



NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

Leaving a Lasting Legacy for the Northwoods

Kabol Lake Conservation Easement Protects Waters, Woods and Wildlife



Much of Kabol Lake's shoreline is protected thanks to the West-Wycoff's donation of a conservation easement to NWLT.

July 27, 2020, Tim Wycoff and Susan West of Appleton and Park Falls, Wisconsin donated a conservation easement to the Northwoods Land Trust (NWLT). The easement protects 142 acres of land and 4,000 feet of frontage on Kabol Lake in the Town of Eisenstein in Price County.

One of the primary conservation features is the extensive frontage on Kabol Lake. Kabol is a "wild lake" according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The lake was named "Kabo" in the 1930's by the owners of the Kabo Corset Company of Chicago. Perhaps the narrow "waist" between the two rounded sections reminded them of the shaping garment. An error made on an early survey map placed the abbreviated "L" for "Lake" a bit too close to Kabo; hence, Kabo Lake became Kabol Lake. Susan and Tim continue to discover clues of the property's history as a logging camp, like the dam and pipe system and the abandoned rail bed used to transport logs to the nearby mills.

Other conservation values protected include intact and diverse woodlands and wetlands. Wetland areas including tamarack-spruce swamps and peat bogs comprise approximately 15 acres of the property. The diversity of tree and other plant species provide important forest and wetland habitats used by a great variety of bird, mammal, herptile and invertebrate species in all of their life cycles.

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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

519 E. Wall St.

P.O. Box 321

Eagle River, WI 54521-0321

Phone: 715-479-2490

Email: nwlt@northwoodslandtrust.org

Website: www.northwoodslandtrust.org

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Kabol Lake Conservation Easement - *continued*

The sighting of wildlife over the years has been a highlight of the couple's time spent at their land. Moose, grey wolves and bobcat frequent the lake due to its remoteness and lack of development along its shores. "I remember early on after we first purchased land here, it was a foggy day and then the sun came up, shining down the lake. Straight across the lake, this big old wolf came out and walked along the shore, then disappeared in the woods. It seemed like some kind of an omen; that's what got it in my head, that I want to own that shoreline!" said Tim.

Over time Tim and Susan acquired surrounding land to add to their original parcel, resulting in 142 acres of land and nearly a mile of shoreline being placed under conservation easement. "We are grateful that we are in a position to be able to make this contribution. We couldn't have done this 14 years ago when we first bought our cabin lot," said Tim and Susan at the signing of the easement.



Tim Wycoff and Susan West (pictured) signed a conservation easement with NWLT this summer to protect Kabol Lake in Price County.

While celebrating the signing, Tim reflected on his childhood, growing up in Nebraska farm country. "It dawned on us that treating land as an extractive commodity, whether it's corn or the timber industry, is the standard way many people look at land and where they find its value. We think there's other intrinsic value in the land that gets lost in that conversation."

"We are grateful that we are in a position to be able to make this contribution."

Climate change and carbon sequestration considerations are of particular interest to Tim and Susan and were taken into account when creating a Forest Stewardship Management Plan for their protected property. With a history of logging and forest fires, the landscape now supports mixed conifer-hardwood forest, northern hardwood forest and black spruce/tamarack swamp that may be managed sustainably under the guidance of licensed professionals.

Although the land is not open to the public, it provides many public benefits including protecting wildlife habitat and travel corridors, scenic values, water quality, as well as complimenting protective efforts of the nearby Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (Medford-Park Falls District) and Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Wilderness Area, both listed as Wisconsin Legacy Places.

"This special property is being conserved as a tract of private land, which, over the years, will have many owners; but will never be developed. This generous gift of the West-Wycoff family to future generations will allow for a part of the historical and 'wild' nature of the northwoods to remain as it is, forever," said Trisha Moore, NWLT Conservation Specialist, who assisted the couple in realizing their goal of conserving their property. 🌲

Our 91st Conservation Easement Signed!

NWLT recently signed a conservation easement that protects a 75-acre forest and wetland property in northern Vilas County with 530 feet of frontage on a small, undeveloped "wild lake." The easement, protecting water quality and wildlife habitat, has been 13 years in the making. NWLT is honored to help the donating family (who wishes to remain anonymous at this time) honor their loved ones by protecting their cherished property. 🌲



This stretch of shoreline on a "wild lake" is conserved thanks to a donation of a conservation easement.

