



# NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

HELP LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR THE NORTHWOODS

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

June 2007

## Diana Anderson protects Sunset Lake property

Diana Anderson recently granted a conservation easement, or land protection agreement, on her 12.8 acres and 785 feet of shoreline on Sunset Lake to the Northwoods Land Trust. This agreement protects the heavily wooded Town of Cloverland property in perpetuity.

Diana, a Vilas County native, is well-known to area residents as the Director of Eagle River's Walter E. Olson Memorial Library, a post she has served in with energy and enthusiasm since 1993.

Her enthusiasm extends to her feelings about her land, the remaining segment of a parcel purchased many years ago by her late husband's grandfather. "He originally owned land on both Sunset and Nelson Lakes, but over the years much of it was sold," she explains.

She also notes that Sunset Lake was once called Round Lake, owing to its almost circular perimeter, and chuckles at the present name. "Living on the west end it's the sunrise I see—for the sunset, I have to go over to Nelson Lake."

Asked what she enjoys most about the land, she talks about the peace and quiet, its wilderness feel: "There's no lawn or garden to fuss with, just nature taking its course. We never even had a pier!"

She loves the wildlife and native plants, and reports that three turkeys have been spotted roaming about recently. A young doe has been sleeping outside her bedroom window, seemingly oblivious to human presence. A black bear has visited the property and she hangs out feeders for a wide variety of birds. Diana even has affection for those notorious feeder robbers, the squirrels, and sets out a separate supply of food just for them.

Her family enjoys visiting too; her youngest daughter chose to have her wedding on a beautiful day in this idyllic setting. In addition to the main residence, which can be remodeled or rebuilt in its present location within a designated residential zone up to a maximum total footprint, there is a seasonal guest cottage on the property which her

husband's grandparents used for rental purposes. In accordance with Diana's wishes, the cottage may be maintained or improved, but not expanded or replaced. No additional dwellings are allowed, and the land cannot be subdivided.

Diana's main priority in granting the easement is protecting the lake, particularly in the face of rapidly increasing northwoods lakeshore development. "It's a beautiful lake," she says. "Loons nest on the shore, mallards in the swamp. Spring peepers and other frogs chorus on summer evenings."

*(Continued on page 2)*



*About 785 feet of natural shoreline frontage on Sunset Lake, west of Eagle River, was protected by Diana Anderson.*

### 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](mailto:nwlt@northwoodslandtrust.org) Web site: [www.northwoodslandtrust.org](http://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

## Sunset Lake Conservation Easement *(continued)*

Sunset Lake is a seepage lake which supports a healthy population of fish. It is surrounded by woodlands and wetlands that provide critical water quality protection and filter the flow of groundwater toward the Wisconsin River to the south. Although the lake does not have public access, there are several resorts along its shores with cottages to rent. What Diana feels, upon granting the easement, is “a great sense of relief.”

How would she like the property to look if she could see it in 100 years? “I’d like to find bigger trees, more wildlife, a healthy recovery of native plants.” She applauds the abundance of ferns and mosses, and the wealth of vegetation in the understory that often goes unnoticed because of the land’s more striking features.

Diana has several messages to convey to others concerning land conservation. To her great-grandchildren she hopes to someday say, “I protected this land so I could tell you ‘See? This is what the Northwoods should look like.’”

And to other property owners who might be considering putting a conservation easement on their land her advice is, “Go for it! It is so satisfying to look at my land and know it’s protected.”

Thank you, Diana Anderson, for your generous gift to both present and future generations!

- By Willa Schmidt, NWLT Board Secretary



*This scenic Sunset Road corridor in the Town of Cloverland will remain protected forever.*



*Diana Anderson of Eagle River celebrates the signing of her land protection agreement with NWLT.*



*Diana Anderson’s Sunset Lake property in Vilas County protects about 12.8 acres of woodlands and prime, sandy shoreline frontage on Sunset Lake.*

## 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.

## Deerskin River protected by Bob & Kathleen Martini

Thirty-one year Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources career veteran Bob Martini, who is retiring from his position as the state rivers coordinator, achieved yet another milestone in his river conservation efforts by permanently protecting his own private stretch of the Deerskin River in Vilas County. Bob and his wife, Kathleen Vick-Martini, conserved their 31 acres and over 800 feet of natural shoreline by granting a land protection agreement, or conservation easement, to the Northwoods Land Trust.

