baileys Harbor. And our work is not done yet! By year's end, several more properties will be permanently protected. With the help of members and donors like you, it will be possible to preserve these special places.



Gibraltar-Ephraim Swamp Natural Area

The Land Trust is nearing acquisition of three additional properties totaling 95 acres. These lands include cedar swamp, coastal wetlands, springs, and streams, as well as extraordinary wildlife habitat for migratory birds. We hope to complete the acquisition of two of these properties before the champagne corks pop on New Year's Eve, and one property shortly after.



Washington Island Coastal Wetland Complex

Two properties within the Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area complex have already been protected this year and one more property at Coffey Swamp Natural Area will be permanently protected by December. Coastal wetlands on Washington Island provide important migratory bird habitat. Door County's best boreal rich fens, home to many rare plants, are found on Washington Island.



Southern Door Creek Beds and Watersheds

The Land Trust is working to improve the water quality flowing into Lake Michigan and Green Bay. While far from complete, a rapidly emerging opportunity to protect more than 40 acres in an important watershed in Southern Door is within reach. Land Trust member and community support is urgently needed to move quickly on this critical land protection.

How you can help...

Grants from state and federal funding sources often provide only a portion of the funds needed. We rely on members and donors like you to help fund the remaining conservation costs. With your help, the Land Trust can protect the lands and waters that benefit both wildlife and our community. Please renew your membership or make a special gift today to protect the places where life thrives on the Door Peninsula, its islands, and surrounding waters.

WILD WETLANDS

Legends, Landowners, and Loving Door County

There are many of those places that, for many of Door County's citizens, haven't felt like they're missing a lack of interesting local lore. It's the kind of place that inspires mystery and legend. Rumors that a twin engine plane crashed and sank in the fen may or may not be true. Even Door County's ghost tours mention with certainty, that if you're near Kellner Fen, you won't escape a good haunting from the ghosts of a woman, her three children, and their murderous father.

But, legends aside, Kellner Fen is a magical place that few have seen or heard of just because it is surrounded by wetlands, dense shrub layers, and thick cedar forests. Kellner Fen has floating mosses and sedge grasses whose interwoven growth creates a mat that provides the ideal habitat for a host of rare plants. Without soils to nourish plants on the sedge mat, it is home only to those plants that have adapted. The carnivorous pitcher plant can be found growing on the mat, earning its nutrients from the unwitting insects that can't escape from its watery trap.

Kellner Fen is also an ideal habitat for the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly, which is found nowhere on earth, save for a handful of places around the Midwest. In Door County, Hine's emerald dragonfly can be found in several spring-fed wetlands, including those at Kellner Fen.

Door County Land Trust is pleased to announce a new chapter to be added to the legendary story of Kellner Fen. This December, (just in time for Christmas!) Jim Janning, who served on Door County Land Trust's Board of Directors, and his wife Donna, will be donating a 40-acre property near the heart of the fen.



Left, a carnivorous pitcher plant with its dinner; a haunted tree is home for birds, fungi, and insects; mossy hummocks and wetlands surround the fen.



While Jim served on the Board of Directors in 2005, Door County Land Trust had the opportunity to protect several parcels within Kellner Fen, but didn't have the resources at the time. Jim and Donna offered to purchase two properties and hold them until the Land Trust was in a position to purchase them. In 2012, the Jannings sold one property—at a greatly reduced price—to the Land Trust as a partial donation. Over the years, as their love of Door County and respect for the Land Trust have grown, they came to the decision to donate the second property.

While this land donation to Kellner Fen will not be completed until late December, Door County Land Trust wishes to thank Donna and Jim Janning for their extraordinary contribution to the preservation and legacy of Door County. Their role as conservation buyers and Land Trust supporters is a marvelous example of how a love for Door County inspires generosity.

The story of Kellner Fen is not yet over. More land within the area is yet to be protected. And, the Land Trust must raise the funding necessary to maintain and care for the land once it is protected. When you make a special gift to Door County Land Trust this year, your gift helps to care for this wonderful donation of land at Kellner Fen and will help to protect more land in the future. It takes a community to protect Door County's extraordinary lands and waters now and forever.



