



NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

HELP LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR THE NORTHWOODS

P.O. Box 321, Eagle River, WI 54521-0321

April 2005

Protecting an old homestead by Snipe Lake, Vilas County

Protecting an old homesteaded farm by Snipe Lake in the Town of Cloverland, Vilas County, has become a family affair. Sisters Joann Kindt (Oshkosh, WI) and Ellen McKenzie (Los Altos, CA) have partnered together with the Northwoods Land Trust to permanently protect the 16-acre farmstead that has been in their extended family for generations.

The entire section where the farmstead is located was homesteaded by the Wons family (see also the Memorial on page 4). Ruby and Tony Wons (Ellen and Joann's Aunt and Uncle) lived on and farmed the property for many years.

Joann and Ellen visited the property during the summers and loved it. "I remember the first time being there at Snipe Lake when I was three years old," said Ellen. "There is a beautiful barn and outbuildings, and the house is delightful. At first there was no electricity or running water. We had an old hand pump, but the well has wonderful water. And it was always an adventure to use the biffy," she explained.

Ellen did stay at the farmstead a couple of winters helping her aunt. "It got down to 32 below," she said. "That was an adventure, especially trying to get the car started." One of Joann's highlights was going to the property to cut one of the small pines to take home for a Christmas tree.

According to Ellen, their father and mother (Mark and Titania Hill Kindt) were great nature lovers. "Our father used to take us out on hikes to look at the flowers, trees, birds and other wildlife. He had a deep love of nature."

When the immediate family could no longer keep the property, Joann and Ellen stepped in to buy it. Ellen

remembered: "I looked at my sister and said 'Let's buy it.' She said, 'Well, all right.' We knew what we loved."

Joann taught art at UW-Oshkosh and Ellen taught music (piano) privately in California. They would go up every summer and stay for three months. Their love of nature and the property led both sisters become members of The Nature Conservancy and other wildlife organizations, and members of the Northwoods Land Trust. They started thinking about protecting the land with a permanent land protection agreement known as a conservation easement.

"We both agreed we wanted to keep the property from becoming a condo or gas station or shopping mall," Ellen said. "We want to keep it for nature, and prevent it from being subdivided and developed."

According to Northwoods Land Trust Executive

(Continued on page 2)



Sisters Joann Kindt and Ellen McKenzie have protected a family homestead near Snipe Lake in Vilas County with a perpetual conservation easement.

mission:

The Northwoods Land Trust (NWLTT) promotes conservation by private landowners of natural shorelands, woodlands, wetlands and other natural resources, as public benefits for present and future generations. The Northwoods Land Trust covers areas of Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence, Iron and Price Counties.

Phone: (715) 479-2490 Email: nwlt@northwoodslandtrust.org Web site: www.northwoodslandtrust.org

Northwoods Land Trust

Purpose:

- To provide education and utilize voluntary conservation options with private landowners.
- To preserve natural shorelands on lakes, rivers and other waterways for protection of water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, erosion control, and natural scenic beauty.
- To conserve private woodlands and encourage landowners to manage their forest lands in an ecologically sustainable manner.
- To accept perpetual stewardship for secure conservation agreements with private landowners, such as easements, land donations and property acquisitions.
- To annually monitor NWLT land protection agreements.
- To seek support through donations, grants, endowments memberships and volunteers.
- To leverage our conservation efforts through partnering with other organizations and agencies.

NWLT Logo: Carolyn Burch
Newsletter Editor: Bryan Pierce



Sisters Joann Kindt (right) and Ellen McKenzie protected the homesteaded property.

Old Homestead *(continued from page 1)*

Director Bryan Pierce, the land protection agreement conserves a maturing stand of mixed northern hardwood and coniferous forest habitat, pine plantations, plus old fields undergoing natural succession.

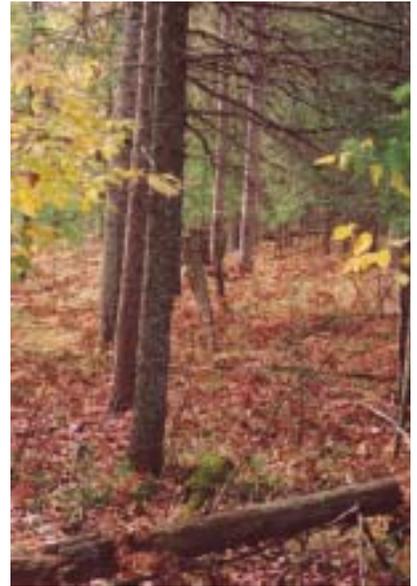
“This diversity of habitats makes it a great place to observe wildlife,” he noted. The conservation agreement also provides protection for the Snipe Lake watershed.

Naturalist John Bates conducted an ecological assessment of the property. “The Kindt-McKenzie property contains numerous snags and old wolf trees, most of which are well utilized by woodpeckers,” Bates noted. “Some 30 cavity nesting species in northern Wisconsin seek out these holes and loose bark, from brown creepers to wood ducks to northern saw-whet owls.” Funding assistance for the assessment was provided in part by a grant from the Northeast Wisconsin Audubon Society’s WeatherFriend Land Fund.

Preserving the land for Joann and Ellen means protecting the things they have enjoyed the most - the natural beauty and peace and quiet. “It is so incredibly beautiful,” said Ellen. “I hope it is safe and will stay there forever.” She would like her three children – Alison (Mahoney), Robert and James – to be able to come and enjoy the property just the way it used to be.