“Ever since I’ve worked for the Department, I’ve worked on rivers in one way or another,” said Bob. “It gave me a chance to work professionally on resources that I’d be on recreationally if I had a choice anyway.”

“I was heavily involved in cleaning up the Wisconsin River,” he commented. “The paper mills, utilities and municipalities that discharged wastes had overtaxed the river. We were able to accomplish about a 93% reduction in waste. The Wisconsin cleaned up itself after we stopped putting the waste in. Today there is a dramatic difference. There are places on the river where everything was covered with slime, the odor was terrible, and even those fish that could survive smelled bad. There were three 40-mile segments of the Wisconsin that had no oxygen for long periods of time – it was really bad!”

“Now, wherever you look on the Wisconsin River, we have the opposite problem,” explained Bob. “People are buying up the real estate and developing the shoreline because it is so desirable in areas where previously people didn’t even want to touch the water or come near it because it smelled so bad. The Wisconsin River cleanup is really a source of pride for me personally, and for the dozens of DNR people who worked on that project.”

Bob grew up in a family dedicated to conservation. “We were a DNR family, and we bounced around from ranger station to ranger station, eventually moving to Rhineland. My dad had a 35-year career with the Department. His job was to teach DNR foresters the art of wildland fire control. He also worked in a 20-state region of northeastern U.S. developing programs for state agencies to train their foresters.”

Bob’s educational training included coursework at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Northwestern University in Illinois, and UW-Milwaukee where he received his Bachelor of Science degree. He ran a water testing lab before going to work for DNR.

“We bought the Deerskin River property in 1978,” said Bob. “I remember going in there in the winter with my wife, and I thought she would never go for this. This is really wild land. We had to literally push our way through the balsam, spruce and brush just to get to the river. But she loved the whole concept, so we bought the place.”



*NWLT Board member Bob Martini and his wife, Kathleen Vick-Martini, granted a conservation easement on 31 acres of land in Vilas County along the Deerskin River.*

“About a year later the entire parcel came down with a big hit of spruce budworm, and all of the balsam and a lot of the spruce turned orange and died,” Bob noted. “We set up a timber harvest to make sure we got rid of all that dry fuel, and at the same time harvested some hardwoods that needed to be cut for management purposes. The property looked bad at first, but we got some really healthy aspen regeneration. We left all of the pine and oak because it wasn’t mature and for wildlife purposes.”

“We entered into the managed forest tax law program, and DNR forester Jim Baughmann did the management plan,” Bob said. “Jim was really progressive, because he had a broader concept of a healthy forest. He is an expert in everything from warblers to orchids. We wanted to protect the variety of habitats on the property. Jim was instrumental in coming up with a plan that recognized and preserved a lot of those niches, and protected the corridor that was a buffer for the Deerskin River.”

“The property has a rolling, glaciated topography, with some high upland forest and low kettles and kegs,” Bob explained. “As the elevation moves down from sandy soils toward the river, there are peat soils with cedar, black spruce, tamarack and tag alder. Close to the river there are also little islands of upland that have mature pines and some large birch. There is a variety of soil types, elevations, slopes, and cover types.”

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Deerskin River - continued from page 3

“We started building our log cottage right away,” said Bob. “It took about 65 days of effort spread over four years. All of the materials came right from the swamp. I cut the cedar, peeled it and carried it out on my back. We didn’t have a road to the site at the time, so all of the rafters and roof materials had to be carried in too. There was an old cabin site from the 1920s, and an old road, but it wasn’t passable.”

“We built an octagon because I couldn’t carry the longer logs that would be necessary to build a rectangle,” Bob said. “With an octagon, we could get by with 13-foot logs. It was quite an adventure.”

Their cottage is used for general recreation, including hunting and fishing. “We snowshoe in on New Year’s Eve to spend a couple of days in the winter,” he said. “It is an all-around weekend getaway. There is no electricity, no phone or other amenities – we get away from everything.”

“Five generations of family have used the place for gatherings over the last 25 years,” said Bob. “We keep a log in the cabin. One of the rules for using the cabin is that you have to write something in the log. It forces people to at least make a note of the wildlife they’ve seen, what kinds of activities they’ve done, weather, changes in the flow of the river and things like that. It is really interesting to read back over 25 years and remember all of the great times we’ve had there.”

