



# NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

HELP LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR THE NORTHWOODS

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

March 2013

## Protecting Camp One Lake - For Generations of Family

Al Kauth, of Jefferson, Wisconsin, grew up in the northwoods. He has now given back something special to future generations, enabling them to also enjoy the beauty, solitude and natural resources he has cherished here in the northwoods.

In December, Al granted a perpetual land protection agreement, or conservation easement, on about 57 acres of woodlands, wetlands and natural shorelands in the town of Phelps in Vilas County. The protected property also includes roughly 2,300 feet of natural shoreline frontage along the ordinary high water mark of Camp One Lake.

According to Kauth, Camp One Lake was named after the original Camp One logging camp. Much of the property was used as pasture for the draft horses.

Al is a lifelong alumni of the area. He grew up and went to school in Eagle River, and graduated from the high school in 1965. His family is also from the area.

Al described his first connection to the property: "I was coming up one summer for a visit, and I went through town and saw on a billboard an advertisement for a small piece of acreage with a small house. I stopped by to talk



Landowner Al Kauth celebrates the conservation agreement with (from left) granddaughter Ashley, daughter Jenny Wells and grandson Wyatt.

with the real estate agent and asked: 'what is this?' I was looking to have a place of my own to come to rather than just staying with my folks. We went up and looked at it, and that was how it started back in 1986. At that time it was just myself and one other landowner on Camp One Lake."

"The gentleman who owned most of the shoreline on the lake called me after his wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease," explained Al. "He wanted to spend some quality time with her as her health was declining. He wanted to know if I would be willing to buy his property. I told him I could probably afford to buy some of the land, but I just couldn't take on the maintenance of another house."

"We had it surveyed so he could keep 10 acres around his house," Al continued. "In 1993 I ended up acquiring all of the land around the southern part of Camp One Lake, which includes the land that has now gone into the conservation easement. I've been the owner of the land we put into the program since then."

*(Continued next page)*



Balsam fir, which make great Christmas trees, grow in the old draft horse pastures from the original Camp One logging camp.

### 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 in Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence, Iron and Price Counties and the surrounding region.

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  
Staff Writer: Trisha Moore



## Camp One Lake - *continued*

“I didn’t really know what was going to happen with it,” commented Al. “It was a few years back when I first contacted the Northwoods Land Trust. Executive Director Bryan Pierce and I stomped around there. I had some ideas, but I didn’t know what I was going to do with it. After that initial meeting (in August, 2005), and coming to two or three events that were held since then by the Northwoods Land Trust, it finally struck me that something should happen. I decided this land protection program would be a good thing to do.”

The use of the property now is “purely recreational,” said Kauth. “We use it for hunting, hiking, enjoying nature and as habitat for wildlife. When the water levels are up in the lake, it has good waterfowl hunting.”

“Since we’ve started this dialogue about the conservation easement, Bryan made me aware of the Managed Forest Law program with the Wisconsin DNR,” Al noted. “Not having done this before, I’ve neglected the land since I’ve owned it. Now I’m getting serious about trying to manage the land properly. Along with doing the conservation easement, we are also developing a very conservative, multi-generational plan for maintaining the forest on the easement land and also the other lands I have around it.”

Al stated that the DNR put him in touch with a consulting forester from Rhinelander, Jerry Strong from Crystal Lake Forestry. “He is a specialist in writing the certification plans for the DNR’s Managed Forest Law program. He has come out and begun the preliminary work of writing the plan that would qualify this land to be enrolled in the MFL program by January of 2014.”

“(Retired DNR forester) Jim Baughman will be the local resource I will use to actually execute the plan,” continued Kauth. “He will come in and mark the trees and define just what needs to be done by the loggers. Jim is just a delight to work with. I found a good logger too, Ken Valeria, who thinks the way Jim and I do about how he should manage his presence on the land, so it is all falling

*Left: “Not having done this before, I’ve neglected the land since I’ve owned it. Now I am getting serious about trying to manage the land properly.” - Al Kauth*



*Black spruce and tamarack trees line a public snowmobile trail corridor that runs through the property.*

## 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.

## Camp One Lake - *continued*

into place quite nicely. Ken is a real good guy. He cares about what he is doing and he has been a logger in the area for decades.”

