

# Landings

A Newsletter for Door County Land Trust Members

News Splash  
Winter 2022/2023



John and Xan Fischer

**Inside:**  
**The Fischer Family Challenge**  
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**Springs Nature Preserve viewing deck**

Heins Creek Nature Preserve  
Photo: Rob Watson

News about the places you help protect

A photo here, a note there tell the story of what protecting Door County's exceptional lands and waters means to you! Send your images and comments to [photos@doorcountylantrust.org](mailto:photos@doorcountylantrust.org).

# Trail Mix



Photos by Sande Soloman



Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal photo by Jamie Palmer

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



Photo by Marji Andrae



We returned from a Door County vacation in which we had the pleasure of trekking a number of trails on Land Trust lands. Thank you for establishing these and other trails...Thank you for the work that's being done in preserving Door County lands and for preserving an appreciation of the beauty of Door County. -Tim Jorgenson

From the moment you park your car at the roadside you know you are headed to an off-the-beaten path destination. You descend four makeshift log steps and traverse an ancient rocky shoreline to the Little Lake Nature preserve sign. Here the trail opens into a blast of fall colors of deciduous and pine trees. The hike's reward is at the end of the 1.5 mi. trail. There is a smooth stone opening between the Green Bay beach side to the naturally occurring embayment Little Lake to the east. Both Little Lake and the stone beach were beautifully uncrowded. This hike is a treasure with a great destination at the end. - Marji Andrae



Bayshore Blufflands photo by Susan Baus

I really appreciate the mission of the Land Trust and what you do for Door County so I'm happy to share images of your preserves when I can! -Susan Baus

## From Executive Director, Emily Wood

A connection to place is a powerful thing, especially in Door County.

My parents visited Door County for the first time recently. I was able to see the enchantment of this magnificent area wash over new eyes. Sailboats, drawbridges, harbors, and cherries are not on the daily checklist for Hoosiers\*. We strolled the ancient rolling landscape of the ridges and swales, hiked the evergreen trails of the boreal forest, and stared at the hypnotizing waves rolling up to the beaches.

They get it—my family witnessed firsthand the power of this place.

From what I can tell, it seems that it does not matter how long you have been here. The feeling of being awestruck by a sunset, a bluff overlook, or the passing of a dragonfly is just as revelatory as the first.

As you can see in this edition of *Landings*, the power of place in Door County spans generations and inspires the future of our work. We collect and protect these special moments when we protect the land.

Every acre tells a story unique to the property where it resides. We are so pleased to share a few of the stories your support makes possible, and to thank you for being a part of the community that ensures these stories never end.

Yours in conservation,



\*Any time someone refers to a person from Indiana as an “Indianan”, somewhere a basketball deflates.)



## Open for Winter Hiking!

The following nature preserves will be open for hikers this winter with access through plowed parking lots. Please enjoy!

**Bay Shore Blufflands:** 5454 Bay Shore Dr., (Cty B) & 5519 Reynolds Rd., Egg Harbor

**Heins Creek:** 7112 Highway 57, Baileys Harbor

**Legacy at Clay Banks:** 1188 South Lake Michigan Drive, Sturgeon Bay

**Lautenbach Woods:** 6749 County Road G, Egg Harbor

**Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal:** 5200 Lake Lane, Sturgeon Bay

**Three Springs:** 10442 Three Springs Road, Sister Bay

Join us! **For the Birds**  
Saturday, December 3, 10AM-2PM  
Sister Bay Village Hall

**FREE** Birdseed Ornament Kits • Hot Chocolate

**Tips for Winter Birding & the Christmas Bird Count**



Thank you to  
our sponsor!



# Honoring a Lifelong Love of Nature

Harold Deutsch, Phd., lived

almost a century but every day of his life was underscored with his boyish zeal for experiencing nature in the wild. It was a passion he eagerly shared with his wife, Regine; daughter, Carolyn Friedl, and Carolyn's husband, Mike.

The Harold F. Deutsch Overlook at Three Springs Nature Preserve.

Their joyful memories of Harold are so intertwined with times the trio spent with him in the outdoors, they decided to donate funds to the Door County Land Trust in his honor.

The donation was earmarked to improve the lookout deck at Three Springs Nature Preserve outside of Sister Bay. It was the deck's vantage point that overlooks the water that Harold wanted to visit most in the remaining few days of his life.

"It was very important that the view was in the middle of nature," Regine said. "He loved it. The swamp, the dragonflies. It means something."

Harold was born and raised in Door County. He left at the age of 16 for studies at Marquette University and then UW Madison where he received his Phd. He was a faculty member of the Department of Physiological Chemistry (now Molecular Biology). He later became a professor at the UW Medical School and acted as a consultant for universities and health organizations throughout the world.