“Because of the variety of habitats, we’ve had a really long list of birds, mammals, and plants that do well in the area,” he noted. “We’ve seen wolves, bear, fisher, marten, otter, mink, weasels, beaver, bobcat, muskrat, lots of warblers, game birds, waterfowl, eagles and osprey. It is a really interesting place to watch wildlife. If you sit down by the river, you’ll eventually see just about every bird and mammal native to northern Wisconsin.”



“We’ve had a lot of parties there – going away parties for colleagues and life milestones. We always hunt there. Over the years we’ve had three, sometimes four generations of deer hunters in that shack. A lot of them are gone now, but we still have the memories because we record them in the log and have a lot of photographs.”

“Right from Day 1, in spite of the fact that she is an urban girl, Kathleen has loved this land,” said Bob. “She works hard as a teacher, so she always has homework on weekends. Many days we went up to the cabin and had a big fire down by the river. She would sit there doing her homework watching the fire and listening to the wildlife. It has always been a great, relaxing place for her.”

Bob and Kathleen have two sons, both lawyers. Eric is working in the diplomatic corps for the State Department in Ecuador. “When he comes home from two-year stints in other countries, the first thing he wants to do is go up to the cabin and spend three or four days with his family the way he did when he was a kid,” said Bob. “Nick lives in San Francisco, and he too has always liked the cabin. He doesn’t get much time off his job, but when he comes home, that is one thing he always wants to do. The land is an anchor for them. We hope it will pass on to the boys and they will keep using it over the years.”

According to Bob, the Deerskin River originates at Long Lake with a dam controlled by the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company. There have been other logging dams in this river over the years, but the last one was removed in the year 2000, so the river is reverting to its original quality. The Deerskin flows into Scattering Rice Lake on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes.

The Deerskin has an overlap fishery, meaning that there are a great variety of warm water, cool water and cold water fish population all using the same stream. DNR surveys on the Deerskin have recorded 34 different fish species, one of the most diverse rivers in northern Wisconsin. On the upper end of the stream are native brook trout and brown trout. Depending on the time of the year, the lower end is dominated by warm water and cool water species coming out of the Eagle Chain including muskies, walleyes, northerns, and bass. (Continued on page 5)



*“We built an octagon because I couldn’t carry the longer logs that would be necessary to build a rectangle.”*

- Bob Martini

## Deerskin River - continued from page 4

"In the late 1970s when we (DNR) pioneered the use of aquatic insects as indicators of the quality of a stream, the Deerskin River was the most diverse of 107 sites in the Upper Wisconsin River basin sampled for developing the biotic index," said Bob. "It is a special stream. The river has a good base flow because it has a lot of wetlands and picks up groundwater flow. It stays pretty consistent in flow and in temperature, which is one of the reasons it is a good trout stream."

"There are a number of landowners in this stretch of the Deerskin. I was hoping that we would all get together and protect the river so we could have a very large block of land protected," he said. "The one thing I've learned over 31 years at the DNR is that you must protect corridors on rivers in order to protect the quality of the river. The best way to protect corridors is to have restrictions that run with the land for many generations. It doesn't matter who owns that land in the future. People you may never even meet or know will still be subject to the same restrictions on development that the Northwoods Land Trust has helped us put on this year."

"It is really important to me, not only to protect our own property and the 840 frontage feet we have on the river corridor, but also to hopefully show the other landowners that it is a viable option," Bob said. "It can work and it has more advantages than disadvantages. Eventually we may have many miles of Deerskin River corridor properties protected. I hope that will happen in the future."

Conservation easement provisions will make sure that the shoreline corridor is left in natural vegetation and not developed any more than it is now. "We wanted to be able to replace the cabin if it burns or blows down in a storm, but no more buildings, roads or cutting in the river corridor to protect the quality of the river," said Bob. "In 100 years,



*"The Deerskin River was the most diverse of 107 sites in the Upper Wisconsin River basin sampled for developing the biotic index.*

*It is a special stream." - Bob Martini*

I'd like the property to look exactly the same as it does now. The trees would be larger, with maybe some change in species due to natural forest succession."

Bob feels great about putting a conservation easement on his property. "I can't count the number of people who have commented to me about what a good idea it is. That, in turn, gives me an opportunity to suggest to them to think about their own property. I have used the compliment to try to plant a seed and encourage others to at least investigate the many options for protecting land in the northern part of the state. It is important to see neighbors, friends and people you know protecting property to gain confidence that it could work for you as well. Everyone I know who has put a conservation easement on their property is proud of it, feels like it is an accomplishment for the future, and their families are in agreement that it is a good thing to do. I think everybody wins with conservation easements."

