



Summer-Fall 2017 Newsletter

# NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

*Leaving a Lasting Legacy for the Northwoods*

## Old Growth White Cedars Protected on the Deerskin River Nature Preserve



*NWLT's latest conservation acquisition project is the 40-acre Deerskin River Nature Preserve in Vilas County.*

You can't get there from here - at least not by land. You have to paddle a canoe or kayak, which is still a great way to access NWLT's newest conservation property - the Deerskin River Nature Preserve.

The Northwoods Land Trust has previously been successful in helping to permanently conserve three private properties along and adjacent to the Deerskin River in the Town of Washington, Vilas County. Those tracts were conserved through land protection agreements, or conservation easements, with the private landowners. Other protected lands are also nearby along the river (see the aerial photo map on page 3).

NWLT Vice-President Bob Martini is one of those conservation easement donors. According to Martini, the Deerskin River was inventoried by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and found to be one of the most diverse river and stream systems in northern Wisconsin. Martini retired as the WDNR state rivers coordinator. Based on geographic information system (GIS) estimates from recent aerial photos, the new preserve property includes nearly 1,000 feet of total frontage on the Deerskin.

When the opportunity came to acquire a unique parcel on this exceptional river in May, the NWLT board of directors quickly approved moving ahead. The project was a direct purchase from the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL).

*(Continued next page)*

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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 in Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence, Iron, Price and northern Langlade Counties.*



*The accreditation seal recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.*

### NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

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## Deerskin River Nature Preserve - *continued*

As Wisconsin's oldest state agency, BCPL is comprised of the Secretary of State (currently Douglas La Follette), State Treasurer (Matt Adamczyk), and Attorney General (Brad Schimel). BCPL is the original land granting institution in the state and was responsible for the distribution of millions of acres of land granted by the federal government.

Several thousand acres from the original federal land grant though were mostly wetlands and were never sold to the early lumber companies who were looking to cut the big pines. The 40-acre parcel on the Deerskin River was one of those wetland sites never sold into private ownership.

Because it is an isolated parcel surrounded by other private lands, BCPL decided to put this 40-acre parcel up for sale through a bidding process. BCPL commissioned an appraisal on the property, which established the minimum bid price, however no neighbors or other interested parties bid on the parcel.

After languishing on the sales list for several years, BCPL contacted the Northwoods Land Trust to see if we would be interested in acquiring the property for conservation.

According to BCPL's Forest Supervisor John Schwarzmann, this parcel was never logged: "BCPL has no records of any logging having occurred on the Deerskin River parcel... It is likely that the swamp conifers (cedar and fir) are primary forest and the 5-acre relict white pine/fir/spruce boreal stand along the river may also be primary forest."

Schwarzmann cautioned though that "you can never know for sure given the history of logging theft for pine logs in the 1800s." Based on the history of the Deerskin River and the logging dam that was located about one mile upstream from the property, that caution certainly seems warranted.

However, a stand of old-growth white cedar trees still exists on the property. Old-growth white cedar is a relatively rare forest habitat type in Wisconsin, and also often hosts rare orchid species. It is also an important winter deer yard.



*Old-growth white cedars make up a rare forest habitat type in Wisconsin.*

While there are only about six acres of upland forest on the entire parcel, some super-canopy white pines and red pines can also be observed. Interestingly, some of the upland also includes openings with blueberries and blackberries that may have been the result of a forest fire.

The Deerskin River in this segment has a flowing gradient that is fun to paddle by canoeists and kayakers. An easy couple-hour float takes you downstream in a gentle current from the Nicolet National Forest to the river crossing at Rangeline Road just upstream from Scattering Rice Lake.

To get to the put-in place, take Deerskin Road east from Hwy. 17 north of Eagle River until the blacktop ends. Go less than 1/4 mile on gravel and take the first dirt road to the right.

## The Diverse Deerskin

The new NWLT property is located about one mile downstream of the former dam site on the Deerskin River. The dam was removed in June 2001 by WDNR as a safety hazard, to restore natural river flow and riparian habitat, and to allow for unrestricted movement for fish populations.

Environmental baseline studies were conducted on the Deerskin River by WDNR prior to and following the dam removal. These studies found one of the highest diversity and abundance indices of aquatic invertebrates recorded for a northern Wisconsin River.

