



NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

HELP LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR THE NORTHWOODS

Wisconsin Land Trust of the Year Award Winner!

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

Summer 2010

Dugans Protect Squash Lake Nature Preserve

Sometimes the only way to protect land is to buy it. That was the commitment Patrick Dugan and Sue Hausserman-Dugan made when they purchased three lots that had already been subdivided for development on steep slopes along the south shore of Squash Lake. They added to the three lots a unique, long esker peninsula extending into the lake and then gifted it all to the Northwoods Land Trust (NWLTL) to become a nature preserve.

The Dugan Squash Lake Nature Preserve was accepted by the land trust in December 2009 as the third conservation area owned outright by the conservation organization. Just 5.6 acres in size, the property features over 4,000 feet of entirely natural lake frontage. The esker peninsula also creates a long, narrow bay.

Pat and Sue have had conservation and protection of the lake ecosystem in mind for over eight years. Before they purchased the preserve land, the Dugans met with NWLT Executive Director Bryan Pierce and Board member Atty. Bill Dickens to ensure the site



Three lake lots and a long, narrow esker peninsula make up NWLT's new Dugan Squash Lake Nature Preserve.



With over 4,000 feet of natural shoreline, the esker peninsula provides outstanding habitat for spawning walleyes, bass, crappies and bluegills.

met the land trust's criteria for conservation. It did.

Sue explained how they got involved with purchasing the additional lots for the preserve: "We really enjoy the nature that has been present in the small bay. It is a shallow, swampy area, so it promotes a lot of bird life and aquatic life. We decided we would like to preserve that area because of the ecosystem. We looked into buying the lots adjacent to the bay so they wouldn't be developed with three big houses sitting on those little lots. We wanted to keep it rather pristine."

"We started to look at the lots around 2001," noted Sue. "Of course, they were too expensive at first, because prices were very high. As the drought wore on and the economy started to crash, the price came down to where we could afford it in 2009."

"We went back and forth on creating a conservation

(Continued next page)

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
Contributor: Trisha Moore



This small inlet to the narrow bay helps create a safe haven for wildlife from disturbance by large motorboats.

Dugan Preserve - *continued*

easement on the land, which is what most of your [NWLT's] landowners do," explained Pat. "We weren't going to use the land, so we looked at the other alternative which was an outright land donation. We found that to be a truly win-win situation. We could claim it as a charitable deduction for income tax purposes. We also had all of this waterfront property taxed per linear foot, so gifting the peninsula will also help to reduce our real estate taxes. With everything included, we were able to purchase the property at a much-reduced price and not have to worry about land ownership."

"Location, location, location," was Pat's description of how they found their secluded spot on Squash Lake. "We found this wonderful spot, and the house that was sitting on the lot was partially finished. It was Sue's dream to create the house, and it was my dream to move to the location."

"One of the first things I did when we moved in was to put in a path to the end of the peninsula," said Pat. "We don't fish, but we do everything else - hiking, birdwatching, kayaking, and occasionally, when the ice is good, ice skating. The little bay warms up fastest for swimming. I've also done some snorkeling through there. Right now the native aquatic plants are beautiful, and I see a lot of largemouth bass in particular."

Sue loves the walks on the peninsula. "I love hearing the frogs at night," she said. "We've got bull frogs starting now, and we've had spring peepers, green frogs and trilling toads. We took a course on their sounds so we can identify them by their calls."

Both of the Dugans are talented individuals. Sue grew up in Omaha and was accepted early to medical school at the University of Nebraska. After a military stint and a residency in radiology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for four years, she worked for 20 years in the Fox River Valley as a radiologist. "I thought I retired after 20 years, but I decided to do some temporary work in Rhinelander with Dr. Harry Skye at St. Mary's Hospital radiology group," Sue said. "I was then recruited to be a full-time radiologist, so we moved our home from Neenah to Rhinelander in 1999."