For 30 Years, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Has Protected Wisconsin's Land, Water, and Wildlife

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is a tremendously successful environmental conservation program that protects our lakes and streams, conserves working forests, secures critical wildlife habitats, and provides countless opportunities for outdoor recreation both close to home and across Wisconsin.

But most people have never heard of Knowles-Nelson. The program works behind the scenes to make it possible for conservation organizations and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to purchase land, to build trails, to maintain our parks and boating facilities, and to take care of our shorelines. The program is up for renewal in 2021, and our legislators need to know that caring for Wisconsin's land and water is a top priority.

Named after two former Wisconsin governors — Warren Knowles, a Republican, and Gaylord Nelson, a Democrat — the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program honors Wisconsin's bipartisan commitment to land and water protection.

Since its inception in 1989, Republicans and Democrats across the state have championed the program because our land, water, and wildlife don't have political affiliations. We all want Wisconsin to be a healthy, thriving place to live, work, and play. According to recent polls, 9 out of 10 Wisconsinites support the Stewardship Program!

The governor and the legislature must renew the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in the 2021 state budget or we'll lose this vital source of funding. We're asking them to reauthorize the program for 10 years and to restore funding that has been cut from the program over the last decade. 🌲

~Team Knowles Nelson



Interstate Falls in Iron County was conserved by NWLT with funding from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund.

Information taken from www.KnowlesNelson.org.
NWLT is a member of Team Knowles Nelson.

The CARES Act 2020 Tax Benefits

The federal CARES Act allows taxpayers to deduct up to \$300 of their cash donations to qualifying charitable organizations without having to itemize deductions on their 2020 federal tax returns. For those who plan to itemize deductions, the deductibility of charitable gifts changes from a cap of 60% of adjusted gross income to 100% for individuals and joint filers, making all gifts to qualified charitable organizations fully tax deductible. 🌲

(Continued from back page)

trust conference this October. The virtual event allowed 3,800 professionals and volunteers to come together to network and share our conservation successes while providing strategies for tackling the many issues that are on the horizon: climate change impacts, environmental stresses resulting from exploding populations, and increasingly divided communities. What is clear is that we could benefit from listening to the diverse perspectives of the people we depend on to conserve the land we all care about.

Finally, please take a minute to customize a postcard in support of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program by visiting www.KnowlesNelson.org. Your personalized

postcard will be printed and sent to the governor as well as to your Assembly and Senate representatives. If the program is successfully funded, between \$70 - \$106 million could be available for land trusts over the next 10 years. The program has touched nearly every community in Wisconsin with more than 9 in 10 households being within one mile of a property that benefited from this program's funding.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission of conserving the northwoods as our legacy to future generations. On behalf of the board and staff of the Northwoods Land Trust, have a happy and safe holiday season.

~Ted Anchor, NWLT Executive Director 🌲



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

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Leaving a Lasting Legacy for the Northwoods

A Pathway Forward *A message from the Director*

The Northwoods Land Trust (NWLTL) is looking ahead to our next chapter as a nearly 20-year-old organization by developing a new five-year Strategic Plan. In our spring newsletter we included a questionnaire and we're currently using your responses to inform the process of setting conservation goals and improving our services and programs. We received almost 100 responses, the vast majority of you said that protecting lake and river shoreline, and saving rare old-growth forests, is of utmost importance. Shoreline conservation has been the basis of our work since 2001, and this will continue to be our focus moving forward. We all agree that action is needed to protect remaining high-quality, large stretches of natural shoreline.

Your input, as well as recognizing what makes the northwoods unique, plays a large part in planning a pathway forward. We'll summarize the goals and objectives of the 2021 - 2025 Strategic Plan in our next Annual Report, as well as highlight achievements from the 2016 - 2020 Strategic Plan.

The majority of our operating budget is allocated to providing services to shoreline landowners. Please consider making a year-end charitable gift to help us meet our budgetary needs, and establish a solid foundation for our plan to

advance watershed and lake protection efforts. See the special appeal letter and envelope inside this edition or visit www.northwoodslandtrust.org/donate.

In addition to planning for the future, all five staff members at NWLT had the opportunity to attend the 33rd national land

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Photo courtesy of Bev Engstrom

*Happy Holidays from the
Northwoods Land Trust!*