



NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

HELP LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR THE NORTHWOODS

Wisconsin's 2007 Land Trust of the Year!

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

March 2009

The Incredible Legacy of Carl Anderson

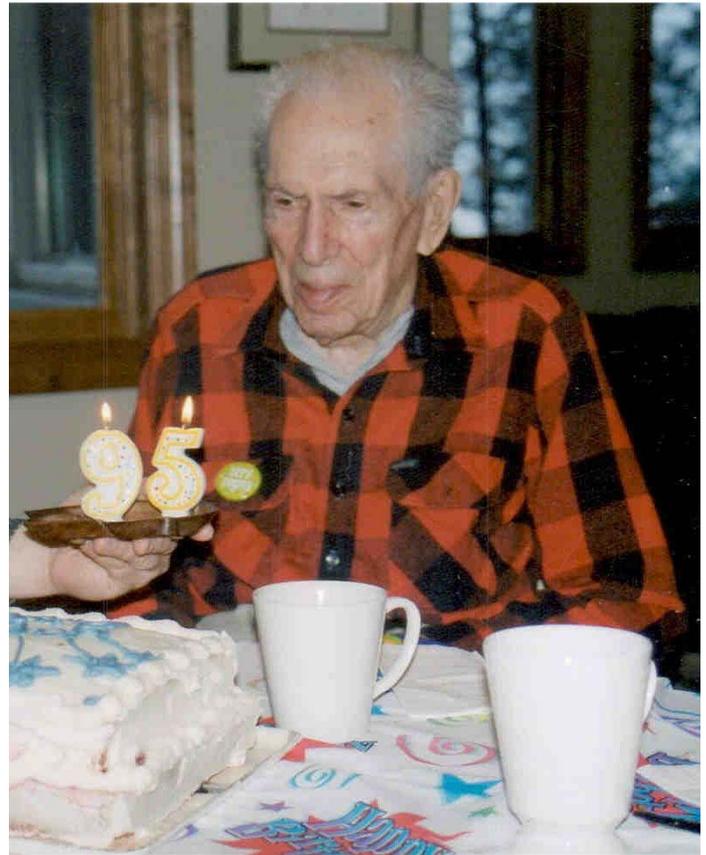
By Bryan Pierce, NWLT Executive Director

I feel very fortunate. Just a week before 95 year-old Carl Anderson passed away, I had the opportunity to meet him and talk with him about options for protecting the land that he had cherished for over 63 years.

Carl was born and raised in Rhinelander. In February of 1945, Carl's sister Edith bought over 21 acres of old farmstead for him at his instruction while he was in military service. The property was sold at public auction on the steps of the Oneida County Courthouse in Rhinelander for a total cost of \$1,105.

Carl never farmed the property, but he did build a little home there by hand. Over the years, he planted thousands of trees to enhance the beautiful setting where he lived for the rest of his life. After the house was built, Edith, who was not married, lived with him until she passed away in 1986. Edith also shared Carl's passion for nature and photography.

Although Carl also never married, he did fall in love with his land, including about one-half mile of beautiful



Carl Anderson, shown here celebrating his 95th birthday, has left an incredible conservation legacy in the northwoods.



Almost 22 acres and 1/2 mile of shoreline frontage along the Wisconsin River flowage in Oneida County was conserved by Carl Anderson.

natural shoreline on the Wisconsin River flowage. His property included all or parts of several small islands, which he explored in his wood and canvas canoe.

Carl decided to meet with the Northwoods Land Trust to confirm his wishes to conserve his property through his will. Only then did we learn of Carl's incredible commitment to conservation.

Carl apparently had been thinking about ways to protect his land for some time, and had contacted Gathering Waters Conservancy several years ago to learn

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mission:

The Northwoods Land Trust (NWLT) 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.

Newsletter Editor: Bryan Pierce



Carl Anderson - continued

about local conservation options. Through his attorney, he had already included the Northwoods Land Trust to receive his property by bequest in his will (unbeknownst to NWLT).