Pat works as an outpatient mental health and substance abuse therapist, also for St. Mary's Hospital. "I've been in the mental health and substance abuse field for almost 30 years, both at the hospital and in education with at-risk students at various school systems," said Pat. His undergraduate degree was from the University of Minnesota, and he received a Master's degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

According to Pat, they met on a blind date in Neenah in 1982, and it was love at first sight. "When Pat and I were first married, we used to come up here in the summer to Coon's Lodge on Trout Lake," said Sue. "We really fell in love with the northwoods as our special place to get away and bring our family. We used to bring my mother and our daughters up and we'd spend a week or two every year here in the northwoods. Even though we lived in the Fox River Valley, we did develop a connection over the last twenty years."

"When you go on vacation, you think wouldn't it be nice to live here," Pat said. "When Sue's opportunity to practice medicine was offered to her, we never looked back."

"Sue's daughter from a previous marriage, Chris, is living in San Diego," noted Pat. "Our youngest daughter Jessie just graduated from Arizona State

(Continued on page 3)

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.

Dugan Preserve - continued from page 2

University in Phoenix. The girls moved where it was warm and sunny. They don't get back very often, we go to visit them instead. At Christmas time they will come and get their dose of cold and snow, then they run back to the warm weather."

"I think that Pat is a naturalist at heart," commented Sue. "He grew up spending a lot of time outdoors watching birds and developed a real love of the land and nature from a very early age. I think he has a genetic predisposition to being a 'nature boy.' His parents were instrumental in doing a lot of camping when he was young."

"Especially my father," added Pat, "his love of nature imprinted on me. He would always talk about his camping trips to Canada. He was an Eagle Scout, and I followed in his footsteps and became an Eagle Scout too."

Sue dates her love of nature to working for several college summers at the North Rim Lodge in Grand Canyon National Park. "It gave me a real sense of feeling connected with nature. It was a wonderful time in my life. Even though I am not an ardent hiker and camper like Pat is, I still feel the connection strongly."

"Sue really knew how important the land ethic is to me," Pat reflected. "For her, this [preserve] was a true gift to me personally. It was something that she knew was near and dear to my heart in terms of investment in the land - a true gift from her heart to her husband."

As a Father's Day gift for Pat one year, Sue hired naturalist John Bates to visit their property. John Bates concurred that the peninsula itself is probably an esker from the last glacier about 10,000 years ago. "On the far end of the peninsula is a fairly good stand of hardwood oak," said Pat, "more mature than the land closer to the house which seems to have been logged more recently." Bates noted service-berry and a variety of wildflowers including starflower and wild iris. The peninsula also featured lots of otter scat and a beaver lodge. "At first we were really excited to look at those cute beavers," Pat noted. "They'd



The narrow bay hosts frogs, toads, turtles, a beaver lodge and otters.



Sue and Pat Dugan (center) transfer the deed to the new Dugan Squash Lake Nature Preserve to NWLT Executive Director Bryan Pierce (left) and Vice-President Bob Martini (right).

swim under our kayaks. We'd watch them at night and they'd be hitting their tail on the water and diving under. It was a great northwoods experience - until they started denuding the peninsula. They were taking down pretty good size oaks and sugar maples, not just aspen. It was amazing."

The Dugans found an old foundation on one of the three lots. "As I was digging among the sheet metal I kept finding old artifacts, so I contacted Mark Bruhy, U.S. Forest Service Archaeologist," said Pat. Bruhy felt that the artifacts and foundation are likely a squatter's shack dated from the 1930s and possibly as late as the 1940s. The shack remnants will be protected in the nature preserve.

Pat was involved from the start with the Squash Lake Association, which has been going now for about five years. "UW-Extension Agent Dan Kuzlik helped us launch the organization," said Pat. "We formed an organizing committee which I was on, and I was voted as the first President. It has been a labor of love effort ever since."

Pat also noted the synergistic effect of protecting the esker peninsula across the larger bay from the 20-acre property protected by Roger Degris in 2008 with a conservation easement. "Almost the whole bay will be preserved forever," said Pat.