In addition to his work on a number of boards and commissions, including the Northwoods Land Trust, Bob has a number of future goals. "I really want to do a lot more fishing than I have done before and wander around wild places that I haven't been able to see in the past. Eventually I'll probably go back to work in a part time capacity protecting the environment in some way."

"I think it is important for each citizen to be vigilant and try to make sure the environment is protected in our own backyard," he commented. "We may not be able to do a lot about global warming except through our own personal behavior, but we can do a lot about how our own land is managed and how our elected officials choose to manage lands under their control."

"I firmly believe that river quality reflects watershed quality, and watershed quality reflects the quality of society," said Bob. "Every society should recognize and protect those natural resources the society depends on, and in my opinion that includes corridors of forests and rivers." 🌲

### **Corrections on NWLT Annual Report of Contributions Received in 2006**

Since the winter newsletter issue, we received a couple of corrections on the list of 2006 contributions received. We greatly appreciate those who contacted us with the following corrections so we could get our new database updated and more accurate:

**\$250-999**

Jennifer & Doug Fitzgerald Family

**\$1-34**

Joseph Stoeckl

Please let us know if you noticed any others that should be corrected. Our sincerest Thank You again to all of our continuing members and contributors, and welcome to our new members and supporters!

## Wild Places Preserved - Explore the Northwoods with NWLT

The Northwoods Land Trust invites all of our members, supporters and any other interested guests to join us as we explore wild, protected places in the northwoods:

### **Tuesday, July 31st - Wisconsin River Paddle & Preserve**

1:00 p.m. We'll do an easy float down the Wisconsin River from below the Rainbow Flowage dam. We'll also visit Rich Eggleston's NWLT conservation easement site. Vehicles will carpool to the take-out point at the Town of Newbold park on River Road. Refreshments provided. Please RSVP at (715) 479-2490. This is a great stretch to watch for bald eagles and osprey.

Directions: Meet at the Rainbow dam on County Hwy. D. From Minocqua/Woodruff, take Cty. Hwy. J east about 5.5 miles, then Cty. Hwy. E south 4 miles to D. Turn east on D about 1/4 mile to the parking area. Non-members - \$15 suggested donation.

### **Friday, August 10th - Deerskin River Paddle & Preserve**

1:00 p.m. A beautiful, easy paddle downstream along a scenic trout stream and one of the most biologically diverse rivers in northern Wisconsin. Retired DNR rivers coordinator Bob Martini will be our guide to the natural wonders of the Deerskin. A special treat will be a stop at Bob's unique octagon cabin site and conservation easement property. Refreshments provided. Please RSVP at (715) 479-2490.

Directions: Meet at the Deerskin River crossing on Rangeline Road. From Eagle River, take Hwy. 70 east about 3 miles, turn north on Rangeline Road about 2.5 miles to the river. Non-members - \$15 suggested donation.

### **Sunday, August 19th - Holmboe Conifer Forest Re-Dedication & Old Growth Forest Walk**

1:00 p.m. Join us for a celebration and guided walking tour of this unique state natural area property. This 32-acre site was one of the first properties donated for conservation protection to The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin. Naturalist John Bates will be our featured guide as we walk the trails through old-growth hemlock, giant pines, white cedar swamp and along the scenic Pelican River. There will be a special re-dedication of this unique property as a State Natural Area, and help celebrate its transfer to the Northwoods Land Trust. Please RSVP at (715) 479-2490.

Directions: Meet at the Holmboe Woods trailhead. From the Intersection of Hwy. 17 South and Hwy. 8/45 on the south side of Rhinelander, go north on Boyce Dr. (Bus. 17) about one-half mile. Parking access is in the lot behind the Taylor Park nursing home facility on the east side of Boyce Dr., just south of the Pelican River bridge.

### **Need paddling equipment?**

Canoes & kayaks for the paddling adventures may be rented from Mel's Trading Post, Brown St., Rhinelander, (715) 362-5800, Hawks Nest Canoe Outfitters, Hwy. 70, Eagle River (715) 479-7944, or Chequamegon Adventure Co., Hwy. 51, Minocqua, (715) 356-1618.