Photo by Lisa Rosebush Heftrix



Photo by Jamie Palmer



Photo by Siena Muehfeld

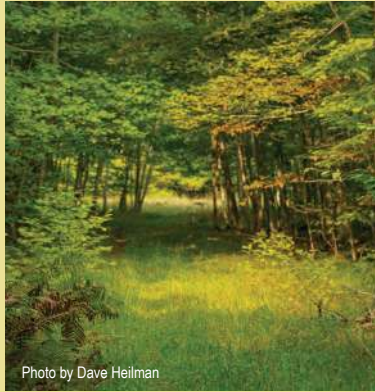


Photo by Dave Heilman

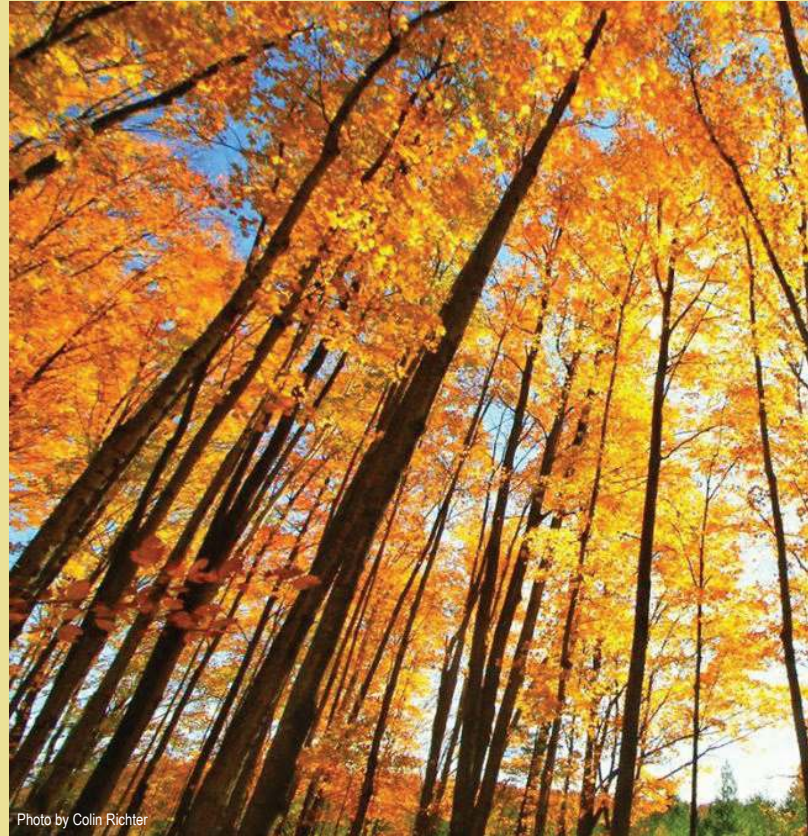


Photo by Colin Richter



Photo by Jeff O'Keefe

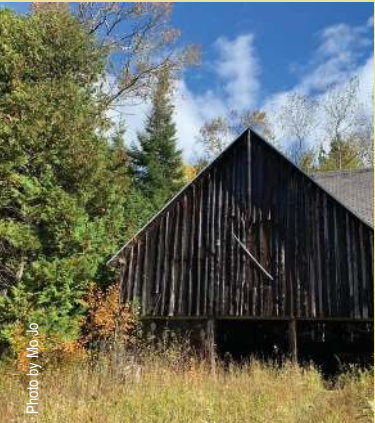


Photo by Major



Photo by Chris Kruse



Photo by Joe Taylor



Photo by Dan Eggert



Photo by Dave Heilman



Photo by Katie Vandenberg



FOUR SEASONS

by Dale Goodner

When the snow flies, Arctic birds consider Door Peninsula and Lake Michigan part of the sunny south. Many overwinter here. This is when you can see among evergreen trees, such birds as northern shrike, redpolls, pine grosbeaks, juncos, crossbills, and tree sparrows—none of which normally grace our area in summer.

Along the Lake Michigan shore, watch for the white wing flash of snow buntings. On the open water of the lake, you may be surprised to see several kinds of diving ducks. One in particular is a favorite...the beautiful long-tailed duck (which nests in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge).