Al has mainly enjoyed the solitude, and the peace and quiet of the land. “That is it in a nutshell,” he explained. “It has been a recreational area for my family. Since 1986, we have often celebrated Christmas there. The tradition is to go out and cut a tree in the forest, bring it in and trim it up. We did it again just this past Christmas, so my kids and my grandkids are all connected to the presence of that place and enjoying participating in that tradition.”

Al’s children are Sarah, Sam, Jenny and Kevin. They range in age from 37 to 25. Only Jenny lives in Wisconsin, in Beaver Dam. The rest are out of state – Sarah lives by St. Louis, Sam is in the U.S. Air Force currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan, and Kevin is in a Master’s degree program in Redmond, Washington. “Kevin has a great affinity for this land because it has been a part of his life from day one,” said Al. “Both of my daughters also have children, ranging in age from 19 to 2. The 19 year-old is starting college at Augustana in Rock Island, and the 2 year-old is starting life,” he proclaimed.

“I’m sure the kids have most enjoyed the family and holiday connections with this land,” Al said. “It has been a base camp for hunting and fishing and exploring the northwoods. For the most part it is about coming and enjoying the peace and quiet. It is recreational. There are enough hills for toboggan activities during the winter, and the snowmobile trail goes right through the back of the property. My cousin, Darrell Kauth, and extended family and friends come up to stay there, hang out and recreate.”

Al noted that when the Camp One Lake was full, there were panfish in it. Like many area seepage lakes, the water levels on the lake are now extremely low due to

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*NWLT board members, staff and volunteers helped celebrate Al Kauth’s signing of the conservation easement on December 8th (from left): Beverly Engstrom and Jean Johnson (kneeling), Pete Davison, Mary Schwaiger, Kim Genich, Jan Anderson, Willa Schmidt, Bill Reardon, John Huppert, Bryan Pierce, Mike Meyer, landowner Allan Kauth, Ron & Jan Eckstein, Dave Picard, Barbara Sironen, Bill Dickens, Trisha Moore, Beth Tornes and Mitch Olson.*

extended drought conditions. “It has never really been a fishing place, just a quiet place full of wildlife. It is still attracting waterfowl though,” Al said.

“When Jim Baughman was out walking the property with me, we found a huge tree with a porcupine trying to hide from us inside,” related Al. “We’ve seen evidence of bear, a large, vibrant population of coyotes, and a good, healthy deer population.”

One unique feature of Al’s conservation easement is a provision allowing for deer stands that can be constructed to accommodate disabled hunters. The family hosted successful hunts for a handicapped hunter last season.

“Immediately after high school I went to Carthage College in Kenosha,” he said. “I finished a year there, and then decided, in spite of having good grades, that I just didn’t know why I was going to school. So I joined the Marine Corps. That was right at the height of the Vietnam War in 1966. I spent seven years on active duty, then was given a ‘school cut’ so I could go to college under the GI Bill. I spent half of my time in the military as a computer programmer and systems developer. I went to UW-Madison in the fall of 1973, and graduated in December of 1975 with a degree in Information Systems, Analysis and Design from the business school.

Al shared his professional background: “I started with the Arthur Anderson & Company firm in Milwaukee as an implementer of computer systems for clients. I have done something related to implementation of computer systems in businesses for the rest of my career.”

*(Continued next page)*

## Camp One Lake - *continued*

“Since 1986 I have been mainly an advisor to senior executives in companies, including currently for Briggs & Stratton in Milwaukee and Oscar Meyer in Madison,” said Kauth. “I am affiliated with Oliver Wight, Inc. as a principle stockholder and on the board of directors. We deal with companies of all shapes and sizes, and globally, to help them improve their business performance. I am a lead person with that company and have been there about 12 years. One of the reasons I haven’t been up (to the property) very much is that I spend all my time traveling to other places, doing exotic things in other parts of the world.”