But childhood experiences of an outdoor life rich in hunting, fishing, and exploration left their mark. Harold and his family would venture back to Door County on the weekends so he could commune with nature once again.

"He loved to be in the wild almost from the very beginning," Regine said. "At 10 years old he would go camping by himself on land that became Potawatomi State Park. He'd buy eggs from local farmers and make pancakes. His father would go out and check on him, lifting the tent flap to look inside and make sure he was all right."

Some outdoor experiences from his youth were not of his choosing. "He couldn't swim, but he learned when someone threw him into the bay!" Carolyn said. "He became a lifeguard in Door County and taught swimming. He swam every day that he could his entire life. People would say, 'there goes Harold,' as he swam a mile or more."

One of Harold's defining characteristics was his propensity for the off-trail experience—no matter what time of year. A simple hike would often turn into an hours-long search to find a way back to the car. In the winter, he preferred to

Article and Photo by Kay McKinley



Deutsch family photo

cross-country ski among the trees or on the ice instead of groomed trails. In the warmer months, mushroom hunting was always on the outdoor agenda.

"We got 80 pounds of chanterelles one summer," Carolyn

said. "We were always hunting for them—morels, shaggy manes—whatever was edible."

Harold's rarefied palate also included whitefish livers and the game and fish he personally provided. Knowing that with her husband's prolific hunting habit she would never shop for meat, Regine bought a German cookbook for the preparation of wild game. Venison, rabbit, and occasionally raccoon were on the menu for dinner parties.

"Where I grew up [in Germany], eating wild meat was considered a delicacy for the wealthy; I had an open mind," she explained. "We wouldn't tell guests what meat we

were serving until they told us how delicious it was. We'd then tell them that it was raccoon."

Carolyn adds, "They never said anything, but I'm sure they discussed it in the car on the way home."

From cutting his own firewood with his beloved chainsaw, to camping in less than ideal conditions, it would be hard to pinpoint Harold's favorite outdoor activity. His daughter and son-in-law suggested Harold's love of fishing as a top contender.

"Mike and I bought a boat (his was too small) so we could take him to the banks and around the peninsula fishing," Carolyn said. "We caught lots of salmon and our favorite perch. We'd hear a knock on our window sometimes at 3AM ready to go!"

"Harold wanted to fish no matter rain, fog, or tornadoes... and no matter what time," Mike said. 'Hope springs eternal' he'd always say."

Door County Land Trust thanks Regine Deutsch and Carolyn and Mike Friedl for their generous donation to name the Harold F. Deutsch Overlook in Harold's memory.

# Accept the Fischer Family Challenge

Article and Photo by Kay McKinley

The children of Anne Fischer are putting forth a challenge to those who value the future of Door County's wild spaces. The Fischer Family's goal is to inspire fellow members to give generously before December 15, 2022 in order to match their \$350,000 grant.

Childhood memories of immersing themselves in the wilderness around what is now Shivering Sands Nature Preserve and their mother's love for the outdoors prompted them to make a gift in her honor. According to John Fischer, the challenge makes the family's donation even more meaningful.

"If we don't invest in conservation, no one is going to be paying attention," John said. "We'll have all sorts of environmental problems, like Shivering Sands' former issue of poor water quality. Donating to the Land Trust allows land to be put aside, with people paying attention to its care—the land will stay wild and it will be protected."

In 1969, when John's parents were living in Elmhurst, Illinois, they bought a vacation home on Glidden Drive near Shivering Sands. "I'd run off in the morning and be by the creek all day," he said. "I'd find ways to occupy myself in the woods. It was



John and Xan Fischer

woods, to embrace it all and get out of the house," he said. "Mom loved Door County and was planning to spend the remainder of her life here. We wanted to remember her with something we thought she'd enjoy."

John and his wife, Xan, have taken his mother's advice to heart with an active outdoor lifestyle that includes biking, paddling, and kayaking. They have a goal to hike all the Land Trust preserves before they head to their home in Colorado this winter.

The Fischer siblings still have special ties to Door County. John's sister Jennifer settled here with her husband, Dennis Schermerhorn. His brother, Dean, now owns a home on Glidden Drive and his sister Nancy Hetem continues to visit.

*"If you love Door County and everything that it has to offer, donating to the Land Trust's efforts to save wild places is an appropriate gift. For us, protecting Door County's wild places is how you keep Door County special." —John Fischer*

a formative part of my childhood. The only thing that would get me out was my mother dragging me to summer YMCA camp. I was a feral child."

In more recent years, John took note of the natural restoration of Shivering Sands. He also discovered through research how similar that property was to Kellner Fen Natural Area, which is close to his current home on Lake Forest Park Road. "The Land Trust, WI-DNR, and The Nature Conservancy have done wonderful work together with the Shivering Sands wetlands," John said. "We wished to contribute to the Land Trust's efforts to do for Kellner Fen what has been done for Shivering Sands."