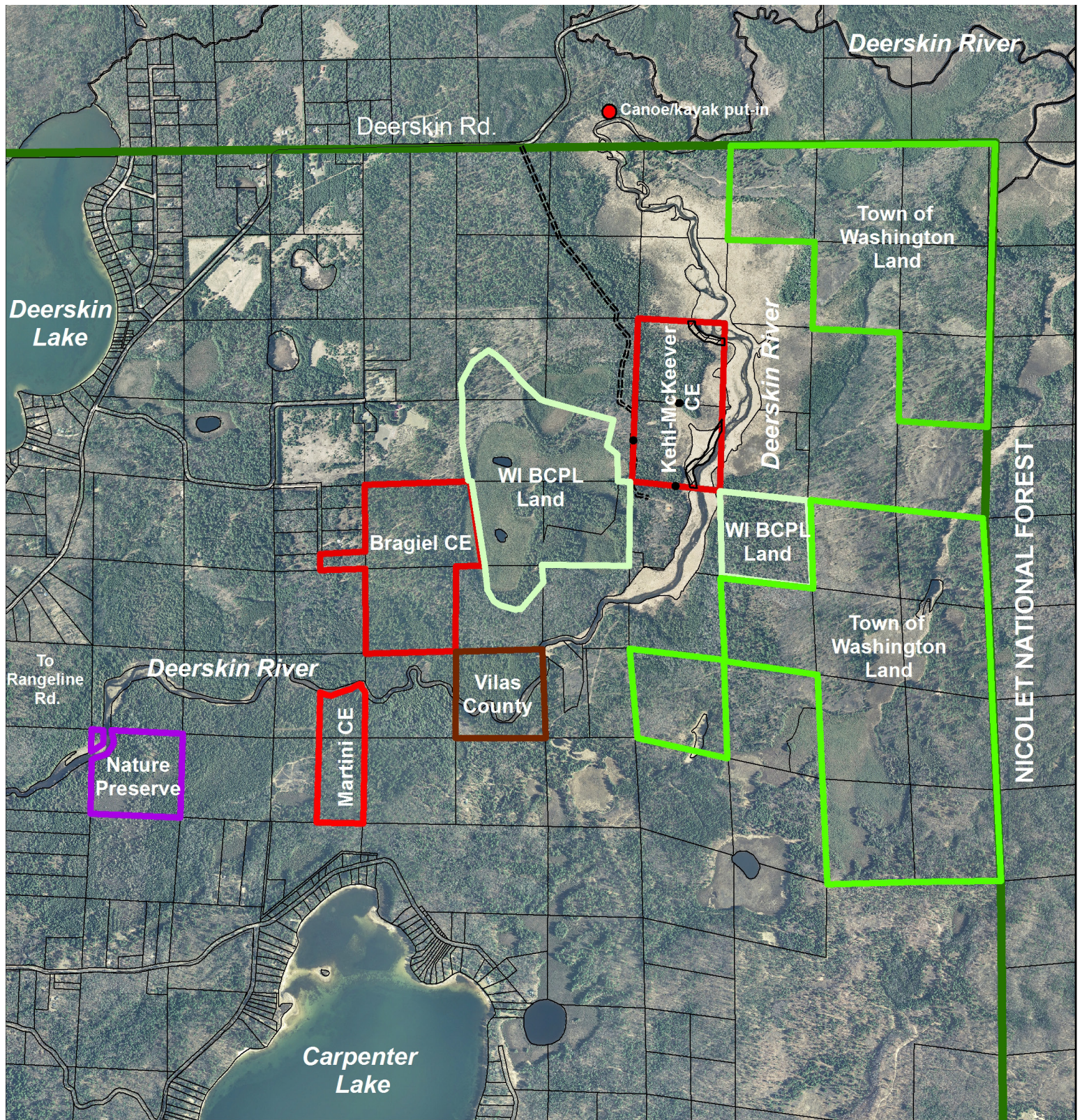
The Deerskin River is an important tributary feeding into the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. From its headwaters at the outlet dam on Long Lake, the Deerskin River runs mostly through Nicolet National Forest lands. Only about four miles of the river flows through privately-owned lands, including along the new nature preserve property.

The Deerskin River includes Class I and Class II trout stream segments, and is a popular recreational attraction for anglers. The river supports mixed cold water and warm water fish species, including a high quality, naturally-reproducing population of brook trout. Other species of fish migrate upstream into the river from the Eagle River Chain of Lakes, including smallmouth bass, panfish, walleyed pike, northern pike and muskellunge.

The Deerskin River is also classified as an Outstanding Resource Water by WDNR for the purpose of preventing water quality degradation from point source discharges. The Deerskin was a priority river and stream segment identified by the WDNR's northern rivers initiative warranting additional protection based on its high ecological significance, outstanding natural scenic beauty and special recreational values. The Deerskin River was also listed as one of the 229 most important "Legacy Places" to protect in the state.