"I know where I'm going to have my ashes put," reflected Pat when asked how the donation of the preserve makes him feel. "It makes us feel really good to be able to do something for posterity, to know that it will be protected in perpetuity. It really is a very special donation for both of us."

"Life is finite," added Sue. "The best thing we can do for our children and our grandchildren is to leave them wild space so they can appreciate the beauty of nature - some place that isn't developed and over grown with people and houses and shopping malls. It preserves part of that special connection we have for the land. I wouldn't want our children and grandchildren to have to live in a world without this ability to connect with nature."



Northwoods Land Trust receives 2010 award celebrating a Decade of River Successes



Wisconsin DNR Secretary Matt Frank (middle left) presented the Decade of River Successes award to the Northwoods Land Trust. NWLT was well represented by Board members (from left) Beth Tornes, Bill Dickens, Mitch Olson, Bryan Pierce, Dan Wisniewski, Willa Schmidt and Bob Martini.

The Madison Club overlooking Lake Monona near the state Capitol was the location for a special awards ceremony sponsored by the River Alliance of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at their “Spring Confluence” on May 1st. The Northwoods Land Trust was presented an award by DNR Secretary Matt Frank celebrating a decade of river successes through the DNR’s river protection grant program.

Marking the 10th anniversary of the program, ten organizations who were past grant recipients were selected to receive awards based on their success and outstanding use of river grant program funds in helping to protect one of Wisconsin’s most precious resources - our rivers.

The Northwoods Land Trust has been awarded three river planning grants. Two of these projects have been completed, while one is still in progress.

NWLT’s projects involved using our GIS computer system to identify all property owners with about 500 feet or more of undeveloped, natural shorelines along river and stream segments rated as priorities through the DNR Northern Rivers Initiative. Those landowners were each mailed “*For the Love of the Land ... A Landowner’s Conservation Guide to Protecting Your Northwoods Property.*” Follow-up education and technical assistance with interested landowners helped them to explore voluntary conservation options for their river properties.

The NWLT grant projects started in Vilas County in 2006, then moved to Oneida County in 2007. The land trust is currently working to identify property owners along priority river and stream segments in Forest County.

Each of these DNR river planning grants was funded at \$10,000, plus 25% local matching funds provided by NWLT. A total of eleven conservation easements resulted from the education and technical assistance provided to landowners through these projects. Over 700 acres of land and about 2.5 miles of river and stream frontage were permanently protected. These sites included four conservation easements on the Upper Wisconsin River, and others on the Deerskin River, Pelican River, Eagle River and Nine Mile Creek. The \$20,000 of state grant funding received by the land trust leveraged over \$1.15 million of donated conservation easement values from the landowners.

Since the inception of the DNR river protection grants program in 2000, the DNR has awarded over \$3.1 million through 191 planning grants and 41 management grants. Over 100 organizations in 50 counties have benefited from these funds.

Receiving awards along with NWLT were the Bad River Watershed Association, Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy, Friends of the Black River, Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership, Milwaukee Riverkeeper, Rock River Coalition, Sheboygan River Basin Partnership, Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve.

Our sincere thanks to DNR Secretary Matt Frank, the DNR river and grant program staff we work with closely, and our partners in the River Alliance of Wisconsin for all of their support and consideration in recognizing the Northwoods Land Trust. We greatly appreciate the beautiful metal sculpture received for this award!



2011 - 2015 Strategic Planning



In 2010, the Northwoods Land Trust is updating our strategic plan for the next five years. As part of the planning process, we'd like to invite our members, supporters and interested landowners to give us some input. Please help us set priorities for our efforts in 2011-2015 by filling out the following brief survey and returning it to NWLT by August 15th. We appreciate your thoughts!

1. Which areas should be NWLT's highest conservation priorities? (Please rank the highest priority as #1, 2nd highest as #2, etc.)