*Take a walk through the old-growth conifer forest at Holmboe Woods, Rhinelander, on Sunday, August 19th.*

## Volunteers Wanted

Interested in helping to protect the northwoods? Have a few hours on a regular basis that you would be willing to devote as a conservation volunteer? If so, the Northwoods Land Trust would welcome your assistance with the following projects:

### **Conservation Easement Monitoring Coordinator**

Our annual easement monitoring program is rapidly expanding as we get prepared to regularly monitor the 24 conservation easements we currently hold - and more are coming. A number of volunteers are currently trained to conduct monitoring visits to properties with landowners. But we could really use a volunteer willing to help coordinate all of those monitoring efforts.

### **New Conservation Records System**

NWLT has recently adopted a new records and filing system for all of our conservation transactions including conservation easements and land donations. We still have most of our easement records to update, so could use someone to help in the office who is well organized!

To help with these or other volunteer opportunities, call the NWLT office at (715) 479-2490.

## NWLT Receives Grants for Vilas County Rivers Project

The Northwoods Land Trust is the recipient of a DNR River Planning Grant to provide educational information to landowners on priority rivers in Vilas County. The \$10,000 grant was awarded to help NWLT conduct a direct mail education campaign to property owners with 500 feet or more of frontage on priority river and stream segments identified by the DNR's Northern Rivers Initiative.

Our computer geographic information system will be used to map and identify the parcels. *"For the Love of the Land... A Landowner's Conservation Guide to Protecting Your Northwoods Property"* will be produced and distributed to those parcel owners to highlight the voluntary options they can use to conserve their river and stream corridors. These options include land protection agreements (conservation easements), land donations, land registry and conservation buyer/seller programs.

The grant also enables NWLT to conduct follow-up contacts with interested landowners to provide technical assistance for exploring the conservation options. We have already worked on several conservation easement donation projects that will leverage this DNR grant support into significant, lasting river and stream protection in our northwoods region.

The DNR grant is a matching grant, however NWLT was also successful in receiving an additional grant from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation of Wales, MA, to provide most of the 25% local match required. The \$3,000 Foundation grant will cover the costs of updating and printing the landowner guides.

Our sincere thanks to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Norcross Wildlife Foundation for their grants of support for our efforts to permanently conserve valuable river and stream riparian areas in the northwoods!



*Grants from the DNR River Planning Grant program and the Norcross Wildlife Foundation will support educational outreach efforts to property owners along priority rivers and streams in Vilas County.*

## WEEB Grant targets Vilas County Woodlands

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) recently awarded NWLT a Forestry Education Program Grant to fund a pilot education and outreach project. This \$19,965 grant project will focus on providing education on voluntary conservation options to owners of blocks of undeveloped woodlands of 40 acres or larger. This project will run through December of 2008.

Special thanks to volunteer Kirstin Swenson, formerly of Phillips and now in Duluth, for her outstanding assistance in preparing the grant application!



## 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 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.



# Luida E. Sanders establishes Northwoods Memorial Fund

Luida E. Sanders, currently of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, has established the **Charles A. & Ida C. Sanders Northwoods Memorial Fund** to honor the memory of her parents. The Fund was created as a unique partnership with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

Initiated as an "acorn fund" with a \$2,000 contribution to the Natural Resources Foundation, Luida has also included the Fund in her will as a bequest. With additional annual contributions of \$1,000 or more, the fund will continue to grow until it becomes fully vested at the \$10,000 level as an endowment fund managed within the Foundation. At that time, interest from the Fund will be distributed annually to the Northwoods Land Trust to help support our efforts to encourage perpetual conservation of northwoods lake, river, wetland and woodland resources.

Luida came by her love and appreciation for the northwoods naturally. She was born in Rhinelander and grew up on Lake Tomahawk. Her parents owned and managed a summer resort, and her father also ran a small sawmill in Lake Tomahawk.

Luida attended the Stevens Point Teacher College for two years, and taught in rural, one-room schools. She enlisted in the Women's Army Corps during World War II, then went to the University of Wisconsin-Madison where

she received bachelor's degrees in journalism and education. Her master of science degree in public health came from the University of California-Berkeley. Luida worked for Wisconsin's Board of Health, and as a health education consultant for the Department of Public Instruction.

Our sincerest Thanks to Luida for her contribution and commitment to keeping the northwoods the northwoods as lasting memorial for her parents! Other contributions to the Northwoods Fund are also encouraged.



*Luida Sanders has created the Charles A. & Ida C. Sanders Northwoods Memorial Fund to provide long-term support for northwoods conservation.*



**NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST**

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

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