# Map of the Deerskin River corridor

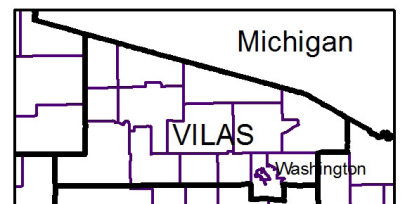


0 0.25 0.5  
Miles

This drawing is not a survey, and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only. Parcel lines and trails approximate only.

## Deerskin River Nature Preserve

Town of Washington, Vilas County  
Conservation Acquisition Location Map  
T40N, R11E, Section 7  
Northwoods Land Trust, Inc.





# NWLT Annual Report of Contributions Received in Fiscal Year 2016

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

## New Conservation Easement Donors

127 acres Hodag Sports Club  
210 acres Ann & Scott Eshelman  
99 acres James & Joy Perry  
52 acres Alden Geisness  
84 acres James & Erinn Letts  
42 acres James & Erinn Letts

## Conservation Land Donor

96 acres Edward Marshall

## Government & Foundation Grants

\$133,730 Caerus Foundation  
\$75,000 Anonymous - IRA distribution  
\$55,274 DNR Lake Protection Grant  
\$55,000 Lux Foundation Inc.  
\$12,500 James D. & Jane P. Watermolen Fdn.  
\$6,500 Modestus Bauer Foundation  
\$4,500 Land Trust Alliance  
\$3,525 DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund grant  
\$2,479 EarthShare  
\$2,000 Coles Family Foundation  
\$1,000 Wisconsin Land Fund of the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation  
\$870 Charles A. & Ida C. Sanders Northwoods Memorial Fund of the Natural Resources Foundation of WI  
\$500 American Natural Heritage Fdn. & Mueller Family Charitable Trust  
\$500 Charles & Carol James, Greater Milwaukee Fdn.  
\$100 Kimberly Clark Foundation  
\$20 Amazon Smile Foundation

## Memberships and Other Contributions

**Land Legacy - \$1,000 +**  
Carol Ritter & Michael Eaton  
Nancy Nebgen  
Patricia Juday  
Edward Marshall  
Richard & Amy Jo Aylward  
Tara Lila LLC  
Michael & Peg Uihlein  
Robert & Elke Hagge  
Don & Sue Kratsch  
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Mark Fedora & Laura Scottford  
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Meta Reigel Brandt & Jim Brandt  
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Scott Patulski & Kristine Krause  
Sheri Buller

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Bette Jo Sullivan  
Beverly Engstrom  
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Clifford Haskins  
Dale Lang  
David Mladenoff & Deborah Hobbins  
Dawn Olsen  
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Dr. Gene Likens  
Dr. Roger & Consie Powell  
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Jean Crawford  
Jean Johnson  
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John Hefty  
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Katherine Dutcher  
Larry & Meg George  
Laura Hammel  
Leo & Marilyn Norden  
Lloyd W. Lange, DDS and Family  
Marcia & Tim Obukowicz  
Mark & Ruth Mortensen  
Mark & Sarah McGuire  
Mary Lou Findley  
Burlingame  
Mike Meyer  
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Paul & Sharon Wussow  
Pete & Brenda Davison  
Peter McKeever & Marena Kehl  
Richard & Patricia Garbelman  
Ricky & Christine Kamil  
Roger & Carol Ziff  
Roland & Ruth Rueckert  
Ron Errett  
Ron Greenwald & Lenore Lenten  
Roy & Ron Urban  
Sally Ann Kelly  
Scott & Paula Taebe  
Snipe Lake Association  
Squash Lake Association  
Stephen & Karen Malkin  
Thomas Katsch  
Tim & Jo-Ann O'Neil  
Tom & Judy Saeger  
Virginia & Michael Bolger  
Virginia Scherwin  
William & Susan Niemuth  
William Crowley

**Supporter - \$50-99**  
Bill & Barbara Schweisheimer  
Rick & Linda Lane  
Trish Stocking

*Continued next page*



# NWLT Annual Report of Contributions Received in Fiscal Year 2016

(Continued from previous page)

## Supporter - \$50-99

Dick Simon  
Kent & Jeryl Fuller  
Andy & Susan Gumm  
Angela Tornes & Mark Budnik  
Alec Albee  
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Arden & Victoria Hvam  
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Atty. William A. Dickens, Jr.  
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Kathy & David Noel  
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Marlette Larsen  
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Mary Lou Lipscomb  
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Michael & Dawn Rickman  
Mike Van Asten  
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Nancy & Howard Wallace  
Paulette Cary  
Richard & Catherine Farrenkopf  
Richard & Evelyn Bjorkland  
Richard Plonsky  
Richard Rollman  
Robert & Carol Pederson  
Robert & Mary Lobermeier