- DNR-identified "Wild Lakes"
- Large remaining shorelines on otherwise developed lakes
- DNR Northern Rivers Initiative-identified priority rivers and streams
- Other rivers and streams
- Old growth forest stands
- Blocks of unfragmented, productive forest lands
- Bogs and other wetlands
- Habitat managed for wildlife (ex. observation, refuge and/or hunting lands)
- Endangered & threatened species habitat
- In-fill properties for public lands
- Others? (please list)

2. Which of these conservation areas do you feel are most threatened? (Please rank the most threatened as #1, 2nd most threatened as #2, etc.)

- DNR-identified "Wild Lakes"
- Large remaining shorelines on otherwise developed lakes
- DNR Northern Rivers Initiative-identified priority rivers and streams
- Other rivers and streams
- Old growth forest stands
- Blocks of unfragmented, productive forest lands
- Bogs and other wetlands
- Habitat managed for wildlife (ex. observation, refuge and/or hunting lands)
- Endangered & threatened species habitat
- In-fill properties for public lands
- Others? (please list)

3. During the previous five years, NWLT has worked on a progressive landowner education and technical assistance program starting with natural stretches of shorelines on lakes, then priority rivers and streams, and finally for woodlands of 40 acres or larger. These projects started in Vilas County, then continued sequentially in Oneida County and then Forest County (to be finished by 2011). If we are able to expand these landowner education projects with additional grant funding support, please rank by county which you feel we should work on next: (Please rank the highest priority as #1, 2nd highest as #2, etc.)

- Florence
- Iron
- Price

Are there any other types of habitats that NWLT should also target with these landowner education projects?

4. NWLT currently holds 48 donated land protection agreements (conservation easements) and three conservation properties donated outright. Promoting use of these voluntary, non-regulatory conservation tools with private landowners to conserve the northwoods is part of NWLT's unique niche. Please rank the importance of the following tools/strategies (1=most important, 2=second most important, etc.):

- Donations of perpetual land protection agreements (conservation easements)
- Donations of conservation land to NWLT (ex. bequests, outright gifts or reserved life estates)
- Purchase of perpetual land protection agreements (may use public grant funding and/or bargain sales)
- Purchase of land by NWLT (may use public grant funding and/or bargain sales)
- Non-binding land registry program (technical assistance to individual landowners)
- Conservation buyer program linking conservation-minded land buyers and sellers
- Others? (please list)

5. Outreach & Education - NWLT has utilized a variety of media and conducted a number of education programs in order to better inform the public and prospective landowners of our voluntary conservation options. Please rank the importance of the following NWLT tools/strategies (1=most important, 2=second most important, etc.):

- Presentations to county/local lake associations and other conservation organizations
- Presentations to service clubs, retirees groups and other community organizations
- Presentations and materials distributed to elected officials and zoning staff
- Presentations and materials distributed to estate planners, lawyers and real estate professionals
- Display booths at lake fairs, woodland owner field days, Nicolet college and other conservation-oriented events
- Field tours for members and open to the public including canoe trips, guided hikes, open houses and bike tours focusing on NWLT-conserved properties
- Newspaper press releases and other media coverage (radio & TV interviews)
- Quarterly newsletters distributed to members and interested landowners
- www.northwoodslandtrust.org web site
- Others? (please list)

6. Any other suggestions or comments? Anything you think we should do, but aren't? Anything you think we are currently doing that we may not need to?

Please cut off this page, fold in thirds with the address out, tape the top, stamp and return to NWLT. Thank you for your input!

Northwoods Land Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 321
Eagle River, WI 54521

Please
place
stamp
here

Join the Northwoods Land Trust for a "Tour de Conservation" Bike Ride & Picnic

NWLT members, supporters and other interested individuals and families are cordially invited to join us on a fun bike ride and conservation field tour followed by a picnic on **Saturday, August 7th**. We'll meet at the St. Germain Bike Trailhead parking lot at 10:00 a.m. The parking lot is located just behind the St. Germain Visitor Center on the southwest corner of the Hwy. 70 W and Hwy. 155 intersection.