When the land trust receives a gift of land, we want to make sure we fully understand the intentions of the donor. In Carl's case, there were several options, so I explained those with the assistance of his trusted friends Susanne and Rick Barcal. Although Carl was hard of hearing, he did tell me exactly which pipe on the little island off the northwest shoreline was the correct corner marker according to a survey done forty years ago by a now-deceased surveyor.

Carl always liked his privacy, so he did not care as much for the option of NWLT holding the land as a nature preserve and allowing the public to use it. Instead, he preferred keeping the use of the land pretty much the same, while still protecting it from being subdivided and sold for development. The solution was a conservation easement, allowing the property to remain private with just one single-family residence on it.

According to Susanne, Carl was thought of as a recluse: "For the first six years we lived nearby, we understood that he didn't like company and that he didn't want anybody to come over, but when I met him I found out that was not true." Throughout his life, Carl socialized with a number of long-time Rhinelander families, several which recently also conserved land with NWLT.

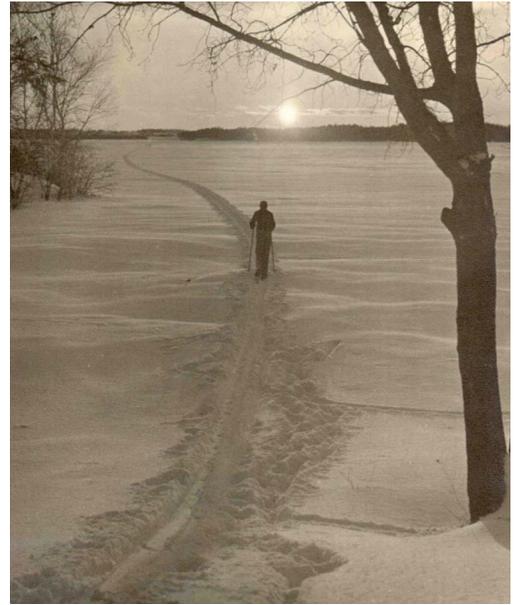
For many years, Carl would regularly take canoe camping trips along the Wisconsin River with these friends in warm weather months, enjoying the beauty of nature and the camaraderie. Many local residents remember seeing Carl sailing on Boom Lake in his home made sailboat, which he converted to an ice racer during the winter months. He would cross-country ski the back bays of Boom Lake, and all along the river. He also loved ice skating on the river, and pursued skating well into his 70s.

Carl enjoyed these activities with a close knit group of Swedish friends known as the "Sitsmarkden." On a regular basis, this group would meet in a makeshift "Ski Lodge" in a local garage and plan the outings, both locally and in other areas across the country.

Marjorie Dewalt (Rhinelander) was one of those longtime friends and is the last surviving member of the group. She recalled that when Carl was at least 70 years old he claimed that his skis were getting kind of old, so he debated whether

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Left: Atty. Bill Dickens, NWLT President Mary Schwaiger, Personal representative Rick Barcal and Carl's friend Sue Larsen participated in the signing of the conservation easement to protect forever Carl Anderson's property and legacy.



Carl Anderson loved to cross-country ski the back bays of Boom Lake and the Wisconsin River.

You Can Help!

The Northwoods Land Trust is a non-profit, tax exempt conservation organization. Your gift of cash, stocks, bonds or other financial support is 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.

to get a new pair of skis or a rocking chair. The next year he had a new pair of skis.

During World War II, Carl was active as a medical technician in Normandy, Sicily and Tunisia. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He returned to Rhineland and worked at the Rhineland Paper Mill as a lab chemist. Carl was then recruited away from the mill to the Bump Clinic – the only medical clinic in town until the hospital opened up. He worked as a lab and radiology technician for many years.

Carl loved photography, and his award-winning photos were published in a variety of national magazines including Sports Afield. “He referred to his photographs as his treasures,” said Rick.

He especially liked feeding the birds and the many deer that took refuge on his land, but he never put too much feed out at once. He wanted to make sure they always came back regularly for more. “He ran a string from his window feeder across the room to his chair so he could close the feeder to squirrels and chipmunks,” commented Susanne.