Shivering Sands offers a tug at John's heart for not only his early memories of summers spent in nature, but also—as the youngest of the four children—the time he spent at the family cottage alone with his mother.

"It was important to her that we get plenty of time outdoors in Door County, with daily walks on the beach, hikes in the

"If you love Door County and everything that it has to offer, donating to the Land Trust's efforts to save the wild places is an appropriate gift," John said. "For us, protecting Door County's wild places is how you keep Door County special."

Xan adds, "It's going to help nature and wildlife. The more we can get people to donate, the better."

**The Fischer Family challenges you to donate generously with your membership or year-end donation to Door County Land Trust. Donations given by December 15, 2022 count toward matching the Fischers' \$350,000 grant to help keep Door County's special places wild and beautiful. Learn more and donate online at [www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org/Challenge](http://www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org/Challenge).**

**The Land Trust thanks the Fischer Family for their generous commitment to protecting the peninsula's wilderness—and their vision to inspire further conservation efforts through their challenge gift.**

# Land Trust Awarded Grant to Protect Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Habitat

By Jesse Koyen, Land Stewardship Director

Door County Land Trust was awarded a Midwest Coastal Grant from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) in the amount of \$196,736 to conduct invasive species control at Kellner Fen Natural Area. The control of these plants directly relates to protecting the Hine's emerald dragonfly (HED) (*Somatochlora hineana*) in Door County, where an estimated 2/3 of the world's population lives. Within that population, Kellner Fen is one of eleven areas on the peninsula identified as critical breeding habitat for these dragonflies.

Other than protecting the direct loss of habitat due to development, removal of invasive species to restore ecological processes that threaten HED populations is the most important thing we can do to protect them.

The HED is the only resident Federally endangered animal in Door County. The habitat requirements for HED are what make these insects so rare: marshes and sedge meadows fed by calcareous groundwater seepage and underlain by dolomite bedrock.



Photo by Paul Burton

Previously, restoration work at Kellner Fen was conducted solely on the fen mat and the edge of the wet forest within the HED critical breeding habitat. Since 2014, the Land Trust has acquired an additional 120+ acres at Kellner Fen, including the southwest portion of the fen mat and corresponding HED critical breeding habitat.

The USFWS grant will allow the Land Trust to greatly expand on previous invasive species control work, by not only re-treating previous restoration areas, but by increasing habitat restoration efforts to the entire Kellner Fen Natural Area. Due to HED foraging well beyond their breeding locations, enhancing the entire natural area will benefit the species by restoring native ecological processes, stopping succession of woody invasive species, creating a buffer for future work, and improving foraging habitat.

Thanks to membership donations, the Land Trust met the necessary matching contribution for this grant. THANK YOU for supporting critical habitat improvements like these.



Kellner Fen photo by Jeff Davis

## A Fond Farewell from Our Land Protection Director

A letter from Julie Shartner



Julie Shartner at the most recent Annual Gathering in August. Kay McKinley photo

Dear Friends in Conservation, As my time working at the Door County Land Trust ends, I have been reflecting on the highlights of my past sixteen years here. Two words come to mind that best sum up how I feel—proud and grateful. I am so proud of the important conservation work we've accomplished together and the network of protected lands we leave as our legacy. And so grateful for the wonderful people I've met on this journey—landowners,

supporters, and kindred spirits— whose commitment to conservation has inspired me.

Over the past sixteen years I have watched the staff of the Door County Land Trust grow from six to twelve and our protected lands grow from 4,000 acres to nearly 9,000 acres.

We've strengthened our organization through Land Trust Alliance Accreditation. I've witnessed our organization answer the call of the community to protect its most beloved places through ambitious and challenging projects, including the Ship Canal, Three Springs, Chambers Island and Pebble Beach. Our efforts have provided refuge for plants and animals that have called this peninsula and its islands home long before humans arrived. Likewise, our efforts have offered refuge for our human community, providing places to explore and reconnect with the rhythms of nature. We've shown ourselves to be a committed and cooperative group that time and again rise to the occasion to protect what we love. And as I step away, I see a strong and vibrant organization positioned to continue great conservation work.

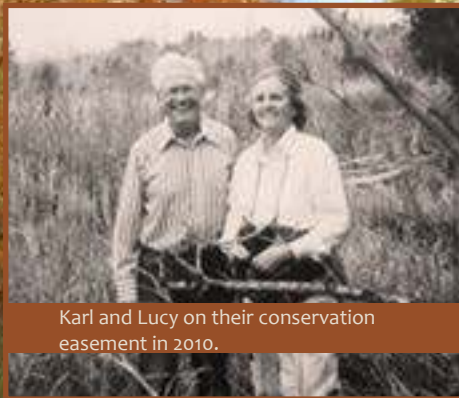
So with that, I wish you a fond farewell! Know that I am not going far and will be cheering the Door County Land Trust on as a conservation partner in my new role protecting land throughout Wisconsin with The Nature Conservancy.