Winter trails can be clear or snowy. Watch the snow for signs of mammals...for example, red fox tracks. Their trails tend to be in fairly straight lines, no more than three and a quarter inches wide. A faint, pungent, almost skunk-like odor on a winter breeze may be another tell-tale sign you are passing through red fox territory. Last year I saw tracks of the predatory fisher on the snow at Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve. Fishers are one of the only animals that hunt porcupines.

Starting in early April you will find yourself surrounded by sounds of spring. Wood frogs greet you with their croaking cacophony coming from ponds where they are busy producing this year's generation of tadpoles. Other frogs and toads take over for them as April morphs into May.

Gradually in spring, birds return to their nesting areas. Avian songs echo among trees, as they have for millennia. Perhaps the most beautiful and haunting are the flute-like songs of hermit thrush and wood thrush. Take a few moments and just listen.

This symphony of sound is given against a backdrop of countless spring flowers from the delicate gold thread to the large-flowered trillium as May becomes June.

We transition to summer. In late June shady trails of summer woodlands beckon. Notice the ever-present halting songs of red-eyed vireo. Cool breezes off the lake, and soft sibilant winds whispering through pine, hemlock, birch, and maple, will fill you with peace.

At last, autumn. At many Land Trust nature preserves, trails take you through a world of fall color. Immerse yourself in the yellows and reds of maples, the tawny tones of oak, the bright scarlet of stag-horn sumac, and the golden glow of tamarack.

All four seasons have something waiting to be discovered.



Photo by Karie Martens

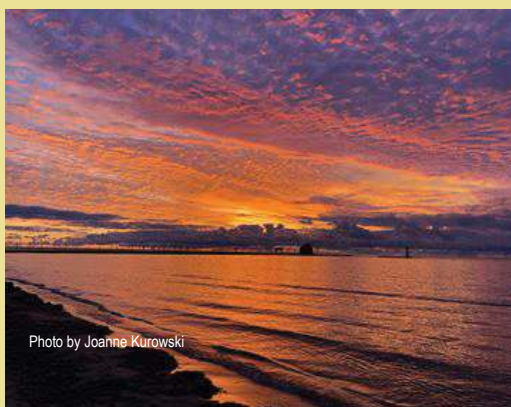


Photo by Joanne Kurowski

Door County's Beauty is Magnetic



'Step up for conservation' and we'll send you a gift!

These beautiful magnets are donated by David Heilman, Door County Land Trust volunteer photographer.

David says, "When you join or increase your annual membership by \$50 or more by December 31, you will receive one of my favorite Land Trust images on a large refrigerator magnet. This will help to protect the places we love in Door County and provide you with a daily reminder of how beautiful Door County is. It will also make you and your refrigerator very happy. Sounds like a win-win to me... a happy fridge and a healthy, beautiful environment!"

A Heartfelt Thank You

In this season of giving and gratitude, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who have given this year and in years past. It is truly thanks to you, the Land Trust's conservation family, that our preservation of Door County continues and grows each passing year.

The work that the Land Trust has accomplished is far greater than any one person or any one member. We thank you and fellow members of every level, generous volunteers past and present, and committed neighbors and landowners across the peninsula who have helped to accomplish the remarkable work of protecting this beautiful grand peninsula.

Thank you!!!

Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve



Gibraltar Ephraim Swamp State Natural Area, by Joe Taylor

Join us in thanking our Annual Business Members!



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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Alibi Marina and Harbor Guest House | Door Landscape & Nursery | Hatch Distilling Company | Terra Cottages |
| Ashbrooke Hotel | EcoDoor, LLC | Impressions Printing and Graphics | Dr Timothy Tishler, DDS |
| Blue Dolphin House | Ecology | Jack and Jill's Landscaping | True North Real Estate |
| Brilliant Marketing | First Light Arts, Jim Perry | Out of the Woods Woodworking, Curt Wessel | Wagon Trail Campground |
| Brown County Graphics | Glidden Lodge Beach Resort | Pinkert Law Firm, LLP | Washington Island Ferry Line |
| Door County Eye Associates | The Garden Lady, Beth Coleman | RentShadowLawn.com | Wickman House Restaurant |
| Door County Nature Works | Gills Rock Stoneware | Ross Estate Planning | Zero Sum Door County Smoothie and Juice Bar |
| Door County Premium Rentals | Grasse's Grill | Sunnypoint Landscape | |

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