According to Susanne, Carl was very frugal, and his frugality has since become something of a legend. “When we were at his house, we noticed that he didn’t have a lot of silverware. He would end up using them for things you weren’t supposed to. When he had to go into the nursing home, I opened up a drawer next to the bed where he was sleeping, and he had a stash of forks in there. I asked him: ‘Carl, what are you doing?’ He said, ‘I’m paying for these, so I’m taking them with me.’ I went out and got him tons



Once cleared as a farmstead, Carl planted thousands of red pines, white pines and Norway spruce.

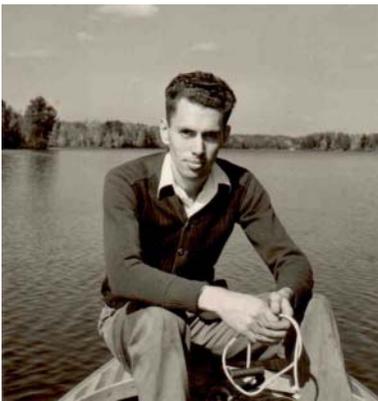
of forks. When I brought them home for him he said, ‘I’m rich now.’ That is what he considered wealth, something he truly needed.”

“Carl always said he couldn’t afford anything and never wanted to spend money,” said Susanne. But Rick noted: “If there was something that intrigued him, like photography equipment, he would buy good, high quality stuff.” The Barcals brought over a large, high-definition flat screen television to help Carl with his worsening eyesight. According to Rick, “When I brought it into the house, he asked how long the tryout was?” Carl didn’t want to pay for it until he tried it for a couple of months to make sure he liked it.

“Carl was frail, but he got around well with devices he had made to help him go through the house,” said Rick. “We talked to him about getting an electric lift chair. After he had gone to look, came home and thought about it for a while, he finally decided to get one, so I took Carl back down to the store. He ripped straight to the back of the store, found a chair he liked, and said: ‘This is the one.’ He brought it home and asked why we didn’t do this sooner? We had been talking about it for a year-and-a-half,” Rick noted.

“Carl’s roof was leaking significantly on the side that was facing the entry to the home,” related Rick. “He had climbed up the ladder into the attic and rigged up pieces of plastic to capture the water and direct it into pots and pans. When it rained, he would go up, collect the water and throw it out the window. I went up there and could see daylight through the holes, so I talked to him about getting the roof patched. We had a fellow come out to take a look and give us an estimate. The roofer said it would cost

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Images of Carl provided by Susanne & Rick Barcal.

\$2,000 to redo the roof. Carl said, 'I only need the side fixed that leaks!' The roofer looked at Carl and responded that he wouldn't be able to guarantee that it wasn't going to leak on the other side. Carl said, 'No, no, I know this is the bad side, how much will it cost to do just this side?' So they came out and redid half the roof for \$1,000. When I brought the bill in later that day to write the check, Carl said: 'I'm not going to pay them yet. What if it leaks?'"

"These stories are really just portraying the philosophy of someone who was the byproduct of the Depression," explained Rick. "Before you spend a dollar, think about it once, think about it twice, think about it three times, and then try not to spend it."

"When Carl got home from being in the nursing home, he was so happy, but he wouldn't pay his bill," said Rick. "For months and months he got these bills from the nursing home, but he wouldn't pay. We started getting phone calls about it and they threatened legal action. One day he said, 'ok, let's pay the bill,' so I wrote the check and left it for him to sign. I came back a couple of days later and he had torn up the check. One day I finally asked him: 'Carl, why is it that you are not paying this bill?' He said, 'If I don't pay those people, they will never let me back there.' He never wanted to have to go back into a nursing home again."

Rick and Susanne remembered taking Carl on a pontoon boat ride on the Wisconsin River. "With only a few trips in recent years on the river, he still knew the names of every single bay and island," said Susanne. "When Carl was young, he worked at a boat livery. He used to give people rides down to a dance club, and he must have gone past what became his property many times."

Carl's last remaining years were spent with his newfound friends from the neighborhood. He was included in every holiday gathering, always the guest of



With now legendary frugality, Carl only paid to have half of the roof fixed, because "I only need the side fixed that leaks!"

honor and loved by all. As Susanne will always feel, "he was 'our wonderful treasure in the woods.' We do miss him."