## Supporter - \$50-99

Roger Degris  
Ron E. Skagen  
Ruth Sanderson  
Sandy Lotto  
Sara Streich  
Sarah & Cal Johnson  
Sue Schmid  
Tim Hagen & Kimberly Kelling  
Todd Nicklaus  
Trisha Moore & Mark Shepherdson  
Vicki Holewinski  
Wendy Hall Smith  
William & Anita Nohava

## Family - \$35-49

Fred W. Busch  
Paul & Sherie Sondel  
Adele Anderson  
Anita & Walle Salinas  
Anne & Jeff Weber  
Bill & Jo Horton  
Bob & Joelle Gregorcich  
C.W. Brown  
Carol & Jim Heffner  
Carol Shoberg Brown  
Charles Wilfer, Sr.  
Christopher & Gina Koeppel  
Daniel & Karen Stroede  
Dennis & Ginny Buschke  
Donald & Carol Pockat  
Douglas & Kathleen Cassidy  
Dr. Dean & Barbara Bordeaux  
Elizabeth Stone & Richard Theile  
Frank & Amy Laundrie  
Ginny Parker  
Glenn & Mary Jonas  
Gord Ruesch and Cathy Mauer  
Jack & Judy Terreberry  
Jan & Glenn Falcon  
Jim & Aliza Faber  
Jim & Sandra Slagle  
John & Carolyn Cain  
John & Kathy Meiners & Family  
Joseph & Stephanie Schmitz  
Kathy Dickhut & Paul Gobster  
Ken & Christin Jaworski  
Kenn & Rayma Larson  
Leane & David Cerven  
Lee & Susan Basten  
Marcia Flynn-Dirksen & Gordon Dirksen  
Mark & Christine Troudt  
Mary Flanagan  
Maureen Spuhler  
Norris & Joan Ross  
Pam Schoville  
Rick & Sharron Howard  
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Ron & Elsie Magnussen  
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## Member - \$25-34

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Amy Johnson  
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Charles F. Bremigan, Jr.  
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Pat Hitt  
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Sandy Gillum  
Susan McCluskey  
Susan Ramsey  
Tammy Pedriana  
Terrence Cummings  
Virginia Ripple  
Walter & Amelia Rugland  
William H. Thomas

## Other Contributions

Harvey & Janet Hoy  
June & John Schmaal  
David Pegelow

## Trade Land Donors

7 acres Peter Hayes,  
Laura Hayes,  
Erin Hayes, and  
Amy O'Donnell

## Trade Land

### Purchasers

Lake Nokomis Cranberries, Inc.  
Martin Jolin

## In Kind Gifts & Contributions

Reach & Schwaiger  
Certified Public Accountants  
John & Jan Huppert - Post hole digger  
Ron & Jan Eckstein - Brush cutters  
Laura Aldridge - Homemade gift basket  
Donald & Sue Kratsch - Childrens' books  
Sue Kartman & Cindy Walters - Video projection unit  
David & Kathy Noel - Display materials

## Memorial Gifts

Mick Mlinar in memory of Karen Mlinar  
Ed Drager in memory of Peg Schmidt, Harry Keller, Barbara "Bobby" Rice, and Mike Hammer  
Eloise & Jeffrey Potter in memory of Thomas Brown, Lee Connors, and Dorothy Brever  
Jennifer & Doug Fitzgerald Family in memory of Joe Altschaeff  
Deanna Braeger in memory of Richard Stanley  
Robert & Judith Pagano  
Thoms in memory of Gerald Fercello

Please let us know if we've made an error so we can correct it in our next newsletter. We truly appreciate your support!



## Interstate Falls Improvements

At the 2016 Northwoods Land Trust Annual Meeting we officially dedicated the Interstate Falls - Siebert Scenic Conservation Area. With funding assistance from the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, major grants from several private foundations, and many contributions from individuals, families and businesses, the Interstate Falls property became NWLT's first outright purchase of a conservation property.

At that June 25th meeting, NWLT also gifted the 38.7-acre Interstate Falls parcel to the local Town of Kimball and unveiled a large wooden entrance sign visible from U.S. Hwy. 2. Since that dedication, NWLT has continued to provide funding and assistance to make this property a year-round scenic attraction for residents and tourists alike.

NWLT commissioned Coleman Engineering Company in Ironwood to survey and mark the boundaries. Angelo Lupino, Inc. from Hurley was contracted to clear, grade and gravel a new 60'x100' parking lot and access driveways.