This new bicycle trail is smoothly paved, so you can use a road bike if you have one. Along the route, we'll cross the St. Germain River and then make a stop by the Thomas and Eileen Pawlacyk conservation easement properties so we can celebrate these recent land protection projects with NWLT. The stop will include a short hike.

We will then continue on heading north, crossing Plum Creek along the way. We'll ride to Sayner where bikers can choose to bike further or be shuttled back to St. Germain for a picnic lunch hosted by the Northwoods Land Trust. We anticipate that the bike tour to Sayner will last about 2 hours, depending on the distance you choose. Lunch will be hosted from noon to 1 p.m.

Along the way will be a discussion of the properties protected by conservation easements, recent NWLT happenings, as well as the flora and fauna we are seeing along the trip. This scenic stretch is also an excellent opportunity to watch bald eagles and other wildlife.

We recommend a helmet, riding clothes plus walking footwear, water, small binoculars if you have them, sun screen and bug protection. Snacks and beverages will be provided. There is no charge for this event, but there is a suggested donation of \$10 for non-members.



NWLT's "Tour de Conservation" bike tour will visit two conservation easement-protected properties.

Please RSVP at nwlt@northwoodslandtrust.org or call NWLT at (715) 479-2490 so we can plan for the bike tour and lunch.

Need to rent a bike?

Bicycles may be rented from any of the following places: The Corner Store, Hwy. N & Razorback Rd., Sayner, (715) 542-4250; Coontail Sports, 5466 Park St., Boulder Jct., (715) 385-3398; Big Bear Outpost, 6063 Baker Lake Road, Conover, (715) 479-8528; Mel's Trading Post, Brown St., Rhinelander, (715) 362-5800; Walkabout's bike shop, 622 E. Wall St., Eagle River, (715) 479-6631; or Chequamegon Adventure Co., 8576 Hwy. 51 N, Minocqua, (715) 356-1618.

Directions:

From Eagle River/Rhinelander: Take Hwy. 70 west to St. Germain. The trailhead and parking lot will be on your left in St. Germain after the turn by the Hwy. 155 intersection.
From Minocqua/Woodruff: Take Hwy. 70 east to St. Germain. The trailhead and parking lot will be on your right just before the intersection with Hwy. 155.



JOIN THE NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

HELP KEEP THE NORTHWOODS THE NORTHWOODS!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

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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.



NOTICE - YOU ARE INVITED!
2010 Annual Meeting to feature the Dedication
of the Dugan Squash Lake Nature Preserve

You are cordially invited to participate in the 2010 Northwoods Land Trust Annual Meeting on **Friday, June 11th** at the Oneida County University of Wisconsin-Extension office meeting room in the lower level of the Rhinelander Airport terminal off of Hwy. 8 west of the city. Free parking is available on the south side of the terminal.

Please come and meet the NWLT Board and join us for snacks and social time at 3:00 p.m. The Annual Meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m. with a summary report and “virtual tour” of the year’s outstanding conservation projects and other achievements.

Following the Annual Meeting, we will carpool west on Hwy. 8 to the site for the dedication of the new Dugan Squash Lake Nature Preserve. This 5.6-acre undeveloped property on the south shore of Squash Lake was purchased and then donated by Pat and Sue Dugan for protection by NWLT. A unique, narrow esker peninsula extending far into the lake and creating its own small bay is an extraordinary feature of this property. Come and celebrate this newest addition to our conservation areas.

We recommend wearing long pants, long sleeves and bug/tick protection. A guided walk will include some off-



Join us for a dedication and guided walking tour of NWLT's Dugan Squash Lake Nature Preserve on Friday, June 11th.

trail hiking over hilly terrain. To RSVP (preferred to help us plan for refreshments, but not required), please contact the NWLT office at (715) 479-2490 or email us at nwlt@northwoodslandtrust.org.



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!