It took lots of hard work by the Barcals, Sue Larsen, and a team of volunteers on a community work day, to prepare the property for conservation after Carl's death. That cleanup effort paved the way for the estate to grant the conservation easement to the Northwoods Land Trust.

One of the volunteers liked what she saw so much, she approached the land trust with an offer to purchase Carl's property after the conservation easement was in place. She jointly purchased the parcel with the son of one of Carl's longtime friends. That son remembered learning to ski down the open hillside on Carl's property, and paid for his share with funds left to him from his father.

The proceeds from the sale of the property subject to the conservation easement is now being used to jump-start an operational endowment fund for the Northwoods Land Trust. This fund will help to sustain our on-going conservation efforts as we work to conserve many more private lands in the heart of Wisconsin's northwoods.

At the luncheon following Carl's memorial service, I shared the following note sent by NWLT Board member Pete Davison when he learned of Carl's death and bequest: "It seems like the 'elders' have a better perspective on this world, the value of preserving things of value, and a generosity that equals the size of their spirit. Is this only a view that we can embrace as we view the end of our time here?"

Carl Anderson's incredible conservation legacy will continue to live on through the lasting protection of his own property, and through the protection of thousands of additional acres of lake and river shorelands, woodlands and wetlands in his beloved northwoods.



Carl Anderson, in his 70s, debated whether to buy new skis or a rocking chair. The next year he had a new pair of skis.



NWLT Annual Report of Contributions Received in 2008

Our heartiest Thank You to all of our continuing members and contributors, and welcome to our new members and supporters!

Conservation Easement

Donors

92 acres Tannica & James Bragiel (Trust)
 59 acres Paul Brown, Jeffrey Brown & Laura Kavanagh (Linda Pierson Memorial)
 215 acres Richard Bostwick & Barbara Arms
 20 acres Roger Degris
 35 acres Timothy Hagen (River Bend LLC)
 84 acres Keith & Jocelyn McCaffery (Trust)
 118 acres Thomas & Eileen Pawlacyk
 3.5 acres Helen & Richard Thomas (Trust)

Foundation & Government Grants

\$51,189 DNR Lake Protection Grant Program
 \$19,599 Wisconsin Environmental Education Board - Forestry Education Program
 \$3,996 DNR River Planning Grant Program
 \$25,000 John C. Bock Foundation
 \$5,000 Arthur L. & Elaine V. Johnson Foundation
 \$1,000 American Natural Heritage Foundation
 \$750 Mark D. & Christine G. Trout Donor Advised Fund, Oshkosh Area Community Fdn.
 \$250 Wausau Paper Fdn.

Organization Contributions

\$1,000 + First National Bank of Eagle River
 \$100 + Squash Lake Association
 Snipe Lake Association
 Eagle River Animal Hospital
 Woolylady

Memberships, Memorial Gifts & Other Contributions

\$2,000 + Nancy & Mark Nebgen
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Rick & Susanne Barcal, Bryan Pierce, Sue Larsen, Willi Schmidt and Kim Genich witnessed the transfer of Carl's land bequest to NWLT.

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NWLT Annual Report of Contributions Received in 2008 - continued

Our sincerest Thank You to all of our continuing members and contributors, and welcome to our new members and supporters!

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On Earth Day, 2008, Roger Degriz protected the former Peninsula View resort property, including 20 acres and almost 3/4 mile of frontage on Squash Lake west of Rhinelander in Oneida County.

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*Please note:
We do want to acknowledge
your gift. If we have made an
error, please let us know so
we can correct it in future
publications. Thank you for
your outstanding support for
the Northwoods Land Trust!*

Memorial Gifts in 2008 were received from:

Marion Schoofs - in memory of Dr. Joe Schoofs, Urban Rehberg, Charles Arndt, Emma Kupferschmidt, Herman Krug, Roger Rieckman, Paul Pophal, Marion Beutler, Mildred Schultz, Roy Petts, the son-in-law of Roger Jehnke, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bartman, the son of Mrs. Virginia Weimer. Mary Schwaiger, family and friends - in memory of Cliff Schwaiger. Ed Drager - in memory of Cliff Schwaiger, Randy Fenton and Jim Magee. Jeff & Eloise Potter - in memory of Kenneth Kudelko. Willa Schmidt - in memory of Marguerite Christensen.