“We wanted this to be a place where nature could stay,” Ellen explained. “I think we are losing touch with the world, with what grows. You don’t want this area to become the way it is everywhere else in the world with asphalt and high rises. I feel dreadfully sorry for kids who grow up in the cities and never see the stars. I think they lose their appreciation of beauty and a sense of the earth.” Ellen also has a message for other landowners considering protecting their property: “Blessings on you. Go ahead and do it and preserve this beauty that is fast vanishing. I hope you feel the joy and pleasure that comes from protecting your land.”

The Northwoods Land Trust is a member- and volunteer-supported non-profit conservation organization. We welcome new members and other contributors who want to encourage private land conservation in the northwoods,” said Pierce. For more information on protecting family lands and conservation agreements, contact Pierce at (715) 479-2490.



Sixteen acres of mixed northern forest and old fields provide a diversity of wildlife habitats.



You Can Help!

The Northwoods Land Trust is a non-profit, tax exempt conservation organization. Your gifts of cash, stocks, bonds or other financial support are fully tax deductible as charitable contributions under federal law. Donations of property or conservation easements may also provide tax benefits while promoting the conservation of our northwoods.

Ed Drager names NWLT in his Will

NWLT recently received the following exceptional letter in the mail from Founding Board member Ed Drager. We are sharing it here with Ed's permission:

"Dear Bryan,

I am in the process of revising my last will and testament, and wanted to advise you and the Land Trust that I am making the Land Trust the residual beneficiary of my estate. Hopefully, for my sake, I do not plan to die for some time to come. I also plan to give some of my current assets during the next several years and may well discuss such a charitable remainder trust with you.

I wanted to write and let you know of my present intentions. You are free to tell the Board of this provision in my will. I believe that the Board is now a responsible Board and will be good stewards of the funds when they finally do get them for the Land Trust's use. I believe that the Land Trust is in good hands and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. I feel that you are doing a great job and will continue to lead the Land Trust well.

*Sincerely,
Ed Drager"*

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Council of Trustees and members, we want to extend our sincerest Thanks to Ed for his consideration, encouragement and support of the Northwoods Land Trust.

For many years Ed has been leading the way - with a perpetual conservation easement on his 360-acres of land in the Town of Plum Lake, serving as a founding (and

current) member of the Board of Directors, and more recently taking on the role of Co-Chair of our Council of Trustees. By including NWLT as an important part of his estate planning, Ed continues to lead us all by example.

Such gifts can ultimately provide for long-term organizational sustainability for the Northwoods Land Trust and further enhance our efforts to preserve, protect and conserve our beautiful northwoods natural resources. A donation by bequest is a wonderful way for those who wish to leave a lasting legacy for the northwoods - by helping to protect our natural shorelands, woodlands and wetlands forever.

For more information on how to include NWLT in your estate planning, please contact Bryan Pierce at (715) 479-2490 or pierce@northwoodslandtrust.org.



Founding Board member Ed Drager leads the way by including NWLT in his estate planning.



JOIN THE NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

HELP KEEP THE NORTHWOODS THE NORTHWOODS!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (w): _____

Telephone (h): _____

E mail Address: _____

Membership Contributions

- Individual \$25
- Family \$35
- Supporter \$50
- Founder \$100
- Conservator \$250
- Steward \$500
- Land Legacy \$1000
- My additional contribution of \$ _____ is also enclosed.

Please make checks payable to:

Northwoods Land Trust, Inc.
PO Box 321
Eagle River, WI 54521-0321

Interests

- I have property I may wish to conserve, please send me additional information.
- I am interested in becoming a volunteer to assist the NWLT.
- I am interested in the NWLT Council of Trustees.



Memorial Gifts received in memory of George Wons and Ruth (Drager) Wivel

The Northwoods Land Trust would like to say Thank You and acknowledge that we received gifts from friends and family members in memory of two individuals who loved the northwoods and hoped to see it protected.

Along with a gift in memory of **George Wons**, we received the following note from Snipe Lake friend and NWLT Board member Willa Schmidt:

“Kim (Genich) and I would like to make a donation to the Northwoods Land Trust in memory of George Wons, a committed environmentalist who wrote eloquent letters to the editors of Vilas County and other Wisconsin papers encouraging better stewardship of our lakes and woodlands. He always wrote a letter for Earth Day urging people to uphold its mandates. He was a Northwoods Land Trust member and supporter whose family was among the earliest landowners on Snipe Lake. He was a talented violinist and instrument builder, and last, but not least, a kind and decent human being. In our last phone conversation I told him of his relatives’ Snipe Lake-area easements to NWLT (Kern and Kindt/McKenzie). He was very happy to get that news. George died on January 1, 2005.”

NWLT also received memorial gifts from Julie Dolinky and NWLT Board member Ed Drager in memory of their aunt **Ruth (Drager) Wivel**. Ruth Wivel was a sister to Ed Drager, Sr. and Julie’s mother Helen (Drager) Trinka Priebe.

Ed Drager noted that: *“Aunt Ruth was born in Eagle River 92 years ago and was my dad’s sister. She always loved the Northwoods and visited often. She has two daughters, Bette Jo Sullivan of Alexandria, VA, and Jean Owen of British Columbia.”*

A note from Julie with her contribution said: *“I hope that the land trust is growing and thriving. My best wishes to you and your staff who work so hard to preserve our paradise in the Northwoods.”*

These memorial gifts have been placed in our **NWLT Landowner Incentive Fund**. This Fund was established to help cover some of the costs property owners incur when they donate perpetual conservation easements on their properties. All contributions to the Fund therefore directly help to permanently protect natural shorelands, woodlands and wetlands in our beautiful northwoods lake country. There is no more lasting memorial any of us can give as we remember our family and friends.



NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

P.O. BOX 321, EAGLE RIVER, WI 54521-0321

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*Please reserve
Tuesday, June 7th
on your calendars for
NWLT’s Annual Meeting!*