“When I graduated from the University, I also stayed in the military reserve for another 20 years,” he noted. “I retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1993 after 27 years of service.”

Part of Al’s motivation for completing the land protection agreement is that “it is just the right thing to do. I thought about it a long time, but after I saw the significance of what the Northwoods Land Trust did around the Minocqua Winter Park area with that large property, I thought ‘I don’t have much to contribute, but it would be a shame if I couldn’t do something.’”

“Part of it frankly is that, as you get older, you start thinking about things differently,” he added. “What do I want to do with this property? What will happen to it after I’m gone? The ‘forever protected’ part of it seemed to me to be the right thing.”

“It also fits well,” he noted, “because fundamentally it is not going to prevent us from doing anything that we have always done as far as how we use the land. It just makes this statement that says it is going to be that way forever. Now my four kids and my six grandkids, and their grandkids depending on how the title to the land passes along the way, could enjoy this for a long time. I finally got older and wiser!”



*Although water levels in Camp One Lake, a seepage lake, have declined due to extended drought conditions, it still attracts diverse species of waterfowl.*

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Al hoped this message would be relayed to his grandchildren’s children: “The major reason I have done this is for them, for future generations to enjoy. I would hope that once they become old enough to understand this (land conservation project), if they had the opportunity to influence or participate in it, they would do the same and then it would continue on in the spirit of forever – to be a forever resource.”

“The mission of the land trust is to make sure that there are pristine properties that are as natural as possible still around for a very, very long time,” Al explained. “If these generations can become aware of and interested in the land, that would be my wish for them.”

Al’s commitment to perpetuity went beyond just granting the conservation agreement. He also made a separate donation to the land trust to cover NWLT’s transaction costs and also the land stewardship fund costs of annually monitoring and legally defending the easement.

“Having grown up here, and as I have come back over the last almost 50 years, it has changed a lot,” he commented. “Seeing the things that have happened to the Eagle River and Vilas County area, I think there is reason to be concerned as more and more people come up here. They start chopping up the land. This conservation easement is a very constructive way to create an alternative, responsible approach. It is not only a good thing for the local area, but it is also what I would consider to be the ‘Wisconsin Way.’”

“As I travel around and see different parts of the country and the world,” he continued, “people talk about wanting to become more conservation-minded and ‘green.’ They want to be responsible for land management and wildlife resources. In Wisconsin, we aren’t wannabes, we *are*. We live and breathe it. We recycle and we care about what we do. We don’t pollute the waters. The natural resources are such a part of our culture as a people.”

“I’ve been all over the world – to Asia, Africa, and Europe,” he stated. “I’ve seen every state of the Union. I’m proud to be part of Wisconsin. I’m stubborn, but I’ll never live anywhere else.”



# NWLT Annual Report of Contributions Received in 2012

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

## NEW CONSERVATION EASEMENT DONORS

319 acres Cynthia Walters &  
Sue Ann Kartman  
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## Gifts in Memory...

Catharine "Betty" Ridders Beverly, NWLT's third conservation easement donor, passed away in January. Betty protected her 39-acre property in Vilas County in July of 2004. Our hearts go out to son Ted, daughter Jane, and brother and former NWLT Board member Fred Ridders. Memorial gifts in Betty's honor were contributed by: Betsy Behnke, Barbara & Joe Corry, Karen & Terry Emmrich, Willa Schmidt & Kim Genich, Eleanor & Robert Rodini, Anita & Tom Hauske, and Jeanne Baxter.