Gifts were received in 2008 In Honor of:

Larry Black & Barb Roeber - from Diana Black. Robert T. Thoms - from Rob Thoms. Dave & Barb Wisniewski - from Dan Wisniewski. Ian & Monie Shackelford - from Julia Berger. John Bates - from Mark & Christine Trout. Bob Martini - from Scott Watson & Susan Scobell Watson. Gene & Lois Blondeau and Glenn & Jan Falcon - from Don & Sue Kratsch.



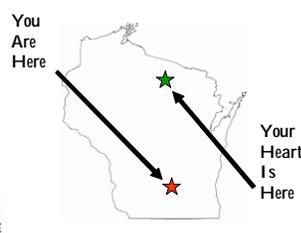
In December, Tim Hagen granted a conservation easement to conserve 35 acres along the Wisconsin River adjacent to another NWLT-protected property owned by Beverly Engstrom in Oneida County.

NWLT Gathering held in Madison

In November, NWLT held our second informal gathering in Madison, this time at the home of our hosts Howard and Nancy Mead. We shared a fun evening with hors d'oeuvres and beverages, and enjoyed meeting with Oneida County lake property owners as well as other NWLT members and supporters who live in Dane County.

Many Thanks to our event sponsors: Darrell Bazzell, Denny Caneff, Tony Earl, Emily Earley, Rich Eggleston, Jonathan Ela & Trish Stocking, Vicki Elkin, Kim Genich, Charles Luthin, Tia Nelson, Bill Pielsticker, Robert Selk, Michael & Molly Strigel, Topf Wells and Jim Welsh.

Coordinating and sponsoring the event were NWLT Board members Jim Holperin, Pete Davison, Mitch Olson, Bryan Pierce, Fred Ridders, Willa Schmidt and Dan Wisniewski. Special Thanks to our hosts Howard and Nancy Mead!



Anonymous Stock Donation again in 2008

Our wonderful donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, struck again! The Northwoods Land Trust is very pleased to once again be the recipient of a significant gift of stocks. The contribution was made in continued support our critical conservation work.

These stocks have appreciated in value over the years, in spite of the economic downturn. As a result, the stock donation has important tax benefits from a capital gains perspective for the donor family. However, the real benefit is knowing that their donation will continue to make a very big different in helping NWLT protect our beautiful northwoods - a gift that truly lasts.

Our sincerest appreciation for the family's continued, exceptional support!



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- Individual \$25
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- 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 the free landowner's guide.
- I am interested in becoming a volunteer to assist the NWLT.
- I am interested in the NWLT Council of Trustees.



Interested in a Vilas County Lake Lot for Sale?

The Northwoods Land Trust has just received an extraordinary gift - an undeveloped lot on Pickerel Lake west of Eagle River. Given as an outright land donation by Maxine A. Gere of Chicago, IL, this parcel has 100 feet of west-facing, sunset-view frontage on a wonderful, 293-acre lake in the northwoods.

Located in the town of Cloverland about 7 miles from Eagle River in Vilas County, Pickerel Lake has a diverse fishery, including muskellunge, northern pike, walleyed pike, largemouth bass and panfish.

Although the property was too small in size to be considered for conservation protection, Maxine was willing to donate the land so that the proceeds from the sale of the lot can help support NWLT's on-going conservation efforts. Her gift will help us to protect many hundreds of additional acres of natural shorelands, woodlands and wetlands in the northwoods.

At just under an acre in size, the lot already has a cleared driveway through towering pines. A small opening closer to the shoreline is a possible building site. The property is currently being offered for sale directly through the land trust. Please contact the NWLT office for more details via email at nwlt@northwoodslandtrust.org or call  (715) 479-2490.



NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

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Please remember NWLT in your annual and planned giving. Give a gift that will last forever!