Most recently NWLT worked with Nasi Construction, LLC, also of Hurley, to install safety railings above the falls. Also included with that project is construction of a stairway down the steep cliffside and a viewing platform below the falls. This critical project could not have been completed without the major contribution of an IRA distribution from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. To date, NWLT has funded nearly \$60,000 of direct improvements to the property.

Long appreciated by local residents who knew the area, Interstate Falls is already becoming a significant attraction for the many visitors traveling along U.S. Hwy. 2. Although we still have a couple of other projects in mind for Interstate Falls, do stop by and visit the "new and improved" falls when you are in the area!



*The Interstate Falls parking lot is accessed off of West Center Drive just west of the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 2 & U.S. Hwy 51.*



*With supports anchored into the rock at the lip of Interstate Falls, the new railings will help kids and pets (and adults) stay safe.*



*The new viewing platform also includes stairs for those who want to scramble down to the river to fish.*



*The stairway with viewing platform is already a popular attraction below the falls!*



## New Conservation Projects Exhibit

Thanks to NWLT volunteer Daved Noel, our office building now has a unique new exhibit illustrating all of the land protection projects we have completed to date!

Dave utilized his electrical engineering skills to design special circuit boards and wire up a push-button display panel. The hands-on exhibit now includes 86 completed projects.

Dave threaded over 1,000 feet of wiring into the circuit boards to enable each conservation easement and land acquisition project to be highlighted with LED lights. Those lights needed to be turned on by up to six buttons each - quite a challenge!



*Dave Noel designed special circuit boards for the land protection exhibit light-up display.*



Stop into the NWLT building in downtown Eagle River and give the new *Conservation Across the Northwoods* display a try.

We want to extend our heartiest Thanks to Dave Noel for sharing all of his time, expertise and materials to make this new exhibit a reality!

## NWLT Wish List...

We are still in need of a number of pieces of equipment that will help us with maintenance of the NWLT office building and grounds, and also for field work on some of our new conservation areas. Please give us a call if you are willing to donate any of the following:

- Garden tractor with mower & trailer
- Snow blower
- Portable generator & air compressor
- Leaf rake
- Spade
- Splitting maul
- Trail tools (combination hoe/pick)
- Weed trimmer, lawn edger
- Garden hoe & rake
- Garden hose
- 6' & 8' aluminum or fiberglass step ladders
- Fence post pounder
- Push broom
- Commercial carpet cleaner
- Air compressor and air hoses
- Power washer
- Tools - hammer, screwdrivers, socket set, pliers, wrenches, hand saws, power drill/driver, power sander, skil saw, sabre saw, level, drill bits, roofing nail gun, heavy mallet, large level, and others...



## JOIN NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

*Leave a Lasting Legacy for the Northwoods*

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*Please make checks payable and mail to:*

**NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST, INC.**  
 P.O. Box 321  
 Eagle River, WI 54521-0321

### MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

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

### 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 or other planned giving.





# NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

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*Please remember the Northwoods Land Trust  
in your annual and planned giving.  
Give a gift that will last forever!*

*Leaving a Lasting Legacy for the Northwoods*

## Annual Meeting & Dedication of Marshall Wildlife Conservation Area

The Northwoods Land Trust's 2017 Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, September 29th at the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Natural Resources Center in Vilas County.

A free light lunch with the NWLT Board of Directors, open to the public, will start at noon. This your opportunity to meet our exceptional board members and staff. All NWLT members and any others interested in the land trust are invited to participate.

Starting at 1:00 p.m., the 2017 NWLT Annual Meeting will be conducted including a "virtual tour" of the land trust's recent projects and activities, a celebration of several major milestones, and a look ahead at the outstanding projects we have currently in the works.

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, we will travel about 9 miles for the official dedication of the Marshall Wildlife Conservation Area. Bring your binoculars and join us as we hike the 1/2 mile trail loop to learn about this wildlife conservation area and unveil our recent improvements.

If you know you will be able to join us, please contact the NWLT office at (715) 479-2490 so we can plan for lunch.

*Directions: The Lac du Flambeau Tribal Natural Resources Center is located about one mile west of downtown Lac du Flambeau on Hwy. 47. To get to the Marshall Wildlife Conservation Area, go south of downtown Lac du Flambeau on County Hwy. D for 4 miles, turn west on Hwy. 70 about 3 miles and turn south on East Squaw Lake Road. Turn west on North Squaw Lake Road about 250 feet to the trailhead.*



*The new Marshall Wildlife Conservation Area includes about 96 acres and 1.3 miles of creek and beaver pond habitat.*