Longtime NWLT and Eagle River volunteer, Marion Schoofs, passed away in May of 2012. Marion helped NWLT regularly with our large landowner mailings and gave numerous gifts in memory of others, especially her friends on Snipe Lake. Gifts in memory of Marion were received from: Eloise & Jeffrey Potter, Catherine Schoofs, Joan Schoofs, Jennifer & Douglas Fitzgerald Family, Robert & Charlotte Hanson, Kathrine Parzych, Pat Mayo, Steve Kram & Renee Haas, Helen Welch,

Helena Radloff, Duane & Marilyn Preisler, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Eagle River, Patricia Fitzgerald, Don & Sandy Anderson, Alma Shupe, Pam Marion, Larry & Meg George, Helen Schumann, Sharon Mack, Elayne Goldstein, Willa Schmidt & Kim Genich, Sandra McKee, Michael & Mary Beth Brever, Mary Claringole, Herbert & LaVerne Schmidt, and other family and friends of Marion.

- Other memorial gifts received recently include:
- \*Maureen Spuhler - in memory of Russell Spuhler
  - \*Mick Mlinar - in memory of Karen Mlinar
  - \*Jennifer & Doug Fitzgerald Family - in memory of Richard B. Potter and Dr. Donald Chizan
  - \*Ed Drager - in memory of Charlene Palo, Bob Klemm and Morgan Douglas
  - \*Eloise & Jeffrey Potter - in memory of Sylvia Goldstein
  - \*Eagle River Creative Homemakers - in memory of Margaret Spiess
  - \*Sara Streich - in memory of Bradley Streich



## Easement Volunteer Monitor Training & Work Day Set

The Holmboe Conifer Forest State Natural Area will be the site of the 2013 Conservation Easement Monitor Training session on **Saturday, April 20th**. The session will begin at **10:00 a.m.** as NWLT kicks off its monitoring season. Close to 70 properties that NWLT either owns or holds an easement on must be monitored on an annual basis. The annual visits ensure that regular contact is kept with landowners and that the conservation agreements are being upheld. Monitoring also helps the organization meet national land trust accreditation standards.

We invite and welcome any new volunteers to the training who are interested in helping with these site visits.

The day will include a free picnic lunch at noon provided by NWLT. Following lunch, a volunteer work

day will help prepare Holmboe for visitors this summer. Sections of the popular boardwalk trail will be repaired or replaced, and invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn will be removed from the preserve boundary. Bad weather date is May 4th.

If you are interested in participating in the volunteer monitor training and/or helping at the Holmboe site, please contact Trisha or Bryan at (715) 479-2490.



## JOIN THE NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

HELP KEEP THE NORTHWOODS THE NORTHWOODS!

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### Membership Contributions

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual  | \$25     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family  | \$35     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter   | \$50     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Founder   | \$100    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator   | \$250    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward   | \$500    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Legacy   | \$1000   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 contributing to NWLT in my will.



# NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

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

## Wolf Tracks Challenge Grant Success

The “Wolf Tracks Challenge Grant,” named after a favorite Minocqua Winter Park cross-country ski trail loop, was initiated with a \$2,000 grant from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.



By the end of February, the challenge grant gift was successful in leveraging a total of \$6,375 of additional contributions toward helping to annually monitor and legally defend the Winter Park Pines Nature Preserve conservation easement property. The grant also stimulated other gifts directly in support of Minocqua Winter Park to the Lakeland Ski Touring Foundation.

In addition, the donor directly provided unique, signed and numbered wolf tracks prints (above) by artist John Stoeckley to every contributor of \$150 or more. A few copies of this art print remain, and are now available through NWLT.

Donations can still be made by mailing a check to: Wolf Tracks Challenge Grant, c/o Northwoods Land Trust, P.O. Box 321, Eagle River, WI 54521.

Our sincerest thanks to this exceptional donor!



## 2012 Stock Donation

We are very pleased to acknowledge and thank Michael and Peg Uihlein for their contribution of stocks at the close of 2012. NWLT has established a brokerage account specifically to receive gifts of stocks. Please contact the NWLT office at (715) 479-2490 for more information on how to donate stocks or other assets.



## Lot For Sale

*Spawning beds for bass and panfish are visible off the shore of this donated 100-foot lot on Pickerel Lake west of Eagle River. The sale of the lot will support our conservation programs. Contact NWLT for details.*