With heartfelt gratitude and best wishes,  
Julie Schartner, Land Protection Director

# The BENEFITS of a CONSERVATION EASEMENT

By Drew Reinke,  
Conservation Easement  
Program Manager

Photo of North Maple Road  
by Drew Reinke



Karl and Lucy on their conservation easement in 2010.



Lucy at the stone wall that borders the conservation easement on her property. Photo by Kay McKinley

*"Some people think that having a conservation easement is limiting. Karl and I have found that the conservation easement has given us a fascinating time over the last 26 years. We've watched Mother Nature do her thing and seen the consequences: the wildlife that seem to thrive here, and the shelter and food that they gained from the reforestation of our meadow."*  
- Lucy Klug

Donated conservation easements offer a win-win for conservation and landowners. Land Trust conservation easement agreements expand land protection and connect protected lands while the property remains in landowners' private ownership. As the only accredited land trust in Door County that currently makes these individualized arrangements with landowners, the Land Trust now protects over a third of its nearly 9,000 acres through 75 conservation easements.

How do conservation easements work? A conservation easement honors landowners' wishes by protecting the land via the terms of the conservation easement in perpetuity. Often these terms reflect a landowner's wishes to preserve wilderness areas or prevent a property from being developed. An annual monitoring visit by Land Trust staff ensures the terms of the conservation easement agreements are upheld—even when land is sold or donated in the future.

As Door County Land Trust continues conservation efforts on the Door County peninsula, conservation easement partners play an ever-increasing role. While many wild and undeveloped lands are yet to be protected, conservation easements are the key to protecting land adjacent to wilderness areas.

An example of successful collaboration with landowners is the Kangaroo Lake area. Take a drive over the causeway on Kangaroo Lake and look to the north. As far as one can see, the landscape is protected through partnership with conservation easement donors, the Door County Land Trust, and The Nature Conservancy. Multiple privately-owned conservation easements in this area adjoin lands owned by The Nature Conservancy and Door County Land Trust, creating habitat connectivity that is vital for wildlife and healthy ecosystems and playing a role in improved water quality.

Throughout the county, conservation easements help to protect contiguous forest and wildlife corridors. Other landscapes where conservation easements play a major role are Mud Lake Wildlife Area, Mink River Estuary, Gibraltar-Ephraim Swamp, and Gardner Swamp, where nearby easement acreage almost equals that of the swamp itself.

More land protection work—especially privately owned conservation easements in key landscapes—will ensure Door County's wildlife have protected places to roam forever. Conservation easement donors are true heroes in the protection of places that bridge nature preserves and wilderness areas.

For more information about donated conservation easement agreements, please visit [www.doorcountylantrust.org/easement](http://www.doorcountylantrust.org/easement) and be sure to read our Frequently Asked Questions about conservation easements under the About Us tab.

# Door County Land Trust Gift Shop

The Land Trust has plenty of gift ideas for the holidays. **Hats, shirts, and eco-themed books** are thoughtful items for nature lovers on your list. Purchase holiday gifts before December 10.

Looking for a gift that lasts forever? Consider a **Gift Membership** to the Door County Land Trust!

Help preserve Door County's wild and ecologically important places... forever! A Gift Membership is a great way to honor your children, grandchildren, spouse, friends, and even co-workers or employees—anyone and everyone you know who loves Door County! Gift membership levels begin at \$35.

Purchase a gift membership online and we will notify the recipient that you have made a gift in their honor. Their Gift Membership includes a new member packet with a Door County Land Trust decal for their vehicle, a Land Trust nature preserve hiking map, the *Landings* newsletter, invitations to special events and, of course, our sincere thanks. For Gift Memberships of \$100 or more, your recipient(s) will also receive a packet of beautiful notecards depicting four Door County Land Trust nature preserves.

**Purchase gifts, including memberships, online at [www.doorcountylantrust.org/giftshop](http://www.doorcountylantrust.org/giftshop). To beat the holiday rush, please order merchandise by December 10.**



## Join us in thanking our Annual Business Members!

List your business here! Please contact Director of Charitable Giving Cinnamon Rossman at (920) 746-1359 or [giving@doorcountylantrust.org](mailto:giving@doorcountylantrust.org).



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- Bridge Up Brewing Company
- Camp Store At Nicolet Beach
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- Door Landscape & Nursery
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**Door County Land Trust**  
Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters...Forever

Even though our office has moved,  
our mailing address remains the same!

Mail: PO Box 65, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235  
Visit us at (no mail): 217 N. Fourth Avenue, Sturgeon Bay

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